OPINION 6

INDIA MOVES AWAY

FROM THE DOLLAR

WORLD 9

CHINESE NATIONAL HELD

IN PAK FOR BLASPHEMY

MONEY 10

MARKETS HALT 9-DAY RALLY:

INFOSYS SHARES FALL 9%

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> Late City Vol.33 Issue 106 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

WE CAN WIN 9/9 GAMES: **GANGULY** 12 SPORT

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 18, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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the pioneer

Caste census chorus grows

AAP, JD(U) back Kharge as he writes to PM; Rahul seeks removal of 50% cap on quota

As Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding an up-to-date caste census, saying meaningful social justice and empowerment programmes are incomplete in the absence of such data, the JD(U) and the The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) backed the demand.

The Congress accused the Government of resorting to caste-based politics to attack the Opposition and resisting a socio-economic and caste census in the country.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the underprivileged need economic and political power and not empty words as he again called for removing the 50 per cent cap on quota and demanded reservations for Dalits and tribals based on their population.

"Prime Minister, the underprivileged need political and economic power, not empty words," Rahul said in a tweet after pitching for castebased census in his election rallies in poll bound Karnataka.

"Take these three steps: Make the 2011 census figures public, tell how many OBCs are there in the country and remove the 50 percent cap on reservations. Give reservation to Dalits, tribals according to



their population," he said. Supporting the Congress' demand for an up-to-date caste census in the country, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar said it would be beneficial for all sections of society

Besides the Congress and the JD(U), the RJD, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have also been vociferously

demanding caste-based census.

The SP had promised a caste census in Uttar Pradesh in its 2022 election manifesto. Party chief Akhilesh Yadav recently said that it will be an important issue for the 2024 parliamentary elections and is getting support from regional

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday joined the Opposition parties' call for a nationwide caste census and alleged that the BJP-led Central

At a Press conference Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar said if the Government is really concerned about the OBCs, why is it "reluctant" to issue the data pertaining to caste and social and economic status. He also echoed the demand to carry out a caste and social-economic census in to ascertain the number of people and their economic and social status that will help formulate its policies

Kharge in his letter noted that for the first time, the UPA Government conducted a Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) during 2011-12 covering some 25 crore households. For a number of reasons however, the caste data could not get published even though the Congress and other MPs demanded its release after your Government came to power in May 2014," Kharge said.
"In the absence of an

updated caste census, I am afraid a reliable database so very essential for meaningful social justice and empowerment programmes, particularly for OBCs, is incomplete. This Census is the responsibility of the Union Government. We demand that it be done immediately and that a comprehensive Caste Census be made its integral part," Kharge said.

See Edit:

Against the grain

WPI inflation 29-month low in Mar



PNS NEW DELHI

n the 10th straight month decline, the wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) eased to a 29-month low of 1.34 per cent in March on easing prices of manufactured products and fuel items, even though food articles turned expensive. The WPI was 3.85 per cent in February and 14.63 per cent in March 2022.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in March 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, minerals, rubber & plastic products, crude petroleum & natural gas and paper and paper products," the Commerce and Industry

Ministry said on Monday. Detailed report on P10

Shot 4 jawans to avenge sodomy: Bathinda killer

Accused soldier earlier claimed to be lone witness to shooting

MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

A fellow soldier — the "lone witness" gunner Desai Mohan — turned out to be the killer of the four soldiers killed at Bathinda military station on Wednesday. Following "sustained interrogation" till late on Sunday, Mohan confessed to the fratricide and also stealing the INSAS rifle used for killing his colleagues due to "personal animosity

The motive behind the killing, as per preliminary investigations, is said to be personal and that of "revenge". The police maintained that the statement of the accused indicated sexual harassment and and sodomisation by the four deceased jawans.

After his confession, Mohan was arrested, and is currently in police custody, even as the police are ascertaining further details. The police stated that further questioning will be done after taking him on remand. Accused Mohan from the Artillery Unit, where the incident occurred, is from Andhra Pradesh.

Notably, on April 12, four Indian Army personnel — 25year-old Sagar Banne, 24-year old Kamalesh R, 24-year-old Yogeshkumar J, and 25-yearold Santosh M Nagaral — were shot dead in the Aisa's largest military station at Bathinda while they were asleep in the

and eight bullets of LMG and wee hours. An INSAS rifle, believed to be the same that used it in crime. Sharing the chain of events was reported missing on April 9, along with 19 bullet casings, on the basis of investigations, SSP Khurana said, "After comwas recovered from the spot.

As per the statement of mitting the crime, Mohan had Mohan, who claimed himself to thrown the rifle and seven be the "only witness" to the bullets in a sewer pit inside the incident, the investigators inicantonment." tially suspected that two men Col Anmesh Sharan said have been involved in killing that after the incident, a "physthe four Army jawans. However, Mohan — following ical search of the entire forest area was carried out, and also "sustained interrogation"

through the drone. Also, an intensified search operation was conducted on the statement of the eyewitness. But after searching and scanning of the CCTV footage, we came to the conclusion that the eyewitleading. Then we started probing confessed to his crime.

him...The police was also called in and the entire matter Confirming the development in the morning, Bathinda unfolded". An official statement by the Senior Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Gulneet Singh Khurana Indian Army's South Western said that the witness in the case, Command also made it clear Mohan, is the killer and has that there was "no terror angle been arrested by the Bathinda to the killings as speculated earlier in some media reports". A senior police official, talking with *The Pioneer*, said

The statement stated that on April 9, Mohan allegedly stole the weapon along with a filled magazine. "He then hid the weapon. On 12 April, while on sentry duty, he recovered the weapon from its hiding place, moved to the first floor, and killed all four personnel while they were asleep.

Mohan later allegedly threw the weapon into the

SC to hear maintainability of same-sex marriage pleas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Ationed the maintainability of petitions seeking validation of same sex marriage, the Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear the issue on Tuesday. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who mentioned the plea to decide a preliminary

issue.
"Yes, it will be listed tomorrow," the bench also comprising justices P S Narasimha and JB Pardiwala said.

Terming the petitions seeking legal validation of same-sex marriage as one which reflect an "urban elitist" view for the purpose of social acceptance, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that recognition of marriage is essentially a legislative function which the courts should refrain from deciding.

Questioning the maintainability of the petitions, the Centre has said that legal validation for same-sex marriages will cause complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws and accepted societal

voice of all rural, semi-rural and urban population, views of religious denominations keeping in mind personal laws as well as and customs governing the field of marriage together with its inevitable cascading effects on several other statutes," the Centre said.

The affidavit stated that marriage is a socio-legal institution which can be created, recognised, conferred with



legal sanctity and regulated only by the competent legislature by way of an Act under Article 246 of the Constitution of India. The child rights body NCPCR also filed affidavit

objecting the legalization. "It is submitted that therefore, it is the humble request of the applicant the issues raised in the present petition be left to the wisdom of the elected representatives of the people who

"The competent legisla- cally viable and legitimate course through which any alone shall be the democratiture will have to take into source through which any and/or the creation/recognition of the any new social institution can take place," the Centre

The hearing and the con-

Government is running away from it due to the RSS' "mind-

set" against backwards and

Chandrasekhar on Monday

targeted the Congress over the

remarks of its leaders on the

quota issue. He accused the

Congress and the JD(S) of

joining hands by promising to

Government order of scrapping

the four per cent quota for

Muslims to deny benefits given

to Vokkaligas, Lingayats as

once again place on record the

demand of the Congress for an

up-to-date Caste Census. My colleagues and I have raised

this demand earlier in both

Houses of Parliament on a

number of occasions as have

leaders of many other

Opposition parties," the Congress chief said in his let-

"I am writing to you to

Karnataka

Union Minister Rajeev

dalit communities.

reverse the

well as SCs and STs.

sequential outcome will have significant ramifications for the country where common eople and political parties hold divergent views on the subject.

The apex court on November 25 last year had sought the Centre's response to separate pleas moved by two gay couples seeking enforce-ment of their right to marry and a direction to the authorities concerned to register their marriages under the Special Marriage Act.

Some of the petitions have also sought directions from the Supreme Court that LGBTQI couples should get the same rights as heterosexual married couples, which would include rights to inherit each other's property, and that their rights be recognised as a "spouse' under tax, banking and other laws, the right to adopt children or have children by surrogacy

SIT to probe Atiq murder; In U-turn, Nitish killers shifted to new jail

A Special Investigation Team investigate the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atio Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, both in handcuffs, on Saturday night when they were answering reporters' queries while being escorted by police per-sonnel to a medical college in Prayagraj for a checkup.

Meanwhile, the three assailants who shot the two brothers were shifted from the Prayagraj Central Prison to a Pratapgarh jail on Monday.

The shifting of the shooters to the Pratapgarh District Jail was done on administrative grounds, officials said.

The three assailants -Mohit, alias Sunny (23) of Hamirpur, Lavlesh Ťiwari (22) of Banda and Arun Maurya (18) of Kasganj — were taken from Prayagraj at 12 noon and reached Pratapgarh at 2.10 pm, the officials said.

The trio were arrested soon after the dramatic shootout outside the Prayagraj hospital where policemen were escorting Atiq and his brother Ashraf. Sources said the police may submit an application in the court in a day or two seeking



Police personnel deployed outside the Kasari Masari office of gangster-turnedpolitician Atiq Ahmed as a security measure after the imposition of Section 144, following the gangster's murder along with his brother Khalid Azim outside a hospital, in Prayagrai, on Monday

remand of the three assailants. On Sunday, the attackers were sent to 14-day judicial custody by the court.

Meanwhile, Prayagraj Central Prison officials refuted reports in a section of media regarding the health of Ali, Atiq's son who is currently lodged there, and said these reports are "not true" and he is 'completely healthy" According to the reports, Ali has been unwell since hearing the news of his father's killing.

Special Director General of

Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said the SIT was formed on the instructions Prayagraj Commissioner Ramit Sharma.

According to the statement, the SIT will be headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, Satish Chandra, while its other two members are Assistant Commissioner of Police (Kotwali police station) Satyendra Prasad Tiwari, and Inspector, Investigation Cell of Crime Branch, Om Prakash.

to now compensate hooch victims' kin

 $B^{\text{ihar Chief Minister Nitish}}_{\text{Kumar on Monday made a}}$ U-turn on paying compensation to the victims of hooch tragedies, and announced conditional payment of an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of those who died after drinking spurious liquor in Motihari in East Champaran. The death toll in the hooch tragedy rose to 26 on Monday, with four more people losing their lives.

that the guard, who was the

was "our prime suspect from

the beginning as his state-

addressed the media along

with Bathinda Military Station

officer Col Anmesh Sharan,

said that gunner Mohan had stolen INSAS rifle, magazine,

The Bathinda SSP, who

ments were not convincing".

"lone witness of the incident",

"We have decided to provide ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. But, the amount will only be given if their family members say in writing to the district magistrate concerned that the death took place after consuming illicit liquor. They will have to disclose the source from where the alcohol was procured, too," Nitish told reporters. This is a reversal of his ear-

lier stand that the family members of those who died after drinking hooch would be paid no compensation by his gov-



said, "Jo piyega woh marega" (those who drink spurious alcohol will die), drawing flak from Opposition parties and various other quarters.

However, Nitish changed his stance this time saying, "I am deeply pained at what hap-pened in Motihari... I know that the majority of people who die in such incidents belong to the economically weaker sections... Despite our best attempts, hooch incidents are taking place in the state and people are dying after consuming spurious liquor."

The compensation amount will be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Kumar

CAPSULE

AAREY FOREST: SC LETS **METRO REMOVE 177 TREES** New Delhi: A Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices on Monday allowed Mumbai Aarey forest saying a stay on tree felling would lead to the

DÉLHI, POSITIVITY 32.3% New Delhi: Delhi on Monday logged 1,017 Covid-19 cases. while the positivity rate jumped to 32.25 per cent, the highest in 15 months, according to data shared by the city government's

PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala Metro to remove 177 trees from public project being brought to a standstill which is not desirable 1,017 COVID-19 CASES IN

health department. Delhi had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14 last year

TMC MLA Saha held in job scam; Didi cries foul **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA Anubrata Mondal was picked hatched to put a number of

 $T^{\text{he Central Bureau of}}_{\text{Investigation investigating}} \\ \text{the school-level recruitment}$ scam on Monday netted yet another big fish: Jiban Krishna Saha, a

Trinamool Congress MLA on charges of selling thousands of school jobs to undeserving candidates for

crores of rupees. Meanwhile, condemning the arrest, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said a "game plan" is being man district president

MLAs behind bars in order to frighten the others and then purchase others to topple the TMC Government. The MLA, who is

being questioned since April, was arrested after 65 hours of intense grilling at his village residence at Baroan which is also the Assembly constituency he rep-

Baroan is in Murshidabad

district bordering Birbhum from where the TMC strong-

up by the agency a few months ago on charges of cow smuggling.
Mondal, often considered

a blue-eyed boy of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is presently in Tihar Jail. Subsequent to Saha's arrest

he was produced at a special court in Kolkata where he was remanded in four-day CBI custody. The officials told the court that Saha was in close touch with at least 5-6 other MLAs who too had been involved in teachers' recruitment scam.

JCOs' recruitment at 176 places PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has transformed the procedure for recruitment of Agniveers, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and other categories with the introduction of a computer-based online EntranceCommon Examination (CEE) as the first step. The online CEE for eligible registered candidates has commenced at 375 examina-

locations on Monday and will continue till April 26 April. Giving this information here, Army officials said the online exam is being conduct-

tion centres in 176 pan-India



Education Consultancy Services India Limited, a Mini Ratna company under the

Common online test for Agniveers,

Ministry of Education. The technological threshold of the youth in the nation has improved significantly and with enhanced network connectivity and the proliferation of smart phone, the youth is now empowered to undertake

an online exam instead of trav-

for physical exams. The changed methodology will ensure an increased focus

eling long distances to appear

on the cognitive aspect during selection and prevent chances of malpractice. It will have wider outreach across the country and also reduce the large crowds seen during recruitment rallies to make them more manageable and easier to conduct. The new recruitment procedure will be carried out in

three stages. In stage one, all candidates who have registered and applied online on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in will undergo online CEE.

In stage two, the shortlisted candidates will be called for recruitment rallies from June 2023 onwards in phases at locations decided by respective Army recruitment office where they will undergo physical fitness test and physical measurement test. Finally, the selected candidates will undergo medical test. The final merit list of the successful candidates will be declared. The modified recruitment

system will make the recruitment process more streamlined, transparent and is designed to optimally exploit the latest IT infrastructure available in the nation.

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | APRIL 18, 2023

Graft poses serious threat to society: SC

Apex court sets aside pre-arrest bail of IRS officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

orruption poses a serious Cthreat to society and must be dealt with an iron hand as it not only leads to abysmal loss to the public exchequer but also tramples upon good governance, the Supreme Court said on Monday while setting aside the anticipatory bail granted by the Gujarat High Court to an IRS officer in a corruption case. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and JK Maheshwari set aside the pre-arrest bail granted to Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Santosh Karnani on an appeal by the CBI.

The nature and gravity of the alleged offence should have been kept in mind by the High Court. Corruption poses a serious threat to our society and must be dealt with iron hands. It not only leads to abysmal loss to the public exchequer but also tramples

It said the common man stands deprived of the benefits under social welfare schemes and is the worst hit.

"It is aptly said corruption is a tree whose branches are of an unmeasurable length, they spread everywhere, and the dew that drops from thence hath infected some chairs and stools of authority. Hence the need is to be extra conscious," the court said. It clarified that it has expressed only prima facie opinion on the merit of the allegations for the limited purpose to refuse or grant pre-

"If Respondent No. 1 (Karnani) moves an application for grant of regular bail before an appropriate Court, the same shall be considered on its own merits and in accordance with law, uninfluenced by the observations made hereinabove," it said. Allowing the CBI's appeal,

good governance," the apex it said the impugned judgment and order of the Gujarat High Court dated December

> of Karnani is dismissed. Acting on the FIR, the local police had laid the trap the same day and recovered the bribe amount of ₹30 lakh.

19, 2022 is set aside and the

anticipatory bail application

The investigation was later handed over to the CBI which re-registered the same FIR on October 12, 2022.

permitted the company to remove 177 trees from Aarey The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavforest, saying a stay on tree felling would lead to the public project being brought to a standstill which is not desirable.

SC slaps ₹10L fine on Mumbai Metro, but

allows felling of 177 trees in Aarey forest

'We are constrained to observe that MMRCL has made an attempt to overreach this court... It was improper on part of MMRCL to move tree authority to fell any trees in excess of 84. Instead, the correct course of action would have been to move this court. It would be necessary for us to penalise MMRCL for its conduct. "MMRCL within a period of two weeks should provide an amount of 10 lakh to the conservator of forests. The conservator shall ensure that all afforestation which has been directed is completed," the

bench said. "We request the director of Bombay to depute a team for the purpose of verifying compliance. A report should be submitted to this court in three weeks," it added.

The apex court had in 2019 taken suo motu cognisance of a letter petition addressed to the Chief Justice of India by law student Rishav

felling of trees in the colony.

On November 29 last year, the apex court had permitted Mumbai Metro to raise with the relevant authority its plea for felling 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Mumbai Metro, submitted that there is lacuna but there was no attempt to overreach this court.

"It is a lacuna but it was bonafide. The intention was not to overreach," Mehta said. The apex court took strong

exception to the fact that superintendent of gardens and trees office had granted permission to cut 177 trees in violation of the top court's order. 'How can you move for

felling any more trees in excess

of 84 trees? You're in contempt of our order. You cannot take this court for a ride. You cannot overreach the court. Officer of MMRCL should also be sent to jail," Chandrachud observed. Senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, said a complete fraud had been

played on the court.

Former IT assistant commissioner held for ₹30 lakh bribery

 $T^{\text{he Central Bureau of}}_{\text{Investigation (CBI) has}}$ arrested the then Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in an ongoing investigation of a case related to bribery of Rs 30 lakh.

The CBI had registered the case on October 12, 2022 against the Additional Commissioner, Income Tax, Ahmedabad on the request of Gujarat government and further notification from the Centre related to bribery of ₹30

"It was alleged that then Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax (Vivek Johri) had facilitated the escape of said Additional Commissioner (Santosh Karnani) from his office by helping, creating a ruckus during trap proceedings on 04.10.2022 laid by ACB of Gujarat State," the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that then Additional Commissioner



I), Ahmedabad before escaping from the detection of the State ACB had handed over two mobile handsets to said Assistant Commissioner.

It was also alleged that the then Assistant Commissioner disposed of the two mobile handsets by way of throwing the same in Sabarmati River on the directions of the accused Additional Commissioner of

Income Tax. The CBI has recovered both the mobiles (including one phone of Real Me make) from the Sabarmati River with the help of divers and other agencies using diving equipment and Remotely Operated Vehicle equipped with SONAR technology

ED seizes ₹1.13 cr properties in Kerala gold smuggling case

PNS NEW DELHI

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has seized seven immovable properties valued at ₹1.13 crore and gold worth ₹27.65 lakh after its recent searches in connection with the alleged smuggling of gold into Kerala through a diplomatic

baggage.

The agency said four premises in Kerala and Tamil Nadu were searched on April 13 and these belonged to Nandu alias Nandagopal, the proprietor of KGN Bullion, Samju TM and his father-inlaw Shamsudheen.

Seven immovable properties worth ₹1.13 crore and gold worth ₹27.65 lakh were found and seized during these searches, it said.

"The statement of Samju TM was recorded wherein he admitted that he had procured 4,500 grams of smuggled gold from Mohammed Shafi (smug-

THE PIONEER ()

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shilpi Gupta D/o Sh. Kailash

Chandra Gupta W/o Sh.

Gautam Agarwal R/o 11-B,

Court Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-

110054 Also at Apartment

No.102, Pavillion Court,

Tower-2, Jaypee Wish Town,

Sector-128, Noida-201304

have changed the name of my

minor son from Uday Agarwal

to Uday Gupta Agarwal for all

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rules 20 of the Code of

Civil Procedure)

IN THE COURT OF : Sh. Ajay

Singh Shekhawat, ADJ-04. Tis

ASLAM

MOHD. ASAD KHAN 8

Hazari Court, Delhi

MOHD.

ANR.

AHMED ROAD. 3256, 2rd FLOOR DARYAGANJ, NEW DELHI-

110002

WHEREAS

determined ex-parte.

MARCH, 2023

MOHD. ASAD KHAN MOHD. RAIS KHAN

R/O H.NO- 2947, SIR SAYED

ntentionally evading service of

summons it is hereby notified that if

you shall not defend the case on

25.04.2023 the day fixed for the final

disposal it will be heard and

seat of the court, this 23rd day of

SEAL) Addl. District & Sessions

Given under my hand and the

Room No. 264

CS NO. 38/20

PD(011)A

purposes.



sold through the shop of his father-in-law to end customers," the agency said.

The ED, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Customs department are conducting separate investigations into the racket that was busted with the seizure of 30.24 kg gold worth about ₹15 crore from the diplomatic baggage of the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram airport on July 5, 2020.

The ED had arrested the prime accused in this case Swapna Suresh and Sarith P S former employees at the UAE consulate in Kerala — and Sandeep Nair, apart from M Sivasankar, an IAS officer and former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi

mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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EMAIL-jagdish.singh@kotak.com

Public Notice

My clients Mr. Chiman Lal S/o Late Sh. Mula Ram & Smt. Sushma Rani W/o Chiman La

both R/o 11/132 Geeta Colony, East Delb

Delhi-110031 have debarred their so: Umesh Batra and his wife Shruti Batra fron their all movable immovable properties du to their misconduct, misbehaviour. They ar

living separately and have no concern with

Any person dealing with them, then they wil be self- responsible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Sanjeev Arora S/o Oshri Rajindra Kumar Arora R/o House No.F-29, F-Block, Om Vihar Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, am the purchaser/owner and in physical possession of Property bearing Plot No.18, Block -2, I/2/18, measuring 13,-55q, Mirs., in situated at Chhoti Subzi Mandi, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, which is allotted by DDA vide File No.F25(40)76/IMPL and has applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said plot in D.D.A., vide application No. In29112CL/12.03, 2023. The original Perpetual Lease Deed, C-Form, D-Form, Completion Certificate, Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Water and Electricity, Possession Slip, Bank Challan, etc., and other documents of said plot has been lost. An F.I.R. dated 14.04, 2023 bearing R No. 343732/2023, to this effect has been lodged at Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No. 9312602061 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, bojections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL), A Block 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

28,02,2020.

ents since just after their marriage o

Bharti Gupta

1) TATAMOTORS LPT909FBP

PUBLIC NOTICE into life term. This is to inform public in general The bench said, at present, that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below

Godhra train burning: SC rejects death-convicts' plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ily on Mumbai Metro for try-

ing to overreach its earlier order that permitted felling of

only 84 trees in Aarey forest for

a car shed project and directed it to pay ₹10 lakh as penal-

Justice D Y Chandrachud and

Justices P S Narasimha and J B

Pardiwala said it was improp-

er on Mumbai Metro Rail

(MMRCL) part to move the

tree authority for felling of

The top court, however,

any trees in excess of 84.

Corporation

A bench comprising Chief

Limited's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on }}_{\text{Monday dismissed the bail}}$ pleas of the convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case who were awarded the death penalty by the trial court but it vas commuted to life sentence by the Gujarat High Court.

While 11 convicts were sentenced to death, 20 others were sent to life imprisonment by the trial court. The HC had upheld 31 convictions in the case while commuting the death penalties and some of them have moved the top court seeking bail till the disposal of their appeals against their conviction and sentence.

On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed when the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express was burnt at Guiarat's Godhra, triggering riots in the

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said that there was a need to create a distinction for efficiently dealing with the batch of bail pleas of convicts, government against the commutation of the death penalty

it is dismissing the bail applications of those who were granted the death penalty by the trial court before the commutation of their sentence. The bench has now kept the remaining bail applications of convicts for disposal on April

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat government, said, "We will be seriously pressing for the award of the death penalty to the convicts whose death penalties were commuted into life imprisonment (by the Gujarat High Court). This is a rarest of rare case where 59 people, including women and children, were burnt alive."

