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# India's democracy: Modi

'That's why they are criticising'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the success of India's democracy and its institutions is hurting some people and that is why they are attacking it, in an apparent swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his criticism of the state of democracy in the country. When the country is full of

confidence and resolve, and intellectuals of the world are optimistic about India, talk of pessimism, showing the country in poor light and hurting the morale of the country also

takes place, he said at the India Today Conclave.
"When something auspicious is happening, there is a tradition to apply 'kaala tika', so when so many auspicious things are happening, some people have taken the responsibility to apply this 'kaala tika," Modi said, without naming anyone.

His remarks come amid a political slugfest over Gandhi's

<u>Capsule</u>

TRUMP EXPECTS TO BE ARRESTED ON TUESDAY

New York: Donald Trump said

in a social media post that he

prosecutor is eyeing charges in

a case examining hush money

DON'T START SESSION

warned schools against starting

**BEFORE APRIL: CBSE** 

the academic session before

April 1, saving it poses the ris

Secondary Education (CBSE)

comes after several schools

commenced their academic

HASINA HAILS INDIA FOR OIL PIPELINE

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina said on

Saturday that her country's first

Bangladesh at a time when the

energy crisis due to the Ukraine

**4 FROM BIHAR KILLED AS** 

**BUS OVERTURNS IN J&K** 

Srinagar: Four people hailing

from Bihar were killed and 28

Kashmir's Pulwama district on

injured when their bus

Saturday, officials said.

overturned in Jammu and

cross-border oil pipeline with

India will play a vital role in

world was facing a serious

ensuring fuel security in

session, especially for Classes

by the Central Board of

10 and 12.

of causing anxiety and burnout among students. The warning

New Delhi: The CBSE has

paid to women who alleged

sexual encounters with the

former president.

expects to be arrested on

Tuesday as a New York



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a gift from an exhibitor while visiting an exhibition during the 'Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference' in Pusa, in New Delhi on Saturday (Report on Page 4)

remarks during his recent visit to the UK, with the BJP accusing him of maligning India on foreign soil and seeking foreign intervention. Modi said India has shown the world democ- ing it."

The Regional Office of the

India Meteorological Depart-

ment (IMD) here on Saturday

predicted thunderstorms with

lightning and hail in some

parts of the State in the next

two days. The IMD also issued

Orange and Yellow Warning

Thunderstorms with light-

ning, hail and gusty surface

wind speed reaching 40 to 50

In Nabarangpur

for several districts.

**MONOHAR MOHANTY** 

NABARANGPUR

Laxmipur.

Maoists on Friday night

shot dead a man at Laxmipur

village in Nabarangpur district

alleging that he was destroy-

ing forests by cutting down

trees. The deceased was iden-

tified as Narayan Nagesh of

As per reports, a group of

ultras abducted Nagesh from

his home in the village and

later shot him dead.

racy can deliver.

He said, "The success of India's democracy and its institutions is hurting some people and that is why they are attack-

Thunderstorms, hail predicted in State

at one or two places in the dis-

tricts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj,

Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur,

Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack,

Jagatsinghpur, Khordha,

Nayagarh and Kendrapada in

the next 24 hours, the IMD

said issuing an Orange Warn-

ing. Thunderstorms with light-

ning and gusty surface wind

speed reaching 40-50 kmph are

very likely to occur at one or

two places in the districts of

Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati,

Man killed by Maoists

for 'destroying' forests

the victim's body, the Maoists

stated that Nagesh along with

some Forest Department of-

ficials was involved in cut-

ting down trees and creating

habitations for rehabilitating

people. Since 2010, Nagesh

was involved in such activi-

ties and he has been punished

for the crime, the poster

mentioned. The Red rebels

have also issued threats to

some other family members

of the deceased.

kmph are very likely to occur Sundargarh, Deogarh, Boudh, Yellow Warning

Modi said he is confident that despite such attacks, the country will move forward to meet its objectives.

Targeting the Opposition, Modi said scams used to make the headlines earlier but now the "corrupt" joining hands over action against them is making news.

The world is stating that this is India's moment and this has been made possible because of the change of promise and performance in the country, Modi said.

The PM said all
Governments worked accord-

ing to their abilities and got results according, but his Government wanted new results and worked on a different speed and scale. "Today India is the fastest

growing economy in the world, it is the number one in smartphone data consumers, it is the second biggest mobile manufacturer and has the third biggest startup ecosystem," he

Leading economists, analysts and thinkers of the world are saying in one voice that it is India's moment, the prime minister said.

Kandhamal, Malkangiri and

Koraput. Thunderstorms with

lightning and gusty surface

wind speed reaching 40-50

kmph are very likely to occur

at one or two places in the dis-

tricts of Baleswar, Bhadrak,

Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack,

Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha,

Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati,

Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal

and Angul on Monday, the

weather office said issuing a

Maoists had warned Nagesh

not to get involved in activi-

ties that destroy forests in the

by Maoists in a span of a few

days in the district. On Feb-

ruary 23, a youth was also

killed by the Maoists on sus-

picion of being a police in-

former in the district. The

killing of Nagesh has trig-

gered shockwaves in the

This is the second killing

Mayurbhanj,

Keonjhar,

# Some hurt by success of Khalistani Amritpal gives cops slip after long chase

The Punjab Government on Saturday launched a major crackdown against radical Sikh preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, with police arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him, officials said.

The elusive preacher himself, however, gave the police a slip after an hour-long chase when his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district, even as authorities stepped up security at several places and suspended internet services in the state till Sunday noon.

The police said it has launched a "massive State-wide cordon and search operations (CASO)" in the State against elements of "Waris Punjab De" (WPD), headed by Singh, against whom several criminal cases had been registered.

During the operation, a total of 78 persons have been arrested so far, while, several others have been detained for questioning, it said. Amritpal Singh and others

are on the run and a massive manhunt has been launched to nab them, a police spokesperson said.



Some supporters of the Waris Punjab De chief shared some videos on social media claiming that policemen were chasing them. A video also showed Amritpal sitting in a vehicle and one of his aides could be heard saying police-men were after "Bhai saab" (Amritpal).

During the state-wide operation, nine weapons, including one .315 bore rifle, seven rifles of 12 bore, one

of different caliber have been recovered so far, the police said.

The police spokesperson informed that the WPD elements are involved in four criminal cases relating to spreading disharmony among classes, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duties of public servants.

An FIR dated February 24

stands registered against WPD elements for the attack on Ajnala Police Station, he added. Last month, Amritpal and his supporters, some of them brandishing swords and guns, broke through barricades and barged into the Ajnala Police Station on the outskirts of the Amritsar city, and clashed with police for the release of one of Amritpal's aide. After the incident, in which six policemen, including a Superintendent of Police rank officer had suffered injuries, the AAP Government in the State had faced severe flak and was accused of kowtowing to extremists.

A heavy deployment of security forces had been made near village Jallupur Khera in Amritsar, the native place of Amritpal Singh, for the oper-

Dubai-returned Amritpal Singh was last year anointed the head of 'Waris Punjab De', which was founded by actor and activist Deep Sidhu who died in a road accident in

February last year.
Officials said Amritpal
Singh has been maintaining close links with Pakistani intelligence agency ISI and terror-ist groups based in foreign

countries Amitpal Singh, who had even issued a veiled threat to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has been trying to destabilise the situation in Punjab by indoctrinating and attracting Sikh youths into the fold of his outfit "Waris Punjab De", sources said.

## Collegium best system for selection of judges: CJI

NEW DELHI

Not every system is perfect but this is the

best system available, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said on Saturday while defending the Collegium system of judges appointing judges, a major bone of contention between the

Government and judiciary. Speaking at the India Today Conclave, 2023, the CJI said judiciary has to be protected from outside influences if it has to be indepen-

"Not every system is perfect but this is the best system we have developed. But the object was to protect the independence of the judiciary, which is a cardinal value. We have to insulate the judiciary from outside influences if the

## **India's daily Covid tally** crosses 800 after 4 mnths PNS NEW DELHI

India's single-day tally of Covid-19 cases crossed 800 after 126 days on Saturday, while the number of active cases climbed to 5,389, according to Union Health Ministry data. With 843 fresh infections the country's caseload increased to 4.46 crore (4,46,94,349). The death toll rose to 5,30,799 with four fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. Experts have attributed the recent rise in Covid cases to XBB.1.16 variant.

A total of 76 samples of XBB.1.16 variant have been found, according to INSACOG

The variant has been found across Karnataka (30), Maharashtra (29), Puducherry (7) Delhi (5), Telangana (2), Gujarat (1), Himachal Pradesh (1) and Odisha (1), the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) data showed.

The XBB 1.16 variant was first found in January when two samples tested positive for the variant while in February a total of 59 samples were found.

In March, till now 15 samples of the XBB 1.16 variant have been found, the INSACOG said.

## operation in the Khan's resident, in Lahore on Saturday Police storm **Imran house**

Police detain supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan during a search

## Court cancels arrest warrant

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

Over 10,000 armed Punjab police personnel stormed Imran Khan's residence here on Saturday and arrested dozens of his party workers after the former Pakistan prime minister left for Islamabad to attend a court hearing in a corruption case against him. Meanwhile a Pakistani

judge on Saturday cancelled Imran's arrest warrants in the Toshakhana corruption case and allowed him to go home without indicting him. "The situation as it is, the hearing

and appearance cannot proceed that is why all those who have gathered here should disperse after marking atten-dance. There is no need for shelling or pelting, the hear-ing cannot be held today," the judge was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper.
The police personnel,

using a power shovel, removed the barricades and tents at the entrance of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief's Zaman Park residence and evicted hundreds of his supporters camping there to prevent Khan's arrest in the Toshakhana case.

They conducted a search at the house after demolishing its main gate and walls.

# judiciary has to be independent," Chandrachud said.

# Opposition slams Govt over 'officer raj'

Assembly witnesses repeated adjournments

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Assembly on Saturday witnessed repeated adjournments as the members of opposition BJP and Congress created ruckus over the alleged "officer raj" in the

From the beginning of the proceedings, the Opposition members started raising slogans against the Government for not taking any action against the Koida Block Development Officer (BDO) over his unruly behaviour. CPI(M) legislator Laxman

Munda raised the issue during Question Hour and rushed to the Well of the House. The BJP and Congress MLAs supported him.

"Even as the Speaker has ordered an inquiry into the allegation, the BDO is going about saying he has strong connections," said Munda. He requested the Speaker to transfer the BDO

Unable to run the House, the Speaker adjourned it till

After the House reassembled, the BJP and the Congress, during Zero Hour, launched an attack on the ruling BJD over the photographs of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu meeting Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena and handing over a cheque of Rs 75,000 to him as a contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Referring to the photographs, Congress Legislature

Party Leader Narasingha Mishra said the bureaucrats seem to be calling the shots in Odisha. "Should officers visit the Government or the other way round," he asked.

Mishra demanded an apology from the Minister and said the Chief Secretary should regret the matter. "The Chief Secretary could have advised the Minister against it. Ideally, the Minister should have handed over the cheque to the Chief Minister," he added.

However, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari defended Ministers Rita

Sahu by saying that it was a adjourn the proceedings till 4 one-off case. He dared the opposition to show proof on other Ministers.

Following the face-off between Opposition and Treasury Bench members, the Speaker adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

Later, when the House reassembled, BJP MLAs created a ruckus while showing a picture of Pujari standing with folded hands in front of a Sec-

Both BJP and Congress MLAs again created noisy scenes forcing the Speaker to When the House met at 4

pm, the Opposition continued its protest demanding transfer of the Koida BDO. Unable to run the House, the Speaker called an all-party meeting, adjourning the proceedings for 15 minutes.

Later, on the instruction of the Speaker, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister made a statement saying the Government took the matter seriously and was examining for taking immediate ac-

## Some retd judges want judiciary to play Opp role: Rijiju

PNS NEW DELHI

aw Minister Kiren Rijiju Lon Saturday claimed that a few retired judges and some activists who are "part of the anti-India gang" are trying to make the Indian judiciary play the role of the Opposition party. He again criticised the Collegium system to appoint judges, saying it is a result of the "misadventure" of the Congress

party.
The Minister was speaking at the India Today Conclave, where Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud later defended the Collegium system, saying "not every system is perfect but this is the

best system we have developed" and the "object was to protect the independence of the judiciary, which is a cardinal value". Rijiju also hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

for his remarks in London on democracy in India, saying the person who speaks the most says he is not allowed to "Anti-India forces in India

and outside India, they use the same language — democracy is in danger, human rights are non-existent in India. What this anti-India gang says, the same language is used by Rahul," the Law Minister

# 'Vidhan Parishad plea under Centre's study'

■ BHUBANESWAR

A proposal for constitution of Legislative Council in Odisha is under examination of the Government of India, said Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju in the Parliament on Friday.

While replying to a query of senior BJD MP Pinaki Misra, the Law Minister said Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Assam State Assemblies have adopted a resolution for creation of Legislative Council in the respective States.

examination in consultation with the concerned State Governments," he said.

However, Rijiju said no rigid time frame can be given

Anyhow, it is a matter of relief for the BJD as the Centre has finally said it is concerned about the proposal for the establishment of the Vidhan Parishad under Article 169 of the Constitution.

In February last year, the same Union Minister had informed the Rajya Sabha that no resolution of the Odisha Legislative Assembly has been

of India.

Notably, the Odisha Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution to set up the Legislative Council in the State on September, 6, 2018. The resolution was passed in the absence of opposition Congress and BJP. Out of 147 members, 104 members including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had voted in support of the resolution.

As per the plan, the Vidhan Parishad in Odisha will have 49 members (one-third the size of the Assembly). While 16 members are to be elected by

Panchayat Samitis and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) would elect a similar number of

Four each of the members will be elected from among electoral rolls to be prepared to comprise teachers and graduates respectively. Similarly, nine members will be nominated by the Governors.

So far, six States, such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have constituted the Vidhan 5T Secy Pandian visits Nabarangpur for 2 days

On the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, his 5T Secretary VK Pandian was on a two-day visit to Nabarangpur district on March 17 and 18 to make field assessment and take stocks of different developmental initiatives of the Government.

On March 17, Pandian made interactions with a number of groups across the society and with the people's representatives at the Circuit House. As many as 131 individuals/groups and people from different sections met him and the grievance were taken up on a case-to-case basis.

Not only Nabarangpur but also 400 people in different groups from Koraput district met him and extended their

gratitude to the Chief Minister. Some groups from Rayagada district also met the 5-T Secretary and extended their gratitude to the Chief Minister for the help in

In the evening, Pandian

solving their problems.

Bhandaragharani temple at the heart of Nabarangpur town and offered prayers to the deity. Then, he proceeded to the Anwesha Hostel at Tirliambaguda and had his dinner with the boys in their hostel and interacted with

them. He also met girl

students and discussed with them about their studies.

Sports and Youth Service Secretary R Vineel Krishna, ST & SC Development Secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo and Nabarangpur Collector Dr Kamal Lochan Mishra were present.

## 2 Govt staffs held for job fraud in Puri PNS PURI has criminal an allegedly

 $P_{ ext{olice on Saturday arrested}}$ two Government employees on the charge of defrauding aspirants on the pretext of providing them jobs at the Shree Jagannath Medical College Hospital in Puri.

The accused were identified as Kartika Sethi of Palli village under the Brahmagiri police station (PS) and Batakrushna Bhoi of Nalihana under Puri Sadar PS

While Sethi is an employee of the Department of Posts, Bhoi is a Peon at the CDMO

As per reports, the duo who

KFON.JHAR

duped three persons in Budhang village under Brahmagiri PS of around Rs 4 lakh from by promising them data entry operator jobs at the hospital.

Both Sethi and Bhoi have seven to eight more complaints of cheating pending against them at the Brahmagiri PS. A complaint was received against Sethi and Bhoi for cheating people on the pretext of offering jobs. There are other complaints against them too. All the complaints are being probed, police said. The duo was forwarded to court

Mayurbhanj district of Odisha has figured in the

prestigious TIME Magazine's 'World's Greatest Places of 2023' list. Describing the natural beauty of the district, the magazine has mentioned about the Similipal National Park, the Mayurbhanj Chhau

and the Belgadia Palace. "Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj, an under-theradar region in India's eastern State of Odisha, reopened in November with strict restrictions to the number of



daily visitors-only 60 vehicle entry permits are available each day-in order to safeguard its sprawling delicate ecosystem, home to over 40 mammals including Asian elephants and Bengal tigers. Visitors can now explore its unique flora and fauna on guided safaris or self-guided cycling tours," the magazine mentioned.

"There's plenty more to do while you're in town. This April, Mayurbhani Chhau, a captivating dance festival on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list will take place on a much larger scale Bespoke performances that combine ancient martial arts and folk dance are scheduled at The Belgadia Palace, an elegant boutique hotel and royal residence. Guests staying at the 11-bedroom old-world property can also participate in experiential retreats and visit the area's Indigenous handicraft communities (many of which are composed of all women) that focus on intricate handlooms, Sabai grass weaving, and the dying art of Dokra (metal casting),"

following a pandemic hiatus.

## Ex-BJD MLA Hrushikesh to join BJP

following arrest.

Senior BJD leader of Keonjhar district Hrushikesh Naik will join BJP very soon. Naik (80) has been elected five times from Patna Assembly constituency on tickets of various parties including Janata Dal (1980 -85), Congress (1990 - 95, and 1995- 2000) and BJD (2009-14 and 2014- 2019). Last time in 2019, he was denied a ticket from the BJD. Naik had joined

Sources informed that Naik would formally join on March 26 during the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Bhadrak. Naik, meanwhile, said he had been fed up with former MLA, Champua, Mahakud's Sanatan dominance of the BJD party affairs. Last time, it was Sanatan for whom Naik was

denied a ticket from Keonjhar

the BJD in 2006.



