

WORLD 5
 ARMY CHIEF MOST POWERFUL
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MONEY 6
 INDIA WILL STAY ON
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SPORT 7
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Atiq, brother shot in media glare

Duo killed on way to medical test by 3 shooters in journalist guise; judicial probe ordered, Section 144 imposed in UP

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a dramatic turn of events, jailed gangster-turned politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were shot dead by three youths in Prayagraj on Saturday night around 10 pm while they were being escorted by police to a medical college for mandatory medical tests on Saturday night here.

The firing took place on the MLN Medical College premises. A police officer said the three assailants had joined the group of mediapersons who were trying to get sound bites from Ahmad and Ashraf.

Atiq (60) and Ashraf were handcuffed as they were approached by media personnel. Suddenly one of the assailants whipped out a weapon and shot dead Atiq in his head at point-blank range in full view of camera crews around 10 pm.

Subsequently, a burst of rapid fire targeted Ashraf and as panic and chaos descended on the scene, the assailants could be seen pumping nearly 20 rounds into the fallen duo.

The three assailants were then subdued by the police and arrested.

Video footage showed a man thrusting a gun at Atiq's head as he was talking to reporters. The horrifying visuals were circulated widely on social media platforms and TV news channels.

The attackers were chanting Jai Shri Ram and immediately after they killed Atiq and Ashraf. The three assailants initially identified as Luvlesh, Sunny and Arun have been arrested.

A police constable was injured in the incident as a bullet hit his arm while a journalist was also hurt after he fell during the commotion that followed the shooting.

The bullet-riddled bodies



Police personnel at the site where gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf Ahmed were shot dead while they were being taken for a medical checkup in Prayagraj on Saturday

of Atiq and Ashraf were taken away from the spot as tension gripped the area after the sensational killings.

17 cops deployed for Atiq security have been suspended.

"We are looking into the incident. It is too early to say anything. We are yet to question the arrested men," a police officer said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened an emergency meeting with senior police officials on getting the news. Later, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad was rushed to Allahabad.

Officials said the UP CM has formed a three-member judicial commission to probe the killing of Atiq and his brother. They added that prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) have been issued in all districts of UP.

Reacting to the incident, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said in a tweet in Hindi: "Crime has reached its peak in Uttar Pradesh and the criminals are unfazed. When someone can be shot dead amid a police cordon, then what about the safety of the general pub-

lic? An atmosphere of fear is being created among the public due to this and it seems that some people are deliberately creating such an atmosphere."

Atiq, a former SP MP, and his brother were brought to Prayagraj for a court hearing in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case and were remanded in police custody.

Atiq's son Asad and one of his accomplices were killed in a police encounter in Jhansi on April 13. The last rites of Asad were performed at the Kasari Masari graveyard here on Saturday amid heavy police security, with only a few distant relatives and locals present inside the burial ground.

Incidentally, Atiq and Ashraf were being questioned by the Uttar Pradesh Police at the Dhoomanganj police station, around 3 km from the burial venue. Asked by reporters to comment on Asad's death, his uncle Ashraf said, "Allah has taken back what belonged to him."

Umesh Pal, a key witness in the murder case of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Raju Pal, and his two police security guards were shot dead outside his Dhoomanganj residence here on February 24.

Based on a complaint lodged by Umesh Pal's wife Jaya Pal, a case was registered on February 25 against Ahmad, Ashraf, Ahmad's wife Shaista Parveen, two sons, aides Guddu Muslim and Ghulam, and nine others.

A police team from the Uttar Pradesh brought Atiq, who was lodged in the high-security Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, to Prayagraj on March 26 to produce him in a court in the 2006 Umesh Pal kidnapping case.

On March 28, the court sentenced Atiq and two others to life imprisonment in the kidnapping case. In 2006, Atiq and his aides abducted Umesh Pal and forced him to give a statement in court in their favour.

Umesh Pal had got a complaint registered in this regard.

The Supreme Court had in April 2019 directed that Atiq be shifted to a high-security jail in Gujarat after he was accused of orchestrating the kidnapping and assault of Lucknow-based real-estate businessman Mohit Jaiswal while in jail.

Atiq was named in more than 100 criminal cases, including the Umesh Pal murder case, police said. Among the most sensational murders in which Atiq was allegedly involved was that of Raju Pal, the then BSP MLA who was shot dead in 2005.

14 die in Bihar Hooch tragedy

10 critically ill being treated at Motihari hospital: Official

PNS ■ MOTIHARI/PATNA

after similarly consuming spurious liquor, "but their bodies were cremated by villagers without informing police" the statement said. Officials also said some ten more people were critically ill and are being treated at Motihari Sadar hospital.

"The police have so far arrested a total ten persons as part of their investigation into the incident. A man-hunt has also been launched to nab others involved in illegal liquor trade.

Excise department officials are also probing the incident," officials said.

Reacting to Motihari's suspected hooch tragedy, Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, on Saturday said, "I have been maintaining that liquor is bad and shouldn't be consumed."

Continued on Page 2

P2: 11 killed as tractor trolley falls into river in UP; P2: 13 dead as bus falls into gorge in Maharashtra

4 arrested in Punjab for harbouring Amritpal

PNS ■ HOSHIARPUR (PUNJAB)

The efforts to arrest fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh continues as on Saturday four people, including an advocate, were arrested for allegedly harbouring the radical preacher.

The arrested men were identified as advocate Rajdeep Singh of Babak village in Hoshiarpur, Sarbjit Singh of Jalandhar, Omkar Nath of Nakodar town in Jalandhar and Karnail Singh of the local Mohalla Ramgarh.

They were produced before a court here, which sent Omkar Nath to judicial custody and the rest three to a four-day police remand.

Police earlier arrested three men — Gurwant Singh of Lakhimpur Kheri and brothers Hardeep Singh and Kuldip Singh of village Rajpur Bhaian in Hoshiarpur district — for allegedly harbouring the pro-Khalistan preacher.

Punjab Police launched a major crackdown on Amritpal Singh and members of his 'Waris Punjab De' outfit on March 18. The Khalistan sympathiser escaped the police's net in Jalandhar district, switching vehicles and changing his appearance.

Kejriwal's CBI quiz in excise case rallying point for Opp's unity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal decided to appear before the CBI on Sunday as scheduled in its probe into the excise policy scam, his questioning has escalated the AAP-Centre faceoff and became a fresh rallying point for Opposition unity push ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

As Opposition leaders like Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and JD(U) supreme and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed solidarity with Kejriwal on Saturday and renewed calls to speed up Opposition unity efforts to take on the BJP, officials said the CBI may ask the AAP chief about the policy formulation process, especially of the "untraceable" file which was earlier slated to be put before the Delhi Council of Ministers.

Kejriwal is being summoned as a witness and is not an accused in the excise policy case in which his former deputy Manish Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26.

Sisodia was last month arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and is in judicial custody.

The Delhi Chief Minister on his part said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has emerged as a ray of hope for the country and claimed that is the reason why efforts are being made to trample it.

In his first reaction after being served a notice by the CBI to appear before it at 11 am on Sunday, Kejriwal said he will be present before the probe agency.

Asserting that if he was "corrupt" then no one in the world was "honest", Kejriwal also claimed that BJP leaders were demanding his arrest and that if the saffron party had "ordered" the probe agency to arrest him, it cannot refuse doing so.

Kejriwal said he will sue the CBI and ED officials for alleged perjury and filing false affidavits in courts.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju took a jibe at Kejriwal over his sue CBI and ED remarks, saying the AAP leader will file a case against the court if convicted.

Now, paramilitary recruitment exams in 13 regional languages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major decision, the Centre has decided to conduct the examination for recruitment of constables in the paramilitary forces in 13 regional languages besides Hindi and English.

The question papers will now be set in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani in addition to Hindi and English.

"This decision has been taken at initiative of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and to give impetus to participation of local youth in the CAPF and encourage regional languages," the Government said.

The decision will result in lakhs of aspirants taking part in the examination in their mother tongue/ regional language and improve their selection prospects, it said.

Constable (General Duty) is one of flagship examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission attracting lakhs of candidates from across the country for recruitment into the CAPFs or paramilitary forces.



ISIS to target 2024 Paris Olympics, reveal experts

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The international terror group ISIS has created a new online radicalisation module, available through various social media platforms, dark web and self-learning systems, under a Learning Management System in French language to target the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The ISIS has created sleeper cells comprising Afghans who were loyal to NATO and took refuge in the European countries following withdrawal of the allied forces and takeover of Kabul by Taliban in 2021 to carry out the terrorist attacks in France, particularly lone wolf attacks, experts tracking the terror group said.

Post the Afghan crisis precipitated by the withdrawal of allied forces and subsequent takeover of Kabul by Taliban in 2021, those loyal to the previous regime left that country in

ISIS had merged some of its people with the Northern Alliance.

Such ISIS radicals planted in the Northern Alliance also reached Europe under the guise of asylum seekers and became ISIS sleeper cells.

NATO, a security grouping of 31 countries led by the United States in general and France in particular are pressing the Taliban government in Kabul to form an inclusive governance model and in the case of failure to do so, the allied forces are likely to back groups opposed to Taliban.

Those opposed to the Taliban are managing operational freedom in the host countries. ISIS and Northern Alliance cadres are now exploiting this facilitation, they said.

"In this backdrop, ISIS has increased the level of radicalization and the new self-training module was launched ear-

Taliban ban video games, music, films

IANS ■ KABUL

The Taliban-led Afghan Government has banned video games, foreign films and music in the western city of Herat, branding them as un-Islamic, the media reported.

The ban imposed by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, which came without warning, has forced more than 400 businesses in Herat to close, RFE/RL reported.

It followed crackdowns on other forms of leisure and entertainment that clash with the Taliban's extremist interpretation of Islamic Shari'a law.

Kishida escapes unhurt at public event bombing

Wakayama (Japan): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was evacuated unharm on Saturday after someone threw an explosive device in his direction while he was campaigning at a fishing port in western Japan, officials said. Police wrestled a suspect to the ground as screaming bystanders scrambled to get away and smoke filled the air.

One police officer was slightly hurt and Kishida continued campaigning Saturday, but the chaotic scene was reminiscent of the assassination nine months ago of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which also came on a campaign tour and continues to reverberate in Japanese politics. AP

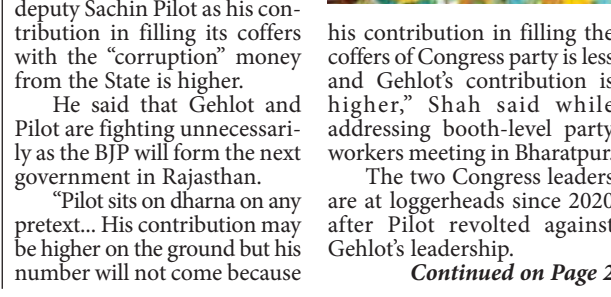
Pilot number won't come as Cong likes Gehlot for filling party coffers, claims Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a swipe at the Congress in Rajasthan over infighting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the party prefers Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over his former deputy Sachin Pilot as his contribution in filling its coffers with the "corruption" money from the State is higher.

He said that Gehlot and Pilot are fighting unnecessarily as the BJP will form the next government in Rajasthan.

"Pilot sits on dharna on any pretext... His contribution may be higher on the ground but his number will not come because



Cut emission, India urges rich nations at G7 meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Meeting the global target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 will require developed nations to scale up their emission reduction efforts, India said at the G7 Ministers Meeting on Climate Energy and Environment in Japan's Sapporo on Saturday.

This will create opportunities for developing nations like India to address the needs of its people, which will build resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and pollution, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said at the plenary session of the G7 minister's meeting.

"The global goal of reaching net zero by 2050 needs enhanced emission decarbonisation by developed nations. This will provide space for countries like India to achieve the development required for its people, which will provide necessary defence against the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and pollution," he said.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that climate protection idea will become a mass movement when it moves from "discussion tables to dinner tables" as he called for people's participation and collective efforts in combating climate change.

Continued on Page 2

Assailants who killed Atiq posed as mediapersons

PIANS ■ PRAYAGRAJ shot dead in an encounter in Prayagraj on Thursday and was buried in Prayagraj on Saturday.

The assailants who killed gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf on Saturday night in presence of the police personnel and media came in the guise of mediapersons with one of them even carrying a mic along with an ID.

As journalists questioned Atiq Ahmed about his questioning in the police custody, he said: "Main baat yeh hai ki Guddu Muslim..." (Actually, Guddu Muslim...) and was shot dead in the head, even before he could finish what he was saying.

One of the journalists who was present on the spot said: "The assailants shouted 'surrender, surrender' and threw their firearms on the ground." Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been imposed in Prayagraj and other communally sensitive districts.

PAC and RAF teams have been deployed in Prayagraj and the bodies have been removed from the scene of crime. Atiq Ahmed's eldest son Umar is lodged in Lucknow jail, while the second son Ali is lodged in Naini Central Jail in separate cases.

The third son Asad was



3-member judicial commission to probe killing of Atiq, brother

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday ordered a high-level probe into the sensational killings of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Khalid Azeem alias Ashraf in Prayagraj, officials said.

Ahmad (60) and his brother were shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction on Saturday night while police personnel were escorting them to a medical college in Prayagraj for a checkup.

The brothers, both jailed in Prayagraj, were in handcuffs when they were killed in full view of camera crews around 10 pm. The horrifying visuals were circulated widely on social media platforms and television channels.

"The chief minister has constituted a three-member judicial commission to probe the killing of Ahmad and Ashraf," Special DG, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar said.

Delhi Govt, MCD to work together to implement Mission Buniyaad in schools: Atishi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government and the MCD will work together to implement 'Mission Buniyaad' in the city schools this year with an aim to strengthen students' learning foundation, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said on Saturday.

Atishi and Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi interacted with 2,700 principals of city government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools for 'Mission Buniyaad' in the new academic session.

"Mission Buniyaad aims to strengthen the foundation of every child sitting in the classroom — to prepare future engineers, doctors, and CEOs for the country. Our government is committed to provide every child with quality education and opportunities," Atishi said. She said every child should have access to good education and equal opportunities, as dreamt by B R Ambedkar 75 years ago.

"The children studying in Delhi's government schools are the future of the country, their foundational learning can be strengthened only through joint efforts of MCD and DoE," she said. Mayor Oberoi said the Delhi government has an effective education model and the MCD administration will bring a similar model of education in its schools too.

"The contribution of students to nation-building is substantial and, therefore, it is necessary to develop an education model that fosters their overall development. The training of teachers plays a critical role in this regard, and to that end, the MCD will also send teachers abroad for training, similar to the Kejriwal government," she said.

Summer camps, special classes and mega PTM are some of the targets of 'Mission Buniyaad' in the upcoming academic session.

According to the Department of Education (DoE), various approaches will be implemented this year to strengthen the foundational learning levels in DoE and MCD schools and bridge the learning gap for all children from grades 3 to 8.

Attention will be given to activities that help children read fluently, write without mistakes and understand higher-order math problems related to multiplication and division with a clear understanding, it said.

Shettar resigns from BJP over denial of ticket



PTI ■ HUBBALLI

Former chief minister Jagdish Shettar on Sunday announced his resignation from the BJP after he was denied a ticket for the May 10 Karnataka assembly elections.

The 67-year-old leader said he would tender his resignation from the party as well as the assembly.

Shettar, who was the leader of the opposition when the Congress was in power, also said he would contest the upcoming assembly election for sure.

Recalling his contribution to the party and the key posts he held in the state, Shettar said, "I am upset with the way I was humiliated...I thought I must challenge them. Hence, I have decided to fight the election. I will go to Sirsi and tender my resignation from the Assembly (to the speaker). Eventually I will resign from the party which I had built in the state."

The Lingayat leader also alleged that there was a systematic conspiracy against him.

5 minors among 13 killed as bus carrying music troupe falls into Maharashtra gorge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Thirteen persons, including five minors, were killed and 29 injured after a bus carrying young male and female members of a traditional 'Dhol-Tasha-Zaanj' music troupe fell into a gorge on the old Mumbai-Pune highway in Raigad district of Maharashtra in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

The deceased included an eight-year-old boy and three young women. The private bus with 42 persons on board was going from Pune to Mumbai when it plunged into the 300-feet deep gorge in the Bor Ghat mountain pass section, better known as Khandala Ghat, between 4.15 and 4.30 am, said a senior police official.

The accident took place near Khopoli, 70 km from Mumbai. Late in the evening, police registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the bus driver who died in the accident. Among injured, at least six are minors. Most of the music troupe members were in their twenties or teens.

The group, which played traditional instruments of Dhol (drum), Tasha (kettledrum) and Zaanj (cymbals), was returning to Mumbai after taking part in an event in Pimpri Chinchwad township near Pune city. Expressing grief over the incident, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced an ex-gratia assistance of Rs five lakh to the kin of each deceased. Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the accident.

12 killed as tractor-trolley falls off bridge in UP

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

Twelve people, including eight children, were killed when the tractor-trolley in which they were travelling fell off a bridge here on Saturday, police said.

Twenty-four people were also injured in the accident which took place near Birsinghpur village on the Tilhar-Nigohi road. The passengers from Ajamatpur village were on their way to fetch water from the Garra river for a 'Bhagwat Katha', they said.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sony Kumari D/o Mr. Amiri Lal Sah, R/o E 30 B, Flat-8, Chhatrapur Extension, New Delhi-110074, state that both the names Sony Kumari and Sony Shah are of the same person and I shall thereafter be known as Sony Shah for all purposes.

PD(010)A

India always has spiritual democracy and this identity is called Hindutva, says RSS leader

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Rashtriya Swayamevak Sangh (RSS) joint general secretary Manmohan Vaidya on Saturday said India always had spiritual democracy and it is this identity which is known as Hindutva in the world.

