CITY 3

YOGI PROMISES EDUCATION

WORLD 6

TRUMP RAISES



'Supari' given to sully my image, says PM

PNS BHOPAL

In a veiled attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday Narendra Modi on Saturday said some people are hell-bent to sully his image and they have given a "supari" (contract) for this purpose colluding with certain people sitting in India and also outside the country.

Modi said such people have taken a pledge that "Modi Teri Kabar Khudegi".

Modi's comment has come amid a slugfest between the the Congress and the BJP over Rahul Gandhi's "democracy under brutal attack in India" remarks in the UK and Germany taking note of Rahul's

Germany taking note of Rahul's disqualification from the Lok Sabha. The BJP has accused the Congress of "inviting foreign powers" for interfering in Îndia's internal matters.

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering at Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal after flagging off the semi-high-speed Bhopal-Delhi

Vande Bharat Express train.

"There are some people in our country who have been determined since 2014, spoken publicly and declared their resolve that they will tarnish Modi's image. For this, they have given "supari" (contract)

to various people. minister said.

"Some people are sitting inside the country to support minister said.

Amid their conspiracies, every countryman has to pay



They are colluding with some abroad, but they don't know that common Indians are my 'Suraksha Kavach'

— PM NARENDRA MODI

these people and some are doing their work sitting outside the country. These people have been continuously trying to spoil and dent Modi's image,"

But India's poor, the mid-dle class, tribals, Dalits, backward classes and every Indian have become the security cover of Modi, which made these people furious forcing them to adopt new tricks, the prime

"taking note of how the Democracy is being compro-mised in India through the persecution of Rahul Gandhi.

Union Law Minister Kiren Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had shared a screenshot of Digivijaya Singh's tweet, say-ing, "Thank you Rahul Gandhi for inviting foreign powers for interference into India's inter-nal matters. Remember, Indian judiciary can't be influenced by foreign interference. India won't tolerate 'foreign influence' anymore because our Prime Minister is:- Shri @narendramodi Ji".

dramodi Ji".

Modi said when he was informed about this programme (flagging off Vande Bharat express train from Bhopal), he asked why it is scheduled on April 1. "I said Congress friends will say that Modi will make (people) April fool but the train is being run from April 1. This is a symbol of our confidence, capabilities and skills", he said.

The PM said the average Railway budget for Madhya Pradesh used to be ₹600 crore before 2014 but it has now gone

before 2014 but it has now gone

attention to the development of the country and pay attention to building the nation, he said.

Slamming the Congress without taking its name, Modi said previous governments were busy with vote bank appeasement whereas his government is busy satisfying people. "They (the previous governments) considered one family (a reference to the Gandhis) as the first family of the country. They ignored the poor and middle class, and the Railway is a living example of this (ignorance)," he said.

A fresh war of words erupted between the BJP and the Congress after senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on to more than ₹13,000 crore.

Modi said previous governments could have easily upgraded the already existing rail network which India acquired after Independence leader Digvijaya Singh on Thursday thanked the German foreign ministry and Richard Walker, Chief International but the development of railways was sacrificed due to vested political interests. Editor of Deutsche Welle, for

Stay ready to deal with new threats, PM urges military

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked the three Services to stay ready to deal with new and emerging threats, emphasising that all steps are being taken to equip the Armed Forces with neces-

sary weapons and technologies.

He made these assertions during the Combined Commanders' Conference in Bhopal which began on March 30. He also reviewed the security situation and operational readiness of the Armed Forces during the valedictory session of Combined Commanders' Conference.

He was also updated about the steps underway for the creation of Theatre Commands in an effort to fight the mod-ern day war with perfect synergy between the three Services namely army, navy and air force, sources said.

During the conference, deliberations were held over a spectrum of issues pertaining to national security, including jointness and theaterisation in the armed forces.

Giving details here, officials said the Prime Minister was briefed by Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) General Anil Chauhan about the various discussions conducted during this year's conference.

Detailed report on Page 5

Defence export soars by ten-fold in last six years

Make-in-India paying dividends, asserts PM Modi

PNS NEW DELHI

India has achieved an all-time high defence equipment export worth ₹15,920 crore in 2022-23 and it is a ten-fold jump in last six years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded this development after Defence Minister Painath Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday made the announcement.

"Indian defence exports reached an all-time high of ₹15,920 crores in FY 2022-23. It is a remarkable achievement for the country," Rajnath said in a tweet. He also said defence exports will continue to grow exponentially under the inspiring leadership of Modi.

The Prime Minister lauded India's defence export under Make in India and said it indicates the reforms in this sector over the last few years are yielding good results.

"Excellent! A clear manifestation of India's talent and

the enthusiasm towards 'Make in India.' It also shows the reforms in this sector over the last few years are delivering good results. Our Government will keep supporting efforts to make India a defence produc-tion hub," the PM wrote on



Defence exports were ₹1,521 crore in 2016-17, ₹4,682 crore in 2017-18, ₹10,745 crore in 2018-19, ₹ 9,115 crore in 2019-20, ₹8,434 crore in 2020-21, and ₹12,814 crore in 2021-22.

India exports missiles, the advanced light helicopter (ALH), offshore patrol vessels, personal protective gear, surveillance systems and a variety of radars to around 85 countries. tries. Talks are on with potential customers for light combat aircraft Tejas, different types of helicopters, artillery guns, Astra beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, Akash surface-to-air missile systems, tanks, sonars and radars.

evinced interest in procuring 20 and 15 Tejas jets respectively. Moreover, India may export ALH to the Philippines.

Last year, BrahMos Aerospace and the Philippines signed a deal worth almost \$375 million for the Philippines

\$375 million for the Philippine Marines to buy three batteries of the BrahMos supersonic

million for supplying 155mm artillery guns, the first such order for an Indian firm.

In 2020, the Union Cabinet

gave its go-ahead to the export of Akash missile systems and also created a high-powered panel for swifter export approvals. The Government has given

a major boost to self reliance over the last few years and inked deals worth over ₹36,000 crores on Thursday including warships, supersonic missiles for the navy, and surface-to-air missiles and weapon locating

radars for the army.

In fact, the last financial year ending Friday saw the defence ministry placing orders with domestic manufacturers worth ₹53,000 crores including basic trainer aircraft, a satellite for the army, training ships, medium-power radars, radar warning receivers, air defence systems, and Dornier aircraft. Continued on Page 5

Georgia 1st US state to pass resolution against Hinduphobia

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Georgia Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia, making it the first American State to take such a legislative step. Condemning Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry, the resolution said Hinduism is one of the world's largest and oldest religions with over 1.2 billion adherents in over 100 countries and encompasses an array of diverse traditions and belief systems with values of acceptance, mutual respect and

The resolution was introduced by Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Hindu and

Indian-American diaspora communities in Georgia.

The resolution observed that the American-Hindu community has been a major contributor to diverse sectors such as medicine, science and engineering, information technology, hospitality, finance, academia, manufacturing, energy, retail trade, among others

Stating that there have been documented instances of hate crimes against Hindu-Americans over the last few decades in many parts of the country, the resolution said Hinduphobia is exacerbated and institutionalised by some in academia who support the dismantling of Hinduism and accuse its sacred texts and cultural practices of violence.

Continued on Page 5



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students on Bhopal-Delhi Vande Bharat Express train after flagging off the semi-high speed train in Bhopal on Saturday. The train will run on all days except Saturday. It will depart from Rani Kamalapati station at 5.40am and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin station at 1.10pm. The Delhi-Bhopal leg of the train will start at 2.40pm and reach Bhopal at 10.10pm, officials said. The train is scheduled to halt at Gwalior and Agra enroute

CAPSULE

INDIA LOGS 2,994 COVID-19 CASES

New Delhi: India on Saturday recorded 2,994 new Covid-19 infections, while the number of active cases increased to 16,354, according to Union Health Ministry data. With the fresh infections, India's Covid-19 tally stands at 4.47 crore (4,47,18,781). The death toll climbed to 5,30,876. with nine deaths.

MODERATE INTENSITY QUAKE HITS NEPAL Kathmandu: A moderate

intensity earthquake was recorded with its epicentre at Suri in the Dolakha district of Nepal on Saturday morning. The earthquake of 5.2 magnitude was recorded at 11.27 am in Dolakha, 180 km east of Kathmandu, according to the National Seismological Centre

JUVENILITY PLEA CAN BE **RAISED AFTER 22 YEARS'**

Lucknow: In an important judgment, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has held that a person can raise a plea of iuvenility even after passage of 22 years during trial.

Freed from jail, Sidhu raps Centre, Punjab Govt

PNS PATIALA

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu walked free on Saturday after spending nearly 10 months in Patiala Central Iail in a 1988 road rage death case. Soon after walking out of the jail, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu slammed the Centre, alleging that democracy is in chains and institutions have turned slaves.

Sidhu described Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as "akhbari Mann as "akhbari mukhmantri" and criticised his Government over law and order and debt issues.

ing outside the prison to accord him a grand welcome upon his release and they could be heard chanting "Navjot Sidhu zind-

The 59-year-old's supporters had assembled since morn-

Several Congress leaders, including Amritsar MP Guriit Auila, were waiting for the return of Sidhu.

After cold comfort, mercury to shoot above normal in summer

IMD prediction

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

fter unseasonal rainfall, Aseveral parts of India are to witness hotter-than-usual weather from April, May and June, raising the risk of more strain on the power sector as people turn to air conditioners to cool themselves.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday predicted that most of India, barring parts of north-west and peninsular region, is expected to experience abovenormal maximum temperatures in April, May and June.

"A significantly higher number of heatwave days are predicted over most parts of Central India, East India and Northwest India during the hot weather season during April, May and June.

"Above normal heatwave days are likely over many parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, East Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gangetic



Bengal, Chhattisgarh, western part of Maharashtra, Gujarat and some parts of West Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana during April," IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mahapatra said in a virtual Press conference.

A heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas and at least 30

degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius.

As some States received unseasonal rain in March, damaging wheat, mustard and onion crops, it has raised the risk of an increase in prices.

While farmers pray for sunshine for the drenched crop to dry, they remain wary of extreme heat waves that could further erode yields.

Rainfall across the country

in March, Mohapatra said.

The Power Ministry predicts that peak electricity demand will climb to a new record in April as people crank up their air conditioners, fans and refrigeration units. According to the IMD, the

probability forecast for the minimum temperatures indicates that during the hot weather season (AMJ), normal to above normal minimum temperatures are very likely over most parts of the country with the exception of some areas in northeast and northwest India, as well as some isolated pockets in Peninsular India where below normal minimum temperatures are likely.

India logged its hottest February in 2023 since recordkeeping began in 1901, according to the IMD.

However, above-normal rainfall (37.6 mm against a normal of 29.9 mm) due to seven western disturbances, including five strong ones, kept temperatures in check in March.

Continued on Page 5

Edgy calm day after Ram Navami clashes; Shah on Bihar visit

'Not natural, disturbing', Nitish blames vested interest for violence

PNS PATNA/HOWRAH

day after communal clash-Aes over Ram Navami celebrations in six States, situation remained peaceful but tense on Saturday. However, the prohibitory

order Section 144 was still in force in the affected areas Howrah, a police officer said.

Meanwhile Bihar Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday asserted communal tensions during Ram Navami festivities at Sasaram and Bihar Sharif towns were triggered by some people indulging in "gad-bad" (mischief) and rejected the BJP's charge of poor law and order situation in the State. And on the day when the

BJP and Kumar's JD(U) traded charges over communal disturbances which caused Union Home Minister Amit Shah to cancel one of the programmes scheduled on April 2, the Union Home Minister reached Bihar on Saturday.

Taking over investigations into the clashes, Bengal CID collected samples and spoke to local people as well as police personnel who were deployed there during Thursday's clash, the officer said. In Patna, while interacting

with media persons here on Saturday, Kumar also made light of Shah canceling his tour of Sasaram in view of riots, remarking, "I don't know why he was coming and I don't understand why he decided not to come".

"Communal tensions during Ram Navami festivities at Sasaram and Bihar Sharif are disturbing. Such incidents happened for the first time in the area. It's not natural....We know that some people are indulging in "gadbad" (mischief) and are trying to disrupt communal harmony in the state. We will not allow this to happen," the Chief Minister

He said police officials have been instructed to identify those who are indulging in mischief and to "take strict action against them".

Normalcy has been restored in both the places though senior officers are camping in the affected areas by way of caution and security forces have been deployed in the area, Kumar said.

The State police have so far arrested 45 people in connection with communal riots at Sasaram and Bihar Sharif that erupted during the Ram Navami festivities. Vehicles, houses and shops were torched and several people injured in communal flare-ups reported in both towns.

Continued on Page 5





Protecting farmers' interest priority of govt, says CM

Rules for wheat procurement may be relaxed

PNS LUCKNOW

mid fears of adverse impact A mid tears of adverse imparts of bad weather on the quality of wheat, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to prepare a proposal for relaxing rules for purchase of Relief Commission to pay compensation to farmers without ernment.

hailstorms in many areas of the state in March, farmers and agricultural produce have been sioner's office after assessing

Aman and his friend were attacked by his rivals over

a property dispute in Krishna

Nagar on Friday. The victim

had lodged a complaint against

the alleged attackers in the

past too, but no action was

taken, and it emboldened the

As per reports, Mukesh Sonkar of New Sardari Kheda

in the area has a dispute with Nanha and his neighbour over

a house. On Friday, Mukesh,

along with his friend Pramod

of Golaganj in Wazirganj police

area, went to the house in

New Sardari Kheda where they

were attacked by Nanha, his

family members, including his

wife and sons (Rakesh and

phone which I was using to

film their act. After being hit on

the head, I fell unconscious.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

NISAR AHMAD ALIAS BHOLY to

NISAR AHMAD S/o ILAHI R/o

NOTICE

I Pinku Verma s/o Vishnu pal

resident of village piparchak

Hardoi, My son's (Adarsh Verma)

DOB is wrongly printed on T.C.

as 05/07/2010, correct DOB is

07/05/2010 as on adhar card.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my

name was Mohammad Qamran

which is now changed to Mohd.

Kamran. In future I shall be

known as Mohd Kamran. Mohd

Kamran S/o- Mohammad Arif

278A/159A, Harwara Prayagraj.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have

changed my name from Adarsh

Kumar to Adarsh Kumar Yadav.

In future I will be known as Adarsh

Kumar Yadav S/o Ramchandar

Yadav in all purpose R/o 29 Gram

Samda Post Gohila Distt.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

26 JUN 1995 - 15 FEB 2023

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA

CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE

DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED

FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF

WHILE SERVING WITH BH DELHI CANT

FROM: LT GEN V SABID SYED

Ambedkar Nagar, U.P.

88/329, Chamanganj, Kanpur.

PNS LUCKNOW

of hailstorms in nine districts of the state. In this hour of crisis, the state government stands with the farmers," the chief minister said in a high-level meeting held on Saturday, in which he reviewed the situation arising out of recent untimely rains and hailstorms in various areas of the state. While observing a presentation of the Revenue department, the chief minister said that protecting the such crops and ordered the interests of the annadata farmers was the priority of the gov-

'There should be no delay "Due to untimely rains and in providing the compensation amount to the farmers as per the rules by the relief commisly rains and hailstorms," he said.

The chief minister instructed officials that timely information be made available to the farmers about the weather forecast. "Information about the warnings of meteorologists should be made available to farmers in remote villages through TV, newspapers and local administration. This forecast should be for 24-48 hours so that the farmers may take protective actions," he said.

"If any resident of the state dies tragically due to natural calamity, or if someone is injured due to human-wildlife conflict, the victim's family should be contacted immediately and provided financial assistance from the Disaster missioner's level," he said.

The chief minister said that due to natural reasons like rain, strong winds and hailstorms, the wheat could be damaged and the quality of the crop being produced was also likely to be adversely affected. He said such crops should also be procured at the minimum support price and for this, a proposal should be prepared to relax the rules as per the requirement.

There could be a shortage of straw this year due to the possible loss to wheat crop. In such a situation, arrangements for cattle fodder should be made in time by the Animal Husbandry department," the chief minister said.

Two attacked over property dispute lodged a complaint but no action was taken by police," Pramod said.

In another case, a woman

alleged that her neighbour attacked her daughter and sister's son in Gomti Nagar on Thursday. A case was registered in this regard on Saturday. The complainant, a resident of Badi Jugauli, said her daughter and nephew were standing at the gate of their house when their neighbour's son Prashant attacked them. "We rushed to their rescue but he stormed the house and mouthed choicest of expletives. He later fell into a drain outside the house while trying to flee the scene. He has been threatening to kill us ever since," she alleged. She further alleged that Prashant was staring at her daughter and when her nephew confronted him, he attacked them. "On the day of Holi, Prashant had barged into our house and abused my daughter. He was under the influence of alcohol. We had

complained to his parents after

which the issue subsided," she

18 booked in scholarship scam busted by ED

Lucknow (PNS): Ten private educational institutes were accused of being part of a Rs 100-crore post-matriculation scholarship scam. A case was registered against 18 accused whose role was found in a probe conducted by the Enforcement Directorate. The probe was conducted in February after irreg-ularities surfaced.

Inspector, Hazratganj, Akhilesh Mishra said the institutes, with the connivance of their staff and imaginary persons and bank agents, opened bank accounts and withheld the debit cards to usurp the scholarship

money.
"The accused entities usurped post-matriculation scholarship worth Rs 100 crore, given to economically weaker beneficiaries by the Central and state governments since 2015. The institutes used fake documents, credentials and addresses to open bank accounts in the name of staff members and managers. It further surfaced that they used the same email ID for opening bank accounts in the name of different students. They used fake paper trails in the scam, thus tricking the officials into issuing the funds for schol-

arship," Mishra alleged.
Police said it surfaced in the probe that some of the beneficiaries were minors while others were elderly. It was alleged that the accused opened the bank accounts with the help of FINO bank agents. The institutes were provided user IDs and passwords and they later siphoned off the money on the pretext that it was withdrawn by the beneficiaries.

It surfaced that a total of 3,000 fake bank accounts were opened and 1,200 SIM cards were obtained with the help of fake documents. A spokesman said a case under sections 406/ 420/467/468/471 of IPC was registered against 18 accused at the Hazratganj Kotwali. He said the case was lodged on the complaint of SSI Daya Shanker Dwivedi, who was asked to



Congress workers of SC/ST, OBC and minority wing protesting outside the party headquarters in Lucknow on Saturday in

Doc stresses on need to cut down on stress, junk food

PNS LUCKNOW

The need of the hour is to **I** focus on preventive medicine to check the rise of lifestyle diseases. Diabetes and heart diseases have increased at an alarming rate in the country and need to be prevented, according to Dr Sandeep Sahu from Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences.

The factors responsible for the rise in these diseases are increased stress, junk food adulteration in food, he pointed out. "If people can keep the blood pressure and blood glucose levels in check by bringing about necessary lifestyle changes, they can remain healthy. People seem to be spending a lot of money on unhealthy food and it is giving rise to diseases. The cases have risen to such an extent that people are not ready to take it seriously. Even if a person is having the symptoms, they do not want to get tested because they are afraid that the test may blow the lid off this particular health issue," he pointed out.

added to the lifestyle disorders. The availability of junk food online at any given time has only added to the problem," he said, adding that as a preventive measure, people should get their blood pressure and blood glucose levels measured every six months.

Earlier, heart attacks would occur at the age of 60 years or above but now even people in their 30's are having cardiac failure because of high stress levels. Nearly all the hormones in our body are catabolic and when a person is in stress, destructive hormones are secreted in large amounts, show their result on the end organs. It gives rise to blood pressure and blood glucose levels. The combination of the two results in the constriction of the arteries, leading to heart attack. Every fourth person in India has diabetes while every second person aged 40 years or above has irregular blood pressure. Five out of ten people have

Dr Sahu said that ideally, a person should get up in the morning without any stress so that destructive hormones are secreted less, and blood glucose and blood pressure remain normal. "The total health means physical, mental and spiritual. After getting up in the morning, one would work slowly and in a relaxed manner. A little meditation will also help. Adequate sleep and taking the required amount of calories can prevent the lifestyle dis-

eases," he said.
"All those who have a history of either diabetes or blood pressure should get themselves checked after 30 years of age because physical activity is very less amongst the upper, upper middle class and higher class. They should check their BP and blood glucose levels with validated electronic devices available in the market," he said. He added that screening should be carried out every six months and if a problem is detected, one should go for necessary lifestyle

Holy Week for

begins today

Lucknow (PNS): The Holy

Week for the Christian com-

munity is beginning with Palm

Sunday on April 2. Father

the Holy Week, which com-

memorates the Passion of

Christ, would begin on Palm

Sunday (April 2). It will include

Maundy Thursday on April 6

and Good Friday on April 7. The Holy Week will

culminate in celebrations on

rates the triumphal entrance of

Jesus Christ into the city of

Jerusalem as the King of the

Jews. Palm branches were

placed in his path before his

arrest on Maundy Thursday

and his crucifixion on Good

"Palm Sunday commemo-

Easter (April 9).

Christians

Bauwa), and their neighbour besides 18-20 unidentified overlooking their calls. They told him that they were from "Armed with sharp-edged weapons, they attacked both of policemen conducting a checking drive in view of drug pedus following a verbal spat. Rakesh snatched my mobile

Man deprived of gold chain, rings by conmen

Lucknow (PNS): Two persons masquerading as policemen in civvies duped a man of his ornaments worth several lakh in PGI police station area on Saturday. Ashok Kumar Pandey of Rae Bareli, along with his brother, was in Lucknow to visit a mall on Shaheed Path on Saturday.

When they reached Shanidev temple crossing, Ashok got down from the car while his brother left for Sitapur. Ashok was looking for an autorickshaw to go to the mall when two bike-borne men asked him why he was

pelted us with stones and bricks to shoo us away," Pramod alleged. He added that the

NOTICE

I Pinku Verma s/o Vishnu pal

resident of village piparchak

Hardoi. My son's (Ayush Verma)

DOB is wrongly printed on T.C.

as 14/01/2015, correct DOB is

15/01/2015 as on adhar card.

NOTICE

, Manohar Lal Gupta S/o

Radheshyam Gupta R/o

Karowan Murd Unnao have

lost sale deed of Gadan Khera,

Unnao which is registered at

S/R Office Unnao Book 1 Jild

9782 Page 351 to 372 Sl.No.

5745 vide Affidavit 76AE 781980

NOTICE

I have changed my Daughter's

name from Shifa Alam Ansari to

Amra Alam. In future She will be

known as Amra Alam. Please

correct my name in school

documents as well as LIC of India

Policy No. 235442058 & others

documents, Shafique Alam Ansari,

NOTICE

Notified that in my service record

my son name is written Shivaay

Singh Chauhan, DOB- 18.4.2017

which is incorrect, whereas my

son correct name is Shivay Singh

Chauhan, DOB- 18.4.2016,

Shivay Singh Chauhan S/o

Deepak Kumar Singh R/o

Rangaon Lalganj, Raebareli. U.P.

