

# **278 Indians leave** Sudan in 1st lot



irst batch of 278 Indians getting into INS Sumedha to depart from Port Sudan for Jeddar

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

After the Indian Government on Monday launched "Operation Kaveri" to evacuate its nationals from strife-torn Sudan, the first batch of Indians left the African nation onboard INS Sumedha, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here on Tuesday.

Sudan has been witnessing fierce fighting following a

## CAPSULE

POLICE STATION TORCHED **IN BENGAL MURDER STIR** Kolkata: Violating prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC miscreants set fire to Kaliagan police station in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district on Tuesday to protest against the death of a teenage girl whose body was found in a canal here last week

RAHUL MOVES HC AGAINST SESSIONS COURT ORDER New Delhi: Congress leader Gandhi on Tuesday file an application in the Gujarat High Court challenging the order of the Surat sessions court which last week declined to stay his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark, a lawyer said.

army and a paramilitary force for the last 11 days that has

reportedly left 400 people dead. Bagchi said 278 people departed from Port Sudan for the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah. "First batch of stranded Indians leave Sudan under #Operation Kaveri. INS Sumedha with 278 people onboard departs Port Sudan for

Jeddah," Bagchi tweeted. Nearly 500 Indian nation-als, of the about 3,000 Indians

**RAJESH KUMAR/STAFF** 

REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ Supreme \ Court \ on}_{Tuesday \ issued \ notices \ to}_{the \ Delhi \ Police \ and \ others \ on}$ 

a plea by seven women

power struggle between the living in Sudan, had reached the port.

Wrestlers' plea to book

WFI chief serious, SC

plaint

Frid

As part of the evacuation, India has deployed two C-130J transport planes in Jeddah, besides INS Sumedha which reached Port Sudan late on Sunday. The airport in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, is closed as heavy fighting is on near the complex. The evacuated people are likely to be flown back to India in C-130 Js from Jeddah.

**Continued on Page 2** 

# Talks when Pak stops terror export: EAM

Difficult for us to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism, Jaishankar says ahead of Bilawal's visit

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/ PANAMA CITY

Days ahead of Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zaradari's visit to India, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "It is very difficult to engage with a neighbour who unleashes cross-border terrorism against India." Bilawal will take part in the two-day Shanghai Co-oper-ation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meet in Goa on May 4 and 5.

Addressing a joint media briefing along with Panama Foreign Minister Janaina Tewaney Mencomo in Panama City late on Monday, Jaishankar said, "The bottom line on this issue is that it is very difficult for us to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against us."

"We've always said they have to deliver on the commitment not to encourage, sponsor and carry out crossborder terrorism. We continue to hope that one day we will reach that stage," he added.

Bilawal will the first Pakistan Minister to visit India since 2014 when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif came to New Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Given strained ties between the two countries, Bilawal last week said his visit to India next month should not be seen in

### terms of bilateral ties. The conclave will take place in Goa on May 4 and 5. Zardari said his participa

tion in the meeting in India reflected Islamabad's commitment to the charter of the SCO and should not be seen in terms of bilateral ties. 'We are committed to the

SCO charter and this visit

to focus on a particular mem-ber," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said on Thursday on participation of Pakistan in SCO Foreign Ministers' meet. He also said it is premature to say bilateral meeting between Zardari and Jaishankar may take place on the sidelines of the SCO conclave. Bilawal will be the first Minister to visit India after then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited New Delhi in 2014 for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi. In 2011, then Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar visited

India In December 2015, then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Pakistan and days later, Modi made a

brief visit to Pakistan. Continued on Page 2 operation Organisation (SCO)



Tewaney during a meeting in Panama on Tuesday

## Chinese Defence, Foreign Mins to attend SCO meets; LAC talks likely Defence Minister is visiting

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/ UNITED NATIONS

A<sup>s</sup> the recent Corps Commander-level talks could not achieve a breakthrough in restoring normalcy at the border in Ladakh, India and China are likely to discuss the issue during the forthcoming visits of Chinese Defence and Foreign Ministers to India. They are scheduled to par-

ticipate in the Shanghai Co-

Defence Ministers' meet on April 27-28 in New Delhi and SCO Foreign Ministers' meet in Goa on May 4-5 respectively.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif too is likely to attend the meet. Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu too will attend the meet. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to hold bilateral meetings with the Chinese and Russian Defence Ministers on the sidelines of the meet. Incidentally, the Chinese

India for the first time since trouble flared up at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh in May 2020. In June the same year, a bloody brawl took place

**India scoffs at** 

Pak remarks on

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/

Taking strong exception to Pakistan raking up the issue of Jammu & Kashmir in the

UNSC, India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj

said she would not waste the

Council's time by responding to

such "mischievous" remarks. Kamboj's stern response late on Monday to Pakistan

came in her remarks at the

UNSC open debate on

"Maintenance of international

peace and security: Effective

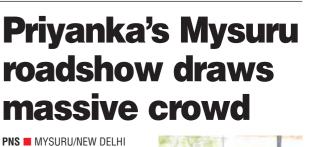
multilateralism through the

defence of the principles of the charter of the United Nations". **Detailed report on P4** 

**J&K in UNSC** 

UNITED NATIONS

between the two armies in the Galwan valley there leaving 20 Indian army personnel, including its commanding officer, dead. Nearly 40 Chinese soldiers were killed in the clash but Beijing is yet to confirm it. Continued on Page 2





### 4% Muslim quota To save K'taka from intact till May 9, observes, issues notices SC directs K'taka graft-dynasty, keep withdraw their police com-PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that the

four per cent reservation to Muslims in Karnataka will continue to hold the field till May 9. The apex court will hear the batch of petitions just on the eve of the polling on May 10. The poll results will be declared on May 13. A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna

should not be seen as a bilateral one but in the context of the SCO," Zardari said soon after his visit was announced by Pakistan Foreign office Thursday last week. "It will not be appropriate

### **NIA RAIDS IN BIHAR ON PFI CRACKDOWN** Patna: The National

Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted raids in several places in Bihar as part of its crackdown on Islamist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) which was banned by the Union Home Ministry last vear. P5

### FIR LODGED INTO BENGAL **MUNICIPAL JOB SCAM**

Kolkata: The CBI has filed an FIR into an alleged scam in the recruitment to various posts in different municipalities of West Bengal on the orders of the Calcutta High Court. The HC issued the order on April 21 and the CBI filed the FIR the next P5 day.

an FIR against WFI chief Brij

tration of

Bhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment, saying the matter is "serious" and requires its consideration. In a related development,

Olympic medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia on Tuesday claimed that seven female wrestlers, including a minor, who were allegedly sexually exploited, are being forced to

However, after hearing some arguments from senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who mentioned the matter, it decided to take up the case straightaway. The SC said normally a reme

A bench comprising Chief

Justice DY Chandrachud and

Justice PS Narasimha was ini-

tially of the view that the plea

may be listed for hearing on

dy to approach police is available under Section 156 (police officers' power to investigate cognisable cases) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. "What are the charges?" it asked. Continued on Page 2

Q.a.

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik at a press conference at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri I Pionee

also said the decision of scrapping of the four per cent quota for Muslims in 2B category of the "Other Backward Castes" and granting benefits of increased quota to Vokkaligas and Lingayats in admissions and appointments to government jobs will not be implemented till May 9 after the state government sought time to file its reply.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Karnataka Government, said he will file the reply, which is prepared and is a bulky document on a batch of the pleas during the day. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the petitioners, opposed the request for adjournment by Mehta and said the hearing has been deferred four times. Continued on Page 2

Cong at bay: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with BJP leaders Govind M Karjol, Murugesh R Nirani and other leaders during a public meeting ahead of Karnataka Assembly elections, in Theradal, on Tuesday

PTI BAGALKOTE (KARNATAKA) towards "New Karnataka". "If Congress comes to

nion Home Minister Amit power by mistake then corruption will be all time high Shah on Tuesday said if the Congress comes to power in and there will be 'appease Karnataka, dynastic politics will be at an all-time high in the ment," said Shah, who is on a State and it will be "afflicted with riots".

Addressing a public meet-ing at Terdal in Belagavi, Shah will not benefit anyway from also said the development of the State will be on the "reverse BJP's two major leaders — for mer chief minister Jagadish gear" if the Congress forms the Shettar and former deputy government. Seeking the peochief minister Laxman Savadi who recently joined the ple's mandate for "political stability" in Karnataka that would vote on May 10, Shah said that only BJP can lead the State

Tuesday held a massive roadshow in Krishnarajanagara here waving at a large enthusiastic crowd along the route, seeking people's support ahead of the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka.

¬ongress general secretary

Standing atop a speciallydesigned vehicle, she was greeted by the crowd gathered on the sides of the roads and on nearby buildings.

the Accusing BIP Government in Karnataka of rampant corruption, Priyanka alleged ₹1.5 lakh crore has been "looted" from the State. She also expressed confidence about Congress coming

two-day tour of Karnataka to to power after the May 10 hold a series of public meetings, Assembly polls in Karnataka and taking the state on the path roadshows and review meetings with his party leaders. of development. Shah said the Congress

"What is most sad is the 40 per cent government commission that was there in the state looted you (public). They looted you without any shame," she said while targeting the ruling BJP in the State at a public meeting in T Narasipura of the district here.

Mallikarjun Kharge-led party. Continued on Page 2

AICC general secretary Privanka Gandhi Vadra during a public meeting ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections, in Mysuru district, on Tuesday

"For the sake of your future, vote for Congress and bringing in a new government which will usher in a new hope in Karnataka," she added.

Commenting on the Amul versus Nandini row, Vadra said the Congress will strengthen Karnataka's 'Nandini' brand, and no cooperative will come from outside.

**Continued on Page 2** 

Parkash Badal dies Modi gifts India's first water metro to Kerala

### PNS CHANDIGARH

 $S^{\rm hiromani}_{\rm arch \ and \ five-time \ Chief}$ Minister of Punjab Parkash Singh Badal, 95, died on Tuesday

Badal was admitted in private hospital in Mohali after he complained of uneasiness in breathing over a

week ago. "S Parkash **8.12.1927 — 25.4.2023** Singh Badal, former Chief Minister of Punjab. was was shifted to the medical ICU on 18th April as his respiratory condition worsened. He had been on NIV (noninvasive ventilation) and HFNC (high-flow nasal can-

nula) support along with med

ical management. Despite appropriate medical manage-ment S Parkash Singh Bada succumbed to his illness," the hospital issued a medical bul-

> letin shortly afterwards Badal had been in the intensive care unit of the hospital and doctors were closely monitoring his health condition. Hospita

sources said his health condition suddenly deteriorated during the day on

Tuesday The former CM was also hospitalised in June last year following complaints related to gastritis and bronchial asthma.

## DEEPAK KUMAR JHA/KUMAR

CHELLAPPAN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/KOCHI

Tndia's first "water metro" was **I** dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Cochin in Kerala on Tuesday. Modi during his two days' visit to Kerala also flagged off the State's first Vande Bharat Express Train among a host of various development projects, with the major attraction being the Kochi Water Metro.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said the Kochi Water Metro is a "Made in India" pro-ject and congratulated the Kochi Shipyard for the development of ports for the same. He stated that the Kochi Water Metro will make modern and cheap means of transport

accessible for the people living in the nearing islets of Kochi, while also providing intermodal connectivity between the bus terminal and the metro network

Kochi Water Metro officials said that travel time to reach intra islands will be reduced and save both time and money. As of now one complete circle has to be taken by road but when fully operational the Kochi Water Metro will shorten the distance and offer seamless travel as Kochi City Metro tickets had been synchronised.

A joint venture by the Government of Kerala and Kochi Metro Rail Ltd at a cost of ₹747 crore, the Water Metro would link 10 islands in the suburbs of Kochi with hybrid



boats that ply on battery as well as diesel. Each of these air-conditioned boats could accommodate 100 passengers and are eco-friendly. When it becomes fully operational, the 78 boats traversing the 76 km distance would bring down carbon dioxide emission by

44,000 tonnes per year. The Prime Minister said the Kochi Water Metro will benefit Kerala's famous back waters tourism, apart from easing traffic congestion in the city and become a model for the other States.

Later, Modi laid the foun-



(Top) India's first water metro at the Kochi Lake after its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kochi on Tuesday. (Left) The PM interacts with students aboard the Thiruvananthapuram Central-Kasaragod Vande Bharat Express train PTI during the train's flagging off ceremony in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday

dation stones of and dedicated projects worth more than ₹3,200 crore at Thiruvananthapuram Central Stadium and inaugurated the Digital Science Park.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Union

Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, Railway MOS V Muraleedharan, MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor and Ministers from the Government of Kerala were present on the occasion, among others

**Continued on Page 2** 





## nation 02

ment in the State gave revenue

village status to the hamlets of

nomadic tribe Lambani and the

settlements of shepherds,

Congress is not coming out of the "internal fight" between former CM Siddaramaiah and

Congress State president DK

Shivakumar on who should be

the Chief Minister (in the event

of the party coming to

why fight unnecessarily

when both of them are not

going to become chief minister.

Your number is not even there

because the next Chief Minister

will be from the BJP," Shah said.

Modi gifts...

From Page 1

for Vishu and congratulated the citizens of Kerala for the

unveiling of various projects related to the development

and connectivity in the State, including the Vande Bharat

Express, Kochi's first Water Metro and several Railway

Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Kannur,

Thrissur to global standards. "The 2009-2014 period saw the Centre allocating just Rs 370 crore for railway pro-

jects in Kerala. But since 2014, there has been manifold

increase in the investments made by in Kerala by the

Railway Ministry. Vande Bharat Express is a small beginning and we are going to see Kerala making a massive

leap forward in infrastructure development," said

sectional speed between Thiruvananthapuram and

Shornur Junction which would gradually increase the

speed of trains in the State. Commenting on the education and awareness level

of Kerala, the Prime Minister said that the hard work

and politeness of the people of Kerala give them a unique

identity. He further added that the Government focus-

es on cooperative federalism and considers the devel-

opment of States as the development of the country.

He also laid the foundation stone for increasing the

These include the elevation of major railway stations

Addressing the gathering, Modi greeted the people

The Minister said the

'Kuruba Hatti'.

# India can respond to any threat: IAF chief To save K'taka from...

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

As tension persists at the border in Ladakh and Pakistan aiding and abetting terrorism in India, IAF Chief V R Chaudhari on Tuesday said here the country has the capability and the will to respond to any security chal-lenges at a level that it deems appropriate.

The Chief of Air Staff also said conflicts in the last few decades have clearly established the pre-eminence of aerospace power as the "instrument of choice" for almost all operational contin-

gencies. In an address at an event organised by a private television channel, Chaudhari said the Indian Air Force (IAF) has laid out a roadmap to add new capabilities and harness modern technology to bolster its overall combat capabilities.

"India has the capability the next decade.

and more importantly, the will, to respond at a level that we deem appropriate and to impose our own escalation matrix," he said.

"We, the men and women in uniform, are the cutting edge of that response. Therefore, it is imperative that we keep that edge as sharp and lethal as possible," he added

Air Chief said the IAF has the unique capability of undertaking "independent

strategic operations" as well as operations coordinated with other services and arms of the national security apparatus. We understand the imperative nature of joint planning and execution in future wars and are keen on integrating the efforts of the

ee services," he added. The IAF chief said his tional contingencies". force has recently updated and revised its operational doctrine to keep it relevant for



"The next step would be to use our doctrines and welltrained manpower to evolve employment philosophies and concepts of operations. This would require joint planning and joint execution of plans, he said. Chaudhari noted that "conflicts in the last few decades have clearly established without a doubt the pre-eminence of aerospace power as the instrument of choice for almost all opera-

He said the tactical advantage that high ground offers is a must-achieve criteria even today. "In this aspect, aero-

space power provides that high ground and the ability to bypass fielded forces to hit targets in great depths with speed and precision," he said.

At the same time, Chaudhari asserted that no single service can win wars on its own and this holds good even for the future. His comments came amid a growing perception that the IAF has some reservations about the theaterisation programme. The IAF chief said easy

accessibility to high-end technology is also posing new challenges to the conventional forces. He said the use of drones alongside fighter aircraft in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict and the extensive use of armed drones in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict are indicative of the things to come in the future.

We have also doctrinally included drone usage in our scheme of operations to benefit from some of the exclusive

attributes of these platforms," he said. "At the same time, we are pursuing unmanned combat systems and their integration with manned fighter platforms in what is known as manned-unmanned teaming," he observed.

The Air Chief Marshal said "glimpses of things on the anvil can be seen in the ongo-ing Russia-Ukraine conflict. We need to accept the fact that tomorrow's wars cannot be fought with yesterday's mindset," he said.

"What we need to understand is that airpower has the capability to deter, defend and, if required, punish the adversary in a conflict," he added.

The IAF Chief said the IAF is actively pursuing the development of niche technologies in the field of spacebased capabilities, data linking and artificial intelligencebased decision support systems.

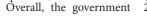




According to the National Health Accounts Estimates 2019-20 released on Tuesday, there has been a consistent decline in the share of out-ofpocket expenditure in total health expenditure from 62.6 per cent in 2014-15 to 47.1 per cent in 2019-20 in the country.

Additionally, in the Government General Expenditure, the share of health sector spending has steadily increased from 3.94 per cent to 5.02 per cent between 2014-15 and 2019-20, thus suggesting that healthcare has been the priority for public investment in the country.

During the same period, the government health expenditure (GHE) as a share of the total health expenditure (THE) increased from 29 per cent to 41.4 per cent, the data stated.



health expenditure as per cent of GDP has increased over the years from 1.13 per cent in 2014-15 to 1.35 per cent in 2019-20. For the same period, GHE as per cent of general government expenditure (GGE) has increased from 3.94 per

has doubled from Rs 1,108 to Rs 2,014 between 2014-15 to 2019-20. The government spending on health between 2018-19 and 2019-20 increased by 12 per cent, more than double the growth rate between 2017-18 and 2018-19 which

2019-20

NORTHERN RAILWAY 7 NOTICE INVITING TENDER <sup>nrit</sup> Mahotsav Name of Work and its 30-Elect-03-T-2023-24-E3 Electrical work in connection with improvement to circulating area, development the existing parking,



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at the Kedarnath Temple after its doors opened marking the Char Dham Yatra beginning, in Kedarnath on Tuesday

cent to 5.02 per cent. In per capita terms, GHE

was at 5 per cent, said Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog as he launched the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for Talks when...

ment.

From Page 1 while State into Union Meanwhile, it would be Territories in August 2019.

the highest-level visit to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years and a possible opportunity to break the ice between the two nations.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further dete riorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and

Defence... From Page 1 The 18th round of Corps Commanders' meet at the LAC

on Sunday at Chushul-Moldo border meeting on the Chinese side did not see any forward movement in finding ways to



From Page 1

Presenting the case, Sibal

There is a committee report

which has not been made pub-

lic. And no FIR is registered,"

he added. Referring to judg-

ments', the senior lawyer said

even police personnel can be

prosecuted for not registering

Yediyurappa using the JD(S)

you want to move forward

with the help of some of our

leaders but the people of

Karnataka, especially those

from 'Kittur Karnataka' region

in the northern part of the state,

north Karnataka despite being

in power at the Centre, in

Karnataka and Goa, Shah

charged that the national party

in 60 years of its rule could not

He pointed out that the

developments.

Modi.

of National Defence (MND)

"During the meeting, General Li will address the con-

ference and meet with the

heads of delegations from rel-

evant countries to communi-

cate and exchange views on the

issues of the international and

regional situation, as well as

defence and security coopera-

girls who have complained are

being pressured. WFI officials

are going to their homes and

offering money," Punia, an Olympics medallist, said. "If

something happens to those

girls, the police and govern-

ment will be responsible. I

don't know how the names

cians, including CPI(M)

Politburo member Brinda

Karat, former Haryana Chief

Minister Bhupinder Singh

Hooda, Udit Raj, AĂP

Spokesperson Reena Gupta

'kĥap' leaders and Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) represen-

tatives met with the protesting

wrestlers and extended their

Meanwhile, several politi-

were disclosed," he added.

tion", the statement said.

said in a statement.

Accusing the Congress of

will not tolerate it," he said.

From Page 1 "Congress has always insulted the Lingayat community because in its long rule in the state it could give only two Lingavat Chief Ministers – S Nijalingappa and Veerendra Patil — and both were humiliated and sacked from the party," the senior BJP leader not bothering to implement the Kalasa Banduri water project in said.

Seeking votes on the basis of those leaders who came from BJP showed how bankrupt the Congress is, Shah asserted.

He said the Congress aligned with the JD(S) to do even 10 per cent of what the BJP has done in nine years. unseat then Chief Minister BS 'double-engine' BJP govern-Yediyurappa. "After unseating

**Priyanka's** Mysuru...

### From Page 1

Noting that this BJP government formed four years ago was not a government with the support of the people, She said the electorate had given a mandate to the Congress and JD(S) in the 2018 polls, but BJP formed a government later by "buying MLAs from other parties".

They have broken your promise from the start. Right from the beginning, the government is based on betrayal and greed...As a result, no work has been done in the last four years. In the last three to four years, the grants from the central government have been decreasing," she said.

Pointing out that there are lakhs of vacancies in the state government, the AICC General Secretary sought to know: "What does it mean that you are unemployed, even though these posts are vacant? Why is the government not giving you jobs? The government has broken promises it had made."

Shangfu will visit India this week to attend the meeting of SCO Defence Ministers from April 27. He is expected to hold talks with Rajnath on ending the prolonged eastern Ladakh standoff which has severely strained bilateral ties.

Considered a close associate of Chinese President Xi Jinping, General Li's India visit is regarded significant as it comes amid the vexed standoff between the armies of India and China in eastern Ladakh since May 2020.

"Upon invitation, Chinese General Li is widely expected to hold a bilateral State Councillor and Defence Minister General Li Shangfu

wrestlers who have represented India and sexual harassment meted out to them. The matter consideration by this

will attend the meeting of the meeting with Rajnath and dis-Council of Defense Ministers of cuss the progress of the military the Member States of the SCO and diplomatic talks to resolve in New Delhi, India, from the festering standoff. Ahead of General Li's visit, April 27-28," China's Ministry

the Chinese Defence Ministry spoke positively about the 18th round of the China-India Corps Commander level meeting held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side on April 23.

It said both sides have agreed to "speed up" the set-tlement of "relevant issues" related to the prolonged stand-off in eastern Ladakh, besides safeguarding peace in the border areas.