He also said unlike in Pakistan, "so-called" minorities in India have many equal rights, which is "Hinduness of the Indian constitution".

Speaking on the topic

'Sanatan Bharat' in a programme organised by Hindu Dharm Sankriti Mandir here, Vaidya said the meaning of the word 'rashtra' should be understood correctly as Bharat is neither nationalist nor Rashtrawadi but is 'Rashtriya'.

"India always had spiritual democracy and it is the identity of India which has got the name Hindutva in the entire world. It is wrong to call it Hinduism in English but it should be called Hinduness,"



he added. Vaidya said religion should not be regarded as "Dharma" because Dharma is

entirely different and everyone has the freedom to choose "upasana" (forms of worship).

"In Bharat, religion is as personal as one's toothbrush," he said quoting Hindutva ideologue Dattopant Tengdi.

Vaidya said India and Pakistan were one stock and the Constitutions of both countries were prepared at the same time.

"However, minorities in Pakistan do not have equal rights in their Constitution. But, in Indian Constitution, the so-called minorities have many equal rights and this is the Hinduness of our Constitution," he added.

Vaidya said India is not nationalist but it is Rashtriya. "We are not nationalist, we are not rashtrawadi but we are 'Rashtriya'. In the Indian context, (the meaning of) rashtira is different while (the meaning of) nation in the West is different. In India, samaj (society) is rashtira. Hence rashtira is a society that needs to be connected and become Rashtriya," he added.

Vaidya said nationalism in Europe has the baggage of Hitler and Mussolini.

He said caste and casteism are two different things. "Casteism is absolutely wrong and it does not have any basis shastras (scriptures). Casteism should be eradicated from society. When every person is part of God and all are one, then why (classifications of) high caste, low caste, and untouchables etc?" he asked.

GOVT. OF ODISHA

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. PWDK- 02/2023-24
No. G2/2020 Dt. 12.04.2023
e-mail : eepwdkeonjhar@yahoo.com

1 No. of the work:- 02 Nos. Building Work
2 Estimated Cost :- From ₹ 275.95 Lakh to ₹ 503.95 Lakh
3 Period of completion 6(Six) Calander Months
4 Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 10.00 Hr 19.04.2023 to 17.00 Hr of 01.05.2023
5 Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal:- 17.00 Hr of 01.05.2023
6 Date of opening of Bid from portal:- 11.30 Hr of 02.05.2023
7 Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"

OIPR-34004/11/0002/2324 Superintendent Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B), Division

Office of the Chief Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department Gwalior Zone, Gwalior
E-mail- sepheprocgw@gmail.com Telephone- 0751-2365438, 4031502
No. 1215/TC/CE/PHE/2023-24 Gwalior, Dated 10/04/2023

Online Bids for Works of Innovative Piped water supply scheme at 135 villages in block Khaniadhana, Pohari & Pichhore Distt. Shivpuri with Various Stage R.C.C. OHT, RCC Sump well cum pump house, pipe line, household tap connections & all other allied works etc. are invited on website <https://mptenders.gov.in>.

Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the above website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned website. Details as follow:-

S. No.	NIT No./ Date	Tender ID	Probable Amount of contract (Rs. In Lakhs)	Amount EMD in Rs.	Cost of Tender in Rs.	No. Of calls	Period of completion
01	61/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266397_1	820.83	8,20,830	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
02	62/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266400_1	929.17	9,29,170	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
03	63/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266404_1	907.44	9,07,440	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
04	64/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266409_1	511.11	5,11,110	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
05	65/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266414_1	932.28	9,32,280	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
06	66/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266415_1	819.73	8,19,730	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
07	67/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266417_1	850.75	8,50,750	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
08	68/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266418_1	709.19	7,09,190	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
09	69/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266420_1	649.40	6,49,400	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
10	70/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266424_1	567.79	5,67,790	20,000/-	Frist	09 Months excluding rainy season
11	71/10.04.23	2023_PHE/266425_1	703.00	7,03,000	20,000/-	Second	09 Months excluding rainy season

Purchase of Bid document- Date 14.04.2023 to 25.04.2023 05.30 P.M.,
Online Bid submission- Date 14.04.2023 to 25.04.2023 05.30 P.M.
Pre-bid meeting- Date 21.04.2023, Time-12.00 P.M., Place-Gwalior
Bid Opening- Date 27.04.2023 at 1.00 PM

Superintending Engineer (Procurement)
Office of the Chief Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department
Gwalior Zone, Gwalior

G-1152/23

ISIS to target 2024 Paris Olympics, reveal...

From Page 1

The main emphasis of ISIS is to radicalise refugees in large numbers and begin religious conversion of the local population. Possibility of radicalising a Christian and train him to become a suicide bomber could not be ruled out, the expert said. The terror outfit is ostensibly planning to register its presence during the Paris Olympics beginning on July 26, 2024. Intelligence estimates suggest, the suicide bomber is likely to be segregated around Ramadan next year and he will not be allowed to meet anyone, according to the analysts. The entire radicalisation materials on the Learning Management System are in French language which will make them available for potential use in other countries where French is popular or in vogue.

Like the US, France too asserts its big power status in several countries and this could be the reason for ISIS to radicalise and use the Paris Olympics as a target.

French language is used in Africa, Congo, Canada, Senegal, Mali, Togo, Nigeria, Switzerland and Seychelles among others, ISIS has a strong presence in Congo, Nigeria and Mali.

14 die in Bihar Hooch...

From Page 1

"I have asked officials to take strict action against those who violate prohibition laws," said the CM. However, holding the Kumar-led Government responsible for the Motihari hooch tragedy, Samrat Choudhary, Bihar BJP President, said, "The CM should stop dreaming about becoming the Prime Minister and instead take care of the State. The State Government is responsible for this tragedy ... We demand compensation for family members of those who died in the



incident". The sale and consumption of alcohol was banned in Bihar by the Nitish Government in April 2016. However, incidents of smuggling of liquor continue to be reported from the state notwithstanding the ongoing drive against bootleggers. In the last major hooch tragedy in December 2022 scores of people died after consuming spurious liquor in Saran district.

Cut emission, India urges rich nations...

From Page 1

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

"IPCC AR 6 report re-emphasises that development is our first defence against climate change," Yadav said.

"We do hope that developed countries will make good on their commitments on finance for combating climate change and provide for the same for dealing with the environmental degradation and biodiversity loss," a statement quoting the minister said. Rich countries have repeatedly failed to mobilise USD 100 billion every year, a promise they made in 2009, to help developing countries cope with climate change.

At COP 26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had demanded USD 1 trillion from developed countries to adapt to, and mitigate, the challenges arising from global warming. India has kept this as a condition for delivering on its climate commitments.

Yadav said while efforts have been made to establish policy frameworks to tackle climate change, it is now imperative for governments worldwide to engage individuals and promote greater public participation in the fight against climate change.

Prime Minister Modi last

year launched 'Mission LIFE' (lifestyle for environment) which calls for a global mass movement for inducing behavioural changes focused on "mindful and deliberate utilization" of resources.

The G7 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom. During the G7 summit in Germany last year, the participating countries established a shared objective of transitioning towards a predominantly decarbonised electricity supply by 2035.

At an event in New Delhi last month, Yadav said India is free to use its resources to fulfil the energy needs of its people and countries historically

responsible for climate change cannot ask it to stop its development.

India firmly believes any action to combat climate change must be based on the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

Equity essentially means each country's share of carbon dioxide emissions is equal to its share of the global population.

The CBDR-RC principle recognises that each country is responsible for addressing climate change but developed countries should bear primary responsibilities as they account for most of the historical and current greenhouse gas emissions.

Pilot number won't come as Cong likes Gehlot for...

From Page 1

Pilot recently observed a one-day fast against his own government alleging inaction on corruption charges against the previous Vasundhara Raj-led BJP government.

"Gehlot ji is saying that I do not want to step down and Pilot ji is saying that I want to be on the chair. They are fighting unnecessarily because the government is to be formed by the BJP," Shah said.

Shah alleged Gehlot has made the Rajasthan

government "an 'adda' (hub) of corruption and has looted the state. This money of corruption has gone to the coffers of the Congress party".

After Rajee criticised the Gehlot government in her address over the law and order situation in the state, Shah said that she was being considerate as not only had crime against women increased under the Congress dispensation but it had fuelled casteism and crossed all limits of appeasement.

"The Gehlot government has worked to nurture dynasty, has incited casteism and... Violence by crossing the limits of appeasement. This government can take top marks in appeasement," Shah said.

The Union home minister alleged that the Gehlot government does not take any tough steps to check riots due to the "greed of vote bank".

"More than two dozen papers have been leaked in Rajasthan and Mr. Gehlot still wants power... Do you want to

score a century? The people of Rajasthan no longer want you," Shah said.

"Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government is one of the most corrupt governments in the history of Rajasthan. People are fed up," he claimed.

Shah exuded confidence that the BJP will form a government in Rajasthan with a two-thirds majority in the year-end assembly polls and win all 25 Lok Sabha seats in 2024.

On the acquittal of the

accused in the 2008 Jaipur bomb blast case, Shah alleged that the Congress government did not present proper arguments in the high court due to vote bank politics.

"Gehlot ji, you are doing politics over the victims of the bomb blasts... Do you think the people are not watching? They had made up their mind the very same day against your government when you had banned the Ram Navami procession and saffron flags," he said.

Will sue CBI, ED officials for perjury: Kejriwal

CM accuses agencies of filing false affidavits against Sisodia in court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after he was summoned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in relation to the excise policy case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday accused investigative agencies — the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of filing false affidavits against jailed AAP leader Manish Sisodia.

Kejriwal said he would file a case against the CBI and ED officials for perjury and pro-

ducing false evidence in courts. He also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "steeped in corruption from head to toe and said if he is a thief, then no one in this world is innocent."

In his first reaction after being served a notice by the CBI to appear before it, Kejriwal said while addressing a press conference that he will appear before the agency on Sunday.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, all Delhi ministers, its MPs and supporters will accompany



Kejriwal to CBI headquarters at 11 am on Sunday.

Kejriwal alleged that the agencies are torturing people to testify against Sisodia. In his first reaction after being served a notice by the CBI to appear

before it in connection with the excise policy case, Kejriwal said he will appear before the agency on Sunday.

The CBI has summoned the AAP leader in connection with the case on Sunday. He has been asked to be present at the agency headquarters at 11 am to answer queries of the investigating team.

He alleged that the 'No 2, No 3' ministers of his party have been targeted in order to reach him, adding that he knew he would be next in line to be summoned by the CBI since the day he spoke against corruption in the Delhi Assembly.

The Chief Minister said the ED in its charge sheet, had said that former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia

destroyed 14 phones and IMEI numbers of these phones were also included in the documents.

"The seizure memo shows that out of these 14 phones, four are with the ED and one with the CBI. Most of the other phones are alive and are being used by volunteers. The ED and the CBI know about these phones. They are misleading the court by filing false affidavits," he alleged.

"People are being asked to falsely take my name and Sisodia's name. One Chandan Reddy, whom we are not acquainted with, was tortured and his medical report says he suffered trauma to his ears and face.

These people are using third degree, mental harass-

ment and physical torture to extract false statements.

"Sameer Mahendru and Arun Pillai have been tortured. One person, who has two young daughters, was asked, 'How will your daughter go to college tomorrow?' Another one was quizzed, while his wife and father were made to sit in another room and he was threatened that they would be sent to jail," he claimed.

The Chief Minister also said that despite months of investigation, and scores of arrests, including his former deputy Manish Sisodia, the agencies have not found a single penny of ill-gotten wealth that they claim was amassed from the so-called liquor scam. Kejriwal said the AAP has

emerged as a ray of hope for the country and that is the reason why efforts are being made to trample it.

Launching a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, Kejriwal said agencies like the CBI and ED were going to extraordinary lengths to target their fiercest political opponents.

"I want to ask the Prime Minister, what is going on here? After an entire year of such investigation, they say Rs. 100 crore changed hands; where is a single naya paisa from this money? Today if I say I gave Narendra Modi Rs. 1000 crore at 7 pm on September 17; will you arrest him?" Kejriwal said.

More than 400 raids were

conducted...Where is the money? It was said that money was used in Goa elections. They questioned every Goa vendor whom we had employed, but could not find anything.

"The question is not about corruption in the excise policy," he asserted. Kejriwal added that he was told that "his number would be next" after he had spoken about corruption in the state assembly last month.

AAP supremo said no other party has been targeted in the last 75 years as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)... That is because the AAP has given hope to people that it would eradicate poverty and make them educated. They want to trample this hope by targeting us," he said.

BJP takes dig at CM: 'Moment Kejriwal was summoned, he started trembling with fear'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has asked five questions to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday, a day before the Delhi Chief Minister's questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the alleged liquor scam and took a dig at him saying the moment AAP leader was summoned, he started "trembling with fear".

The BJP said he should take a lie detector test if he had nothing to be afraid of.

Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader for attacking the central government over the summons and said it was not the time for rhetoric but accountability.

Bhatia asked Kejriwal several questions and wondered if he was not accountable for the proceedings of the February, 2021 meeting of the Delhi Cabinet in which the scam was allegedly hatched.

"What is your relationship with the liquor traders? If your liquor policy was so good then why was it withdrawn? You were presiding over the meeting in which this liquor scam was hatched... so why shouldn't you be blamed? Arvind Kejriwal ji, tell the public whether you talked to Sameer Mahendru on Facetime or not? Why would a former minister compel an excise commission-



er to give wholesale L1 licence to a particular person/entity?" Bhatia said, alleging that Kejriwal is a "staunch cheater". "Jaise jaise jud rahi hai kadi, Arvind Kejriwal paas aarahi hai hathkadi... Darr lag raha hai," Bhatia took a dig at the AAP leader. He also questioned him about his alleged conversation with an accused on FaceTime.

Handcuffs are approaching him and that is why he is frightened and trembling with fear, Bhatia said. He also noted that the Supreme Court has refused to give any relief to Sisodia while a sessions court made some critical observations on his role in the scam while rejecting his bail plea.

"The session court rejected Sisodia's bail stating he called the then excise commissioner to grant L1 to Indospirit's Sameer Mahendroo. Why would a

minister compel an excise commissioner to give L1 to a particular person/entity?" Bhatia asked. The CBI on Friday summoned the Delhi chief minister on April 16 in connection with the excise policy scam case.

"He had four mobile phones, when the investigating officers asked for the phone for investigation, he gave one and destroyed the remaining three. Why? Did they feel that even Arvind Kejriwal would be caught... that's why they destroyed him? You will have to answer this to the public. They are proud that they are above the law but we are sure that the hand of the law will reach their neck," the BJP leader said.

'Will he also file case against court?'

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju reacted to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's threat that appropriate cases will be filed against CBI and ED officials and asked whether Kejriwal will also file a case against the court if the court convicts him. Everyone must believe in rule of law, the Law Minister said. "Forgot to mention that you will file case against court also if it convicts you. Let law takes its own course & we must believe in rule of law," Rijiju tweeted.

CM mastermind behind liquor scam, alleges Bidhuri

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the mastermind behind the liquor scam worth thousands of crores, but now when the heat of the CBI investigation has reached him, he has started thinking of himself as a judge instead of an accused. He is calling himself the most honest and declares his entire gang innocent. Bidhuri has asked Kejriwal to let the court do the work instead of pronouncing the verdict himself.

'Govt has no moral right to remain in power'

BJP MLA and former leader of Opposition, Vijender Gupta said Arvind Kejriwal Government has no moral right to remain in power. "If the CM has not engaged in any wrongdoing, he should have no reason to fear the investigation," he said. Gupta minced no words while commenting on Kejriwal's recent press conference, stating, "Kejriwal's nervous performance, a concoction of lies and theatrics, uncovers the crumbling facade of the AAP government."

Centre misusing agencies to harass our leaders, to arrest CM: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Saturday alleged that the Centre was "misusing" probe agencies to "harass" its leaders and preparing to arrest Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been summoned by the CBI on April 16 for questioning in the excise police case.

In a series of press conferences, the AAP leaders alleged that the Centre was "scared" of the Aam Aadmi Party and their aim was to finish it. They further said the party will take legal route against the agencies for malicious prosecution, forgery and production of false evidence in court.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and Delhi Cabinet minister Atishi asserted Kejriwal was the only leader speaking out on the issue of corruption, which was why efforts were being made to stifle his voice.

"Have the agencies found black money during their raids at his residence or anyone else? No. Kejriwal is the only leader talking about the issue of corruption. They want to stifle his voice. But they won't be able to do so," she said.

Atishi said several cases have been slapped against AAP leaders but probe agencies have not been able to prove corruption against them.

AAP national spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged



later that the Centre was preparing to arrest Kejriwal.

"The Centre is preparing to arrest Arvind Kejriwal. Why is the central government so scared of him and the Aam Aadmi Party? Their aim is to finish our party. We are a new party and merely have government in two states," he said. He alleged that the BJP was "misusing" central agencies to put AAP leaders in jail.

"Why is the Centre putting all their strength to harass AAP leaders? The prime minister is scared of Arvind Kejriwal. The BJP government is only misusing the central agencies like CBI and ED to put AAP leaders behind the bars," he alleged.

Asked about reports of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge extending his support to Kejriwal after CBI's summons, Bharadwaj said the party welcomes it, quickly adding that when Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from Lok Sabha, Kejriwal was one of the first leaders who expressed dis-

pleasure over the matter.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha in another press meet said the party will take legal route against the agencies for malicious prosecution, forgery and production of false evidence in court.