46 Meerpur Cantt, Kanpur-4

dling cases. They asked Ashok to put off his gold chain and five gold rings as the ornaments could be looted by miscreants on the prowl.

"I put off the ornaments and kept them inside the bag. They said they would keep the ornaments in a sachet signed by them so as to save them hassles in more such drives," Ashok stated in his complaint. He said he doubted their credentials and tried to confront them, but they took the ornaments, put the same in a sachet and kept it in the bag. "When I opened the sachet, I found it filled with stones. The miscreants sped off towards Alambagh," he said. A case was registered in this connection.

attackers also opened fire on them. "Mukesh was attacked by the above-named accused on

March 25 as well. He had

CITYBRIEFS

CEREMONIAL PARADE

A ceremonial parade was held at the Officers Training College, Army Medical Corps Centre and College, on the con-clusion of Medical Officers Basic Course-241 on Saturday. The 9-week course imparts intensive combat medical support training to young armed forces medical and dental officers in order to empower them for effectively performing their duties and transns young professionals to medical and dental officers. The course comprised 118 officers, including 44 lady officers with tri-services representation. The parade was marked by military precision and customary elegance. The ceremonial parade was reviewed by Lt Gen V Sabid Syed, Commandant, AMC Centre & College, OIC Records, & Col Commandant, AMC. Shubham Saini was adjudged the best all-round officer and awarded the Commandant's Rolling Trophy. Omkar Agarwal was awarded Major Laishram Jyotin Singh, Ashok Chakra Memorial Trophy for being the best officer in field events.

DIVINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 'Divine Education Conference' of City Montessori School, Jopling Road campus, was held at school's Gomti Nagar audi-

torium on Saturday. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi inaugurated the programme and awarded prizes to 【 the meritorious students who had performed brilliantly in the annual examinations as well as in other competitive examinations and



extra-curricular activities. The students presented devotional songs and also gave dance performances.

GRAVITAS 2.0 FROM APRIL 12-13

Students of department of business administration, Lucknow University, are excited to host Gravitas 2.0 on April 12 and 13 The event, with a focus on management, provides a variety of activities. A senior faculty member said that the students would participate in a variety of events that would help them develop their leadership skills, teamwork, and creativity. From quizzes and case studies to discussions, debates and cultural events, Gravitas 2.0 has it all. The winners will be given away prizes.

GHONGHA BASANT SAMMELAN

Ghongha Basant Sammelan was organised at Ravindralaya on the occasion of April Fool's Day on Saturday. Rang Bharti has been organising this programme for the past 62 years. Several poets, including Vikas Baukhal from Ramnagar, Danda Banarsi, amuna Prasad Upadhyaya from Ayodhya, Dharam Raj Upadhyaya from Lucknow, Pramod Pankaj from Barabanki, Sameer from Fatehpur and Amit Omar from Kanpur, had the audience in splits. 'Bedhab Banarsi Rang Bharti Samman' was given away to Danda Banarsi and Popular Meeruthi and 'Ramai Kaka Rangbharti Samman' to Vikas Baukhal.

NOTICE

I hereby inform under oath that the original documents of my building no. It has fallen somewhere between Kaiserbagh court and Wazirganj police station. Whose information has been given to the police in the form of online FIR. Ather Saleem Khan S/o Late Saleem Ullah Khan Resident- 182/27, Kala Mahal Mashakganj, Lucknow- Pin 226018

Mobile -: 8932986682

ANNUAL FUNCTION

The 29th annual function and prize distribution ceremony was organised at Lok Bharti Inter College in Geetapalli on Friday. The students displayed their excellence in both scholastic and non-



scholastic fields. The winners were awarded as their parents cheered. The chief guests on the occasion was Sudhir Kumar Mishra 'Bablu Mishra' (corporator) and Amit Kumar Chawla.

Carry Modi's welfare schemes to last mile: Jitendra Singh

Amroha (PTI) Union Minister without any vote bank consid- over in May, 2014, almost half Jitendra Singh on Saturday eration. He said Modi symbol- of the country's population urged representatives of the ises grassroot level democracy was deprived of facilities like evati Rai Institution to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes to the last mile. Presiding over a meeting of PRI representatives from Amroha district in Uttar Pradesh, he said they can be the most important messengers of Prime Minister Modi's peoplecentric initiatives and programmes as they are directly in touch with the grassroot

people.
"Panchayats are continuously being empowered under Modi," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel. The minister said the PRI representatives being elected representatives, know who are the most needy among the lowest strata of the society and can ensure that the benefits reach them

Congress leader

remarks on PM

Sambhal (PTI): The Uttar

Pradesh Police on Saturday

booked Congress state gener-

al secretary Sachin Chaudhary

over his alleged objectionable

remarks against Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. The case

under relevant sections of the

law was registered at Sambhal

Kotwali based on a complaint

filed by the BJP's youth wing

leader Akshit Agarwal,

Additional Superintendent of

unit office in-charge, told

reporters that the Congress

leader made the remarks

against the prime minister dur-

ing a press conference here on

Friday. At the press meet,

Chaudhary targeted Prime

Minister Modi over the Adani

issue. He said a video clip of the

Congress leader's "indecent and objectionable" remarks

Agarwal, the BJYM district

Police Shrish Chandra said.

booked over

is liberated from any dynasty politics as he himself

has risen from the grassroots. The minister said the prime minister's faith in PRIs and grassroot level democracy is evident from the fact that after 70 years, it was due to his intervention that Jammu and Kashmir district development council (DDC) elections were held for the first time.

Singh emphasised the need for time-bound completion of development programmes and underlined the need for adoption of newer technologies and innovations for faster completion of projects without compromising with any quality, a statement issued by the

Personnel Ministry said. He said when Modi took

electricity connection and bank accounts. Singh said with 'Sabka Prayas', the Centre has been able to bring many

schemes closer to 100 percent

saturation during the last eight

There is a new resolve to make India a frontline state in the world in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, the statement said. He told the PRIs to always keep in mind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for max-

imising the reach and utilisation of government schemes in rural India so that no one is left out. Singh said the Modi government has reiterated on many occasions that there would be no shortage of funds for any of the central schemes.

'Maharajganj excavations a pointer to Kushan Empire'

archaeology department's recent excavations at Banarsiha Kala village in the Maharajganj district are a likely pointer to the Kushan Empire which could be existing there 2,000 years ago. State archaelogy director Renu Dwivedi said further excavations to be carried out in October and November later this year could shed light on whether it was Lord Buddha's maternal grandparents'

"Nothing can be said as of now and we wound up the excavations on March 24 for the first phase. The work was started in the second week of February. We have unearthed some antiquities and brick walls possibly belonging to the Kushan period," she said, adding the excavations were carried out because the Archaeological Survey of

Lucknow (PNS): The state India had done trial trenching there a couple of years back.

'There is a 'stupa' clearly visible, and we have the remains of a palace. It could possibly be the place of Lord Buddha's maternal grandparents. Although Kapilvastu in Nepal is considered his birthplace and Nepal has also declared it, we are also exploring this area," she said.

Dwivedi said they had procured money from the state government to carry out the excavations and nearly Rs 9-10 lakh were spent in the "The items exercise. unearthed in the area possibly belong to the first century AD and are approximately 2,000 years old. They have been kept at the archaeological office in Chhattar Manzil. The excavations have been discontinued because summer months are not good for this exercise," Dwivedi added.

Friday. Maundy Thursday is the day when Christ celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples, four days after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Only hours after the Last Supper, Judas would betray Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, setting the stage for his crucifixion on Good Friday. On that evening, Iesus sat down with the disciples to eat his final meal before going to the cross. As they dined together, he told the 12 disciples that one of them would soon betray him," Morris explained. He said it was on that evening that Jesus also washed the feet of his disciples and demonstrated the

> ly," Morris pointed out. "Good Friday is the day when Jesus Christ was hanged on the cross for the sins of all human beings. Hanging on the cross, Jesus uttered the Seven Words from the cross which are the seven most important statements spoken by him on earth. The crux of these statements is the ability to forgive and live a life of humility and patience," he added.

important lesson of servitude

through living a life of humil-

ity. "Jesus said that real leader-

ship is the ability to serve your

people and he demonstrated it

with his disciples very effective-

has gone viral on social media. Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertis ing to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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Yogi promises education to every child CM for including cleanliness

 $P^{\text{romising good education to}}_{\text{every child of the state,}}$ Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that it was the responsibility of the government to ensure that not a single child was deprived of schooling because a fully literate population would be a big asset for the

Launching the month-long School Chalo Abhiyan, the chief minister said that parents must be prepared to send their children to school as the state could achieve 100 per cent literacy only when every child went to school

He stressed on the need for advancing the School Chalo campaign in the coming years as a fully literate population would be a big asset for the state. On this occasion, the chief minister provided free textbooks to the children of classes one to eight and distributed report cards to the students who had passed the examination. He also released 'School Readiness and Teacher Guide' and launched Rani Laxmibai Self-Defense Training Programme as part of Mission

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said, "The soul of the country resides in Uttar Pradesh as this region has been the focal point of educa-tion and health since ancient times. Kashi and Prayagraj have attracted people to higher education for a long time. Naimisharanya of Sitapur has been the land of scripting the

Vedic knowledge of India.' The chief minister went on to say that Uttar Pradesh has long been the centre of India's knowledge, science and spirituality. "The actions taken by the state government over the past six years are now showing results in every field. On July 1, 2017, we launched the School Chalo Abhiyan in Kukrail. This



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving away text book to a schoolgirl during the launch of 'School Chalo Abhiyan' at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow on Saturday

programme has been a complete success," he said.

Yogi continued, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed his position in 2014, he observed that there was a high rate of school dropouts, particularly among girls and those who had completed the fifth and eighth grades. That's why a slogan was given at that time, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. Through this programme, we have tried to ensure that no child is deprived of schooling. For this, a large-scale programme was run with the help of our teachers, public representatives, and Education department personnel."

has progressed successfully within the state," he added. Pointing out the condition of schools before 2017,

of today, there are 1.92 crore

students. This increased num-

ber shows that this programme

Yogi said that the schools lacked basic amenities and the students had no uniforms and shoes. "Our government made the decision to provide two uniforms, bags, books, shoes, and socks to each school going child. Under Operation Kayakalp, public representatives, Education department officials, administrative officers, police officers and alumni adopted one school each. I am happy to report that as part of Operation Kayakalp, we covered 1.36 lakh schools out of a total of 1.56 lakh schools, providing them with basic amenities as well as smart classes and other facilities," he said.

He said that work was

underway to provide the remaining 20,000 schools with basic amenities as well as smart classes and other facilities.

Chief Minister Yogi added that the curriculum had undergone significant change as well. The Basic Education Council is adopting the syllabus of NCERT. Along with the presence of teachers, the presence of officials of the Education department is being registered through the Manav Sampada portal. "You can estimate the changes in the education sector by the fact that we have appointed 1.60 lakh teachers in basic and secondary education alone. This demonstrates that there were not many teachers,"

The chief minister noted: 'With the beginning of the School Chalo Abhiyan, it becomes our responsibility to see to it that every teacher and every headmaster holds a meeting with all the dignitaries of the ward or gram panchayat in which the school is located, and seeks their cooperation. They must meet parents. Door-to-door screening of each house

should be done."

The chief minister directed the district magistrates to appoint a nodal officer who, along with the basic Shiksha adhikari (BSA), will ensure that the money is transferred to the parents' accounts through DBT (direct benefit transfer) after this program in every development block and every gram panchayat.

'Îhe government has decided that every gram panchayat will have a playground. This will be on the land surrounding the school. Also, make arrangements for an open gym. Children should not go to roads to play. As long as the school runs, the children will use it and the rest of the gram panchayat will also use it. In this way, a big campaign can shape up in the state, which will not only create a good learning environment but also keep children physically and mentally healthy," the chief minister remarked. Yogi emphasised that the next one month was very important for basic education. "Only government schools run by the Basic Education Council should not be included in this. It should be our endeavor that schools run by government-aided private management are also linked with government schools," the chief minister said.

programme in schools

Assuring good health to the school going children, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that a cleanliness programme should be incorporated in schools so that teachers could educate children about the virtues of good health.

"The teachers must pay attention to cleanliness and availability of pure drinking water. Cleanliness programme in schools has to be carried forward," Yogi said while launching the School Chalo campaign here on Saturday.

On communicable diseases. Chief Minister Yogi said that Uttar Pradesh was a state of nine climatic zones and different diseases occurred in different areas. "Encephalitis kills thousands of kids each year in Kushinagar, Gorakhpur, the Terai of Nepal and Saharanpur. Varanasi and the surrounding areas used to be affected by kalaazar, Bareilly and its surrounding areas by malaria, Lucknow,

"The teachers must pay attention to cleanliness and availability of pure drinking water. **Cleanliness** programme in schools has to be carried forward"

Kanpur Nagar and Mathura by dengue and Jhansi and Bundelkhand region by chikungunya virus," he pointed out.

Regarding the simultaneous launch of the Communicable Disease Control Programme and the School Chalo Abhiyan, Chief Minister Yogi said that it was because children fall prey to these diseases. "Preventive steps should be taken in schools where the children should be taught how to protect themselves from these diseases," he said and added that the more information one gave to chil-

dren about cleanliness, the more success one gets in controlling communicable diseases. "In two years, we have to free every patient from TB (tuberculosis). Big programmes are going on for this. Every teacher in the village should try to help TB patients; the government will assist them," Yogi added.

Communicable The Communicable Disease Control Programme was launched on April 1, 2018, exactly five years ago.
Organisations like Unicef,
WHO contributed along with
the departments of the state to take these programs to the masses. "Today Uttar Pradesh has set a model for the country for communicable disease control," the chief minister said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also flagged off vector control vehicles at Lok Bhavan on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak was also present with the chief minister as the vector control vehicles left for their destinations in different districts.

Zonal Office-Opposite LDA Office, Vipin Khand, Gomti BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Nagar, Lucknow-226010, E-Mail-legal luc@mahabank.co.in Head Office: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice.

The horrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in

Ш	general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the sarules				
1 [ŞI.	Name & Address of	Amount due to bank as	The Details of the properties mortgaged of the bank and taken possession by the	Demand Notice L
ľ	No.	Borrower & Guarantors	per notice	bank	Possession Date
		FARRUKHABAD BRANCH			
	1	M/S Shree Nav Durga Saree Centre	Rs. 1026268.55 /-	Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces	28.11.202
	٠.	Prop. Pawan Kumar Sharma S/o Sh.	+ Unapplied	and parcel of property with construction	28.03.202
П		Bal Krishan Sharma H. No. 3/63, Senapati Street, Kaimgani Farrukha	respective Interest p.a.	& fixture there being & lying at Mohalla Astval taral (kharbandi Andar Shahar)	20.03.202
П		bad-209625 UP (Borrower)	w.e.f.	Pargana Pahara Tehsil Sadar Dist Farrukhabad	
		Sh. Sushil kumar S/o Sh. Suresh	27.11.2022	Area: 140.32 sq mts. Survey No 3/24-C	
		Chandra H. No. 3/50, Mohalla	+ penal interest	Area known as Hatha Mintu Khan Bounded by:	
		Rakabganj Khurd Tehsil Sadar Farrukhabad-209625 (Guarantor)	and other charges/expenses	East: Plot of Abdul Ahmed North: Govt Rd 20 ft	
Ĺ	_	raiiukiiabau-203025 (Guaraiitor)	charges/expenses	West: 5 ft wide street South: House of Akram	

Mr. Pinku Sakya W/o Sh. Ram Swaroop Rs. 938926.01/-Vill Salempur Post Bartal, Nawabganj Farrukhabad-209601 UP (Borrower) Smt. Rajni W/o Sh. Pinku Sakya Vill Salempur Post Bartal, Nawabganj Farrukhabad -209601 (Guarantor)

harges/expenses West: 5 ft wide street South: House of Akram Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Village & Post Nawabganj, Ganipur, Pargana Shamsabad West, Tehsil Kalyamganj Tehsil Sadar Dist Farrukhabad Area: 61.34 sq mts. Bounded by: East: Gali 12 ft North: Khet of Sh Sharafat Ali West: House of Rajendra South: House of Banke Lal + Unapplied respective w.e.f. 27.11.2022 and other

harges/expenses

M/s Khawaja Gareeb Nawaj Zari Art Prop. Sh. Chand babu S/o Sh. Mausam Ali H. No. 170, Ghershamu Khan Tehsil Sadar Farrukhabad-209625 (Borrower) Smt. Nasreen W/o Sh. Mausam Ali H.No. 170, Ghershamu Khan Tehsil Sadar Farrukhabad-209625 (Guarantor)

Smt. Nasreen W/o Sh. Mausam Ali H.No. 170, Ghershamu Khan Tehsil Sadar Farrukhabad-209625 (Guarantor)

Smt. Nasreen W/o Sh. Mausam Ali H.No. 170, Ghershamu Khan Tehsil Sadar Penal interest and other charges/expenses

Area: 44.22 sq mts. Bounded by: East: Street North: House of Rafeeq Mohammad Khan West: Plot of Praveen South: Rasta

Mortgage of Property situated at Plot Gata No. 277, Area 190 sqft-

Vill Ameenpur Nagraur, Pargana

Bahraich, Dist Bahraich-271801 Owner: Mrs. Tabassum Siddiqui w/o Sh. Ali Ahamad. Bounded by

North: 12 ft kachha Road East :Khet Liyakat Ali West: Khet Sabbir South:

Equitable Mortgage of Property situated at H. No 343(Old) & New 392,- Mohalla-Gudri ,Near Masjid Sare khan, Bahraich-271801 Owner: Mrs. Mrs. Husn Bano Alias Hoor Bano w/o Abdul Salam) Area 81.65 sq Mts Bounded by North: House of Abdul Khalik East: Rasta 14 ft 6 inch wide CC after that Mazar Sharif West: House of Nizamuddin South: House of Shareef Khan

EquitableMortgage of Owner Mr. Muneesh Mishra S/o Mr. Ram Pramod Mishra) All those pieces and parcel of

Kumar, West:- Land of Prakash

& lying at Plot No.89/90, village chhachha, Tehsil Amethi

Area: 475.0 sqmts. Bounded as:

North:- Plot No 84, South:- Plot No 89,

East:- Plot No 91/92, West:- Plot No 86

Khet Mahendra Kumar

M/s Jai Maa Durga & Aata Udhog Prop. Rs. 1184052.32 | Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces respective Interest p.a. and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Mohalle Interest p.a. and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Mohalle Interest p.a. and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Mohalle Interest p.a. and parcel of property with construction and property with construction and property with construction and parcel of property with parcel p Suman Gupta W/o Sh. Vinay Kumar Gupta H. No. 1/398 Granganj Fatehgarh Farrukhabad-209601 U.P (Borrower) Sh. Vinay Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Ram

Fatehgarh Farrukhabad-209601 (Guarantor) Mrs Geeta Pandey W/o Pradeep Kumar H. No. 4/47, Moh Hatha Mintu Khan Pargana pahara Tehsil Sadar Farukhabad-209625

Saran Gupta H. No. 1/398 Granganj

| Tehsil Sadar Survey No 1/39C Dist | Farrukhabad 27.11.2022 + penal interest and other charges/expenses Plot of Devesh Chand North: Plot of Sh Satish Chand West: Rasta 10ft South: Nala Badahu Govt Road Rs. 326340/-Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces

and parcel of property with construction + Unapplied & fixture there being & lying at Vill Tusaur, respective Tq Amritpur Dist. Farrukhabad Survey No 1621, Known as Hatha Mintu Khan. **Area: 64.65 sq mts.** Bounded by: Interest p.a. 28.11.2022 East: Houase of Asha Devi West: House of Roop Kumar. North: penal interest and other narges/expenses Rasta South: House of pratipal

28.11.2022 28.03.2023

30.11.2022

27.03.2023

16.11.2022

27.03.2023

12.12.2022

27.03.2023

28.11.2022

28.03.2023

28.11.2022

28.03.2023

28.11.2022

28.03.2023

BAHRAICH BRANCH

M/S Munna TradersProp. Mr Ali Ahamad Rs. 678914/-R/o Ghantaghar Chowk,Churi Wali Gali + Unapplied Chowk bazar, Bahraich- 271801 ALSO AT: Mohalla H. No. 607, Qazipura (North) Interest rate Bahraich-271801 (Borrower)

Mrs. Tabassum Siddiqui W/o Mr. Ali Ahamad R/o Ghanta ghar Chowk, Churi Wali Gali, Chowk bazar, Bahraich-271801 (Guarantors)

M/S Abdul salam Aara Machine, Prop. Mohd Abdul Salam S/o Abdul Khalik, R/o Premises no 343, New No 392, Moh. GudraTehsil & District- Bahraich Rs. 1032341/-271801 (UP) (Borrower)

Mrs. Husn Bano Alias Hoor Bano w/c Abdul Salam R/o Premises no 343, New No 392,Moh. Gudra Tehsil & District- Bahraich 271801 (Guarantors)

M/S Munesh Gur & Rab Udyog Prop. Mr. Muneesh Mishra S/o Mr. Ram Pramod Mishra, R/O Village Pakariya Kishunpur, Tehsil Mitauli Lakhimpur Kheri-262727

Mr. Ram Pramod Mishra S/o Sh. Sunderlak R/O Village Pakariya Kishunpur, Tehsil Mitauli Lakhimpur Kheri -262727 (Guarantors)

M/s Singh Traders Prop. Mr. Sangam Singh S/o Sh. Subhash Singh R/O Misrauli Bazar, Antu Road Amethi-227405 Also at: Post Kasara, Tarapur, Apathi 227405 (Partural)

Sh. Subhash Singh S/O Sh. Ramkaran

Mrs. Punam Kumari W/o Sh.

Sandip Kumar, R/O Bismil Nagar,

Ward No. 22 Nagar palika Parishad

Maharajganj- 273303 (Borrower)

Smt. Saraswati Devi W/o Sh. Subhash Prasad Bismil Nagar,

Ward No. 22 Nagar palika Parishad

Maharajganj- 273303 (Guarantors)

Amethi 227405 (Borrower)

Maharajganj Branch

(Borrower)

Amethi Branch

1042527.90 thereon @ contractual other

Rs. 1398692.91

contractual

respective

30.11.2022

penal interest

and other

harges/expenses

+ Unapplied

respective

Interest rate

p.a. w.e.f.