### 4% Muslim... the WFI have approached the From Page 1

complainants and even offered them money. "I don't know how this has happened but the

Chinese

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an envi-

ronment free of terror and hostility for such an engage-

In this backdrop, China on Tuesday announced that its Defence Minister General Li tour to Panama. He arrived in



I		entry/exit & passenger amenities work etc. at ailway station.		ashmir's special po e bifurcation of			vitter handle, Jaishankar stat , "Arrived in Panama City		
Approx Cost of the wor	ks in:-	Rs. 38.57 Lacs					ank Vice Minister for		
Address of the Office:-		Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.			TICE		reign Affair		
Bid Security:-		Rs. 77200.00	N	PUBLIC NO			VladimirFrancoS for the		
Date & time of submission of		17.05.2023, 12.00 Hrs.	P	Notice is hereby given on behalf of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance			warm reception. Look forward to a packed bilateral and mul		
tender :- Opening of tender:-		17.05.2023, 12.00 Hrs.		imited that Mrs. Pree		tila	iteral agenda."		
Website & Notice Board		www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/		itends to purchase & r roperty No. F-8, on G					
website & Notice Board	:-	General, New Delhi.		ithout roof/terrad			ATHE DIANEED A		
		1248/23 STOMERS WITH A SMILE	a (l	dmeasuring 58.08 Sq. N t Sector-10, Raj Nagar J.P.) with our client agains ssistance. Whereas M	, Ghaziabad at the financial	113	LASSIFIED		
G2		NDER NOTICE	S W	ingh had acquired the Sa ay of Lease of land	id Property by and sale of		THANKSGIVING		
Invitation of tender t	hroug	h E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)		uperstructure dated 31- fter death of Mr. Surendra					
NIT No.	_	23-24/WE	M	Ir. Gurpreet Singh Vohi	ra along with	Th	ank you holly spir		
Name of Work with its Location	leal	pair to kitchen, lav and bathrooms flooring, roofs kage and doors and windows in Thompson road MNTB Rly. colony in the section of SSE/W/	0' K	other legal heirs i.e. 1) Mrs. Amarjeet Kaur & 2) Ms. Simran Kaur Bhatia intends to sell the same to Mrs. Preeti Vashisth.			blessings Celine. PD(020)		
	MN	TB under ADEN/E-II.							
Approx. Cost of Work	_	00052.71		any person(s) having c	bjection with	Mati	PUBLIC NOTICE		
EMD amount	_	0000.00	re	egard to ownership/mortga	age of the said	ICICI B	e is hereby given to the General public on behalf of our Cl Bank Ltd. that Dr. Udai Pratap Singh Chauhan was the ov t No. 5A, on Ground floor, in Block IB, in the layout pla		
Completion Period of Wo		Months		property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days			ng Estate at Ashek Vihar Phase_I Category MIC		
Date and Time for submis ender and opening of ten		f Closing date of tender on 19.05.2023 at 15:00 hrs.		orn the date of issue of		deed of	pur, New Delhi "the said property" by virtue of Conveya dated 15.03.2001, registration No. 2984, after demis Dr. Udai Pratap Singh Chauhan & his wife Late Mrs. Ra		
	=/NIT/( G CUS RTH		C	om date hereof, our Clien apital & Housing Financ roceed with the mortgage ( DEEPJYOT SINGH, AU A-13, LGF, South Ext New Dehi-49 # 011-405	e Limited will process. DVOCATE n-II,	taking anybo heirs i and ar on the F	regort pro Mr. Mahesh Chand Vermia or his nominee who Landro purchase the said property from ICCB and the dy has any objection/s upon the ownership of above le in espect of the said property is said. Nodragge/Lingda ny kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in with below mentioned address within 10 days of the present. For Yumar & Ascociates (Advoccates & Consultant S. Second Floor, 33. Shivaji Warg, Moh Nagar, New Dahi E-mail: leagi/AmslagaLcom, Ph. 01. 14.112527		
	throug	h E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)							
N.I.T. No. 1. Name of work with loca	tion	04A-23-24-W-2 Dated 24.04.2023. Provision of covering/Roofing shed on LHS Nos. 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 35, 37, 38, 55 along with hump, sump well, water proofing, boring, balancing unpaved approached to be paved, balance retaining wall	(	THER 2023 INDIA	E-TEND	ER NO	AILWAY DTICE Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav ng (E-Procurement Systems)		
		of approaches in the section of ADEN/SMQL under the jurisdiction of the Sr.DEN-II/DLI.	1.	N.I.T No.	GSU-DLI-NI				
2. Approx. Cost of work NIT- 04A-23-24-W-2		As per IREPS Notice			including p	ovision	drainage of Patel Nagar yard of new RCC Box drain no 8 & 10		
3. Earnest Money NIT- 04A-23-24-W-2		As per IREPS Notice	2.	Name of work with its Location	and launch	ning, d	Box segment including casting, curing ng, desilting of drains including pipe		
<ol> <li>Completion period of we NIT- 04A-23-24-W-2</li> </ol>		As per IREPS Notice			0		her allied works.		
<ol> <li>Cost of tender on cash/by NIT- 04A-23-24-W-2</li> </ol>	/ post	As per IREPS Notice	3. 4.	Approx. Cost of Work Earnest Money	Rs. 5,06,34 Rs. 4,03,20				
<ol> <li>Date and time for submit tender and opening of t</li> </ol>		05.05.2023 to 19.05.2023 upto 15:00 hrs	5.	Completion period of		6 Mont	ths		
tender and opening of t 7. Similar nature of work NIT- 04A-23-24-W-2	enuer	Opening of tender 19.05.2023 at 15:00 hrs. As per IREPS Notice	6.	Date and time for sult tender and opening of	omission of	Upto 1	15.00 hrs on 19.05.2023 Opening o r at 15.00 hrs on 19.05.2023		
<ol> <li>Website particulars notice   location complete details of can be seen and address office from where the te form can ased etc.</li> </ol>	of tender s of the nder		7.	Website particulars no complete details of te and address of the off tender form can be pure	tice board lo ender can be ice from whe	cation e seen	Above tender available on IREP		
NIT - 04A-23-24-W-2 Date SERVIN		04.2023 STOMERS WITH A SMILE	N				(NIT-04) Dated:-25.04.2023 WITH A SMILE		

plea to... @VladimirFrancoS for the warm reception. Look forward to a packed bilateral and multilateral agenda." said the seven wrestlers, includ-



## Thank you holly spirit

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General public on behall of our Client ICCI Bank Ld. hab U: Udal Pratap Singh Chauhan was the evener of Flat No. 5A, on Ground floor, in Block HB, in the Layout plan of Housing, Estate at Ashok Whan, Phase-J, Category MIG, at Wazingur. New Delhi "the said property" by virtue of Conveyance deed dated 15:03.2001, registration No. 284A, after demise of Lab Dr. Udal Pratap Singh Chauhan & his wife Late Mrs. Rama Chauhan, their legal heris Mr. Rejeev Singh Chauhan, Mr. Sapeev Chauhan, Mr. Sharad Chauhan are claiming owners of said property, All persons including other legal heris if any are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owners want to sail the said property Mr. Mahesh Chand Yerma or his nominee who is taking Loan for purchase the said property from ICCI Bank Ld., if anybold has any objection's vilui from the undership of above legal heris in respect of the said property from ICCI Bank Ld., if anybold has any objection's vilui from the undership. Said any R. Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Second Floor, 23. Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 E-mail: legal@knalegal.com, Ph: 011-41112527-28 an FIR in an offence of this nature. Taking note of the submissions, the bench said,

'There are serious allegations made in the petition by From Page 1 France has evacuated five Indians along with citizens of 27 other countries as part of its evacuation mission from the African nation. Saudi Arabia had evacuated at least three Indians with people of other nationalities on Sunday. 'Operation Kaveri is

underway to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan while more are on their way. Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. We are committed to assisting all our brethren in Sudan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had tweeted on Monday.

court."

'(The plea) Taken on board. The identity of the petitioners shall be redacted. Only the redacted petition shall be made available in the public domain. Issue notice. Returnable on Friday. Liberty to serve the NCT Delhi. The complaints which form a part of an attachment in sealed cover shall again be re-sealed and shall be paced again together with the ... Plea," the bench ordered. The Delhi Police was among other parties who were issued the notice. The petition said it is the responsibility of the police to ensure the safety of all citizens. especially of those who are most vulnerable

support to them. This is the Earlier, protesting wrestlers second time in over three held a press conference at months that Hooda, Raj and Jantar Mantar on Tuesday, Karat visited the protesting alleging that some people from

support on

Meanwhile, the French

embassy in New Delhi said on

Monday 388 people from 28

countries, including India, were

tary base in Djibouti along with

the other people, French diplo-

matic sources said. Three

flights brought approximately

500 evacuees to Djibouti, they

nationals," it tweeted.

the

cal

ground".

added.

wrestlers to extend her support. The evacuation comes On Sunday, Saudi Arabia days after Jaishankar held talks said it has evacuated from with his counterparts in Saudi Sudan 66 citizens from "broth-Arabia and the United Arab erly and friendly" foreign coun-Emirates (UAE). Both countries that included a few Indian tries had assured their "practi-

nationals People familiar with the matter said in New Delhi that Saudi Arabia evacuated three Indians, who were part of the crew of a Saudi flight and stuck in Khartoum.

evacuated. "French evacuation Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) Government has operations are underway. Last night, two military flight rotastarted a helpline to assist peotions evacuated 388 people of ple from the State as well as 28 countries, including Indian other parts of the country who are stranded in Sudan, an offi-The five Indian nationals cial said on Tuesday in Bhopal. were brought to France's mili-Those stranded in Sudan

and are keen to come back to MP or other States can contact the helpline "91-755-2555582" and share their details, the official said. The State Government will coordinate

л Арги , the t had deferred till April 25 hearing on a batch of pleas challenging scrapping of the four per cent Muslim quota in Karnataka after the State Government sought time to file its reply. Court had recorded the assurance given by the State Government on April 13 that no quota benefits in admission to educational institutions and appointment in government jobs will be given to Vokkaligas and Lingayats

will hold the field till the next date of hearing. On April 13, the Karnataka Government's decision to scrap four per cent Muslim quota ahead of the assembly polls came under the scanner of the Supreme Court, which questioned the government order and said prima facie it appeared to be on a "highly shaky ground" and "flawed".

with the Centre to facilitate their evacuation, he said.

The Government has appointed the State's Home Secretary Gaurav Rajput as the nodal officer for the purpose. Besides, relatives of Madhya Pradesh residents stuck in Sudan can also contact the Chief Minister Helpline "181" to register details about their near and dear ones for getting assistance, the official said.

According to the official, the information can also be registered on the CM Helpline Portal

http://www.Cmhelpline.Mp.Go v.In.

At a meeting on Friday last week to review the situation in Sudan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told officials to prepare the contingency plan to evacuate Indians from there.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in the condition g damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement befor responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of lass, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Officiating Executive Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. AIR SURCHARGE of 🕇 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445





# Supplementary chargesheet against Sisodia in excise case

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday filed a L supplementary chargesheet against former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others in the excise policy case. The agency has invoked IPC 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 201 and 420 besides provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act. It has also named Hyderabad-based CA Butchi Babu Gorantla, liquor trader Amandeep Singh Dhall and private person Arjun Pandey in the charge sheet.

Special Judge M K Nagpal fixed May 12 for considering the chargesheet after the CBI submitted that the prosecution sanction against Sisodia has already been procured from competent authorities. In a case of corruption, the investigation agency must file charge sheet against an accused within 60 days of arrest, else the person becomes eligible for default bail. The agency has also named Hyderabad-based CA Butchi Babu Gorantla, liquor trader Amandeep Singh



Dhall and private person Arjun Pandey in the charge sheet. Out of the four accused, Sisodia and Dhall are currently in judicial custody. While Gorantla was granted bail in the matter on March 6, Pandey

has not been arrested. The CBI had arrested Sisodia on February 26 and it filed the chargesheet on the 58th day which may deny him the chance of getting default bail. The CBI probe so far shows that Sisodia was heading the GoM for formulating the excise policy and he was the chief architect of the conspir-

acy to tweak and manipulate the formulation and implementation of the excise policy under the influence of South

Group, officials said. The tweaking was allegedly done to facilitate monopolisation of wholesale and retail liquor trade for the suspects of 'South Group', a group of businessmen and politicians based in Hyderabad, for taking six per cent of the 12 per cent "windfall profit margin" for wholesalers, provided in the policy, in return for kickbacks, the agency has alleged. The CBI had filed the last

charge sheet on November 25, 2022.

Recently, while rejecting the bail petition of Sisodia, special judge Nagpal had noted that the then deputy chief minister played the "most impor-tant and vital role in the above criminal conspiracy" and he had been deeply involved in formulation as well as implementation of the said policy to ensure achievement of objectives of the said conspiracy.

'The payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore was meant for him and his other colleagues in the GNCTD and Rs 20-30 crores out of the above are found to have been routed through the co-accused Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally and approver Dinesh Arora and in turn, certain provisions of the excise policy were permitted to be tweaked and manipulated by the applicant to protect and preserve the interests of South liquor lobby and to ensure repayment of the kickbacks to the said lobby," the judge said referring to the CBI probe.

(50 KLD) capacity. Two such

plants have already been

installed at Jharoda and Shakur

Basti. Two more are coming up

in the Hari Nagar assembly con-

"A total of more than 450

places in Delhi were identified

for installation of RO systems,

including unauthorised colonies.

Currently, residents in such areas

It said that at a review

to elect

depend on water tankers.

stituency.

Sisodia's wife suffering from MS, hospitalised STAFF REPORTER MEW DELHI

Former Delhi deputy chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia's wife Seema Sisodia ( 49) was on Tuesday admitted to the neurology department of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital after her health deteriorated. She has been suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS). "Seema Sisodia is suffering from an autoimmune disorder, multiple sclerosis. Her condition had deteriorated and she had to be hospitalised," according to sources. In this disease, the brain gradually loses control over the body. His son studies abroad and, therefore, his wife is alone. Meanwhile , Delhi Rouse Avenue court will pronounce order on the bail plea

Wednesday. According to doctors, multiple sclerosis is a dis-

Manish Sisodia on



abling disease of the brain and spinal cord. The common symptoms include numbness or weakness in one or more limbs that typically occurs on one side of the body at a time, tingling, electric-shock sensations that occur with certain neck movements, lack of coordination, unsteady gait or inability to walk, partial or complete loss of vision, prolonged double vision, blurry vision, vertigo, problems with sexual, bowel and bladder function, fatigue, slurred speech, cognitive problems and mood disturbances.

Aam Aadmi Party chief bail from court on earlier spokesperson and Delhi occasions citing his wife's ill

Cabinet minister Saurabh health and his son being Bharadwaj said, "Manish ji's abroad. A court is expected to wife is suffering from a rare deliver an order on his bail and serious ailment. One in a plea on April 26. "The court million is affected by this. In should consider the situation," this disease, the brain loses Bharadwaj said. this disease, the brain loses control of body parts. The patient grows dependent." "We hope she recovers. She was hospitalised a few years back for a long time. At that time, the ailment was not revealed. The BJP had even done a press conference saving In a statement, the AAP said that Sisodia's wife is cur-

rently showing symptoms which include reduced mobility, loss of balance with increased risk of falls, as well as bowel and bladder control problems. MS eventually leads to loss of muscle control, slowly taking away the patient's ability to move, walk or talk.

After the AAP leader was arrested in February in connection with the excise policy case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann had visited Sisodia's residence to meet his wife and assured her of all support. Kejriwal had said Seema Sisodia "is suffering from a very serious disease"

Faculty questions rationale in Kejriwal slams laxity in RO plants' DU spending ₹5L on event

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's move to spend Rs 5 lakh on a magic show as part of its cen-tenary celebration has run into rough weather with a section of teachers questioning the rationale behind organising such a programme amid a "severe crunch of funds".

According to a poster of the event, famous Jadugar Samrat Shankar will present the show on May 3 at the multipurpose sports complex at the varsity. It also said that the programme is being organised by the University of Delhi's Culture Council. The entry is strictly through registration, reads the poster.

A varsity official said the show is being organised to develop scientific temperament among the students.

Opposing the move, a section of teachers alleged that the magic show was a "sheer wastage of public money" and pointed out that various R&D grants and innovation projects have been discontinued due to paucity of funds.

"One should not forget that the Delhi University (DU)



is not Hogwarts. When the official committee itself has acknowledged severe crunch of funds for library, laboratory, infrastructure development and research, spending public money on magic shows is sheer wastage," Rajesh Jha, a former

Executive Council member of DU, rued. Jha, who teaches at the varsity's Rajdhani College, noted that DU should be a centre to promote excellence in research to disseminate scientific temper. "The R&D grant and innovation projects have been discontinued. The development fund collected from students was increased by 150 per cent. In such a scenario of fund crisis, organising a magic show is putting unnecessary pressure

on the finance of the university," he emphasised.

The magic show also comes in the backdrop of alleged non-payment of pensions and salaries to pensioners and ad hoc teachers of several colleges under the varsity.

Meanwhile, the Delhi University defended the step and said the amount (of Rs 5 lakh) was not big as "singers usually charge Rs 40 lakh to 60 lakh for a single performance". "Nobody has to pay for the magic show. But the entry is through registration. We are taking out money from the centenary celebration fund. The amount is not big. For big shows, colleges pay in lakhs. This amount is nothing," the varsity official said.

## installation in water-scarce areas STAFE REPORTER NEW DELHI Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday expressed displeasure over "lax-ity" in the work of installation

of reverse-osmosis (RO) plants in water-scarce areas of the national capital and directed officials to complete it soon. Under a pilot project, the Delhi Jal Board is setting up 30 RO plants of 50,000 litres per day

meeting, Kejriwal gave strict instructions to officials that no laxity and delay will be acceptable in the work of providing clean water to the people of Delhi.

"Action should be taken on priority basis on the complaint of dirty water and there should be a permanent solution to that problem. Damaged flowmeters on water treatment plants and primary underground reservoirs should be repaired with immediate effect so that the government has information about the availability and supply of water," the CMO said in another tweet.

At the review meeting to take stock of the water supply, Kejriwal has strictly directed the Water Department and Delhi Jal

Board to resolve the problem on war footing. During the meeting, Kejriwal said that he has been frequently receiving complaints of contaminated water supply from across the city. He directed the department to identify areas which get poor quality of water regularly and reach the root cause of the problem on priority.

The chief minister also directed the DJB to repair all flow meters installed at Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and Underground Primarv Reservoirs (UGRs) within the next 15 days. The Chief Minister has also decided to personally monitor the production and supply of water in Delhi and has directed the department to submit daily reports.

CM inaugurates 180 cloud-based websites of 50 Govt Depts

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inau-gurated 180 new websites of 50 departments of the Delhi Government and stressed on using artificial intelligence to make services more accessible to the common people. Some of the departments whose websites were inaugurated include the transport and the public works departments.

done a press conference saying

that Sisodia ji had taken a huge

amount of money for mediclaim," he said. The

senior party leader rued that

there was no family member

"I think party members must be with her. The disease

is quite unpredictable and the

patient needs emotional sup-

port too. Manish ji is not

there and her son is abroad."

Manish had also sought

by her side.

"The 180 websites of 50 departments have been integrated into one portal of the Delhi Government. The old websites were driven by old technology and weren't tab friendly. "Now, we have moved to cloud storage and removed the server system. The new cloud-based website of the Delhi Government eliminate the risk of a server crash, making it faster, more reliable, and easily accessible. These websites have the latest technology, sufficient bandwidth and space," he said at the inauguration event.

Asserting that they have to cater to the requirements of

people through these websites, Kejriwal said that Artificial Intelligence is the future of technology and it has to be seen how it can be used by the government for making services more accessible to people. It is based on the latest technology - Drupal, an Open Source CMS Framework and has easier data handling with an auto archival process for protecting data and content. It works seamlessly across devices such as Mobile, Tablets, Web Browsers. It also has enhanced accessibility with GIGW/W3C compliance and Bilingual / Multilingual support.

Kejriwal further said that the existing websites of GNCTD were launched in 2008 by the Department of Information Technology, GNCTD using a Content Management System (CMS) by IBM. Technology used in existing CMS portals was old and servers are obsolete. It was also challenging to maintain existing CMS due to old technology and it led to frequent outages and breakdowns.

laxity is being seen in this work, on which the chief minister expressed his displeasure and gave strict instructions that this work should be done seriously and soon," the chief minister's office (CMO) said on Twitter. The Delhi government is installing 500 RO plants with tube wells in water-stressed areas,

## BJP slams Kejriwal for extravagant renovation of CM's bungalow, office



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ollowing the exposure of}}_{\text{the extravagant expendi-}}$ ture on beautification of the official bungalow of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi BJP came down heavily on the AAP convener and demanded his resignation.

'Today, it has been established that Arvind Kejriwal does not live in a house but in Sheesh Mahal and we demand that Chief Minister Kejriwal should open his Sheesh Mahal for public viewing. Arvind Kejriwal should own moral responsibility and resign," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva asserted.

Sachdeva said that during the period from 2020 to 2022 which was the Covid phase, many development works were postponed by the governments in the country due to lack of funds, but the people of Delhi are shocked by the 'sting' operation which exposed that Kejriwal splashed Rs 44.78 crore on the beautification of his official bungalow and office. "In that critical phase Papalashing of

Arvind Kejriwal's splashing of about Rs 45 crore on his bungalow is a big proof of his daughter.

insensitivity," Sachdeva said. "Post the 'sting' opera-tion that highlighted an

expenditure of over Rs 11 crore on artistic ornamental works as well as other beautification projects in the official bungalow, the people of Delhi are overawed as to how big and grand is the Delhi Chief Minister's residence. Even today, a nice bungalow can be built in Delhi for Rs 11 crore," Sachdeva said.

"Similarly, the people of Delhi are shocked to learn that a whopping Rs 2.58 crore was spent on electrical fittings alone in the official bungalow and Rs 1.10 crore was spent on building just a kitchen. Such amounts would suffice to buy a decent house or a flat in a posh area in Delhi," the Delhi BJP president said.

Sachdeva said that generally it is beyond comprehension what will be the grandeur of those three almirahs on which Rs 25 lakh were spent.

According to the sting operation, the cost of the almirah made for his parents at the Chief Minister's residence was about Rs 12 lakh. the cost of the almirah made for his son was Rs 8 lakh and about Rs 4 lakh were spent on the almirah made for his

### Deputy **Mayor today** Mayor

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T_{\rm of \ Delhi \ (MCD) \ is \ set \ to}^{\rm he \ Municipal \ Corporation}$ elect Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Wednesday. There will be a direct contest between the ruling AAP candidate and incumbent Shelly Oberoi and BJP leader Shikha Rai in the mayoral polls.

With 134 councillors, the AAP has a clear majority in the MCD while the BJP has 104 of the 250 wards. The two candidates, current mayor Oberoi and BIP's Rai, had earlier filed their nominations for the Delhi



mayoral poll slated to be held on April 26. The post of mayor in the national capital sees five single-year terms on a rotational basis, with the first year

reserved for women, the second for the open category, the third for the reserved category and the remaining two again for the open category. The city

Oberoi was elected as the Delhi mayor on February 22. She had defeated BJP's Rekha Gupta by a margin of 34 votes. Oberoi polled 150 votes, while Gupta received 116 of the total

of a financial year.

266 votes polled. The voting was held at the Civic Centre the headquarters of the MCD, where the fresh mayoral poll will be held.

gets a new mayor after the end

Ahead of the mayoral polls, BJP mayor candidate Shikha Rai criticized Mayor Oberoi saving that she has compromised on the autonomy of the Municipal Corporation, public service charter and employee interest under the pressure of the Chief Minister and she will gradually make the Municipal Corporation a department of the Delhi Government.

Rai said that AAP believes in doing every work in an unconstitutional manner. The talk of Delhi Government writing a letter and handing over the roads owned by the Corporation to the Delhi Government is a well-planned conspiracy. The MCD employees themselves are not convinced with this conspiracy because they also know that Kejriwal is trying to create another way of extorting money on the pretext of cleaning the roads. Delhi had got a mayor on February 22 in the fourth

attempt since the earlier elections were stalled amid a ruckus over voting rights being given to nominated members. According to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957, the mayor and the deputy mayor are to be elected in the very first session of the House after the civic polls.

