OPINION 6

SIKHS HOLD TIRANGA

IN HIGH ESTEEM

MONEY 10

DOT ₹33,111 CR FOR

BSNL AGR DUES

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IYER TO MISS ENTIRE IPL 2023 AND WTC FINAL

11 SPORT

BHOPAL, THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

the pioneer

WORLD 8

CHINA, RUSSIA TO COUNTER US'

INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

Plan for modern Delhi announced

Govt gives infra-focussed ₹78,800-cr Budget

Power subsidy, free bus rides to continue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented Rs 78,800-crore Budget, giving a major push to transport and infrastructure with an allocation of Rs 21,817 crore ahead of the G20 Summit, and announced a comprehensive plan to make the Capital a "clean, beautiful and modern city".

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Budget has something for everyone and free schemes like bus ride for women, power subsidy and pilgrimage for senior citizens will continue in the next financial year as well.

However, the education and health sectors, two highest priority areas of the AAP dispensation, have not seen a major hike.

The Government has proposed Rs 9,742 crore for the health sector, a marginal decline, while in the last Budget, it was Rs 9,769 crore.

The education department has been given Rs 16,575 crore. In the 2022-23 Budget, it had the highest allocation of Rs 16,278 crore. An outlay of Rs



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot arrive for the presentation of Delhi Budget for the financial year 2023-24, at Delhi Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday

9,337 crore in the transport sector has been proposed for the next financial year. Opposition BJP dismissed the Budget as "directionless" and alleged that it is a bundle of lies and has only paper announce-

In his 150-minute speech in the Delhi Assembly, Gahlot said a comprehensive infrastructure rejuvenation project was being launched in a very significant year when Delhi will be hosting India's first G20 summit. The comprehensive plan includes beautification of 1.400-km roads main tained by PWD, construction of 26 flyovers and three double-decker flyovers, induction of 1,600 electric buses and electrification of all bus depots.

Also, the Government has proposed to construct three world-class inter-State bus terminals, two multi-level bus depots, two modern bus terminals and nine new bus

Flares, bottles hurled at Indian Mission

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High Commission in London responds to stir by pro-Khalistan protesters by putting up bigger Tricolour

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

round 2,000 protesters waving A Khalistan flags descended upon the Indian High Commission here on Wednesday for a planned demonstra-tion and hurled objects and chanted slogans amid a heightened security presence and barricades.

The Indian High Commission countered by unfurling an additional humongous Tricolour on the roof of its building, which seemed to rile the protesters further who then hurled coloured flares and water bottles towards the mission building and at police officers and media covering the

Scotland Yard reacted by further blockading the area outside India House and several additional uniformed and mounted officers on horseback were deployed immediately to the

Unlike the violent disorder on Sunday when India House came under attack, the protesters were barricaded across the road with uniformed officers standing guard and patrolling the area throughout. The protesters, including turbaned men, and some women and children, had been bused in from different parts of the UK and chanted pro-Khalistan slogans. The organisers used mikes to make anti-India speeches and attack the Punjab



Police for alleged human rights violations. The speeches switched between English and Punjabi to make allegations of Indian media bias for calling them fringe elements and backed by Pakistan's spy agency ISI. Banners for the so-called "National Protest", organised by groups such as the Federation of Sikh Organisations (FSO) and Sikh Youth Jathebandia, have been circulating on social media since before a protest on Sunday, which ended in violent disorder at India House.

The Indian Government had registered a strong protest over the lack of security measures at its diplomatic mission, which ended in Khalistan flag-waving protesters smashing windows of the Indian High Commission and attempting to pull down the Tricolour. In an apparent tit-for-tat act, India on Wednesday morning removed the barricade security cover of the UK High Commission or British Embassy and its envoy in New Delhi.

Hours after the Indian sharp action more policemen and barricades were installed outside the Indian High Commission in London on Wednesday ahead of the planned protest, in an apparent effort to avoid a repeat of the vandalism seen three days ago.

'Take early action on Judges' appointment'

Collegium worried over Centre holding back recommended names as it hurts their seniority

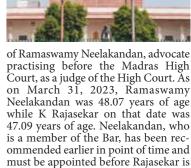
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has voiced concern over the Centre withholding or overlooking the names recommended for appointment as udges, saying this disturbs the seniority of the candidates, and asked the Government to take "necessary action' for elevation of those recommended earlier. The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said a notification for the elevation of persons recommended earlier in point of time should be issued at the earliest.

The Collegium was expressing displeasure on the non-appointment of John Sathyan and Ramaswamy Neelakandan in Madras High Court and also reiterated Harpreet Singh Brar's appointment as Judge in Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The Collegium voiced its concern in a resolution dated March 21 in which it recommended the names of four district judges for appointment as judges of the Madras High Court. The Collegium, which comprises Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph, recommended the names of R Sakthivel, P Dhanabal, Chinnasamy Kumarappan, and K Rajasekar.

"By its resolution dated 17 January 2023, the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the appointment



Neelakandan. Such a deviation in seniority would be unfair and against the settled convention," the resolution said. The Collegium said that while recommending the name of Rajasekar for elevation, it is of the view that his appointment should be notified after the appointment of Neelakandan is noti-

appointed. Otherwise, Rajasekar, who is a judicial officer and younger than

Neelakandan, would rank senior to

"The Collegium is of the considered view that necessary action for the issuance of a notification for the elevation of persons who have been recommended earlier in point of time should be taken at the earliest including the name of R John Sathyan which has been reiterated by this Collegium on 17 January 2023

CAPSULE

RAILWAYS RESTORE AC 3-TIER ECONOMY FARE

New Delhi: Railways on Wednesday issued an order to restore the fare for AC 3-tier economy class travel which had heen withdrawn in November last year when it was merged with AC 3-tier. Despite the restoration in price, Railways will continue offering linen to passengers, the order indicated

MUKESH AMBANI IS RICHEST INDIAN AGAIN

Mumbai: Gautam Adani's fortunes have suffered a severe setback on concerns over corporate governance and accounting fraud, leading to Reliance Industries' Mukesh Ambani replacing the Ahmedabad-based industrialist as the richest Indian. Adani lost Rs 3.000 crore of wealth every week over the last year and his overall networth is down 60 per cent from its peak, as per the M3M Hurun Global Rich List which pegged Adani's overall fortune at \$53 billion as of mid-

ISRO: CHANDRAYAAN 3, ADITYA L1 SOON

Ahmedabad: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath on Wednesday said the launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, and the first solar mission Aditva L1 will possibly happen by the middle of 2023. ISRO is also discussing a possible mission to the Moon in alliance with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration

PM reviews Covid, influenza situation

Modi stresses on genome sequencing, observing strict Covid protocols

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Amid a spike in influenza and Covid-19 cases in some pockets in the country in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a highlevel meeting and directed officials to enhance genome sequencing while also emphasising on Covid-appropriate behaviour. India has recorded 1,134

new coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths. One death each has been reported in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat Delhi, and Maharashtra while one fatality was reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of districts with 10 per cent or more Covidpositivity has gone up to 14 during March 12-18 against

nine in the March 8-14 week.



Modi chaired the meeting to assess the Covid-19 and influenza situation in the country in terms of preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, status of the vaccination campaign, emergence of new Covid-19 variants and influenza types and their public health implications for the country, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

During the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was made covering the global Covid situation, including the rising cases, by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. The Prime Minister was briefed that a slight rise in new cases is being witnessed in some pockets in the country with average daily cases reported as 888 and weekly positivity reported as 0.98 per cent in the week ending March 22. However, 1.08 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally during the same week.

SC to set up Bench to hear plea against remission to Bilkis' rapists



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on ■ Wednesday agreed to constitute a special Bench to hear a plea against the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case. A Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new Bench will

be formed. Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said that a new Bench needs to be constituted. "I will have a Bench constituted. Will look at it this evening," the CJI said. Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat Government could not be held in the top court as the Judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-Judge Constitution Bench.

All 11 convicts were granted remission and released on August 15, last year.

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QR code on tomb keeps son's memories alive ficient to portray what all he did

Family of Kerala doc designed a Web page with his videos linked to the QR code

PTI ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

QR code placed on a tomb-Astone at a church in Kerala's Thrissur helps one to relive and reminisce on the creative work rendered by a doctor, who died young at just 26. The parents of Dr Ivin Francis decided to place the OR code on the tomb of the youngster at St Joseph Church, Kuriyachira in the central Kerala district to give people a glimpse into his world as they can watch videos of his performances by scanning the code. His family from Kuriyachira has designed a web page containing all the works of Ivin and linked it with the QR code.

Son of Francis, an officer with a private company in Oman, and Leena, principal of the Indian School in Oman, Ivin was well-versed in music and sports, and found time for it along with his medical course. He was popular among the community with

his performances. Ivin's unfortunate death came in 2021 when he collapsed and died while playing bad-minton. "We wanted his life to be a motivation for everyone and that is how we thought of plac-ing a QR code on his tomb,"



Francis said

Ivin had created profiles of people using QR codes and his parents also decided to do the same for him. "He also used to send me a lot of QR codes for information," the father said. He said the idea of placing a QR code was of Ivin's sister Evelyn

"My daughter told me that just writing something about Ivin on the tomb will not be suf-

We thought he may not be satisfied with just that. So, she said we can have a QR code linked to his profile and place it on the tomb. So, people who scan the code will know what was he and what all he could do. She created the site and QR code in 10 days," Francis said.

inscribe anything on the tomb when he ordered it. "She creat ed the site and QR code and asked me whether that could be printed on the marble tomb. So I asked the maker, and he said it can be printed," Francis said. He said, "Now, people who

visit the grave can just scan the QR code and can know what sort of a person Ivin was.'

The doting father said his daughter had asked him not to

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शहीदों की चिताओं पर लगेंगे हर बरस मेले वतन पर मिटने वालों का यही बाक़ी निशाँ होगा



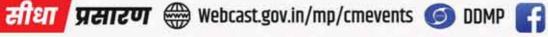


नरेन्द्र मोदी प्रधानमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश द्वारा 23 मार्च, 2023 दोपहर 12 बजे मोतीलाल नेहरू स्टेडियम, भोपाल











@Cmmadhyapradesh @jansamparkMP



शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



शिवराज सिंह चौहान मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

उपलब्धियां तीन वर्ष की



लाड्ली बहना योजना 23 से 60 वर्ष की महिलाओं को





मुख्यमंत्री कौशल अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना १ लाख युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण के साथ र १ लाख तक का स्टाइपेंड



लाड्ली लक्ष्मी योजना २.० 44.50 लाख से अधिक लाड़ली बेटियाँ हईं लाभान्वित



मुख्यमंत्री इंटर्निशिप योजना 4,600 से अधिक युवाओं को दी गई पेड इंटर्निशिप



उद्योग-व्यापार की उन्नति ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट से र १५,४२,५१४ करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव, औसत प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2003 में ₹11,718 से बढ़कर अब ₹ 1,40,583 हुई



बढ़ती विकास दर 16.43% की औसतन आर्थिक विकास दर के साथ समृद्ध राज्यों में शामिल



सशक्त अन्नदाता मध्यप्रदेश गेहूँ नियति में नंबर १, कृषि विकास दर २०२२ में १८.८९%



सुराज कॉलोनियां भू-माफियाओं से मुक्त कराई गई 23 हजार एकड् भूमि पर बनेंगे गरीबों के लिए आवास



सीएम राइज़ स्कूल ₹ ६,३०० करोड़ से बन रहे ९,००० आधुनिक सुविधाओं से परिपूर्ण विद्यालय



सांस्कृतिक गौरव की पुनस्थपिना उज्जैन में श्री महाकाल महालोक का लोकार्पण, ₹ 2200 करोड़ की लागत से ओंकारेश्वर में 'एकात्म धाम' की स्थापना, ओरछा में राम राजा लोक, चित्रकूट में दिव्य वनवासी रामलोक और सलकनपुर में श्री-देवी महालोक मंदिर प्रस्तावित

the pioneer BHOPAL | THURSDAY | MARCH 23, 2023

I want to see my sisters smile with self-confidence: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said sisters smile with self-confidence, not have tears in their eyes. God has made me the Chief Minister to change the lives of my sisters. Our Government is committed to creating opportunities for the sisters to progress along the path of happiness, prosperity, security, and joy.

The Ladli Lakshmi Yojana was started in the state with the aim that the daughter should not be considered a burden but a boon. In this sequence, Ladli Bahna Yojana is being started for economic empowerment, selfconfidence, and self-respect of women. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the women who had reached the

Chief Minister's residence on make every step for daughters Chaitra, Shukla and Pratipada, Gudi Padwa in the programme 'Ladli Bahen Ke Sang -Navsamvatsar Parv'.

Chouhan said that I am talking to my sisters as a brother, not as a Chief Minister. It is a fact that injustice has been done to mothers, sisters, and daughters. It is also a reality that due to the mentality of society, daughters were killed in the womb itself and sisters and daughters were forced to live as second-class citizens in society.

Chouhan said that why should sisters and daughters bear this pain, restlessness, and agony. To change this situation, our government started schemes for the empowerment of sisters and daughters and their welfare. Be it the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana or Ladli Laxmi

simpler. In this sequence, by giving 50 percent reservation to women in local bodies and panchayats, effective efforts were made in the direction of their political empowerment. Arrangements have also been made to give more opportunities to daughters in government

It was also decided to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in police recruitment. I believed that if I give guns and sticks to the hands of daughters, they will put the goons in place.

Chouhan said that sisters in families face shortage of money and are dependent on others for the money. The sisters do not have money to spend for the betterment of themselves and their children. The yearning to change this condition of dependence Yojana, we have made efforts to and poverty especially of women

class families always remained in my mind. The Chief Minister said that economic empowerment is the basis of self-confidence and self-respect. Narrating an incident from Mahabharata regarding the importance of money in human life, he said that for the empowerment of sisters, Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana has been started for the purpose of directly depositing money in their accounts. This scheme will instill new faith in the lives of the sisters.

The Chief Minister said that sisters also have a right on the state treasury. E-KYC of the sisters is being done to ensure that the money of Ladli Bahna Yojana goes directly to the accounts of the sisters every month. No certificate like income or domicile is required for applying in the scheme.

for e-KYC. Immediately complain to the CM Helpline 181 about those who ask for money or those who commit irregularities. Such persons will be sent to jail. Chouhan said that from March 25, camps will be organised in every village and every ward to fill the applications under the scheme. The amount will be transferred to the sisters' accounts on June 10. This scheme is nothing less than a social revolution.

Chouhan said that Ladli Bahna Sena will be formed in every ward and village. This Sena will not allow injustice to happen to the sisters. Along with helping in taking advantage of the Ladli Bahna Yojana, this Sena will also be active in cases of domestic violence and in taking action against goons and



State Congress President Kamal Nath, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh with BJP leader Rao Yadvendra Singh Yadav from Ashoknagar after he joined Congress party with his supporters at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

State capital witnesses cloud cover throughout the day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

eather conditions were cloudy in the state capital while weather changed on Wednesday

Narmadapuram, Mandla and Chhindwara regions of the

Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla and Balaghat districts would witness thundery activities and lightning. It was cloudy throughout

the day in Bhopal. Mandal has received 11 mm of rain. Between March 23 and 25, there will be an effect of weather disturbance again in Madhya Pradesh.

The effect of this system will be more visible in the Gwalior-Chambal division, while light drizzle may occur in Bhopal and Indore. The weather is likely to remain clear in most districts on Wednesday.

The effect of this system will be more visible in the Gwalior-Chambal division, while light drizzle may occur in **Bhopal and Indore**

Hailstorms were witnessed in Rewa. The layer of hail froze on National Highway-39 covered the road.

In many areas of Rewa district, it rained intermittently from noon to Tuesday evening. The city received continuous rain for an hour in the evening. The standing crops in the fields have been damaged due to the hailstorm. The Met stated that the possibility of rain on March 22, 25 and 26.

According to the Meteorological Department,

between March 23 and 25, Bhopal, Vidisha, Sehore, Betul, Neemuch, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopurkalan, Singrauli, Rewa, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori Weather will change in Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari. There is also a possibility of light rain with strong wind.

The systems have settled and sky will remain clear, but from March 23, there will be a change in the weather again. There may also be light rain. Meteorological Department has issued a warning. There may be light drizzle

on March 24 as well The weather had wreaked havoc in the state between March 16 and 19. There was heavy rain-storm and hailstorm, due to this, wheat, gram and mustard crops standing in

the fields were destroyed. The government has also started a survey of the crops destroyed in the second phase. Preliminary losses have come to the fore in 27 districts. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has asked to complete the survey by March 25. The system returned.

Due to the following current and upcoming weather conditions:

Weather of Madhya Pradesh is likely to remain mainly dry during the next 2 days. Thereafter, a fresh round of rain and thundershower/hail activity is very likely over Madhya Pradesh during March

The maximum temperature is very likely to increase gradually by 2-3 degree celsius during the next 2 days and not change significantly thereafter. A cyclonic circulation persists over Southwest Rajasthan & neighborhood.

45-year-old man killed in Shahjehanabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

45-year-old man died after a dispute between Children Shahjahanabad escalated, the accused killed his own brother-in-law, two other people were injured in the incident and in the incident a minor was also involved.