15.11.2022

penal interest

and other

harges/expenses

property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Village rasoolpur, Pargana Paila Tehsil Mitauli, Lakhimpur Kheri-262727 Area: 15000 sqfts. Bounded as: charges North:- Nala, South:- Nemgaon 11.12.2022 Bhadura Road, East:- Land Anoop

> Equitable Mortgage of (Owner- Mr. Sangam Singh S/o Sh. Subhash Singh) 30.11.2022 All those pieces and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being 27.03.2023

rate plus other charges w.e.f. 29.11.2022 Singh R/O Post Kasara, Tarapur, Ameth 227405 (Guarantors)

> 1026183 olus interest thereon @ contractual

01.12.2022

Equitable Mortgage of Owner- Smt. Saraswati Devi W/o Sh. Subhash Prasad All those pieces and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being 8 lying at bismil Nagar, Ward No 22, b Naga pa**3**ka Parishad, Maharajganj Arazi No 1327 rate plus other charges w.e.f. paßka Parishao, manarajganj product as: - Area : 81.78 sqmts. Bounded as: - North: - House Sri Vishvanath, South:- Land

Sri Vijay Kumar, East:- Kacha Rasta less than 4 mtr, West:- House Sri Lata Nayak

12.12.2022 27.03.2023

Sharda programme to find, re-admit school dropouts

"In July 2017, there were

1.34 crore enrolled students; as

PNS LUCKNOW

To ensure that dropout students return to schools, the Yogi Adityanath government on Saturday started the School Har Din Aayen (Sharda) programme to find and re-admit dropout students. In the Right to Free and Compulsory Education to lren Act 2009 there provision that children in the age group of 6-14 years who are out of school should be identified and enrolled in ageappropriate classes and special training should be arranged for them. "In order to effectively implement this provision, instructions have been given from time to time to run the 'Sharda' programme under the direction of the district magistrate," Director General School Education Vijay Kiran Anand said here. In his order he said that

there was a provision for readmission of all out-of-school children under the 'Sharda' programme. He said children who were "out of school" could be divided into two categories -- children who have never been enrolled in school and children who were earlier enrolled in a school but for some reason they left the school without completing their education i.e. dropped out. The instructions state that school principals, teachers, shiksha mitras, instructors, and each BTC trainee

5 IAS officers

Nagpal, Special Secretary

(Health) has been posted as

the district magistrate of

Banda. Krishna Kumar,

Special Secretary (Agriculture)

has been posted as member

(judicial) of the Board of

Secretary (Food and Civil

Supplies) has been posted as

staff officer to the chief secre-

tary. Samukta Samaddar, who

was waiting for posting, has

been posted as Commissioner,

National Capital Region and

Anand Kumar, Special Secretary (Cultural Affairs)

has been posted as member

(judicial) Board of Revenue.

Divya Prakash Giri, Special

Revenue.



will conduct a household survey to identify out-of-school children and enroll them in classes that are appropriate for

This campaign will be conducted in two phases in the academic session 2023-24. In the first phase, children will be identified and enrolled in age-appropriate classes from April 1, 2023 to May 15, 2023, while in the second phase, identification and enrollment of children of families affected by brick kiln mines and seasonal migration in ageappropriate classes will be done from July 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023. Besides, identification of out-of-school children with special needs will also be done simultaneously, which would be followed by their enrollment in the age-appropriate classes.

Migration certificates will be made available to the migrating children so that uploaded through the Sharda the child can be enrolled in

the school nearest to the place of migration. According to the instructions, the first assessment (baseline assessment) of all out-of-school children enrolled for special training in classes 2 to 8 will take place through the Sharda app after 15 days of identification. The second assessment will be done in October, the third the fourth assessment in

March. Based on the results of the assessment, a teaching plan will be prepared by the nodal teacher for the education of the nominated out-of-school children. Regular attendance of these children will be monitored regularly by the designated nodal teacher and headmaster for special training.

To bring them into the mainstream, these children will be linked to social security schemes. Arrangements will be made to provide special training to out-of-school children enrolled in ageappropriate classes in schools on the basis of Sharda curriculum. For this, the nodal teachers have been trained at the block level.

Monitoring of 20 schools will be done every month by special educators and information regarding identification, enrollment, evaluation and attendance of out-ofschool children will be

HC seeks govt reply on state funding of religious education

PNS LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has directed the Central and state governments to file their respective affidavits explaining how religious education by madrasas can be funded from the state exche-Court in September 2021 had asked a similar question from the state government whether the policy to provide financial aid to religious institutions was consistent with the secular scheme of the Constitution. It also asked whether state-aided madrasas also admit girl

"Whether this could be in violation of Articles 14, 25, 26, 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India," a single judge bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh asked the both governments to explain in its order issued on March 30. The High Court issued this direction while hearing a petition by a madrasa school teacher, Azaj Ahmad, in a madrasa located in Samdariya Islamia, Shudnipur, district Jaunpur pertaining to his salary dispute.

Dealing with the issue at hand, the court noted that the madrasa concerned, besides normal curriculum, was also imparting religious education. Therefore, the court sought the affidavits of the Central government through the secre-

tary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India and from the state government through principal secretary, Department of Minority Welfare and Government of Uttar Pradesh, answering the aforesaid questions within six weeks from the

The court ordered, "If the petitioner has been teaching in Madrasa Samdariya Islamia Shudnipur, district Jaunpur, and the said madrasa has received funds from the government(s), the petitioner should be paid salary as per his appointment letter dated 6-4-The UP government pro-

vides budgetary support of Rs 230 crore to 561 madrasas recognised by the UP Madarsa Board. In the current fiscal 2023-24, a provision of Rs 230 crore has been made in the budget for this. A graduate teacher in state funded recognised madrasa is given a salary of Rs 6,090 per month while the post-graduate teachers teaching Hindi, English, mathematics and science are paid Rs 12,000 per month. The madrasas are also given an annual grant of Rs 1 lakh for setting up and maintaining a computer laboratory. A provision of Rs 6.81 crore has been made in 2023-24 budget for construction of hostel and school building.

Cong garners support for Rahul in Amethi Amethi (PTI): Congress

transferred provincial president Ajay Rai on PNS LUCKNOW Saturday said people of Amethi are Rahul Gandhi's strength, The Uttar Pradesh governasking them to stand by the for-mer MP just as they have five IAS officers. Durga Shakti always supported the Gandhi

> Alleging that the sitting BJP MP Smriti Irani lied to the people to get votes in the Lok Sabha elections, Rai said she had promised to provide sugar at Rs 13 rupees per kg, but today the price of sugar is not hidden from anyone.

family in the past.

On the other hand, the Gandhi family never lied like this for votes, Rai said, stressing that Amethi is in the heart and mind of Rahul Gandhi and he can never forget it.

"People of Amethi are the strength of Rahul Gandhi, the way the people of Amethi have supported the Gandhi family, in the same way we would like

them to once again stand with Rahul Gandhi," Rai said while talking to media persons here. Amethi remained the

stronghold of the Gandhi family till 2019 when BJP's Smriti Irani defeated Rahul Gandhi, who held the seat for the longest period, from 2004 to 2019. The Uttar Pradesh constituency has also been represented by his mother, father and uncle in the past. Alleging that Rahul Gandhi is being continuously harassed, he said, "Rahul Gandhi had given a speech in Karnataka and BJP changed the state and filed a case in Guiarat."

"These people took the case to another state and filed a case," he said referring to the defamation case leading to the disqualification of Gandhi following conviction and twoyear jail term. Rai said the Modi government is so worried that it is doing everything in haste.



"His membership was terminated the very next day after he was sentenced to 2 years and was asked to vacate the house after giving 40 hours. BJP is only working on how to weak-en Rahul and Congress."

Referring to the Hindenburg report on Adani, Rai said neither the leaders of the Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) nor the prime minister are saying anything on the matter, rather it is being said that the "attack on Adani is an attack on

'Today the BJP government is trying to suppress the voice of democracy, they are going to any level to suppress their opponents and constitutional institutions are being misused, we have seen all this," he said. "We are celebrating Amrit Mahotsav the Amrit Kaal of democracy but democracy is being strangled. Besides, the questions raised by the opposition are not being answered and those raising them are being disqualified," he said, adding that this is very unfortunate. "Ours is a democratic country and our forefathers have made great sacrifices for its freedom. We have fought a long battle, if there is any danger to democracy, we are not going to sit silently, it is being opposed in the whole country, opposition parties are also opposing this incident," Rai

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount here in above mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Lucknow

Fire breaks out in Nehru Complex | Pachauri flags off fogging fleet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

massive fire broke out at Amassive the broke standard Nehru Complex located at the dense area of Chowk in Prayagraj on Saturday morning. According to the information, 210 shops have come under the grip of fire. Of these, 30 shops have been completely gutted. As soon as the information about the accident was received, 20 vehicles of police and fire brigade reached the spot. Crews brought the fire under control after several

Within a short-while, smoke engulfed all over the area. The complex has shops selling clothes and plastic items. Fire broke out due to short circuit. Nearby shops were also closed. Actually, the place where the fire started is the densest area of the city. There are more than 10,000 shops in

Clock Tower and Chowk area is the densest and congested area of the city. People from all over the district come here to buy everything including clothes. Every day a crowd of lakhs of people gather here. Shopkeeper Mohd Rauf told the police that the transformer is right next to the Nehru Complex. There was a short circuit in the transformer at started rising from these shops.



Massive fire broke out in Nehru Complex located at densely populated area of Chowk in Prayagraj

around 8.30 am. After which, due to sudden winds, the fire engulfed many shops in a moment. Flames and smoke

Shopkeeper Raja said that three years ago, a huge fire broke out in Nehru Complex. In which 200 shops were burnt. Today again the fire destroyed it again. He said that so far 30 shops have been burnt to ashes. Shopkeepers;' leader Lalu Mittal has expressed displeasure over DM, SP not reaching the spot on time.

Seeing the rising flames, shopkeepers started taking out goods from their shops. They took more clothes kept in thier shop to a safe place. It was fortunate that the fire started in the morning. If it happened somewhere in the afternoon, there would have been a lot of trouble, he added.

CFO RK Pandey said that at 8.30 in the morning, the fire was reported in Nehru complex. 20 fire brigade vehicles and more than 100 personnel brought the fire under control with the help of JCB and hydraulic machines.

He said that there are 210 shops in Nehru Complex which is built on the ground floor and three floors. About 30 shops were affected due to the readiness of the fire service. The shops are full of inflammable material plastic shoe slippers, cosmetics, clothes storage. Goods were evacuated from the rest of the shops. Prima facie the cause of the fire was said to be short circuit. However, no loss of life was reported in this massive fire, added Pandey.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The BJP Member of Parliament, Satyadev Pachauri, while flagging off the fogging fleet from Kanshiram Hospital on Saturday said the Uttar Pradesh Government has geared up to ensure they not only bring down the number of cases of communicable diseases but drastically reduce the number of deaths. He said environmental factors influence the spread of communicable diseases and water, sanitation, food and air quality were vital elements in the transmission of communicable diseases and in the spread of diseases prone to cause epidemics.

Addressing the gathering the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Alok Ranjan said there were certain factors which gave rise to communicable diseases and they were infectious agent, reservoir, portal of exit, mode of transmission, portal of entry, and susceptible host. He said the UP Government has worked out a strategy to stop germs from spreading by interrupting this chain at its link. He said the drive which was being launched in this month was aimed at making people aware of the importance of cleanliness, sanitisation, and fogging.

He said the State govern-

ment has also issued directives

to the health authorities to set up special centres, ICU bets, deploy trained medical personnel and doctors and manpower and equipment has also been pumped in the diagnos-tic centres. He said urbanisation brings with it the problems of housing, sanitation, pollution, drinking water, and health care facilities. He said even the rural areas were now not untouched by urbanisation and with the increasing population densities and urban poverty encouraged the spread of viruses, especially under poor sanitary conditions the people were more susceptible to pulmonary and gastrointestinal

Dr Ranjan said climate can affect disease transmission in a variety of ways and the distribution and population size of disease vectors can be heavily affected by local climate. He said flooding after heavy rains can result in sewage overflow and widespread water contamination. He saic since the outbreak of COVID-19 there had bee constant emergence of similar viruses of different strains causing health problems

across the country. He said occasionally, an outbreak or cluster of disease was seen in a population for which the cause was unclear and these outbreaks may be due to a new or modified pathogen, a natural toxin, an initially undetected release of a chemical, or over-exposure to ionizing radiation from an unknown source. He advised infectious diseases wash and dry hands regularly and above all stay at home if one were sick. He advised people to mandatdorily cover coughs and sneezes as well.

He said infectious agents were plentiful, mutate rapidly, and can become resistant to drugs if not destroyed completely. He said low vaccination rates, poor nutrition, age (young and elderly), and immunosuppression all contribute to infectious risk. He said once it has been established that an emergency condition existed, there must be a prompt and thorough response for communicable disease con-

He said the UP government has set up overall goals like rapid assessment, prevention, surveillance, outbreak control, and disease management. A large number of medical officials and para medical team were present at the time

CORE ends fiscal year on high note

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Central Organisation For Railway Electrification with its Head Quarters at Prayagraj ended the financial year 2022-23 on a high note with an unbeatable record of highest ever electrification of 4767 RKM. Government of India has set a target to electrify the entire BG route by December 2023, taking into consideration inherent advantages of electric traction. CORE under the guidance of its General Manager, Pramod Kumar scaled new heights by electrifying 4767 RKM in financial year 2022-23 surpassing its previous record of 4283 RKM in financial year 2021-22. To achieve this national mission, CORE is playing a pivotal role and working as a dedicated team, towards making the nation self-reliant by developing a safe, energy efficient, eco-friendly and economical rail transport system through its nine project units.

Organisations and Zonal relentlessly targeting the com-Railways are also involved in Railway electrification. However, CORE has done the the power supply system and lion's share of commissioning ensuring smooth and safe train which is approximately 74 per cent of overall electrification works carried out in the financial year 2022-23.

Secundrabad unit of CORE contributed 1050 RKM which is the highest ever electrification in the history of any project unit. This was followed by



GM CORE addressing officials at Headquarters.

Bangalore unit which commissioned 713 RKM followed by Ahmedabad unit with 669 RKM. Jaipur contributed 670 RKM, New Jalpaigudi commissioned 580 RKM, Ambala commissioned 453 RKM, Chennai did 406 RKM, Lucknow contributed 194 RKM and Kolkata commissioned 31 RKM during the financial year 2022-23.

Apart from electrification

of sections under the jurisdicmissioning of Traction Substations for strengthening operations. In the financial year 2022-23, a total of 61 Traction Substations (TSS) have been commissioned by CORE which a significant jump of 80 per cent compared to last financial year. Project units Secundrabad tops the list with 12 TSS. In other pro-

ject units Bangalore commissioned 6 TSS, Ahmedabad commissioned four TSS, Jaipur commissioned 10 TSS, Ambala commissioned six TSS, Chennai commissioned five TSS, Lucknow commissioned six TSS, New Jalpaigudi commissioned one TSS and Kolkata commissioned 11 TSS. In the month of March alone, a total of 21 Traction Sub-Stations were commissioned in different railways which is a record tion of various railways and in for TSS commissioning on a Stations were commissioned in the month of January 2023. This shows the importance CORE has attached to commissioning of Sub-Stations for smooth train operations.

Similarly, in this financial year a total of 50 Tower Wagon Sheds have been commissioned which is a quantum jump of 212 per cent compared to the last financial year. Tower Wagon sheds are an indispensable part of traction maintenance works and CORE is taking all out efforts to commission the balance tower wagon sheds at the earliest.

In the financial year 2022-23, CORE has electrified many important sections, which will not only increase the sectional capacity and operational speed but also provide impetus to the socio-economic development of the adjoining regions. An important electrified route from Prayagraj to Bhopal has been achieved with the electrification of Ishanagar -Udaipura section (75 RKM) apart from North Central Railway becoming 100 per cent electrified. With the electrification of the Sikar-Churu section (87 RKM), entire Shekhawati region, which is a major business and tourism hub, is now directly connection to Delhi on electric traction.

With the electrification of Shohratgarh -Pachpherwa -Subhagpur section (118 RKM) the entire alternative stretch from Gonda via Balrampur Anand Nagar to Gorakhpur same time entire State of Uttar Pradesh as well as NER have been fully electrified.

With the electrification of Pangri- Latur Road section (129 RKM), the entire stretch from Pune to Secundrabad via Kurduwadi, Latur Road and Vikarabad has been fully electrified. This will provide an alternative route to Pune-Wadi-Secunderabad section along with Central Railway being fully electrified.

Two killed, 2 others injured as mobile tower falls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two persons were killed and two others were seriously injured when, during the thun-der storm followed by rains, a mobile tower fell on them near Galla Mandi Samadhi Pulia in Vidhnu police station area late Friday evening. The incident took place when they were passing that way. One of them was killed on the spot, while another succumbed to his injury at the hospital. The condition of two others was also stated to be critical at the hospital. A native of Chandi Sisolar village, Hamirpur, mason Horilal alias Mastana (60) was presently living in a hut near Sagarpuri Road in Galla Mandi. Late Friday evening, during strong thunder storm and rains, when he was passing through the mobile tower, it suddenly fell on him and killed on the spot. Besides, Ramgopal Yadav (35) of Kharakpur; Kalloo Balmiki (40) of Lakhpat Vihar and Kalloo Prajapati of Kurara Jhalokhar, Hamirpur, standing there were seriously

under the tower. Police admitted the injured to the LLR (Hallet) Hospital where Ramgopal was also pronounced dead. The condition of Kalloo Balmiki and Kalloo Prajapati was stated to be critical. SHO Satish Chandra Rathaur said after admitting the injured to the hospital, kin of the deceased had been informed. On the basis of complaint, further action would be taken up in the matter, he

BODY OF SHOPOWNER RECOV-ERED: The charred body of the pan shopowner Gyan Chandra Sahu, missing in the Bansmandi readymade cloth market fire incident, was recovered after 30 hours on Saturday morning. After recovery of the body, panic prevailed among his family members. A native of Bhartipur village, Khadesar Shambhuwa in Vidhnu police station area, Gyan Chandra Sahu was running his pan shop in front of the readymade cloth market AR Tower in Bansmandi for the past 20 years. His family comprised

wife Deepa and two children. Elder son Ajay Kumar said after closing the shop, father Gyan Chandra Sahu used to sleep on the rooftop of the AR Tower. Due to rains late Thursday night, he had staired down from the rooftop and thereafter went missing. It was apprehended that Gyan Chandra Sahu was burnt alive in the fire which broke out in the readymade cloth market around 2 am. On Friday morning, amid the devastating fire, when family members found him missing, they had started tracing him. On Saturday morning, after control of the fire to some extent, fire fighting jawans entered the premises and recovered charred body of Gyan Chandra Sahu from the third floor.

On hearing about the recovery of his body, panic prevailed among the family members who kept on sitting in front of the AR Tower since Friday morning. It was the first casualty reported in the Bansmandi Fire incident.

ADARSH WINS GOLD MEDAL: Adarsh Malhotra

won the gold medal in 100 mtrs race of sakting by completing it in 45 seconds in the Roller Skating & Cycling National Championship organised by the Special Olympic Bharat in Gurugram from March 29 to 31. He is student of Prerna Special School, Cantonment Board, Kanpur. At the same time, Sanjit Upadhyaya of Ummid Asha Kiran Air Force School, Kanpur, won the silver medal in 10 km cycling race. They represented the city under the leadership of coach Satyendra Singh Yadav on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh East Zone Special Olympic Association. CEO Cantonment Board Anuj Goel, nominated vice president Lakhanlal Omar, Area Director of UP Special Olympic Bharat, East Zone Manoj Singh, Principal (Prerna Special School) Dr Shikha Agarwal, senior physiotherapist Subrato Bhadra, Alka Mishra, Principal (Ummid Asha Kiran Air Force School) Richa Tripathi and coach Krishna Sharma congratulated the players for winning medals for their institutions.

Minister flags off scooty rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

injured after being crushed

UP Minister of State for Stamp, Court Fees & Registration Ravindra Jaiswal on Saturday flagged off Scooty Rally under the Nutrition Festival Programme which culminated at Kashi Krishak Inter College, Harahua, here. The Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and Additional District Magistrate (ADM-E) Ran Vijay Singh were also present on the occa-

With an objective to gen-

erate awareness about malnutrition, the Health department organised a Scooty Rally under the Nutrition Festival Programme which was flagged off by the UP Minister Jaiswal from the district headquarters here. The rally culminated at Kashi Krishak Inter College, Harahua through jail road, Gilat Bazar, Shivpur bypass

and Tarana. Flagging off the rally, the Minister threw lights on the objective of the rally taken out to generate consciousness about malnutrition and said that the malnutrition was to be eradicated in phase wise and

added that the objective is also

to bring improvement in the nutrition condition of mothers, pregnant women, adolescent and children from 0 to 6 years.

The nutrition is an important part of health and development and added that it is a basic human need and base of healthy life, the Minister said, adding that a moderate diet is necessary from the initial stage of life for the proper growth and development. The proper attention should be given not only on the nutrition of children but also on the nutrition of mothers, he said further.

In the meantime, the Scooty Rally was also taken out from crossing at Rohania-

Mohansarai bypass o make people the aware of nutrition festival and School Chalo Abhiyaan by Anganvadi workers under the guidance of Block Education Officer Shashikant Srivastava and Block Development Officer Vijay Jaiswal. The Block Pramukh of Aarajiline Block Nageena Patel flagged off the rally. The rally culminated at the nutrition festival place in Jagatpur Inter College. The CDPO Manoj Kumar Gautam, ADO, Panchayat Sunil Srivastava, ARP Sunita Singh, Arvind Singh, Vivek Singh, Sanjeev Singh, Rajdev Ram and others

were present on the occasion.

Umesh Pal had keen interest in politics

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Umesh Pal, who was the main witness in the MLA Raiu Pal murder case, had a keen interest in politics. His ambition was to become a big and Atiq Ahmed. Both lived leader. He first joined BSP, then SP and later BJP for ticket in assembly elections, though he did not get ticket from any party. However, in the Panchayat elections in 2008, he contested the election of District Panchayat member from Kaudihar ward, in which he was victorious. After this, his intention was to become an MLA and he started contacting big leaders.