Lok Sabha constituency, although BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik had assured him of sending to the Parliament. Moreover, nowa- days, he is not given due weightage in the party, he said.

However, Patna MLA Jagannath Naik, a close aide of Sanatan Mahakud, said Naik's quitting the BJD would have no impact. However, sources confided that Naik's joining BJP may attract many of his supporters to quit BJD and join BJP in Keonjhar.

## Meet on geospatial analysis held at Utkal Varsity



BHUBANESWAR

A two-day workshop on "National Works Geospatial Data Analysis for Natural Resource Management" was held in the Department of Geography, Utkal University, on Friday.

"It is very important when we are concerned with planning, conservation, management of our natural resources. Geospatial data analysis along with new technologies can add dimension to the situational analysis, can solve the problems, can solve planning and sustainable management of natural resources, i:e., land, water, forest and minerals which are under threat due to many reasons throughout the world," said university Vice-Chancellor Prof Sabita

Chief speaker Prof Gopal Krishna Panda spoke on

different dimensions of technology geospatial focusing on geo-analytics, geo-design, geo-visualisation and geo-collaboration as a paradigm shift of the 21st Century.

Prof Nigamananda Das, Director, College Development, said: "There is a need to prudently manage these delicate resources with the current trend in the advancement in the field of information technology,

natural resources managers have now laid a lot of emphasis on the use of geospatial technology in the management of natural resources providing a platform through which managers can generate information that can be used to make sound decisions for

sustainable development." Dr Krishna Chandra Rath, HoD, welcomed the guests while Dr Kabir Mohan Sethy introduced the guests.

## 3 youths injured in group clash in Puri

▲ hree persons sustained critical injuries after allegedly being attacked by a rival group at the Grand Road Market Square in Puri town on Saturday morning.

The injured identified as Sameer Das, Hrusikesh Panda and Khageswar Sahu were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

Reports said the trio was having tea at the market at the market when more than a dozen youths arrived at the spot with motorcycles an attack them with swords. The three were grievously

injured in the assault.. Two of them were later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack as their condition deteriorated.

Police have detained two

persons for questioning in

connection with the attack. Preliminary probe revealed that the incident was fallout of past enmity and group clash which had emerged over betting at the Khadipada Melana event on Friday

"The groups who have attacked each other had past enmity. They have been identified. We are at a preliminary stage of the investigation. That is why we cannot share all the details of the case with the media. However, three persons have been injured," said a senior police official.

"The accused have been identified and the motive is also established. We have formed three teams. Our primary target is to arrest the accused," he added.

## Goof-up in mtric exam question paper

Board terms it 'printing mistake

■ BHUBANESWAR

 $oldsymbol{A}$  major goof-up in the question paper of Saturday's conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha left many students baffled.

The matter came to the fore after the examinees pointed out the mistake in the Social Science question paper. As per the students, several questions from Set A paper were in Set

They further said that Question Number 19 was missing from the Objective Question Paper, for which they

questions on the OMR sheet. The students have urged the

board not to deduct their

On the other hand, the BSE said the students shouldn't worry as it was a printing error.

"The board is aware of the matter. It is a printing mistake. The board will take necessary measures in this regard and the students should not worry," said BSE President Ramashish Hazra. "Authorities of examination centres have been asked to provide a list of students who faced the issue. The programme for the evaluation of OMR sheets will be changed accordingly. There is no need of conducting the examination again," Hazra

History has it that many women have turned to donkey's milk to preserve their beauty and vitality.

Realising the potential of donkey milk, a UP-based startup 'Organiko' has been manufacturing and marketing skincare products made of donkey milk. Pooja Kaul, a resident of UP, is the founder of Organiko Beautifying Life.

Soaps made from donkey's milk stole the show at a twoday conclave titled 'Ideation Commercialisation: Opportunities for Start-ups' which began at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University here on Saturday.

Kaul claimed donkey's milk comprises several anti-ageing properties, skin nourishment

P start-up manufactures donkey milk soap healing potential.

> After collecting donkey's milk from Ladakh, the startup has been manufacturing different kinds of soap from it. Donkey milk, priced at Rs 1,300 per litre, contains high amounts of anti-ageing, nutraceutical, antibiotic and nutritional substances, she

"Within three years, we have produced anti-aging, anti-acne, anti-pigmentation and hydrating soaps without using any chemicals," Kaul

The market price of the soap has been fixed at Rs 500 per

Besides, Devaram Purohit of Gujarat, who has started a start-up by using manure prepared from cow urine in



agriculture, also narrated his experience in the conclave. He explained how organic agriculture could be done without chemicals by using cow urine powder as fertiliser. Two youths from Kalahandi,

start-up named 'Manikstu', provided information on how farmers could be encouraged to take up goat farming and prepare ghee from goat milk.

Managing Director of Wow Factors India Pvt, spoke about the drones manufactured by his company and said the use of drones in agriculture would result

in less water consumption, prevent farmer deaths from snakebites and will protect their health while using pesticides and fertilisers. He said that more than 50,000 farmers die from snakebites in India every year.

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 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 loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

# ınday pioneer

# 'Drink from Tap' project Brahmapur water woes substantially addressed

Trial run left in 5 zones to be completed by Mar 31

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA BRAHMAPUR

The decades' old drinking water scarcity problem in Brahmapur and its adjoining areas was substantially addressed with the inauguration of a 24x7 water supply scheme in nine zones by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in De-

Meanwhile, the work for the remaining 16 zones is currently in full swing and expected to be completed soon. Out of these 16, the supply of tap water in eleven zones are already under trial run, while the rest five zones are targeted for trial run by March 31, said General Manager of WATCo, Brahmapur, Er Biswabandhu Panigrahi.

It may be recalled here that, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched the 24-

hour 'Drink from Tap' project in 19 cities of the State including Brahmapur and Gopalpur under the 5T initiative in December last.

The Gandhinagar Senior Citizens' Forum has urged the WATCo authorities to connect the existing main pipeline of Gandhinagar 3rd lane extension (west) from the main source to ensure better pressure and flow of water. The denizens are currently getting water two times a day which was a dream earlier, said a resident of the area.

# Deepali strengthens BJD in J'suguda



Over 100 youths from Dalki panchayat in Jharsuguda district have joined the BJD in a ceremony in the presence of late Minister Naba Kisore Das' daughter Deepali Das on Fri-

Deepali spoke at length

about the policies and ideals of the BJD, highlighting the Government's popular works and urging the new members to reach out to the grassroots level. She emphasised the importance of standing by the people and working towards building an ideal society.

Expressing her commitment to the party, Deepali pledged to work in the right direction of the BJD. With the addition of the new members, the party aims to further strengthen its base in the region and reach out to more people to create a positive impact, she said.

with them, met the district

correspondents of several ver-

nacular dailies and electronic

media and shared his plight

and villagers' woes. As

Mukesh's forgery was thor-

oughly exposed, he along with

Panchanan Choudhury and Nitesh Choudhury, all belong-

ing to Kumbhar Dhamuni,

were instigating villagers to

attack Labala and his family

members, the FIR stated.

Mukesh and his associates are

in revengeful mood saying

they will finish Labala off

along with his family mem-

bers. Labala has prayed to po-

lice to inquire into the matter,

take the hooligans to task and

Choudhury,

Kamala

**INBRIEF** 

## KIIT HOLDS JOB FAIR IN PATIA VILLAGE

founder Dr Achyuta Samanta on Saturday handed over appointment letters to 125 un- 📗 employed youths of Patia village, taking the number of employees from the village who are engaged in the KIIT family to 325. The letters were handed over at a job fair organised with the active cooperation of the Patia Gram Mangala Samiti. During his last visit to the village, Dr Samanta had assured the villagers to consider their demand for engaging the unemployed youths at KIIT.

#### TRAINING FOR TRANSGENDERS HELD IN P'KHEMUNDI

Paralakhemundi: A training programme on handicrafts was held for transgenders in Paralkhemundi..On the concluding day, Gajapati district Collector Lingraj Panda and SP Swathy S Kumar attended as guests and encouraged the train-



ees. Training was imparted on making of terracotta items, mats and other handicraft products. .The district Social Security Department and Handloom and Textile Department jointly organised the programme. After training, certificates and stipend of Rs 2,000 were given to each of the trainees.

#### ANUJA BISWAL'S BOOK OF POETRY UNVEILED

Brahmapur: A collection of poems titled "Naikar Anam 🌉 Prem" by social worker and poet Anuja Nand Bishwal was

launched by Additional District Magistrate Lina Kumari Xess at the Collector's office, Chhatrapur, on Friday. It contains 48 poems. Based on intimate experiences, the style of the poetry is dynamic. The life's moments of love, deception, union and

#### separation are embodied in the poems. TPSODL CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON AUTISM

Brahmapur: The TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) conducted a two-day workshop on "Autism: Early identification and care" under the Pay Autention initiative. Over 215 participants, including Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs and Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) attended the four sessions held in the block offices of Rangeilunda and Chhatrapur.

#### |INDIAN JOURNALISTS' UNION PLENARY HELD IN RAIPUR

Bhubaneswar: A two-day | 10th Plenary Meeting of Indian Journalists' Union was held on March 17 and 18 at



Punjab Keshari Hall, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Seven senior journalists of Odisha participated in the event in which Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was chief guest. Odisha Journalists' Union president Sashibhushan Praharaj, general secretary K Shrinibash Rao, vice-president Deepak Nayak and National Council member Sarat Behera participated in the meeting.

# Post Master bungles huge cash deposited by investors

Irregularities to the tune of around Rs 50 lakh have been made by Mukesh Choudhury, Branch Post Master of Kumbhar Dhamuni in Bissam Cuttack block of Rayagada district. Several poor people including SC & ST families have been issued forged National Savings Certificates (NSCs), false pass books containing RD, savings a/c, etc. Huge amounts of money have been withdrawn with false signatures of account holders.

To cite a particular case, Mukesh issued an NSC amounting to Rs 20,000 to one Tulasi Pidikaka, d/o Rama Chandra Pidikaka, with several anomalies. The date of issue is 31-6-2013. There is overwriting in the month column. Mukesh mentioned June having 31 calendar days.

Head Post Office, it is learnt that there is no such NSC of Rs 20,000 bearing no-7182143 issued by the Post Office on 31.06.2013. The maturity date of the NSC is 30.09.2023 and maturity value is Rs 40,690. Mukesh did not know how to calculate the duration as he cheated in this particular case. Tulasi's father Rama Chandra has complained about this before authorities like Superintendent of Post Offices and district Collector.

Rasmi Ranjan Dora, an activist scribe has also written to Post Master General and Chief Post Master General at Bhubaneswar, the Collector requesting them to inquire into all financial transactions made by Mukesh since his appointment in the postal department. Dora has warned to use other monitoring instru-



ments like Central Vigilance Commission, CBI and Lokpal to unearth the scam.

Hrushikesh Labala, s/o-late DamodaraLabala, also from Kumbhar Dhamuni, has filed an FIR against Mukesh that his father late Damodara Labala was an ex-Branch Post Master

of Kumbhar Dhamuni Branch Post Office prior to Mukesh. After the death of his father, Mukesh withdrew all the money amounting to around Rs 20,600 from his father's savings a/c by putting his false signature. Mukesh also with-

drew all the amount from his

Mukesh time and again and told to report to his higher authorities, he gave back the amount to his mother without any interest. Similarly, Mukesh also misappropriated huge amounts by opening false saving accounts and National Saving Certificates in the names of many investors. When exposed, he

Hemabati Labala by putting

her false signature. When they

complained about this to

investments, but he is yet to return major chunks of the money to the investors. As the immediate postal department staffs at the Bissam Cuttack Sub-Post Office and Rayagada Head Post Office were hand in glove with Mukesh, some villagers, who are the investors, approached

Hrushikesh for help. He, along

started returning parts of the

make his life and his family members' lives secure. The Superintendent of Post Offices, Rayagada and the IIC, Bissam Cuttack PS are conducting inquiries.

## Kalinga Herbal Fair held at B'pur Ayurvedic practitioners like

The State Medicinal Plants Board and the Forest, Environment & Climate Change

Department are organising the 13th Kalinga Herbal Fair here, which is inaugurated on March 16 at the KC High School and will continue till March 20.

Guests of the inaugural fund tion were Brahmapur Mayor



Cashew Development Corpora-Sanghamitra Dalai, MLA tion Chairman Subash tor Sudip Nayak.

Plants Board Managing Direc-

Kavirajs and Vaidyas from Ganjam district and from throughout Odisha are treating patients and prescribing herbal medicines, which are available in stalls of the fair. There are about fifty herbal medicine stalls. This yearly fair had started in 2009. For the first time this year, a mega health camp is being organised by Ayush doctors.

## Deposit employees' EPF soon, Talcher school asked

l he Principal, Pabitranagar Higher Secondary School, under Talcher Sub-Division, has been asked to deposit EPF of employees who were denied the entitlements for years despite repeated pleas. An aggrieved staff had moved the Central EPF Commission, New Delhi in February in this

According to sources, three staff members were engaged by the Governing Body at the Pabitranagar Higher Secondary School such as Dhananjay

regard.

Pradhan and Dambarudhar Nath (joined their service in 2014 and 2015 respectively). As per EPF norms, all the staff members are eligible to get EPF entitlements since their joining, but unfortunately, while only Dhananjay Singh is getting EPF, the other two have been deprived of the facility.

The information was collected by Talcher based RTI activist Deba Prasad Sahoo through the RTI Act.

Sahoo, in May 2022, had filed a written complaint with the Regional EPF Commis-

sioner, Bhubaneswar, and the Sub Collector, Talcher (president of the Governing Body of the college). The Commissioner had issued orders to the concerned principal to release PF benefits to the deprived ones. Meanwhile, eight months have passed but no action was taken by the princi-

Being aggrieved, Sahoo knocked the doors of Central EPF Commission, New Delhi in February 2023. The matter was taken up and EPF Commissioner, Cuttack was ordered for further action. The EPF,

Cuttack directed the principal to submit a detailed report. In response, the principal refused to release EPF benefits while claiming irregularities in appointment of both the staff. But the EPF Commissioner refused to accept the ground and ordered the principal to deposit the EPF money by March 15 or face legal action.

Sahoo further informed that he would approach the Orissa High Court if the EPF Commissioner fails to take action against the principal for non disbursal of EPF entitlements to the eligible employees.

# 'Women will change society when no gender gap'

While observing the International Women's Day, the Athagarh Biju Mahila Janata Dal organised a seminar on Friday evening here. The themes discussed were women empowerment, gender equality, contribution of women in Indian freedom struggle, and today's socio political scenario of the country.

Attending the seminar as chief speaker, member of National Federation of Indian Women Dr Amruta Pathak spoke on the plight of Indian women as they are being used as goods in a capitalist society. She remembered several em-



noble ideals. She called upon

everybody to end gender

discrimination and give the

women equal opportunity in

a true sense so that the women could be the change

Among others, Vice Chairman of Cuttack Zilla Parishad Suvadra Das, pleader of Orissa High Court Sujata Das, Lecturer in Po-

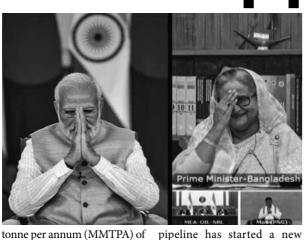
litical Science of UN College Adaspur Dr Chirashree Indrashree and All India Students Federation president Sanghamitra Jena participated in the seminar. Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain coordinated the programme.



# Modi, Hasina launch first 'Pyaar se samjha denge': Jaishankar on new cross-border oil pipeline

Giving a boost to their bilateral ties, India and Bangladesh on Saturday commenced operations of a pipeline carrying oil from Siliguri in West Bengal to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the first cross-border pipeline vir-

The friendship pipeline has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 377 crore, of which the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline built at a cost of approximately Rs 285 crore, has been borne by the government of India under grant assistance. With a capacity to transport one million metric



high-speed diesel, the pipeline will supply high speed diesel initially to seven districts in northern Bangladesh.

Addressing the event, Prime Minister Modi said the inauguration of friendship able progress. Every Indian is

pipeline has started a new

"In last few years, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has made remark-

delighted that we've been able to contribute to this develop-ment journey of Bangladesh,"

Highlighting that the inauguration was taking place a day after the birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founding leader of Bangladesh and father of Sheikh Hasina, Modi said the joint project is a perfect example of his 'Sonar Bangla' vision.

"The operation of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will put in place a sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment friendly mode of transporting HSD from India to Bangladesh and will further enhance cooperation in energy security between the two countries," the ministry of external affair said in a state-

# US envoy's criticism of human rights in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Newly appointed US Ambassador to New Delhi Eric Garcetti's critical views on human rights issues in India and the Čitizenship Amendment Act (CAA) notwithstanding, External Affairs S Jaishankar said here on Saturday "Pyaar se samjha

Garcetti, a close aide of President Joe Biden was confirmed at the next US envoy to India earlier this week. The US did not have an ambassador to New Delhi nearly

Given the incoming envoy's critical views on human rights issues in India and the CAA, Jaishankar was asked in the India Today conclave what happens when Garcetti arrives here. This is him come here. Pyaar se samjha denge," replied the

minister with a smile. The envoy is reportedly an outspoken critic of human rights in India.

He had said the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was discriminatory towards Muslims and that what Jaishankar said. "Let the law would be a core piece

of his engagement.

Given this background, Jaishankar was asked at the conclave what happens when Garcetti arrives here. Detailing his stance on the CAA, Jaishankar quipped that common sense should not become subservient to political correctness.

He cited the example of

the Lautenberg amendment and Specter amendment which are targeted at fasttracking the US citizenship process for specific religious minorities. Such policies are not just limited to the US, but are in practice in European nations as well.

The Senate voted 52-42 to confirm former Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's nomination on Wednesday. His nomination was pending before the US Congress since July 2021 when he was nominated by President Joe Biden.