Police have made five people accused of murder in the case. At present, the arrest of the accused has not been done. The police found that there was a dispute between both the parties regarding the transaction of Rs 15,000.

According to the police, Sheikh Rahim alias Munne Khan (45), a resident of Mazdoor Nagar Shahjahanabad, was an auto driver. Two days ago, his children had a dispute with Liyaqat, who lives in the neighborhood. With the intervention of the locals they dispute was pacified.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

fter launching the 'Ladli

Behna Yojana' under

A Behna Yojana unuci which eligible women in

Madhya Pradesh will get Rs

1,000 per month, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday

announced that special squads

will be formed in each ward

action with women at his offi-

cial residence as part of a pro-

gramme - 'Ladli Behna Ke Sang Nav Samvatsar Parv'.

"Ladli Behna Sena' will be

injustice against them.

Behna Sena', he said.

On Tuesday night around 8 Sheikh Rahim reached Liyaqat to demand his 15 thousand rupees. There was an argument on both sides regarding this matter. The matter escalated so much that Liaquat along with his son Farhan and friend Nasir, Ayub alias Faizan, Javed started fighting. Hearing the noise of the dispute, the family members of Sheikh Rahim also reached to intervene where Liyaqat attacked him with a knife in the stomach. In critical condition, the relatives took him to Hamidia Hospital. He died during treatment. Police have registered a case of murder against Liyaqat , his son Farhan, Nasir, Javed, Ayub alias

have not been arrested yet. Liyaqat 's son Farhan had taken Rs 15,000 from Sheikh Rahim. His nephew Sakir Hussain had come to ask for money from Farhan. There was a dispute between the two on

Every woman in MP to get Rs 1,000 per month

Faizan in the case. The accused

this. Only then Sheikh Rahim reached and started explaining to both of them.

Meanwhile, suspecting his wife of illicit relationship a farmer killed his 60-year-old wife after a dispute in Sukhi Sewania area.

Preliminary investigation by the police revealed that he used to doubt his wife. Sukhi Sewania police station in-charge BS Sengar told that Geeta Bai husband Bhagwan Singh (60), a resident of village Pipaliya Zahir Peer, was a housewife.

Bhagwan Singh used to doubt her and used to fight with them every day after getting drunk. On March 19 also there was a dispute between husband and wife. Bhagwan Singh had attacked Geeta Bai with a sharp weapon and later her son got her admitted in the hospital. Geeta Bai died late on Tuesday night. The arrest of the accused has not been done yet.

Scindia thanks State government

PNS GWALIOR

Madnya Francon Health Minister Prabhuram Chowdhary said that Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and other public representa-tives have been demanding for a long time the upgradation of various hospitals in Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Datia, Ashoknaghasar and Guna districts, so that the general public can get more medical

facilities. Keeping this in mind, the Madhya Pradesh Government yesterday gift-ed dozens of new health centers to the Gwalior-Chambal region. As per sources these include four new hospitals apart from the primary health centres. The Community Health Centre at Pichore, which had a capacity of only 30 beds has been upgraded to 100 beds at a total cost of 40 crores and 60 lakhs.

Similarly Community Health Center located at Birla Nagar in Gwalior Nagar, which earlier had only 40 beds, has been upgraded with 100 beds at a total cost of 15 crores and 2 lakhs. The sources further said that Energy Minister Praduman Singh Tomar too was trying for the upgradation of this clinic.

New primary health cen-

ters have been sanctioned for Acharoni of Khaniyadhana development block in Shivpuri district also.

With the upgradation of these hospitals, patients will facilities.

Union Civil Aviation and Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State Health Minister Prabhuram Chowdhary for improving the health facilities in the Chambal region.



constituted in each ward and

Besides ensuring that the benefits of the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' reach the women, the sena will also deal with cases of domestic violence and set antisocial elements right. It will unite women on the issues of economic empowerment and social security, the chief minister said. Chouhan also told the

women during the interaction that 'ahatas' (drinking areas and village in the state to empower women and end attached to liquor outlets) will These squads with women be closed in the state from April 1, and those found drinkmembers will be called 'Ladli ing liquor on the roadside and Chouhan made the

in parks will be punished. Behna Yojana' was launched in the state on March 5. Under this scheme, women will be given Rs 1,000 assistance per month with certain riders, like the woman must be in 23-60 age group, should be a resident of MP and

in the state, where Assembly polls are scheduled to be held at the end of the year. A provision of Rs 8,000 crore has been made for the scheme in the state budget presented in the Assembly recently.

The government aims to

reach out to one crore women

During the programme, the chief minister said, "Women also have the right on the state exchequer and to ensure that the Ladli Behna Yojana's money goes straight into the accounts of the women, the process of 'e-KYC' is being started in the

To avail benefits of the scheme, there is no need to submit documents like domicile or income certificate. No need to pay anyone for getting e-KYC done and in case anybody demands money for doing it, just complain to CM-Helpline-No. 181, to ensure that such persons are sent to jail, he added.

village in the state. This sena (squad) will ensure that no married, should not be an behna (siste) faces any injustice," Income Tax payee and her family's annual income should be Women devotees of Maharashtrian Community participate in a religious procession on the occasion of Gudi Padwa festival in Bhopal on Wednesday **New Police Commissioner for** stern action against goons **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL चैतीचांद, गुड़ी पड़वा और

नव संवतसर की अनंत शुभकामनाएं SEWA SADAN सेवा सदन में अब नेत्र रोग चिकित्सा के साथ ही दंत रोग चिकित्सा सुविधा भी सुलभ

स्वस्थ मुस्कराहट ही सच्चा सौंदर्य हमारी सेवाएं दन्त चिकित्सक रूट कैनाल उपचार दांतो की सफाई दांत निकालना ब्लीचिंग एवं व्हाइटनिंग • टेढ़े मेढ़े दांतो का इलाज बच्चों के दांतो का इलाज • पायरिया का इलाज डेंटल इम्प्लांट

दांतो की कैपिंग बत्तीसी बनवाना सेवा सदन नेत्र चिकित्सालय, शासकीय अस्पताल के पीछे, संत हिरदाराम नगर (बैरागढ़), भोपाल-462030 फोन नं-0755-2643581, 2641156, 4244767 ई-लेश- sewasadaneyehosopital@gmail.com, वेबसाइट-www.sewasadan.org

स्माइल डिजाइनिंग

C o m m i s s i o n e r Harinarayanchari Mishra took charge on Wednesday morning, while interacting with media persons, he said that strict action will be taken against the goons and miscreants. The police would be more sensitive towards the common people. On the lines of Indore, the

hooligan campaign would also be conducted in Bhopal. Police will work sensitively even in the midst of political pressure.

Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra, after taking charge, inquired about the law and order situation in the city with the officials.

Harinarayanchari Mishra is an IPS officer of 2003 batch. Mishra has been the Indore Police Commissioner. Big steps have been taken like demolishing land mafia houses in Indore. In his earlier role he was SP in Gwalior, Jabalpur, Balaghat and Khandwa.

Mishra has also been Indore ASP, Mhow SDOP and ADC to Governor. Let us tell you, on March 16, the Home Department had issued an order



to post Indore Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra to Bhopal, Bhopal Police Commissioner Makrand Deoskar to Indore.

While being the DIG of Indore, Harinarayanchari Mishra had taken a big step to demolish the houses of the land mafia and the miscreants who acquired property illegally. This experiment of Mishra was adopted by many police officers of the state.

Harinarayanchari Mishra. a resident of Raghunathpur village in Siwan, is a 2003 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. He passed the PCS exam in 1998. Became Treasury Officer in Uttar Pradesh.

During the service, the preparation for the civil services examination continued. Passed IRTS in 2001 and became Railway Officer. While working in railway, he prepared for UPSC. After this, in the next year i.e. 2002, he gave the UPSC exam. He became IPS in the result of the examination in 2003. He got the cadre of Madhya Pradesh state.



The new premises of Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bhopal at Paryavas Bhavan was inaugurated by Zonal Head and General Manager, Bank of Baroda, Bhopal Zone Girish C Dalakoti, on Wednesday.

Sarabjot Singh wins gold in International shooting

Bhopal: India's Sarabjot Singh has won gold in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shooting Championships. He shot 253.2 points in the men's 10 meter air pistol category and stood first, whereas, Varun Tomar of India won the bronze medal. He finished third with a score of 250.3. Azerbaijan's Rulsan Lunev finished second

with a silver medal scoring

251.9 points. Sarabjot defeated Rulsan Lunev 16-0.

Shooting World Cup Championship is going on at MP State Shooting Academy, Bhopal. More than 300 players from 30 countries are participating in it. 37 shooters from India are participating in the competition, including 20 men and 17

Gold winner Sarabjot Singh said that he started shooting from summer camp in school. Covid was the biggest challenge while making a career in shooting. Started participating in shooting competition after 2017.

Sarabjot has so far won two gold in the World Championship. Has won one Gold in ISSF Junior World Cup, one in ISSF Junior Cup and two in Asian Championship. Apart from this, he has won two silver medals in the ISSF Junior Cup so far.

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 Bhopal only. Readers are advised to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of 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

Kamal Nath lashes out at BJP and CM for Amit Shah's visit to Chhindwara

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

ight months are left for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. Politics has already heated up before this. Former CM Kamal Nath lashed out at Chief Minister Shivrai Singh Chouhan and the BIP on Wednesday regarding the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Chhindwara.

Former CM Kamal Nath said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had come to Chhindwara in the last assembly elections and the result was that Congress won all the seats in the district. The election of Chhindwara is the election of public versus BJP. The love and trust that the people of

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The accused Nadeem

Khan stopped the victim

complainant near Pul Bogda

and robbed the victim at

knifepoint. The robbed bike has been

recovered. In the compliant

Rehan Khan stated that on

March 15 that he is an elec-

trician of automobiles, he was

on his bike bearing registra-

tion number MP04ZB5939

was coming from Ashoka

Garden to meet a friend in

Jinsi when he spotted

प्र.क./448/बी-121/22-23/383

dozen crimes.

44 years, no matter who comes or who goes, this love and trust will remain.

Shah will address a big public meeting in Chhindwara. The BIP had lost the Chhindwara seat in the last Lok Sabha elections in the state. Now the top leadership of BJP has focused on winning this prestigious seat.

Targeting CM Shivraj, Nath said that he gets intoxicated with announcements as soon as the elections come. The former CM said that he thinks that he will be able to mislead the simple natured people of Madhya Pradesh by his announcements and by giving various kinds of inducements. Today the Chief Minister and the Bharatiya Janata

Chhindwara have given him for Party are unable to give account of their 18 years tenure. This is the reason why the Vikas Yatra being run by him was opposed Notably, on March 25, Amit at more than 160 places.

Former CM said there has been hailstorm in many districts of the state. Rains have caused more havoc than the hailstorm. The government should get the survey done as soon as possible and give compensation.

He said that more than half of Shivraj ji's time goes into criticing Kamal Nath, the government does not run by criticicing him. On the celebration of completion of three years of the BJP government, Nath said that perhaps this celebration is because of the way in which the government was formed through horse-

The team of Jehangirabad

his house and possible loca-

tracked and arrested by the

police. Nadeem was booked

for assault, extortion, threat-

ening, theft, illegal possession

plices who have helped the

accused in stealing and dis-

posing of the vehicles.

Chouhan plants saplings with daughters on Chaitra Navratri

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

n the beginning of Chaitra Navratri, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with daughters planted saplings of Banyan, Amla and Champa in the garden located at Shyamala hills. Chief Minister Chouhan while giving best wishes for Navratri said that it is my wish that the blessings of Goddess continue to show-

er on all of us. Daughter Shubhyanshi Upadhyay along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings on her birthday. Kumari Harshali, Anshika, Priya and Anshita also planted saplings. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Nasrullaganj's social work-



sapling on his birthday. Dheeraj Soni, Devendra Soni, Jagdish Vishwakarma, Jagdish Gurjar, Santosh Soni, Manvi, Ayushi, Aashi and Adhira were with them. Shubham Upadhyay, Kanchan Upadhyay, Neha Patankar, Saumya Patankar, Anjana Rajput, Tanushka Rajput also participated in the plantation.



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with his wife Sadhna Singh distributes gifts to a woman during a Ladli Behna convention organised to welcome Hindu New Year and Chaitra Navratri festival at his residence in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Police arrest miscreant who looted bike on Mar 15

The accused

Prime Minister to attend national meet of army officers in Bhopal on April 01

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

rime Minister Narendra Modi will come to Bhopal on April 01. He will attend the National Meet of Army Officers to be held at the Kushabhau Convention Center here. Defense Minister Rainath Singh along with chiefs of Navy, Army and Air Force will also be present in the meeting. The meeting is going to be held for the first time in Madhya Pradesh.

However, the PM's minute-2 minute programme has not been finalised yet. Officially, even the police officers are tight lipped regarding

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan said that

Madhya Pradesh is continu-

ously moving ahed in the field

of tourism. It is a matter of plea-

sure that in the recent ET Travel

and Tourism Award-2023, the

state received the Best State

Promoting Wildlife Tourism

award for its efforts to promote

gratulations on this. Chief

Minister Chouhan was in a dis-

cussion with media representatives after planting saplings in the garden located in Shyamala Hills.

said that news is being received

continuously about works being

done through public participa-

tion in various areas of the state.

All concerned deserve con-

Chief Minister Chouhan has

wildlife tourism.



the arrival of the PM. According to the infor-

mation, a meeting of army officers has been organised in Bhopal. Senior army officers will be involved in this. It is being told that many important issues related to the military

CM congratulates for promoting wildlife tourism

Public participation has an

important role in the develop-

ment of the state. Taking a won-

derful initiative, the youth of

Indore rejuvenated a school in

Ralamandal with their own

money and resources in four

boards and furniture to the

Apart from providing black-

will be discussed in the meeting. Preparations have started at the Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Center for the meeting. Police and administrative officials have also become active. It is worth mentioning

here that on March 17, Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi of Western Naval Command, Lieutenant General Vipul Singhal of 21 Corps, Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, and Brigadier SS Chillar met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence office. Vice Admiral Tripathi presented the emblem to Chief Minister Chouhan.

school, the school premises have

been enriched with greenery by

planting trees in front of the

classes to protect the environ-

ment. Six classrooms are ready in

the school. I congratulate the

youth of Indore for this positive

thinking and the initiative to

implement it with their

CM greets on Indian New Year

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted the ✓ people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Hindu New Year Vikram Samvat 2080, Chaitra Navratri and Gudi Padwa. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan gave a message through social media that it is my prayer to Devi Maa that the New Year should be auspicious for all, happiness, peace, prosperity and joy should come in everyone's life.

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the entire state is engaged in devotion to the Maa

during Navratri. This is the festival of true worship. We have considered daughters, sisters and mothers as Shakti-goddess. It is the core of our country. Society and the country cannot be empowered without the empowerment of mothers, sisters and daughters.

The campaign for their political, social and economic empowerment will continue in the state. The Chief Minister said that today is Ugadi along with Navratri, the New Year is beginning. Indian New Year, Gudi Padwa, Chaiti Chand and Chaitra Navratri greetings to all.





E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behal of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering)

Description of work	E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
NA-JHANSI Section: Replacement of	JHS-	₹	₹
annel sleepers with H-Beam sleepers on	ENGG-	22849260.23	264300.00
portant Bridges No. 1006/1 on DN & UP	C-2023-		2017/2000
in line.	27		

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 6 Months Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 20.04.2023



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608 **EXAMINATION SECTION**



Ref. No.F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JULY-23)/2023

07.03.2023

Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for July 2023 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) July 2023 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6years)/ DM(6years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda, Deoghar, Mangalagiri, Raebareli, Kalyani and Bilaspur etc.) for July 2023 session as per following schedule:-

Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 07.03.2023				
Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date		
#Registration and Basic Information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been #ACCEPTED for July 2019. January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022, July 2022 and January 2023 are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code))	07.03.2023	25.03.2023 (by 5:00 PM)		
 Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed) 				
Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images	28.03.2023	31.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)		
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	03.04.2023	by 5:00 pm)		
 Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for July 2023 session] Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code) Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstances) 	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	10.04.2023 (05:00 pm)		
 Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card. a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate: The OBC(-NCL) certificates should have been issued between 08.05.2022 to 07.05.2023 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive. b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for financial year 2023-2024 and issued between 01.04.2023 to 07.05.2023 (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2022-2023. 	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	07.05.2023 (05:00 pm)		
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	14.04.2023 (11:00 pm)	AND THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF		
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01.05.202	3 (Monday)		
Date of Examination	Examina	tion Centers		
07th May, 2023 (Sunday)	Cities al	l over India		

Important:- For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Registration and Basic information are mandatory. Only those with accepted Registration & Basic information can proceed for Generation of EUC for completion of application form.

Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

Note:- All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondance will be entertained in this regard.

Correction/edit of Registration:- For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

CBC 17112/12/0045/2223

Nadeem Khan ahangirabad police arreststopped the ed the accused who robbed a motorbike at victim knifepoint in Pul Bogda area complainant near on March 15; accused is Pul Bogda and watch list criminal and has been booked for over two

istered.

police station was continuously searching for the accused Nadeem by raiding tions but during the search the accused Nadeem managed to escape. On Wednesday he was robbed the victim

Bogda fire brigade who asked him to stop victim stopped, Nadeem took a knife and

at knifepoint Nadeem near the bridge of weapons by Jehangirabad,

robbed him of his motorbike.

