

OPINION 6
NO TEARS FOR SHRINES
RAZED IN MEDINA

WORLD 8
IRAN NAVY SEIZES OIL
TANKER IN GULF OF OMAN

MONEY 10
EIGHT CORE SECTOR INDUSTRIES POST 3.6%
GROWTH IN MARCH; SLOWEST IN 5 MONTHS

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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'REDS REVIVAL
FAR FROM
COMPLETE'
11 SPORT

WFI chief Brij Bhushan booked under POCSO

Delhi Police files 2 FIRs on wrestlers' sexual assault plaint; SC orders protection to minor victim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday registered two FIRs in connection with sexual harassment allegations levelled by women wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The first FIR pertains to allegations levelled by a minor which is registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act along with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code concerning outraging modesty, a police officer said.

The second FIR has been



Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik address a press conference during their ongoing protest at Jantar Manantar on Friday

registered for carrying out comprehensive investigations into the complaints by adult complainants under relevant IPC sections pertaining to outraging of modesty, the officer said, adding that investigation into both the FIRs was being taken up in right earnest.

Earlier on Friday, the Delhi Police on Friday informed the

Supreme Court that it will register an FIR on Friday itself over sexual harassment allegations levelled by seven women wrestlers against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Delhi Police, told a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha that the

"FIR will be registered today".

"We have decided to register an FIR. It will be registered today," Mehta told the bench, which was hearing a plea filed by seven women wrestlers against non-registration of an FIR on their sexual harassment allegations against Singh.

Continued on Page 2

File hate speech FIR even sans plea, SC orders States

Book such persons to preserve secular fabric of Bharat, or face contempt: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed all States and Union Territories to register cases against those making hate speeches even without any complaint, terming these speeches as a "serious offence" capable of affecting the secular fabric of the country.

Extending the scope of its 2022 order beyond three States — Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Uttarakhand — a bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna also made it clear to authorities that any hesitation to act will be viewed as contempt of the top court and appropriate action will be taken against the erring officers.

The bench ordered the Directors General of Police of

all States and UTs to issue direction(s) to their subordinates so that appropriate action in law is taken at the earliest.

"We make it clear that any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of this court and appropriate action will be taken against the erring officers. We further make it clear that such action will be taken irrespective of the religion that the maker of the speech or the person who commit such act belongs to, so that the secular character of Bharat as is envisaged by the Preamble, is preserved and protected," said the apex court, adding that hate speech attracts offences such as Sections 153A, 153B and 295A and 505 of the IPC.

The top court's order came on a plea filed by journalist Shaheen Abdullah, who had initially sought direction against the Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Governments to register cases against those delivering hate speeches. Abdullah, represented through advocate Nizam Pasha, on Friday filed a fresh application seeking



implementation of the apex court's October 21, 2022 order across States and UTs and appointment of nodal officers in every State, who will recommend action against those making hate speeches.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the Maharashtra chapter of NGO PUCL, said despite the SC's order, incidents are happening across the State and the police is not taking action against those giving hate speeches in public functions, which are being attended by Members of Parliament and MLAs.

The bench said that it is precisely what the court has said on the very first day of the

hearing of the matter that the Supreme Court cannot go into every incident.

"We have laid down a broad framework and now it is up to the authorities to act upon it. We cannot monitor each and every incident," Justice Nagarathna said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said no government whether it is the Union of India or any State Government can justify hate speeches and that this court has passed certain orders and judgments in the matter that such speeches are capable of affecting the social fabric of the country.

"However, this court cannot go on entertaining intervention applications after applications and substitute the powers of magistrate to entertain such complaints or for that matter procedure laid down under CrPC," he said.

The bench said it is undisputed fact that hate speeches are not like any other offence but it is capable of affecting the very social fabric of the nation and affects the dignity of the individual.

SCO must act to end terror, fix its sponsors: Rajnath

Member nations must respect sovereignty, territorial integrity of each other: Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining the challenge posed by the scourge of terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations to collectively work towards eliminating terrorism in all its forms and fix accountability on its supporters.

This message was in an oblique reference to Pakistan whose Defence Minister Khawaja Asif attended the conclave in the virtual mode.

Rajnath also said India envisioned a robust frame-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, in New Delhi on Friday

work of regional cooperation which "mutually respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member States by taking care of their legitimate interests."

Similarly, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, too, urged SCO

members to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity of member countries on Friday, even as he stressed that connectivity with SCO countries was a priority for India.

He made these remarks while chairing the 10th meet-

ing of SCO Transport Ministers and emphasised on ensuring demand driven, sustainable development, while respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries. He further said India attaches special attention to SCO in pro-

moting economy and people-to-people interaction in the region.

Significantly, Rajnath made assertions on the "sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member States" with the Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu present at the SCO Defence Ministers' meet here.

Rajnath also said New Delhi strives to further bolster trust and cooperation among the members of the grouping as it believes in maintaining peace and security based on the provisions of the United Nations (UN) charter.

Elaborating on the need to contain terrorism effectively, Rajnath asserted that any kind of terrorist act or support to it in any form is a major crime against humanity and peace and prosperity cannot coexist with this menace.

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Russian Minister slams Quad in Delhi meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Friday criticised the US and groupings like the Quad and said "in order to contain China, a front is forming." He made these remarks here in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meet chaired by India.

His remarks came against the backdrop of China flexing its muscles in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region and the Quad summit poised to take place on May 24 in Australia. India, US, Japan and Australia are part of this grouping.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with President



Joe Biden, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will take part in the summit.

Moreover, Russian defence minister's backing China came a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh sent a tough message to Beijing that its violation of the border pacts has "eroded" the entire basis of bilateral ties with India.

He made these observations in the context of ongoing

tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh for the last three years.

Shoigu said that "in order to contain China, a front is forming."

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LAC stable: China says a day after Rajnath's concern

New Delhi: A day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's tough message to China that its violation of the border pacts has "eroded" the entire basis of bilateral ties, Beijing on Friday said the situation at the border is "generally stable."

Detailed report on P4

Schoolboy beaten to death in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a gruesome act, a class-8 student was allegedly bludgeoned to death and his body dumped in a drain in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area. Saurabh (12), a resident of Bilaspur camp in Molarband Village, was found dead on Thursday night between Khatushyam Park and Tajpur Road village in his school uniform. A schoolbag was also found near him.



A cotton towel and some blood-stained stones were found a few yards from the body, which had multiple head injuries that were likely caused by a blunt object, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Rajesh Deo.

Police suspect a fight with fellow students could have led to Saurabh's killing, however, an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact reason. Saurabh studied at a MCD school in Tajpur Pahari.

Saurabh's family has demanded justice and said they want the culprits to be given the strictest punishment.

Saurabh's body has been shifted to a mortuary at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for post-mortem examination and a case under IPC Section 302 (murder) has been lodged. DCP Deo said the crime scene has been photographed and efforts are on to nab the assailants.

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HC judge in interview row seeks report from SC, court nixes order

Developments occur within hours of SC removing him from WB jobs scam case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court asked the Calcutta High Court acting chief justice to reassign the West Bengal school jobs "scam" case to another judge after examining a report on Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay's interview to a news channel about the matter,



the HC judge sought the report submitted before the CJI against him.

Soon the Supreme Court swung into action and in a hearing late on Friday evening, stayed his order that directed the Supreme Court Secretary General to produce the report and official transcript of an interview the HC judge had given to a news channel.

The SC directed its Secretary General that Justice Gangopadhyay be conveyed the top court's order. "The order of present nature ought not to have been passed in judicial proceedings keeping in view the judicial discipline. We hereby stay the order passed by the High Court judge in the suo motu proceeding. We direct the Secretary General of the Supreme Court to communicate this order to the Registrar General of Calcutta High Court forthwith who shall communicate the same to the High Court judge," said the SC.

Continued on Page 2

Sisodia's bail plea in excise case rejected

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Friday dismissed the bail application of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the excise policy case, saying the evidence prima facie "speaks volumes of his involvement in commission of the offence."

Special Judge MK Nagpal denied relief to Sisodia, saying that the prosecution was able to show a genuine and prima facie case for Sisodia's involvement in the alleged offence of money laundering.

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Why Atiq, brother paraded before media, SC asks UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Uttar Pradesh Government why gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were paraded before the media while being taken to hospital for a medical check-up in police custody in Prayagraj.

The top court, which was hearing a plea by advocate Vishal Tiwari seeking an independent probe into the killing of Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, also asked the UP Government how the killers got the knowledge that they were



being taken to hospital.

"How did they know? We have seen it on TV. Why were they not taken to the ambulance right from the entry gate of the hospital? Why were they paraded?" a bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the UP Government.

Continued on Page 2

'Acquitted' Sooraj Pancholi grieves over lost decade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Actor Sooraj Pancholi shook off the controversy clouding his life and career on Friday with a special CBI court acquitting him in the 2013 suicide case of his girlfriend Jiah Khan.

Pancholi, 32, the son of actors Aditya Pancholi and Zarina Wahab, hasn't really been able to make his mark on silver screen after his promising debut as the lead in the remake of "Hero" opposite Athiya Shetty in 2015.

The film, which won him a Filmfare Award for best debut, was backed by Salman

Khan and Subhash Ghai. It didn't do well and Pancholi's career has been moving in fits and starts since then.

He has since worked in the little known "Satellite Shankar" and "Time to Dance".

Pancholi, who has also worked as assistant director on films such as Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Guzarish" and Salman Khan-starrer "Ek Tha Tiger", hit the headlines when he was accused of abetting Jiah Khan's suicide.

He was charged on the basis of a six-page letter purportedly written by Khan, who was found hanging in her Juhu

home on June 3, 2013.

In an interview to PTI in 2015, Pancholi had said, "My name will always be associated with her and I have no guilt for that. I am happy that something at least stays with me. I am sad that she ended her life. But at least her name is with me and I have no problems with it."

On Friday, Pancholi was there with his mother when the judge read out the verdict. Special CBI judge AS Sayyad called him to the witness box and asked his name. When the actor said Sooraj, the judge asked him to state his full name. The actor then replied,

"Sooraj Aditya Pancholi."

The judge then said, "Due to paucity of evidence, this court holds you (Sooraj) not guilty... acquitted."

Pancholi nodded with his head down and stepped out of the witness box. He didn't speak to reporters.

In a statement later, Pancholi said not just the case, he had also won back his "dignity" and "confidence".

"The verdict has taken 10 long painful years and sleepless nights. But today I have not only won this case against me but I have also won my dignity and confidence back."



Actor Sooraj Pancholi with mother Zarina Wahab outside the Sessions Court in Mumbai on Friday

PTI

IMD begins issuing heat index for parts of country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday started issuing heat index for different parts of the country on an experimental basis, taking into account the air temperature and relative humidity. IMD also said there is a good chance that a moderate El Nino might emerge during the June-September monsoon season. The department was, however, circumspect about its impact on the disruption of rainfall.

In addition to giving the day's minimum and maximum temperatures, the heat index, mainly for the plains, will give people "a sense of what the temperature actually feels like". "We are utilising the temperature and humidity data at 2:30 pm for the heat index and the

forecasts as the maximum temperature occurs at that time," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a Media Workshop on Weather and Climate. Currently, the weather office uses a formula of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to calculate the heat index.

However, the heat index is yet to be validated for Indian conditions and uses the comfort levels of weather experienced by Americans in their regions. "We have to work with the health ministry to validate the observations for Indian cities."

For example, in India, 40 degrees Celsius temperature and 20 per cent relative humidity could be okay, but the same is intolerable for a person residing in the US," said M

Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. The heat index issued by the IMD on Friday carried a disclaimer stating "not validated for India", making it clear that it was an experimental forecast to educate people about the implications of heat on them. Ravichandran said the index will be issued to make such data more accessible to the public for precautionary measures.

The heat index will be issued for the entire country every day in weather bulletins. The weather office declares a heatwave when the maximum temperature crosses 40 degrees Celsius and is 4.5 degrees above normal for the day. A severe heatwave is declared when the temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius and 6.5 degrees above normal.

IAS body worried over release of gangster-turned-neta Anand Mohan from jail

PTI ■ BHOPAL

A body representing Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in Madhya Pradesh on Friday expressed deep concern and anguish over the release of gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan, who was serving a life sentence for killing a district magistrate in Bihar three decades ago, after the Nitish Kumar government tweaked jail rules.

Mohan, a former Lok Sabha MP, was released from Bihar's Saharsa jail on Thursday morning after being behind bars for 15 years for the murder of G Krishnaiah, the then-district magistrate of Gopalganj who was beaten to death by a mob in Muzaffarpur district in 1994. The 69-year-old gangster-turned-politician was convicted for the IAS officer's murder in 2007. Mohan's name figured in a list of more than 20 prisoners who were ordered to be set free by a notification issued by the Bihar government's law department earlier this week.

His remission of sentence followed an amendment of Bihar Prison Manual, whereby the restriction on early release of those involved in killing of a public servant on duty was done away with. "The decision (to change jail rules and facilitate Mohan's release) will adversely affect the morale and fortitude of each and every public servant," the association's secretary, Vivek Porwal, told PTI. The association unanimously disapproves of this decision and urges the state government concerned (Bihar) to reconsider it, he said.

WFI chief Brij Bhushan booked under POCSO

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The bench also directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to make an assessment of the threat perception to the grapplers and provide adequate security to one of them who is a minor. The girl is an alleged victim of sexual assault. In its order, the apex court noted the Solicitor General told the bench that since the allegations indicate commission of cognisable offence, the police have decided to register an FIR. It noted senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the wrestlers, placed or record an affidavit in a sealed cover apprehending threat to the safety of the minor girl, an alleged victim of sexual assault.

"Bearing in mind the content which has been placed on record, we direct the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, to make an assessment of the threat perception and provide adequate security to the minor girl involved," the bench said. It directed that an affidavit be filed before the apex court on or before May 5, the next date of hearing, about the steps taken for the security of the minor girl. Sibal told the court there are seven complainants and all of them must be given protection. The bench said its direction for providing security to the alleged minor victim shall not stand in the way of the Commissioner of Police to make independent assessment of the threat perception of the other complainants.

SCO must act to end...

From Page 1

"If a nation shelters terrorists, it not only poses a threat to others but to itself too. The radicalisation of youth is a cause for concern, not only from the point of view of security, but it is also a major obstacle in the path of socio-economic progress of society," he said.

"If we want to make the SCO a stronger and more credible international organisation, our top-most priority should be to effectively deal with terrorism," the Defence Minister said.

Sharing his insights on the vision to ensure collective prosperity, Rajnath called for concerted efforts by SCO member States so that the region, with limitless possibilities in today's multilateral world, shifts to the mindset of 'great gain from win-win paradigm' from 'great game of zero-sum, win-lose paradigm'.

"India has always followed the principle of 'Let us walk together and move forward together'. Every era has a zeitgeist (defining spirit). The zeitgeist of the present era is 'win-win cooperation for great gain', he said.

The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations.

It was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became permanent members in 2017. Rajnath Singh also elaborated on the concept of 'SECURE'

floated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the SCO summit in Qingdao, China in 2018. He stated that every alphabet of the word 'SECURE' reflects India's commitment towards the multi-dimensional welfare of the region.

Drawing the attention of the member States to various dimensions of 'SECURE', Rajnath said today a large part of the world is passing through a food crisis. He urged the SCO member countries to ensure food security under an integrated plan. This will establish SCO as a role model for the whole world, he said.

To deal with the issue of climate change, he called for working on a common strategy, giving priority to mitigation and adaptation. Energy security should be a part of the common strategy, he added.

Rajnath also touched upon the two defence-related activities launched by India, as the SCO chair, to increase interoperability among member States. These are: A workshop on 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)' and a seminar on 'defence think-tanks of SCO countries'. Both the events witnessed enthusiastic participation from all SCO countries.

He voiced India's commitment towards defence capacity-building of SCO member States through training and co-manufacturing and co-development of items. He said as security challenges are not limited to any one country, India is moving forward with a collaborative approach in the field of defence partnership,

keeping in mind the shared interests.

At the end of the deliberations, all SCO member countries signed a protocol, expressing their collective will to make the region secure, peaceful and prosperous.

Addressing media after the meeting, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane said all the member nations arrived at the consensus on several areas of cooperation, including dealing with terrorism, security of vulnerable populations in various countries as well as humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR).

He said all member States were unanimous in their statements that terrorism, in all its forms, must be condemned and eliminated. He exuded confidence that many areas identified for cooperation will be acted upon in the times to come and India, as the SCO chair, will lead from the front in ensuring a safe and secure future for the region and the world as a whole.

Defence Ministers of China (General Li Shangfu); Russia (General Sergei Shoigu); Iran (Brig Gen Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani); Belarus (Lt Gen Khrenin VG); Kazakhstan (Col Gen Ruslan Zhaxylykov); Uzbekistan (Lt Gen Bakhodir Kurbanov); Kyrgyzstan (Lt Gen Bekbolotov Baktybek Asankalievich) and Tajikistan (Col Gen Serali Mirzo) attended the meeting.

The Ministers discussed issues of common concern including issues of regional and international security under charter of the SCO during the meeting.

Why Atiq, brother paraded before media, SC asks UP

From Page 1

Rohatgi informed the bench the State Government is probing the incident and has constituted a three-member commission for this. A UP Police special investigation team is also investigating the matter, he said. "This man and his entire family have been embroiled in heinous cases for the last 30 years. This incident particularly is a gruesome incident. We have apprehended the

killers and they said they did this to gain importance," Rohatgi said. "Everyone saw the killings on the television. The killers came in the guise of news photographers. They had passes, were carrying cameras, and were even carrying identity cards that were later found to be fake. There were 50 people there and more people outside. This is how they managed to kill," Rohatgi told the bench.

Sisodia's bail plea in excise case rejected

From Page 1

The court denied the relief noting the "serious nature of allegations made and role played by Sisodia in the criminal conspiracy, his connection with the activities relating to generation or acquisition and use etc. Of the proceeds of crime...And the oral and documentary evidence collected in support of the same."

"Hence, this court is not inclined to grant bail to the applicant in this case of economic offences having serious repercussions upon the general public and society at large as the evidence collected during investigation speaks volumes of his involvement in commission of the said offence," the judge said.

He said that the medical illness of Sisodia's wife was also not a ground to enlarge him on bail in this case. The court further said that the possibility of Sisodia influencing prime witnesses could not be ruled out. The judge noted that the offence alleged against Sisodia was a "serious economic offence of money laundering" and he has not been accused of commission of the said offence in his individual capacity, but

he has been alleged to have committed it in his official capacity of a public servant holding the charge or portfolio of Excise Ministry as well as being the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi. Again, the allegations made in the case are found to be serious from another angle, too, as huge proceeds of crime in crores of rupees are alleged to have been generated or processed through different activities, he said.

"The seriousness or gravity of the offence and its nature or category, the capacity of applicant in which was committed, the manner of its commission and also certain other factors like impact of the offence as well as the possible impact of release of applicant on society etc. Are the factors which go against the applicant and force this court to decide against his release on bail in the present case," the judge said.