Terming Kejriwal as a modern day Mahatma Gandhi with unimpeachable integrity, Chadha said if he is corrupt, no one on earth is honest. "ED-CBI alleged corruption of 100 crores, where did this money go? Why was the money not recovered even after so many raids in a one year long investigation?", he said.

In another press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that the Prime Minister does not want to fight any battle against corruption, he wants to fight with Kejriwal.

"Every conspiracy to topple AAP's Delhi & Punjab governments failed, so now another conspiracy has been hatched to topple the governments by arresting Kejriwal," he said.

Man arrested for harassing woman in Metro lift

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man was arrested Saturday for allegedly touching a woman inappropriately inside the lift of Jasola Apollo Metro Station, police said.

The accused, Rajesh Kumar Koli, who has studied till Class 12, worked in the housekeeping department of a private hospital, they said.

According to the police, the incident took place on April 4 with the woman inside one of the lifts of Jasola Apollo Metro Station.

The accused, who was the sole other passenger in the lift, had touched the woman from behind, police said, citing the woman's statement.

Based on the woman's statement, a case was registered under section 354 A (sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code, a senior police officer said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) Jitendra Mani said police scoured CCTV footage of locations in and around Jasola Apollo Metro Station to know the movement of the accused.

"On Friday, we received an input that the accused was coming towards Jasola Apollo Metro Station and acting upon the information, the accused was arrested in connection with the incident," he said.

CM commends TN House for passing resolution for Guvs on clearing bills

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to his Tamil Nadu counterpart on Saturday, commending the latter's decision of moving a resolution in the State Assembly demanding that the Centre and the President of India set a time frame for Governors to decide on files cleared by elected governments.

The timing of the letter is interesting as it comes a day ahead of the Aam Aadmi Party Chief Kejriwal's questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) pertaining to the Delhi excise policy case. Stating that "democracy in India is suffering from blows every single day", Kejriwal wrote: "The fact that the Governors/Lt Governors of non-BJP ruled governments are indefinitely holding Bills passed by Legislative Assemblies or files sent by the Government of NCT of Delhi is not only a violation of our constitutional scheme, but also a disrespect for the people's mandate which is supreme in any democracy."

In his reply to a letter from Tamil Nadu chief minister, Kejriwal also noted that "every tenet" of the India's Constitution stands compromised, be it liberty, equality, secularism, or fraternity.

He said the interface of the state governments and their Governors or Lt Governors has effectively become "a battlefield where a silent war is being waged by the Union government." The governors and Lt Governors are "wilfully" undermining democratically elected state governments and obstructing administration as per their "whims and fancies," the Delhi chief minister charged.

Kejriwal also commended Tamil Nadu Assembly for passing a resolution seeking a time-



frame for governors to approve bills passed by the state legislatures, and said his government will also bring a similar resolution in Delhi Assembly in the next session. The Tamil Nadu chief minister had recently written to his counterparts in non-BJP ruled states, urging them to pass a resolution in their respective assemblies, seeking the Centre to fix a time limit for the governors to approve bills passed by the state legislatures.

"It is a foregone conclusion that democracy in India is suffering from blows every single day," Kejriwal noted in his letter. "Every tenet of our glorious constitution stands compromised - be it liberty, equality, secularism, or fraternity. It is also beyond doubt that our federal structure, which enfranchised people in the most remote corners, is in grave danger from forces that seek to illegitimately centralise all power," he added.

He said the country's federal polity and clearly laid out roles and responsibilities of the Union and state governments in the Constitution have resulted in a united nation and a cohesive society "despite all apprehensions of fragmentation that arose when we achieved independence from colonial rule."

"However, it is disheartening to note that these principles are being regularly discarded nowadays," he said.

"In this spirit, I will table a

similar resolution in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha in the upcoming session, urging the Centre to fix time limits for governors and Lt Governors to carry out their constitutional functions. We should collectively resist any action to decimate or obliterate State/NCT Governments," he added.

Kejriwal alleged that in the national capital, Lt. Governor has "regularly meddled" with the democratic mandate of Delhi's Legislature, blocked the presentation of Delhi's Budget and gone further to even bring day-to-day executive functioning of the GNCTD to a standstill under the guise of the unconstitutional 2021 amendment to the GNCTD Act.

The actions of the Lt Governor are hindering the functioning in every area where our government seeks to make giant strides -- be it healthcare, education, water, power, industries, finance or infrastructure, he charged.

"We condemn the actions of Centre and its representatives to usurp and constrain powers of the non-BJP state Govts. I support M K Stalin's efforts. We will also table a resolution in Delhi Vidhan Sabha urging the Centre to fix time limits for Governors/LG to carry out their functions," Kejriwal tweeted along with a copy of his reply to Tamil Nadu chief minister's letter.

Capital logs 1,396 Covid cases, positivity rate rises to 31.9%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

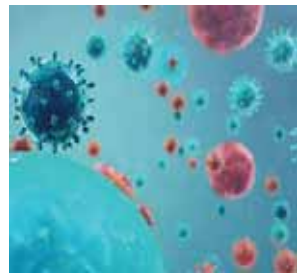
The national Capital on Saturday logged 1,396 Covid-19 cases, compared to 1,527 cases a day earlier, with a positivity rate of 31.9 per cent, the highest in 15 months.

According to data shared by the Delhi government's health department, the city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14 last year.

With the new cases, Delhi's COVID-19 tally climbed to 20,21,593. Five fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 26,560, the health department bulletin stated.

Of the latest fatalities, COVID-19 was the primary cause of death in one of the cases, while it was incidental in the other four, it stated.

According to the bulletin, the fresh cases emerged out of 4,376 tests conducted the previous day. The department did not issue a bulletin on Friday. Delhi reported 1,527



COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 27.77 per cent on Thursday, and two deaths.

The national capital's daily tally of COVID-19 cases crossed 1,000 for the first time in more than seven months on Wednesday, while the positivity rate stood at 23.8 per cent.

As per Union Health Ministry data issued this morning, India reported 27 Covid-19 deaths, the highest single-day fatalities in the past six months. The last time India recorded 20 or more Covid deaths was on October 15, 2022. The country's overall death toll has now increased to 5,31,091.

Desilting of 32.58 km of sewer lines in city completed ahead of monsoon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the southwest monsoon, desilting of 32.58 km out of the 90.34 km of the trunk or peripheral sewer lines in Delhi has been completed and the remaining work will be completed by June. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena who is also the Chairman of the National Green Tribunal-appointed High-Level Committee (HLC) for the rejuvenation of river Yamuna, on Friday, reviewed the progress of works on desilting of trunk sewer lines and trapping of sub-drains falling into the Najafgarh drain.

During the review meeting, the Lt Governor also reiterated that Yamuna ghats and floodplains will be cleaned by June 30, while other works will continue simultaneously. "Seventeen major sub-drains falling into the Najafgarh Drain and 13 sub-drains in the



Supplementary Drain have been completely trapped," reads a statement issued by Raj Niwas.

Since taking charge as the chairman of the HLC, after the NGT's order of January 9, he has chaired three monthly meetings of the committee, apart from reviewing the progress of works through several intermittent meetings with concerned officials, the official added. It was informed of the 90.34 km of the trunk or

peripheral sewer lines that were targeted to be desilted by June 2023, 32.58 km have been completed already and the remaining will be completed well within June when the monsoon sets in, officials said.

Saxena directed that the remaining 530 km of sewer lines (45 km span with one metre and above diameter, and 485 km span with less than one-metre diameter), be completed by the end of this year.

Shraddha's father moves court seeking daughter's remains

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Shraddha Walkar's father Saturday moved an application in a city court seeking the remains of her daughter for cremation, saying tradition and culture required performance of her last rites.

Meanwhile, a city court on Saturday reserved its order on framing charges against Aaftab Poonawala who is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha and chopping her body into pieces. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Manisha Khurana Kakkar is likely to pass the order on April 29.

Shraddha's father Vikas Madan Walkar has moved an



application through Advocate Seema Kushwaha, according to custom, the last rites had to be performed within a year and the last date for cremation based on the Hindu calendar is May 8.

Shraddha was allegedly strangled by her live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala on May 18 last year, following which he sawed her body into pieces and kept them in a

refrigerator for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli.

He scattered them at different places in the national capital to avoid being caught. During the court proceedings, the Delhi Police informed Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar that a reply will be filed on April 29.

Underlining that more than 10 months have gone by since

her death, the application requested for conducting the proceedings fast so the bones and other body parts of the deceased could be exhibited and handed over to her family."

The traditional belief in our country is that unless the last rites are performed, the soul of the deceased shall not rest in peace and this belief is deeply rooted...It also has an emotional and sentimental aspect. Hence, the family members of the deceased victim should not be deprived of the right to perform the last rites," the application said.

It said not providing a chance to perform the last rites would violate the fundamental rights of the deceased

Fierce clashes between Sudan's army, rival forces

AP ■ KHARTOUM

Fierce clashes between Sudan's military and the country's powerful paramilitary force erupted Saturday in the capital and elsewhere in the African nation, raising fears of a wider conflict in the chaos-stricken country.

In Khartoum, the sound of heavy firing could be heard in a number of areas, including the city center and the neighbourhood of Bahri.

In a series of statements, the Rapid Support Forces militia accused the army of attacking its forces at one of its bases in south Khartoum.

They claimed they seized the city's airport and "completely controlled" Khartoum's Republican Palace, the seat of the country's presidency. The group also said it seized an airport and air base in the northern city of Merowe some 350 kilometers (215 miles) northwest of Khartoum. The Associated Press was unable to verify those claims.

The Sudanese army said fighting broke out after RSF troops tried to attack its forces in the southern part of the capital, accusing the group of trying to take control of strategic locations in Khartoum, including the palace.

The military also declared the RSF a rebel force and described the paramilitary's statements as "lies."

A military official told the AP that



fighter jets took off from a military base north of Omdurman and attacked the RSF's positions in and around Khartoum. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

The clashes came as tensions between the military and the RSF have escalated in recent months, forcing a delay in the signing of an internationally backed deal with political par-

ties to revive the country's democratic transition.

Commercial aircraft trying to land at Khartoum International Airport began turning around to head back to their originating airport.

Flights from Saudi Arabia turned back after nearly landing at the airport, flight tracking data showed Saturday.

Tensions between the army and the paramilitary stem from a dis-

agreement over how the RSF, headed by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, should be integrated into the military and what authority should oversee the process. The merger is a key condition of Sudan's unsigned transition agreement.

However, the army-RSF rivalry dates back to the rule of autocratic former president Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted in 2019. Under al-Bashir,

the paramilitary force grew out of former militias known as janjaweed that carried out a brutal crackdown in Sudan's Darfur region during the decades of conflict there.

In a rare televised speech on Thursday, a top army general warned of potential clashes with paramilitary forces, accusing it of deploying forces in Khartoum and other areas of Sudan without the army's consent. The RSF defended the presence of its forces in an earlier statement.

The RSF recently deployed troops near Merowe. Also, videos that circulated on social media Thursday showed what appeared to be RSF-armed vehicles being transported into Khartoum, farther to the south.

According to a statement issued by the Sudan Doctors Committee — a part of the country's pro-democracy movement — clashes have led to "varying injuries." The military also said the fighting resulted in a number of casualties but provided no further details. The US Ambassador to Sudan, John Godfrey, wrote online that he was "currently sheltering in place with the Embassy team, as Sudanese throughout Khartoum and elsewhere are doing."

"Escalation of tensions within the military component to direct fighting is extremely dangerous," Godfrey wrote. "I urgently call on senior military leaders to stop the fighting."

Macron's unpopular pension plan enacted into law

AP ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular plan to raise France's retirement age from 62 to 64 was enacted into law on Saturday, the day after the country's constitutional body approved the change.

Macron's signature and publication in the Official Journal of the French Republic allowed the law to enter into force. The authorised changes will start being implemented in September, French government spokesperson Olivier Veran said.

On Friday, the Constitutional Council rejected some parts of the government's pension legislation but

Day. The government argued that requiring people to work two years more before qualifying for a pension was needed to keep the pension system afloat as the population ages, opponents proposed raising taxes on the wealthy or employers instead, and said the change threatened a hard-won social safety net.

Opinion polls show Macron's popularity has plunged to its lowest level in four years. The centrist president, who made raising the retirement age a priority of his second term, plans to make a televised national address on Monday evening. Macron's office said.



France's Constitutional Council approved an unpopular plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, in a victory for President Emmanuel Macron after three months of mass protests over the legislation that has damaged his leadership. The decision dismayed or enraged critics of the pension plan, including protesters gathered outside Paris City Hall as the decision came down.

approved the higher minimum retirement age, which was central to Macron's plan and the focus of opponents' protests.

The nine-member council's decision capped months of tumultuous debates in parliament and fervor in the streets. Spontaneous demonstrations took place in Paris and across the country after the ruling.

France's main labour unions, which organised 12 nationwide protests since January in hopes of defeating the plan, have vowed to continue fighting until it is withdrawn. They called for another mass protest on May 1, which is International Workers'

"The president's remarks are very much awaited" and will both seek to appease tensions in the country and explain decisions that have been made in the past months regarding the pension reform, government spokesperson Veran said.

Macron was first elected in 2017 on a promise to make France's economy more competitive, including by making people work longer.

Since then, his government has made it easier to hire and fire workers, cut business taxes and made it more difficult for the unemployed to claim benefits.

Undecided voters may benefit Sunak, indicates survey

PTI ■ LONDON

As England gears up for local elections next month, a new survey on Saturday indicates that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak may be poised to benefit somewhat from a swing towards the ruling Conservative Party from a large chunk of undecided voters.

Polling for 'The Times' newspaper shows that almost a third of all voters either don't know how they will cast their ballot or say they won't vote at all.

Asked who would make the best Prime Minister between Sunak and Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, the YouGov analysis shows 21 per cent say Sunak while 8 per cent back Starmer.

"Undecideds are also almost four times more likely to trust Sunak and the Conservatives to handle the economy than they are to trust Labour, which in past elections has always been a good indicator of how people cast their ballot," the newspaper analysis notes.

The survey, just weeks before the May 4 polling for local councils, shows that if an election were to be held tomorrow the "don't knows" would be the UK's third largest party with 16 per cent of the vote — 2 per cent behind the Tories.

Tory and Labour strategists acknowledge that this group presents both the biggest opportunity to Sunak and the biggest threat to Starmer's hopes of a healthy Labour majority when the general election comes. On the positive side for the Tories, at the moment this group seems to be leaning towards Sunak," the newspaper poll analysis reads.

A local election coming around a year before a general election is due to be held is seen as a sign of things to come for all parties in the UK.

Based on their own internal polling, the Conservative Party strategists reportedly believe



that the percentage of the electorate which is up for grabs is between 30 and 40 per cent. They hope that, as the general election gets closer, this group will ultimately end up backing Sunak.

"The parallel is 2014 when the Tories were six points behind in the polls but [Tory leader David] Cameron was significantly outpolling [Labour leader] Ed Miliband as best prime minister," a senior figure in the Conservative campaign told 'The Times'.

"When it came to the election in 2015 those voters came to us because of who they thought would make the best prime minister. But it's going to be a long time before that shows up in headline voting intention," the source added, with reference to David Cameron going on to be elected Prime Minister in 2015.

The Labour Party, however, holds an overall 18-point poll lead over the governing Tories.

An average of all polls by the website Politico shows that while Sunak has substantially improved the party's position since predecessor Liz Truss' brief time at Downing Street, the Tories still face an uphill task to win over voters in time for the next general election.

Poland prohibits food imports from Ukraine

AP ■ WARSAW

Poland's government said Saturday that it has decided to temporarily prohibit grain and other food imports from Ukraine as it seeks to soothe the rising anger of Polish farmers, who say they are losing huge amounts of money to a glut of Ukrainian grain on the market.

Ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski said at a party convention in eastern Poland that the Polish countryside is facing a "moment of crisis," and that while Poland supports Ukraine, it was forced to act to protect its farmers.

"Today, the government has decided on a regulation that prohibits the importation of grain, but also dozens of other types of food, to Poland," Kaczynski said.

The government announced that the ban on

imports would last until June 30. The regulation also includes a prohibition on imports of sugar, eggs, meat, milk and other dairy products and fruits and vegetables.

Farmers in neighboring countries have also complained about Ukrainian grain flooding their countries and creating a glut that has caused prices to fall — and causing them to take steep losses.

"The increasing imports of agricultural products from Ukraine cause serious disturbances in the markets of our countries, great damage to producers and social unrest," the Polish agriculture minister, Robert Telus, told his counterparts from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary this week. All are members of the European Union and he said the bloc should take urgent action on the matter.

"We cannot accept a situation where the entire burden of dealing with increased imports rests mainly with farmers from our countries," Telus said.

The situation is the result of Russia's war against Ukraine. After Russia blocked traditional export sea passages, the European Union lifted duties on Ukrainian grain to facilitate its transport to Africa and the Middle East.

Grain has since flowed into Poland but much of it has not transited further on to the Middle East and Northern Africa, as it was meant to under the EU plan.

Poland's government has sought to blame the EU for the situation. But some unions and opposition politicians accuse government-linked companies of causing the problem by buying up cheap, low-quality Ukrainian grain, and

then selling it to bread and pasta plants as high-quality Polish produce.

Tomasz Obszanski, of the farmers' Solidarity union, said that about 3 million tons of grain intended for Africa were received by traders once the grain arrived in Poland, and he alleged that some companies have made huge money off the situation.

The leader of the protesting farmers and head of the AgroUnia group, Michal Kolodziejczak, estimated farmers' losses at up to 10 billion zlotys (\$2.3 billion).

