

OPINION 6
KCR ANTICS ARE NOT HELPING TELANGANA

WORLD 9
4 KILLED, 18 INJURED IN BALOCHISTAN BLAST

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY EKE OUT GAINS FOR SIXTH DAY

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.33 Issue 99
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



MUMBAI TO FACE DELHI IN IPL 2023 TODAY
12 SPORT

CAPSULE

ELDERLY COUPLE FOUND DEAD WITH THROATS SLIT
New Delhi: An elderly couple was found dead with their throats slit at their residence in Northeast Delhi's Gokalpuri on Monday, police said, adding that their daughter-in-law Monika, has been arrested for killing them, with the help of her boyfriend. The house of the victims — Radhey Shyam Verma (72) and his wife Veenaa's (68) — was found ransacked and ₹5 lakh cash and other valuables were missing.

STATES MUST ACCOUNT SUBSIDIES CLEARLY: CAG
New Delhi: The Comptroller & Auditor General of India on Monday said States must take steps to maintain proper accounting of subsidies and take prudent measures to reduce fiscal deficits, remove revenue deficits and keep outstanding debts at an acceptable level.

SC GIVES STATES 6 WEEKS TO IDENTIFY MINORITIES
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday gave the States of Rajasthan and Telangana and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir six weeks to submit their responses on the issue of identification of minorities at the State level, after the Centre pleaded for giving them a "last opportunity".

7 KILLED, 37 INJURED AS TREE FALLS IN MAHA
Akola: Seven persons were killed and 37 others injured when a tree fell on a tin shed under which people were standing in a temple premises after heavy wind and rains in Maharashtra's Akola district, officials said on Monday.

WON'T FIELD ATIQ'S WIFE IN MAYORAL POLLS: MAYA
Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Monday said her party will not field gangster Atiq Ahmad's wife Shaista Parveen or any other member of his family in the mayoral election in Prayagraj.

Won't let anyone grab an inch of India: Shah

HM launches 'Vibrant Village' programme at Arunachal village on China border

PNS/PTI ■ KIBITHOO (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Within a week of China announcing "invented" names for 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh and calling the Indian State "southern part of Tibet", Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Kibithoo border village in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday in a clear message to Beijing. Shah said no one can dare cast an evil eye on India's territorial integrity and encroach even an "inch of our land."

"The era is gone when anyone could encroach on our lands. Now, not even land equal to 'sui ki noke' (inch of land) can be encroached..." Shah, who is on his first visit to the northeastern State as Union Home Minister, said at a public function after launching the 'Vibrant Village' programme in the border village of Kibithoo which is the country's easternmost point.

Shah also said the Modi Government's policy is to maintain peace with all countries but if anyone tries to occupy even an inch of India's land the country would not tolerate it.

Shah, who will be in Arunachal Pradesh for two days, said no one can cast an evil eye on India because of the security forces who protect the country's frontiers.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays homage at the Kibithoo Remembrance Hut in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday PTI

"In 1962, whoever came to encroach this land had to return because of the patriotic people living here," he said while making a reference to the Chinese aggression in 1962.

Paying homage to the martyrs of Kibithoo who laid down their lives during the 1962 India-China war, Shah said they fought with indomitable spirit despite the lack of resources.

Shah said no one says "Namaste" in Arunachal Pradesh as people greet each other with "Jai Hind" that "fills our hearts with patriotism". "It is because of this attitude of the Arunachalis that China which had come to occupy it had to retreat."

He said enhanced facilities for border guarding troops of the ITBP and the Army will

also be provided. "Our policy is that no one can challenge the honour of our borders and our forces."

Shah also inaugurated, through video conferencing, nine micro hydel projects of the Arunachal Pradesh Government constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" here.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and local MP Tapir Gao were among those who were present on the occasion.

On other issues, Shah said the Modi Government has ended insurgency in the Northeast and brought peace and speedy development to the region.

Continued on Page 2

Beijing fumes at Shah's visit

Beijing: China on Monday criticised Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, stating that it violated Chinese sovereignty over the area, days after India slammed Beijing's move to rename some places in the border State in an attempt to stake its claim over the area.

While there was no immediate reaction from New Delhi over the Chinese foreign ministry's strong reaction over Home Minister Shah's visit, India routinely rejects such objections by China to visits by its leaders to Arunachal Pradesh. PTI

₹20,000 cr from stake sale, Adani rejects Rahul's claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent effort to counter Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegation of ₹20,000 crore coming in to the conglomerate through "shell companies", Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Monday listed out details of the \$2.87 billion stake sales in group firms since 2019 and how \$2.55 billion of this was ploughed back into business.

The firm's rebutted reports in an international publication, which was the basis of Rahul's statement late last month questioning how "₹20,000 crore suddenly arrived in Adani's shell companies."

It said while investors such as Abu Dhabi-based global strategic investment company, International Holding Company PJSC (IHC) invested \$2.593 billion in group firms such as Adani Enterprise Ltd and Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), promoters sold stake in Adani Total Gas Ltd and AGEL to raise \$2.783 billion. "These funds were reinvested by promoter entities to support the growth of new business and in portfolio companies such as Adani Enterprises Ltd, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, Adani Transmission Ltd and Adani Power Ltd," the group said.

"We understand the competitive race to tear down Adani can be alluring. But we are fully compliant with securities laws and are not obscuring promoter ownership and financing," it said.

Adani said promoters in January 2021 raised \$2 billion through the sale of 20 per cent stake in renewable energy firm, AGEL to French giant TotalEnergies. Prior to that, they had sold a 37.4 per cent



stake in city gas arm, Adani Total Gas Ltd to the same French firm for \$783 million. Adani said the funds came from sale of stake in Adani Total Gas. Also, they weren't obscure entities because they are promoter held. TotalEnergies bought overseas investment vehicles of the promoters to make some of those investments.

And the funds so received overseas were ploughed back into group entities, which is now being termed by some as investment by "shell companies". "These funds were reinvested by promoter entities to support the growth of new business," the statement said.

"The promoter entities have had substantial holdings in Adani companies, which have increased over time. It is through the timely use of funds received through the sale of equity that these entities have been able to increase their investments."

All the transactions were publicly disclosed in stock exchange filings, it said.

Also, "the Adani family deployed its returns from the secondary sale to make additional purchases of AGEL equity and to provide support to AGEL via a shareholder loan and other securities — all also in the public domain," it said.

Continued on Page 2

BJP asks Rahul to respond to Azad's charge of ties with unwanted bizmen

PNS ■ PATNA

Latching on to the allegation levelled by former Congress veteran Gulam Nabi Azad that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has ties with "undesirable businessmen", senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday said Rahul must respond to the "serious charge".

He also sought to know if Rahul was trying to "weaken" the country at the behest of "anti-India businessmen".

"Gulam Nabi Azad has made a serious allegation that whenever Rahul Gandhi goes on a foreign tour, he meets many unwanted businessmen," Prasad told reporters here.

In a recent interview with Malayalam News channel Asianet News, Azad, referring to the Gandhi family, said, "The entire family has associations with businessmen, including him (Rahul). I can give you 10 examples of where he would go even outside the country, to meet people who are undesirable businessmen."

Continued on Page 2

AAP gains national party tag; setback for NCP, TMC, CPI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's AAP received a major shot in the arm as the Election Commission (EC) on Monday recognised it as a national party.

On the other hand, Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) lost their national party status in the latest set of decisions by the poll panel.

In an order issued on Monday, the EC also revoked the State party status granted to Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in Uttar Pradesh, Bharat Rashtra Samiti in Andhra Pradesh, Pattali Makkal Katchi in



Puducherry, Mizoram People's Conference, People's Democratic Alliance in Manipur and Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) in West Bengal.

The EC had issued show-cause notices to the three parties in July 2019, asking them to explain why their national party status should not be revoked after their performance in the Lok Sabha elections that year.

Continued on Page 2

More grave issues than someone's degree deserve debate: Pawar

PNS ■ NASIK

Brushing aside questions raised by some Opposition leaders over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualifications, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said, "When there are more pressing issues like unemployment, inflation and law and order situation, should anyone's educational degree be a political issue in the country?"

This is not the first instance wherein Pawar's views appeared at variance with the Opposition bloc on targeting the Government.

"Differences are being created in the name of religion and caste. Crops have been destroyed due to unseasonal rain in Maharashtra. These issues need to be discussed," Pawar said.

Continued on Page 2

Likely below-normal rainfall in June-Sept casts cloud over agri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to experience below-normal monsoon rainfall in June-September this year, with a 20 per cent chance of drought due to the end of La Nina conditions and the potential for El Nino to take hold, private forecasting agency Skymet Weather has said.

After four consecutive years of normal and above-normal rain during the monsoon season, this forecast comes as a concern for the agricultural sector, which heavily relies on monsoon rain for crop production.

Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the agricultural bowl of north India, are likely to observe less-than-normal rain during the second half of the season.



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is yet to release its forecast for the monsoon season, but it has predicted above-normal maximum temperatures and heatwaves in most parts of the country from April to June.

Continued on Page 2

Unruly flier deboarded for attacking AI crew mid-air

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An Air India London-bound flight returned to Delhi after a passenger attacked two cabin crew members onboard the flight on Monday.

Jaskirat Singh, aged 25, verbally abused the crew members and hit one of them on the neck causing her to fall on the floor. He then pulled her by the hair and hit another crew member on her face, they said. Singh had to be restrained with the help of other crew members and passengers, and the aircraft was brought back to Delhi about three hours after its departure. He was deboarded and subsequently detained.

Flight radar24, flight tracker app, indicated that the jetliner altered course to return to India when it was flying near Peshawar in Pakistan.

Continued on Page 2

Fugitive Amritpal's aide Papalpreet nabbed in Amritsar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Radical preacher Amritpal Singh's mentor and close aide Papalpreet Singh was nabbed in Amritsar district and detained under the National Security Act, police said on Monday.

Papalpreet has allegedly been in contact with Pakistan's ISI.

Addressing the media here, Punjab Police Inspector General (Headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill said, "He (Papalpreet) is the main associate of Amritpal Singh. He has been arrested from Kathunangal area in Amritsar." He said Papalpreet has been detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) and that six other cases



have also been registered against him.

Earlier, officials said Papalpreet was arrested in a Punjab Police operation that also involved its counter-intelligence wing. They had also said that he was arrested in Hoshiarpur.

Gill said legal action will be taken against Papalpreet.

Special offerings to rejuvenate polluted Yamuna; pujaris roped in

Priests in Delhi trained in best practices to help prevent pollution in river, says LG

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Pujaris, pandits, purohits located along the Yamuna in NCT of Delhi have been roped in to create awareness about keeping the river clean.

In a first of its kind, special training programme held on Monday, they underwent a training programme on the use of eco-friendly materials in packaging of prasad and biodegradable materials in the making of idols.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said any attempt

at rejuvenation of river Yamuna will have to essentially involve the people of Delhi, who are the biggest stakeholders in the exercise.

"In this context, they have a crucial role to play in preventing Yamuna pollution and protecting the sanctity of the river. Keeping this in mind, pujaris from all over the city had been invited for this training programme," Saxena said.

In the training programme, the pujaris were explained about specific best practices that can help prevent pollution

in Yamuna. These included, promoting the use of eco-friendly materials in religious offerings, discouraging the dumping of waste or plastic in the river, and educating people about waste management practices in temples and ashrams located on the banks of the river.

Pujaris were requested to play their part in raising awareness, promoting eco-friendly sustainable practices with local communities and other stakeholders and asked to work in tandem with Government



agencies. The pujaris were asked to sensitise people about best practices aimed at preventing pollution and encourage them to follow these. They were told that people and religious institutions should strictly prohibit throwing any kind of waste, including cosmetic flowers, food, plastic, or other non-biodegradable items, into the river.

Religious rituals should be conducted using eco-friendly materials such as natural flowers, leaves and organic materials instead of plastic or other non-biodegradable materials, pujaris were told at the event.

Apart from this, pujaris were also urged to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of dustbins available on the banks

of the river and these are regularly emptied.

The Lieutenant Governor, who was the chief guest of the programme, said pujaris and purohits play an important role as custodians and guides of various spiritual and cultural practices that often culminate in generation of waste which is disposed of in the Yamuna.

Such disposal causes pollution of Yamuna. Asking the priests to play the role of educators and change-makers, the Lieutenant Governor said disposal of religious materials causes pollution in the Yamuna.

Priests were requested to play their part in raising awareness with local communities and work in tandem with government agencies.

BSP expels ex-Minister Raj Kishore, brother Brij

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati, on Monday, expelled former minister Raj Kishore Singh and his brother Brij Kishore Singh, who were considered to be the big faces of the party in UP politics. It is being speculated that Raj Kishore Singh would soon join the Bharatiya Janata Party.

There is a buzz that Raj Kishore Singh, who has proved his mettle by being in parties like BSP, Samajwadi Party and Congress, may prefer the saffron camp as his next destination. Sources said that after Mayawati saw Raj Kishore Singh's brother with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, she got angry and shunted both the brothers out of the party on Monday.

Talking to the media, Raj Kishore Singh, a three-time cabinet minister of Uttar Pradesh, said that the BSP was a sinking boat so it would be better to leave it. In Purvanchal,



BSP supremo Mayawati addresses a press conference, at party office in Lucknow, on Monday

Raj Kishore Singh has a huge mass base of his own. He said that after being expelled from the BSP, he would now talk to his workers and only then take a decision. In fact, both these leaders have had to bear the brunt of being close to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Both these leaders were seen in Eknath Shinde's programme as his shadow. Mayawati did not like their closeness with her rival.

Meanwhile, Mayawati on Monday strongly advocated the use of ballot papers in the

mayoral and corporators' polls of municipal corporations in Uttar Pradesh and said her party would contest the elections with full vigour.

"Voting for the municipal corporations should be conducted using ballot papers, and not through EVMs. The elections should be free and fair. This is our demand to the government and officials concerned," the BSP chief said while addressing media persons here on Monday afternoon.

The Uttar Pradesh State Election Commission had on Sunday announced the urban local bodies polls in two phases, on May 4 and 11, three months after the high court quashed the government's draft notification providing Other Backward Class (OBC) reservation in the elections. "The voting for the urban local bodies polls will be held on May 4 and 11. The counting of votes will take place on May 13," State Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar had said.

Elderly couple found dead with throats slit in Delhi; daughter-in-law arrested

New Delhi: An elderly couple was found dead with their throats slit at their residence in northeast Delhi's Gokalpuri on Monday, police said, adding that their daughter-in-law has been arrested for killing them along with her boyfriend. The house of the victims — Radhey Shyam Verma (72) and his wife Veena's (68) — was also found ransacked and cash worth around Rs 5 lakh and other valuables were missing.

According to police, the accused, Monika, was having an extramarital affair. She wanted to live with her boyfriend and hatched a conspiracy to eliminate her in-laws and flee with the belongings. Preliminary probe revealed that the woman's boyfriend and his associate arrived at the house on Sunday around 7 PM and were hiding on the terrace, a senior police officer said. Efforts are on to trace the woman's boyfriend and associate who are absconding, he said. The elderly couple was living on the ground floor of the house, while their son Ravi Rattan along with his wife and 6-year-old son was living on the first floor. Radhey Shyam had retired as vice principal of a Delhi government school, Karol Bagh.

The family had been living in the house for the last 38 years, the DCP said. Some jewellery and Rs 4.5 lakh cash are missing from the house, police said. Radhey Shyam had recently taken Rs 5 lakh as advance to sell the rear portion of the house, Turkey said. Ravi had last seen his parents at 10:30 pm on Sunday. Meanwhile, hearing the news of her uncle and aunt's murder, Sati Gautam along with her husband reached Gokalpuri from Shankar Vihar. "Soon after I woke up, I received a call from my elder sister in Kanpur informing that 'mausaji' (uncle) and 'mausi' (aunt) have been murdered," she said. PTT

BMC advises senior citizens, hospital staff to wear masks



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking serious cognisance of the increasing number of Covid-19 patients in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday advised all senior citizens, all its employees, patients, employees and visitors in municipal hospitals in the metropolis to wear face masks as a precautionary measure.

After reviewing all aspects of the preparedness for tackling Covid-19, including the tests, Ward War Rooms, availability of oxygen and medicines, and the preparedness in private hospitals, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Iqbal Singh Chahal issued an advisory to all senior citizens and some other categories of people in the metropolis to wear face masks.

NCR PULSE

29TH ANNIV OF GENOCIDE IN RWANDA MARKED

New Delhi: A commemorative event to mark the 29th anniversary of the horrific genocide against the Tutsi community in Rwanda in 1994 was held in the Capital last week. The event was organized by the High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda in India, New Delhi, under the joint aegis of United Nations India and Gandhi Mandela Foundation. The chief guest at the event was Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture and other notable guests included Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative, Rwandan High Commissioner to India Mukangira Jacqueline, and Nandan Jha, Secretary General of the Gandhi Mandela Foundation.

AIIA HOLDS DAY-LONG AYURVEDA HEALTH CAMP

New Delhi: Peoples' Foundation in partnership with All India Institute of Ayurveda, Government of India, organised a day long Ayurveda based health camp and free medicines distribution on Tuesday for security personnels and their families at CISF, 5th reserve battalion at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. The camp was jointly inaugurated by Sharad Kumar, DIG, Dr Rama Kant Yadav, and V N Jha, pPresident of Peoples' Foundation. A team of seven senior doctors and 15 junior doctors, research scholar along with pharmacists participated in the camp. About 500 patients were examined in the OPD focused on Life style disorders such as BP, Hypertension, Diabetes, Thyroid, Arthritis etc and their treatment as per Ayurveda protocol and medicine.



More grave ...

From Page 1 In a recent interview with NDTV, which is owned by the Adani Group, Pawar raised questions about the credibility and motives of the international short-seller Hindenburg, whose claims about the overvaluation of Adani Group's stocks had triggered a crash in their share prices. Pawar had also questioned the rationale behind demanding a parliamentary probe given the BJP's majority.

Cong slams Azad over anti-Rahul insinuations

New Delhi: Former Congress stalwart now leading his own outfit, Gulam Nabi Azad continued to trade barbs with the grand old party and the leadership — Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi — prompting the Congress to call the former Union Minister 'Pathetic'. Azad's allegation that Rahul Gandhi has ties with "undesirable businessmen" provoked the Congress which stated "Contemptible statements" on the Congress' leadership reflect Gulam Nabi Azad's desperation to remain relevant in an interview with a News channel, Azad, referring to the Gandhi family, said, "The entire family has associations with businessmen, including him (Rahul). I can give you 10 examples of where he would go even outside the country, to meet people who are undesirable businessmen." Several Congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir too hit out at Gulam Nabi Azad over his tirade against Rahul Gandhi, saying he should have also

spoken about the four decades of power he enjoyed due to the Nehru-Gandhi family. Congress leaders said Azad was defaming the party to create confusion among masses in view of the Gandhi scion's constructive role and the appreciation he was receiving for "fighting the battle against crony capitalism and organised loot of the nation's wealth on the part of the Narendra Modi government."

"Azad's criticism is manifestation of treachery and highest form of ungratefulness towards Nehru-Gandhi family on his part. Former Congress LOP in Rajya Sabha should also have counted 'out of turn' promotions, favours and positions both (official and organisational) he enjoyed during his four decades in power due to Nehru-Gandhi family's blessings and trust reposed in him," Gulam Ahmad Mir, Saifuddin Soz and Tariq Hameed Karra said in a joint statement here. PNS

Pawar's pro-Adani remarks: Naqvi says some Opp leaders attacking messenger instead of learning from message

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday used NCP chief Sharad Pawar's remarks that Adani Group was "seemingly targeted" to attack Opposition, saying that instead of learning from message, some leaders are attacking the messenger.

In an interview to NDTV, Pawar came out in support of Adani Group and criticised narrative around the Hindenburg Research's report on the conglomerate.

Asked about the remarks, Naqvi, without naming anyone, said that instead of learning from message, some Opposition leaders are attacking messenger which shows their "mental bankruptcy". Taking a swipe at Opposition, former Union minister said those who are unable to handle "mohalla (locality)" are dreaming about running country.

Won't let anyone grab an inch of India: Shah

Speaking about the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Shah said the law was removed from about 70 per cent of the Northeastern states and the day "is not far" when it will be "entirely" lifted from these areas.

Referring to the 'Vibrant Villages Programme', Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the government of India has approved (VVP) which will bring all round development of border areas. As part of the programme, the Central Government will provide ₹4,800 crore, he added.

He said the objective of the programme is to stop the exodus of the people, develop them as tourist attractions, bring jobs and all round development.

Shah said that had such a programme been initiated 50 years ago, people would not have left the border villages.

The VVP is a centrally sponsored scheme under which 2,967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts abutting the northern border in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and UT of Ladakh have been identified for comprehensive development. In the first phase, 662 villages have been identified for priority on coverage, which includes 455 villages in Arunachal Pradesh.

Shah said border areas are the top priority of the Modi Government, pointing to the infrastructure and other development works carried out by his government in the Northeast.

He called this frontier location the "first village of India" and not the last, saying the Modi government has brought about a "conceptual" policy change to develop these areas and help the locals living here by providing basic amenities to them.

Earlier, people who returned from border areas used to say that they visited the last village of India but the Modi government has changed this narrative with people now saying that they visited the first village of India, Shah said. "Before 2014, the entire Northeastern region was seen as a disturbed area but because of the Look East policy, it is now known for its prosperity and development."