The judge said it emerged from the evidence that Sisodia was connected with generation of proceeds of crime of around Rs 100 crore in the form of advance kickbacks, which were paid by the 'south-lobby' to co-accused Vijay Nair through co-accused Abhishek Boinpally,

who had been participating in the meetings held with different conspirators and stakeholders in liquor business and the amount was received by him on behalf of Sisodia and his other political colleagues for extending undue pecuniary benefits to the conspirators and members of the cartel.

The judge noted that cartel was permitted to be formed by manipulation of some provisions of the excise policy and by insertion of some favourable clauses therein for the benefit of conspirators. The judge had reserved the order after hearing arguments on Sisodia's plea seeking relief claiming that his custody was no longer required for investigation.

Reacting on the court order, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva has said that the repeated efforts made by Sisodia to get bail are proved futile and he is not getting bail in any case shows that the investigation agencies' case against Sisodia is strong and the evidences of CBI and ED are solid strong. Sachdeva said that Sisodia's case has also become somewhat similar to Jain's case.

'Acquitted' Sooraj Pancholi ...

From Page 1

"It took a lot of courage to face the world with such heinous allegations. I hope and pray to God that nobody goes through what I have gone through at such a young age. "I don't know who will give me these 10 years of my life back to me, but I am glad that this has finally come to an end not only for me but specially for my family. There is nothing bigger than peace in this world," the actor said in the statement.

killers and they said they did this to gain importance," Rohatgi said. "Everyone saw the killings on the television. The killers came in the guise of news photographers. They had passes, were carrying cameras, and were even carrying identity cards that were later found to be fake. There were 50 people there and more people outside. This is how they managed to kill," Rohatgi told the bench.

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NA/12/15984/2023/23424 Dated CHD :- 4/28/2023

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I, MD Sameer S/o. Mohd. Nizamuddin, R/o. M-53/A, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Sameer Malik and correct name of my mother is Saira Malik instead of Saira.

PD(023)A

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I, Muni Shreyans Prabh Sagar S/o Goutam Chand R/o Shree Jin Hari Vihar Dharamshala, Taleti Road, Palitana Gujrat-364270 Declare that I have changed my name from Akash Kumar to Muni Shreyans Prabh Sagar for all future purpose.

PD(022)C

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, गिलाई (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वेस्ट निविदा सूचना

क्रमांक./लोक.वि./जोन-2/2023/124/49 गिलाई दिनांक 27/04/2023

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|------|---|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | जोन-02 अंतर्गत मगवा चौक से कालीबाड़ी चौक तक सड़क चौड़ी करण तथा कालीबाड़ी चौक से एकला चौक तक फुटपाथ निर्माण कार्य। | 132501 | 100.00 | 19.05.2023 |

(नोट :- ई टेंडर में ऑफलाईन साप्प पत्र एवं EMD प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा निविदा अमान्य किया जायेगा/दर को नहीं खोला जायेगा)
उपरोक्त निविदा निर्माण कार्य सामान्य राई, ग्रोहर राई, विस्तृत निविदा विभाग, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकती है।
हरना/जोन आयुक्त

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that Laxmi Kumar/ Lal Prasad Sharma (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBDEL00002951237 located T12-2101 Exotica Dreamville Plot No Gh-01a Sec 16c Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201307. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated April 26, 2023, informing that M/s Exotica Housing & Infrastructure Projects (P) Ltd. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: April 29, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

| Sr. No. | Job Number | Name of work | Amount (Rs) | Publishing |
|---------|------------------------------|--|-------------|------------|
| (1) | 20/SPE/PE (PH-I)/E-T/2022-23 | Supply of Insecticides (Fogging) used for Vector Control in Noida (Part-I) | 71.25 Lakh | 1st Time |

The above tenders can be uploaded From dated 01.05.2023 to 15.05.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 16.05.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. GM/Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) Noida.

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

| S. N. | Tender Notice No. & Date | Name of work with its location | Approx. Cost of work | Amount of Earnest Money | Completion period of the work | Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender |
|-------|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 32-W-MB-BR-9 DL 27.04.23 | Balance work of Regrinding of Br. No. 09 (10x18.30m) in MB-CH section over MB-Division under the jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/MB | Rs. 67,91,894.87 | Rs. 1,35,800/- | (03) Three Months | Upto 15.00 hrs. on 22.05.2023 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day |
| 2 | 32-W-MB-BR-30 DL 27.04.23 | Regrinding of Br.No-30 (5x18.30m+1x36.6m) on RAC-SPC section over MB division under the jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/MB | Rs. 1,41,26,490.57 | Rs. 2,20,600/- | (08) Eight Months | Upto 15.00 hrs. on 22.05.2023 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day |
| 3 | 32-W-DLI-BR-15A-15 Date 27.04.23 | Raising of Brider No. 15 (3x9.15m) North Line 15(3x12.20m) UP & DN, 15A (4x9.15m) UP & DN south line and strengthening & replacement of badly corroded/perforated members, rivet of different components of Br. No. 15 North Line between PTNR-KIRTI Nagar in the jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/TKJ. | Rs. 75,23,261.59 | Rs. 1,50,500/- | (06) Six Months | Upto 15.00 hrs. on 22.05.2023 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day |

Note: Above tenders are available on website, IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.

Serving Customers with a Smile

Schoolboy beaten to death in Delhi

From Page 1

Police officials are scanning CCTV footage from the area to identify the culprits, he said, adding a PCR call had informed them at 8.20 P.M. on Thursday that a schoolboy had been killed by two men. Saurabh's mother Darpan told reporters her son had urged her to visit his school around 2 P.M. on Thursday and request the class teacher to shift him to his previous section.

"Recently my son was shifted to a new section but he was not happy with this. Some of the fellow students in his new section used to tease him. I requested his teacher twice to shift him to his previous section but he refused," she said.

"The teacher convinced me to let my son study in the new section. In front of me, the teacher made my son sit in the classroom. But there were older

students there. I don't know if they smoke or what," she added.

When her son did not return home till 7 P.M., the family members began a search for him. "I enquired with my son's friends who said he was seen standing in line while leaving the school but did not accompany them.

Then I called up his teacher who said all the students had left school around 6:30 P.M. and early this morning, we got to see his body with multiple injuries. I can't see my son in this state. He was brutally killed," the mother alleged.

BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri met the family members and gave them Rs 2 lakh. He said the Delhi Government should give Rs 10 lakh as compensation to them.

HC judge in interview row seeks report from SC, court nixes order

From Page 1

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who appeared before the bench also agreed that such an order should not have been passed by the High Court judge. On Friday morning, bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha ordered that the proceedings against Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee in relation to the school-for-jobs case, being heard by Justice Gangopadhyay, be transferred to some other judge of the High Court. The order was passed in light of the fact that Justice Gangopadhyay had given an interview to news channel ABP Ananda in which he made some comments against Banerjee, even as he was hearing the case.

Hours after the apex court order removing him from handling the case, Justice Gangopadhyay passed an order calling for the official transcript of the interview from the Supreme Court Registrar General to be placed before him, by 12.15 am.

Justice Gangopadhyay further directed the Registrar General of the Calcutta High Court to communicate this order forthwith to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court so that "those two sets in original, which were before the Hon'ble Judges today, can be placed before me as this has become now records of the court as the adjudication there-of is over."

Russian Minister...

From Page 1

He alleged that the tension around the "so-called" Taiwan problem is purposely escalated, and that territorial disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea are being heated.

"In our understanding, one of the major achievements in the Asia-Pacific region is bloc-free and equal interaction. And it must be preserved," he said in his address. Talking about what he termed as the "most pressing military-political problems", the Russian defence minister said Washington and its enablers are pursuing their

strategic agenda of provoking other countries into military confrontation with undesirable states, most notably Russia and China.

"The conflict in Ukraine is a clear demonstration of this criminal policy. Its real aim is to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, threaten China, and maintain its monopoly position in the world," the Russian defence minister said. He said the SCO independent policies concerning regional and global security challenges could set an example for the international community.

NCR PULSE

MAYOR GIVES JOB TO DEAD WORKER'S WIFE
New Delhi: Mayor Dr. Shelly Oberoi handed over a permanent job appointment letter to the wife of a sweeper who lost his life in a road accident while on duty. This marks the first time in MCD history that a family has been given a permanent job after the death of a contract worker.

GAHLOT INAUGURATES FITNESS CENTRE AT TIHAR
New Delhi: Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot inaugurated electronic roti-making machine and geriatric fitness centre at Tihar Jail. In addition to the electronic roti-making machine, the Home Minister also inaugurated a Geriatric Fitness Centre at jail no 2. This centre is specially designed for old age inmates who can now receive fitness training with equipment under the supervision of a trained trainer. The facility will help elderly inmates strengthen their muscles, enhance flexibility and ultimately improve their fitness levels.

DJB VICE CHAIRMAN INSPECTS KONDLI WWTP
New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Somnath Bharti inspected the Kondli Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Friday that is being developed under Yamuna Action Plan-III and took stock of the progress of the project. Top officials of Delhi Jal Board were also present during the inspection. Describing Kondli WWTP as an important step for cleaning River Yamuna, Bharti said that the work of Kondli WWTP Phase 2 is about to complete and this phase of the plant will become operational from May 5. This phase will soon be operating at its full potential. Phase - 4 of Kondli WWTP will also reach its full capacity by September, 2023. Kondli WWTP has a capacity of 45 MGD. Phase 4 of the WWTP is currently operating at 50 per cent capacity. A total of 90 MGD of wastewater will be treated at Kondli WWTP on an everyday basis.

KEJRIWAL GOVT ALLOWS WOMEN TO WORK NIGHT SHIFTS
New Delhi: Now, women in Delhi will be able to work night shifts with full security, with the Kejriwal Government having approved the draft for this change. Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand held a high-level meeting on Friday where he discussed with the officials of the Labour Department the draft policy made to allow women to work during night shifts, as well as other important issues, including their safety during the shift. Now, the Labour Department will seek suggestions and objections from the public, and after that the draft policy will be finalised.

4 flyovers, 2 underpasses by year end to ease Delhi traffic

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To make the capital city traffic jam free, Delhi Government will dedicate four new flyovers and two underpasses to the people by the end of this year. These projects include the Sarai Kale Khan-T junction flyover, the doubling and expansion of the flyover from Punjabi Bagh to Raja Garden, a six-lane flyover between Anand Vihar and Apsara Border, a double-decker flyover at the Ghonda-Brijpuri junction, and the Mukarba Chowk underpass, among other important projects. PWD Minister Atishi, on Friday, reviewed the progress of various flyover projects currently underway in Delhi with senior officials of the department.

After the reviewing ongoing 30 infra project, the PWD Minister said these projects are extremely important for making traffic smooth and after their completion, lakhs of daily commuters will be rid of traffic. She further directed the officials to set monthly targets for all ongoing flyover projects and complete them within the



timelines. Most importantly, every month, a progress report should be submitted directly to her.

The Sarai Kale Khan T-junction flyover, being built by the Kejriwal government, will be ready by July this year. With the construction of the new flyover, the Sarai Kale Khan T-junction will become a signal-free corridor and will provide relief from traffic jams to the lakhs of vehicles passing via this route everyday.

The doubling and expansion of the flyovers, from Punjabi Bagh to Raja Garden is being done under this project.

Under the project, both flyovers will be expanded to three lanes, and a new three-lane flyover will also be built along with both flyovers to make them two-way.

The corridor between Punjabi Bagh Flyover and Raja Garden Flyover is part of the Ring Road, and the traffic load here is quite high because Haryana's traffic comes here using the Rohtak Road (NH-10).

Additionally, this corridor also connects North Delhi to South Delhi, Gurgaon, and other parts of the NCR. The existing one-way flyovers and

low-capacity intersection are not adequate for the current traffic load, resulting in traffic congestion.

A six-lane flyover of approximately 1440 meters in length, is being constructed between Anand Vihar ROB and Apsara Border ROB, on Road Number-56.

A double-decker flyover is being constructed at the Karawal Nagar, Ghonda-Brijpuri junction in North-East Delhi, connecting Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura over a distance of 1.4 km. The lower deck will be a four-lane flyover, while the upper deck will have a metro line. This unique model of a double-decker flyover has resulted in savings of crores of rupees. After the completion of this project, the people in the surrounding areas will not have to face long traffic jams.

Besides, two new underpasses at Pragati Maidan and Mukarba Chowk will be completed to ease traffic in the capital. The Pragati Maidan underpass is expected to be completed by July end while the Mukarba Chowk underpass will also be ready by the end of this year.

40 Covid-19 related deaths recorded in Delhi from Apr 19-27



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 40 COVID 19-related deaths have been recorded in Delhi from April 19 to 27, with experts saying the infection is turning serious mostly in elderly patients and those with comorbidities. The medical experts also said though the number of daily cases in absolute numbers is still not low, the count needs to be monitored over the next few days, before one can say if a downward trend has set in or not.

Delhi reported seven Covid-related fatalities for the second consecutive day on Thursday and 865 fresh cases of the viral disease with a positivity rate of 16.9 per cent. With the new cases and fatal-

ities, the national capital's Covid caseload has climbed to 20,37,061, while the death toll stands at 26,620, according to data shared by the city government's health department.

Of the seven fatalities reported on Thursday, COVID-19 was the primary cause of death in three cases, the department said in a bulletin. On Wednesday, Delhi registered 1,040 cases with a positivity rate of 21.16 per cent and seven fatalities, with Covid being the primary cause of death in three cases.

During the April 19-27 period, the city health department did not issue a bulletin on April 21. In this period, the city registered six Covid-related fatalities each on April 19, 22 and 25.

Noida boy posts prank suicide video on Insta; cops get him counselled

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of a social media post, alert police in Uttar Pradesh's Noida rushed to save a schoolboy who posted a "suicide" message only to find that his act was a prank.

The Gautam Buddha Nagar police commissioner's social media cell had come across the "suicide video" by a Class 10 student on Instagram and took help from Meta, the parent company of Instagram, to trace the boy's location.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Noida) Rajeev Dixit said the incident took place around 1.30 AM on April 26. "The local Phase 2 police station was alerted by Gautam Buddha Nagar police headquarters about a boy putting a suicide video. The Meta headquarters helped in tracing the location of the boy," Dixit said.

"On getting the inputs, the local police immediately reached the spot and found the boy. However, it turned out that the boy, who had posted a video of him consuming the liquid of All Out (mosquito repellent) but in reality he had consumed water which he had



filled in an empty All Out vaporizer," the police officer said.

When the police interacted with the boy, he told them he had done this to get more viewers on social media, Dixit said. "As per the rules, the boy was sent for a medical examination and later handed over to his family after counselling, he said. "His family members have been urged to ensure continued counselling of the boy," he said.

While the incident turned out to be a prank, there have been episodes in the past in which the police have been able to make timely intervention in probable suicide cases on the basis of social media monitoring.

A recent example in Noida

was seen on March 18, when the police saved a 20-year-old man who had posted a picture on Instagram that showed a noose along with caption "everything will get over".

In March 2022, UP police entered into agreement with Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, on real-time sharing information linked to social media posts related to suicide or self harm.

"If any person posts something related to suicide or self-harm on Facebook or Instagram, then Meta headquarters in USA immediately sends an alert to the social media centre of PHQ UP Police through phone and email," a senior officer said in February, recounting how the agreement has helped save multiple lives.

DCW chief expresses strong concern over video of man masturbating on Metro



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission For Women chief Swati Maliwal on Friday expressed strong concern about a viral video on social media that showed a young man purportedly masturbating on a Delhi Metro while others around him looked embarrassed and moved away. Taking to Twitter, Maliwal said she has issued a notice to the Delhi Police and Delhi Metro to take strict action for the "shameful act". She has sought a copy of the FIR registered in the matter and a detailed action taken report (ATR) by May 1.

The video is being widely circulated on social media

wherein the man can be seen indulging in the "obscene act" while sitting in the Delhi Metro, the panel said, adding, "This is a very serious matter," it said.

The incident was captured on video by another commuter, who did not intervene to stop the perpetrator.

Calling the incident "sickening", Maliwal demanded exemplary action against the accused. DCW Chief Swati Maliwal said, "A man can be seen in a viral video shamelessly masturbating in Delhi Metro. It is absolutely disgusting and sickening. The accused must be arrested and strict action should be taken in the matter."

Ex-Navy cook remarries secretly, kills first wife, chops up her body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old man, who was arrested by the police in connection with his wife's murder and chopping her body and discarding the parts in Gurugram, reportedly disclosed before the police that he killed the woman over an extramarital affair.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Jitender, a resident of Gandhi Nagar, who was living on rent in Manesar. Earlier, he was working as a cook in the Navy and retired last year. The wife has been identified as 28-year-old Sonia Sharma. The couple had an 8-year-old daughter.

During questioning the accused revealed to the police that he had an extra-marital affair with Bihar based woman whom he met on a train later and secretly got married to her. He had a son from his second marriage.

"The accused's wife came to know about his extramarital relations and because of this there was a dispute between them and to get rid of the situation, he decided to kill his wife, Sonia.



"The accused first strangled her to death and later cut her body into pieces with the help of a knife and packed them in polythene bags. He decided to dispose of the body parts in different places in Gurugram so that the body couldn't be identified. He tried to dispose of the torso in a room built in the fields of Kukkola village in Manesar area on April 21," Vijay Pratap Singh, DCP (crime) said.

The accused disposed of other body parts in Manesar's forest area, Kherki-Daula, and the head in a pond nearby KMP road. The head of the body has been recovered by the Police in the presence of the Executive Magistrate on his disclosure on April 23. The

hands of the body are yet to be recovered, he said.

The police also recovered a Motorcycle, the clothes of the deceased, a knife, a trolley bag, and a backpack used in the crime. During the search of the room in which the torso was found, the police team found a polythene bag with the name of a Vishakhapatnam-based company. On inquiry, a vendor of the company informed the police that they supply that type of polythene bag to the Indian Navy only and it is very expensive.

The incident came to light after a villager, Umed Singh, alerted the police about the half-burnt torso after smoke was emanating from the room built on his farm.

HC stays Jasmine's eviction from Govt accommodation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday stayed an order asking Jasmine Shah, former vice chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD), to vacate his government accommodation.

Justice Prathiba M Singh said when the writ petition filed by Shah challenging his removal from the post of DDCD vice chairperson was already pending in the court, such an eviction order cannot be passed by the authorities. The court said the matter has already been heard 2-3 times.

"...Under such circumstances, directions to the petitioner (Shah) to vacate his government residential premises and to treat him as an unauthorised occupant

shall remain stayed," the judge said. The court's order came on an application filed by Shah seeking to direct the authorities that no further steps be taken by them pursuant to the April 25 order, issued by the special secretary of the Public Works Department, to evict him from the premises, forming his current and only place of residence.

The application was filed in a pending petition of Shah challenging a November 17, 2022 order issued by Director (Planning), Delhi government, on the LG's request to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to remove him from the post of vice chairperson of DDCD, and pending such a decision, to restrain him from using his office space and withdraw the staff and facilities assigned to him.

Atishi conducts surprise inspection of MCD school, pulls up principal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing her surprise inspections to take stock of the situation in MCD schools across Delhi, Education Minister Atishi visited an MCD school at Lal Kuan in Pul Prahladpur on Friday.