The rising anger of the farmers comes ahead of an election in the fall and is a headache for the ruling conservative Law and Justice party as it seeks a third term. Polls show that it is the most popular party in the country but could fall short of a majority in the next parliament.

Army chief most powerful person in Pakistan: Imran

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Army chief is the most powerful person in Pakistan's politics and everyone follows his decisions, ousted prime minister Imran Khan has said, slamming the military establishment for siding with the country's "corrupt mafias" to ensure that he should not return to power.

Addressing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party supporters from his Zaman Park residence here on Friday evening, Khan urged the people to stand with the Supreme Court at the time when the "imported government" is trying to bring it down.

"The Army chief is the most powerful person in Pakistan's politics. All follow his decisions. The military establishment is siding with the corrupt mafia - Sharifs and Zardaris - only to ensure that I must not return to power," he said.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led coalition government has imposed an "undeclared ban" on the broadcast of the PTI chief's speeches by the country's electronic media.

Expressing his serious concerns over the division in the country's Supreme Court, Khan said it will be a great tragedy for the country.

"Division in the Supreme Court will be a great tragedy. I appeal to the nation to stand with the apex court at a time when this imported government is making an all-out effort to bring it disrepute."

"Let me tell you... democracy in Pakistan is now hanging by a thread called Supreme Court and all those, who want democracy in the country, should stand with it," the 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician said.

The PTI chief said if the government does not stop conspiring against the apex court

and continues defying the implementation of its decision to hold elections in Punjab on May 14, the nation must get ready to take to the streets after Eid. "I will lead this drive from the front," he declared.

Khan also reminded the military establishment that it should keep in mind that it can no longer be able to force the nation to accept "corrupt rulers."

"The establishment should be mindful of the fact that when a nation rises, the violent tactics do not work. Torture and excesses were earlier committed against my party leaders and workers to silence them but that did not work. And it is not going to work again...I want to tell them," he said.

Khan, who suffered bullet injuries after an attack on his rally in Punjab in November, reiterated that planning was going on in the powerful circles of the country to get him killed.

China protests US curbs on firms dealing with Russia

AP ■ BEIJING

Beijing on Saturday protested US sanctions against additional Chinese companies over their alleged attempts to evade US export controls on Russia, calling it an illegal move that endangers global supply chains.

The US Commerce Department on Wednesday put five firms based in mainland China and Hong Kong on its "entity list," barring them from trading with any US firms without gaining a nearly unobtainable special license.

Washington has been tightening up enforcement of sanctions against foreign firms it sees as providing assistance to Russia in its war against Ukraine, forcing them to choose between trading with Moscow or with the US.

A total of 28 entities from countries ranging from Malta to Turkey to Singapore were added to the list.

A statement from China's

Commerce Ministry said the US action "has no basis in international law and is not authorized by the United Nations Security Council."

"It is a typical unilateral sanction and a form of long-arm jurisdiction" which seriously damages the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises and affects the security and stability of the global supply chain. China firmly opposes this," the statement said.

Entities named were designated as "military end users" for "attempting to evade export controls and acquiring or attempting to acquire US-origin items in support of Russia's military and/or defence industrial base," it said.

The Chinese protest was similar to one issued in February after the US announced sanctions against the Chinese company Changsha Tianyi Space Science and Technology Research Institute Co. Ltd., also known as Spacety China.

The department said the company supplied Russia's Wagner Group private army affiliates with satellite imagery of Ukraine that support Wagner's military operations there.

essentially businesses — that the US suspects "have been involved, are involved, or pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States," the department said.

The latest sanctions were levied against Allparts Trading Co., Ltd.; Avtex Semiconductor Limited; ETC Electronics Ltd.; Maxtronic International Co., Ltd.; and STK Electronics Co., Ltd., registered in Hong Kong.

The list identifies entities —

Christian celebrate 'Holy Fire' under restrictions

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Christian worshippers thronged the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem on Saturday to celebrate the ceremony of the "Holy Fire," an ancient, mysterious ritual that sparked tensions this year with the Israeli police.

In the annual ceremony that has persisted for over a millennium, a flame — kindled in some miraculous way in the heart of Jesus' tomb — is used to light the candles of fervent believers in Greek Orthodox communities near and far.

After hours of frantic anticipation, a priest reached inside the dim tomb and ignited his candle. Each neighbour passed the light to another and, little by little, the

darkened church was irradiated by tiny patches of light, which eventually illuminated the whole building.

Bells rang out. "Christ is risen!" the multilingual worshippers shouted. "He is risen indeed!"

Many trying to get to the church — built on the site where Christian tradition holds that Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected — were thrilled to mark the pre-Easter rite in the city where it all started. But for the second consecutive year, Israel's strict limits on event capacity dimmed some of the exuberance.

"It is sad for me that I cannot get to the church, where my heart, my faith, wants me to be," said 44-year-old Jelena

Novakovic from Montenegro, who, like thousands of others, was trapped behind metal barricades that sealed off alleys leading to the Christian Quarter.

In some cases, the pushing and shoving escalated into violence. Footage showed Israeli police dragging and beating several worshippers, thrusting a Coptic Priest against the stone wall and tackling one woman to the ground. At least one older man was whisked, bleeding, into an ambulance.

Israel has capped the ritual to just 1,800 people. The Israeli police say they must be strict because they're responsible for maintaining public safety. In 1834, a stampede at the event claimed hundreds of lives.

Trump reports little income from Truth Social

AP ■ NEW YORK

Former President Donald Trump says he's not making much money from his social media network but estimates it is worth between \$5 million and \$25 million, according to his personal financial disclosure form filed Friday.

He owns about 90% of his social media company, Trump Media & Technology Group, but said he made less than \$201 from it.

He also reported he made between \$100,000 and \$1 million for a series of digital trading cards he released in December that portrayed a photo-shopped Trump in a series of cartoon-like images, including an astronaut, a cowboy and a superhero.

The report filed with the Federal Election Commission is the first glimpse into Trump's finances since he left the White House and launched several new business ventures.

The real estate mogul and reality TV star launched the platform Truth



Social in 2022, a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube following the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol.

Although Trump has since been allowed back on those social media net-

works, he has relied on Truth Social as a primary method of sharing messages with his supporters, especially as he has launched his 2024 presidential campaign.

The disclosure provides limited

information because it only reports income in broad ranges. That makes it difficult to tell how many of Trump's biggest properties and businesses are faring since his departure from office because the disclosures he was required to file when he was president included specific income figures instead of ranges.

In the latest disclosure, for instance, Trump reports his Washington, D.C., golf club took in more than \$5 million. In 2020, he had put a finer point on it: \$14.2 million.

CIC Digital LLC, the company that owned the digital trading card NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, was valued at somewhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million, according to the report.

Trump also reported he made more than \$5 million in speaking fees. All federal candidates are required to file the disclosures after announcing their candidacies. Trump, a Republican, had been granted an extension and risked a fine if he delayed further.

India will stay on course; projected to grow at 7% in 2022-23: Sitharaman

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Observing that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have estimated India to be the fastest-growing major economy in 2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the Indian economy will stay on course and is likely to grow at 7 per cent in 2022-23.

Attending the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee at the IMF Headquarters here on Friday to discuss the priorities identified in the managing director's global policy agenda, Sitharaman, in her intervention, highlighted that a conducive domestic policy environment, along with the government's focus on structural reforms, has kept domestic economic activity in India robust.

Both the IMF and World Bank project India to be the



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during a panel discussion at an event 'Making it Personal: How Behavioral Change Can Tackle Climate Change', in Washington DC

fastest-growing major economy in 2023. The Indian economy will stay on course and is projected to grow at seven per cent in 2022-23, as per the Economic Survey 2022-23, she said.

In her intervention, she underlined the learning from the pandemic that digitalisation, especially Digital Public Infrastructure, is a positive catalyst for the global economy and how India's DPI has revolutionised access and created a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Finance Ministry said in a series of tweets.

Referring to the global sovereign debt roundtable, the finance minister said it has demonstrated a constructive way forward with multi-stakeholder cooperation for other vulnerable countries, and India is pleased to be a part of the team that provided solutions for Sri Lanka and Surinam.

Sitharaman reiterated the commitment to exploring solutions through stakeholder engagements to pressing global challenges, which disproportionately harm the poorest and most vulnerable.

She also urged all the G20 members to continue to support multilateral efforts and emphasised engagement in positive dialogue to fight the challenge of global fragmentation.

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Elanpro FY23 revenue up 74% to ₹220 crore on better demand for commercial refrigeration equipment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Elanpro Group, which sells commercial refrigeration products, has posted a 74 per cent growth in its revenue at record ₹220 crore during the last fiscal on better demand.

Its revenue stood at ₹125.80 crore in the previous financial year.

Elanpro has refrigeration products catering to hotels, restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, QSRs and pharma industries.

The total sales stood at 72,000 units in FY23, Elanpro said in a statement.

"We delivered record net sales of ₹220 crore amidst rocky market conditions," said Shashank Joshi, Director, Elanpro.

The company adopted various strategy including amalgamation of its new acquisitions and fresh brand identity to achieve better growth.

During the last fiscal year,



the company got fresh contracts of around ₹80 crore.

The company said it recently launched a new series of energy-efficient freezers, coolers and ice machines for foodservice industry.

It aims to create a sustainable ecosystem of diverse cooling products catering to food and beverage businesses of different sizes.

The company plans to increase its existing touchpoints to 1,500 from the current 700.

Credai ties up with IGBC to help realtors in development of green buildings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realtors' apex body Credai on Saturday said it has partnered Indian Green Building Council to facilitate its members to develop certified environmental-friendly housing projects.

The association has pledged the development of 1,000 green-certified projects in the next 2 years and 4,000 projects by 2030.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai) has entered into a partnership with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to achieve this target.

"Through this tie-up, we will encourage and guide our more than 13,000 members on the construction of green buildings," said Boman Irani, who is set to become Credai National President, on Saturday evening.

"There will be uniformity



on various norms to be followed for the development of certified green buildings," he added.

Under the association with IGBC, Credai seeks to spearhead the green building movement. It pledges to build over 1,000 certified green projects in the next two years and 4,000 projects by 2030, through the adoption of IGBC Green & Net Zero building ratings.

"This will mean an addition of over 4,00,000 housing units in the green development category across the country," the association said.

These projects will be certified by IGBC.

Retail giant Best Buy to lay off hundreds of employees

IAN S ■ SAN FRANCISCO

US retail giant Best Buy is laying off hundreds of employees amid high inflation and global economic meltdown.

Although the exact number of employees being laid off is now known yet, according to Wall Street Journal, the company informed hundreds of employees at more than 900 US stores that their positions had been eliminated.

Core performance drives HDFC Bank to post 20% jump in Q4 net profit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 20.6 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹12,594.5 crore for the March 2023 quarter, driven by a healthy core performance.

For the entire fiscal, it reported a 20.9 per cent increase in the net profit at ₹45,997.1 crore.

The city-headquartered lender, which is in the middle of merging its mortgage lending parent HDFC, reported a 19.8 per cent growth in the post-tax profit on a standalone basis at ₹12,047.5 crore.

Its core net interest income rose 23.7 per cent to ₹23,351.8 crore on the back of a 16.9 per cent jump in advances and the net interest margin being maintained at 4.1 per cent.

The other income increased to ₹8,731.2 crore for the reporting quarter from ₹7,637.1 crore in the year-ago period. All the components



under this line showed an improvement, except trading and mark-to-market, where it reported losses of ₹37.7 crore compared to a gain of ₹47.6 crore in the year-ago period.

Amid the 'war for deposits' in the system, the lender has ducked the system-wide trend by reporting a 20.8 per cent growth in its base. Share of the low-cost current and savings account deposits stood at 44.4 per cent as of March 31, 2023.

Retail loans grew by 19.3 per cent, corporate and wholesale banking loans rose by a slower 12.6 per cent, while the nearly 30 per cent rise in commercial and rural banking advances, helping it report the overall loan growth number.

Retail and corporate advances are now evenly placed in the overall loan pie, having a 38 per cent share, while commercial and rural banking occupies the remaining 24 per cent.

From an asset quality perspective, the bank — which is highly regarded for its hold over such issues — reported an improvement, with the gross non-performing assets ratio improving to 1.12 per cent as of March 2023 against 1.17 per cent a year ago and 1.23 per cent at the end of the preceding December quarter.

The overall provisions were reduced to ₹2,685.37 crore for the reporting quarter on a standalone basis against ₹3,312.35 crore in the year-ago period and ₹2,806.44 crore in the preceding quarter.

Its overall capital adequacy came at 19.3 per cent as of March 2023, up from 18.9 per cent in the year-ago period.

Hyundai Motor announces new SUV model 'EXTER' in India

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India on Friday announced the name of its upcoming SUV — Hyundai EXTER, which will offer smart mobility experience to the customers.

According to the company, this new SUV will be an extremely important part of HMI's strong lineup of SUVs that already include VENUE, VENUE N Line, CRETA, ALCAZAR, KONA Electric, TUCSON and IONIQ 5.

"We are proud to announce the name of our new SUV — Hyundai EXTER that exemplifies the pulse of Gen Z buyers while empowering them with a smart mobility solution to fuel their wanderlust," Tarun Garg, COO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, said in a statement.

Amazon, Google CEOs 'hint' at more layoffs amid eco meltdown

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

As tech layoffs continue unabated in 2023, Amazon and Google CEOs have hinted at more layoffs as the companies continue to evaluate business.

In a letter to company shareholders, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said that they re-orienting where to spend resources, which ultimately led to the hard decision to eliminate 27,000 corporate roles.

"There are a number of other changes that we've made over the last several months to streamline our overall costs, and like most leadership teams, we'll continue to evaluate what we're seeing in our business and proceed adaptively," the Amazon CEO wrote.

Jassy said that the company had to conduct a thorough analysis of each business and invention within the company to determine whether they had strong potential to generate revenue, operating income,



free cash flow, and return on invested capital in the long run.

Meanwhile, Pichai said that the company is "literally looking at every aspect of what we do" in an effort to re-engineer its cost base permanently.

In a recent interview with Wall Street Journal, the Alphabet and Google CEO said: "We are trying to accomplish that across many different ways. We're literally looking at every aspect of what we do, and as we said on our last earnings call, we're thinking about how to re-engineer our cost base in a durable way."

"We are definitely being focused on creating durable savings. We are pleased with the progress, but there's more work left to do," he was quoted as saying.

Google had in January laid off 12,000 employees in its first round of layoffs.

"We've decided to reduce our workforce by approximately 12,000 roles. We've already sent a separate email to employees in the US who are affected. In other countries, this process will take longer due to local laws and practices," Pichai had said in a statement.

Amazon initially eliminated 18,000 positions in January, saying that as "we completed the second phase of our planning this month, it led us to these additional 9,000 role reductions".

In March, the e-commerce giant announced to lay off another 9,000 employees in Amazon Web Services (AWS), Twitch, advertising, and HR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large of Mr. Nareesh Pal S/o Mr. Jai Singh who is purchasing the DESCRIPTION:- FLAT NO. 106 & 107, ON FIRST FLOOR, LHS, AREA MEASURING 600 SQ. FT., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 104MI, AT SIGNATURE APARTMENT-B IN THE VILLAGE OF KHORA, COLONY GHAZIABAD, (U.P.) from Mrs. Suman Devi w/o Late Mr. Sukhveer Singh & Mr. Pradeep Yadav S/o Late Mr. Sukhveer Singh, who had owner through Khatagani Record, and same to be financed & allotted by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2, Noida, UP - 201301. Contact: 0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. Meenakshi Pal w/o Rajnish Pal R/O House No. 408, Karkardooma East Delhi-110092 - I Have Lost Original Notarised GPA executed by Mr. Samsad Khan in favour of Mr. Jagdish Chander in respect, dated 08/05/2001 and FIR for has been Done vide FIR No. 340806/2023, dated 13/04/2023 if anybody found above mentioned deed kindly contact on- 9599183726 (Advocate Lalit Kumar Kaushik) within 7 days.

R.K. LAW CONSULTANTS

Public Notice Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Anitta Kaushik is absolute owner of First Floor (without roofrights) area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. i.e., 41.80 Sq. Mtrs., bearing Property No.16029-A, old municipal no. 664-A, plot no. 65, out of khasra no. 20, situated in the area of village Chandrawasi @ Shahdara, in the abadi of Gali no. 2, Kaboo Nagar, Ilagee Shandara Delhi-110032 by way of Sale Deed dated: 10.03.2023 executed by Mrs. Roshani Randal, Now, Mrs. Anitta Kaushik intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Dharamveer Singh and further, Mr. Dharamveer Singh is mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Muneeb Dhasani/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9966707172/9818228361(V).

NFRA imposes fine, bans auditors for 1 yr for misconduct in audit of DHFL branches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has imposed a fine and a one-year ban on four auditors for alleged professional misconduct in connection with the audit of branches of Dewan Housing Finance Corp Ltd (DHFL) in 2017-18.

DHFL (now known as Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd) is a listed entity, owned and controlled by Piramal Group.

In four separate orders, NFRA levied a fine of ₹1 lakh each on auditors — Mathew Samuel, Sam Varghese, Harish Kumar T K and M Baskaran. The auditors are partners of audit firm K Varghese & Co.

Besides, all of them were restrained for a period of one year from undertaking any audit in respect of financial statements or internal audit of the functions and activities of any company or body corpo-



Directorate reported an operation in April 2020 against alleged bank fraud of about ₹3,700 crore by the promoters/directors of DHFL.

Thereafter, NFRA had suo-motu initiated an Audit Quality Review (AQR) conducted by Chaturvedi & Shah (CAS) firm to probe into the role of the Statutory Auditors of DHFL for the FY 2017-18.