After the incident the robbery victim reached the police station and lodged a complaint against the accused and based on the complaint a case under section 392 of the IPC was reg-

Hanumanganj, Aishbagh, Jahangirabad, Kohefiza, Ashoka Garden. The police have started searching for other accom-

अशोकनगर, दिनांक 15/03/2023

न्यायालय अपर कलेक्टर, जिला अशोकनगर (म.प्र.)

1. श्री विनोद पुत्र मुलचंद जाति जैन

नि. वार्ड नं. 9 मकान नं. 8 शाढौरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर 2. श्रीमति सविता जैन पत्नि विनोद जैन

नि.वार्ड नं.9 मकान नं. 8 शाढौरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर

3. श्री ऋषभ पिता विनोद जैन नि. वार्ड नं. 9 मकान नं. 8 शाढौरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर

एतद व्दारा आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकृत अधिकारी इक्विटास स्मात **फायनेंस बैंक** व्दारा वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुर्नगठन एवं प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम २००२ की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत राशि की वसूली के संबंध में आपके विरूद्ध आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त आवेदन पत्र पर सुनवाई हेतु **दिनांक 28/03/2023**

अत: आप प्रकरण में नियत दिनांक 28/03/2023 को स्वयं उपस्थित होकर या अपने अधिकृत अभिभाषक के माध्यम से अपना जवाब समय प्रात: 10.30 बजे से सायं 5.30 बजे तक इस न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकते है अनुपस्थिती एवं जवाब प्रस्तुत न किये जाने की दशा में प्रकरण में एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण में नियमानुसार अग्रिम कार्यवाही की

सूचना पत्र आज दिनांक 15/03/2023 को न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किय

detail information regarding lender, is available on the website http://www.ireps.gov.in . Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction, in this tender, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date which may be seen up to the date of tender opening. Tender No. - BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/399, Description of work - Dismantling of feeder wire and reclamation of mast at Bina TSS. Completion Period - 6 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. 595164.00, EMD Rs.- 11900, Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender - 13.04.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. Tender No. - BPL/TRD/ DRG / WC /386RT3. Description of work - Shifting of existing IOL location having distance less than 120meter from stop signal over Bhopal division., Completion Period - 12 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. - 17901970.29, EMD Rs.-239500.00, Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender 20.04.2023 at 11:00. Tender No. - BPL / TRD / DRG/WC/396RT. Description of work - Electrification of left over un-electrified sidings over Bhopal Division, Completion Period - 18 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. 36235019.55. EMD Rs.- 331200.00. Closing Date and Time for

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/386RT3, 396RT & 399 Date: 21.03.2023

India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 11.00 hours on the

dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and

Sr. DEE/TRD, West Central Railway, Bhopal



EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 46/2023

F.No.AIIMS/7-10/Exam.Sec/(B.Sc-M.Sc-2023)/2023 Admission Notice for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) and M.Sc Nursing/ M.Sc courses/M. Biotechnology for session August-2023 at AlIMS New Delhi & other AlIMS

Submission of Tender - 20.04.2023 at 11:00

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications (Basic Registration followed by Generation of Code and Final Registration) for Entrance Examinations leading to admission for subject cited above courses in below mentioned schedule:-

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES				
Basic Registration (PAAR) for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) -2023	Start Date :15.02.2023 Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)			
Generation of Code for Final Registration for B Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical courses) -2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)			
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)			

SCHEDULE FOR POST-G RADUATE COURSES

Start Date :15.02.2023 Basic Registration (PAAR) for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM) Generation of Code for Final Registration for M.Sc Nursing/M. Start date: 03.03.2023

Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses-2023 only for those whose Basic Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM) Registration is accepted Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who Start date: 03.03.2023

have Generated Code for Final Registration. Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM) All applicants are reauired to visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.) CBC 17112/12/0042/2223

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Already engaged

A prominent US conservative academic says BIP is the most important foreign political party in the world

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh rarely figure in public discourse of Western countries. And when it does, it is generally for criticism. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine years in office, and his Government's persistent emphasis on its Hindu core, seem to have changed that. Evidently, those who matter in government and decision- and opinion-making are shedding their blinkers to have a closer look at the Sangh Parivar. The blinkers, needless to say, were often manufactured at the facilities (academia, the mainstream media, et al) run by the Left-liberal establishment. But it looks like the important people in the West want to have a 360-degree view of the saffron family, especially the BJP. This is the reason that a prominent conservative academic, in an opinion piece in the prominent conservative newspaper Wall Street Journal, chose to state that the BJP



"is, from the standpoint of American national interests, the most important foreign political party in the world. It may also be the least understood." The author Walter Russell Mead is "convinced that Americans and Westerners generally need to engage much more deeply with a complex and powerful movement [Hindutva]." It may be mentioned here that Mead is a well-known critic of China. Three years ago, he wrote an article with the self-explanatory headline, 'China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia,' in WSJ. Unsurprisingly, the Chinese Government was incensed; it even expelled three WSJ journalists.

Mead, who teaches at New York's Bard College, is quite bullish not just about India but also the BJP,

which "is headed for a repeat victory in 2024." India is emerging both as a leading economic power and, along with Japan, as the linchpin of American strategy in the Indo-Pacific, he wrote. Therefore, for the foreseeable future the BJP will be calling the shots in a country without whose help American efforts to balance rising Chinese power are likely to fall short. Mead is not exactly a cheerleader of the BJP. He talked about the anti-Government journalists who "can face harassment and worse." He also talks about "anti-conversion laws as well as occasional outbursts of mob violence." Yet, he doesn't find the BJP beyond the pale, for the party may reject many ideas and priorities of Western liberalism, "it embraces key features of modernity" (emphasis added). Further, he is appreciative of the saffron party which "combines a basically pro-market economic stance with populist rhetoric and traditionalist values." This is also a trait that American conservatives generally admire. The WSJ article should not be seen as just an academic's exuberance; the West's deeper engagement with Modi's India was written all over Air India's 70-billion deal to buy 470 aircraft. This could not have been possible without the consent of the big boys and girls of global finance and of politics. Indo-Western engagement has already begun.



Sikhs hold Tiranga in high esteem

Reckless politics by earlier governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement but Sikhs have always saluted the Tiranga

ealthy politics is all about disagreements (irrespective of the fact that every ruling dispensation would suggest otherwise), and so it should always be. Dissent and disagreement with a government and its perceived policies is not the same as rebelling against the nation. History is instructive that often dissent against the government can be the highest form of patriotism e.g., dissent against Emergency in 1975. However, something is sacrosanct and beyond the realm of either political usurpation or conversely destruction. These are the foundational 'Ideas of India' as enshrined in the holy book of the land i.e., the Constitution and the defined symbols within, the most sacred of them being the national flag, Tiranga or Tricolour.

Recent images of a Khalistani supporter attempting to pull down the Tiranga at the Indian High Commission in London, were simply deplorable beyond words. The shameful act militated against the inert sense of patriotism that ought to beset all Indians, irrespective of their partisan loyalties, personal identities, and disaffections. That it came from a member of a community that has given more blood and lives to protect the integrity, sovereignty, and dignity of India since time immemorial, made it even more hurtful and unbelievable.

Contrast this recent image with that of the valourous Sikh warriors (8 Sikh Regiment - the irrepressible 'Chardhikala' battalion) who battled their way to the top of Tiger Hill in the Kargil War. These fierce Khalsa warriors with unmatched josh and daredevilry reached atop the Tiger Hill and flew the Tiranga - the price to pay for flying that Tiranga was one officer, four junior commissioned officers and 30 jawans of 8 Sikh who went down fighting and charging with a war cry that sent shivers down the spine of the enemies, 'Bole So Nihal Sat Sri Akal'! To defend their commitment to the flag, their forefathers had refused to surrender and came down fighting to the last man in earlier battles like Saragarhi. concerns with various dis-There is no surprise the latter day Sikh Regiment (along with Sikh Light Infantry) has continued to



be one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army due to its fiery traditions. 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment, later the 4th Mechanised Regiment, is considered the Commonwealth's most decorated battalion with 245 preindependence and 82 postindependence gallantry awards. Martial Sikhs need no certificate of patriotism. Those who seek to besmirch its fine history written in blood and sacrifice, don't behoove or represent the community's unflinching standards and ethos for eons!

Sikhs may be about 1.7% of the national population but they are almost 20% of the recipients of the highest gallantry award i.e., Param Vir Chakra (with the National Emblem of India in the centre, surrounded by four copies of the Vajra). These men willingly put themselves in the line of fire to defend the Tiranga. They are Lance Naik Karam Singh, Subedar Joginder Singh, Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon and Hony Capt Major Bana Singh.

Beyond soldering, farming is the mainstay of the Sikh community and they have nad many socio-economic pensations since independence (like any region or ethnicity). Reckless politics by earlier



OF A KHALISTANI **SUPPORTER** ATTEMPTING TO **PULL DOWN THE** TIRANGA AT THE INDIAN HIGH **COMMISSION IN** LONDON WERE SIMPLY **DEPLORABLE BEYOND WORDS** governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement, but that didn't imply that every Sikh who had a genuine grievance against the government wanted to secede or become a Khalistani (as is instinctively and thoughtlessly attributed today). At the height of militancy in 1987, then Naib Subedar Bana Singh of 8th JAKLI had led an impossible assault and wrested control of an almost impregnable peak in Siachen Glacier. Such is the cloth from which the Sikh community is cut - societal and political differences aside, a nation first and foremost, always!

Like many proud Veterans who had guarded the nation with their lives and were later participating in the Farmers Protest a few years back, little did they know that they would be abused as Khalistanis, 'antinationals' by people who would never come remotely close to making the sacrifices that these men and women had made, and even by some among them, who were misguided and truly con-demnable. Larger citizenry did not differentiate (unlike in the 80 s) and the dispensation encouraged the wrongful narrative that a Khalistani flag had replaced the Tiranga at Red Fort - it hadn't

replaced the Tiranga and the flag hoisted on the said pole was the sacred Nishan Sahib and not the Khalistani flag. But politics of disparagement ensued and wrongfully diminished a patriotic community, as truth may not have been able to generate the much-needed polarisation!
As a result, the PVC

awardee Hony Capt Bana Singh voiced his disapproval of the Agnipath scheme and even walked with an opposition leader on his Bharat Jodo Yatra - the logic of the proud Indians - "This is our country, and we have to address what issues there are". He rightfully delinked his right to dissent from any suggestions of disagreeing with the 'Idea of India'. Instead, he owned and sought to protect the 'India', which he was proud of by dissenting. Today all his tweets are signed off by emoticons of a folded hand and the Tiranga! The person who sought to remove the Tiranga from the building in London could never claim to represent the clan of defenders of the nation and its Tiranga. This is i.e., the most patriotic, gallant and noblest Sikhs.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

Legal remedies for crimes against women



Underreporting of crimes against women makes it difficult to assess the correct prevalence of such crimes and provide relief

omestic violence and crimes against women have been a persistent problem in many countries, including India. Despite various initiatives and measures taken by governments and civil society organizations, these issues continue to affect women in our society. The victims of such crimes often find themselves in a vulnerable position, not aware of their legal rights and reme-

Domestic violence is defined as any behaviour that is designed to control or dominate an intimate partner, including physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and economic abuse. It is a serious violation of human rights and can have devastating consequences for the victim's physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

One of the primary reasons for the persistence of these issues is the patriarchal nature of Indian society. Women are often viewed as inferior to men and are expected to conform to societal norms and expectations. This mindset has led to the normalization of violence against women and the belief or separation to protect them- much to be desired. The in the Delhi High court)

that women are responsible for their own safety. One of the most effective

legal remedies for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a restraining order or protection order. A restraining order is a court order that prohibits the abuser from contacting or coming near the victim or their children. The order can be obtained by filing a petition in court and providing evidence of abuse. Once the order is issued, the abuser can be arrested and charged with a criminal offence if they violate the

order. Another significant legal remedy for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a divorce or separation. In many cases, the victim may need to obtain a restraining order before filing for divorce

selves and their children from further harm. Divorce or separation can provide victims with the legal right to seek financial support and custody of their children. The divorce may also provide for the division of property and assets acquired during the mar-

riage. One big reason for the persistence of these issues is the under-reporting of crimes against women. Many women are hesitant to report such crimes due to fear of retaliation, social stigma, and lack of trust in the justice system. This under-reporting not only makes it difficult for victims to seek legal remedies but also makes it challenging for authorities to tackle these issues effectively.Crimes against women such as rape, sexual harassment, and trafficking constitute serious offences that can have longlasting consequences for the victim. Victims of these crimes can seek legal remedies to hold the perpetrator accountable and obtain compensation for the harm they have suffered. It is not that we do not have laws though their implementation leaves

number of crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for instance, Rape (sec.376 IPC), Kidnapping & abduction (sec.363 – 373 IPC), Dowry Deaths (sec.302/304-B of IPC), torture, both mental and physical (sec.498-A of IPC), Molestation (sec.354 of IPC), Sexual harassment (sec.509 of IPC) (referred to in the past as Eve-teasing), Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and last but not the least, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Unfortunately, the actual number of such crime is never known as women shy

away from reporting it. Victims can also seek legal remedies through civil lawsuits, which can provide compensation for the harm they have suffered, including medical expenses, lost income, and emotional distress. It is imperative for women to be aware of their constitutional rights and seek help from law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

(The writer is an advocate

WORRYING SIGNS IN PUNJAB

Sir — The drama surrounding the Punjab Police manhunt for fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh which has entered its third day, and the spurt in pro-Khalistani activity in countries abroad have brought back memories of 1984 and the Operation Bluestar misadventure that culminated in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The preacher's supporters filing a habeas corpus petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, claiming that he has been spirited away by the police, has only muddied the waters. There is no room for error in the efforts to rein in anti-India elements that threaten to destabilise Punjab.

The reign of terror that prevailed under the Khalistani militants during the eighties must surely haunt all sane individuals in the state. It took many years for Punjab to regain at least part of its lost glory. India cannot afford a re-run of those times when militancy claimed so many lives and almost destroyed the prospects of a state that was once the food bowl of the nation. CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

UNSEASONAL RAINS AND FOOD SECURITY

Sir — Incidentally, agriculture in India still thrives only on seasonal rain. The farmer, even today, patiently awaits the annual monsoon. But if that rain is unseasonal, it becomes a disaster. In recent days, farmers have been concerned about the rains caused by western disturbances.

At a time when the wheat harvest has ripened in the fields and the farmer is getting ready to pick up the grain from the barns at the market. Likewise, mustard has also ripened. Due to unusual rainfall in many Northern Indian states over the past few days, wheat and mustard crops have been severely damaged. When the mustard seed was ready, it was dispersed because of hail. Furthermore, the mustard which had reached the mandis got wet because of the rain. In fact, because of rising temperatures due to global warming in recent years, there has been a rapid shift in weath-

er patterns. By and large, clouds of crisis are Sir — It is very imperative for all of us to

Parliament logiam continues



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

alyanii Shankar's piece 'Reforming Parliament: Charity begins athome' (Thee Pioneer, March 21) assumes a good deal of significance given the acrimony between the Opposition and the Treasury Benchess getting fiercer and in turn leading to the repeated suspensions of Parliamentary proceedings in both Houses-to the detriment of the Exchequer. This time, it is the allegedly defamatory comments Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently made about the Modi government in the United

This resulted in a controversy that stalled the House of Representatives. Legislators from the ruling regime want to make Mr Gandhi come to the House and apologize. Contrarily, the Opposition leaders are adamant on their demand for a probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). Ironically, these gratuitous adjournments are commonplace in all regimes and have adverse bearing on the precious time of the Members of the Houses as well as on the taxpayers' hard-earned money. Revere columnist's observation that in a matured over-year democracy like India, what matters most is the smooth functioning of the Parliament. For that to hap-

pen, some pragmatic and corrective measures

consume salt in food according to taste and

need. Without salt, food is tasteless and

bland. Nevertheless, excessive salt consump-

tion causes death all over the world. Recently a report from the World Health

Organization has explained why salt is prov-

Zeeshaan I Kazipet

threatening our food chain. The frequency, timing and quality of precipitation has shifted. The rains are heavy and short-lived. In the past, sudden temperature rises prior to time were considered harmful to wheat crops. Last year, despite a full harvest, wheat grain remained low because of an early increase in temperature. Therefore, productivity declined, and the farmer suffered.

Rain is expected to fall for a few more days because of western disturbances. In such a situation, where immediate relief is required for farmers, the central and state governments must promote advancing research and research for crops. This will assist farmers in preventing the damage

caused by the effects of global warming. This crisis will turn off the next generation of farmers. A country with a population of 140 million may face a food crisis in the coming decades. For that, farreaching policies must be implemented

right away Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

EXCESSIVE SALT IS DANGEROUS

ing fatal. According to this WHO report, every year around 20 lakh people around the world die because of eating too much salt. At present the average use of salt per person in the world is 10.8 grams. While the WHO has set a maximum limit of 5 grams per person's consumption of salt. That means we are consuming double the amount of salt. These figures are proof that it is healthy to take salt in limited quantities, not according to taste. If we all reduce

the amount of salt, the number of deaths due to heart diseases worldwide every year can be brought down. WHO estimates that consuming less salt can save the lives of 22 lakh people by 2025 and about 70 lakh lives can be saved by 2030.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN ROBOTIC AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE

It will be the main driver of growth in the e-commerce



he face of robotics is quickly changing due to new technologies like edge computing, cloud computing, Al and machine learning. Every industry is experiencing a change as a result of the use of robots. For example, robots are used in restaurants to prepare food, in manufacturing to perform tasks like picking and placing, pelletizing, and material movement. They are also used in supply chains and warehouses to perform every conceivable task from sorting to inventory management until the product is ready for delivery.