The Minister said the 'Vibrant Village' scheme envisages that tap water, electricity, cooking gas, financial inclusion, digital and physical connectivity and employment opportunities are available in the remote border areas.

Likely below...

From Page 1

According to Skymet, the rainfall to be 94 per cent (with an error margin of +/- 5 per cent) of the long-period average (LPA) of 868.6 mm due to an increased chance of El-Nino, which typically brings dry weather. In its previous forecast in January, Skymet had forecast the monsoon 2023 to be sub-par and now maintains that outlook.

Rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of a 50-year average of 88 centimetres for the four-month monsoon season beginning June is defined as average, or normal.

As per predictions, in June, 70 per cent chances of normal monsoon; 10 per cent of above normal and 20 per cent chance of below normal. For July, there are 50 per cent chance of normal monsoon and 30 per cent below normal monsoon. There are chances of 60 per cent below normal monsoon in August and 70 per cent in September.

"Courtesy Triple-Dip-La Nina, southwest monsoon observed above normal/normal rainfall for the last four consecutive seasons. Now, La Nina has ended. Likelihood of El Nino is increasing and its probability to become a dominant category during the monsoon is growing large. El Nino return may presage a weaker monsoon," said Jatinder Singh, Managing Director, Skymet.

AAP gains national party tag; setback...

From Page 1

Last week, the Karnataka High Court had directed the EC to pass appropriate orders regarding the national party status of AAP by April 13. In its order, the EC said the AAP has been named as a national party based on its electoral performance in four States - Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat. The Kejriwal-led party is in power in Delhi and Punjab.

"Review of poll performance of the AAP in the general election to the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat, 2022 shows that the candidates set up by the party have polled 12.92 per cent of the valid votes polled in the said general election, and in addition, the party has won five out of the one hundred eighty-two seats in the Legislative Assembly.

It is seen from the above poll performance of the party that it has fulfilled the requirements for recognition as State party in the State of Gujarat, as laid down in Paragraph 6A(i) [6 per cent of total valid votes in Legislative Assembly and 2 seats in Legislative Assembly], 6A(ii) [3 per cent of total seats in Legislative Assembly or at least 3 seats in the Legislative Assembly, whichever is more] and 6A(v) [8 per cent of total valid votes polled in Legislative Assembly in the State].

Fugitive Amritpal's aide Papalpreet nabbed in ...

From Page 1

The police had been conducting searches at many places, including Hoshiarpur, to nab the duo who had been hoodwinking the securitymen since March 18 when police had launched a crackdown against the Khalistan sympathiser and his aides.

Papalpreet's arrest comes days after a CCTV footage made the rounds on social media in which he could be seen at a 'dera' (place for religious congregation) in a village in Hoshiarpur.

The footage is said to be of March 29, a day after a team of the counter intelligence wing chased an Innova car from Phagwara to Hoshiarpur after the police suspected that the fugitive and his aides could be in that vehicle.

The "dera", seen in the footage, is in village Tanauli which is located just two to three kilometers away from Marnaian village in Hoshiarpur where the police had launched a massive search operation in search of the suspects.

It is believed that both Papalpreet and Amritpal could have separated in Hoshiarpur following the police chase of their vehicle.

FORM NO. 5
DRT/LKO
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1149/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

O.A. No. 1149/2022
Date: 27.02.2023

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Balram Nag Choudhary & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1) Mr. Balram Nag Choudhary, S/o Shri. Dilip Nag Choudhary, Resident of Plot No. 22, Shiv Nagar Colony, Salarpur, Sector-102, Noida Gautam Budhha Nagar-201304 (U.P.)
ALSO Future Estate, Flat No. 1501, 15th Floor, Tower-H, Sector-1, Greater Noida-201307 (U.P.)
2) Mrs. Onima Nag Choudhary, W/o Mr. Balram Nag Choudhary, Resident of Plot No. 22, Shiv Nagar Colony, Salarpur, Sector-102, Noida Gautam Budhha Nagar-201304 (U.P.)
ALSO Future Estate, Flat No. 1501, 15th Floor, Tower-H, Sector-1, Greater Noida-201307 (U.P.)
3) M/s. Furute World Green Homes Pvt. Ltd., Reg. Office at Plot No. GH-16E, Sector-1, Greater Noida (West)-201301 (U.P.)

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 28/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

FORM NO. 5
DRT/LKO
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1255/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

O.A. No. 1255/2022

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Vs
Mr. Alok Kumar Singh & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1. Mr. Alok Kumar Singh, S/o Shri. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Resident of House No. 1660, 3rd Floor, Block-C, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon-122002 (Haryana). ALSO Flat No. 1002, 10th Floor, Tower-H-2, Unitech Unihomes Phase-II, Plot No. GHP0001, Sector-117, Noida-201305(U.P.)
2. Mr. Aditya Kumar Singh, S/o Shri. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Resident of House No. 1660, 3rd Floor, Block-C, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon-122002 (Haryana). ALSO Flat No. 1002, 10th Floor, Tower-H-2, Unitech Unihomes Phase-II, Plot No. GHP0001, Sector-117, Noida-201305(U.P.)
3. M/s Unitech Limited, Reg. Office at UGCC Pavillion, Sector-96, Express Way (Near Amity Management School) Noida-201305 (U.P.)

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 04/10/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
e-mail id: rdsd.skela@gmail.com

पत्रांक/सरायकेला दिनांक

:: शुद्धि-पत्र ::

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 379, दिनांक 29.03.2023 के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा (e-Procurement) notice no. RDD/SD/ SKELLA/34/2022-23 के कंडिका 7 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है, जिसका PR No. 293966 (Rural Development)22-23*D है:

क्र.सं.	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	संशोधित स्थान
7	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सरायकेला।

अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सरायकेला PR 294775 (Rural Development)23-24*D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या—RDD/SD/HZB/38/2022-23 पी0आर0 संख्या 293988 Rural Development(22-23) #D में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है—

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि —12.04.2023
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय —दिनांक 12.04.2023 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 20.04.2023 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
- निविदा खोलने का स्थान—ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल हजारीबाग PR.NO.294761 Rural Development(23-24):D

BJP asks Rahul...

From Page 1

"Who are these unwanted traders and what are their interests? Is Rahul Gandhi trying to weaken India at the behest of anti-India businessmen and working against Modi ji?" he said.

Prasad also wondered why Gandhi is maintaining a "stoic silence" over the alleged involvement of Congress leaders in "a number of scams".

"Revelations made by Azad are serious in nature... Rahul Gandhi needs to clarify," the senior BJP leader said. The BJP wants to know how the National Herald Trust was converted into a "family trust by the Gandhi family", he said.

₹20,000 cr from stake...

From Page 1

The rapid, debt-fueled growth of Adani group was in January called in to questioning by a US short-seller Hindenburg Research which alleged that accounting fraud and use of a labyrinthine network of mostly Mauritius-based shell companies to route funds into India to manipulate share prices of the group's seven listed companies or make their balance sheets look healthier.

While Adani group had denied all, which strenuously denied Hindenburg's allegations, Opposition parties and their leaders, including Gandhi have been quick to seize on the allegations to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demand inquiries into Adani's foreign connections.

Adani said it had publicly disclosed all details and reportage on the investment of funds into group companies that had incorporated mixed primary and secondary investment.

"The facts are easily available and transparent. They are available through relevant securities regulatory filings that were made at the time and are a matter of public record," it said, adding the "misleading narrative" has become a "regrettable" political issue.

Unruly flier deboarded...

From Page 1

After handing over the passenger to the Delhi Police and lodging a complaint against him, the Air India flight took off for London. Jaskirat's family members claimed that he was mentally unstable.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Airport) Devesh Kumar Mahla said, "We have received a complaint in this regard and have detained Jaskirat, who was travelling with his parents to London. He is being interrogated and legal action will be taken accordingly." He was deboarded from the plane for his unruly behaviour with two cabin crew members.

In a statement, the airline said, "Air India flight AI 111 scheduled to operate Delhi-London Heathrow on April 10, 2023 returned to Delhi shortly after departure due to the serious unruly behaviour of a passenger on board. Not heeding to verbal and written warnings, the passenger continued with unruly behaviour including causing physical harm to two of the cabin crew members.

"The pilot in command decided to return to Delhi and the passenger was handed over to the security personnel upon landing. An FIR has also been lodged with the police. Safety, security and dignity of all on board is important to us at Air India. We are providing all possible support to the affected crew members.

DU OK's norms for 5-yr extension to 'research-oriented' retd profs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior professors at Delhi University (DU) can get an extension of five years following retirement as the university's highest decision-making body on Monday passed guidelines for the re-employment of "research-oriented academicians". The Executive Council (EC) approved a proposal in this regard at its meeting, with officials saying it will promote research culture in the university. The retirement age of the faculty is 65 years and no extension was given to teachers until now.

In this first meeting of the new financial year, held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh, a budget of Rs 1,886.53 crore of the university was also passed

for 2023-2024. "After considering the recommendations of the committee constituted to prepare guidelines for the promotion of research culture in various subjects in the university and re-employment of research-oriented academicians, these recommendations were also passed in this meeting," the university said in a statement.

The re-employment rule will be applicable only in the university teaching departments, centres, schools, and institutions established by the University of Delhi, and not in its colleges. During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Singh said the new National Education Policy envisions the improvement of quality research with an emphasis on innovation and technology



development in higher education institutes.

"In order to promote and strengthen research culture, the University of Delhi constituted a committee... To prepare distinct guidelines for the re-employment of research-oriented academicians with a proven track record of quality research and publications in

various disciplines, namely Science and Technology, Humanities & Social Sciences, and other disciplines," Singh said. According to the guidelines, the application for the extension should be submitted before the date of the superannuation of the teacher. The application will be then placed before the screening committee for further processes.

The screening committee will have a chairperson nominated by the vice chancellor. Besides the chairperson, the panel will also have chairperson of the research council, dean of research, dean of the faculty concerned, dean of academic affairs, head of the department concerned, and joint registrar as members.

The re-employed professor will not hold any administrative position and the financial power will be limited to him, the guidelines stated. "The re-employment of a professor/senior professor shall be subject to the university's clearance with respect to her/his conduct as a teacher, her/his disciplinary record as well as financial prudence," the guidelines read.

AADTA protests, seeks governing bodies for Govt-funded colleges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party's teachers' wing Academic for Action and Development Delhi Teachers' Association (AADTA) held a protest inside the Executive Council (EC) meeting of Delhi University demanding the immediate formation of governing bodies in Delhi Government-funded DU colleges. The protest was led by AADTA's Dr Seema Das and Rajpal Singh Pawar, who are EC members of the

university. The protesters sat in the well of the EC meeting to press for the cause of absorption and to protest the non-formation of Governing Bodies in Delhi Government-funded Colleges.

Speaking about the protest, Dr Aditya Narayan Mishra, the National Incharge of AADTA, highlighted the plight of the professors and demanded that the DU administration stop arbitrarily displacing adhoc and temp teachers and denying absorption. He stressed that the absence of Governing Bodies has led to teachers being dis-

placed by DU.

Dr Seema Das, an EC member from AADTA, expressed concern over the massive displacements of adhoc and temporary teachers due to the non-formation of Governing Bodies in 28 Delhi government-funded DU colleges.

She stated that DU has been renegeing on its promise of no displacement and warned that this is leading to the harassment of thousands of adhoc and temporary teachers working in the colleges of the university.

How can LG nominate MCD members sans aid, advice of Council of Mins: SC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally observed as to how can the Lieutenant-Governor (LG) act "without aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers in nominating 10 members to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The top court, which had earlier issued a notice on the plea of the Delhi Government, granted 10 days to the Office of the LG, represented by Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, to file the response to the petition seeking quashing of the nomination of the 10 members. "How can the LG take the decision without aid and advice of the Council of Ministers? This has to be exercised on the aid and advice..." a Bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Paridwala said.

The ASG, at the outset, asked an amendment to Section 44 of the GNCTD Act (the Government of National Capital Territory Act) was made after the 2018 judgement of a constitution bench of the top court.

"In view of the amendment, a notification, which is



under challenge in a separate petition, was issued," the law officer said, adding that the response by way of an affidavit will be filed. Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, opposed the submissions saying they were "patently wrong" and the constitutional interpretation of Article 239AA (which deals with Delhi) by the Supreme Court cannot be negated by amending a statute.

He alleged the Delhi government officers were "emboldened" as they were sending the files directly to the office of the LG without first sharing them with the Delhi government. "This way, every time we have to come to the court for relief and they are enjoying the power. The statute cannot change the constitutional inter-

pretation," he said, adding that strictures be passed against the Delhi government officers. "This MCD is divided into 12 zones and each zone has a ward committee and each committee gets a nominated alderman to sit. So what is there by electoral majority is nullified by the aldermen and thus standing committee is chosen. The whole object is patently illegal," Singhvi said. The bench said it will list the petition.

Earlier, the top court had sought a response from the office of the LG on the plea. In the petition filed through lawyer Shadan Farasat, the Arvind Kejriwal government has challenged the decision of the LG to nominate the members allegedly without the "aid and advice" of the council of ministers.

The bench had taken note of the submissions of Singhvi and issued notice to the Office of Lieutenant Governor through its principal secretary for April 10. Last month, the top court had ensured the polls for mayor and deputy mayor were held after getting deferred thrice amid chaos by making it clear that the 10 nominated members of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi cannot vote in the mayoral election.

Besides seeking quashing of the nominations, the plea has sought a direction to the LG's office to "nominate members to the MCD under Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act... in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers".

"This petition has been filed by the elected government of the NCT of Delhi seeking inter alia quashing of orders dated... and consequent gazette notifications... whereby the Lieutenant Governor has illegally appointed 10 (ten) nominated members to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on his own initiative, and not on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers," the plea said.

Covid cases in city may rise, wear masks: Bharadwaj



Ranjan Dimri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday cautioned that Covid cases in the national Capital are expected to rise in the coming days as the city is densely populated and asked people with flu-like symptoms to wear masks and avoid public places.

Three deaths reported on Sunday were due to various diseases and Covid was "incidental". In one case, the primary reason was Covid, Bharadwaj told reporters. "Any death is unfortunate," the Delhi Health Minister said, adding the "Delhi Government and its Health Department is on high alert". Bharadwaj cautioned people that Covid cases are expected to rise in the city in the coming days. "Delhi is a densely populated city. Cases will rise and many people will exhibit flu-like and influenza-like symptoms such as fever and cough. But they will recover," he said. "People with such symptoms should not venture out in public places. If at all one has to go to such places then one should wear a mask and observe other safety norms so that they don't end up infecting others," the minister said. Those who are ill or have weak immunity, should not venture out of their homes frequently and should avoid crowded places, Bharadwaj added.

Referring to the April 7 meeting between the Centre and states over the country's Covid situation, he told a press conference that according to experts XBB 1.16, which is currently the most prevalent coronavirus variant, is not causing severe disease. "We are conducting genome sequencing of all positive samples. Till now, we have seen that samples have been found with either XBB.1.6 or its sub-variants... Cases are increasing in Delhi. It is usually seen that cases increase, hit a plateau and then start declining. At this point, the city is seeing a spurt in cases," Bharadwaj added.

The national capital reported 699 COVID-19 cases and four deaths on Sunday. Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital's Medical Director Suresh Kumar said more cases will get reported, but there is no need to panic. A child who was diagnosed with Covid was admitted to LNJP Hospital. The child was recently discharged, he said. This new strain is not causing severe disease. It is affecting kids of an age group not vaccinated but hospitalisation has not increased, Kumar said.

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 over seven months -- on Friday with a positivity rate of 19.93 per cent.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in the number of fresh Covid infections over the last few days amid a sharp rise in H3N2 influenza cases in the country. The Delhi government is 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 recently.

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Cases in GBN dist cross 300; Noida asks residents to follow Covid norms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The Gautam Buddha Nagar (GBN) administration on Monday appealed to residents to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour as the number of active cases in the district crossed 300 for the first time in 2023. A mock drill is scheduled at the dedicated Covid hospital in Sector 39 here on Tuesday to assess the preparedness of the facility for the pandemic, a senior official said.

According to the health department's update on Monday morning, 31 new patients tested positive for COVID-19 in a 24-hour period, taking the number of

active cases to 302. Of these, only 11 are admitted in hospitals, the update showed. A total of 608 samples were taken for testing during the period, the health department said.

Chief Medical Officer Sunil Kumar Sharma said the mock drill will be conducted at the Covid hospital in Sector 39 at 10 am on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma said, "There is no need to panic and people should practice Covid-appropriate behaviour like maintaining distance, covering face in public places, washing hands frequently."

Gurugram holds Covid mock drills, DC inspects 3 hospitals

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram Nishant Kumar Yadav inspected three health institutions during a mock drill organised on Monday regarding the preparedness to deal with Covid-19. On the first day of the two-day (April 10-11) nationwide mock drill, centers were set up at ESI Hospital Sector-9, Civil Hospital and SGT Medical College in Gurugram.

Yadav reviewed the necessary resources in ESI Hospital and Civil Hospital. Health officials said this mock drill will be conducted in the private hospitals on Tuesday. During the mock drill, the Deputy Commissioner instructed to make a portable Covid ward for Covid in Civil Hospital, Sector 10.

Along with this, he inspected three PSA plants of 500-250 and 750 LPM capacity installed in the hospital



premises for self-sufficiency of oxygen. Apart from this, he also instructed the health department officials to increase the tests.

Giving information about the drill, Civil Surgeon Dr. Virender Yadav said that proper arrangements have been made for Covid patients in the civil hospital. "The hospital has 174 beds available. Along with this, the capacity of the hospital will further increase with the formation of a portable Covid ward," he said.

The Haryana government has also issued instructions in this regard. Masks and social distancing should be followed in crowded places where 100 or more people gather.

Collected 10 lakh signatures against Sisodia, Jain's arrests in door-to-door campaign: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Monday said it has collected more than 10 lakh signatures during its door-to-door campaign against the arrests of its leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain. Following this, a letter will be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protest the arrest of Sisodia and Jain, the AAP's Delhi unit convener Gopal Rai said.

The party had launched the campaign on March 13 and decided to begin a door-to-door campaign throughout Delhi to demand the release of its senior leaders who have been lodged in jail by the central investigative agencies over fake cases. "Our target was to collect 10 lakh signatures and we achieved it on Sunday. Our district incharges, Lok Sabha incharges and councillors were involved in the campaign. The party members and councillors visited around 2,800 polling stations in the 70 Vidhan Sabha constituencies of Delhi and got the signatures from the people," Rai said.

Everyone knows that Sisodia and Jain were the people who transformed the education and healthcare system in the national capital, Rai claimed. "Sisodia transformed the government schools while Jain gave the model of mohalla clinics.



People are angry at the fact that these people have been put behind bars," he said during a press conference.

He also pointed out how the central investigative agencies raided the residence, office, bank locker and ancestral village Sisodia and yet found nothing to prove any crime. Similarly, multiple locations were raided in the case against Jain and yet nothing against him was found as well, but yet both of these ministers had been lodged in jail.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj thanked the people of Delhi for supporting the campaign. The CBI had on February 26 arrested Sisodia in connection with alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

Jain was arrested in May last year by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

Both resigned from the Delhi cabinet in February.

Delhi Min accuses LG of claiming credit for city Govt projects

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In what could further sour the relations between the Raj Niwas and AAP dispensation, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday accused Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena of claiming credit for projects undertaken by the city Government. He said the Delhi Government will soon launch many projects and asked Saxena to visit them to claim their credit.

"On Sunday, LG sahab went to supplementary drain in Wazirabad. Because of his visit, officials planted 1,000 saplings in plastic bags. This is sheer wastage of money. We can help LG with the list of projects that are underway, where he can go and claim credit," Bharadwaj said in a press conference. The AAP national spokesperson listed out several projects that will soon be started.

"Very soon Delhi's Mohalla e-bus scheme will be started. The buses must be parked somewhere. LG sahab



can go and flag off these buses. Twenty of our new mohalla clinics are ready for inauguration. He can go there too.

"Education Minister Atishi is expected to visit the IP University East Campus, where construction is going on. He can go there before her and claim credit. Two new blocks of Delhi Technological University are ready. They have sought time from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for inauguration. LG sir can go there and inaugurate the new blocks" he said.

Bharadwaj, on Sunday accused Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena of taking credit for the work being done by the city government to reduce the pollution load in the Yamuna river.

HC asks KVS not to close down KV NTPC Badarpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court asked the Centre and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) on Monday to state their stand in response to a petition alleging the closing down of the Kendriya Vidyalaya NTPC Badarpur.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma directed the authorities concerned not to close down the school and ensure that it is maintained properly, lawyer Ashok Agarwal, who appeared in the matter for petitioner NGO Social Jurist, said.

The counsel representing the KVS said the organisation has not taken any decision to close down the school.

However, the Education Ministry has taken a decision in this regard in consultation with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), which is to be made known to it, the KVS counsel said.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad, directed that the matter be listed for further consideration on July 27.

templated closing down the Kendriya Vidyalaya NTPC Badarpur, which would have a major adverse impact on its students as well as the aspirants residing in the nearby areas. The petitioner said the shutting down of the school, which was opened in 1981-82 and was running as a project funded by the NTPC, would be in violation of the fundamental right to education as guaranteed to students and the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

It argued that there is no justification behind closing down a functional school only because the NTPC project has shut down.