If sources are to be believed, 52 witnesses were

presented on behalf of Mafia Atiq in the Umesh Pal kidnapping case. Several witnesses told in their testimony before the court that there was no and helped each other. When Umesh Pal was contesting the election of District Panchayat member in the District Panchayat elections, many of Atiq's henchmen were roaming day and night from village to village and working hard to vote in favour of Umesh Pal. The people of Atiq left no stone unturned to make Umesh Pal win the election. Its effect also showed and Umesh Pal

won the election.

to get ticket from SP from Phaphamau assembly in 2022 assembly elections. He had ioined SP and was spreading propaganda in the area. Many of his posters along with Akhilesh Yadav were also going viral on social media. Along with this, he used to post photos of participating in SP's programmes on Facebook and other social media accounts. SP had given ticket to Ansar Ahmed from Phaphamau at the last moment in ticket distribution for assembly elections. After this he had taken the membership of BJP.

Umesh Pal was shot dead on February 24 at around 5 pm near his Sulemsarai residence. Umesh Pal had tried hard He was returning home with

his two government gunner after appearing in the district court in his own kidnapping case when he was riddled with bullets as soon as he got down from the car. Umesh Pal had created a page on Facebook in the name of Umesh Pal 254 Phaphamau Vidhan Sabha. He had joined BJP after parting ways with SP. After this, he used to share his photos with BJP leaders on social media. He used to actively participate in BJP programmes. All the photos with Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, Siddharth Nath Singh, Union Minister SP Singh Baghel can be seen on his page. Also, he used to share photos and videos of participating in BJP programmes.

Millets are magical foodgrains

Arts Faculty, Chandra Shekhar Millets is that it drastically Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof CL Maurya while addressing the closing function of the special camp of National Service Scheme said Millets were magical foodgrains which were has decided to emphasise on the promotion of the consumption of millets and for this special awareness campaigns

highly beneficial for the human health. He said the government the fluctuating glucose levels. He said the onus rested on the were being held everywhere. He said the first and the their children aware of the ed to promote use of millets in

reduces the blood sugar level and this in this say it keeps the glucose level under control. He said with diabetes becoming a global epidemic it was felt that millet use in human consumption will naturally control parents and teachers to apprise the children and students the importance of millets in their daily diet. He said it was high time that the people make

KANPUR (PNS): The Dean, foremost beneficial feature of harmful effects of junk food and the benefits of millets.

Addressing the students Dr Archana Singh said Millet was rich in dietary fibre, both soluble and insoluble. She said the insoluble fibre in millet was known as a "prebiotic," which meant it supported good bacteria in ones digestive system. She said this type of fibre was also important for adding roughage to stools, which helped keep one regular and reduced risk of colon cancer. She said the varsity had decidthe day to day diet by taking the help of the Home Science department. She said families can use millets for breakfast by preparing Millet Upma, Dosas, pancakes, Ragi Idlis, Millet Vermicelli. She said similarly for lunch they can prepare Millet chapatis, Millet khichdi, Millet salads, Millet Pongal and also use it for preparing snacks like Ragi and Rajgeera Laddus, chikkis etc. Dr RK Pathak also addressed the students and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Rashmi

34 wheat procurement centres opened

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

As many as 34 procurement centres have been opened in the district to procure wheat. The wheat procurement will remain in effect till April 15.

The Additional District Magistrate (Food & Supply) Jawahar Lal Sriavstava made a review on Friday at Rifle Club here regarding the preparations for wheat procurement and issued directives to the incharges of procurement centres. The district food marketing officer Sunil Bharati and AR-Cooperative Ajit Kumar Singh were also present in the

review meeting.

Bharati informed that as many as 34 procurement centres have been opened in the district to procure the wheat including 12 centres of Food department, 19 centres of PCF, 2 centres of PCU and one centre of FCI and added that the wheat procurement would remain in effect till April 15.

The wheat procurement centres will remain open from 9 am to 6 pm and the wheat will be procured from the farmers at the MSP of Rs 2125 wheat will be procured by elec-

has so far not set a target regarding the wheat procurement for the rabi marketing year of 2023-2024. The procurement of wheat will be ensured on MSP till the farmers reach the centre for the procurement, he informed, adding that the wheat would be procured as per the fixed standard of the government at centre.

The special attention

should be paid on the cleanli-

ness in the standard while procuring the wheat, Bharati directed the in-charges of centres and added that the arrangement of all the requisite equipment and other requirements should be made at centres. The procurement centers will remain open on each day barring on Sunday and public holidays, he informed and directed the in-charges to make arrangements to save wheat from rain and other natural calamities. The farmers are required to get registration on the portal of Food department-www.fcs.ip.gov.in for the

per quintal, he informed and added that the government machine through biometric certification, he informed. **DIRECTIVE:** The District

> Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam has directed the concerned officer to get the children enrolled in the schools by preparing a list of slum localities and brick-kilns. The pace to saturate the

schools under the Kayakalp Yojana should be speeded up, he added while chairing the meeting of district level task force under the district committee on education held on Friday at the auditorium in the Collectorate here.

To prepare the list of slum localities and brick-kilns and get the children enrolled in the schools and ensure the attendance of the children at least 60 per cent in the classes, the DM directed and added that the officers should make efforts for the purpose at a vast level. The DM directed BEO to make a review as school-wise and launch a drive for a week to enhance the attendance of the

children in the schools. The DM reviewed the satwheat procurement and the uration of 19 parameters in

schools under the Operation including Kayakalp uploading on Prerana Portal, DBT model School Chalo Abhiyan, Mission Prenana Phase-II, implementation of Nipun Bharat, etc and directed the officers to ensure the saturation of all the schools by speeding the work on all

There should not remain any work incomplete in the next meeting and the responsibility would be fixed of the responsible officers if the progress is found unsatisfactory and the action should also be ascertained, the DM cautioned.

The ramp and rallying should be constructed in all the Parishadiya schools under Kayakalp Yojana and also ensure the cent per cent availability of toilets separate for boys and girls, the DM directed, adding that the tiling work should also be completed in all the schools against the target. The work under Kayakalp Yojana should be done on the priority basis, he directed and added that the mid-day meal should be cooked as per menu and special attention should be paid on the quality.

PM reviews op readiness of Armed Forces

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked the three Services to stay ready to deal with these new and emerging threats, emphasising that all steps are being taken to equip the Armed Forces with necessary weapons and technologies.

He made these assertions during the Combined Commanders' Conference in Bhopal which began on March 30. He also reviewed the security situation and operational readiness of the Armed Forces during the valedictory session of Combined Commanders' Conference. He was also updated about the steps underway for the creation of Theatre Commands in an effort to fight the modern day war with perfect synergy between the three Services namely army, navy and air force, sources

During the conference, deliberations were held over a spectrum of issues pertaining to national security, including jointness and theaterisation in the armed forces.

Giving details here, officials said the Prime Minister was briefed by Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) General Anil Chauhan about the various discussions conducted during this year's conference. Modi complimented the



nation building and providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to friendly coun-

During the final day of the session, various topics including aspects of digitisation; cyber security; challenges of social media; Aatmanirbharta; absorption of Agniveers and

In a significant development from the past, the scope of the conference was expanded this year, wherein, a few multi-layered and interactive sessions were conducted with participation of soldiers from every command of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, including the Tri-Services Andaman and

Now India, Malaysia can trade in ₹



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in Indian Rupee (INR) in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. This follows the decision by the Reserve Bank of India in July 2022 to allow settlement of international trade in Indian Rupee (INR), the ministry of external affairs(MEA) said here

This initiative by the RBI is aimed at facilitating the growth of global trade and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian Rupee (INR).

India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM), based in Kuala Lumpur, has opera-tionalised this mechanism by opening a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its Corresponding Bank in India i.e. Union Bank of India, MEA

Raut gets death threat from Bishnoi, 1 held

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Less than 24 hours after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Sanjay Raut received a threat message on his WhatsApp on alleged behalf of mafia leader Lawrence Bishnoi that he would be shot dead in New Delhi, the Maharashtra police on Saturday detained one person for questioning in Pune for

questioning.

Identifying the person detained as one Rahul Talekar who works at a hotel in Pune, the police said that he had been handed over to the Mumbai police for further investigations. Raut had received a whatsApp message late on Friday evening warning that he would be shot dead with an AK-47 in New Delhi along the lines of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala who was eliminated last year.

Raut got a threat in a WhatsApp message on Friday evening warning that he would be shot dead with an AK-47 in New Delhi, with reference to the killing of the Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala last year. The threat received by Raut reward thus: "Anti-Hindu, I will kill you. Meet me in Delhi, will finish you off with an AK47. Like Moosewala. Treat this as a message from Lawrence Bishnoi," with a reference to Salman Khan Immediately after he received



the threatening message, Raut had complained to the Mumbai Police Commissioner about it. Raut's MLA-brother Sunil Raut lodged a formal complaint with the Kanjurmarg police on

Saturday morning.

Based on the technical evidence gathered by the Mumbai police that the person who had sent the whatsApp message to Raut was in Pune, the crime branch sleuths of the Pune detained Talekar, a resident of Wadgaon Sheri, from a hotel at Kharadi Chandannagaer in

While it is not known immediately as to the motive behind Talekar handing a death threat to Raut, the detained person has told the police that he had sent a threat message to the Sena (UBT) MP under the influence of alcohol. He reportedly told the police that he had telephoned Raut many times, but the latter had not taken his call. Preliminary investigations have revealed that Talekar had no political affiliation nor were there any criminal antecedents.

afterwards, Raut complained to Mumbai Police Commissioner, and a probe was initiated, leading to the detention of the suspect in Pune. The Mumbai police are questioning him on his links with the Bishnoi gang and also the recent email threats issued to Bollywood actor Salman Khan.

Reacting to the latest death threat, Raut - whose security was beefed up immediately after he received the whatsApp threat message – said: " I have been targetted in a similar manner in the past as well. But, I will not be cowed down by such threats".

"My security as well as the security covers of several Maha Vikas Ághadi leaders' security have been withdrawn and deployed for the 'gaddars' (traitors)... What has the govern-ment done about this?" Raut asked. Alluding to similar threats issued to prominent NCP leader of Thane Jitendra Awhad, Raut accused the state government of ignoring such threats faced by opposition

Leaders of Opposition in the State Assembly Ajit Pawar and his counterpart from Upper House Ambadas Danve, NCP MP Supriya Sule Congress leaders expressed serious concerns over threats and urged government to take matter seri-



NEW DELHI

 $K_{\text{Bhutan}}^{\text{ing of}}$ i g m e



the Royal Government of Bhutan. The visit is in keeping with the long standing tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries, the ministry of external affairs said here on Saturday. During the visit, King of Bhutan will meet with the President and the

Foreign Affairs and External

Trade, and senior officials of

Prime Minister. The External Affairs Minister and senior officials will call on the King of Bhutan. India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterized by understanding and mutual

The visit would provide an opportunity to both sides to review entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the close bilateral partnership, including economic and development cooperation.

Will not entertain any rebellion, says HDK after JD(S) faces 'Bhavani challenge'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amid the family feud over Hassan Assembly seat in poll-bound Karnataka, former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday said he will not entertain any 'rebellion.' He also said the second list of candidates will be released on Monday including for the Hassan seat.

become a big headache for Janata Dal (Secular), which is witnessing a rebellion within the first family of the party. The party which was among the first to release its list of can-

The Hassan seat has

finalise a name for Hassan constituency yet.

The reason being that the former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's daughter-in-law and H D Revanna's wife Bhavani Revanna is adamant about contesting the election from Hassan, which is a JD(S) stronghold.

It is now learnt that the Bhavani has warned that she would contest the election as an independent candidate if she is denied a ticket. Her two sons -Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna and MLC Suraj Revanna too have backed their mother "I will not entertain any rebel-

didates has not been able to lion. I have already said this several times that we will respond to the sentiments of the party workers. Even if there is pressure it will not work because the final decision will be left to the wishes of the workers," Kumaraswamy told reporters.

According to sources in the JD(S), Kumaraswamy is keen on fielding H S Prakash's son H P Swaroop. H S Prakash was a four-time MLA from this constituency who lost the 2018 Assembly election to BIP's Preetham Gowda. Six months after losing the Assembly election, Prakash passed away.

The JD(S) second-in-command wanted to field Swaroop keeping in view the large support base and sympathy he enjoys among voters, the They added that 89-year

old Deve Gowda, who is not

keeping well, called the leaders from Hassan to discuss the issue at his Bengaluru residence. With the Hassan conundrum growing to enormous proportions, senior party leaders reached Bengaluru on Saturday to find a way out. "Some of our leaders have arrived here with regard to Hassan constituency and they too made an appeal.

Trader cheats SBI of ₹95 cr, arrested

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrest-Enforcement ed Kaushik Kumar Nath, a Kolkata based businessman in a money laundering case linked to defrauding the public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) to the tune of Rs 95 crore.

The ED said Nath availed various credit facilities from the State Bank of India by submitting forged and fabricated documents. The funds received in the guise of credit facilities were withdrawn in cash and used for purposes other than for which it was sanctioned.

The SBI has been cheated and defrauded to the tune of Rs initiated the investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of four different FIRs/charge sheets regis-

tered/filed by CBI, Kolkata During investigation by ED, another case registered by the Crime Branch, Mumbai Police also came to the notice of the agency. "Kaushik Kumar Nath is frequently changing his identity and defrauding the banks. Recently, he had shifted his base to Mumbai and engaged in such type of criminal activities there," the ED said in a

statement. ED has identified several immovable properties acquired by the accused from the 'Proceeds of Crime'. Out of the said properties, four properties worth Rs 3.68 crore are already attached by the ED.

Nath was produced before Friday. The Court has granted him to ED custody for 10 days till April 10. Further investigation in the case is in progress,

NIA detains 2 in 27-K kg explosive recovery case

The National Investigation ▲ Agency (NIA) has arrested two accused persons from Raniganj and Kolkata, both in West Bengal, in connection with a 2022 case relating to recovery of 27,000 kg ammonium nitrate explosive.

The arrested duo is alleged to be illegal suppliers of explosives, detonators and gelatin sticks. In June 2022, a Tata Sumo car, which was found transporting around 81,000 electric detonators was intercepted by Special Task Force (STF)

The cache of detonators was seized and Ashis Keora, the ed. Ashis led the police to a stash of illegally stored explosives, including 27,000 kgs of ammonium nitrate, 1,625 kg of gelatine sticks and 2,325 more elec-

tric detonators. After the NIA took over the case, initially registered at Police Station Md. Bazar in Birbhum, in September 2022, the agency made its first arrest in January 2023 with the apprehension of Rintu Sk. The NIA on Friday arrested another two accused from Raniganj and Kolkata, who have been identified as Merazuddin Ali Khan of Bokaro and Mir Md. Nuruzzaman of Birbhum, the NIA said in a statement.

While Mir Md. Nuruzzaman had supplied 27,000 kg of ammonium nitrate to Rintu Sk, Merazuddin Ali Khan had supplied electric detonators and gelatine sticks to Rintu Sk, it said. Further investigations to establish t of pilferage of the explosives and other bomb making materials, including detonators and gelatine sticks are in progress, it

FROM PAGE 1

DEFENCE EXPORT SEES 10-FOLD JUMP IN LAST 6 YRS

India has earmarked 75 per cent of this year's defence capital procurement budget for locally made weapons and systems, a move aimed at unlocking new opportunities for achieving self-reliance targets and ramping up the country's defence exports.

Moreover, the Government has banned import of more than 200 items in an effort to give a fillip to the Indian industry. Around Rs one lakh crore has been set aside for domestic procurement this year, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore and Rs 51,000 crore in the three previous years.

GEORGIA 1ST US STATE TO PASS RESOLUTION AGAINST HINDUPHOBIA

A move in this regard was spearheaded by the Atlanta chapter of the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), which organised the first-ever Hindu Advocacy Day held on March 22 at the Georgia State Capitol. It was attended by around 25 lawmakers — both Republicans and Democrats — who joined the Hindu community to understand its concerns, pledge to create ways to protect the community against discrimination and facilitate the inclusion of Hindu voices in important decision-making processes in the state. "It was a true honour to work with Rep McDonald and Rep Jones as well as other lawmakers who guided us through the whole process of getting this County Resolution passed," said Rajeev Menon, CoHNA vice president.

"We also heard that all the lawmakers had been working really long hours given the amount of legislative items on the agenda, but still decided to join us at the Advocacy Day to show how much they value the Hindu community," he said.

CoHNA general secretary Shobha Swamy said, "The issues faced by Hindu Americans in Georgia and the rest of the country via false, Hinduphobic narratives are negatively impacting a community that has been hardworking, law-abiding and enriching the fabric of America."

"We urged for their help in combating such bigotry which advances hatred and creates the idea that Hindus and people of Indian-origin need special laws and monitoring due to allegations around some inherent propensity to discriminate,"

ABOVE-NORMAL TEMP. MORE HEATWAVE FROM APRIL TO JUNE PREDICTED BY IMD

However, above normal rainfall (37.6 mm against a normal of 29.9 mm) due to seven western disturbances, including five strong ones, kept temperatures in check in March.

March 2022 was the warmest ever and the third driest in 121 years. The year also saw the country's third warmest April, 11th warmest August and eighth warmest September since 1901.

Last month, the Centre For Policy Research (CPR) said a review of 37 heat action plans in India shows most of them do not explicitly carry out vulnerability assessments, leaving the authorities with little data on where to direct their scarce resources. Heat action plans (HAPs) are the primary policy response to economically damaging and life-threatening heatwaves. They prescribe a number of activities, disaster responses and post-heatwave response measures to reduce the impact of heatwaves. The IMD said India is expected to see normal rainfall in April. It said above-normal heatwave days are predicted in most parts of Central, East and Northwest India during this period.

"During the 2023 hot weather season (April to June), most parts of the country are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures, except for south peninsular India and some parts of northwest India where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely," the IMD said.

The IMD further predicted that most parts of the country are likely to experience normal to below normal monthly minimum temperatures during April, except for some areas in Northwest, Central and East India where above normal minimum temperatures are expected.

Normal to above-normal minimum temperatures are very likely over most parts of the country, barring some areas n northeast and northwest India and isolated pockets of the peninsular region, it

Normal to above normal precipitation is expected over most parts of Northwest, cerned, it's perfectly alright".

Central and peninsular region, while below normal rain is predicted in east and Northeast India, it said. The rainfall during April 2023 aver-

aged over the country as a whole is most likely to be normal (88- 112 per cent of LPA). Normal to above normal rainfall is expected over most parts of the Northwest, Central and Peninsular India whereas below normal rainfall is likely over East and Northeast India and some areas over the west coast of India.

Currently, La Nina conditions, cooling of the waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America that favours the Indian monsoon, have weakened, according to the IMD. "Forecast indicates ENSO neutral conditions are likely from April to June. A transition to El Niño is favoured by July-September, with chances of El Niño increasing through the fall," Mahapatra said. El Niño, the warming of the waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America is associated with weakening of monsoon winds and less rainfall in India.

Neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are present over the Indian Ocean and the latest MMCFS forecast indicates that the neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the hot weather

EDGY CALM DAY AFTER RAM NAVAMI CLASHES; SHAH ON BIHAR VISIT

In Sasaram, district administration ordered imposition of Section 144 on Friday afternoon after re-eruption of clashes, which first broke out the previous

Shah has cancelled his tour of Sasaram on Sunday where prohibitory orders are already in place. Interacting with journalists, state BJP chief Samrat Choudhary, said Shah, who will be reaching Patna on Saturday evening, will address party workers in Nawada Lok Sabha constituency on Sunday as per schedule, even as he squarely blamed the Kumar Government in Bihar for the cancellation of the function at Sasaram, organised to celebrate the birth anniversary of Emperor Asoka.

When asked about the cancellation of Shah's visit to Sasaram, Kumar said, "I have no idea about this. I don't know why he was coming and I don't understand why he decided not to come. As far as the law and order situation in the State is con-

Contract inked for building 6 next gen missile vessels at cost of ₹ 9,805 cr

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Cochin Shipyard Limited has signed a contract for building six Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV) for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 9,805 crore with the delivery of ships set to begin from 2027.

The state-run shipyard said the contract marks its entry into advanced weapon intense platforms."The primary role of the ships would be to provide offensive capability against enemy warship, merchantmen and land targets," Cochin Shipyard said in a release. It said the delivery of ships is scheduled to commence from



March 2027. "The NGMVs would be heavily armed war vessels incorporating stealth, high speed and offensive capability. These ships will be capable of conducting maritime strike operations, anti-surface warfare operations and would

be a potent instrument of sea denial for enemy ships especially at choke points," the release said. The shipyard said these ships would be employed for local naval defence operations and seaward defence of offshore development area.

Cochin Shipyard Limited CMD Madhu S Nair said the shipyard was keen to take up the construction of NGMVs after successfully delivering the country's first indigenous

aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. In addition to the above, the state-run entity is also building eight Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts for the Navy and these vessels are under various stages of construction at the vard

China granted visas to over 18,000 Indians since January: Envoy

Kolkata: China has issued visas to over 18,000 Indians in the last three months, a Chinese diplomat said. Interacting with a group of journalists in Kolkata, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in India, Chen Jianjun, said he was looking forward to more Chinese being given visas by India.

"The number of visa applications for China has been on the rise. Since January, we have given visas to 18,560 Indians, he said.

"Since August, 9,409 student visas have been issued to Indian students," he said. However, Jianjun said, the number of visa applications is yet to reach the pre-pandemic

6 German Shepherds to take on wildlife thugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Six German Shepherds, ranging between six and nine months old, and their 12 handlers have joined the forest departments of Karnataka (4), Bihar (1), and Madhya Pradesh (1), to take on the wildlife criminals and protect flora and fauna in their respective states.

This takes the total number of wildlife sniffer dogs trained under TRAFFIC and WWF-India's programme in India to 94, said Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO WWF-India.