During the inspection, the school was found to be in an extremely dilapidated state and surrounded by heaps of garbage. There were no benches in the classrooms, and students were forced to sit on broken floors. The toilets were either broken or in very bad condition, and there was no drinking water available. Additionally, there was an encroachment on a major area of the school. The wall adjoining the playground was also broken, and there was illegal encroachment on a part of the ground. Additionally, the storage room had become a junkyard, and its roof could col-



lapse at any time.

Upon observing the dilapidated state of the school, Atishi admonished the principal and asked her to get the condition of the school fixed as soon as possible or strict action will be taken against her. She said, "The poor state of cleanliness in the school reflects the insensitive behavior of the school administration toward the future of the children studying here, and such carelessness regarding education cannot be tolerated." She gave an ultima-

tum to the principal and education officer to run the school responsibly or else strict action would be taken against them.

Reprimanding the principal for the poor state of the school, Ms. Atishi said, "It is the duty of the principal to ensure that all children receive quality education in a clean and safe environment in the school. However, looking at the condition of the school, it is clear that the school administration is insensitive to the future of the children studying here."

Stations of first regional rail RAPIDX to sport peacock hues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Inspired by our national bird, the stations of India's first regional rail - RAPIDX - will wear a blue and beige colour spectrum of the peacock feather.

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is soon going to operationalise the 17 km long priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor for the public ahead of schedule.

According to an official statement, the colours of the station's exterior facade have been inspired by the hues of peacock feathers. The facade structure is coloured in two shades of blue and beige. The exterior roofs of its stations are designed to be curved on both sides to depict the speed, which is one of the main characteristics of this train.

The beige-coloured perforated panels have been installed for the wall of the stations and in addition to that, beige-coloured louvres have also been installed along the railings which ensure uninterrupted flow of air in the station, it said.



"The façade has been conceptualised from the station's concourse level itself. The stations also have foot-over bridges built under multi-modal integration which will also be painted in the same colours," it added.

Instead of making the entry and exit of the station on the main carriageway, a dedicated passage has been made for passengers on both sides of the road. Hard materials such as granite or epoxy have been used for station flooring in the areas expected to have high footfall and Vacuumized Dense Concrete (VDC) has been used for the rest of the flooring.

Post panel meet, Delhi, Hry officials to coordinate to rejuvenate Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to rejuvenate the Yamuna river, officials of Delhi and Haryana will coordinate among themselves to enhance the impact of the efforts being made at the government level.

The statement from Delhi Lieutenant General VK Saxena's office said officials of the two States on Thursday attended the meeting of a high-level committee set up by the National Green Tribunal for the

rejuvenation of the river. The meeting came following several rounds of discussions between Delhi L-G VK Saxena and Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar.

Saxena, who chaired Thursday's meeting described the rejuvenation of the Yamuna river as a national mission and asked officials of the two States to proactively cooperate to achieve the goal.

It was decided that Haryana officials will attend the meetings of the high-level com-



mittee and carry out directions in coordination with their Delhi counterparts, the statement said.

The meeting saw discussions being held on various aspects of pollution in the Yamuna river in Haryana and Delhi. Saxena thanked Haryana Chief Minister Khattar for his proactive support and instructed officials to evolve seamless coordination by undertaking joint visits.

The participants of the meeting were of the view that

concerted efforts were required by both states as any action taken by only Delhi was insufficient since continued pollution from sources in Haryana made the exercise futile.

The Najafgarh drain, which accounted for about 70 per cent of pollution of the Yamuna, received 40 per cent of its most untreated discharge from three drains flowing out of Gurugram in Haryana, the statement said.

Also, the Mangeshpur and Bhupania drains from Haryana

carrying huge amounts of industrial effluent emptied into the Najafgarh drain at the Kakrola regulator.

The DD6 drain from Kundli Industrial Area in Haryana emptied into the supplementary drain, it said, adding DD2 and DD8 drains from Panipat and Kundli in Haryana emptied directly into Yamuna right before the river entered Delhi.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the water discharged into the Najafgarh

drain and Yamuna from these eight drains required to be treated for keeping the drain and the river clean.

The Haryana officials, including the chief secretary of the state, commissioner of urban local bodies, and commissioners of Gurugram and Faridabad, detailed the efforts being made by them and assured the L-G that it will be augmented enhanced and completed within a time frame corresponding to that of Delhi.

CBI grills ex-J&K Guv Malik for 5 hrs

Agency seeks clarifications on insurance 'scam' claims by him



The CBI on Friday questioned former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik for nearly five hours in connection with its probe into the alleged insurance scam in the Union Territory which came to light after his statement that he was offered bribes to clear related files.

A CBI team arrived at the Som Vihar residence of Malik in the RK Puram area here at around 11.45 A.M. to seek clarifications over his claims, officials said.

The questioning session lasted for nearly five hours during which several questions were posed to him about

ment employees and civil work worth Rs 2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydroelectric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Malik had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing two files during his tenure as the Jammu and Kashmir governor between August 23, 2018, and October 30, 2019.

The agency has booked Reliance General Insurance and Trinity Re-Insurance Brokers Limited as accused in its FIR related to the medical insurance scheme for Jammu and Kashmir government employees reportedly cleared by Malik at a State administrative council meeting on August 31, 2018. The scheme was subsequently scrapped.

Unknown officials of the Finance Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, by abusing their official positions in a conspiracy and connivance with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited, Reliance General Insurance

Company Limited and other unknown public servants and private persons, have committed the offences of criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct," according to the allegations recorded in one of the FIRs.

They caused "pecuniary advantage to themselves and wrongful loss to the State exchequer during the period 2017 and 2018 and thereby, in this manner, cheated the government of Jammu and Kashmir", it further alleged.

In the second FIR regarding alleged malpractices in the award of contracts for the civil work package of the Kiru hydroelectric power project, the CBI alleged that the guidelines related to e-tendering were not followed.

Op Kaveri: IAF brings back third batch of 392 Indians from Sudan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

As 'Operation Kaveri' is on to evacuate Indian nationals from strife-torn Sudan, a C-17 aircraft of the Indian Air Force on Friday brought back home 392 people. So far, 998 citizens have been brought to India. The latest evacuation was the third batch of Indians to be flown home from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where India has set up a transit camp for the evacuees.

The first batch carrying 360 evacuees was brought to New Delhi in a commercial plane on Wednesday. The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C-17 Globemaster aircraft the next day. The total number of Indians who were brought back home now stands at 998, according to official data.



Under 'Operation Kaveri,' India is taking its citizens in buses from conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah in Indian Air Force's heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF's aircraft.

India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah, Port Sudan and the India embassy in Khartoum is coordinating with them besides being in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters here.

Day after Rajnath's tough message, China terms situation at LAC 'generally stable'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/BEIJING

A day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's tough message to China that its violation of the border pacts has "eroded" the entire basis of bilateral ties, Beijing on Friday said the situation at the border is "generally stable."



Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting. Rajnath reportedly did not shake hands with him.

A Chinese Defence Ministry statement issued in Beijing on Friday said that during the meeting the two sides exchanged views on military and bilateral relations.

General Li pointed out that "currently, the situation on the China-India border is generally stable and the two sides have maintained communication through military and diplomatic channels."

"The two sides should take a long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and promote the transition of the border situation to normalised management," he said.

"It is hoped that the two sides will work together to continuously enhance mutual trust between the two militaries and make proper contributions to the development of bilateral relations," Li told Rajnath.

Rajnath Singh meets Russian Defence Min on SCO sidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

India and Russia on Friday reviewed the entire spectrum of their defence and strategic ties during talks here between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and General Sergei Shoigu on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meet.

The two ministers focused on various aspects of the bilateral strategic ties amid a geopolitical upheaval triggered by the Ukraine conflict. India and Russia also deliberated on various aspects of bilateral cooperation as well as regional developments.

The defence ministry said the two ministers discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral defence cooperation, including military-to-military ties as well as industrial partnership.

They also discussed the Russian defence industry's participation in the 'Make in India' initiative and ways to provide further impetus to it.

CITU, AITUC slam NFPE, AIPEU de-recognition as 'vindictive order'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Left trade unions CITU and AITUC on Friday condemned the de-recognition of two trade unions - NFPE and AIPEU in postal department for giving funds to farmers' strike and donations to CPI(M).

CITU and AITUC general secretaries Tapan Sen and Amarjit Kaur urged the Government to withdraw the 'vindictive order' of de-recognition.

"Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) strongly condemns the high-handed vindictive anti-trade union action resorted to by the Postal Department at the instance of ruling RSS-BJP dispensations to withdraw the recognition. It is nothing but the patently draconian actions of the Government to silence the opposition of workers and employees to its destructive and anti-worker policies," said Tapan Sen in a statement.

"During the historic Kisan struggle, the Confederation gave a call collecting solidarity fund for the struggling farmers. NFPE and P-III unions collected some

Former JD(U) leader Alok joins BJP, takes swipes at Nitish Kumar

PNS NEW DELHI



Former JD(U) leader Alok Singh, known to be close to the ex-JDU president and Union Minister RCP Singh, joined the BJP on Friday in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Joining the BJP is like coming to a family, Alok said, vowing to contribute to the "Modi mission" for the development of the country.

Alok took a dig at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar saying he is an architect who is destroying his own work by compromising on law and order and corruption.

He said the country is today moving in the same direction as the prime minister. The former JDU leader joined the BJP here at the BJP headquarters.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. ICICI Bank. Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005. Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE. 1) ASHOK LEY AL 1214 UP37AT2456 -YOM 2019. MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE-5,92,780.14. UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION". INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 15.05.2023 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).

Dhankhar refers BJP MP's plaint against Jairam to privileges panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has referred to the privileges committee for examination a complaint by a BJP MP for alleged breach of privilege against Congress' Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh over his remarks against the chair. The complaint was filed by BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi against Ramesh for making disrespectful observations against the Rajya Sabha Chairman and casting aspersions on his impartiality.

Ramesh had, during the last budget session of Parliament, allegedly said the Chairman should not be the "cheerleader" of the ruling dispensation and should also hear the opposition. The budget session saw repeated disruptions and failed to transact any significant business following opposition uproar over its demand for a JPC probe into



the Adani issue.

An official communication by the Rajya Sabha secretariat regarding "Reference of a question of privilege to the Committee of Privileges of the Rajya Sabha" confirmed the action.

"Members are informed that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred, under rule 203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of the complaint of Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi, Member, regarding making continual and deliber-

2-day all-India Ved Science conference to be inaugurated by LS Speaker Birla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A two-day 'All India Ved Science conference' will begin here on Saturday. The conference will be inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, while Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar will preside over the function.

The conference will be attended by eminent Vedic professors, scientists and research scholars from across the country.

The gathering will discuss research papers on various Vedic Science subjects being taught. During the conference various speakers will throw new light on the ancient science and its modern connect. The conclusion of the conference in the C Subramaniam hall, Pusa Institute, will be presided by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET. ICICI Bank. Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024. Notice for sale of immovable assets. [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

PUBLIC NOTICE. Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd that Mr. Prashant Omprakash Singh intends to mortgage the Flat No. B-1102, on 11th floor, in Tower-B, Situated at Plot No. 11, "Apex The Gardens" Sector-18, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P. with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas Mrs. Vijay Kirti Omprakash Singh and Mr. Prashant Omprakash Singh were the owners of above said property by way of Sale Deed dt. 16.11.2018 and after death Mrs. Vijay Kirti Omprakash Singh, his legal heirs Mr. Om Prakash Singh, Mr. Mohit Omprakash Singh, Mrs. Dipi Singh and Mrs. Dipali Prashant Brahmany (as per SMC) have executed a Gift Deed on 14.10.2022 in favour of Mr. Prashant Omprakash Singh, who becomes the sole owners of said property. If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below mentioned address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd will proceed with the mortgage process. DEEPLYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-40587824

ED attaches ₹157 cr assets of Punjab real estate firm for money laundering

PNS NEW DELHI

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Friday said it has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 157.7 crore belonging to Punjab-based real estate company Gupta Builders and Promoters Pvt. Ltd. (GBPLL), its directors Sathish Gupta, Pardeep Gupta and their associates on money laundering charges. The attached properties include commercial/residential



spaces, the ED said. The ED initiated money-

laundering investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Chandigarh and Punjab Police against real estate company Gupta Builders and Promoters Pvt. Ltd; its directors and others.

"Investigation revealed that an aggregate amount of Rs 478 crore was collected by the company from buyers. They duped the innocent buyers by promising them to deliver flats/plots/commercial spaces. However, they neither delivered the projects nor returned their money," the ED said in a statement. Investigation conducted by ED further revealed that the Directors of GBPLL in connivance with other persons siphoned off money collected from home-buyers. This money was laundered through a web of fraudulent transactions and invested in various immovable properties, being 'proceeds of crime' and the same are provisionally attached.

Cops cane protesters trying to stop soil test for refinery

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



The ongoing agitation against the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Project (RRPL) at Barsu in Rajapur taluka of coastal Ratnagiri district took a violent turn on Friday...

currently on, claimed that they merely dispersed the protesters when attempted to prevent the soil testing teams from carrying out their work.

Interacting with media persons in Mumbai, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde also denied reports of lathi-charge on the protesting villagers.

The local police, who have enforced prohibitory orders in the affected villages surrounding the proposed project site where the soil testing work is

which the soil testing team sought to allay the fears of the affected villagers, lasted for two and a half hours.

The media persons are facing restrictions in covering the protests," Chavan said.

People don't trust Shinde Govt: Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said the locals at Barsu, where a refinery has been proposed, have no trust in the Shiv Sena-BJP Government in Maharashtra.



Talking to reporters, Raut also alleged that the refinery project is being executed to protect the interests of politicians and 'outsiders' who have bought land at Barsu and demanded that the government make the list public of such people.

The NCP chief said his party did not oppose development projects in Konkan, but finding out the opinion of the locals was a must.

DGP: Pak terrorists had ambushed Army truck

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Dilbagh Singh Friday said a group of Pakistani terrorists carried out the ambush on an Indian Army truck in which five soldiers of the Indian army's Rashtriya Rifles unit were martyred in Poonch on April 20.

It is believed the terrorists have been hiding inside natural caves inside the thickly forested belt," Singh told reporters during his day-long visit to Darhal and remote Budh Khanari area in the foothills of snow-covered Pir Panjal mountains.

details of the ongoing investigations in the case DGP Dilbagh Singh said that a total number of 221 suspects have been picked and so far about half a dozen over ground workers have been arrested.

Singh said, 'Such incidents not possible without local support' "We are getting clues during questioning. We are working on that," he added.

Pakistan through drones. A local named Nisar Ahmad of Gursai and his family were providing all support from food to shelter.

The material (explosives) had come from Pakistan through a drone. They picked up the weapons and provided them to the terrorists.

He added that security forces are identifying more local support. "They will be working on it strongly. The terrorists choose places close to the forests, where they get local support and also have escape routes into forests," he said.

Giving further details about the module, Singh said Nisar has been a terrorist for a long time. "He was working as OGW of Pakistan origin LeT commander in the 1990s. He was under the scanner for a long time.

BJP's W Bengal bandh receives mixed response

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Friday's dawn-to-dusk North Bengal bandh called by the BJP passed off amid stray violence and mixed response in the eight districts of the region.

While public transport plied near normally private transport was partially affected at areas like Dhurguri, Dinhatra areas of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts traffic was almost out of road in large parts of Raiganj and Kaliaganj in North Dinajpur districts.

Trains ran late as bandh supporters squatted on the tracks at various stations of North East Frontier Railways. At Jalpaiguri the bandh evoked mixed response with markets and other business establishments remaining partially closed.

Violence erupted at various points as the BJP and TMC cadres confronted each other at Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Dinhatra and other areas. Bombs were found near the BJP party office at Dinhatra, sources said adding bandh had little response in Darjeeling and Malda districts where shops, markets opened normally.

Clashes at Manipur CM's rally venue, meet put off

Imphal: Clashes erupted between demonstrators and police at Sadbhavna Mandap in Manipur's New Lamka Town in Churachandpur district on Friday, the venue where Chief Minister N Biren Singh was scheduled to address a public meeting.

Singh had earlier in the day indicated his plans to visit Churachandpur had been deferred at the request of the organisers following protests and a 8-hour bandh called by local tribals protesting eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest areas.

despite the stone pelting. Deployment of forces will continue to oversee situation," officials said.

However, on Thursday a protesting mob had attacked the venue and set fire to about a 100 chairs and other equipment.

Singh said his plans to visit Churachandpur district have been deferred after the local legislator who had invited him decided to postpone the function.

The local MLA had invited me to a celebration and to inaugurate the open gym," the CM told reporters on the sidelines of an agriculture department function here.

IN SHORT

SC ASKS NAVLAKHA TO PAY ₹8L FOR SECURITY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed activist Gautam Navlakha, who is under house arrest in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, to deposit another Rs 8 lakh as an expense for making available police personnel for his security.

TRANSFER OF SENA FUND PLEA REJECTED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea seeking a direction to the Maharashtra government that all party assets of the Shiv Sena being held by the Uddhav Thackeray faction be transferred to the group led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

TRIBALS TO MOVE HC ON FELLING OF TREES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday permitted some forest dwelling tribals to move the Bombay High Court with their grievances related to the felling of trees in Mumbai's Aarey forest for the metro rail project.

PM to address 6 meetings, 2 road shows in Karnataka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address six public meetings and hold two road shows on Saturday and Sunday during his two-day hectic election campaign visit to the poll-bound Karnataka.



From Kolar, the Prime Minister would then fly to Channarayana in Ramanagara district to address a public meeting at 1.30 pm.

BJP, Congress' poisonous barbs reach EC's door

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The "poison" barb against each others in the heat of election campaign in Karnataka on Friday reached the Election Commission with either side -Congress and BJP- demanding a complete ban of certain leaders in campaign in the ensuing assembly polls including Union Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

Cong leader's remarks reflect party culture, mindset, says Ashwini

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah waves at the crowd during an election rally in support of BJP candidates, ahead of Assembly polls, in Dharwad district, on Friday

Attacking on the Congress president for his "poisonous snake" barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP urged Poll body to file a case against Kharge and bar him from campaigning in Karnataka assembly polls.

high-stakes polls in southern state. BJP has demanded registration of an FIR under IPC Sections 499 and 500, which deal with defamation, and Section 504, which deals with offence of deliberate insults and provocation.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Incongruous

The BJP should listen to the concerns of the wrestlers protesting in the national Capital

The Delhi Police's decision to register an FIR against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh could have come sooner. He has been accused of sexually harassing seven female wrestlers, including a minor. The fact that the matter had to reach the Supreme Court doesn't show the Bharatiya Janata Party or Delhi cops in a good light. Top wrestlers had to stage a protest in the national capital to get the FIR filed. On April 26, the Delhi Police had informed the SC they needed to carry out a preliminary inquiry before registering an FIR over the accusations. Delhi cops' U-turn, however, has failed to mollify the protesting wrestlers; they want Singh's arrest. Meanwhile the episode has once again brought PT Usha, the iconic athlete who heads the Indian Olympic Association, into the limelight—but not in a nice way. She did her country in her heyday, but by slamming the protesting wrestlers she did not cover herself in glory. Her remark that Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and other leading grapplers brought a bad name to Indian sports was not in good taste. She said that shortly after the IOA announced the setting up of a three-member ad-hoc committee to run the affairs at the WFI. "Thoda toh discipline hona chahiye (there should be some discipline). Instead of coming to us they have gone straight to the streets. It's not good for sport," Usha added.