"The NTPC plant at Badarpur was shut down in October 2018. It is submitted that since 2018 and onwards, parents of the students studying in respondent Kendriya Vidyalaya NTPC Badarpur have been approaching respondent Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, respondent Ministry of Education and other authorities to stop the contemplated action of closing down the school," the plea filed through lawyer Kumar Utkarsh said.

Organisers of Hindu Rashtra Panchayat booked for not taking event permission

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A case has been registered against the organisers of a Hindu Rashtra Panchayat held in north-east Delhi, which was rocked by the 2020 riots, for not taking permission to hold the meeting. According to police, the panchayat, held on Sunday, gave a call for making north-east Delhi the first Hindu Rashtra district of the country and asked its residents not to sell or rent out their properties to minorities.

A senior police official said a case has been registered against the organisers under IPC section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by



public servant) as they did not take permission for holding the meet.

Once more facts emerge during the investigation, action will be taken accordingly, another police officer said. The meet in northeast Delhi was

organised by BJP leader and Hindu United Front head Jai Bhagwan Goyal and attended by BJP Parliamentary Board member and former Union minister Satyanarayan Jatya and former north Delhi mayor Awatar Singh among others.

A Delhi BJP spokesperson said the event did not have the approval of the party and that Goyal was not holding any party post.

Addressing the gathering on Sunday, Goyal said no Hindu should sell or rent out his or her houses or shops to members of other religions. "We will first make north-east Delhi a Hindu Rashtra district and then the entire country a Hindu Rashtra," he said. In February 2020, riots in north-east Delhi left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured.

Referring to the north-east Delhi riots, Goyal alleged that there was a plan to turn the area into a "mini Pakistan".

Keep account of subsidies, States told

States must meet capex from own sources of revenue, says CAG Murmu

standing debts at an acceptable level.

CAG India Girish Chandra Murmu said that the State must meet its capital expenditure, including loans and advances, from its own sources of revenue, or at the least confine the net debt to its capital expenditure. "While we understand the importance of subsidies to help the underprivileged, it is essential to transparently account for such subsidies and we require to distinguish between justifiable subsidies from freebies, which are not fiscally responsible," Murmu said speaking at the Annual Accountant General's Conclave.

Murmu also said that states



must initiate measures to earn adequate returns on their investments and recover their cost of borrowed funds without resorting to implicit subsidies. All states, he said, must strive to meet its capital expenditure

requirements, including loans and advances, from its own sources of revenue.

"States should take steps to earn adequate returns on their investments and recover their cost of borrowed funds without resorting to implicit subsidies," he said. To improve fiscal management, both the Union Government and many State Governments have been implementing the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act in recent years.

Murmu further said that state finances have undergone several changes in recent years as a result of implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management

(FRBM) Act, computerization of treasuries and implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). The State Accountants General, for example, has implemented the Voucher Level Computerisation (VLC) system for compiling accounting information at the level of vouchers.

The Accountant General's conclave is organised by the CAG's Government Accounts (GA) Wing which is attended by Principal Accountants General and Accountants General (A&E) to discuss issues regarding the maintenance of accounts of state governments, as mandated under the Constitution of India.

Identifying minorities: SC gives Raj, J&K six weeks to respond

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the States of Rajasthan and Telangana and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir six weeks to submit their responses on the issue of identification of minorities at the State level, after the Centre pleaded for giving them a "last opportunity". Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, told a bench of Justices SK Kaul and A Amanullah that responses were still awaited from Rajasthan and Telangana. Part reply from Jammu and Kashmir was also awaited, he

said. The ASG requested the bench to give them the last opportunity to furnish their responses.

The bench, while giving them six weeks to respond, said copy of its order be sent to the two states and the Union Territory informing them that the apex court will close the opportunity for accepting their responses if they fail to do so within the deadline. The top court posted the matter for further hearing in July.

The apex court was hearing the pleas, including the one filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, which has sought directions for framing guide-

lines for identification of minorities at the State level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 states.

On January 17, Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, had referred to the status report filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs which said that 24 states and six UTs have so far furnished their comments on the issue. The status report, filed in the apex court in January, had said that comments from six states and UTs — Arunachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and Telangana — were still awaited.

SII's Covovax likely to find place in Govt's CoWIN portal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Serum Institute of India's (SII) Covovax is likely to find a place on the Government's CoWIN portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults in a few days at a price of Rs 225 per dose plus applicable GST. Covovax can be administered to those who have already been vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin. It can be administered nine months after the second dose.

However, the uptake of the booster dose has been low. Currently, it's not mandatory to take a precautionary dose in India.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said that Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandviya has given approval for its inclusion in the portal in view of rising cases of Covid-19 in various parts of the country.

The move comes after a letter was written by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, SII, to the Union Health Ministry on March 27, the sources said.

According to an official source, Singh had mentioned in his letter to the ministry that Covovax is a world class vaccine approved by the DCGI, WHO and USFDA and it should be included on the CoWIN portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults.

As of now, only 20% of the eligible population in India has received a booster dose. Currently, there are ten vaccines that people can access for Covid-19 in India. Last month, the Covid-19



Working Group headed by Dr N K Arora had also recommended to the Health Ministry for the inclusion of the vaccine on the portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 16 had approved the market authorisation for Covovax for those who have been administered two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin. Also, Covovax has been approved by WHO and USFDA, USA.

The DCGI had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28, 2021, in the 12-17 age group on March 9 and also in children aged 7-11 years on 28 June, 2022 subject to certain conditions.

Covovax is manufactured through technology transfer from Novavax. It has been approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorization. It was granted emergency-use listing by the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 17, 2021.

Several States hold mock drills to ensure Covid preparedness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Relaxation of Covid appropriate behaviour, low testing rates and the emergence of a new variant of the virus may be causing spike in the infections in the country, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) warned on Monday even as several States and UTs held mock drills in Government and private hospitals to ensure the proper arrangements for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The exercise will continue till Tuesday. This comes as India reported 5,880 new Covid cases on Monday, slightly increasing from Sunday's count of 5,357, according to data released by the Union Health Ministry.

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandviya visited Delhi-based Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital to review a mock drill for ensuring Covid readiness of hospital infrastructure for management of the infections. He urged everyone to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour and curb any misinformation. According to an official from the Union Health Ministry, large-scale response was seen nationwide, where ministers and senior officials reviewed the preparations of facilities.

Availability of health facilities, trained health profes-



sionals, ambulances, testing equipment, referral services, human resources, etc, were examined in district hospitals, community and primary health centres, the central Health Ministry official said.

Doctors wearing PPE kits attended to dummy patients during the drill and availability of isolation beds, ICU beds, ventilator beds were also checked. Referral services and availability of ambulances, life support systems were examined and discussions were held with organizations providing ambulance services, he added.

At Mumbai's JJ Hospital, among the biggest medical facilities in Maharashtra, one mock drill was held at the OPD and another in the wards, during which medicine stock, X-ray machinery, oxygen supply and personnel deployment etc were checked, according to a State official.

Meanwhile, the IMA has also cautioned against the use of antibiotics to treat seasonal colds and coughs. It recommends symptomatic treatment instead of antibiotics, as antibiotics are ineffective against viral infections.

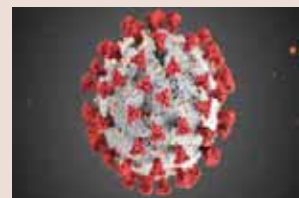
Blood proteins may help identify which patients may die due to Covid: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have found specific proteins in the blood that may help identify which patients would need to be ventilated and which may die due to the Coronavirus.

Principal investigator Carlos Cruchaga, director of the NeuroGenomics and Informatics Center at the School of Medicine, said, "Identifying harmful proteins may be helpful as we confront not only variants of the virus that causes Covid-19 but also as new viruses emerge in the future. We may be able to draw blood from an individual with a Covid infection, check the levels of these key proteins, and quickly determine the risk for serious outcomes. We then could use that information to determine the best course of treatment."

They compared plasma samples from 332 Covid-19 patients hospitalized at Barnes-Jewish Hospital to plasma samples from 150 people who had not been infected with the virus that causes Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2. Because the samples were collected when patients were admitted to the hospital, the proteins associated with poorer Covid-19 outcomes were found long before patients were placed on ventilators or



died from the virus.

The researchers used a technique known as high-throughput proteomics to discover protein overexpression and underexpression, commonly known as dysregulation, in blood plasma. The scientists performed additional testing to identify which of the proteins caused severe disease from those that became dysregulated due to severe illness.

The researcher found a huge number of proteins that were changed in Covid-19 patients. They concluded that any of the 32 proteins that were dysregulated during Covid infection indicated that patients would require ventilator-assisted breathing. They discovered five more proteins that, when confirmed to be changed in blood plasma as a result of the virus, indicated the patient's chance of death.

He said, "Many of the proteins we identified were related to inflammation and the body's immune response, for example, so it wasn't surprising to find them altered by Covid infection. But a subset of these proteins raised the

likelihood that patients would need ventilation or go on to die. Using these proteomics approaches, we now have a methodology that allows us to predict problems, which can be very important for clinical practice."

The researchers discovered that 332 Covid-19 patients investigated had any of 32 dysregulated proteins that suggested they needed ventilation to breathe, and only those with abnormalities in five proteins linked to severe disease died from infection.

The researchers examined identical proteomics data from 297 patients and 76 controls at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston to further test their findings. They discovered that the same proteins predicted the ultimate need for ventilators and the chance of mortality in both groups of patients.

The researcher said, "The study involved blood plasma from patients hospitalized during the initial surge of patients with Covid-19, so it's unclear whether precisely the same proteins would lead to ventilation and death from infection with later variants of the virus. However, the same high-throughput proteomics approach could likely be used to validate or identify suspect proteins in other variants. The strategy may even be useful with completely different viruses."

Post apology, Delhi HC discharges filmmaker from contempt charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court on Monday discharged filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri from contempt charges after he appeared and tendered an unconditional apology in connection with a criminal contempt case over his remarks in Twitter against Justice S Muralidhar. Accepting his apology, a Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Vikas Mahajan cautioned him to remain careful in the future.

In 2018, the filmmaker had put out tweets alleging bias against Justice S Muralidhar, who was then a judge of the Delhi High Court and is currently the chief justice of the Orissa High Court, as he had revealed rights activist Gautam Navlakha from house arrest in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case. Subsequently, contempt of court proceedings were initiated against Agnihotri and others by the high court.

The High Court recalled the criminal contempt notice issued to him and noted that an affidavit filed by Agnihotri also reflected the regret and remorse unconditionally expressed by him to the court. "In view of the circumstances that Vivek Agnihotri stated that he has utmost respect for the institution of judiciary and did not intend to wilfully offend the majesty of this court, the notice to show cause issued to him is hereby recalled. Vivek Agnihotri stands discharged as the alleged contemnor," the bench said.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE
Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **AKHILESH BANSAL / VANDANA BANSAL** (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBGR00002920047** located **FLAT NO. E/003, GROUND FLOOR, CAPITAL GATEWAY, SECTOR 111, GURGAON**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **APRIL 06, 2023**, informing that **KNS INFRACON PVT LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: April 11, 2023
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd/-

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Vinay Verma and Shikha verma w/o of Vinay verma R/o 22-C Pocket-R Near Ayyappa Temple Dilshad Garden Old Seemapuri East Delhi-110095, disown his son Yash Aryan from his all movable and immovable properties due to their bad conduct. My client has breached all relation with them and Shall not responsible for their future act.

Sd/-
M. H. ANSARI
ADVOCATE, D-510/03,
High Court of Delhi
MB. No- 9312045033

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 974/2022
Date: 03.04.2023

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
V/s
PRAVI KAPOOR & OTHERS ...Defendants

To, Defendants:-
1. **PRAVI KAPOOR** S/O PRAMOD KUMAR KAPOOR R/o A-58, Gf Flr, Sector-61, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301, U.P.
Also at:
Flat No 904, 9th Floor, Tower-K, Ajnara Ambrosia, Gh-01, sector-118, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301, U.P.
2. **MRS KUNJITA** W/o SHRI PRAVI KAPOOR R/o A-58, Gf Flr, Sector-61, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301, U.P.
Also at:
Flat no 904, 9th Floor, Tower-K, Ajnara Ambrosia, Gh-01, Sector-118, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301, U.P.
3. **M/s AJNARA INDIA LTD.** Registered Office : 502, Sachdeva Corporate Tower, Karkardooma Community Centre, Delhi-110092

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **19/10/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** falling which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

SC dismisses 2 pleas challenging HC judgment upholding Agnipath scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed two pleas challenging a Delhi High Court judgment that upheld the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment into the armed forces, saying candidates who got selected in recruitment drives like rallies before the launch of the short-term service scheme don't have a vested right to appointment. The bench, however, posted a third fresh plea related to recruitment in the Indian Air Force (IAF) prior to the launch of the Agnipath scheme for hearing on April 17.

The dismissed appeals were filed by Gopal Krishan and others and another by advocate ML Sharma against the High Court verdict. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala said, "Sorry, we would not like to interfere with the high court verdict. The high court had dealt with all the aspects."

The apex court asked the Centre to file its response to the third plea related to recruitment in the IAF. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for some of the candidates aspiring for jobs in the IAF, said the petitioners were put on the provisional select list and they had cleared the written examination and undergone physical and medical tests. "The government kept on saying that they will be given appointment letters which were being delayed due to the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Petitioners did not join paramilitary forces as

they were waiting for a letter from the IAF," Bhushan said, adding for three years the candidates had to wait and wait for their appointment letters.

Bhushan called it a fit case for application of the doctrine of promissory estoppel (the doctrine prevents the promisor or enterprise from going back on promise). The bench told Bhushan, "This is not a contract and moreover the doctrine of promissory estoppel is subject to the overarching public interest." It said the court is not going to nullify the subsequent recruitment of candidates under the scheme and cancellation of the earlier process of recruitment cannot be termed as arbitrary. "There is nothing for us to interfere and it is a matter of public employment and not contract," the bench told Bhushan.

Advocate Arunava Mukherjee, appearing for petitioner Gopal Krishan and others, said he is not challenging the Agnipath scheme but is only seeking that the earlier recruitment process for the Army and IAF be completed. The recruitment process was not completed as the final test for Army was postponed a number of times due to the pandemic and, in case of IAF, the result was not declared even after conducting the final test.

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1048/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Puneel Kakar & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1) **M/s. Antriksh Engineers Pvt. Ltd.**, Regd. Office at- 34/C-8, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110084.

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **17/07/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** falling which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1050/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
V/s
Mr. Deepankar Basu & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1) **M/s. Future World Green Homes Pvt. Ltd., Office at Plot No. GH-16E, Sector-1, Greater Noida (West) (U.P.)**

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **17/07/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** falling which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1108/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Mrs. Pooja Juyal & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1) **Mrs. Pooja Juyal**, W/o Mr. Ankit Gupta, Resident of House No. B-301, Amba G Residency, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201010 (U.P.)

ALSO Flat No. 903, 9th Floor, Tower-5, Plot No. GH-16F, Unibera Tower 3 4 5, Sector-1, Greater Noida-201307, NOIDA (U.P.)

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **14/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** falling which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1051/2022

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Naresh Kumar & Others ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1) **Mr. Naresh Kumar**, S/o Tota Ram, Resident of House No. 200/14, 3rd Floor, Sector-3A, Vaishali, Ghaziabad- 201010 (U.P.)
ALSO Flat No. 2101, 21st Floor, Tower H, Future Estate, Plot N, Sector-1, Greater Noida, NOIDA- 201307, (U.P.)
2) **Mrs. Maya Devi**, W/o Mr. Naresh Kumar, Resident of House No. 200/14, 3rd Floor, Sector-3A, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010 (U.P.)
ALSO Flat No. 2101, 21st Floor, Tower H, Future Estate, Plot N, Sector-1, Greater Noida, NOIDA-201307, (U.P.)
3) **M/s Future World Green Homes Pvt. Ltd.**, Reg. Office at Plot No. GH-16E, Sector-1, Greater Noida (West), NOIDA (U.P.)

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **17/07/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** falling which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow



BJP 'revising' list of contenders in K'taka

Bommai says list to be out soon, BSY rejects reports of being 'unhappy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is 'revising' the list of candidates for Karnataka Assembly polls and will release the first lot of nominees for the May 10 elections by Tuesday or Wednesday. After the Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance, a day before, had prolonged vetting of the list for 224 Assembly seats in Karnataka, the top leadership sat for another round of marathon deliberations on Monday on the names of the candidates.



releasing on Tuesday or Wednesday, Bommai told reporters here. "For some candidates more ground report has to be gathered, more information has to be collected and discussion on the new candidates has to take place," the Chief Minister said.

Earlier in the day, Yediyurappa had said the first list of about 170 to 180 candidates for elections to the 224-member Assembly would be released by this evening.

However, later in the afternoon, Yediyurappa said "Yesterday there were discussions about all the constituencies. Today again our national president J P Nadda had called me for a few more clarifications. I have explained them. He may clear it (list) this evening or tomorrow".

When asked whether he was unhappy as he was not present in the meeting in the morning convened by Nadda, Yediyurappa denied it and said: "Whatever suggestions I had given they (BJP leadership) have agreed. We are going to get absolute majority and we

are going to form the government. There is no doubt about it."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Nadda, Karnataka Chief Minister, Yediyurappa and other leaders from the state attended these meetings during the day for further scrutinizing of the list of the candidates. Shah later left for Arunchal Pradesh while other leaders continued the deliberations. Bommai had on Sunday said after the CEC meeting that Prime Minister Modi gave some directions. The CM told reporters on Monday that the party is working on various inputs. He, however, did not elaborate on the nature of directions or inputs.

Speaking to reporters after attending a meeting at Nadda's residence, Yediyurappa rejected the reports that he was "unhappy" with the candidate-selection exercise and praised the party leadership.

Congress and the JDS have released their candidates list ahead of the BJP. The ruling BJP is wary of anti-incumbency factor and seeks to allot ticket to more of the younger candidates "with no baggage", sources said.

Candidates selection could be crucial in a triangular contest and the BJP hopes that Prime Minister's campaigning in the southern state would give it a winning edge.

SHIBPUR, RISHRA RIOTS: 'FACT-FINDERS' WANT NIA PROBE

BJP sending teams to spark riots: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as the six-member BJP fact-finding team alleged violation of human rights at Shibpur in Howrah and Rishra in Hooghly districts where communal disturbances broke out last week Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the saffron outfit for trying to instigate a communal situation by sending "so-called fact finding teams."

"What is this fact finding team... what use does it have... do you eat it or apply it on your head... what is it... such teams are send ignite trouble as per a decided plan," the Chief Minister said.

"The BJP is sending teams from Delhi to disturb the peace and harmony in Bengal... whenever any small incident takes place here they send all kinds of teams and commissions from human rights commission to child rights commission to women's rights commission and what not," Banerjee said adding these were done by the saffron leadership to keep the situation bubbling so as to derive political mileage out of that.

"There was no communal problem in Bengal... the BJP created it by planning the violence well in advance about a month ago," Banerjee said attacking "a section of the media" for serving the purpose of the saffron outfit.

"A section of the media is contributing to their nefarious

designs by airing fake news... we are keeping a watch on such news and no one serving fake news to create disturbance will be spared..."

"In fact I have already directed the Commissioner of Police to take action... If the media attacks me I have no problem. You may have a stand. You may or may not like me but you cannot provoke communal tension like this," she said.

Earlier the six member fact finding team led by former Patna High Court Chief Justice L Narsimha Reddy, tried to enter the violence hit areas of Howrah and Hooghly but were prevented from doing so.

Subsequently, in its interim report the team said that the riots were "pre-planned, orchestrated and instigated," before suggesting an investigation by the National Investigation Agency much in line of a public interest litigation filed in the Calcutta High Court seeking an NIA investigation. Violence had broken out last week in parts of Shibpur in Howrah district and Rishra in neighbouring Hooghly district.

According to the report, "The riots which erupted on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami on March 30, and continued in its aftermath, were pre-planned, orchestrated, and instigated. The trigger was the grossly inflammatory speech of the West Bengal Chief Minister."

Wrong to say Gehlot not taking action in graft cases: Cong

Pilot to go on fast to hold previous Vasundhara Raje Govt accountable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

A day after former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot launched a fresh attack on the Rajasthan Government over corruption, the party on Monday sought to downplay his remarks and said it is "wrong" to say that the Ashok Gehlot dispensation is not acting against graft.

On its part, Sachin will go ahead with his day-long fast on Tuesday to press for his demand for action against corruption during the previous BJP rule in Rajasthan. Sources close to Pilot said that while Rahul Gandhi was fighting Adani over alleged corruption, he was taking up the issue to hold the previous Raje dispensation accountable.

Congress said a probe against senior BJP leader from Rajasthan Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is on in the Sanjeevani scam and the Union minister has also filed a defamation case against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. "A probe is underway on how the BJP conspired to topple our elected government in Rajasthan and tried



to buy our MLAs," Congress Media Department head Pawan Khera said here when asked about Pilot's remarks that Congress government in Rajasthan was not against graft cases during previous BJP government in state. He said every aspect of conspiracy to topple Congress government in Rajasthan and Sanjeevani scam will come out soon. Asked if the party is also carrying out its own investigation, Khera said, "The investigating agencies are probing as it is their job to do so and not the organisations. We do not have any spyware installed."

He said party's organisation general secretary is in touch with everyone and he will talk to all those involved in the organisation. AICC in-charge of state Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said it was "not appropriate" for Pilot to hold a press conference in this manner and that he should have raised issue with him first.