During the review, NFRA noticed that 33 Engagement Partners (EPs) or branch auditors had signed the "Independent Branch Auditors' Report" for nearly 250 branches of DHFL.

Further, NFRA investigated K Varghese & Co (the Audit Firm), which was the "Statutory Branch Auditor" of 17 branches of DHFL for FY 2017-18, with Mathew Samuel, Sam Varghese, Harish Kumar T K and M Baskaran, as its partners in the firm for the audit of several branches of the housing finance company.

rate during the ban period, the order said.

"The investigation by NFRA revealed prima facie evidence that the branch auditors had violated both the Companies Act, 2013 and the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 by accepting the appointment that lacked a valid approval and had also violated the SAs while carrying out the branch audit," NFRA said.

Following allegations of misappropriation of approximately ₹31,000 crore of public funds, the Enforcement

BUSINESS BRIEF

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION AT VIT-AP VARSITY Amaravati / Guntur / Vijayawada: VIT-AP University School of Law (VSL), in association with Competition Commission of India (CCI) is organizing the 1st National Moot Court Competition in the campus.

The main objective of the Moot Court Competition is to promote global legal professionals who have a passion to pursue the legal profession with an intent to do social justice and excel in the field. The 3 days program was inaugurated today by Rao Raghunandan Rao - Hon'ble justice of High court of Andhra Pradesh, K. Lakshman - Hon'ble justice of the High court of Telangana. S.V.Kota Reddy - Vice Chancellor, Jagadish Chandra Mudiganti - Registrar, Benarji Chakka - Dean -VSL, Sneha Goud -Faculty Convener from VIT-AP university were present on the occasion. The moot court competition will highlight the crucial role the Competition law play in the emerging field of law. The core objective of competition law is to prohibit firms from engaging in conduct, which will misrepresent the competitive process and mar the procedure. Competition law and its robust enforcement becomes a prerequisite for ensuring the economic environment, and business deals adhere to the principles of fair competition and do not misreport the market

Samsung cuts pay hike to average 4.1%, freezes raises for board members

IAN S ■ SEOUL

Samsung Electronics's management and its workers have agreed to an average 4.1 per cent pay raise for the year, while effectively freezing raises for its board members due to poor performance amid a worsening chip glut and a global slowdown.

The pay raise is lower than the 9 per cent wage hike of the previous year, which was the highest in a decade, and lower than the initial demand from the workers.

The world's largest memory chip and smartphone maker reached an agreement with representatives of its employees over wages and other labour policies, including extending shortened working hours for pregnant employees.

The announcement was said to be made internally earlier in the day, according to the sources, reports Yonhap News Agency.

Both parties hammered out the compromise, taking into consideration the external headwinds that caused the



quarterly profit to plunge nearly 96 per cent in the first quarter.

The management decided to apply last year's pay policy for board members, effectively putting off its initial plan to raise the pay ceiling for board members by 17 per cent.

Separately, Samsung's unionised workers, which accounted for around 4 per cent of the total 110,000 workers, have engaged in wage negotiations with the management since late last year.

The two parties have so far held 10 rounds of negotiations but could not iron out differences.

IN THE COURT OF SHRI DEVENDER KUMAR JANGALA ADDITIONAL SESSION JUDGE-05 PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI
C.R.I. REV. NO. 185/2022
IN THE MATTER OF :

.....PETITIONER
JOGENDER SOLANKI
VERSUS
STATE AND ORS
.....RESPONDENTS
NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION
To,
SACHIN R/O A-7, MANGLA PURI, PALAM COLONY, NEW DELHI-110045
Whereas the above named petitioner Jogender Solanki has filed and instituted the above mentioned case against you and which is pending before this court. Therefore, you are hereby informed through this notice that you are hereby required to appear before the court in person or through pleader on 19.04.2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Additional Session Judge-05 Room No. 27, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed / cautioned not to enter into any kind of deal and or transaction including but not limited to Collaboration Agreement / Development Agreement / Lease Deed / Mortgage Deed / Agreement to Purchase / Sell, and or transfer by way of Conveyancing, or through any other legal mode and or execute any receipt in respect of land bearing Rect. No. 165, Killa No, 6/2(3-18), 15/2/1(2-7), 16/1/1(2-0-2), Rect-No. 166, Killa No. 10/1(1-9), Rect.No. 166, Killa Nos. 14/2(1-17), 16/1(6-19), 17/1(5-8), Rect. No. 167, Killa Nos. 11(6-11), 12/1(6-1), 20/1(3-5), situated in village Jhajjar and the land bearing, Rect- No. 51, Killa Nos. 3/1(0-2), 5/1(0-2), Rect. No. 50, Killa No. 5/2(6-10) Rect.No. 51, Killa Nos. 1(9-9), 2(8-16), 3(2-17), 4(8-0), 5(2-7-18), 6(8-0), 7(7-13), 8(7-13), 14(5-15), 15(7-16), Rect. No. 52, Killa Nos. 1(8-0), 2(8-0), 3(6-4), 8(5-13), 9(7-16), 10(7-6), 11(2-7) situated in the village Kaimalgarh, of Tehsil and District Jhajjar, Haryana, with persons namely Ravinder, Devender and Narender sons of Abhey Ram, Surender and Jitender sons of Mahender Singh, Virender Singh S/o Bharat Singh, Sanjay and Sandeep sons of Satbir Singh, in view of the subsistence of Irrevocable Agreement dated 02.06.2022 duly executed by them with M/s. S Tech Builders Private Limited, having its office at C-109, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064. Any person engaging in any kind of deal as stated above with the aforesaid persons shall be illegal and shall be doing so absolutely and entirely at his / her / their own cost, risk and consequences, who may be prosecuted under the law.

M/s. S Tech Builders Private Limited
Registered office at C-109, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064

VILLA, BRIGHTON BOOST EUROPEAN HOPES

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa moved into contention for a top-four finish in the Premier League as Newcastle were comprehensively beaten 3-0 at Villa Park on Saturday, while Tottenham sank to a 3-2 home defeat to Bournemouth.

Brighton also boosted their chances of European football with a 2-1 win at Chelsea to prolong Frank Lampard's wait for a first victory since returning to Stamford Bridge as interim manager.

Villa are still six points adrift of the top four, but are the form side in the race after a seventh win in eight games.

Ollie Watkins has now scored 11 goals in 12 matches as he netted twice after Jacob Ramsey had fired Unai Emery's men into an early lead.

Newcastle had won their previous five games to climb up to third, but barely laid a glove on Villa to leave Eddie Howe's men looking over their shoulder.

With Manchester United not in action until Sunday away at Nottingham Forest, Tottenham had the chance to move into the top four but blew it as Bournemouth took a potentially decisive step towards survival.

Son Heung-min fired Spurs into an early lead, but the Cherries hit back before half-time when Matias Vina dinked the ball over Hugo Lloris.

Dominic Solanke then put the visitors in front six minutes into the second half when Davinson Sanchez deflected the ball into his path.

Sanchez had been introduced as a substitute on 35 minutes but was shown no mercy by interim Spurs boss Cristian Stellini as he was hauled off before the hour mark and booed by his own supporters.

His replacement, Arnaut Danjuma, looked to have salvaged a point when he scored against his old club two minutes from time.

But the drama did not end there as Dango Ouattara curled home in the 95th minute to lift Bournemouth six points clear of the relegation zone.

There were also boos at Stamford



Bridge as Chelsea's winless run extended to six games.

Lampard named a much-changed side with one eye on Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final, second leg against Real Madrid.

Conor Gallagher did at least end the Blues' wait of over 600 minutes for a goal when his shot deflected in off Lewis Dunk after just 13 minutes.

But Brighton were utterly dominant thereafter and should have had more than a one-goal margin of victory to show from their 26 shots on goal.

Danny Welbeck came off the bench to score the equaliser just before half-time.

Paraguayan teenager Julio Enciso then won the game in spectacular style with a thunderbolt into the top corner 21 minutes from time.

Victory lifts Brighton to within seven points of the top four, but with a game in hand over Newcastle, who they are also still to face at St. James' Park.

EVERTON LOSE

At the bottom of the table, Crystal Palace and Wolves joined Bournemouth in closing in on safety, but it was a terrible day for Everton, who lost 3-1 at home to Fulham.

Southampton are starring down the barrel of relegation after Eberechi Eze scored twice for Palace in a 2-0 win at St. Mary's to clinch a third consecutive victory for the Eagles since Roy Hodgson returned as manager.

Wolves are seven points clear of the drop zone after they beat Brentford 2-0 thanks to goals from Diego Costa and Hwang Hee-chan.

Everton remain outside the relegation zone only on goal difference after goals from Harrison Reed, Harry Wilson and Dan James snapped Fulham's five-game losing run.

In the race for the title, Manchester City can close the gap on Arsenal to three points when they host Leicester later at the Etihad as the defending champions look to extend their winning run to 10 games.



Milan drop pts against Bologna

AP ■ BOLOGNA

AC Milan were held to a 1-1 draw by Bologna on Saturday as a second-string line-up slipped in Serie A's top four race ahead of a Champions League showdown with Napoli.

The Italian champions travel to Naples with a one-goal lead to defend in Tuesday's quarter-final second leg and the Milan coach's decision to rest his stars at in-form Bologna led to a stalemate which leaves his team fourth in Italy's top flight, level on 53 points with third-placed Roma.

Coach Stefano Pioli dropped every single outfield player from Wednesday's win and Nicola Sansone slammed home Stefan Posch's cross for the hosts just 33 seconds into the match.

Milan recovered from the early shock, quickly took con-

rol of the match and, after Ante Rebic and Alessandro Florenzi, both forced decent saves from Lukasz Skorupski, Tommaso Pobega slammed the leveller in off the post four minutes before the break.

Pioli began to bring on his more trusted players midway through the second half but form forwards Brahim Diaz and Rafael Leao failed to find the breakthrough which would have ensured them a spot in the Champions League places for at least another week.

Instead his side can be overtaken by Inter Milan, who sit two points behind their local rivals and host fellow Lombardy outfit Monza in Saturday's late match.

"We shouldn't have conceded a goal like that so early, we controlled the match, we didn't let Bologna play their usual way and we created a lot," said Pioli to DAZN.



Bayern Munich held by Hoffenheim

AP ■ MUNICH

Borussia Dortmund failed to take advantage of Bayern Munich's 1-1 home draw against Hoffenheim on Saturday, blowing a two-goal lead against 10-man Stuttgart before conceding a last-gasp equaliser.

Bundesliga leaders Bayern led through a first-half goal from Benjamin Pavard, but had to settle for a point as Hoffenheim equalised in the second half through an Andrej Kramaric free-kick.

Dortmund were 2-0 ahead in Stuttgart when Konstantinos Mavropanos received a second yellow card, but the hosts hauled themselves level in a dramatic finish.

Gio Reyna fired Dortmund back in front three minutes into injury time only for Stuttgart to snatch a 3-3 draw courtesy of Silas, who scored with virtually the last kick of the game.

The results left Bayern still two points clear of Dortmund at the top with six games to play.

With Mane out and striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting missing due to a knee complaint,

Bayern defender Pavard gave his side an early lead, tapping in from close range after 17 minutes.

With Bayern in cruise control, coach Thomas Tuchel took off Sane, Leon Goretzka and Kingsley Coman, with Wednesday's return leg against Manchester City in mind.

Hoffenheim took the initiative and equalised after 71 minutes, Kramaric curling a perfect free-kick from well outside the box and past Yann Sommer.

Pavard looked to have scored a second just two minutes later to regain the lead for the home side, but the goal was disallowed for offside.

In Stuttgart, Dortmund's Sebastian Haller opened the scoring midway through the first half, hammering in via the underside on the crossbar from a Donyell Malen cross.

Malen doubled the visitors' lead minutes later, gliding a low shot into the corner of the net, his fourth consecutive game with a goal.

Dortmund's speedy forwards continued to trouble Stuttgart and Mavropanos was sent off late in the first half, pick-

ing up a second booking for a foul on Karim Adeyemi.

Despite being a man down, Stuttgart continued to push forward, Serhou Guirassy having a goal chalked off for offside early in the second half.

Tanguy Coulibaly pulled one back for Stuttgart with 12 minutes to go against an increasingly nervous-looking Dortmund.

Stuttgart scored a second minutes later when Joshua Vagnoman booted the ball home in a crowded penalty area to level the scores.

The drama wasn't over and Dortmund thought Reyna had won them the game, but Silas popped up with a 97th-minute equaliser to drag Stuttgart back out of the bottom two.

RB Leipzig kept their quest for Champions League football on track, coming from behind to beat Augsburg 3-2 at home, leapfrogging Union Berlin into third.

Elsewhere, Mainz drew 1-1 away at Cologne. Mainz took an early lead through Ludovic Ajorle, the French striker scoring his fourth goal in five league games.

Gavi would be happiest staying at Barca: Xavi

AP ■ BARCELONA

Xavi Hernandez believes young Barcelona midfielder Gavi would be happiest staying at the club, amid speculation he could leave in the summer, the Catalan coach said Saturday.

Gavi signed a contract renewal with Barcelona until 2026 in September but because of the club's financial difficulties, they have not been able to register it with La Liga.

That means Gavi remains on his previous deal, which is set to expire in June, allowing him to sign for free for any other side.

Chelsea and Bayern Munich have been linked to Gavi in recent weeks, but Xavi said the 18-year-old should stay at Barcelona.

"I don't know what other people are thinking, but I think that Gavi would not be as happy at any other team than he is at Barca," Xavi told a news conference.

"He has everything here, we value him, he's a starter at 18, he's decisive for the team.

"He's a very important player and he's a player that excites me. He's a marvellous footballer, and I think his future lies at Barca -- he would not be as happy elsewhere."

Gavi has established himself as an important figure both for Barcelona and the Spanish national team over the past two years, after coming through his club's La Masia youth academy.

Barcelona are 13 points clear at the top of La Liga and visit Getafe on Sunday, aiming to take a step



closer to their first title since 2019.

The team will travel by high-speed train to Madrid for the match instead of flying, which Xavi said was an effort to reduce pollution.

"We hadn't done it before because it's a bit longer," added the coach.

"It's about pollution and we think it's the ideal time to do it because the game is at four in the afternoon.

"It won't affect us, it's something we're open to."

Earlier this season French side Paris Saint-Germain faced a backlash after coach Christophe Galtier and striker Kylian Mbappe mocked a suggestion that they should take the train to nearby games instead of flying.

France, Spain qualify for BJK Cup Final

AP ■ PARIS

France and Spain qualified for the Billie Jean King Cup Finals on Saturday both taking unassailable 3-0 leads against Britain and Mexico respectively.

Parrizas Diaz also won her singles tie in straight sets on Saturday along with Sara Sorribes Tormo to ensure Spain's presence in the finals in November at a venue to be decided.

Britain, who reached the semi-finals last year, were missing Emma Raducanu, leaving 117th-ranked Dart as their top singles player.

World number five Caroline Garcia gave France the winning point indoors in Coventry with a 6-1, 6-7 (10/12), 6-1 win over Britain's Harriet Dart.

On Friday, Garcia and Alize Cornet had to play almost six hours to dominate Katie Boulter 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/2) and

Dart 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/3) respectively. On clay in Marbella, Nuria Parrizas Diaz, ranked 80, sealed victory for hosts Spain with a 6-3, 6-0 win over 196th-ranked Marcela Zacarias.

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Ireland look to shine in maiden Sri Lanka Tests

AP ■ GALLE

Ireland are smarting after the Bangladesh Test slipped through their fingers but skipper Andrew Balbirnie said on Saturday his team can go the distance in their maiden five-day series in Sri Lanka.

The visitors are yet to win in the format since being granted Test status in 2017 but rallied last week to give their hosts a fright in the second innings.

Ireland are now none from four after their six-wicket loss in Dhaka and Balbirnie is confident his men can make their mark in the two-match series starting Sunday in Galle.

"In Dhaka, we showed we've a number of players who can step up to the mark," Balbirnie told reporters.

"Potential is there. We're trying to get more exposure and more games to them," he added. "Hopefully, what we learnt from the last week, we'll bring to this series."

Bangladesh showed signs of promise for the Irish side in their impressive third-day fightback, with Lorcan Tucker becoming only the team's second Test centurion on his debut.

Harry Tector managed two fifties while off-spinner Andy McBrine made 72 runs in addition to his six wickets.

Six of Ireland's number made their Test debut in Bangladesh and the neophyte visitors can expect a hard slog against a veteran seventh-ranked Sri Lanka team. But Balbirnie said his side were excited to show their mettle.

"We haven't had a lot of Test cricket but now we have two against a very strong team," he said. "It's nice to put the whites on again and we love this experience."



Pak thrash NZ in Babar's 100th T20I

AP ■ LAHORE

Pakistan celebrated skipper Babar Azam's 100th match in the shortest format with a clinical 88-run win in the first T20I against New Zealand in Lahore on Friday.

Azam failed with just nine runs but Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub scored 47 runs each and put on a 79-run partnership for the third wicket to anchor Pakistan to 182 all out in 19.5 overs.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf, one of five players who returned after being rested in Pakistan's last series against Afghanistan, took career best figures of 4-18 as New Zealand were 94 all out in 15.3 overs.