During Garcetti's confirmation hearings in 2021, he said he would "actively raise" human rights issues in New Delhi, in response to a question about the CAA, which Parliament passed in 2019.

The law grants immirants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh a shot at applying for Indian cit-

## Who will resign for lapse, Cong asks Govt over PMO conman official US Prez to host state dinner

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Congress on Saturday expressed concern over the case of a conman posing as a PMO official and getting requisite perks, saying if the Government is serious about the country's security then it must make it clear who will resign for the lapse.

Kiran Bhai Patel from Gujarat has been arrested by police from a five-star hotel in Srinagar for posing as an 'additional secretary' in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and enjoying security cover besides other hospitality. He had three cases registered against him in his home State, police said on

Congress media and publicity department head Pawan

"If anyone asks questions to matter pertaining to the country's security and the government probably was not focussed on such matters as it was "busy protecting the Prime Minister's best friend". then tell me that at the politi-

the Modi government, he is anti-national. Which national interest are you serving? If you are at least a little serious about the security of the nation,

cal level who will resign in this matter?" Khera said at AICC Press conference.

"Our three essential questions are — can a PMO officer get Z+ security, should Z+ security be given and is Z+

security availed so easily. It is very important to know from which level the instructions to give security to a thug came?"

In a sensitive area like Jammu and Kashmir, a person has been cheating the security forces for five months and is roaming in those areas with Z+ security by making a PMO card, where common citizens cannot go, he said and raised questions over the government's intelligence mechanism.

Khera said the government must answer whose resignation will be taken for this lapse. "The ruling party has such a toolkit that the one who asks questions of them is an anti-national while one person takes Z+ security by printing fake cards of the PMO, "Khera

# for Modi in next few weeks

**SERVICE/AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Underlining growing strate-gic and overall ties between the two countries, US President Joe Biden may host a state dinner for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the next few weeks.

Incidentally, the two leaders will meet at the Quad summit in Australia in May. Biden will visit New Delhi in September for the G-20 sum-Russian President Vladimir

Putin is also likely to attend the high-profile event.

As regards the proposed dinner meet this summer,

reports indicated the formal of 20 leaders' summit in New state visit is a sign of the deepening US-India relationship as

the administration advances policies and initiatives for a free and open Indo-Pacific to counter what it sees as a growing threat posed by China. The White House aims for the state dinner to take place in

June but the timing could slip, reports said. India is hosting the Group Delhi in September, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine will be among the chief topics of discussion.

The dinner with Modi will be Biden's third formal state visit and dinner, following one he hosted for French President Emmanuel Macron in December and one for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol scheduled for April 26.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform to the public at large of (i) Mr. Ashok Kumar S/o Mr. Bhagwat Singh and (ii) Mrs. Shalini W/o Mr. Ashok Kumar who purchasing the DESCRIPTION:- FLAT NO. B-105, REAR RHS, AREA MEASURING 400. SQ. FT. FIRST FLOOR, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 104MIN., SITUATED AT VILLAGE KHORA COLONY, IN SIGNATURE APARTMENT COLONY, IN SIGNATURE APARTMENT, GHAZIABAD, UP from (i) Mrs Suman Yadaw W/o Mr. Sukhweer Singh and (ii) Mr. Pradeep Yadav S/o Mr. Sukhweer Singh who had owner through Khatauni Record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shale be presumed that the said property is free from be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector - 2, Noida, UP-201301; Contact # 0120 - 4269379 PUBLIC NOTICE

client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing

Finance Limited that Mr. Rabul intend

to purchase & mortgage the Plot No. 7

admeasuring 100 Sq. Yds., Khasra No.

244, situated at Govindpuri, Village

Dasna, District Ghaziabad (U.P.) with

our client, against the financial

assistance. Whereas, out of the entire

chain link documents Original Sale Deed

dt. 21-01-2008 of the Said Property

registered as Doc. No. 341 in favour of

Mrs. Sunita Devi was already

lost/misplaced and in this regard

NCR/FIR No. 20230000153722 has been

Public is hereby warned not to deal with

the above-mentioned documents & the

property. If anyone do the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences

If any person(s) having objection with

regard to mortgage of the said property

is/are requested to intimate in writing to

undersigned within 07 days from the date

**DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE** 

A-13, LGF, South Extn.-II,

New Delhi-110049 # 011-40587824

IN THE COURT OF SH. ANURAG CHHABRA, CIVIL JUDGE - 03, ROOM NO. 279, CENTRAL DISTRICT, TIS

PUBLICATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedures)

Case Reg.No.: CS SCJ/2551/2021

Next Date of Hearing 20.03.2023

ICICI BANK LTD.

Against MANISHA SHARMA

MANISHA SHARMA

TIKARAM SHARMA R/O WZ-1684, MULTANI

of issue of this notice at below address.

lodged with UP Police.

This is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Sunil Kumar Suman S/o Mr. Tej Naryana is purchasing the Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 100 q. yds., i.e. 83.61 sq. mtrs., Out of Khasra No. 156. Situated at Village Illahabans, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri District, Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) from Mr. Sarvesh Tyagi S/o Mr. Gajraj Tyagi, who had purchased the subject property through Sale Deed dated 09.11.2022, Vide Doc. No. 7292, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. However, Original Sale Deed Dated 28.03.2006 (Doc. No. 1969), has been lost and not available and an FIR has lodged on dated 17.03.2023 with LR No. 251923/2023 for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim/right/tile/Inferest over the said property may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, Charge, disputes etc.

B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector - 2, Noida, UP-201301; Contact # 0120 - 4269379

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Lucem Legal LLP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general

that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has

organized an auction in below

mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

REG. NO. DL1MA1740-YOM -2018

REG. NO. DL1MA1785-YOM- 2018

REG. NO. DL1MA1863-YOM -2018

6) CB LPT1212 TATAMOTORS

REG. NO. HR55AJ4803-YOM-2020

REG. NO. HR55A0030-YOM- 2016

REG. NO. DL1LAJ1389-YOM-2022

9) TATA - CB\_TATA LPT 709 FULLY

BUILT REG. NO. DL1LAH3574

REG. NO. UP14JT8916-YOM -2020

REG. NO. DL1MA8561-YOM- 2021

12) ASHOK LEYLAND- CB AL1615

REG. NO. HR38AD0509-YOM -2022

13) ASHOK LEYLAND- CB\_AL1615

REG. NO. HR38AC2909-YOM -2022

14) ASHOK LEYLAND- CB AL1615

REG. NO. HR38AC6399 -YOM -2021

3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.

CONTACT NO.7798988481

125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: ABHINAV LAL

EMAIL - abhinav.lal@kotak.com

11) TATA MOTORS\_LPT 1109

7) CB\_VE\_11\_10\_FULLY\_BUILT

1) TATA LPT909CH CHASIS

2) TATA 909

3) TATA 910

4) EICHER 10.95

8) TATA ACE

YOM -2022

10) TATAACE

5) EICHER PRO 1049C

कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी) कावालय महाअबन्धक (तकनाका) उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड मण्डी भवन, कलैक्ट्रेट परिसर रूद्रपुर (उघमसिंड नगर) Ph: 05944/250056, Fax: 05944/250056 नि०अनु०/ई-निविदा सूचना/2023-153 दिनांकः 18/03/20 पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों रं जर्यालय पत्रांक 148 दिनांक 27.02.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित

वशेष सिविल कार्य की निविदा जो दिनांक 13.03.2023 के ामंत्रित की गयी थी कि कोई निविदा प्राप्त न होने के कार रेनांक 03.04.2023 को पुनः आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुव ादाता को दिनांक 01.04.2023 की सांय 05:00 बजे त क०डी०आर०, स्टाम्प एवं ड्रापट मूलरूप में जमा कराया जाना निवार्य होगा। अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदा पर विचार नही किया गयेगा। निविदा की अन्य विवरण (डाफ्ट एवं घरोहर राशि) एवं शर्ते नांक 20.03.2023 से www.uktenders.gov.n एव ww.ukmandi.co.in में सांय 05:00 बजे से देखी एवं डाउनलो

Saturday said India's 'Millet Mission' will become a blessing for 2.5 crore marginal farmers in the country. Inaugurating the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Global Millets (Shree Anna') Conference here Modi said "India's become a blessing for 2.5 crore marginal farmers and this was

महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी)

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakil Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007, Gujarat Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (E) Mumbai-400051 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007
PUBLIC NOTICE:

**Builder Cancellation** 

This is to bring to your notice that YOGENDRA KUMAR BANSAL/ BASANT KUMAR GUPTA (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD0001678489 located at FLAT NO-F6/3, PLOT NO-201, 120 FT,PARK SIDE, VILLAS VAYU VIHAR, SHASTRIPURAM ROAD, AGRA- 282002. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated February 27, 2023, informing that HRC HORIZON has cancelled the REG. NO. DL1MA4453-YOM- 2019 illotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this REG. NO. HR55AJ2395-YOM-2019

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder

Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited

## **SALE NOTICE**

WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues

as per court orders, in the following cases:-	
Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. RAKESH KHOKHAR, CS (COMM) No. 2666/21	Vehicle No HR26CC3668, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS INDIA LTD I20, Manu Year- 2013
ICICI BANK LIMITED VS. ESRAR, CS (Comm) No.4460-2021	Vehicle No DL10CT1001, Make and Model- MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LTD REXTON, Manu Year- 2014
ICICI BANK LTD VS SHAGUFTA, CS No. 383/18	Vehicle No DL1CT2392, Make and Model- MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LTD XYLO, Manu Year- 2013

Auction Date: March 27, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Auction Type: Online Auction

https://auctions.cardekho.com

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In

case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, you EMD amount will be forfeited The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, SHAL TOWERS, Plot No 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 for details and



Millet Mission will become blessing for 2.5 cr farmers: PM

Independence that a govern- farmers. ment was paying attention to the needs of millet-producing

CBSE warns schools

against starting

before April 1

NEW DELHI

among students.

academic session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

▼n an unprecedented move,

Lthe CBSE Saturday warned

schools against starting the

academic session before April

1, saying it poses the risk of

causing anxiety and burnout

The warning by the Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE) comes after

several schools commenced

their academic session, espe-

some of the affiliated schools

have started their academic

session quite early in the year.

Attempting to complete an

entire year's worth of course

work in a reduced timeframe

poses risks for students who

may get overwhelmed and

anxiety and burnout," CBSE

Secretary Anurag Tripathi said

preponing the academic ses-

sion does not give students

enough time for extracurricu-

lar activities, such as learning

work education and commu-

The board has noted that

in an official order.

It has been noticed that

cially for Classes 10 and 12.

ference will have sessions on

The two-day global con-

producers, consumers and development of value chain, market linkages and deliberate on health and nutritional aspects of millets which are increasingly back on the food table, given their gluten-free nutritional value. "To make Shree Anna a

issues related to 'Shree Anna

millet' like promotion and

worked relentlessly. In 2018, we declared millets as nutri-cereals. To achieve this, we made farmers aware and generated interest in the market, " said

climate resilient is the strength

"Millets can be easily proawareness of millets among duced even in very adverse climatic conditions. Its production also requires relatively less water, due to which it becomes a favourite crop for places with a water crisis," the PrimeMinister said. He said in India, millets are

primarily grown in 12-13 states. However, in these states, the son was not more than 2-3 kgs "Today, it has increased to

14 kg per month", he sought to

2023 is being observed as

He further said that being the International Year of

# **NIA** chargesheets

RAKESH K SINGH ■

Tn its fifth chargesheet this Imonth against Popular Front of India (PFI), the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed charges against 19 accused persons, including 12 National Executive Council (NEC) members, founding members and senior leaders of the banned terror outfit, including Professor P Koya.

PFI, as an organisation, has also been charge-sheeted in the case relating to criminal conspiracy aimed at destabilising and dismembering the country as also creating an Islamic caliphate by 2047 along

with Shariah/Islamic Law. As reported earlier by The Pioneer, the international terrorist outfit Islamic State, through its propaganda magazine Voice of Khurasan, has opposed the ban on PFI and exhorted the Indian Muslims to struggle to keep up with the pace of learning, leading to target the Government and Hindu community, and terrorise them. The ISIS also revealed that many PFI supporters joined the banner of Tawheed in different parts of the world and many of them may have attained Shahdah (so-called martyrdom for Islam

life skills, value education, The PFI is suspected to be health and physical education, recruiting Indian youths for ISIS in order to carry forward

and terrorism in civilized par-



the inimical agenda of the global terror group to create

caliphates. The NIA has alleged that PFI encouraged vulnerable youths to join terrorist organisations including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria(ISIS) or Daesh and Al-Qaida, and also conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing a terrorist act.

With the filing of the chargesheet in the Delhi case, the total number of accused chargesheeted in PFI cases by NIA stands at 105.

"The outfit's terror funding channels have been virtually emasculated as 77 bank accounts, including 37 accounts of PFI, have been frozen across India. PFI's nefarious designs and plans to form trained militia to carry out acts of terror and violence have also been foiled," the NIA said.

The agency further said, "NIA's investigations in the case have also exposed a trail

operatives and weapons trainers across the country, both in cash and through regular bank transfers, in the guise of payment of salaries. All these PFI trainers have been arrested in cases registered either by the NIA or by different state police forces." NIA has also frozen 37 Bank accounts of the PFI organisation as well as 40 Bank

accounts belonging to 19 indi-

viduals associated with the

PFI, virtually squeezing the

organisation's funding activi-

of funding by PFI to its terror

ties, it said. The crackdown on these bank accounts took place across India, including Guwahati (Assam), Sundipur (West Bengal), Imphal (Manipur), Kozhikode (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil (Rajasthan), Bengaluru

Nadu), New Delhi, Jaipur (Karnataka), Hyderabad (Telangana) and Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), officials

#### MOHALLA, RANIBAGH, NORTH WEST, DELHI- 110034 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH MOBILE- 9999931303 IS UNDER SALE IN ITS THE DEFENDANTABOVE NAMED 'AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION' WHEREAS you are intentionally INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS not defend the case on the BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

20.03.2023 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the sea of the court, this **03.01.2023**. Civil Judge- 03 (Central)

Tis Hazari, Dell

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS

Auction Portal Name & URL Link: Car Dekho

Contact Person- Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)/ Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809) Terms of Sale

inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

## **Russian attacks continue after ICC's warrant against Putin**

Widespread Russian attacks continued in Ukraine following the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia's commissioner for children's rights.

Meanwhile, Putin has travelled to Crimea to mark the ninth anniversary of the Black Sea peninsula's annexation from Ukraine.

Putin visited an art school and a children's centre on Saturday.

Ukraine was attacked by 16 Russian drones on Friday night, the Ukrainian Air Force said in the early hours of Saturday.

Writing on Telegram, the air force command said that 11 out of 16 drones were shot down "in the central, western and eastern regions." Among areas targeted were the capital, Kyiv, and the western Lviv province.

The head of the Kyiv city administration, Serhii Popko, said Ukrainian air defences shot down all drones heading for the Ukrainian capital, while Lviv regional Gov Maksym Kozytskyi said on Saturday that three of six drones were shot down, with the other three hitting a district bordering Poland. According to the Ukrainian Air Force, the



People inspect a damaged restaurant after Russian shelling hit in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Saturday

attacks were carried out from the eastern coast of the Sea of Azov and Russia's Bryansk province, which borders Ukraine.

The Ukrainian military additionally said in its regular update on Saturday morning that Russian forces over the previous 24 hours launched 34 airstrikes, one missile strike and 57 rounds of anti-aircraft fire.

The Facebook update said that falling debris hit the southern Kherson province, damaging seven houses and a kinder-

According to the Ukrainian statement, Russia is continuing to concentrate its in Ukraine's industrial east, focusing attacks on Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka and Shakhtarsk in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, regional Gov

of the Donetsk province, said

one person was killed and

three wounded when 11 towns

and villages in the province

were shelled on Friday. Further west, Russian rockets hit a residential area overnight Friday in the city of Zaporizhzhia, the regional capital of the partially occupied

province of the same name.

No casualties were reported, but houses were damaged and a catering establishment destroyed, Anatoliy Kurtev of the Zaporizhzhia City Council said. It is the first time the global court has issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The move was immediately dismissed by Moscow — and welcomed by Ukraine as a major breakthrough.

Its practical implications, however, could be limited as the chances of Putin facing trial at the ICC are highly unlikely because Moscow does not recognise the court's jurisdiction or extradite its nationals.

UK military officials said Saturday that Russia is likely to widen conscription. In its latest intelligence update, the UK defense ministry said that deputies in the Russian Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, introduced a bill on Monday to change the conscription age for men to 21-30. from the current 18-27.

The ministry said that, at the moment, many men aged 18-21 claim exemption from military service because they are in higher education. The change would mean that they would eventually still have to serve. It said the law will likely be passed and come into force in January 2024.

## Vatican closes | Trump anticipates arrest embassy in Nicaragua

**AP** ■ VATICAN CITY

¬he Vatican said on Saturday I it had closed its embassy in Nicaragua after the country's government proposed suspending diplomatic relations, the latest episode in a yearslong crackdown on the Catholic Church by the administration of Nicaraguan President Daniel

The Vatican's representative to Managua, Monsignor Marcel Diouf, also left the country on Friday, bound for Costa Rica, a Vatican official said, speaking on condition of

The Vatican action came a week after the Nicaraguan government proposed suspending relations with the Holy See, and a year after Nicaragua forced the papal ambassador at the time to leave. It's not clear what more the proposed suspension would entail in diplomatic

Relations between the church and Ortega's government have been deteriorating since 2018, when Nicaraguan authorities violently repressed anti-government protests.

Some Catholic leaders gave protesters shelter in their churches, and the church later tried to act as a mediator between the government and the political opposition.