Her caustic remarks were resented by the wrestlers and elicited sharp reactions from politicians and sports persons. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi slammed Usha. Legendary sports persons like Kapil Dev and Neeraj Chopra supported the wrestlers' cause; this support also amounted to oblique criticism of Usha's. Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's political clout in a few districts in Uttar Pradesh is said to be his shield. The BJP doesn't seem to like the prospect of losing influence in these areas. His association with the BJP is very old, going back to 1991 when he got the BJP ticket for the Lok Sabha seat for the first time. But he is more of an opportunistic politician than a leader committed to the ideology of the saffron party. Though he got elected as MP five times on the BJP ticket, in 2008 he joined the Samajwadi Party. Besides, his bahubali image and his stewardship of the WFI are at odds with the narrative of 'no danga, no curfew' that the Yogi Adityanath regime in the country's largest state is trying to peddle to people. He was charged with the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act or TADA for allegedly sheltering Dawood Ibrahim's aide Subhash Thakur, though he was later acquitted. This is not exactly the profile of a leader the BJP would like to sell to the electorate. No political party can ignore the realpolitik imperative, but then it cannot be seen as completely cynical too. It is time the BJP showed to the country that its commitment to morality is real.

PICTALK



Cadets during the combined display as part of the Passing Out Parade of Gentlemen and Lady Cadets, in Chennai **PTI**

Reality sector needs a green initiative

Remodelling the sector with green initiatives and sustainable approaches will make policies and technology more effective

The Indian real estate sector is driving the nation's economy and has become one of the most critical components of our country's GDP. According to Niti Aayog's prediction, the Indian real estate business can reach a market size of US\$ 1 trillion and contribute 18-20% of the Indian GDP by 2030. However, as a linchpin in the Indian economy and powering 6-7% of the country's GDP, real estate businesses are accounting for 40% of the carbon emission in India due to heavy construction.



adopt a green and sustainable model to achieve the goal. As per a recent study by World

With the growing demands of the housing and business sector in India, this is a very crucial time for the real estate sector to develop residential and commercial segments. Where every business model is adopting a sustainable strategy to reduce the carbon footprint, the Indian real estate sector is on the same path.

According to the World Bank report, 70% of the infrastructure required in India by 2030, is yet to be built. It is estimated that over the next two decades, India's real estate sector needs to

The Indian real estate sector has started adopting Green building and ESG reportings (Environmental, Social & Governance), some of the key initiatives for green and sustainable growth in the realty business. The construction of green buildings in India has become a trend and gained momentum in the real estate sector. Green buildings are self-sufficient in terms of energy, material sourcing, water conservation, and sustainable interiors.

Decarbonising the Real Estate Development

The main challenge that lies ahead for the Indian real estate market is to tackle the construction and demolition (C&D) waste. India generates 150 MT of construction waste. There are ways to reduce, reuse and recycle the C&D waste for good. Unlike traditional real estate development, environment-friendly and resource-efficient materials should be promoted to use.

Pushing for Sustainable Real Estate

Not just the government, but also the millennials and young population are look-

ing out for the best in terms of properties and sustainability. They are looking for greener spaces to live in. First-time property buyers are also leveraging LEED-certified buildings as they value sustainable buildings.

The real estate sector is a significant contributor to India's GDP and is expected to grow even further in the coming years. However, it is also responsible for a significant amount of carbon emissions, making it imperative for the industry to adopt sustainable and green initiatives.

The adoption of green building ratings and ESG performance, as well as the decarbonization of real estate development, are some of the key ways in which the industry can move towards a more sustainable future. With government support, developer determination, and technological advancements, the Indian real estate sector has the potential to become a leader in sustainable development and contribute positively to the environment and the economy. (The writer is the founder of Geetanjali Homestates)



SUNIL SISODIYA

No tears for shrines razed in Medina

Babri Masjid was pulled down in Ayodhya but multiple demolitions of shrines and relics have taken place in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia



HASAN KHURSHID

The dignity of a society is reflected through the value it gives to its cultural heritage. The sum total of cultural heritage is a nation, community or group's language, books, literature, rituals, knowledge, traditions, performing arts, crafts, festive events and monuments. It's therefore our moral and civic duty to preserve, conserve and protect our cultural heritage.

In India, the five-centuries-old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992, by a radical Hindu mob. Intellectuals across the globe condemned the demolition. Muslims across the world protested. In its landmark judgement of 2019, the Supreme Court held that the demolition was illegal and directed the authorities to allot an alternative plot to build a mosque as compensation.

On the other hand, the bigger heinous crime of multiple demolitions of holy shrines, relics and heritage sites together with massacres took place in Saudi Arabia. This was done at the behest of Saudi Arab's Wahabi/Salafi rulers of Zionist ancestry who, wearing the cloak of Islam, in the middle of the 18th century introduced a new distorted version of Islam based on terrorism. This new cult was named 'Wahabism' in the name of its founder, Sheikh Muhammad Najdi-ibn-Abd-al-Wahab, who was born in Najd of Arabian Peninsula.

In 1744, sidelining the preaching of true Islam, Najdi created a cult 'Wahabism'. To gain manpower support, he shrewdly found a pattern in Muhammad-ibn-Saud, a Bedouin tribal chief. Ibn Saud belonged to the Zionist tribe of Anza Ben Wael. Islam is not the original religion of Saudi Arabia rulers. Najdi too belonged to Zionist ancestry, and got his daughter married to Ibn Saud's son Abd-al-Aziz.

The Quran says, "Prophet Mohammad was sent to the world as a mercy to mankind." (21:107). It states, "Allah abhors any disturbance of peace." (2:205). Whereas, Wahabi ideology is enshrined in their book



Kitab-al-Twahid, which prescribes the forceful conversion of Muslims and others to his Salafi/ Wahabi ideology. He says, "Follow my ideology, else get ready to be killed."

In 1766, Muhammad-ibn-Saud was killed and his son Abd-al-Aziz took over as Emir (temporal leader). He introduced firearms replacing conventional weaponry and accelerated his attacks in a spectacular bid to extend his territory. British historian Charles Allen writes in his book, 'God's Terrorists—The Wahabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad': "Abd-al-Aziz issued every (so-called) holy warrior a firman addressed to the gatekeeper of Heaven, requiring him to be admitted forthwith should he die in battle." Since then, it has been the common schismatic, fraudulent practice of terror operators to misguide and exploit the youth.

On June 2, 1792, Sheikh Najdi, the founder of Wahhabism died, leaving behind 24 wives and 18 children. His son-in-law Abd-al-



THE SAUDI RULERS HAD DEMOLISHED THE HOLY TOMBS OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD'S FAMILY BUT, SURPRISINGLY, NO MUSLIM OF ANY SECT REACTED OR LODGED PROTESTS

Aziz speeded up his violent actions and conversions.

In 1802, he attacked the holiest shrine of Hazrat Imam Husain in Karbala (Iraq), desecrating the shrine. Lieutenant Francis Warden wrote, "They pillaged the whole of it and plundered the tomb of Hazrat Imam Husain."

In 1803, Abd-al-Aziz-ibn-Saud obtained a visit permit from the Sharif of Mecca on the pretext of performing Hajj; wherein, his Wahabi fighters laid waste in Kaaba, like the accused Yazid-ibn-Muawiyah desecrated Kaaba in 682 AD.

According to TE Ravenshaw, author of 'A memorandum on the sect of Wahabis': "They robbed the splendid tombs of the Mahomedan saints, who were interred there; and their fanatical zeal did not even spare the Prophet's mosque (Masjid ul Nabawi) in Medina."

In 1804, a Wahabi gang of terrorists again crossed the desert in Hijaz and destroyed

tombs of the Prophet's family members at Jannat-ul-Baqi, and even despoiled the grave of Prophet Mohammad. Again in 1925 (On 8th Shawwal 1344 Hijri), Wahabi terrorists demolished the shrines of Hazrat Fatima Zehra, daughter of Holy Prophet, and his grandsons: Hazrat Imam Hasan, Hazrat Imam Zain ul Abedeen, Hazrat Imam Mohammad Baqar.

On December 6, every year marking the anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid, Muslims organise protests, file petitions in court. Whereas, on 8th Shawwal, 1344 Hijri (1925 AD), Saudi Arab rulers had demolished the holy tombs of Prophet Mohammad's family razing to ground, but surprisingly no Muslim of any sect reacted or lodged protests against the pseudo-Muslim Saudi rulers. Is it because those perpetrators are not non-Muslims?

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUDAN'S BLOODY HISTORY

Sir — Sudan has a blood-soaked history of several military coups in the nation's past and even the ongoing crisis is nothing short of a humanitarian disaster. The bitter power tussle between the RSF and the country's armed forces has yet again shown the amount of harm the leaders can do to a country to fulfil their selfish ambitions.

However, the 72-hour ceasefire deadline is a ray of hope for the innocent civilians who have been forced to flee their homeland for no fault of theirs. It is high time that international organisations such as the UN intervene to prevent the escalation of the clashes between the two power-hungry leaders and bring the desert nation back to peace.

Gyan Chaturvedi | Vizianagaram

KARNATAKA ELECTIONS

Sir — Union Home Minister Amit Shah doesn't have time to enquire about the Pulwama tragedy where 40 brave and innocent jawans of the CRPF cause laid down their lives due to the utter callousness of his Ministry (people want an answer from Amit Shah on former Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik's allegation) but enough time to be the star campaigner of his outfit BJP and mouth again callously communal riots statements in peaceful Karnataka, influencing the election results indirectly. Though Congress promptly filed an FIR against Amit Shah and the organisers for allegedly making "provocative statements, promoting enmity and hatred and maligning opposition". Not only the FIR, but Congress had also filed a separate complaint with the Election Commission (EC) seeking action against the home minister for violation of the model code of conduct and barring him from future public campaigning in Karnataka.

People, however, do not have much faith in the EC because how can one forget that before the 2019 general election how the poll panel had given seven clean

Same-sex marriages



Same-sex marriage can be tried after initially trying the possibility of opposite-gender attraction, love and marriage (of such persons) in a stepwise manner. The steps could be as follows:

- 1) Let same-sex attraction couples be separated and kept for some time as prescribed by medical experts, with opposite gender persons, of choice; 2) Then, see for the possibility of nat-

- 3) If feasible, go for the natural marriage of opposite gender couple; 4) If both the members are still for same-sex marriage, go for it, because team-life is better than single life. Also, same-sex marriage is not inhuman or destructive like harm, violence, wars and terrorism; 5) Scientifically speaking, transgenders have separate types of hormones but are very much humans like us. Members amongst them to be allowed to marry as they can lead a team-life (better than single life); 6) Such unnatural marriages (but constructive) couples... can be allowed to adopt children to prolong their family name and lead a joyous life; 7) Where marriage takes place, divorce too must be available because it is hell to stay with an undesirable or un-likeminded person.

Madhu PV | Secunderabad

WORLD VETERINARY DAY

Sir — The World Veterinary Day was first celebrated on April 29, 2000, as an initiative by the World Veterinary Association (WVA). Since then, it has been observed every year on the last Saturday of April, with a different theme chosen each year to highlight a specific aspect of veterinary medicine. This day provides a valuable opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the signifi-

cant contributions of veterinarians to society and to increase awareness about the importance of veterinary medicine. The World Veterinary Day, 2023, will be celebrated on the 29th of April, 2023, globally on the theme of 'Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in the veterinary profession,' to advocate for fairness and equity of the efforts from veterinarians, veterinary associations and others.

People who treat human values in high spirits will not harm animals and try as far as possible to respect animals as they are not harming us in any way. Mistreating animals is an offence and there need to be some strict rules to preserve and protect these animals lovingly. The offenders need to be handed out severe punishment to deter other people who might indulge in similar barbarous actions so that such heinous offences will not be committed under any circumstances in future and therein lies the real value for animals like dogs.

CK Jayanthi Maniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE DEFAMATION CASES

There is an increasing trend of filing defamation cases against opponents



S KALYANASUNDARAM

The "DMK Files" released by Tamil Nadu BJP chief Annamalai recently — a compendium of corruption allegations against the M K Stalin-led party — has roiled the political circle in the state, with the ruling party sending the BJP leader a legal notice and seeking Rs.500 crore in damages. The DMK has accused Annamalai of making "constant attempts to defame, scandalise and tarnish the reputation" of Chief Minister M K Stalin and other leaders of the party with "vile, defamatory, scandalous and motivated statements".

Interestingly Annamalai has demanded compensation of Rs.500 crore and Re 1 from DMK's Organising Secretary R S Bharathi for levelling baseless allegations against him and his party. If any person communicates false statements about a person that injure the reputation of that person when observed through the eyes of an ordinary man, it will amount to defamation. Any false and unprivileged statement published or spoken deliberately, intentionally, or knowingly intending to damage someone's reputation is defamation. Defamation can be treated as an offence under the civil as well as criminal law. Under civil law, punishment in the form of damages will be awarded to the claimant. Under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, defamation is a bailable, non-cognizable offence and compoundable offence.



INGREDIENTS FOR DEFAMATION

There should be a presence of a defamatory statement. The statement should have been made to injure the reputation of a person or a class of persons by exposing them to hatred, contempt or ridicule. It will be looked into from the eyes of a common man to decide whether it damages reputation.

The statement should be specific to a person or a class of persons. General statements like 'all ministers are corrupt' can't be taken as defamatory. The statement may be in oral or written form and should be available to a third person.

DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS

- He can plead that he has made only a true statement
- He can plead that he has made fair comments with public interest
- Persons who are holding some positions are privileged to make statements even if they are defamatory.

DEFAMATION UNDER CRIMINAL LAW

Defamation is a punishable offence under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code 1860. Here the intention to defame is necessary. The allegation should be made with malice intent to defame another or at least the knowledge that the publication is likely to defame another is essential. Section 499 also provides various exceptions.

- Imputation of truth which public good requires to be made
- Public conduct of public servants
- Conduct of any person touching any public question
- Publication of reports of proceedings of courts.
- Merits of a case decided in Court or conduct of witnesses
- Merits of public performance
- Censure is passed in good faith by a person with lawful authority.
- Accusations preferred in good faith to authorised persons.
- Imputation by a person for the protection of his or other's interests.
- Caution intended for the good of the person to whom conveyed

DIFFICULT TO PROVE

It is difficult to prove the charges. It is also possible in the end, the accused may apologize, which may be accepted by the court. So, in the end nothing happens. In a study in the year 2018, it was found that out of all the judgements delivered about Section 499 of IPC, only 14.29 per cent resulted in the defendant being found guilty of defamation.

Mann Ki Baat: PM pays rich tributes to social change agents

Mann Ki Baat has accorded such unsung heroes their rightful places in the national consciousness

Over 700 instances of courageous acts of social change agents from all walks of life are mentioned in 99 episodes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat. Hundreds of social change agents fought the odds to pursue the social goal of the collective well-being of the people in their surroundings. They had been unsung heroes of India, and the country needs many of them as the journey to \$30 trillion by 2047 to become the third-largest economy in the world has begun.

Mann Ki Baat has accorded such unsung heroes their rightful places in the national consciousness. PM Modi lent his voice to the tales of



SUMEET BHASIN

such heroes. They were bringing changes in their surroundings by exhibiting a remarkable understanding of the pressing global challenges such as Climate Change, gender equality, food security, preservation of the environment, social inequity, women empowerment, child development, etc.

Now that millions of people in the country have become aware of the tales and toils of the social change agents, it becomes incumbent to institutionalise the efforts made by PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat. Dissemination of tales of social changes for the well-being of all should gain a special focus from all the stakeholders. This may require institutionalized adjustments of the Ministries

of the Central government, as well as of the state administrations. India in its journey to the third-largest economy will need all hands on deck.

Prasar Bharti, which has the superintendence of All Indian Radio, has to aim for a major overhaul to become the first choice of information consumption by the people. The survey report of the outreach of Mann Ki Baat revealed that there were more watchers than listeners. This affirms that India is on the path of transformation with tradition and modernity walking hand in hand. This is the wealth of India. It must be enriched to the advantage of the country. PM Modi has shown glimpses that there is a wealth of tales in the country, which are otherwise

ignored by the mainstream media, but they enjoy greater audience interests. Thus, documentaries in short, medium and long formats must gain the attention of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the endeavour may not necessarily be a departmental outreach. If an ecosystem could be nurtured where independent storytellers are roped in, the objective may be achieved faster.

India needs a moral anchor for its economic advancement. When India becomes the third largest economy in the world, the country should be globally known for its caring society. The emphasis of PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat is to guide the people to such a state where

they are caring for others and share their values and assets with the people in the surrounding.

India is at a critical juncture. India grew from a \$2 trillion economy to a \$3 trillion economy in 2014 in just eight years. Gains now need to be accelerated. From \$3 trillion to a \$5 trillion economy has to be achieved in a shorter space of time. At a time when economic changes are taking place at a rapid pace, it's incumbent that social changes keep pace.

This makes the task of a fast-paced social transformation imminent, which has been carried with ease by PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat, and that now needs several carriers from all walks of life and

all across the country. The spirit of 'we can do it', and 'we must do it' must become the guiding lamp for the people. Whatever institutional intervention is required for the purpose must be speedily provided for by the stakeholders, including the Ministries of the Central government and the agencies of the states. PM Modi by all accounts has demonstrated the scale of a political leader donning the hat of a social reformer. This attribute requires to be institutionalised.

PM Modi through Mann Ki Baat has laid the transformational foundation for definitive changes in society, which can touch all walks of life, including politics. This has been demonstrated dur-

ing the Covid-19 pandemic, which has also been captured by PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat extensively, that when the country was under lockdown and there was a section of the society that faced the prospects of hunger the social groups took the lead in meeting the challenges. Such social groups consisted of several political activists, who responded to the top priority of the day, to demonstrate that service to humanity and society is also the means of politics. Building a society of equity and people of character who can become symbols for global recognition for perfection will require further intense investments by all the stakeholders. Mann Ki Baat is a torchlight in the endeavour.

GST is undergoing metamorphosis

There is a surge in GST collections, which has proved sceptics wrong and even surpassed the expectations of the authorities



UTTAM GUPTA

Only a couple of years ago, top officials in the Department of Revenue used to gloat over a collection of GST Rs 150,000 crore if achieved in any given month. They couldn't even imagine that collection of Rs 150,000 crore consistently every month in a year would ever be possible. But, this happened during 2022-23, when the department garnered a total of Rs 1800,000 crore. During the current year, it is aiming at a target of Rs 2000,000 crore.

A major factor behind this is an increase in nominal GDP during 2022-23 by 15.9 per cent (from a tax collection angle, this is what matters) on top of a surge of 18.4 per cent registered during 2021-22 when GST collection was Rs.1476,000 crores. But, an equally potent factor was relentless efforts made by the tax authorities to ensure compliance and prevent evasion. For instance, during 2022-23, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) detected GST evasion of over Rs 100,000 crore.