Industries all over the world have been integrating robotics and automation into their operations because of the introduction of the latest cutting-edge technologies to increase corporate productivity, efficiency, and marketability. The e-commerce sector has grown exponentially during the last two to three years. According to Statista, global retail e-commerce sales were over 5.2 trillion dollars in 2021 and are projected to increase to 8.1 trillion dollars

The disruption of the supply chain caused by the rise in e-commerce sales has driven businesses to find more innovative ways to meet customer demand for speedy delivery.

Increased demand for e-commerce sales in turn drives up the need for faster delivery, packing, shipping, inventory management, and supply chain management. Advanced and automated warehouses can help meet this demand. The need for automated warehouses has increased significantly in the last couple of years. The global market for warehouse automation systems, which was estimated to be worth \$21.7 billion in 2021, is expected to grow to \$93 billion by 2031, according to Allied Market Research.



In warehouses, robots have a crucial job to do. The employment of robots in warehouses helps with time-consuming and arduous chores like picking stuff up off the floor or sorting products by size, shape, or colour. Most often used in warehouses are piece-picking robots, automated guided vehicles (AGVs), collaborative robots, sorting and shut-

Inventory management plays an extremely important role in warehouse management. Automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS) are most frequently used for inventory control and on-demand product storage and retrieval. They are used to expedite material handling and order fulfilment procedures.

Automated robotics systems with Al capabilities aid companies in boosting the effectiveness and speed of supply chain operations. These Al-enabled systems have grown considerably as a result of technological breakthroughs; they now learn from both existing systems and the surrounding system. Robotic systems are becoming quicker, better, and more adaptable thanks to AI and machine learning, which is beneficial for e-commerce fulfilment operations.

Increased demand for online shopping and shifting customer expectations for quicker deliveries are the main causes of the rise in demand for warehouse automation. Emerging technologies like 5G, AI, ML, edge computing, and sophisticated robots will help the e-commerce sector develop at a phenomenal rate in the years to come...

(The writer is cofounder and CEO of Addverb Technologies)

Moral compass is critical for democracy



Elected representatives must ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies



he manner the Indian Parliament conducted itself in the second half of the Budget session in March 2023 inflicts considerable disquiet amongst all those who revere it as a pious institu-tion that could transform the lives of every Indian and give dignity and better life to those who deserve support and handholding because of exclusion and sufferings inflicted for generations due to historical, social and cultural constraints.

Could such an assembly of responsible people afford to waste their time for weeks together? They all are—officially—honourable individuals who are guardians of the Constitution; they are policymakers and lawmakers of the nation. The global image of India is changing fast; it is being viewed with considerable interest; there are high hopes in the international community. The last decade has convinced the powers that be that India is emerging as a self-confident nation; it is no more cowed down by its belligerent neighbours. India is no more willing to suffer 'thousand cuts' and terrorist attacks. The new-found sense of national pride could be seen in practically every nome and hearth in India, in its farms and fields, across the high-end research labs bringing out innovations in areas, extending from artificial intelligence to space

India has enhanced its pace of change with full confidence and self-assurance. It has to make course corrections as well and must recall the Mahatma. 'The Lonely Pilgrim (Gandhiji's Noakhali pilgrimage), a compilation by Manubahan, contains the essence of how Gandhi realised that the national service has nowadays come to mean striving for a big name, according to many now, through which one can get a notice in the papers or is photographed—which is better—or secure

ministership as a reward for going to jail. So everyone wants to grab power in order to rise to a ministership in the end. But how can even good ministers do any notable work without the people's support? The country does require ministers, but a minister can adorn his post only if he deserves it, Gandhi said. He observed, in



THE 75+

GENERATION OF INDIANS HAS SEEN AND **OBSERVED THE DECLINE OF** MORAL AND **HUMANISTIC VALUES IN THE POLITICAL** CONSEQUENT **DETERIORATIO** N OF THE **CREDIBILITY** OF LEADERS, **ELECTED** REPRESENTATI VES, AND THOSE IN **OFFICE**

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious

this very context, the presence of 'selfish stinginess' and reiterated that "we must, therefore, train ourselves to keep national interest always before us." And this was not the first time he was referred to

On September 18, 1938, when provincial governments had spent just ten months in 'power', things were not much different! The Mahatma received a letter from a citizen, indicating that the main purpose of the "Congress ministry appears to us to be to worship your idol in public and break it in secret; to worship the symbols of Imperialism in secret and denounce them in public, to play the malefactor towards their opponents when they cannot conquer by truthful and legitimate meth-

Gandhi had condensed this after "toning down the bitterest part." The letter writer had also included a sentence which after 85 years appears prophetic: "The government of a people cannot be run by the common argument of promised boons and by corrupt-ing the electorate with hope."

The lesson to be drawn is clear: the mere scent of power coming to ministers made them leave no stone unturned to shake the moral foundation of good government. In this particular instance, the letter-writer found it strange why Gandhi's "soul should not revolt against such a predatory Ministry for creation of which the moral responsibility is entirely yours".

After over seven decades of Independence, India has more ex-ministers than serving ministers. The taste of having savoured power-exceptions apart-has been highly intoxicating. We have 'Lok-Sewaks' who swear by the name of Mahatma Gandhi but have amassed wealth by means that could be beyond the comprehenPeople have seen the growth and display of affluence that follows politicians becoming elected representatives, ministers and chief ministers. In fact, most panchas and sarpanchas of village panchayats have proved to be good learners from politicians.

The issue before the nation is: why are the elected representatives losing credibility among those who elect them and put them in the saddle of power?

The manner democracy is being conducted was most crudely exposed in the recent election of the mayor of Delhi, which presented a shocking spectacle for everyone who feels a sense of pride in Indian democracy. The entire country witnessed it, as did the world. I found it shameful. Sadly enough, one could cite numerous such instances that have led to the disaffection between the representative and those represented.

said: "If I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics today encircle us like the coils of a snake from which one cannot get out no matter how one tries. I wish to wrestle with the snake..." He did, and created a model of giving people a voice, a non-violent approach that helped not only India but so many other nations to throw away the yoke of imperialism, the caste system and apartheid.

In one word, he made people trust the moral force. On September 7, 1920, it was so articulated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: "We need all the moral force which Mahatma Gandhi represents, and which he alone in the world can represent." It was this moral force that every Indian was supposed to comprehend, internalise and put to practice.

Obviously, the representatives of people at every stage were—and are—supposed to be the prime torchbearers of the legacy of

Gandhi. Each one of them needs self-introspection; they must analyse the extent to which their conduct is contributing to the national cause, strengthening democracy, and helping the amelioration of the miseries from the life of the 'last man in the line.'

The 75+ generation of Indians has seen and observed the decline of moral and humanistic values in the political sphere, and the consequent deterioration of the credibility of leaders, elected representatives, and those in office. It adversely impacts the very vitals of democracy, its institutions and, above all, the people and their con-

Ministers are put behind bars, but continue to receive all the perks and privileges of the post and position. It is an unheard-of situation in a democracy. How could India ignore resignations on moral ve and those represented.
On May 12, 1920, Gandhi
TT Krishnamachari, KD Malaviya and Lal Bahadur Shastri?

> This generation of elderly cit-izens often recalls Gandhi and his in-depth comprehension of a free person and a free nation. He acknowledged that the superficial study of the British Parliament had made him think that all power percolates to the people from parliaments. It was not so, he himself realised: "The truth is that power resides in the people and it is entrusted for the time being to those whom they may choose as their representatives. Parliaments have no power or even existence independently of the people."

One earnestly hopes that the elected representatives realise the source of their power—the people—and ensure proper and wellinformed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies. Following the moral compass could strengthen their role performance and bestow the satisfaction

Stress among women is rampant but it can be managed

Women can reduce the risk of burnout in their daily lives by following a few simple changes to their lifestyles

tress is a common problem that many women experience in their daily lives. Whether it's due to work, family obligations, or other responsibilities, stress can take a toll on both mental and physical health. According to a Deloitte report in 2022, 56 per cent of Indian women's stress level is higher than it was a year ago. Globally, 53 per cent of women admitted to feeling

more stressed than last year. Due to a shift in hormonal levels (including sex hormones, like estrogen, which can also impact stress hormones, cortisol, and response), females are at a higher risk of developing mood disorders. Since a woman passes through puberty, menstruation, preg-



DR JYOTI KAPOOR

(The writer is the founder

and Senior Psychiatrist,

Manasthali)

nancy, postpartum, and postmenopause, they face a host of different stressors and reactions to stress. However, the good news is that there are many effective ways for women to cut down on stress and improve their overall well-being. In this article, we will explore some of the most effective strategies for reducing stress in a woman's life. **Exercise regularly**

Exercise is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress for women. Physical activity releases endorphins, which are chemicals in the brain that promote feelings of happiness and well-being. Additionally, regular exercise can help women sleep better, improve their mood, and increase their energy



Practice mindfulness med-

Mindfulness meditation is technique that involves focusing on the present moment and paying attention to your thoughts and emotions without judgment. It has

been shown to be effective in reducing stress and anxiety in women. By practicing mindfulness meditation regularly, women can learn to manage their emotions and respond to stressful situations in a more positive and productive way.

Get enough sleep

Sleep is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it's also crucial for managing stress. When women don't get enough sleep, they may feel irritable, anxious, and stressed. By making sleep a priority and getting enough rest each night, women can reduce their stress levels and improve their mental and physical

Connect with others

Connecting with others is a vital way for women to reduce stress in their lives. Spending time with friends and family members, participating in social activities, and engaging in hobbies and interests can all help women feel more supported and less

Eat a healthy diet

Eating a healthy diet is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it can also assist women manage stress. Foods that are high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants can help reduce inflammation and promote feelings of wellbeing. Also, avoiding foods that are high in sugar and caffeine can help prevent spikes in blood sugar and promote better sleep.

Take breaks throughout the

Taking breaks throughout the day is essential for managing stress. By taking short breaks to stretch, walk, or simply relax, women can give their minds and bodies a chance to recharge and refocus. This can help them feel more productive and less

stressed throughout the day. Seek professional help

If stress is becoming over-whelming or interfering with daily life, it may be helpful to seek professional help. A mental health professional can help women develop coping strategies and manage stress in a healthy way.

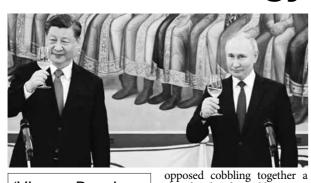
In conclusion, stress is a common problem for many women, but there are many effective strategies for reducing stress and improving overall wellbeing. By exercising regularly, practicing mindfulness meditation, getting enough sleep, connecting with others, eating a healthy diet, taking breaks throughout the day, and seeking professional help when needed, women can successfully manage stress and enjoy a happier, healthier life.

China, Russia to counter | Civilians killed by Russian missiles, drones **US' Indo-Pacific strategy**

Chinese President Xi Jinping Concluded his state visit to Moscow on Wednesday and vowed to build "an equal, open and inclusive security system" with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to counter the Indo-Pacific strategy pursued by the US.

Xi held an intense round of discussions with Putin after which the leaders signed two joint statements to deepen their 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era" and "Pre-2030 Development Plan on Priorities in China-Russia Economic

Xi embarked upon the 3day Moscow trip ostensibly to broker a peace deal and end the raging conflict in Ukraine, as he sought to push a peace talks plan that elicited a frigid response from the US, Kyiv's key ally. The trip, described by Xi as "one of friendship, cooperation and peace," marked his ninth visit to Russia since he first became the Chinese President in March 2013. The joint statement issued in Chinese and Russian languages said the two sides expressed serious concern over NATO's continued strengthening of military security ties with the Asia-Pacific countries, which



closed and exclusive bloc struc-

ture in the Asia-Pacific region,

creating camp confrontation,

in an apparent reference to the

Quad alliance comprising the

'Xi sees Russia as counterweight to US influence'

US, India, Australia, Japan and AUKUS, consisting of Australia, the UK and the US. Both sides Washington (PTI): In President Vladimir Putin and Russia, Chinese said the US adheres to the Cold President Xi Jinping sees a "counterweight" to American and NATO influ-War mentality and pursues the Indo-Pacific strategy, which has a negative impact on peace and ence on the continent and stability in the region, it said. elsewhere around the world, the White House China and Russia are committed to building an "equal, open and inclusive security system" in has said. The statement by the Asia-Pacific region that does John Kirby, National not target third countries, in Security Council order to maintain regional Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the peace, stability and prosperity, it said. Both countries expressed White House, came as Putin accorded a red carpet welserious concerns over the consequences and risks of the tricome to his Chinese counlateral security partnership — AUKUS and related nuclearterpart Xi in Moscow and held marathon talks spread over two days on a range of issues, including the raging powered submarine cooperation programmes on regional strategic stability, it said.

Ukraine's president posted video on Wednesday showing what he said was a Russian missile slamming into an apartment building in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, killing at least one person, after Moscow's forces launched exploding drones before dawn that killed another seven at a student dormitory near Kyiv.

The video posted by
President Volodymyr
Zelenskyy to Telegram
appeared to be from CCTV cameras that captured the moment a missile hit the ninestory residential block by a

showed charred apartments on several stories of the affected buildings, with flames billowing from some of them. Two children were among the wounded, said Zaporizhzhia City Council Secretary Anatolii Kurtiev, adding that 25 needed hospital treatment, with three in critical condition.

"Russia is shelling the city with bestial savagery,"
Zelenskyy wrote to accompany the video. "Residential areas where ordinary people and children live are being fired at." He appealed for countries to increase pressure on the Kremlin to give up its invasion of Ukraine. The city is about

the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest which has previously come under threat during the war.

Russia has denied targeting residential areas even though artillery and rocket strikes hit apartment buildings and civilian infrastructure on a daily basis Earlier Wednesday, an overnight drone attack partially destroyed a high school and two dormitories in the city of Rzhyshchiv, south of the Ukrainian capital, officials said. It wasn't clear how many people were in the dormitories at the time. The body of a 40year-old man was pulled from

fifth floor, according to regional police chief Andrii Nebytov, adding that more than 20 people were hospitalised. Just hours earlier, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida left Kyiv after meeting Zelenskyy in a show of support for Ukraine. Earlier Wednesday, Chinese leader Xi Jinping left Moscow after meeting with President Vladimir Putin and discussing his peace proposal, which has been rejected by the West as a non-starter. The drone barrage and other Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure drew a scathing

response from Zelenskyy.

"Over 20 Iranian murderous

ous shelling occasions, and that's just in one last night of Russian terror," he wrote in English on Twitter. "Every time someone tries to hear the word peace' in Moscow, another order is given there for such criminal strikes."

Zaporizhzhia's regional administration said two missiles struck the apartment block, saying Russia's goal is "to scare the civilian population of the city of thousands."

"It's hell in Zaporizhzhia," Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko wrote on Telegram, adding: "There aren't any military facilities

Pak court rejects FIA's plea to cancel Imran Khan's bail

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

APakistani court on Wednesday rejected the country's top investigating agency's plea to cancel former prime minister Imran Khan's bail in the prohibited funding case, a media report said. Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was granted bail by an Islamabadbased banking court in a prohibited funding case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in October last year filed a case in the banking court against Khan, 70, and other members of his



party for allegedly receiving prohibited funding. The prohibited funding case was filed by PTI's estranged founding member Akbar S Babar in the Election Commission of Pakistan in 2014. A two-mem-

ber bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri conducted the hearing on the plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. The court also rejected the request to cancel the bail of co-accused Tariq Shafi, the report said. The FIA filed an application in the IHC on February 28 against the banking court's decision to grant bail to the PTI chief and appealed to the court to annul the decision as it was "against the

'Israel attacked Aleppo airport, no casualties' the strike damaged the airport's

Damascus (AP): An Israeli airstrike early on Wednesday targeted the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, causing material damage and putting it out of service, Syria's state news agency reported. It was the second attack on the facility this month.

SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying Israeli warplanes fired the missiles toward Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once commercial centre, while flying over the Mediterranean Sea. It did not mention any casualties. Bassem Mansour, head of Syria's civil aviation, told the pro-government Sham FM radio station

runway and put the facility out of service. Repair work has started, he said, adding that "the airport will resume work within a short period". The Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said that in addition the airport, the airstrike also destroyed a nearby arms depot of Iran-backed militia-

The airport has been a key channel for the flow of aid into the country after the February 6 earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, killing over 50,000 people, including more than 6,000

Trump University and charitable Trump Foundation and a

probe by the Manhattan district

attorney into sales at the Trump

SoHo ĥotel-condominium in

Lower Manhattan.Indeed,

Ž	Azadi _{Ka} TE	NDER NOTICE		
	Invitation of Tender throug	h E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) 44A-22-23-W-2 Dated 21.03.2023		
1.	Name of work with its location	A) Augmentation in capacity of LHS by one time cleaning of 76 nos. LHS under ADEN/SMQL		
2.	Approx Cost of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
3.	Earnest Money NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
4.	Completion period of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
5.	Cost of tender on cash/by post NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
6.	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	30.03.2023 to 14.04.2023 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 14.04.2023 at 15:00 hrs.		
7.	Similar nature of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
8.	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can ased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in		
NI	T - 44A-22-23-W-2 Dated : 21.0	3.2023		

CIN: L65910DL1980PLC010617

Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092 Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in

NOTICE OF 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of nembers of Hindustan Auto Finance Limited will be held on Friday, 14th April, 2023 at 02:00 p.m. at the registered office of the Company to transact

the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM The Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 including the Notice convening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has been sent to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday March 17, 2023. Physical copy of the Annual Report along with AGM Notice has been sent by permitted mode to members who have not registered their e-mail address. The emailing and dispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.ir website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website The shareholders whose email ids are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email id registered with the Company by sending e-mail at hindaf1980@gmail.com and follow the

of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com egistration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annua Report for FY 2019-20 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains the instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration o email id members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow the process advised by DPs Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and the

applicable rules framed thereunder and Reg.42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, ("Listing Regulations"), the register of members and share transfer books of the Company will rema closed from Saturday, April 08, 2023 and will end on Friday, April 14, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 40th AGM of the Company

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of Listing Regulations, the Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGN using electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the AGM ('remote e-voting'), provided by Central Depository Services India Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them n the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e Friday, April 07, 2023, Any person who is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or voting through ballot paper at the AGM.

The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 09:00 a.m. IST and ends on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 05:00 p.m. IST. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter and remote e-voting shall no be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once vote on a resolution is cast by the member, he/she not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. The detailed procedure for voting has been mentioned in the AGM Notice. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall also be made available at the AGM and members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM through ballot paper The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person who acquires shares and become a member of the Compan after the dispatch of notice of the AGM and holding shares as of cut off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com. However, if he/she is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the votes.

The Board of Director has appointed CS Anju Bansal, proprietor of M/s Anju Bansal & Associates, Company Secretary in Practice (COP No. 17594) as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the 'remote e-voting' process and voting at the AGM in a fair and transparent manner. The results of AGM will be announced by the Chairman or any other person authorised by him and will be submitte along with report of scrutinizer within two days from the conclusion of AGM to Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited and also be posted on the Company's website www.hindaf.in.

In case of any queries or grievances regarding e-voting, you may refe the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual which is available at www.evotingindia.com under help section. Or contact at 022-23058542/43. In case of grievances relating to e-voting, please contact Mr Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager at 25th Floor, A Wing, Marathon Futurex, Mafatla Mills Compound, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (E), Mumbai-400013; Email helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or aforesaid numbe

Place: New Delhi

Date: March 22, 2023

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited Rishabh Aggarwa

(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites ope e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

"Part-A Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV OHE modification work inconnection with Provision of Machine siding & over

		KV/230V, 25KVA Auxil	ation Part-B Provision of liary Transformer inconnect king work at DSJ station	
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Approx. Cost of Work Rs. 6600101.05/-		
3	3 Earnest Money Deposit		Rs. 132000.00/-	
4	E-Tender Bid Online	03.04.2023		
5	5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time		17.04.2023 (15.00 Hrs.)	
6	6 Fund Allocation		deposit work	
[-	Website particulars w			

of tender documents can be seen E-Tender No.: 37-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date : 21.03.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur New Delhi-110092 Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in

NOTICE OF 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE NOTICE is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") or members of **Hindustan Auto Finance Limited** will be held on Friday, 14th

April, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. IST at the registered office of the Company transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM The Annual Report for the financial year 2018-19 including the Notice evening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday, March 17, 2023. Physical copy of the Annual Report along with AGM Notice has been sent by permitted mode to members who have not registered their e-mail address. The emailing and ispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.in rebsite of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com The shareholders whose email ids are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email id registered with the Company by sending e-mail at hindaf1980@gmail.com and follow the emporary registration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annua Report for FY 2018-19 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains

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he instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration of

mail id, members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations, the Members are provided with the sility to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM ising electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the AGM remote e-voting'), provided by Central Depository Services India Limited CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting ghts of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e riday, April 07, 2023. Any person who is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or voting through ballot paper at the AGM

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The Board of Director has appointed CS Anju Bansal, proprietor of M/s Anju Bansal & Associates, Company Secretary in Practice (COP No. 17594) as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the 'remote e-voting' process and voting at the AGM n a fair and transparent manner. The results of AGM will be announced by he Chairman or any other person authorised by him and will be submitte along with report of scrutinizer within two days from the conclusion of AGM Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited and also be posted on the company's website www.hindaf.in. n case of any queries or grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer

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Place: New Delhi

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited Rishabh Aggarwal

(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Donald Trump's potential indictment caps decades of legal scrutiny er lobbying, fraud allegations **AP** ■ NEW YORK

 $F^{\text{or 40 years, former}}_{\text{President Donald Trump}}$ has navigated countless legal investigations without ever facing criminal charges. That record may soon come to an end. Trump could be indicted by a Manhattan grand jury as soon as this week, potentially charged with falsifying business records connected to hush money payments during his 2016 campaign to women who accused him of sexual encounters. It's one of several investigations that have intensified as Trump mounts his third presidential run. He has denied any allegations of wrongdoing and accuses prosecutors of engaging in a politically motivated "witch hunt" to damage his campaign. An indictment in New York would mark an extraordinary turn in Trump the first former president to face a criminal charge. And it would carry tremendous weight for Trump himself, threatening his long-established ability to avoid consequences despite entanglement in a dizzying number of cases.

Indictment, says biographer Michael D'Antonio, would



people at the highest level of business, whose devotion to abusing the system is so well established, is being caught." "Throughout his life, he has done things for which he could have been investigated and potentially prosecuted and

ences that he could act with impunity," he said. Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family's real estate business. Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which

accused them of refusing to

rent apartments to Black tenants in predominantly white buildings. Testimony showed that applications filed by prospective Black tenants were marked with a "C" for "coloured". Trump counter-sued for USD 100 million, accusing the government of defamation.

The case ended with a settlement that opened the way for some Black tenants but did not acknowledge they had "failed and neglected" to comply with the Fair Housing Act. Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and impropaccording Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government vatchdog group abbreviated CREW, as of November 2022, Trump had been accused of committing at least 56 criminal offenses since he launched his campaign in 2015, not including allegations of fraudulent business dealings. But he has never been formally indicted. Trump is a master of delay

tactics, "finding ways to endlessly delay in the hopes that the investigation and litigation will go away. And he's had remarkable success," says CREW president Noah corruption prosecutor. "It makes accountability absolutely essential because we can't have people in a functioning democracy operating in positions of power with total impunity where they can commit crimes and never have to face any consequences," he

Indian-American receives National Humanities medal from Joe Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has presented the prestigious 2021 National Humanities Medals to Indian-American actress and producer Mindy Kaling, with several others, in recognition of her giving voice to a new generation of storytellers, at a White House ceremony. The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists, arts patrons, and groups by the US government. It honours exemplary individuals and organisations that have advanced the arts in America and inspired others through their distinguished achievement, support, or patronage. Presenting the award to the actress on Tuesday, at the ceremony attended by First Lady Dr Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and the Second Gentlemen, Biden said that Kaling is the first woman of colour to create, write, and star in a primetime sitcom. He added that the 43-year-old actress empowers a new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity. "The daughter of Indian immigrants — we know about that, right? Our Vice President is a daughter of Indian immigrants — a mother who was a great scientist," the US President said.

"Above all, she is hardworking

and an adoring mom, just like



her own mom was. And, Mindy, we know your mom is always with you in your spirit. We know that," Biden added. 'Imbued with humour and heart, Mindy Kaling's work across television, film, and books inspires and delights, capturing and uplifting the experiences of women and girls across our nation," the citation of Kaling's award, read by a military aide later, said.

The award honours individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy,

and other humanities subjects. The 11 other distinguished medal recipients were Judith Francisca Baca, Fred Eychaner, Jose Feliciano, Gladys Knight Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Antonio Martorell-Cardona, Joan Shigekawa, Bruce Springsteen Vera Wang, The Billie Holiday Theatre, and the International Association of Blacks in Dance. Richard Blanco, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Walter Isaacson, Earl Lewis, Henrietta Mann, Ann Patchett, Bryan Stevenson, Amy Tan, Tara Westover, Colson Whitehead and Native

America Calling were the

recipients of the National

Humanities Medal.

California faces more flooding after strong storm

Santa Cruz (US): A strong late-season Pacific storm that brought damaging winds and more rain and snow to saturated California was blamed for two deaths and forecasters said additional flooding was possible Wednesday in parts of the state. Tuesday's storm focused most of its energy on central and southern parts of the state, bringing threats of heavy runoff and mountain snowfall. In the north, intense hail was reported in Sacramento, the state capital.

Locally heavy rain and snowmelt may cause flooding on Wednesday in southern California and central Arizona, the National Weather Service warned. Trees and power lines were reported downed in the San Francisco Bay Area. An Amtrak commuter train carrying 55 passengers struck a downed tree and derailed near the East Bay village of Porta Costa. The train remained upright and nobody was injured, Amtrak and fire officials said. In the Bay Area community of Portola Valley, a man driving a sewer truck was killed when a tree fell onto the vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said. And in the community of Rossmoor, a driver was injured and a passenger died after a large tree fell onto a car, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District said.

Macron wants French pension plan implemented by year end

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday that the pension bill he pushed through without a vote in parliament needs to be implemented by the "end of the year," sticking to his decision to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 despite mass protests. Macron, who made the comments in an interview broadcast on national television, said the bill will "continue its democratic path."

Constitutional Council needs to review the bill in the coming weeks, and it can only be turned into law after the body gives its approval. It was the first time that Macron spoke publicly since his government forced the pension bill through parliament last week, prompting scattered protests in Paris and across the country, some degenerating into violence. His government survived two no-confidence votes at the lower chamber of parliament on Monday.

The 45-year-old president repeatedly said that he was convinced that France's retirement system had needed to be modified to keep it financed."That reform is not a luxury, it is not fun, it's a necessity for the country," he said. Macron also condemned



Protesters take part in a torchlight demonstration against the raising of the retirement

the violence at some protests. He notably referred to

rioters storming the US Capitol in 2021 and Brazil's top government buildings earlier this year, as well as the yellow vest movement against social injustice in France in 2018 which led to violent clashes and vandalism in the Paris streets. "When the United States of America lived what they lived at the Capitol, when Brazil lived what it lived, when you have seen extreme violence in Germany, The Netherlands, or sometimes here at home in the past ... we must say that we new nationwide protests and

to move the country forward ...

but we cannot accept factious

At the same time, Macron insisted that he respects unions and protests organised by opponents to show that they disagree with the pension plan, seeking to clarify that he considers they are legitimate unlike troublemakers. "We must listen to them, listen to their anger and respond to it,"

Unions have called for

that the government simply withdraws the retirement bill. High-speed and regional trains, Paris metro and other public transportation in major cities were expected to be dis-

Macron acknowledged that a majority of the French are opposed to the reform. "But between opinion polls and the general interest of the country, I'm choosing the general interest ... And if it means bearing unpopularity afterwards, I will bear it." He also said he "trusts" Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne to continue leading the government, suggesting he is not planning a government reshuffle.Early on Wednesday, dock workers in Marseille blocked access to the city's commercial port -France's biggest — preventing trucks and cars from entering amid a heavy police presence.

Garbage was still piling up on some Paris streets as sanitation workers entered their 17th day of strike. Authorities issued an order in recent days requiring some garbage employees to ensure a "minimum service" for health rea-Oil shipments in the coun-

try were partially disrupted amid strikes at several refineries in western and southern

China's backing for Ajay Banga to head World Bank doubtful

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday Sounded doubtful about backing Indian-American business leader Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank, saying it is "open" to supporting "other potential candidates" based on merit. Reports from Washington said 63-year-old Banga, who is nominated by US. President Log Biden to US President Joe Biden to head the Bank, is due to visit China on Wednesday to meet officials of the People's Bank of China to seek Beijing's support for his candidature.

Asked whether China will back Banga, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that "we have noted the candidate nominated by the US side and are open to other potential candidates". He said the World Bank is the most influential multilateral development institution in the world and is of systemic importance to global poverty reduction and development. "As a major shareholder of the World Bank, China stands ready to work with all parties for an open, transparent and merit-based presidential selection process," he said and asked the media to competent authorities for more

12 dead as strong quake jolts Pak, Af



brought, in Saidu Sharif, a town Pakistan's Swat valley on Tuesday.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Astrong 6.8 magnitude earthquake with the epicentre in Afghanistan shook Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring nearly 250 others in both the countries, authorities said on Wednesday.The earthquake's epicentre was Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region, while its depth was 180 kilometres, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department. Tremors were also felt in many parts of north India, including the Delhi-National Capital Region.In Pakistan, earthquake tremors were felt in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Kot Momin, Madh Ranjha, Chakwal, Kohat and Gilgit-Baltistan Television footage showed

panic-stricken citizens out on the streets.The Provincial Disaster Management (PDMA) in Authority Peshawar in a tweet said that nine persons, including five men, two women and two children were killed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan. Two persons - a man in Islamabad and a 13-year-old girl in Abbottabad - lost their lives due to sudden cardiac arrest after the quake, Dawn newspaper reported. At the time of the earthquake, a stampede was reported in the markets of Rawalpindi, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Nearly 200 people were injured in Swat, where hospitals had declared a state of emergency. The earthquake also jolted the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), where the resultant landslides created fear.

Spain's Vox party fails in govt no-trust motion

Barcelona: Spain's parliament dismissed an attempt by the far-right Vox party to topple the governing leftist coalition on Wednesday, voting overwhelmingly against a no-confidence motion brought against Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's government.

The motion only earned the support of Vox's 52 lawmakers plus one rogue vote, for a total of 53. The government received 201 votes, while the 91 members of the conservative Popular Party, the chamber's leading opposition party, abstained.

In a move that was slammed by other political parties, Vox leader Santiago Abascal broke with custom and didn't stand as an alternative prime minister. Instead, Vox chose an independent candidate in a futile aftempt to win

Ramón Tamames, 89. a former communist leader who has journeyed across the political spectrum, was the losing candidate. The economist had pledged that his only act as prime minister would have been to immediately call for a national election to coincide with local elections scheduled for May 28.

Tamames presented him-self and Vox as protectors of the unity of Spain against Catalan separatist parties that Sanchez has relied on to win important votes in parliament.

'IMF facility debunks Sri Lanka's bankrupt status'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Wickremesinghe told Parliament on Wednesday that the IMF bailout had restored Sri Lanka's international recognition, ending the image of bank-ruptcy and helping the local banks regain foreign investors' confidence. The IMF board had on Tuesday approved a USD 3 billion facility over a four-year period to help Sri Lanka emerge from its balance of payment crisis which plagued the island since April last year. Wickremesinghe said the bailout would "create opportunities for low-interest credit, restore foreign investors' confidence, and lay the foundation for a strong new economy". The receipt of the IMF

Facility is a step towards building a better future for the youth and uplifting the country. Additionally, the country is dollars more in rapid credit support from other parties. these reforms have already been



bearing all kinds of pressure, and undergoing suffering with equanimity, the people of this country remained calm and patient. Their commitment was a great strength in achieving the IMF Facility," Wickremesinghe, also the country's finance minister, said. Wickremesinghe, however, reminded the hard grind ahead of Sri Lanka with having to reform the vital sectors of the economy.

"We are now starting a new journey. We have to introduce many economic reforms throughout the process. The be through this path. Some of "Amidst numerous hardships, proposed and implemented

retired soldiers and depositors

who have had limited access

to their savings after local

banks imposed informal cap-

ital controls amid the crisis.

withdrawals from accounts

to avoid folding amid curren-

accounts can only withdraw small sums in Lebanese

pounds, at an exchange rate

far lower than that of the black

riot police and army special

forces were deployed around

the government headquar-

ters, an Ottoman-era three-

story building known as the

Nearly two hours after the

Grand Serail of Beirut.

Since early on Wednesday.

cy shortages.

The controls restrict cash

People with dollar

through the interim budget of 2022 and the budget for 2023. We will introduce numerous Wickremesinghe said he was able to gain the IMF facility and revive the economy without any support from the opposition despite his appeals for them to join him. He sought parliamentary approval for the agreement with the IMF, "without parliamentary approval I will not be able to go for the second round of negotiations", he said. For Wickremesinghe, the

hard task of negotiating with its bilateral and private bondholders has started. He has indicated Sri Lanka would be helped with a 10-year moratorium on debt repayment. Sri Lanka has been hit hard by a catastrophic economic and humanitarian crisis. The economy is facing significant challenges stemming from pre-existing vulnerthe lead-up to the crisis, further aggravated by a series of external shocks, the IMF said.