"It is consistent everywhere that the bogie (coach) was locked from the outside. This is not a simple case of stone pelting. Fifty-nine died, including ladies and children," he added.

On March 24, the top court had said it will dispose of the bail applications of the convicts on the next date of hearing of

On February 20, the state government had told the top death penalty for 11 convicts whose sentences in the 2002 Godhra train burning case were commuted to life imprisonment by the Gujarat High

Heatwave scorches southern Bengal. no respite till April 21, warning issued

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The heatwave conditions in 1 the southern West Bengal districts will continue for the next four days, the weather office warned on Monday.

Bankura recorded the highest temperature in the state at 43.7 degrees Celsius, while Kolkata's maximum was 40 degrees Celsius, it said. The weather office warned

that heatwave conditions will

continue to prevail in Gangetic

West Bengal for the next four Stating that mainly dry westerly wind is prevailing over the region, it said that meteorological conditions suggest no large change in maxi-

Heatwave conditions were recorded in Bankura (43.7), Sriniketan (43.2), Panagarh (43), Dum Dum (41.6 degrees Celsius), Uluberia (40), Diamond Harbour (39), Contai (40.6) and Krishnanagar (41), among other places. Amid the heatwave, the

mum temperatures till April 21.

ground-level ozone reached Bidhannagar in North 24 Parganas district, a West Bengal Pollution Control Board official said. At Rabindra Bharati University in north Kolkata, the AQI was 151 (unhealthy).

Antibiotics can have adverse impact on your health: Study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 \mathbf{I}^{f} you thought that antibiotics are beneficial in treating bacterial infections, think again. They can also destroy the beneficial microorganisms that are found in the gut, which can have long-term health effects, according to a study. The unique study by Dr

Lisa Maier and Dr Camille V. Goemans from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany and colleagues, which analysed the effects of 144 different antibiotics on the abundance of the most common gut bacteria, offers novel insights into reducing the adverse effects of antibiotic treatment on the gut microbiome.

The trillions of microorganisms in the human gut profoundly impact health by aiding digestion, providing nutrients and metabolites, and working with the immune system to fend off harmful bacteria and viruses.

However, it has been found that antibiotics can damage resulting in an imbalance that can lead to recurrent gastrointestinal problems caused by Clostridioides difficile infections as well as long-term health problems such as obesity, allergies, asthma and other immunological or inflammatory diseases.

To find out more, researchers systematically analysed the growth and survival of 27 different bacterial species commonly found in the gut following treatment with 144 different antibiotics. They also assessed the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) the minimal concentration of an antibiotic required to stop bacteria from growing - for over 800 of these antibiotic-

The results revealed that the majority of gut bacteria had slightly higher MICs than disease-causing bacteria, suggesting that at commonly used antibiotic concentrations, most

of the tested gut bacteria would not be affected.

Antibiotic

However, two widely used antibiotic classes - tetracyclines and macrolides - not only stopped healthy bacteria growing at much lower concentrations than those required to stop the growth of diseasecausing bacteria, but they also killed more than half of the gut bacterial species they tested, potentially altering the gut microbiome composition for a

As drugs interact differspecies, the researchers investigated whether a second drug could be used to protect the gut microbes. They combined the antibiotics erythromycin (a macrolide) and doxycycline (a tetracycline) with a set of 1,197 pharmaceuticals to identify suitable drugs that would protect two abundant gut bacterial species (Bacteriodes vulgatus and Bacteriodes uniformis) from the antibiotics.

"This Herculean undertaking by an international team of scientists has identified a novel approach that combines antibiotics with a protective antidote to help keep the gut microbiome healthy and reduce the harmful side effects of antibiotics without compromising their efficiency," says Dr Ulrike Lober, of the Max-Delbruck-Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin, Germany who is presenting the research at ECCMID.

"Despite our promising

'Large-scale molecular testing sought for TB elimination till 2025'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

s Tuberculosis (TB) elim-As Tuberculosis (12, 22) ination 2025 target rapidly approaches, India should leverage the opportunities created during the Covid-19 pandemic when it performed 300 million molecular testing per year for virus infection and transit from smear microscopy-based testing to molecular TB testing on a large scale to help fight the deadly infectious disease, top TB experts Soumya Swaminathan and Madhukar Pai have said.

Their suggestions come with an observation that despite TB being a much bigger public health threat and a key priority for the Government, only about 3 million molecular diagnostic tests

are done for the infectious disease. "In contrast, cumulatively India tested over whooping 855 million samples for Covid-19 in the last three years."

Globally as in India too, diagnosis of TB and drugresistant TB remains a challenge with a third of people with TB and two-thirds of people with drug-resistant TB not being detected. The use of rapid molecular assays as the initial test to diagnose TB is recommended by the global health body instead of sputum smear microscopy as they have high diagnostic accuracy and will lead to major improvements in the early detection of TB and drug-resistant TB. Bacteriologically confirmed diagnosis of people with TB needs to be ramped up by



expanding access to rapid molecular tests.

TB affects over 26.4 lakh Indians each year. An estimated 4.45 lakh Indians lose the battle to the disease that is both preventable and curable, Pai, a scientist with McGill International TB Centre, McGill University, Montreal, Canada and Swaminathan from MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

observed as they favoured roping in of the private provider engagement. They had their reasons.

"More than 70 per cent of Indians seek primary care in the private health sector which is witnessing a large number of laboratories with molecular platforms even as many of them have already collaborated with the National TB Elimination Programme via the Initiative for Promoting Affordable and Quality TB Tests (IPAQT)."

"While the IPAQT initiative has reduced the cost of CB-NAAT for patients in the private sector, further cost reductions are possible, via import duty waivers for TB tests (as was done for HIV tests), as well as judicial use of price caps to

ensure affordability, as was the case with COVID molecular tests ?

India continues to have the highest TB burden amongst all countries, accounting for nearly a third of the incident TB cases and deaths globally. According to the WHO, the percentage of people diagnosed with TB who were tested with a WRD (WHO recommended molecular Diagnostic)as the initial diagnostic test is less than 25 per cent in India. This means India is too reliant on smear microscopy.

In the private health sector in India, chest X-rays are often used, and microbiological testing is underused, even when people present to private providers with classic symptoms of pulmonary TB.

findings, further research is needed to identify optimum and personalised combinations of antidote drugs and to exclude any potential longterm effects on the gut micro-

PM to launch Buddhist summit in Delhi on April 20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Eminent Buddhist monks, scholars and delegates from various parts of the world including Japan, South Korea, Thailand will congregate at a first-of its kind two-day Global Buddhist Summit here which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

April 20.

Talking to reporters here, Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Monday that "eminent Buddhist monks, scholars, ambassadors and diplomats from various foreign countries will take part in the It will be hosted by the

Union Ministry of Culture

along with the International

Buddhist Confederation Reddy said India is the

'birthplace of Buddhism" and "the land of the Buddha" Therefore, it is our responsibility to showcase our Buddhist history and heritage to the wider world and the conference is in line with that vision of the country and the current government led by PM Modi?

The minister said delegates from nearly 30 countries including Cambodia, Vietnam and Russia, among others, will attend the event.

As the Indian Buddhist heritage has been of great interest to the followers of Buddhism all over the world, the Government hopes to leverage these factors to showcase India as 'The Land of

Buddha' by holding such summits. Under its Buddhist Tourist Circuit, Buddhist sites, namely, Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Viashali, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kaushambi, Sankisa, and Kapilavastu have been devel-

These sites currently receive approximately 6% of nationwide foreign tourist

arrivals with Sarnath and Bodh Gaya leading the pack. IBC Director-General

Abhijit Halder added that the theme of the Conference is Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis'. Asked if any delegate from China will attend the event, Halder said "an invitation was sent but no specific response has been received".

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CM trains guns at Centre

Says being targeted for providing welfare schemes; Session passes resolution attacking Modi, BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aday after he was questioned by the CBI in the excise policy case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday accused the Centre of targeting him and his government for providing several welfare schemes, including free electricity and good health facilities, to the people of the

Speaking at the one-day session of the Assembly, Kejriwal again questioned the education qualification of the prime minister without naming him. The one day Session passed a resolution attacking the Prime Minister and the BJP which was passed by voice vote. The resolution was moved by party's chief whip Dilip Pandey. The 70-member Delhi Assembly has 62 AAP MLAs and eight from the BJP.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP have long tried to contain the fast rise and expansion of the Aam Aadmi Party and growing popularity of its national convener Kejriwal," the resolution stated. The resolution that was passed by the Delhi Assembly also invoked a quote of French poet Victor Hugo --- "No force on earth can stop an idea whose time has come". The resolution also stated: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi with all his might and agencies will never be able to stop this idea." 'This House observes that peo-



Arvind Kejriwal and becoming a part of this silent revolution to Make India No 1," it added.

Narrating a tale in the Assembly, Kejriwal also said, "today, I want to tell a story in the house... title of the story is "Chauthi (class 4) pass raja". You people must have heard a lot of stories about Raja-Rani. Meri kahani mai rani nahi hai bas raja hai... (There's only king in my story, not the queen)." This Raja (King) is uneducated, studied upto class 4 and very egoistic, he said in The King and his friend together bought airports, electricity-oil, mines and caused inflation to wreak havoc in the whole country," he said Kejriwal concluded the

Kejriwal concluded the story by saying that once this new king took over, since he was educated the problems of the people started to decrease. Inflation was curbed by the new king and soon the kingdom began to prosper at twice the pace as earlier.

"The moral of our story

"The moral of our story today is that if the decisions taken by the king go on to hurt its citizens, then the citizens should first ensure that their king is well-educated. If the kingdom is suffering due to high inflation and high unemployment, then perhaps it is because of the policies of the king. Also, if the king has friends to whom he gives away the resources of the kingdom, then the people need to take action and throw away such a king," he said.

LG's objection to calling Assembly Session insult to House: Dy Speaker

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's objection to the summoning of Monday's Assembly session is an "insult" to the House and does not behove the constitutional post he holds.

Deputy Speaker of Delhi Assembly Rakhi Birla alleged that attempts were being made to diminish the dignity and power of the House. Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla has referred the matter to the Privileges Committee. She also asked the committee to examine whether the L-G should be summoned in the matter or not. The daylong session of the Assembly began shortly after 11 am, and Deputy Speaker Birla expressed condolences in the House for the loss of lives in recent incidents, including the one in Maharashtra.

AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha then raised the issue of the Delhi Lt Governor's note flag-ging "procedural lapses" in

calling of the current session by the Delhi government. The LG's objection is an "insult" to the House, he alleged.

The Lt Governor can send a message to the House only on aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. If he doesn't have understanding of Constitution, he should have someone to advise him on Constitution, Jha said.

The AAP MLA also slammed the Lt Governor, saying his job was to govern law and order. He alleged that it is in "poor shape" in the city, with drugs being freely available and Lt Governor Saxena on

Sunday had flagged "procedural lapses" in summoning the day-long session of the Delhi Assembly on April 17, drawing a sharp reaction from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who said he would want the LG to study the Constitution again. In a note to the Delhi government, Saxena pointed out that the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly has proposed to call the second part of the fourth session of the seventh Assembly, whereas the Delhi Cabinet has recommended convening a one-day session of the House, officials at the LG office had said.

As per Rules and Act, the Assembly, which was adjourned sine die on March 29, 2023, has to be prorogued before a fresh session can be convened. As a session remains unprorogued, a new session cannot be convened, they said.

BJP seeks CM's resignation over excise policy scam, holds protest

ple across India are joining

 $T^{ ext{he Delhi Police used water}}_{ ext{cannon to disperse the}}$ protesting BJP supporters at the Chandgi Ram Akhada, outside the Delhi Assembly demanding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation over the alleged excise policy scam.

The party workers present outside the Delhi Assembly premise chanted slogans against the AAP supremo and some even tried to breach the barricade placed by security personnel.

They were holding the protest during the daylong session of the Assembly that began shortly after 11am.

Addressing the protesters, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva who led the protest-

ers, said that Kejriwal is the "mastermind" of the "liquor scam" and he will have to go. The protest of the BJP workers led to a massive traffic jam in Civil Lines, Kashmeri Gate

and the ISBT. The police detained some of the protesters, including Sachdeva, as they marched from Chandgi Ram Akhara towards the Delhi Assembly and tried to dismantle the bar-

Sachdeva said that we had asked five questions to the Keiriwal government to which no answer has been received so far because they do not have answers to the questions.

As soon as Kejriwal came out of the CBI office, Kejriwal gave himself a clean chit but he also needs to understand that the investigation has just begun. He said that the session of the assembly is called to discuss the issues and problems related to the public but the last discussion on the issues related to the public was held in the Delhi Assembly on 29 March 2022 and after that 11 meetings have been held but they did not discuss the problems of the public. There was no discussion on the public issues.

Shelly, Iqbal file papers for April 26 Mayor polls liness and development works

his speech ... This King had a

huge lust for money, was very corrupted." "This is a story

about a great country which

thousands of years old. And in

that country, a baby was born

into a very poor family... when

he was born, an astrologer

told him, "Maayi, tera beta

bada ho kar bahut bada sam-

rat banega..."("Your son will

become a great king one day").

people, the King ordered for

demonetisation; corruption

and terrorism did not end, but

"At the behest of some

Delhi Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi and Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal on Monday filed their nomina-tions for the April 26 Mayoral elections for a possible second consecutive term, with the AAP confident its candidates are poised for a win. Oberoi and Iqbal filed their nomination papers in the presence of AAP MP Sanjay Singh, Delhi Education Minister Atishi and Leader of the House of the MCD, Mukesh Goyal. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), elects a new mayor after the end of every

Earlier, the AAP has decided to stick with incumbent Oberoi and Iqbal as their mayoral and deputy mayoral candidates, respectively, for a second term . "We will repeat Shelly Oberoi and Aaley Mohammad Iqbal as candi-



dates for mayor and deputy mayor posts respectively. AAP had emerged victorious despite mayoral polls earlier. Our candidates will win the polls this time too," AAP leader Sanjay Singh said in a press conference earlier in the day.

Singh also accused the opposition BJP of attempting to disrupt the mayoral polls earlier. Despite that, the AAP emerged victorious, he added. Atishi expressed her confidence that both elections would be won with a vast majority in favour of AAP. "Our Mayor-Deputy Mayor do not sit in AC rooms but work on the ground," she added, while saying, "They go everywhere, from the garbage mountains to different wards, schools, and hospitals. This has brought agility to the system. This has brought agility to the system. Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal himself is personally monitoring the clean-

of the mountains of garbage." She also affirmed that the Delhi Government and MCD would continue to work together under AAP.

oberoi thanked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for giving her the opportunity. "The people of entire Delhi have given us a huge majority. In such a situation, the people of Delhi have a lot of expectations from us. "I will try to work with honesty and hard work to realise this dream," she

She added that the AAP will do its best to live up to the expectations of the people of Delhi in the coming times. "We will work closely with the Delhi government with full honesty and hard work in the coming term. I thank Shri Sanjay Singh ji and Ms. Atishi ji, for their guidance & presence at the time of my nomination."

A senior municipal official

from the secretariat said that the prospective candidates can file nomination papers with the municipal secretary till April 18. "The nominees will have the freedom to withdraw their candidature till the beginning of the house meeting when the final call will be made," the official explained.

The post of the mayor sees five single-year terms on a rotation basis, with the first year being reserved for women, the second for the open category, the third for the reserved category, and the remaining two again for the open catego-

The December 4 civic polls last year were the first after the three corporations were unified into the MCD and a fresh delimitation exercise was carried out, reducing the total number of wards from 272 in 2012 to 250. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had emerged victorious in the polls

4 kids among 9 hurt as 2 buildings cave in after cylinder blast in Nangloi

Aing four children, were injured when two buildings collapsed following a cylinder blast in West Delhi's Nangloi area on Monday. According to Delhi Fire Services, two houses D-1/100 and D-1/100A at Kunwar Singh Nagar, Street Number-10 in Nangloi collapsed. They said it was informed about the collapse around 5.15 am.

Delhi Fire Services vehicles, two PCR vans, five ambulances, a Delhi Disaster Management Authority vehicle and a minibus of the Disaster Management Service also reached the spot, a senior police officer said.

The injured have been identified as Ajay Kumar (50), his son Mannu (16), Vikas (35), Parmod (35), Tushar alias Kushal (5), Poonam (35), Simar alias Darshna (32),

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Bhumi (six months) and

were injured in the collapse of D-1/100, an old double-storey building. Two people were hurt in the collapse of the singlestorey D-1/100A. The injured were rescued

from the debris with the help

of local residents and fire services staff members and admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Mangolpuri, said police. Among the injured were five males, including a five-

year-old boy, and four females, including two children aged five years and six months, the police said. Six of the injured are out

of danger. Two people have been shifted to a higher centre and a girl is in the intensive care unit, Singh said Crime and Forensic Science Laboratory teams were also

LG warns CM of legal action for power subsidy canards

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

elhi Lieutenant Governor Monday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal warning him of legal action regarding his allegations of an alleged bid to stop the AAP government's flagship power subsidy scheme in the city. Saxena asked the Chief

Minister to furnish documents, substantiating his allegations, that establishes that the Raj Niwas wants power subsidy to be stopped or is conspiring with officers or a political party to stop power subsidy, as is being openly alleged by your Ministers and colleagues in the party. He further termed them as

"unsubstantiated and false."

"It is expected that the information sought above will be furnished to me at the earliest, failing which it would be assumed that you and your colleagues are deliberately mis-



leading the people of Delhi and playing petty political games, which deserve unequivocal condemnation and legal redressal," Saxena said in his letter to Kejriwal.

"For the past few weeks, the Minister (Power), Minister (Health) and you yourself have been making blatantly false, misleading, accusatory, libelous and defamatory statements in the media and elsewhere to the effect that the 'subsidy given in the power sector is being stopped by the Lt Governor/that the Lt Governor is conspiring with the officers to stop power subsidy'," reads the letter. " On 13. 03.2023m Delhi

that LG, Chief Secretary and Power Secretary are conspiring to disrupt the free electricity supply being provided to the people of Delhi.

În a press release on March 24, 2023, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that LG is determined to stop electricity subsidy, we are also fighting strongly, will not let subsidy stop.

In another press statement, Atishi said that LG-BJP nexus conspiring to Stop power subsidy for farmers & advocates. Ón March 30, Atishi further said that LG and BJP pressurising the officials of the power department to stop subsidy.

On April 4, Kejriwal said Delhi to continue getting free electricity, CM Kejriwal thwarted BJP & LG's conspir-

DU's 17-point advisory to colleges to avoid 'untoward incidents'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University has asked its colleges to allow only 'pre-registered' students at and also instructed them to hire door frame metallic detectors from police to monitor the entry at such programmes.

The varsity has issued a 17point advisory to colleges and departments for holding programmes, events and fests in which it has been enunciated that the responsibility for events will lie with the college, and department authorities and the college concerned will be solely responsible for any "untoward incident".

The university has also asked the colleges to hold an Advance Security Liasoning meeting with all stakeholders, namely fire, police, electricity and security personnel, college representatives, and event management companies.

Notably, the direction comes after students of the varsity's Indraprastha College for

cases on August 18 last year.

January 16 for the first time

since the outbreak of the pan-

demic. However, the city has

witnessed a spurt in cases over

bulletin on Monday said 325 of

The health department

the last fortnight.

The number of COVID-19 cases had dropped to zero on



Women (IPCW) alleged that they were harassed by "unknown" men during a fest on March 28. The incident had led to widespread protests by students who demanded the resignation of the college principal.

"Responsibility for events shall lie with the college/department authorities. They should act judiciously using due diligence while organising programmes/events/fests. There should be a careful assessment of the capacity of the venue about attendees expected," read the advisory issued by the Delhi University (DU).

"Entry for events should be through pre-registration like on Google Forms with details of the event, that is, date, venue, and the expected number of participants, should be maintained and submitted to the above-mentioned departments," it added.

The registration forms should include scanned copies of college ID-cards of the participants, the advisory stated.

Information on the capacity of the various venues should be mapped and the total number of participants allowed should be by the available space, it said.

The advisory has been prepared after a host of meetings with several university and college officials and the Delhi

The guidelines were prepared in the wake of several allwomen colleges witnessing harassment incidents during cultural festivals. The DU advisory also suggested that there should be multiple gates in the college and all gates must have working CCTVs.

Heatwave persists Capital logs 1,017 Covid in city for 2nd day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heatwave conditions per-sisted for the second consecutive day in parts of Delhi on Monday, with some weather stations recording the maximum temperature at least five degrees Celsius above normal.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that cloudy weather and light rain may provide some relief from the heat on Wednesday.

Delhi's primary weather station, the Safdarjung Observatory, registered a maximum temperature of 40.6 degrees Celsius, four notches higher than normal.

This is the third consecutive day that the maximum temperature settled above 40 degrees Celsius here. The Ridge, Pusa, Najafgarh, and Pitampura areas experienced heat wave



peratures ranging from 41.7 degrees to 42.4 degrees Celsius. The threshold for a heat-

wave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas, and at least 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees

The IMD said a western disturbance active over the western Himalayan region is predicted to bring light rain in the northwestern plains starting Delhi's Air Quality Index

(AQI) was recorded in the "moderate" (198) category around 9 am, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed

Earlier this month, the MeT office predicted above-normal maximum temperatures for most parts of the country from April to June, except parts of the northwest and the peninsular

cases, positivity 32.25%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Monday logged 1,017 COVID-19 cases, while the positivity rate jumped to 32.25 per cent, the highest in 15 months, according to data shared by the city govern-

ment's health department.

The capital 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 20,24,244. Four fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 26,567, the health department bulletin cause of death in two cases, it stated.

According to the bulletin, the fresh cases emerged out of 3,153 tests conducted the pre-

stated. Of the latest fatalities, COVID-19 was the primary Thursday.

Delhi on Sunday logged



1,634 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 29.68 per cent and three deaths.

recorded 1,396 cases with a positivity rate of 31.9 per cent. Delhi reported 1,527 cases

currently stands at 4,976, it with a positivity rate of 27.77 per cent and two deaths on 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 positiv-

ity rate stood at 23.8 per cent.

7,954 beds in Delhi's dedicated COVID-19 hospitals are occupied, while 3,643 patients On Saturday, the city had are in home isolation. The number of active cases

11 to ascertain their preparedness to tackle COVID-19.

cases in the city

Mock drills were conducted at Delhi hospitals on April

could be driving the surge in

Medical experts have said Omicron sub-variant XBB.1.16

DoE issues notice to RDE over denial of admissions to EWS/DG students by schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

rhe Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) on Monday issued a notice to the Regional Director of Education (RDE) over the alleged denying of admissions to a group of allotted weaker section/disadvantaged group (EWS/DG) category students by some private schools.

"It has been brought to the

notice of higher authorities of DoE that some private unaided recognised schools where EWS/DG/CWSN category candidates allotments were made for the entry-level classes are denying admission and status of such allotted candidates have not been found updated Management Information Systems (MIS)

module," the circular said.

The DoE has directed the RDEs to call a meeting of

heads of schools and principals

with respective district DDEs

for ensuring admission of the

allotted students and direct

the schools to update the sta-

tus on the MIS module by April

The DoE has further asked

the RDEs to provide a status report to the Private School Branch by April 21.

Ex-K'taka CM, BJP leader Shettar joins Cong ahead of elections

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Senior BJP leader and for-mer Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar on Monday joined the Congress ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections in the State. He joined the party in the presence of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, General Secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala (Karnataka in-charge), KPCC president D K Shivakumar and Legislature Party leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, among others.