 $D_{\text{social media post that he}}^{\text{onald Trump said in a}}$ 

expects to be arrested on Tuesday as a New York prosecutor is eyeing charges in a case

examining hush money paid to women who alleged sexual encounters with the former president. Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network early on Saturday that "illegal leaks" from the Manhattan district

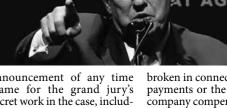
attornev's office indicate that The far & away leading republican candidate & former president of the United States of America, will be arrested on Tuesday of next week."

Messages left on Saturday with the district attorney's office were not immediately returned. Representatives for Trump did not immediately respond to calls for comment.

Trump did not provide any details on social media about how he knew about the expected arrest. In his postings, he repeated his lies that the 2020 presidential election he lost to Democrat Joe Biden was stolen and he urged his followers to "Protest, take our nation back!" That language evoked the message from the thenpresident that preceded the riot at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Law enforcement officials in New York have been making security preparations for the possibility that Trump could be indicted.

There has been no public



announcement of any time frame for the grand jury's secret work in the case, including any potential vote on whether to indict the ex-president.

Trump's posting echoes one made last summer when he broke the news on Truth Socia that the FBI was searching his home as part of an investigation into the possible mishandling of classified documents.

The grand jury in Manhattan has been hearing from witnesses, including former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen, who says he orchestrated payments in 2016 to two women to silence them about sexual encounters they said they had with Trump a decade

Trump denies the encounters occurred, says he did nothing wrong and has cast the investigation as a "witch hunt" by a Democratic prosecutor bent on sabotaging the Republican's 2024 presidential campaign.

District Manhattan Attorney Alvin Bragg's office has apparently been examining whether any state laws were

broken in connection with the payments or the way Trump's company compensated Cohen for his work to keep the women's allegations quiet.

Daniels and at least two former Trump aides — onetime political adviser Kellyanne Conway and former spokesperson Hope Hicks - are among witnesses who have met with prosecutors in recent weeks.

Cohen has said that at Trump's direction, he arranged payments totaling USD 280,000 to porn actor Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal. According to Cohen, the payouts were to buy their silence about Trump, who was then in the thick of his first presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, law enforcement officials in New York are making security preparations for the possibility that former President Donald Trump could be indicted in the coming weeks and appear in a Manhattan courtroom in an investigation examining hush money paid to women who alleged sexual encounters with him, four law enforcement

officials said Friday.

## FIIDS: Time running out for laid off H-1B workers

Time is running out for laid off H-1B **■** professionals as under the existing laws they need to leave the country within 60 days of losing their employment status, giving sleepless nights to the thousands of Indian tech workers and their family

"This has a humanitarian impact on them as their families, including their USborn children are uprooted abruptly, and those who were laid off in the earlier

Foundation For India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), which took up their cases with lawmakers and federal administration said in a statement on Friday.

While the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is considering their request to extend the existing time window to 180 days, the process is likely to take up some time, leaving no other option for these professionals other than to leave the

"FIIDS appeals to the USCIS, and

months are now running out of time," the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consider a request to expedite the extension of grace period. FIIDS also appeals to the elected officials, tech executives, and community leaders to emphasise the need and urgency to increase the grace period," the foundation said in a media statement.

Since last year, more than 2,50,000 such professionals have been laid off in the United States. This number continues to grow with companies like Meta announcing another set of tens of thousands of lay-

## **Ex-Air Force officer sentenced for Capitol attack**

Washington (AP): A chamber to escape the mob retired Air Force officer who stormed the US Capitol dressed in combat gear and carried ziptie handcuffs into the Senate gallery was sentenced on Friday to two years in prison.

Larry Brock, 55, of Grapevine, Texas, joined other rioters on the Senate floor only minutes after then-Vice President Mike Pence, senators and their staff evacuated the attacking the building on January 6, 2021.

UŚ District Judge John Bates also sentenced Brock to two years of supervised release after his prison term and ordered him to perform 100 hours of community service. Brock, who declined to speak in court before the judge imposed his sentence, remains free until he must report to prison at a

British Muslim

guilty of terror

date to be determined. Prosecutors had recommended a sentence of five years in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Bates convicted Brock in November after a trial without a jury. Brock waived his right to a jury trial. The judge said Brock expressed "very troubling" and violent rhetoric before the January 6 riot. The

judge read aloud several of

Brock's social media postings

ing" that a former high-ranking military officer expressed those words. "That's chilling stuff, and it does reflect a purpose to stop the certification of the election," Bates said. Brock believed baseless

calling it "really pretty astound-

conspiracy theories that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Republican incum-

## GLOBE

#### 1 KILLED BY ISRAELI ARMY IN WEST BANK JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said troops shot a Palestinian who approached soldiers on Friday and pulled a knife near the city of

Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian authorities said the man died of his wounds a short while later. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man as Yazan Khaseeb. 23. The military said the man refused to identify himself and drew a knife, prompting the soldiers to open fire. It published a photo of

#### THREE DEAD IN STABBINGS IN CANADA **MONTREAL:** Three people were

the alleged knife on the ground.

found stabbed to death Friday inside an apartment in the eastern Canadian city of Montreal, and police have a suspect in custody Police found the three bodies with wounds from a sharp object after responding to an emergency call Friday morning, Montreal police Const. Julien Lévesque said. He said it was too early to release details about the link between the victims and the suspect. The suspect was arrested outside the apartment building and will be questioned by investigators, police said. Authorities barricaded the street, in a neighbourhood consisting of low-rise apartment buildings

## TURKIYE'S DIPLOMAT IN

CAIRO TO MEND TIES CAIRO: Turkiye's chief diplomat was in Cairo on Saturday for talks with Egyptian officials as the regional powers seek to mend their frayed ties after years of tensions. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkiye's foreign minister, landed in the Egyptian capital early Saturday. He was the highest ranking Turkish official to visit the Arab World's most populous nation in over a

## **NEW MEXICO PASSES** BILL TO SAFEGUARD ABORTION PROVIDERS

SANTA FE: New Mexico

legislators raced against the clock on Friday to advance hardfought proposals aimed at safeguarding abortion access, delivering tax relief and reducing gun violence in the final hours of a 60-day legislative session. Republicans in the legislative minority raised a series of objections during a House floor debate to a bill that aims to protect abortion providers and patients from out-of-state interference, prosecution or extradition attempts.

## Violence in France over retirement age push Minister Gérald Darmanin told

ngry protesters took to the Angry protesters took cities for a second day on Friday, trying to pressure lawmakers to bring down French President Emmanuel Macron's government and doom the unpopular retirement age increase he's trying to impose without a vote in the National Assembly.

Elisabeth Borne invoked a special constitutional power to skirt a vote in the chaotic lower chamber, lawmakers on the right and left filed no-confidence motions to be voted on

At the elegant Place de Concorde, a festive protest by several thousand, with chants, dancing and a huge bonfire,

Indians organise Young Minds

London (PTI): Youth 20 (Y20), the official consul-

Attended by Y20 India representative Falit Sijeria,

"Many kinds of programmes are being organised in

"It is our endeavour to get ideas from as many youths

tation forum for youth from across the G20 member countries to be able to dialogue with each other dur-

ing India's presidency, found resonance here with a spe-

the two-day conference was organised at University

College London on Friday by the student group Young

India regarding Y20 and this is the first program to be

as possible so that there can be a good discussion about

solutions on the international platform of Y20. It is a

matter of pride for me that in the presidency of India,

I have been able to participate in a consultation pro-

year from December 1, 2022, to 30 November 2023.

Singh joined in the day's deliberations and were sup-

ported by the Indian National Students Association

India assumed the Presidency of the G20 for one

Y20 UK representatives, James Frater and Ritvik

India Dialogue in association with Y20 India.

Conference in London

cial Y20 India Young Minds Conference.

held outside India," Sijeria said.

gramme organised abroad," he added.



Demonstrator ran through the tear gas during a protest in Paris on Friday

**PTI** ■ LONDON

tral African nation.

degenerated into a scene echoing the night before. Riot police charged and threw tear gas to empty the huge square across from the National Assembly after troublemakers climbed scaffolding on a renovation site, arming themselves with

They lobbed fireworks and paving stones at police in a

On Thursday night, security forces charged and used water cannons to evacuate the area, and small groups then set street fires in chic neighbourhoods nearby. French Interior

 $B_{\text{Secretary, Suella Braverman,}}^{\text{ritain's Indian-origin Home}}$ 

arrived in Rwanda on Saturday on

a tour of facilities being built as part

of a bilateral migration pact that will

see hundreds of illegal migrants deported from the UK to the cen-

The UK-Rwanda Migration

and Economic Development

Partnership, which was signed by

Braverman's predecessor Priti Patel

in April last year, is designed to

house migrants in Rwanda while

their asylum claims are assessed.

caught up in legal wrangles, but

Braverman said her visit is an

effort to reinforce the government's

breaking approach that will act as

commitment to the partnership.

The controversial plan remains

"Our partnership is a ground-

Braverman in Rwanda to

assess illegal migration

radio station RTL that 310 people were arrested overnight, most of them in Paris.

Mostly small, scattered protests were held in cities around France, from a march in Bordeaux to a rally in Toulouse. Port officers in Calais temporarily stopped ferries from crossing the English Channel to Dover. Some university campuses in Paris were pied a high-traffic ring road

around the French capital. Paris garbage collectors extended their strike for a 12th day, with piles of foul-smelling rubbish growing daily in the French capital. Striking sanitation workers continued to block Europe's largest incineration site and two other sites that treat Paris garbage.

a powerful deterrent against dan-

gerous and illegal journeys, such as small boat crossings," said

Braverman in a statement on the

cuss all the aspects of the partner-

ship and I will be visiting some of

the initiatives that we have support-

Office, the minister is scheduled to

meet refugees who have rebuilt their

lives in Kigali, people leading on

accommodation projects and a

range of entrepreneurs who have

helped build employment opportu-

Rwandan President Paul Kagame

and Minister of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation Vincent

Biruta during the two-day official

She will also meet with

nities for people in Rwanda.

visit this weekend.

"While in Rwanda we will dis-

According to the UK Home

eve of her visit to Rwanda.

ed," she said.

## ABritish Muslim financial analyst influenced by

PTI ■ LONDON

extremist Islamist ideology has been found guilty of multiple terrorism related offences by a UK court after his laptop led police to dangerous bombmaking plans. Asad Bhatti, from Redhill

n Surrey, south was arrested and charged in January 2021, following which a search was carried out at an address in the area which revealed a makeshift bombmaking facility.

Surrey Police said the 49 year-old, of South Asian origin, was found guilty of two counts of possessing an article for the purpose of terrorism, contrary to Section 57 of the UK's Terrorism Act 2000.

He was also found guilty of three counts of making or possessing an explosive substance under suspicious circumstances contrary to Section 4 of the UK's Explosive Substance Act at the Old Bailey court in London on Friday

Bhatti remains in custody and will be sentenced for the crimes at the same court on April 25.

"The case against Bhatti was strong, I am glad the jury found him guilty today," said Detective Chief Superintendent Olly Wright, Head of Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) in Surrey.

"There was clear evidence of his extreme Islamist ideology and the danger he posed. He clearly hated those whom he considers do not follow his version of Islam, and he made a range of derogatory comments towards those he considers to be 'unbelievers'," he

## **Japan, German leaders** agree to strengthen ties



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, second left, and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, centre, pose for a family pictures at prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on Saturday

**AP** ■ TOKYO

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday held the first round of government consultations in Tokyo and agreed to strengthen economic and defense ties to better cope with China's growing influence and global security concerns.

Kishida told a joint news conference after the talks that the sides agreed to strengthen supply chains in minerals, semiconductors, batteries and other strategic areas, in order to "counter economic coercion, state-led attempts to illegally acquire technology and non-market practices," apparently referring to China.

"Japan and Germany, both industrial nations that share fundamental values, need to take global leadership to strengthen resilience of our societies," Kishida said.

Scholz brought six of the 17 Cabinet members for talks with Japanese counterparts, including economy, finance, foreign, interior, transport and defense ministers.

They discussed deepening economic and national security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as China's assertiveness in pressing its maritime territorial claims and its closer ties with Russia.

Germany has similar "government consultations" framework with several countries.

In Tokyo, the two leaders again condemned Russia's war on Ukraine and agreed to continue tough sanctions against Moscow and strong support for Ukraine, Kishida said.

Russia's nuclear threat has made atomic weapons disarmament even more difficult and divided the international community, Kishida said, adding that it's crucial to get China, Russia and other nuclear states to resume dis-

Scholtz said the government consultations will "further advance our strategic cooperation, and they're a very important part of giving a new drive to this close cooperation we want to achieve together," German news agency dpa reported.

The NYT report said that the

cussing nuclear disarmament.

## Be transparent in sharing Covid data for origin study, WHO tells China

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA

The WHO has criticised China for withholding data related to samples taken at a market in Wuhan in 2020 that could have provided vital information about the Covid-19 pandemic's origins, calling on Beijing to be transparent and to share results of investigations it conducts.

The Huanan market in central China's Wuhan city was the epicentre of the pandemic. From its origin there, the SARS-CoV-2 virus rapidly spread to other locations in Wuhan

in late 2019 and then to the rest of the world.
"Every piece of data relating to

studying the origins of COVID-19 needs to be shared with the international community immediately. These data could have – and should have – been shared three years ago," World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva on Friday.

"We continue to call on China to be transparent in sharing data and to conduct the necessary investiga-

Understanding how the pandemic began remains both a moral and scientific imperative," he said. Ghebrevesus said that last

tions and share the results.

Sunday, the global health agency was made aware of data published on the GISAID database in late January, and taken down again recently.

"The data, from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, relates to samples taken at the Huanan market in Wuhan, in 2020," he said.

was online, scientists from a number of countries downloaded the data and analysed it. "As soon as we became aware of

this data, we contacted the Chinese CDC and urged them to share it with WHO and the international scientific community so it can be analysed," he said, adding that WHO also convened the Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, which met on

"We asked researchers from the

Ghebreyesus said while the data Chinese CDC and the international group of scientists to present their analyses of the data to SAGO. These data do not provide a definitive answer to the question of how the pandemic began, but every piece of data is important in moving us closer to that answer," he said. In a report Thursday, the New

York Times said that an international team of virus experts said they had "found genetic data from a market in Wuhan, China, linking the coronavirus with raccoon dogs for sale

genetic data was drawn from swabs taken from in and around the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market starting in January 2020, "shortly after the Chinese authorities had shut down the market because of suspicions that it was linked to the outbreak of a new virus. While the animals had been

cleared out from the market, researchers took swabs from the walls, floors, metal cages and carts used for transporting animal

# Forex kitty down by \$2.39 bn to \$560 bn

The country's forex reserves fell by \$2.39 billion to a three-month low of \$560.003 billion for the week to March 10, the Reserve Bank said in its latest weekly data release. In the week to March 3, the reserves rose by \$1.46 billion and stood at \$562.40 billion.

On an annualised basis, the RBI said, the reserves are down by \$47.31 billion during the week under review while on a fiscal year basis, the same plunged by \$62.23 billion.

With this erosion, the forex kitty is at the lowest since early-December, according to the weekly statistical supplement released by the RBI on

The loss in the reserves is due to the revaluation of the foreign currency assets, which are the largest component of the forex kitty, to the tune of



\$2.2 billion to \$494.86 billion for the week to March 10. On a year-on-year basis, the value of foreign currency assets fell by \$45.86 billion and from a fiscal year perspective, they lost

Expressed in dollar terms, foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of the non-US units like the euro, the pound and the yen held in the foreign

SDR holdings too saw a reduction in the week under review with both reserves falling \$110 million and \$53 million, respectively. The gold reserves and SDR holdings stand at \$41.92 billion and \$18.12 billion, respectively.

The country's reserve position in the IMF also fell by \$11 million, taking it to \$5.1 billion.

The reserves have been falling from the peak as the rupee has been under pressure and the monetary authority has been taking measures to defend the rupee from extreme volatility. In 2022, the cost of defending a falling rupee was over USD 115 billion of the reserves.

The worst drop was in the week to February 10 when reserves plunged by a steep \$8.32 billion to USD 566.95 billion. In October 2021, the forex kitty had reached an alltime high of \$645 billion.

## **'Packaging industry** growing at 15-17%'

The packaging industry is growing at 15-17 per cent and the sector has the potential to create employment opportunities in the country,

opportunities in the country, industry experts said.

The experts also called for the promotion of domestic players and setting up the packaging industry in every district on the lines of the one district on the lines of the 'one district one product' initiative to create jobs at the local level.

"Presently, the demand for packaging of all things has increased a lot and there is a lot of scope for employment in this sector," Prof Tanveer Alam, Director of the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) Delhi, said at the Asian Packaging Congress here on Saturday.

The event was organised by the Indian Institute of (IIP), an Packaging autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a release said. The packaging business in the world is worth USD 79 billion



The packaging industry is growing at 15-17 per cent and the sector has the potential to create employment opportunities in the country, industry experts said

and has a growth rate of 15-17 per cent, Alam said. Industry experts opined that to boost the industry, packaging units should be set up in every district on the lines of one district one product scheme so that employment can be generated, a statement said. Different types of packaging like glass, metal, paper and others are being adopted for each type of

product, the expert said. Recently, an MoŪ has also been signed with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and this product has already been launched in 15 districts of UP, IIP said. Experts said that the packaging industry can also help bring agricultural products to market which will increase farmers' income and cut farm production losses.

Online gaming can make India \$1 tn economy: Report

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The online gaming sector is a rapidly growing industry that has potential of conthat has potential of contributing significantly to the country's goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion digital economy, generating substantial employment, and fostering

innovation, a report said. Regulation of online gaming will not only open up economic opportunities but also address various social issues, a report titled 'Online Gaming in India: The Taxation Quandary' by Primus Partners said. Announcements in Union Budget 2023-24 are positive for the sector as it has addressed the persistent ask to incorporate the offset of losses in the calculation of gains from online games for income tax, it said.