The canines had received seven-month-long training at basic training Centre, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force



Panchkula, Haryana from September 2022. The dogs have been trained to detect tiger and leopard skins, bones and other body parts, bear

bile, red sanders, and other illegal wildlife products. BTC-ITBP had organised a passing out ceremony to felicitate the dogs and their handlers in their successful completion of the training course recently. Singh said, "Dogs are not just man's best friend. Once trained as wildlife sniffer dogs, they play a crucial role in protecting our wildlife from crime and illegal trade. This is also true for the 94 wildlife sniffer dogs trained by WWF-India and TRAFFIC over the years "

Dr Merwyn Fernandes, Coordinator of TRAFFIC's India Office, said, "Illegal wildlife trade is a serious threat to the conservation of species in the wild. Wildlife law enforcement practices are critical in containing this threat, and the use of wildlife sniffer dogs for wildlife crime prevention and detection is crucial." "We hope at least four to five wildlife sniffer dogs are deployed in each state and at trans-border areas, working with law enforcement agencies to protect our wildlife.' Dr Dipankar Ghose,

Director & HoD, Wildlife & Habitats Division, WWF-India, and Interim In-Charge TRAFFIC's India office added, "Detecting smuggled wildlife is an ongoing challenge for law enforcement agencies. TRAF-FIC and WWF-India support initiatives that bring in new tools and technology for wildlife crime detection and

Indictment scrubs 'Teflon Don' of invincibility

When Donald Trump steps before a judge next week to be arraigned in a New York courtroom, it will not only mark the first time a former US president has faced criminal charges. It will also represent a reckoning for a man long nicknamed "Teflon Don," who until now has managed to skirt serious legal jeopardy despite 40 years of legal scrutiny.

Trump, who is the early frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, is expected to turn himself in Tuesday. He faces charges including at least one felony offense related to hush money payments to women during his 2016 campaign. Like any other person facing trial, he will be booked, fingerprinted and photographed before being given the chance

The spectacle that is sure to unfold will mark an unprecedented moment in American history that will demonstrate once again how dramatically Trump — who already held the

distinction of being the first president to be impeached twice - has upended democratic norms. But on a personal level, the indictment pierces the cloak of invincibility that seemed to follow Trump through his decades in business and in politics, as he faced allegations of fraud, collusion and sexual misconduct.

"Boy, after all this time it's a bit of a shock," Trump biog-rapher Michael D'Antonio said of the indictment. "You know I always thought of him as the Gingerbread Man, shouting, You can't catch me!' as he ran

'Given his track record," he said, "I had trouble imagining he would ever be held account-

'These are not things that Donald Trump ever thought in his entire life, nor I, for that matter, that he would ever be confronted with," Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime fixer and a key witness in the case who served jail time for the payments, told CNN.

Of course, some of the celebration by Trump's detrac-



tors may be premature. The former president could seek to have a judge quickly dismiss the case. And even if it moves forward, there's no guarantee of conviction. Intensifying investigations in Atlanta and Washington are seen as potentially more serious legal threats.

Still, Trump and his team were caught by surprise when word of the New York indictment broke Thursday evening, following news reports that the grand jury hearing the case was set for a weeks-long hiatus. As the deliberations dragged on, some in Trump's

think he's now in the posture that he's ready to fight this." In the meantime, Trump

ture where he's ready to be combative on something that he believes is an injustice. ... I

and his team have tried to use the news to his advantage, hoping to energize his loyal base by painting the investiga-tion as part of a larger plot to

tion as part of a larger plot to derail his candidacy. Trump ally Rep. Jim Banks, R-Indi., who formally endorsed the former president Friday, said Trump "doesn't back down" and was going to "fight back," telling a local radio show it was "yet another chapter it was "yet another chapter where Donald Trump is going to come back on top in the The media maelstrom has

catapulted the former president back into the spotlight he craves, at least temporarily limiting attention being paid to his rivals, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is widely expected to challenge Trump for the nomination, and has been holding events across the county to promote

Former president raises over \$4m in 24 hours

Donald Trump raised over USD 4 million towards his 2024 presidential run in 24 hours after a Manhattan grand jury indicted the

former US president on charges related to paying off a porn star, his office has said.

According to the former president's campaign, over 25 per cent of donations came from first-time donors to the Trump Campaign, further solidifying his status as the clear frontrumer in the Republican primary. trunner in the Republican primary.

This incredible surge of grassroots contributions confirms that the American people see the indictment of President Trump as a disgraceful weaponisation of our justice system by a Soros-funded prosecutor," it said in a statement on Friday. "With an average contribution of only USD 34, Trump's 2024 campaign is funded by an unmatched coalition of hardworking patriots who are fed up with special interest donors like Soros spending billions of dollars to influence our elections," it said.

Americans from across all 50 states donated to President Trump's campaign within the first five hours of the "sham indictment", the

On Thursday, within minutes of Trump's indictment, the Trump campaign fired off a fundraising email soliciting contributions toward the 76-year-old's 2024 campaign.

It was the first of more than half a dozen fundraising emails sent out by the Trump campaign after the indictment.

The White House has refused to comment on the indictment of the former president.

"I have no comment on that," President Joe Biden told reporters on Friday. Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters

in Zambia: "I am not going to comment on an ongoing criminal case as it relates to the for-Trump is currently the front-runner among all declared and potential contenders for

the 2024 Republican White House nomination. There is nothing in US law that prevents a candidate who is found guilty of a crime from campaigning for and serving as president - even

Trump was twice impeached by the House of Representatives. He was acquitted by the

Indians among eight found dead near Canada-US border

PTI ■ TORONTO

anadian police have recov-Lered the bodies of two more migrants, including that of an Indian woman, who drowned in a river while two families of Indian and Romanian descent were attempting to enter the US from Canada illegally, taking the death toll to eight.

The bodies were found on Friday in a marsh on the riverbank near Akwesasne, a community which straddles Quebec, Ontario and New York state. One other person is still

The two more bodies recovered included one infant, who was a Canadian citizen of Romanian descent. The second was of a woman who was an Indian national, CTV news

Police say the deceased believed to be two families of Indian and Romanian descent — were trying to cross the St

States from Canada. Among them were two children under the age of three, both Canadian citizens. "Unfortunately, these situations happen. It's not something new," Akwesasne Mohawk Police chief Shawn Dulude said of people trying to

cross.
"We've seen it happen in the past, and hopefully as we move forward ... it's something we can one day eliminate," the officer was quoted as saying by the Montreal Gazette newspa-

Akwesasne police are working with Immigration Canada to assist with identifying the victims and notifying the next of kin. They are also increasing surveillance on the river, it said.

Authorities located the first body in the marsh around 5 pm on Thursday during an aerial search conducted at the request of the Canadian Coast Guard. Throughout the day on in St. Lawrence.

Lawrence River into the United Friday, search crews could be seen wading through a marshy area near the local marina with the help of a light airboat. A helicopter also scanned the river. The last two bodies were retrieved from the water during the day.

Police recovered two more bodies from the river on Friday, after discovering six bodies and an overturned boat during a missing person search Thursday afternoon, CBC News reported.

They are believed to have been an Indian family and a Romanian family who were attempting to cross into the US, police said, adding, that an Akwesasne resident remains missing. The bodies were discovered as the result of a search for another missing person, Casey Oakes, that also started Thursday. He was last seen Wednesday boarding a small, light blue vessel departing from the east end of Cornwall Island,

smuggled sculptures to India PTI ■ NEW YORK

 $T^{\text{he prestigious Metropolitan}}_{\text{Museum of Art will return}}$ 15 sculptures to India after it was learnt that the antiquities were illegally removed from the country and sold by disgraced dealer Subhash Kapoor.

that the case had stalled and

that charges might never be

brought. That included Trump

attorney Joe Tacopina, who

said Friday morning he had

hoped the "rule of law would

"Today" show, was "initially

was shocked" by news of the

charges, but quickly pivoted to his usual pushback playbook.

said, Trump "put a notch on his belt and he decided we have to

fight now. And he got into a

typical Donald Trump pos-

US museum

to return 15

Trump, he said on the

"After he got over that," he

In a statement Thursday, the Met said it will transfer the 15 sculptures for return to the government of India. The works range in date from the 1st century BCE to the 11th century CÉ, and include terracotta, copper and stone.

All of the works were sold at one point by Kapoor, who is currently serving a prison sentence in India. "The Museum is commit-

ted to the responsible acquisition of archaeological art and applies rigorous provenance standards both to new acquisitions and to works long in its collection. The Museum is actively reviewing the history of antiquities from suspect dealers. The Museum values highly its long-standing relationships with the government of India and is pleased to resolve this matter," the Met said in the statement. The museum contacted Homeland Security about its works from Kapoor in 2015 and is "pleased to be acting on this matter today as a result of the criminal investigation into Subhash Kapoor' by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, it said.

Through this cooperative partnership, the museum received new information from the Manhattan DA's office about 15 works of art that made it clear that the works should be transferred, resulting in a constructive resolution, the statement said.

In addition, in cooperation with the DA office's criminal investigation into Turkish sites Bubon and Perge, the museum recently removed from display from its Greek and Roman galleries three pieces from Turkey — two of which were loans and a third is part of the Met's collection, it said.

Pak inflation woes not yet over

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The cash-strapped Pakistan government has warned of more inflation coupled with a slowdown of the economy, blaming the delay in inking the crucial deal with the IMF for the worsening economic crisis, according to a media report on Saturday.

In its monthly outlook report issued on Friday, the Finance Ministry also said that political instability has started feeding the strong inflationary expectations, The Express

Tribune newspaper reported.
Holding back its inflation forecast figure for the outgoing month, the Finance Ministry painted a gloomy outlook of the economy, saying that the Monthly Economic Indicator, a tool to predict the economic growth rate based on past and current indicators, has further slowed.

"Inflation in March may remain in the upper bound as observed in February when it was 31.5 per cent," the ministry stated. Although it did not give stated. Although it did not give stated.

a figure this time, the market expects inflation to shoot up to 36 per cent due to a host of negative measures, the report said.

A conservative internal

assessment of the Finance Ministry suggested around 34 per cent inflation rate in March. The ministry said that a "potential reason for rising price level is political and economic uncer-

The ministry also noted that the delay in finalising the USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme was causing further economic distress.

'The economic distress resulting from delay of the stabilisation programme has exacerbated the economic uncertainty due to which inflationary expectations have remained strong," the report said.

Pakistan has been struggling hard to revive the USD 6.5 billion derailed IMF bailout package that the Washington-based borrow directly from commercial banks, have further complicated the matters for the cash-starved country. The Finance Ministry said

that even the contractionary monetary policies of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) were not helping contain the inflation. "Despite the SBP's contractionary monetary policy, the inflationary expectations are not settling down," the ministry

with the central bank's tight monetary policy.

The SBP increased the policy rate by 3 per cent to 20 per cent in the last Monetary Policy

said, showing dissatisfaction

decision held this month. The monthly outlook report stated that bulk buying during Ramzan may cause a demandsupply gap, resulting in an escalation of the prices of essential

Due to the lagged effect of last year's floods, production losses, especially of significant crops, have not yet been fully

As a result, "inflation is expected to stay at elevated levels owing to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation and recent upward adjustment of administered prices of petrol and diesel", the report added.

The Finance Ministry stated that the average Monthly Economic Indicator (MEI) during the first eight months of the current fiscal year indicates a further slowdown in domestic economic activities.

The slowdown seems to be driven by a lack of industrial dynamism, accelerating inflation, which erodes the purchasing power of consumers and investors and is also illustrated by negative growth in exports and imports.

The indicator was already in negative territory since the start of the fiscal year. The Finance Ministry's latest assessment indicates that there may not be any growth during the current fiscal year if no improvement is witnessed in the remainder period.

Lanka to bring counter-terrorism bill in parliament this month: PM

PTI ■ COLOMBO

 $S^{\rm ri}$ Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Saturday said a new counter terrorism draft bill to replace the much maligned Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) of 1979 is to be introduced in the parliament later in April.

Sri Lanka is replacing the PTA with a new legislation called the Anti Terrorism Act (ATA) after the former law was roundly condemned for its draconian nature where people were allowed to be detained without being charged for indefinite periods of time.

Sri Lanka faced international calls to repeal the PTA which was enacted in 1979 as a temporary measure to counter the rising Tamil separatist militancy.

'The new bill will be presented in parliament in the third week of April. It will replace the Gunawardena said.

On March 17, the 97-page ATA was published in the government gazette.

PTA which is often being criticised as a tool used by the successive governments to crush

The European Union since 2016 has been urging the Sri Lankan government to repeal the PTA and bring in a new counter terrorism legislation in line with international standards. The EU has linked its GSP+ export tariff concessions to Sri Lanka modifying its counter terrorism Act.

The opposition and rights groups have already objected to the ATA, saying that it does not differ much from the PTA.

They hold that ATA could be used to crush democratic protests and political opposition while the security forces being conferred powers to crackdown with judicial procedure to brand any dissent as

Sajith Premadasa, the main opposition leader, told reporters: "We see this as unde-It aimed to replace the mocratic and authoritarian because it targets political opponents, trade unions and

> . Mano Ganesan, a minority Tamil political leader, questioned the need for a new counter terrorism law when the country is currently free of any acts of terrorism. Critics charge that the ATA

> would be more harmful than the PTA. Sri Lanka, which currently is reeling under its worst economic crisis, has witnessed several activities that have threatened its national

The nation saw the end of Tamil insurgency in 2009 after the killing of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. A fresh security threat dented the country's security after the Easter suicide attacks in 2019 that killed 290

Pakistan, China border trade to resume next week after 3 years

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

After a three-year hiatus, Pakistan and China are set to resume trade from Monday through the Khunjerab Pass - the only land route between the two allweather allies, a media report said on Saturday.

The Khunjerab Pass was closed in November 2019 to contain the transmission of the COVID-19 virus between the two countries.

The arrangements to reopen the border point for bilateral trade and other activities under the China-Pakistan Eco-nomic Corridor (CPEC) have been finalised by both sides, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The USD 60 billion CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPEC is a network of roads, railways, pipelines, and ports in Pakistan connecting China to the Arabian Sea.

Gilgit-Baltistan Home Secretary Rana Mohammad Saleem Áfzal said that officials on both sides agreed to reopen Khunjerab Pass for trade and travel activities from April 3. He added that the process of issuing border passes would start soon, the report said.

"Most important aspect is that it's a CPEC route. CPEC consignments will enter Pakistan through Khunjerab Pass from China," he said. Under an agreement, trade

and travel activities between the two countries through the Khunjerab Pass start annually on April 1 and close on November 30. Daily bus service also plies from the Sost Valley of the Gilgit-Baltistan region to the Xinjiang province of China, the report said.

between China and Pakistan under the CPEC started via the Karakoram Highway in November 2016.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, said that the federal government had been working to revive CPEC activities, the report said. She added that all hurdles in the bilateral trade's way would be removed.

The prolonged closure of the Khunjerab Pass caused immense financial hardships to the local business community, and thousands of workers became jobless, the report said, quoting officials.

During the last three years, the Pass was occasionally opened for emergency cargo transportation from China to Pakistan on specific days.

The volume of trade between the two countries would increase after the reopening of the Khunjerab

The first trade activity Pass, Gilgit-Baltistan Collector of Customs Syed Fawad Ali Shah was quoted as saying in the report.

He said all required arrangements had been finalised for normal trade at the Sost dry port. Shah added that he met traders, the port management and other stakeholders, who were all happy and assured the administration of their cooperation in smooth trade activities at the dry port.

Haji Liaquat of the Gilgit-Baltistan Importers and Exporters Association said that the people affiliated with trade between the two countries were optimistic about the revival of economic activities in the region, according to the

He added that the people of the region and the government exchequer suffered losses worth billions of rupees owing to the prolonged halt of trade at the

Israeli cops shoot man in Jerusalem

AP ■ JERUSALEM

rsraeli police shot and killed La man who they alleged tried to snatch an officer's gun at an entrance to a Jerusalem holy site early Saturday, raising fears of further violence during a time of heightened tensions at the flashpoint compound.

The police said the slain man was 26-year-old Mohammed Alasibi from Hura, a Bedouin Arab village in southern Israel.

Palestinian worshippers at the entrance to the site on Saturday morning had a different account, saying that Judaism.

times after he tried to prevent them from harassing a woman who was on her way to the holy compound.

Hours after the incident, the muddy stone alleyway leading to the compound was still stained with blood.

Authorities said that officers detained the man for questioning outside the sacred compound home to Al-Aqsa Mosque in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City — the third holiest shrine in Islam. The compound, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, is also the most sacred site in

AP ■ ROME

chipper-sounding Pope Achipper-sounding rope Francis was discharged Saturday from the Rome hospital where he was treated for bronchitis, quipping to jour-nalists before being driven away that he's "still alive."

Francis, 86, was hospitalised at Gemelli Polyclinic on Wednesday following his week-ly public audience in St Peter's Square after reportedly experiencing breathing difficulties. The pontiff received antibiotics administered intravenously during his stay, the Vatican said. In a sign of his improved health, the Vatican released details of Francis' Holy Week schedule. It said he would preside at this weekend's Palm

Sunday Mass and at Easter Mass on April 9, both held in St. Peter's Square and expected to draw tens of thousands of faithful. A Vatican cardinal will be at the altar to celebrate both Masses, a recent practice due to the pontiff having a troublesome knee issue.

But Francis is scheduled to celebrate Holy Thursday Mass, which this year will be held in a juvenile prison in Rome. Still unclear was whether he would attend the late-night, torch-lit Way of the Cross procession at Rome's Colosseum to mark Good Friday. Before departing Gemelli Polyclinic late Saturday morning, Francis comforted a Rome couple whose 5-year-old daughter died Friday night at the



Serena Subania, mother of Angelica, sobbed as she pressed her head into the chest of the Catholic hospital. Outside, pope, who held her close and a boy showed him his arm cast,

Pope leaves hospital, to preside over Easter mass

whispered words of comfort. Francis seemed eager to linger with well-wishers. When

the pope made a gesture as if to ask "Do you have a pen?" Three papal aides whipped out theirs. added his signature to the child's already well-autographed cast. The pontiff answered in a low voice that was close to a

whisper when reporters peppered him with questions, indicating he had felt unwell — "I felt sick," he said, pointing to his mid-section — a symptom that convinced his medical staff to take him to the hospital Wednesday. Asked how he felt now, Francis joked, "Still alive, you know." He gave a thumbsup sign. Francis exited the hospital from a side entrance, but his car stopped in front of the main entrance, where a gaggle of journalists waited. He opened the car door himself and got out from the front passenger seat. Francis had a cane ready to lean

AFTER IMPRESSING AT WORLDS, PREETI EYES BERTH IN ASIAN GAMES-BOUND CONTINGENT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

fter impressing in her maiden Women's World Boxing Championships, the prodigiously talented Preeti Pawar is eager to put to test the learnings from the tournament at the first Olympic qualifiers -- the Asian Games this year -provided she secures a spot in

the Indian contingent.

The 19-year-old put up a fearless display across all her three bouts in the marquee event here as she notched an RSC win before toppling the top seed and last edition's silver medallist Lacramioara Perijoc of

She made a pre-quarterfinal exit after losing a fiercely-contested bout to two-time medallist, Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas, earning plaudits from everyone.

"Junior and youth level is mostly about who attacks more but once you are at the senior level, you have to play with your mind and be more technical," Preeti told PTI.

"I feel I need to modify my game, I should not be attacking all the time, I need to counter more. I am working on improv-



ing my strength and tweaking techniques.

"If I qualify for the Asian Games that will be great. So, I want to be prepared for the Olympic qualifying event," added Preeti, who competes in the 54kg class, an Olympic cat-

egory.
The Asian Games from September 23 to October 8 in Hangzhou, China are the first Paris Olympics qualifying event for boxers from the continent.

For someone, who was averse to the idea of taking up boxing a few years back, the Bhiwani pugilist has made a name for herself quickly in the

"I never thought I'd come

into sports and choose boxing as my career. I wasn't interested in sports. I was focussed on my

"One day, my uncle and father came and said to me that I have to do boxing."

The then 14-year-old's

immediate reaction was "Main nahi karungi, boxing toh bilkul bhi nahi (I will never take up

But Preeti, whose father is an assistant sub-inspector in Haryana Police, reluctantly started training at her uncle and former national medallist boxer Vinod Sai Pawar's, boxing acad-

emy.
"In the beginning boxing was forced on me, I used to go for training but after coming back I used to cry, kabhi pair dard hota tha kabhi haath (sometimes my feet would hurt, other times my hands)."

"It went on for 6-7 months. When I started playing, competitions I developed interest. Then when I won medals, the confidence and interest increased.'

At her uncle's boxing club, there weren't many girls, so Preeti regularly sparred with

boys, much to the dislike of her mother.

"Mummy was scared that I'll get punched. Once during training, I got hit and passed out. had to be taken to a doctor," recalls Preeti.

The Haryana-based boxer clinched the silver medal at the Youth Asian Championships in 2021. She also joined the Inspire Institute of Sports, which has sponsored her since then.

Making her transition to the senior level, Preeti won bronze in her maiden event -- the 2022 Asian Championships at Jordan. She lost to the Tokyo Olympics featherweight champion Sena Irie of Japan in the semifinal.

"When I boxed in my first senior competition, I felt this is where real boxing starts. I lost to the Tokyo Olympics champion but I got a lot of confidence from that bout."

The teenager is a little low on experience but believes there is no substitute to hard work.

"I don't think anyone has been able to achieve what I have in a such a short time. So, time doesn't matter how long you have been there, it is the hard

The game was important

for both teams, with City eight points behind first-place

Arsenal with a game in hand, and Liverpool fighting to secure a top-four spot for

Champions League qualifica-

Guardiola earlier this week said the 22-year-old

Haaland would be given the

chance to prove his fitness

during the team's training

session on Friday. Haaland's

father, Alf-Inge, was quoted by Norwegian TV during the

week saying his son had trav-

eled to Barcelona for treat-

SCHEVARAN

ITF Mysuru Open: Mukund -Vishnu pair bags doubles title

PTI MYSURU

India's Mukund Sasikumar **L** and Vishnu Vardhan bagged the doubles title at the ITF Mysuru Open as the duo showed admirable endurance against compatriots B Ritvick Choudary and Nikki

Poonacha here on Saturday. The two defeated top seeds Choudary and Poonacha 6-3, 6-4 in 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Mukund and Vishnu warded off seven break points in the match while they converted two opportunities to break their opponents to ease their way to the title.

"I am very happy to return to Mysore Tennis Club. I was here as a 12-year-old and I was also the winner of the first International tournament here in 2012. Now, I am very happy to win the doubles title, so I think I partially defended my title," Vardhan said after the

match. "When I came here with my mom in 2012 I was reconsidering playing tennis professionally and from that point to be in Grand Slam ranking and India No 1, it has been a remarkable journey," said Mukund after the match.

"During the pandemic, my life had hit the rock bottom again but I was decided that irrespective of how this week had gone, this will be a new start to an unforgettable journey this year and I hope to return here soon but hopefully you will see me in bigger

In fact, it was the second match of the day for Mukund and Vishnu and they showed great powers of concentration to stay focused on the task.

They also won more than 80 percent of points on both first and second serves, indicating the consistency in their

Earlier in the day, Mukund and Vishnu romped into the doubles final upsetting second seeded Australia-Ukraine pair of Blake Ellis and Vladyslav Orlov 6-4, 7-5.