Shettar on Sunday had resigned as the Hubli-Dharwad (Central) MLA after the BJP denied him the ticket to contest the Assembly polls. The 67year old six-time MLA, Shettar was asked by the BJP top brass to make way for others, but he on his part had asserted he wanted to contest one last



Karnataka, may adversely impact the BJP's prospects in a number of segments in the region, according to political

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said said the exit of Jagadish Shettar from the BJP would have no adverse impact on the party's prospects in the forthcoming Assembly elections, and he was surprised by his decision to join the

Bommai dismissed Shettar's charge that he was not given respect in the BJP and Shettar, a prominent there was a conspiracy behind

the move to drop him. Shettar was treated with a lot of respect and the party had given him positions.

In his growth in the last 25 years, the BJP played a main role", the Chief Minister said. Congress took a swipe at the BJP over Shettar crossing over to it ahead claiming the ruling party is "falling like a house of cards". Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said, "A massive shift in Karnataka politics! Former CM and a widely respected leader across the state, Jagadish Shettar, has joined the Congress party today."

After joining the Congress, Shettar alleged that he had been humiliated by the BJP by denying him a ticket and that party is today in the control of "very few people." "I was force-fully thrown out of the party that I built...I'm joining the Congress by accepting its ideology and principles," he told

On his arrival in Bengaluru from Hubballi on Sunday night, Shettar had held discussions with Congress leaders Shivakumar, Surjewala, Siddaramaiah, former minister and campaign committee chief M B Patil and veteran party leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa (Shettar's relative).

Shettar, a veteran BJP leader whose family has been associated with the party since Jana Sangh days, is an influential leader from its bastion of Kittur Karnataka region. While in the BJP he had served as a Minister, Speaker, Leader of the Opposition and the chief min-

BJP to deploy BSY to offset Shettar's loss NEW DELHI a feverish pitch with party being denied ticket to contest party's central leadership has

With barely twenty-two days to go for the Karnataka Assembly elections and faced with the exit of the Lingayat leader and former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar from the party, the BJP has sought to counter him by another community strongman BS Yediyurappa and lined-up public rallies for the Prime Minister Narandra Modi, to Minister Narendra Modi to galvanize support for the party in the evenly-poised triangular

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday asserted that the BJP has giving space to new faces and those leaving the party would have no adverse impact on the party's prospects in the coming polls. As the April 20 is the last date for the nomination, the campaign in the state for 224 assembly seats has reached to

already planned a series of public rallies for Prime Minister, the schedule for which would be released this week. All the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled state including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, are to cam-

paign for the party.

Modi is likely to be in Udupi on May 4 to take part in a conference of BJP workers ahead of May 10 elections, party sources said. A huge function will be arranged on the Prime Minister's arrival to

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is also expected to ccompany Modi, sources said. Meanwhile, the BJP has

sought to work-out damage control by countering Shettar's desertion from the party.

Shettar, a six time MLA and former Chief Minister, parted ways with the BJP after

Hubli-Dharwad (Central), which he represented in the outgoing Assembly and joined the congress.

The 67-year-old said he, along with others built the BJP with a slogan that 'party is important not the person', but the party today in Karnataka is in the "control" of a very few

He further said he won't criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national President J P Nadda. 'Probably they are not aware of developments here," said

Former Chief Minister and the Lingayat face of the BJP Yediyurappa lashed-out at Shettar for leaving the party and joining the Congress say ing "People will not pardon him for doing this."

Yediyurappa said the

ily member for the ticket, and also offered him to make a Rajya Sabha member and a

Union Minister, he said. "Why are you going to Congress? Did we say that we are not giving you power?", Yediyurappa asked. "What injustice have we done to him? He has already decided to go to

Congress. Let him go," he said. dismissed Bommai Shettar's charge that he was not given respect in the BJP and there was a conspiracy behind the move to drop him.

Shettar was treated with a lot of respect and the party had given him positions. "In his growth in the last 25 years, the BJP played a main role", the Chief Minister said.

His departure has paved the way for emergence of new leadership in the region, the Chief Minister said.

Indus Waters Treaty: India holds meet to study modifications



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India on Monday held a meeting here of the steering committee to take stock of the ongoing modification process of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). On January 25, India issued a notice to Pakistan seeking a review and modification of the 62-year-old treaty following Islamabad's "intransigence" in handling

The Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)said on Monday the committee meeting was chaired by the Secretary, in the

among other senior officials of the two ministries. 'The meeting took stock of the ongoing modification process of the Indus Waters Treaty," the MEA said. "Matters related to the ongoing Neutral Expert proceedings pertaining to the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects were also discussed," it said. The MEA also said it was the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee on matters related to the Indus Waters Treaty.

Resources, the Ministry of Jal

Shakti and was attended by

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra

NIA attaches Pune school's 2 floors used as PFI terror camp

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached two floors of a school building building in Pune, Maharashtra, where the Pune, banned terror group Popular Front of India (PFI) had been organising camps to radicalise and indoctrinate Muslim youth and further train them for carrying out targeted killings and attacks against leaders and organisations of a particular commu-"The fourth and fifth

floors of the Blue Bell School Building were used by PFI to plan and prepare for carrying out terrorist activities with the aim of endangering the unity, integrity and security of India. PFI was recruiting innocent Muslim youth into the outfit at these premises, and also providing them with armed and unarmed training to eliminate/attack those opposed to the establishment of Islamic Rule in the country by 2047," the NIA said in a statement

The two floors have been



attached by NIA as 'proceeds of terrorism' under the provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in a case registered by the agency on April 13, 2022.

The agency had filed a charge-sheet on March 18 this year before the NIA Special Court here against 20 accused, including the PFI, as an organisation.

NIA had conducted a search of the two floors of the school premises on September 22 last year. The agency had seized incriminating documents, which revealed that the said property was used by the accused, found to be associated with the PFI, for organising Arms Training for its cadres,

the agency said.
"The training camps served as platforms to incite innocent Muslim youth against the Government, as well as leaders and organisations of a particular community. The camps were also used to inflame their passions and provoke them into embracing violent jihad, with the aim of committing terrorist activities," it said.

The newly recruited PFI cadres were trained in the use of dangerous weapons, like knife and sickle among others for attacking and murdering prominent leaders opposed to the outfit's ideology of establishing an Islamic Rule in

Hospitalised Covid patients more prone to infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

People admitted to hospital for the treatment of Covid-19 are likely to have a higher incidence of healthcare associated infections, according to a study, emphasizing that "patients with Covid-19 may require additional protective care to prevent the infections."

The study, published online in JAMA Network Open, showed that the occurrence of central line-associated bloodstream infection, catheter-associated urinary tract infection, and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia was between 2.7 and 3.7-fold higher in the Covid-19 population.

Kenneth E. Sands, along with other authors from the HCA Healthcare in Tennessee, US said that they reached this conclusion after conducting a cross-sectional analysis of more than 5 million hospitalisations between 2020 and 2022.

The results showed that the incidence of central line-associated bloodstream infection



among the Covid-19 population than the non-Covid-19 population (25.4 versus 6.9 per 100,000 patient-days). Similar trends were seen

for catheter-associated urinary

tract infection (16.5 versus 6.1) and for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia (11.2 versus 3.7). However, the study found that occurrence of these infec-

tions among patients hospitalised without Covid-19 did not increase significantly. "Despite the strain on the

healthcare system, the increase in healthcare-associated infections was not observed in the non-Covid-19 population, suggesting that key safety processes were maintained," the team

Jaishankar, Russian Dy PM review

British CDS, Indian counterpart review bilateral ties PNS NEW DELHI

India and the UK on Monday reviewed the entire spec-trum of their bilateral defence and strategic ties during visit-ing Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Admiral Sir Tony Radakin talks with his Indian counterpart General Chauhan. The British CDS also called on Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. During talks between the two CDS, discussions focussed on augmenting strong bilateral defence cooperation as well as collaboration under Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the Indian government, officials said.

The visit of CDS also coincides with the visit of the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Royal Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston. The visit of two of the seniormost officers of the UK's armed forces exemplifies the importance with which the UK holds its defence and security partnership with India, the British High Ĉommission here said.

Later this month, the Indian Army will take part in Exercise Ajeya Warrior in UK alongside the British Army

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, JHARKHAND, RANCHI Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008

Request for Proposal-Notice

Very Short Tender for Request for Proposal for Development and Maintenance of Online Application Process of PDMC (Per Drog More Crop) Scheme Under RKVY Cafeteria (Rashtriya Krishi Name of Work Vikas Yojana) for 2023 -24 to 2027-28 Time of completion 9 weeks INR 10000 (Rupees Ten thousand only) Only demand draft to be made in favour of Director Agriculture Document Fee Jharkhand payable at Ranchi.
Note: DD should only be made from any nationalized bank Date of publication of RFP on 17.04.2023 from 05:00 pm. website 17.04.2023 from 05:00 pm. RFP downloading start date 19.04.2023 at 04:00 pm at Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi Date & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting 834008. Last date and time for online 25.04.2023 upto 03:00 pm submission of RFP Last date of submission of hard 25.04.2023 upto 03:00 pm copy of RFP document cost 26.04.2023 at 04:00 pm Date and place of technical bid Directorate of Agriculture opening of the RFP 1st Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008 Chandan Kumar, I.A.S. Name and Address of the tender Director Agriculture, Jharkhand, Ranchi 9835345613/9431159401 0651-2233549 inviting Authority 11 Contact no. of procurement officer 12 Helpline no. of procurement cell

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in $\operatorname{\mathsf{Sd}}\nolimits/$

PR 295329 Agriculture(23-24)#D

Group No.

Director Agriculture, Iharkhand, Ranchi.

BOQ

Completion

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा। सहिजना मोड़, गढ़वा (झारखण्ड) पिन नं० 822114 Email:- eedwsd.garhwal@gmail.com

ई० प्रोक्योरमेन्ट अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

Short E-Tender Notice Reference No.- DWSD/SVS/CLUSTER/GAR-20/2022-23 Dated-15/04/2023 Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand Name of the Department Date & time of Publication of Tender on 18/04/2023 12:30 P.M 19/04/2023 12:30 P.M 25/04/2023 05:00 P.M. Date & time of Pre-bid Meeting Last date/Time for receipt of Bid Last date/Time for receipt of EMD Cost & 26.04.2023 10:30 AM to 05:00 P.M. (i) Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division BOQ Cost (in Hard copy) (ii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Circle, Medininagar (iii) Regional Chief Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitatior Dept. Ranchi Zone, Ranchi 27/04/2023 05:00 P.M. Date & time of Opening Tender
Name & Address of Office inviting tender Executive Engineer, DW&S Division, Garhwa Name & Address of Tender Opening officer Executive Engineer, DW&S Division, Garhwa. Contact No. Of Procurement officer Help No. Of e-Procurement Cell

FHTO (in Rs.) (in Rs.) SVS/CLUSTER 59 1290 | 5,07,82,000.00 | 5,08,000.00 | 10,000.00 09 Months SVS/CLUSTER 18 2880 9,39,39,000.00 9,40,000.00 10,000.00 3 93 Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may vary.

No. of

Panchayat | Village | Scheme

Detailed Survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 4170 Nos FHTC in different block of Garhwa District comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, Distribution Line, Source (as required) & 5

years Operation and Maintenance all complete job "On Turnkey basis" under D.W.&S.Division, Garhwa

Estimated cost

(in Rs)

 Further details can be seen on website-http://jharkhandternders.gov.in **Executive Engineer**

Indian Embassy in Sudan issues fresh advisory, asks citizens to stay indoors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With violence raging in Sudanese capital capital Khartoum, the Indian Embassy in Sudan issued a fresh advisory on Monday urging Indians not to venture out of their residences and stay calm. It had issued an advisory on Saturday last and said an Indian national hailing from Kerala died in Khartoum after sustaining bullet injuries. Nearly 4,000 Indians are living in Sudan.

The Union government has said all help will be provided to the family of the deceased Indian national Albert Augestine, 48. Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said the family of Albert Augestine, who

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Having assumed the presidency of the G-20 group

of countries in December last

year, India celebrated a key

milestone in its presidency on

Monday with the hosting of the

100th meeting of the grouping.

ment, the ministry of external

affairs (MEA) said here on

Monday, the 100 G-20 meet-

ings were held in 41 cities, cov-

ering 28 States and Union

the build-up to the New Delhi

leaders' summit on September

9 and 10 has received immense

support from G-20 members

and guest countries for its

inclusive, ambitious, action-

oriented and decisive agenda,"

"India's G-20 presidency, in

Territories of India.

Highlighting this achieve-

NEW DELHI

hailed from Kannur district in Kerala, will be provided all necessary help and that steps are on to bring his body back to the country. The minister also spoke to the victim's father, a government statement said on Šunday.

"Based on the latest inputs the fighting has not subsided on day two. We sincerely request all fellow Indians to continue stay where they are and not venture outside," the Indian mission said on Monday in its second advisory after violence broke out in Khartoum.

Grieving the death of the Indian national, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said the situation in Khartoum remains one of "great concern" and that India will continue to monitor the | resources and technology can developments in that country. | make a powerful contribution

India celebrates milestone of

the MEA said.

100th G20 meet under its aegis

"The wide ranging, large-

scale and enthusiastic partici-

pation in India's G-20 meetings

is a testimony to the G20 mem-

bers and invitees coming

together under India's presi-

dency to collectively address

contemporary global chal-

lenges," it said in a statement.

sent around 85 per cent of the

global GDP, over 75 per cent of

the global trade, and about

two-thirds of the world's pop-

The G-20 members repre-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

🕇 ndia and Russia on Monday There reviewed their timetested defence and strategic ties during talks between Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov and Indian political leadership including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor(NSA)Ajit Doval.

Noting that the India-Russia relationship is among the "steadiest" of major global relations, Jaishankar batted for addressing the issue of trade imbalance while enhancing bilateral economic coop-

Addressing an event attended by the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Jaishankar said Russia's

ulation.

The Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists

(MACS) in Varanasi is the

100th meeting of the grouping under India's presidency that

began on December 1 last year.

The second Health Working Group in Goa, the 2nd Digital Economy Working

Group in Hyderabad and the

Space Economy Leaders'

Precursor Meeting in Shillong

are also being held on Monday,

according to the MEA.



to India's growth as Moscow is looking more towards Asia and stressed that there is scope to expand the bilateral engagement in diverse areas.

At the same time, Jaishankar referred to "understandable concern" about the "trade imbalance" in the economic engagement between India and Russia, noting that it needs to be addressed on an urgent basis.

And addressing the imbal-

ance means addressing the impediments, whether they are market access, non-tariff barriers, issues related to pay-

ments or logistics, he said. Trade ties between India and Russia are on an upswing notwithstanding the increasing disquiet from Western powers over New Delhi's continuing economic engagement with Moscow even after the Russian military action in

SC asks police to respond to Karat's plea challenging HC's refusal to order FIR against Thakur, Verma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

he Supreme Court on ▲ Monday asked the Delhi Police to respond to the plea of CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat challenging Delhi High Court and trial court's refusal to order registration of an FIR against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP MP Pravesh Verma for their alleged hate speeches over

anti-CAA protests.

A Bench of Justices KM
Joseph and BV Nagarathna issued the notice and sought response within three weeks from Delhi Police.

During the hearing, the Bench observed prima facie the Magistrate's stand that

lodging FIRs against the two BJP leaders was not correct. On June 13 last year, the Delhi High Court had dismissed the petition filed by CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat and KM Tiwari against the two BJP MPs for their alleged hate speeches. The High Court had refused to interfere with the

trial court's order, saying under the law sanction is required to be obtained from the competent authority for registration of FIR in the present facts. The petitioners said that Thakur and Verma had sought to "incite people as a result of which three incidents of firing took place at two different protest sites in Delhi".

Shah conspiring to topple Bengal Govt, says Mamata

¬wo days after Home Minister Amit Shah presaged Trinamool Congress Government's downfall in Bengal well ahead of completing its full term in 2026, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday demanded his resignation accusing him of con-spiring to bring down her Government.

Shah had told in a BJP rally at Birbhum that the saffron party would win 35-out-of-42 parliamentary seats from the State and that after losing in the Lok Sabha elections the TMC Government would not last its

Wondering as to how a Home Minister could propose toppling of a democratically elected government Banerjee said "Can he say this as the Union Home Minister who has taken the oath to protect the IndianConstitution? This clearly means that as the Home Minister of the country he is using his clout and conspiring to bring down an elected State Government. It is clear that he



is conspiring to bring down our Government and so we are demanding his resignation as the Union HomeMinister."

Apparently linking the two

issues of Centre sending teams to Bengal to inspect the proper implementation of central projects and the death of several CAPF personnel in 2019 Pulwama attack, Banerjee said, "did a single central investigation team went to Pulwama after that incident," adding how New Delhi was regularly sending central teams to Bengal to inspect the proper implementation of schemes. "They are sending central inspection teams in Bengal as a part of a strategy to stop the funds required for developmental projects," she said.

There was a plan being

is absolutely no truth in the

reports. Please note that I have

not called a meeting of either party MLAs or party office

bearers," Ajitdada said in one of

the three tweets he put out on

Monday, I was at the MGM

Hospital at Kharghar in Navi

Mumbai where I had gone to

meet the family members of

tion," the NCP leader said.

The speculation involving

Though he spoke to the

the four-time deputy chief

minister had arisen after Ajit da

had all of a sudden become

inaccessible for a day last week.

media the following day, there

were speculative reports in the

"Till the early hours of

JOB-SCAM CASE —

Abhishek gets CBI summons, calls it 'contempt of SC'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The CBI hand-delivered a I summons to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee for questioning in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam case on Monday, few hours after the Supreme Court stayed a High Court order for his interrogation. Terming the action of the agency "contempt of court", Banerjee tweeted, "SC stayed the Calcutta HC's order in the morning that granted permission to the central agencies to summon me. Yet, the 'SUM-MON' was HAND-DELIV-ERED today at 1:45 pm. Grave State of affairs!"

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) official said the notice was prepared on Sunday and delivered on Monday. He said the concerned branch was "not aware" of the court order. Earlier on



Monday, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala stayed the direction of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court that TMC leaders Banerjee and Kuntal Ghosh, an accused in the case, can be questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI and such "interrogation should granted at around 11:15 am.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the TMC leaders, had sought an urgent hearing on the plea challenging the High Court order in the

Called no meeting, says Ajit on media 'switching-side' theory

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Amid intense speculation about the possibility of a near-repeat of the "political earthquake" of November 2019 which saw him team up with BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and form an eighty-hour-long government in Maharashtra, senior NCP leader and current leader of the Opposition Ajit Pawar on said on Monday that he had not called a legislators' party meeting on Tuesday as was being reported in a section of the media.

Scotching speculation in a section of media that he and "15 to 20" NCP MLAs switch sides and join hands with the ruling BJP, Ajitdada – as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles - asserted that he had not called either a meeting of party MLAs or office bearers on Tuesday as was was being speculated in the

"There have been reports in a section of the media that party MLAs on Tuesday. There ical moves.

Maha Bhushan awardee expresses grief over 11 sunstroke deaths

hatched to trap and frame

some TMC legislators in false

charges and purchase the oth-

ers, Banerjee said adding the

people were watching the game

ago told a massive rally at

Birbhum one of BJP's strong-

holds in South Bengal that the

Home Minister had said that

Bengal had become a "hub of

corruption, appeasement,

bomb blasts, infiltration, cow

smuggling" and if the people

wanted to end this misrule then

"Didi's government has to be

Minister or his nephew and

party's number twoAbhishek

Banerjee, he said that "the only

way to free Bengal of the cor-

rupt and tyrannical rule of the

Bua-Bhatija (aunt and nephew)

duothen the BJP must get 35

(out of 42) MP seats from

Bengal ... then only the rule of

terror will end here," Shah said

insisting "once the BJPgets 35

seats from Bengal then the

TMC government will not have

to continue beyond 2025. It will

crumble well before 2025."

Not naming the Chief

Shah had a couple of days

plan very closely.

brought down."

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

day after 11 of his disciples Adied of heatstroke and dehydration after they attended a function organised by the Maharashtra Government at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai to honour him, reformer and Maharashtra Bhushan awardee Narayan Dharmadhikari on Tuesday expressed pain over the tragedy.

those who died to heatwave Describing all those who conditions while attending the died of heatstroke and dehydra-Maharashtra Bhashan function in the mishap that took place at the State Government's Today, I have no sched-Maharashtra Bhushan Award uled programme. I am in Mumbai. On Tuesday (April 18) I will be at my office at 2022' function as his family, he said: "What has happened at Kharghar yesterday was indeed tragic. I appeal to all not to politicise the incident". Vidhan Bhavan, attending my regular work," Ajitdada

In a statement on Monday, Dharmadhikari said: "The 'Shrisadasya' family is spread in India and abroad... Several people lost their lives owing to heatstroke after the award function. This is painful for me since this calamity has befallen my family members. I am also feeling their the loss he experienced for the 'Shrisadasyas' was too deep for him to express in words, but he prayed for the departed souls and solace to their families to bear the

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5. Rule 20 of the Code of

Civil Procedure)

IN THE COURT OF MS.

KIRANDEEP KAUR, CIVIL

JUDGE - 05, CENTRAL DELHI

Next Date of Hearing 02.05.2023

VS MOHD. IRSHADUL HAQUE

MOHD. IRSHADUL HAQUE

S/O MOHD. ANZARUL HAQUE R/O: 786-B, LANE-07, ZAKIR

NAGAR OKHLA, DELHI- 110025

THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED

WHEREAS you are intentionally

evading service of summons it is

hereby notified that if you shall not

defend the case on the 02.05.2023

the day Fixed for the final disposal, it

will be heard and determined ex-

Given under my hand and the sea

Civil Judge (Central)

of the court, this 10.04.2023.

at 10 am

CS SCJ/2968/2021

Dharna over relocation of rice thief tusker to Parambikulam forest

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

 $M_{
m and\ Nenmara\ panchayats}^{
m embers\ of\ Muthalamada}$ in Palakkd district staged a dawn to dusk sit-in on Monday demanding the Kerala Government not to translocate the wild tusker Ari Komban to Parambikulam forests. After a brief lull of four

days, Ari Komban is back in action as he was seen moving around Chinnakanal settlement in Idukki reserve forests in search of food. This time he was accompanied by his comrades from reserve forests but did not trespass into the residential areas. He was intelligent enough not to fall into the traps of fake ration shops set up by the local residents and forest officials. Ration shops stocked with rice were his weakness and he used to walk away with bags.

A high-power committee appointed by the Kerala High Court had suggested that Ari ed to the deep forests of Parambikulam to save the Chinnakanal residents from his forays. But the regions around Parambikulam rose in unanimity against the move

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of

Civil Procedure)

IN THE COURT OF MS. KIRANDEEP KAUR, CIVIL JUDGE- 05, CENTRAL DELHI

CS SCJ/2969/2021

NDOH: 02.05.2023 at 10 am

NITIN BHADAURIA ... Defendant

NITIN BHADAURIA
S/O: SH.GAJENDRA SINGH
R/O: J-3/249, D.D.A. FLATS
KALKAJI, SOUTH DELHI-110019
ALSO AT: M/S FRANCHISE
INDIA BRANDS LTD. F-89/11,
OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREA
PHASE-1, DELHI-110020
Defendant

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is

hereby notified that if you shall not

defend the case on **02.05.2023** the fixed for the final disposal, it will be

Given under my hand and the sea of the court, this 10.04.2023.

heard and determined ex-parte.

...Plaintiff

...Defendant

ICICI Bank Ltd.

NITIN BHADAURIA



leaders expressed reservation over the move.

Monday's sit-in was mainby the members of the Opposition parties as the CPI-M members made a tacit retreat from the protest following the directives from AKG Centre, the party's Kerala head quarters. "This is not an issue which could be solved by a hartal. The State administration is chalking out a solution taking aspects into consideration," said R Alairaj, vice-president of Muthalamada Panchayath, a leader of the

The Supreme Court on in the issue when the appeal by Kerala Government against the translocation of the elephant came up for consideration.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF MS.