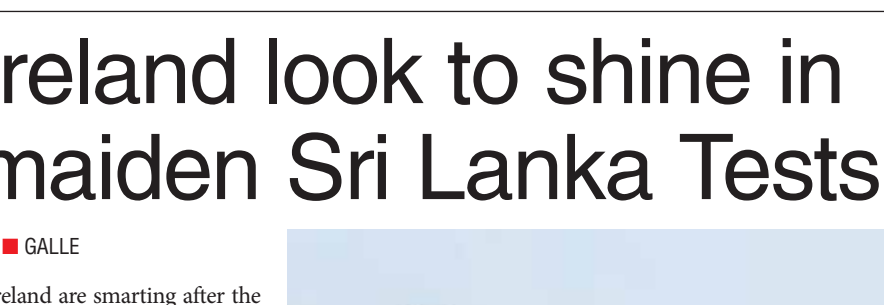
Left-arm spinner Imad Wasim finished with 2-2 in his only over -- taking both his wickets off successive deliveries.

Mark Chapman top-scored with 27-ball 34 inclusive of four boundaries and a six while skipper Tom Latham made 24-ball 20.

Rauf's previous best T20 figures of 4-22 had also come against New Zealand in Sharjah in 2021.

Earlier, Zaman and Ayub lifted Pakistan from a poor start after they won the toss and batted.

Pakistan lost both their openers -- Mohammad Rizwan leg-before for eight and then Azam bowled -- to pacer Adam Milne by the fifth over for just



Zaman struck four boundaries and two sixes in his 34-ball knock while Ayub's rapid 28-ball innings featured two sixes and six fours.

Ayub was run out while tak-

ing a second run before Zaman was caught at deep square-leg off Sodhi.

Faheem Ashraf hit a 16-ball 22 while Wasim scored 16 off 13 balls to help Pakistan add 47 runs in the last five overs.

New Zealand pacer Matt Henry took a hat trick in his figures of 3-32.

Henry dismissed Shadab Khan (five) and Ifthikhar Ahmed (nought) off the last two deliveries of his third over and then Shaheen Shah Afridi with the first of his fourth.

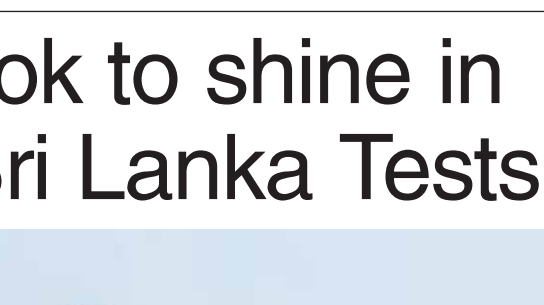
Lister had figures of 2-30 while Milne finished with 2-51.

The remaining four matches are in Lahore on April 15 and April 17 and Rawalpindi on April 20 and 24.

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Nothing new for me

Sri Lanka have made several changes including potential wicketkeeper duties for Sadeera Samarawickrama, 27, who makes his international Test comeback after an absence of more than five years.

"Sadeera has done pretty well in domestic cricket and deserves the break. He's really hungry as well and we hope he'll cement his place in the side," Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne told reporters.

Karunaratne will have a new opening partner in Nishan Madushka, with Oshada Fernando axed following last month's 2-0 series loss in New Zealand.

"I have opened batting with about 10 guys now in Test match cricket so it's nothing new for me," Karunaratne said of the switch. "He's been scoring heavily this year and this is a huge

break for him."

Sunday marks Sri Lanka's first game at home across formats this year. Both Tests will be played at Galle, with the second match scheduled for April 24-28.

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (capt), Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, Nishan Madushka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Ramesh Mendis, Prabath Jayasuriya, Dushan Hemantha, Lasith Embuldeniya, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Milan Rathnayake.

Ireland: Andrew Balbirnie (capt), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Murray Cummins, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Graham Hume, Matthew Humphreys, Tom Mayes, Andrew McBrine, James McCollum, Paul Stirling, PJ Moor, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White.



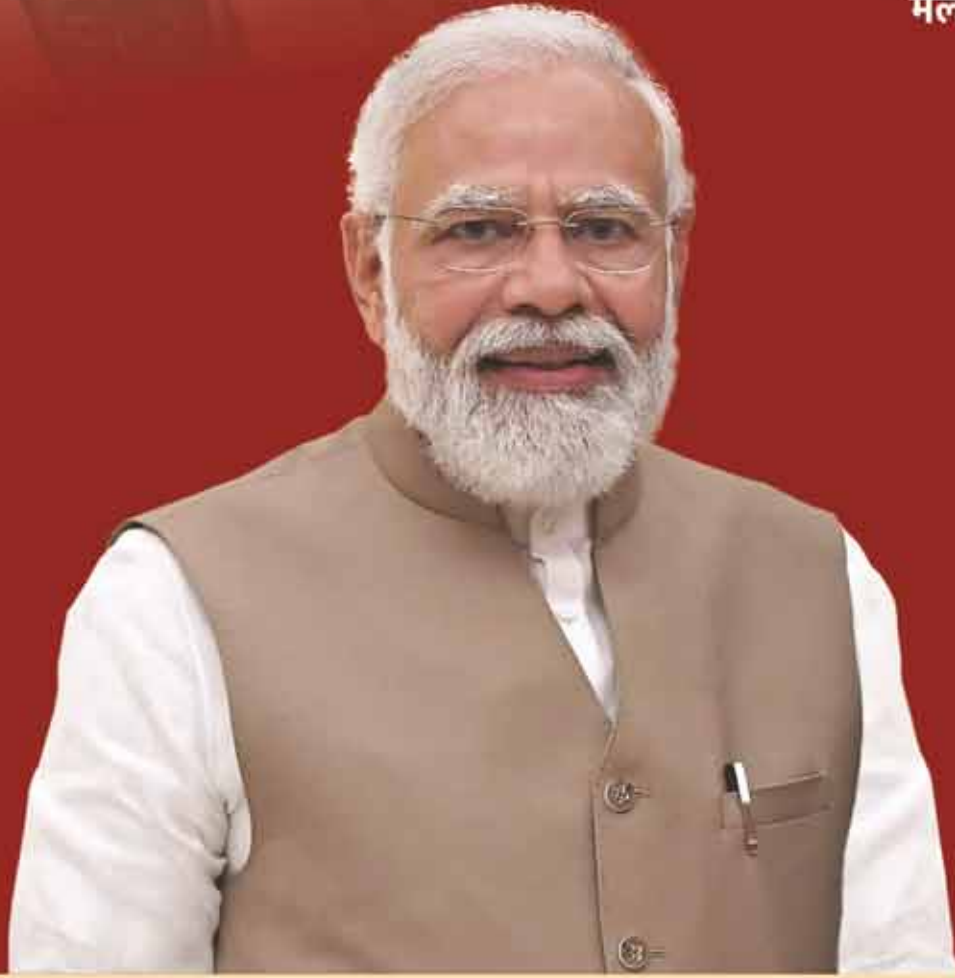
भारत के संविधान निर्माता

भारत रत्न

बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर की 132वीं जयन्ती पर

बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर महाकुंभ

16 अप्रैल, 2023 | पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे
मेला ग्राउंड, ग्वालियर, मध्यप्रदेश



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

मुख्य अतिथि
शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि
नरेन्द्र सिंह तोमर
केन्द्रीय कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री
भारत सरकार

ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया
केन्द्रीय नागरिक विमानन एवं इस्पात मंत्री
भारत सरकार

मध्यप्रदेश सरकार का प्रयास
सबका समान विकास

- वर्ष 2023-24 में अनुसूचित जाति कल्याण के लिए ₹ 2 हजार 162 करोड़ से अधिक के बजट का प्रावधान
- 1933 छात्रावासों में 85 हजार से अधिक विद्यार्थी ले रहे अध्ययन का लाभ
- विगत तीन वर्षों में 50 लाख 84 हजार विद्यार्थियों को ₹ 1 हजार 574 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्तियां वितरित
- 8 हजार से अधिक युवाओं को रोजगारोन्मुखी कौशल प्रशिक्षण
- प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना के तहत 1 हजार 74 गांवों का समेकित विकास
- विगत तीन वर्षों में अनुसूचित जाति के 55 लाख 73 हजार से अधिक हितग्राही ₹ 2600 करोड़ से हुए लाभान्वित

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MODI: UNRIVALLED VISION, UNRIVALLED ACHIEVEMENTS



Prime Minister Modi's leadership qualities elevate our understanding of what makes for effective national and global leadership designed to produce quick, better results impacting the world immensely, writes KK SRIVASTAVA



*'And everywhere is darkness
There is a challenge, there is a
call.....Search for dreams in ruins
For they give living meaning
Forgetting yesterday
Opening our hearts today
Extending the horizons
We resolve to save the drowning
ones
Taking support of each other
Usher a bright new beginning
There is a challenge, There is a call.'*

These lines are from then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi's poem "Tomorrow's Challenge" included in his book of poems: a JOURNEY, (translated into English from Gujarati by Ravi Mantha and published in 2014). While one may sink into the sweet cadence of these lyrical lines, these also arouse interest in another area. It is the subject of national leadership which makes possible realisation of the dream of "Taking support of each other/Usher a bright new beginning" or the dream Irish poet Seamus Heaney so analogously expresses, "The longed for tidal wave/Of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme."

People are fascinated by such a leadership; a few traits of which I intend to analyse here. Many have attempted solving the riddle of what effective leadership is all about. George W Bush once quipped, "A leadership is someone who brings people together..." John Kenneth Galbraith argued a great leader is one who is willing "to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time" but also who changes himself "as these change". An unknown satirist described a leader as someone who turns her/his back on the people and then claims they are all standing behind her/him. Another view: a great leader is one who creates a problem for her/his people and then convinces them only s/he can solve it. However, the best classification and by corollary the best definition of leaders came to me from an entirely unexpected quarter: literary critics. I found it in a 1959 edition of the book titled *Living Biographies of Great Poets* by Henry Thomas and Dana Lee Thomas. They introduced to readers three types of leaders in the world. The Sayers: those who make laws and direct our activities. The Seekers: those who examine the nature of the world and invent new tools. And the Seers: those who interpret the spirit of the world and proclaim new truths.

The authors claimed poets belong to the last category, for they, "articulate the best thoughts that arise in all the other classes." More importantly, while "We all have an instinct for noble ideas and hopes, but it takes the poet to express this instinct in noble words." Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

poems bring insightfulness in others' hearts and awaken the minds to bloom, expand and grow.

Prime Minister Modi's leadership qualities elevate our understanding of what makes for effective national and global leadership designed to produce quick, better results impacting the world immensely. Modern World is highly complex, uncertain and full of market volatility. Already existing thin lining between polity and economy is almost extinguished. A good politician has got to be a good economist. Prime Minister Modi has a sound understanding of the processes of economic expansion and required structural changes through which people's life can be improved. He knows a proper nexus between politics, economics and policies leads to good politics where political processes are sorted out effectively which in turn produce enduring policies. Only then good governance can be a reality.

A successful leader has to anticipate and navigate inherited and emerging complexities. He has to be courageous, conscious, and of impeccable integrity and character. Above all, the leader has to relentlessly pursue sustainable collective welfare while being such a creative person as to shape the future of not only the nation but also the world. When Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, he realised huge expectations placed on him by the people of the country. Expectations were both explicit like the ones flowing from BJP's manifesto and implicit also. Implicit expectations are what people look forward to seeing in the leader: commitment, listening, acting on suggestions, fairness, competence, imparting meaning and direction to the society and economy, creating international impact et al. Implicit expectations, once met, carry a huge impact of the leader's image on people. People silently believed, given his performance as Chief Minister of Gujarat, he would fulfil both expectations. Put it differently, he would fulfil what his leadership has promised.

Prime Minister Modi has been displaying a few characteristics so symbolic of his effective leadership. He has been setting the vision of his leadership and then directing his team to make strategies needed to achieve the vision. From such a direction flows national and international identity and brand which, in turn, seek to answer the question what peerless contribution can be made to the international community.

Secondly, he has been engaging all stakeholders (Various States and Opposition parties) inviting suggestions to draw holistic plans of action. Thirdly, Prime Minister Modi has been ensuring that processes and systems are devised in all areas in such a manner as to facilitate execution, linking efforts to results. Fourthly, he has been

steadfastly maintaining his leadership strengths, with increased pace, making these relevant to the complexity of the milieu the world is in. These characteristics, lumped together, have boosted his image as a global leader enhancing the possibility of India becoming "Vishwa Guru".

His messages are succinct, direct and clear. It is another important quality of Modi's leadership. We all know how unclear messages from leaders can cause confusion, distract attention and lead to problematic situations. Democracy, Leadership, Commitment: last chapter of John Kenneth Galbraith's book *The Age of Uncertainty* deals extensively with how bad consequences can be of a leader's not sharing accurate information with the people. In 1933, the Great Depression was an anxiety arousing phenomenon. President Hoover could not face an economic disaster of that magnitude and falsely conveyed to people the slump was over. On the contrary President Roosevelt, in his inaugural address itself, laid bare the truth before the public and directed all his energies towards tackling the problem. Galbraith summarises, "The people's concern was his concern. What could be done, he would do. There would be no pretence."

Modi does not mince words when he foresees difficult times ahead. He takes utmost care to ensure that people do not get mired in a state of helplessness and hopelessness. His vision and ensuing strategies capture people's imagination and act as a source of morale booster. With passing time and experience, his credibility enhances and expands itself. This is what has been making a difference globally.

Yet another extraordinary feature of Modi's leadership has been his emphasis on desired future vision while confronting current scenarios and hurdles and taking cohesive, collaborative and direct steps to actualise future vision. There is a direct nexus between his passion, mental and physical agility, innovativeness and empowerment that facilitate attainment of desired future goals. There is a belief in need for change, sometimes drastic change for betterment of human welfare. Robert F Kennedy remarked, "Some men look at the way things are and say why. I dream of things that never were and say why not." Prime Minister Modi keeps asking himself, "Why not?" Evolution of New India has deep roots in things that were never there with the leader of the nation questioning why not. Modi's India-Vision 2047 is a shining example of future vision.

Modi tackled, with ingenuity, courage and vigour, the image of India as a "soft state". His vast experience as Chief Minister of Gujarat and later as Prime Minister convinced him of Gunnar Myrdal's assertions that com-

petence of government in developing countries itself is a part of the equilibrium of poverty and backwardness. The governments of developing countries are politically and financially vulnerable; they have a limited resource base and enormous civil service set up and other micro/macro level responsibilities. These, coupled with absence of strong political will, rendered India very much a soft state. Sensing the necessity to escape from India being a soft state, Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on "minimum government" and "maximum governance" paves the way for smooth and hurdle less governance.

Correction of a historical wrong i.e the abolition of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir required tough interior of Modi's leadership. Removal of Article 370 wiped out in one stroke the veil enveloping J&K. One of the most path-breaking consequences has been assimilation of Kashmiris into the national mainstream and much reduction in acts of terrorism.

Demonetisation in November 2016 was a sharp attack on black money that was eating into vitals of healthy economic relations. The swiftness with which the exercise was carried out nationally was remarkable and the laudable objectives, inter alia, of curtailing black money running as shadow economy and preventing use of counterfeit cash to fund illegal activity and terrorism have been amply achieved. Digital empowerment of citizens of the country is amazing and citizens across the country can now access electronic and digital services of the government.

During management of Covid-19, Modi had a hands-on approach towards energising the healthcare system, tackling pharma-related issues and coordinating with various Chief Ministers through regular meetings which led to worldwide appreciation. Many countries asked for help from India and under Modi's guidance a helping hand was extended to many countries. He, through his actions, proved the words of Rabindranth Tagore, "When a light is lighted, it cannot be held within a short range. It is for the whole world."

New tools like Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile (JAM) are crucial in India's empowerment the poor and downtrodden. Middlemen and corrupt practices have vanished and direct benefits reach households without any interruptions. Institutional complexities of socio-economic development: allocation of resources, distributive justice, ease of business, etc, are resolved at reasonable speed. Ayushman Bharat: a comprehensive need-based health-care service aims at undertaking pioneering interventions to address holistically the healthcare system at the primary, secondary and tertiary level.

At the website of any scheme, one

realises the presence and value of crucial information about that scheme. Good economics reveals maximum information to the beneficiaries. Now poor people don't lack critical information about what the government is doing for them. Above cited cases are illustrative only.

Wider acceptance of India in the world as a democratically functioning country which shows a clear, illumined path for progress and which solves intricate problems efficiently has much to do with Prime Minister Modi's capability as a leader who has built rich linkages with the world. The Prime Minister knows how to lose himself in a worthwhile "cause" which improves life for others in different parts of the world. Formation of meaningful and warm relationships with other nations reflects on Modi's brilliance as a leader.

Last but not the least, *Mann Ki Baat*, a programme conveyed through Radio, represents collective thoughts and experiences of people of India and the Prime Minister himself. It, inter alia, caters to broader requirements of plurality and heterodoxy empowering the most disadvantaged members of society to reach the Prime Minister. It is a fusion of rarest order signalling an unprecedented oneness between the Prime Minister and the people of the country and vice versa.

Rounding up Modi's leadership, one gets a feeling there is much more than competence, skills and capability. In him, we come across abundance of passion, compassion, honesty, intellectual integrity, courage, intuition, reliance on internal strengths, humility, et al. Modi has reached that stage of self and conscious awareness where philosophy, human psychology, meditation and spiritualism blend harmoniously. This blend has evolved into a leadership model enabling him decipher reality, ruminate comprehensively, act decisively and wallow in creativity. As a leader, Prime Minister Modi is an epitome of what Henry Thomas and Dana Lee Thomas describe as three types of leaders: a Sayer, a Seeker and a Seer.

(KK Srivastava is a former Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General. He is a poet, writer and columnist.