The move by Pilot is seen as an attempt to pressure high command to resolve leadership issue ahead of Assembly polls. Congress has thrown its weight behind Gehlot and said his government has given state a leadership position in governance in country.

CBI sets up STF to probe teachers' recruitment scam in West Bengal



Kolkata: The CBI has formed a Special Task Force (STF) to speed up ongoing investigation of alleged teachers recruitment scam in West Bengal, a senior official of the probe body said on Monday. The team will reach city soon and begin probe into alleged scam, he said.

The STF will comprise seven senior officers - an SP, three DSPs, two inspectors and one SI drawn from New Delhi, Visakhapatnam, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar. "With there being developments in the teachers' recruitment scam in Bengal almost daily we need more officers to deal with that. We had written to Delhi headquarters recently and these officers will be joining the probe," said a senior CBI official.

Former state minister Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested in July last year by Enforcement Directorate probing the money trail in the SSC recruitment scam for his alleged involvement in it, is currently in jail custody at Presidency correctional home. Several officers of education department and a couple of ruling Trinamool Congress leaders are also in custody for alleged involvement in scam. *PTI*



Gadkari reviews J&K's Zojila Tunnel project

PNS ■ JAMMU

Union Minister for Transport and Roadways Minister Nitin Gadkari Monday inspected the 13-km-long strategically-important Zojila Tunnel that connects the Kashmir Valley with the Union Territory of Ladakh. Gadkari termed the tunnel historic and said that the project is part of a dream to connect the Kashmir Valley with Kanyakumari. The Union Minister also announced that the Z-Morh tunnel, which connects Gagangir with Sonamarg and provides all-weather connectivity to the resort in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir, will be inaugurated in October this year.

for 2026. "We are planning to open part of the project earlier than 2026". Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Members of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Road Transport and Highways also accompanied the Union Minister where they were briefed on the progress made on the ambitious project.

The Union Minister expressed hope that with the completion of the Zojila tunnel tourism will also increase by 3-4 times thereby creating employment opportunities for the youth in Jammu and Kashmir. "I have requested the Lt Governor and Jammu and Kashmir government to plan resorts, and adventure sports, and just like Switzerland, we can develop a lot of things here," he said. Addressing a press conference after conducting the inspection the Union Minister told reporters 19 tunnels are being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of Rs 25 thousand crore.

"19 tunnels are being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of Rs 25 thousand crore. Under this, construction work of a 13.14 km long tunnel and approach road is in progress at Zojila at a cost of Rs 6800 crore," said.

Lawyer files plea for control of Sena UBT HQ; Shinde denies role

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena on Monday distanced itself from a case filed by a Mumbai-based advocate seeking the control of Shiv Sena Bhavan, the headquarters of the Shiv Sena (UBT), and transfer of its all bank deposits to the Eknath Shinde-led Sena.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Shiv Sena's Maharashtra coordinator and spokesperson Naresh Mhaske termed as "absolutely false" the news reports being aired by some television channels that his party had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the control of Shiv Sena Bhavan, the headquarters of the Shiv Sena (UBT), and transfer of its all bank deposits to the accounts of his party.

"Some television channels are showing that we have filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the control of Shiv Sena Bhavan and all the bank



deposits. There is no truth in these reports. We deny all such reports... We have no link whatsoever with Advocate Ashish Giri who has filed a case in this regard in the Supreme Court," Mhaske said. A section of the regional television channels had reported earlier in the day that

Advocate Ashish Giri had filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding that all the funds and the party headquarters of ex-CM-led Shiv Sena (UBT) should be handed over to the Shinde-led Shiv Sena. In his petition, Giri contended that the Election Commission of India (ECI) had in October

last year recognised the Eknath Shinde-led party as the real Shiv Sena and ordered allotment of the original name-symbol of 'Shiv Sena' and 'Bow and Arrow' to the Shinde faction.

However, in the ECI's order, there was no clarity on the party's headquarters in Dadar, the iconic Shiv Sena Bhavan, its 227 branches in Mumbai and other units across the state and the funds in various bank accounts.

In his petition, Giri contended that since the ECI had given the name and symbol to the Shinde faction, it also had the rights to the party headquarters and the bank funds, and demanded a stay till the case is heard. It may be recalled that in the wake of the Shinde-led party being recognised as the real Shiv Sena, there was speculation on the fate of the Shiv Sena Bhavan and the funds held by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN "To Whomsoever it may concern. Property of Late Sh. Anoop Arora-SCO-169, DLF Garden City, Raebareilly Road, Lucknow, UP is being transferred to the name of his only legal heirs namely Mrs. Vijay Laxmi Arora, Mr. Karan Arora and Mr. Khushwant Arora. Objections, if any may be submitted in writing with valid reasons within 21 days to the undersigned - Advocate Mr. Agir Gupta, Delhi High Court, Chamber no. 259, Lawyers Block I, New Delhi-MOB-9818787647"

PUBLICATION

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007

FORM NO. 5

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

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Dandwat ruckus: WB BJP writes to Prez

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP has written a letter to President Droupadi Murmu seeking justice for some tribal women in Balurghat district in North Bengal where they were allegedly made to conduct a "dandwat parikrama" or crawl for about a km as a mark of penance for quitting the ruling Trinamool Congress and joining the BJP.

Demanding strict action against the perpetrators of the crime - here a woman TMC leader and a former district party president - Majumdar said "we have written letters to the President of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribe seeking action



Dilip Ghosh

handed over Trinamool flag," Majumdar said adding "this cannot go unpunished." While TMC had promptly removed woman leader from her post replacing her with a tribal face, Majumdar said his party demanded action as per law. "let the leader be arrested and case started against her under IPC and ST laws so that examples can be set for future."

Unwilling to let go an opportunity to further consolidate its foothold among the adivasi voters Bengal BJP on Monday stepped up its movement against TMC's alleged anti-tribal act. Senior leaders like Majumdar and BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh led a massive rally to DM's office.

because these three women were subjected to cruel medieval torture for leaving TMC and joining BJP" They were forced to perform "dandwat parikrama (covering a distance touching ground with entire body, standing up to repeat the act till distance of a km was covered up to TMC party office where they were

the psychiatric society said. The IPS is very cognisant that a child adopted into a same-gendered family may face challenges, stigma and or discrimination along the way. It is imperative that once legalised, such parents of the LGBTQA spectrum bring up the children in gender neutral, unbiased environment, it said.

It is also of utmost importance, that the family, community, school and society in general are sensitised to protect and promote the development of such a child, and prevent stigma and discrimination at any cost, the IPS added.

Psychiatrist body backs LGBTQA's right to marriage, adoption

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An apex body of psychiatrists in India has said members of the LGBTQA community should be treated like all citizens of the country and have access to marriage, adoption, education, employment, property rights and healthcare.



Gurugram-headquartered Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) said in a statement issued on April 3. It said that in 2018, the IPS had supported the decriminalisation of homosexuality

and those from the LGBTQA spectrum under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code as well as stated that these are variants of normal sexuality, not deviant and certainly not an illness.

"There is no evidence to indicate that individuals on the LGBTQA spectrum cannot partake any of the above. On the contrary, discrimination which prevents the above may lead to mental health issues,"

the psychiatric society said. The IPS is very cognisant that a child adopted into a same-gendered family may face challenges, stigma and or discrimination along the way. It is imperative that once legalised, such parents of the LGBTQA spectrum bring up the children in gender neutral, unbiased environment, it said.

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REGISTRAR

Debits Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

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Debits Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

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Debits Recovery Tribunal Lucknow



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Good leverage

The MEA should be lauded for goading London into take action against Khalistanis

India has denied reports of checking negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK, calling it "baseless." This was in response to a report in the London-based Times which said that India has halted trade talks with the UK. New Delhi was reportedly unhappy with London over the latter's reluctance to condemn Sikh extremists; some of them even attacked the Indian High Commission in London last month. The report said that India is not likely to resume talks until the UK condemns the Sikh extremist group that attacked the High Commission. The ties between India and the UK got strained in the past few weeks—and just because of the hooliganism of Khalistanis. The BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was extremely critical of him, was intensely not just by the Government but also a large number of people in India. The attacks on the Indian High Commission were carried out by the supporters of Amrindra Singh, a Khalistani leader who is now a fugitive. According to The Times report, the UK Home Office is planning to make an announcement in the coming weeks and a crackdown on Sikh extremists and supporters of the Khalistan movement so that the trade negotiations could be brought back on track. The UK media had earlier too reported that the Indian Government had "disengaged" from FTA negotiations. If there was indeed such disengagement, the Ministry of External Affairs should be lauded for goading London into taking action against Khalistanis.



This is how issues should be handled, and not in a manner that raises a stink—almost literally. There were reports earlier that the local authorities in New Delhi were making a public toilet near the British High Commissioner's residence. The UK government opposed this on security grounds. The decision was seen as an expression of India's ire against the British government's failure to protect its diplomatic mission in London. Another expression was the removal of police barricades from near the High Commissioner's residence and mission. While India's anger is justified, such reactions don't show the world's largest democracy in a good light. Going slow on the India-UK FTA was, however, justified—and it has yielded good results. FTA talks began on June 17, 2022; it was hoped that these would conclude by Diwali in October, but that didn't happen. This was primarily because of political turmoil in the UK, resulting in the resignations of Prime Minister Boris Johnson and then his successor Liz Truss. The negotiations recommenced after the new PM Modi met his British counterpart Rishi Sunak in Bali during the G20 summit. The UK is interested in an FTA with India. The MEA has been smart in leveraging this to the benefit of India. There is a lesson that our policy and decision makers can learn from this episode: we can leverage our economic might to influence decisions in Western capitals.

PICTALK



Devotees take part in a 'Nagar Kirtan' ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, at Golden Temple PTI

The long road to women empowerment

Elderly women are often sidelined in their own families and society. They deserve a better deal

As we approach our 76th year of Independence, we reflect upon what independence means to the women of the country, especially the old and often forgotten. Are they empowered? Are they financially independent and secure? Are their specific health needs being met? What is their reality today? According to a UNFPA report, 59% of older women do not have any personal income in the form of salary, interest, pension, etc. As per a HelpAge India report, the burden of caregiving for the elderly within a family, more often than not, falls on the female member of the family, who becomes the primary caretakers, especially for those elderly who face physical or functional limitations. From assisting elders in their activities of daily living, whether it be feeding them, helping them walk, bathe or change clothes, daughters-in-law followed by daughters are the primary Caregivers. These roles are often taken for granted, in a largely patriarchal society, where the assumption of women being primary caretakers is given. HelpAge India's report



"Bridge the Gap: Understanding Elder Needs," revealed that 10% of elderly women face mental health issues like depression. 68.5% of elderly women are not covered under any health insurance and 50% of elderly women are financially dependent on family members' remittances. More than half of all older women also carry a higher burden of both acute and chronic morbidity than their male counterparts. Little or no sources of income or inadequate pension and lack of access to affordable healthcare, further leave them burdened with unaddressed health problems. Women belonging to the economically weaker or marginalized sections are at a further disadvantage. It is therefore imperative that

older women be universally covered under social pension and a Care Allowance be provided to them. The PMJAY is an inclusive health assurance scheme and covers the poor, but a special focus on the elderly, particularly eligible elderly women, may be considered.

The first step towards including older women in the mainstream is by acknowledging that their challenges are unique and need to be addressed. The gap between health services and older women needs to be bridged immediately so they don't miss the benefits of the government-run programs or schemes dedicated to them. Healthcare insurance cover must be widened.

On a positive note, one-time saving schemes like the 'Mahila Samman Bachat Patra' are a welcome step. We hope that older women also get the benefits of this scheme. In agribusiness and green growth initiatives, older women play a very significant role. In rural and non-central areas, a lot of older women run small businesses. A notable section does this via Elder-Self-Help-Groups, a

concept pioneered by HelpAge India. Large corporations must provide hand-holding, procure products from them which are mostly organic and fit very well with the 'made in India' concept of promoting local art and agriculture and invest in them to ensure their progress, as well as do smart business.

There is a heightened need to create more avenues for income generation for their inclusion as well as physical and mental well-being. There are various government pension schemes for widows or retired women, however, access to these schemes for many elderly women continues to be a challenge. Most importantly, society must take collective responsibility for its ageing women population and must come forward to support them financially and emotionally. Older women, the primary caretakers of society, must not be seen as a burden but as active contributing members.

(Rohit Prasad is CEO of HelpAge India & Anupama Datta is Head — Policy, Research & Advocacy, HelpAge India)



ROHIT PRASAD



ANUPAMA DATTA

By not attending local programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao continues to insult the federal system. This also amounts to insulting the Constitution. KCR's utter disregard for the federal protocol is even though PM Modi is constantly working for development to the people of Telangana.

With his absence from the programme of PM Modi, KCR shows arrogance. He is also trying to become a barrier in PM Modi meeting the people of Telangana and spending time with them. The discomfort of KCR is because of his family-oriented politics, reeking of corruption, which has unleashed political arrogance, loot, insult of Dalits, and women. Thus, KCR cannot see Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his eyes. PM Modi's state visits rattle KCR, as he goes missing whenever the prime minister comes to the state.

It's a serious lapse on the part of KCR that he slips away whenever PM Modi visits Telangana. His utter disrespect to protocol, as laid out by the Constitution, is a sign of deep nervousness. PM Modi is welcomed by people all across the country with open hearts. The joy among the people of Telangana whenever PM Modi visits the state can be seen on the street. PM Modi has earned the love of the people, cutting across caste, class, creed and religion based on his hard work for the well-being of the citizens. But the Telangana chief minister has reasons to panic at the sight of PM Modi, which explains why he never fails to skip official protocols during the visit of the prime minister. KCR has overseen one of the most corrupt regimes in any of the states in the country. The paper leaks of examinations in Telangana are the new normal. The papers of the public service commission also get leaked. Such leaked papers make rounds on the Whatsapp of the people summarily.

The Bharatiya Janata party state chief Bandi Sanjay had also received one such leaked paper on his Whatsapp as had been the case with several other politicians.

KCR antics are not helping Telangana

By not following the protocol KCR is setting a bad example which may not be in the best interest of the people of Telangana



TARUN CHUGH

The people in the state have legitimate concerns that mafias run Telangana where corruption is the only means to move forward in all walks of life. Bandi Sanjay being a committed soldier of the BJP, who is devoted to the well-being of the people, has been agitating in Telangana against the rampant corruption of KCR and his government. But the KCR government sought to silence him by arresting him under a dubious charge. The court promptly freed Bandi Sanjay, because there was no merit in the case. It has become a norm in Telangana where the state police would summarily arrest leaders of the BJP. The state government has also faced flak from the Parliamentary privilege committee for one such reckless action against an MP.

It's indeed disturbing that KCR has murdered democracy even while the people had elected him through democratic means. It may be stated that KCR muzzled democracy to give cover to his clan positioned in all the spheres of the state government. The clan members supervise the loot of



KCR MUZZLED DEMOCRACY TO GIVE COVER TO HIS CLAN POSITIONED IN ALL THE SPHERES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

the resources of the state while denying the legitimate aspirations of the people, particularly the poor and the weaker sections of society. The hallmark of a corrupt regime has also been seen in Indian politics with the emergence of family members in the ruling parties in some places. Telangana is one such example where KCR has brought his entire clan to lord over his party and the state government. The liquor mafia runs the show in Telangana. The state government has been found wanting to act against the liquor mafia. This is now unravelling, as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is going to the depth of the nexus of the politicians with the liquor mafia. The KCR family members have indulged in enacting political drama after they became certain that the ED would take the case to a logical conclusion. This has set in palpable nervousness in the ranks of the ruling party in Telangana. KCR has also pressed the panic button after becoming convinced that the popularity of PM Modi is only rising in Telangana. This is the reason that PM Modi in

the last nine years has worked for the well-being of the small and marginal farmers by protecting their honour with PM Kissan Nidhi Scheme and weeding out middlemen in the procurement of foodgrains and distribution of urea. KCR thus is in panic in the face of the increasing unpopularity of his government. He is now resorting to undemocratic and repressive measures to stifle the voice of the BJP. But he is harbouring misplaced notions. The people of the country have always thrown such people who have shown anti-democratic mindsets. KCR may have forgotten, but even the most repressive regimes have been thrown out by the people for failing to respect democratic norms. The BJP would be unwavering in its struggle for the legitimate rights of the people in Telangana. The people in Telangana are fed up with KCR and his family rule. The BJP leadership is committed to protecting the interests of the people of Telangana, and democracy will be fully restored in the state soon.

(Author is the national general secretary of the BJP)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROOF OF PM'S QUALIFICATIONS

Sir — AAP has lost track of politics and is now behind the educational qualification of the PM. This week the pretender was having fun. He went on to the Delhi assembly and demanded proof of the Prime Minister's education. And his point was that India cannot live with an uneducated Prime Minister. When you listen to these worthy songs, you are so moved. They are so right.

We should have educated people only in Politics. Since we have a preponderance of uneducated people dotting the political landscape. Generally, the allegations about backtracking issues are of importance, but this time people's parties bring parity in diverging issues.

CK Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

SHARAD PAWAR'S U-TURN

Sir — Senior leader and NCP Chief Sharad Pawar in an interview questioning the Hindenburg report and dismissing the demand for a joint Parliamentary committee probe (JPC) show how opportunist our leaders are. Sharad Pawar and his NCP Party are one of the opposition parties that have joined the demand for JPC into the Adani issue in Parliament and now pitching for a Supreme Court-monitored probe is a jolt for Opposition parties and the Opposition party's unity. Sharad Pawar's comments that

Now Ambani and Adani names are taken to criticising the Government. But there is a need to think about their contributions to the country as well" seems there is something fishy in his comments. Sharad Pawar has forgotten that Adani Group is accused of manipulation of shares and creating several shell companies and he should know that there should be a probe by JPC for the scam to be unearthed. A senior leader like Sharad Pawar should know that the Supreme Court Committee has very limited turns of reference and it cannot bring out the deep nexus between PM and Adani. Sharad Pawar's comments are worrisome to opposition parties as 20 parties joined

Money wasted in Budget session



The Indian Budget Session of 2023 was marked by low productivity as both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for a significant period. The Lok Sabha had a productivity rate of 34.38%, functioning for only 45 hours out of the scheduled 133.6 hours. Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha worked for just over 31 hours out of 130 hours, with a productivity rate of around 24%. The adjournments during the Budget session have resulted in a significant loss of money for the country. The cost of running Parliament is estimated to be around Rs 2.5 lakh per minute or Rs 15 crore per hour, according to

a report. This figure may not be entirely accurate, as it does not account for inflation or other factors that may affect the cost of running Parliament.

However, using this figure as a rough approximation, we can calculate that the money wasted due to adjournments during the Budget session in 2023 was approximately Rs 2814 crore. This represents a significant loss for the country, as legislative time is precious. It is important to note that the actual cost of running Parliament and the value of lost legislative time may be much higher than this estimate. Furthermore, the loss of legislative time due to adjournments can have a significant impact on the functioning of the Govt and the passage of important bills and laws.

Therefore, the members of Parliament need to prioritize the functioning of the House and ensure that the legislative time is utilized efficiently. This will not only save the country money but also ensure that important legislation is passed promptly for the betterment of the country and its citizens.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

Freedom Foundation, which is an Indian digital liberties organisation, said that "assigning any unit of the government such arbitrary, over broad powers to determine the authenticity of online content bypasses the principles of natural justice, thus making it an unconstitutional exercise. The notification of these amended rules cement the chilling effect on the fundamental right to speech and expression, particularly on news publishers, journalists, activists.

The Editors Guild of India is deeply disturbed and that there was not even a mention of "what will be the governing mechanism for such a fact-checking unit", what the judicial oversight, if any, was, or the right to appeal. "All of this is against principles of natural justice and akin to censorship.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

MISLEADING CONTENT

Sir — The Union government passed new rules on April 6, 2023, allowing it to identify what it thought was any fake or false or misleading content online related to the government. This would be done by a 'fact check unit' set up by the government which would send take-down orders to social media platforms. This determination that news was false or misleading would be solely at the government's discretion. The rules would give the government authority to force social media firms to take down such content or face action. The Internet

FIRST COLUMN

ENGAGING CHILDREN IN THE JOY OF READING

Children's reading habits have diminished but there is no substitute for books



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Renowned English author Neil Richard Gaiman once said: "Books are the way that we communicate with the dead. The way that we learn lessons from those who are no longer with us, that humanity has built on itself, progressed, made knowledge incremental rather than something that has to be relearned, over and over."

In today's digital age, with the growing trend of smartphones and social media, children's reading habits have taken a back seat. The COVID-19 pandemic, which forced schools and libraries to shut down and made online learning the new norm, further exacerbated the situation. As a result, motivating children to read and appreciate books has become a challenge and a daunting task, for parents and educators alike. In today's digital age, where information is readily available at our fingertips, the necessity has also arisen to select good authors and books that offer quality content.

Celebrations such as International Children's Book Day (ICBD) which just concluded on April 2, provide an opportunity to emphasize the importance of reading and the selection of good authors, for children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. This year the theme of ICBD was "The Power of Diversity," emphasizing the importance of promoting diverse voices and perspectives in children's literature. One of the most effective ways to encourage children to read is to create a conducive environment for reading. The role of parents and educators is the most vital factor in this direction. Parents and educators can set aside a dedicated time and place for reading. Another way to motivate children to read is to make reading fun and enjoyable. Children are more



likely to read if they find the content interesting and engaging. Parents and educators can select books that cater to their children's interests and hobbies. For instance, if a child is interested in space and astronomy, books on the solar system and the universe could be a great choice. The use of interactive reading techniques such as storytelling, role-playing, and dramatization can make reading an enjoyable experience.