A pertinent issue relating to the implementation mechanism proposed in the Union Budget for TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) on online games has been highlighted in

## Gig economy in limbo after food deliveries slow down

exchange reserves. The reserve

losses are primarily due to the

RBI selling dollars to stem the

rupee volatility in the spot and

forwards market to prevent

runaway moves in the

ground and lost just 10 basis

points against the dollar and

the currency traded in the

81.61-82.29 range. The rupee

Last week, the rupee stood

With a spurt in online food and grocery delivery, especially in the pandemic years, India saw a meteoric rise in the gig economy, giving millions of people job oppor-

However, delivering hot and piping food at customers doorsteps has become a nightmare for many of them as the food delivery business turns out to be a losing game while more and more delivery partners report unfair work conditions, pay disparity, and harassment.

India is likely to see its gig workforce add 9-11 million jobs by 2025, which has been one of the most pivotal economic shifts in a long time.

In terms of job roles, door delivery is the most prevalent gig role employers are hiring for currently — 22 per cent for food and 26 per cent for other deliveries, according to a recent study by leading job portal Indeed. According to reports, a typical delivery boy's salary is



Rs 15,000 per month. Delivery Boy salaries at Zomato and Swiggy can range from Rs 4,804-Rs 30,555 per month depending on which area they are working in.

Gig workers are freelancers or contractors who work independently, typically on a shortterm basis for multiple clients. Their work may be projectbased, hourly, or part-time.

However, when it comes to fair work for gig workers among the digital platform economy in India, Zomato, Swiggy, and quick-grocery delivery providers Dunzo and Zepto are among the worst perrelated to the working conditions of gig workers, according to the latest 'Fairwork India Ratings 2022 Report'.

According to professor Balaji Parthasarathy, one of the principal investigators of the team, these findings are alarming for all stakeholders government, consumers and platform owners -- and they should come together to help gig workers get the best working conditions. 'We would like the gov-

ernment and other stakeholders like consumers and digital labour platform owners to take note of these findings and ensure a better work environment for millions of gig workers in 2023," Parthasarathy

The Fairwork India team was spearheaded by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP), International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), in association with Oxford University in the UK.

Even with workers and worker groups repeatedly emphasising the importance of a stable income for platform workers, platforms have been reluctant to publicly commit to, and operationalise, a minimum wage policy.
"Secondly, while workers

have engaged in various forms of collective action to voice their concerns in the platform economy, platforms have been uncompromisingly unwilling to recognise or negotiate with any collective body represent-ing workers," the findings showed. According to the report, the promise of flexibility of the digital platform economy raises as many questions about livelihoods as it offers

opportunities.

"We hope the report provides the basis for an interpretation of flexibility that allows for not merely the adaptability that platforms seek, but also the income and social securithat workers lack," said Parthasarathy and Janaki Srinivasan, the Principal Investigators of the team.

The biggest barriers for gig workers are lack of access to job information (62 per cent), not knowing English (32 per cent), and not knowing the local language (10 per cent) for workers who have shifted outside of their home town for

Challenges in language also result in other difficulties with 14 per cent of the gig workforce respondents reporting a lack of awareness of their jobs' skills and abilities, according to Indeed study. Nearly three out of five gig workers (59 per cent) find their jobs uncomfortable (46 per cent), if not hard and risky (13 per cent).

## Five million food dispatches daily in Mumbai, yet delivery guys struggling

IANS MUMBAI

One of the greatest blessings of the Smartphone Internet era is the ease of ordering snacks, food and desserts from anywhere in the city/town or the district, for self, family, parties, social or Through one or more of

the hundreds of Apps, one can place the most outrageous orders, ranging from the hum-ble 'Vada-Pav' to 'Shawarmas' - and every possible dish in Once the App accepts the order, a series of precision

processes are triggered right from inside the kitchens to the delivery boys/girls who pick it up, and finally ring your doorbell - all within 30-60 minutes for that joyous, drooling

smile...! Simple as it may sound, the delivery business is actually bizarre and complex, involving a lot of human elements,



the critical being the delivery boys-girls who serve as the 'last-mile' link between the food outlets and the hungry customer.

One such delivery boycum Area Manager attached to an app-based company, G. V. Kishore, 35, of Borivali, shares some insights into the low-profile business that quietly 'delivers' with clockwork precision and an efficiency that could merit a top Sigma rating. There are an estimated 500,000 car-

riers (delivery boys/girls) in Mumbai alone who effect an average of around 10 deliveries daily, coming to more than 50,00,000 parcels being rushed from one place to another for nearly 18 hours daily, with the weekend numbers bulging by at least 25 percent. "Besides, there are corporate food deliveries that would account for another 25-30 lakh parcels on weekdays but crashes on week-After Covid-19 pandemic,

most companies have discontinued their in-house canteens barring beverages and now allow employees to order food online with discounted corporate coupons," said Kishore. Another deliverer from

Ghatkopar, Sanjay Chauhan, 31, serving through various Apps, haunts corporate offices with big and small food packets daily, and supplements his income with weekend home deliveries.

## **India needs to** promote e-payment items globally: Das

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on

Saturday underlined the need for using the G20 presidency to present India's e-payment story to the global audience and seize the opportunity to internationalise payment products like UPI and RuPay. India's home-grown payment products like UPI and

RuPay network are increasing their global footprint and will make cross-border payments easier, Das said while inaugurating the Payment System Operators (PSO) Conference here. "Under Reserve Bank's Payments Vision 2025, we

stand committed to the core theme of 'E-Payments for Everywhere, Everytime' (4Es). We must seize every opportunity to internationalise our payment products. This will open up a new world of opportunities for our country. This is the year of the Indian Presidency of the G20. Let us present the India story to the global audience," he

The governor further said with the Indian economy getting increasingly integrated with the global system, crossborder payments have assumed greater significance.

"Our home-grown payment products, UPI and RuPay network, are enhancing their global footprint," he said and added launch of UPI linkage with Singapore's PayNow is a major step forward.

In future, Das added such linkages with other countries will make crossborder payments simple, affordable and real-time. QR code-based merchant payments through UPI apps are already enabled in



Bhutan, Singapore and the UAE. All these would also help project India's soft power at the global level. "I would like to say that a lot has been achieved but a lot more can and should be done in the days ahead," he

Das emphasised that payments and settlements are serious businesses with potential downsides, should anything go wrong. Effort should be to mitigate such downsides and capitalise on the upsides. "This is something all mar-

ket participants must recognise and constantly remind themselves. Every failed transaction, every fraud attempted or actually carried out, every complaint that is not satisfactorily addressed should be a cause of concern and must invite a detailed root cause analysis. "It would do well to

remember that like the batsman on the cricket field, you are only as good as the last ball 'We must together make

sure that no one in the country is left behind in the digital payments journey," he said. The launch of Unified

Payments Interface (UPI) in 2016 has revolutionised the payments ecosystem with about 803 crore transactions worth Rs 13 lakh crore processed in January 2023

## Cabinet okays exemption to NTPC to invest in NTPC Green Energy

IANS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Cabinet Committee on}}_{\text{Economic Affairs (CCEA)}}$ on Friday granted exemption to NTPC Ltd for making investment in NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), it's wholly-owned subsidiary.

The CCEA also exempted NGEL's investment in NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NREL) and its other joint ventures and subsidiaries, subject to a ceiling of 15 per cent of its net worth beyond the monetary ceiling of Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 7,500 crore, towards achieving a target of 60 GW renewable energy (RE) capacity by NTPC Ltd, official sources said.

The exemption given to NTPC will help in improving India's global image as a green economy. It will also decrease India's dependency on conventional sources of energy by diversifying India's energy generation and will also decrease the country's coal

## Startup failure gradually reducing in India; awareness needed: STPI DG

PTI PANAJI

 $A^{ ext{sserting that the rate of fail-}}$  ure of startups in the country is slowly declining, Director Technology Parks of India (STPI) Arvind Kumar said there is a need to create more awareness about what the government is doing to promote startups. Talking to PTI, Kumar said awareness campaign is very much required amongst

the youth about startups.
"I go to a number of engineering colleges, they don't know anything about Startups, they don't know about STPI, they don't know anything about they don't know anything about what the country and govern-ment is doing," he commented. The STPI DG was in Goa

to address the Future Tech Leadership Forum Goa 2023 on Saturday organised by the stakeholders in the state's IT industry. Kumar said there should be a subject on entrepreneurship for students in 12th standard where the product cycle should be explained and they should be made job



producers and not job seekers. He said STPIs' directors are going to various colleges and giving lectures to youngsters about startups and also how to get funds for that. "I think awareness is happening but it has to be accelerated," Kumar

He said though they have not done any study on the failure of startups, there are studies which claim that the rate in India is one against ten. "Failure is a part of startup ecosystem not just in India but also in the developed part of the world. Our country has just started the journey of startups, so naturally we will fail more, compared to those countries which have started ten years back," he said. Talking about Centres of Entrepreneurship (COE) created by STPI, Kumar said such initiatives are working to reduce the failure rate.

"COEs have chief mentors who are authority on the particular subject. They guide startups in COEs and do hand-

When something (startup idea) is ready, we call Venture Capitalists, Fund Managers who see the product and see if they can invest in it," he said. "Failure of startups is also reducing with the passage of

## MG Motor India to supply 100 vehicles to WilCabs India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MG Motor India on Saturday said it has bagged an order to supply 100 units of its various models to WTiCabs India. The fleet of 100 vehicles, including Hector and ZS EV, will be used for the rent-a-car division of WTiCabs

"Our partnership will further make MG vehicles more accessible to SUV and EV enthusiasts in India. We are deeply grateful to WTiCabs for having chosen the MG Hector and ZS EV as their choice of vehicle for their business," MG Motor India Senior Director Sales Rakesh Sidana said in a statement.

WTiCabs CEO Ashok Vashist said company values partnership and looks forward to continued sales and services support from MG Motor India. "In our constant endeavour to provide sustainable mobility, we will keep adding EV's into our fleet. Our endeavor is to provide sustainable and robust mobility solutions to our corporate clients," he added.

## iPhone 15 Pro Max may feature thinnest screen bezels to date

San Francisco: Tech giant Apple's upcoming iPhone 15 Pro Max smartphone will reportedly "break record" of the thinnest screen bezels to date. Tipster Ice Universe tweeted on Friday: "iPhone 15 Pro Max will break the record of 1.81mm bezel black edge held by Xiaomi 13, and we measure that its cover plate black bezel width is only 1.55 mm.iS22 and S23—1.95mmiCEiPhone 14 Pro 2.17mm)."

Last week, the front glass videos of the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max smart-phones had leaked online which revealed that they will feature ultra-thin bezels around the display.

Also, the tech giant is expected to limit its display features — Always-On and ProMotion — to upcoming iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max smartphone models. It was also rumoured that the iPhone maker will bring support for Wi-Fi 6E network to only iPhone 15 Pro models.

## Number of flyers benefitting from RCS-UDAN falls in 2022-23

IANS NEW DELHI

Number of air-passengers benefitting from the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) has come down in 2022-23.

A Parliamentary standing Committee took note of the dwindling numbers and has sought an explanation from the Ministry.
In its latest report, the

Committee noted that there has been a fluctuation in the number of RCS passengers who have benefitted from the UDAN Scheme. While the number of RCS passengers rose from 3 lakh (2017-18), to



12 lakh (2018-19), to 31 lakh (2019-20) after the initiation of 33 lakh in 2021-22, it has again the Scheme in 2016, it dipped come down to 20 lakh passento 15 lakh in 2020-21. gers as on 31.01.2023. The "Though, the number of RCS Committee would like to know

ting from this Scheme during The Committee also

number of passengers benefit-

desires to know the details of plans for the year 2023-24, wherein the Ministry aims to increase the number of passengers benefited to 30 lakh," said the Demand for Grants (2023-24)n report of Civil Aviation Ministry.

It also noted that as per the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework for 2022-23 (till 31.12.2022), the Ministry has not been able to achieve the targets in most cases, with achievements in the range of 40

the reasons for the reduction in per cent to 67per cent only. Only in the case of passengers travelled in NER, it has achieved a percentage of 261.5 per cent. "The Committee notes the

low performance of the Ministry on almost all the constituents of the RCS-UDAN Scheme, except one.

The Committee hopes that with the increased allocation, the Ministry would do metic ulous planning to ensure full utilisation of funds and achievement of targets," said

The Civil Aviation Ministry launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN on October 21, 2016. RCS-UDAN is a flagship programme of the Ministry. The primary objective of RCS-UDAN is to facilitate or

stimulate regional air connectivity and by making it afford-

able to masses through mea-

sures like concessions by Central Government; State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs); and Airport Operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes/ other support measures and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes.

## TREESA-GAYATRI LOSE IN SEMIS

¬reesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's sensational run came to an end as the Indian pair signed off with a second successive semifinal finish at the All England Championships here on Saturday.

The two young shuttlers found the going tough against Korean world number 20 duo of Baek Na Ha and Lee So Hee, losing 10-21 10-21 in a 46-minute women's doubles contest at the Utilita arena.

"We learnt a lot from this match. The difference was they didn't leave a shuttle and we did panic a little bit," Gayatri said after the match.

Treesa added: "When we played against them, their defence was good, it was better than yesterday. We were just panicking and didn't play well, we just kept attacking.

Gayatri's father Pullela Gopichand, the chief national coach, was the last Indian to win the All England crown, in 2001, the first being the legendary Prakash Padukone in 1980.

Gayatri, 20, and Treesa, 19, had a big opportunity to reach the finals but it ended in anticlimax as they played into the hands of the Koreans.

"I was nervous. There was pressure," said Gayatri.

The world number 17 pair was pitted against Baek and Lee, the latter being an experienced player with two world championships medals with former partner Shin Seung-chan.

In fact, Lee and Shin had faced defeat against the Indian pair in the last edition but the

Atalanta beat

**AP** ■ MILAN



fresh combination of Lee and Baek have been relentless this week with wins over second and eighth seeds, and looked in supreme touch as they came up with a tactical masterclass.

The Koreans turned into a retrieving machine as they defended seamlessly and extended the rallies with their high tosses and lifts to not allow the Indians to play their short flat rally game.

As a result, Gayatri and Treesa failed to make a good start like they did earlier this week, falling behind 0-4 early on. Lee and Baek frustrated the Indians with longer rallies, waiting patiently for their opponents to make errors. It worked perfectly as the Koreans grabbed a 11-5 lead

Briefly the Indians made it 9-13 but it was a one-way traffic from 14-10, with the Koreans drawing the first blood with

seven straight points, including the last which went long from

The Koreans didn't kill the shots at the nets and kept playing more high lifts, with the Indians sticking with their smashes from the back court. Gayatri and Treesa couldn't

wide and long too many times as Lee and Baek zoomed to a massive 11-2 lead at the midgame interval of the second

Gayatri had her moment of brilliance, when she mixed body shots with a drop to grab a point to move to 5-11 after resumption, but such instances were too

The Indians managed just five more points before Treesa hit the net to hand 10 match points to the Koreans, who sealed their place in the final after another long rally.

Despite the loss, it was a good week for the young Indians, who started playing together only in 2021 and had surprised all by reaching the semifinals in the last edition after being promoted to the main draw from the reserve list.

This time, Gayatri and Treesa had come into the tournament with a Commonwealth Games bronze medal and wins over higher-ranked pairs such as world No. 7 Tan Pearly and Thinnah Muralitharan at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship in February.

Gayatri and Treesa accounted for some big scalps such as the seventh seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Ravindra Prajongjai and Japan's former world number ones Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in

the early rounds this week.
"We played against some good players, the confidence was there. So we are looking to the next tournaments. We have a lot more to learn. We will come back stronger," Treesa signed off.

Ancelotti later said he was joking

"Obviously that wasn't serious, but

"Vini will play on the left, with more

Xavi also looked forward to the bat-

"Araujo is very physically strong, he's

"Usually when he takes on Vinicius,

"It's not just Ronald, it's (everyone)

out, and collectivel

very good against Madrid.'

quick, fast, and understands the move-

ments of his opponents," Xavi told

reporters Saturday.

about using Vinicius on the right flank,

mobility could be important, not having



## We believe to seal place in next season's Champions League: Isak

**AP** ■ NOTTINGHAM

lexander Isak said Newcastle Abelieve they will seal a place in next season's Champions League after the Swede scored twice, including a stoppage time penalty, to beat Nottingham Forest 2-1 on Friday.

Victory lifts the Magpies to within one point of fourthplaced Tottenham and with a game in hand to come on Spurs.

"We believe and we know that we have it in our own hands and have a good chance," said Isak after Newcastle signed off for the international break with back-to-back wins.

"It is important we have gone into this break with a good feeling with two wins from two games.'

Defeat was Forest's first at home in the league since September and leaves Steve Cooper's men still two points above the relegation zone.

"It's always the worst way to lose, in the last couple of minutes, having fought in the game," said Cooper. "We made some poor football decisions around the build-up to the goals and that's something we can only blame ourselves for."

Newcastle ended a near two-month wait for a Premier League win last weekend in beating Wolves and came flying out the blocks at the City Ground.

But the closest the visitors came to turning their early dominance into a lead was when Renan Lodi turned Isak's cross onto his own crossbar.

Instead it was Forest who went in front completely against the run of play thanks to a

howler from Sven Botman. The Dutch centre-back has

been a major factor in but his attempted pass back to pleasing.'

goalkeeper Nick Pope was intercepted by Emmanuel Dennis, who produced a stunning chipped finish for just his second Forest goal. The crossbar came to the

home side's rescue again when Sean Longstaff's deflected strike from the edge of the box came back off the woodwork. Newcastle finally got their

reward in first half stoppage time when the club's record signing Isak acrobatically flicked in Joe Willock's cross off the post.

The pattern of play continued after the break as the Magpies laid siege to the Forest Former Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Keylor Navas had to be at his

best to turn over powerful drives from Elliot Anderson and Bruno Guimaraes. Anderson then thought he

had his first senior goal when he headed in Isak's cross at the back However, the goal was con-

troversially disallowed after a VAR check for offside against Longstaff in the build-up despite the ball breaking to the midfielder off a Forest player.