GST is a single nationwide tax that subsumes within it more than a dozen taxes of the pre-GST era, namely central excise duty (CED), service tax, sales tax/value added tax (VAT) besides a host of local taxes such as octroi, purchase tax, turnover tax, etc. It is applied all over India, with the provision of set-off for tax paid on inputs also known in common parlance as input tax credit (ITC). It has an in-built disincentive for an entity not keen on reporting its purchases or sales or else, it won't get ITC.

Yet, fraudsters have dared to dodge the tax administration and the latter has acted with alacrity to track and nail them. The modus operandi adopted by tax dodgers and fraudsters include non-payment of tax on supply of taxable goods and services (clandestine removal); fraudulent avilment of the ITC based on invoices from fake firms; wrong avilment of ITC; short payment of tax by undervaluing taxable goods and services; wrong avilment of exemption notifications etc.

Under the pre-GST dispensation, it was possible to remove goods from the factories without raising an invoice, move to the sale points and sold to the consumers without getting noticed hence, no payment of tax. It was a horrible situation of the consumers paying tax but not reaching where it should (read: the government coffers). The situation was aggravated by most of the transactions happening in cash which meant there won't be any trail.

Under GST, the activity of a firm about a transaction is under gaze at every stage. At the time of goods leaving its premises, it is required to generate an electronic or e-Invoice - a document in a digital file format, just like a PDF file that is authenticated electronically by GST Network or GSTN and involves the issue of an identification number against every invoice by the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP). E-invoicing is mandated by the Union Government for businesses with a turnover of more than Rs. 10 crores.

The firm is also required to generate an electronic Way or e-Way bill on the eWay Bill Portal. This document is required to be carried by a person in charge of the conveyance carrying any consignment of goods of value exceeding Rs 50,000/. This



TOGETHER WITH SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF CURRENT ACTIONS, INDIA COULD EVEN TARGET A GST COLLECTION OF RS 2400,000 CRORE DURING 2024-25

(The writer is a Policy Analyst)



is mandatory for all transactions such as outward supply whether within the State or interstate, inward supply within the State or from interstate including from an unregistered person or for reasons other than supply also.

Transporters are responsible for generating an e-way bill from the consignment's invoice, bill of supply, or delivery challan if neither the seller or buyer has generated one.

What if, the seller has neither generated an e-Invoice nor an e-Way bill (this could be possible if he manages to show the values as being less than the threshold of Rs 10 crore and Rs 50,000 respectively) nor the transporter has generated an e-Way bill? The tax department can still nab him by looking at the details uploaded by the buyer on the GSTN portal which the latter is required to do to claim ITC. Surely, the tax administration would have made use of the above mechanisms to collect tax dues from the sellers indulging in the clandestine removal of goods.

Fraudulent avilment of the ITC based on invoices from fake firms refers to cases where such entities generate bills for goods that don't exist or services not rendered. These entities are created on paper with the sole intent of defrauding the exchequer. For alert taxmen, it should not be difficult to figure them out by cross-checking their address and phone numbers with available data in other government departments,

say, the registrar's office in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) or even conducting physical verification.

A somewhat less severe fraud perpetrated on the exchequer is 'wrong avilment of ITC'. The entities do it by showing in the claim/document a higher value of services than what is paid to the service provider. For instance, the DGGI is going hammer and tongs after dozens of insurance companies that have paid much higher commissions (albeit on paper) to service providers than permitted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

Undervaluing taxable goods and services (also referred to as under-invoicing in business circles) is a commonly used practice to pay less tax than what is due. For instance, if a good worth Rs 100 is shown as Rs 80 then GST of say 18 percent will lead to a short payment of Rs 3.6 (20x0.18). Under GSTN which has a digital record of the transaction up to the point of sale to a consumer, this understatement of the true value (read: Rs 100) can't go unnoticed. The taxman will get to see Rs 100 at some stage and collect the shortfall in tax along with a penalty.

Finally, businesses also wrongly avail of exemption notifications. For instance, milk products, including paneer, curd etc attract nil GST if sold in loose form whereas these attract 5 per cent if sold in pre-packaged and

labelled. Dubious firms can leverage this fine demarcation to escape tax net even when they sell in pre-packs.

Even as the actions of DGGI in all aforementioned areas are yielding good results in terms of detecting evasion and making dodgers pay up tax dues, the latter could still invent ways to escape the former's radar. For instance, all players in the supply chain right up to the retailer could gang up to ensure that the transaction doesn't show up on GSTN. Can the department deal with such situations also?

DGGI is using technology tools such as 'end-to-end' data analytics for a sector or a sub-part of it and 'gap analysis' of the taxes paid in a supply chain (this includes inter alia comparison of the tax payment profile of a particular sector vis-a-vis the pre-GST regime) to identify high-risk sectors where a significant chunk of value addition is not captured leading to tax pilferage. This will be followed by necessary enforcement action to check tax evasion at the manufacturing stage itself or a change of policies if required.

Hopefully, the above efforts will bear fruit. Together with sustaining the momentum of current actions, India could even target a GST collection of Rs 2400,000 crore during 2024-25. At that stage, the government could implement pending reforms such as taxing petroleum products under GST and going for a simpler tax with three slabs.

Iran Navy seizes oil tanker in Gulf of Oman

Iran TV airs footage

AP ■ DUBAI

Masked Iranian Navy commandos conducted a helicopter-borne raid to seize a US-bound oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, footage aired by Iran's state television showed on Friday. The capture on Thursday of the Turkish-managed, Chinese-owned Advantage Sweet represents the latest seizure by Iran amid tensions with the US over advancing nuclear programme.

The vessel's manager, a Turkish firm called Advantage Tankers, issued a statement acknowledging the Advantage Sweet was "being escorted by the Iranian navy to a port on the basis of an international dispute." All the ship's 24 crew members are Indian.

While Tehran says the

tanker was seized over it running into another Iranian vessel, it has provided no evidence yet to support the claim — and the Islamic Republic has taken other ships as bargaining chips in negotiations with the West.

The footage showed the commandos descending on the deck of the Advantage Sweet by ropes from a hovering helicopter.

A photograph showed one commando with his fist in the air after apparently taking the vessel. The US Navy's 5th Fleet has said the Iranian seizure was at least the fifth commercial vessel taken by Tehran in the last two years.

"Iran's continued harassment of vessels and interference with navigational rights in regional waters are a threat to maritime security and the global economy," it added. "The safety and welfare of our valued crew members is our No. 1 priority," the firm said.

"Similar experiences show that crew members of vessels



taken under such circumstances are in no danger."

The Navy initially said Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard seized the vessel, but an American naval aircraft later confirmed that Iran's navy captured the ship, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins told The Associated Press.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said the seizure came after an "unknown ship collided with an Iranian vessel last night in the Persian Gulf, caus-

ing several Iranian crew members to go missing and get injured." It did not identify the other ship involved in the alleged collision.

The Advantage Sweet had been in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday, but its track showed no unusual behavior as it transited through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of all oil traded passes.

Iran has made allegations in other seizures that later fell apart as it became clear Tehran was trying to leverage the cap-

ture as a chip to negotiate with foreign nations.

Iran's "harassing activity within the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman is commensurate with an established pattern of behavior that has seen Iran target vessels as a result of ongoing disputes," maritime security firm Dryad Global said.

Thursday's seizure by Iran was the latest in a string of hijackings and explosions to roil the region.

The incidents began after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Also, the US Navy has blamed Iran for a series of limpet mine attacks on vessels that damaged tankers in 2019, as well as for a fatal drone attack on an Israeli-linked oil tanker that killed two European crew members in 2021.

US sanctions FSB, IRGC for wrongful detentions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration on Thursday sanctioned Russia's Federal Security Service and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps intelligence organisation, accusing them of wrongfully detaining Americans.

It's the first rollout of new sanctions authorisations established last year by President Joe Biden for use against those holding Americans unjustly captive.

Still, the sanctions are largely symbolic, since both organisations already are under sweeping sanctions for an array of malevolent behaviour — from election interference and Russia's invasion of Ukraine to support for terrorist activity.

Biden said the safe return of Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad has been a priority since the first day

of his presidency. "Today, and every day, our message to Russia, Iran, and the world is holding hostage or wrongfully detaining Americans is unacceptable. Release them immediately," he said in a written statement.

Senior administration officials declined to specify which detentions specifically underpinned the sanctions, saying they were a response to a pattern of actions by the two countries in unjustly holding Americans both currently and in the past.

A US Treasury news release stated that Iranian authorities frequently hold and interrogate detainees in Evin Prison in Tehran and have a "direct role in the repression of protests and arrest of dissidents, including dual nationals." Senior administration officials noted that Thursday's actions were in the works well before the arrest last

month of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich in Russia, whose imprisonment was swiftly deemed unjust by the U.S. government. He joins American Paul Whelan with that designation in Russia. In addition to targeting the two organisations, the administration is also adding additional sanctions on four IRGC leaders it alleges are involved in hostage taking efforts.

Brian E. Nelson, Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said the U.S. is "committed to bringing home wrongfully detained U.S. nationals and acting against foreign threats to the safety of US nationals abroad."

The senior administration officials said that relief from the sanctions could be used as an inducement in negotiations to try to secure the release of the Americans held overseas.

China flies 38 fighter jets near Taiwan

Taipei (AP): China's military flew 38 fighter jets and other warplanes near Taiwan, the Taiwanese defence ministry said on Friday, in the largest such flight display since the large military exercise in which it simulated sealing off the island earlier in the month. Naval vessels were also seen in the area as part of China's long-running campaign of intimidation against Taiwan.

Later Friday, China's People's Liberation Army issued a protest over the flight of a US Navy P-8A Poseidon anti-submarine patrol aircraft through the Taiwan Strait separating mainland China from the self-governing island democracy claimed by Beijing.

Calling Thursday's flight a provocation that the US "openly hyped-up", the PLA's Army's Eastern Theatre Command said it scrambled fighter jets to monitor the plane's flight.

Such acts "fully prove that the US is a disruptor of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and a creator of security risks in the Taiwan Strait", the statement said.

"Theatre troops maintain a high level of alert at all times and resolutely defend national sovereignty and security as well as regional peace and stability." The US 7th Fleet said Thursday's flight was in accordance with international law and "demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

"The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows including within the Taiwan Strait," the statement said. The US remains Taiwan's closest military and political ally, despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties between them. US law requires Washington to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern", though it remains ambiguous over whether American forces would be dispatched to help defend the island.

Beijing threatens to bring Taiwan under its control by force if necessary and intensely nationalistic Chinese leader Xi Jinping has sworn never to give up "a single inch" of territory claimed by his country — a pledge that applies to Taiwan, the disputed border with India and the South China Sea that China claims almost in its entirety.

Pak's Opp, ruling coalition fail to agree on holding general elections

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's opposition party and the ruling coalition led by PML-N on Friday failed to make a breakthrough on holding general elections but exchanged proposals and agreed to meet again on Tuesday to end the political uncertainty plaguing the cash-strapped country.

The second round of talks was held in the backdrop of the controversy with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking early polls — particularly in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where assemblies were dissolved in January — and the government maintaining that elections across the country be held on the same day in October.

The government side included Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

They were joined by Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syed Naveed

Qamar from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as well as other parties in the coalition government.

The PTI, which is the main opposition party, fielded its Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry, and Senator Ali Zafer for talks. The talks were held in the Parliament House, a neutral venue acceptable to the two sides.

The first round was held on Thursday which went on for two hours and the rivals decided to meet again after consulting their party heads.

At the end of the second round, Dar said each side had tabled two proposals, which would be presented to the respective leadership. "Some progress was made today," he said, adding that the "final round" of talks would resume on Tuesday at 11 am.

The issue of elections has rocked Pakistani politics as ousted prime minister Imran Khan demanded snap polls

when he lost the no-confidence motion in April last year.

As he failed to get his goal through protest, 70-year-old Khan dissolved the assemblies in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in January by using his party's governments in the two provinces.

He wanted to put pressure on as by the law, elections should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of an assembly. However, the government used delaying tactics by citing a lack of funds and a rise in terrorism to set a date for polls in the two provinces while pushing the narrative that elections should be held on the same day in the country after the completion of the term of the National Assembly in August.

The problems began when the issue landed in the Supreme Court which after a hearing ordered that elections be held in Punjab on May 14 and the government provide Rs 21 billion for polling to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Wang promises continued support for Pakistan

Beijing (PTI): Top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on Friday reiterated China's continued support to its all-weather ally Pakistan which is facing grim political and economic turmoil as he met Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir, who is on his maiden visit.

Wang, who was the former foreign minister and was promoted as the director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, told Gen Munir that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as in achieving unity, stability, development and prosperity.

The Pakistani military is a staunch defender of the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan, Wang said, adding that China commends successive Pakistani administrations and all political parties for firmly pursuing friendly policies toward China, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Since his arrival on a four-day maiden visit, Gen Munir held talks with Chinese military officials, while China's new Premier, Li Qiang spoke over the phone with his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday promising continued financial help.

During his talks with Sharif, Qiang voiced support for cash-strapped Pakistan in maintaining financial stability and hoped that Islamabad will continue to create a favourable environment to guarantee the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel working in the country.

"China supports Pakistan in maintaining financial stability, and hopes that Pakistan will continue to create a favourable environment so as to guarantee the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan," Li told Sharif.

Beijing has been bailing out Pakistan with periodic foreign exchange loans as Islamabad continues to struggle with the balance payments crisis.

11 dead as speedboat capsizes in W Indonesia

Pekanbaru (AP): A speedboat carrying 74 people capsized in rough seas in western Indonesia, killing at least 11 and leaving one person missing, officials said on Friday.

Many of the dead were women and children, said Nyoman Sidakarya, chief of the Pekanbaru Search and Rescue Agency.

He said 62 people had been rescued, including some who were unconscious after drifting in the choppy waters for hours. They were hospitalised and were in stable condition, he said.

The Evelyn Calista 01 was carrying 68 passengers, mostly people returning from visits to their hometowns to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday with their families, and six crew members, Sidakarya said. He revised the number of people on board from an initial estimate of 78.

Television video showed people standing on an overturned boat trying to reach a fishing boat packed with survivors. The boat sank on Thursday afternoon about three hours after leaving Tembilahan, a town in Indragiri Hilir Regency in Riau province. It was bound for Tanjung Pinang in the Riau Islands chain, a 200-kilometer (125-mile) trip. The cause of the sinking was still being investigated, but some survivors told authorities that the boat swayed suddenly and capsized after hitting a large log while travelling in strong winds, local police chief Norhayat said.

Two tugboats and two inflatable boats battled high waves in the overnight darkness as they searched for survivors, said Norhayat, who uses a single name. He said a tugboat pulled the capsized boat to shore to ease the search efforts. Boat tragedies are common in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, where ferries are often used as transport and safety regulations are sometimes ignored.

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STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023

| | | (Rs. In lacs, except per share data) | | | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | QUARTER ENDED ON | | YEAR ENDED ON | | |
| S. NO. | Particulars | 31.03.2023 (Audited) | 31.12.2022 (Unaudited) | 31.03.2022 (Audited) | 31.03.2023 (Audited) | 31.03.2022 (Audited) |
| 1 | Revenue from operations | | | | | |
| | (a) Net sales/Income from operations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | (b) Other operating Income | 3.73 | 0.00 | 12.01 | 513.64 | 12.01 |
| | Total Revenue from operations (1(a)+1(b)) | 3.73 | 0.00 | 12.01 | 513.64 | 12.01 |
| 2 | Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | Total Income (1+2) | 3.73 | 0.00 | 12.01 | 513.64 | 12.01 |
| 4 | Expenses | | | | | |
| | a) Cost of material consumed | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | b) Purchase of stock in trade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | c) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work in progress and stock in trade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | d) Employee benefits expense | 0.60 | 0.90 | 1.05 | 3.61 | 4.21 |
| | e) Finance cost | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | f) Depreciation expense | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| | g) Other Expenses | 2.47 | 2.24 | 9.65 | 11.13 | 11.97 |
| | Total Expenses (4(a) to 4(g)) | 3.09 | 3.14 | 10.70 | 14.76 | 16.18 |
| 5 | Total profit before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax (3-4) | 0.63 | (3.14) | 1.31 | 498.89 | (4.17) |
| 6 | Exceptional Items | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Profit before taxes (5-6) | 0.63 | (3.14) | 1.31 | 498.89 | (4.17) |
| 8 | Tax Expense | | | | | |
| | Current Tax | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Deferred Tax | 362.52 | 0.00 | (9.87) | 362.52 | (9.87) |
| | Total Tax Expense | 362.52 | 0.00 | (9.87) | 362.52 | (9.87) |
| 9 | Profit for the period after tax (7-8) | (361.89) | (3.14) | (8.56) | 136.36 | (14.04) |
| 10 | Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) | | | | | |
| | i) Items that will be reclassified to Profit and Loss (net of tax) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | ii) Items that will not be reclassified to Profit and Loss (net of tax) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 11 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (9 + 10) | (361.89) | (3.14) | (8.56) | 136.36 | (14.04) |
| 12 | Paid-up equity share capital (Equity Share of Rs.10/- each, fully paid) | 478.15 | 478.15 | 478.15 | 478.15 | 478.15 |
| 13 | Other Equity | | | | | |
| 14 | Earnings per share (Nominal value of shares Rs.10 (previous year Rs.10)) (not annualised) | | | | | |
| | a) Basic | (7.57) | (0.07) | (0.18) | 2.85 | (0.29) |
| | b) Diluted | (7.57) | (0.07) | (0.18) | 2.85 | (0.29) |

Notes:

- The above financial results are prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant Rules thereunder.
- The operating segment of the Company is identified to be as 'printed circuit board', as the 'Chief Operating Decision Maker' ('CODM') reviews business performance at an overall Company level as one segment. Therefore, the disclosure as per Regulations 33 (1) (e) read with the Clause (L) of Schedule IV of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 is not applicable to the Company.
- The above results of the Company have been audited by the Statutory Auditors and have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the same. The figures for the quarters ended 31st March 2023 and 31st March 2022 are the balancing figures between the audited figures of the full financial year and the unaudited year to date figures upto the third quarter of the respective financial years. Also, the figures upto the end of third quarter were only reviewed and not subjected to audit.
- The certificate obtained from the Managing Director and CFO in respect of above results in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 has been placed before Board of Directors.
- Loan from directors and other payable, no longer payable is written back during the quarter ending 30th September 2022 and the same is booked as other income.
- The audited financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March 2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Board and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on 28th April 2023.
- Previous period figures are regrouped/reclassified in line with the current period.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Integrated Technologies Limited
Sd/-
(Rajeev Bahl)
Managing Director
DIN : 0072978

Place : New Delhi
Date : 28.04.2023

Pak court orders release of Chinese national arrested on blasphemy charges

Islamabad (PTI): A Chinese national arrested in Pakistan on charges of committing blasphemy has been freed from a high-security prison after an anti-terrorism court granted him bail, officials said on Friday.

The court order came on a day when China's new Premier Li Qiang held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

Judge Sajjad Ahmad Jan in the northwestern city of Abbottabad on Thursday granted the bail to the suspect identified as Tian after he furnished a bond of Rs 200,000 as surety.