KIRANDEEP KAUR CIVIL JUDGE-05, CENTRAL DELHI CS SCJ/ 1444/22 **NEXT DATE OF HEARING** 02.05.2023 at 10 am J.(Civil)-12

ICICI BANK LTD.

...Plaintiff PRIYA GROVER **PRIYA GROVER**

S/O. SH. KRISHAN GOPAL GROVER, AT: C-13 / 132, GF, ARDEE CITY, SEC-52 GURGAON, HARYANA-122002 ALSO AT: M/S. ORAVEL STAYS PRIVATE LTD., SPAZA PLAZO, SEC-69, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, PHASE-1, DELHI- 110020 THE DEFENDANTABOVE NAMED WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 02.05.2023 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the sea of the court, this 10-04-2023.

Civil Judge (Central) Delhi

Gadkari holds State, UT level meet, reviews road traffic regulation policy

Missionaries take advantage when

Bhagwat on religious conversion

people lose faith in society:

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday chaired a meeting of transport ministers from all States and Union Territories (UTs) to discuss various concurrent policy matters, including review of road traffic regulations, setting up vehicle fitness stations and streamlining the issuance of driving licenses. In a statement, Gadkari

said that with mutual consultation and cooperation with the transport minister of states and UTs, a range of innovative solutions were discussed. Keeping up with technological advancements, the Ministry of

PNS NEW DELHI

is not with them.

 $P_{\text{weaker sections in the soci-}}^{\text{ointing to the neglect of the}}$

ety, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

has said missionaries take advantage of the situations

wherein people feel the society

people. We don't go to them

and ask them. But some mis-

sionary from thousands of

miles away comes and lives

there, eats their food, speaks

their language and then con-

verts them," news agency PTI

quoted Bhagwat as saying.

"We don't see our own

Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has taken several measures with a view to develop future-ready road transport in India, with safety and sustainability being the key driver of all such measures, said the official statement said.

'Road Transport plays a significant role in the development of our country, by ensuring smooth movement of goods & people, efficient functioning of economic activities, cohesion of populations and propelling Country's overall development," a MoRTH official said.

In the meeting technological advancements in traffic and system

He was addressing an event

on Sunday in Madhya Pradesh's

Burhanpur district, where he dedicated to the people the

samadhi of Govindnath Maharaj. Over the course of

100 years, people came to India

to change everything, he said.

here for centuries, but failed to

gain anything as our roots

remained strong thanks to the

efforts of our ancestors,

Bhagwat said. "Efforts are made

to uproot them. So, the society

should understand that. We

have to strengthen the faith," he

They have been working

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE FICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

CIVIL JUDGE-05

(Central), Delhi

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the

Sr. Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number		Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kiran Arora Kapoor/ Surinder Kapoor/ LBGUR00004663386	Property, No C-12/160, Ground And First Floor, Block-C-12, Yamuna Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi- 110053/ April 12, 2023	July 29, 2022/ Rs. 75,51,214/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Babita Kumari/ Updesh Kumar Ray/ LBGUR00004837466	Plot No C-12/337, Ground Floor And First Floor With Roof/ Terrace Rights, Block C 12, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi- 110053/ April 12, 2023	July 29, 2022/ Rs. 75,51,622/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 18, 2023 Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rarch Office: ICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank | Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and

Sr. No.	Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta- nding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rajendra Pratap Singh, Swaita, 2031, Sanskriti Apartment Plot-35 Sec-10, Dwarka Delhi- 110075 A/c No:- LBDEL00005044535	Property No 20, 3rd Floor with Roof Rights, Block A, Naraina Vihar Northen Side Front Portion Delhi- 110028	04-03-2023 Rs. 3,59,09,677/-	06/12 2022
2.	Rajesh Kumar Bhaskar, Akhilesh Bhaskar, 132 Subh Enclave, Pitampura, Opp Kiitword Public School, Delhi- 110034 A/c No:- LBDEL00002037696	Kove Apartment NoLD00150801, At Kove Jaypee Greens Sports City, Sec-25, Gautam Buddha Nagar Greater Noida- 201307	04/03/2023 Rs. 12,55,093/-	09/12 2022
3.	Riba Lamba, Sukhpreet Singh, B4/37 C, 3rd Floor, Ashok Vihar Phase 2, Delhi- 110052 A/c No:- LBDEL00004912948	Property Bearing No125, Entire Second Floor, Without Terrace/ Roof Rights of Free Hold Built Up Property Block & Pocket Al, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi- 110088	04/03/2023 Rs. 24,87,779/-	28/12 2022
4.	Rohit Sabharwal, Anuradha Rohit, S/o Vk Sabharwal, H 802 Park View City Sohna Road Opposite, Vatika Business Center Islampur, 97 South City Gurgaon- 122018 A/c No:- LBGUR00005481152	Unit No 58, Tower-A, Ground Floor, "Spaze Corporate Parkk", Situated at Sector- 69 and 70, Gurgaon- 122001	04/03/2023 Rs. 18,03,511/-	05/12 2022
5.	Sandeep Agarwal, Amrita Agarwal, 42 A-2 Block Anuradha Apartment, Paschim Vihar Delhi- 110063 A/c No:- LBNOD00002025468	Flat No-0608, Tower-C3, 6th Floor, Project name as "UP Country", TS- 1, Sector-17A, Yamuna Expressway, Industrial Development Authority, Noida-201303	04/03/2023 Rs. 30,18,770/-	09/12 2022
6.	Seema, Hashmat Ali, H No 32/486 Block 32, Trilokpuri Chilla East Delhi, Delhi- 110091 A/c No:- LBDEL00004979423	Flat No F/1207, 12th Floor, "Star Rameshwaram" Situated At Raj Nagar Ext. Nh 58 Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad- 201001	04/03/2023 Rs. 21,01,128/-	06/12 2022
7.	No 106 1502, Acharya Vihar Khurda Bhubaneswar Orissa, Bhanjanagar- 750113 A/c No:- LBDEL00001875780	Apartment No- KS2-34-501, in "Kassia" at Jaypee Greens Sports City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida- 201305	04/03/2023 Rs. 22,92,749/-	30/12 2022
8.	Suman Kumari, Sudhir Ranjan, House No C-568 Gali No 12 Majlis Park Azadpur, Delhi- 110033 A/c No:- LBDEL00003605750	Property No 57, Second Floor, Block D, Khasra No. 262/258/217/4 Hakkikat Rai Road, Village Bharola, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi- 110033	04/03/2023 Rs. 46,73,971/-	05/12 2022
9.	Block G, Sangam Vihar, Hamdard Nagar, South Delhi Delhi- 110062 A/c No:- LBFDB00003590308	Flat No-507, Type-D, 5th Floor, Tower 5, "Happy Homes Grand", Village Bhatola, Sector-85, Faridabad- 121001	04/03/2023 Rs. 13,73,329/-	30/12 2022
10.	Suraj Kumar, Rajeev, F 3/108 A, First Floor, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi Delhi- 110062 A/c No:- LBDEL00002305585	Apartment No UDNA010002, Tower-A-01, Udaan Apartment Jaypee Greens Sports City East Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida- 201301	04/03/2023 Rs. 8,18,864/-	06/12 2022
11.	Vikas Kamal, Vandana Kamal, C-516, Princess Park, Plot No-10 Ahinsa-2, Indirampuram Ghaziabad- 201014 A/c No:- LBGUR00001958747	Flat No-501, 5th Floor, Tower G2, "Unihomes PH-II", Situated At Plot No- GHP-0001, Situated at Plot No. GHP- 0001 Sector 117 Noida- 201305	04/03/2023 Rs. 34,24,571/-	09/12 2022
12.	manoriadi ramai dapia, boopan dapia, roid		04/03/2023 Rs. 12,67,052/- 04/03/2023	30/12 2022 07/03
14.	Madhuban Appt Pitam Pura Pitam Pura Delhi- 110034 A/c No:- LBDEL00003159992 Sandeep Kumar, Rahul Lingwal, A 1/170	Noida- 201306 House No. 1713, Sainik Colony,	Rs. 30,80,154/- 08/03/2023	29/08
15.	Third Floor Hastsal Road Uttam Nagar Delhi Delhi- 110059 A/c No:- LBFDB00002250998 Amandeep Malhotra, Rajinder Kaur Malhotra, Charu Rastogi, Pt-62/1 Kalkaji Delhi- 110019 A/c No:- LBDEL00001991940	Sector 49 Faridabad Haryana Faridabad- 121001 Unit No T- 1403, 14th Floor Tower T, Blossoms Greens Situated at Sector 143 Noida- 201305	Rs. 18,27,413/- 04/03/2023 Rs. 13,77,495/-	2022 25/12 2022
16.		Flat No-A1-1102, 11th Floor, Tower A1, Emerald Bay Sector 104 Gurgaon- 122012 Flat No T-2-174,17th Floor, KVD	04/03/2023 Rs. 49,91,352/- 04/03/2023	30/12 2022 06/12
18.	6474 F F Gali No 2 Block No B, Dev Nagar Karol Bagh New Vear Kikarwala Chowk, Delhi- 110005 A/c No:- LBGUR00002439338	Windpark, Situated At Plot No.	Rs. 25,02,940/- 04/03/2023	2022
19.	Em radad, randradina rantan, min or	Solera, Situated at Sector-107 Gurgaon- 122001 Flat No Minor- H/A/ 202, 2nd	Rs. 18,15,801/- 04/03/2023	06/12
20.	Rashtirya Indian Military, College Garhi Cantt Uttarakhand Dehradun-248003 A/c No:- LBGUR00002396268 Gaurav Mangla, Santosh Kumar, Flat No 250 Bharat Apartment Sec-13, Rohini Near	Floor Beethoven 8, Situated at Sector 107 Dwaraka Expressway Gurgaon- 122001 Flat No-250, Sector 13, Bharat Apartment The Bharat CGHS Ltd,	Rs. 30,89,294/- 04/03/2023 Rs.	30/12 2022
21.	Dc Chowk, Delhi- 110085 A/c No:- LBDEL00003704714 Harish Chand, Suraj Singh, H No C-115/2 Rajiv Nagar Libas Pur Samai Pur Delhi-	Plot No-20, Rohini Delhi- 110085 Flat No-14, 4th Floor Pocket-3, Block F13, Sector G-8 Narela	41,17,443/- 04/03/2023 RS	26/12 2022
22.	110042 A/c No:- LBDEL00004556816 Kamal Kishor Soni, Rekha Soni, B-802 Navrattan Apartment Plot No.7A, Sector-23, Dwarka Delhi- 110075 A/c No:- LBDEL00001950919	Delhi- 110040 Flat No-1206,12th Floor Tower- F1, UP Country Situated at TS-1, Sector-17A, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Devlopment Authority	12,68,602/- 04/03/2023 Rs. 19,27,810/-	05/12 2022
23.		Noida- 201303 Flat No D2/D-G, Ground Floor, Techomes, Situated at Plot No. GH-05/B, Sector-137, Expressway Noida- 201301	04/03/2023 Rs. 44,65,752/-	09/12 2022
24.	A/c No:- LBNOD00002114611 Pooja Panwar, Vikram Tiwari, Flat No 59 Pkt A 9, Sec- 18 Sec-15 Rohini Delhi- 110089 A/c No:- LBDEL00004866092		04/03/2023 Rs. 39,87,627/-	06/12 2022
	Rahees Ahmed, Usmaan, H. No-37 Pathkhori Agaon Fd Jhirka Mewat Haryana Gurgaon- 122002 A/c No:- LBDEL00003073846	Flat No 1104, 11th Floor, Block B, Jnc Greenwoods, Plot No No 3/ Gh Spl 1, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad	02/03/2023 Rs. 92,64,850/-	31/01 2018
26.	M2101, Ajnara Integrity, Rajnagar Extension Opp Officer City, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 201017 A/C NO:- LBGHZ00005706417	Flat No- 1805, 18th Floor, Sun- 2, Migsun Ultimo, Plot No. Gh-03, Sector- Omicorn-3, Greater Noida	15/03/2023 Rs. 51,42,444/-	03/11 2022 10/10
	Alok Agarwal, Samita Agarwal, H No 309, Pocket B Sarita Vihar New Delhi Delhi- 110044 A/c No:- LBGUR00002122184 Raj Kumar Bhagat, 87 A Prakash Mohalla, East of Kailash Delhi Delhi- 110065	Flat No- 3161, Tower 3rd, Type-B, Floor 16 Ats Trimph, Sector- 104, Haryana,Gurgaon-122101 Flat No 0005, Tower-B11, Eco Village-1, Plot No 8, Sector-1,	15/03/2023 Rs. 1,67,06,823/- 15/03/2023 Rs.	2022 27/03 2021
29.	A/c No:- LBDEL00002408767 Rajendra Pradhaan, Alpna Pradhan, F-66, Jalvayu Vihar Sector-21, Noida- 201301 A/c No:- LBGUR00001537541	Greater Noida, Noida F-64, Jal Vayu Towers, Sector 21, Noida- 201301	8,09,520/- 15/03/2023 Rs. 53,31,918/-	12/05 2022
30.	Sumit Singhal, Usha Singhal, 22A DDA Mig Flat Motia Khan, Delhi Delhi- 110055 A/c No:- LBDEL00001791059	Plot No-496, Pocket-S, Sector-20, Yamuna Expressway Authority, Greater Noida, Noida-201308 Polt No-759, Urban Estate,	15/03/2023 Rs. 8,41,213/- 15/03/2023	19/09 2022 08/08
32.	15 A Faridabad Faridabad 121001 A/c No:- LBDEL00000715677 Uma Yadav, Rajbir Singh Yadav, Wa 88 3 Rd Floor Plot No 89 Shakarpur Delhi-	Sector- 15 / A, Faridabad Faridabad- 121007 Plot Bearing No. WA-88 Khasra No. 177 Village Shakarpur Khas	Rs. 10,77,084/- 23/03/2023 Rs.	03/11 2022
33.	110092 A/c No:- LBDEL00002962244 Rajen Dutta, Bharat Dutta, J-35, Ground Floor, Jor Bagh Lane, B K Dutt Colony, Nr Lodhi Colony, Delhi- 110003. A/c No:- LBDEL00001551317, LBGUR00001972729	Shahadara Delhi- 110092 Plot No 16 A, Second Floor, Block Q Jangpura Extn., Delhi- 110014	1,30,38,797/- 04/03/2023 Rs.22,61,100/- Rs.3,35,626/-	30/12 2022
34.	Sharad Mohan Chaubey, Mohini, D 1102 Neel Padam I Sec 5, Vaishali, Near Shoprix Mall, Ghaziabad- 201010. A/c No:- LBDEL00002069400, LBDEL00002069401	Unit No D-1102, 10th Floor, Ansal Neel Padm-1, (Tower Club Studia Apartment), on Plot No04, Vaishali Scheme Ghaziabad 201001	04/03/2023 Rs.11,28,381/- Rs.12,77,249/-	09/12 2022
35.		Plot No-1679 P Sec-10-A, Urban Estate, Gurgaon- 122001	04/03/2023 Rs.1,98,01,480/- Rs.41,90,974/-	09/12 2022
36.	Jitendra Kumar Pathak, Seema Pathak, 158, Sector 4C, Vartalok Apartment Vasundhara Ghaziabad- 201012. A/c No:- LBGHZ00001960713, LBDEL00001968676	Flat No- B401, Ground Floor (without roof rights), Type- 3 BHK, Tower- B, Springview Floors, Residential Township Crescent, Part-C, Vill. Shahpur, Bamheta,	15/03/2023 Rs.17,02,338/- Rs.46,540/-	31/10 2022
	Ramesh Gupta, Neeru Gupta, H-3/97 Sector 18 Rohini, Delhi Delhi- 110085. A/c No:- LBDEL00001842438, LBDEL00001636232	Ghaziabad Property No- 97, Block No- H, Pocket- 3 Sector-18 Rohini Delhi Delhi- 110085	15/03/2023 Rs.29,55,184/- Rs.5,63,83,723/-	02/01 2010
38.	Sheetal Bagwar, Sudarshan Bagwar, 15/121 Geeta Colony Top Floor East Delhi Delhi- 110031. A/c No:- LBNOD00004785896, LBNOD00004837692	Flat No 28160, 28th Floor, Tower Marvella, Mahagun Mywoods, Plot No- GH 04, Sector 16C, Greater Noida, Noida	15/03/2023 Rs.26,75,633/- Rs.78,464/-	24/08 2022
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110031. A/c No:- LBNOD00004785896, LBNOD00004837692 Noida, Noida The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication

of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: April 18, 2023

Authorized Officer Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Place : Delhi/ NCR (Gurgaon, Noida, Ghaziabad)



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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Against the grain

The Congress's demand on caste census is fraught with danger—for the country as well as for itself

The Congress seems to be playing a dangerous game—that of caste politics. Addressing an election rally in Karnataka's Kolar, Rahul Gandhi has demanded the release of the results of caste census. "UPA in 2011 did the caste-based census. It has the data of all the castes. Mr Prime Minister, you talk of OBCs. Make that data public. Let the nation know how many OBCs, Dalits and tribals are there in the country," he said, adding that there are only 7 per cent other backward classes (OBCs), Dalits and tribals as secretaries in the Central Government. He is also against any cap on reservations. The Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) was carried out during 2011-12 under the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance regime. Evidently, this is not a one-off remark to impress upon some sections of society in a



constituency or a state; party president Mallikarjun Kharge also made the same demand on the same day. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he wrote that the census data could not be published "even though Congress and other MPs demanded its release after your government came to power in May 2014." In the absence of an updated caste census, social justice and empowerment programmes would be incomplete, he added. While the grand old party's stance on caste census is fraught with danger, its arguments for the release of the data are deeply

For one, the Congress is a national, all-inclusive party that can ill-afford to be sensitive to the inter-

ests of only one section of society. This is the reason that the GOP was never very enthusiastic about the Mandal Commission recommendations, the social justice rhetoric, etc. For almost a decade, the governments under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi let the Mandal report gather dust. Even when former prime minister VP Singh did announce its implementation, Rajiv Gandhi was among the very few mainstream politicians to have slammed the report. He rightly denounced Singh for his obstinacy: "Let us not have one man's obstinacy holding India hostage... Let that man's obstinacy not lead to caste war." Unfortunately, his son seems to be ignoring his wise words; in a bid to appease his allies in Bihar, Rahul is simply echoing the views of the ideological and political progeny of Mandal and Singh. The Congress' demand is flawed because it is predicated upon the erroneous doctrine that welfare measures cannot be implemented without knowing the caste details of demography. This has been repudiated in recent years by the various schemes launched and executed by the Modi Government. Owing to the heavy reliance on technology (and of course the political resolve to directly reach the beneficiary), the Government was able to implement them with remarkable success. This also got reflected in several election results. The GOP would be well-advised to not go against the grain.



Tourists use umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun during their visit to the Taj Mahal, in Agra

India moves away from the dollar



India has taken its first step towards liberating itself from dependence on the US dollar by buying oil from Russia in Indian rupees

continuous rise of the dollar since the First World After World War I, in exchange for supplies, the Allies began paying in gold to the United States, due to which America became the world's largest gold reserve. After the end of the war, various countries linked their currencies with the dollar and with this, the 'Gold Standard' ended in the world and thus the dollar became the world's most preferred currency. All countries started keeping more and more of their foreign exchange reserves in the form of dollars. By 1999, up to 70 per cent of the total foreign exchange reserves of the countries of the world, were kept in dollars.

The European common currency 'Euro', emerged in 1999, and in most European countries, Euro replaced their currencies. This also affected the dollar too; and in place of some European currencies, the euro was now preferred for foreign exchange reserves and by the beginning of the year 2021, the dollar's share in foreign exchange reserves was reduced to only 59 per cent. But this share is further reduced to nearly 55 per cent by the third quarter of the year 2022. Despite reduced attraction towards the US dollar, interestingly, the dollar has still not weakened in value; rather it has been getting stronger and stronger year after year, compared to almost all other currencies in the world, barring a few.

Due to the attraction of countries around the world towards the dollar throughout history, the dollar has become increasingly strong against other currencies of the world, especially the currencies of developing countries. Where in 1964 one dollar was only equal to rupees 4.66 and now it has reached nearly rupees 82. Compared to the currencies of many other countries, it has become even more strong. Perhaps that's why all the countries of the world have been interested in keeping the dollar as a reserve currency and making all their international payments in dollars only. Due to this increasing demand for the dollar, the dollar In such a situation, India has has become stronger year after started buying more and more



INDIA HAS

STARTED BUYING

MORE AND MORE

OIL FROM RUSSIA,

DEFYING THE

SANCTIONS OF

THE WESTERN

WORLD

But for some time, the demand for the dollar as a reserve currency has started declining. Those in the know are calling this trend 'de-dollarization. In the past, the whole world was dollarized, but now de-dollarization is happening around the world. There is a need to understand why the US dollar as the reserve currency of the world is waning even when the US dollar is at its strongest position in history.

One important reason is the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war since February 2022. It is believed that due to the dominance of the US and European countries in the payment system, Russia is barred from withdrawing its own foreign exchange reserves in dollars. That is, the payment system is being weaponised by the US and European countries to weaken Russia economically. Naturally, Russia and its friendly countries are no longer interested in keeping their foreign exchange reserves in dollars under any circum-

Due to the sanctions of the USA and European countries, pressure is also being put on the countries of the world not to buy crude oil from Russia.

sanctions of the Western world. Where the share of Russian oil was only 1 per cent in India's oil imports, it has now increased to 35 per cent. Russia has even said that it is ready to make a settlement of its oil exports in rupees. Not only this but due to the sanctions imposed on Russia, now other countries are barred from using the shipping and insurance services of the US and European countries. In such a situation, India and many other countries have now started using the services of Russian and other non-US and non-European shipping and insurance companies. That is, due to the economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the US and Europe, now western countries are themselves suffering huge losses due to their bullying of economic sanctions. The role of Indian banks is also increasing in

oil from Russia, defying the

international payments. Rupee now allowed for payment by 19 countries While there is a decline in

the dominance of the US dollar at the international level, India has also started making efforts to reduce its dependence on the dollar. Significantly, after the US and European countries used the payment system as a weapon, during the post-RussiaUkraine war, India started moving towards paying in rupees for oil imports from Russia. In July last year, the Reserve Bank of India through a circular allowed international payment settlements for imports and exports to be made in rupees. This is believed to be the first step towards making the Indian rupee an international curren-

Due to the efforts of the Government of India, so far banks of 19 countries including the UK, New Zealand, Germany, Malaysia, Israel, Russia and the United Arab Emirates have been permitted to make settlements in rupees by opening 'Special Vostro Rupee Accounts' (SVRAs). Significantly, there are many countries in this list of 19 countries with which India has significant trade relations. If the payment settlements are now made in rupees, with these countries, then the demand for dollars in the country will definitely go down. This effort of Índia towards de-dollarization in the world may be small, but can surely prove to be a milestone for India, showing the

(Writer is professor, PGDAV college, university of Delhi,

Savour nature's splendour to feel alive



Nature bestows us with its many gifts but we don't take the time to even witness it. Sunset is one such occurance that always rejuvenates

ost of us endeavour find those moments in which we actually 'live' our life and cherish them forever. We subsist in a fast-paced world where it seems that survival depends on breakneck speed. Most of the time, we postpone the savouring of our simplelooking indulgences to tomorrow or next week, with which we rarely catch up. Sunrise and sunset are such occasions, which are nature's most spectacular gifts to humankind. We generally take these moments for granted and rarely take out time to reveal them.