Just when Forest looked set to hold out for a precious point in their battle to beat the drop, Moussa Niakhate needlessly put his hand up to block Isak's tame header.

The Swedish international's debut season in England has been blighted by injury, but he showed his class by keeping his head to slot past Navas and spark wild scenes of celebration among

the away support. "It's a massive win and I thought we deserved it," said

"To come back is always a great way to win and the char-

Empoli 2-1 to boost CL hopes

Substitute Rasmus Højlund scored late to help Atalanta fight back to beat Empoli 2-1 in Serie A and boost its chances of qualifying for the Champions League. Højlund scored the winner just seven minutes after coming off the bench. Marten de Roon had cancelled out Tyronne Ebuehi's opener for Empoli.

The victory snapped Atalanta's winless run and lifted it to within three points of fourth-placed AC Milan, which visits Udinese on Saturday.

Empoli remained nine points above the relegation zone. Atalanta had lost three of its past four matches, drawing the other, and lost ground in a tight

## Ancelotti backs Vinicius to escape Araujo shackles

 $R^{\mbox{\scriptsize eal}}$  Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti backed winger Vinicius Junior to escape Ronald Araujo's shackles when Los Blancos face Barcelona on Sunday in the Clasico in La Liga. The Brazilian winger, key for Madrid

this season, has been shut down by Barca defender Araujo in recent clashes with the Catalans, with coach Xavi Hernandez deploying the centre-back on the right to directly confront him. Vinicius has scored twice in 12

games against Barcelona, both times before Araujo started at right-back. No player has scored from open play

against leaders Barca at Camp Nou in La Liga this season, giving champions Madrid a formidable task as they try to eat into their nine-point deficit.

"He's had more difficulties than in other games, but Vini is always Vini, his mobility can help him get the best (from himself) in tomorrow's game," Ancelotti told a news conference Saturday.

thinking of putting him on th right, let's see. He can play on the right,



## Sabalenka 'feels bad' for Ukrainian

players **AP** ■ INDIAN WELLS

Russia's invasion of Ukra-ine continues to stir tension in the tennis world, and Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka on Friday said that it's not only Ukrainian players who are feeling the strain.

"Of course it's a lot of tension between us," Australian Open champion Sabalenka said after beating Maria Sakkari to reach the final of the combined WTA and ATP Masters 1000 in the California desert.

But, she added, "I still have this belief that I did nothing bad to Ukrainians - not me, not Russian ath-

The WTA and ATP tours have barred players from Russia and its ally Belarus from competing under their national flags, but insist that individual athletes have a right to com-

much experience of playing through injury, the only exam-ple she recalled coming at the 2019 French Open.
"It's a new situation for me, for sure," the 21-year-old said. "For sure now it's a total-

ly different level. So I feel like going on (for) matches you have to be 100% fit.

"I have been playing, so



## **Boxing World C'ships: Nitu,** Preeti, Manju enter pre-quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxers continued to shine at home as three of them entered the pre-quarters with contrasting wins at the Women's World Championships here on Saturday. Commonwealth Games

gold medallist Nitu Ganghas (48kg) began her campaign with a RSC (referee stopped contest) win over Doyeon Kang of Korea, while Preeti (54kg) eked out a 4-3 split decision victory against Romania's Lacramioara Perijoc.

Manju Bamboriya (66kg), on the other hand, defeated Cara Wharerau of New Zealand by a 5-0 unanimous verdict.

Nitu, who lost in the quarter-final during the last edition, opened her campaign in the best possible way, winning the bout

wasn't able to connect her jabs. The boxers then went into a frenzy as they punched each

other with both hands. Soon, Kang got the first standing count. With Nitu continuing her onslaught, the Korean got her second standing count 20 seconds later with referee Luca Vadilonga of Italy ruling in the Indian's favour, much to the joy of the partisan crowd at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall.

Having won her opening bout by an RSC verdict, Preeti had to work hard for her second win in the tournament.

"I had prepared a lot for this bout, she had won a silver last time. I want to prove to myself that I'm less than no one," said Preeti.

"I was trying to understand her game in the beginning. In the last round I changed my strategy. She was attacking and getting unbalanced.'

Both boxers looked to keep a distance in the first few seconds. Preeti was caught unawares by a Perijoc straight jab but the Haryana pugilist recovered soon. The 2022 Asian Champion-

ships bronze medallist then

landed two punches on her

Romanian opponent and led 3-2 at the end of the first round. In the second round, both boxers tried to sidestep each

other as Perijoc resorted to body blows. Preeti danced around the ring, using her nimble feet, as

she tried to avoid the Romanian. She landed some accurate punches but lost the round 2-3. In the final three minutes,

Preeti resorted to counter attacking which she did effectively. The round was a draw with the bout going into a review. The evaluator and observer ruled in favour of the Indian.

# RYBAKINA TO FACE SABALENKA

 $E^{\text{lena Rybakina again proved}}_{\text{too much for world number}}$ one Iga Swiatek, denying the defending champion a return to the Indian Wells final with an emphatic 6-2, 6-2 semi-final victory on Friday.

Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina, the reigning Wimbledon champion who stunned topseeded Swiatek in the fourth round of the Australian Open on the way to the final, will now get a chance to turn the tables on Aryna Sabalenka, who beat her in Melbourne to capture a first Grand Slam title.

World number two Sabalenka advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over seventh-seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece.

Rybakina, ranked 10th in the world, was all over Swiatek from the opening game, painting the lines with her punishing ground strokes and serving with pinpoint precision.

Swiatek, winner of the French and US Opens last year in a campaign that included eight titles in all, simply had no answer and surrendered the first set with a double-fault on the first set point.

It was more of the same in the second as Rybakina raced to a 5-0 lead. Swiatek, who revealed after the match she was dealing with "discomfort" in her ribcage, finally managed a hold for 5-1, and pounced to break as Rybakina suddenly struggled with her first serve in the next

Rybakina still managed to muster two match points at 40-15, but Swiatek saved one with an overhead and another with a blistering return of a second serve, winning two more points to complete the break for 5-2.

comeback. A mis-hit as Swiatek appeared to trip chasing a ball back to the baseline gave Rybakina another match point and she converted it with confidence

But there would be no

"I didn't expect that I was going to play that good today," admitted Rybakina, who battled through three sets to beat Czech Karolina Muchova in the quarter-finals.

"Hopefully I'm going to play like this on Sunday," she added after denying Swiatek's bid to become the first woman since Martina Navratilova in 1990-91 to win back-to-back titles in the California desert.

## Rib injury threatens Iga's Miami Open defense "Honestly, I feel like it's much experience of playing "Honestly, I feel like it's more me and kind of my mis-

Iga Swiatek's Indian Wells title defense ground to a halt in a straight sets semi-final loss to Elena Rybakina on Friday, the world number one later reveal-

in the Australian Open fourth

ing she is battling a rib injury.

"For sure, Elena played great tennis today, and I feel like against her I have to play better," Swiatek said after falling 6-2, 6-2 to the Wimbledon chamnext days are going to tell us," pion — who also shocked her

takes," she said. "I'm also not feeling 100% physically. I have a little discomfort in my rib, and we're going to consult with medical team.' Swiatek said she still planned to defend her title at the Miami Open that starts next

"For now I'm preparing to play, but we'll see what (the)

she said. "I don't know yet."

there has been some fatigue all the time," she said. "I would say it's kind of constant, but I'm pretty sure that tomorrow or She said she hadn't had day after will help in recovery."

in the first round itself. In the opening minute, she used her hook and left cross but

# INDIA AIM TO SEAL SERIES

¬he spotlight will once again be on KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja when India take on Australia in the second ODI here on Sunday, with regular captain Rohit Sharma returning to lead the side after missing the opening game in Mumbai.

India defeated Australia by

India defeated Australia by five wickets in a low-scoring game at the Wankhede Stadium, with Rahul, who struggled to find form during the Border-Gavaskar series leading to him being dropped for the third and fourth Tests, scoring a patient unbeaten 75 as the hosts cantered home cantered home.

Jadeja, playing ODI cricket after nearly eight months due to a knee injury and subsequent surgery, scored an unbeaten 45 in the chase of 188 on Friday. He also bowled a tight spell and returned figures of 2/46 to be declared 'Player of the Match'. With the ODI World Cup

being hosted by India later this year, an in-form Rahul and a fully-fit Jadeja will be an asset, and the three-match series will help the selectors assess the duo's progress. India would look to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series and also try to make amends with the bat, after they were in a spot of bother at 4/39, and later 5/83, before Rahul and Jadeja came together at the crease to guide the hosts to victory with 61 balls to spare.

Rohit Sharma's return to captaincy duties will certainly give solidity to the top order, which crumbled to the pace and variations of Australian quick

The lanky left-arm pacer's



three-wicket burst at the start put India under tremendous pressure, with Virat Kohli (4), Suryakumar Yadav (0) and Shuparan raday (0) and Shubman Gill (20) departing in quick succession after Marcus Stoinis had made an early dent by dismissing Ishan Kishan for three runs. Indian batters have occasionally looked tentative occasionally looked tentative against quality left-arm pacers, and facing Starc in the remaining two games should give them

well to keep the selectors inter-

ODI series when Rohit Sharma

returns and the other for the

WTC final... India can bolster

their batting if Rahul can keep

wickets. "Rahul can bat in the

middle-order — No. 5 or 6. In

England, you have to generally

keep wickets from far behind.

You don't have to keep up to the

spinners a lot. He (KL) has two

more ODIs to go before the IPL.

He can cement his place in that

at 34.11 with two centuries -

one at The Oval -, and one fifty

in nine Tests in English condi-

tions. India qualified for the

WTC final to be held in June at

The Oval against Australia. It will

be India's second appearance in

the final. They had lost to New

Zealand in the 2021 final.

Rahul has amassed 614 runs

Indian team."

"Two things, one for the

Shastri told Star Sports.

good practice in home conditions, with efforts focused towards making preparations for the World Cup in October-November.

With Sharma set to open, Kishan will likely make way for the regular captain. While not much should be read into Kohli and Gill's below-par scores in the first ODI, Suryakumar Yadav not being able to find his mojo in the 50-over format is a reason for concern. A marauder with the bat in

T20Is, Suryakumar is evidently still finding his feet in ODIs. He has gone without a fifty in all five ODIs this year. Surya has now played 15 ODIs (13 innings) without a score exceeding 50.

However, with no timeline set for Shreyas Iyer's return, India will keep auditioning Suryakumar for the role at No. 4. India's bowling did a tremen-

dous job in Mumbai with pacers Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj flourishing on a pace-friendly Wankhede pitch. But wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav could not make a strong impression.

However, the team management is not expected to tinker with the bowling line-up, with Pandya playing the role of a third mer to perfection in Mumbai. Glenn Maxwell — and still The weather forecast for couldn't trouble India much, seamer to perfection in Mumbai.

## Important we recover properly to perform better: Shami

A ce pacer Mohammed Shami has stressed on the importance of recovery after bowling India to a five-wicket win against Australia in the first ODI at the Wankhade stadium here.

The right-arm quick returned with figures of 6-2-17-3 on Friday as India restricted

Australia to 188 in 35.4 overs and then returned

to overhaul the target in 39.5 overs.

"The plan was to keep it simple. We had discussed in team meeting as well to make a good start, to keep the ball in good areas and stick to our line and length," he said in conversation with fellow pacer Mohammed Siraj in a video posted on BCCI.Tv.

The heat was also an issue. When we bowled the first spell it was hot but later it got a bit better to bowl when the wind started blowing." The 32-year-old had missed the training for the first ODI to recover from the fourth and final Test against Australia in Ahmedabad.

needed 1-2 days to recover. I completed that recovery and came here for the match," he said. The management accepted that I needed recovery. We have played so many matches that

the second ODI is of scattered

thunderstorms at least in the first

half, which also means that

pacers from either side can

swing the ball if the conditions are windy. Australia want to try out different combinations during the series. On Friday, they

went in with four all-rounders

Mitchell Marsh, Cameron

Green, Marcus Stoinis and

Issy Wong's 19-ball 32, MI

would have ended with much

less than what they eventually

After their skipper Alyssa Healy opted to field first, the UP Warriorz bowlers did a com-

mendable job to keep things

tight and take wickets at regu-

lar intervals against the strong

end of the 10th over with

Hayley Matthews (35) and cap-

tain Harmanpreet Kaur (25)

looking to build a partnership

after the departure of Yastika

Bhatia (5) and Nat Sciver-Brunt

Kaur got out after getting starts,

the India captain falling to

compatriot Deepti Sharma after

the former was done in by the

seasoned Ecclestone.

However, both Hayley and

Mumbai batting line-up.

we know our skills and ability. So it is impor-

'After 40 overs of the Ahmedabad Test, I

which would be a concern for captain Steve Smith.

As a makeshift opener in the absence of Warner, Marsh provided a rapid start with a 65-ball 81 but Australia lost the way in the middle overs, crashing from 129/2 to 188 all out against quality pace in Mumbai. Smith and Labuschagne may have encountered 'difficult' pitches in the Test series but the wickets for ODIs in India are usually batter-

friendly, and both the Aussie mainstays will be expected to do more. Smith has not crossed the 50-run mark so far on this India tour. For someone who has a mountain of runs against India, the Australian stand-in skipper will look to end the drought. Australia's fast bowling looked terrific in Mumbai, with Abbott keeping a lid on the Indians with tight lines and Green, Stoinis also chipping in.

tant that we recover properly to perform better."

inswing. Like when there is a left-hander, I try

to bowl inswing. I wanted to take as many wick-

ets in the powerplay. I got one wicket," he said.

bowling, I was thinking 'what is happening'. I

was wondering if the umpire has given you the

moving off the wicket nicely. So, I also looked

to bowl consistently in one area. I also got tips

from you and we enjoyed the bowling in

to play a huge role in India's win.

new ball or what?

Siraj also claimed three wickets for 29 runs

When I get the new ball, I try to bowl

"But when I went to fine leg when you were

"Then when I came to bowl, the ball was



## India can bolster their batting if Rahul keeps wickets in WTC final vs Aus: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\ India\ coach\ Ravi}_{Shastri\ has\ backed\ KL\ Rahul}$ to seal his place as a wicketkeeper-batter for the World Test Championship final at The Oval in June, saying his presence will strengthen the team's batting lineup. Rahul has a good record in England but he was dropped from the playing XI after the first two Tests against Australia at

home due to poor form. The 30-year-old from Karnataka, however, made an impressive return, slamming a match-winning 75 not out in the first ODI against Australia in Mumbai on Friday night.

Shastri feels Rahul can play as a wicket-keeper in the WTC final, especially after KS Bharat couldn't produce the goods in the absence of an indisposed

Rishabh Pant. "He (KL) has really done PTI ■ CHENNAI

League Cricket's (MLC) six The four-time IPL winners on Saturday revealed that they

on Saturday revealed that they will soon make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the US.

San Francisco Unicorns, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas and Washington DC are the six teams competing in the tournament scheding in the tournament, sched-

Friday that another IPL franchise Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR Group, will partner with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class crick-

investor group includes Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO of Microsoft and Soma Somasegar, managing director of Madrona Ventures, among others.

ment soon. Howdy Texas! Show @TeamTexasMLC!"

## CSK eyeing stake in MLC's

Texas team

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) could be eyeing a stake in the Texas team, one of Major Saturday.

uled to be begin on July 13 this

The Seattle Orcas' lead

In their cryptic message on social media on Saturday, CSK said, "Major announcesome yellove to our NRI cousin,

The development comes a day before the MLC Domestic Player Draft scheduled to take place in Houston with more than 100 players eligible to represent the "USA cricket community" in the tournament.

# UPW end Mumbai Indians' winning run in WPL

UP Warriorz snapped formidable Mumbai Indians winning run in the Women's Premier League with a fivewicket victory, after the Uttar Pradesh side extracted more out of a tricky pitch here on On a surface where the ball

turned a lot and was also holding up, England's star left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone (3/15) led the way with her excellent bowling as UP Warriorz bundled out Mumbai Indians for 127.

When MI batted, as many as 18 of the 20 overs were bowled by spinners, a WPL In reply, UPW faced some

obstacles before competing the Grace Harris (39) and Tahlia McGrath (38) were the main contributors with the bat for UPW, while Deepti Sharma (13 not out) and player of the match Ecclestone (16 not out) also played vital knocks.

ÚPW lost Devika Vaidya with just one run on the board at the start of the second over. While the successful bowler was Hayley Matthews, most of the credit for the dismissal must go to Harmanpreet Kaur, who pulled off a sensational catch at first slip after the batter got a thick outside edge.

Issy Wong picked up the big wicket of UPW captain Alyssa Healy (8), trapping her in front of the wicket. The onfield umpire was not convinced despite the huge appeal and MI's move to go for a referral proved to be the right call, leav-



ing the Australian star with no option but to walk back into the

Defending a small but tricky total on this surface, MI found another reason to celebrate when Yastika Bhatia completed a fantastic one-handed diving catch behind the wicket off the bowling of Nat Sciver-Brunt to send back Kiran consumed 16 balls.

UPW were in a spot of bother at 27 for 3 in the beginning of seventh over, when Grace Harris got off the mark with a boundary. Even as MI picked up three

wickets quickly but they were also guilty of dropping three catches, which proved to be crucial in the end.

In the company of Harris, Tahlia McGrath stroked her way to a 25-ball 38 before Amelia Kerr had her caught and bowled. But Harris hit two successive fours on three occasions, after McGrath's dismissal. to reduce the gap.