It is equally important to prioritize selecting books from established and reputable authors, who have a track record of producing quality content. This can be achieved by conducting research on the author and their works, reading reviews, and seeking recommendations from experts in the field. Parents and educators should also consider the genre and age-appropriateness of the books. For instance, a book that is appropriate for a ten-year-old, may not be suitable for a six-year-old. Therefore, carefully considering the content of the book and ensuring that it is suitable for the child's age and level of maturity is vital.

Reading exposes children to new ideas, expands their vocabulary, improves their cognitive skills, and fosters empathy. It is important to help children find books that interest them and foster a love of reading, which can be done by organising book clubs, reading challenges and other activities. By creating a sense of community around reading, parents and educators can help children see reading as an enjoyable and rewarding activity. Reiterating this view, Australian children's author Mem Fox also once said, "The aid of technology can also be used to promote reading through e-books and audiobooks and thus help and engage children to discover new books and connect with other readers."

Renowned author with several books to his credit, Ruskin Bond says, "If you want to cultivate a love of reading, give a child a good book early in life." Similarly, the author of "Tiger on a Tree" and "The Storyteller", Anushka Ravishankar says, "Reading opens up a world of possibilities and teaches them to think and imagine beyond what they see." The need of the hour is to promote children's literature. We must bring the children to the magical world of books.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

Inflation versus growth: RBI's dilemma



UTTAM GUPTA

Too much reliance on monetary policy instruments such as a hike in repo rate is of little help



Having already increased the repo rate or RR (interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends to banks) by a cumulative 2.5 per cent in the past 11 months, the RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on April 6 voted unanimously to keep it unchanged at 6.5 per cent. However, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das pledged to hike the RR again if needed, saying the decision to pause was "for this meeting only."

In 2016, the Government put in place an institutionalised framework, the MPC, to formulate monetary policy and determine the key interest rates. It mandated the RBI to fix rates, especially the RR, in such a manner as to maintain inflation—as represented by the consumer price index (CPI)—within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent) for five years ending March 31, 2021 (the mandate has since been extended till March 31, 2026).

In the case of a failure to maintain the inflation target for three consecutive quarters, the central bank is required to submit a report to the Government explaining the reasons and spelling out the remedial actions it would be taken to check the price rise. For the first time, this situation arose during 2022 when the CPI remained above the higher end of the range i.e., 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022.

Post-September 2022, the MPC brainstormed on the subject matter but its report is not in the public domain. Meanwhile, it has continued to deliver more hikes in October, December 2022 and February 2023 adding to 1.1 per cent on top of 1.4 per cent already delivered in June and August 2022 policy reviews (besides May 2022 which was out of turn). In the policy review announced now, it has paused but its tight orientation remains intact.

This is evident from a concomitant decision of the MPC to retain a policy stance focused on "withdrawal of accommodation". The terminology was coined by Das way back in June 2019 when he talked of an 'accommodative' stance pointing towards a cut in RR and an increase in cre-

dit availability. Withdrawal of accommodation is its reverse implying that the RBI would go for more hikes in RR and less cash with the banks. It shifted to this stance in June 2022 and has stuck to it to date. **Have the measures taken by RBI helped in reining inflation?**

The cue is available in the following statement by Shaktikanta Das: "When we started the rate cut cycle in February 2019 to provide support to growth, the CPI inflation was around 2 per cent and the policy repo rate was 6.50 per cent. Now, the policy rate is 6.50 per cent but inflation is 6.4 per cent (February 2023)".

Das took charge in December 2018 when growth was emerging as a major constraint (from the third quarter of 2018-19 onwards, GDP growth was dipping) even as the RR had reached a peak of 6.5 per cent. Beginning in February 2019, he went for an aggressive cut in RR which had plummeted to 4 per cent by May 2020.

Despite the cuts, growth didn't revive. During 2019-20, it had reached a historic low of 4 per cent. During 2020-21, it was negative at 6.6 per cent, courtesy of the overpowering effect of the Corona pandemic. During 2021-22, when the pandemic effect waned, GDP growth rebounded to 8.9 per cent. Low-interest rates helped revival.

Meanwhile, a spurt in inflation from January 2022 onwards forced the RBI to shift focus to inflation management which has continued all through 2022-23. During 2022-23, even as GDP grew by 7 per cent, inflation remained stubborn. This is despite the RBI having raised RR to 6.5 per cent. The Governor admits it when he says, "Now, the policy rate is 6.5 per cent but inflation is 6.4 per cent."

The hike in interest rates hasn't helped. To say that inflation would

have been much higher but for a hike in the RR is a tautological argument. The central bank has lowered its inflation forecast to 5.2 per cent for FY 2023-24 from 5.3 per cent (given in February 2023). This (being lower than the threshold of 6 per cent at the upper end, it might not go for a further hike in interest rate. In case, however, inflation remains above this cap, it won't hesitate to strike again. The RBI seems to be missing the wood for the trees.

Inflation is driven by both the demand and supply side factors. But the RBI is obsessed only with demand management, even though the spurt in inflation during 2022-23 was predominantly supply-driven. It was due to geopolitical tension and disruption in global supply chains (caused primarily by the Ukraine War), and the resultant steep increase in prices of commodities, mostly food, fuel and fertilisers.

India imports 85 per cent of its crude requirement and close to 55 per cent of natural gas (NG), both being the basic ingredients for making a whole range of products viz. petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG, PNG, ATF, etc. A major disruption in supplies from the war region has led to their skyrocketing international prices impacting the cost of their imports. In recent months, these prices have softened; for instance, last month crude declined to around \$70 per barrel.

But this relief could be temporary. A slight change in global supply-demand dynamics could reverse the trend. For instance, the recent 'sudden' decision of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plus to cut output by 1.16 million barrels per day (mbd) has led to a jump in the price of crude oil to \$80 per barrel. According to Goldman Sachs, this could lead to oil hitting

\$95 per barrel by December 2023.

Another major source of inflation is food. The spurt in its price too has a lot to do with disruption in supplies caused primarily by seasonal factors (for instance, the impact on the wheat crop during Rabi 2021-22 triggered by unusually high temperatures). During the current Rabi 2022-23 also, rains accompanied by the hailstorm in some areas have impacted wheat production. During February 2023, cereals and product inflation skyrocketed to 16.7 per cent. Likewise, inflation for 'milk and milk products' was high at 9.6 per cent.

This too was caused mainly by disruption in supply. In such a scenario, too much reliance on monetary policy instruments such as a hike in RR or sucking out liquidity (these instruments work on the demand side) is of little help. The RBI ought to have avoided it. But it hasn't.

Continuing with this course could pose a serious risk to growth due to a rise in lending rates, an increase in EMIs of millions of borrowers and higher cost loans to industries, especially MSMEs. The RBI should abandon it; a mere pause in raising RR won't take us very far. The RBI should change gear to make way for some cuts and provide adequate liquidity to support the growth momentum.

There should be a greater focus on supply-side management. Here, the government should play a bigger role by vigorously pursuing a strategy that reduces India's vulnerability to disruption in the global supply chain. It should go for measures such as increasing domestic production of oil, gas, and fertilisers, diversifying their sources of supply, reduction in import duties, cutting in CED on petrol and diesel to bring them under GST within a specified time frame etc.



INFLATION IS DRIVEN BY BOTH THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SIDE FACTORS. BUT THE RBI IS OBSESSED ONLY WITH DEMAND MANAGEMENT EVEN THOUGH THE SPURT IN INFLATION DURING 2022-23 WAS PREDOMINANTLY SUPPLY-DRIVEN

(The author is a policy analyst)

The digital space gives wings to women entrepreneurs

Digital platforms have opened new avenues for women who want to start their businesses but lack access to resources

23-year-old Shifa Faiz is an entrepreneur from the small city of Chhapra, which is also the headquarters of the Saran district in Bihar. Born and brought up in this part of the country, Shifa started her business in 2018 by promoting and selling handcrafted gifts on social media. She was just eighteen-year-old when she started taking orders for her online gifting business and has since grown her business substantially – on her own.

Digital platforms have opened new avenues for people who want to start their businesses and especially women as they are often either not allowed to step out for business or do not have access to resources. Digital literacy is allowing women and young



ARCHANA KISHORE

girls to have that freedom. This year's International Women's Day theme "Digital: Innovation and technology for gender equality" rightly emphasizes the importance of connecting women and girls to technology.

"I have enjoyed crafting gifts since childhood. With no professional training, I wasn't so good at it during the initial, self-learning days as I tried creating handmade cards and gift items. I would post them on Instagram and YouTube. With practice, I started getting a hang of it and kept getting better. It was in 2018, I finally realized the courage of converting my liking into an online business, and in February that year, I created my account on Instagram with the name 'Shifu Creations,'

explained Shifa while reflecting on her journey as a digital entrepreneur. Start-ups require investment, but Shifa had only invested Rupees One Hundred from her own pocket money.

"I had been working since February and felt very happy when the order for making one greeting card, that too from a friend, finally arrived in June. After making the card, I had gone to deliver it on my own" expressed Shifa who was immensely elated after receiving her first payment of Rupees One Hundred. Currently, she receives 20 to 25 orders per month. While Shifa crafts handmade souvenirs at home, the ones that need customization are sent to a nearby manufacturing unit, which is picked by courier service and sent to the customers directly.

If the customer is from Chhapra, she takes approximately 3 to 4 days for urgent orders and a minimum of 15 days if the order is from outside her city. In the course of the conversation, Shifa said, "My dream is to set up a factory of my own. I want to transform 'Shifu Creations' into a brand."

Appreciating Shifa's talent and handmade creations, Komal Mayur, a customer of hers, said, "It is a trustworthy site, and the products get delivered on time as well. I was skeptical about placing an order the first time, but everything turned out perfect. I never tell her to make anything specific. I just sent the photo from which she created a wonderful gift and delivered it well within time. I love all the

creations of Shifu."

Another example of women coming forward to use the digital space to set up their career in business from Chhapra is the sister duo of Ankita Prabhakar, 43, and Nidhi Prabhakar, 38. They run a clothing business online. Initially, their clients were family members, neighbours and friends. They catered to everyone by forming a WhatsApp group, which today deals with approximately 3800 clients.

The duo comes from a family that runs their clothing store in the city and supplies clothes to all the villages around Chhapra. Instinctively, they wanted to do something in the same sector but had to face several hurdles. "Our family never supported us in pro-

viding us the best education. The idea of women doing business was clearly not deemed appropriate. They strictly instructed us not to work. In some years, I got married and had children. But eventually, I started thinking about my business plan and began my journey along with my sister," informed Ankita.

According to Nidhi, the digital market has supported their business. However, she believes in the importance of having the right knowledge to promote business online. "We currently have under 52 resellers who also have local shops and boutiques. This is helpful for most women as they can earn some money for themselves," expressed Nidhi.

The experiences of both Ankita and Nidhi in doing

business online are however not free of challenges. At times, customers get angry when a parcel gets delayed for various reasons. They also face challenges regarding the return policies. This affected their business. "To avoid this hassle, we have made it compulsory for our customers to make a video on receiving the package," added Ankita.

Nevertheless, online business has increased with the help of online platforms, and Instagram, YouTube and WhatsApp are playing a major role in it. Technology has indeed considerably changed the nature and extent of business, making it feasible for women and girls from smaller towns. Hopefully, more women will be able to benefit from this in the times to come.

China concludes drills 'encircling' Taiwan

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Monday said it has successfully completed its three-day large-scale fire and fury military drills "encircling" Taiwan, including the use of an aircraft carrier, aimed at showing its anger over the US House Speaker's meeting with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen.

The Eastern Theatre Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) successfully completed all tasks of its combat readiness patrols and exercises around Taiwan Island, official media here reported. Taiwan's defence ministry said on Sunday that in the past 24 hours, 70 Chinese aircraft and 11 Chinese ships were spotted around Taiwan.

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. Analysts say that PLA's exercises this time compared to last August when House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's predecessor Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei, becoming the first high-profile American politician to visit the island defying Beijing's redlines, were muted and far less in intensity. China deployed

its aircraft carrier 'Shandong' and the state-run CCTV showed missiles being fired from several of China's coastal areas into the Taiwan Strait, the busy waterway that separates the self-governing island from the mainland but chose to end it in three days compared to its previous response.

Officials here attribute the reason for short-term drills to Presidential elections in January next year and Beijing was averse to creating a negative public impression in Taiwan which may shore up public support to the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) headed by Tsai, a firm opponent of reunification with China.

China hosted former Taiwanese politician Ma Ying-jeou, heading Kuomintang (KMT) party which advocates peaceful ties with Beijing. Ma concluded his visit to China just around the same time Tsai visited the US.

The PLA on Saturday said its forces launched combat readiness patrol and military exercises around Taiwan Island, which will last from April 8 to 10. The patrol and exercises take place in the maritime areas and airspace of the Taiwan Strait, off the northern and southern coasts of the island, and

to the island's east, said Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the command. 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 that the operations are necessary for safeguarding China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that secessionist acts of "Taiwan independence" and the connivance and support of external forces to them pose the "greatest danger" to peace in the Taiwan Straits.

Acts of "Taiwan independence" are incompatible with peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits "as fire and water," Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for the ministry, said in response to questions about the ongoing military exercises around the Taiwan Island. "To maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, we must firmly oppose all forms of 'Taiwan independence' secessionist acts," Wang said at a press briefing here. At Monday's briefing, Wang expressed hope that the

international community shall recognise the nature of the Taiwan question, adhere to the one-China principle, and oppose all forms of "Taiwan independence" secessionist activities. Meanwhile, an editorial in the PLA Daily on Monday said the US cannot be relied on to defend Taiwan.

It accused Washington of using Taiwan as a pawn and creating a "porcupine" island to contain Beijing, referring to the military strategy of deterring military attacks from the mainland by making conflict too costly. In the last two days, the PLA simulated missile strikes against key targets on Taiwan and waters near it.

It also sent warplanes and ships near Taiwan to improve its combat readiness across multiple armed services and the ability to encircle the island. The PLA Daily editorial accused the US of having ulterior motives when selling arms to Taiwan.

"Can the US' security guarantee' be depended on? The answer is, of course, a resounding no," the editorial said. The multi-day exercises coincided with the return of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to Taipei after her high-profile visit

to the US last week when she met US House Speaker McCarthy, a move denounced by Beijing.

Also, 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 were launched after French 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.

Tsai's predecessor and pro-Beijing politician, Ma Ying-jeou, also returned to Taiwan on Friday last, 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.



President Joe Biden helps first lady Jill Biden exit Marine One as they arrive at Fort McNair, on Easter on Sunday in Washington. The Bidens are returning from Camp David. AP/PTI

Democratic Sen Bob Casey of Pennsylvania to seek 4th term

Harrisburg (US): Democratic Sen. Bob Casey will seek a fourth term in office, bringing the power of incumbency and unmatched name recognition in Pennsylvania politics to his party's defence of a seat in a critical presidential battleground state.

The announcement by Casey, the longest-serving Democratic US senator in Pennsylvania history, gives Democrats a boost ahead of a difficult 2024 Senate map. They must defend incumbents not only in red states — Montana, Ohio and West Virginia — but also in multiple swing states.

Casey, who will turn 63 in a few days, is a key ally of labour unions and President Joe Biden. In Congress, Casey, a moderate Democrat, has backed all of Biden's top priorities and forged a close relationship with the president, at least in part because the men also have a bond that goes beyond politics.

They hail from the same hometown of Scranton. In running for reelection, Casey's message sounds similar to how Biden's campaign for a second term may sound.

5 killed, 6 injured in shooting at downtown Louisville building



Louisville (AP): Police say five people have been killed in a shooting at a bank building in downtown Louisville and the suspected shooter is also dead.

Police say six others were brought to the hospital after the Monday morning shooting. The Louisville Metro Police Department said Monday on Twitter there was an ongoing situation and asked people to avoid the area.

"There are multiple casualties," police said in the tweet. Police described it as an "active aggressor." Witnesses who left the building told WHAS-TV they heard gunfire inside the building.

Numerous police vehicles were seen on television footage. WHAS reporters said they saw people being taken from the scene in ambulances.

In a tweet, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said he was heading to the scene.

"Please pray for all of the families impacted and for the city of Louisville," Beshear said.

The FBI said its agents were also responding to the shooting.

The shooting happened in a building on East Main Street that houses the Old National Bank not far from the Louisville Slugger Field and Waterfront Park.

4 bodies found after Marseille building collapse

Marseille (AP): Two bodies were found on Monday in the rubble following an explosion that collapsed a building in the southern French city of Marseille, bringing the confirmed death toll to four as rescuers continue searching for four more people who are unaccounted-for. Two other bodies had previously been found overnight.

The judicial authority will proceed to identify the victims, firefighters said in a statement. Minister for Cities and Housing Olivier Klein told reporters that at least four people have died, after he met with rescuers on site. "The hope to find survivors is still there," Minister for Cities and Housing Olivier Klein told reporters. "It is very meticulous work done by firefighters," he added, noting the risk for adjacent buildings to collapse.

More than 100 firefighters were mobilised for the searches. Marseille mayor Benoit Payan tweeted on Monday that "the pain and sorrow are great."

He expressed his thoughts for the families of the victims and "those who are suffering." "Rescue and search operations are continuing, without respite," he said.

Trump's response to criminal charges revives election lies

AP ■ NEW YORK

Legally, the most important words former President Donald Trump said after he was charged with 34 felonies by the Manhattan District Attorney last week were "not guilty."

But, politically, the most significant may be "election interference." Trump's repetition of those words, which have been taken up by other top Republicans, show how he is trying to turn his historic position as the first former president charged with crimes to his advantage.

It's another example of what's been a consistent refrain throughout his political career - claiming without evidence that an election is being rigged against him. After his initial court appearance in the New York case, the first of several in which he is in legal jeopardy, Trump ticked through the varied investigations he was facing and branded them as "massive" attempts to interfere with the 2024 election.

"Our justice system has become lawless," Trump said as he appeared before supporters at his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago. "They're using it now, in



addition to everything else, to win elections."

Trump has made some version of those claims in at least 20 social media posts since March 3, the bulk of which occurred in the last two weeks, accelerating when a Manhattan grand jury appeared to be wrapping up its work and preparing to indict the former president.

Trump declared his latest bid for the White House shortly after the November midterms, in what some in his orbit saw as an effort to head off the various probes swirling around him.

Alleging an election is being stolen from him is a routine Trump tactic, despite no evidence to back up his assertions. When competing for the GOP presidential nomination

in 2016, Trump claimed his loss in the Iowa caucuses was due to fraud. When he won the White House that November but lost the popular vote, Trump claimed the only reason for falling short in the latter category was because undocumented immigrants voted. A task force he formed to find voter fraud disbanded without finding any evidence to back up his claim. In 2020, Trump began arguing the election would be fraudulent months before voting started. He attacked efforts to loosen restrictions on mail voting during the coronavirus pandemic, and expanded those allegations after losing the election to claim he'd actually won it.

Those lies led to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol. Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general have said there is no credible evidence the 2020 election was tainted.

The former president's allegations of fraud were also roundly rejected by courts, including by judges Trump appointed. Trump is behaving like a politician in the legal crosshairs, said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard political scientist.

China sentences two lawyers on 'farical' charge

Beijing (AP): Two prominent Chinese human rights lawyers have been sentenced to more than a decade in prison, Human Rights Watch said on Monday, the latest in a crackdown by the ruling Communist Party on its critics. The rights group said Xu Zhiyong, 50, was sentenced to 14 years and Ding Jiaxi, 55, was given 12 years in prison under the vague charge of "subversion of state power." Such proceedings are conducted under intense secrecy.

"The cruelly farcical convictions and sentences meted out to Xu Zhiyong and Ding Jiaxi show President Xi Jinping's unstinting hostility towards peaceful activism," Yaqiu Wang, the group's senior China researcher, was quoted as saying in a news release. The court in Shandong province, south of the capital Beijing, did not immediately respond to requests for confirmation. Xu and Ding are among a generation of Chinese who held out hope that the ruling party would adopt a more liberal approach to governance after the political chaos of the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution and the bloody crackdown on student-led pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Public Notice: My Client Manna Devi W/o Lt. Umrao Singh R/o B-13A, DDA Flats, Shivangi Kunj Opp. BG-1, Paschim Vihar, N.D-63 has debarred and disowned her Son Narender Singh from her movable & immovable Properties. My Client & her family have also severed all their relation with him. If any body deals with him in any manner they do so at their own risk & responsibility. Ramesh Chander (Adv), Chamber -68, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE. Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work. Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money: 1. Special Repairs for Rehabilitation/strengthening of Existing 2-Lane ROB No.71AA at Km 41/15-17 at Sonpat on Delhi-Ambala section in the section of SSE/W/SNP under ADE/N/P/NP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 66,99,944.68. Earnest money: 1. Rs. 1,34,000/-

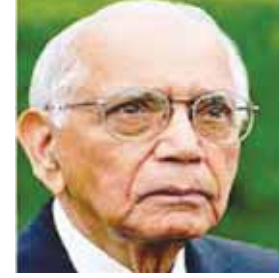
NORTHERN RAILWAY 'One Station One Product'. Applications are invited for 'One Station One Product' for setting up Staff /kiosk at Muzaffarnagar, Surgeon, Palwal, Pataudi Road, Meerut Cantt, Bahadurgarh & Ghaziabad stations. The period for setting up of the staff/kiosk will be thirty days per spell from 13.04.2023. A fee of Rs. 2000 for thirty days shall be charged for each spell of thirty days.