He was later taken to an undisclosed location due to security reasons.

Extremists kill 33 soldiers in latest Burkina Faso attack

Ouagadougou (AP): A large number of Islamic extremists launched an attack on Burkina Faso's military in the country's east, killing 33 soldiers and wounding a dozen others, the army said on Friday.

The assault took place on Thursday in the Gourma province town of Ouagarou, according to an army statement.

"During particularly intense combat, the soldiers of the detachment showed remarkable determination when faced with an enemy that came in very large numbers," the statement said, adding that 40 jihadists also were killed.

Fighters linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have waged a violent insurgency in Burkina Faso for seven years. The violence has



killed thousands of people and displaced around 2 million.

It also has divided a once peaceful nation and fuelled frustration that led to two coups last year. The new junta leader, Capt. Ibrahim Traore, has promised to secure the country. But some civilians

also fear Burkina Faso's security forces, which they accuse of extrajudicial killings and the disappearance of untold numbers of others accused of supporting the militants.

Meanwhile, attacks are intensifying and spreading as jihadist blockade villages, preventing hundreds of thousands of people from moving freely.

Dutch court bans sperm donor who fathered at least 500 children

The Hague (AP): A Dutch court on Friday banned a man from donating any more of his sperm after he fathered at least 500 children in the Netherlands and other countries and misled prospective parents about the number of offspring he helped to conceive.

A judge at The Hague District Court ordered the halt in an injunction brought by the mother of a child conceived with the donor's sperm and a foundation representing other parents. The mother, identified by the foundation only as Eva, welcomed the court's decision. "I hope that this ruling leads to a ban on mass donation and spreads like an oil slick to other countries. We must stand hand in hand around our children and protect them against this injustice," she said in a statement. The court noted that

under Dutch guidelines, sperm donors are allowed to produce a maximum of 25 children with 12 mothers and that the donor lied to prospective parents about his donation history.

The donor, identified as Jonathan M. under Dutch privacy guidelines, provided sperm to several Dutch fertility clinics and to a clinic in Denmark as well as to many other people he connected with through advertisements and online forums, the court said in its written judgment.

The donor's lawyer said in a court hearing that he wanted to help parents who would otherwise be unable to conceive. The judge who heard the civil case said that the donor "deliberately lied about this in order to persuade the parents to take him as a donor," the court said in a statement.

Foreign cos in China face growing scrutiny, pressure

AP ■ LONDON

Foreign companies are under growing pressure in China from anti-corruption, security and other investigations as President Xi Jinping's government tightens control over business, clashing with efforts to lure back investors after the pandemic.

This week, Bain & Co. said police questioned staff in its Shanghai office. It gave no details of what they were looking for. Last month, the corporate due diligence firm Mintz Group said its Beijing office was raided by police who detained five employees. Also last month, an employee of a Japanese drug maker was detained on spying charges and the government announced a security review of memory chip maker Micron Inc.

The actions run counter to efforts by the ruling

Communist Party to reignite investor interest in China despite increased political control over the economy. Business groups have said global companies are shifting investment plans to Southeast Asia, India and other economies.

"At a time when China is proactively trying to restore business confidence to attract foreign investment, the actions taken send a very mixed signal," the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said Friday in a statement. The investigations come at a time when China's relations with Washington, Europe and Tokyo are strained by disputes about human rights, Taiwan, security and technology. But there is no indication whether they were politically motivated. Chinese companies have been targeted for more severe action.

Xi, China's most powerful

leader in decades, is in the midst of multiple campaigns to tighten ruling party control over entrepreneurs, root out official corruption and reduce reliance on foreign technology and expertise.

The Beijing office of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu was fined 211.9 million yuan (USD 30.8 million) in March on charges that it failed to adequately audit state-owned China Huarong Asset Management Co. That came after Huarong's former boss was sentenced to death in 2021 on charges of taking bribes. The ruling party has tightened legal restrictions on access to information about companies and their employees. That has increased uncertainty for law or consulting firms including Bain & Co and Mintz Group that help clients spot fraud or other misconduct by business partners or acquisition targets.

Sunak, wife to lead with UK flag at King Charles III's Coronation

PTI ■ LONDON
British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty will be at the head of a procession of flag-bearers as the UK's flag is carried by a high-ranking Royal Air Force (RAF) cadet at the Coronation ceremony of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey in London on May 6, Buckingham Palace said on Friday.
In a series of details released around the ceremonial roles to be carried out at the historic event when the 74-year-old monarch is formally crowned along with wife Camilla, the palace also confirmed that Indian-origin peers will be participating in the ceremony. They will represent the Hindu, Sikh and Muslim faiths as they hand over key elements of the royal regalia to King Charles. In keeping with this theme of diversity and inclusion for the Christian ceremony, one of the first processions into the Abbey will be made up of faith representatives of different religions.
"The first processions into Westminster Abbey will be made up of faith leaders and faith representatives followed shortly afterwards by representatives from His Majesty's Realms," the palace said.
"Flags of each Realm will be carried by national representatives accompanied by the Governors General and Prime Ministers. Bearing the flag of



The United Kingdom ahead of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Mrs Akshata Murty will be Cadet Warrant Officer Elliott Tyson-Lee," it said.
The ceremonial roles on

will represent the Hindu faith and hand over the Sovereign's Ring to Charles.
While Lord Indrajit Singh, 90, will represent the Sikh faith and present the Coronation Glove, Lord Syed Kamall, 56, of Indo-Guyanese heritage, will represent the Muslim faith and present the Armills or a pair of bracelets. Baroness Gillian Merron, 64, who is Jewish, will carry the Robe Royal to the King.
The palace said that those undertaking these historic roles in the Coronation Service have been chosen to "recognise, thank and represent the nation due to their significant service, and include representatives from Orders of Chivalry, the military and wider public life".
Those presenting the regalia have been chosen on the advice of the British government and will be directed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Reverend Justin Welby, as he presides over the ceremony.
"I feel honoured and privileged to be part of the historic Coronation ceremony. To be selected to carry the Sovereign's Sceptre with Dove, which represents spirituality, equity and mercy, is for me very symbolic as it's everything I stand for and sends out a clear message that diversity and inclusion is being embraced," said Baroness Floella Benjamin, a Trinidad and Tobago born former children's TV presenter, who will

be carrying the Sceptre with the Dove to the altar.
The ceremony will not only include dukes, bishops, peers and retired generals but also a farmer named Francis Dymoke, who will act as the King's Champion on the day in a ceremony steeped in royal tradition dating back to the 11th century. "The title of King or Queen's Champion has been held by the Dymoke family since the Middle Ages. The King's Champion would previously ride on horseback into the Coronation Banquet and challenge any who doubted the right of The King or Queen to the throne," the palace revealed.
"There has not been a Coronation Banquet since that held by King George IV in 1821 so the Champion has instead undertaken a different role since, usually bearing a flag or Royal Standard," it noted.
The palace has been unveiling details around next week's grand ceremony, which marks a Coronation ceremony in Britain after a gap of 70 years since Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II was crowned monarch in 1953.
Processions involving gilded horse-drawn carriages and thousands of military personnel will mark the day on May 6, followed by a long weekend of celebrations involving a gala concert, street parties and pomp and pageantry.

Russian missile kills 22 in Ukraine

AP ■ UMAN
Russia fired more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine early on Friday, killing at least 22 people, almost all of them when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in the centre of the country, officials said. Three children were among the dead.
The missile attacks included the first one against Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in nearly two months, although there were no reports of any targets hit. The city government said Ukraine's air force intercepted 11 cruise missiles and two unmanned aerial vehicles over Kyiv.
The strikes on the nine-story residential building in central Ukraine occurred in Uman, a city located around 215 kilometres (134 miles) south of Kyiv. Seventeen people died in that attack, according to the capital region's governor, Ihor Taburets. They included two 10-year-old children and a toddler.
Another of the victims was a 75-year-old woman who lived in a neighbouring building and suffered internal bleeding from the huge blast's shock wave, according to emergency personnel at the scene.
The Ukrainian national

tion has taken hold. Moscow has frequently launched long-range missile attacks during the 14-month war, often indiscriminately hitting civilian areas.
Ukrainian officials and analysts have alleged such strikes are part of a deliberate intimidation strategy by the Kremlin.
The Russian Defence Ministry said the latest long-range air-launched cruise missiles launched overnight were aimed at places where Ukrainian military reserve units were staying before their deployment to the battlefield.
"The strike has achieved its goal. All the designated facilities have been hit," Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Defence Ministry's spokesperson, said. He didn't mention any specific areas or residential buildings getting hit.
Survivors of the Uman strikes recounted terrifying moments as the missiles hit when it still was dark outside. Halyna, a building resident, said she and her husband were covered in glass by the blast. They saw flames outside their window and scrambled out, but first Halyna checked whether her friend in a neighbouring apartment was OK.
"I was calling, calling her (on the phone), but she didn't pick up. I even rang the doorbell, but still no answer," she told The Associated Press. She told the spare keys from her friend's apartment and went inside to check on her. She found her lying dead on her apartment floor.
Halyna refused to provide her last name out of security concerns.
Another building resident, Olha Turina, told the AP that glass from the explosion flew everywhere.
Turina, whose husband is fighting on the front lines, said one of her child's classmates was missing. "I don't know where they are, I don't know if they are alive," she said. "I don't know why we have to go through all this.

London (PTI): BBC chairman Richard Sharp resigned on Friday after a report found he broke the rules by failing to disclose the role he played in helping former British prime minister Boris Johnson secure an 800,000-pounds loan.
The 67-year-old former Goldman Sachs banker, who has been the chairman of the UK taxpayer-funded licence fee-backed British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said the investigation found he had breached the governance code for public appointments.
The independent review, led by barrister Adam Heppinstall, looked at Sharp's appointment and his involvement in facilitating an 800,000-pound loan guarantee for Johnson - just weeks before the former prime minister appointed him.
"Mr Heppinstall's view is that while I did breach the governance code for public appointments, he states that

and to the Board," he said.
"To chair this incredible organisation has been an honour," he added.
Heppinstall was appointed by the UK's Commissioner of Public Appointments to investigate claims which appeared in "The Sunday Times" newspaper.
Sharp said the report finds he did not play "any part whatsoever in the facilitation, arrangement, or financing of a loan for the former Prime Minister". But he said with hindsight he should have disclosed his role in setting up a meeting between UK Cabinet Secretary Simon Case and Sam Blyth - a businessman who was offering the then Prime Minister financial help - to the appointments panel during the scrutiny process ahead of him taking up the senior role at the 100-year-old public broadcaster.
He admitted not doing so was an "oversight" and apologised for it.

Pope urges Europe to unite to end war



Pope Francis sits beside Hungarian President in Budapest, on Friday

Budapest (AP): Pope Francis on Friday blasted the "adolescent belligerence" that brought war back to Europe and said the continent must recover its founding spirit of peaceful unity to confront Russia's war in Ukraine.
Francis outlined his vision for the future of Europe as he began a three-day visit to Hungary. In a carefully calibrated speech, he demanded that the European Union approve safe and legal ways for migrants to enter and for the Hungarian government not to hold Europe "hostage" to populist demands.
Francis didn't mince words when he addressed President Katalin Novak and Hungary's populist prime minister, Viktor Orban, whose lukewarm support for Ukraine has rankled other EU countries.
The pontiff recalled the lofty ideals behind the bloc's founding and lamented that rising nationalism and "adolescent belligerence" had replaced them. "We seem to be witnessing the sorry sunset of that choral dream of peace, as the

Lanka's Parl approves IMF bailout package

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka's Parliament on Friday approved the much-needed USD 3 billion IMF bailout package to revive the island's economy which was hit hard by a catastrophic economic and humanitarian crisis sparked by years of mismanagement and the raging pandemic.
Last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the bailout programme to help Sri Lanka

overcome its economic crisis and catalyse financial support from other development partners, a move welcomed by Colombo as a "historic milestone" in the critical period. On Friday, at the end of a 3-day debate, 120 Members of Parliament in the 225-member assembly voted in its favour of the deal while 25 of them opposed it. President Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament that the parliament

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is hereby notified to the public at large that I, Sohan Lal Sri Ramesh Chandra have purchased a Residential Property No. HB-29 Sector-145 Noida from Mrs. Ritu Kumari W/o Shri Jitender Rana and I want to state that the original Lease Deed Dated 27.04.2017 executed by the Noida Authority in favour of the Actual Allottee in respect of the above said property, has been lost/misplaced from me. I have also filed online FIR regarding the same and if some one found the above said Lease Deed, its my humble request to hand-over the same to me.
Sohan Lal
R/o Plot No. 52, Khasra No. 76/1 76/2, Gali No. 4, Block A-1/2 Ajiit Vihar, Burari, Delhi-110084, M.: 9910003347

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. CE/R&B/Accts-82/22/131
Date: 27.04.2023
Name of the Work "Annual Maintenance & Development of Garden in and around Port Township (Smriti Udyan, Nursery, JC Building, SC and GD Colony, Administrative Building, Pump House premises (JC & Mathuban) and Balijhara Water works for the year 2023-24." Estimated Cost ₹. 1,22,27,818.76. Last date of time of submission of Bid 17.05.2023 at 18.00 Hrs. For details please refer our website https://aprocare.gov.in/eprocare/app
Executive Engineer, Roads & Building Division, PPA
PPA/PR/09/2023-24 DT:28/04/2023

2 journalists killed in Haiti gang violence

Puerto Rico: Two local journalists have been killed in Haiti over the past couple of weeks as rampant gang violence has gripped the capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.
The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a statement on Thursday that radio reporter Dumesky Kersaint was fatally shot in mid-April, while journalist Ricot Jean was found dead on Tuesday.
"The security crisis in the country is putting journalists at a constant risk of extreme violence. It is the authorities' responsibility to make sure reporters can do their jobs without fear of violence," said Carlos Martinez de la Serna, CPJ's program director.
The National Association of Haitian Media also condemned the killings, adding that the "climate of tolerated and fueled violence" led to Kersaint's death. AP

'Israeli forces kill teen in West Bank'

Ramallah (AP): Israeli forces shot and killed a teenager in the occupied West Bank on Friday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.
The shooting came during confrontations between Israeli forces and stone-throwing Palestinians in a village near the town of Bethlehem, according to Palestinian media reports. The ministry identified the teenager as Mustafa Sabah, 16, adding he was shot in the chest. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Japan to restore trade status for South Korea

AP ■ TOKYO
Japan's trade ministry on Friday said it has begun procedures to restore preferential trade status for South Korea, days after Seoul took a similar step for Tokyo and requested reciprocity, and more than three years after the countries downgraded each other during a bitter historical dispute.
Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said talks with South Korea this month showed that its controls over trade in sensitive materials with both civilian and military uses are now as effective as those used by Japan.
It said it has proposed as a result that South Korea be restored to the list of countries which receive preferential Japanese trading status, subject to a month-long public comment period ending May 31.
The list currently contains 26 nations including the United States, Britain, Canada, France and Germany.
The step would end a trade dispute that began in July 2019 when Japan removed South Korea from its "white list" of countries.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION JAMMU.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
E-NIT No.-EE/PMGSY/J/42 of 2023-24 DATED:- 24.04.2023

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR % age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Governments up to 5.00 PM on 02.05.2023 for each of the following works.

| S.No. | Name of the Work/Package No. | Name of the P.U. | Const. Part (Rs. In Lacs) | Maint. Part (Rs. In Lacs) | Total (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs) | Bid Security (EMD) @2% of total cost rounded to the nearest thousand (Rs. In Lacs) | Time Allowed for completion | Call of tender | Time and date of opening of technical bids | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| 1. | Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Jagti to Simbal Lehar, Package No. JK05-65M, Block Nagrota, District-Jammu (Length= 3.00 Kms) Adv. Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 60.50 Lacs | Jammu | 60.50 | 7.26 | 67.76 | 0.02 | 1.36 | 03 Months | 1st | 04.05.2023 10:00 A.M | Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works |
| 2. | Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Bagani to Gorda, Package No. JK05-92M, Block Mathwar, District-Jammu (Length= 5.00 Kms) Adv. Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 65.81 Lacs. | Jammu | 65.81 | 7.90 | 73.71 | 0.02 | 1.47 | 03 Months | 1st | 04.05.2023 10:00 AM | Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works |

1. (a) Position of AAA =Accorded
(b) Position of TS = Accorded
2. The important dates and time are as under :-

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Date of issue of tender notice | 24.04.2023 |
| 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents | 24.04.2023 (6.55 PM) to 02-05-2023 (5.00 PM) |
| 3. Date time and place of pre bid meeting | 27.04.2023 (12.00 Noon) |
| 4. Bid submission start date | 25.04.2023 (10.00 AM) |
| 5. Bid submission end date | 02.05.2023 (5.00 PM) |
| 6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 04.05.2023 (10.00 AM) |
| 7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation is completed |

3. Cost of Bid Form @ Rs 2000 per package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt.
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in. The bidders are required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).
"Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender."
5. Bids must be uploaded along with Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 4 in shape of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt favouring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and Bid Security Declaration Form duly signed by the bidder and attested by Notary/First Class Magistrate.
6. The original documents, when submitted by LI for the cost of tender document, Bid Security Declaration Form should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.
7. (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in from 06.55 PM on 24.04.2023 to 02.05.2023 (05.00 PM).
(b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in from 06.55 PM on 24.04.2023 to 05.00 PM on 02.05.2023.
(c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 27.04.2023 at 12.00 Noon in the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage.
8. The site for the work is available.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

No :- DIP/J-737/23
Dated :- 27.04.2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(Without Prejudice)
Office of the Dy. CSTE/C/PS/NDLS
DRM's office, New Delhi
Dated : 28.04.2023

No.: 287-Sig/C/TJK/CCTV/2
To,
M/s Valiant View Pvt. Ltd.,
253, 4th Floor, Shahpur Jat,
Sirifort, New Delhi-110049,
Phone: 011-45588091
Sub: Termination Notice
Ref.: Quotation No. 287-Sig/C/TJK/CCTV/2

1. Since the period of 48 Hrs. Notice has expired, the above contract stands rescinded in terms of clause 62 of General Conditions of Contract and the balance work under this contract will be carried out independently without your participation. Your participation as well as of every member/partner in any manner as an individual or a partnership firm/JV hereby debarred from participation in the tender for executing the balance work and your earnest money deposited by you will be forfeited and Performance Guarantee shall also be encashed.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.
AESTE/C/PS/New Delhi
1280/2023
For & on behalf of the President of India

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of work | Annual zone for maintenance of track work for the year 2023-24 in the SSE/P/Way/SSB/underADEN/DLI. |
| 2. Approx Cost of Work | Rs. 89,99,939.07 (Rupees Eighty Nine Lacs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine and Seven paise only) |
| 3. Earnest Money to be deposited | Rs. 1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) |
| 4. Cost of Tender Document | Rs. 0.00/- |
| 5. Date & Time of Submission of tender bid and opening of tender. | 19.05.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. |
| 6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. | www.reps.gov.in |
| 7. Allocation | 04-200-32 |

"The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/09/2023-24/W-3
Dated: 27.04.2023 1277/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Eight core sector industries post 3.6% growth in March; slowest in 5 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The output of eight infrastructure sectors registered a growth of 3.6 per cent in March 2023, the slowest in five months, showed government data released on Friday.