There was another twist after Kerr dismissed Harris at a crucial iuncture, but UPW held their nerves to emerge

Earlier, had it not been for

## RCB TO RETIRE JERSEY NUMBERS WORN BY ABD, GAYLE

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Banga-lore (RCB) will retire the jersey numbers worn by AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle when the two cricketing legends are inducted into the Indian Premier League (IPL) side's Hall of Fame on March 26. "Jersey numbers 17 and 333 will be retired forever as a tribute to @ABdeVilliers17 and @henrygayle, when we induct

@henrygayle, when we induct of Fame," RCB tweeted.

Jersey No. 17 had become synonymous with de Villiers, who played 11 seasons (2011-2021) for RCB and scored 4,491 runs in 156 matches for the franchise.

The charismatic South African cricketer also slammed 37 half-tons and two centuries for RCB, with a highest score of 133 not out in 2015.

De Villiers, who announ-

ced his retirement from all forms of cricket in November 2021, had a strike rate touching 152 for RCB.

With Virat Kohli, de Villiers posted five 100-plus partnerships for RCB and two 200-plus stands, the only pair in the world to post two such

partnerships.
West Indian hard hitter
Gayle played for RCB for seven
season (2011-2017) and his jersey No. 333 became the most feared among opposing

During the 2013 IPL season, the Jamaican smashed a mindboggling 708 runs in 16 matches for RCB, including an unbeaten 175. Gayle began his stint with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2009, before moving to RCB, where he served the longest stint with an IPL franchise. He was bought by Punjab Kings in 2018, where he played four seasons.

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT B-1362

E-mail: pwdoff\_khd@yahoo.com Tender Call Notice No. 37/2022-23

The Superintending Engineer, Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in **Double cover** system in ONLINE MODE from eligible class of contractors having valid registration certificate for execution of

1. Nature of Work Road 2. No of Work 01 No Rs.10000.00 (Online) 3. Tender Cost

'B' class Contractor 4. Class of Contractor From Dt. 22.03.2023 at 10.30 AM to Dt . 6.4.2023 at 5.00 PM 5. Available of Bid documents in

6. Date of opening of Bids Dt 10.4.2023 at 11.30 AM

7. Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any information regarding Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can be available in the said website.

Executive Engineer Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda

#### Williamson, Nicholls double tons put NZ on top was under pressure after failing to reach 40 in his 15 previous innings. Nicholls said he was aware of criticism of his ongoing selection but said he

ggressive double centuries for Kane Aggressive double centuries to Tambus Milliamson and Henry Nicholls powered New Zealand's dominance in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Wellington on Saturday.

The Black Caps declared their first innings at an imposing 580-4 before reducing Sri Lanka to 26-2 at stumps on day two, leaving the tourists with a very slim prospect of squaring the two-match series. The in-form Williamson scored 215 and Nicholls posted a career-best 200 not out, with the pair's third-wicket stand of 363 virtually batting Sri Lanka out of the contest.

Their partnership was the fifth-highest by any New Zealand combination and they became the country's first batters to reach 200 in the same innings.

Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne will resume on 16 on Sunday and nightwatchman Prabath Jayasuriya remains on four, with the deficit a daunting 554 runs. Sri Lanka's bowlers struggled to generate life on a flat Basin Reserve pitch, forcing Karunaratne to set defensive fields during much of the mammoth partnership.

Williamson and Nicholls batted at a lively clip from the outset, advancing

quickly from a 155-2 overnight score and barely looking troubled as they unleashed an array of attacking strokes through the first two sessions. Williamson was impenetrable as he

New Zealander to pass 8,000 runs in the It was a sixth double-century for the 32-year-old — whose unbeaten 121 was pivotal in a final-ball first Test in Christ-

reached three figures for the third time

in successive Tests, becoming the first



Having resumed on 26, Williamson struck 23 fours and two sixes before holing out in the deep off spinner Jayasuriya as he tried to escalate the scoring rate.

Nicholls marched on from his overnight 18 to reach three figures before pushing past his previous-best score of 174. His aggressive 240-ball knock, which featured four sixes, represented a remarkable return to form for the left-hander, whose place in the team

"Everyone in the group's been great and you really feel that support," he said. For me, it was just about trusting that I had done it before. It hasn't happened as much as I'd like in the last period. "Now the challenge is doing it again

was made to feel comfortable by support

from his teammates and coach Gary

knowing that the blueprint is there." Nicholls compared the partnership with a 369-run stand with Williamson against Pakistan in Christchurch two vears ago.

"The way Kane's playing, he's in a real zone out there. It was nice to make that partnership into another really big one." Kasun Rajitha, who was off the field for a period nursing a shoulder injury, lodged the best bowling figures of 2-126.

Matt Henry removed opener Oshada Fernando for six before fellow-seamer Doug Bracewell dismissed Kusal Mendis without scoring via a spectacular catch at point from Devon Conway.

It came from Bracewell's third ball of the match in what is his first Test appearance for more than six years.

## OIPR-34095/11/0014/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

RFP Identification No. CE-DPI & R - 09/2022-23

The Chief Engineer, D.P.I. & Roads, Odisha (Authority) on behalf of the Works

Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Development of State Roads and Highways

in Odisha, and, as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake the

following "Projects" under EPC Contract (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the parties/Joint Ventures to whom the Project may be awarded eventually. Nature of project Road work 3. No. of project 1No.

Tender Paper cost Rs.10,000.00 Class of Contractor Super Class

Available of bid document From 10.00 A.M. of 21.03.2023 to 11.00 A.M of 10.04.2023 in the website 7. Date of Pre-Application 31.03.2023 at 12.30 P.M.

Date of opening of Bid Dt.10.04.2023 at 11.30 A.M. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from

the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha

tender can also be seen in the said website. OIPR-34111/11/0100/2223

March 19, 2023

# the pioneer

There was not one true

Bella Hadid denies





More and more countries are banning TikTok citing data security risks. Should users be worried that the app will be wiped off their phones, writes HALELUYA HADERO

ikTok is once again fending off TikTok, citing the review being conclaims that its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, would share user data from its popular videosharing app with the Chinese government, or push propaganda and misinformation on its behalf.

China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday accused the United States itself of spreading disinformation about TikTok's potential security risks following a report in the Wall Street Journal that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US — part of the Treasury Department — was threatening a US ban on the app unless its Chinese owners divest their stake.

So are the data security risks real? And should users be worried that the TikTok app will be wiped off their

## WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS ABOUT

Both the FBI and the Federal Communications Commission have warned that ByteDance could share TikTok user data — such as browsing history, location and biometric identifiers — with China's authoritarian

government. A law implemented by China in 2017 requires companies to give the government any personal data relevant to the country's national security. There's no evidence that TikTok has turned over such data, but fears abound due to the vast amount of user data it, like other social media companies, col-

Concerns around TikTok were heightened in December when ByteDance said it fired four employees who accessed data on two journalists from Buzzfeed News and The Financial Times while attempting to track down the source of a leaked report about the company.

## **HOW IS THE US RESPONDING?**

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby declined to comment when asked Thursday to address the Chinese foreign ministry's comments about ducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment.

Kirby also could not confirm that the administration sent TikTok a letter warning that the US government may ban the application if its Chinese owners don't sell its stake but added, "we have legitimate national security concerns with respect to data integrity that we need to observe."

In 2020, then-President Donald Trump and his administration sought to force ByteDance to sell off its US assets and ban TikTok from app stores. Courts blocked the effort, and President Joe Biden rescinded Trump's orders but ordered an in-depth study of the issue. A planned sale of TikTok's US assets was also shelved as the Biden administration negotiated a deal with TikTok that would address some of the national security concerns.

In Congress, US Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Jerry Moran, a Democrat and a Republican, wrote a letter in February to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urging the Committee on Foreign Investment panel, which she chairs, to "swiftly conclude its investigation and impose strict structural restrictions" between TikTok's American operations and ByteDance, including potentially separating the

companies. At the same time, lawmakers have introduced measures that would expand the Biden administration's authority to enact a national ban on TikTok. The White House has already backed a Senate proposal that has bipartisan support.

#### **HOW HAS TIKTOK ALREADY BEEN RESTRICTED?**

On Thursday, British authorities said they are banning TikTok on government-issued phones on security grounds, following similar moves by the European Union's executive branch, which temporarily banned TikTok from employee phones. Denmark and Canada have also announced efforts to

block it on government-issued phones. Last month, the White House said



THERE'S NO **EVIDENCE THAT** TIKTOK HAS TURNED OVER SUCH DATA, BUT FEARS ABOUND DUE TO THE VAST AMOUNT OF USER DATA IT, LIKE OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES, COLLECTS.



it would give US federal agencies 30 days to delete TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices. Congress, the US armed forces and more than half of US states had already banned the

## WHAT DOES TIKTOK SAY?

TikTok spokesperson Maureen Shanahan said the company was already answering security concerns through "transparent, US-based protection of US user data and systems, with robust third-party monitoring, vetting, and verification."

In June, TikTok said it would route all data from US users to servers controlled by Oracle, the Silicon Valley company it chose as its US tech partner in 2020 in an effort to avoid a nationwide ban. But it is storing backups of the data in its own servers in the US and Singapore. The company said it expects to delete US user data from its own servers, but it has not provided a timeline as to when that would

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew is set to testify next week before the House Energy and Commerce Committee about the company's privacy and datasecurity practices, as well as its relationship with the Chinese government.

Meanwhile, TikTok's parent company ByteDance has been trying to position itself as more of an international company - and less of a Chinese company that was founded in Beijing in 2012 by its current chief executive Liang Rubo and others.

Theo Bertram, TikTok's vice president of policy in Europe, said in a Tweet Thursday that ByteDance "is not a Chinese company." Bertram said its ownership consists of 60% by global investors, 20% employees and 20% founders. Its leaders are based in cities like Singapore, New York, Beijing and other metropolitan areas.

#### **ARE THE SECURITY RISKS** LEGITIMATE?

It depends on who you ask. Some tech privacy advocates say while the potential abuse of privacy by the Chinese government is concerning, other tech companies have data-harvesting business practices that also

exploit user information. "If policy makers want to protect Americans from surveillance, they should advocate for a basic privacy law that bans all companies from collecting so much sensitive data about us in the first place, rather than engaging in what amounts to xenophobic showboating that does exactly nothing to protect anyone," said Evan Greer, director of the nonprofit advocacy group Fight for the Future.

Karim Farhat, a researcher with the Internet Governance Project at Georgia Tech, said a TikTok sale would be "completely irrelevant to any of the alleged national security' threats" and go against "every free market principle and norm" of the state department's internet freedom principles.

Others say there is legitimate rea-

son for concern. People who use TikTok might think they're not doing anything that would be of interest to a foreign government, but that's not always the case, said Anton Dahbura, executive director of the Johns Hopkins University Information Security Institute. Important information about the United States is not strictly limited to nuclear power plants or military facilities; it extends to other sectors, such as food processing, the finance industry and universities, Dahbura

## IS THERE PRECEDENCE FOR BANNING

**TECH COMPANIES?** Last year, the US banned the sale of communications equipment made by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE, citing risks to national security. But banning the sale of items could be more easily done than banning an app,

which is accessed through the web. Such a move might also go to the courts on grounds that it might violate the First Amendment as some civil liberties groups have argued.

Associated Press

## **China appeals for** fair treatment

China appealed Friday to other governments to treat its companies fairly after Britain and New Zealand joined the United States in restricting use of TikTok due to fears the Chinese-owned short video service might be a security

Governments are worried TikTok's owner, ByteDance, might give browsing history or other data about users to China's government or promote propaganda and disinformation.

"We call on the countries concerned to recognize the objective facts, effectively respect the market economy' and provide "a non-discriminatory environment" for all companies, said foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin.

TikTok is one focus of conflicts between China and other governments over technology and security that are disrupting processor chip, smartphone and other industries.

Legislators and employees in New Zealand's Parliament will be prohibited from having TikTok 's app on phones, the government said Friday. Britain announced a ban Thursday on TikTok on all government phones.

India has banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps, including the WeChat message service, on security and privacy grounds.

The United States also has imposed restrictions on access by Chinese companies to processor chip and other technology on security and human rights

The Chinese government accused Washington of spreading false information about TikTok following a report by The Wall Street Journal that US authorities were considering a ban if

ByteDance doesn't sell the company. The ruling Communist Party blocks most internet users in China from seeing TikTok and thousands of social media and other websites. ByteDance operates a sister short-video service, Douyin, that can be seen in China.

March 19, 2023

# H3N2: PRECAUTION IS THE KEY Amid a spurt in cases of the H3N2 virus in the country, one more death has been reported, this time from WAY

Amid a spurt in cases of the H3N2 virus in the country, one more death has been reported, this time from Gurugram in Haryana. This takes the total number of fatalities to three. Adequate rest, simple home-cooked fresh food, and proper hydration are advised for recuperation at home, doctors tell THE HEALTH PIONEER

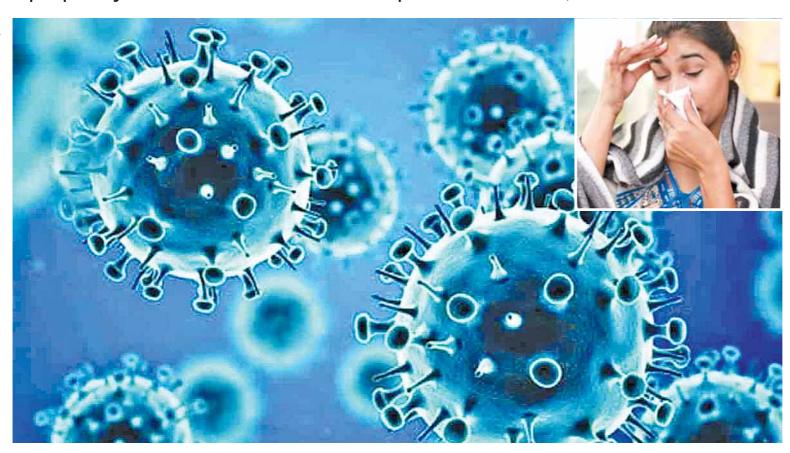
he health experts said that the first sign of influenza virus is usually a high fever, which begins about four to five days after exposure to the virus and lasts 10 to 15 days. A runny nose, a cough, red and watery eyes, and facial swelling can develop in the initial stage. They added that people at higher risk of developing complications include children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant people, and people with certain long-term health conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neuro-developmental problems.

Dr Jugal Kishore Director Professor and Head of Department of Community at Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi said that precaution is a key word. It is crucial to avoid crowded places, travel only if necessary, practice good hand and respiratory hygiene, and seek medical advice if symptoms persist for more than two days.

"There is a surge of H3N2 cases in the region now, but the severity of such cases is less.

What is the H3N2 virus? According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses. There are 4 types of seasonal influenza viruses, types A, B, C and D. Influenza A and B viruses circulate and cause seasonal epidemics of disease. Influenza A viruses are further classified into subtypes according to the combinations of the hemagglutinin (HA) and the neuraminidase (NA), the proteins on the surface of the virus.

How Does The Virus Transmit? H3N2 Influenza virus transmitted mainly through infected droplets created when infected pigs



Some people with co-morbidities are getting hospitalised as they are in the high-risk zone. People need to wear masks and take precaution," Dr Rajiva Gupta, a consultant at the internal medicine department of CK Birla Hospital said. The World Health Organi-

sation, too, recommends that the most effective way to prevent infection with any virus is to get vaccinated and follow prevention measures: "Maintaining at least a 1-metre distance from others, wearing a well-fitted mask when keeping your distance is not possible, avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated places and settings, opening windows and doors to keep rooms well ventilated and cleaning your hands frequently." It also advises that people should follow the advice "of your local authorities on getting influenza and Covid-19 vaccines".

Dr. Raman Kumar, physician from Noida said that H3N2 influenza is a respiratory virus which transmits in the same fashion as the Covid virus. The precautions are also the same and should be deligently fol-

cystic fibrosis)/Endocrine disorders (such as ly to fall till. arhar daal, etc.

## WHAT/HOW/CAUSES/SYMPTOMS/MANAGEMENT OF H3N2

cough or sneeze. If these droplets land in your nose or mouth, or you inhale them, you can be infected. After this when an infected person sneezes or coughs, the respiratory droplets can travel in the air and reach the nose, and mouth of another individual, making him/her catch the virus and fall sick.

Common Symptoms of H3N2 virus: Cough and runny nose/ Body aches/Coughing/Fever/ Vomiting/Nausea/Diarrhea and Chills among

Tips for Patients infected with H3N2: In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

symptomatic cases, patients should wash hands with soap and water, wear masks and avoid crowded places, cover mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing, avoid touching eyes and nose, take plenty of fluids and take paracetamol for fever and

Who is More at Risk? Following is a list of all the health and age factors that are known to increase a person's risk of getting serious flu complications, according to US body

occurs more commonly in

■ Although all children younger than 5 years old are considered at higher risk of serious flu complications, the highest risk is for

est hospitalization and death rates among infants younger than 6 months old. Adults 65 years and older/Asthma/ Neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions/ Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)/Chronic lung disease (such as chronic

obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and

those younger than 2 years old, with the high-

diabetes mellitus)/Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)/Kidney diseases/Liver disorders/Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)/Obese people with a body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher/ People younger than 19 years old on long-term aspirin- or salicylate-containing medications/ People with a weakened immune system/ People who have had a stroke/ Pregnant women and those up to 2 weeks after the end of pregnancy/ People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

**GURU NANAK EYE CENTRE** CELEBRATES FOUNDAT-ION DAY: Delhi-based Guru Nanak Eye Centre celebrated its 37th Foundation Day on .... On the occasion, it released a souvenir, "The glorious history and journey of Guru Nanak Eye Centre," compiled by the staff of GNEC team. It was released by Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh, Dir. Gen. Medical Services (Army), Prof Poonam Narang (Dir. Prof. Radiology, Dean.