Indian-American mathematician awarded International Prize in Statistics at 102

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, will receive the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.

Rao's work, more than 75 years ago, continues to exert a profound influence on science, the International Prize in Statistics Foundation said in a statement. Rao, who is now 102, will receive the prize, which comes with a USD 80,000 award, this July at the biennial International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa,



Ontario, Canada. "In awarding this prize, we celebrate the monumental work by C.R. Rao that not only revolutionized statistical thinking in its time but also continues to exert enormous influence on human understanding of science across a wide spectrum of disciplines," said Guy Nason, chair of the International Prize in Statistics Foundation.

Two dead, 20 missing as migrant boat sinks off Tunisia

Rome (AP): At least two migrants have died and about 20 others are missing after their boat sank off the weekend in the Mediterranean Sea between Tunisia and Italy, German aid group ResQship said on Monday.

ResQship said its rescuers reached the area of the wreck on Saturday and found about 25 people in the water, who said they had been there for two hours.

"Our crew was able to recover 22 survivors and 2 deceased," the aid group tweeted, adding that survivors said about 20 people drowned.

Lawmaker accuses expelled Democrat of racism

Houston (PTI): An Indian-American surgeon and state legislator in the US state of Tennessee has accused an expelled Democrat lawmaker of racism after being called a "brown face of white supremacy," according to a media report. Dr. Sabi Kumar, a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, said that Democrat Justin Jones called him a "brown face of white supremacy" during a speech in the House. According to Kumar, it was the first instance of racism he faced in his 53 years in the US, Fox News reported last week. "I am an immigrant, everybody knows. I have been in this country for 53 years..." the 75-year-old legislator said in a speech in the House. The Tennessee state legislature

expelled two Democratic politicians, including Jones, who led a gun control protest that halted legislative proceedings last week. The Tennessee House of Representatives, dominated by the Republicans, have said the two lawmakers brought "disorder and dishonour to the House". In those 53 years in America, "I have never encountered a racial slur. I'm really not aware that any of that applies to me. I live a good life. Yet you on tape call me a brown face," Kumar said. He said that Jones shoved his finger in his face and said "Kumar, they will never accept you" and added that the 27-year-old Democrat was intimidating enough that "the sergeant-at-arms without my invitation came and intervened" between them, the news portal, Mediaite reported.

'Berlusconi's health condition improving'

Rome (AP): The condition of former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, hospitalised in intensive care for a lung infection, is progressively improving, allowing for "cautious optimism," his doctors said on Monday.

Berlusconi, 86, was taken on Wednesday to the intensive care unit at Milan's San Raffaele hospital. Doctors revealed that the media tycoon and three-time premier has had a chronic form of leukemia for some time. Monday's new health bulletin, signed by Berlusconi's doctors Alberto Zangrilli and Fabio Ciceri, said they observed a "progressive and constant improvement" in his condition.

Over-emphasis on safety makes kids anxious

Halifax (Canada): Teenagers and young adults are more depressed, suicidal, anxious and lonely than ever before. Depression rates among teens have been increasing since the early 2000s. A 2018 national survey found that 13.3 per cent of U.S. adolescents experienced a major depressive episode in the last year. But it's not just teens — young adults are suffering too.

A 2016 international survey of university counselling centres revealed 50 per cent of university students sought help for feelings of anxiety and 41 per cent for depression. Suicide rates are also increasing. The number of teenage girls in the U.S. who died by suicide nearly doubled between 2000 and 2015. The mental health statistics for Canadian youth are similarly grim. In 2003, 24 per cent of



Canadians aged 15-30 self-reported that their mental health was either fair or poor (compared to very good or excellent). By 2019, that number had risen to 40 per cent. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the mental health of Canadian youths. In 2020, 58 per cent of Canadians aged 15-24 reported fair or poor mental health and nearly one in four hospitalizations for children and youth aged 5-24 were due to mental health conditions.

What has changed in the last decade to explain this rise in poor mental health among youth? Some psychologists point to the recent cultural emphasis on safety as a contributor. In previous decades, American and Canadian children enjoyed more freedom, even though there were rising crime rates. The crime wave in Canada rose steeply from the 60s through the 80s until it peaked in the early 1990s. Cable TV became widespread during the same period, meaning that news of crimes spread farther and quicker than ever before. This surge spurred safety initiatives like sharing pictures of missing children on milk cartons and crime shows like America's Most Wanted. It's no wonder parents became increasingly fearful and protective.

Crime rates began to come down in the 1990s, but fear among parents remained. This is where the problem of being over cautious begins. The concept of safety started to extend beyond children's physical safety to emotional and psychological comfort. This denied children experiences they needed to learn and grow. Parental overprotection has been shown to foster unhealthy coping mechanisms in children. Overprotected children are more likely to both internalize problems (as in anxiety and depression) and externalize them (as in substance abuse, defiance or delinquency). Some psychologists propose that overprotection can morph into what they call "safetyism," which teaches kids negative thought patterns similar to those experienced by the anxious and depressed.

Man attacked by shark while surfing off Honolulu

Honolulu (US): A surfer was in serious condition after being bitten in the leg by a shark Sunday morning off Honolulu, authorities said. The 58-year-old man was attacked shortly before 7 am (local time) near Kewalo Basin, according to Honolulu Emergency Medical Services. Paramedics responded and "administered life-saving treatment to a patient who was surfing and suffered shark bite to right leg," EMS said in a statement.

The surfer was not identified. "Honolulu Ocean Safety will continue to patrol the waters off of Kewalo Basin and Ala Moana after this morning's shark bite."

New emoji to feature in King Charles III's Coronation

PTI ■ LONDON

A gilded air-conditioned horse-drawn carriage, a series of historic crown jewels and a brand-new emoji for social media to give a modern touch are among the details released by Buckingham Palace in London on Monday for the grand Coronation ceremony of King Charles III and Queen Camilla next month.

The 74-year-old monarch, who succeeded to the British throne after the passing of his mother Queen Elizabeth II in September last year, will be formally crowned at a solemn religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London on May 6. It marks a 70-year gap since this royal tradition was last seen in action for the late Queen in

1953 and next month's ceremony will include many of the same elements but also add modern-day touches chosen by Charles.

"On the morning of the 6th May, Their Majesties will travel from Buckingham Palace in the King's Procession to Westminster Abbey in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach," the palace said. "Created for Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Her late Majesty's reign in 2012, the coach has only ever conveyed the Sovereign, occasionally accompanied by the consort or a visiting Head of State," it said.

"The gilded crown on the top of the Diamond Jubilee State Coach was carved from oak from HMS Victory, and the

coach's interior is inlaid with samples of woods, metals and other materials from buildings and places with specific connections to Britain and its history," it said.

This horse-drawn carriage is the far more comfortable one of the two to feature in the two-way procession, including air-conditioning and shock absorbers. The less comfortable royal carriage, the Gold State Coach, will be used for the shorter return journey from the Abbey to the palace.

"The coach, last seen during the Pageant of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022, was commissioned in 1760 and was first used by King George III, to travel to the State Opening of Parliament in 1762," the palace said. "The



coach has been used at every Coronation since that of William IV in 1831. The coach will be drawn by eight Windsor Greys and, due to its weight of four tonnes, will travel at walking pace," it said.

Once back at the palace, the newly crowned King and Queen will receive a Royal Salute from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Armed Forces who would have been on parade that day.

The Royal Salute will be followed by three cheers from the assembled service personnel, as a tribute from the Armed Forces. The Coronation Regalia, the heart of the Crown Jewels which remain at the Tower of London for public display at all other times as a set of sacred and secular objects

which symbolise the service and responsibilities of the monarch, are also being prepared for the grand ceremony.

"The Regalia has played a central role in Coronation Services for hundreds of years and, in keeping with tradition, will be used at Westminster Abbey on the 6th May. As part of the Royal Collection, the Regalia are held in trust by the monarch on behalf of the nation," the palace said.

Two Maces, made of silver gilt over oak, date between 1660 and 1695 and are the ceremonial emblems of authority which are carried before the Sovereign at events such as the State Opening of Parliament. Also carried before the Sovereign on formal occasions

is the Sword of State, symbolising Royal authority, a steel blade with a silver-gilt hilt, enclosed in a wooden scabbard which is covered in velvet.

Three further swords will be used during the Coronation Procession at Westminster Abbey – the Sword of Temporal Justice, signifying the monarch's role as Head of the Armed Forces, the Sword of Spiritual Justice, signifying the monarch as Defender of the Faith, and the Sword of Mercy or Curtana, which has a blunted tip, symbolising the Sovereign's mercy.

The swords were first used at the Coronation of King Charles I in 1626, and the steel blades date back to the 16th century, the palace revealed.

Joint session of Pakistan Parliament passes bill to curb CJ powers

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A joint session of Pakistan's Parliament on Monday passed a bill to curb the powers of the chief justice of the Supreme Court regarding suo motu cases and the constitution of benches, amidst strong opposition from Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

"Parliament in its Joint session passes 'The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023', the National Assembly or the lower house announced in a tweet.

The development comes two days after President Arif Alvi returned a bill passed by both houses of parliament for reconsideration, saying the proposed legislation is beyond the jurisdiction of the legislative body. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the bill in the joint sitting of the house held with National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in the chair.

During the much-anticipated

sitting, the House approved an amendment to the bill, under which a meeting of a committee of the judges will be convened to devise rules and regulations regarding the suo motu matter. The amendment was proposed by a ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker, Geo News reported.

Addressing the joint session, the law minister said that voices against the chief justice's suo motu (on his own initiative) powers were arising from within the top court. On March 27, two judges of the apex court raised questions over the powers of the CJP, saying the SC "cannot be dependent on the solitary decision of one man, the Chief Justice".

Under the Constitution, if the bill returned by the president is passed by Parliament, it should be sent to the president and would become law after ten days even if he refuses to endorse it. Opposition PTI senior leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Monday that his party

rejects this law. "The bill will just go in the trash. We reject this law," he tweeted.

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 fixed May 14 as the 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 is keen to curb the suo motu 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 business.

"The Supreme Court (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 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.

Was warned of Gen Bajwa's ploy to oust my govt: Imran

Lahore (PTI): A year after his ouster as the prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan on Monday said that he was cautioned by the ruler of a Gulf nation last year that then Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conspiring to topple his government.

Last year in April, Khan was ousted as the prime minister of Pakistan and his government toppled through a no-confidence motion brought in Parliament by the opposition parties led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). On Sunday, Khan, who is the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), issued a white paper on the one-year performance of the PML-N-led coalition and termed it the worst in the country's history.

"Before the no-confidence motion against me was tabled in April last year, the ruler of a Gulf country told me that my Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conspiring against my government to get his extension (from the PML-N and its allies). Bajwa was a mastermind of this conspiracy," Khan claimed. He criticised Bajwa for destroying Pakistan merely for his extension which he could not get despite a promise by (prime minister) Shehbaz Sharif.

"Things have revealed later that the conspiracy to overthrow my government was not hatched by the US. Gen Bajwa hired former envoy to US Hussain Haqqani to launch propaganda that Gen Bajwa was pro-America and Imran Khan was anti-America," Khan said.

Following his removal, Khan had initially blamed the US for playing a role in his government's toppling. However, later he held Gen. Bajwa responsible for the 'conspiracy' which resulted in his ouster. Months before his retirement in November last year, Gen Bajwa had repeatedly said that he was not seeking another extension in service.

He also made it clear that the Pakistan Army has decided to distance itself from the country's politics.

4 killed, 18 injured in Balochistan blast

Karachi (PTI): A powerful blast targeting a police vehicle in a busy marketplace in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province on Monday killed at least four people, including two policemen, and wounded 18 others, in a fresh wave of attacks targeting security personnel.

The explosion occurred near a parked police vehicle next to Qandhari Bazar on Shahrah-e-Iqbal in the provincial capital Quetta, the Dawn newspaper reported.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but previous such attacks have been blamed on Baloch insurgents and Islamic militants.

"The target was a police vehicle and the bomb was set off remotely," SP Hameed Qambrani said. He said the blast also damaged several vehicles parked outside shops in the area.

"The explosives were

planted in a motorcycle," SSP Operations Captain (ret'd) Zohaib Mohsin said, adding that the injured also included women and children. Four persons, including two policemen, were killed while 18 others were injured in the blast. Mohsin said the injured were immediately transferred to Civil Hospital Quetta for medical treatment.

Civil Defence Director Rafu Mandokhail said that three to four kilos of explosives were used in the blast, while the explosive material was installed in a motorcycle. TV footage showed a damaged vehicle of the police surrounded by a number of police personnel. Several ambulances were also seen leaving the site of the explosion. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the blast in Balochistan's capital city and offered condolences to the families of the victims.

Haiti gang kills 3 policemen as violence soars

San Juan (AP): A gang near Haiti's capital ambushed and killed three police officers on Sunday in the latest attack against an under-resourced and underfunded police department that has reported nearly two dozen officers slain so far this year, according to authorities.

The killings occurred in Thomassin, a largely upper-class neighbourhood just south of the capital of Port-au-Prince that is controlled by a gang called "Ti Makak," which translates to "Little Macaques."

The details of the killings were provided by an officer who survived the attack, according to the National Union of Haitian Police Officers, which said it was saddened by the news. Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry condemned the killings and extended his condolences.

Israeli settlers march to West Bank outpost

Jerusalem (AP): Thousands of Israelis led by at least seven Cabinet ministers marched on Monday to an evacuated West Bank settlement, in a defiant signal that Israel's most right-wing government in history is determined to accelerate settlement building on occupied lands despite international opposition.

The mass rally also threatened to further raise tensions that have been heightened by days of unrest across the region over a contested Jerusalem holy site. In new violence, Israel troops killed a 15-year-old Palestinian boy during an arrest raid in the occupied West Bank, while a 48-year-old Israeli woman died of wounds sustained in an attack last week that killed two of her daughters. Monday's march took place in the northern West Bank —

the scene of repeated violence in recent months.

Thousands of Israeli police and army forces were reportedly deployed to secure the march, which added to the already combustible atmosphere that has accompanied the overlap of major Jewish and Muslim holy days. Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have reached a fever pitch in recent weeks surrounding the Jerusalem shrine.

The march to Eviatar, an unauthorised settlement outpost in the northern West Bank that was evacuated by the previous Israeli government in 2021, was being led by hard-line ultranationalist Jewish settlers.

Daniella Weiss, another settler leader, told Kan public radio that the ministers' participation in the march could be

a "therapy for the government to free yourselves from the dictates of the US and Europe" concerning West Bank settlement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads the most religious and ultranationalist government in Israel's history. Several members of his Cabinet, including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir — both West Bank settlers — and at least 20 members of Knesset were taking part in the march. Speaking at the march, Ben-Gvir said that "we are here to say that the Israeli nation is strong" and that "we are here and will remain here." Visits to Eviatar have been officially banned by the military since its evacuation, but that prohibition has been loosely enforced in recent months. Israeli army spokesman Lt. Col.

Richard Hecht said the military approved Monday's march, saying it would be "highly monitored and highly protected."

Scores of families, nearly all of them Orthodox Jews, many of them pushing baby strollers, took part in the march. Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have soared following last week's police raid on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The hilltop compound where the mosque sits is the emotional ground zero of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For Jews, it is known as the Temple Mount, their faith's holiest site and the place where two Temples stood in antiquity. For Muslims, it is known as the Noble Sanctuary, home of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

USD 800 million urgently needed for Afghanistan

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The UN food agency said on Monday it urgently needs USD 800 million for the next six months to help Afghanistan, which is at the highest risk of famine in a quarter of a century. Aid agencies have been providing food, education and health care support to Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover of August 2021 and the economic collapse that followed it. But distribution has been severely impacted by a Taliban edict last December banning women from working at national and international nongovernmental groups.

The UN was not part of this ban but last week it said the Taliban-led government has stopped Afghan women from working at its agencies in the country. Authorities have yet to comment on the restriction. The World Food Programme said women aid workers play a vital role in delivering the agency's food and nutrition assistance and that it will make "every possible effort" to keep this going, while also trying to ensure the active involvement of female staff.

"The WFP urgently needs USD 800 million for the next six months to continue provid-

ing assistance to people in need across Afghanistan," the organisation said.

"Catastrophic hunger knocks on Afghanistan's doors and unless humanitarian support is sustained, hundreds of thousands more Afghans will need assistance to survive." The UN said on Monday that its Afghan operations remain severely under-funded, with USD 249 million reported to be confirmed for 2023, nearly one-third of the amount received for the same period in 2022.

It said Afghanistan is dealing with its third consecutive year of drought-like conditions, a second year of crippling economic decline, and is still ban suffering from decades of conflict and natural disasters. "The total immediate funding requirements to address critical gaps for the coming three months is USD 717.4 million," according to a statement from the agency's office for humanitarian affairs. "This is all part of an overall funding gap of USD 4.38 billion across the humanitarian response for 2023."

It previously said that Afghanistan is its lowest-funded operation globally, despite being the world's biggest humanitarian crisis.

Restaurant gardens for families, women banned in Herat

Kabul (AP): The Taliban have banned families and women from restaurants with gardens or green spaces in Afghanistan's northwestern Herat province, an official said Monday.

The moves followed complaints from religious scholars and members of the public about mixing of genders in such places, he said. It was the latest in a slew of restrictions imposed by the Taliban since they took power in August 2021. They have shut girls out of classrooms beyond sixth grade and women from universities, most types of employment, including jobs at the United Nations.

They are also banned from public spaces such as parks and gyms. Authorities say the curbs are in place because of gender mixing or because women allegedly are not wearing the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, correctly.

The outdoor dining ban only applies to establishments in Herat, where such premises remain open to men. Baz Mohammad Nazir, a deputy official from the Ministry of Vice and Virtue's directorate in Herat, denied media reports that all restaurants were off limits to families and women, dismissing them as propaganda.

'Twitter tags BBC as 'govt funded media', British broadcaster objects

London (PTI): Elon Musk-owned Twitter has labelled the BBC as a "government funded media" on the microblogging site, leading to a sharp reaction from British public broadcaster which on Monday objected to the move.

The taxpayer-funded licence fee supported UK media corporation said it has contacted the social media giant over the designation on its @BBC account to resolve the issue "as soon as possible." "The BBC is, and always has been, independent. We are funded by the British public through the licence fee," the BBC statement said. An email exchange with Twitter chief Elon Musk suggests that he is considering providing a label that would link all media organisations to "exact funding sources." "We are aiming for maximum transparency and accuracy. Linking to ownership and source of funds probably makes sense," Musk's email to BBC reads.

"I do think media organisations should be self-aware and not falsely claim the complete absence of bias. All organisations have bias, some obviously much more than others. I should note that I follow BBC News on

Twitter, because I think it is among the least biased," it said.

The level of the GBP 159 annual licence fee, which is required by law to watch live TV broadcasts or live streaming in the UK, is set by the British government and paid for by individual UK households. While the @BBC account, which has 2.2 million followers, has been given the label, much larger accounts associated with the BBC's news and sport output are not currently being described in the same way, the BBC said.

According to the London-headquartered media organisation, the @BBC Twitter account primarily shares updates about BBC-produced TV programmes, radio shows, podcasts and other non-news material.

The BBC Charter states the corporation "must be independent," particularly over "editorial and creative decisions, the times and manner in which its output and services are supplied, and in the management of its affairs." The BBC said it also receives more than GBP 90 million per year from the government to support the BBC World Service, which predominantly serves non-UK audiences.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Tender Reference No. GNDU/Gen/04/2023
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Stationery, Crockery and Misc. Items.	52 Items

Closing date & time: 25-04-2023 at 5:00 p.m.
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University,
Amritsar

NA/12/15580/2023/22887 Dated CHD - 4/10/2023

verka
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022.
EPABX NO. 0172-5041812, 66

Notice Inviting e Tender

Sr. No.	Name of the Work/Item	Period/Tentative City
1	Glass Bottle 180 ml (For Verka Head Office)	Annual

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Incharge (Purchase)
NA/12/15591/2023/22898 Dated CHD - 4/10/2023

HDB Financial Services Limited Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034
Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/accrue holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **13-04-2023** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the table below:-

Loan No.	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
18446230	Rinku Chauhan	13-10-2021	4246	Delhi-NCR-Burari
16080193	Mohd Afroz Khan	08-07-2021	54170	Delhi-Badarpur
24431102	Rajan Dubey	27-05-2022	3740	Delhi-Badarpur
27044249	Mohd Zeeshan	30-08-2022	29870	Delhi-Bhajanpura
9153923	Arvind Kumar	11-10-2019	4460	Delhi-Bhajanpura
18018151	Punshendra Sharma	25-09-2021	7772	Delhi-Bhajanpura
22042130	Himanshu Gupta	28-02-2022	6130	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
14170783	Sushil S	06-02-2021	6244	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
24849982	Pushpa Yadav	10-06-2022	5878	Delhi-Gandhi Nagar
6225874	Irfan Ansari	30-12-2018	10272	Delhi-Hari Nagar
12315244	Bitan Mezel	31-08-2020	10305	Delhi-Jagatpuri
14716460	Amit Goel	20-03-2021	26572	Delhi-Jagatpuri
12889074	Rinku Devi	22-10-2020	8595	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
17758896	Amit Kumar	16-09-2021	7092	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
18500668	Sunny Malhotra	14-10-2021	16876	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
14069987	Kamlesh Tiwari	29-01-2021	7104	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
26793634	Kamaleep Singh	20-08-2022	30575	Delhi-Mayapuri
22013225	Satender Kumar	26-02-2022	3832	Delhi-Nangloi
22013479	Satender Kumar	26-02-2022	3616	Delhi-Nangloi
22013572	Satender Kumar	26-02-2022	3616	Delhi-Nangloi
21465608	Kundan Kumar	27-01-2022	14187	Delhi-Nangloi
22193208	Gurmeet Singh	10-03-2022	14958	Delhi-Nangloi
26019900	Kiran Prem Narayan	23-07-2022	7535	Delhi-Sadar
10216728	Brij Lal	03-01-2020	7027.84	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
26498570	Rahul So Siddheshwar	09-08-2022	9009	Delhi-Uttam Nagar

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place: DELHI **Authorised Officer**
Date: 11-04-2023 **(HDB Financial Services Ltd)**

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

- 1) EICHR BUS 1090
REG. NO. HR69D7263-YOM-2018
- 2) EICHR_VECV E_1090ACV
REG. NO. HR69D3023-YOM - 2018
- 3) EICHR_VECV E_1090CBC
REG. NO. HR69D4539-YOM-2018

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 5 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR
CONTACT: GUNJAN SINGH
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONTACT NO. 8510032426
EMAIL-gunjan.singh1@kotak.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
VS INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL LTD. CIN: U74899DL1996PL707735
Regd. Office Add: B-2/60, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029

This public notice is being given by MS VS Infrastructure Capital Ltd. CIN: U74899DL1996PL707735. Regd. Office at B-2/60, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 (Here-in-after referred to as company) and Mr. Aditya Jain & Mrs. Meetu Jain (Here-in-after referred as 'transferees') jointly in accordance with directions given by RBI vide their letter dated 06.04.2023 for change in management in compliance with the terms and conditions of Certificate of Registration issued by the Reserve Bank of India permitting the company to carry on the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution.