Six arrested for

cheating people in

name of investments

## Full reopening of Chirag Dilli flyover today to benefit commuters

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

The full reopening of the Chirag Delhi flyover from Wednesday following maintenance work will benefit lakhs of commuters travelling between Nehru Place and the Indian Institute of Technology every day

Sharing the information, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Atishi on Tuesday informed that repair works of the Chirag Delhi flyover has been completed ahead of schedule. " Now that the work on both carriageways has been completed, the flyover will be open for traffic from Wednesday," said Atishi after the inspection of flyover.

The Chirag Delhi flyover is one of the busiest stretches in the national capital. One of the most important routes leading to the Delhi airport on Outer Ring Road, the Chirag Delhi flyover traffic, has been a huge concern for commuters as well as neighbourhood residents since the repairs started. The area has been seeing bumperto-bumper traffic as vehicles have been taking up to an hour to cover a one kilometre



from Panchsheel Park Metro station to the flyover.

The PWD minister said that under the directions of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the work was carried out at twice the speed, and as a result, the flyover will be open for the public from tomorrow. Along with this, PWD Minister monitored the progress of the flyover on a daily basis.

According to officials, the work of the first carriageway of Chirag Delhi flyover was completed on March 31st. The work on the second carriageway began on April 1st. During the maintenance work, the first carriageway was completely closed, but during the maintenance work of the second carriageway, one lane was kept open for traffic.

Currently, the maintenance work on the carriageway from IIT to Nehru Place of the flyover has been completed. Three lanes out of the four lanes of both carriageways are open for traffic, and from Wednesday, one lane of the carriageway from IIT to Nehru Place will also be opened for

traffic. Atishi said, "Due to frequent rain in the past month, the flyover maintenance work had to be halted several times, causing delays in the timeline. However, PWD showed its commitment by working round the clock and completing the work ahead of schedule. We are proud that PWD has taken another step forward in the direction of making Delhi traffic jam-free."

## Atishi: Sarai Kale Khan half-flyover likely to be opened by July-end



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

With more than 75 per cent of the work on the half-flyover coming up near the Sarai Kale Khan bus terminal completed, Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Atishi, who inspected the under-construction flyover along with the department officials on Tuesday said the flyover is likely to be open for traffic by July end. The minister directed concerned officials to expedite the work so that it could be opened for commuters soon. The construction of the new flyover on Ring Road was started around July last year and it looks likely that PWD will meet the deadline for the project.

Atishi said the new flyover at Sarai Kale Khan T-junction will reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by five tons per day and help commuters save Rs 19 crore annually. The Delhi government is

constructing a flyover at Sarai Kale Khan T-junction to free the area from traffic jams. This 643metre-long three-lane flyover will benefit lakhs of commuters travelling between ITO and Ashram every day, according to an official statement.



STAFF REPORTER 📕 NEW DELHI

Six men, including a post-man, were arrested for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of ensuring high returns on investments and getting back their money stuck in lapsed insurance policies.

The gang was operating from Begusarai in Bihar and a

financial analysis shows that transactions of over Rs 40 crore were done through 35 bank accounts and more than 100 people have been duped, a

senior police officer said. Investigation was initiated following a complaint from a man that some unknown people cheated him of Rs 2.8 crore in the last seven to eight years on the promise of getting back his money stuck in an insurance policy, police said.

## nation 04



# **Mischievous, says India in snub to Pak for raising J&K in UNSC**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW

**DELHI/UNITED NATIONS** 

Taking strong exception to Pakistan raking up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj said she would not waste the Council's time by responding to such "mischievous" remarks.

Kamboj's stern response late Monday to Pakistan came in her remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on "Maintenance of international peace and security: Effective multilateralism through the defence of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" chaired by Russia, President of the Council for the month of April.

With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov presiding over the debate, Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the UN Munir Akram referred to Jammu and Kashmir in his statement

"Lastly, this august forum has today heard some mischievous remarks by a permanent representative arising



purely out of ignorance and lack of an understanding on the basic facts of decolonisation," Kamboj said.

"I will not be wasting the time of this Council in responding to those remarks. Our advice to that delegation is please refer to our numerous rights of reply that we have expressed in the past," she

added Pakistan consistently rakes up the issue of Kashmir at various UN platforms, irrespective of the agenda and topic of discussion at the meetings.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked

strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.



Security Council (UNSC), India has said it is right in demanding it when the world's

largest democracy is kept out of global decision-making. India has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts

to reform the Security Council, saying it rightly deserved a place as a permanent member f the United Nations. Currently, the UNSC has

five permanent members -China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution.

"India was a founding signatory to the UN Charter when it was signed on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco. Seventy-seven years later, when we see the world's largest democracy, along with entire continents of Africa and Latin America, being kept out of global decision making, we

fragments in the air are a

major concern as they can

move from the respiratory tract

into the brain," Spencer said.

Until now, studies have failed

to show a link between poor air

quality and cognitive prob-

lems in babies, when brain



rightly call for a major course correction," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said in the UN Security Council late Monday.

She was addressing the Security Council's open debate on 'Effective Multilateralism through the Defense of the Principles of UN Charter' held under the Council Presidency of permanent member Russia

Kamboj said even as effective multilateralism should prevail, "we are collectively aware of the inadequacies of the multilateral system that has failed to respond to contemporary

challenges, whether it be the Covid-19 pandemic or the ongoing conflict in Ukraine." Moreover, significant

global challenges such as terrorism, radicalism, climate justice and climate action, disruptive non-state actors, debt and several geopolitical contestations continue to undermine global peace and securi-

ty," Kamboj said. She outlined three pressing questions which she said the debate should address. India questioned whether "effective multilateralism" can be practised by defending a charter that "makes five nations more

equal than others and provides to each of those five the power to ignore the collective will of the remaining 188 member states", referring to the remaining membership in the 193nation UN.

Kamboj was referring to the five permanent members of the Security Council.

She asserted that the "starting premise" has to be widening the representation of the core institution of the Security Council to more developing countries for its effectiveness and credibility.

"If we continue to perpetuate the 1945 anachronistic mindset, we will continue to lose the faith our people have in the United Nations," she said.

"Can we actually promote 'effective multilateralism' through defending a UN Charter where two of the permanent members have not been able to get even their names changed?" she asked, in a reference to China and Russia. In the UN Charter, 'The Republic of China' is still used as the name for China, now

victor belong the spoils" privofficially known as The People's ileged more than three gener-Republic of China while the former nomenclature "the

ations ago. "How much longer will we keep decorating 'effective' multilateralism with the intent of reforming multilateralism with only words and mere lip service?" she asked.

Kamboj referred to remarks made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who said in December last year during India's Presidency of the Council that "reform is the need of the day."

In his remarks at the debate presided over by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Member States are in the lead on adapting intergovernmental organs to meet changing needs.

"A majority now acknowledge that the Security Council itself would benefit from reforms that reflect today's geopolitical reality. The same is true for the Bretton Woods institutions. They do not reflect the reality of today's global economy," Guterres said.

## **Poor air quality in India may impair** cognitive abilities in infants: Study

### ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

 $P^{oor\,air\,quality\,in\,India\,may}_{be\,impairing\,cognitive\,abil}$ ities of infants under the age of two, a team of researchers has said after studying the home air quality of a group of rural families from a range of socio-economic backgrounds in Shivgarh, a rural community in Uttar Pradesh in India. One of the most populated states in the country, Uttar Pradesh is home to many highly polluted cities like Lucknow and Kanpur.

In collaboration with the Community Empowerment Lab in Lucknow, India - a global health research and innovation organization, the researchers assessed the visual working memory and visual processing speed of 215 infants using a specially-designed cognition task from October 2017 to June 2019. Cognition is the process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the "The negative impact senses. on children's long-term brain



development could have consequences for life," the researchers said, emphasizing on global efforts to improve air quality so that infants' emerging cognitive abilities can be boosted.

"This, in turn, could have a cascade of positive impacts because improved cognition can lead to improved economic productivity in the long term and reduce the burden on healthcare and mental health systems," said lead researcher Professor John Spencer, from the University of East Anglia, UK. "Very small particulate talises on infant's tendency to look away from something that's visually familiar and towards something new," Spencer said, adding that they were interested to know whether infants could detect the changing side and how well they did as we made the task harder by including more squares on each display."

The team used air quality monitors in the children's homes to measure emission levels and air quality. They also took into account and controlled for family socio-economic status.

"Such impacts could carry forward across years, negatively impacting long-term development," he added.

The researchers also found growth is at its peak and the that air quality was poorer in homes that used solid cooking brain may be particularly sen-On one display, the todmaterials like cow dung cake. dlers were shown flashing Therefore, efforts to reduce coloured squares that were cooking emissions in homes always the same after each should be a key target for intervention, they said. The 'blink'. On a second display, one coloured square changed after study is published in the joureach blink. "This task capinal eLife.

## Rainath to chair SCO Defence Min's meeting on April 28

**PIONEER NEWS** SERVICE NEW

DELHI

ndia will host the Shanghai Cooperation

Ministers' Meeting here on April 28, Friday as the Chair of the SCO, the Defence Ministry said here on Tuesday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will also hold bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of participating countries on the side-

lines of the SCO Defence Ministers' Meet. The SCO is an intergovernmental organization estab-lished in 2001. The SCO membership includes Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan besides India. Apart from the member states, two observer countries Belarus and Iran extended neighbourhood.

will also be participating in the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting here

The Defence Ministers will dis-Organisation(SCO)Defence cuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter terrorism efforts within SCO and an effective multilateralism.

> The theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO in 2023 is 'SECURE-SCO'. India attaches special importance to SCO in promoting multilateral, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region.

The ongoing engagement with the SCO has helped India promote its relations with the countries in the region with which India has shared civilizational linkages, and is considered India's

legal sanction.

rounding the PM CARES Fund prove that it was set up by a highly uncaring government, by an uncaring ruling party and prime minister. Sixty per cent of the total contribution to PM CARES comes from government-run and government-owned firms, including ONGC, NTPC, IOC. The 'C' in PM CARES stands for coercion, chaos, confusion and corruption," Singhvi said.

## audit, transparency in PM CARES Fund PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress demands

questioned

Union of Soviet Socialist

Republics" is used for Russia.

the UN Charter never wanted

it to be cast in stone for perpetuity, and that's why it had

recommended a General Review Conference of the

Charter to be held before the

10th UN General Assembly.

However, she said 77 years

later, "We are nowhere closer to

General Conference of the

Members of the United Nations

for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be

held at a date and place to be

fixed by a two-thirds vote of the

members of the General

Assembly and by a vote of any

nine members of the Security

whether the international com-

munity can practise "multilat-

eralism effectively" in the 21st

century through a body that

celebrates the principle "to the

Council.

Kamboj

Article 109 states that a

making that a reality."

Kamboj said Article 109 of

NEW DELHI ongress on Tuesday

alleged that the PM CARES Fund is shrouded in secrecy and demanded answers on why it has no transparency or accountability and is not subjected to any audit or RTI even though 60 per cent of its funds are received from public sector

companies. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi demanded more transparency and accountability in the Fund, which gets donations to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore, and said it should be submitted to Right to Information (RTI) and supported by legal sanctity.

He alleged that the Fund, which has received nearly 60 per cent of the funds from public sector undertakings with major government hold-

ing, is in violation of constitutional norms as the top office of the country is "collecting money" without any

"The controversies sur-

sitive to toxins.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग ( भ⁄स ) दमाह सभाग दमाह E-Mail -- eepwddamoh@mp.nic.in Phone 07812-221405

निविदा प्रथम आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा सचना क्रमांक 03/2023-24

G-11900/23

दमोह दिनांक :- 19.04.2023

निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। उल्लेखित कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट <u>www.mptenders.gov.in</u> पर देखा जा सकता है

क्रं.	पोर्टल टेण्डर क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	जिला	ठेके की अनुमानित राशि ( लाख में )	अमानत राशि (रू. में) मूल्य	निविदा प्रपत्र का	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय ( वर्षाकाल सहित )		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1	PWDRB	मुख्यालय उपसंभाग दमोह के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न ग्रामों पर बी.टी. रिन्युवल कार्य। (1) वनगांव रेवझा कला बम्होरी ककरान मार्ग किमी 1.00 से 18/2 (2) दमोह सागर मार्ग से बटियागढ़ वाईपास मार्ग किमी. 1.20 (3) हिण्डोरिया पिपरिया रोढ़ा मार्ग किमी. 1.00 से 6.00 (4) लक्ष्मण कुटी झागरी वैशाली करैयाराख मार्ग किमी. 1/2 से 4/4 (5) साहू तिगड्डा से ईटवाखुर्द हिरदेपुर मार्ग किमी. 1.00 से 5.00 (6) रामबाग पंहुच मार्ग किमी. 1.00	दमोह	345.34	345340.00	15000.00	03 माह वर्षाकाल सहित		
2	2023-24 PWDRB _268128	(1) वांसा देवरान भौंरासा मार्ग किमी. 4/6-8-10,5,6/2 (2) वांसा	दमोह	111.09	111090.00	12500.00	02 माह वर्षाकाल सहित		
3	2023-24 PWDRB _268132	and the second se	दमोह	202.70	202700.00	15000.00	02 माह वर्षाकाल सहित		
4	2023-24 PWDRB _268135	14.20 किमी. (2) मडियादो वर्धा मार्ग लं. 15.00 पर बी.टी.	दमोह	494.45	494450.00	15000.00	03 माह वर्षाकाल सहित		
5	2023-24 PWDRB _268138	कार्य। (1) भैंसाघाट सैलवाड़ा मार्ग किमी.	दमोह	490.98	490980.00	15000.00	03 माह वर्षाकाल सहित		
1.		निविदा से संबंधित बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाईट <u>https://mptenders.gov.in/</u> पर बिना भुगतान के देखे एवं डाउनलोड किये जा सकेगें							
	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ऑन-लाईन पोर्टल पर क्रेडिट/डेबिट/कैशकार्ड/इंटरनेट बैंकिंग के मध्यम से भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र खरीदा जा सकेगा।								
	<b>बजे</b> तक	निविदा प्रपत्र केवल ऑन-लाईन <b>दिनांक 19.04.2023 समय 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 04.05.2023 समय 5:30</b> बजे तक खरीदा जा सकेगा। सूचना व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त आवश्यक संशोधन उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर ही दर्ज किये जायेगें. पथक से समाचार पत्रों में							

### निविदा से संबंधित समस्त आवश्यक संशोधन उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर ही दर्ज किये जायेगें, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

## कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग ( भ⁄स ) दमोह संभाग दमोह मो नं. 9826503561

## India, South Korea review maritime ties at Coast Guards' meet

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

RB\_269454

G-11922/23

ndia and South Korea on Tuesday here reviewed their maritime ties and resolved to further strengthen co-operation during the high-level meeting between the Coast Guards of the two countries.

Giving details here, officials said a seven member delegation of Korean Coast Guard (KCG) led by Commissioner General KIM Jong Wook Commissioner while Additional Director General Rakesh Pal headed the Indian team.

This meeting is the 11 th of ongoing series between the two Coast Guards, under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2006. The meeting is focused at augment-



ing the operational level interaction and capacity building in the areas of Maritime Search Rescue (M-SAR), Marine Pollution Response (MPR) and Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE).

कार्यपालन यंत्री

(मो. 7610119531)

The professional relationship amidst the two Coast Guards is very strong since 2005, as there has been a mutual exchange of delegations and ships visiting each other for professional interactions. This convention and exchange of pleasantries is in furtherance of the efforts by both governments, to enhance mutual cooperation in the field of maritime safety and security at sea.

The deliberations strengthened the existing bonds in accordance with the provisions of the MoU by sharing best practices, conducting joint exercises and enhancing training collaborations. The meeting was significant in providing added impetus to the already existing professional relationship between Indian Coast Guard and KCG.

We की	eb :- page: v मध्य प्रदेश र ओर से निम्न	www.mp लोक निर्मा गलिखित व	pwd.ni ण विभा हार्यो हेर्	ान यंत्री लोक निर्माप c.in <u>निविदा आमंत्रण</u> ग में केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली 1 सड़क पर अनुसूची प्रभावशील 1हित ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धिति द्वारा ऑन्	<b>! सूचना</b> के अन्तर्गत पं दिनांक 25.03.	<b>E-Mail :- e</b> जीयन ठेके 2022 निवि	eepwdsheop दारों से मध्यप्र वदा आमंत्रण र	ur@mp.nic.in देश के राज्यपाल पूचना जारी होने	seek solution kids from lea	s to protect
नि में ह	वेदा सूचना ए होने वाले सम	एवं कार्यो व स्त संशोध	का विव नों का प्र	रण वेबसाईट <u>https://mptender</u> काशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाईट होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं ह	r <mark>s.gov.in/nicg</mark> पर ही किया ज	gep/app प गविगा। पृथ	गर देखी जा स क से समाचार	कती है। निविदा	PNS NEW DELHI	
स. क्र.	ई-टेण्डर क्र.	एन. आई. टी. क्रमांक	जिला	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित राशि रू में	ई.एम.डी. की राशि रू. में	निविदा डॉक्यूमेंट की राशि रू. में	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	dangerous levels of lead poi- soning, Indian leaders from Government and civil society meet with international experts to consider an inten-	
1	2023_PWD	03	श्योपुर	निर्माण कार्य बछेरी से मालीपुरा रोड़	46255000	462550	15000	12 माह वर्षाकाल	sified national response and	wellness clinics operati

462.55 लाख

तक मार्ग लम्बाई 6.10 कि.मी.

2. ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय प्रारंभ दिनांक 24.04.2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक 04.05.2023 समय 17:30 बजे।

हो सकेगें। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाईट में देखी जा सकती है।

4. ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय⁄डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक 04.05.2023 समय 17:30 बजे।

3. ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन प्रारंभ दिनांक 24.04.2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

1. ऑनलाईन टेण्डर पब्लिश दिनांक 20.04.2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

बिड ओपनिंग दिनांक 08.05.2023 समय 11:00 बजे।

ith one in two Indian children experiencing erous levels of lead poing, Indian leaders from rnment and civil society with international ts to consider an inten-12 माह वर्षाकाल sified national response and G20 leadership. A high-level सहित roundtable convened on Tuesday in New Delhi by the Center for Global Development, in partnership with Pahle India Foundation, Pure Earth, the Asian Development Bank, and UNICEF, highlighted opportunities for the Government of India to take a leadership role in the national and global fight against lead poisoning, including via its G20 उपरोक्त वेबसाईट ऑनलाईन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेबसाईट के माध्यम से प्राप्त Presidency. Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ( इंजी. राधेश्याम शर्मा ) delivered keynote remarks and said "How to build awareness of lead poisoning into the लो.नि.वि. संभाग श्योपुर ( म.प्र. ) network of 160,000 Ayushman Bharat health and



wellness clinics operating today? I hope to get some concrete inputs on this from today's conference."

Other speakers included Dr. Thuppil Venkatesh, Chairman, INSLAR, academic experts, civil society leaders, ICMR scientists and representatives of international organizations.

Lead is a pernicious poison that causes extensive harms, even at low levels. Lead exposure in early childhood interferes with normal cognitive development, causing lifelong learning deficits and behavioral problems. In adults, lead exposure causes hypertension and steeply increases the risk of heart attacks.



## nation 05

## **DEATH OF MINOR GIRL IN BENGAL** Police station set on fire in Kaliagani

There is collapse of law & order in State, says Opp; agitators incited by BJP, blames TMC SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA external injuries or for that

 $T^{he \ border \ town \ of \ Kaliaganj}_{in \ North \ Bengal \ where \ a}$  section of the locals had been agitating against police inaction in an alleged rape-and-murder case once again exploded on Tuesday when the local police station was put on fire allegedly by the members of Adivasi and Rajbangshi communities reducing more than two dozen vehicles including two-wheelers to ashes.

The Thana Gherao programme organised by the agitators in protest against alleged police inaction suddenly turned violent and the mob from all sides attacked the police station. Several rounds of lath-charge and bursting tear gas shells had failed to bring things under control, when reports last came in well past sundown.

The angry agitators who had fought pitched battle with the police with brickbats and had even attacked the media and civilian vehicles passing the area were still camping in the vicinity, sources said adding the mob had torched tomes of documents, furniture and vehicles and even damaged the road-side kiosks.

ruling While the Trinamool Congress blamed the BJP and the Left for inciting the locals from behind

Cong MP's posters sully

soon after PM flags it off

Kerala's 1st Vande Bharat



Police Station on fire during a protest against the death of a minor girl, in North Dinajpur district on Tuesday

State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari referred to the Tuesday's incident as an ideal case of the collapsed law and order situation in the State before demanding immediate

deployment of central forces. The State has hardly seen a similar attack on any police station in the recent past when an entire police station of a subdivision was literally vandalized and set on fire. "Several of our officials

have been injured in the attack ... we did not resist the attack because had we done so then our family quarters too could

have been raided by them," a police officer said requesting anonymity.

Ruling Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the attack was a handiwork of the opposition parties

"The BJP has no root in the State ... they have been defeated in the Ássembly elections and so they are trying to trouble the State Government either by blocking central funds or by creating such mischief," Ghosh said adding, "the entire postmortem of the girl was video-graphed and there was no

matter sign of sexual assault found on the body of the deceased and here the opposition are trying to create an issue because the panchayat elections are near."

Asking why the NCPCR teams do not visit places like Unnao or Hathrasor for that matter why the perpetrators of rape during Gujarat riots were released, he said that the commotion was the handiwork of the opposition parties. Adhikari hit back the say-

ing, "The Kaliaganj incident is a perfect example of law and order collapse ... on one hand the administration is trying to hush up the matter by preparing false reports and on the other the police fail miserably to protect a police station ... if they cannot save their own police station how will they be able to ensure free and fair elections during the panchayat polls ... there is a need for central forces because the law and order has completely broken down."

The commotion started on Saturday after the body of a minor girl was fished out of a pond on April 21. While locals alleged that it was a case of rape and murder the police prima facie found that the victim had committed suicide claiming a bottle of poison had been found from the banks of

On HC order, CBI files FIR

in Bengal municipal job scam

the canal where her body was found.

Speaking to reporters on the weekend, Superintendent of Police Md Sana Akhtar had said, "We have received the post-mortem report today. Given the importance of the case we had requested a threemember medical board of senior doctors and after that post-mortem was done. The family members of the victim were also there. The entire process has been videographed. According to the initial post-mortem report, thecause of death 'was due to the ingestion of poisonous substances' as noted."

Things took an ugly turn with political intervention and the police had to fire tear gas shells on angry crowds on Saturday.