The USD 25,000 event is being hosted by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA).

In the singles, India's cam-paign ended when Mysuru lad S D Prajwal Dev went down fighting to George Loffhagen of Britain 5-7, 4-6 in a tight semifinal match that lasted precisely two hours.

Loffhagen will face eighth

seeded Australian Blake Ellis, who shocked second seeded American Oliver Crawford 7-5, 6-3 in the other last four clash. The final will be played on Sunday.

(Singles, semifinals) George Loffhagen (GBR) beat SD Prajwal Dev (IND) 7-5, 6-4 (8) Éllis Blake (AUS) beat (2) Oliver Crawford (USA) 7-5, 6-3

Doubles, Final: Mukund Sasikumar (IND) / Vishnu Vardhan (IND) beat Ritvick Choudary (IND) and Niki Poonacha

Maini bags maiden F2 podium at Melbourne

AP MELBOURNE

ndian driver Kush Maini of Campos Racing fought off a Lstrong challenge from Arthur Leclerc of DAMS in a rain-interrupted race to claim his first-ever Formula 2 podium with a third-place finish at the Albert Park, here on

Maini started from P3 on the grid on prime tyres and held on to his position for several laps while Arthur Leclerc was right behind him putting pressure on the softer tyres.

Leclerc got past Maini but the Indian fought back and made a last second dive onto the inside and got back P3.

Leclerc kept the pressure on through the safety car restarts as well but Maini held on to a well-deserved maiden podium

"I have been waiting on the doorstep of getting onto a podium and narrowly missed it at Bahrain," the 22-year-old said.

"It was great to get my first podium on a new track as a rookie. It is most important to keep consistent as it's a very long series. We have had a good start to the season so far with consistency in qualifying always in the top 8.

Dennis Hauger (MP Motorsport) and Jak Crawford (Hitech Pulse-Eight) took the top-two finishes.

NBA, players reach deal

for new labour agreement

Haaland misses Man City match vs Liverpool due to injury

AP MANCHESTER

anchester, Apr 1 (AP) Prolific striker Erling Haaland was not part of Manchester City's squad to play Liverpool on Saturday after failing to recover from a

The Norway international, who has scored 42 goals in all competitions this season, had to withdraw from his European country's Championship qualifiers against Spain and Georgia last week because of the prob-

"He is not fit. He doesn't feel proper," City manager



Pep Guardiola said ahead of

It is not a big issue but today he was not right.

Haaland leads the Premier League scoring charts with 28 goals and has hit nine in his last three games in all compe-

Verstappen takes pole position at F1 Australian Grand Prix

AP MELBOURNE

ax Verstappen will have his best chance of claiming an inaugural Australian Grand Prix title after taking pole position in his Red Bull for Sunday's third race of the Formula One season on the Albert

on Lewis Hamilton is among rivals sharing renewed hope after the dominance Red Bull has had over its rivals was diminished during Saturday's qualifying session.

Verstappen, a two-time world champion, was not pleased with the performance of his RB19 despite setting a track record around the circuit

After setting a lap record during practice earlier on Saturday, the drivers' championship leader set a benchmark of 1 minute, 16:732 seconds in

point behind the Dutch driver in the championship, will start from the back of the grid after



enduring a horrible day in Melbourne.

After declaring Red Bull would win every race this season after their supremacy in Bahrain, Mercedes driver George Hamilton shared the front row of the starting grid after recording a time 0.236 seconds slower than Verstappen.

Hamilton will start in third position on what was an encouraging day for Mercedes, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso qualifying "This is totally unexpect-

ed. For us to be up in the two front rows is a dream," Hamilton said. "To be this

close to Red Bull is incredible. I think this gives everyone in the team a boost and a glimpse of hope. This will spur everyone on. It will inspire

everyone to continue to push." Verstappen, who won the season-opening race in Bahrain, was progressively faster on Saturday but raised concerns about his car on the lap prior to setting the new

"Downshifts are getting worse as well," Verstappen

Verstappen said he has confidence in the Red Bull's reliability. But he was surprised by how close the

coming to Formula **One racing team** soon?

Gender equality

AP ■ MELBOURNE

(IND) 6-3, 6-4.

■aking a break in the paddock after watching Max Verstappen set a lap record in practice at the Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne teenager Kaitlyn Bourne was loving her day at the track.

The 17-year-old Bourne, who was wearing a clear plastic poncho over a Red Bull sweater on a wintry day at Albert Park, is a massive fan of Australian Formula One driver Daniel Ricciardo, who is sitting out this season. But Bourne, who comes

from a motorsport-loving family and watches every Grand Prix race, hopes that one day she will have the chance to support a female F1

"It is still a very male dominated sport, so it would be good to bring in more females. I think it could happen," she said.

There has not been a woman driver in a Formula 1 race for more than 40 years. But with estimates suggesting that 40% of current Formula 1 fans are female, the motorsport industry is making a concerted effort to ensure

that changes. Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said this week in Melbourne he believes gender equality in the sport is inevitable.

"I think it is fantastic to see the amount of girls, females, that are showing interest in Formula One now and we're seeing it at all levels," he said.

"I think the interest is growing. It is appealing to more women to get involved in the sport, whether that is from an engineering basis, or across all aspects of the organization.

"As the sport does become more accessible, and we are pushing to make it more accessible, I think that is something that will naturally happen anyway."

AP ■ NEW YORK **¬**he NBA will have labor peace for years to come. The league and its players came to an agreement early Saturday on a new seven-year collective bargain-

announced. It is still pending ratification, though that process is almost certainly no more than a formality. The deal will begin this summer and will last at least through the 2028-29 season. Either side can opt out then; otherwise, it will last through

ing agreement, the NBA

2029-30. Among the details, per a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke to The Associated Press: the in-sea-

tournament that Commissioner Adam Silver has wanted for years will become reality, and players will have to appear in at least 65 games in order to be eligible for the top individual awards such as Most Valuable Player. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the league nor the National Basketball Players Association released specifics publicly.

tax level that, when reached, will keep teams from using sign players. That was a clear

Another new part of the CBA will be a second luxury their midlevel exception to compromise, given how some teams wanted the so-called "upper spending limit" that

would have essentially installed an absolute ceiling on what can be spent each season and help balance the playing field between the teams that are willing to pay enormous tax bills and those who aren't.

Not in the CBA is a change to the policy that would allow high school players to enter the NBA draft. It was discussed and has been an agenda item for months, but it won't be changing anytime soon - probably not for at least the term of the next CBA.

"We also appreciate that there is a lot of benefit to really having veterans who can bring those 18-year-olds along," NBPA executive director Tamika Tremaglio said in February during an NBPA news conference at All-Star weekend. "And so, certainly anything that we would even

consider, to be quite honest, would have to include a com-

ponent that would allow veterans to be a part of it as well. Silver said Wednesday, at the conclusion of a two-day Board of Governors meeting, that he was hopeful of getting a deal done by the weekend. He also said there had been no consideration - at least on the league's part - of pushing the opt-out date back for a third



at home by **Montpellier** in French league

arseille missed the chance to put pressure on French league leader Paris Saint-Germain after being held at home by in-form Montpellier to 1-1. Matteo Guendouzi's first-half penalty was all Marseille had to show for dominating possession and chances as the visitors stayed unbeaten in the seventh game since coach Michel Der Zakarian returned last month.

Marseille held 1-1

AP ■ MARSEILLES (FRANCE)

Marseille's draw means PSG can move nine points clear on Sunday with a win at home over Lyon. The visitors made a better start and Arnaud Nordin fired Montpellier ahead in the 12th minute, though he had to wait for a VAR check to celebrate after he was initially flagged offside. Wahbi Khazri made a fine turn to elude Guendouzi and set off on a run that sucked in four Marseille defenders before he played the ball to Elye Wahi, who sent it straight on to Nordin for the French forward's fifth

Park circuit. Seven-time world champi-

on Saturday.

the final session of qualifying. "I have been on the podium once, but I want to be on a different step this time," Verstappen said after claiming his first pole position in Australia. His teammate Sergio Perez, who sits just one

Sinner stuns top-ranked Alcaraz in Miami Open semifinals

AP MIAMI GARDENS

¬enth-seeded Jannick Sinner of Italy stunned top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz in the Miami Open semifinals, rallying from a set down to beat the defending champion, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-2 in a three-hour thriller.

Sinner ended Alcaraz's winning streak at 10 matches on Friday night. Sinner's powerfully steady baseline game wore down Alcaraz, who inant recently, he hadn't lost appeared to be cramping early in the decisive third set while Sinner's rally in the Miami

No. 1 ranking to Novak Djokovic.

Sinner, the 21-year-old who made the Miami Open final last year but hasn't been past the quarterfinals of a major, will face fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev of match Sunday. Medvedev has beaten Sinner in all five

Alcaraz had been so doma set since February before

he also dealt with an apparent finger injury. He will lose the train has been so breakaway NBA stars Luka Doncic and Jimmy Butler showed up to watch the Spanish star from the teal seats. Alcaraz also fought Sinner

in Indian Wells in the semifinals, and it was a taut match but not quite like this. These Russia in the championship match Sunday. Medvedev has beaten Sinner in all five meetings.

but not quite like this. These two young guns are poised for a long and spectacular rival-ry. Sinner's victory ended Alcaraz's hope of becoming the first man since Roger Federer in 2017 to win the Sunshine Double of Indian Wells and Miami.



Medvedev beat fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3 on the same day Wimbledon announced Russians will be allowed back.

24 matches - the lone loss to Alcaraz - and is in his fifth straight final. Also Friday, No. 15 seed Petra Kvitova beat unseeded

Rybakina in the final. Alcaraz prevailed in the first set in a tiebreaker but that

took a lot out of Alcaraz's 19-

love to go up 5-4 and then closing it out. Alcaraz had Sorana Cirstea 7-5, 6-3 in the second women's semifinal. Kvitova will face Elena

the third set, trying to stave off cramps and waved to the Medvedev has won 23 of crowd for support. Despite Alcaraz getting the second set back on serve, Sinner stunned Alcaraz in the ninth game, breaking him at

year-old legs. Between points in the third set, Alcaraz was

stretching noticeably during

won 21 straight sets. An ATP trainer came out to attend to Alcaraz midway through the second set, examining one of his fingers before the cramps set in.

Wood, Mayers power LSG to comfortable win over DC

SHALABH SAXENA LUCKNOW

Mark Wood's five-wicket haul and Kyle Mayers explosive batting display helped host Lucknow Super Giants crush Delhi Capitals by 50 runs in their first-ever home match at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium.

Generating some serious pace, Wood proved his worth and finished his spell with five wickets at the expense of mere

While chasing the mountain of a score, Delhi Capitals got off to a brisk start with skipper David Warner and Prithvi Shaw adding 41 runs in 4.3 overs before Mark Wood struck twice in two deliveries to set up the tone for LSG's win.

He clean bowled Prithvi Shaw 12 (9) and in-form hardhitting Mitchell Marsh 0 (1). Warner showed some resistance but LSG bowlers kept on taking wickets at regular intervals to script the home team's big win on their home turf.

Earlier, Lucknow Super Giants started their innings with a bang as Kyle Mayers smashed seven sixes and two boundaries in his knock of 73 runs off just 38 balls to help the LSG post 193 runs for the loss of six wickets in 20 overs.

Mayers, who opened the innings in place of regular opener Quinton de Kock, was lucky as Khaleel Ahmed dropped a sitter at short third man on an individual score of 14. He made the most of the dropped chance and launched



(Above) Kyle Mayers cuts a bowl, (Right) Mark Wood celebrating his five-wicket haul at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Saturday

Eric Cyril Thompson

a flurry of sixes to every corner of the stadium. Mayers started cautiously, hitting his first boundary in the third over when he pulled Khaleel's incoming ball to the square leg

Skipper KL Rahul hit the first six of the innings as he lifted Chetan Sakariya's overpitched ball over the long off, but he couldn't time the next one well enough and holed out at deep square leg to Axar Patel. This was Sakariya's fourth success against KL Rahul in as

many games. The pitch with grassy patches was offering some help

to the pacers and Warner's decision to bowl first was proved right by the trio of Mukesh Kumar, Chetan Sakariya and Khaleel Ahmed as they managed to limit the home team on mere 30 runs for the loss of a wicket in the power play. Mayers tried to cut a slow bouncer from Sakariya but the ball hit high on bat and ballooned towards short third man where Khaleel made a mockery of what could have been a sitter.

After getting the life, Mayers seemed to find his touch as he hit two sixes off Mukesh. He sent the home fans

into a frenzy, swiping a pull over wide long-on, landing 10 yards behind the rope. He slaughtered the next one 30 rows back in the crowd.

Axar Patel, introduced to the attack, was welcomed by a boundary and a six by Mayers. It was a double change as Kuldeep Yadav came to the attack from the pavilion end and he proved to be expensive. Meanwhile, Mayers completed his maiden half-century with a slog sweep six over deep backward square leg and it barely cleared the rope beyond a leaping Rossouw. Mayers' debut half-century came off 28 balls with the help of three sixes and two boundaries.

Mayers continued his onslaught as LSG scored 89 runs in 10 overs despite a slow start. Delhi Capitals pulled things back to some extent, claiming the wickets of Deepak Hudda 17 (18 balls), Kyle Mayers 73 (38 balls) and Marcus Stoinis 12 (10 balls) in quick succession.

Hudda was caught by Warner at the long off, off the bowling of Kuldeep Yadav while Axar took a revenge, sending Mayers back to the pavilion. Axar pitched the ball on the good length and it spun

onto the wickets. After that Khaleel removed Stonis off the first ball of his new spell. Stoinis chased the ball pitched outside the off stump and

sliced a thick edge to Pooran's

gloves. After that Nichloas

Pooran (36), Krunal Pandya

(15)and Ayush Badoni (18)

played some quickfire cameos

to help LSG post a good total on board in their first home

LSG: KL Rahul c Patel b Sakariya 8, Kyle Mayers b Patel 73, Deepak Hooda c Warner b Kuldeep Yadav 17, Krunal Pandya not out 15, Marcus Stoinis c †Khan b Ahmed 12, Nicholas Pooran c Shaw b

†Khan b Sakariya 18, K Gowtham not out 6 Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 5) 8

TOTAL 20 Overs 193/6

Fall of wickets: 1-19 (KL Rahul, 3.6 ov), 2-98 (Deepak Hooda, 10.6 ov), 3-100 (Kyle Mayers, 11.3 ov), 4-117 (Marcus Stoinis, 14.1 ov), 5-165 (Nicholas Pooran, 18.3 ov), 6-187 (Ayush Badoni, 19.5 ov) BOWLING: Khaleel 4-0-30-2, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-34-0, Chetan Sakariya 4-0-53-2, Axar Patel 4-0-38-1, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-35-1

DC: Prithvi Shaw b Wood 12, David Warner c Gowtham b Avesh Khan 56, Mitchell Marsh b Wood 0, Sarfaraz Khan c Gowtham b Wood 4, Rossouw c Mayers b Bisnoi 30, Rovman Powell lbw b Bisnoi 1, Aman Hakim Khan c Pooran b Avesh Khan 4, Axar Patel c sub b Wood 16, Kuldeep Yadav not out 6, Chetan Sakariya c Pandya b Wood 4, Mukesh

Kumar not out 0 Extras: (nb 1, w 9) 10 **TOTAL** 20 Overs 143/9

Fall of wickets: 1-41 (Prithvi Shaw, 4.3 ov), 2-41 (Mitchell Marsh, 4.4 ov), 3-48 (Sarfaraz Khan, 6.6 ov), 4-86 (Rilee Rossouw, 11.6 ov), 5-94 (Rovman Powell, 13.4 ov), 6-112 (Aman Hakim Khan, 15.3 ov), 7-113 (David Warner, 15.6 ov), 8-139 (Axar Patel, 19.1 ov), 9-143 (Chetan Sakariya, 19.5

BOWLING: Mayers 1-0-7-0, Unadkat 3-0-39-0, K Gowtham 4-0-23-0, Avesh Khan 4-0-29-2, Mark Wood 4-0-14-5, Ravi



Punjab Kings beat KKR via DLS method in rain-hit IPL season-opener

Dunjab Kings' costliest recruit Sam Curran dismissed the dangerous Andre Russell at the nick of time to ensure a seven-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders via Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-hit afternoon encounter of Indian Premier League, here on

Chasing a target of 192, KKR were left stranded at 146 for 7 after 16 overs when heavy downpour put spanner on their hardwork. The DLS par score at that time was 153. Had KKR not lost Russell (35 off 19 balls), who was looking to walk away with the game and then Venkatesh Iyer to Arshdeep Singh in the next over, the par score would have been lower before heavens opened up.

The two wickets in the 15th and 16th over proved to be decisive as KKR needed 46 off 24 balls at that stage with Shardul Thakur (8 not out) and Sunil Narine (7 not out) were at the crease. Kolkata needed 62 from 32 balls when Curran dismissed an on-song Russell and Arshdeep removed the 'Impact Substitute' Venkatesh Iyer (34) which proved to be turning point. Russell was holed at deep mid-wicket and Iyer was snapped at point.

The burly West Indian Russell had ignited KKR's hopes of a turnaround with three fours and two sixes, while Iyer made the first real impact with in his 28 ball knock that had three fours and a six.

KKR had a poor start as they were reduced to 29/3 inside the first five overs but a 46-run stand for the fourth wicket between Iyer and skipper Nitish Rana (24) brought them back in contest. Then a 50-run partnership between Iver and Russell put them on course for a possible chase. But KKR just did not have enough firepower in them on the day and Arshdeep's brilliant figures of 3/19 in 3 overs was a game-changer for the 'Red Devils'.

Floodlights malfunction leads to near-30 minute delay in KKR's chase vs PBKS

Kolkata Knight Riders' chase against Punjab Kings in their IPL match on Saturday was delayed by almost half an hour due to floodlight malfunction. The PCA-IS Bindra Stadium here has a total of six floodlights at a comparatively lower height.

Floodlight malfunction is common at Indian stadiums and on the day, once KKR came out to bat, a lot of bulbs in multiple towers didn't turn on and it became a frustrating wait for the players, who then went inside the dressing room.

The onus on stadium maintenance lies with Punjab Cricket Association and the inordinate delay was certainly an embarrassment for the local

unit. As of now, the cause of malfunction hasn't been known but it is a given that PCA brass will get a rap on the knuckles from the BCCI bigwigs. The delay also causes problems for the broadcasters — two this season as the match will now end well after 7:30 pm, the time

when the next game starts. In the second match of the IPL season here, Punjab Kings lost momentum in the second half of their innings after being asked to bat, adding just 91 runs for four wickets to finish at a total of 191 for five in their 20 overs. Bhanuka Rajapaksa top scored for Punjab Kings with 50 from 32 balls with five fours and two sixes while their new captain Shikhar Dhawan scored 40 from 29 balls with the help of six fours.

Arshdeep bowled an eventful second over, striking on the first ball to have Mandeep Singh (2) caught at deep mid-wicket by Curran. After Anukul Roy hit him for a four, the India pacer had the left-handed batter caught at short mid-wicket. Earlier in the first half, Bhanuka Rajapaksa slammed a quickfire 50 to guide Punjab Kings to a challenging 191 for five against

Kolkata Knight Riders. Rajapaksa added 86 runs for the second wicket with captain Shikhar Dhawan (40) to lay a strong platform, with Sam Curran (26 not out) providing late flurry on a batting friendly wicket.Punjab dominated the first half of the innings with aggressive batting and looked primed to cross 200, but KKR managed to pull things back in control with regular wickets after a sturdy 86-run association between Rajapaksa and

The left-handed Sri Lankan Rajapaksa made the most of wrong lines bowled to him by KKR bowlers, racing to the first half-century for PBKS this season. Riding on the momentum provided by Prabhsimran Singh (23) at the top, Rajapaksa ensured Punjab maintained the domination while Dhawan played the second fiddle throughout his stay.

They went about their job with precision to score nearly 10 runs an over, adding 86 runs from just 55 balls for the second wicket. The Sri Lankan batter toyed with the KKR bowling, finding gaps and clearing the ropes at will and perished only after scoring 50 from 32 balls with five fours and two sixes.

Jitesh Sharma hit a couple of sixes to score a quickfire 21 from 11 balls while playing his first IPL match, Raza scored 16 from 13 balls with a six and a four

Gaikwad's sixes clean, pure timing: Kumble Former India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel also praised Gaikwad, one of the

PTI AHMEDABAD

Former India captain Anil Kumble was mighty impressed with Chennai Super Kings opener Ruturaj Gaikwad's six-hitting prowess during his 92-run knock in the IPL opener against Gujarat Titans, saying all his hits over the fence were "clean" and results of "pure timing". However, Gaikwad's show, featuring

four boundaries and nine sixes from 50 balls, was overshadowed by the Titan's allround performance. Shubman Gill struck 63 off 36 balls to help the defending champions Titans chase down the 179run target in 19.2 overs.

"We don't associate him (Gaikwad) with six hitting but to hit nine sixes in an inning is really amazing. Clean, it looked really clean. It was not like he was going out of shape and trying to muscle it, just from the official IPL broadcasters.

players retained by CSK during the mega auction last year ahead of IPL 2022, for his dazzling knock.

"It seemed like Ruturaj Gaikwad was batting on a different wicket compared to the other batsmen. The approach he used is extremely praiseworthy," said Parthiy, a JioCinema IPL expert. Gaikwad's form during IPL 2021 -

he scored 635 runs in 16 games, including a century — was instrumental in CSK winning their fourth IPL title. His dip in form coincided with the Chennai outfit finishing ninth among 10 teams last year. He has a special liking for Titans bowling attack, as in the three innings he

has played against Hardik Pandya's side, he has scored 218 runs, including a halfcentury in every game.

not competitive enough to unnerve the was batting on Friday, he could score 600 said Kumble.



"On this wicket, the target was below par, so a strong start is essential. I think the Gujarat Titans got that and kept the momentum. The way the Titans started their chase, Wriddhiman Saha got the license to use the first six overs to his advantage as much as he could," said the former India wicketkeeper-batter.

Patel predicted that from the wa

"Shubman Gill did what we know Shubman Gill can do and carried over his international form into the IPL. We may get to see a 600-run season from

Gill's performance also came in for praise from Kumble, who hailed the youngster's attitude.