1. In accordance with the approval of RBI 1.51628 equity shares of the face value of Rs. 10, is being transmitted/transferred in favour of Mr. Aditya Jain and 100 equity shares is being transferred in favour of Mrs. Meetu Jain
2. Mr. Aditya Jain is being appointed as a Director on the board of the company. Mr. Aditya Jain, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Master of Professional Studies in Information Technology, has 100% shares in Arun Jain aged about 30 years Ro D.V.4239, Vasant, Kunj, New Delhi-110029
3. Mrs. Meetu Jain is being appointed as a Director on the board of the company. Mrs. Meetu Jain, M.Phil.(English) aged 40 years Ro D/4B/5, Rivenia Complex, DU Metro Station, Tarnapur, Delhi-110054
4. Upon death of Mrs. Shilpi Jain, mother of Mr. Aditya Jain, the equity shares are being transmitted in favour of Mr. Aditya Jain as WILLED by Mrs. Shilpi Jain
5. Any person who is aggrieved by such change will lodge his/her complaint with DNBS, RBI at the regional office at 6, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001 or at the registered office of the company at B-2/60, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 within a period of 30 days w.r.t. date of publication of this notice. Such objections shall be forwarded to DNBS, RBI by the Co. in due course. The objections if received any will be resolved by the nodal officer of the company.

Note:- A certificate of Registration to carry on the business of a Non-Banking financial institution obtained from the Reserve Bank of India in terms of Section 45A of RBI Act, 1934, it must be distinctly understood, however, that in issuing the certificate of registration that the Reserve Bank of India does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the company or the correctness of any of the statements made or any commitments made or opinion expressed.

For and on behalf of the Transferees
Mr. Aditya Jain & Mrs. Meetu Jain
For VS Infrastructure Capital Ltd
(Mr. Arun Jain) Director
Date: 10.04.2023

Sensex, Nifty eke out gains for sixth day

Register longest winning streak in 4 months

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade on Monday, extending the winning streak to a sixth straight day as gains in auto and IT shares offset losses in banking and FMCG stocks.

Logging its longest gaining streak in four months, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended marginally up by 13.54 points or 0.02 per cent to 59,846.51. During the day, it climbed 276.14 points or 0.46 per cent to 60,109.11.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 24.90 points or 0.14 per cent to finish at 17,624.05, marking its sixth straight day of gains. Sensex and Nifty have risen by around 4 per cent in the six days of gains which is the longest winning run since the eight-day rally from



November 22 to December 1 last year. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors ended with over 5 per cent gains after the company reported an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in group global wholesales, including that of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), at 3,61,361 units in the fourth quarter of FY23. Wipro, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Technologies were among the other major

winners.

Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

The positive quarterly business updates from auto and real estate firms caused strong movements in their respective sectors, but the overall mood was slightly dampened by solid US job data, which raised fears of further rate hikes by the Fed.

NSE cautions investors against 'dabba' trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday cautioned investors against some fraudsters running illegal dabba trading with guaranteed returns to investors.

Dabba trading is an illegal form of trading in shares, where operators of such trading rings allow people to trade in equities outside the stock exchange platform.

The cautionary statements came after NSE found that the entities — Shri Parasnath Commodity Private Limited, Shri Parasnath Bullion Private Limited, Faary Tale Trading Private Limited and Bharat Kumar (associated with Trade with Trust) — were providing dabba or illegal trading platform with assured returns.

The exchange said that these persons are not registered either as a member or authorised persons of any registered member of the NSE. Moreover, a police complaint has been



logged in this regard.

Cautioning investors, NSE asked them not to subscribe to any such scheme or product offered by any person or entity offering guaranteed returns in the stock market as the same is prohibited by law.

“Investors are cautioned and advised not to trade on such illegal trading platforms. Participation in such illegal platforms is at the investor’s own risk, cost and consequences as such illegal trading platforms are neither approved nor endorsed by the exchange,” the bourse said.

Adani group firms settle in positive territory, three stocks jump 5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Adani group firms Sended with gains on Monday with some companies hitting their upper circuit limits amid the group listing out details of stake sales in its companies and investment ploughed back into businesses to counter claims by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Shares of Adani Transmission jumped 5 per cent, Adani Green Energy advanced 5 per cent, Adani Total Gas rallied 5 per cent and Adani Enterprises climbed 2.53 per cent on the BSE.

ACC went up by 1.63 per cent, Adani Ports gained 1.57 per cent, Adani Power (0.96 per cent), NDTV (0.18 per cent), Ambuja Cements (0.17 per cent) and Adani Wilmar (0.02 per cent).

Three of the group stocks hit their upper circuit limits during the day.

In the broader market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended marginally up by 13.54 points or 0.02 per cent to 59,846.51.

Billionaire Gautam Adani’s group on Monday listed out details of the \$ 2.87 billion stake



sales in group firms since 2019 and how \$ 2.55 billion of this was ploughed back into business, as it looked to counter Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s claim of ₹20,000 crore coming into the conglomerate through ‘shell companies’.

While investors such as Abu Dhabi-based global strategic investment company, International Holding Company PJSC (IHC) invested \$2.593 billion in group firms such as Adani Enterprise Ltd and Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), promoters sold stake in Adani Total Gas Ltd and AGEL to raise \$ 2.783 bil-

lion. “These funds were reinvested by promoter entities to support the growth of new business and in portfolio companies such as Adani Enterprises Ltd, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, Adani Transmission Ltd and Adani Power Ltd,” the group said.

The statement was issued rebutting reports in an international publication, which apparently was the basis of Gandhi’s statement late last month questioning how “₹20,000 crore suddenly arrived in Adani’s shell companies.”

Centre asks States to enforce BIS certification on consumer products

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday directed state governments to enforce Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) certification on consumer products while stressing the use of digital technology to protect consumer rights and reduce pending cases in consumer courts.

After inaugurating a day-long workshop on “Consumer Protection in the northern states” held in Chandigarh, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh emphasized the role of technology in strengthening the consumer protection ecosystem and the importance of infrastructure and human resources in consumer commissions.

The Secretary said, “State heads should ensure that BIS Certification is enforced on required products for consumer safety,” an official statement said.

He also discussed the time dissemination project by Indian Space Research Organisation



(ISRO) to reduce India’s reliance on Western countries for time accuracy.

Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry, stressed the use of digital technology to protect consumer rights, reduce the pendency of cases in consumer commissions, and the importance of moving towards mandatory e-filing.

She highlighted the work of the ministry on misleading advertisements, endorsement guidelines, e-commerce platforms, and direct selling guidelines, and urged consumers to be cautious of misleading ads on all platforms.

Rupee gains 5 paise to close at 81.97 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to settle at 81.97 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a weak American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.90 against the US currency and finally closed at 81.97 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 5 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the rupee touched a high of 81.78 and a low of 81.98 against the dollar.

On Thursday, the rupee closed at 82.02 against the US currency. On April 7, equity and forex markets were closed on account of Good Friday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.02 per cent to 102.06.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.05 per cent to \$ 85.16 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst



at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, a below-normal monsoon forecast by Skymet and a strong dollar in early Asian trade weighed on the rupee but positive domestic equities cushioned the downside.

The dollar strengthened as non-farm payrolls, though slightly below forecast, indicate a tight labour market. Unemployment rate also slipped to 3.5 per cent from 3.6 per cent. This raised odds that Fed may hike interest rates by 25-bps in its FOMC meeting in May, Choudhary said.

“We expect Indian rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on strong US Dollar and positive crude oil prices,” Choudhary said. However, positive global markets and fresh FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels.

Tata Motors shares jump over 5%; mcap climbs ₹7,807.53 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Motors Sclimbed over 5 per cent on Monday after the company reported an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in group global wholesales, including that of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).

The stock jumped 5.37 per cent to finish at ₹461.05 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 8.12 per cent to ₹473.10.

On the NSE, it climbed 5.31 per cent to finish at ₹460.90 per share.

It was the biggest gainer among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty stocks.

The market valuation of the company jumped ₹7,807.53 crore to ₹1,53,130.58 crore.

On Friday, Tata Motors reported an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in group global wholesales, including that of JLR, at 3,61,361 units in the fourth quarter of FY23.



Global wholesales of all Tata Motors’ commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in the January-March period this year stood at 1,18,321 units, up 3 per cent over the same period of FY22, Tata Motors said in a statement on Friday.

Global sales of JLR stood at 1,07,386 vehicles in the March quarter, which comprised 15,499 units of Jaguar and 91,887 units of Land Rover, it said.

Godrej Properties shares zoom 9% after record sales booking in FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Godrej SProperties on Monday surged 9 per cent after the company said its sales booking rose 56 per cent last fiscal to an all-time high of ₹12,232 crore on strong demand for residential properties.

The stock jumped 9.06 per cent to finish at ₹1,227.25 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 9.81 per cent to ₹1,235.70.

On the NSE, it climbed 8.63 per cent to settle at ₹1,222.55 per share.

In a regulatory filing, Godrej Properties informed that the company achieved its highest-ever sales bookings in the fourth quarter as well as the entire 2022-23 financial year. In the fourth quarter, the company clocked sales bookings of ₹4,051 crore. Its sales bookings stood at ₹7,861 crore in 2021-22.



When contacted, Godrej Properties Executive Chairman Pirojsha Godrej said: “The reason we were able to deliver strong growth in FY23 is that we had a strong portfolio of projects across the country.”

“For the first time, we sold over ₹2,000 crore of real estate in each of our four focus markets of Mumbai, NCR, Bengaluru and Pune,” he told PTI.

Of the total sales bookings last financial year, Pirojsha said the housing segment’s contribution was 99 per cent.

Mutual funds invest ₹1.82 lakh cr in equities in FY23 on strong push from retail investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mutual funds remained bullish on the Indian equities in 2022-23 and invested ₹1.82 lakh crore largely due to a strong interest from retail investors and the correction in the market that led to reasonable valuation.

This comes following a similar amount of ₹1.81 lakh crore invested by mutual funds in the stock market in preceding financial year 2021-22 (FY22). Before that, they had pulled out ₹1.2 lakh crore from equities in 2020-21, according to the data with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Going ahead, equity out-



look for the current financial year (FY24) will start improving in a couple of quarters once inflation starts coming down in the US and its central bank — US Federal Reserve — will change its policy stance from hawkish to dovish, Rajiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Capital, said.

In the longer-term, India’s

growth prospect is higher amidst concern of slowing growth in major developed economies.

“The Government’s favourable policies along with a focus on investment led growth (Capex Push) and improved balance sheet of banks will drive earnings growth in the near future. The PLI (Production-linked Incentive) policy and the China+1 drive, is likely to boost India’s manufacturing sector and contain our trade deficit. This is the reason why most of the investors are bullish on India’s growth story and what better to play it except through Indian equities,” he said.

Gold declines ₹355; silver tumbles ₹420

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined by Rs 355 to Rs 60,095 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 60,450 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver also tumbled Rs 420 to Rs 73,680 per kg. “Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at Rs 60,095 per 10 gram, weakened by Rs 355 per 10 gram,” Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas mar-



ket, both gold and silver were trading lower at USD 1,997 per ounce and USD 24.85 per ounce, respectively.

“COMEX gold was trading in the red in Asian trading hours on Monday after the US nonfarm payrolls report pointed to a tight labour market and raised the odds of another rate hike by the US Fed at its policy meeting in May,” Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund files papers with Sebi to launch seven schemes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund, which received Sebi’s clearance to begin the mutual fund operations last month, has filed draft documents with the markets regulator for launching seven schemes in equity, debt and hybrid spaces.

The newest player has filed papers to launch mutual fund schemes — liquid fund, money market fund, overnight fund, arbitrage fund, large and mid-cap, balance advantage and flexi cap fund, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed on Monday.

BUSINESS BRIEF

THOMAS COOK, SOTC TRAVEL INK PACT WITH MWG
New Delhi: Travel services provider Thomas Cook (India) Ltd and SOTC Travel on Monday said they have entered into a long-term pact with Singapore’s Mandai Wildlife Group (MWG) to tap the growing market opportunity in India. The two firms have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mandai Wildlife Group under which they will drive visitations to Mandai Wildlife Reserve leveraging on India’s rapid recovery and growth post pandemic, a joint statement said. “Singapore has always been a top destination for Indians and our partnership with Mandai Wildlife Group allows us an exciting opportunity to benefit customers with attractive products and offers,” SOTC Travel President & Country Head - Holidays Daniel D’Souza said. Mandai Wildlife Group Chief of Sales & Marketing Jean Choi said Thomas Cook and SOTC Travel have been long-time partners and the memorandum would deepen the partnership, particularly with India as a key market for the group.

NAREDCO, NBCC SIGN MOU FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT
New Delhi: The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), an apex real estate body that works under the patronage of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt of India, and NBCC (India) Limited signed an MoU to promote the skill ecosystem and propagate the National Skill Qualification Framework aligned certification to the large section of unskilled construction workers primarily working on the sites of NBCC.

Executive Centre clocks 24% revenue growth in 2022 to \$ 45 mn; looks to expand biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Managed service provider The Executive Centre (TEC) clocked a 24 per cent annual growth in revenue at \$ 45 million during the last calendar year on rising demand for flexible workspace.

Hong Kong-based The Executive Centre (TEC) entered India in 2008 with its first property in Mumbai. It currently has 40 centres, comprising about 15,000 desks spread over 1.4 million square feet across seven major cities.

In an interview with PTI, Nidhi Marwah, Group Managing Director of South Asia and GCC at TEC, said,



“2022 has been a watershed year for the flexible workplace industry.”

“In 2022, the number of flexible workspaces absorbed by companies exceeded most estimates and industry reports, demonstrating that the allure of flexible workspace industry has debunked the myth of the permanency of conventional office spaces,” she said.

Reliance, Adani & Jindal Power among 49 showing interest in Future Retail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 49 players including Reliance Retail, Jindal Power Ltd and Adani group have submitted Expression of Interest (EOI) for acquiring the assets of debt-ridden Future Retail, which is currently going through insolvency resolution process.

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, which is the holding company for retail operations of RIL and April Moon Retail Private Ltd, a joint venture between Adani Airport holdings and Flemingo group have again submitted their EOI, after the lenders of Future Retail decided to invite fresh bids after dividing FRL’s assets into clusters.



According to an update from FRL’s Resolution Professional, the 49 players would be permitted to submit “resolution plan(s) for any/all such Clusters under Option II”.

Some of the other players who have submitted Expression of Interest (EOI) include Century Copper Corp,

Greentech worldwide, Harsha Vardhan Reddy, J C Flowers Asset Reconstruction Pvt Ltd, Pinnacle Air Pvt Ltd, Universal Associates and WHSmith Travel Ltd among others.

On March 23, 2023 creditors of Future Retail invited new expressions of interest where prospective buyers can bid for the debt-ridden firm “as a going concern or individual cluster or a combination of clusters of its assets”, as it failed to attract a resolution plan in over four months.

Earlier, it had received EOI and finalised 11 prospective bidders including Reliance and April Moon Retail, but could not get a resolution plan despite two extensions in deadline for submissions.

RBI comes out with detailed norms for banks, NBFCs IT services outsourcing

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India on Monday came out with detailed norms for outsourcing of IT services by banks, NBFCs and regulated financial sector entities to ensure that such arrangements do not undermine their responsibilities and obligations to customers.

In its ‘Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information Technology Services’, RBI said that Regulated Entities (REs) have been extensively leveraging IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) to support their business models, products and services offered to their customers.

In February last year, the central bank proposed the issuance of suitable regulatory



guidelines on outsourcing of IT services with an aim to ensure effective management of attendant risks. Later, draft norms were issued.

According to RBI, the underlying principle of the directions is to ensure that outsourcing arrangements neither diminish REs’ ability to

fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the central bank.

With a view to provide REs adequate time to comply with the requirements, the norms will come into effect from October 1, 2023.

A RE shall take steps to ensure that the service provider employs the same high standard of care in performing the services as would have been employed by the RE, if the same activity was not outsourced, the central bank said.

According to the central bank, a RE should not engage an IT service provider that would result in reputation of RE being compromised or weakened.

TUCHEL THREATENS MAN CITY'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DREAM



AP ■ MUNICH
Manchester City and Pep Guardiola have a Champions League score to settle against Thomas Tuchel, when the newly-appointed Bayern Munich boss visits the Etihad in Tuesday's quarter-final, first leg.

Tuchel emerged victorious as Chelsea manager in City's first, and so far only, run to the Champions League final in 2021.

That was also the closest Guardiola

Guardiola's three years in charge at Bayern, while Tuchel was coach of Mainz and then Borussia Dortmund.

Two football obsessives, the pair even talked long into the night at a Munich bar in 2014, using glasses and salt and pepper shakers to mimic formations.

"I was such a huge admirer of Pep when he was a player and then when he became a coach it was like learning on the job for me," said Tuchel prior to the 2021 Champions League final.

"I was an academy coach and then in the Bundesliga with Mainz, but I don't think I missed a game (of Guardiola's Barcelona) because there was so much to learn."

The respect is mutual. Guardiola described Tuchel last season as "one of the few managers I learn from to develop (into) a better manager myself."

CL PEDIGREE
Guardiola has tended to have the upper hand in clashes between the two. Three Chelsea wins in the space of six weeks towards the end of the

2020/21 season are Tuchel's only victories in 10 meetings between the two to Guardiola's six.

But he won the most important one and his Champions League pedigree played a large part in Bayern's swoop to secure his services and sack Julian Nagelsmann in a shock move last month.

Tuchel also took Paris Saint-Germain to their maiden final in Europe's premier club competition in 2020 and took eventual winners Real Madrid to extra-time in the quarter-finals last year despite Chelsea being thrust into crisis by sanctions imposed on then owner Roman Abramovich.

The 49-year-old now has the challenge of succeeding where Guardiola failed in leading Bayern back to Champions League glory.

But the weight of expectation falls much more heavily on the City boss. In his seventh season in Manchester, Guardiola is in the running for his fifth Premier League title.

Yet the failure to get over the line

in Europe remains a blot on his copy-book.

"It doesn't mean I agree with that but absolutely we will be judged by this competition," said Guardiola on the importance of winning the Champions League to his legacy at the Etihad.

The presence of Erling Haaland adds even more pressure on Guardiola to finally get the job done this year.

The Norwegian scored twice on his return from injury in a 4-1 win at Southampton on Saturday to take his tally for the season to 44.

Those numbers saw Guardiola draw comparisons between his star striker, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

But it was to make the difference when the fine margins count most in the latter stages of the Champions League that forced City to fight off competition from around Europe to land Haaland.

The 22-year-old has scored 33 goals in 25 Champions League appearances, including five in a 7-0 rout of RB Leipzig in the last 16.



Atletico beat Rayo to close in on Real

AP ■ MADRID
Atletico Madrid cut the gap to second place Real Madrid to just two points with a 2-1 win over 10-man Rayo Vallecano on Sunday in La Liga.

Valencia fell to a damaging 2-1 defeat at Almeria which leaves them in the relegation zone, while nine-man Real Betis lost 2-0 at home against Cadiz, denting their bid for Champions League football.

Defenders Nahuel Molina and Mario Hermoso struck first-half goals two minutes apart to put Atletico into a dominant position at Vallecas.

Rayo had defender Florian Grillenbeck sent off in the second half for a professional foul on Alvaro Morata, allowing Atletico to stroll, but Fran Garcia's powerful drive gave the hosts some hope in the final stages.