Boris Johnson to be grilled over partygate scandal

 $F_{\text{ter Boris Johnson will be}}^{\text{ormer British prime minister}}$ grilled by a cross-party parliamentary panel for several hours on Wednesday to establish whether he knowingly misled the House of Commons over the partygate scandal of COVID law-breaking parties at Downing Street. The House of Commons

Privileges Committee has published a fresh bundle of evidence, including photographs and statements from Johnson's close aides at the time, ahead of the oral evidence session. The seven-member committee. which scrutinises members of Parliament, said it was publishing the material for the benefit of those following the oral evidence session.

"The documents comprise the evidence and materials that will be referred to in the course of oral questioning by of the material has already been previously published. Among the documents is the



written evidence of Martin Reynolds, the former principal private secretary to Johnson when he was Prime Minister, who claims he questioned whether it was "realistic" to make the claim in Parliament that all COVID guidance was Reynolds said Johnson

agreed to delete the reference to the guidance but then went on to tell the Commons the following day that "the guidance was followed and the rules were followed at all times". In his own written evidence published on Tuesday, Minister admitted he did mislead MPs over partygate but in good faith.

UK inflation jumps to 10.4 per cent

AP ■ LONDON

UK inflation accelerated for the first time in four months in February as high food and energy prices hit consumers battered by the nation's cost-of-living crisis. The consumer price index jumped to 10.4 per cent in the 12 months through February from 10.1 per cent the previous month, the Office for National Statistics said on Wednesday.

The figures surprised anaysts who had forecast inflation would slow to 9.9 per cent.The figures increased pressure on the Bank of England to approve an 11th consecutive interest rate increase when it meets on Thursday, regardless of concerns about the economic impact of strains on the global banking system.

Many economists now boost its key bank rate by at least a quarter percentage

UK opens inquiry into killing claims in Af

London (AP): A senior judge troops were deployed to

"It is clearly important that

"This is critical, both for the reputation of the armed forces and the country." The inquiry into two separate incidents will also review whether the deaths "formed part of a wider pattern of extra-judicial killings by British armed forces in Afghanistan at the time". Thousands of British

ist attacks in the United States. Many British soldiers engaged in heavy fighting with insurgents in southern Helmand province. Britain ended all combat operations in Afghanistan in 2014, although a small number

of troops stayed to train Afghan security forces until 2021, when the international coalition withdrew from the country. Haddon-Cave said many

hearings would have to be held behind closed doors for nation-

Clashes erupt at Lebanon govt HQ



Beirut (AP): Lebanese security forces on Wednesday fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of protesters, mainly retired soldiers, who tried to break through the fence leading to the government headquarters in downtown Beirut.

The violence came amid widespread anger over the harsh economic conditions in the country, where mis-management by the ruling class has been rampant for years, preceding the economic meltdown that started in late 2019.

The retired soldiers and policemen demanding better pay clashed with riot police and troops. Several people suffered breathing problems from the tear gas. The protesters hurled stones at the officers protecting the government headquarters and repeatedly tried to break through the fence.

There was no immediate information about any injuries during the violence. The

Kansas could soon approve 'born alive abortion bill

Topeka (US): A Kansas proposal based on the disputed idea that providers leave newborns to die after unsuccessful abortions is nearing legislative approval, as Republicans pursue limited anti-abortion measures following a decisive statewide vote last year protecting abortion rights. The Kansas House was set to take a final vote on Wednesday on a bill declaring that when an abortion procedure inadvertently results in a live birth, medical personnel must take the same steps to preserve the newborn's life as "a reasonably diligent and conscientious' provider would with other live

The measure is similar to a proposed Montana law that voters there rejected in November. The US Supreme Court declared in June that states can ban abortion, and the Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature has long had strong anti-abortion majorities in both chambers. But a 2019 Kansas Supreme Court decision protected abortion rights and in August 2022, voters rejected a proposed change to the state constitution to overturn that decision and give lawmakers

the power to greatly restrict or

violence broke out, the pro-Supporters of the "boralive infants protection" bill testers dispersed. The Lebanese pound hit a argued during a House debate new low on Tuesday, selling Tuesday that the measure for more than 143,000 pounds will survive a court challenge to the dollar before making because it doesn't limit abortion itself.

ban abortion.

REVOCATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Kumar Rathore has earlier issued a Public Notice dated 31.07.2018 in the newspaper 'Pioneer" whereby my son namely Kapil Rathore was disowned by me. Since, my son Kapil Rathore has not only tendered apology for his past conduct and behavior but has started taking care of me and therefore, I hereby revoke my above mentioned Public Notice i.e. Notice dated 31.07.2018 which was published in the

SD/- Manoj Sharma (Advocate) N-8/B, LGF, Jangpura Extn, New Delhi-14

Control Board. Auction programme is as under.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Subhash Khurana Sio Sh. Hansraj Khurana R/o Ambala Cantt, Haryana partner M/s Khurana Industries C-74, 1st Floor , Anand Niketan, New Delhi, Inform the general public that I have given notice of dissolution of the firm M/s Khurana Insudtries to 2" Partner Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhatia. Hence the firm M/s Khurana Industries stands dissolved immediately. From now Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhatia is not entitled to use firm Name M/s Khurana Industries anywhere- Govt. Department GST Department, Bank, General Public Any MES, PWD etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public no behalf of our client IDFC First Bank limited. Had Mr. Sanjoy Kumar Das & Mr. Bhucendra Sharma are joint owners of Property bearing NaZC-12A, India drae measuring 83 Sz. yds, with roof rights, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala. Delhi State, Delhi colony known as Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 Said property by virtue of Sel deed dated 26.03.2021, Registration No. 3945, executed by Mr. Dilwars Sngh, who was owner of the said property by virtue of GPA Agreement to sell and will dated 66.05.1987, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property and p PUBLIC NOTICE and will dated 66.05.1987, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners, want to sell the said property and someone want to purchase the same by taking Horne loan from our client, if anybody has any objection/s upon the said property, and its sownership / list filler /sale and mortgage of above owners, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 0 radys of the present.

Kurnar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Ilind Floror 23, Shivali Mark, Mot Nagar. No Delh-15 Pn: 011-41112577-28 kurnarassociates advocate@gmail.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S/Sales/Auction Programme/2023-24

Dated - 20.03.2023

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. June/2023 E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead

ALICTION DATES FOR Lune 2023

Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution

S. No	Depot conducting auction	Time	1 st round	2 nd round	3 rd round	4 th round	5 th round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	10:00	5	12	19	26	30
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	10:00	2	7	14	21	30
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	10:00	6	13	20	23	30
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	6	13	20	23	30
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	11:00	1	8	15	22	30
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	11:00	2	7	14	21	30
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	10:00	1	8	15	22	30
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	11:00	5	12	19	26	30

- The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
- The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations

3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The

details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in'.

(Om Kumar) Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

launched an independent inquiry on Wednesday to investigate whether UK military police covered up or did not properly probe allegations

of unlawful killings by British armed forces in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2013. Britain's government ordered the inquiry after lawyers brought legal challenges on behalf of the families of eight Afghans who were allegedly killed by British special forces during nighttime raids in in 2011 and 2012. Senior judge Charles Haddon-Cave said his team would "get to the bottom" of whether investigations carried out by the Royal Military Police were adequate.

anyone who has broken the law is referred to the relevant authorities for investigation. Equally, those who have done nothing wrong should rightly have the cloud of suspicion lifted from them," Haddon-Cave

Afghanistan as part of a twodecade-long NATO-led campaign in the country following the September 11, 2001 terror-

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Ref: Tender Notice No. 01/2022-2023 dated 09.03.2023 S.No.04 & 06

Tender Number 40235047 opening date 06.04.2023. Eligibility criteria and specification has been added/edited in above referred tender. A

other terms and conditions remain unchanged

The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. Date

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

-					
me of work	30-Elect-57-T-R2-22-23-E3				
d its location	Electrical work in connection with strengthening of wiring cabling,				
	earthing with other associated work in dispensaries/hospitals over				
	Delhi division.				
prox cost of the works in Rs. 56.26 lacs					
dress of the	office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.			
l Security		Rs. 112500.00			
to 8 time of submission		17 04 2023 12 00 Hrs			

of tender 17.04.2023, 12.00 Hrs. Opening of tender www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi 880/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is basis on 27.04.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 46,16,334/-(Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00371858, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 15.03.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 16.03.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor fro BALVINDER SINGH HANSPAL, HARMEET KAUR and INDERPREET SINGH

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 28,10,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,81,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY RESIDENTIAL UNIT NO. T-83, DUPLEX TUSCAN FLOORS, AREA MEASURING 1434 SQ.FT., SITUATED IN TDI TUSCAN CITY SITUATED IN KUNDLI, SONEPAT-131028,

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to

AUTHORISED OFFICER Date: 20.03.2023 Place: SONEPAT

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

DoT seeks ₹33,111 cr for BSNL AGR dues

Expects PSU to become profitable by FY 2027

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

he Department of Tele-com has sought Rs 33,111 crore for payment of adjusted gross revenue dues of state-run BSNL which is likely to be made in the upcoming April-June quarter, according to a Parliamentary panel report.

In a submission to the Standing Committee of Communications and Information Technology, the Department of Telecom shared that against the proposal of Rs 39,725.07 crore for 2023-24, Rs 66,691.82 crore has been allocated to it in the

budget.
"The increased amount is towards the payment of AGR Dues to BSNL, which is a part of its revival package. The Department had proposed an amount of Rs 33,111.00 crore for the AGR Dues. The payment will be made once BSNL claims the amount and is most likely to happen in the first quarter of FY 2023-24," the DoT informed in

a written reply to the panel. The Finance Ministry has allocated a total of Rs 1,08,153.25 crore under Budget Estimates for 2023-24 to the DoT comprising Rs 41,461.43 crore under revenue section and Rs 66,691.82 crore for capital sec-

The government had allocated Rs 44,720 crore for capital infusion in the state-run BSNL and MTNL for the current fiscal which was revised to Rs 33,269.01 crore and out of the total allocated fund Rs 23,873.44

December 2022.

"Due to indigenous development of 4G stack for the first time in the country and issues in supply chain of chipsets, the deployment will gradually start and completion of projects of all 1 lakhs sites is likely to take 2 years," the DoT submitted.

The DoT has informed the panel that the techno-commercial bids of TCS and ITI were opened by BSNL on November 3 and financial bids of January 13 for procurement of 4G equipment and as per the cabinet approval Group of Ministers will approve the process of procure-

Stocks rise on Wall Street, even the most beaten-down banks

Stocks are rising on a calming Wall Street Tuesday, even the banks most beaten down by the industry's crisis, amid hopes for more help from the U.S. Government.

The S&P 500 was 0.6% higher in midday trading after halving a bigger gain from the morning. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 131 points, or 0.4%, at 32,376, as of noon Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6%

Markets around the world have pinballed sharply this month on worries the banking system may be cracking under the pressure of the fastest set of hikes to interest rates in decades.

If the S&P 500 squeezes out a gain, it would mark its first back-to-back rise in two weeks. In the U.S., shares of small-

er and mid-sized banks rose after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a bankers' group more government assistance "could be warranted" if risks arise that could bring down the Earlier this month, the U.S.

Government said it would make



depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank whole, even those with more than the \$250,000 limit insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. They were the second- and

third-largest U.S. Bank failures They had struggled as

depositors rushed to pull their money out en masse.

Such runs can topple a bank, and investors have since been hunting for the next one that could fall. Much focus has been on First Republic Bank, which shares some similar traits with Silicon Valley Bank, and its stock had lost 90% for the month through Monday.

It jumped 39.6% Tuesday. Other smaller and midsized banks also rallied, including a 7.2% climb for Comerica and a 7.7% gain for Zions

Hopes for the banking industry began to turn over the weekend after regulators pushed together two huge Swiss banks.

Shares of both banks in that deal rose Tuesday in Switzerland, including a 9.8% jump for acquirer UBS.

Credit Suisse, meanwhile, rose 5.3% after tumbling a day earlier.

Credit Suisse had long-standing problems that were rel-atively unique, but all banks on

the shared challenge of navigating a world with much higher interest rates than a year earli-

Central banks have jacked up rates at a blistering pace in hopes of getting high inflation under control.

But such moves act like huge hammers with little nuance. They try to bring down inflation by slowing the entire economy.

That raises the risk of a recession later on. Higher rates also hurt prices for stocks and other investments.

That's one of the factors that hurt Silicon Valley Bank, which saw the value of its bond investments drop with the rise in rates.

The Federal Reserve is beginning its latest meeting on interest rates Tuesday, with an announcement slated for

Earlier this month, much of Wall Street was bracing for the Fed to reaccelerate its hikes and raise by 0.50 percentage points. A string of reports on the economy came in hotter than expected, including data on the job market, retail sales and inflation

have been digitised, he added.
The NAHEP has achieved
"almost all targets" and signifi-

PFC SIGNS MOU WITH IISC FOR NEW ENERGY RESEARCH BUILDING Power Finance Corporation

Ltd (PFC), a Maĥaratna Company and India's leading NBFC in the power sector, has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to support establishing a state-of-the-art building that will house the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER). The state-of-the-art building for ICER will foster cutting-edge fundamental and applied research on various energy-related areas, with special focus on green hydrogen

IIFL AIMS WORLD RECORD WITH IIFL JITO AHIMSA RUN

IIFL Group, which is one of India's largest financial services conglomerates, aims to create Guinness Book of World record with IIFL Jito Ahimsa Run to be held on April 2, 2023 across 23 countries and 65 cities in India. This is the largest such run for the cause of peace and non-violence. The run is being organized by the ladies wing of Jito (Jain International Trade Organization) and IIFL besides Jito volunteers and supporters across the world.

NTPC COMMEMORATES WORLD WATER DAY

NTPC Limited, India's largest power producer, today com-memorated World Water Day through a conference on 'Sustainable Supply Chain with Focus on Water Sustainability', along with prominent supply chain partners and vendors to observe World Water Day 2023. Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) and officials from multiple organizations participated in the discussions. The event witnessed the release of the NTPC Water Compendium 2023.

PFC recently signed a Project Loan Agreement (PLA) for JPY 2.65 Billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a ceremony held at JBIC headquarters, Tokyo, Japan. This PLA was executed under General Agreement signed between

Modi launches ITU Area

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre here.

Modi also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test

ITU is the United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies Headquartered in Geneva, it has a network of field offices, regional offices and area offices.

India signed a Host Country Agreement in March 2022 with ITU for establishment of an area office. The area office in India also envisaged to have an Innovation Centre embedded in it, making it unique among other area offices of ITU.

ed by India, is located on the second floor of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building at Mehrauli in

in the region, a statement said.

Document is prepared by

It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation

office, innovation Centre
PTI NEW DELHI it, making it unique amo

The area office, fully fund-

Bharat 6G Vision

Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021 with members from various ministries/departments, research and development institutions, academia, standardization bodies, telecom service providers.

Tomar launches blended learning platform for higher edu in agri

A griculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched a blended learning platform for higher education in agriculture, developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as part of a World Bank-funded project.

ICAR has developed the blended learning ecosystem as part of the five-year National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) concluding this year. India and the World Bank have contributed USD 82.5 million (about Rs 600 crore) each for this project that aimed at strengthening the national agriculture education system in the country.

"The blended learning is an extension of Krishi Megh. I believe it will strengthen the foundation of Krishi Megh and will help in meeting the require-ment of digital learning," Tomar said at the launch of this platform at the three-day international conference here.

Krishi Megh, which is a data recovery centre of ICAR, enables the farmers, researchers, students and policymakers to be updated with latest information regarding agriculture and research. For India to become a developed nation by 2047, the minister said the blended learning ecosystem will play a key role

in this journey. Blended learning is a combination of offline and online learning in a way that one complements the other.

ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak said, "I believe the World Bank will further promote research and education. ...To address the challenges of climate change and low productiv-



ity, education will play a crucial role. Our young students as well as scientists need to be equipped to combat all problems and experiment to learn new things which can be done through a blended learning

ÍCAR Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) R C Agrawal said it has been the ICAR's endeavour to enhance agricultural higher education in alignment with guidance from the National Education Policy 2020 and the

Now, all agricultural universities have access to e-learning and e-governance applications. They all have smart classrooms, video conferencing facilities and virtual reality experience labs, he

About 86 per cent of agriuniversities have academic management systems; 90 per cent have wi-fi on campus and 92 per cent have high-speed internet connectivity. The e-content, using virtual and augmented reality, is highly immersive. Assessments, including short and long answer type questions

cantly exceeded more than half of them. "The quality of students coming in is better, in that they have higher cut-off scores, the graduates have higher placement rates and the research is more effective," Bekzod Shamsiev, Senior Agriculture Economist at The World Bank, said. The next challenge is to transform digital learning into digital agriculture. Agricultural

monitoring and automation of agricultural processes, he said. It should lead to better trading systems and market information, efficient supply chain logistics and provide information for better policy making and regulation, Shamsiev added.

universities have an important

role to play in promoting preci-

sion farming, environmental

PFC INKS PLA FOR JPY 2.65 BN WITH JAPAN BANK

PFC & JBIC for JPY 30 Billion.