Be on a rooftop, hilltop or balcony of your house at dawn, and watch the horizon. The sky changes its colours with every passing momentfrom grey to hues of pink and slowly to lighter shades of orange. Notice the little things that accompany the sunrisethe chirping of birds, flocks of birds flying in perfect unison and a rooster crowing in a faroff hamlet. The vegetation looks fresh with leaves covered in tiny bright dewdrops, which are slowly dripping, and the petrichor so produced is intoxicatingly engulf-



ing you with nostalgia. The flowers are slowly opening up like an indolent little child lazily stretching and arising from a peaceful, dream-filled slumber. The sunrise lasts for not more than a few moments, but the positive impact remains for the day. You will be more active and efficient in your workplace and with positive vibes all around you.

At sunset, everything goes in reverse order. As the sun approaches the horizon, the 'golden hour' of dusk starts unravelling its magic. The skies slowly turn into bright shades of orange and pink, with every fleeting moment displaying varied hues. The occasional streak of clouds in the western skies flirt with the hues of gold and produce a mother, reminding her chil-

finally disappears behind the horizon, slowly turning firmament into shades of grey and finally into the darkness of the night.

Having witnessed some of the most memorable sunsets sitting atop mountains, away from the crowds, are some of the most memorable moments I have lived. One commonly notices a farmer returning home with his bullock after the day's hard work, eagerly looking forward to the comforts of his abode. Flowers slowly closed down for the night and the green leaves, covered with dust, waited eagerly for the drops of dew. Late into the night, with the dropping mercury, the dewdrops silently appear on the leaves and entangle them in a tight, lover's embrace to freshen up their existence and to give a new life to their being. The ham-lets slowly come alive with smoke lazily emanating out of kitchen chimneys and form-

ing ever-changing figurines,

trying to touch the greying

skies. One can hear the occa-

sional shout of a concerned

spellbinding dance, full of dren to return home from the life and colours. The sun game they are playing. Life game they are playing. Life slowly comes to a standstill as the twilight transitions to darkness. Deep into the night, an opera spiced with nocturnal chorus plays out for the willing audience - the chirp of a lonely cricket; the occasional rustle of snoozing leaves, nudged by teasing breeze: croaking of a frog, seeking a mating partner; muffled coo of a half-asleep bird and the squeak of a hungry rodent.

So, make an endeavour to savour the little wonders of nature - watch the sunrise and sunset and enjoy the quiet of dark nights. Be mindful of every moment you spend being a spectator of the amazing spectacle. In the tough times, facing dejection, try to remind yourself of the moments you spent living those beautiful sunrises and sunsets. The memories will immediately playback, and you will feel the surge of energy, happiness and positivity. Trust me, you will be able to face the challenges with a

(The writer pens down stories of human interest and his travels. He also likes to click portraits)

FAILURE OF UP GOVT

Sir — The incident of the killing of Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf by three men in a shooting that took place amidst a posse of policemen and media persons is really shocking. The incident was a clear failure in the presence of a large number of police personnel as they remained mute spectators. Even the real cause for concern is that the current security and vigilance dispensation does not appear to have any information about the assailants.

This proves beyond any iota of truth that there has been a total failure of the state police, political dispensation and more so intelligence agencies and clearly intelligence analysis has very low priority across the

Modern gadgetry and the portrayal of intelligence agencies are possibly contributory causes for this incident even when Atik had already declared publicly that he will be eliminated in the encounter. From all accounts, it is very clear that crime has reached its peak in UP and the morale of the criminal is very high and the UP government has virtually failed to maintain law and order. To constitute an enquiry committee is altogether an eye-

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

NEED TO MODERNISE COURTS

Sir — Modernise Indian Judicial courts urgently on the lines of Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Courts must act as friendly, happy development managers and constructive joyful solutions givers. In the aforementioned nations, people sit across the table and discuss everything. India cannot just remain obsolete, and archaic ... such: as blame games, mistakes or fault finding, prolonged cases for years giving mental trauma and various losses to individuals and their families for decades.

For this, the fraternity of the judiciary must involve Various fields/domains experts to understand the various problems of the people involved in a case. Also, everything should be considered organisational teamwork. Not find easy scapegoats. We gious ideas are likely to lead to the creation

Entry denied in Golden Temple



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

s per report the woman with the Indian flag painted on her face was denied entry inside the Golden Temple. A video clip of the incident has gone viral on Twitter. In the viral video, a guard can be seen saving "It's Puniab" when confronted by a man accompanying the woman who asks "Is this not India". In this clip, they repeatedly ask the guard if this was not India and he can be seen disagreeing. When the guard was

the holy shrine, he points out the flag painted on the woman's face. The guard can be heard saying in this clip, "This is Punjab, not India". Upon hearing this, the woman entered into the argument and said he is talking rubbish as if the Golden Temple was not in India. The guard then tried to stop the woman and the man accompanying her from capturing this incident on their phone. Businessman Harsh Keshri shared the 40second-long video on Twitter and wrote, "Woman denied entry to Golden Temple because she had an India flag painted on her face! The man who denied her entry into Golden Temple said this is Punjab, not India. Later, the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee General Secretary Gurcharan Singh Grewal apologized for the incident and said that the flag on the woman's face was not a Tricolour.

asked why the woman was not allowed to enter

Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

request CJI to urgently create many (online) virtual courts ... for delivering speedy justice,

Madhu Nivriti PS | Secunderabad

NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Sir — The pre-draft version of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education released recently gives all stakeholders an opportunity to express their views on the shaping of education for the future. Textbooks are designed in accordance with the proposals of the NCF. Changes in teaching-learning and examination systems are also proposed by it. School education should be imparted in such a way that students gain an equal understanding of Indian culture and the

contemporary world. The proposal to include Vedas and Upanishads, Buddhism, Jainism and Vedic and Confucian philosophies and Yoga and Ayurveda in the curriculum is the right move. On the other hand, these ideas must be based on rationality. Cultural and reliof misinformation. The NCF has also proposed a modular board examination instead of a single examination at the end of the year.

Considering that a single board examination puts a great deal of pressure on students, this is a student-friendly idea. Another notable proposal is the semester system for class 12. The NCF has stressed the importance of multidisciplinary education. It gives an opportunity for students

to choose subjects for examination. However, the paradigm shift in school education calls for changes in educational institutions. They need to be restructured in such a way that they are well-equipped to deal with the changes. Another challenge is managing the burden of the course structure. Undue burden on students must be avoided. Let us hope that after the consultative process, a practicable approach will

Venu GS | Kollam

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FIRST COLUMN RBI MUST CONTROL INFLATION

The primary job of RBI is to maintain price stability



S KALYANASUNDARAM

he Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted to leave the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% during its latest bi-monthly meeting on 6th April 2023. Financial media reports that the decision was in line with market expectations, as the central bank aims to balance growth and inflation concerns. Such reporting also shows how the RBI cares more for the borrowers than being responsible for its assigned primary role of maintaining price stability.

RBI's primary role: RBI website proudly declares its preamble as "to regulate the issue of Bank notes and keeping of reserves with a view to securing monetary stability in India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country to its advantage; to have a modern monetary policy framework to meet the challenge of an increasingly complex economy, to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

RBI failed to act in time: As it is accepted the world over, central banks use the interest rate as a weapon to tame inflation and for this timely intervention from the central bank is required. In the past, when the inflation rate was rising, it is on record that the RBI has not acted in time which made the inflation go out of control and there was course correction by RBI subsequently. For the first time since the implementation of the monetary policy framework in 2016, the RBI had to submit a report to the Government on its failure to keep the retail inflation rate below six per cent for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022. The said explanation is not in the public domain but chances are there that RBI could have taken shelter under the Covid situation prevailing at that time

The following will amply demonstrate how the RBI has missed the bus.



During the year 2020, month-wise inflation figures were on the following lines: 7.6, 6.6, 5.8, 7.2, 6.3, 6.2, 6.7, 6.7, 7.3, 7.6, 6.9 and 4.6 percentages. In 2021, month-wise inflation figures were as follows: 4.1, 5.0, 5.5, 4.2, 6.3, 6.3, 5.6, 5.3, 4.3, 4.5, 4.9 and 5.7 percentages. But what RBI was doing during this period? The RBI was going to reduce the Repo rate from 2018 for nearly two years. Only on 4th May 2022, it reversed the trend by increasing the repo rate just by 0.40 per cent.

Now let us see the inflation rate during the last 14 months to know whether the RBI has got a grip on inflation. The inflation rates are as follows from Jan 2022 to Feb 2023:6.00, 6.10, 7.00, 7.80, 7.00, 7.00, 6.70, 7.00, 7.40, 6.80, 5.90, 5.70, 6.70, 6.50 and 6.40 percentages.

RBI has been mandated to maintain an inflation rate of 4 per cent with a plus or minus 2 per cent variation. The cushion of two per cent variation has been provided as sometimes with various sudden inflows and outflows, the RBI may need time to act and bring the inflation within limits. During 2022, for nine months the upper boundary of inflation was breached and even the annual inflation rate was more than the upper boundary level. One fails to understand the logic of RBI's not raising the repo rate to contain inflation. Other factors ignored

Since the last Repo revision bank depositors have started receiving some positive interest after adjusting for inflation as the banks have revised deposit rates upward. The present decision to hold the rates will definitely increase inflation and once again the depositors will be penalized.

OPEC and its allies, including Russia, agreed recently to widen crude oil production cuts to 3.66 million barrels per day (bpd) or 3.7% of global demand. This is going to increase the price of crude oil. Our import bill will go up. There will be pressure on the Rupee against the dollar. The news that the Indian rupee declined against the U.S. dollar after the RBI unexpectedly kept the repo rate unchanged confirms this view. The rupee declined to an intraday low of 82.06 per U.S. dollar versus 81.88 before the RBI policy announcement. All these will contribute to added inflation.

The banking system in India is robust and there is no need to make a pause in repo increase to tame inflation. It is felt that the RBI is giving more importance to growth. It seems that the RBI has not learnt its lesson from its failure to contain inflation in the earlier years.

(The writer is a retired banker)

Don't apologise for PSH subsidy at WTO



Indian rebuttal to the claim of developed countries on food security is logical as India's public stockholding (PSH) has helped food security around the world



ast month, in a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) - it oversees the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) – developed countries including the USA and Canada challenged India's public stockholding (PSH) programme saying "it is highly subsidized, especially for rice, and that this is affecting the food security of other countries". India countered their claim by saying that far from any adverse effect, its PSH program was helping other countries ensure their food security. This is how its argument goes.

In 2021, India distributed 58 million tons of rice to 800 million beneficiaries. It was able to feed such a mammoth number because the government maintained sufficient stock under the PSH program. But, for this, we would have been depending on the rest of the world to meet our requirements. The global exports of rice in that year were only 56 million tons, this would have led to skyrocketing prices of rice thereby affecting the food security of smaller countries. The Least developed countries (LDCs) would have been in grave danger. Thus, ensuring our food security, we have rather ensured the food security of other

Indian rebuttal to the claim of developed countries on food security is logical and convincing. But, what about their other charge that our PSH program is highly subsidized which is what they have been trumpeting for several years now at the WTO and the government hasn't been able to counter it successfully? To understand the reason and how it can go about for better results, let us see how the PSH program works and what is its connection with the

Under the PSH program, government agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produce such as wheat, rice/paddy, and coarse cereals from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and distribute it at a subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg respectively to meet the needs of India's poor and vulnerable population under the National Food Security

The excess of MSP plus handling, stor-



INDIA HAS INVOKED THE 'PEACE CLAUSE' SEVERAL TIMES AT THE WTO FOR **BREACHING THE** 10 PER CENT **CEILING IN CASE** OF SUBSIDY ON RICE BUT **DEVELOPED** COUNTRIES HAVE OBJECTED TO SUCH INVOCATION age and distribution cost over the realisation from the sale (that is, Rs 2/3/1 per kg) is paid as a subsidy from the Union Budget. This includes (a) subsidy to the farmer, being the excess of MSP of, say, rice over its international price also known as External Reference Price (ERP) in WTO parlance and (b) subsidy to the food consumer, being the excess of ERP over the price paid (Rs 3 per

The WTO is concerned with (a) branded as "product-specific" subsidies. It is also concerned with subsidies on agricultural inputs like fer-tilizers, seeds, irrigation, power, etc., referred to as "non-product specific" subsidies. Under the AoA, the total of product and non-productspecific subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) is capped at 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production for a developing country. If a member country gives AMS over 10 per cent, it is a

The AoA came into force in tortion arise? 1995. For India, until 2005, MSP was less than ERP. Thereafter, MSP has been higher than ERP and, in the last decade, this gap widened. During 2018-19, in the case of rice, for instance, AMS was at 11 per cent, exceeding the 10 per cent cap. During 2019-20, it was even higher at 13.7 per cent.

For over a decade or so, India along with other developing countries has been making efforts at WTO to wriggle out of the situation. In the 9th Ministerial Conference (MC) held in Bali (2013), it secured sanction for a "peace clause". It said, "If a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 per cent, no member will challenge this until 2017 when the WTO would look for a permanent solution.

In the General Council (GC) held in December 2014, this sanction was modified to say "The peace clause will stay till a permanent solution was found." However, the peace clause comes with several riders, such as the submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distort-

India has invoked the 'peace clause' several times at the WTO for breaching the 10 per cent ceiling in case of subsidy on rice. But, developed countries have objected to such invocation and insisted on safeguards' and 'transparency' obligations.

Put simply, they want India to put its entire data under the PSH program under scanner at the WTO. We can't ignore it as it is a requirement for availing of the immunity from challenge. The diciest rider is that the member country exceeding the subsidy ceiling (read: India) will have to demonstrate these are not "trade-distort-

When, can a situation of trade dis-

it could arise if the quantities lying with the government agencies which are meant solely for supplying to beneficiaries under the NFSA instead find their way to the international market. The way the PSH scheme operates, this possibility is not ruled out. This is because often the agencies conduct an auction to dispose of excess stock under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) in which private players, traders etc also participate. Having acquired foodgrains from such auctions, the private traders are free to sell it in the manner they like which includes export. An argument on these lines resonates during deliberations in the CoA of the WTO. The developed countries argue that India has created large stocks and is exporting the surplus. India's stance that under OMSS 'all the bidders are compulsorily asked to give an undertaking that they won't export it' may not cut ice. Meanwhile, India is spearhead-

 $\begin{array}{ll} ing\,a\,proposal\,by\,G\text{--}33, the\,African\\ Group,\,\,and\,\,the\,\,ACP\,\,(Africa,\\ \end{array}$ Caribbean, and Pacific) asking WTO for 'total exemption for support to PSH for food security'. Posited as a "permanent solution" as decided in the MC-9 (2013) and GC (December 2014), this coalition of developing countries and LDCs wanted the MC-12 held in Geneva (June 12-17, 2022) to take it up for consideration. But, the issue was not even put on the table.

The G-33 proposal could exose vulnerabilities in the way India runs its PSH program all the more when we consider that currently, the government is running an open-ended procurement scheme, particularly for wheat and rice whereby its agencies buy the highest possible quantities from the farmers at ever-increasing MSP (courtesy, compulsions of vote bank politics). These purchases being unrelated to the requirement under NFSA, surplus stocks and some of it entering the global market is

Instead of seeking blanket exemption which it will never get, India should address the root cause. This has to do with the flaws in the formula for the computation of AMS under the AoA (these were allowed to creep in at the time agreement was signed in 1995). The flaws include (i) taking ERP for the year 1986-88; (ii) not excluding subsidies given to the resource-poor farmers; iii) using the entire output instead of quantity procured for PSH.

These flaws "artificially" inflate the AMS thereby pushing the Indian subsidy beyond the 10 per cent threshold. India should aggressively push for the removal of these flaws. Concomitantly, in our interest, the government should rein in open-ended purchases from the farmers and bring about agri-mar-ket reforms to help them realize a good price for their produce obviating the need for state support.

Rampant negligence at Baramulla government hospital

(The author is a policy

Lack of maintenance and care makes Baramulla government hospital a breeding ground for infections and potential health risk for patients

Better facilities, systematic healthcare, and preventive action—all of the promises made when the Associate Hospital at the Government Medical College in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was established have not been met. The hospital was established to improve the local healthcare system, with a special focus on addressing the health issues of the district's rural populace. However, rampant negligence and disorganisation have come to the fore, and while the patient load is increasing every day, the number of complaints on var-

ious grounds is also on a rise. The government's claims of having developed the healthcare system in Kashmir lack action, and a significant space in which the apathy is



(The writer is an indepen-

dent writer from Baramulla,

Jammu and Kashmir.

Courtesy Charkha Features)

visible is in the washrooms of the hospital. Sanitation and hygiene are fundamental components of a healthcare system. Filthy washrooms, exposing the already vulnerable citizens, are a health concern not only for those seeking treatment but for the workers of the hospital as well. Patients shared how they were exposed to a greater risk of infection, longterm health problems, and serious illnesses due to a lack of hygiene in the hospital.

The concerned officials are not taking any action as they are too busy blaming each other for the poor conditions. The hospital is meant to provide us with a safe environment for treatment and give us the facilities not accessible elsewhere," Muneera Hassan, a patient at the hospital, said.



patients have also raised concerns about the pathetic condition of the washrooms. "The washrooms stink, there is urine on the floor, and the water faucets are broken," another patient, Safeena,

volunteers come together and clean such public healthcare facilities. These efforts, though, don't last beyond the designated event. "The doctors join in the efforts to clean the hospital on one day and then forget During specific campaigns about it the next day. This is shared that the hospital

not enough. A systematic plan is required to ensure the efficacy of the overall healthcare facilities," said 24-year-old Zainab Tariq, another patient at the hospital. Dr Parvez Ahmad Masoodi, the Superintendent of GMC, while talking about the situation,

work to ensure proper sanitation facilities. But with such a huge inflow of patients, it becomes difficult to manage. We also have limited washrooms. However, the health of our patients and staff is a priority. We have implemented strict cleaning protocols to ensure that every washroom is cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. We will expand the infrastructure and build more washrooms," he assured. However, Dr Masoodi's

receives 7,000 patients per

day. "We have put people to

claims of cleanliness seem to defy the reality at GMC. Suraya Malik, who visited the hospital for a routine check-up, was taken aback by the situation in the washrooms. She claimed that the stinky toilets,

which lacked running water and soap, were unfit for human use and violated her basic right to hygiene, making her nauseous. "As I opened the door, I had to take a step back due to the filthy conditions and musty, unpleasant odour. The toilet smelled of urine and excrement. I could barely make out the shape of the commode as it was covered in mould and mildew. A thick layer of grime had accumulated on the walls and floor. There had been no attempt to clean it." she shared. It is torturous to use such

unhygienic toilets that are a breeding ground for bacteria. "The hospital serves thousands of patients every day, and yet no initiative has been taken to keep the washrooms clean," she added.



of manslaughter charges

French court on Monday Aacquitted Airbus and Air France of manslaughter charges over the 2009 crash of Flight 447 from Rio to Paris, which killed 228 people and led to lasting changes in aircraft safe-ty measures. Sobs broke out in the courtroom as the presiding judge read out the decision, a devastating defeat for victims' families who fought for 13 years to see the case reach

The three-judge panel ruled that there wasn't enough evidence of a direct link between decisions by the companies and the crash. The official investigation found that multiple factors contributed to the disaster, including pilot error and the icing over of external sensors called pitot

The two-month trial left families wracked with anger disappointment. Unusually, even state prosecutors argued for acquittal, saying produce enough proof of criminal wrongdoing by the compa-

Prosecutors laid the responsibility primarily with the pilots, who died in the crash. Airbus lawyers also blamed pilot error, and Air France said the full reasons for the crash will never be known.

Airbus and Air France had faced potential fines of up to 225,000 euros (USD 219,000) each if convicted. That would have been just a fraction of their annual revenues, but a conviction for the aviation heavyweights could have reverberated through the industry. While the court didn't find the companies guilty of criminal wrongdoing, the judges said that Airbus and Air France held civil responsibility for the crash, and ordered them to compensate families of victims. It didn't provide an overall amount, but scheduled hearings in September to work that out. Air France has already compensated families of those killed,

Families from around the world are among the plaintiffs, including many in Brazil.

The A330-200 plane disappeared from radar in a storm over the Atlantic Ocean on June 1, 2009, with 216 passengers and 12 crew members aboard. It took two years to find the plane and its black box recorders on the ocean floor, at depths of more than 13,000 feet (around 4,000 metres). An Associated Press investigation at the time found that Airbus had known since at least 2002 about problems with the type of pitot tubes used on the jet that crashed, but failed to replace them until after the

Air France was accused of not having implemented training in the event of icing of the pitot probes despite the risks. Airbus was accused of not doing enough to urgently inform airlines and their crews about faults with the pitots or to ensure training to mitigate

calm pension storm

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron is aiming to calm public anger that threatens the ambitions of his remaining four years in power with a first televised address to the nation on Monday since he enacted protest-igniting pension reforms.

The evening address kicks off a likely arduous battle for the second-term president to repair the damage done to his public image and legislative plans by forcing through an increase in France's retirement age from 62 to 64.

Opponents of the unpopular reform called for people to bang pots and pans outside government offices during the address, with the rallying cry: "Macron won't listen to us? We won't listen to him!" Weakened in parliament,

where his camp lost its absolute majority in legislative elections last year, Macron's government needs to reconstruct alliances of lawmakers to push ahead with his legislative programme.

That's likely to be an uphill task in the uproarious climate of protest sparked by his retire-



ment changes that pick at France's cherished social safe-

Labour unions that have been at the forefront of protests, mobilising millions of marchers in 12 days of nationwide demonstrations and strikes since January, are vowing to fight on. They called for another mass protest on May 1, which is International Workers'

The pension changes were enacted into law on Saturday, after months of upheaval, the day after the country's constitutional body rejected some parts of the legislation but approved the higher minimum retirement age.

Airbus, Air France absolved | French Prez seeks to | US, allies conduct more drills in face of N Korean threat

Seoul (AP): The United States, South Korea and Japan conducted a joint missile defence exercise Monday in waters near the Korean Peninsula as they expand military training to counter the growing threats of North Korea's nuclear-capable mis-Last week, North Korea

conducted one of its most provocative weapons demonstrations in years by flight-testing for the first time an intercontinental ballistic missile powered by solid propellants, as it pursues a weapon that's more responsive, harder to detect and could directly target the continental United

North Korea's unprecedented run of weapons tests has so far involved more than 100 missiles of various ranges fired into the sea since the start of 2022 as the country attempts to build a viable nuclear arsenal that could threaten its rival neighbours and the United

The South Korea-US-



Japan training could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which condemns the United States' military drills with its Asian allies as invasion rehearsals.

The North has used those drills as a pretext to accelerate its own weapons development, creating a cycle of tit-for-tat that has raised tensions in recent months.

South Korea's navy said Monday's three-way naval drills took place in international waters off the country's eastern coast and focused on mastering the procedures for detecting, tracking and sharing information on incoming

North Korean ballistic missiles The one-day naval exercise involved an Aegis destroyer from each country. "The drills' goal is to improve our response capabilities against ballistic missiles and strengthen our ability to conduct joint opera-

tions as North Korea's nuclear

and missile threats continue to

escalate," Jang Do-young, a

spokesperson of South Korea's

navy, said in a news briefing. The United States and South Korea also launched drills Monday involving some 110 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets, that will continue through

only Asian member of the G-

Sunak sets up review to change UK's 'anti-maths mindset'

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Rishi Sunak}}_{\text{on Monday announced a}}$ new experts-led review into how to ensure all pupils in England study some form of mathematics up to the age of 18 as part of his strategy to change an "anti-maths mindset" that is holding the country back.

Delivering a speech at the London Screen Academy, Sunak lamented that it was socially acceptable to make jokes about not being able to do maths.

He pointed out that for his plan to grow the UK economy in the long term, the UK simply cannot allow poor numeracy to cost the economy "tens of billions a year".

"We say things like: 'Oh, maths, I can't do that, it's not for me' - and everyone laughs. But we'd never make a joke like that about not being able to read. So we've got to change this antimaths mindset," said Sunak.