Atletico held on to keep up the pressure on their rivals, champions Real Madrid, who lost 3-2 at home against Villarreal on Saturday.

Diego Simeone's side have been in superb form in 2023, unbeaten in their last 12 league games, winning nine of those

matches.

The Rojiblancos took the lead after a slick break, with Yannick Carrasco and Antoine Griezmann combining well, before the latter played a fine pass to Morata.

The striker nudged the ball on to Molina, racing up on the right, who swept the ball home to net his first goal for the club.

Molina dedicated his strike to team-mate Angel Correa, absent from the squad after his mother died this week, raising the Argentine's number 10 shirt into the air.

Atletico soon grabbed their second with Hermoso heading home from Carrasco's corner for his fourth goal of the season.

Rayo, ninth, have failed to earn a victory in their last eight league games.

"We were having a good game, then they scored their first goal which gave them wings," Rayo midfielder Oscar Valentin told DAZN.

"We are calm because we know the team is competing well in every game and sooner or later those three points will come, which will bring calm."

Hoffenheim double up to leave Schalke rock bottom

AP ■ BERLIN
A penalty from Ihlas Bebou and an own goal from Alex Kral took Hoffenheim five points clear of the relegation spots, with a 2-0 home win over Schalke on Sunday.

Hoffenheim, who collected just one point from their first nine league matches in 2023, continued their strong form, having won their last three.

Around 10,000 Schalke fans made the trip south, packing out the 30,000-seat Rhein-Neckar Arena, with their side entering the match in last place after Stuttgart's win at Bochum earlier on Sunday.

Hoffenheim struck first when former Manchester City wing back Angelino delivered a dangerous cross into the box, the ball rebounding off



Schalke's Kral and into the net.

Japan defender Maya Yoshida brought down Hoffenheim's Christoph Baumgartner in the second half, the referee pointing to the spot.

Bebou scored the penalty to give his side a 2-0 lead and a crucial three points amid a tight relegation battle.

Schalke, having gone unbeaten in eight matches, have now lost two in a row and sit bottom of the ladder with seven matches remaining this season.

Earlier, Stuttgart's resurgence under new coach Sebastian Hoernes continued with a 3-2 win at Bochum to move up from last place in the table to 16th, leapfrogging Schalke and Hertha.

Goals from Hiroki Ito, Serhou Guirassy and Joshua Vagnoman took Stuttgart to victory, their second win since Hoernes was appointed manager on Tuesday, including a German Cup quarter-final victory over Nuremberg.

Before the match, Stuttgart had won just one of their previous 12 in the league.

Assistant referee stood down after Robertson elbow incident



AP ■ LIVERPOOL
Assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis will not be involved in any matches while the Football Association investigate whether he elbowed Liverpool's Andrew Robertson.

The extraordinary incident occurred just after the half-time whistle had been blown during Liverpool's explosive 2-2 draw against Premier League leaders Arsenal at Anfield on Sunday.

Robertson appeared to confront Hatzidakis on the pitch, reaching to grab the arm of the official, who reacted by jabbing his elbow towards the Liverpool left-back.

Robertson gesticulated that he had been hit by Hatzidakis while the irate Scotland captain was led away by team-mates, only to receive a yellow card in the aftermath of the bizarre incident.

Hatzidakis is under FA

scrutiny for his role in the row and will be sidelined until the governing body's probe is complete.

A statement from Premier League referees' body the PGMOL read: "PGMOL will not be appointing Constantine Hatzidakis to fixtures in any of the competitions it serves whilst the FA (Football Association) investigates the incident involving the assistant referee and Liverpool defender Andrew Robertson at Anfield."

Keith Hackett, formerly head of the PGMOL, told BBC Radio Five Live: "Ultimately, if he is found guilty of this, his career is in jeopardy."

"I was trying to find an excuse as to why he did it and I came up with was he in fear? He shouldn't be, because he's in a protected environment with plenty of security."

"But he reacted in a way that he shouldn't have reacted at the end of the day and here we are talking about a match official and not a decision, but an action by a match official — and he's clearly lost his composure."

Jabeur downs Bencic to win WTA Charleston crown



AP ■ CHARLESTON
Ons Jabeur defeated defending champion Belinda Bencic in straight sets to win the WTA Charleston Open clay court tournament on Sunday.

Jabeur, the world number five from Tunisia, avenged her defeat to Bencic in last year's final with a hard-fought 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 victory in just under two hours.

Switzerland's Bencic was forced to make a quick turnaround on Sunday, completing a 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) weather-disrupted semi-final win over Jessica Pegula before returning to face Jabeur in the final around 30 minutes later.

There was no immediate sign of weariness from the Swiss player as she started strongly to take a 5-3 lead in the opening set. However, Jabeur held and then conjured a break to level at 5-5 before holding again for a 6-5 lead.

Bencic was soon in trouble on her serve, but fought back brilliantly from 0-40 down to hold and force tie-break.

Again momentum swung

back and forth, with Bencic holding two set points after opening up a 6-4 lead in the tie-break before Jabeur reeled off four straight points to take the set.

Jabeur then raced into a 4-1 lead in the second set, and although Bencic responded well, Jabeur was soon serving for the match at 5-4 up.

Bencic squandered three break points that would have levelled the set at 5-5 before Jabeur eventually converted her second match point to seal the fourth title of her career.

TIAFOE WINS ATP HOUSTON TITLE

AP ■ LOS ANGELES
Frances Tiafoe defeated Thomas Etcheverry 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (8/6) to win the ATP clay court title in Houston on a double-duty day in Texas.

The American, playing his first ATP tournament as the top seed, had to win twice on Sunday to secure the crown thanks to the weather delays earlier in the week. After beating Gijs Brouwer 6-4, 6-1 in the semi-finals he said he was up for the challenge.



"I'm running on adrenaline," Tiafoe told the crowd after beating Brouwer. "I'm on a mission so I'm happy."

By Sunday night it was mission accomplished as Tiafoe claimed his second ATP title and his first since 2018 in Delray Beach.

Since then he'd come up empty in four finals appearances.

The soggy week meant Tiafoe in fact had to win four matches in two days, playing his first two of the week on Saturday.

Djoker 'motivated' to hit clay running on Monte Carlo return

AP ■ MONTE CARLO
Novak Djokovic says he is "motivated" to make a better than usual start to the clay-court season in Monte Carlo as he tunes up for a 23rd Grand Slam bid at the French Open.

The Serb is back on court after failing to get a waiver to enter the United States for last month's Indian Wells tournament and Miami Open due to his anti-Covid vaccination stance.

"I hope I will start well, because the last three tournaments in Monte Carlo I have not been very successful," the world number one said on Sunday.

"And I'm also motivated because I didn't play for the past month," added Djokovic, who is due to enter the Monte Carlo Masters fray in the second round against qualifiers American Mackenzie McDonald or Russian Ivan Gakhov.

A winner in 2013 and 2015, Djokovic will fancy his chances of going far in a tournament robbed of 11-time champion Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz due to injury.

Djokovic, who won this year's Australian Open, is on nodding terms with every inch of clay in Monte Carlo, his local club.

"I know the club very well. I'm one of the players that lives in Monaco and use this club as a training base.



'PICK AND CHOOSE'
"It's a great feeling sleeping in your own bed on your own pillow and being able to have kind of a home feeling of playing in the tournament."

At 35 years of age Djokovic says he is more selective about his playing commitments these days.

"Things are not the same like they were 10 years ago in terms of the amount of vital energy that I have to play as many tournaments as the other younger guys."

"So of course I do pick and choose where I want to peak and how I want to build my form and how I want to work

around my schedule. "There are certain events, in this case, of course, Grand Slams are the tournaments where I peak. "So for the clay season it's no secret where I want to be able to play my best tennis — it's Roland Garros."

He suggested his enforced absence since losing to Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals in Dubai at the start of March could stand him in good stead.

"It is what it is."

"I did more training on clay, which is of course positive if you think about the clay season."

"I haven't played really good tennis here. So I'm hoping that this year I can start the clay season better than I did in previous years, hopefully build my form as I'm coming closer to Paris."

He added: "Comparing to last year, it's a whole different situation. I feel I have match play in my legs more than enough to be happy about the clay season."

As for the missing Nadal, Djokovic conceded it was "a loss" for the tournament before quickly adding: "On the other hand it's an opportunity I think for all of us others when he's not there to try to go far and grab a title."

Djokovic was beaten in his opening match in Monte Carlo last year by Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, who went on to reach the final before losing to defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Manna sets sight on Asiad qualification



PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Having realised her dream of representing India at the Tokyo Olympics, Maana Patel has set her sights on becoming the first Indian woman swimmer in 17 years to compete at the Asian Games later this year.

Shikha Tandon was the last woman swimmer to have represented India at the Asian Games — in 2006 Doha edition.

Maana said.

"I have secured 8th place for the 200m backstroke but my aim is to qualify for sixth position and go in with a faster time."

The 23-year-old has already breached the eighth place qualifying time set by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) and is looking to shave off a few more seconds to make the sixth place cut.

SFI has set a time better than the sixth-place finisher of the last Asian Games for selection for the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Maana enjoyed a good run at the Senior National Aquatic Championships last year, winning four gold and two bronze medals. She followed that up with three gold, two silver and one bronze medal at the National Games.

During the off season, she underwent twin surgeries in October — a tonsillectomy and deviated nasal septum surgery.

Competing in her first meet since the surgeries, Maana clinched the silver medal in the 50m and 100m backstroke events at the Singapore National Age Group Championship last month.

Pooran, Stoinis hand LSG memorable win over RCB

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Nicholas Pooran smashed a match-winning 19-ball 62 while Marcus Stoinis made 65 as Lucknow Super Giants prevailed over Royal Challengers Bangalore by one wicket in a last-ball thriller in the Indian Premier League here on Monday. Chasing 213, LSG rode on Pooran and Stoinis' brilliance to eke out a memorable win. Pooran recorded the season's fastest fifty, reaching the landmark in only 15 balls.

Earlier, captain Faf Du Plessis, Virat Kohli and Glenn Maxwell smashed blistering half-centuries as RCB posted an imposing 212 for two after being sent into bat. While Du Plessis made an unbeaten 79 off 46 balls, Kohli took the centre stage initially with his 44-ball 61-run knock, as the duo shared 96 runs for the opening wicket after being sent into bat.



LSG had a horrible start and lost Kyle Mayers to Mohammed Siraj in the third delivery of the opening over. RCB tasted their second success in the fourth over when Deepak Hooda got a faint edge to Dinesh Karthik behind the stumps off the bowling of Wayne Parnell.

To make matters worse for LSG, Parnell struck again a ball later when Krunal Pandya edged one to Karthik, as the visitors slumped to 23 for three in four overs. Thereafter, Stoinis showed his batting prowess and took

Harshal Patel and Karn Sharma to the cleaners to keep LSG in the hunt. Stoinis continued his onslaught and slammed Shahbaz Ahmed for two maximums to take LSG to 91 for three after the halfway stage while bringing up his fifty in 26 balls. Stoinis then hammered Karn Sharma over the extra cover boundary, but the bowler had the last laugh as the Australian miscued a shot to be caught by Ahmed at deep point.

LSG skipper KL Rahul's lean patch continued as he struggled to 18 off 20 balls before being caught by Kohli off Siraj in the 12th over. Pooran used his long handle to great effect and smashed seven sixes and four boundaries to keep LSG in the hunt. Playing a gem of an innings, Pooran brought up his fifty off just 15 balls. Pooran singlehandedly changed the complexion of the match with his big-hitting prowess and took LSG to within sniffing distance of a spectacular win.

Delhi, Mumbai search 1st win of IPL 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Both Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians will be expecting a lot more from their local talent as they search for their maiden victory in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

It is extremely difficult to gain consistency in the highly competitive league if the Indian players are not delivering and that is what is plaguing both sides.

Delhi are being forced to go back to the drawing board after three losses in as many games while perennial slow starters Mumbai have also lost two in two. Both have their work cut out in all the departments.

Delhi's top-order was 'Boulded' in the last game, raising questions about Prithvi Shaw's ability against fast bowling. He has been dismissed in different fashion — pace, bounce and swing, in his three innings and there doesn't seem to be a quick fix to his technical issues.

With wickets falling at the other end, skipper David Warner has got the runs but it has come at a strike rate of 117. He is expected to do better than that.

Getting the opportunity in the absence of Mitchell Marsh, who has gone back home to get married, Manish Pandey lasted only one ball and the veteran batter will be keen to make an impact at Kotla.

Delhi's pacers, including Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar and Khaleel Ahmed, have been taken to the cleaners and the team must address that issue against Mumbai.

A spicy deck was dished out for the opening game here with pacers getting plenty of assistance. The conditions might favour them again for the Delhi attack to bounce back. There is a big question mark over the fitness of Khaleel, who injured his hamstring in the game against Rajasthan Royals.

In the spin department, Kuldeep Yadav has been economical but the team expects more from him in the middle overs while Axar Patel has been expensive.

"If I could put my finger on it, I'd do something to change it. We need to do some more soul-searching as a group and talk about it. Three games in and no wins...you can't get afford to



get off to bad starts in the IPL," head coach Ricky Ponting said after the loss to the Royals.

The star-studded Mumbai Indians too have a lot to figure out, starting with their explosive top-order which has flattered to deceive so far. Skipper Rohit Sharma looked good before a beauty of a ball from Tushar Deshpande got the better of him against CSK.

A special knock from Ishan Kishan too is awaited while million dollar buy Cameron Green is yet to make an impact.

When a batter is out of form, he finds news ways to get out and that is what is happening with star player Suryakumar Yadav, who would be hoping his unexpected lean run ends on Tuesday.

The young Tilak Verma has stood out in an otherwise under performing batting department. Rohit had no hesitation in saying after the CSK game that the senior players need to step up.

Shubman can break Kohli's record for most runs in single IPL season: Shastri



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

answer session through #AskStar, Shastri picked Gill as the one with an ability to surpass Kohli, adding that opening the batting helps immensely in scoring extra runs.

"He (Gill) has to be an opening batsman, because only then will he get many opportunities to score runs. I feel, it is Shubman Gill because he is in good form and also because he plays top of the order. So he will get good number of opportunities to score runs. The pitches are good, so if he can score 80-100 runs consecutively in two or three innings, then at that point of time only he will already have 300-400 runs.

"According to me, it is very difficult to break the record, because 900 plus runs is huge but one thing is opening batsmen will get two extra matches and two extra innings, so opening batsmen can only break this record if it is possible," Shastri said. Jos Buttler and David Warner follow Kohli in the single season top-scorers' chart with 863 and 848 runs respectively. On Sunday, Gill completed 2,000 runs in IPL.

In 77 matches in the IPL so far, Gill has scored 2,016 runs at an average of 32.52 and a strike rate of 126.24.

Dravid and his coaching staff to assemble at NCA to chalk out WTC blueprint



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The top Indian stars might be busy with the IPL but head coach Rahul Dravid and his team will assemble at the National Cricket Academy on Tuesday to start preparations for the World Test Championship final in June.

India will meet Australia at the Oval from June 7-11 for their second consecutive appearance

"Dravid along with batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey, fielding coach T Dilip and the other support staff will be meeting the NCA team headed by VVS Laxman to discuss various issues related to senior team," a BCCI source said.

Laxman, as the head of NCA, is not only overseeing the rehabilitation module of centrally contracted injured players under the aegis of Sports Science and Medicine team but at the same time is responsible for

tracking the progress of 'Targeted' players (India, India A) as well as the Emerging Players (aged between 19 and 23).

It is expected that both Dravid and Laxman along with their respective teams would extensively discuss workload management and the plans with regards to preparation for the final.

It is there to be seen whether Head of Sports Science Nitin Patel encounters any tough questions about regular break-

down of players, who are coming back after extensive rehabilitation. Case in point will be Iyer (red ball) and Deepak Chahar (white ball).

RAHANE IS BACK IN FRAY

After a decent domestic season in which he scored 600 plus runs, former India captain Ajinkya Rahane is believed to be very much in contention for a place in the squad of 15 as Iyer is set to undergo back surgery.

There is one slot vacant in the Indian middle-order and

Suryakumar Yadav hasn't exactly set the IPL stage on fire.

With KS Bharat's batting technique not suitable in seaming and swinging conditions of UK, there could be a case for KL Rahul donning big gloves and playing in the middle-order.

But the place vacated by Iyer needs to be filled and it seems that Rahane, with his 82 Test experience and near 5000 runs (4931 runs) gives that assurance even though he had a near three year lean patch in the traditional format.

Duleep Trophy from June 28, Ranji starts Jan 5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricket's 2023-24 domestic season will kick-start with the Duleep Trophy tournament starting on June 28 while the flagship Ranji Trophy set to commence from January 5, next year.

The Duleep Trophy, which will be played among six zonal teams, will be followed by Deodhar Trophy (List A) (July 24 to August 3), Irani Cup (October 1-5), Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy men's T20 national championships (October 16-November 6) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (November 23-December 15).

Ranji Trophy will be last tournament of the men's senior calendar with the elite group league matches to be played from January 5 to February 19, while the knock-out round will be



from February 23 to March 14. The duration of the tourney is for 70 days.

The league matches of the plate group will be held between January 5 and February 5 while the knock-out round will be played from February 9-22.

Each of the four elite groups will be made up of eight teams while the lone plate group will have six teams. The two top teams from each group will qualify for the quarterfinals.

In the plate group, the top four teams out of the six will qualify for the semifinals.

The two plate group finalists will be promoted to the elite group next season (2024-25). The two bottom teams from all elite groups combined based on points/bonus points/wins/quotient will be relegated to the plate group in 2024-25 season.

Once asked to mop floor, Rinku scripts surreal tale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Youtube channel some time back during an interaction.

On Sunday, the stockily-built 25-year-old from Aligarh didn't just hit his UP teammate Yash Dayal for five consecutive sixes to pull off an incredible IPL win but each and every ball that soared over the ropes at the Narendra Modi Stadium was a statement in itself.

In the last few years, his family has been able to bid poverty good-bye with IPL money, but from now, he will enjoy IPL stardom.

Ian Bishop was on air when Rinku launched into Dayal's back of the hand slower delivery.

"Rinku Singh, remember the name," Bishop's voice was something one would love to hear on a loop.

"My father struggled a lot, I come from a farmer's family. Every ball that I hit out of the ground was dedicated to the people who sacrificed so much for me," Rinku said after his match-winning knock.

In the 2021 domestic season, he had sustained a serious knee injury while going for a second run during a game for UP,

and underwent a surgery. His father was so depressed that he had stopped eating for a few days before he made him understand that injuries are part of players' lives.

THAT ALIGARH BOY

Aligarh is considered a cultural hub in India with the famous Aligarh Muslim University still having its pride of place among the country's elite academic institutes. It has been a house of intellectuals, poets, social reformers, sportspersons (Major Dhyan Chand and Lala Amarnath) for nearly a century and half (148 years).

The biggest link of the city with sport is that it is the birthplace of former India hockey captain Zafar Iqbal.

But Aligarh belongs to Rinku too, whose father would often thrash all his five sons if they tried to give cricket precedence over studies.

"To play proper inter-colony or club matches, you needed to pool in money to buy a leather ball and my father would never give me money. Once I went to play a match in Kanpur and my



mother borrowed Rs 1000 from local grocery store to provide for my pocket money," Rinku had recollected.

"Papa se hum paancho bhaiyon ko bahot maar padhi hai (All five brothers have got lot of thrashing from dad). My father was hawk, delivered LPG cylinders and when he wouldn't be available for the job, we brothers had to fill in and father would sit with a stick till we hadn't delivered," the UP southpaw said.

An emotional Khanchand on Monday remembered the good old days.

"I had beaten up Rinku a number of times only for the reason I thought that he was wasting his time by playing cricket. Neither he would study, nor did he support me in my work," Khanchand said.

His poverty was the reason he got emotional as he didn't have the means to buy a proper match bat for his son, which would cost in excess of Rs 12,000.

"However, at times, I had become emotional seeing the passion towards cricket in

Rinku," Khanchand said, adding that he was helpless then.

So when did his father finally stop beating him up for ignoring studies and playing cricket?

"There was a tournament called School World Cup being organised by DPS Aligarh and I was adjudged man of the tournament. That was the first time Papa had come to the ground to watch me.

"I was presented with a motor-bike in front of him. Usdin ke baad unhone kabhi nahi mara (He never raised his hand after that day)," Rinku was seen laughing for the first time during the interaction.

COMING THROUGH RANKS

He had his share of rejections as he was twice ignored during the UPCA's U-16 trials though he wasn't admitted that he wasn't ready for that level at the time.

But by 2012, he was ready and scored 154 on his Vijay Merchant Trophy debut and an innings like that in a BCCI tournament gave him confidence that he can play elite cricket if he worked

hard. Within a couple of years, he was in the UP U-19 team and was then directly inducted into UP's one-day team. There has been no looking back after that.

Once you start playing competitive cricket, there are certain investments and kit is one of the major ones.

"At least five or six people really helped me in my journey. My childhood coach Masood Amini, Mohammed Zeeshan, who provided me with full kit, including cricket bats, Arjun Singh Fakira, Neel Singh and Swapnil Jain are some people I would always be grateful," he had said.

Amini couldn't be more proud about his student.

"Rinku has an X factor in him, which will take him to greater heights, and he will definitely make it to Team India. Rinku plays aggressive cricket, and can also become a good Test (cricket) batsman, because he has the capacity to switch his role as per the format of the game," Amini said about his ward, who averages nearly 60 after 40 first-class games.