The two intervening days when a team of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights visited the area saw intense war of words between the NCCPR and the State Commission with the two sides giving diverse ver-sions of the story. Meanwhile, the four

Assistant Sub-Inspectors had been suspended after video footage showed them dragging away the body of the dead girl after snatching it from the angry crowd on Saturday

## PROTEST AGAINST RRPCL PROJECT -Govt will complete project at given location, says Fadnavis

Local women of Barsu village stage a

refinery project in the area, at Rajapur

taluka in Ratnagiri district on Tuesday

April 12, 2018, an Indian con-

sortium comprising Indian Oil

Corporation (IOC), Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd

(BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Ltd

(BPCL) signed Memorandum

protest against the petrochemical

### T N RAGHUNATHA 📕 MUMBAI

And protests by hundreds of villagers against the pro-posed Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Project (RRPCL) at Barsu in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan region, Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday that that irrespective of a stiff resistance to the project from the local people, the Maharashtra Government would go ahead and complete the RRPL at the chosen location.

As the people from six villages in and around Borasu began to protest against the soil tests being carried out by the RRPL administration, Fadnavis said that in the light of the ongoing against agitation against the project, the ques-tion of the Maharashtra government rolling back the prestigious project did not arise.

'This is project is important for Maharashtra. The question of our rolling back the RRPL does not arise. We would go ahead and complete the project at the chosen location of Barsu village in Rajapur taulka of Ratnagiri district," Fadnavis said in an interview to a leading Marathi television channel.

Seeking to allay fears of the local villagers that RRPL posed a massive environmental threat to the area where it is being developed, Fadanavis said: "The project does not pose any threat to the nature. Instead, the project is very beneficial for the people in the region, as it will provide one lakh job opportunities. The misinformation campaign has been going on against the project. The Opposition MVA, when it was in power, had written to the Centre seeking to locate the project at Barsu. Now the MVA is opposing the project for political reasons".

It may be recalled that on

## Al pilots urge Ratan Tata to intervene in salary structure alteration by airline

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a petition signed by over 1500 Air India pilots, sought Ratan Tata's intervention in resolving the issue regarding the airline's manement's decision salary structure and services conditions, on Tuesday sought Ratan Tata's intervention in resolving the issue. They said their morale is low as they are not being treated with respect and dignity by the airlines' Human Resource (HR) Department. Stressing that they take great pride in their work and the role they play in representing the Tata group and India on the global stage, the pilots said: "However, we are currently facing a difficult situation with the current HR department. We feel that we are not being treated with the respect and dignity that we deserve as employees of Air India." "We have always been committed to Air India's success and have gone above and beyond to ensure that we provide our passengers with the best possible experience," the pilots said in the petition. On April 17, Air India rolled out a revamped compensation structure for its pilots and cabin crew, which has since been rejected by the pilot unions - Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) and Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) - on the grounds that the airline, in alleged violation of the labour practices, did not consult them before finalising the new contracts. The two unions also urged their members not to sign/accept the revised contract and salary structure. Air India, which remained under government control for close to seven decades, was taken over by Tata Group in late January 2022.

Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Saudi Aramco) for setting an oil refinery and petroleum products complex in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district.

Meanwhile, in a related development, hundreds of activists – including women – staged a massive protest by squatting on the roads to stop the RRPL teams from entering their villages top carry out soil tests.

The RRPCL teams are sinking borewells and taking samples to carry out soil tests in and around the villages of Barsu, Goval, Dhopeshwar Varchiwadi-Goval, Rajapur, Khalchiwadi-Goval, Panhale-Tarfe, amid massive police bandobast deployed in and around these villages.

## Shinde to run Maha till 2024 State polls: Fadnavis on posters projecting him as future CM

a of

### TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A pparently embarrassed by a banner that been put up by his supporters in his home city of Nagpur projecting him as the "future chief minister of Maharashtra", Deputy Chief Minister, Devendra, Fadnavis Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday that Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde would continue as the chief minister of the state till the 2024 Assembly elections.

Seeking to play down the controversy over the banner that has surfaced in Nagpur projecting him as the "future chief minister of Maharashtra", Fadnavis - who is currently away in Karnataka campaigning for the BJP in the State Assembly elections there – told media persons that if such a

Fadnavis' categorical statement came in the backdrop of surfacing of a banner in Nagpur projecting him as the future chief minister.

banner had indeed been put up in his home city, the banner

the leader of his party's partner

Shiv Sena in the alliance gov-

ernment in the state, would

continue as the chief minister

of Maharashtra till the October

2024 Maharashtra Assembly

Fadnavis said that Shinde,

would be removed.

Treatment for dry eyes with Ncell tech launched

elections.

DIONEED NEWS SERVICE MINEW/ DEL HI



nitude has been reported from anywhere in the country where Vande Bharat Expresses are plying," said a senior Railway of

official Thiruvananthapuram Division. Sreekandan, known for his short temper, had warned the Railway officials that he and his youth brigade would block the train if no stop was allocated to the train at Shornur. Similarly, veteran Congress leader Suresh Kodikkunnil MP led a group of

## he CBI has registered an FIR in an alleged scam in

the recruitment to various posts in different municipalities of West Bengal on the directive of the Calcutta High Court. The High Court issued the

PNS NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

order on Friday and the agency filed the FIR the next day.

The CBI has registered a case against Ayan Sil and his company ABS Infozone Pvt Ltd, which was engaged in the printing and evaluation of OMR sheets, for alleged manipulation of the scores of aspirants, according to the contents of the FIR.

Enforcement The Directorate (ED) had pointed out the alleged scam in the



It had submitted its report to the Calcutta High Court which took note of it.

The ED had claimed that the agents, including Ayan Sil, involved in the school jobs bribery scam case, were also allegedly involved in the recruitment of clerks, peons, sweepers and drivers in various municipalities.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of Calcutta High Court had ordered the CBI to probe the municipality recruitment scam case. The ourt had directed the

instructed West Bengal's Director General of Police and the Chief Secretary to assist the CBI and ED in their investigation into the alleged scam in municipal recruitment if requested by the Central agen-

cies. The ED had stated that a separate FIR would be required to investigate the alleged municipality recruitment scam under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act by the predicate agency (implying CBI).

The ED had also shared detailed information with the CBI and requested it to investigate the alleged irregularities in municipal recruitment since the 'proceeds of crime' from the alleged teacl

ty norms and posted the entire windshields of the trains with the MP's posters.

Congress workers defaced

the state-of-the-art train by

pasting larger than life size

posters of VK Sreekantan, the

member of parliament from

Palakkad portraying him as the

"hero" who brought Vande

Bharat to Kerala. When the train stopped at Shornur, the

railway junction that comes

under Palakkad Lok Sabha

constituency, fans and follow-

Express

north.

"No incidents of this magat the station

partymen to Chenganur municipalities of West Bengal Railway Station demanding while probing the bribery allethat Vande Bharat should stop gations in school teachers' appointments in the State.

CBI to submit a report on April 28 about the steps taken based on this order.

Justice Gangopadhyay had

scam were allegedly intermingled with those from the alleged municipality recruitment scam

> The pilots also said that they understand the challenges being faced by the airline are complex and added that "we are committed to workng with the company to find solutions that will benefit all stakeholders".

"However, we feel that our concerns are not being heard or addressed by the current HR team. We are therefore respectfully requesting your assistance in addressing these issues," the pilots said in the petition. As the Chairman Emeritus of Air India, "we believe that your benevolent leadership can help us to find a solution that is fair and respectful to all parties involved", they added.

There is good news for Indians who suffer from dry eye disease (DED) as a novel ophthalmology treatment delivered with nanomicellar (Ncell) technology has been launched. According to a study, the prevalence of DED in India is higher than the global prevalence, as high as 32 per cent, of which around 90 per cent are affected with moderate/severe DED.

Now a novel ophthalmology treatment, Cequa, has been launched in India for patients who have DED with inflammation, a commonly occurring condition due to high screen time on television, smartphones, computers, tablets, laptops among other visual gadgets. Cequa is the first dry eye treatment available in India that is delivered with nanomicellar (Ncell) technology which improves the bioavailability and physicochemical stability of cyclosporine to increase ocular tissue penetration. Kirti Ganorkar, CEO – India Business, Sun

Pharma, said that current treatment options for dry eye disease have limitations and hence a strong unmet need exists in this space. Our Cequa is a new treatment option for dry eye disease in India, she added.

Dr Rohit Shetty, vice chairman of Narayana Nethralaya Eye Institute, commented on the launch, "We are seeing increasing cases of dry eye disease in our practice, which may be caused by increased screen time and other lifestyle changes. Dry eye disease certainly needs more treatment options. Global clinical trials have shown that Ĉequa provides faster results and is comfortable to most of the patients right from the start of treatment. Cequa is backed by years of clinical experience in the US and other geographies. It is a welcome addition to our treatment toolkit.

Yet another study has projected that the revalence of DED is likely to increase to 45% in India's urban population by 2030.

Sun Pharma is the world's fourth largest specialty generic pharmaceutical company and India's largest pharmaceutical company.

## Rahul appeals to HC after Guj court rejects plea to stay conviction in defamation case

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHEMDABAD/NEW DELHI

ormer Congress president FRahul Gandhi on Tuesday filed an appeal in the Gujarat High Court challenging the order of the Surat sessions court which declined to stay his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark that led to his disgualification as MP from Lok Sabha a month ago.

Congress member and an advocate, BM Mangukia, said Rahul Gandhi has filed an appeal in the HC against the order of the sessions court. We have filed an applica-

tion in the Gujarat High Court today challenging the Surat court's recent verdict. I cannot share any more information in this matter for now," said another lawyer for the matter

A metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat on March 23 sentenced the former Congress president to two years in jail after convicting him under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500 (dealing with criminal defamation) in the 2019 case filed by Gujarat BJP

MLA Purnesh Modi. Following the verdict, Rahul Gandhi, elected to the Lok Sabha, was disqualified as Pankaj Champaneri who is appearing for Rahul Gandhi. a Member of Parliament.



A monkey drinks water flowing from a tap to quench his thirst on a hot summer PTI afternoon, near Mahamaya temple on the outskirts of Jammu on Tuesday

## NIA raid in 4 States in Bihar anti-India conspiracy case

### PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at 16 locations in four States in a 2022 anti-India criminal conspiracy case of Bihar, involving persons associated with the banned terror outfit Popular Front of India (PFI).

The NIA said it seized incriminating materials related

to PFI training camps in Phulwarisharif, Patna.

"A hoard of digital devices, along with bank transaction details, was seized during today's searches, conducted at the premises of PFI suspects in the case relating to unlawful activities by the suspects. Incriminating documents relat-

ed to PFI and Indian currency of the face value of ₹1,00,000 were also seized," the NIA said



in a statement As part of the operation,

NIA teams swooped down on the premises of 16 suspected persons at multiple locations in Siwan, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur,

Darbhanga, Katihar, Araria, Purnea and East Champaran districts of Bihar, South Goa district of Goa, Rampur and Bhadohi districts of Uttar Pradesh and Ludhiana district of Punjab, the agency said. Thirteen persons have so

far been arrested in the case related to training of PFI cadre in Phulwarisharif, Patna on July 6 and 7, 2022 along with certain other suspects

A total of 60 locations have so far been searched for collecting credible evidence in the case. The agency filed a chargesheet against four accused persons on January 7, 2023. Investigations have revealed that the accused, along with other suspects, were operating from the rented premises in Phulwarisharif for carrying out criminal activities on behalf of the PFI.

SRK charms Valley after decade for next film 'Dunki'

### MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

 $\mathbf{S}$ hah Rukh Khan -the King of Romance-Tuesday charmed his fans in the picturesque Sonamarg before filming a song sequence of Rajkumar Hirani's upcoming movie-Dunki.

The two big names have teamed up for the first time to entertain the audiences. Riding high on the success of Pathaan,

the bollywood star received a grand welcome on his arrival in Srinagar on Monday. He later drove to a scenic resort in Sonamarg where he is staying with his film crew

Before the arrival of Shah Rukh Khan at the sets of the movie a large number of local residents, tourists and SRK fans were seen eagerly waiting to receive him. Before the shoot the production team had

finalised the locations near Thajiwas glacier last week.

Elaborate security arrangements were made by the local authorities to ensure incident free shooting. As his cavalcade arrived King Khan reciprocated the greetings with folded hands after waving at the crowd. The shooting involved filming of a song sequence in the picturesque locales of Sonamarg in the backdrop of snow clad



mountains. The film crew had earlier shot the movie across different locations in Saudi Arabia and finished the schedule in December 2022. Shah Rukh had last visited the valley during shooting of the Jab Tak hai Jaan in October 2012.

After the launch of the Film policy in J&k in August 2021, the Union Territory administration is aggressively wooing film directors and production houses to

plan shooting schedules across different locations of Kashmir valley.

So far several production houses have visited different locations to shoot film sequences. Official sources said while peace is prevailing in J&k the region is emerging as a preferred shooting location for the film industry. In the last two years more than 150 films and web series have been shot in the UT.

NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26, 2023

the pioneer



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

## PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Ignoring plunder

Politicians' neglect towards governance has resulted in despoliation of water bodies, a Govt survey shows

he First Water Bodies Census is a good attempt to comprehend the issue. It found 2,424,540 water bodies, out of which 97.1 per cent (2,355,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9 per cent (69,485) in cities and towns. The census, carried out by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was aimed at developing a national database for all water bodies by collecting information including their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage, etc. It found that 1.6 per cent water bodies are encroached. Most of the encroachments, 95.4 per cent, are in rural areas. Of all encroached water bodies, 62.8 per cent water bodies have less than 25 per cent and 11.8 per cent have more than 75 per cent area under encroachment. It may appear that with 95.4 per cent encroachments being in villages, the authorities at all levels should lay special emphasis in rural areas, but that is not correct. In



percentage terms, cities suffer much more than villages. In Delhi, for example, 216 out of 893 water bodies — or almost every fourth — have been encroached. If this is the situation in the national Capital, one can imagine the plight of other and smaller cities. In Chennai, the encroachment problem acquired alarming proportions, resulting in floods in recent years. Just like the southern metropolis, other cities are also suffering from, among other problems, waterlogging during the rainy season because of the vanishing or shrinking lakes, ponds, etc.

It is not that the Government has been unaware of the problem of vanishing water bodies. It has an RRR (Repair, Renovation & Restoration) scheme which

is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (Har Khet Ko Pani). It provides Central assistance to States for the creation and restoration of irrigation potential. Its objectives are comprehensive: increasing tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, higher availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture and horticulture productivity, etc. Then there is the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign with the theme, "Catch the Rain, where it falls". Launched in March 2021, it has five focused interventions: rainwater harvesting and water conservation; enumerating, geotagging and making inventory of all water bodies, and preparation of scientific plans for water conservation; setting up Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts; intensive afforestation; and awareness generation. The survey also notes that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is driving water conservation and water harvesting efforts all across rural India. This programme has helped to revive many traditional water bodies, it claims. All Government schemes may be good, but they are certainly not good enough to address the issue. At the heart of the problem is politicians' lackadaisical approach towards governance, which results in encroachments and neglect of water bodies. That needs to change.



# Will turncoats turn tables in K'taka?



With the number of party hoppers rising before polls, there's muted talk that they could spoil the chances of the ruling BJP returning to power

he party-hopping peaked before the elections. How far these turncoats would damage the BJP is unknown. Despite its insisting that this migration would not affect its poll prospects, the exit of prominent faces could be bad optics. The BJP already faces anti-incumbency and is battling allegations of corruption. Besides, the state has a tradition of not returning the ruling party to power. There are other issues like caste politics.

Some veterans and oldtimers are miffed over their non-inclusion in the candidate lists. The erosion is due to BJP's calculated decision to purge older candidates for younger and new faces. Also, those who sensed they would not get a ticket and those who could gauge the public's mood against the party have defected to Congress and Janata Dal (Secular.)

Last week, the BJP fielded 52 new candidates and retained 90 sitting MLAs, including 11 from Congress and J.D. (S) who crossed over in 2019 to help it wrest power from the Kumaraswamy coalition. The former chief minister, a former State BJP President, and a sixtime MLA, Jagdish Shetter, tops the list of these migrants. BJP attempted damage control by offering him the post of governor or a central minister, but he rejected it to contest from a Congress ticket.

The other disappointed veterans include Laxman Savadia heavyweight Ex-deputy chief minister, S Angara- a six-time MLA, R. Shankar- BJP MLC and M P Kumaraswamy-Mudigere, BJP MLA. Most are from the influential Lingayat community, traditionally supporting the BJP since the late 1990s.

Defections are not new to Indian politics. The Congress Socialist Party broke away from Congress as early as 1948. The split in Uttar Pradesh in 1950, Andhra Pradesh in 1953, Data Intelligence Team, of and Haryana in 1967 (famous (Aya Ram Gaya Ram" case.) A in Karnataka in the last three Haryana legislator, Gaya Ram of assembly elections, 78 won,

the sixties, won first as an Independent, joined the Congress, and changed parties thrice again within a fortnight!

Karnataka has a long history of migrant and betrayal politics which resulted in government collapse not once or twice but several times. Between 1967 and 1983, there were approximately 2,700 defections at the state level, with 15 becoming chief ministers, according to PRS Legislative Research. What is defection? A turncoat in politics happens when a legislator leaves the party on whose symbol they won and joins another party. These turncoats treat disqualification as a mere detour to return to the House by recontesting.

After the passage of the Anti-Defection Law in 1985 to check the menace, the pace fell, but the trend continued. A fourth of the current MLAs had won on a different party ticket and one in six won elections on more than one party ticket.



SOME VETERANS AND OLD-TIMERS ARE MIFFED **OVER THEIR** NON-INCLUSION IN THE CANDIDATE LISTS. THE **EROSION IS DUE** TO THE BJP'S CALCULATED DECISION TO PURGE OLDER CANDIDATES FOR YOUNGER AND

while 263 lost. Also, the count has increased over time, with the highest number in the 2018 election.

Incidentally, the BJP has been in power in Karnataka for nine years at different terms but has never secured a majority. It had to depend on the turncoats to form their government. In the previous 2018 Assembly polls, the BJP won 104 out of the 224 seats. But J.D. (S) (37) and the Congress(76) coalition formed the government, though BJP emerged as the single largest party. However, the Kumaraswamy coalition government collapsed after the BJP engineered a coup with 18 MLAs from Congress and J.D. (S), bringing it back to power. Voters elected 15 of the 17

defected legislators in 2019. The BJP leader Yediyurappa became the chief minister four times, the only leader to do so, but never once completed a full term. Two of his terms lasted just a few days each. His government collapsed in **NEW FACES** 

They see the migration now as more of a vehicle that lends credibility and gets influential positions in their chosen party. Switching parties do not always affect the migrants. Of the 833 turncoats, BJP filed in the last decade, 44 per cent of won re-elections.

Traditionally, turncoats depended on the migrant party's goodwill, cadres, and ability to finance. Smalltime leaders acquire a new image to win. In the case of famous leaders, they carry their vote bank. The moral of the story is that turncoats cannot be wished away by bringing stringent laws. They remain constant whichever party comes to power in a hung kind of Assembly.

Sadly, the turncoats are here to stay as long as political parties encourage them, the public votes for them to return, and defectors believe in self-interest. If the trend is not checked, it will damage democracy. Indian Awareness of the voters and shaming the turncoats could be the answer once the pub lic sees the threat. (The writer is a senior



According to India Today's the 341 turncoat candidates 2007, 2011, and 2018.

Why do the voters return the turncoats? The rival parties are willing to embrace journalist and columnist. The them and field them again. views expressed are personal)

### A woman shields her child from heat on a hot summer day, in Jabalpur

## A viable alternative for short-term borrowings



RISHABH KUMAR

Peer-to-peer lending is a good option for short-term borrowing; it is borrower friendly, economical and does not penalise the borrowers

ata from present short-term lending markets suggests the possibility of this in the coming years. According to RBI data, personal loan demand remained the highest among all other sectors at 42% in Q1 FY 22-23. Traditionally, short-term borrowing is limited to bank credit, credit cards, credit unions, retirement fund redemption, finance companies and friends & family. Each of them carries their shortcomings. Bank credit & finance company borrowers are liable to provide collateral assets and pay loan servicing & processing fees. This is added on by penalties in case of monthly payment delay. Rates often depend on the credit score of the borrower and banks may also sell your debt to any other institution which can lead to changes in loan structuring, fees & maybe even interest rate on short notice. Credit cards may be a good way to boost the credit score but a monthly payment miss may lead to an immediate effect on creditworthiness.

higher than bank loans which will be added on by fees & penalties for payment delays. Credit cards are also an emerging domain for fraudsters and thus we have to regularly check our bills to match purchases, adding time and effort to the process. Credit unions tend to solve some of the issues about banks & credit cards but they have exclusive access for members only and generally cap the maximum amount of borrowing, not to forget that we have to contribute to the fund regularly. Retirement funds like Provident Fund are essentially meant for retirement corpus and redeeming them

More importantly, the cost of borrowing is much absence of other options.



eliminates the need for documentation including standard credit history checks and processing. The costs of processing, documentation and payment delays are often a fraction of what it would cost in other approaches. Most P2P Lending companies do not ask for collateral on lending and offer better rates for borrowers with good prior records. It comes as a dual benefit as an Investor can hope to earn premium return rates on the investment in such companies while a borrower can avoid multiple hassles of traditional borrowing platforms. P2P Lending compa-

nies are already recognised as NBFCs by RBI, thus must be an option only in case strictly needed in the securing regulatory hurdles

Peer-to-peer lending or for Investors and borrowers. crowd lending is an emerg-According to an RBI ing solution to many of the Consultation Paper on Peer problems faced by the borto Peer Lending, this sector rower in the prevalent methis well-regulated in only a ods of borrowing. It allows individuals to directly lend few countries across the world. Many including and borrow money, thereby China, South Korea and eliminating intermediary Ecuador are looking for institutions like banks, clear definitions for regulafinance companies & regution of the platforms. latory hurdles surrounding Developed markets like such institutions. It also France, and Germany recognised P2P lending firms as Banks, thus adding more regulatory hurdles to Borrowers & Investors. While countries like the US have state-wise regulation of P2P Lending firms where some states may ban the practice while some only allow select investors to deal in such products. India is in a much better position in such a scenario with simpler and unified nationallevel regulation, thus offering flexibility to P2P lending firms, Investors as well as borrowers. The onus now remains on Investors Entrepreneurs and the Financial Community as a whole to find the way forward

> (The writer is finance researcher)

## 'MEHANGAI RAHAT' CAMP

Sir - Glad to read that Rajathan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has launched a flagship initiative, 'Mehangai Rahat' camp, from Mahapura Gram Panchayat in Jaipur. These camps will be organised across the State from April 24 to June 30 so that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries. Gehlot said that inflation is affecting people badly and that is why his government is providing relief by providing LPG cylinders at ₹500 under Ujjwala Yojna. People are unable to refill cylinders due to their cost, so the Centre should provide relief.

Registration has been made mandatory to join the 10 public welfare schemes run by the state government. For the convenience of common people, a person from any district can register in the camps of other districts also through the Rajasthan government's Jan Aadhar card. According to officials, all needy families will be provided relief from inflation by connecting them with the state's public welfare schemes. The Opposition-ruled states must also follow this example.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### **THE ALLURE OF POWER**

Sir - Leaders across political spectra, hardselling different views and ideologies coming together, is an uphill task in these dog-eat-dog days of politics. But singularly, it is the charm of power that nudges this ragtag group of leaders to come together ahead of the high-octane Lok Sabha polls next year against the ruling BJP regime. To the latter's glee, there are obvious fissures regularly surfacing in the Opposition over the Adani issue and thereby throwing a spanner in the works; thanks to the soft corner the master strategist, veteran Sharad Pawar, has developed for the Adani group.