"We've got to start prizing numeracy for what it is - a key skill every bit as essential as transform our national approach to maths is not nice to have. It's about changing how we value maths in this country. And changing the way our education system works to deliver it so that all our children get these vital skills for life," he said. Under his plans, a new expert group made up of mathematicians, educationists and business representatives will identify the core maths content needed by 16 to 18-year-olds and explore the possibility of a

new specific qualification to support that. The British Indian leader stressed that it would not involve a compulsory A-Level maths module for schools but be designed more broadly.

'We're going to need to recruit and train the maths teachers. We're going to work out how to harness the technology that we need to support them. And we'll need to make sure this maths is additional to other subjects - not instead of them," said Sunak, who admitted he likes maths.

The Oxford and Stanford University alumnus pointed out that Britain was one of the few developed countries where young people don't routinely study some form of maths up to the age of 18, unlike in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Finland, Japan, Norway and America.

The UK is among the "least numerate countries in the developed world", with more than 8 million adults with numeracy skills below those

"So I won't sit back and allow this cultural sense that it's ok to be bad at maths to put our children at a disadvantage. We've got to change this. We've got to value maths, and what it can do for our children's futures," said Sunak.

"Put simply, without a solid foundation in maths, our children risk being left behind, shut out of the careers they aspire to; and the lives they want to lead,"

UK PM faces probe over wife's biz interest

London (PTI): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is facing a watchdog inquiry under his parliamentary declaration of interest obligations related to a Budget policy that could benefit his wife, Akshata Murty, through her business interest in a childcare firm, it emerged on

The inquiry has been ened by the UK's Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, an independent officer of the House of Commons in charge of looking at evidence if individual British members of Parliament are feared to have broken a rule under the 'Code of Conduct'.

The active inquiries on the watchdog's list include one opened on Sunak, 42, last Thursday under Paragraph 6 of the rules of conduct, as Downing Street said ministerial interests were "transparently declared."

"Members must always be open and frank in declaring any relevant interest in appropriate to the control of the relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders," states BBC, the inquiry relates to the British Indian leader's wife's interest in Koru Kids Ltd, which is likely to benefit from a new pilot scheme announced in the Spring Budget last month to incentivise people to become childminders. The parliamentary watchdog's investigation will decide if there has been any breach of the code, which can then be put before MPs sitting on the Committee on Standards.

G-7 diplomats reject Chinese, N Korean, Russian aggression Yoshimasa Hayashi told his The role of Japan — the

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies vowed a tough stance on China's increasing threats to Taiwan and on North Korea's unchecked tests of long-range missiles, while building momentum on ways to boost support for Ukraine and punish Russia for its inva-

Russia's war in Ukraine consumed much of the agenda Monday for the envoys gathered in this Japanese hot spring resort town for talks meant to pave the way for action by G-7 leaders when they meet next month in Hiroshima. The world is at "turning

point" on the fighting in Ukraine and must "firmly reject unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, and Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its threats of the use of nuclear weapons", Japanese Foreign Minister

colleagues, according to a Japanese summary. For the American delega-

tion, the meeting comes at a crucial moment in the world's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and efforts to deal with China, two issues that G-7 ministers from Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and the European Union regard as potent challenges to the post-World War II rules-based international order. A senior US official travelling with Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that the Biden administration's goal for the talks is to shore up support for Ukraine, including a major initiative on Ukraine's energy infrastructure launched at last year's G-7 gatherings in Germany, as well as to ensure the continued provision of military assistance to Kviv.

Ramping up punishment against Russia, particularly



through economic and financial sanctions that were first threatened by the G-7 in December 2021, before the invasion, will also be a priority, the official said. Ukraine faces an impor-

tant moment in coming weeks with Russia's current offensive largely stalled and Ukraine

preparing a counteroffensive.
The US official, who spoke

on condition of anonymity to discuss Blinken's priorities at the closed-door meetings, said there would be discussion about ways to deepen support for Ukraine's long-term defence and deterrence capabilities. That might also improve Kyiv's position for potential negotiations that could end the conflict on its

' — as chairman of this year's talks provides an opportunity to discuss coordinated action on China. Leaders and foreign ministers of G-7 countries, most recently France and Germany, have recently concluded visits to China, and the diplomats in Karuizawa are expected to discuss their impressions of where the Chinese stand on numerous issues, including the war in Ukraine, North Korea, and Taiwan, which is a particular sore point in US-Chinese relations. At a private working dinner on Sunday night that was the diplomats' first formal meeting, Hayashi urged continued dialogue with China on the many global challenges where participation from Beijing is seen as crucial.

Among the Chinese interests that are intertwined with those of wealthy democracies are global trade, finance and

SL Prez to make fresh call for all-party national government

to make a fresh call for the formation of an all-party government for the cash-strapped country when Parliament takes up the debate on the IMF bailout programme next week, a senior opposition party leader

In March, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a USD 3 billion bailout programme to help Sri Lanka overcome its economic crisis and catalyse financial

said on Monday.

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka's support from other develop- for the IMF bailout package, Ranil ment partners, a move wel- which is a timely antidote to Sri toric milestone" in the critical period. "He (Wickremesinghe) will make an open invitation to all political parties to join the national government when the Parliament meets on April 25 to debate on the IMF bailout programme," Mano Ganesan, the leader of the Tamil Progressive

Alliance, told the media. President Wickremesinghe, also the country's finance minister, is keen to win the approval of the 225-member assembly

In July last year, Wickremesinghe urged lawmakers from all political parties to put their differences aside and work towards lifting Sri Lanka out of the throes of the

economic crisis. The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party led by the powerful Rajapaksa family voted for Wickremesinghe, the leader of the United National Party (UNP), as the president in July last year.

Saudi-led coalition frees more POWs

itary coalition on Monday freed that followed an organised prisoner swap amid renewed diplomatic efforts to halt the conflict.

International Committee of the Red Cross said it flew two flights carrying a total of 96 released detainees from Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport to Sanaa, Yemen's capital that has been held for years by the Iranianbacked Houthi rebels. Another flight carried eight freed pris-

Dubai (AP): A Saudi-led mil- oners from Abha to Aden, a port city held by forces allied to 104 more prisoners captured in the Saudi-led coalition. A stateent from Brig. Gen. Turki al Maliki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, acknowledged the release of 104 Houthi

> A UN-brokered deal saw the release of over 700 detained Houthis, and more than 180 prisoners, including Saudi and Sudanese troops fighting with the Saudiled coalition. That three-day operation was overseen by the Red Cross and ended on

US chopper raid

in Syria targets

Beirut (AP): A helicopter raid

by US forces in northern Syria

early on Monday resulted in the

"probable death" of a senior

leader of the militant Islamic

State group, the US military said.

said in a statement that the IS

leader, who was not named, was

responsible for planning terror"

attacks in the Middle East and

Europe." Two other "armed indi-

viduals" were killed along with

the target of the raid, CENT-

COM said. The statement said

no civilians or US troops were

Syria's White Helmets, a

hurt in the operation.

The US Central Command

ISIS leader

Office of the Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 2112(1) / 58 C-03(Yata 'B')/2023

National Competetive E-Bidding (RFP)

Dated: 15/04/2023

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" invites tender for Consultancy Services with Quality and cost based selection system (QCBS) for the following works. The RFP document will be available from date 24-04-2023 at 5.00 Pm onward on website

SI. No.		Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Preparation of DPR of upgradation of Class B to Class-A loading bridge in Almora Berinag Askote motor road (SH-03) bridge at km. 93 in Ramganga River District Pithoragarh Constituency Didihat under state sector.	0.45	1500.00 + 18% GST	60	06	Registered in Central any state/PSU with experience in Consultancy for bridges.
2	Preparation of DPR of upgradation of Class B to Class-A loading bridge in Thal-Munsyari motor road (SH-11) bridge at km. 154, 159, 164 and km. 173 in District Pithoragarh Constituency Dharchula under state sector.	0.80	2500.00 + 18% GST	60	06	-do-
3	Preparation of DPR of upgradation of Class B to Class-A loading bridge in Dangoli-Kotmanya-Pankhu-Satsiling motor road (SH-60) at km. 118 and km 127 District Pithoragarh Constituency Gangolihat under state sector.	0.31	1500.00 + 18% GST	60	06	-do-
4	Preparation of DPR of upgradation of Class B to Class-A loading bridge in Khutani- ReethaSahib- Dhunaghat-Manch- Tamli motor road (SH-64) at km. 136, km. 137(Ch. 136.00), km. 175, Km.178-193 and km. 218 at District Champawat Constituency Champawat under state sector.	0.74	2500.00 + 18% GST	60	06	-do-
5	Preparation of DPR of upgradation of Class B to Class-A loading bridge in Lohaghat-Barakote-Simalkhet-Kaflikhan- Bhanoli motor road (SH-57) at District Champawat Constituency Lohaghat under state sector.	0.65	2000.00 + 18% GST	60	06	-do-

Australian charged with helping suspected Chinese spies

Sydney (AP): Two suspected Chinese spies gave a Sydney businessman envelopes of cash for information about subjects including a government deal with the United States and Britain to build a fleet of Australian nuclear-powered submarines, prosecutors told a court on Monday.

businessman, Alexander Csergo, was refused bail when he appeared by video link from prison in Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court charged with one count of reckless foreign interference.

The charge, included in laws against covert foreign interference and espionage that angered China when they were legislated in 2018, carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence. He is accused of accepting money from two suspected Chinese spies he knew by the names Ken and Evelyn in exchange for handwritten reports on Australian defence, economic and national security arrangements since 2021 while he worked in Shanghai, where he owns a communications and technology infrastruc-

ture consultancy business. The subjects included the AUKUS partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States to create an Australian submarine fleet powered by US nuclear technology that was announced in September 2021, prosecutor Connor McCraith said.

The deal details said that Australia would buy secondhand Virginia-class submarines from the US and build a new AUKUS class of submarines with Britain.

The suspected spies also requested details about Australia's partnership with the United States, Japan and India known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad, as well as information about lithium and iron ore mining in Australia, the prosecutors

Csergo has been in custody since Friday, when he was arrested at his home in the Sydney beachside suburb Bondi.

He had been questioned for weeks by police and agents of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's main

domestic spy agency.

McCraith said Csergo admitted early in the questioning that he suspected Ken and Evylen were spies soon after

meeting them but remained in contact with them for two years. "He clearly has links to the Chinese state and two people he

clearly thinks work for the MSS (Ministry of State Security)," McCraith told the court.

"He also travelled back to Australia with a shopping list" of requested information, he said. McCraith said a reasonable person would have alerted

Australian authorities immediately after being approached. Instead, Csergo continued to communicate with the male suspected spy, including inviting him to visit Australia, McCraith

Csergo's lawyer, Bernard Collaery, said there was nothing sinister about his client's behaviour and that he was an experienced, successful businessman who was lauded for developing

working relationships in China.

"Businesspeople such as our client know all roads lead to the state, whether it be the state economic intelligence agency" or the Ministry of State Security, Collaery said.

"Cash payments for consulting reports might have a colour to it in Australia but might be the way it's done in China — it's not necessarily sinister," Collaery added. Collaery said the reports

were from publicly sourced doc-

uments, plus Csergo's own cre-

ative efforts, and were nothing

close to espionage

civil defense group operating in opposition-held areas of northern Syria, said it transported two people wounded during the raid to a local hospital, which later said they had died. A third person was killed when the US forces landed for the raid, the White Helmets said. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which partners with the US in anti-IS

operations in northeast Syria, said that the operation was launched from a base near the town of Kobani and targeted a military site belonging to a Turkish-backed armed opposition group, Suqour al-Shamal, in the village of village of Suwayda in the region of Jarablus, near the Turkish border.

Chinese national held in Pak for blasphemy

PTI ISLAMABAD/PESHAWAR

Pakistani police have arrested a China ed a Chinese national working at a hydropower project in the restive Khyber . Pakhtunkhwa province after local people accused him of

blasphemy, police said.

The police arrested the Chinese national identified as Tian on Sunday and on Monday he was shifted to Abbottabad via an Army helicopter due to security concerns as the police feared local people could harm him, the Dawn newspaper quoted Station House Officer Naseerudin as

saying.
The Chinese citizen, a manager at the Dasu Hydropower Project, the biggest hydropower project in Pakistan, in the Upper Kohistan district of the province, allegedly made blas-

when the workers were going to perform the weekly prayer. He was apparently unhappy with the progress of work at

The police registered a first information report (FIR) against Tian at the Dasu police station, hours after hundreds of residents and labourers working on the dam project blocked a key highway and rallied, demanding his arrest.

Local police officer Naseeruddin confirmed that an FIR was registered under Section 295-C (use of derogatory remarks, etc. against the Prophet) in the Pakistan Penal Code at the complaint of two workers employed as drivers of

The SHO said that Section of the Anti-Terrorism Act had been included in the FIR, adding that the Chinese national would be presented before a court in Abbottabad.

Under Pakistan's tough blasphemy laws, the offence carries the death penalty. According to the officer, police swung into action after getting reports on Sunday night that a local mob tried to break into a Chinese camp near the project

The mob was controlled, but they assembled again on Monday and blocked the Karakoram Highway, which links Pakistan with China, in a protest that lasted for over six to seven hours, demanding the Chinese national's arrest.

The blocked highway was later reopened to traffic, and work resumed at the Dasu Dam after Tian's arrest.

Scores of Chinese and

the country since indepen

The report said that from 1947 to 2021, 18 women and 71 men were extra-judicially killed over blasphemy accusations. The allegations were made against 107 women and 1,308 men.

A large number of Chinese nationals have been working in Pakistan on various projects being undertaken under the China-Pakistan Economic

China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang called on his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in January to assert that Beijing was concerned about the safety of its workers based in Pakistan and urged Bhutto to take strong security measures to protect them amid a spate of attacks on Chinese nationals in the coun-

a report in January 2022, stathundreds of Pakistanis are ed that as many as 89 citizens working on the project. were killed in 1,415 accusa-Blasphemy is a sensitive issue tions and cases of blasphemy in

He also made it clear that elections in the politically crucial Punjab province will not be held on May 14 despite the Supreme Court's order and "allout efforts" of the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by former prime minister Imran Khan.

Baghdad: Iraq on Monday

offered to mediate between

Ukraine and Russia to try and

find an end to the war in Europe,

but Ukraine's top diplomat reject-

ed the offer during a rare visit to

Dmytro Kuleba reiterated his

country's position that it would

not engage in any peace talks

unless Russia withdraws from all

Ukrainian territory.
The Kremlin wants Kyiv to

acknowledge Russia's sovereignty

over Crimea, which Moscow took

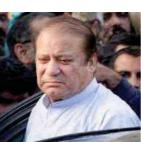
over in 2014, and to also recog-

Ukraine's Foreign Minister

mediate talks with Russia

Nawaz Sharif, who is currently based in London, will return and supervise Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party's electoral campaign, Geo News quoted the senior party leader as

An ailing Nawaz has been living in London since November 2019 for medical treatment after the high court allowed him a four-week reprieve. The 73-year-old leader was serving seven-year impris-onment in the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore in the Al-Azizia corruption case before his departure.



working in a factory in Sialkot

was lynched by a mob after workers accused him of blas-

comment from the Chinese

The hydropower project site was hit by a suicide bus

blast in July 2021, in which 13

people, including nine Chinese nationals, were killed. Nine

Chinese nationals and two

Frontier Corps soldiers were among those killed when the

bus carrying Chinese engi-

neers and workers to the site of

the under-construction Dasu

and Security Studies (CRSS), in

The Centre for Research

Dam exploded.

Embassy in Islamabad.

There was no immediate

been demanding early national elections since his ouster in April last year after he lost a con-

its five-year term in August this

According to the Constitution, elections shall be

of treason, given 25 years

'PML-N, opp PTI ready for indirect dialogue, says Report

PTI ISLAMABAD

 Γ he ruling coalition led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the opposition Pakis-tan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have formed panels to engage in indirect dialogue, hinting that the ice has started to melt following more than a year of simmering tensions between the two political sides amidst the economic crisis, a media report said on Monday.

The impasse between the two warring parties was broken by Jamaat-e-Islam (JI) chief Sirajul Haq, who held separate meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PTI chief Imran Khan on Saturday and reported a "positive response" from both sides for holding talks on the issue of elections.

Now, both parties instead of engaging in a direct dialogue — will route their talks through the JI.

In a positive response to "consensus offensive" of the Jamaat-e-Islami, the PML-N tasked Ayaz Sadiq and Saad Rafique to hold talks while the PTI formed a three-member panel com-prising Pervez Khattak, three-member Mehmoodur Rashid, and Ejaz Chaudhry for the task.

The Dawn newspaper reported sources in PML-N as saying that Sadiq and Rafique were given a go-ahead to approach the JI for talks. However, the PTI also reiterated its stance of seeking a date for the general elec-

Senator Ejaz Chaudhry told the Dawn that PTI had begun consultations to take all opposition parties into confidence over elections across the country. Chaudhry said the PTI already had meetings with the JI, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), and the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA).

"We have met and urged all political parties (outside the ruling coalition) to join hands and put up resistance against the PDM that is avoiding elections," he added.

Acknowledging that 70-year-old Khan said he would not talk to the "looters of national wealth" and a similar attitude was being shown by the ruling coalition, Chaudhry explained the PTI wanted to hold dialogue in

"The PTI wants to join the parliament, reclaim the opposition leader position, and unanimously pass a onetime constitutional amendment to hold early elections in the country," Chaudhry said. When approached, Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed said the meeting between crick-eter-turned-politician Khan and Sirajul Haq had evolved a consensus that the severe political deadlock in the country should be ended through a dialogue. He said the JI had done

some homework after the PTI team comprising Asad Umer and Senator Chaudhry had met its leadership two

meet Shehbaz. "All the parties may keep sticking to their respective points of view but it was high time that political parties sho-w prudence to find a middle ground to save the country and people from the worst-ever year-long political and economic deadlock," Rasheed added.

While PTI leaders term Imran-Siraj meeting a major development to break the deadlock among major political parties, the JI emir had suggested the formation of a committee to develop a larger consensus for the holding

Both PTI and JI are in agreement to keep the door of consultations on a regular basis open, they added.

of elections in the country.

The report also said the on the other hand, was likely to convene a multiparty conference (MPC) after Eidul Fitr with the one-point agenda of deciding a date for holding general elections across the country on a single day. The proposed multiparty moot would try to convince the ruling coalition to agree to hold general elections before October, while the PTI would be persuaded to drop its demand for conducting the electoral exercise (particularly in Punjab) on May 14. JI information secretary Qaiser Sharif said the venue and date for the proposed MPC would be finalised after initial consultations with different parties

Slovakia gives remaining nine warplanes to Ukraine

Bratislava (Slovakia): Slovakia has delivered the remaining nine of the 13 Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets that it promised to Ukraine, the Slovak Defence Ministry said on Monday.The ministry said the warplanes were transported overland for security reasons in a "complicated logistics operation." The first four were flown from Slovakia to Ukraine by Ukrainian pilots on March 23.

"We are doing the right thing," Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said in a statement. On March 17, the Slovak government approved a plan to give Ukraine its entire fleet of Sovietera MiG-29 planes, becoming the second NATO member to answer Ukraine's plea for warplanes to help defend against Russia's invasion. Slovakia grounded its MiGs in the summer due to a lack of spare parts and maintenance expertise. Poland and the Czech Republic both NATO members, stepped in to monitor Slovak air space. Replacements for the MiG-29s are unlikely to arrive for another year. Ślovakia previously signed a deal to buy fighter jets, but delivery was pushed back two years with the first aircraft to arrive in early 2024.

'Sharif to supervise PML-N's electoral campaign'

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will return from London as soon as the electoral preparations for the general elections begin.

Former prime minister



Holding provincial elections has taken centre stage in Pakistani politics as Khan has been pushing for snap elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Ukraine rejects Iraqi offer to Top Kremlin critic convicted

fidence vote in Parliament. The current term of the National Assembly will complete

held within 90 days after the dissolution of the lower house. This means that the election must be held by mid-October. The last general election was held

NORTHERN RAILWAY

for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted Work:-

Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 84-AC (Phase-II) crossing over Khanalampur vard to D.M. Residence Road in Moradabad - Saharanpur section. 2. Approx. Cost of work Rs. 4943.98 lacs 3. Completion period of the work 18 (Eighteen) months

4. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 26,22,000.00 5. Sale/availability of Tender documents will be available on IREPS web

site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 18.04.2023 to 09.05.2023 upto 11.30 hrs. on Rly. Website 09.05.2023 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site upload of tenders w.e.f. 25.04.2023 to 09.05.2023

opening of

09.05.2023 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close o uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board

(from)

(to)

21509044 21509053 10

Tender Notice No. 74-W-1-2-392-WA-CSB-II Dated: 17.04.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1139/23

Slovakia third EU nation to ban Ukraine grain imports

Warsaw (AP): Slovakia became the third European Union country to ban food imports from Ukraine on Monday, deepening the challenge for the bloc as it works to help Ukraine transport its grain to world markets. Slovakia followed Poland and Hungary, both of which announced bans Saturday on Ukrainian food imports through June 30.

They did so in response to rising anger from farmers who say that a glut of grain in their countries is causing them economic hardship. The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, manages trade on behalf of the 27 member countries and objects to them taking unilateral or uncoordinated mea-

At a briefing in Brussels, two spokespeople stressed gratitude to Poland and other Central European countries for supporting Ukraine, but said a solution must be found that respects the EU legal framework.

"We are dealing with a war, right? And this war has consequences, obviously, on farmers and more generally, the population in Ukraine and the European Union and its member states," said Eric Mamer, chief spokesperson.

He acknowledged that Poland and other countries "have been doing their utmost in order to help Ukraine, adding: "So this is not about sanctioning. This is about finding solutions based on EU law in the interests at the same time of the Ukrainians and of the EU." Five EU countries that neighbour Ukraine have asked the EU to treat the matter of Ukrainian food with urgency.

nise September's annexation of the Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and

Ukraine has rejected those demands and insists it won't hold talks with Russia until Moscow's troops pull back from all occupied territories.

In Iraq, Kuleba met with his Iraqi counterpart, Fuad Hussein. It was the first visit by a Ukrainian official to Baghdad since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the first visit by Ukrainian foreign minister in 11

Son of Iran's last

Shah set to make

first visit to Israel

Jerusalem (AP): Iran's exiled crown

son of the last shah to rule Iran before

the 1979 Islamic Revolution, said Sunday

that he will be delivering "a message of

annual Holocaust memorial ceremony

on Monday night, said Israeli

Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel, who

will host him. He is also set to visit a

desalination plant, see the Western

Wall, and meet representatives of the

local Baha'i community and Israeli Jews

of Iranian descent, she said, Gamliel

praised the "brave decision" by Pahlavi

to make what she said would be his first

He is set to participate in Israel's

friendship from the Iranian people."

week on a visit that

reflects the warm ties

his father once had

with Israel and the cur-

rent state of hostility

between Israel and the

Reza Pahlavi, the

Islamic Republic.

visit to Israel.

Moscow (AP): A Russian court convicted a top opposition activist of treason on Monday for publicly denouncing Moscow's war in Ukraine and sentenced

him to 25 years in prison. It was the latest move in the Kremlin's relentless crackdown on anyone who dares to criticise the inva-

Vladimir Kara-Murza, Jr., an activist and journalist who twice survived poisonings he blamed on the Kremlin, has rejected the



charges against him as punishment for standing up to Russian President Vladimir Putin and likened the proceedings to the show trials during the rule of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

tions and Western governments denounced the verdict and demanded his release. Amnesty International declared the 41-year-old a prisoner of conscience. The charges against Kara-Murza, who has been

Human rights organisa-

behind bars since his arrest a year ago, stem from a March 2022 speech to the Arizona House of Representatives in which he denounced Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other speeches abroad.