Author of three volumes of poetry, his poems have been translated into Hindi (Andhere Se Nikli Kavitaen) and his book 'Shadows of the Real' into Russian by veteran Russian poet Adolf Shvedchikov. His fourth book 'Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant: a literary semi-autobiography' published in March 2019 by Rupa Publications, has received international acclaim. His fifth book: 'The Descent: Essays and Critiques' was published in 2022 by Authors Press, New Delhi. He writes for The Pioneer, The Daily Guardian and Brazilian Literary Magazine SIBILA. Views expressed here are his personal views)

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IN LIVING BIOGRAPHIES
OF GREAT POETS, HENRY
THOMAS AND DANA LEE
THOMAS INTRODUCED
TO READERS THREE
TYPES OF LEADERS IN
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SEEKERS', WHO
EXAMINE THE NATURE
OF THE WORLD AND
INVENT NEW TOOLS,
AND 'THE SEERS', WHO
INTERPRET THE SPIRIT
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TRUTHS. AS A LEADER,
PRIME MINISTER MODI
IS AN EPITOME OF: THE
SAYER, THE SEEKER AND
THE SEER



DOPAMINE & PARKINSON'S



World Parkinson's Day is observed every year on April 11. It is a neuro-generative disorder that affects movement. But why do some people find physical effort 'easier' than others? A study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has now found that whether physical exertion feels 'easy' or 'hard' may be due to dopamine levels. ARCHANA JYOTI shares details of the study

Dopamine, a brain chemical long associated with pleasure, motivation and reward-seeking, also appears to play an important role in why exercise and other physical efforts feel "easy" to some people and exhausting to others, according to results of a study of people with Parkinson's disease (PD) led by Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers.

The findings, published online in NPG Parkinson's Disease, could, the researchers say, eventually lead to more effective ways to help people establish and stick with exercise regimens, new treatments for fatigue associated with depression and many other conditions, and a better understanding of Parkinson's disease.

"Researchers have long been trying to understand why some people find physical effort easier than others," says study leader Vikram Chib, associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and research scientist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. "This study's results suggest that the amount of dopamine availability in the brain is a key factor."

Chib explains that after a bout of physical activity, people's perception and self-reports of the effort they expended varies, and also guides their decisions about undertaking future exertions. Previous studies have shown that people with increased dopamine are more willing to exert physical effort for rewards, but the current study focuses on dopamine's role in people's self-

assessment of effort needed for a physical task, without the promise of a reward.

For the study, Chib and his colleagues from Johns Hopkins Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute recruited 19 adults diagnosed with PD, a condition in which neurons in the brain that produce dopamine gradually die off, causing unintended and uncontrollable movements such as tremors, fatigue, stiffness and trouble with balance or coordination.

In Chib's lab, 10 male volunteers and nine female volunteers with an average age of 67 were asked to perform the same physical task — squeezing a

hand grip equipped with a sensor — on two different days within four weeks of each other. On one of the days, the patients were asked to take their standard, daily synthetic dopamine medication as they normally would. On the other, they were asked not to take their medication for at least 12 hours prior to performing the squeeze test.

On both days, the patients were initially taught to squeeze a grip sensor at various levels of defined effort, and then were asked to squeeze and report how many units of effort they put forth.

When the participants had taken their regular synthetic dopamine medication, their self-assessments of units

of effort expended were more accurate than when they hadn't taken the drug. They also had less variability in their efforts, showing accurate squeezes when the researchers cued them to squeeze at different levels of effort.

In contrast, when the patients hadn't taken the medication, they consistently over-reported their efforts — meaning they perceived the task to be physically harder — and had significantly more variability among grips after being cued.

In another experiment, the patients were given a choice between a sure option of squeezing with a relatively low amount of effort on the grip sensor or

flipping a coin and taking a chance on having to perform either no effort or a very high level of effort. When these volunteers had taken their medication, they were more willing to take a chance on having to perform a higher amount of effort than when they didn't take their medication.

A third experiment offered participants the choice between getting a small amount of guaranteed money or, with the flip of a coin, getting either nothing or a higher amount of money. Results showed no difference in the subjects on days when they took their medication and when they did not. This result, researchers say, suggests that dopamine's influence on risk-taking preferences is specific to physical effort-based decision-making.

Together, Chib says, these findings suggest that dopamine level is a critical factor in helping people accurately assess how much effort a physical task requires, which can significantly affect how much effort they're willing to put forth for future tasks. For example, if someone perceives that a physical task will take an extraordinary amount of effort, they may be less motivated to do it. Understanding more about the chemistry and biology of motivation could advance ways to motivate exercise and physical therapy regimens, Chib says. In addition, inefficient dopamine signaling could help explain the pervasive fatigue present in conditions such as depression and long COVID, and during cancer treatments. Currently, he and his colleagues are studying dopamine's role in clinical fatigue.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms usually begin gradually and worsen over time.

- Tremor in hands, arms, legs, jaw, or head.
- Muscle stiffness, where muscle remains contracted for a long time.
- Slowness of movement.
- Impaired balance and coordination, sometimes leading to falls.
- Depression
- Difficulty swallowing, chewing, and speaking
- Urinary problems or constipation
- Skin problems and difficulty with balance and coordination.

TREATMENTS

Although there is no cure for PD, medicines, surgical treatment, and other therapies can often relieve some symptoms.

Medicines:

- Increasing the level of dopamine in the brain
- Having an effect on other brain chemicals, such as neurotransmitters, which transfer information between brain cells
- Helping control non-movement symptoms
- The main therapy for PD is levodopa. Nerve cells use levodopa to make dopamine to replenish the brain's dwindling supply. Usually, people take levodopa along with another medication called carbidopa. Carbidopa prevents or reduces some of the side effects of levodopa therapy — such as nausea, vomiting, low blood pressure, and restlessness — and reduces the amount of levodopa needed to improve symptoms.

Those with PD should never stop taking levodopa without telling their doctor. Suddenly stopping the drug may have serious side effects, like being unable to move or having difficulty breathing.

- The doctor may prescribe other medicines to treat Parkinson's symptoms, including:
 - Dopamine agonists to stimulate the production of dopamine in the brain
 - Enzyme inhibitors (e.g., MAO-B inhibitors, COMT inhibitors) to increase the amount of dopamine by slowing down the enzymes that break down dopamine in the brain
 - Amantadine to help reduce involuntary movements
 - Anticholinergic drugs to reduce tremors and muscle rigidity

Deep brain stimulation:

It is for people with PD who do not respond well to medications.



Swarnaprashan and Panchakarma for physical and mental well being

While the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic has made us realise the importance of a strong immunity system to defend any kind of infection and disease and maintain good health, Ayurveda ensures that Swarnaprashan and Panchakarma therapy will prove to be a boon for health care in the future as these are the best practices for immuno-modulation and health promotion.

Ayurvedic preparation Swarnaprashan develops a high level of immunity among children from the very beginning. Panchakarma therapy, on the other hand, is applied from time to time for detoxification and rejuvenation of the body, thereby helping in maintaining good health and delaying the ageing process.

Both these specialties — Swarnaprashan and Panchakarma — will help in tackling the menace of infectious diseases as well as lifestyle disorders in a better way. These will also prove helpful in facing the increasing challenges posed by bacteria, virus, fungi, etc., especially the sub variants of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza which are dodging even the vaccines due to continuous mutation in their structure.

Despite advancement of technology and extension of infrastructure in the healthcare delivery system, cases of communicable and NCDs are increasing at a fast pace globally due to climate change, pollution, sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption, smoking, uncontrolled use of insecticides and pesticides, etc. Swarnaprashan may be defined as the Ayurvedic way of immunization, thus making the body strong enough to defeat attack of any microbe including bacteria, virus and fungi. It increases and improves the immunity, digestion, metabolism, physical endurance, cognitive functions of the brain, mental wellbeing, etc. Prepared from gold bhasma (powder), Ashwagandha, Brahmi, Vacha, honey, cow ghee, etc., Accord-



DR RP PARASHER
CMO (Ayurveda),
Municipal Corporation
of Delhi

ing to Kashyap Samhita, Swarnaprashan is given regularly to newborn babies at different intervals till they attain 16 years of age their overall physical and mental development.

In a study "Intervention effect of Swarnaprashan evaluated using NMR based metabolomics approach" conducted at Lucknow-based Centre of Biomedical Research, qualities of the medicine have been verified and no side-effect has been found in children who were administered Swarnaprashan. The researchers have found an increase in immune cells and T-cells in the body after intake of Swarnaprashan. The immune cells and T-cells protect the body in the absence of antibodies in conditions developed due to coronavirus like infections.

Swarnaprashan, found to be effective in arresting the cytokine storm and increase in IL-7 in coronavirus-affected patients, must be included under the immunization program of the Government for children up to the age of 18 years, as it will prove to be effective against most infections for life.

Similarly, Panchakarma therapy should be taken on regular intervals for detoxification and purification of the body as it improves not only the physical and mental well-being, but also keeps various vital organs and systems of the body fit and fine.

HEALTH BRIEFS

AIIMS DELHI'S GREEN BICYCLE DRIVE

Soon patients and attendants will be able to take advantage of cycle facility at AIIMS Delhi. The premier health and research institution has started a pilot project in collaboration with HMEI Group to provide app-based 'Green Ride My Cycle app' facility. Under this project, this facility will be available from five places in the AIIMS.

Under this pilot project, to begin with, the doctors and other personnel of AIIMS will get the facility of cycle in the hospital premises. In the coming days, this facility will be extended to the attendants of the patients others as well.

DU VC: SIR GANGA RAM HOSPITAL MODEL SHOULD BE REPLICATED NATION-WIDE

The unique model of functioning of the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi should be replicated all over India, Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh said recently at the 68th Founder's Day celebrations of the hospital.

"I have seen this hospital very closely as a patient, attendant and visitor. I am pleasantly surprised and happy to know that all consultants of this hospital contribute 20 per cent of their earnings back to the hospital," he said and urged healthcare institutions to show kindness, passion and goodness towards the poor who get neglected.

"Contribution and growth of healthcare and education sectors is most important in growth of India's GDP. I firmly believe the unique model of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital should be replicated all over India... Open more branches to serve patients all over India. Replication and expansion of the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital is the need of the day," he said. "All over India, doctors trained from our hospital are working successfully in various capacities," added Dr D S Rana, Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Trust Society.

PREDOMIX DEVELOPS BLOOD TEST TECH TO DETECT 32 CANCERS

A Gurugram-based startup PredOmix has developed a novel blood test that can detect about 32 cancers in both men and women, with 98 per cent accuracy. The company's OncoVerx-F is a patented technology that combines metabolomics (study of small molecules) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify metabolite signatures of multiple cancers in a single test.

"Metabolomics is a particularly suitable technique for cancer detection since metabolic reprogramming constitutes one of the hallmarks of cancer cells. By using appropriate big data algorithms, metabolite signatures characteristic of cancer can be accurately extracted from the serum metabolome," Dr. Kanury VS Rao, Co-Founder & Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), PredOmix.

New Vaccines To End TB Pandemic: India Can Lead The Way

India is in a strategic position to contribute to the full breadth of the TB vaccine pipeline, from innovation led by the thriving indigenous biomedical industry, to advanced clinical research and access, thanks to its expertise in world-leading product development and manufacturing capacity



MARK FEINBERG



MEERA YADAV

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's top infectious disease killers, accounting for 1.6 million deaths in 2021 alone; more deaths than from HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. It is a disease that is largely preventable, treatable and, curable that continues to sicken more than 10.5 million people annually.

A quarter of all people who fall sick with TB each year live in India; 1300 people die of TB each day in the country. We cannot end the global TB pandemic unless we end the disease in India.

Progress on TB simply has not been fast enough. Efforts to control TB have stalled due to factors beyond the Covid-19 pandemic: a top-down medical approach that bypassed community engagement, limiting access

to those most at risk of developing TB; time-intensive treatments with risks of side effects; a lack of focus on TB prevention efforts; crowded housing, poor sanitation, polluted air, poor nutrition, and high levels of smoking that encourage the spread of TB.

These factors have been addressed to some degree in the global north over the past century, resulting in greatly reducing TB cases in that part of the world. Tragically, the opposite has been true in India, as well as in many low and middle-income countries.

The reality is that many of the above factors responsible for the spread of TB cannot be fixed quickly. To control TB, we desperately need TB vaccines that work in children and adults. The current 100-year-old BCG vaccine is effective in preventing



deadly forms of TB in young children. It is, however, largely ineffective in preventing TB in adolescents and adults.

Modelling studies suggest that a 50% effective TB vaccine in adolescents and adults could prevent up to 76 million cases and 8.5 million deaths by 2050; a promise that could help deliver on meeting the 2030 WHO End-TB targets, which would save countries 23.8 million lives and avert USD 13.1 trillion in economic losses by 2050.

Over the years, India has emerged as a world leader in fighting TB, driven by ambitious targets and growing technical prowess. It is in a strategic position

to contribute to the full breadth of the TB vaccine pipeline— from innovation led by the thriving indigenous biomedical industry, to advanced clinical research and access, thanks to world-leading product development expertise and manufacturing capacity.

India already has an impressive presence in the TB vaccine space. Two of the three promising TB vaccine candidates are in Phase III trials with Indian partners: VPM1002 (Serum Institute of India) and Immuvac (Indian Council of Medical Research). Bharat Biotech India Ltd. has stepped up to partner with Biofabri (Porrino, Spain) to manufacture the MTBVAC TB

vaccine candidate for commercial supply to India and other countries in Asia and Africa.

In 2018, a third TB vaccine candidate, M72/AS01E, developed by Aeras/IAVI and GSK was shown in Kenya, South Africa and Zambia to be 54 per cent effective at preventing TB disease in adults with latent TB infection.

If just one of these TB vaccine candidates is shown to be safe and effective, that will be progress. But as Covid-19 has demonstrated, it's better to have multiple vaccines to effectively control a pandemic. For that to happen, we need to address the elephant in the room: the lack of urgency at all levels of the TB response.

In 2018 the United Nations (UN) issued a Declaration on Ending TB by 2030, committing to mobilize USD 2 billion annually for TB research, including USD 550 million earmarked for TB vaccines. Four years on, that has not happened. Investments in TB vaccine R&D have never exceeded USD 121 million a year.

This lack of support and failure to prepare for success has hindered TB vaccine development, including the ability to move promising candidates

through to licensure. What's missing is bold political commitment to muster robust support for global efforts aimed at stopping TB.

India could pave the way: In the same year that the UN will host a High-Level Meeting on TB in September, India holds the G20 Presidency. India is the second of four consecutive high TB burden countries leading the G20, beginning with Indonesia followed by Brazil and South Africa. The G20 nations account for over half of the world's TB burden and are home to many of the world's leading research institutions and funding bodies. This year, India has the opportunity and leverage to build on Indonesia's Call to Action to properly finance the global TB response: that must include fast tracking a promising TB vaccine pipeline that could prevent millions of people from avoidable disease and get us on the road to finally ending the TB pandemic.

(Mark Feinberg is the President and CEO of IAVI. Meera Yadav, a TB survivor and activist based in Mumbai, India along with her community is petitioning for compulsory licensing in India)

Bibi's giant bid fails, baby steps may work

Israel is gripped by a serious political crisis. Anti-government protesters are out on roads. They want Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign. Since the beginning of this year, people have been opposing the government's reform plans.

What the protesters and the people say is that the Government's reform plans will seriously weaken the ethos of democracy in Israel. He is targeting the judiciary that continuously keeps a check on the political leaders. The critics all over the world allege that if his reform plans become laws, these will shield Netanyahu from his current trials, and will help his government pass all the laws without any hassle.

What has created the controversy? And what is the fallout? Under the new reform proposal, the power of the country's Supreme Court to review the bills of the Government would be restricted. Second, a simple majority in the Parliament, called Knesset, would be able to overturn the decisions of the court. Third, the Government would be capable of having a bigger say in the selection of the judges, including that of the Supreme Court. Finally, the Ministers would no longer be bound by the advice of the Attorney General.

In the meantime, Netanyahu has already made one big change — the Attorney General has lost power to declare a sitting Prime Minister unfit for running the office.

All these have sparked sufficient controversies and doubts over the real intentions of the Government. Netanyahu was forced to withdraw the reform proposals. And he did it with a theatrical speech knowing fully well that these all have happened only because of him. He is simply

buying time and making future plans. But it has been accepted that he has failed to grasp the pulse of the people this time.

Benjamin Netanyahu is a hardliner. A masters from MIT, America, is very much acquainted with what Washington expects from Israel. And in the 1980s, he advocated his country's case as a diplomat in the US and became very popular. By the 1990s, he launched his active political career when the fragile peace accord between Palestine and Israel fell.

Netanyahu wanted to bring serious reform measures, especially judicial reform, in the country. But the country witnessed massive protests all over, particularly in the commercial capital city of Tel Aviv in the last week of March. The protesters have called for the resignation of the Prime Minister and scrapping the new bills for reforms. In fact, this was a golden opportunity for all the Opposition parties and his political rivals to come together to unseat the government of Netanyahu.

And another decades old trouble with Palestine continues as of today. The recent changes in the power equations in the region have once again threatened the fragile Abraham Accords with Bahrain and the UAE, mediated by then US President Donald Trump. In fact, Trump brought more chaos to the region. Today, geopolitical equations are fast changing as Iran; the biggest Shia power of the region, is coming closer to its Sunni rivals.

Meanwhile Netanyahu is creating more troubles for himself by simply denying a two-state solution to the long-standing Israel-Palestine crisis. A group of progressive democrats in the US has already called on President Biden to



Israelis protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv, on April 8, 2023

AP file photo

change the country's policy on the Israel-Palestine conflict. These democratic lawmakers appeal to the US President that the money paid by the American taxpayers should not be used for abusing the rights of the Palestinian people. They also urged the administration to investigate whether American weapons were used to target Palestinians. What was striking in the appeal was that the US public funds should not be supplied to build illegal construction in occupied territories. Interestingly, the US gives nearly \$3.8 billion as military aid to Israel and now veteran Congressman like

Bernie Sanders and Jamaal Bowman are asking the law-making body to restrict the same.