The NCP chief in a bid to pacify his angry allies cleared the air explaining that he is not against the Opposition's demand for the JPC *per se*, and in the same breath saying that he is against politicisation of the matter as well. An ordinary politician the picnickers in the city. More than 100

## **The National Quantum Mission edge**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

he National Quantum Mission is a big project that will give India an advantage in the

field of quantum technology. It has a budget of Rs 6,003 crore for eight years and will create four research hubs in different institutions across the country. Quantum technology is useful because it can perform calculations faster and more accurately than traditional methods. This makes it valuable in areas such as finance, weather forecasting, and drug discovery.

Quantum technology is also very secure, making it almost impossible to hack. This makes it important in fields like defence, national secu-

in this scenario would seem to be befooling his colleagues both in the Opposition as well as the ruling regime but Pawar's success record thus far negates this notion. This simply means that at the back of his mind, the NCP president has a bigger game plan to execute at a precise time.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### HAVE FUN, BUT STAY SAFE

Sir — With summer vacation starting and the children willing to go on outings, they generally prefer beachside outings for getting relief from the summer heat. The Mahim beach, Mumbai, witnessed two deaths by drowning of minor boys. Such incidents send the wrong signal among

rity, and cybersecurity. The development of quantum computers and quantum communication over long distances will help India become more self-sufficient in these areas. Quantum technology also has exciting applications in healthcare, with the potential to improve drug discovery and personalized medicine. Quantum sensing can detect diseases at an early stage, leading to better outcomes. The National Quantum Mission will help India establish itself as a leader in this technology and contribute to its goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy.

India is already making progress in semiconductors and AI, and the National Quantum Mission will help India become a leader in quantum technology too. This will reduce India's reliance on foreign technology and create opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also lead to the creation of high-value jobs and contribute to the growth of the economy. India's leadership in quantum technology will have a global impact, helping to solve problems such as climate change, cybersecurity, and healthcare. India has the potential to be at the forefront of this revolution and make a significant contribution to society

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

deaths are a cause for worry

Parents sending their children to such dangerous spots have sleepless nights and if they return without any mishap, then it is their good luck. The city's beaches have become dangerous spots. Picnickers will have to take all the precautions and see that lifeguards are available before entering the water. By ignoring warning signals the students endanger themselves and get involved in the adventure. The students lacked maturity by entering the choppy sea and inviting trouble. Let us take enough care to save human lives. After all, prevention is better than cure. CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

the pioneer

## **FIRSTCOLUMN** WE ARE RESPONSIBLE **FOR OUR KARMA**

Every beginning has an end and every end leads to a new beginning



### RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

any people across the world pray to a higher source of energy, which is known to have different names in different faiths. They all remember God and worship him with a common belief that he can do anything, including raising the dead and breathing life into inanimate matter. Some also believe that God micro-manages the affairs of this world, to the extent that every leaf moves as per his will. These beliefs seem to be extrapolations of God's omnipotence. But these simple ideas are erroneous exaggerations. Because they simply stem from a misunderstanding of God's role and the eternal laws that govern human life and the world in general.

Not many of us know that God's acts are divine and unlike humans, he is indeed omnipotent, but he works according to the laws of nature and the law of karma. Which simply says that- every soul in this world experiences joy or sorrow according to the kind of actions it performs. This law of cause-and-effect functions automatically. Hence, Supreme Almighty, the loving, benevolent and merciful Father and Teacher, teaches his children, how good thoughts, words and actions give good returns, and about the damage one can inflict on oneself by creating negative thoughts and speaking or acting under the influence of vices. In short, God educates us with the right knowledge. Hence, after acting according to our free will, it is obvious that we must bear the consequences of our doing. He does not intervene to alter the results for anyone, for that would be unjust and a violation of the law of karma. Similarly, God does not bring the dead back to life because that is against the law of



nature. Birth, death and rebirth are natural processes in the cycle of life wherein when, where and how one is born or dies is, again, decided by one's actions. Alright! So, then what does he do? God comes to this world to perform three divine tasks - 1-Create a new world 2- Destroy the old world which has become too vicious for HIS children to live in, and 3- Sustain the new order.

We all know that everything passes through three stages- beginning, middle and end. Every beginning has an end and every end leads to a new beginning. We call it creation, sustenance and destruction. In that sense, nothing is destroyed, it just changes form. It is renewed from old to new, just like a building is re-developed. This is how the eternal drama of life goes on and on. When souls lose their purity after repeated birth and death and after getting afflicted by the five vices of lust, greed, anger, attachment and ego, nature also gets influenced by their vicious actions hence from its super excellent state, she gradually becomes utterly degraded. It is at this time when the Supreme Almighty himself comes to give wisdom and power to human souls and guide them back to their original super excellent stage HE teaches them the method of Rajyoga, by which they can tap into the resources of peace, love, purity and power latent in them and become free of the negativities that had held them in bondage. This process of human transformation is accompanied by great changes in the world by which everything of the old order is destroyed and a new world slowly takes shape. The human souls leave the old world en masse and then start taking birth in the new one, each at its own time. This is how the old world is destroyed and a new one emerges out of it. This rejuvenation takes place in every cycle of time, and Almighty Supreme sustains the new world through those individuals who have made themselves capable of this task by following God's teachings fully and have filled themselves with divine virtues by removing all traces of vices. It is these divine beings, who are worshipped all over the world as deities to this day. That is why, their life is held up as an illustration of the highest code of conduct and their divine status as the loftiest a human can aspire for.

# Project Tiger: No room for complacency K BAHUGUNA



analys s 07

Project Tiger is a success in the conservation of forests and biodiversity; now we must focus on consolidating the gains made by it and learn from experience



rime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the comple-tion of 50 years of Project Tiger released the 2022 Tiger census report while visiting the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. The Tiger population in the country now has increased by 200 and stood at 3167 Tigers. Tiger is at the apex of the food chain and the presence of Tiger reflects the stability and equilibrium in the ecosystems. In the tropical climate of India, the stability of different ecosystems is essential for sustaining the water and other biological resources which are important for all forms of life. Tigers were not only mercilessly hunted by trigger-happy hunters but 95 % of their habitat was destroyed, fragmented and degraded by the clearing of forests for agriculture and infrastructure purposes globally. At the beginning of 1900 there were 1 lakh Tigers globally and even in India at the time of 1947 around 40,000 Tigers exist-1972 when Project Tiger was ea but b launched only 1411 Tigers had remained. Project Tiger in India was launched on 1st April 1973 from Jim Corbett National Park with the help and support of top political leadership. Today with the ded-ication of state and central forest department officers and support from political leadership, the Indian Tiger population has reached 3167 which constitutes three fourth of the global Tiger population. Among the seven Tiger range countries that are members of the Global Tiger Forum, the achievements of India are spectacular. This story of Tigers bouncing back is the story of grit, struggle and unflinching professionalism of Indian Forest Service officers, Members of State Forest Services, our Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards, Wildlife NGOs, nature lovers and the dedicated support of people living in and around 32 million ha of (The writer is the former forests for their love for the forest and wildlife conservation. One of the reasons for success is the strategy of mainstreaming the core liveli-

IF WE CAN SECURE SPACE FOR MORE **TIGERS WITH** BETTER NATURAL FOREST AND INTEGRATED **OVERALL** 

LANDSCAPE

WE WILL BE

SUPPORTING

ENTIRE LIFE-

SUSTENANCE OF

Director-General of ICFRE, Ministry of

Environment, Forests

and Climate Change)

MANAGEMENT,

hood sustaining needs of local people in the overall wildlife management plans, especially over 5.28 % of the 998 protected area networks over 75,000 sq km of forests. This strategy of synergy also helped people agree to the relocation of villages from the core areas. One of the high points of the 2023 Tiger census has been the increase of Tiger population in Territorial Forest Divisions of the country which augurs well for wildlife habitat management and also signifies the success of government attempts to provide better economic opportunities in forested regions for the people and reduction in poverty. The state of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand are the major Tiger states where 50% of the Tiger population is found. It signals the skewed nature of Tiger density and flags a key agenda for action for the

nance of entire life-supporting resources. It will reduce humananimal conflicts and thus ensure maintaining law and order in rural areas. It will not be an exaggeration to say that at the district and sub-district level, the administration needs to integrate efficient management of forest habitats and ensure climateresilient development. This will ensure better law and order, reduce crime and lead to the development and thus peaceful administration.

The forest departments of the states and the centre are still handicapped with less equipped policy support, infrastructure framework and finances. The Tiger Protector forest officials and locals are faced with poachers and hunters who are armed with sophisticated weapons. The increase in the Tiger population can also be attributed to the arrest of Sansar Chand the notorious Tiger and wildlife poacher. Though Sariska and Panna are excellent examples of bringing Tigers back it also sounds alarm bells because in many places the Tigers in protected areas like in Sri Venkateswara National Park and a few other Tiger reserves the Tigers have become extinct. The infrastructure in terms of manpower, firearms and latest weapons, modern communication gadgets/ equipment/vehicles and consequent legal backing is lacking in the forest departments. Then there is a virtually insignificant amount of money spent on natural forests and degraded forests are also increasing in many places as the regeneration of many flagship species is shrinking and as the Tiger density increases it will also lead to conflicts with the people unless the focus is not on overall landscapes monitoring.

According to the data of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), there were 121 Tiger deaths in 2022 and 127 in 2021. Madhya Pradesh in the last 10 years (2012-2022) has recorded the highest number of tiger deaths 270 in total, followed by Maharashtra at 184 and Karnataka at 150.

Though many of the deaths were due to natural reasons like old age and territorial fights, poaching incidents also cannot be ignored. It can be confidently stressed that had the infrastructure of men and material been better perhaps the tiger population today would have crossed 4000. A few things required are increasing the field staff strength across the forest wings for better results because it is one sector that needs increasing rather than cutting the flab; bringing field staff at par with police in-service conditions, creating the modern infrastructure of equipment and weapons including empowering the forest staff under police Acts; infuse synergy/convergence of funds for territorial as well as non-forest landscape management and eco-development activities; issue guidelines on ecotourism etc.

(Writer is a spiritual educator popular columnist for publications across India. Nepal & UK)

foresters and the political leader ship.

Project Tiger though is a success in the conservation of forests and biodiversity, however, there is a need to focus on those aspects THE which are necessary to consolidate these gains after reviewing the pro and cons based on our experience and there should be no room for complacency for that if we live on SUPPORTING our laurels the situation would turn backwards very fast given the RESOURCES climatic vagaries we need to tackle amid population pressure on our natural resources especially the fragmentation of landscapes and habitats. Further, managing the Tigers for overall ecosystem stability lends support to our food, water, medicinal and nutritional security. If we can secure space for more Tigers with better natural forests and integrated overall landscape management, we will be supporting the suste-

The Director-General of Forests needs to discuss this with the foresters, researchers and other wildlife lovers to chalk out a future strategy and put it up forcefully before the Prime Minister and his Ministers for professionalizing and up-scaling the sector to achieve better results.

Blurb: If we can secure space for more Tigers with better natural forest and integrated overall landscape management, we will be supporting the sustenance of entire life-supporting resources

# Mann Ki Baat: A dialogue with people to nurse nature

The people in the country have taken cues from PM Modi's illustrative persuasion for the adoption of actionable agenda to address environment issues

ndia is at the forefront of tackling climate change. The world has often looked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leadership in tackling the hardships caused by climate change. India has demonstrated a people-led action agenda to deal with climate change. Unlike some, India is not waiting for the developed world to own up to the responsibility to launch one of the largest people-led mass movements to heal and repair the environment.

While the 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' is being awaited with anticipation, it's worthwhile to look back to reflect on the contributions of the monthly radio broadcast to help in building the mass movement for the wellbeing of the environment. Global



SUMEET BHASIN

Celsius rise in the global temperature compared to pre-industrial levels, is threatening melt glaciers. Accompanying rising sea lev-els may jeopardize the lives of millions of people living in Island nations and coastal

regions. In the 14th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said: "The earth's temperature should not rise anymore. This is everyone's concern and responsibility. To prevent rising temperatures, the first step is energy conservation." This set up an ambitious task in rolling the initiatives by the Central government in the direction of energy conservation. In his trademark conversational style, PM Modi spoke of cutting down on energy

warming, with a 1.5-2 degree usage through the use of L.E.D bulbs and even switching off street lights on full moon nights. PM Modi shared an anecdote of Noor Jahan from Kanpur, who with the help of solar power lighted 500 homes for Rs three per day per home. This was a remarkable tale that reached the ears of millions of people all across the country, who in turn adopted similar measures

India being a vast country with diverse climatic conditions has regions that are prone to droughts and the consequent ware scarcity. The government through ambitious schemes is working to make potable water available in each home. But the people in the country have taken cues from PM Modi's illustrative persuasion for the adoption of an actionable agenda to address the issue of water scarcity.

In the 19th episode of Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi mentioned farmers from the Hivrebazaar Gram Panchayat in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, who tackled the issue of water scarcity by changing the cropping pattern and foregoing the crops that demanded excessive amounts of water, such as sugarcane and banana.

In the Devas district of Madhya Pradesh, the Gorwa Gram Panchayat undertook a drive to create 27 farm ponds, increasing the groundwater level and boosting agricultur-al production by 20 per cent. PM Modi's illustrative persuasion to nudge the people to adopt and adapt to a better mentions in the voice of PM

environment has been the hallmark of the 99 episodes of Mann Ki Baat.

The Namami Ganga programme is close to the heart of PM Modi, while also being crucial for the rejuvenation of India's sacred rivers, which nursed civilization for centuries. The government effort is helping to free the Ganga River of 3 to 11 tonnes of garbage daily. But PM Modi enlisted the support of the people to make the mission successful. The Mann Ki Baatthus has been instrumental in heralding 'Jan Shakti' to achieve national goals.

Tales of individual and collective efforts continue to pour from all across the country in the direction of water conservation, which found

Modi in Mann Ki Baat, which included one of Santosh Negi PauriGarhwal, from Uttarakhand, who before the onset of Monsoon dug 250 small trenches four feet deep alongside the playground to save the rainwater, managing to save crores of litres of rainwater which fell on the playfield.

The significance of such efforts was driven home by persuasive PM Modi who stressed that only eight per cent of rainwater was conserved per year across India, but if it was improved with the help of the people the crisis of water shortage could be dealt

with effectively. Thus, age-old examples of water conservation such as 'Vav' or step-wells in Gujarat became well known across the

country because of Mann Ki Baat. This led PM Modi to call for the rejuvenation of 75 AmritSarovars across India. Mission AmritSarovar is a government initiative launched in April 2022 to construct and rejuvenate at least 75 AmritSarovars in each district. The mission aims to overcome the water crisis in rural areas and has set the target to construct 50,000 AmritSarovars by August 15, 2023. By February 8, 2023, 60 per cent of this target, or over 30,000 AmritSarovars, has already been met.

Jan Shakti is the lifeline of Jantantra or Loktantra (democracy), and Mann Ki Baat has truly been instrumental in making the people take charge of the pressing crises faced by the country.

(*Author is a policy analyst*)



## Mob in Haiti capital burns 13 suspected gangsters

Port Au Prince (AP): A mob in the Haitian capital beat and burned 13 suspected gang members to death with gasoline-soaked tires Monday after pulling the men from police custody at a traffic stop, police and witnesses said.

The horrific vigilante vio-lence underlined public anger over the increasingly lawless situation in Port-au-Prince where criminal gangs have taken control over an estimat ed 60% of the city since the July 2021 assassination of President

Jovenel Moïse Six more burned bodies were laid in a nearby neighbourhood later Monday, and some witnesses said that police killed them and residents set them on fire, but the AP could not verify the accounts independently.

Haiti National Police said in a brief statement that officers in the city's Canape Vert section stopped and searched a minibus for contraband early Monday, and had confiscated weapons from suspects before they were "unfortunately lynched by members of the population."

The statement did not elaborate on how members of the crowd were able to take

control of the suspects. A witness who gave his name as Edner Samuel told The Associated Press that members of the crowd took the suspected gangsters away from police, beat them and stoned them before putting tires on them, pouring gasoline over them and burning them.

An AP reporter at the scene saw 13 bodies burning in a street.

The fires drew hundreds of onlookers in the hilly suburb of the city, many of them shielding their noses from the fumes.

The Canape Vert neighbourhood so far has managed trip to evade control by the criminal gangs.

Protests in

## Sweden expels 5 Russian **Embassy staff for 'spying'**

## AP STOCKHOLM

weden informed Russia on Tuesday that five employees of the Russian Embassy in Stockholm were asked to leave the country because they were suspected of spying. Swedish Foreign Minister

Tobias Billström said the alleged activities of the five were "incompatible" with their diplomatic sta-

tus. Billström said Russia's ambassador to Sweden, Viktor Tatarintsey, was informed of the expulsions. The Swedish Security

Service, which is known by the acronym SAPO, recently received a list of names of a number of suspected Russian intelligence officers, Swedish broadcaster SVT reported.

The domestic security agency has said that "every third Russian diplomat in Sweden is an



intelligence officer." Sweden also expelled three Russian Embassy staff members a year ago. Neighboring Norway said two weeks ago that it was expelling 15 Russian diplomats accused of

The public broadcasting companies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden reported last week in a joint investigation that Russia was suspected of spying in the waters of the Baltic Sea and North Sea using civilian fishing trawlers, cargo ships and yachts. For their series titled Shadow War," the broadcasters analyzed marine radio traffic and locations of Russian vessels. They said the data revealed suspicious sailing patterns, particularly around offshore wind farms, gas pipelines and undersea power and data cables. A new episode is scheduled to air Nednesday.

Alarmed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year, Sweden and neighboring Finland applied to join NATO in May 2022, seeking protection under the organization's security umbrella. Finland joined the military alliance on April 4. However, objections from NATO members Turkey and Hungary have delayed the process for Sweden, which has avoided military alliances for more than 200

## 2 killed, 10 wounded as Russian forces hit Ukrainian museum

Russian missile hit a muse-Aum building in a Ukrainian city on Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding 10 others, part of a relentless barrage that comes as Ukraine is readying its forces for an expected spring counteroffen-sive. Ukrainian officials said the Russian military used S-300 air defence missiles to attack

Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, hitting the museum of local history in the city centre. The Russian military has repeatedly used S-300s, which

Ukraine's air defences can't intercept, to attack ground tar-Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a video from the site that shows the ruined building and emergency responders examining the damage. "The terrorist

country is doing everything to destroy us completely," Zelenskyy said. "Our history, our culture, our people. Killing Ukrainians with absolutely barbaric methods."

Zelenskyy said that a muse-um worker was killed, and Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Svniehubov later reported that the body of another victim was pulled from under the rubble.

Syniehubov said that three people were hospitalised and seven received minor injuries.

Kupiansk was captured by Russian forces in the earlier stages of the Russian invasion but was reclaimed by Ukrainian forces in a surprise counteroffensive in September that saw the Russians driven out of broad swaths of the Kharkiv region. A woman also died in Russian shelling of the town of Dvorichna, near Kupiansk, and

two civilians were killed in the eastern Donetsk region, according to the Ukrainian presidential office.

The Ukrainian military is now preparing for a new mas-sive counteroffensive, relying on the latest supplies of Western battle tanks and other weapons and fresh troops that were trained in the West.

Zelenskyy on Tuesday met with the top military brass to discuss the battlefield situation as well as prospects for new weapons supplies and the reparation of troops. "We have to accelerate the

pace of weapons supply because every day of delay is the lives of our soldiers," Zelenskyy said on Facebook.

Ukraine's military intellience chief, Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, in an interview with RBC-Ukraine released Monday, described the planned counteroffensive as a "landmark battle in Ukraine's modern history" that would see the country "reclaim significant areas."

world 08

The Kremlin, meanwhile, has regularly reminded the West about Russia's nuclear arsenal in a bid to discourage the US and its allies from ramping up weapons supplies to Ukraine.

The US and its NATO allies have denounced Moscow's nuclear rhetoric as dangerous and irresponsible, but noted that they haven't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture. On Tuesday, Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of the Security Council chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, warned that "the world is likely on the verge of another world war" and declared that Moscow wouldn't hesitate to use nuclear weapons if it faced an existential threat.

its destination, Dubai.

ed safely.

The aircraft had a problem

with one of its engines and part

of the aircraft caught fire. After checking all the indicators the

pilot found no further problem with the engine, it flew towards

the destination, where it land-

the aircraft flew towards its des-

tination. But the official page of

FlyDubai claimed that the air-

craft was hit by a bird. The Civil Aviation

Authority of Nepal (CAAN)

rejected the claim, saying the

aircraft didn't encounter a bird

Despite an engine problem,

## Pak Army chief visits China Pak police rule out terror Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's

70 others, saying the explo-sions were caused by electrical

Monday at the Counter

Terrorism Department (CTD)

of the Kabal police station in

Swat Valley in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province. Those killed in the blast

included a girl child, 12 police-

Refuting initial claims of a

The blast occurred on

PTI PESHAWAR

short-circuit.

Army chief General Asim Munir has arrived in China on a four-day official visit aimed at boosting bilateral defence ties. This is Gen. Munir's fourth overseas visit ever since he took command of the Pakistan Army in November last year. In January, he visited Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on his

first official visit abroad since his appointment. month later, he visited the United Kingdom on a highly important visit on Britain's Ministry of Defence invitation to discuss security-

related strategic issues. After his UK visit, Gen Munir again visited the UAE.

"COAS is on a four-day official visit to China for enhancing bilateral military relations," the army's media wing said in a statement on Monday without providing

any further details about the It is common for the new army chief in Pakistan to



undertake a visit to China within weeks of his appointment. The delay this time is attributed to the internal situation in Pakistan.

The visit comes amidst mounting pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on cash-strapped Pakistan to arrange at least USD 6 billion to bridge the external payment financial

So far, Saudi Arabia and men and four detained prisoners, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) CTD Khalid Suhail the UAE have committed to providing USD 3 billion to Pakistan but the internationsaid. al lender has demanded assursuicide attack, Suhail said that ance for the remaining arms and ammunition were amount



Officials and others attend the funeral praver of police officers, who were killed in the Monday's explosions in Kabal, a town of Pakistan's the Swat district, on Tuesday

stored in the CTD police station, and an explosion in the armoury likely caused the

"There was a store where we had a huge quantity of weapons, and until now, we believe that there might have been some blast in it due to some carelessness," Geo News

quoted Suhail as saying. Two suspected terrorists were brought to the CTD Swat police station two days before the blast and both terrorists have been killed in the incident. Shafiullah Gandapur DPO Swat said that the cause of the explosions was a short circuit.

## Nepal bans two FlyDubai managers from entering TIA

**Kathmandu (PTI):** Nepal's civil aviation authority on Tuesday banned two managers of the FlyDubai airline from entering the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) "for spreading rumours of a bird-hit" involving an aircraft of the Gulf-based airline.

The FlyDubai aircraft, which took off from Kathmandu airport on Monday with 168 people on board and developed a problem in one of its engines, landed safely in Dubai on Tuesday morning.

The Kathmandu-Dubai flight of FlyDubai encountered a problem while taking off at 9.20 PM on Monday. The aircraft made a round in the sky of Kathmandu and reached the sky in Dhading district located in the West of Kathmandu.