Right at the end, he (Gill) said that 'I was not happy with the way I got out,' which means that he wants to improve and if he's in that situation in the next game, he wants to finish the game for his team. That's a very good sign for a young

We spoke about it on the pre-match show on how he's improved from getting 40s and 50s to 100s in one-dayers and 200. Now, I am sure that this is a good sign for Indian cricket and Shubman Gill o start out on such a wonderful note

Right knee injury may cut short NZ batter Williamson's IPL stint

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's continuation in the ongoing IPL season has been put under doubt after suffering a right knee injury during his team's winning effort against Chennai Super Kings here.

The 32-year-old got injured following a nasty fall while fielding on the boundary during the CŠK innings. He had limped off the field in the 13th over on Friday. The extent of his injury is not yet known, but going by what was seen on Friday night, it did not seem a minor injury.

Williamson, who was making his Gujarat Titans debut, intercepted a ball headed for a



possible six off CSK opener Ruturaj Gaikwad's bat.

He managed to palm the ball into the field of play before it bounced onto the boundary ropes. But he fell awkwardly on the ground and clutched his right knee in pain.

He was taken off after receiving on-field treatment and did not come back to ba with B Sai Sudharsan coming in as a substitute fielder first and later he took Williamson's place in the Titans' playing XI under the Impact Player rule.

Titans captain Hardik Pandya had said at the post-match press conference that he did not know how serious was the

"Ît is knee (injury) for sure but I don't have any update about what exactly has happened. I don't know how serious the injury is and how much time it will take (to heal). Right now there is no time frame," Pandya

"I had just messaged him. He (Williamson) has gone for the scans, once he comes back after the scans and doctors check (on him), then only we will be able to know what exact-

June 1, but his availability is sub-

ject to the five-time IPL cham-

pions Mumbai Indians' progress

in the IPL. The IPL final is

between IPL games he'll bowl

some longer spells to get his

overs up and make sure that he

national franchise cricket these

days. I know there'll be a lot of

people saying 'he should play at

least two four-day games to be

ready for a Test match, but the

preparation and the work that

the medical teams do around

these players is exceptional,"

added Farbrace. Archer returned

to the England white-ball setup

in January this year after spend-

ing 17 agonising months recov-

ering from the elbow and back

injuries. He has taken 42 wick-

ets in 13 Tests for England, but

he last played the longest format

in February 2021.

"I think their plan is that

That's the nature of inter-

scheduled for May 28.

is match-ready.

for Indian cricket: Hardik

If Ruturaj continues way he is

batting, he will do wonders

hennai Super Kings batter Ruturaj Gaikwad's dazzling knock of 92 went in vain in the IPL opener against Gujarat Titans but opposition captain Hardik Pandya was all praise of him, saying that he will do wonders for Indian cricket.

Gaikwad's classy knock off just 50 balls from which he struck four boundaries and nine sixes took CSK to 178 for 7. The Titans, however, chased down the target with four balls to spare, riding on Shubman Gill's 63 off 36 balls on Friday.

Some of the shots he (Gaikwad) played was nothing to do with the bowling. There were some tremendous shots. Full credit to him the way he batted, and if he continues to do so he is going to do wonders for Indian cricket," Pandya told reporters at the post-match con-

"He has the game and when the time comes I am sure the Indian cricket team will back him enough," he said.

The 26-year-old Gaikwad has played nine T20Is after making his debut in July 2021, scoring 135 runs at a modest average of 16.87. He had also played one ODI in 2022.

Pandya said the way Gaikwad was batting on Friday, it was getting difficult to bowl at

"Obviously, we all know what kind of a player he (Gaikwad) is. It looked like at one time CSK would score 220-230. We were finding it difficult on what area we should bowl at him. I had genuinely felt that we would not get him out at all," the

Titans captain said. "He is all-round cricketer, some of the shots he played were not bad balls, actually good



balls and that makes a lot of difference. As a bowling unit and as a captain, that made my job more difficult," he said. Analysing his side's win in

the last over, Pandya said, "A couple of shots from myself and Shubman put us in a difficult situation but again Rahul (Tewatia) getting the best out of his ability and Rashid coming in and showing what he can do.

"So overall we are quite happy but in a way, a lot of things we can learn from this victory. Even (if) we had lost we would have learnt a lot of things.'

The Titans needed 41 off the last five overs but CSK managed to take the game down to the wire. It needed a cameo from Rashid Khan (10 not out off 3 balls) to settled the nerves in the

Titans dressing room. "It's very good to start with a win. What Rashid did, we expected that from him, we showed a lot of trust and confidence in his batting, which he had shown again and again. When we lost Kane (injured while fielding during CSK innings) that put us a little

"I don't think it was too long. It was five overs and 40 runs and we would have got it any day. Just that we lost one too

Archer to go straight to Ashes after IPL stint: County club coach

PTI ■ LONDON

 $E^{\text{ngland pacer Jofra Archer}}_{\text{will continue to prepare for}}$ the Ashes while playing in the IPL, and once the lucrative T20 tournament is over, he'll straightaway get into the gruelling five-Test series against Australia, according to his country club

Sussex head coach Paul Farbrace said that Archer, who returns to Mumbai Indians this season after missing the entire last edition due to an elbow injury, is unlikely to play any redball cricket before the home Ashes series starts in June.

The first Ashes Test commences at Edgbaston on June 16.

Following his recovery from an elbow injury and a stress fracture in his back, Archer has appeared for the national side seven times this year.

Archer could play a Test The England plan for Jofra is he'll go and play in the IPL. I



think all things being equal, he (Archer) will go straight into the Ashes off the back of the IPL," Farbrace was quoted as saying by BBC Sport'.

Since Archer is unlikely to play any red-ball cricket before the Ashes due to his IPL commitment, the 27-year-old doesn't want to waste the opportunity to fine tune his Test bowling ahead of the oldest cricketing rivalry in the world.

against Ireland at Lord's from

a Contraction of the pioneer of the

"Reflecting on where I came from helps me to appreciate and balance what I have now"

— Meghan Markle



Trump has become the first former president to be indicted in a criminal case after a grand jury investigation into hush money payments made on his behalf during the 2016 presidential campaign, write ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MEG KINNARD

TRUMP INDICTMENT & INVESTIGATION

onald Trump's unprecedented indictment comes as the Republican faces other legal investigations and launches a bid to return to the White House in 2024.

The indictment will test the Republican Party already divided over whether to support Trump next year, in part due to his efforts to undermine his 2020 election loss.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and accuses prosecutors of engaging in a politically motivated "witch hunt" to damage his campaign. Here's a look at the hush money case, the

grand jury investigation and possible ramifications for Trump's presidential campaign:

WHAT'S THIS CASE ABOUT?

The grand jury spent weeks meeting in secret to probe Trump's involvement in a \$130,000 payment made in 2016 to the porn actor Stormy Daniels to keep her from going public about a sexual encounter she said she had with him years earlier. Trump lawyer Michael Cohen paid Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, through a shell company before being reimbursed by Trump, whose company, the Trump Organisation, logged the reimbursements as legal expenses.

Earlier in 2016, Cohen also arranged for former Playboy model Karen McDougal to be paid \$150,000 by the publisher of the supermarket tabloid The National Enquirer, which then squelched her story in a journalistically dubious practice known as "catch and kill."

Trump denies having sex with either woman. Trump's company "grossed up" Cohen's reimbursement for the Daniels payment to defray tax payments, according to federal prosecutors who filed criminal charges against the lawyer in connection with the payments in 2018. In all, Cohen got \$360,000 plus a \$60,000 bonus, for a total of \$420,000.

Cohen pleaded guilty to violating federal campaign finance law in connection with the payments. Federal prosecutors say the payments amounted to illegal, unreported assistance to Trump's campaign. But they declined to file charges against Trump himself.

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

The indictment has not yet been unsealed, so it's not totally clear.

Some experts have said they believe Trump could be charged with falsifying business records, which can be a misdemeanor or a felony under New York law. To secure a conviction on the felony charge, prosecutors would have to prove that records were falsified with the intention of committing or concealing a second crime. It's not clear what prosecutors may allege as the second crime.

WHAT HAS TRUMP'S LAWYER SAID?

Trump's lawyer, Joe Tacopina, said Thursday that the former president didn't commit any crime and vowed to "vigorously fight this political prosecution in court."

Tacopina has accused prosecutors of "distorting laws" to try to take down the former president. He has described Trump as a victim of extortion who had to pay the money because the allegations were going to be embarrassing to him "regardless of the campaign."

"He made this with personal funds to prevent something from coming out — false, but embarrassing to himself, his family, his young son. That's not a campaign finance violation, not by any stretch," Tacopina said on ABC's 'Good Morning America' before the indictment.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Law enforcement officials have been making



"THE THUGS AND CRIMINALS WHO ARE CORRUPTING OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM WILL BE DEFEATED, DISCREDITED AND TOTALLY DISGRACED"
— DONALD TRUMP



security preparations for days for the possibility of an indictment and a court appearance by the

Trump was expected to surrender to authorities next week, though details were still being worked out, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss a matter that remained under seal.

WHAT'S THIS GRAND JURY AND WHO TESTIFIED?

A grand jury is made up of people drawn from the community, similar to a trial jury. But unlike juries that hear trials, grand juries don't decide whether someone is guilty or innocent. They only decide whether there is sufficient evidence for someone to be charged.

Proceedings are closed to the public, including the media. New York grand juries have 23 people. At least 16 must be present to hear evidence or deliberate and 12 have to agree there is enough evidence in order to issue an indictment.

David Pecker, a longtime Trump friend and the former chief executive of the parent company of The National Enquirer, returned to the courthouse this week where the grand jury was

meeting.
Pecker's company, American Media Inc., secretly assisted Trump's campaign by paying \$150,000 to McDougal in August 2016 for the rights to her story about an alleged affair with Trump. The company then suppressed

McDougal's story until after the election.

The grand jury also heard from Cohen, as well as Robert Costello, who was once a legal adviser to Cohen.

The men have since had a falling out, and Costello indicated he has information he believes undercuts Cohen's credibility and contradicts his incriminating statements about Trump. Costello testified at the invitation of prosecutors, presumably as a way to ensure that the grand jury had an opportunity to consider any testimony or evidence that might weaken the case for moving forward with an indictment.

Trump was also invited to testify, but didn't.

WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS

Neither the indictment itself nor a conviction would prevent Trump from running for or winning the presidency in 2024

Last week in Waco, Texas, Trump took a defiant stance at a rally by disparaging the prosecutors investigating him and predicting his vindication as he rallied supporters in a city made famous by deadly resistance against law enforcement.

"You will be vindicated and proud," Trump said in a speech brimming with resentments and framing the probes as political attacks on himself and his followers. "The thugs and criminals who are corrupting our justice system will be defeated, discredited and totally

Before the charges were handed down, many party leaders had also already begun to defend the former president.

During a visit this month to Iowa, former Vice President Mike Pence called the idea of indicting a former president "deeply troubling." Another 2024 Republican prospect, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, has said there is a sense that the former president is being unfairly attacked.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a declared candidate who also served as Trump's UN ambassador, has called Bragg's case an attempt at scoring "political points," adding, "You never want to condone any sort of prosecution that's being politicised."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is considering joining the 2024 Republican field, slammed the investigation as politically motivated. But he also threw one of his first jabs at the former president in a quip likely to intensify their rivalry. DeSantis said he personally doesn't "know what goes into paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some kind of alleged affair."

WHAT ABOUT OTHER TRUMP INVESTIGATIONS?

The New York case is just one of many legal woes Trump is facing.

The Justice Department is also investigating his retention of top secret government documents at his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, after leaving the White House. Federal investigators are also still probing the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol and efforts to overturn the 2020 election that Trump falsely claimed was stolen.

In Georgia, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has been investigating whether Trump and his allies illegally meddled in the 2020 election. The foreperson of a special grand jury, which heard from dozens of witnesses, said last month that the panel had recommended that numerous people be indicted, and hinted Trump could be among them. It is ultimately up to Willis to decide whether to move forward.



April 2, 2023

DIFFERENT, NOT LESS

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. This gives us the chance to introspect and act on increasing understanding, acceptance and awareness about autism, about how we can help break the hurdles that stop the community from leading their best lives. THE HEALTH PIONEER presents a macro view of the condition that affects 1 out of 89 children born in India

utism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a collection of disorders defined by issues such as social interaction and communication difficulties. It is the quickest-expanding developmental disorder in India, affecting one in 125 children between 2-6 years and one out of every 80 kids aged 6-9. As per INCLEN studies, one child out of 89 is generally on the autism spectrum. Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism. There is no medical cure for autism, but early diagnosis and intervention helps a person to adapt and function better.

Children with Autism frequently exhibit behaviours such as difficulties transitioning from one task to another, a focus on minutiae. It's believed to be caused by environmental and genetic factors. Those with autism find social interactions difficult as well as have repetitive behaviors and focused interests. Autism is also a spectrum disorder, meaning the severity and range of symptoms are different

from person to person.
As such, healthcare systems are not only failing to provide appropriate care to autistic adults, but also that these failures may be detrimentally affecting the length and quality of life of autistic indi-

In India, it is estimated that around 18 million people have autism. Statistics further reveal that the number of children diagnosed with autism in India is increasing. Low awareness, a lack of basic services, and poor diagnosis, among other factors, have all led to the country's astonishing surge in the number of autism cases.

One of the main reasons why many parents keep diseases like autism hidden is a lack of information about mental health. Many individuals are unaware that such illnesses can affect children as early as a few months old. Such individuals exhibit abnormal behaviours, and a lack of public awareness of the disease makes society less compassionate and stigmatizes the disorder. In their growing years, these children are subjected to bullying, filthy remarks, and humiliation, which



FACTFILE

- ■About 1 in 100 children has autism globally.
- ■Characteristics may be detected in early childhood, but autism is often not diagnosed until much later.
- ■The abilities and needs of autistic people vary and can evolve over time. While some people with autism can live independently, others have severe disabilities and require life-long care and support.
- ■Evidence-based psychosocial interventions can improve communication and social skills, with a positive impact on the well-being and quality of life of both autistic people and their caregivers.
- ■Care for people with autism needs to be accompanied by actions at community and societal levels for greater accessibility, inclusivity and support.

 More than half (53%) have autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
- ■More than half (51%) have autism and anxiety.

 A quarter (25%) have autism
- and depression. ■At least 60% of children with autism will have two comorbid conditions (e.g., sleep prob-lems, seizures, intellectual disabilities, or gastrointestinal problems).
- Autism is not a learning disability, but it can affect cogni-
- tive function. Some children on the autism spectrum have delays in speech or learning, while others do not. Because it is a spectrum disorder, these delays can range from mild to
- One-third of children with autism were classified as having an intellectual disability (IQ equal to or less than 70).
- There is no cure or medication for autism spectrum disorder. Behavioral therapy is the most effective autism treatment. However, the vast majority (95%) of children with autism have at least one cooccurring condition, which is often treatable.

drives them to seek refuge in their

There is no 'cure' for autism. There are, however, ways that can help people with autism learn and perform more effectively. Because there are so many options to select from; individual viewpoints and experiences, as well as diverse research showcasing varying results, deciding on the best intervention for an individual with autism, may be complicated and often overwhelming. Autism patients benefit substantially from cognitive behaviour therapy, behavioural management therapy, occupational therapy, social skills training, and physical therapy. Furthermore, educational and school-based therapy, medication treatment, and nutritious food should be provided to such persnould be provided to such persons. Parents might also enrol in speech-language therapy.

Dr Deepak Gupta, a child and adolescent psychiatrist and

Founder Director of Centre for Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (CCAW, says, "Autism is one of the most misunderstood neurodevelopmental conditions. A peculiar trait of children with Autism is their concern with social communication difficulties.

"This, however, does not mean that they lack abilities to perform

SYMPTOMS

- No babbling or pointing by
- No single words by age 16 months or two-word phrases by age 2
- Impaired ability to make friends with peers
- Impaired ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with oth-
- Repetitive or unusual use of
- language Abnormally intense or focused
- interest Preoccupation with particular
- objects or subjects Inflexible adherence to specif-

ic routines or rituals

daily functions in life. On the contrary, some of the children with autism are brilliant and exhibit performance which is sometimes far superior to ones who are not on the Autism spectrum. With understanding and compassion for their special needs, we can surely induct

them into the mainstream."

Agrees Dr Alok Kumar
Bhuwan, Managing Secretary, Manovikas Charitable Society. While explaining stigma around children who are neurodiverse, he suggests that the strategy to help and build confidence, self-esteem, motivation and resilience is very important when we think about such kids. "Every autistic child has individual strengths and needs. We can help these kids with the concept of Universal design of learning (UDL) which can benefit them with learning and thinking differences. In fact, UDL uses a variety of teaching strategies to remove barriers to learning especially those with autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder."

Autism is the world's third most common developmental disability, a neurological illness that usually manifests by the age of three, says Bhuwan.

K. Nageswara Rao, President, All India Disabled Rights Forum, opines that autism affects early in childhood and needs to be addressed soon. "It varies in type and severity, but therapy can improve the ability of the person the function."

In a nutshell, people with autism can live a better life if they are raised in a happy and healthy environment. Today, the only requirement is that they be accepted totally and that they not be demeaned or discouraged at any

NEWSBRIEFS



INSTITUTE AND AIIMS DELHI JOIN HANDS

Heartfulness Institute and AIIMS, Delhi have inked a pact to collaborate in education and research activities to bring meditation and sciences into dayto-day life and impact various aspects of human health and well-

being.

The MoU was recently signed between 'Daaji' Kamlesh D Patel, President of Ram Chandra Mission, Founder and Guide of Meditation Heartfulness Worldwide, and Dr M. Srinivas -Director of the premier health research institute.

Speaking on the occasion, Daaji (Kamlesh D Patel) -Founder of Heartfulness Institute and Guide of Heartfulness Meditation Worldwide said, "This MoU will help in collaborative research and education in the sphere of meditation and science at the same time. There is a direct correlation between a healthy spirit and a healthy body. Science has time and again proven that meditation leaves positive impacts on mind and body. We want to delve deeper and make the outcomes beneficial to mankind."

Dr Srinivas was of the view that the agreement gives an opportunity to explore more beyond what is already known to medical sciences in terms of inner wellness. "The idea is to help people acquire holistic wellness backed by science. Previous research at universities abroad have already shown how Heartfulness meditation techniques are instrumental in positive behavioral changes as well".

THEN NORMAL LEVELS OF HOMOCYSTEINE IN THEIR BLOOD: TATA 1MG LABS SURVEY ¬ata 1mg Labs has claimed that

📘 data analysis of about 40,000 homocysteine, (an amino acid) tests conducted across its PAN India lab testing facilities in the last two years, indicates that more than 66 per cent of people in India have higher than-normal levels of homocysteine in their bloodstream, making them vulnerable to heart diseases, such as blood clots, heart attack and stroke.

It said that while 59 per cent of women were found with escalated levels of homocysteine, this figure was much lower for men at 40.1 per cent. The age group of 18-30 years had the lowest incidence at 15.3 per cent but rapidly climbed to the highest in the age bracket of 31-40 years at 30 per cent. This was followed by age groups of 41-50 years (about 19 per cent), above 60 years (18.3 per cent), and 51-60 years (17.3 per cent), as per the survey.



When asked about role of homocysteine levels in individuals, Dr Tarun Kumar, Professor of Cardiology, PGIMER and Dr RML Hospital, Delhi said that homocysteine levels are relevant in cases of young patients with Heart attack or brain stroke. As hyperhomocystenemia is associated with recurrent cardiac or brain stroke (thrombosis) events, treatment is quite low cost. "Young patients with thrombotic events like vascular thrombosis (DEep venous thrombosis, Pulmonary thromboembolism), Heart attack or brain stroke patients, should go for such tests," he said and advised that one should take vitamin B6, B-12, folic acid supplementation.

Reframe How We Think About Autism

DEVANGANA MISHRA, founder of Brain Bristle, works with children on the autism spectrum. In conversation with THE HEALTH PIONEER, she asserts that society needs to work with autistic children individually at a deeper level to bring out their best abilities. Excerpts:



Why is autism still a subject we don't fully understand?

Autism is a spectrum, ranging from severe to moderate to mild, lack of communication skills, reciprocity, eye contact, stemming and other such behaviours. Growth for each can look different or the same, how we push someone on the spectrum of autism forward is varied and with different ambitions and hopes than what might be possible for them or vice versa- as educators, what is right, what is wrong, what is enough and what has more scope is all so complicated and there's so much trial and error, who knows.

At what point do we give up on intervention for those on the spectrum of autism?

Honestly, I don't know, I do everything I humanly can until a child is 18, then I give up and see what goes on from there on. By

that I mean, I teach them everything that an adult would need or read- the daily news, romance, sex, cinema, dialogues, texts to send, what to wear on a date, how to dance at prom, how to sit while at dinner, what can you do if you can't do math, how to cheat at tests, how to cheat at everything but still be as good as one can possibly be, how to just figure life as smoothly as one can while being on the spectrum - and then I cross my fingers and hope for the best results possible.

Do you think that mental health and autis, how tangled they are.

You can't say one without the other, growth or experimentation for someone on the spectrum of autism can go haywire, then get back on track, then fall all over again, then find a way again, it's so complex- imagine you decide to

run a marathon, you twist your ankle, you have a choice to call for help and be airlifted or wobble back or let it heal while you lie back there then run or walk the marathon path until you can run again. It's all a mix of everything and that's how autism and mental health works for you and me, but even more importantly for someone on the spectrum of autism, as a teacher I could set them up for excellence but then what they do could be a total crash, who knows--it's all a guesswork for us to see.

Why do we historically have such few disruptions like Einstein or Bill Gates or Ramanujan or Hannah Gadsby in the space of autism, why not more such stories?

It's the same, education is so large and expansive and curricular and rule based, and the time from the ages of 3 to 18 is just not

enough to prioritize where to close and where to expand for someone on the spectrum, sometimes educational interventions turn out right or sometimes a child gets an idea because of being caged and they break out and create something grand. It's all a mix of everything. It's almost like why do we have so many scientists yet so few who win the Nobel Prize eventually. But one thing is certain. Autistic children are different for a reason. They can shake up systems if given the right guidance.

What inspired you to take up the cause of people with autism?

I met my first grown-up with autism when I was 19 and the complete disregard for his giftedness led me to Columbia University, NY to study autism in detail and depth. This is how my journey with the autism spectrum began.

DOCTORSPEAK

aparoscopic surgery in kids is safe

Laparoscopic intervention has revolutionized the world of surgery with its minimal invasiveness and reduced postoperative pain. While laparoscopic surgery is not new in the field of surgery, it has witnessed enormous progress in the last three decades, and in the field of paediatric surgery as well.