Name of the Share Holder

Legal Heir (Claimant)

1 SRF0038683 MATHAVAN KARUPPAN

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091 Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003 Tel. No (Regd office): (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 www.srf.com: CIN: L18101DL1970PLC

435273

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority:

ľ		CHETTY (Claimant) MOKARUPPAN CHETTY (Deceased Shareholder)	400270	21000044	21000000	10
			435274	21509054	21509055	2
			584273	29528836	29528845	10
			584274	29528846	29528847	2
			1133333	295486654	295486829	176
			90081317	9397050	9397050	20
2	SRF0030475	KISHORBHAI RATILAL AJMERA JT 1 HANSABEN K AJMERA	1134719	295773290	295773509	220
			90065237	8910434	8910453	20
			90189676	90189676	90189676	35
3	A0002891	ANILA DIXIT (Claimant and Shareholder)	49004	2675601	2675650	50
			49005	2675651	2675700	50
			55496	2819467	2819499	33
			95679	4096335	4096384	50
			95680	4096385	4096400	16
			1133214	295465170	295465965	796
4 B0	B0000096	BALDEV SINGH BINDRA (Claimant and Shareholder)	56155	2834240	2834240	40
			1133774	295589370	295590169	800
			90013322	6230762	6230801	40
			90013323	6230802	6230841	40
			90013324	6230842	6230842	40
			90013325	6230882	6230921	40
5	SRF0144862	INDER MOHAN SHARMA JT 1 SHAMSHER BAHADUR	705352	59748084	59748133	50
			705353	59748134	59748183	50
			1135279	295886362	295886761	400
6	S 0002204 SHAKUNTALA DEVI DAMANI (Claimant and Shareholder)	DAMANI (Claimant and	339100	16502200	16502249	50
			339101	16502250	16502269	20
		Snarenoider)	339102	16502270	16502270	10
			339103	16502280	16502284	5
			339104	16502285	16502285	1
			1134802	295785866	295786209	344
7	(C) F S	GULSHAN BAJAJ (CLAIMANT) REKHA BAJAJ (CLAIMANT) SAPNA RAJESH BAJAJ (CLAIMANT)	10961	1604826	1604850	25
			15507	1739551	1739575	25
			21878	1917001	1917025	25
			32852	2233076	2233100	25
		ANTRIKSH RAJESH BAJAJ	36586	2338776	2338800	25
		(CLAIMANT)	36592	2338926	2338950	25
			44330	2549901	2549925	25
		1	40906	2607076	2609000	25

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/ objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice ailing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests. Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates

96267

149792

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4112455

5944360

90011580-95 6166122 6166761 640

For SRF LIMITED RAJAT LAKHANPAL Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)

& Company Secretary

4112491

5944409

18545245 | 18545319 | 75

295942322 295946329 4008

37

Place: Gurugram

Date: 17-04-2023

Cape Town (AP): The corruption tion for an arms deal worth more African government in 1999.

Zuma's graft trial postponed

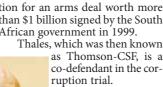
President Jacob Zuma was postponed again Monday as he seeks to

prince is scheduled to come to Israel this have the lead prosecutor removed from the case by claiming he is biased. Zuma has already

succeeded in getting a new judge to oversee his trial Zuma, who turned 81 last week, has argued

that prosecutor Billy

Downer is biased against him and compromises the former leader's right to a fair trial. Zuma is involved in a separate legal case against Downer and a journalist over the leaking of the ex-president's medical records by state prosecutors. Zuma is facing multiple counts of corruption, as well as racketeering, fraud, tax evasion and money laundering, with some of the charges relating to bribes he is alleged to have taken from French arms manufacturing company Thales to provide political protec-



The charges relate to a time when Zuma was a politician on the rise and later a deputy president of South Africa, but before he became president in 2009. He was forced to resign as

president in 2018 because of corruption allegations.

Some of the alleged wrongdoing dates back as far as the mid-1990s, yet Zuma only went on trial two years ago after the charges were dropped and reinstated multiple times amid political interference.

Despite the trial officially starting in May 2021, no testimony has vet been heard because of a series of applications made by Zuma to get the initial judge to recuse himself and to remove Downer.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu shake hands during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia

Malala working on new book

New York (AP): Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai is working on a new memoir, the latest book by the young activist from Pakistan known for her

advocacy for education for girls and for surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban when she was in her teens. Atria Books, an

imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced the memoir Atria Monday. It is currently untitled and has no scheduled release

Yousafzai's previous works include the million-selling "I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban," published in 2013, the year before she won the Nobel Peace Prize at age 17. She has since graduated from Oxford University and married Asser Malik, a manager with the Pakistan Cricket Board. Her production Extracurricular, has a deal with Apple TV+ for a wide range of film and television projects.

years of my life have been marked by extraordinary transformation, and all the anguish and joy that a c c o m p a n i e s growth," Yousafzai, 25, said in a statement released by

'This is my most personal book yet and I hope that readers will find recognition, reassurance, and insight in my Atria is calling the new

book a "breathtaking story of recovery and search for identity, a candid exploration of her coming-of-age in the public spotlight, and an intimate look at her life today." Young readers and picture book editions are also planned.

WPI inflation eases to **29-month low of 1.34%**

Prices of manufactured products, fuel items eased; food articles turned costly in March

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a 29-month low of 1.34 per cent in March on easing prices of manufactured products and fuel items even though food articles. items, even though food articles turned expensive. March is the 10th straight month when Wholesale Price Index (WPI)based inflation has declined The inflation was 3.85 per cent in February and 14.63 per cent in March 2022.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in March 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, minerals, rubber and plastic products, crude petroleum and natural gas and paper and paper products," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Monday. The headline WPI inflation for March eased to its lowest level since October 2020, when the rate of price rise was 1.31 per cent. Last month, inflation in food articles rose to 5.48 per cent as against 3.81 per cent in February

Among food items, although inflation in vegetables, onion and potato remained in negative, the rate of price rise was higher than that in February. In case of



vegetables, it was at (-) 2.22 per cent in March, higher than (-)21.53 per cent in February. In onion, inflation was (-)36.83 per cent in March, higher than (-)40.14 per cent in the previous month. Inflation in wheat and pulses was 9.16 per cent and 3.03 per cent, respectively, while in oilseeds it was (-)15.05 per cent

in March 2023. Equirus Securities in a note said within food items category, cereals especially wheat is softening while other items like vegetables, fruits, milk and pulses are rising which is creating a discomfort for a broad-based food disinflation within the CPI index.

"Another discomfort is from

rising food prices. Other than cereals particularly wheat, cereals such as bajra, maize and bar ley are yet to cool down. In addition, pulses, milk, vegetables fruits, spices are rising monthon-month which suggests that retail food disinflation besides cereals and oilseeds could be a challenge," Equirus said.

As per the government data, fuel and power basket inflation eased to 8.96 per cent in March from 14.82 per cent in February. In manufactured products, inflation was (-) 0.77 per cent as against 1.94 per cent. The deceleration in WPI comes in line with the easing of March retail infla-

Markets halt 9-day rally; Infosys shares fall 9%

BSE Sensex

60,431.00

Equity benchmark Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure after ninesession rally on Monday as massive sell-off in IT, tech and telecom counters unnerved investors. Intense selling in Infosys, which fell over 9 per cent after lower-than-expected revenue guidance for FY24, and HDFC twins also pulled the benchmarks down.
The 30-share BSE

Sensex tanked 520.25 points or 0.86 per cent to settle at 59,910.75. During the day, it plunged 988.53 points or 1.63 per cent

to 59,442.47. The broader NSE Nifty fell 121.15 points or 0.68 per cent to finish at 17,706.85. "The market responded negatively to the weak start of the earnings season by IT bellwether and their cautious outlook. On the global front, the

US 10-year bond yield rose as solid US job data

raised concerns over further rate hikes by the Fed. "The earnings reports, primarily from the IT and banking sectors, will influence market trends in the coming days. We expect Nifty50 earnings to grow by 10 per cent in Q4 FY23, driven by banking and finance, auto, telecom, and FMCG," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services. Among the Sensex firms, Infosys emerged as the biggest laggard, falling over 9 per cent after the company reported lower-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter net profit and gave a weak 4-7 per cent revenue growth guidance for FY24 amid the tightening of IT budgets by clients following a turmoil in the US banking sector. Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Wipro, HDFC, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank were the other laggards from the 30-share pack.

TOP GAINERS

2.23 Power Grid

Industrid Bank

4.03 Nestle

TOP LOSERS

9.40 Infosys 525 Tech Mahindra

HCL Tech

2.02 NTPC

2.04 SBI

-520.25

59,910.75

Nestle, Power Grid, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the winners. The broader markert ended in the green as against the heavy fall in the benchmark index. The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.13 per cent.

Among indices, IT tumbled 4.77 per cent, followed by tech which declined 4.56 per cent. Industrials and capital goods were the other lag-

Commodities, consumer discretionary, energy, FMCG, consumer durables and metal were among the winners.

"Indian equities ended lower led by weakness in the IT sector," said Mitul Shah - Head of Research at Reliance Securities.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.31 per cent to \$86.04 per barrel. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) bought equities worth Rs 221.85 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Oil Min confident of meeting 20% ethanol blending target next fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday exuded confidence of meeting the target of supplying petrol mixed with 20 per cent ethanol by 2025, five years earlier than the previously planned roll-out in 2030.

Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol was rolled out at select petrol pumps in 11 States and Union Territories in February as part of a programme to increase use of biofuels to cut emissions as well as dependence on foreign exchangedraining imports.

At present, 10 per cent ethanol is blended in petrol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) and the Government is ooking to double this quantity by 2025. "I am sure we will be able to supply 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol by next (fiscal) year," he said.

India saved as much as Rs 41,500 crore in Forex outgo from 10 per cent blending besides benefiting the farmers, he said at a biofuels conference here. Puri said India achieved blending of 10 per cent ethanol in petrol in June 2022, five months ahead of the schedule.

"We also advanced the availability of E20 blended petrol to 2025, five years from earlier planned in 2030," he said.

Use of ethanol, extracted

from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third-largest

oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs. Also, it cuts carbon emissions.

Use of E20 leads to an estimated reduction of carbon monoxide emissions by about 50 per cent in two-wheelers and about 30 per cent in four-wheelers compared to E0 (neat petrol). Hydrocarbon emissions are estimated to reduce by 20 per cent in both two-wheelers and passenger cars.

India spent \$120.7 billion on import of crude oil in 2021-22 fiscal (April 2021 to March 2022). During first 11 months of 2022-23 fiscal it spent \$211.6 billion on crude oil imports.

As much as 440 crore litre of ethanol was blended in petrol during the supply year ending November 30, 2022. For the next year, 540 crore litres procurement is being targeted with an eye to start larger volumes of blending.

Passenger vehicle

Centre to mull ways to redress consumer grievances in real estate today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the real estate sector contributing around 10 per cent to the total cases in consumer commissions, the Department of Consumer Affairs will on Tuesday organise a round table conference in Mumbai to discuss ways to redress the grievances of property buyers.

According to an official statement, the Department of Consumer Affairs is organising a round table conference on "How to effectively redress the grievances pertaining to the real estate Sector" in Mumbai on April 18. The conference will be organised in association with the Maharashtra Government.

Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, will chair the conference.

"Pertinently, Real Estate

cases comprise around 10 per cent of the total cases in Consumer Commissions. So far, since inception, 2,30,517 cases have been filed by the consumers in various consumer commissions, 1,76,895 cases have been disposed of till now, and 53,622 cases are pending," the statement said. Despite separate tribunals,

such as RERA and NCLT, to deal with the cases pertaining to the housing sector, the pendency of cases is rising in various consumer commissions, the department said. "It is for the first time, the

Department is conducting such a large-scale conference to redress the consumer grievance in the real estate sector," the statement said. The conference will discuss

-- systemic policy interventions required to reduce litigation in dealing (with) the cases pertain-



the housing sector. In this regard, the cases filed in the Consumer Commissions would be analysed, and major factors that result in consumer cases will be identified and presented for deliber-

"In addition, why more number of cases are filed before Consumer Commissions despite there being separate authorities, such as RERA, for specifically ing to the housing sector will also be discussed. Meanwhile, deliberation on how to ensure that the housing sector cases are dealt with in an effective and speedy manner will also be

fone," the statement said. Members of the National Commission, Presidents of State Commissions of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh and Gujarat; President of the RERA Appellate Tribunal Maharashtra; RERA Chairmen from Delhi and Maharashtra; Presidents of District Commissions of Delhi, Bengaluru, Thane, Pune, Raigad and Chandigarh are likely to participate in the conference.

Representatives from MOHŪA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs), RERA, IBBI, Government of Maharashtra, ASCI, and all the VCOs (voluntary consumer organisations) and builders fraternity will also be present.

Homebuyers' body Forum For People's Collective Efforts (FPCE) President Abhay Upadhyay, who is also an invi tee to the conference, has welcomed the move to organise such an event. He hoped that the department will frame a legal framework to ensure that homebuyers get speedy resolution of their disputes.

Indian road logistics industry to clock high single-digit growth this fiscal: Report

The Indian road logistics industry is expected to clock a high single-digit growth this fiscal on an elevated base of the Monday. The credit ratings agency also expects the demand momentum to continue in FY24, aided by stable domestic consumption and investment demand, ICRA said. The Indian road logistics industry's revenue growth is pegged at a high single-digit on an elevated base of FY2023, Icra said, adding that the outlook is stable.

The downside risks to the estimates remain from any material tapering of demand due to high inflationary and interest rate regime, the emergence of any further Covid waves, or a sub-par monsoon impacting the overall economic health, given its strong linkage to economic activity on an aggregate basis, it said.

According to ICRA, quarterly revenues for the logistics sector witnessed a marginal

contraction of 2 per cent in Q3 FY23, compared to the earlier quarter of the same year.

Following two quarters of stable demand, economic activity was uneven in the third quarrobust demand for contactintensive services and upbeat sentiment during the festive season. "We expect the revenues in Q4 FY2023 to be better than Q3, supported by favourable demand and realisations," it stated.

On a monthly basis FASTag and e-way bill volumes peaked in December 2022, thereafter coming down sequentially in January 2023 and February 2023 post the festive season impact.

On a year-on-year basis, the combined volumes for FASTag for January and February 2023 grew by 24 per cent, and e-way bill volumes grew by 19 per cent, according to ICRA.

The volumes are expected to remain stable over FY2024, given the expectation of a favourable demand scenario in the near-term, it said

exports from India rise 15% in FY23; Maruti Suzuki leads segment



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle exports from India rose 15 per cent in FY23 with Maruti Suzuki India leading the segment with dispatches of over 2.5 lakh units, as per the latest data by indussenger vehicle (PV) exports stood at 6,62,891 units in the 2022-23 fiscal as compared to 5,77,875 units in 2021-22.

Passenger car shipments saw a 10 per cent growth at 4,13,787 units, while utility vehicle exports rose 23 per cent at 2,47,493 units during the last fiscal, the data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) showed. Exports of vans, however, declined to 1,611 units last fiscal, from 1,853 units in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) led the exports last fiscal in the passenger vehicle segment. It was followed by Hyundai Motor India and Kia India. MSI, the country's largest carmaker, exported 2,55,439 PVs last fiscal, an 8 per cent increase as compared to 2,35,670 units in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

TRUECALLER LAUNCHES SMS FRAUD PROTECTION Bengaluru: Truecaller has been warning users about potential fraudulent

phone calls for over a decade. Now, with the rise in SMS fraud, they have also initiated 'Fraud Protection': an active effort that combines user feedback with proprietary machine learning intelligence to effectively combat fraudulent messages and senders. This is especially helpful for people who may not know how to spot fraud and mistakenly believe they are dealing with legitimate businesses MILMA ALL SET TO REVAMP ITS BRAND IMAGE

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing

Federation (KCMMF), known by the brand Milma, is all set to revamp its brand image through the 'Repositioning Milma 2023' campaign, which would bring uniformity in packaging and products. The move is aimed at equipping Milma to meet challenges from domestic and global dairy brands and firm up its position as the market leader, an official said here on Monday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will launch the 'Repositioning Milma 2023' initiative at Edappazhanji near here on Tuesday.

AI REVAMPS COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR PILOTS

New Delhi: Air India has revamped the compensation structure for pilots and cabin crew, including increasing the per-hour flying rate for pilots, according to a source. Under the new structure, part of the Tata Group-owned airline's five-year transformation plan, salaries will be hiked for more than 2.700 pilots across Air India and AIX Connect (including Air Asia India and Air India Express) as well as for more than 5,600 of Air India's cabin crew, as per the source. The guaranteed flying allowance component will be doubled from 20 hours to 40 hours.

NSE WARNS INVESTORS AGAINST 'DABBA' TRADING

New Delhi: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday cautioned investors against two persons offering illegal 'dabba' trading in the stock market. 'Dabba' trading is an illegal form of trading in shares, where operators of such trading rings allow people to trade in equities outside the stock exchange platform. The cautionary statements came after NSE found that Nitin Shantilal Nagda and Narendra V Sumaria were providing 'dabba' trading. These persons were registered with a trading member (TM) as an authorised person (AP) and the said association as an AP was subsequently cancelled by the TM.

VITEEE-2023 BEGINS IN VIT-AP UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Vijayawada: Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE)-2023 began at VIT AP campus, Amaravati on Monday. VITEEE, the computer-based entrance exam, is conducted every year for admission to B. Tech programmes offered at VIT's, Vellore campus, Chennai campus, Amaravati campus, and Bhopal campus. This year VITEEE entrance exam is scheduled from April 17- 23 for the academic year 2023-24. Applicants within 1 lakh ranks are eligible to participate in the online counselling for admission to B. Tech. programmes, tentatively scheduled from April 26 to June 14.

PADMA SHRI FOR INDUSTRIALIST LATE AP KHAMBATTA New Delhi: The late Areez Piroishaw Khambatta, Founder and Chairman

of Rasna Group, has been awarded the Padma Shri (Posthumous), 2023, for his work in Trade and Industry in the state of Gujarat. One of the highest civilian awards in the country, the award comes in recognition of Khambatta's life-long work towards nation building. The award was accepted on his behalf by his wife Persis Areez Khambatta and his son Piruz Areez Khambatta. Khambatta is the first Ahmedabad-based Parsi to receive such an honour.

Diesel sales jump on agricultural demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel sales in India jumped up sharply in the first half of April as agricultural activity pick-up and trucking increased to meet industrial demand, preliminary industry data showed on Monday.

Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, soared over 15 per cent to 3.45 million tonnes in the first half of April when compared to a year ago.

Month-on-month sales rose 8.4 per cent when compared with 3.19 million tonnes of



diesel consumed in the first half of March that had witnessed seasonal slowdown.

Petrol sales rose about 2 per cent to 1.14 million tonnes during April 1 to 15 when compared with the same period of last year. Sales however fell 6.6 per cent month-on-month, the data

In the first half of March, petrol sales had fallen 1.4 per cent and diesel 10.2 per cent year-on-year. Consumption of petrol in April first half was 14.6 per cent more than COVIDmarred April 1-15, 2021 and almost 128 per cent more than

in the same period of 2020.

Diesel consumption was up
24.3 per cent over April 1-15, 2021 and 127 per cent higher than in the same month of 2020. With the continued opening of the aviation sector, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-COVID levels.

Cook to welcome customers at firm's first store in India; Delhi opening two days after Mumbai 8-metre tall ceiling if one were ject of great speculation since at to include the upper floor, and has a specially made staircase leading to the upper floor that has 14-metre long, single-piece glass walls on either side. For the walls inside the

PTI MUMBAI

Apple's chief executive Tim Cook is likely to welcome customers to the iPhone maker's first store in India, which is scheduled to open at the BKC business district here on Tuesday, company executives said on Monday. The store is being launched as the company marks 25 years in the country. Launch of the store in the financial capital on Tuesday will be followed with the opening of a similar store in New Delhi's Saket two days later. As per reports, the company will be paying Rs 42 lakh per month as a rental for the store, and will also share a part of the revenues with the space owner.

Store openings for the iconic brand world over have witnessed fans queuing up to become the first customer, and it remains to be seen how the people of Mumbai welcome the store on a working day. On the

eve of opening for customers, a media preview was held at the store which is spread over a 20,000 square feet area. The Mumbai store opening will be followed with the launch of a similar facility in New Delhi's Saket on April 20. According to reports, Cook will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has such a beautiful culture and an incredible energy, and we're excited to build on our long-standing history -supporting our customers, investing in local communities. and working together to build a better future with innovations that serve humanity," Cook said in a statement. The company's senior vice

which will be on the floor will

be speaking 18 Indian lan-

president for retail Deirdre O'Brien told reporters that a lot ecosystem, she said. of attention has been given to Apple's key beliefs of sustainability and inclusivity, and pointed out that the 100-strong team



APPLE TO ADD INDIAN FLAVOUR TO ITS STORES

The company employs 2,500 people in the country and has indirectly helped create 10 lakh jobs through its app The two-storey store occu-

pies prime real estate at the corner of a sprawling mall which also houses brands like Diesel, Michael Kors, Kate Spade and

store are the same as other Apple stores across the world, the company seems to have paid attention to 'Indianise' the facility by including local influences, starting with the much talked about 'kaali-peeli' theme on the facade borrowed from the black and yellow taxis on the city

O'Brien said the store has an

store, the company has specially procured stone from Rajasthan, and 4.5 lakh pieces of timber adorn the ceiling walls, she said. The store has products,

merchandise and services like repairing the gadgets available for customers, executives said, adding that the customers will be able to check out the products and can also educate themselves on how to use them opti-

Like in any other store, there are long wooden desks on which the products have been kept, which also include specially built sensors that trigger the opening of switches. Apple's maiden retail store

in the country has been a sub-

least 2019, when the Indian policymakers warmed up to the idea of welcoming foreign direct investment in single brand retail. The permissions to allow such stores have come with riders like mandates on local sourcing in the final finished goods. Earlier, the Cupertino, US-

based tech major was reportedly looking at a space in central Mumbai before narrowing down on the current location owned by a company led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, which has also been a distributor of Apple's products for some time. The company has leased out

the space in Jio World Drive mall for 11 years, and has been successful in negotiating for barring 22 competing brands, including Amazon, Facebook, Google LG, Microsoft, Sony and others, from occupying space or advertising in close vicinity.

LA LIGA ROUNDUP: BARCA SHUT OUT AGAIN, GRIEZMANN STARS FOR ATLETICO

subdued Barcelona could not break down Getafe in a 0-0 draw on Sunday, dropping more points but still sitting 11 clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga. Third-place Atletico Madrid beat Almeria 2-1 at home, with Antoine Griezmann netting a brace as he continued his sparkling form.

Valencia sunk deeper into the relegation mire with a 2-0 home defeat by Sevilla, who host Manchester United in the Europa League on Thursday.

Champions Madrid beat Cadiz on Saturday to cut back Barcelona's lead, and with nine games remaining, it seems highly unlikely they will catch Barcelona, but Xavi Hernandez's side is limping over the line. Barcelona drew 0-0 at home

against Girona on Monday and followed that up with a second consecutive stalemate, the team still wallowing after its Copa del Rey semifinal thrashing by Madrid earlier in April.

The one positive for Barca was a 22nd clean sheet of the season in the top flight, with Getafe, 15th, not creating much

danger.
"Here you suffer, because the grass is high, the usual tricks, so it's hard, the clear chances you have, you have to put them away," Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen told DAZN.

"It's a dry pitch, so it's difficult. We did things differently to normal, it's a point which isn't good, but it's a point we're adding obviously.'

Xavi echoed Ter Stegen's complaint that the low quality of the pitch played a part in the result but said Barca could not hide behind it.

"It's not an excuse, we weren't accurate, we made chances but we could not finish



them," said Xavi. "But yes, the grass did hurt us. The ball did-

The coach said he was not worried about Barca not finding the net in three consecutive games across all competitions.