The pilot later informed the air traffic controllers at the Kathmandu airport that the problem had been resolved, and the aircraft headed towards

## Dancer shot dead in Pak's Punjab

and airport manager of the

FlyDubai," the CAAN said in

a statement.

well-known Pakistani female stage dancer has been shot dead in the Punjab province allegedly by her former hus-

## Guatemala President in Taiwan expresses 'rock-solid friendship'

Taipei (AP): The president of Guatemala appealed to other governments to respect Taiwan's sovereignty during an official visit Tuesday at a time when China's ruling Communist Party efforts to isolate

## Chinese journo faces espionage charges

AP/PTI

Beijing: A veteran Chinese University in 2006-07 and journalist who worked at a rules after being detained while meeting with a Japanese diplomat in a restaurant, his family said Monday. Dong Yuyu, deputy head of the editorial department at Guangming Daily, regularly met with foreign journalists and diplomats to help understand global trends. But Chinese authorities regarded his contacts with foreign diplomats as evidence of spying, according to a family statement Dong is the latest in a series of liberal Chinese voices to be accused by the government of being linked to what it terms foreign interference. As a non-Communist Party member, he was one of the most pro-reform voices at Guangming Daily and wrote articles in favour of an independent legal system, his family said. He was awarded a Nieman fellowship at Harvard

became a visiting fellow at ing Communist Party-affiliat- Keio University in Japan in ed newspaper and was a 2010. Four years later, he served Harvard University fellow faces as a visiting professor at Hokk aido

Lahore (PTI): A 26-year-old

### hit during the incident. CAAN has taken action against two of the managers of FlyDubai. "As the two managers of the FlyDubai spread rumour that there was a bird hit involving the Kathmandu-Dubai flight, action has been taken against the country manager



Sri Lanka over

anti-terror bill

Colombo (PTI): Normal life was disrupted in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces on Tuesday due to widespread protests by the main Tamil party Tamil National Alliance against a new controversial anti-terrorism bill drafted to replace a draconian counter-terrorism law.

The new Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) will replace the much-maligned Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) of 1979.

The PTA was introduced as a temporary arrangement to counter the campaign of separatist violence by the Tamil minority militant groups in 1979

On April 1, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told reporters that the new counterterrorism law will be introduced later this month.

The protests, organised by the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), were against the new Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), political sources from the two provinces said.

In the northern Jaffna's Tenmarachchi, Kodikamam and Chavakachcheri, life came to a standstill with all shops and business establishments shut in the three divisions, they said.

The government in mid-March gazetted a new bill which is set to replace the PTA. The PTA was widely used by the government troops during the LTTE's armed conflict over three decades to set up a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country.

International rights groups and Tamil parties have slammed PTA's provisions that allow arbitrary detention for several years without charges being filed in courts.

There have been instances of Tamils being held for involve-ment with the LTTE for over 20 years without being charged.

government has also come under pressure from the European Union (EU) to repeal the PTA. Since 2016, the European Union has been urg-

ing the government to repeal the PTA and bring in new counterterrorism legislation in line with international standards.

2021 resolved that the preferential trade facility of (the Generalised System of Preferences) GSP+ must be scrapped for Sri Lankan exports unless the government took action to repeal the PTA.

Amid mounting global pressure, the government was compelled to repeal the PTA or

replace it with a new counterterrorism law which would conform to international standards. However, the new ATA bill

the PTA. Trade unions and opposi-

Sri Lanka's opposition parties, besides the minority Tamil and Muslim parties, on Monday decided to put up a joint front against the new anti-terrorism

Although Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe was hoping to table the bill in Parliament on Tuesday, it had failed to get into the day's agenda paper, parliament officials sai

the self-ruled island democracy Beijing claims as its own territory.

President Alejandro Giammattei's government is one of a dwindling number that have official relations with Taipei instead of Beijing. Legislators from the United

States and Europe have visited to show support in the face of Beijing's attempts to intimidate the island, but their governments have official relations with China, not Taiwan.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war. Taiwan never has been part of the People's Republic of China, but the Communist Party says it is obliged to unite with the main-

land, by force if necessary. "I would like to appeal to the international community and the free world that we should strive to respect Taiwan's sovereignty and territorial

The EU parliament in mid-

is being viewed as harsher than

tion political parties claim that under ATA they could get framed for terrorism for enjoying their basic right to protest.



integrity," Mattei said in a speech to Taiwan's legislature. He expressed "rock-solid friendship" with Taiwan. Mattei said his visit was a

"demonstration of our firm support for your country and our commitment to defending our sovereignty and territorial integrity, and our firm opposition to foreign aggression." President Xi Jinping's gov-

ernment has flown fighter jets and bombers near Taiwan in increasing numbers and fired missiles into the sea in an attempt to intimidate the island.

The number of governments that deal with Taiwan as a national government is shrinking as Beijing and Taipei compete for recognition from small, mostly poor countries in Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific with infusions of aid and investment. The United States and all

European governments except tiny Vatican City have no official relations with Taiwan, a centre for high-tech industry and one of the biggest global traders, but maintain extensive commercial and informal ties

Jniversity in Japai But his writings caused him problems in China. In 2017, an investigation by party authorities found that some of his articles were "anti-socialist" and Dong was threatened with

demotion, his family said. He was detained in February 2022 while eating lunch with a Japanese diplomat at a restaurant in a Beijing hotel where he often met with foreign friends, the statement said.

The diplomat was also detained, triggering a strong protest from Japan's Foreign Ministry

The diplomat was released after several hours, but Dong has remained in detention.Last month, his family was told that Dong will be tried but the date is still unclear, the statement said. In China, espionage can be penalised with a jail term of more than 10 years. AP

The incident took place in the Hafizabad district of Punjab, some 110 km from Lahore, on Monday.

According to police, Munaza Multani alias Ashi, a stage dancer in the Multan district, was at her house in Hafizabad city on Monday when her former husband, Zubair, along with his five accomplices barged into her home and shot her dead.

Multani's mother Shahida Bibi told the police that Zubair and Multani had a son from their marriage. "Zubair divorced Munaza last year and was demanding custody of the child. He had divorced her for (stage dancing)," she said. Police said that her killers shot at her face. An FIR was registered against Zubair and five others and a police team was formed to arrest the suspects.



Armenian Americans commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day with a protest outside the Consulate of Turkey in Beverly Hills. Calif on Monday. AP/PTI

## Quake damages hospital, sends Indonesians racing to highland

### AP 📕 JAKARTA

strong undersea earth-A quake early on Tuesday sent streams of people fleeing to higher ground in eastern Indonesia before the tsunami danger passed.

Footage released by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency showed streams of people in a village on Mentawai Island fled to the highlands by foot and motorcycles under the rain in darkness, while some patients at the village's hospital were evacuated to its yard as cracks showed in the facility's floor.

The shocks were felt in districts and cities of West Sumatra and North Sumatra provinces, and some places ordered evacuations to higher ground.

Residents in parts of West Sumatra province, including

the provincial capital of Padang, felt the earthquake strongly for about 30 seconds, agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said.

"Many residents in several villages on Mentawai island chose to stay displaced in higher ground although the tsunami alert was ended due to fears of aftershocks," he said, adding that authorities were still collecting informa-

tion about the damage. The magnitude 7.1 earthquake was centered 170 kilometers (105 miles) southeast of Teluk Dalam, a coastal town in the South Nias regency of North Sumatra, at a depth of 15 kilometers (9 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said. Aftershocks measured as strong as 5.8.

After an initial tsunami alert, Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical

Agency lifted it just before dawn, about two hours after the quake.

The agency initially put a preliminary magnitude at 7.3, but later revised it to 6.9. Variations in early measurements are common.

The agency's head of the Earthquake and Tsunami Center, Daryono, who goes by a single name, said that based on sea-level observations, minor tsunamis of 11 centimeters (4.3 inches) were detected in Tanah Bala coastal

area of South Nias regency. Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 270 million people, is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.

In November, a magnitude 5.6 killed at least 340 people and damaged more than 62,600 homes in part of West Java.



# Biden launches 2024 re-election bid 'Prince William settled

## VP Harris to be running mate

### PTI WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Tuesday launched his 2024 reelection bid along with his deputy Kamala Harris and appealed to Americans to give them four more years to "finish the job" and defend democracy, raising the possibility of a rematch with their 2020 Republican rival Donald Trump.

Biden, 80, the oldest president in US history, made the announcement in a threeminute promotional video that begins with a one-word pitch: "Freedom".

Biden, a Democrat, argues that abortion rights, the defence of democracy, voting rights and the social safety net will be among the most important issues on the ballot in 2024.

"Every generation has a moment where they have had to stand up for democracy. To stand up for their fundamental freedoms. I believe this is ours. That's why I'm running for reelection as President of the United States. Join us. Let's finish the job," Biden said.

Formally announcing to launch his re-election campaign, which has been anticipated for quite some time now, Biden said "every generation of Americans has faced a moment

when they've had to defend democracy, stand up for our personal freedoms, and stand up for their right to vote and civil rights.

"This is ours. Let's finish the job, I know we can," Biden said

Vice President Harris, who is of India-American and African-American heritage, would be his running mate for the 2024 presidential election. "Joe and Kamala are run-

ning for reelection, and we need your help to spread the word," his campaign said. The official candidates

from America's two main political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, will not be selected for more than a year, just months ahead of the wember 2024 election.

In the video, Biden dubbed the 2024 election as a fight against Republican extremism, arguing he needed more time to fully realise his vow to restore the nation's character.

Trump refused to accept the results of the 2020 election, alleging election fraud. A mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol as Congress met to certify the election on January 6, 2021.

When I ran for President four years ago, I said we are in a battle for the soul of America and we still are. The question



we are facing is whether in the years ahead we have more freedom or less freedom, more rights or fewer," Biden said in his video, which opened with images of January 6, 2021, insurrection and abortion ights activists protesting at the US Supreme Court.

"I know what I want the answer to be and I think you do too. This is not a time to be complacent. That's why I'm running for reelection," he said.

Biden turned 80 in November. If re-elected in 2024, he would be the oldest president ever in America.

No major Democratic challengers are expected to emerge, and Biden is likely to enjoy an easy path to his party's nomination.

But an NBC News poll recently found that 70 per cent of Americans, and just over half of Democrats, believe he should not run again.

Former president Trump, 76, is currently leading the Republicans to win the party's nomination to challenge him

next November. Two Indian Americans Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswami are also in the Republican Party's presi-

dential race. Vice President Harris urged Americans to come together to fight for democracy, continue to make progress, and make sure all Americans can get ahead and thrive.

This is a pivotal moment in our history," said Harris, who is the first woman and the first Indian American and the first African American to be the vice president of the country."For two years we have made transformational investments to build a nation in which everyone can be safe and healthy, find a good job, and retire with dignity. In response, extremists have intensified attacks on basic, foundational freedoms and rights," Harris, 58, said in a statement soon after Biden's video was released."For example, they want to take away a woman's right to make decisions about her own body. They attack the

sacred right to vote and attempt to silence the voice of the people. And they try to block common-sense reforms to save lives and keep Americans safe from gun violence," she said. The Republicans running

for President want to take our country backwards. We will not let that happen. Just like we did in 2020, we must come together to fight for our democracy, continue to make progress, and make sure all Americans can get ahead and thrive," she said.

"Joe and I look forward to finishing the job, winning this battle for the soul of the nation, and serving the American people for four more years in the White House," Harris said.

In a statement ahead of Biden's announcement, Trump alleged that the president "has totally humiliated our Nation on the world stage - starting with the Afghanistan disaster, perhaps the most embarrassing event in the history of our country. It meant so much to our enemies when they watched that horrible retreat. "Russia is teaming up with

China. Iran is days away from a nuclear bomb - not even thinkable. Ukraine has been devastated by an invasion that would never, ever have happened if I was president - and oe Biden has led us to the very brink of World War III. They say Trump was right about everything. Well, I'm not predicting World War III, but I will say this: we're very close and they're only talking about nuclear weapons," he said.

# phone-hack claim for very large sum'

London (PTI): Britain's Prince William settled a phone-hacking claim against media mogul Rupert Murdoch's UK newspa-per group for a "very large sum" in 2020, according to court documents submitted for a hearing in London on Tuesday. The 40-year-old Prince of

Wales was reportedly part of a "secret agreement" struck by the royal family, which News Group Newspapers (NGN) has denied.

The agreement emerged as William's younger brother, Prince Harry, is fighting NGN's claim that he has run out of time to bring his High Court claim in London as the case opened for a three-day hearing this week.

The 38-year-old Duke of Sussex is suing NGN, publisher of 'The Sun' and the nowdefunct 'News Of The World' newspapers, over alleged unlawful information gathering at its titles.

According to 'The Daily Telegraph', NGN is asking Justice Timothy Fancourt to throw out the claim, arguing it has been brought too late.

"HRH William, Prince of the conclusion of the litigation over hacking. The result of this alleged Wales, similarly brought a claim against NGN which it settled for a very large sum of deal was that the princes would money in 2020," the court docdelay legal proceedings against the newspaper group in return for receiving an apology at a uments state, without giving any further details about William's settlement. later date.

"As an immigrant and trail-

## Indian moped delivery drivers held in UK London (PTI): Several Indians

world 09

are among 60 moped drivers arrested for working illegally for major food delivery firms in the UK as part of a week-long crackdown on illegal migration to the country, the UK government has said.

The arrests, which also included Brazilians and Algerians, were made for offences including illegal working and possession of false documentation. It came as the UK Home Office released latest statistics on Tuesday which claim that Indians are now among the second-largest cohort of migrants crossing the English Channel illegally on small boats, with 675 recorded between January and March Responding to the publishthis year.

"Illegal working damages our communities, cheats honest workers out of employment and defrauds the public purse," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

"As the Prime Minister (Rishi Sunak) has set out, we are committed to going further and faster to prevent the abuse of our laws and borders. The British public deserve a labour market that is fair and honest and must have confidence that goods and services they buy are from legitimate businesses," the Indian-origin minister said.

Of the 60 arrested, 44 were detained by the Home Office pending their removal from the UK, with the remaining 16 being released on immigration bail.

## China scraps COVID-19 test requirement for travellers

## PTI BEIJING

hina on Tuesday said it will Cremove COVID-19 nucleic acid test requirements starting from April 29 for international travellers visiting the country.

Travellers entering China need not provide a COVID-19 nucleic acid test result starting from April 29 but still need to have an antigen test result taken within 48 hours before boarding a flight, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here.

"Starting from April 29, inbound travellers may choose to take antigen tests within 48 hours prior to boarding other



Indigenous people from various regions of Brazil take part in a demonstration in front of Congress to oppose bills that threater their traditional lives, in Brasilia, Brazil on Monday,

## RSP wins 2 seats in Nepal bypolls

Kathmandu (PTI): The Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), the fourth largest party in Nepal's Parliament, has won two out of three seats of the House of Representatives in recently held by-elecprise defeat to the rul

54,276 votes, while his nearest rival Jit Narayan Shrestha of the Nepali Congress secured just 11,251 votes.

RSP's other candidate Wagle has secured nearest rival

## Indian-American to get Immigrant Achievement Award

Washington (PTI): Neeli

Bendapudi, the Indian American president of Penn State University, will receive this year's prestigious Immigrant Achievement Award for her contributions to higher education in the US.

The award is presented each year to an individual or organisation that exhibits a commitment and dedication to America's heritage as a nation of immigrants and advocacy for humane immigration policy.

The award would be presented to 59-year-old Bendapudi at the DC Immigrant Achievement Awards reception on April 28, according to a statement.

For nearly 30 years, Penn the first person of colour to State President Dr Bendapudi's serve as Penn State's president, in highe been committed to student success, fostering inclusive excellence, and creating opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to thrive," said Jeremy Robbins, executive director of the American Immigration Council. Terming her a "values-driven" leader, Robbins said Bendapudi believes strongly in the transformative power of higher education and its impact on individuals and communi-

7

## 'Indians now see China as greatest military threat'

Washington: Influential Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna has said that Indians now see China as their greatest military threat and not Pakistan, and emphasised the need to have constructive re-balancing with

er's strike out application in

court, Harry's lawyers said it

was an attempt to go behind a

"secret agreement" between

the royal family as an institu-

tion and NGN, which the Duke

court, David Sherborne, repre-

senting Harry, said the late

Queen was involved in "autho-

risation" of the agreement,

which was that members of the

royal family would not pursue

claims against NGN until after

In documents before the

was informed of in 2012.

Beijing. Relations between China ever since the eastern Ladakh military standoff between the two countries in May 2020.

The two countries have held 17 rounds of high-level military commanders' talks to resolve the standoff.

India has been maintaining Raised in India, Bendapudi that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in

the border areas. "Today, we need a constructive re-balancing with China. This requires us to be clear-eyed She is the first woman and about the threats we and our allies in Asia face, but are hopeful that our diplomacy and esmanship 21st century less bloody than the 20th century," Khanna said in a foreign policy speech at the prestigious Stanford's Hoover Institution on Monday.

principles for a constructive rebalancing with China: First, an economic reset to reduce trade deficits and tensions; second, open lines of communication; third, effective military deterrence; and fourth, respect for our Asian partners and robust economic engagement with the

world," he said. "China creeps towards hege-mony in Asia, threatens India's borders, and treats other countries as junior partners. The people of India now see China as their greatest military threat, not Pakistan," he said. Khanna, 46, represents Silicon Valley in the US House of Representatives.

"We have the technology to bring about an American production renaissance as Andy Grove, the famous Intel CEO, called for back in 2010. We have an Asian American diaspora that understands the need for open lines of communication with Asia, said. The Valley is pioneering the leading technology in AI, cyber, space, long-range missiles, and unmanned vehicles that will be essential for effective deterrence in the Taiwan Strait, he said. PTI

### blazer, she has spent years navigating the lack of diversity in leadership and the challenges confronting minority groups. This year, we are thrilled to commemorate Dr. Bendapudi for embodying the diverse contributions generations of immigrants bring to this nation and as a testament to the enduring power of our country's immi-

moved to the United States to pursue her doctoral studies at the University of Kansas and to launch her career as an academic leader and educator.

ierc acid tests, said

Airlines will no longer check pre-departure testing results, she said.

"We would like to remind inbound and outbound travellers to look after their health in the run-up to their departure and strictly follow the COVID protocols of China and their travel destinations so that they can have a healthy and pleasant trip and a safe journey home," she said.

On Sunday, by-elections were held in Nepal's three constituencies Tanhun-1, Chitawan-2 and Bara-2. The by-polls in the three constituencies have become a prestige issue for both the ruling alliance and the RSP, which has not yet withdrawn its support to the Prachanda-led coalition government, though its ministers had already quit the government.

Ravi Lamichhane, former TV journalist and the president of the RSP, and prominent economist Swornim Wagle both have won the elections held in Chitawan - 2 and Tanhun - 1 constituency with a huge margin giving a big blow to the rul-ing alliance. RSP chief Lamichhane secured

Bhattarai from the Nepali Congress, who received 20,122 votes. As the Supreme Court revoked his Parliament membership over the citizenship issue, Lamichhane was compelled to obtain back his citizenship and prepare for the by-election. The by-polls were held after two lawmakers - Ram Chandra Poudel and Ramsahay Prasad Yadav were elected as the President and Vice-president and the third one Lamichhane of the RSP - lost his HoR membership due to legal flaws in his citizenship. However, in Bara-2 constituency JSP president Yadav is leading with 18,496 votes while his nearest rival from Janamat Party, Shivachandra Kushawaha is following with 14,174 votes.

where she ove sity's modern land-grant mission of teaching, research, and public service across 24 campuses and the online Penn State World Campus.

grant history," Robbins said.

Bendapudi said she was deeply honoured to be named the recipient of this year's Immigrant Achievement Áward and equally humbled to be among such prestigious past honorees, each of whom reflects the importance and impact of immigration within the US.

"There are four guiding



SMM/ETD/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender again tender no. 44225155C. The details are as under:

rocurement system. (2) anual offers 3 1240/23								
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Tender Notice Reference No. 469/DR The Department of Director of Research invites online bids for the following:-								
Quantity								
1 No.								
the above								
Research niversity, nritsar								
niversity,								

To be known to all that I, Dr. (Mrs.) Kamala o W/o Late K.V.B. Rao R/o L-1/147-A, DDA LIG Flat Ground floor, Block L1, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, present Owner of flat No. L-1/147-A, category DDA Built-up LIG Flat, situated on the ground floor in Block-1.-1, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from asehold to freehold in DDA. The original Allotment cum Demand Letter No.L/37(307)76-HB(M)/II, Possession Letter and Site Possession certificate issued by DDA or the above flat has been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Static Crime Branch, New Delhi vide FIR/NCR No./LR No.374582/2023 dated 24.04.2023. Any person(s) claiming any right interest having any objection or found in possession of the above said original documents, may ite/contact with above named person at pove address/phone No.9971662239 within 30 days from the date of issue of this Public otice. The person claiming any right, nterest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the Dy. Director, (I.AB)H or Director (H), 3rd loor, D-Block, VikasSadan, INA, New Delhi. Kamla Rao).

D/o Late N.A. Subramanian W/o Sh. R. Kuma & Nurani Subramanian Srikant S/o Late N.A. Subramanian Both R/o A-1/97, DDA MIG Subramanian Both R/o A-1/97, DDA MIG Flat, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085 joint owner of flat No.97, Category DDA Built-up MIG flat, situated on the ground floor in Block/Pocket A-1, Sector-VI, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have applied for mutation/ conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The below mentioned original documents issued by leasehold to freehold in DDA. The below mentioned original documents issued by DDA for the above flat have been lost.a). Original Possession Letter and NOC for water & electricity connection issued by DDA in the name of allottee.b). Original Site Possession/Possession Certificate and inventory list issued by site office of DDA in the name of allottee.An FIR to this effect has alweardy been lodged in the Dalice Station

the name of allottee.An FIR to this effect has already been lodged in the Police Station Delhi Cantt. New Delhi vide FIR/NCR No.634/012 dated 24.03.2012. Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession of the above said original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9016984548 within above address/phone No.9916984548, withir 30 days from the date of issue of this Public notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the Dy. Director, (LABH or Director (H), 3rd Floor, D-Block, VikasSadan, INA, New Delhi. (Chitra Kumar &Nurani Subramanian Srikant).

## but UK economy still reeling London (AP): Kelly Curto is taking her first trip outside the US, and the die-hard fan of the British royal family is making it the one at the top of her bucket list - heading to London for King Charles III's After arriving on May 5,

the 44-year-old school bus driver from Long Island and a friend will head to the Mall, the ceremonial avenue to Buckingham Palace where the monarch's pomp-filled proces-sion will pass by the following day. That's where they plan to

coronation.

spend the night if they can find a good spot to glimpse the gilded horse-drawn state coach, royals and thousands of soldiers filing past — despite splurging on a four-star hotel for their nine-day trip.

"This is like a once-in-alifetime opportunity. You get to be part of history," Curto said. "Everybody around the world knows this family. Everybody around the world is going to be watching this coronation and we get to be a part of that."

The coronation is luring royal enthusiasts fascinated by the ceremonial spectacle and drama — of the monarchy and far-flung visitors eager to experience a piece of British history.



Tour companies, shops and restaurants are rolling out the red carpet, whether it's a decked-out bus tour of London's top sights with high tea or merchandise running from regal to kitschy.