The first laparoscopic cholecystectomy was performed on an adult in 1986. Since then, a significant advancement in technology and techniques has taken place in this field resulting in very outcome.

Laparoscopic procedures in children, on the other hand, was restricted to diagnostic purposes till the 1980s. Paediatric surgeons in selected centres started performing paediatric laparoscopic procedures around the world. In India, advanced laparoscopic paediatric surgery was started in December 1998 by the author himself by performing the first laparoscopic Pull through surgery Hirschsprung's disease. It is estimated that over 80% of paediatric surgeons in the USA and many other countries perform laparoscopic surgery in



DR. RASIKLAL SHAH Senior Consultant - Paediatric Surgery, SRCC Children's Hospital, managed by Narayana Health

recent times. At present, there are extensive applications of this technique, and several advanced-level intricate surg-

in small children. In India, more and more parents are opting for this kind of surgery due to its benefits.

The key benefits of Laparoscopic Surgery in children include less pain, less cut/small incisions that look aesthetically better, less blood loss, less risk of infection, lesser hospitalisation (parents can go back to work sooner), faster recovery, early return to school, less risk of pneumonia and lesser chances of development of adhesive

eries are performed safely even Paediatric Minimally Invasive Surgeries are commonly performed for Hernia repair, Appendicectomy, Undescended testis. Pyeloplasty Nephrectomy, Pull through surgery for Hirschsprung's disease and anorectal malformation, Cholecystectomy and Choledochal Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair and Empyema surgery,

Fundoplication,

Pyloromyotomy, Malrotation,

Abdominal cyst, Ovarian

cyst, Mesenteric, and other

Is there any difference between Children and Adult's Laparoscopic Procedures? Many surgical conditions

- in children are totally
- DIFFERENT FROM ADULTS The laparoscopic hand instruments in children consists of smaller length and diameter
- In children, the inside space to work is less which makes surgery very difficult
- Minimally Invasive surgical team needs to be highly experienced and



Trump at the end of primrose path

The spectacle around Donald Trump's indictment and arraignment in a court will mark an unprecedented moment in American history that will demonstrate once again how dramatically Trump has upended democratic norms. But on a personal level, the indictment pierces the cloak of invincibility that seemed to follow Trump through his decades in business and in politics, as he faced allegations of fraud, collusion and sexual misconduct, writes JILL COLVIN

week to be arraigned in a New York courtroom, it will not only mark the first time a former US president has faced criminal charges. It will also represent a reckoning for a man long nicknamed "Teflon Don," who until now has managed to skirt serious legal jeopardy despite 40 years of legal scrutiny.

Trump, who is the early frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, is expected to turn himself in on Tuesday. He faces charges, including at least one felony offence, related to hush money payments to women during his 2016 campaign. Like any other person facing trial, he will be booked, fingerprinted and photographed before being given the chance to enter a plea.

The spectacle that is sure to unfold will mark an unprecedented moment in American history that will demonstrate once again how dramatically Trump - who already held the distinction of being the first president to be impeached twice - has upended democratic norms. But on a personal level, the indictment pierces the cloak of invincibility that seemed to follow Trump through his decades in business and in politics, as he faced allegations of fraud, collusion and sexual misconduct.

"Boy, after all this time it's a bit of a shock," Trump biographer Michael D'Antonio said of the indictment. "You know I always thought of him as the Gingerbread Man, shouting, 'You can't catch me!' as he ran away."
"Given his track record," he

said, "I had trouble imagining he would ever be held account-

able."

"These are not things that Donald Trump ever thought in

When Donald Trump his entire life, nor I, for that matter, that he would ever be confronted with," Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime fixer and a key witness in the case who served jail time for the payments, told CNN.

Of course, some of the celebration by Trump's detractors may be premature. The former president could seek to have a judge quickly dismiss the case. And even if it moves forward, there's no guarantee of conviction. Intensifying investigations in Atlanta and Washington are seen as potentially more serious legal threats.

Still, Trump and his team were caught by surprise when word of the New York indictment broke Thursday evening, following news reports that the grand jury hearing the case was set for a weeks-long hiatus. As the deliberations dragged on, some in Trump's orbit had become convinced that the case had stalled and that charges might never be brought. That included Trump attorney Joe Tacopina, who said on Friday morning he had hoped the "rule of law would

Trump, he said on the 'Today" show, was "initially was shocked" by news of the charges, but quickly pivoted to his usual pushback playbook.

"After he got over that," he said, Trump "put a notch on his belt and he decided we have to fight now. And he got into a typical Donald Trump posture where he's ready to be combative on something that he believes is an injustice. ... I think he's now in the posture that he's ready to fight this."

In the meantime, Trump and his team have tried to use the news to his advantage, hoping to energise his loyal base by painting the investigation as part of a larger plot to



derail his candidacy.

Already, the charges have been a boon to his struggling fundraising. The campaign announced Friday evening that it had raised over \$4 million in the 24 hours after the indictment became public, far smashing its previous record after the FBI search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.

More than 25 per cent of

donations, according to the campaign, came from firsttime donors. The average contribution: \$34.

His campaign also continued to blast out supportive statements from dozens of top Republicans who have rallied behind Trump, including several of his declared and likely challengers, underscoring his continued hold on the party.

Trump has been in contact by phone with key congressional allies, including members of House leadership and top committees, according to people familiar with the conversations, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the response.

Trump ally Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., who formally endorsed the former president on Friday, said Trump "doesn't back down" and was going to "fight back," telling a local radio show it was "yet another chapter where Donald Trump is going to come back on top in

The media maelstrom has catapulted the former president back into the spotlight he craves, at least temporarily limiting attention being paid to

his rivals, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is widely expected to challenge Trump for the nomination, and has been holding events across the county to pro-

mote his book. Trump aides have been discussing other ideas to maximise the situation, including the possibility of holding a press event either before or

after the arraignment. Trump is expected to travel from Florida to New York on Monday and stay overnight at Trump Tower in midtown Manhattan before heading to the courthouse early on Tuesday. He will return to Florida after the arraignment.

Trump has long denied that he had a sexual encounter with the porn actor known as Stormy Daniels and has blasted Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg for pursuing the years-old case.

Trump is also facing continued investigations in Georgia, over his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, and in Washington, where a special counsel is probing the events of January 6, 2021, as well as Trump's handling of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and potential obstruction of the investigation.

But Sam Nunberg, a longtime former aide who broke with Trump years ago, said that while he no longer supports Trump, he believes the Manhattan case is "a waste of time," given the allegations, which remain under seal. And he said he was skeptical it would ultimately matter.

"It doesn't surprise me," he said of the indictment. "What would surprise me is if he actually ended up behind bars in prison and I don't see that hap-

D'Antonio said that sentiment - and a continued belief that Trump will somehow prevail and dodge the charges continues among the many people who have reached out to him in the last 24 hours, despite the charges.

"They're like, he's going to get away with it," he said. 'Somehow, he's going to get it

PERSPECTIVE —

Demystifying philosophical layers of temples

 $\begin{array}{c} A \text{ notion of sacred has held} \\ A \text{existential imperative for} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{peaceful conditions prevail.} \\ \text{Such diagrams also illu} \end{array}$ mankind from time immemorial, bestowing meaning on material pursuits. The onslaught of rapid urbanisation and technological progress has intriguingly rendered sacred spaces all the more relevant. With changes unfolding at breakneck speed, such spaces facilitate introspection and selfenquiry. People from the Indian subcontinent would generally be familiar with the sanctifying ethos of a temple, but a few recognise its philosophical and cosmological foundations. Temples pave the way for individual salvation and also stimulate congregational worship. It is precisely at an interface of these two processes that the philosophical moorings of a temple can be located.

For several centuries, Vastu-shastras have functioned as the principal textual manuals for constructing temples. Texts like Manasara and Mayamatam emphasise the need to construct temples or even towns on square grid plans. Shapes like squares, triangles, circles and even points are liberally employed in temple architecture, and they each carry a distinct meaning. In this case, a square represents the manifest territorial world that needs to be transcended. The square grid plans, which in the words of scholar Stella Kramrisch function as "forecasts for temples", are known as vastu-purusha mandalas. Gods associated with each of the squares within the mandala are ritually invoked to pacify the vastu-purusha, and ensure that

Such diagrams also illustrate the underlying impulse of Indian philosophical traditions to collapse all distinctions between man, God and cosmos. The Samkhya philosophy stresses the unity between microcosm and macrocosm, while Advaita Vedanta extends this further in its theory of the union of atman and brahman. To that extent, each part of a temple is considered to represent the cosmos in a microcosmic capsule, and this imparts spiritual meaning to even the most insignificant components of a shrine. The components of a temple are generally named after parts of the human body, illustrating the organic unity underlying temple architecture in the Indian subcontinent.

This metaphysical union can also be most prominently noticed in the image-worshipping traditions that have passed on from time immemorial. If Vedic texts stress the importance of concentrating the mind on a single object, the Puranas and Agamas are known for their pronounced sectarian predisposition. Nonetheless, continuity can be seen in the way these texts extol aniconic traditions such as the worship of bana-lingas and salagramas.

The linga and yoni manifest forces embodied by Shiva and Parvati respectively. In other words, the stone shaft known as the linga represents Shiva as a silent spectator of the world whose existence is contingent upon the creative energies released by Shakti, who resides at the base. This creative



interplay of two opposing forces provides the dynamic equilibrium required for maintaining the cosmic balance. The salagramas, on the other hand, are stones resembling the discus of Vishnu, and generally acquire this shape because of weathering activity caused by

These continue to be venerated by Vaishnavites across the country, as was recently noticed in the ecstatic reception

to the Salagrama stones that arrived in Ayodhya from Nepal.

A regular visit to the temple is also suffused with philosophical import. Before entering the sanctuary, a devotee is greeted by the imposing structure of a temple, which in many ways resembles a mountain. Vastu-shastras frequently liken temples to Mount Meru, which is held in high esteem by Hindus. A devotee then enters the porch and views several sculptures adorning the walls of any temple. Subsequently, the devotee sets foot into the hallowed precincts of the dimly-lit garbha-griha which

almost like a cave within a mountain — is unadorned and houses the chief deity. Texts suggest that an invisible axis connects this deity with the superstructure of a temple. In fact, it is during the consecration of a temple that the deity's

attributes are manifested by the intervention of priests. This ritual process is called "pranapratishta" and literally suggests instilling prana (life) within the deity

In other words, the deity is considered to have life just like a human being, and germinates within the womb-chamber (garbha-griha) of a temple. After seeking darsan of the deity, a devotee circumambulates the shrine, and attends to

the subsidiary deities placed on its side walls. This is also a profoundly meaningful exercise as it helps a devotee absorb the energies prevailing within a temple.

The power of visual motifs can also be discerned in the narrative friezes adorning the walls of several temples in India, illustrating stories from epics and Puranas. The Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal, which is the only temple in the complex under active worship, contains such friezes and their stories are generally concerned with the restoration of dharma. The Kirat-arjuniya tale is illustrated in several temples of the region. This involves a conflict between Shiva in his incarnation as a hunter (kirata) and Arjuna, who seeks to consolidate his military powers when in exile. Arjuna is put through numerous challenges, before being blessed with the desired armoury. Such stories of perseverance, devotion and truthfulness serve to enhance a devotee's spiritual experience within a temple.

For all these reasons, the structural features of temples are chiefly responsible for making them an integral part of India's spiritual landscape. The vibrant temple culture of Bharat has withstood the ravages of time chiefly because of these empowering philosophical and cosmological concepts that subliminally enrich devotee's experience within a shrine. These need to be acknowledged to foster a society that is rooted to its traditions even as it embraces cosmopolitan

The vibrant temple culture of India has withstood the ravages of time chiefly because of the empowering philosophical and cosmological concepts that subliminally enrich devotee's experience within a shrine. These need to be acknowledged to foster a society that is rooted to its traditions even as it embraces cosmopolitan ambitions



ANIRUDH NAVEEN























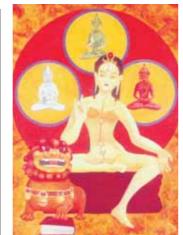




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week balance is necessary. Working on balancing your chakras, or your body, mind, and spirit, is very powerful and beneficial. You must pay close attention to all three. Meditation, Pranayam, and walking in nature all work wonders. The rewards greatly outweigh any effort you can make. Professionally, networking with new individuals, particularly those from different countries, will be beneficial. Today is the moment to strike new business arrangements and begin new initiatives and duties. Realize your full potential. The stars are in your favor. The themes of the week include creativity, transformation, and progress. On the personal front, fresh ideas and strategies can undoubtedly help you rejuvenate your relationships with your loved ones. Love is in the air, and you are eager to express your feelings. It's an excellent time to start dating. Lucky number 1

Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Take some time off for vourself this week, and your health will certainly improve. You're on the right track now; keep up the good work. Read more about old rituals. They will enable you to achieve balance by deepening your spiritual awareness and practice. On the professional front, there will be a lot of activity and getting things done. You could make your colleagues appear bad. You're not tired because being a workaholic is your passion. Maintain control of your behavior; there is a risk of using harsh words that will create a hostile environment around you. Maintaining your calm and maintaining your balance in any scenario can help your career. If you are currently committed, your relationship may soon reach new and greater heights.

Lucky number 5 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You need a break from daily life this week. There is a need to take a break from the busy pace of work and unwind. Pushing vourself when you are exhausted might lead to sickness and damage. On the professional front, you will profit from your verbal and written communication skills and will receive positive news about your work. Businessmen can obtain a stable financial situation. People in the service will have the support from their superiors and employer this week, which will most likely serve as a stepping stone in their career. Be cautious and keep focused on your goals. A new beginning and stronger aspirations await on the personal front. Now is not the time to put additional effort into your relationship.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You must strike a balance between your health efforts and your personal and professional obligations. Make sure you take time for yourself, for relaxation and recovery. Your health will suffer if you put yourself last on the priority list. Make sure you're getting enough rest and sleep. Professionally, if you are looking for work, you have the ability and skill to find it. If you already have a job, you can find a better one. If you don't see any possibilities for progress in your current position, consider looking for one that does. If you are devoted to your relationship, don't be afraid to express your feelings to your partner. You take a strong stance and convey your emotions. This will only strengthen your bond.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Pastel Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week is going to be stressful for you. You may be suppressing your emotions, which will have a bad influence on your body. You must exercise caution in how, when, and where you express your emotional reactions. Anything that relieves stress is beneficial right now, even a five-minute walk. Think positively. Maintain your cool and stay connected. Anger is a silent killer. Tension is evident in the workplace. Be optimistic; this is only a passing phase. Now is an excellent moment to look for a new career. Having plans isn't enough; you must also follow through on them. You have the potential to get the job. On the personal front, the time is right for soul-searching and exploration of the inner realms. It is an ideal moment for you to strengthen relationships of all kinds. Lucky number 12

Lucky colour Yellow **Lucky day** Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

With great care and attention, pay attention to your body. To lose weight, you are either overeating or starving yourself. These scenarios are hazardous to one's health. Adding balance to your eating habits not only helps you manage your weight, but it also offers you a confident attitude. You're otherwise in good health, so enjoy the rest of the week. Work-related investments made in the past are bearing fruit this week. This can be practical, such as a bank account refund. You will reap the benefits of your efforts. You're in your boss's good graces, and you'll be rewarded shortly. In terms of personal relationships, you favor solitude over love and feelings. Those who are committed must maintain contact with their time to keep the spark alive

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

On the health front, you decide to self-validate and believe in yourself and your abilities. Your goal for a healthy, happy family will keep you active. It's time to reflect on how completely different and absolutely great things could be. Professionally, you are upbeat and want to instill love and compassion in your job. You are also quite perceptive. People are surprised to see you in this avatar. Now is the time to concentrate on your goals and objectives. Maintain your resolution and determination. People in business must be harsh when it comes to money. On a personal level, the mind, heart, and emotions are all moving in opposite directions. In love relationships, this is a very emotional moment. Things may quickly turn ugly. Treat your partner as a friend. Don't rush to end or start a relationship

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Keep your stress under control this week to stay healthy. Deal with any physical issues that arise; do not try to ignore them. Make sure you get adequate sleep. If you require healing, ask it. Caring, loving, massage, and hugs from close friends will go a long way toward keeping sensitive people healthy. On the professional front, some may resist your fresh ideas or initiatives, but if you believe you're correct, move forward. You are eager, full of energy, and want to give your all, yet others are not impressed. Leave your simplicity behind and be clever and expressive. When you are confident in yourself, your relationship will enter a lighter, simpler, and more balanced

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Black **Lucky day** Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Stress and depression may wear you down and leave you exhausted and vulnerable. Reading, meditation, and gentle activities will provide relief, and adequate sleep will aid to enhance your mental condition. If you have an optimistic and creative mentality, you will be able to overcome life's uncertainties and complexities. On the job, you must make some quick decisions. Make sure your intelligence and rationality are put to good use, and avoid wasting time on disagreements. A remedy to a problem is already available or will be available shortly. On a more intimate level, operate with a calm mind rather than a raging heart. If you are already in a relationship, this might be a critical time. This is the moment to be crystal clear about what you want from your relationships and then take the necessary measures. Lucky number 22

Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are easily swayed by anything that you assume is physically wrong with you. Do not ignore what your doctor has told you; instead, consider it carefully People suffering from serious diseases must be constantly monitored under doctors' supervision. Others require safeguards against seasonal diseases, which can deteriorate if not treated promptly. On the employment front, you may be unsure whether to leave your existing position, start your own firm, or confront some difficult circumstances. Shifting subjects or professions is not always a good idea. Determine your interests and potential. This is the time to stand firm and keep your ears and eyes open. There is hope and happiness on the personal front, as well as a renewed sense of security, protection, and recovery. Lucky number 3

Lucky colour White Laucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week is ideal for taking care of your health and enhancing your appearance. You are upbeat, optimistic, and full of life. You take good care of yourself and the people you care about. It is not wise to compromise on health problems. It is critical to strike a balance between your work and your relationships. On the professional front, be cautious if you have a job; follow the discipline and set rules of the organization you work for, or else you might face displeasure from your superiors. Money transactions should be handled with caution by businesspeople. There will be conflicts and confrontations that will cause you to lose your cool. On the personal front, you may enter a wonderful partnership. You are probably feeling romantic.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, you are an extremely cheerful, creative, and upbeat person. Your personality reflects this. It's a great moment to show off your charm and embrace the process of personal growth. Your sense of fullness, vigor, and peace of mind will make you an extremely efficient person. You are self-assured and ready to face any challenges in your career. This week, you may win and receive recognition for your efforts. You'll be in your senior's good books. Do not get carried away with your accomplishment. Be cautious in your relationships since there is a possibility of fake love. Investigate before making a final choice. Current relationships should clear up any uncertainties to avoid future misunderstandings.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Thursday

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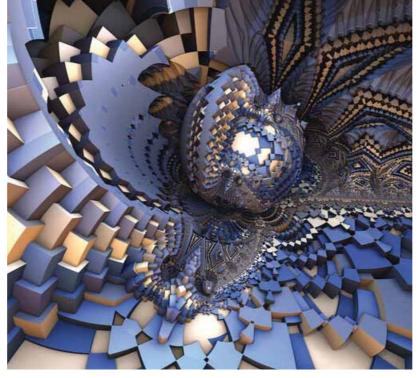


Get over illusionary tendencies of mind and evolve

iven its transitory nature, Indian philosophy views the living world a Maya (illusion). Be that as it may. But all live existences in the world can be physically perceived and are continuously engaged in creative activities. It will, therefore, be unfair to call it unreal, it may not though be an eternal reality. It is, however, again a fact that human mind is by and large illusioned – in terms of perceptions and beliefs. For, invariably all are born ignorant, having a preconditioned mind, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past. That limits one's vision and are invariably not open to look beyond for a reality check. They, thus, fail to look at issues in hand in the right perspective due. Consequently, they make inappropriate choices, often inviting failures, pain, and suffering.

A couple of years back a girl used to come looking for her marital prospects. She was looking for someone true to her fanciful dream perception, mostly distanced from ground reality. Carrying a perfectionist streak, she had made a long list of check points. Even if the prospective guy failed on one count, she would

reject him. Consequently, she never got married. I tried my best to make her understand that the world cannot move to one's asking as nobody could be ever born a perfect. The world is purposely designed as such. All carry their individualistic positives and negatives, the positives by and larger on a higher side. Also, we are an inseparable part of a large existence, where none has a reality independent of the whole. That calls for working out ways and means to relate to others overriding all individual differences. To make things further clear, I tried to explain that the whole creation chain began with a disorder (imperfection) at the primordial source, hitherto in an equilibrated state. But immediately thereafter, random mutation of energies emanating from primal source excited a process of harmonisation, which eventually led to the manifest world. As the cause permeates the effect, the imprint of both disorder and harmony are there in human construct. The whole challenge before us is to be in harmony with each other the way nature driven energies join hands to carry on the creative chain, overriding few individual limitations. In



marital relationship, both the partners carry their respective voids, but each complementing the other's. Not simply to together carry on the journey of life, but also evolve. No wonder Gautam Buddha used to say: "Life is a reflection of harmony of the opposites. In fact, even creation is a result of convergence of two opposite characters. So, reconciling dualities of life is called for." This is the premise on which all relationships can

An NRI guy came asking: "Despite sincere efforts we have not been able to find a suitable match. Why so much delay?" In nature's plan, you are being provided with enough of time and space to work upon your illusionary tendencies of mind and become matured enough to handle the subtleties of marital life with relative ease and comfort. Otherwise, it will be difficult to hold on to the marriage. "How come?" He countered.

Cluster of four planets - the Sun, Moon, Mars, and Mercury – are by themselves enough to make out a complexed mind. You have a vacillating mind. You suffer from 'I am the only right person syndrome'. You expect from

all others to prove true to your expectation, failing which you become hypercritical. Sun and Moon both being placed adverse to Saturn, bring in a sense of fear and insecurity towards uncertain future, pessimism, and self-pitying. The Sun, illdisposed of to mischievous Neptune make you stuck to delusional perceptions and beliefs, distanced from ground realities. Even more, because of inflated ego, coming as it may with both Mars and Sun placed adverse to expansive Jupiter. That further limits your vision, which doesn't allow you to look beyond for a reality check. Also, you are head strong.

Recently, he liked a girl and negotiation seems to be in its final stage. His delusional mind has again come into play with regards to the girl's career prospect. He came asking: "Sir, it will take more than a year for her to qualify getting a job suited to her discipline, and I will have to bear with her burden." My dear, you have yet not understood the meaning of marriage. Come out of your transactional attitude. With this mindset, it will be difficult for you to enjoy a stable and harmonious married life.