The output of core sectors had increased by 7.2 per cent in February 2023 and 4.8 per cent in the year-ago month. The previous low was 0.7 per cent in October 2022.

The output of crude oil declined by 2.8 per cent, power by 1.8 per cent and cement by 0.8 per cent in March this year.



On the other hand, coal production recorded an increase of 12.2 per cent, fertilisers 9.7 per cent, steel 8.8 per cent, natural gas 2.8 per cent and refinery products 1.5 per cent.

The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — stood at 7.6 per cent in FY23, down from 10.4 per cent recorded in 2021-22.

The core sector or key infrastructure industries have a 40.27 per cent weight in the overall index of industrial production (IIP).



Sensex revisits 61,000, Nifty above 18,000; RIL, ITC stocks spurt

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex climbed over 460 points to reclaim the 61,000 mark while the Nifty closed above the 18k level on Friday, propelled by robust buying in index majors Reliance Industries and ITC amid fresh foreign fund inflows.

Rallying for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 463.06 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 61,112.44. During the day, it rallied 560.08 points or 0.92 per cent to 61,209.46.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 149.95 points or 0.84 per cent to finish at 18,065.

Wipro was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.89 per cent, followed by Nestle, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank and

Bajaj Finance.

In contrast, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv and ICICI Bank were the major laggards, skidding up to 2.39 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green.

Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US markets ended with significant gains on Thursday.

The BSE benchmark surged 348.80 points or 0.58 per cent to settle at 60,649.38 on Thursday. The Nifty gained 101.45 points or 0.57 per cent to end at 17,915.05.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.45 per cent to USD 78.72 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth ₹1,652.95 crore, according to exchange data.

UltraTech Q4 net profit falls 36% to ₹1,670 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adivya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement on Friday reported a 36.1 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,670.10 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023, mainly due to an increase in input cost.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,613.75 crore in the January-March period a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing.

However, its revenue from operations rose 17.72 per cent to ₹18,562.38 crore during the quarter under review against ₹15,767.28 crore in the year-ago period.

UltraTech's total expenses in Q4 FY23 increased 19.76 per cent to ₹16,292.95 crore from ₹13,604.20 crore a year ago.

The total income in the March quarter surged 20.71 per cent to ₹18,783.59 crore.

During the quarter, "the company saw an increase in energy cost by 17 per cent YoY (year-on-year) and 4 per cent lower QoQ (quarter-on-quarter). Prices of pet coke and coal increased 18 per cent YoY. Raw material cost was up 9 per cent YoY on account of increase in the cost of fly ash, slag and gypsum etc," UltraTech said in its earning statement.

In the fourth quarter, UltraTech's domestic sales grew 15 per cent with a capacity utilisation of 95 per cent.

UltraTech's total consolidated sales volume in the March quarter rose 14 per cent to 31.7 million metric tonnes.

For the financial year ended March 2023, UltraTech's net profit declined 30.82 per cent to ₹5,073.40 crore. It was ₹7,334.26 crore in FY22.

Its revenue for operation in FY23 increased 20.23 per cent to ₹63,239.98 crore against ₹52,598.83 crore a year ago.

"UltraTech achieved the unique distinction of registering 100 million tonnes of production, dispatches and sales in FY23. This was backed by an effective capacity utilisation of 95 per cent during this quarter and 84 per cent capacity utilisation for the year," it said.



NSE warns investors against entities running dabba trading activities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Friday cautioned investors against four persons running illegal dabba trading with guaranteed returns to its investors.

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

The cautionary statements came after NSE found that Jitu Bhai Marwadi, Sanjay Chaudhari, Sanjiv Raj, and Arav Waghmare were providing dabba or illegal trading platforms with assured returns.

In addition, the bourse noted that Waghmare was offering to handle the trading accounts of investors by asking investors to share their user ID and password.

The exchange said that these persons are not registered either as a member or authorised persons of any registered member of the NSE. Also, the exchange said that a police complaint has already been filed in this regard.

Cautioning investors, NSE asked them not to subscribe to any such scheme or product offered by any person providing illegal Dabba trading activity in the stock market as the same is prohibited by law.

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

Wipro shares climb nearly 3%; mcap jumps ₹5,933 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Wipro climbed nearly 3 per cent on Friday after the company's board announced a share buyback of up to ₹12,000 crore.

The stock gained 2.89 per cent to settle at ₹385.15 per piece on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 3.64 per cent to ₹388.

On the NSE, it climbed 2.75 per cent to end at ₹384.70 each.

It was the biggest gainer among the Sensex firms.

The company's market valuation jumped ₹5,933.21 crore to ₹2,11,373.41 crore.

In volume terms, 5.10



lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and over 1.38 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

The Wipro board on Thursday announced a share

buyback of up to Rs 12,000 crore through the tender offer route, entailing 26.96 crore equity shares at a buyback price of ₹445 apiece.

The buyback price is at an 18 per cent premium to Thursday's closing price of ₹374.35 a share on BSE.

Wipro posted a 0.4 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,074.5 crore for the March 2023 quarter and guided for a 1-3 per cent sequential decline in revenue from IT services business in the June quarter amid a weak macro environment.

The revenue rose 11.7 per cent year-on-year to ₹23,190.3 crore.

Axis Bank shares fall over 2%; mcap declines by ₹6,412 crore after earnings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Axis Bank declined over 2 per cent on Friday after the company reported a ₹5,361 crore loss on a consolidated basis for the January-March period.

The stock fell by 2.39 per cent to settle at ₹860 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it went lower by 3.09 per cent to

₹853.75. On the NSE, it dipped 2.42 per cent to end at ₹860 per share. The stock emerged as the biggest laggard on both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty. In volume terms, 3.41 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 2.30 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

The company's market valuation fell by ₹6,412.93

crore to ₹2,64,673.11 crore.

Axis Bank reported a ₹5,361 crore loss on a consolidated basis for the January-March period. It had reported a net profit of ₹4,417 crore a year ago, impacted by the ₹12,490 crore payout towards the Citi acquisition.

On a standalone basis, the third largest private sector lender reported a ₹5,728 crore

loss. It had a net profit of ₹4,117 crore in the year-ago period, and ₹5,853 crore in the preceding December quarter. The bank's core net interest income grew 33 per cent to ₹11,742 crore driven by a 0.73 per cent expansion in the net interest margin at 4.22 per cent and an over 20 per cent growth in advances. The other income grew

16 per cent to ₹4,895 crore during the quarter.

Its managing director and chief executive Amitabh Chaudhry told reporters that the impact of acquiring Citi's retail businesses is a one-time one, and if one were to exclude the same, the net profit would have grown by over 61 per cent on a year-on-year basis.



Star Health Insurance earns profit of ₹102 cr in Q4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Health and Allied Insurance on Friday reported ₹102 crore net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

The standalone health insurer had booked a loss of ₹82 in the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal.

The insurer collected gross written premium (GWP) of ₹4,199 crore in the quarter against ₹3,689 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing.

The net premium income increased to ₹19,426.57 crore compared to ₹14,289.66 crore.

For the entire 2022-23, profit after tax (PAT) stood at ₹619 crore against a loss of ₹1,041 crore in FY22.

"During the year ended March 31, 2023, the company pursuant to the approval received from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has exercised Call Option and redeemed the Subordinated debenture in full on September 6, 2022, and October 29, 2022, amounting to ₹200 crore and ₹50 crore, respectively, including interest thereon," the insurer said.

The corresponding debenture redemption reserve amounting to Rs 15 crore has been reversed and credited to the profit and loss account, it added.

DLF's rental arm DCCDL buys 26.4% stake in Suncloud Solar for ₹8.41 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm DLF's rental arm DCCDL has bought 26.43 per cent stake in Suncloud Solar for Rs 8.41 crore.

DLF holds 67 per cent stake in DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL), while Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC has the remaining 33.33 per cent stake. DCCDL holds bulk of the office buildings and shopping malls of DLF group.

According to a regulatory filing on Thursday, DCCDL, through one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries DLF Info City Chennai Ltd, has agreed to acquire around 26.43 per cent shares of Suncloud Solar Pvt Ltd by way of cash consideration of Rs 8.41 crore.

Suncloud Solar is a spe-



cial purpose vehicle of Cleantech Solar India OA 2 Pte. Ltd. It has been incorporated to undertake the construction, operation and maintenance of the captive generating plant and to supply, on captive basis, power gener-

ated from the captive generating plant to DLF Info City Chennai under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

To qualify as captive user in terms of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the allied rules, DCCDL is required to subscribe to equity shares comprising at least 26 per cent of the issued and paid-up equity share capital of Suncloud Solar. In December 2017, DLF had formed a joint venture with GIC after its promoters sold their entire 40 per cent stake in DCCDL for nearly Rs 12,000 crore. This deal included the sale of a 33.33 per cent stake in DCCDL to GIC for about ₹9,000 crore and the buyback of remaining shares worth about ₹3,000 crore by DCCDL.

DCCDL has rent-yielding commercial assets (office and retail) of around 40 million square feet.

₹ falls 3 paise to close at 81.82 against dollar



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined ₹420 to ₹59,980 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had settled at ₹60,400 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also tumbled ₹570 to ₹74,600 per kg.

"Domestic gold prices were trading lower on Friday, tracking overseas prices," Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said. In the overseas markets, both gold and silver were trading lower at \$1,982 per ounce and \$24.82 per ounce, respectively.

Bajaj Auto to boost Chetak's production to 10,000 units a month by June

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bajaj Auto Ltd is ramping up production of its electric scooter Chetak to touch around 10,000 units a month by June, having overcome supply chain constraints as it gradually expands the sales network of the brand, according to a senior company official.

The company plans to have around 150 exclusive outlets for the Chetak electric scooter by September, and is taking a calibrated expansion keeping in mind the uncertainty over the extension of FAME II scheme for promotion of electric vehicles beyond this fiscal.

"We are trying to get to 10,000 (units) by June. It is a supply chain issue," Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma said here on the sidelines of opening of an exclu-



sive Chetak showroom.

The company has reached 5,000 units at present and next month, it will try to get to 7,000 units, he said, adding after that Bajaj Auto would assess how the demand is coming to plan future production roadmap.

Sharma said the company had faced problems earlier due to over dependence on certain vendors, who could not supply some parts.

"That we sorted out by the first quarter and it is giving us some confidence..." he said.

Bajaj Auto Urbanite Business Unit President Eric Vas said the company had suffered production constraints due to the transition to the new battery norm AIS 156B, which came into effect from April 1 for enhanced safety. The constraints have been resolved to a large extent.

"So, we think we will be back to normal production, in terms of production meeting our requirements of the number of stores we are opening possibly by middle to end of May and after that it is purely driven by what we want, we will get," he added.

At present, the waiting period for Chetak is around 20 to 25 days, Vas said, adding, from May onwards, it would come down to three to five days.

Make India dairy of world: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation, appreciated National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)'s initiatives in the Indian Dairy Sector and asked the Dairy Board to further strengthen cooperative dairying by playing a major role in establishing viable dairy cooperatives in uncovered panchayats/villages having potential for dairying.

Shah also highlighted the need for multi-commodity cooperatives, common brand for export of produce of cooperatives, promotion of organic produce, better capacity



utilisation of milk processing facilities by cooperation among cooperatives, self-reliance in manufacturing dairy machinery & also export of indigenous dairy equipment

through IDMC Ltd, a subsidiary of NDDB. He also mentioned that the subsidiary companies of NDDB have to play a lead and stellar role in achieving these.

Gold declines ₹420; silver tumbles ₹570



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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CSB Bank net profit rises 19% to ₹156-cr

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Private sector lender CSB Bank on Friday reported 19 per cent rise in net profit at ₹156 crore for March quarter 2022-23 as bad loans declined.

The bank had earned a net profit of ₹131 crore in the same quarter of previous year.

During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to ₹762.81 crore from ₹583.17 crore a year ago, CSB Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Interest income grew to ₹636.49 crore during the period under review from ₹519.56 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

BUSINESS BRIEF

POWERGRID TO DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE IN KOTA

New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with District Collector Kota for providing financial assistance towards infrastructural development which includes construction of additional rooms in Govt. Schools and Construction of Community Halls spread across thirty-two (32) Villages in Kota District, Rajasthan. These include villages under Ladpura, Khairabad, Sultanpur, Sangod, Etawah Panchayat Samiti.



DPE HOLDS OUTREACH MEET ON MOU DASHBOARD

Nainital: Under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) to celebrate 75 years of independence, an outreach meeting on MoU Dashboard was held on 28th April 2023 at Nainital, Uttarakhand. The program was organised by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) Ministry of Finance, Government of India and NTPC as the industry partner of the event.



Spurs fight back to hold Man Utd

AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham fought back from two goals down to hold Manchester United to a 2-2 draw on Thursday as Newcastle closed in on Champions League football with a 4-1 thrashing of Everton.

Spurs were smashed 6-1 by Newcastle on Sunday to bring Cristian Stellini's four-game reign as interim manager to an end.

Things threatened to go from bad to worse in caretaker Ryan Mason's first match in charge as United stormed into a 2-0 lead by half-time.

Jadon Sancho smashed home the opener after just seven minutes before Marcus Rashford turned on the afterburners to race past Eric Dier and fire in his 29th goal of the season.

"I don't think we were that good across the 90 minutes," admitted United boss Erik ten Hag. "After half-time we had to score another goal."

United fans taunted the home support with chants of "Harry Kane, we'll see you in June" amid interest from the Red Devils in Spurs' all-time top goalscorer.

But Tottenham finally showed some fight to boost their chances of qualifying for Europe next season.

Pedro Porro reduced the arrears with a thumping strike before Kane crossed for Son Heung-min to level 11 minutes from time.

"I thought in the second half



we were outstanding and the character we showed after last Sunday and going two goals down," said Mason.

"I hope the fans can see that we were a team today and we ran for each other. In the second half we could have scored a lot more."

A point edges Spurs back up to fifth, but they remain six

A POINT AT WHITE HART LANE EDGES SPURS BACK UP TO FIFTH IN PREMIER LEAGUE POINTS TABLE, BUT THEY REMAIN SIX POINTS ADRIFT OF FOURTH-PLACED MANCHESTER UNITED, WHO HAVE TWO GAMES IN HAND

points adrift of fourth-placed United, who have two games in hand.

Newcastle opened up an eight-point cushion on the chasing pack for a top-four finish and a place in the Champions League next season as Callum Wilson scored twice at Goodison Park.

Eddie Howe's men struggled to find their rhythm before the break, but led thanks to Wilson's predatory finish after Jordan Pickford parried Joelinton's drive.

'EARN THE RIGHT'

Newcastle then cut loose in the final 20 minutes as Joelinton headed in, Wilson found the top corner and then a sensational run from Alexander Isak teed up Jacob Murphy.

"Second half you saw us at our very best and we were very clinical in front of goal," said Howe.

"Confidence was there and that was evident in the second half. We had to earn the right to get to that point."

Dwight McNeil's corner that crept in was scant consolation for Everton, who remain rooted in the relegation zone.

Only Southampton are keeping the Toffees off the foot of the table and they are now six points adrift of safety after a 1-0 home defeat to Bournemouth.

Tavernier scored the only goal at St Mary's to take the Cherries up to 14th and seven points clear of the drop zone.

Southampton thought they had snatched a dramatic 89th-minute equaliser but Che Adams' effort was ruled out for offside following a VAR review, pushing the Saints closer to the Championship next season.

"I don't think we were good enough," said Southampton boss Ruben Selles. "Until we conceded the goal we weren't in the game."

Utd boss Ten Hag hails 'inspirational' Fernandes



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag has urged Manchester United's players to follow the example of skipper Bruno Fernandes to further embed a winning culture within the club.

The midfielder wore a protective boot last night after injuring his ankle during United's FA Cup semi-final win against Brighton at Wembley on Sunday, but recovered to lead the side in Thursday's 2-2 draw with Tottenham.

Fernandes set up Marcus Rashford to score after Jadon Sancho had put the visitors ahead in north London.

And having already won the League Cup this season, United could complete a domestic cup double when they face local rivals Manchester City in June's FA Cup final at Wembley.

In the meantime, United manager Ten Hag said his players could all learn a lesson from the attitude of Fernandes.

"It was tough, a big compliment on Bruno. He absolutely doesn't want to miss this game and he did everything to get fit."

"I think he is the example, and that you have to suffer and you have to sacrifice when you want to play on the top level, you want to achieve something."

"So once again he showed there how great a captain he is, how he has taken responsibility, even when he is not 100 percent fit."

"But he did the job, he was important in this game as well. Hopefully the team can, not learn, but see him as an inspiration and do the same."

Leclerc takes Azerbaijan GP pole

AP ■ BAKU

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc grabbed his third consecutive pole for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in a nerve-jangling red-flag interrupted qualifying at Baku on Friday.

Leclerc and Red Bull's world champion Max Verstappen had posted identical times in the top 10 shoot-out before Leclerc produced a magical flying lap to head the grid for Sunday's race.

Verstappen, edged out by less than two tenths of a second, leads his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez by 15 points in the world championship going into the fourth race of the season.



Perez will start on the second row in Baku with the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz, fourth in qualifying, keeping the Mexican company. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton came fifth to fill the third row with Fernando Alonso in the Aston Martin.

For Leclerc, this was an unexpected moment of sunshine on the banks of the Caspian Sea after what he has described as "the worst start to the season ever".

After adding to his 2021 and 2022 poles at this challenging street circuit he said: "We came into the weekend thinking it would be great if we were in front of Aston and Mercedes in qualifying and at the end we are on pole, so it's a really good surprise."

"We must not forget, our race car is maybe still behind the Red Bull, so it will be difficult to keep the lead, but that's the target. And really, really happy with that lap."

Verstappen had taken charge after the first stab around the six kilometre circuit in the opening qualifying session from Leclerc as Zhou Guanyu spun. "It's really tough around here to really put the whole lap together," said Verstappen, who won this race last year.



Barca reach third consecutive CL final

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona booked their place in a third consecutive women's Champions League final with a 1-1 draw against Chelsea on Thursday at Camp Nou, progressing 2-1 on aggregate.

First-leg goalscorer Caroline Graham Hansen broke the deadlock after 63 minutes but Guro Reiten quickly levelled from a rebound after Sam Kerr was denied.

In front of over 72,000 fans, the third highest attendance in the competition's history, behind two records set by Barcelona last season, the 2021 winners held on to reach a fourth final in five years.

Chelsea showed plenty of grit to stay in the tie against a superior Barca, becoming the

first side to stop them from winning in a home match all season across all competitions.

"There was a period after their goal where it seemed they were more in our half of the pitch, but we stopped them creating chances," said said Barca coach Jonathan Giraldez. "We are very happy, for the team and for the fans. We suffered when we had to suffer, we know it's not easy -- and we're in another final."

Barcelona were without England defender Lucy Bronze after knee surgery, while Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas was on the bench for the first time this season after her ACL injury last July.

However the Spanish star was not risked as a substitute in a tense and hard-fought game which went down to the wire.