Par panel calls for ease of doing business to attract investment in mining sector

parliamentary panel has Asuggested that factors like ease of doing business and increase in competitiveness should be looked into in a bid to boost a favourable investment environment for the mining

The committee also acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Mines to accommodate the private sector to help the

mining sector reach new heights. "The Committee has been given to understand that the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 in 2015 and in 2021 has been aimed at increasing the production of minerals and time-bound operationalisation of mines, maintaining continuity in mining operations even after a change of lessee and increasing the pace of exploration and auctioning of mineral resources," the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel said in its latest report. These amendments have resulted in the enhancement of mineral production across the spectrum and will be a major boost to many industries which

Tuesday said its board has

approved a fourth interim div-

idend of Rs 26 per equity share

or 1,300 per cent for FY2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83

crore. This takes the Udaipur-

based Hindustan Zinc's total

payout to shareholders at a

record Rs 32,000 crore this fis-

cal, making it among the topdividend payers in the country.

the company in its meeting

held on March 21, 2023 have

approved fourth interim divi-

dend of Rs 26 per equity share

i.E. 1300 % on face value of Rs

"The board of directors of

key raw materials provided by mining sector.

The measures are intended to enhance self-reliance in the It envisages involving the

private sector as a co-partner in the country's development and enhancing business opportunities in the economy, it said. The Committee has been

informed that the scope and potential for the private sector in the mining sector is widely available in the existing legislation. Further, the National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2019 envisages that the private sector would be encouraged to take up

exploration activities," it said.

Besides, NMP 2019, the recent reforms undertaken by the government also encourage investment by the private sector in the mineral sector. The Committee find that

the private sector plays a dominant role in mineral production and accounted for about 58.54 per cent or Rs 77,713 core in the total value production in 2021-22 (Provisional).

As on April 1, 2022, there are 94 mines with CPSUs, 144 mines with state PSU.

20 women-led startups in pipeline to become unicorn, say study

Total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at \$30 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 18 per cent of India's unicorn startups are founded or co-founded by women and 20 other firms are in pipeline to become unicorn, a joint study said on Tuesday.

The study conducted by TiE Delhi NCR, research firm Zinnov, Google, NetApp and venture capital firm Indian Angel Network found that despite comparable metrics, success, and high entrepreneurial intent, socio-cultural barriers hinder

women founders' growth. "Approximately 18 per cent of India's total unicorns are founded by women, with 20 Potential Unicorns in the

pipeline," the study said. The startups that are in the pipeline to become unicorns include WinZO, Doubtnut, Infinity Learn, Locus, Pratilipi, Portea, SirionLabs, etc.

will increase by 10.2 per cent in

The projected salary increa-

ses for 2023 are slightly lower

organisation EY.

Women founded or cofounded start-ups that have already become unicorns include acko, BYJU's Pristyn Care, MyGlamm, MobiKwik, Open

The total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at over USD 30 billion and total equity investments raised by them is over USD 12

The study, however, found a huge gender disparity in the

Indian start-up ecosystem. "Disparity in ticket size caused women founders to face an investment loss of about USD 3.7 billion over the past 3

years," the study said. According to the study, from an investor's perspective, women founders come across as more cautious compared to their male counterparts, which lowers deal size offers to them.

"Women founders face more scrutiny on their commitment compared to their male counterparts which makes negotiations more challenging from their point of view," the study

Us aircraft maker Boeing has said India may require 31,000 pilots and some 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years amid the growing order book of the aircraft

Speaking on the sidelines of a CII event

here, Boeing India President Salil Gupte also

said the South Asian region is expected to remain the fastest-growing market globally over the next several years. Courage of the government to go forward and privatize Air India and Tata Group to take up the airlines will transform the Indian aerospace industry, he said. "India is

aircraft (orders)," Gupte told reporters.

He said considering India's air traffic growth, a lot of focus has to be on making infrastructure robust, both hard infrastructure which includes airports as well as critical infrastructure, which includes pilots, among others. Tata Group-owned Air India going to need over 31,000 pilots and 26,000 last month announced placing orders for a mechanics over the next 20 years to take care of the aircraft coming in. This is as important a part of the Indian growth story as the

total of 470 planes with both Boeing and European aviation major Airbus. Âir India's mega aircraft deal with Boeing, Gupte said, is a massive deal for

India may require 31,000 pilots in next 20 years: Boeing getting a representation on the global stage. Last September, Boeing had projected India's air traffic growth at around 7 per cent through 2040. He also said that after coming out of the pandemic, the recovery in air

> cial crisis on air travel growth. It is "too early to know what the consequences of the bank situation of the US

Boeing does not see any impact of the finan-

There is a huge market for narrow-body aircraft for Boeing in India, he said and added that, "(as much as) 90 per cent of the market over the next 20 years is going to be a narrow body market and we expect we will be successful in competing for those every

Google suspends Chinese shopping app amid security concerns



AP HONG KONG

oogle has suspended the Chinese shopping app Pinduoduo on its app store after malware was discovered in versources.

Tuesday that it suspended the Pinduoduo app on the Google Play app store out of "security concerns" and that it was investigating the matter.

The suspension of the In a statement, Pinduoduo

They allege that such apps could be used to spy on Pinduoduo is a popular e-commerce app in China which often offers discounts if users team up to buy multiples of an

Google warned users Tuesday to uninstall any Pinduoduo app not downloaded from its own Play store. Downloads of Android and

even iOS apps can often be

found on websites that allow people to download apps without going through official app "Google Play Protect enforcement has been set to block

installation attempts of these

identified malicious apps,

Google said in its statement. Users that have malicious versions of the app downloaded to their devices are warned and prompted to uninstall the app."

It was unclear if there are similar security concerns around the Pinduoduo app for Apple users, and Pinduoduo was still available to download from Apple's iOS store Tuesday.

said that Google had not shared more details with the company beyond informing it that the current version of its app was "not compliant with Google's

India will not slow down: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Unlike the global economy which is risk of recession, India would not slow down and maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23, said

the RBI bulletin on Tuesday. Even as global growth is set to slow down or even enter a recession in 2023 as global financial markets wager, India has emerged from the pandemic years stronger than initially thought, with a steady gathering of momentum since the second quarter of the current financial year, said an article in the March

bulletin of the Reserve Bank. Year-on-year growth rates do not reflect this pick-up of pace because by construction they are saddled with statistical base effects, and instead suggest a sequential slowing down through successive quarters of 2022-23 to an unsuspecting

reader, it said. ...Unlike the global economy, India would not slow down - it would maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23. We remain optimistic about India, whatever the odds," said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

They said the NSO's end-February data release indicates

and Europe and others are going to be. At this stage, we really see no slowdown in the demand for aviation," Gupte added.

single campaign (aircraft order)."

that the Indian economy is intrinsically better positioned

than many parts of the world to head into a challenging year ahead, mainly because of its demonstrated resilience and its reliance on domestic drivers. Currently available forecasts of India's real GDP growth for 2023-24, including those of

the RBI, settle between 6.0 and

6.5 per cent. The article observes that hawkish minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) meeting, a sharp rise in US treasury yields, and fresh geopolitical risks after Russia suspended its participation from the New Strategic Arms

Reduction Treaty (START) dented positive sentiment in the Indian equity market during the second half of February Consequently, the BSE Sensex reversed its earlier gains

and registered a cumulative decline of 1 per cent during February 2023.

interim dividend of ₹10,985 cr for FY23 PTI N NEW DELHI 2 per share for the financial Year 2022-23 amounting to Rs Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on 10,985.83 crore," Hindustan

Hindustan Zinc board approves 4th

under law, it said.

holds a 64.92 per cent stake and has for long been unsuccessfully trying to buy back the residlargest and only integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver in

Zinc said in a filing to BSE.

dend will be paid within stipuverage salary in India is lated timelines as prescribed Hindustan Zinc (HZL) said

fourth interim dividend. HZL, in which Vedanta

ual government stake, is the

The fourth interim divi-

that it has declared its ever-highest dividend of Rs 32,000 crore for FY'23 by announcing the

Average salary may rise 10.2% in 2023 led by e-commerce, IT, professional services: Report than the actual increases for 2022 across all job levels, except

Average sain, in Expected to increase by 10.2 are projected to have a slightly per cent in 2023, mainly driven by e-commerce, professional services and information technology, a report said on Tuesday. The average salaries in India

2023, lower in comparison to E-commerce has the high-10.4 per cent (actuals) in 2022, est projected salary growth at but still in double digits, accord-12.5 per cent, followed by proing to a 'Future of Pay' 2023 fessional services at 11.9 per cent report by professional services

larger decrease in compensation in 2023, it stated. The top three sectors with the biggest projected salary increases are tied to technology, said the report.

for blue-collar workers, who

and IT at 10.8 per cent, it added The data presented in 'EY Future of Pay' report is based on a survey with over 150 leaders.



sions of the app from other Google said in a statement

Pinduoduo app — mainly used in China — comes amid heightened U.S.-China tensions over Chinese-owned apps such as TikTok, which some U.S. Lawmakers say could be a national security threat.

z beat India in 3rd ODI, seal series

⊣he Indian batting unit once again choked under . relentless pressure from the Australian spinners as the visitors clinched the three-match ODI series 2-1 with a comfortable 21-run victory, here on Wednesday.

Chasing a stiff target of 270 on a tricky pitch, India were all out for 248 in 49.1 overs as Australia came back in the series after losing the first ODI by five wickets.

The series defeat is an indicator that the Indian team is far from prepared for the World Cup and there are too many loose ends that needs to be tied.

The match turned out to be an anti-climax in the final 15 overs as Australian spinners Adam Zampa (4/45) and Ashton Agar (2/41 in 10 overs) snared as many six Indian wickets, giving away only 86 runs in the 20 overs between them.

The Chepauk track got slower and slower and post 35th over in the Indian innings, it became very difficult to hit the big strokes. Once Zampa bowled a cou-

ple of googlies to force Hardik Pandya (40 off 40 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (1 off 33 balls) hit against the turn, the writing was on the wall.

It was Zampa's best figures against India and he certainly was the hero for the Aussies. Incidentally, Australia were

the last international team to beat India in a bilateral ODI series back in 2019. The scoreline back then was 3-2. Since that series defeat four years back, India have won seven back-toback bilateral ODI rubber at

It was three games in a row that the Indian top-order flat-



tered to deceive and that too in home conditions. They could have been blanked 3-0 in the series had Australia scored at least 235 in the opening ODI.

The highest run-getter for India in the series was KL Rahul with 116 runs and that tells the

Between overs 35 to 43, India managed only 31 runs and that was where the game turned

Skipper Rohit Sharma (30

off 17 balls) started well but played one pull shot too many to be holed out at deep square leg fence while an alert Alex Carey's decision to convince Steve Smith into taking a DRS saw the back of Shubman Gill (37 off 49 balls). Rahul (32 off 50 balls) joined Virat Kohli (54 off 72 balls) and the duo added 69 runs in 15.3 overs but were never able to dominate as such on a track that got slower with

passage of time

Kohli's first boundary came in his 21st delivery, a pull shot off Agar and two balls later of Tamil Nadu he hit a regal six off Agar over extra cover.

Rahul's first boundary came in his 45th ball when he hit Zampa over his head for a four. Next over, Starc fired from wide off crease but the length ball was hit for a straight six. However a ball fired by Zampa into the blockhole was dug-out by Rahul but Abbot timed his jump well to hold onto it at the boundary.

to quickly send back Kohli and

the out-of-form Survakumar

Then it was the turn of Agar

Yadav (0) for his third first-ball duck in as many games. From 146 for 2, India had slumped to 185 for 6 when Pandya and Jadeja joined forces with the Australian close-in

But Pandya, however, maintained a 100-plus strike-rate

fielders making it infinitely dif-

opposition.

Earlier, a fine opening spell by Pandya and a probing effort by Kuldeep Yadav put a tight leash around the Australian batters before its tail wagged considerably to take the visitors to a fighting 269 all out in 49 overs after opting to bat first.

The five wickets added 131 to keep Australia in the game.

While Pandya (3/44 in 8 overs) shaved off the top half, Kuldeep's (3/56 in 10 overs) rhythm and guile on a helpful Chennai track was the biggest takeaway as the latter's delivery to remove Carey was the ball of the series. It was a classical leftarm wrist spinner's leg-break that beat the southpaw all ends up and Kuldeep's ecstacy was there to be seen.

India were in control after egging Australia back at 138 for 5 but a 58-run stand between Carey and Marcus Stoinis for the sixth wicket and 42 for the eighth wicket between Sean Abbott (26) and Ashton Agar (17) took them close to 250 while Mitchell Starc and Adam Zampa added 22 precious runs for the final wicket.

What looked like a good toss to win for Australia after Mitchell Marsh (47 off 47 balls) and Travis Head (33 off 31 balls) put on 68 for the opening stand didn't seem so as Pandva bowled three different deliveries in his first three overs to completely seize the momentum in favour of the hosts.

David Warner (23 off 31 balls) and Marnus Labuschagne (28 off 45 balls) paid dearly for their indiscreet shot selection off Kuldeep's bowling before Carey (38 off 46 balls) played his first innings of substance on the final day of a long near twomonth tour.



Short break for India's white ball players before joining IPL teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian players, who are **I** part of the ODI series against Australia, will get a short break for three to four days before joining their respective IPL camps with the tournament starting from March 31.

Defending champions Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings will play in the opening match of the season in Ahmedabad.

It is understood that all the players, who are in the World Cup scheme of things, will have their workload management monitored and hence the rest is going to be paramount.

"Some players might join their IPL camps directly but they will have an option of taking a three-four day break and relax at home before touching base with their respective IPL teams," a BCCI

source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Even if the players directly join the training camp, it is unlikely that they would be training for at least next 72

IYER TO MISS ENTIRE IPL, DOUBTFUL FOR WC

Shreyas Iyer is all set to undergo lower back surgery and will not take any part in the IPL, according to sources in the board. The decision is being taken keeping the player's best interest in mind as a surgery right now will give him an outside chance of at least making a comeback before the World Cup in October, although chances of making it for the marquee event also looks dim at the moment.

Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna are the two players who have already undergone back surgery

World number one Carlos Alcaraz heads into this week's Miami Open looking to defend both his title and top ranking and admitting even he has been surprised by his dizzying rise to the top of the sport.
A year ago, the 19-year-old

came to Miami on the back of wins on clay in Croatia and Brazil and hoping to make his mark on the hard courts. His victory in South Florida launched a remarkable year.

The highlight was his US Open triumph which made him the youngest player to become world number one and he returns to Miami after last achieved without dropping a set

"It's all been very fast, when I got to Miami last year I was around number 20 and a year later I am coming in with the number one ranking. That is something very special. I fulfilled my dreams quicker than I expected," he told reporters on Tuesday. Because of his victory in Miami last year, Alcaraz must win at the Florida event again if he is to hold on to his number one spot, but he says he feels no pressure in that regard or to meet newly raised expectations.

"I don't feel the pressure too much. I know the things I have to do. I need to play relaxed and not mind if I lose or if I play well or not," he said.

"My goal is always the same. enjoy playing tennis and try to have great thoughts when play-



ing. That is why I am playing at a good level. I am enjoying every single second and playing relaxed. That is what I am ng about on court," he

As at Indian Wells, world

number two Novak Diokovic is missing after being refused entry to the United States due to his lack of a COVID vaccine and

presence, along with the injured

"I'm a professional tennis player, but aÎso I'm a huge fan of tennis and I always want to watch the best players in the world, like Rafa, like Djokovic," he said.

"I played a couple of times against Rafa and I wish to play against him more and with Djokovic as well. I wish to play against him more times, you know, but obviously in every

playing and I hope we get them back soon," he said.

Far from feeling the weight of following in the footsteps of the 'Big Three' of Djokovic, Nadal and the now retired Roger Federer, Alcaraz says he is trying to draw lessons from their successes. "You have to improve, you have to get better every day. That's why the big players, the

Big Three, for example, did all through their careers - to improve every day a little bit," he Alcaraz can expect plenty of

support from the crowd in

Miami, which includes many Spanish-speaking fans. "It's so special to come back here and feel the same energy that I felt, for example, last

year," he said. "I have great sup-

porting me. I remember last year it was unbelievable you know, with the crowd. I feel like I am at home, you know," he added. The top seed will begin his

porters here, a lot of people sup-

title defence against Argentine Facundo Bagnis or a qualifier and could face two-time Miami champion and former world number one Andy Murray in the third round.

Fleming to be Texas Super Kings coach in MLC

 $F^{\rm ormer\ New\ Zealand\ captain\ Stephen}$ Fleming will be the coach of Dallasbased Major League Cricket (MLC) club Texas Super Kings (TSK), which announced its partnership with IPL side Chennai Super Kings (CSK).
Four-time IPL champions, CSK had

recently said that they would make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the

TSK said in a statement that CSK will bring "operational expertise" and help "Texas compete on the field".

"The (Texas Super kings) team will be led by coach Stephen Fleming. Fleming is a former captain of the New Zealand national cricket team and head coach of Indian Premier League team Chennai Super Kings. He played in the first-ever T20 to be staged as captain of the New Zealand team in 2005," said a TSK statement.

Fleming is a long-serving CSK head coach and has guided the Chennai franchise to four IPL titles.

CSK join Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians as the third IPL side to get associated with the six-team MLC, scheduled to begin on July 13. The six MLC teams are San Francisco

Unicorns, Lost Angeles, MI New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington DC. Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR Group, are partnering with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class

cricket team", while Mumbai Indians have joined the US cricket revolution by acquiring the New York franchise. Meanwhile, all six MLC teams completed the domestic player draft at the Space Center in Houston, where they selected

nine players each from more than 100 cricketers eligible to represent the "US cricket community" The remainder of each team's player roster will be filled with top T20 cricketers from across the world.