Coronation gives tourism boost,

The weekend of events starting May 6 will bring a cash infusion to central London businesses, especially hotels, pubs and restaurants, but it

won't do much for UK residents struggling with an economy on the precipice of recession and a cost-of-living crisis that has stirred months of disruptive strikes by workers seeking pay hikes.

For visitors looking to splash out, hotels across London are touting coronationthemed packages, menus and

Those willing to spend an eye-popping 12,995 pounds (over USD 16,000) can get an overnight stay in the Royal Suite at the five-star Hotel Cafe Royal and a limo ride to the Tower of London for a private tour and viewing of the

Crown Jewels. The Dorchester Hotel, long a favourite with royals and celebrities, concocted a lavish, five-tier coronation cake and put up theatre-style draping across its facade to re-create the decorations that it used to mark Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

Many international visitors are drawn by the idea of a "beautiful fairytale" about "the royals and everything that is around them," general manager Luca Virgilio said.

Energy's (DOE) 'Solar Decathlon' contest is the longestrunning student competition in the US that challenges student teams to design and build high ly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy

Ball State University won the '2023 Build Challenge' contest after dedicating nearly two years to designing and constructing their zero-energy home. The "Alley House" team engaged their community to reimagine a zero-energy future for historically under-utilised urban lots through the construction of a high-performance, beautiful, functional family home, according to a statement. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and The University of British Columbia came in second and third respectively in this year's Build Challenge, the Department of Energy (DOE) said

IIT-Bombay team OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE The Sr. Divisional Er first runner up at -III. Northern Railway, Delhi Divisio he following work 1 Name of work : Zone work for the PE 30.06.2024 for repair to service building station building at Delhi in the section of SSE/W/DLI under ADEN/DLI 'Solar Decathlon' 2 Approx. cost of work : Rs. 90,00,000.71 (Rupees Ninety Lakh and Se one paise only) competition in US 3 Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 1.80.000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eigh Thousand Only 4 Cost of tender document : Rs. 0.00 Washington (PTI): A team of 5 Date & Time of submission of tender hid and one students from IIT Bombay has at 15:00 Hrs been declared as the second Website particulars where complete details of tender winner at this year's 'Solar seen : www.ireps.gov.in Allocation : 04-400-32 Decathlon' contest in the US for The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system building a house in Mumbai (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system with advanced technology soluor all terms and conditions please refer tender documen tions to help address air quality No manual offers are acceptable. in a hot and humid climate. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through ne The US Department of banking or payment gateway only .: 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/04/2023-24/W-3 Dated: - 24.04.2023 1231/23 Serving Customers with a Smile 620 NORTHERN RAILWAY (Without Prejudice) DRM's office, New Delhi Dated: 25.04.2023 No.570-Sig/PS/Tender/60 To, M/s. Chaudhary Associates Govt. Contractor & Suppliers Shardhana Road, Near Shiv Chowk Opp. P.N. Bank, Kanker Khera, Meerut 250001 Ref:-Contract Agreement No. 570-Sig/PS/Tender/60 "Seven Days' Notice under clause 62 of General Conditions of commence the work/show adequate progress of the work

Kindly acknowledge receipt

AESTE/C/PS/New Delhi For & on behalf of the President of India

1244/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

7/82 Office of the Dv.CSTE/C/PS/NDLS

Contract was given to you under this office letter of even Number dated 15.04.2023 in news papers but you have taken no action to

You are hereby given 48 hours' notice in terms of clause 62 of General Conditions of Contract and on expiry of this period action shall be taken as provided in Clause 62 of the Standard General Conditions of Contract viz. to terminate your Contract.

## Need to be vigilant against | Equity markets log potential risks: Eco review gains for second day

ne pioneer

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Sounding a note of caution, the Finance Ministry's monthly economic review on Tuesday said India needs to be vigilant against potential risks of lower agriculture output, elevated prices and geopolitical

IEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26, 2023

developments. Although the 6.5 per cent growth projection for the current fiscal is in line with the estimates of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), there are factors which could affect the favourable combination of growth and inflation outcomes currently estimated, said the March edition of the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review.

"It is important... To be vigilant against potential risks such as El Nino conditions creating drought conditions and lowering agricultural output and elevating prices, geopolit-ical developments and global financial stability," the review said.

All these three could affect the favourable combination of growth and inflation outcomes currently anticipated, it said.

The report said FY23 has been strong for India's economy despite the tailwind of the pandemic and the headwind of the geopolitical conflict intertwining to escalate global economic uncertainty. "The strength is seen in the



economy, estimated to grow at 7 per cent, higher than the deposits is unlikely as 63 per trend rate and the growth of the cent of the deposits contributed other major economies. by the households are consid-Growing macroeconomic staered sticky, it said. bility as seen in the improved current account deficit, easing Indian banks different from inflation pressure, and a bankthose US and European banks ing system strong enough to who faced problems following

survive the increase in policy rates, has made the growth rate further sustainable," it said. On the financial sector, the report said, banking supervision is robust with the RBI's

overarching coverage of institutions, regardless of asset size, in its bi-annual assessment of financial stability. Macro stress tests are also

performed from time to time individual banks. on Investment in held-to-maturity (HTM) securities is limited to 23 per cent of deposits, reflecting an effective insulation of asset value from adverse market developments, it said.



flows and a muted trend in global equities capped the Services gains, traders said.

In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 74.61 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 60,130.71. During the day, it hit a high of 60,268.67 and a low of 60,202.77.

**Power shares** 

advance

PTI MUMBAI

companies.

Finally, rapid withdrawal of

All these factors make

the unwinding of tight mone-

tary policy.

goods prices.

first half

The broader NSE Nifty With regard to the price gained 25.85 points or 0.15 per situation, the report said, the cent to end at 17,769.25.

sequential growth of CPI-core "The domestic market sucin March 2023 is the weakest ceeded in holding the gains, since June 2022 and can be though multiple attempts were attributed to the beginning of made by bears to reverse the the pass-through of declining trend considering the weak WPI inflation in consumer global market.

"Investors are highly nervous as they await the release of US GDP and PCE inflation Although CPI for the full vear rose from 5.5 per cent in data, which will guide the upcoming Fed action. The Fed FY22 to 6.7 per cent in FY23, the report said, it was much lower in the second half of is expected to raise their rates by another 25bps in its FY23 at 6.1 per cent compared announcement on 3rd May," to 7.2 per cent in the according to Vinod Nair, Head

### moved up 0.90 per cent and realty gained by 0.57 per cent. Bajaj Finance led the Besides, energy, capital goods Sensex gainers' chart, spurting and metal were the other gainup to 2.38 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserve rising 2.11 per cent and IndusInd Bank clossumer durables fell by 0.91 per ing 1.66 per cent higher. Bharti cent, healthcare fell by 0.09 per

Airtel, SBI and L&T increased by 1.60 per cent, 1.28 per cent and 0.92 per cent, respective-In contrast, HDFC twins,

vailed as sluggish to negative Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, global markets' sentiment Wipro and Axis Bank were prompted traders to take selecamong the main laggards, tive bets in metals, oil & gas, shedding up to 1.47 per cent. and financial stocks. In the broader market, the the rate hike cycle in the US

BSE midcap gauge remained unchanged and smallcap index inched up 0.19 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, the power went up by 1.49 per cent, utilities rose by 1.32 per cent and bankex went up by 1.49 per cent, financial services rose by 1.21 per cent, oil & gas



### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday invited all big and small retailers to join the gov-ernment-promoted Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), as it would help in creating huge opportunities for everybody.

ONDC aims to promote an open platform for all aspects of -commerce retail. It would help small retailers expand their business through e-commerce medium and reduce the dominance of giants in the sector. It is a non-profit company, which is formulating a set of standards for voluntary adoption by sellers or logistics providers or payments gateway operators.

ONDC will require an undertaking from each participant at the time of onboarding that it will comply with the policy in its entirety.

"The Walmarts and Flipkarts of the world the Tatas, and Reliances of the world, everybody has a role in making ONDC a success. So, we would like to invite everybody to be part of this journey in a free and fair manner and nobody will be discriminated push key economies into a against. It is open to all. ONDC growth," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity is open for business," Goyal said here at a function.

The industry ministry and the consumer affairs ministry

> Gold jumps ₹440; silver declines ₹360

are working together to ensure

that the grievances of con-

this platform remains absolute-

ly agnostic to any influence,"

Goyal said, adding the platform

would allow the e-commerce

sector to flourish without dam-

aging a large section of stake-

ers to participate in this jour-

ney of new technologies and

Even big e-commerce is not

threatened. It only unlocks

and opens the doors of oppor-

tunity," he added. The platform, he said, is

using a system of creating an

inter-operable network, allow-

ing different platforms to col-laborate and create an interface

to help the buyers and sellers.

formational e-commerce plat-

form not just in India but

across the world, in the years to

ONDC will be the trans-

new ways of doing business.

It would allow small retail-

"ONDC threatens nobody.

holders and small retailers.

'We are making sure that

sumers are addressed.

## PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

come," he said

Gold prices jumped ₹440 to §₹60,580 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid gains in precious metal prices globally, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹60,140 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver, however, declined

Silver, nowever, declined ₹360 to ₹75,240 per kg. "Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹60,580 per 10 grams, up ₹440 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities t UDEC Serveities said at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at \$1,988.80 per ounce and silver was marginally down at \$ 25.01



## PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Tuesday reported a 21.12 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at ₹289.56 crore in the fourth quarter ended on March 31, 2023, led by a mixed growth from volume and price in India business

The company had posted a net profit of ₹239.05 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, said TCPL, earlier known as Tata Global Beverages Ltd, in a BSE filing.

Its revenue from operations was up 13.96 per cent to ₹3,618.73 crore during the quarter under review as against sponding period of the preceding fiscal. "It was a very strong quarter with a significant improvement in the growth trends from the earlier quarter," TCPL CFO L Krishnakumar told



The growth was led by the India business, which was up 15 per cent, which included every component of the business, including tea, coffee, and food and its growth portfolio,

it added.

year to ₹1,718 crore, with margin accretion of 220 basis points to 19.3 per cent, Bajaj Auto said.

It also said that domestic motorcycle sales during the quarter under review contin-

## **Indusind Bank** shares end over 1% higher

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Chares of IndusInd Bank **J**ended more than 1 per cent higher on Tuesday after the private sector lender registered a 46 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit at ₹2,043

crore. The stock of the company climbed 1.76 per cent to settle at ₹1,121.50 apiece on the BSE. On the NSE, it rose 1.63 per cent to close at ₹1,119.95 per piece. In volume terms, 1.96 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 52.68 lakh shares on the NSE during the day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 74.61 points or 0.12 per cent higher at 60,130.71 points.

During the session, the rupee touched a high of 81.86 and a low of 81.96 against the



tained foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign Asian peers remained weak as risk sentiment remained tepid and public sector bankled dollar bids to cover their imports near 81.90 levels and

capped gains. "In the overseas markets, the US Dollar Index gained marginally on Tuesday afternoon in Asian trading on safehaven bids as the outlook for Iyer said The Japanese Yen, the Euro and the Sterling weakened this Tuesday afternoon trade tracking gains in the greenback. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.39 per cent to \$ 82.41 per barrel.



Bajaj Auto reports

marginal rise in Q4

standalone Profit After Tax at ₹1,468.95 crore for the three months to March 2023.

It had posted a standalone PAT of ₹1,432.88 crore in Q4 FY22, Bajaj Auto Ltd said in a release.

The company's revenue from operations during the quarter under review increased 12 per cent to ₹8,905 crore from ₹7,974.84 crore in the January-March period of FY22,

The growth in revenue

under Sampann, Soulfull and water, he added. Total expenses of the Tata

Group FMCG arm were at ₹3,217.58 crore, up 14.11 per cent in Q4/FY 2022-23, as against ₹2,819.60 crore of the corresponding period.

mons was led sustained momentum of the domestic business that delivered strong volume-led revenue growth of more than 50 per

cent year-on-year, it noted. At the same time, EBITDA maintained its strong run, growing 26 per cent year-on-

the strong performance of the Pulsar portfolio and further scale-up in Platina 110 ABS volumes.

Three-wheeler sales crossed the 100K units milestone for the first time since the pandemic, Bajaj Auto said.



lar.

The rupee on Monday settled at 81.92 against the UŚ dol-

On the other hand, con-

"Cautious optimism pre-

The bigger concern is that

and European nations is likely

to continue, which may further

slowdown phase and hurt

Research (Retail), Kotak

Rupee slips 3

paise against \$

Securities Ltd.

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 3 paise to close at 81.95 against the US dollar on

Tuesday, pressured by a strong greenback overseas and sus-

exchange market, the local unit

opened at 81.95 against the US

currency and finally closed at

81.95 against the greenback,

registering a fall of 3 paise from

its previous close.

cent and information and tech-

nology declined by 0.08 per

cent.

According to Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, the rupee was almost flat on Tuesday as markets waited for fresh cues.



## **RBI imposes** ₹44 lakh fine on four co-operative banks

### PTI MUMBA

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling ₹44 lakh on four cooperative banks, including a ₹16 lakh penalty on Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank, for contraven tion of various norms.

A penalty of ₹13 lakh has been imposed on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank as it failed to transfer eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) within the prescribed period and transferred the same with delay, RBI said in a release on Monday.

In a separate release, the central bank said a penalty of ₹13 lakh has been imposed on Janata Sahakari Bank, Pune for

norms under the BS-VI regime.

All company hatchbacks, sedans,

MPVs, SUVs and commercial vehicles

are now compliant with the new BSVI

Phase-II real driving emissions (RDE) regulations, alongside being compatible

with E20 fuel as well, the auto major said

The new RDE compliant Maruti

PTI NEW DELHI

in a statement.



non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits Penalty has been imposed

on The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank as it failed to transfer eligible amounts to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund within given period. It also failed to report a fraud to NABARD within the prescribed timeline and reported the same with delay.

A monetary penalty of Rs 2 lakh has been imposed on Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank,

Baran, Rajasthan for contravention of certain norms. The penalties are based

on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers, the RBI said.

HDFC AMC Q4 PAT rises 9% to ₹376 crore

## PTI NEW DELHI

HDFC Asset Management Company on Tuesday reported a nine per cent growth in profit after tax (PAT) to ₹376.1 crore for the three months ended March 2023.

In comparison, the company posted a PAT of ₹343.5 crore in the year-ago period, the fund house said in a regulatory filing.

The firm's total income grew by 10 per cent to ₹637.8 crore in the quarter under review from ₹580.9 crore in the January-March quarter of 2021-22 (FY22). The company's average asset under management (AAUM) stood at ₹4.49 lakh crore as of March 2023 against ₹4.32 lakh crore a year earlier, giving it a market share of 11.1 per cent in the



quarter

For the full fiscal 2022-23, the fund house's PAT grew by 2 per cent to ₹1,423.9 crore. Its total income also rose 2 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,482.6 crore. HDFC AMC is an investment manager for HDFC Mutual Fund, one of the leading mutual funds in the country. The fund house had total live accounts of 11.4 million as of March, of which 6.6 million were unique customers as identified by PAN, compared to

## Sebi asks AMCs to file final offer documents digitally

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday asked asset man-agement companies (AMCs) to file final offer documents only digitally as a part of its "go green" initiative.

In addition, to safeguard the interests of investors in the securities market, Sebi said all new fund offers (NFOs) will remain open for subscription for a minimum period of three working days.

The new framework will be applicable with effect from May 1, 2023, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Under the framework, AMCs will have to file all final offer documents - SID (scheme information document) and KIM (key information memorandum) - only digitally by e-mailing the same to a dedicated e-mail ID, and there would be no requirement of filing physical copies of the same with Sebi.

Such submission of all final SID and KIM in digital form will have to be made at least two working days before the launch of the scheme.

As per the current rules, Sebi mandated the submission of a soft copy of the final SIDs along with a printed copy seven working days before the launch of the scheme.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

**RAPIDO TO LAUNCH NATIONWIDE SAFETY CAMPAIGN** New Delhi: Adding another feather to the road safety initiative, Rapido - India's leading auto-tech aggregator - is introducing a nationwide safety campaign, #RapidoSafetyFirst. The campaign aims to raise awareness about road safety, promoting Rapido's daily ride safety features nationwide.

### SAIF, SHEHNAAZ IN PIZZA COMMERCIALS

New Delhi: Bollywood actors Saif Ali Khan and Shehnaaz Gill have entered into agreement with Pizza Hut, a trusted pizza brand, to promote the launch a wide variety of 10 new pizzas. The brand has introduced a Makhni sauce to appeal to Indian palates.

Mkt reforms implementation key to improve financial viability of pumped hydro storage: ICRA

PTI NEW DELHI

Timely implementation of I market reforms is important to improve the financial viability of pumped storage hydro project (PSP) in the country, an Icra report said on Tuesday.

The levellised tariff for pumped storage hydro projects in the base case, assuming a capital cost of ₹6.5 crore per MW, is estimated at about ₹5 per unit, and the landed tariff. including the cost of energy required for pumping, is estimated at ₹9 per unit, said a statement in the Icra report.

It explained that while the tariff competitiveness of the storage component for PSPs is modest, the PSPs benefit from a long economic life of 40 years with a very mature and indigenous technology avail-



PSPs are also estimated to remain cost competitive against the storage cost associated with

battery energy storage. "Nonetheless, the timely implementation of market reform measures as highlighted in the guidelines remains important to improve the financial viability of PSPs," stated Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, Icra.

Suzuki cars feature an enhanced onboard diagnostics (OBD) system to Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said it has upgraded its entire range of monitor emission control systems of the car in real-time and will notify drivers vehicles to meet the stricter emission in case of any malfunction, it added.

The products now also come equipped with an electronic stability control (ESC) system, MSI said.

"At Maruti Suzuki, we are always finding new and innovative ways to reduce emissions from our vehicles..The Government's drive to incorporate the new BS6 Phase II norms will go a long way in controlling emissions from



vehicles over their entire lifespan, Maruti Suzuki India Chief Technical Officer C V Raman noted.

During this upgrade, the compaalso took the opportunity to delight

customers even more by equipping cars with ESC, a leading safety feature globally, he added.

need to have an on-board self-diagnostic device to monitor the real time driving emission levels.

parts for meeting emission standards such as the catalytic converter and oxygen sensors, to keep a close watch on emissions

37.7 million for the industry. Maruti Suzuki for stricter emission norms, upgrades model range

Maruti Suzuki currently sells 15

models in the country. From April 1 this year, vehicles

The device constantly monitors key



# **'Incredible opportunity' awaits Arsenal: Arteta**

### AP MANCHESTER

rsenal manager Mikel Arteta has urged his Premier League leaders to make the most of an "incredible opportunity" when they travel to nearest challengers Manchester City on Wednesday.

The Gunners are five points clear of second-placed City but have played two games more than the reigning champions.

Anything other than a first away win against City since 2015 would leave the destiny of the title in Pep Guardiola's side's hands.

Arsenal have drawn their last three league games, raising doubts over whether a youthful side can deliver the north London club's first Premier League crown in 19 years.

But Arteta, having seen Arsenal record several notable away wins this season, told a prematch news conference on Tuesday: "It is going to be a tough night and challenge, yes, but the opportunity is incredible for us.

"We knew from the beginning — you want to win a Premier League, you have to go to Spurs and you have to beat them, you have to go to Chelsea and you have to beat them.

"This is what we have been doing, that is why we are here and now we have to go to City and we have to beat them - you want to be champion, you have to win these matches, it is as simple as that.

**'MASSIVE GAME'** Arsenal will again be without William Saliba as the France defender has shown "no improvement" in recovering from a back injury, while Arteta also in tactics. revealed Granit Xhaka is doubt



ful for the match at the Etihad. The Switzerland captain missed Friday's frantic 3-3 draw with strugglers Southampton through illness and has yet to

return to training.

team was able to adapt to changing situations within a match. "That's what we do every game in certain areas," he said.

Are you talking in ball possession, out of possession, in transition, at restarts, on set pieces, emotional state?

Arteta, who won two league "You have to shift it all the titles as an assistant to Guardiola at City, played down suggestions time. Every opponent demands he would need a radical rethink and questions different things of you and gives you different The former Gunners midopportunities.

"There's no difference with that team (City), it's just obviously the quality of the opponent is as good as it gets anywhere in the world."

Arteta added he had little time for the idea that Wednesday's match was a 'winnertakes-all' contest in the title race

"If we win tomorrow night we haven't won, for sure," the 41year-old Spaniard said.

"It would shift the percent-

age a little bit but five games in this league with the games we still have to play, it's very tricky. 'We knew from the begin-

ning that City was the team to beat with Liverpool because of what those teams have done in the past few years. "We wanted to close that gap

as much as we could and we're toe-to-toe with them. "We know it is going to be a massive game. Is it going to define the season? The answer is no.

Guardiola tells Man City not to let grip on PL title go

## **AP** MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola has urged Manchester City not to let the destiny of the Premier League title slip out of their hands in a potentially decisive clash at the top of the table against Arsenal on Wednesday.

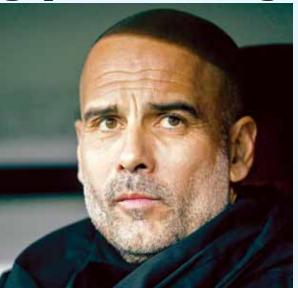
Guardiola questioned his side's hunger to continue dominating English football earlier this season, but they are now closing in on a treble of trophies.

City face Real Madrid in the Champions League semifinals next month and will take on local rivals Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3.

"When we started this season, first game, second game, third game, after (winning) back-to-back Premier Leagues, it is not a final," said Guardiola at his pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

"Now the last few months I have had that feeling with the FA Cup and Champions League and Premier League, that is the truth because we see the end is real, real close."

Arsenal's blistering start to the season put them in pole position to win the Premier League for the first time in 19 years. But Mikel Arteta's men have shown their inexperience in recent weeks as three consecutive draws have allowed City to close in down the home straight.



sport 11

"After the first round (19 games) of the Premier League, (with what) Arsenal have done, it's difficult to think we are here in that moment," added Guardiola.

"Now we know exactly what we're playing for. We have had many months to arrive at this part of the league to have the chance in our hands.

decisive because there's still "But if we win, definitely the destiny will be in our many tough games for both sides. We have more games to play but we can't deny how important it is."

Guardiola.

race.

Arteta, who worked for

## Jabeur to miss Madrid Open AP 📕 MADRID

three-and-a-half years as

Guardiola's assistant at City,

denied the top-of-the-table

clash will be decisive in the title

protege, but did not play down

the importance of landing a

major blow to City's title rivals.

"It's a really, really impor-tant game because we can get

points and our biggest oppo-

nent this season cannot," said

"It's really important, not

Guardiola agreed with his

defend her title at the WTA

exams done, it shows that I have a small tear in my calf and I will need more time to recover,' Jabeur announced.

"I am sad to announce that



defeat looks to have ended their

chances of Champions League

football next season as they

Blacks XV game.

AP LONDON

Tottenham's players have offered to reimburse fans the cost of their match tickets from Sunday's 6-1 hammering at Newcastle as they offered a public apology on Tuesday. Spurs were 5-0 down inside

21 minutes at St James' Park in a performance that cost interim manager Cristian Stellini his job after less than a month in charge. "As a squad, we underyour frustration, your stand anger. It wasn't good enough,' the Tottenham squad said in a

club statement. "We know words aren't enough in situations like this, but 1s, a defeat like this hurts.



having played more games than the sides directly above them. However, a place in the top

six should be enough to guaran-

country.