Klopp warns Liverpool revival far from complete

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday his side are not yet "out of the woods" as they try to finish a see-saw season by qualifying for the Champions League.

Wednesday's 2-1 win away to West Ham was Liverpool's third successive win, extending their unbeaten run in the Premier League to five matches.

Liverpool continue their quest for a top-four finish at home to Tottenham on Sunday, where a win for Klopp's men would also derail Spurs' bid for a place in next season's Champions League.

But Klopp said the team that were beaten in last season's European showpiece final by Real Madrid is far from back in a truly consistent groove.

"It is, for me, too early to speak about consistency," he told a pre-match press conference.

"Winning three games is not for me consistent, it is good but can only be the start of something."

The German added: "It is about consistency you show in performances even more than results. For the outside world it is the result but for us it must be performances because that



is what we work with.

"I am happy with that in the moment because in all the games, as different as they were, I saw a lot of things we want to see in the games and that is then really good."

"I am absolutely OK with the moment but it is not that I already trust ourselves that much to say 'That's it now, we are out of the woods' because this season gave us a few lessons I didn't want to learn, but learned."

Klopp said he wanted his side to be "super-aggressive and super-greedy" and show "that the most important prize in football is the three points at the weekend and that's all we have to be focused on."

Bale happy to stay retired despite Wrexham offer

AP ■ LONDON

Wales great Gareth Bale has declined a chance to end his retirement from football by turning out for a Wrexham side owned by Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney.

The former Wales captain was offered the opportunity to play for the Welsh club after

their promotion to the English Football League last weekend.

McElhenney wrote on Twitter: "Hey @GarethBale11 let's play golf, where I totally won't spend 4 hours trying to convince you to un-retire for one last magical season."

Deadpool star Reynolds added: "I will shave a professional-grade golf course into Rob's back if you'll give Wrexham a season" before

posting a picture of Bale in a Wrexham shirt and saying: "What if..."

But the 33-year-old Bale, who ended his career in January after leading Wales to the World Cup finals, insisted on Friday he had no plans to go back on his decision while speaking at the UK Sport Industry Awards.

Asked if he felt enticed to play football again at

Wrexham, Bale replied: "No I don't think so. I think I was looking more for a free round of golf off Rob."

"I'm sure we'll have a chat and a joke but I'm quite happy where I am."

"I'm spending a lot of time with my kids, my wife, time that I've lost so much over the years being committed to football. I'm just enjoying family life and playing some golf."

'Not too late' to claim title: Tuchel

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich manager Thomas Tuchel said on Friday his side still had a chance to revive their season with a Bundesliga title, despite sitting second with five games to play.

Bayern host last-placed Hertha Berlin on Sunday, but could be four points behind at kickoff should leaders Borussia Dortmund win away at relegation-threatened Bochum on Friday.

Tuchel has won just two of seven games since taking over as manager after the sacking of Julian Nagelsmann in late March, a period which has included elimination from the Champions League and the German Cup.

"We're very honest with each other. We're the last ones to sweep it under the carpet," Tuchel told the pre-match press conference.

"Everyone knows my opinion about the performances, but one of the nice things about sport is that you get an opportunity to make things good again the next time you play."



"We gave up five points in our past two games, twice after leading."

"Right now we're not trusting ourselves and each other as much as we could be, but we're aware of that and we're working on it with openness and quality."

"We're going to do everything we can to show a reaction."

Bayern have won the last ten Bundesliga titles and Tuchel admitted his side "no longer have it in our hands", with Dortmund able to secure a championship by winning their five final games.

Bayern host last-placed Hertha Berlin on Sunday, but could be four points behind at kickoff should leaders Borussia Dortmund win away at relegation-threatened Bochum

Tuchel confirmed number nine Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting would again be missing due to a knee complaint, but said the club was careful not to place too much responsibility on the shoulders of back-up striker Mathys Tel, who turned 18 on Thursday.

"We have to ask ourselves whether we are doing him a favour by giving him a start, because it'd be a really heavy load on him to send him in as our saviour."

"At the moment there are other players with more experience who can perform."

Arnaldi plays 'best match of my life' to upset Ruud

AP ■ MADRID

Matteo Arnaldi gained his first victory over a top-ten player on Friday as he upset third-seeded Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-4 in the third round of the Madrid Open.

Fifth seed Andrey Rublev continued his hot form on clay as he beat Stanislas Wawrinka 7-5, 6-4.

Carlos Alcaraz begins the defence of his title later in the day against Emil Ruusuvuori while women's number one Iga Swiatek faces Julia Grabher.

Arnaldi, a 22-year-old Italian ranked 105 in the world, who saved a match point against Benoit Paire in the first round, hit 35 winners on his way to a more comfortable victory over Norwegian Ruud, who reached two Grand Slam finals last year.

The ball bounces so high and I didn't like it at first. I struggled a bit," Arnaldi said on court at the end. "But today, I don't know, maybe the stadium, maybe the pressure on him, but I played the best match of my life."



The Italian broke serve twice in the first set to take a 5-3 lead and close the set on his serve.

He broke again in the first game of the second set and held his serve the rest of the way.

In the third round, Arnaldi will face Spaniard Jaume Munar who advanced when Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor retired with an injured ankle in the second set.

Rublev started the clay season by winning in Monte Carlo and then reaching the final in Banja Luka, where he lost to Serbian Dusan Lajovic.

He needed just 1 hour and 17 minutes to dispatch Wawrinka, the 38-year-old Swiss triple major winner.

Rublev will face Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka, who beat Slovakian Alex Molcan 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Mayers sizzle in LSG's big win over Punjab Kings



PTI ■ MOHALI

Marcus Stoinis and Kyle Mayers put on a power-hitting masterclass as Lucknow Super Giants slayed Punjab Kings by 56 runs in a high-scoring contest here on Friday after amassing the second highest total in IPL history.

A display of brutal hitting from Mayers (54 off 24) and Stoinis (72 off 40) fired Lucknow Super Giants to 257 for five against a profligate Punjab Kings. Needing almost 13 runs per over to pull off an improbable chase, Punjab remained behind in the game despite scoring at a decent rate to end with 201 in 19.5 overs.

Atharava Taide batted well for 66 off 36 balls, his maiden fifty plus score in IPL, but the likes of Liam Livingstone (36 off 22) and Sikandar Raza (23 off 14) could not stay long enough to put pressure on the opposi-

We don't mess with things that are going well: Fleming

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Chennai Super Kings might have failed in their run-chase against Rajasthan Royals but head coach Stephen Fleming said they didn't feel the need to change the batting order as they "don't mess with things that are going well".

Set a target of 203, CSK managed 170 for six to suffer a 32-run loss, their third defeat in eight matches this IPL season.

Asked if CSK could have sent some of their big-hitters up the order, Fleming said: "The set roles are very important. (Ajinkya) Rahane has

been great for us at No. 3. We don't mess with things that are going well.

"It was just today we came up against a team that took the pace off the ball. We couldn't get any real momentum in the first six overs.

"Devon Conway, who is in outstanding form, couldn't get underway. The rhythm of the innings was slow. When we tried to catch the game up, we made mistakes."

Playing at the Saiwam Stadium, Rajasthan made 64 for no loss in the powerplay, and went on to amass 202 for five after batting first while Chennai managed just 42 for

one in the first six overs.

Fleming admitted they lost the match in the powerplays, saying the opposition was "outstanding" with both the bat and ball in the first six overs.

"The first six overs, they were outstanding with the bat and the ball as well. That just set the two innings up for them," Fleming said at the press-conference.

"We could have been better, but part of that is playing away from home -- trying to find out the right length to bowl, what sort of swing conditions we are going to get. That's part of the challenge of playing away."

tion. Skipper Shikhar Dhawan lasted only two balls on his return. Young pacer Yash Thakur was the most successful bowler with figures of 4/37 in 4 overs. It was LSG's fifth win in eight matches while Punjab Kings suffered their fourth loss in eight games.

At 152 for four in 15 overs, Punjab were striking at more than 10 runs per over but task of getting another 106 runs from the last 30 balls was beyond the reach of even Livingstone and Sam Curran (21 off 11).

Besides being the second highest total in IPL history, it was also the highest of the season.

Mayers went on the rampage in the Powerplay before Stoinis 40) effortlessly collected boundaries at will to help his team set a massive target. The other important contributions came from Ayush Badoni (43 off 24) and Nicholas Pooran (45 off 19). Back to lead Punjab after three games, Dhawan opted to field but his bowlers were all over the place on a belter of a track. Barring Rahul Chahar, all the other six bowlers leaked more than 10 runs per over. The usually frugal Arshdeep Singh leaked 54 runs in four overs and Kagiso Rabada gave away 52 runs in four overs although he had two wickets to show for his efforts.

The total was also the highest of the season and six runs shy of 263, the highest ever total in IPL history achieved by RCB back in 2013 when Chris Gayle played his epic 175-run knock.

LSG skipper K L Rahul (12 off 9) was the only batter, who could not make use of ideal batting conditions. He was dropped on the first ball of the match off debutant Gurnoor Brar but could not make it count.

Mayers looked in menacing tough from the get go as he smashed Arshdeep for four boundaries in his opening over. He started with a gorgeous drive through point before using his long levers to target the long on and deep mid-wicket region, collecting seven fours and four sixes in total.

Gujarat Titans eye revenge against KKR

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A resurgent Gujarat Titans, boasting a power-packed bowling unit, will come in the way of Kolkata Knight Riders' revival hopes when the two teams cross swords in the IPL here on Saturday.

The home side's misfiring campaign finally came on track after they fired in unison to snap their four-match losing streak with a convincing win at Bangalore.

In a season their Caribbean star duo of Andre Russell and Sunil Narine are yet to fire, the low-profile KKR side without their regular skipper Shreyas Iyer may just have found a trump card in Jason Roy.

The Englishman set the tempo with a fiery half-century for the likes of Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and David Wiese to capitalise and set a winning total of 201 against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Included only in their sixth match of the season, Roy has scores of 43, 61 and 56 in three matches and KKR's batting will once again centre around him.

The win lifted KKR to seventh in the 10-team standings but they still have a long way to go to make the playoffs.

From here on, KKR (six points) will have to win at least five out of their remaining six matches to assure themselves a playoff berth.

Of the six matches, KKR play two away matches, including one in Chennai, and skipper Rana and coach Chandrakant Pandit will have their task cut out against the Pandya-led defending champions.

Pandya has put out a perfect T20 template and his ability to seal close matches has caught everyone's eyes, especially after they choked Lucknow Super Giants while defending a paltry 135 for 6.

Pandya has been a revelation as a captain since January 2022, winning 23 out of 31 matches with a victory percentage of 76.67.

GT (10 points from seven matches) have been a well-oiled unit and looks set for a successive playoff berth, sitting



Litton Das flies back home

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das has flown back home to attend a family emergency and would not be available for Kolkata Knight Riders' upcoming IPL matches.

"He had a family medical emergency for which he had to fly back to Dhaka this morning. There is no update on his return yet," a team official said.

The 28-year-old, who was bought by KKR at his base price of Rs 50 lakh at last year's auction, was dropped after playing just one match



against Delhi Capitals.

Opening the batting with Jason Roy, Das (4) fell cheaply and also capped a forgettable outing as wicketkeeper as he missed two stumping chances which proved decisive in the end.

behind leaders Rajasthan Royals on net run-rate with a match in hand.

The Titans boast of a tempting bowling line-up in India pacer Mohammad Shami who along with Pandya have caused enough flutter in the powerplay.

With in-form Shubman Gill (three fifties) at the top and the powerhitting trio of David Miller, Abhinav Manohar and Rahul Tewatia in the bottom-half, GT also has a fearless bat-

ting unit.

It remains to be seen how the KKR spin force cope with the challenge of bowling to the Titans, who will also have 'home boy' Wriddhiman Saha looking to fire at the top with Gill. Varun Chakravarthy and rookie legspinner Suyash Sharma, who formed a winning combination against RCB, have been sharing the spin workload with veteran Narine going wicketless in five matches.

BAC: Sindhu, Prannoy make quarterfinals exits

PTI ■ DUBAI

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu squandered a game lead to go down against second seed An Se Young of Korea in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Friday.

Sindhu, seeded eighth, poked the first game 21-18 but looked completely off colour in the next two games which she lost 5-21, 9-21 to hand Young a place in the semifinals.

The other Indian hope, eight seed HS Prannoy too bowed out in the men's singles quarterfinals after conceding his match midway against Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan.

Prannoy was trailing 11-21, 9-13 when he retired due to an injury.

Earlier in the day, qualifiers Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy battled hard before losing a tough three-game mixed doubles contest against Dejan Ferdinansyah and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja of Indonesia.

DC aim to beat Sunrisers, again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With back-to-back wins giving them some momentum, Delhi Capitals will hope their batters complement the bowling unit as they eye a season double against Sunrisers Hyderabad in a battle of IPL laggards here on Saturday.

The two teams are coming into the match following DC's nail-biting seven-run win on Monday and SRH will be eager to return the favour and snap their three-match losing streak.

Skipper David Warner marshalled his troops well against his former team the other day, using the spin of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav to strangle the chase with seamer Mukesh Kumar holding his own in the final over while defending 12 runs.

While Ishant Sharma and Anrich Nortje too bowled well, the spin duo of Axar and Kuldeep gave away just 43 and snapped three wickets in the eight overs between them in the middle overs.

However, the batting let them down with Manish Pandey and Axar Patel man-



aging to lift Capitals to 128 for five from 62 for five.

While skipper David Warner has done the heavy lifting on most occasions, his innings lacked the usual finesse, as he faced the most number of dot balls in the powerplay this IPL.

The fact that Delhi have struggled to get a steady open-

er at the other end has only extended his worry.

The other day, Phil Salt was tried but he was out for a duck, while Mitchell Marsh looked good during his short stay against SRH, but 31 runs in five innings tells his story.

Sarfraz Khan and Aman Hakim Khan, too, have struggled and had it not been for

Axar, things could have been embarrassing for Delhi in the IPL.

The spin all-rounder has proved to be more than a handful with the bat and DC need to promote him up the order to fully utilise his skills.

SRH, on the other hand, looked like winning for a major part of their last match

but things went down the hill quickly, as a slow start to the chase proved costly in the end.

After his maiden IPL hundred, Harry Brook has struggled to get going in the powerplay. With scores of 13, 3, 9, 18 and 7, the England batter has failed to give SRH a start.

Mayank Agarwal has two 40 plus scores so far, while Rahul Tripathi has faded since hitting a 74 not out against Punjab Kings. Abhishek Sharma, too, has struggled to score runs.

Skipper Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaasen, too, have not been able to do much and SRH will have to strengthen their batting to have any hopes of a turnaround.

It is the bowlers, who have looked more in sync as the spinners have complemented the seamers.

If Bhuvneshwar Kumar was on the money with 2 for 11 the other day, spinner Washington Sundar was simply sensational, when he snapped three wickets in the 8th over to leave DC at 72 for five, and they will hope to dish out another good show with the ball.

Fakhar played a solid match-winning knock."

New Zealand skipper Latham rued his team's inability to get an early breakthrough. "I think the score we got was about par," said Latham. "Daryl played a superb innings but we couldn't make inroads when Pakistan batted."

Earlier, Mitchell smashed his highest ODI score to anchor New Zealand's innings after they were sent in to bat.

Mitchell, who hit 11 fours and a six, added 102 for the second inning with opener Young who played an attractive 78-ball knock.



SL whitewash Ireland

AP ■ GALLE

Ramesh Mendis grabbed a five-wicket haul and Prabath Jayasuriya became the fastest-ever spinner to 50 Test scalps on Friday as Sri Lanka thrashed Ireland by an innings and 10 runs in the second Test.

The hosts swept the two-match series in Galle 2-0 with their 100th Test win and maintained the tourists' 100 percent losing record in cricket's longest format.

Harry Tector fought a lone last-day rearguard action to try to bat out a draw, scoring 85 and mounting a 41-run stand for the ninth wicket, but Mendis took 5-64 as Ireland were bowled out for 202 in their second innings.

Asitha Fernando bowled Tector with a yorker to end the resistance and accounted for last man Ben White with the very next ball to wrap up another emphatic win in style.

Sri Lanka won the first Test by an innings and 280 runs.

Ireland achieved Test status in 2017 but have now lost all their six matches in the format.

"We are very happy to take the game to day five," skipper Andy Balbirnie told reporters in Galle.

"I would like to think that we have made improvement. We need to keep doing that."

The visitors posted 492 in their first innings -- among the highest-ever scores to be followed by an innings defeat.

After Sri Lanka declared on 704-3, Ireland resumed their second innings on 54-2, hoping to hold on for a draw on a track still good for batting.

The hosts swept the two-match series in Galle 2-0 with their 100th Test win and maintained the tourists' 100 percent losing record in cricket's longest format

But Jayasuriya dismissed Paul Stirling in the fourth over of the morning to become the quickest-ever spinner to take 50 wickets, in just seven Tests.

Fellow left-arter Alf Valentine of West Indies had taken eight games to reach the milestone more than seven decades earlier.

Mendis removed first-innings centurion Curtis Campher when he swept one straight into the hands of Kusal Mendis at leg-slip, and took his third wicket of the innings when Balbirnie drove one straight to Angelo Mathews at mid-off on 46.

Mendis then dismissed Andy McBrine and Graham Hume in successive overs to claim his fourth five-wicket haul.

It had been a "very batting-friendly" wicket, said winning captain Dimuth Karunaratne, adding he was "really impressed with the way the bowlers went about their business".

For Ireland, their next Test will be another daunting task, against England in June.

Zaman helps Pakistan beat NZ in first ODI

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Opener Fakhar Zaman hit a splendid century to anchor Pakistan's five-wicket win against New Zealand in the first ODI in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

The left-hander smashed 13 boundaries and a six in his 117 made off 114 balls for his ninth ODI hundred as Pakistan chased down a target of 289 in 48.3 overs.

The victory gives Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

All-rounder Daryl Mitchell also made a century, scoring a

brilliant 115-ball 113 while opener Will Young hit 86 to guide New Zealand to a challenging total of 288-7 in their 50 overs.

It was Zaman who carried the day for the home team, bringing Pakistan within 34 runs of victory before being finally caught off a miscued shot.

Imam-ul-Haq (60 off 65 balls) and Zaman put on 124 for the first wicket by the 22nd over, negating New Zealand's attack on a flat Pindi stadium pitch.

Once Haq, who hit five boundaries and a six in his 15th



ODI fifty, was removed leg-before by spinner Ish Sodhi, Pakistan were carried further towards the target by a 90-run

stand between Zaman and skipper Babar Azam.

Azam fell one short of a half-century when he edged

pacer Adam Milne behind the stumps to Tom Latham. He hit three fours and a six off 46 balls.

Pakistan stuttered when Shan Masood fell for a miserable 12-ball one and Agha Salman for seven but Mohammad Rizwan ensured the opportunity was not wasted by hitting the winning boundary during his 34-ball 42 not out.

The victory was Pakistan's 500th in 949 ODIs.

"This was a team effort, we wanted to start well," said Azam. "The credit belongs to the fast bowlers for the way we restricted them in the end and