New IPL Rule: Captains allowed to name playing XI after toss

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The captains of IPL teams can name their **I** playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI. According to playing conditions clause 1.2.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after the toss.

"Other than set out in Clause 1.2.9 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain."

This effectively means that after the toss,

if a skipper feels that he needs to change his

eleven as per demands of the situation, he

is free to do that till the match starts.

The other significant change in playing conditions is penalising unfair movement by the wicketkeeper in case there is shift in position before the batter meets the ball.

In the event of unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, either umpire shall call and signal dead ball and inform the other umpire the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then: "award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable or award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side. Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action. Inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred."

The "Impact Substitution" where a new player can be introduced during the match from the five designated substitutions had already been announced by the tournament committee.



स्मृति प्रसंग 23 मार्च, 2023 / सार्य 6.30 बजे

रवीन्द्र सभागम, रवीन्द्र भवन परिसर, भोपाल

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान

के मुख्य आतिथ्य तथा माननीय संस्कृति, पर्यटन, धार्मिक न्यास एवं धर्मस्व मंत्री

सुश्री उषा ठाकुर

की गरिमामय उपस्थिति में शब्दयोगी मनोज मुंतशिर शुक्ला एवं सांगीतिक दल की प्रस्तुति इस अवसर पर

शहीदे आज़म भगतसिंह, राजगुरु, सुखदेव एवं परमवीर चक्र विभूषित विक्रम बत्रा, मनोज पाण्डे के परिजनों की विशिष्ट उपस्थिति रहेगी

आप आगृहपूर्वक आमंत्रित हैं.

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, संस्कृति विभाग का आयोजन



D-11250/22

NITU, NIKHAT & SAWEETY CONFIRM MEDALS

Riding on impressive performances, star Indian pugilists Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen and Saweety Boora registered thumping victories to confirm at least three medals for India at the Mahindra IBA World Boxing Women's Championships by advancing to the semi-finals at the Indira Gandhi Sports

Complex here on Wednesday.
Squaring off against the two-time
Worlds bronze medallist Madoka Wada
of Japan, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion Nitu (48kg) secured a scintillating win with the Referee Stops Contest (RSC) verdict in the second round of the bout. With an attacking approach from the word go, the 22 year old hardly had to break a sweat against the veteran Japenese and was in complete control of the bout.

"I have been able to apply 100% apply of my practice in the ring so far and going into the next match I feel good I have won all my three bouts by RSC. She (Maduko) is a southpaw just like me and as this was my first time in the tournament facing a southpaw, I had to pay complete attention and attack. I was on the counter from the first round but I feel like I should have played a bit more attacking and I will try to do that in my next bout. (After the defeat in last edition's quarters) I felt that since is the tournament happening in India this year with the home support constantly backing us, I won't let the medal slip away this time," said Nitu after the bout.

The Indian will now take on the reigning Asian champion and last year's World Championships silver medallist Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan in what will be a rematch of last year's World Championships quarter finals



defence by recording a hard-fought 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed against the two-time World Championships bronze medallist Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand. Both pugilists were at the top of their game and gave it their all to emerge victori-ous in this bout that went right down the wire. However it was the 26 year old Indian who utilized her superior technical ability to edge out her Thai opponent and come out on top with the

"Yes, today's bout was stressful but

country, and going forward I'll win the gold medal too. My strategy today was to win in the first 2 rounds and then play around in the last. I won the 2 rounds but from 3:2 in each so in the last round, I aimed to play from a long range but there was a lot of clinching so my body got a little tired. All the bouts I have had till now were powerful but for me, it's been a good experience to keep moving forward and defeating them so hopefully I will keep moving forward like this and fight for my country." said Nikhat after the bout

Nikhat will face Rio Olympics bronze medallist Ingrit Valencia of Colombia in the semi-finals.

Contrary to Nikhat, the three-time Asian medallist Saweety (81kg) recorded a dominating 5-0 win against the 2018 World Championships bronze medallist Viktoria Kebikava of Belarus. In what was her first match of the tournament, the experienced pugilist from Haryana was extremely confident throughout the bout and landed strong, accurate punches to seal the win. She will be going up against Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in her next bout.

"The boxer from Belarus (Viktoria)

medal to her name and with both of our strengths including uppercuts being similar, I knew that I will have to fight till the very end. I was a bit tired towards the last round but I kept going for my coach who was constantly motivating from the ringside and my family in the audience, all of whom had high hopes from me. My next bout will definitely be better than this one as I always get better with the number of matches that I play," commented Saweety after her

Meanwhile, the two-time World Youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary (52kg) and the 2022 World Championships bronze medallist Manisha Moun (57kg) went down fighting in the quarter finals despite their best efforts. While Sakshi lost 0:5 against Wu Lu of China, Manisha lost 1:4 against Amina Zidani of France and bowed out of the competition.

The 2020 Olympics bronze medallist Irma Testa (57kg) of Italy also secured her place in the semi-finals after beating Jucielen Romeu of Brazil with a 5-0 scoreline. The Italian who won silver at last year's World Championships looked determined to better that this time round and proved it with her stellar performance.

Later on Wednesday, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), the 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+81kg) will all take to the ring for their respective quarter-finals

The on-going prestigious event is witnessing the participation of 324 box-ers, including several Olympic medallists, from 65 countries fighting for the titles in the 12 weight categories. The tournament has a massive prize pool of

Sarabjot clinches men's air pistol gold

Sarabjot Singh shot down a gold in men's air pistol while Varun Tomar clinched a bronze in the same event as India opened their ISSF Pistol/Rifle World Cup campaign with two medals here on Wednesday.

The Indian women air pistol shooters though couldn't make it to the medal bracket, with Manu Bhaker, Divya Subbaraju and Rhythm Sangwan failing to come good on the inaugural day of competitions

Sarabjot, the 2021 junior world champion in the team and mixed team categories, defeated Azerbaijan's Ruslan Lunev 16-0 in the gold-medal match in the first final of the World Cup.

The 21-year-old Sarabjot was in awesome form all through as he emerged leader at the end of the qualification round with 585 points.

Sarabjot was hitting the bulls eye every time he took aim, with his scores of 98, 97, 99, 97, 97, 97 in the six qualification series suggesting he would be hard to beat.

China's Liu Jinyao was a close second at 584.

Six other shooters — Jason Solari (Switzerland, 583 points), Vladimir Svechinko (Uzbekistan, 582), Frederik Larsen (Denmark, 580), Zhang Jie (China, 580), Ruslan Lunev (Azerbaijan, 579) and Varun Tomar (India, 579) — completed the list of eight marksmen who made it to the ranking

men's doubles last week before

sod qualified for the main draw

of the women's singles after beat-

ing USA's Lauren Lam 21-17,

of Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara

Sunil also made it to the main

draw after beating Paula Lynn Cao Hok and Lauren Lam 21-

Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy notched up a 21-17, 15-21, 21-

18 win over Germany's Patrick

15, 15-21, 21-18.

21-7 in the qualifying round.

Meanwhile, Malvika Ban-

The women's doubles pair

The mixed doubles pair of

losing in the semifinals.

Sarabjot continued to excel, while 19-year-old Varun also began superbly after qualifying eighth and last for the ranking

At the end of the ranking round, Sarabjot (253.2 points) and Ruslan (251.9) were placed first and second respectively and both of them entered the gold-medal round high on confidence, while Varun, who scored 250.3, settled for bronze.

In the battle for the top podium place, the Azerbaijan shooter was no match for Sarabjot, with the Indian firing single-shot scores of 10.4, 10.4, 10.3, 10.2, 10.2, 10.9 in comparison to Ruslan's 10.1, 10.1, 9.6, 9.5, 8.9 and 10.4.

As per the ISSF's new format, the winner of a single shot in the final gets awarded two points and the first to race to 16 points is the winner of the com-

With Sarabjot shooting better scores in all six shots, he raced to the title, giving India its first gold medal in the compe-

In the women's air pistol event, 27-year-old Divya Subbaraju did much better than Olympian Manu Bhaker, entering the ranking round after coming third in qualification with a score of 579.

However, the Indian ended up ranked fifth with China's Li Xue winning gold after defeating Germany's Doreen Vennekamp in the title round. Another Chinese shooter, Wei Qian bagged the bronze medal.

Scheiel and Franziska Volkmann

to book a berth in main draw.

Maisnam and Priyanshu Raja-

wat couldn't qualify for the

main draw. Rohan Kapoor and

B Sumeeth Reddy also lost in the

first round of men's doubles

qualification. On Wednesday,

PV Sindhu, seeded fourth in the

tournament, will look to snap

her three first-round exits on the

trot this season when she faces local player Jenjira Stadelmann

in women's singles. Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will also begin

their campaign in men's singles.

However, Meiraba Luwang



Portugal back with Martínez as coach, Ronaldo in squad

ship qualifying under a new coach and with Cristiano Ronaldo far away from football's biggest stadiums.

Portugal starts its Euro 2024 qualifying campaign at home against Liechtenstein in Group on Thursday, with Roberto Martínez debuting as coach and Ronaldo still in the squad.

It will be Ronaldo's first appearance with Portugal since leaving Europe for Saudi club Al Nassr after a mostly disappointing stint with Manchester United. He is set to break the alltime record of appearances with a national team after tying Bader Al-Mutawa's mark of 196 outings for Kuwait during last year's World Cup.

Martínez is taking over Fernando Santos, who quit in December after Portugal's elimination by Morocco in the quarterfinals of the World Cup. Santos left amid the controversy of benching Ronaldo in the knockout stage of the tourna-

2016 title — the country's first major trophy — and the 2019 Nations League title. He reached an agreement with the federation to leave two years before his contract was to end.

Martínez ended his six-year stint with Belgium after the team's disappointing group-stage elimination at the World Cup. He arrived pledging to respect Ronaldo's history with the national team.

In addition to Ronaldo, Martínez will inherit a squad filled with talented players such as Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes, Diogo Jota, Gonçalo Ramos and João Félix. The coach made few changes to the squad, with 40-year-old defender Pepe also returning to play alongside the 38-year-old Ronaldo.

"We were briefly introduced to him on the training field," Félix said about Martínez.

"He explained to us some of his ideas, mainly for these two

nt in Qatar. games, which are going to be Santos was in charge of very similar. He talked about the Tt's a new era for Portugal as it Portugal for eight years, leading attacking dynamic, the connec-Félix downplayed Portugal's chances in the matches against

tious.

Liechtenstein and Luxembourg on Sunday. "We always have to be prepared and not take any game lightly," he said.

"We have the recent example of the World Cup, when everyone thought we were going to get past Morocco and we didn't. It's always complicated, it's always the best from each country, and everyone plays each game like it is a final. All games will be difficult, both at home

Portugal is unbeaten against Liechtenstein, with six wins and a draw in seven matches.

and away. We have to be cau-

Portugal's Euro 2024 qualifying group also includes Iceland, Slovakia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The top two nations from each of the 10 groups qualify for the final tournament in Germany

Treesa and Gayatri exit from Swiss Open in 1st round ll England Championships All England Championships semifinalists, Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made an early exit from the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here as they lost their first-round match. The Treesa-Gayatri duo lost to second-seeded Indonesian pair of Apriyani Rahayu and Siti

De Bruyne 'honoured' to be named Belgium skipper

Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne said on Tuesday he was "honoured" to be named Belgium captain following Eden Hazard's retirement from international football.

Treesa and Gayatri had

made a sensational run in the All

The Red Devils coach Domenico Tedesco chose playmaker De Bruyne for the position after Real Madrid's Hazard, who turned 32 in January, ended his Belgium career following last year's World Cup. Tedesco, who took over from Roberto Martinez after the tournament, has called up 19year-olds Zeno Debast and Romeo Lavia to what was an ageing squad.

"It's an honour for me to be named and represent the country in this way," De Bruyne told RTL-TVI television.

"I'm almost 32. I've never considered international retirement. I think I can still bring something to the table and help the youngsters," he added. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Chelsea attacker Romelu Lukaku will be De Bruyne's vice-captains. De Bruyne was one of the players criticised after The Red Devils were

knocked out in the group stage in Qatar. De Bruyne has played 97 games for Belgium scoring 25 goals and will make his debut as skipper in Sweden on Friday in a Euro 2024 qualifier. They will also face Austria, Azerbaijan and Estonia in the campaign for the tournament held in Germany next summer.





Former World Cup winner Mesut Ozil retires

AP BERLIN

World Cup winner Mesut VV Ozil announced his retirement from football on Wednesday after an illustrious international career with Germany and club spells with Real Madrid and Arsenal.

The 34-year-old helped Germany to glory in Brazil in 2014 but bitterly quit the international scene after the Germans crashed out of the 2018 tournament in Russia.

'After thoughtful consideration, I'm announcing my immediate retirement from professional football," the attacking midfielder said.

"I've had the privilege to be an international footballer for almost 17 years now and I feel incredibly thankful for the opportunity.

But in recent weeks and months, having also suffered some injuries, it's become more and more clear that it's time to leave the big stage of

football. Ozil, born in the German city of Gelsenkirchen but of

Turkish descent, played on some of football's biggest stages but also became embroiled in international politics and accusations of racism.

When Germany were knocked out of the 2018 World Cup at the group stage, a wounded Ozil accused the German public of "racist"

His club career blossomed when his deft passing and vision helped secure his move from the Bundesliga to Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid side in 2010. He soon led La Liga in assists while helping the Spanish club to their 32nd league title in 2012.

His big-money move to Arsenal in 2013 helped the London club end their FA Cup drought the following In 2014, Ozil started the

final as Germany beat Lionel Messi's Argentina 1-0 in the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro thanks to Mario Goetze's extratime goal.

Ozil was repeatedly shortlisted for the Ballon d'Or but the later stages of his career were troubled by disputes over playing time and his close personal friendship with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan was the best man at Ozil's Istanbul wedding to former Miss Turkey and actress Amine in 2019.

But it was Ozil's decision to be pictured with Erdogan on the eve of Turkey's 2018 presidential election that caused particular controversy during that summer's World Cup.

He ended his internationcareer before moving to Fenerbahce and most recently Istanbul Basaksehir.

European Challenge Tour returns to India after 10 years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

 $I_{\mathrm{za}}^{\mathrm{ndian}}$ golfers will have a two-week bonanza as they get to play back-to-back European Challenge Tour events at the KGA Golf course here.

The first of the two \$300,000 events, the Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge, gets underway on Thursday at the KGA with a majority of the Indian stars in action.

The European Challenge Tour returns

to India after a 10-year absence. The leading Indian players in the field include former PGTI Order of Merit champions Udayan Mane, also an Olympian, Khalin Joshi, current PGTI Order of Merit leader Sachin Baisoya, Yuvraj Singh Sandhu and Aman Raj, and the talented rookie Aryan Roopa Ánand, who is playing in his

hometown With the DP World Tour and TATA Steel Professional Golf Tour of India announcing a new partnership, this week's co-sanctioned event between the Challenge Tour and the PGTI is aimed at creating a pathway for the top players of the country



to reach the highest levels of the men's professional game.

Earlier this year, Manu Gandas earned his card into the DP World Tour by topping the PGTI Order of Merit.

In addition, the next three players will get a chance to make it to the DP World Tour

via the final stage of the Qualifying School.
With 20 top players from the Challenge also getting into the DP World Tour, the two Challenge Tour events assume a lot of importance for Indian golf. The Challenge Tour is where the next

generation of golfing stars find their feet and players including Irishman John Murphy, Frenchman Ugo Coussaud and Italian Matteo Manassero, the youngest winner in DP World Tour history, will tee it up in India

Aryan is looking to thrive on local support in this week's Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge. The 21-year-old, who was crowned India's number one amateur in 2022, leads a strong home contingent.

"My expectations are high coming into the week but I am just going to focus on the little things and prepare the best I can," he "Golf in India is growing in popularity

in recent years and Karnataka Golf

Association is such a busy golf course

throughout the year," he said The Indian joins a star-studded field in Bangalore this week, including seven-time DP World Tour winner Alvaro Quiros and Matteo Manassero, the youngest winner in DP World Tour history.

leaderboard in 7th Leg of Hero WPGT **PTI** ■ GURUGRAM

I home course at the DLF Golf and Country Club, climbed to the top of the leaderboard for the first time this season in the seventh leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

Tvesa, who had a nonetoo-happy season on the Ladies European Tour in 2022, looked determined as she has been shaking off the rust over the last two weeks.

A week after losing in a play-off to Gaurika Bishnoi in the sixth leg of the Tour, Tvesa carded four-under 68, her best

round of the year, to take a oneshot lead into the final round. Following up on her modest 74 on the first day, Tvesa,

¬vesa Malik, playing on her

Tvesa fires 68 to rise to top of

with 68, moved to two-under 142 and was one shot ahead of last week's winner, Gaurika (71-72).Amateur Vidhatri Urs,

fresh from her experience at the Queen Sirikit Cup where India finished second in the Philippines and then playing at the Women's Amateur Asia Pacific in Singapore, showed good form with one-under 71 and was lying sole third at even par 144. Vani Kapoor (72-73) suffered three bogeys in the last five holes and was fourth.