That can happen, and it's also been a while since we let in goals," added Xavi. "It's a very tough place to go. Getafe have a lot at stake. When they sit deep, it's very hard. They are organized

After a slow start, the Catalans created the first clear

NO WAY THROUGH

chance at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez when Raphinha raced onto a long ball and fired against The rebound fell to Balde,

but with the goal gaping, his mishit effort struck the same

Sergi Roberto pulled up injured, seemingly with a hamstring issue, adding to Barcelona's long list of absentees.

The league leaders have badly missed explosive winger Ousmane Dembele and creative midfielder Pedri in recent

David Soria saved well to

keep out a Robert Lewandowski header just before the break.

Lewandowski nodded narrowly wide from an Alba cross before Soria made another solid stop from a rasping Raphinha

Getafe were content with the point, sitting back as Barcelona probed for a breakthrough, although Borja Mayoral almost snatched a winner for the hosts on the

Barcelona are still firm favourites to lift the title for the first time since 2019, but should they stumble at home against Atletico next weekend, doubts could creep in.

Getafe are four points above the drop zone, after Valencia, 18th, lost at Mestalla.

Sevilla, who welcome Manchester United for their Europa League quarterfinal second-leg clash next week, earned a hard-fought win over the frustrated hosts, for whom Ilaix Moriba was sent off late on.

Defender Loic Bade sent Sevilla ahead at Mestalla early in the second half, with Suso doubling the visitors' lead.

Valencia's anger grew when

ty after the ball struck Fernando's hand in the area, and then later on had a spot-kick award canceled by the referee after VAR showed no foul had

AFP BARCELONA

refereeing chief.

Camp Nou stadium.

The victory helped Jose Luis Mendilibar's Sevilla rise to 12th, eight points clear of the bottom three, continuing their improvement since he replaced Jorge Sampaoli at the helm in

been committed.

GRIEZMANN GOALS

Atletico stayed two points behind Real Madrid with a narwhich should have been more comfortable than it proved to be. Griezmann headed Atletico

Barcelona have not cheated,

insists chief Laporta

Barcelona president Joan Laporta insisted Monday his club never tried to cheat amid

investigations into payments made to a former

and the head of La Liga for backing the case

against the Catalan club, who are top of the

there was no attempt to influence their deci-

sions," he told reporters gathered at the club's

petition in order to gain a sporting advantage.

the Catalan club with corruption after pay-

ments of more than 7.3 million euros (\$7.8 mil-

lion) to a company owned by a former refer-

eeing chief were uncovered earlier this year.

Enriquez Negreira, the former referee and ex-

vice president of the refereeing committee of

the Spanish football federation (CTA) between

Last month Spanish prosecutors charged

Barcelona say they paid Jose Maria

In a two-hour news conference, he said there was a smear campaign against Barcelona

"Obviously referees were not bought and

ahead in the fifth minute when Angel Correa nodded on a corner to the back post.

Fans at the Metropolitano gave Correa an ovation in the 10th minute in his first appearance after the death of his mother last week.

Diego Simeone's side was dominant throughout, but Almeria pulled level when Leo Baptistao's shot deflected in off Jose Gimenez.

Griezmann sent the Rojiblancos ahead again before

1994 and 2018, for reports and advice related to refereeing.

Barcelona has never done anything with Barcelona ceased its payments in 2018 due the aim or intention of adulterating the com-

to Negreira's departure from the CTA, according to Spanish prosecutors. Laporta said the payments were for "sports

advisory services" such as advice on recruiting "which are common in professional sport". "There was no crime of corruption," he added in his first press conference since

Barcelona was charged. 'Some services were provided. They were documented. There were invoices, payments

registered in the accounting books.

the break, finishing clinically from Yannick Carrasco's pass at the end of a fine team move for his 11th league goal.

Carrasco and Griezmann both hit the post in the second half as Atletico looked to kill the

They could not find the third and Almeria gave Atletico a few scares in the final stages, appealing for a penalty when Gimenez handled, but VAR showed there was an offside.

Girona, ninth, beat bottom-of-the-table Elche 2-0, leaving the stragglers 17 points

Osimhen, Maignan head-to-head as Napoli and Milan chase UCL glory

Victor Osimhen and Mike Maignan will face off for a place in the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday when AC Milan travel south to Naples for the decisive second leg of the all-Italian quarter-final.

Nigerian striking sensation Osimhen and France's new firstchoice goalkeeper Maignan arrived at two of Italy's most storied clubs via Ligue 1 outfit Lille, where they played together for a season before both eventually made their way south of the Alps.
Osimhen hadn't played for

al break before making a substitute's appearance in Saturday's goalless draw with Verona which cut his side's imposing Serie A lead to 14 points. The 24-year-old only played

the final 17 minutes of that frustrating stalemate but the match came alive once he was on the He caused havoc in the

Verona defence and came close to snatching the points when he smashed a first-time rocket off the underside of the bar with eight minutes remaining. Osimhen's devastating efficiency in front of goal was sore-

ly missed in last week's single-

goal defeat which gave Milan a slender advantage to take into

AFP GALLE (SRI LANKA)

Sadeera Samarawickrama and Dinesh Chandimal hit

unbeaten centuries before

Prabath Jayasuriya claimed a

five-for as Sri Lanka put visitors

Ireland to the sword on the sec-

ond day of the first Test in Galle

first innings on a mammoth

591-6 before reducing Ireland to

117-7, still needing another 274

on 21 at the close, with Andy

McBrine alongside him on five.

Test, and seeking their first win

since attaining the status in 2017, Ireland could only demon-

strate their weakness against a team ranked seventh in the

world in the five-day format.

Left-arm seamer Vishwa

to avoid the follow-on.

Sri Lanka declared their

Lorcan Tucker was batting

Playing only their fifth-ever

on Monday.

Tuesday's showdown at the Stadio Maradona. "Osimhen has such a physical presence and speed you can chuck the ball at him and he'll hold onto it, use his head or unleash a change of pace. He has so many different options when he has the ball, Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti said on Saturday.

Napoli wasted a host of

chances to get something from

the game at a packed and soaking wet San Siro in which Maignan produced the sort of display which has made him a natural successor to Hugo Lloris as Les Bleus' goalkeeper.

The 27-year-old's return between the sticks in late February following five months out injured has given Milan

Jayasuriya bags five-for as Sri Lanka devastate

more security at the back, with five clean sheets in their last nine matches in all competitions.

And knowing he is ready to pull off at times astonishing saves when gaps appear at the back has allowed Milan to slowly return to the more swashbuckling style with which they won their first Serie A title last

HEAD-TO-HEAD

His superb stop in the dying seconds on Wednesday denied Giovanni Di Lorenzo from giving Napoli, at that point down to 10 men following the harsh sending off of Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa, what would have been a deserved draw.

Former Milan manager Fabio Capello said Maignan

was Milan's best player in the first leg and the seven-time European champions will need him in similar form on Tuesday if they are to have a chance of winning number eight. Maignan and Osimhen only

played together for one season at Lille — the 2019-20 campaign — but it was enough to leave an impression on Serie A's top Asked while still at Lille

whether it was easy to score penalties against Maignan, Osimhen said: "No! Nearly everyone miss-

es against him. He's too good!" Luckily for Napoli, it is Osimhen's partner in goalscor-

who takes spot-kicks. While 25-goal Osimhen will be back in Naples, Spalletti will have to do without Anguissa and South Korean defensive revelation Kim Min-jae, who is sus-

What Napoli lose on the pitch they will gain off it however, as hardcore supporters agreed a truce in their feud with owner Aurelio De Laurentiis which had made the atmosphere at Napoli's recent home matches toxic.

Napoli's history.

Supporters made a colossal racket on Saturday and will no doubt make the Stadio Maradona a seething cauldron for possibly the biggest match in

"I have waited for six years

to make my comeback into the

Chandimal as well and I'm

pleased to make it count on my

Although Arsenal are four points clear of second placed Manchester City, it is the champions who have all the momentum heading into the final weeks

eight games.

Guardiola's men have already beaten them twice this season, winning 3-1 at the Emirates Stadium in the league in February, just weeks after knocking the Gunners out of the FA Cup

untimely collapses against West Ham and Liverpool were selfinflicted wounds, with the Spaniard especially frustrated by the way his players took their strong position for granted on

But he refuses to accept it was the tension of being chased so relentlessly by City that pro-

RUTHLESS MINDSET'

"I'm certain it is not the pressure. It is we misunderstood what was needed in that



Arsenal can handle title stress as Man City close in, vows Arteta

moment," he said.

"It was very different to

'You have to have more

Liverpool in terms of the pattern

of play. But that is the next stage,

you have to play with the same

composure to finish the game.

When you drop your level so

quickly the game is there for the opponent." Before the summit

meeting with City, Arsenal host

the table Saints would move Arsenal seven points clear of City, who don't play in the leave next weekend due to their

FA Cup semi-final against

Sheffield United on Saturday. Fuelled by Erling Haaland's

record-breaking goal-spree City
— winners of their last 10 games

in all competitions — have the

edge in the remaining matches

League might also pose a dis-

traction. Arsenal's trickiest fix-

tures could be a daunting visit to

Newcastle and a home game

against in-form Brighton, while

a London derby against strug-

gling Chelsea can't be taken for

their unexpected title bid.

Arteta doesn't believe Arsenal's young squad are running out of steam towards the end of

But he will spend the days

leading up to the Southampton

game searching for answers to the blip that threatens to ruin

A victory over the bottom of

Southampton on Friday.

purpose when it is 2-0.

 $A^{\text{rsenal's bid to win the}}_{\text{Premier League for the first}}$ time since 2004 is in danger of imploding, but Mikel Arteta remains adamant the leaders can cope with the pressure of the title

Arteta's side blew a two-goal lead for a second successive game as West Ham hit back to snatch a 2-2 draw at the London Stadium on Sunday. After squandering the same

advantage in last weekend's 2-2 draw at Liverpool, the Gunners once again paid the price for taking their foot off the gas.

of a gripping title battle. With a home game against

Ominously for Arsenal, Pep

in control of their own destiny is a bitter pill for Arteta to swallow after the north Londoners' long spell at the top this term. Arteta concedes Arsenal's

Sunday.

haven't done it.'

Fernando -- playing his first Test in 10 months -- dismissed Murray Commins for a golden duck and captain Andy Balbirnie in just the second

over of the Ireland innings. Harry Tector (34) and James McCollum (35) put together a 70-run partnership before leftarm orthodox spinner Jayasuriya



wicket maiden, claiming the of off-stump. scalps of Tector and Curtis Campher.

In his next over, Jayasuriya

cleaned up top scorer McCollum

with a peach of a delivery that

pitched on middle stump, spun

Jayasuriya next had Peter Moor caught behind and completed his fifth five-wicket haul y trapping George Dockrell leg before wicket. "Jayasuriya bowled really

Earlier, wicketkeeper-batsman Samarawickrama celebrated his return to Test cricket with

turing in a Test in 2017. ing him," admitted a chastened Tector. "We have to hang in His 104 not out was the first there, show character and fight

time a Sri Lankan wicketkeeper has made a century in Testmatch cricket in seven years, the previous being Kusal Perera in

Test team," he told reporters. "It feels good to score my maiden Test hundred. "There were periods we had to be watchful," he added. "There was a lot of mentoring from

comeback. Chandimal was unbeaten alongside him on 102 at the declaration, posting his 14th Test ton against tired Irish bowlers who toiled in hot con-

The pair added an unbroken 183 runs for the seventh wicket, after skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (179) and Kusal Mendis (140) posted centuries earlier in the innings.

Chandimal, 18 overnight,

was the first to reach three figures with an elegant punch for four through extra cover.
The 27-year-old Samarawickrama joined him in the next

The match is the first-ever Test between Sri Lanka and Ireland, who have lost all four of their previous Tests, including against Bangladesh this month.

a Sri Lankan number eight.

over, his 104 the highest score by

after the Arsenal showdown. Arsenal looming on April 26, Their toughest tests could come on trips to Fulham and Brentford, although their City know they will be crowned champions if they win their last progress in the Champions

with a 1-0 victory in Manchester. For Arsenal to no longer be

voked the calamitous results.

their dream season. "Fatigue? No. The best way to put it is to convince the team they can do it. We have to dig very deep and find the solution," he said.

"We stopped playing with

the purpose to score a third and fourth one. It looked too easy. We gave them hope and credit to West Ham, they took it. 'We need that ruthless

mindset to go kill a team and we

CHENNAI ARE SUPER KINGS

 $B^{\text{rilliant half-centuries by}}_{\text{Glenn Maxwell and Faf du}}$ Plessis went in vain as Chennai Super Kings chipped in with timely wickets to prevail over Royal Challengers by eight runs in Match 24 of IPL 2023 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

Maxwell struck a 36-ball 76, smashing three fours and eight sixes while and Du Plessis hammered a 33-ball 62 as they came together for a sensational counter-attacking 126-run partnership for the third wicket that helped Royal Challengers Bangalore recover from 15/2 in the second over to keep on course for a massive chase.

RCB were up against it chasing the highest target of 227 and thanks to the brilliant batsmanship of Maxwell and Du Plessis came close to the target before being restricted to 218/8 in 20 overs, losing by eight

The bats dominated the ball in this Southern Derby as 444 aggregate runs were scored in the match in which Tushar Deshpande of Chennai Super Kings emerged as the best bowler with 3-45 off four overs. In all 33 sixes were hit in two innings combined as the two teams put up a splendid display of big hitting. Though CSK won the match, they were lucky as they dropped around half a



runs at the boundary and that ended up as the difference between the two teams.

Chasing a massive target of 227, the highest this season so far, Royal Challengers Bangalore

RR 1.354 0.761 CKS 0.265 3 0.192 GT 3 -0.109 **(b)** KKR 2 0.320 -0.318 2 -0.389 ☻ -0.822 -1.488

(RCB) got off to a poor start as Virat Kohli fell cheaply, dragging on an under edge onto his body and then the stump as he moved away to hit Akash Singh, who came in for Ambati Rayudu as Impact Player, out of the ground. Kohli was out for 6 (4 balls, 1x4).

Maheesh Theekshana dropped a sitter, running back from mid-off of the last ball of the first over as Mahipal Lomror survived a chance. But he was out without troubling the scorer, offering a dolly to Ruturaj Gaikwad at cover-point off Tushar Deshpande.

Skipper Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell set on the repair job with brilliant counter-attacking half-centuries as RCB maintained their chances for a suc-

Maxwell smashed two sixes off Akash Singh in the third over, flicked Theekshana for a six over the backward square and bashed a four and six off successive deliveries by fellow Sri Lankan Matheesha Pathirana in the

He smacked Ravindra Jadeja for a boundary and then smashed back-to-back fours off Pathirana to complete his fifty in

Du Plessis kept up the scoring rate from the other end as he capitalised on an early drop off a difficult chance by Dhoni for a boundary to smash two fours and a six off Deshpande in the fourth over and smacked Akash Singh to a six and four off successive deliveries, whipping, cutting and driving with relish.

Samson should get consistent opportunities in Team India: Harbhajan | We can win 9/9 games:

IANS NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ormer India spinner Harbhajan}}_{\text{Singh was full of praise for Sanju}}$ Samson's splendid show with the bat against Gujarat Giants and opined that the Rajasthan Royals skipper should get a consistent chance in team

Chasing 178, the Royals were reeling 66/4 in 12 overs. From there, Samson took 20 runs off Rashid Khan in the 13th over to eventually make 60 off 32 while Shimron Hetmyer smashed a whirlwind unbeaten 56 off just 26 balls to give Rajasthan an improbable three-wicket win over Gujarat Giants on Sunday.

Samson and Hetmyer added a crucial stand of 59 runs off 27 balls, followed by the latter adding 47 runs off 20 deliveries with Dhruv Jurel to complete the chase with four balls to

spare.
"Huge, a captain's knock. Such players have more courage than other players. He is a special player. He had an even bigger impact than Hetmyer because he made the game and Shimron Hetmyer finished it,"



on Star Sports.
"If you have confidence in your ability, you can take the match deep. MS Dhoni used to take the game deep because he didn't have any doubt over his ability. He knew that if he stays till the end, he will finish the match," he added.

While praising Shimron Hetmyer for his blitzkrieg, the former cricketer said it was Samson who took the game to the end. "Hetmyer also did that. He stayed till the end and finished the match but who took the match till the end — Sanju Samson. This player has so much ability, he should play for India."

Harbhajan further said that Samson should get regular opportunities on the national side as the batter has the ability to win big match-

"We talk about him (Samson) again and again, that he plays the spinners and fast bowlers extremely well. He should get consistent opportunities in Team India as well. I am his fan, not from today, but for many years, because of the sort of player he is, he has the ability to win big match-

Ganguly to DC players

IANS BENGALURU

Sourav Ganguly, Director of Cricket at Delhi Capitals, feels the David Warner-led side can still win their remaining nine matches in IPL 2023 and make a late turnaround after losing five games on the trot.

On Saturday, Delhi suffered its fifth consecutive defeat in the tournament, with a 23-run loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and are still languishing at the bottom of the ten-team points

'We need to put this behind. Back the captain, back each other together and we'll come back fresh next game. We can't get worse than this; we can only get better. Still nine games to go and we can win 9 out of 9."

"It doesn't matter if we qualify or don't qualify, it doesn't



stage. But let's look inside, play for ourselves, play for our pride, and see if we can get there," said Ganguly to the players in a video posted by the franchise.

Ganguly also urged the side that they are a better outfit than what their results show. "We are a much better side than what is happening on the field at the moment. It just takes one game to turn around and we'll do that."

"Let's stick to David (Warner), he's the captain, and he's is the most important man in the team. He's got the hard-

Head coach Ricky Ponting urged the team to be better in their fielding whenever they take the field in the tournament. "Whenever we take the field next time, I want to take the fielding from being good to great. I want you to go about your own preparations, look at your own vision, work on your own game plan and play it your way.

"One thing I said about the game, I know you keep on working hard. Keep doing all the right things, then eventually it's going to change. That's the only way we will be able to go forward boys - simple, altogether, as a group, work hard together for each other to turn things around.'

Delhi's next match in IPL 2023 will be against two-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on

Wanted Arjun to have freedom to express himself: Sachin



Cachin Tendulkar sat in the dressing Oroom instead of team dug-out as he

didn't want son Arjun to deviate from his plans on his IPL debut for Mumbai Îndians against Kolkata Knight Riders. The 23-year-old left-arm seamer had figures of 0 for 17 in 2 overs with six dot balls after stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav handed him the new

"It was a great moment. A special one to play for the team that I supported since 2008 and it was nice to get the cap from captain of MI and Indian team," Arjun, who plays first-class cricket for Goa, told IPLT20.com. For the legendary father, it was the first time that he watched his son play a competitive game.

This was a new experience for me because till now I have not actually gone and watched him play. I wanted him to have the freedom to go out and express himself, and do whatever he wanted to." Tendulkar said after Mumbai Indians' seven-wicket win against Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday.

However during the initial part of KKR's innings, Tendulkar didn't sit in the dug-out outside the boundary line as it could have made Arjun conscious.

"Today, also I sat in dressing room as I didn't want him (Arjun) to move away from his plans and start looking at mega screen and suddenly realise that I am watching him, so I was inside." For the father, it was an emotional journey as he recollected his 16-year association with the franchise — six years as player and last 10 as a 'Mentor'. "Different feeling because 2008 was first season for me and 16 years down the line, he plays for the same team, not bad," he concluded.

LSG-CSK game likely to be played on May 3

PTI LUCKNOW

ucknow Super Giants' IPL home game against Chennai م Super Kings is set to be played on May 3 instead of May 4 due to the Municipal elections in the city. While there is no official communication on the preponement of the game, the BCCI has informally told the teams that the match could be held a day in advance.

There could be issues with regards to security deployment as Lucknow Municipality goes to polls on Thursday, May 4

"LSG's game against CSK is a mid-week afternoon game at 3:30 pm. Now the game could be played a day earlier, Wednesday, May 3 at the same time," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

He could definitely play next year: Moeen on MSD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England's seasoned all-rounder Moeen Ali feels Mahendra Singh Dhoni "could definitely" feature in the IPL next year, playing down the widespread supposition that the ongoing season will be the Chennai Super Kings captain's last appearance in the T20 league.

At 41, the World Cup-winning former India skipper continues to attract massive following across the length and breadth of the country, and last week came close to lifting CSK to a win over Rajasthan Royals, with batting that reminded everyone of his best years. "He could definitely play

again next year," Moeen was quoted as saying by 'ESPNcricinfo'.says.

"The way he's playing, I don't think it'll be his batting that stops him from playing, even if it's in two, three years' time.

"I wasn't surprised at how he played (against Rajasthan). I've been watching him in the nets, and he's been batting unbeliev-

ably well. "It's just amazing to see from somebody at that age. It's not easy when you come in so late - people forget that a lot of the time, but that's what makes him so good at his role." Moeen also drew a parallel between Dhoni and his former England white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan, under whom the team won its

2019. "They're very similar in how clear and calm they are, but also very different. Their interests

first 50-over World Cup, in

and all that are very different. "The biggest difference? MS does most of his captaincy on gut feel, on the day. It could be a bit like that with Morgs too, but he was also very data-driven. But



they're both so calm. In terms of mannerisms, they are very, very, very similar.

'The best way I could describe MS is that he's a very normal person. Obviously he has a massive following but there's no big-headedness or anything like that. He's very humble. You can talk to him about anything... he's just as you see him on TV: approachable, calm." The 35-year-old spin bowling all-rounder, who had retired from Test cricket, is using the IPL to work on his bowling and "getting myself ready" for the World Cup, which India is hosting later this year.
He said it is likely to be his

last ODI World Cup.

"It's going to be really important that I do bowl, and that I get my bowling up to the best place it can be," Moeen said.

"It's more than likely going to be my last 50-over World Cup, so I want to make sure it's a good one - both for myself and for the team. We want to defend the title, and spin could play a massive role in the World Cup."

all the differences were ironed out other senior players. No pressure done by CSK franchise. Also they

 $E^{\rm qual\ respect\ for\ all\ and\ being}_{\rm empathetic\ to\ players\ during}$ their lowest phase has been the hallmark of Chennai Super Kings management, which has resulted in four IPL trophies, feels senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Jadeja, who was the captain for the first phase during last year, didn't get desired results and was replaced by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose every word is believed to be holy grail in the CSK corridors.

It was learnt was Jadeja was a bit upset after giving up captaincy and there were rumours that he wanted to leave the franchise but much before the current season begun.

"CSK management and the owners (N Srinivasan) never put any pressure on any players. Even now after 11 years with CSK, they have the same attitude and the approach. They'll never make you feel low even when you aren't per-forming well," Jadeja told 'Star

The southpaw said that there is no hierarchy in the team set-up and he has never felt that there is any bias for any particular player.

"There is no senior and junior kind of thing there. Even any youngster from U-19 will get the same respect and treatment like



at all. No biasness among any players, whether they are playing or not." For Jadeja, the connect with fans, the 'Whistle Podu' brigade, is deeply emotional at one level.

He spoke on how the CSK franchise has been instrumental in building a deeper connection with the fans, especially when they had to play their home games in Pune in the 2018 edition of the tournament.

"In Pune, CSK Franchise made complete arrangement for 2k-3k fans to stay in Pune and watch all those seven matches which were scheduled to be played in Pune. Their stay and food arrangements, everything was

were given CSK jerseys." CSK are back at home ground and Jadeja says he can feel the buzz even during training sessions. This time at home ground

there will be a lot of excitement because sometimes when we practice it feels like we are here to play a match because 15-20k fans comes to watch us practice. "Complete one stand gets

filled and cheer for us till the time we practice. It will be lot more exciting this time because we haven't played at our home ground since few years and Mahi Bhai is back this season, so it'll be a big occasion for fans to see him in Chennai.'