Netanyahu is creating a fresh political mess by resorting to money and muscle power. He must understand the limits of public patience. Despite running a coalition government, he is creating one after other hurdles for the regime. No doubt, he is a veteran and he can easily turn the tide at any time. He has absolutely proved the political pundits wrong on many occasions by returning to power amid calls for his imprisonment.

For decades, the Israeli Prime Ministers have resorted to the same tactic whenever they are in trouble: either they provoke confrontation or when the situation worsens, the Army will be sent. Gaza has been the testing laboratory for this purpose for the last more than one and half decade. However, another Israeli leader Ehud Olmert tried to experiment the same process with Lebanon, but it did not yield good results for him.

But unlike other leaders, Netanyahu is immersed in both personal and political crises. He is currently in the midst of a corruption trial but

unfortunately the law is not on his side. He is working hard to remain relevant and stay in power in the days to come. And the last controversy is the new legislation to weaken the courts.

Now, we need to see what holds good for Netanyahu. He is a man who works against all odds. Known as the "King of Israel" and popularly as "Bibi", Netanyahu has been dominating Israeli politics for generations. Thus, he is regarded as the "Great Survivor" in the country. He has a combative style of functioning. He is the longest serving leader of the country. A country heavily

surrounded by Islamic countries, so-called enemies for the Jewish State, demands a strong leader like him. He absolutely fits the bill, and he has done so. He has taken his right-wing politics with a nationalist tinge to the voters. He is the face of his nation and he knows how to woo the successive leaders in the West, especially in the White House.

A former commando turned politician, long convinced the Israeli people that they are much safer and stronger and richer under his reign. Ironically, most of the Israelis and Palestinians who are under 30 have spent their lives under the leadership of Prime Minister Netanyahu. He was first elected as the PM at the age of 46 and now going to be 73. He has remained in power and was never far away from the hot seat. Today he is the longest serving Prime Minister and has already surpassed the record of the founding father of Israel David Ben-Gurion.

The PM has much to lose against possible gains from introducing new legislations. Because it is time for reconciliation, not for fresh conflicts in the already war-torn West Asia. But the problem is that his central agenda is all dictated by the religious extremists to whom he can't say no.

Looking at the fast-changing global power calculus and declining power of the US, Netanyahu should handle his political affairs rather very carefully. The reason behind this is that the US is gradually withdrawing from the West Asian region and concentrating solely on the Asia Pacific simply to contain an ever growing China.

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

Looking at the fast-changing global power calculus and declining power of the US, Netanyahu needs to handle his political affairs rather carefully. His reform proposals have not gone down well with his populace and his western friends, and his U-turn has been considered as his failure to keep his finger on the pulse of the people



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Christians feel squeezed between Jews, Muslims in Israel

Most top Israeli officials have stayed quiet on the vandalism, while government moves — including the introduction of a law criminalising Christian proselytising and the promotion of plans to turn the Mount of Olives into a national park — have stoked outrage in the Holy Land and beyond, writes ISABEL DEBRE

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land has warned in an interview that the rise of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government in Israel has made life worse for Christians in the birthplace of Christianity.

The influential Vatican-appointed Latin Patriarch, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, told The Associated Press that the region's 2,000-year-old Christian community has come under increasing attack, with the most right-wing government in Israel's history emboldening extremists who have harassed clergy and vandalised religious property at a quickening pace.

The uptick in anti-Christian incidents comes as the Israeli settler movement, galvanised by its allies in government, appears to have seized the moment to expand its enterprise in the contested capital.

"The frequency of these attacks, the aggressions, has become something new," Pizzaballa said during Easter week from his office, tucked in the limestone passageways of the Old City's Christian Quarter. "These people feel they are protected... that the cultural and political atmosphere now can justify, or tolerate, actions against Christians."

Pizzaballa's concerns appear to undercut Israel's stated commitment to freedom of worship, enshrined in the declaration that marked its founding 75 years ago. The Israeli

government stressed it prioritises religious freedom and relations with the churches, which have powerful links abroad.

"Israel's commitment to freedom of religion has been important to us forever," said Tania Berg-Rafaeli, the director of the world religions department at the Israeli Foreign Ministry. "It's the case for all religions and all minorities that have free access to holy sites."

But Christians say they feel authorities don't protect their sites from targeted attacks. And tensions have surged after an Israeli police raid on the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque compound set off outrage among Muslims, and a regional confrontation last week.

For Christians, Jerusalem is where Jesus was crucified and resurrected. For Jews, it's the ancient capital, home to two biblical Jewish temples. For Muslims, it's where the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

The scorn heaped upon minority Christians is nothing new in the teeming Old City, a crucible of tension that the Israeli government annexed in 1967. Many Christians feel squeezed between Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians.

But now Netanyahu's far-right government includes settler leaders in key roles — such as Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who holds criminal convictions from 2007 for incitement to



Orthodox Christians clergy and nuns hold candles as they arrive for the Holy Fire ceremony, a day before Easter, at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected, in Jerusalem's Old City, on April 15, 2023

AP

anti-Arab racism and support for a Jewish militant group.

Their influence has empowered Israeli settlers seeking to entrench Jewish control of the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, alarming church leaders who see such efforts — including government plans to create a national park on the Mount of Olives — as a threat to the Christian presence in the holy city. Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their hoped-for state.

"The right-wing elements

are out to Judaize the Old City and the other lands, and we feel nothing is holding them back now," said Father Don Binder, a pastor at St. George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. "Churches have been the major stumbling block."

The roughly 15,000 Christians in Jerusalem today, the majority of them Palestinians, were once 27,000 — before hardships that followed the 1967 Mideast war spurred many in the traditionally prosperous group to

emigrate.

Now, 2023 is shaping up to be the worst year for Christians in a decade, according to Yusef Daher from the Inter-Church Center, a group that coordinates between the denominations. Physical assaults and harassment of clergy often go unreported, the center said. It has documented at least seven serious cases of vandalism of church properties from January to mid-March — a sharp increase from six anti-Christian cases recorded in all of 2022. Church leaders blame Israeli

extremists for most of the incidents, and say they fear an even greater surge.

"This escalation will bring more and more violence," Pizzaballa said. "It will create a situation that will be very difficult to correct."

In March, a pair of Israelis burst into the basilica beside the Garden of Gethsemane, where the Virgin Mary is said to have been buried. They pounced on a priest with a metal rod before being arrested.

In February, a religious American Jew yanked a 10-foot rendering of Christ from its pedestal and smashed it onto the floor, striking his face with a hammer a dozen times at the Church of the Flagellation on the Via Dolorosa, along which it's believed Jesus hauled his cross toward his crucifixion. "No idols in the holy city of Jerusalem!" he yelled.

Armenians found hateful graffiti on the walls of their convent. Priests of all denominations say they've been stalked, spat on and beaten during their walks to church. In January, religious Jews knocked over and vandalized 30 graves marked with stone crosses at a historic Christian cemetery in the city. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with causing damage and insulting religion.

But Christians allege that Israeli police haven't taken most attacks seriously. In one case, 25-year-old George Kahkejian said he was the one beaten, arrested and detained for 17 hours after a mob of

Jewish settlers scaled his Armenian Christian convent to tear down its flag earlier this year. The police had no immediate comment.

"We see that most incidents in our quarter have gone unpunished," complained Father Aghan Goghchian, chancellor of the Armenian Patriarchate. He expressed disappointment with how authorities frequently insist cases of desecration and harassment hinge not on religious hatred but on mental illness.

The Israeli police said they have "thoroughly investigated (incidents) regardless of background or religion" and made "speedy arrests." The Jerusalem municipality is boosting security at upcoming Orthodox Easter processions and creating a new police department to handle religiously motivated threats, said Jerusalem deputy mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum.

Most top Israeli officials have stayed quiet on the vandalism, while government moves — including the introduction of a law criminalising Christian proselytizing and the promotion of plans to turn the Mount of Olives into a national park — have stoked outrage in the Holy Land and beyond.

Netanyahu vowed to block the bill from moving forward, following pressure from outraged evangelical Christians in the United States. Among the strongest backers of Israel, evangelicals view a Jewish state as the fulfillment of a biblical prophecy.

Meanwhile Jerusalem officials confirmed that they're

pressing on with the contentious zoning plan for the Mount of Olives — a holy pilgrimage site with some dozen historic churches. Christian leaders fear the park could stem their growth and encroach on their lands. Jewish settlements home to over 200,000 Israelis already encircle the Old City.

The Israeli National Parks Authority promised buy-in from churches and said it hopes the park will "preserve valuable areas as open areas." Pizzaballa pushed back. "It's a kind of confiscation," he said.

Simmering tensions in the community came to a head over Orthodox Easter rituals as Israeli police announced strict quotas on the thousands of pilgrims seeking to attend the rite of the "Holy Fire" at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Citing safety concerns over lit torches being thrust through massive crowds in the church, authorities capped Saturday's ceremony at 1,800 people. Priests who saw police open gates wide for Jews celebrating Passover, which coincided this year with Easter, alleged religious discrimination on Wednesday.

These days, Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem said he struggles for answers when his congregants ask why they should even bear the bitter price of living in the Holy Land. "There are things that make us worry about our very existence," he said. "But without hope, more and more of us will leave." AP

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
The week holds many promises, and it is a reasonably excellent week in terms of money, wealth, and your financial sources. You like parties, having fun, and celebrating your achievements at work. There is also joy in the family. This week, you have golden fingertips. Ladies must be active, healthy, and imaginative to bring a smile to everyone's face. They are both excellent mothers and wives. There is also the possibility of some auspicious celebration at home, such as a child's birth or the opening of a new source of income, where family members will gather and share their joy. Your views or opinions will alter by the end of the week. A new perspective on life will open new opportunities for you in the long term.
Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week, you must exercise patience. Overexcitement and aggression should be avoided in favour of a more moderate approach. There will be circumstances that will work in your favour and change your life for the better. However, your ego, self-importance, or callous attitude may turn others against you. One must constantly appreciate one's self-esteem while also protecting one's respect. There may be the beginning of something that will make your competitors envious. There is a possibility that you will be the victim of someone's malicious intent. Take care of your surroundings, understand the psychology of others, and treat them properly. Take care of your possessions as well. Keep an eye on the individual who provides you with domestic help or on those who report to you.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week, you will shine and feel strong. There is light in everything you do, which will guide you to success. Your power/energy is channelled and directed to the areas of your life where it will be most effective. You have the vision and determination to venture out into the world, overcome obstacles, and attain your highest goals. There is also the possibility of an auspicious ceremony at home. Your long-held wish has been realised. Either conception or pleasure via children is on the agenda. Children may flourish academically or gain admission to their selected field. You believe in your abilities and in the power of God. Believing that something will happen is as certain as it gets. This faith will generate a pleasant atmosphere about you, and you will strive to achieve greatness.
Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week, you are ruled by too many emotions and sentiments. Your sign is where the Moon finds comfort and becomes forceful. The moon represents our thoughts and feelings. You will be concerned about your loved ones and will undoubtedly do something to help them. You are also an excellent healer and counsellor. People turn to you for guidance. You may disregard your work-related obligations and responsibilities. Look around and take in everything. Someone may take advantage of your simplicity. To achieve stability and financial security, you must think, establish new ideas, and carry them out. Going on without accomplishing anything and daydreaming accomplish nothing. The topic of the week is "watch your goals, control your emotions."
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You are lonely and detached from earthly matters. Rejection in a love affair or separation from your marriage might be the cause of your emotional condition. There are also difficulties at work. Your finest efforts and hard work yield no results; this week's topic is waiting. Maintain your dominance and be careful of opposition. Recognize your own strength and be prepared to utilize it in defence. It is the final test by whatever forces resist you before you finally attain your objective. There might be someone who can help you solve your difficulties. You have come up with your current condition thanks to this person's direction and assistance. There will be new ideas, new hopes, and you will think of new methods to do things. New wins and new beginnings are predicted before the end of the week.
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
There are feelings, sentiments, and aloofness in personal concerns. This week will be difficult for the couples. When you are bothered by minor issues, you weep, scream, fight, and eventually do the same thing with your consent. You are generous and courteous at work. Unexpected gains will provide you with financial stability. You must be able to manage your marriage and financial matters properly and efficiently. Because of your dedication to duty and trustworthiness, you will be depended on. You are also eager to learn new things. That will motivate you to succeed. During this time, you can serve as a role model for others. You hold the moral up high and defend yourself and your beliefs.
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
This week, you are strong and determined. It is your positional power, not physical strength, that makes you powerful. You compel and inspire people to follow you. You are charming, as well as rigid and disciplined. But feelings have no place in your life this week. In love, this might lead to disappointment or separation. The family is divided and arguing about picking your life partner. You are under immense strain throughout the middle of the week and are unable to make an autonomous judgment in this regard. However, at the end of this, you will be rich both monetarily and emotionally because a senior person, maybe your father, will come and support you. His objectivity and magnanimity will plant the seeds of your future success.
Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, the number 7 is significant in your life. This number will have a positive impact or effect on several aspects of life. There is a possibility of a shattered connection. You fear failing. But by addressing your anxieties and using them to your advantage, you will become even stronger and more prepared to meet the next challenge in your way. Now is the moment to move on with your dreams, toss aside your doubts, and to allow nothing to stand in your way. If you feel you haven't done your best, or if what you've accomplished isn't as spectacular as you planned, reconsider your ideas, and try something new. By the end of the week, there is a likelihood to get more wealth or an attractive offer.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You will have a highly powerful, action-packed, and stable week. You are in a situation where you can venture to see and speak with someone in a position of power. During this time, you can enjoy prestige, position, and power. You appreciate the feeling of adrenaline and have good relationships with ordinary people. You will also serve as a role model, offering counsel, setting direction, and providing security. The body, mind, and soul are all in perfect harmony. You have a strong heart as well, which helps you make critical decisions in life. This week's theme is "you command the attention of everyone around you, judge fairly, speak truth, and never waver from your standards." You have the power to lead people because you understand the broad picture and never let your emotions influence your decisions.
Lucky number 4
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
Take a break from your hectic routine and rest for a few minutes. This week's topic is "heal your body and mind." Get a routine medical examination, practice yoga and meditation, go for a stroll, breathe in the fresh air, and get enough sleep. This will prepare you for the quick pace of life ahead. There is a lot of running and traveling related to work. Some of you may have received a positive message from the organization/company where you work, such as a pay increase or promotion. There are also many obligations on the family front. Children will keep you occupied. There will be additional costs to meet the children's needs. You might also take an intimate trip with loved ones. Singles are more likely to get marriage proposals. Married couples will spend the week together.
Lucky number 16
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
You have enormous power. Your sharp observation, intuition, and vision enable you to see to the heart of any problem. Understanding and mental reasoning reach a high, and achieving goals becomes much easier. Now is the moment to dispel the cloud that has hindered you from seeing the inner truth and to break away all the chains that have held you back in the past. It is time to concentrate on your objectives. There is also a significant spiritual awakening. You will spend your time connecting with nature by going on morning and evening walks, practising yoga and meditation, or participating in a professional sport. Instead of battling against the stream, allow it to carry you wherever it wishes.
Lucky number 27
Lucky colour Rust
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
You will have limitless potential, allowing you to change and create whatever you choose. While it is difficult for everyone to learn all the mysteries and secrets, you will act as a guide for those who are prepared to go deep into their thoughts to find their hidden potentials. You are very spiritual and focused. These inner powers can enhance and improve one's life. Every action you take will eventually have a consequence, giving rise to the law of karma. So, if you want wonderful things to happen, you must continually make decisions that will lead to those positive things. This mental clarity will result in total manifestation and the resolution of many life's problems. A trip is on the cards.
Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Monday

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Guru offers meditation technique suited to you



flooded with distracting thoughts. You have to first acknowledge that distraction is a necessary part of the process. The Guru teaches you how to remain disengaged from thoughts excited by subconscious memory. Once you succeed, concentration will spontaneously happen. So, before submitting to meditation process, one should try to become aware of one's own inherent weaknesses, acknowledge them and make a will to overcome. "Sir throw light on my inherent weaknesses." Asked the son.
Karmakaraka Saturn is conjunct Ketu. It makes you an escapist, who doesn't like to take challenges. You are aware of your priorities. But once you try to focus, habitually your mind drifts to other random thoughts and ideas. That engages your attention so much that priority preferences get compromised. The Sun is locked in adverse formation to mischievous Neptune. That binds you into fanciful beliefs and dream perceptions, often distanced from ground realities, and not prepared to look beyond for a reality check. That keeps you engaged in illusionary thoughts and perceptions. You do not realise truth on its first appearance. You rather continue blindly pursuing them on

hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Debilitated Mars is locked in adverse formation to Moon. That makes you temperamental, impatient, irritable, moody, rash, and argumentative. You, thus, dissipate most of your energies towards unproductive ends. All the more because Mars is also ill-disposed off to erratic Rahu and Mercury. Consequently, you are not left with enough of energy to do justice to your priority preferences. If all that would not be enough, Jupiter placed adverse to Mercury accounts for your insensible reasoning and judgment. "Sir, you are bang on my inherent weaknesses. What is the way out then?"
I will put you through another process, which will help become disengaged from all distracting thoughts. The more you distract, more of mind space will become available. Do it before you sit for studies. All that could have distracted your attention from your priority preferences, will be gone during the process. You may then remain focused for quite some time.
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