## PTI JALANDHAR

 $B^{
m irmingham\,Commonwealth}_{
m Games\,\,gold\,\,medallist}$ Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra, the top-ranked Indian women player, will spearhead an 11-member Indian squad at the 2023 World Table Tennis Championships in Durban from May 20 to 28.

The team comprises five men and six women.

The 59th edition of the Worlds will be confined only to the team championships and the first in Africa since 1939 when Egypt hosted the event.

The selection committee of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) considered the latest selection policy, experience and the utility value of the individrtant events such a

ing the members to represent the



50, A. Sharath Kamal (No. 55), The men's team will consist

the Worlds before recommend- of the top-ranked Indian in the and Manav Thakkar, while teams as men and women

world, G. Sathiyan, ranked No. Manika Batra (No. 40), Sreeja

Akula, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Reeth Rishya, Archana Kamath and Diya Chitale will form the women's squad.

Sathiyan, Sharath, Manush, and Harmeet will compete in the men's singles and the doubles. Sathiyan will pair up with Sharath, while Manush and Harmeet will form the second pair.

Manika, Sreeja Akula,

Sutirtha Mukherjee and Reeth

Rishya will compete in the sin-

gles. However, Manika will team

up with Archana Kamath, while

Sreeja will combine with Diya

Chitale in the women's doubles.

India's first pair in the mixed

doubles, and the second will be

Manav and Archana.

Prabhu will accon

coaches, respectively.

Sathiyan and Manika will be

Subhajit Saha and Mamata

**P**unisian Ons Jabeur will not Madrid Open after withdrawing Monday with a calf injury. "Further to many medical

I won't be able to compete and defend my title this year." Jabeur

against Iga Swiatek at the Stutt-

gart Open with a calf problem.

Sharath, Manika to spearhead challenges at World TT

"Of course, they have it in their hands too, because if they win it depends on them. The destiny will be in their hands.

hands.

"We appreciate your sup-

port, home and away, and with this in mind we would like to reimburse fans with the cost of their match tickets from St James' Park.

"We know this does not change what happened on Sunday and we will give everything to put things right against Manchester United on Thursday evening when, again, your support will mean everything to us."

Captain Hugo Lloris had already apologised to fans for the "embarrassing" defeat in his post-match interview, acknowledging the team showed a "lack of pride".

Former Spurs midfielder Ryan Mason has been put in caretaker charge for a second spell, having also overseen the end of the 2020/21 campaign following Jose Mourinho's sacking.

Tottenham sit fifth in the

oints off the top four with six matches remaining and League.

## Tottenham stadium to stage 2024 European rugby finals AP LONDON

for heavyweight world title box-ing bouts involving Britain's Next season's European club rugby finals will be staged Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury.

"We are absolutely delightat the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, organisers announced ed to announce that our 2024 on Tuesday. The 62,850-capacfinals weekend will take place at ity ground will host the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium," European Challenge Cup final said European Professional Club and the European Champions Cup final on May 24 and May Rugby chairman Dominic McKay. "It is quite simply one of the most exciting venues in the world and an incredibly appro-25, 2024 respectively. Opened in 2019, the stadi-

um has already staged several rugby fixtures, including two priate stage for next year's showpiece finals weekend." Premiership matches involving

This season's European Saracens and a Barbarians v All finals weekend takes place at Lansdowne Road in Dublin on It has also been the venue May 19 and May 20

AP BARCELONA

Barcelona said on Monday they had secured 1.45 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) in funding for a redevelopment plan and would start the renovation of the Camp Nou stadium on June 1.

The club said in a statement that the money had come from deals with 20 investors who would receive repayment over periods of between five and 24 years. Barcelona said they would start paying back the loans when the work was completed. In addition to the football

euros for Camp Nou rebuild AP BARCELONA stadium the plan, called 'Espai at full capacity. Barcelona are Barca', includes spending on other club facilities. It includes 420m euros earmarked for the Palau Blaugrana, home of the club's basketball and handball teams, and 20m euros for the Johan Cruyff stadium where the men's reserve and women's

Barcelona raise 1.45 billion

football teams play. The club said they expected the work on the Camp Nou to be completed by 2026. The men's first team will play at the Olympic stadium on Montjuic before returning in the 2024-25 season to a Camp Nou not yet

emulating their main Spanish rivals Real Madrid who began the latest renovation of their Bernabeu Stadium in 2019.

The club is emerging from a financial hole which led to losses of 481 million euros in 2020/21 which led to the departure of the club's all-time leading scorer Lionel Messi.

Last summer the club raised around 750 million euros by sell ing 25 percent of their La Liga television rights for the next 25 years and 49 percent of its Barca Studios



AP PARIS

Rafael Nadal's uncle and for-mer coach, Toni Nadal, is optimistic his nephew will play at the French Open, but admitted on Tuesday that the record 14-time champion will not arrive under ideal circumstances

"Rafa is recovering, I think it won't be long before he can compete again, but in the tournament here (the Madrid Open) it could not be," Toni Nadal told Spanish public broadcaster TVE.

Rafa Nadal announced he would not participate in Madrid last week as he continues to recover from the hip injury he suffered in January in the Australian Open.

The 36-year-old said recovery was not going as planned and he would try a new type of treatment, without setting a deadline for himself to heal, casting doubt over his participation in Paris.

He is hoping to accomplish a record-extending 23rd men's Grand Slam title at Roland Garros, with the tournament

beginning on May 28. "Obviously he will not arrive

with good preparation, we must not fool ourselves, because, obviously, since January 10 I think, he hasn't played any matches," added Toni Nadal.

Nadal pulled out of last month's hard-court tournaments in the US, with his sights set on a return at the start of the clay-court season, but it did not come to fruition, missing the Barcelona and Madrid events as well as Monte Carlo.

"He hasn't competed for quite some time, apart from that, before January, he didn't com-pete much either, but I think Rafael will pick up form soon," continued Toni Nadal.

"In a Grand Slam, it depends a lot on the draw. If you're lucky enough to have a good draw in the first rounds, then... well.

"Rafael in the second week is already a favourite, in the first week, lately maybe he is not, he was not last year in Australia, but from the second week, you say well, we can count on him.

"And I hope the same thing happens at Roland Garros."

## Sindhu & Co eye good show at Asia Championships

### PTI 📕 DUBAI

Top Indian shuttlers, including double Olympic I medallist PV Sindhu, will hope to find their rhythm as they begin their campaign in the main draw of the Asia Badminton Championships, here on Wednesday.

The 40th edition of the prestigious continental competition started here on Tuesday with the qualifying rounds, while the main draw comprising all the top players will happen only from Wednesday.

It will be a tough task for India to return with a medal, considering most of the top players have been struggling with rhythm and form this season

On a comeback trial after a long injury layoff, Sindhu has shown some spark when she reached the finals of the Madrid Spain Masters and the 8th seeded Indian will hope to find her 'A' game when she begins her campaign against Taiwanese Wen Chi-hsu.

In men's singles, world number 9 HS Prannoy has been consistent and he will look to gear up for the bigger battles with a good show in the opening round against Phone Pyae Naing of Myanmar, while 2021 world championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth will take on Bahrain's Adnan Ebrahim



Former world number 6 Lakshya Sen has endured a difficult phase in 2023 as his ranking plummeted after a series of early exits, forcing the Indian to take a break.

In men's doubles, sixth seeded pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shefty, who won the Swiss Open super 300 title early this year, will open against Malaysian combination of Tan Kian Meng and Tan Wee Kiong.

Women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, the Commonwealth Games bronze medallists, will face Indonesia's Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugiarto.

## **BAI CALLS PLAYERS FOR TRIALS** TO PICK ASIAN GAMES TEAM

### PTI NEW DELHI

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has decided to conduct a selection trial from May 4 to 7 to pick the team for the upcoming Asian Games

The Asian Games, which was originally scheduled for September last year, will be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8 this year.

According to the circular issued to all the affiliated state associations, the trials will be conducted at Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence in Telangana.

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu (World No. 11), HS Prannoy (world no. 9), men's pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (World No. 6) and women's combination of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand (world no. 19) have been selected directly for the Asian Games "based on their placing in the BWF

Top 20 ranking list as on April 18."

World championships silver and bronze medallists Kidambi Srikanth (World No. 23) and Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen (World No. 24), Orleans Masters Super 300 winner Priyanshu Rajawat, national champion Mithun Manjunath and Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth are among the nine men's singles players, who will have to fight it out in the trials.

In women's singles, London Games bronze medallist Saina Nehwal, Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha, Unnati Hooda will be among the women's singles shuttlers, who will have to grind it out in the threeday trials.

"The deadline to send confirmation of participation in the final Selection Trials to BAI is 5pm, Friday, 28th April 2023," BAI said in the letter

"Format of the trials will be set after confirmation deadline."



the pioneer

a 🖓 🖗 🚖 🙈 💥 🥫

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY I APRIL 26, 2023

# **GT CRUSH MI BY** 55 RUNS TO GO 2ND

ujarat Titans produced a clini-Gal performance to outclass Mumbai Indians by 55 runs in a completely one-sided IPL match here

on Tuesday. Set a stiff target of 208, MI were

stopped at 152 for nine. MI didn't get the kind of start they

would have liked and were struggling at 29 for the loss of captain Rohit Sharma's wicket in six overs, the team failing miserably to utilise the power-

play. While trying to work the ball on the onside, Rohit got a leading edge and ended up giving a return catch to his opposite number, Hardik Pandya, in the second over.

After the seamers have done their job, star leg-spinner Rashid Khan came on and bowled a very economical first over.

MI managed to score 13 runs in the seventh over, before Rashid ended Ishan Kishan's painstaking stay in the middle. Ishan consumed an many as 21 balls for his 13 runs.

Three balls later, Rashid had Tilak Varma trapped in front of the wicket to leave MI reeling at 45 for three in the eighth over.

From there, five-time winners MI could not do enough to challenge the defending champions.

After a forgettable outing with the ball where he was smashed around for 39 runs in two overs, Cameron Green chipped in with 33 off 26 balls, while



## **KKR seek change of** fortunes against RCB



even once this season as he often gets injured while bowling.

But KKR will walk into the game with a slight psychologically edge, having defeated RCB by 81 runs earlier this season

Meanwhile, RCB will be high on confidence after eking out a seven-run win over the then table toppers Rajasthan Royals and would be eager to

extend their winning streak. Faf du Plessis and his troops have won four of their seven games, including the last two, and find themselves just outside of the top four in the fifth spot.

RCB's wins have come on sensational per

Survakumar Yadav contributed 23 in 12 balls. Nehal Wadhera smashed his way to 40 in just 21 deliveries, but their efforts only delayed the inevitable. Besides Rashid's 2/27 in four

SGame In 202

overs, Noor Ahmad, the other spinner from Afghanistan, finished with impressive figures of 3/37 in his full quota of overs. Earlier, GT's lower middle-order

used the long handle to good effect and powered their team to a formidable 207 for six.

David Miller blazed away to a 22ball 46, Rahul Tewatia smashed an unbeaten 20 in just five balls, while Abhinav Manohar needed only 21 deliveries to make 42 during a vital partnership of 71 runs for the fifth wicket with the South African.

This was after Shubman Gill made a neat 34-ball 56.

Arjun Tendulkar began on a promising note and conceded four runs in the opening over after his skip-per Rohit opted to bowl first on winning the toss.

Gill got the first boundary of the match as the opener played one behind square off a Jason Behrendorff deliv-

square off a Jason Benrendofff deliv-ery that was slightly short. MI didn't have to wait long for their first breakthrough as Wriddhi-man Saha missed an attempted pull shot to edge one to the keeper off Tendulkar in the first ball of the third over Having taken his partner Gill's over. Having taken his partner Gill's advice, Saha reviewed, but the on-field umpire's decision was retained by UltraEdge.



wife were not in any divorce Rubbishing divorce rumours with Indian tennis star Sania process neither were they sep-Mirza, former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik has blamed their "busy schedule" for the couple not to have seen together in the recent past. Rumors and speculations about the power couple separating after being married in 2010 were rife after Malik and Sania were not been seen together for the past six months.

Appearing on a local televi-sion channel in a special Eid

Warner fined

₹12 lakhs for

arated. "My wife and son are away on Eid. I wish I could celebrate Eid with my wife and son," he said. The senior cricketer did accept that all marriages tionship was over. Malik explained why the two had not been seen together for a while now by noting they both had busy schedules as international sports people.



## Rahane back in team for WTC final, SKY & Kuldeep dropped

### PTI NEW DELHI

A jinkya Rahane, who has added a dash of aggression to his batting style, made a comeback to the Indian team on Tuesday for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia as the BCCI announced a 15-man squad for

the one-off contest. The WTC final will be played in London at the Oval from June 7 to 11. Aggressive batter Suryakumar Yadav, spinner Kuldeep Yadav and young stumper-batter Ishan Kishan, who were all part of the home series against Australia, have been dropped for the contest.

BCCI's five-man selection panel, secretary Jay Shah along with skipper Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid met on Monday evening to decide on the squad.

Rahane's comeback after 15 months was on predictable lines following Shreyas Iyer's go through ups and downs but said this did not mean the rela-of the grand finale. Iver recently underwent a surgery in the UK to treat stress fractures in his lower back.

> Rahane last played a Test in January, 2022 against South Africa in Cape Town. His selection has more to do

Wood set to miss later stages of IPL

with carrying enough experi-enced batters in the line-up as chance that team management might try struggling KL Rahul Indian teams have had their not only as a middle order but also as a keeper and Rahane could play as an extra batter. share of struggles in SENA countries during one off games There are at least four bowl-ing all-rounders in the squad including Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar like these.

The 34-year-old, who led Mumbai during entire domestic season, scored nearly 700 runs but what stood out was how he has improved his attacking game in the IPL and is looking more purposeful than ever before with a strike-rate of 190 in seven games so far. The rest of the squad led by Rohit

Sharma was on predictable lines. However there is no designated vice captain for the WTC final although it is expected that Chesteshwar Pujara, who was Sharma's deputy in the last two Test matches against Australia at home, would be asked to do the job again.

Pujara is currently leading Sussex in the English County Championship.

KS Bharat is the only specialist wicketkeeper in the 15man squad, while young Kishan, Kuldeep and Suryakumar, lost their place in the squad.

Since it is a one-off game, the selectors may not have found it logical to have a second keeper in the side. There is every

Unadkat.

Patel and Shardul Thakur.

With the Oval usually assist-

Batting deep will be Indian

ing spinners during later stages

of the game, a second slow

team's mantra and that's been

the basis of selection for the one

off game. Jadeja, in overseas con-

ditions is nowadays, more of a

batting all-rounder and Axar is

also transforming more into a

Mohammed Shami, Moha-

specialist middle order batter.

mmed Siraj along with Shardul

Thakur will be in contention for

India's Test squad WTC final:

Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar

Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya

Rahane, K L Rahul, KS Bharat

(wk), Ravichandran Ashwin,

Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel,

Shardul Thakur, Mohammed

Shami, Mohammed Siraj,

Umesh Yadav and Jaydev

Rohit Sharma (Captain),

first three seam bowling slots.

bowler could come in handy.

### PTI BENGALURU

∽olkata Knight Riders will Kbe desperate to bring their flagging campaign back on track while Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to shrug off the overdependence on its top three batters when the two teams clash in the IPL here on Wednesday.

The two-time champions have looked clueless in their last four outings, losing at home while also on the road. The Nitish Rana-led side is currently at seventh spot with just two wins from seven games.

The losses can largely be pegged down to the shoddy performance by KKR batters. They are missing their regular skipper Shreyas Iyer and star all-rounder Shakib-Al-Hasan. In the 49-run loss against Chennai Super Kings on

Sunday, KKR batters were expected to rise to the occasion, chasing a 230 plus score, instead the top-order, comprising the likes of Venkatesh Iyer, Rana

and N Jagadeesan crumbled

under pressure. KKR have also struggled to zero in on their opening pair. The former champions have shuffled around with Sunil Narine, Jagadeesan, Litton Das, Jason Roy and Rahmanullah

Gurbaz at the top. Their decision to send Narine to open the innings alongside Jagadeesan against CSK failed as the West Indian

departed for a duck. Had it not been for Roy and Rinku Singh's fifties the margin of defeat would have been worse.

The duo's performance is the silver lining in an otherwise

dismal show against CSK. The big-hitting Andre Russell has also failed miserably in his role as the finisher. He hasn't been able to hit the big shots and the fact that KKR send him at number seven or eight has not been helpful.

The all-rounder's fitness is also a concern. He hasn't bowled his quota of four overs

formers by a few players.

Du Plessis has been in sublime form and has raised several century-stands with Virat Kohli and Glenn Maxwell, who are also in good nick.

More is expected from the middle-order comprising Dinesh Karthik, Mahipal Lomlor, Shahbaz Ahmed and Suyash Prabhudessai.

Among bowlers, Mohammed Siraj has been in sensational form. The Purple Cap holder has conceded at 7.17 runs per over and has bowled the most dot balls -- 89 this season

Siraj is being ably sup-ported by Wayne Parnell and Harshal Patel.

The addition of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has also done wonders for the previously struggling RCB bowling unit.

RCB were undone by KKR spinners earlier this season and they will have to be a bit cautious while playing the likes of Varun Chakravarthy, Suyash Sharma and Narine.

## slow over-rate

### PTI HYDERABAD

Delhi Capitals captain David Warner has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here.

Delhi defeated Sunrisers by seven runs in a low-scoring match on Monday night.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Warner was fined ₹12 lakh, IPL said in a statement on Tuesday. The IPL aims for matches to finish in three hours and 20 minutes, but slow over rate is proving to be an issue, with several games stretching past the four-hour mark.

Washington Sundar (4-0-28-3) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (4-0-11-2) shone with the ball to restrict Delhi Capitals to a below-par 144 for 9 after David Warner opted to bat.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

ucknow Super Giants pace spearhead Mark Wood is set to miss the final stages of the IPL to attend the birth of his child next month. The right-arm pacer has fea-

tured in four games for the Super Giants, snaring 11 wickets at an economy of 8.12. He has, however, missed LSG's last two meetings due to illness. "Wood and his wife Sarah

are expecting their second child towards the end of May, and Wood will fly home at some point in the coming weeks in order to be present at the birth," a report in ESPNCricinfo stated

The IPL qualifiers are scheduled for May 23 and 26 with the final set to be played on May 28.

England are also scheduled to play a one-off Test against Ireland at Lord's on June 1, four days after the IPL final.

Test skipper Ben Stokes had earlier said that he may also miss



..ECB does not intend to pull players out of the tournament against their will, having previously indicated to the BCCI and to franchises that they would be available for the full season.



## Ireland reach highest Test score of 492 vs Sri Lanka

### AP 📕 GALLE

reland posted their highest-Lever Test score of 492 on Tuesday as Paul Stirling and Curtis Campher became only the third and fourth Irishmen to hit centuries in cricket's longest format.

Sri Lanka were 81 without loss in reply before rain stopped play on day two in Galle, 411 runs behind with Nishan Madushka unbeaten on 41 and Dimuth Karunaratne 39 not out.

But the day belonged to Ireland, with Stirling scoring 103 and Campher 111 after captain Andy Balbirnie made 95 on day one.

Lorcan Tucker scored a useful 80 while Prabath Jayasuriya, the home hero of the first Test, took five wickets for 174. Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando took two wickets each.

"Scoring a Test hundred is probably something I didn't believe I could achieve," Stirling admitted.

"Scoring a hundred in the sub-continent is very special," he told reporters. "So, I am very delighted. It will mean a hell of a lot more if we can get a positive result here.

Ireland only gained Test status in 2017 and have lost all five of their matches so far.

Their previous highest score was 339 against Pakistan in their inaugural Test in 2018. In punishingly hot and humid conditions, Stirling had

retired hurt with cramps on Monday after reaching 74, but came back to the crease on Tuesday after Tucker fell.

He reached his maiden Test hundred in style, uppercutting Asitha Fernando for six over deep point, and now has centuries in all three formats of the game.

Soon afterwards, the same bowler dismissed him for 103 as the batsman hooked a short delivery into the hands of Dhananjaya de Silva on the fine-leg boundary.

Campher was well caught by a diving De Silva at first slip to give Jayasuriya his third wicket in the innings.

Sri Lanka's openers negotiated the final session without much trouble, although Ireland's quicks found the outside edge of Madushka's bat with the new ball.

"Tomorrow is going to be a big day," said Jayasuriya. "We need to score big and take a considerable first innings lead and should be looking to bat only once.

"That should be the plan but we'll see how it goes."

Ireland lost the first Test by an innings and 280 runs.

## Chapman's century helps NZ end Pak series 2-2

### AP RAWALPINDI

Mark Chapman hit a maiden unbeaten hundred to anchor New Zealand's six-wicket win over Pakistan in the fifth and final T20I in Rawalpindi on Monday, ending the five-match series level at 2-2.

The 28-year-old smashed a 57-ball 104 in a rearguard action to lift New Zealand from a precarious 73-4 to chase down a stiff target of 194 with four balls to spare.

"We are very happy with how we levelled the series tonight and finished the job," said Chapman. "It took a bit of adjusting in the first two games and it's great to see that it worked out well.

Mohammad Rizwan missed a century by two runs, but still guided Pakistan to a solid 193-5 in their 20 overs.

Chapman led the fightback with a match-turning unbroken fifth wicket stand of 121 off 58 balls

with James Neesham, who scored a punishing 25-ball 45 not out as the duo toyed with Pakistan's much-vaunted bowling attack.

"I was pretty thankful that Jimmy came out all-guns-blazing and took some pressure off me as well," Chapman said.

Chapman, whose previous highest T20I score was 83 against Scotland at Edinburgh last year, completed his century off 54 balls with a brace off Shaheen Shah Afridi, waving his bat to an applauding dressing room.

In all Chapman hit 11 fours and four sixes while Neesham's knock was studded with two sixes and four fours as the pair combined to help give New Zealand their 100th T20I win in 192



matches. Shaheen had given Pakistan a superb start with the wicket of Tim Latham off the first ball on the innings and Will Young (four) off the fifth.

Chad Bowes (19) and Daryl Mitchell (15) also fell cheaply before Chapman took charge, also benefitting from a dropped catch off Shaheen on 67 by

Shadab Khan at long-on. Pakistan won the first T20 by 88 runs and the second by 38 while New Zealand took the third by four, all in Lahore.

The fourth match was abandoned due to a hailstorm in Rawalpindi.

The victory and a 2-2 result is welcoming for New Zealand who were missing their top eight players including regular skipper Kane Williamson due to the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was disappointed with the result.

"I think we were 10-15 runs short after Rizwan revived the innings for us through the middle phases," said Azam. "Congrats to Chapman, he played a special knock and took the game away from us.

Pakistan's innings was fashioned around Rizwan's brilliant knock after they were sent in to bat by New Zealand.

The 30-year-old batter struck a 62-ball unbeaten 98 as he missed the last delivery of the innings and with it his second T20I hundred.

Rizwan, who struck four sixes and seven fours, added 71 for the fourth wicket with Iftikhar Ahmed (36) and another 68 for the fifth with Imad Wasim who made 31