Dr.Kirti Singh, Director of the hospital said, the surgical expertise and clinical acumen of the doctors meets the best among their peers, a fact that is reflected in the annual footfall of 3-4 lakh patients requiring eye

#### AIIMS, DELHI MOOTS 5G ROUTE: AIIMS, Delhi is embarking on an installation of

a smart fifth-generation cellular network in its premises by June 30, capitalizing on 5G's fast speeds to enhance access to care and improve efficiency. A five-member panel head

ed by Prof Vivek Tandon, Department of Neurosurgery has been set up to expedite the process. An office memorandum issued by AIIMS director M Srinivas stated, "To enable maximum utilisation of modern communication technology for patient care, teaching, research, good governance, and for optimal deployment of integrated medical university information system (IMUIS), it is desirable that the entire campus has good strength of 5G mobile network to enable a robust mobile and data connectivity inside the buildings.

He also said that strong 5G connectivity will help the institute stay in touch with its main and outreach campuses like NCI Jhajjar, which will enable senior faculty members to provide their expert advice during off-duty hours.

The other members of committee include Dr Vivek Gupta (computer facility) and superintending engineer Jitendra Saxena. Dr Vikas from telecommunications will be member secretary of the committee and Sunita Cherodath, senior deputy director general, department of telecommunications, will be a special invitee.



BHUMI UNDP'S SDGS AMBASSADOR: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced Bollywood actor Bhumi Pednekar as their first national advocate for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently.

As a national advocate, Bhumi will support UNDP India's efforts to raise awareness and mobilize support for the SDGs, a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by

Taking on the new role, Bhumi said, "I believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure we leave behind a better world for future generations. The SDGs provide a roadmap for building a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all..

Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India said that Bhumi's talent and dedication to gender equality and sustainability make her an ideal advocate for the SDGs.

## Cancer Prevention Strategies for Women



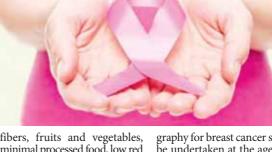
Senior Consultant, Radiation Oncology, Paras Hospital, Gurgaon

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), cancer is the second most common cause of death globally with cases increasing every year in India as in the world.

Looking at cancers occurring in females, globally breast cancer tops the list followed by colorectal and lung cancers whereas in India, breast cancer is the leading and cervical cancer is the second most common cancer followed by ovary, head neck and colorectal cancers.

When it comes to cancer prevention, it is important to understand the risk factors for these diseases. Breast cancer urban population then rural, pointing towards the westernization and changes in lifestyle that is contributory. Also the reproductive habits have changed over decades, amongst women in India. The older a woman is when she has her first full-term breast cancer, no/fewer children, no breastfeeding. Poor genital hygiene, multiple births, multiple sexual partners are causative for cervical cancers. Consumption of saturated fats, processed foods, red meat, sedentary lifestyle being risk factors for breast and colorectal, as well as ovarian cancers to some extent. Smoking, tobacco chewing, alcohol are leading cause for head, neck and lung cancers. Family history is another important factor in breast, colorectal and ovarian cancers in few cases.

Amongst risk reduction/ cancer prevention strategies that need to be followed, the first and foremost is leading a healthy lifestyle which means, no addictions, healthy diet with adequate



fibers, fruits and vegetables, minimal processed food, low red meat, avoiding constipation. Also moderate amount of exercise in our daily routine for around 30 minutes is recommended to maintain a healthy weight and keep many diseases away, not just cancer. Healthy reproductive habits and good genital hygiene, having children timely, limiting the number of births, avoiding high risk sexual behavior is equally important.

Following a routine of get-ting yourself tested regularly, termed as screening for breast and cervical cancers should be done by all females. Mammo-

graphy for breast cancer should e undertaken at the age of 45 years, thereafter done once in two years, till the age of 74 years as per USPSTF. Also PAP Smear for cervical cancer should be done for all sexually active females once in 3 years till the age of 65 years. These are simple tests which can detect very early lesions, sometimes even before they become cancerous. Screening for colorectal cancers using a test called colonoscopy is recommended for all those touching 45 to 50 years, done once in 5 to 10 years till the age of 75 years. In case of a positive

family history, these tests should

start 10 years earlier than the

Another very effective preventive tool available for cervical cancers is HPV vaccine for all girls, starting at the age of 9 years and given as two doses till the age of 15 years, or three doses till the age of 26 years. We need to educate our daughters to breast self-examination once a month to understand what is normal for their body and to consult a doctor in case they notice or feel any abnormality. Breast self-examination should to be done by all females on a regularly basis once a month after their periods starts.

Head neck cancers would most of the times present with a non-healing ulcer, pain or difficulty in swallowing. These complaints should be addressed by an expert at the earliest. With increasing pollution and smoking in females, lung cancer in females is also on increase.

To summarise, cancer in women is largely preventable by following a healthy lifestyle, regular screening tests, timely vaccination and self-examination.



CMO (Ayurveda), MCD

As per Ayurveda, a state of equilibrium of Vata, Kafa and Pitta in the body denotes health. When any of the three increases or decreases, we may fall ill. Kafa is deposited all over the body during the winter season. The warmth of spring melts the kafa which is the cause of diseases like cough, cold, asthma and other ailments of the respiratory tract. That's why the level of immunity is lowered during change of season and people, especially the children & the elders fall ill easily. People, whose lungs have become weak due to corona infection, are more prone to catch the viral infection. Such types of patients are also facing problems like breathlessness and low levels of oxygen. Since it is a droplet infection, it spreads very fast. If a kid suffering from H3N2 infection attends school, he may spread the infection to a large number of students. Similarly if one member of a family gets infected, the whole family is like-

How to avert the infection: Keeping a vigil on feeding and living habits will definitely avert the infection. Observing covid appropriate behaviour is necessary which includes wearing of masks, regular cleaning of hands, avoid hands shake, etc. Cold drinks, ice creams and refrigerated items must be avoided. Do not consume items of cool temperament like rice, kadhi, curd, cauliflower peanuts,

Never use cold water just after consuming fried foods. In case of viral infection, alum or saline gargles in warm water will help to reduce inflammation of the throat and the respiratory tract. Tulsi, Ginger, clove, pippali, cinnamon bark and kali mirch boiled in water, milk or tea will also give relief. Hot soups of tomato and other seasonal vegetables will increase immunity on one hand and reduce inflammation as well as itching on the other hand. Fruits like Amla, Giloy, Anjir, resins, grapes and and strength to the body.

Ayurvedic treatment: Ayurvedic drugs are capable of treating the infection within three to five days. Medicines like Sitopaladi churan, Talishadi churan, Laxmivilas Ras, Kafketu Ras, Sanjeevani Vati, Sudarshan ghan vati, Trilokyachintamani ras, Sameerpannag ras are quite effective to treat the infection. Chyavanprash, Vasa Avleha, Agastya Haritki provide relief in cough and cold within a few

If chewed, Aladi Vati, Lavangadi vati and Vyoshadi vati provide instant relief in cough. Ayurvedic cough syrups containing Tulsi, vasa, jufa, pippali, mulethi, somlata, kantkari are quite effective and safe even in children and elders.

## Down Syndrome: Untapped Sky-high Potential



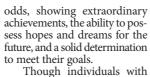
ALOK KUMAR 'BHUWAN'

own Syndrome (DS) is a condition in which extra

Individuals with Down syndrome demonstrate more similarities than differences compared to other typically develop-

genetic material causes delays in the mental and physical development of a child. One of the most common genetic disorders, the condition is characterised by the presence of an extra 21st chromosome. It is not a disease and there is no way to prevent it. In India, around 32,000 cases are observed.

Demystifying the myths that such children have a bleak future, each day, many new kids on the block are beating the



Down syndrome experience learning difficulties that give rise to developmental delays, not all areas are impacted with an equivalent effect.

Here, I would like to talk about Nagpur's Devanshi Joshi a recipient of 'Role Model' award which was conferred on her by the then President Ram Nath





Kovind in 2021. She has been breaking many stereotypes and misconceptions around intellectual disability through her pathbreaking achievements.

Ditto is the case with 24year-old **Adya Verma.** An advocate by profession, Adya is with our organization, aiding in the creation of Easy Road Documents as well as taking part in numerous lectures and workshops to communicate her

Similarly, Rashmi Rekha **Sahu** with Down Syndrome is charting her own path under the guidance of her parents, both

school teachers. An Odissi dancer, she leaves everybody in awe with her excellent dance expressions and movements. Recently, she successfully accomplished Sangeet Visharad Pratham Khand (IV year) organized by well-known organiza-

tion, Pracheen Kala. These are just among a few examples even for many of us who are pursuing with relentless passion to accomplish their

otential as well as passion. On our part, on World Down Syndrome Day 2023 our organization in collaboration with SNAC & CBSM, organiz-

ing a programme where over 500 participants comprising those diagnosed with disabilities will attempt to exhibit their tal-Such events are an attempt

made at creating awareness related to communication skills, primary sign language and easyread training for intellectual



and developmental disabilities guidance on career options after school along with education and skill training opportunities, plus ensuring good oral hygiene and healthcare among others all coming together to promote inclusive living within our soci-

Therefore, let us set sails towards reaching success by enabling each child with Down syndrome to gain access to schooling and college environments which come equipped with platforms that allow for auditory/visual modifications, accommodating physical exercises (occupational/speech therapies). Efforts should be made on giving them the extra time required for classwork -all so that we can better comprehend each individual affected by this condition including his/her abilities & special needs.

After all, it is our responsibility as a society to provide opportunities and nurture diversity at every step going forward.

(The writer is Managing Secretary of Manovikas Charitable Society, Delhi)

# **Emigrants' road to US paved with thorns**

 $E_{\text{America, particularly from Venezuela}}^{\text{migrants}} \text{ from South Venezuela}$ America, who want to cross over to America are falling into the infamous and dangerous jungle track of Darien Gap while travelling to their destined nation. Besides, emigrants from Asia and Africa too try to travel through the Darien Gap to reach the US.

Undoubtedly, the number of emigrants has reached an alarming level in the Darien Gap. The international human rights organisations, aid agencies and the US Government are working hard to address the concerns of the stranded migrants. However the human rights activists are raising their voices against the apathy displayed by the American agencies in settling down the immigrants. Also many are pointing fingers at the Mexican Government for the way it is handling the migrants at the most infamous Siglo XXI Migration Detention Centre, which means 21st century in Spanish. It is located in the southern border city of Tapachula in Mexico.

#### What is Darien Gap?

It is a 66-mile mountainous stretch between Colombia and Panama. It is highly inhospitable. Generally, the journey through this road takes at least a week with all possible health hazards and life threats. Earlier migrants were flying to Mexico before entering into the US. But now a new visa requirement in Mexico and other Central American countries have forced them to take the Darien

#### Why is it so dangerous to take Darien Gap?

First of all, it is a long mountainous tract. Therefore, for many, it becomes really difficult to survive while journeying. The emigrants die in the Darien Gap and their remains are neither recovered nor reported by anyone.

Hence, the news of only a few who die in the track is coming to light. Second, this



Emigrants cross a stream in Darien Gap to reach the US

jungle track is full of venomous snakes, toads, lizards, frogs, other fearsome animals and insects. Third, because of extreme humidity and rain, many of the migrants can't survive the journey.

Fourth, there is a huge flourishing market for human traffickers in the gap.

Fifth, rape and other violence are rampant in this jun-

Last two years have witnessed a record number of people crossing the dangerous Darien Gap. As per the record the International Organization of Migration (IOM), the number of people who crossed the tract doubled in a year in 2022. Sources from the Panama Government say nearly 2,50,000 people

entered the country from South

America compared to just

1,33,000 in the year 2021.

number of The Venezuelans who crossed this Gap increased over 50 times in 2021 and reached up to 1,55,327 in 2022. It is followed

by other countries such as Ecuador, Haiti and Cuba.

In a seminal report brought out by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2021, it was found that economic concerns force people from Central America to the US. Some of the top countries from where the maximum number of emigrants crosses over to America are El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The report "Charting a New Regional Course of Action: The Complex Motivations and Costs of Central America Migration" clearly says 89 per cent of the people consider the US as the first choice of migration. It is found that about 55 per cent of the emigrants took the help of illegal routes and they spent nearly \$7,500 per attempt to emigrate. Once they immigrated to their dream land,

earning in the form of foreign remittances. Astonishingly, these one of the major reasons that

their home countries also start

Northern Triangle countries force people to immigrate mainly because of economic precariousness, crime, violence and finally, corruption propelled by government agencies. Again the two years of Covid-19 pandemic has led to the sharp rise of migration from these nations to the US.

In comparison to 8 per cent in 2019, almost 43 per cent of the people considered emi-

grating in 2021. Further food insecurity is

compels people to leave their Central American homes. The World Food Programme (WFP) launched by the UN in the year 1961 to alleviate poverty finds that almost 6.4 million people suffered from food insecurity in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala in 2021, up from 2.2 million in 2019. This rightly underlines that more and more people are considering migration as the only option to find a better life.

It has been reported that messages and social media outlets like Facebook, WhatsApp, etc, have become the main sources for the emigrants when they plan their "Hope Trip" towards the north i.e. the US. Many of them also upload videos in TikTok to inspire fellow emigrants and also to warn them about the possible risks en route to the

Ironically, these voyages are difficult for both the emigrants and the refugees as the bordering nations have tightened their controls on the check posts. And this has forced them to take the help of informal and dangerous routes through criminal agents by paying huge sums of money. Emigrants risk death on their long and arduous journey to the blessed land of the US.

Today, the Darien Gap is popularly known as the deadly extension of the US border. The US Government is putting all its efforts to fortify it so as to stop the migrants from crossing into its mainland. But now the question is where these poor and helpless people will go? They see no future in their lands. Only hope for them lies in reaching the US.

It is time to address the vulnerabilities in the Darien Gap. The governments concerned and human rights groups need to encourage emigrants and the refugees to take the formal route to save the precious human lives.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University,

**Emigrants risk** death on their long and arduous journey via **Darien Gap to** the blessed land of the US. Further, the US **Government** is pulling out all the stops to block the route so as to stop the emigrants from crossing into its territory. The moot point is where these helpless people will go? They see no future in their native lands



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE •

# Iraqis see signs of hope 20 years after US invasion

Half of today's population in Iraq are not old enough to remember life under Saddam Hussein. In interviews from Baghdad to Fallujah, young Iraqis deplored the chaos that followed Saddam's ouster, but many were hopeful about nascent freedoms and opportunities, writes John Daniszewski

Along the Tigris River, young Iraqi men and women in jeans and sneakers danced with joyous abandon on a recent evening to a local rapper as the sun set behind them. It's a world away from the terror that followed the US invasion 20 years ago.

President George W Bush called the US-led invasion launched March 20, 2003, a mission to free the Iraqi people. It threw out a dictator whose rule kept 20 million people in fear for a quartercentury. But it also broke a unified state in the heart of the Arab world. About 300,000 Iraqis were killed between 2003 and 2023, along with more than 8,000 US military, contractors and civilians.

Half of today's population are not old enough to remember life under Saddam Hussein. In interviews from Baghdad to Fallujah, young Iraqis deplored the chaos that followed Saddam's ouster, but many were hopeful about nascent freedoms and opportunities.

In a chandeliered reception room, President Abdul Latif Rashid, who assumed office in October, spoke glowingly of Iraq's prospects. Perception of Iraq as a war-torn country is frozen in time, he told The Associated Press: "Iraq is rich; peace has returned."

If young people are "a little bit patient, I think life will

improve drastically in Iraq." Most Iraqis aren't nearly as

bullish. Conversations start with bitterness about how the US left Iraq in tatters. But speaking to younger Iraqis, one senses a generation ready to turn a page.

Safaa Rashid, 26, is a writer who talks politics with friends at a coffee shop in Baghdad's Karada district. After the invasion, Iraq lay broken, violence reigning, he said. Today is different; he and like-minded peers freely talk about solutions. "I think the young people will try to fix this situation."

Noor Alhuda Saad, 26, a PhD candidate and political activist, says her generation has been leading protests decrying corruption, demanding services and seeking inclusive elections — and they won't stop until they've built a better Iraq.

Blast walls have given way to billboards, restaurants, cafes, shopping centres. With 7 million inhabitants, Baghdad is the Middle East's second-largest city; streets teem with com-

In northern and western Iraq, there are occasional clashes with remnants of the Islamic State group. It is but one of Iraq's lingering problems. Another is corruption; a 2022 audit found a network of former officials and businessmen stole \$2.5 billion.

In 2019-20, young people protested against corruption and lack of services. After 600 were killed by government forces and militias, parliament



Youths gather along the Tigris River for a concert by rap artist OG Khalifa in Baghdad on February 25, 2023. One of the songs he performs mocks 'sheikhs', those who wield power in the new Iraq through wealth or political connections

agreed to election changes to allow more groups to share

the Anbar region — once a hotbed of activity for al-Qaida of Iraq and, later, the Islamic

ment parks, a promenade. But officials were wary of letting Western reporters wander

apartments, hospitals, amuse- unescorted, a sign of lingering uncertainty.

"We lost a lot — whole families," said Dr Huthifa Alissawi, a mosque leader

recalling the war years. These days, he enjoys the security, "If it stays like now, it is perfect." Sadr City, a working-class suburb in eastern Baghdad, is home to more than 1.5 million people. On a pollution-choked avenue, two friends have side-by-side shops. Haider al-Saady, 28, fixes tires. Ali al-Mummadwi, 22, sells

lumber. They scoff when told of the Iraqi president's promises that life will be better.

"It is all talk," al-Saady said. His companion agrees: "Saddam was a dictator, but the people were living better, peacefully."

Khalifa OG raps about difficulties of life and satirizes authority, but isn't blatantly political.

A song he performed next to the Tigris mocks "sheikhs" wielding power in the new Iraq through wealth or connec-

Abdullah Rubaie, 24, could barely contain his excitement. "Peace for sure makes it easier" for parties like this, he said. His stepbrother Ahmed Rubaie, 30, agreed.

"We had a lot of pain ... it had to stop," Ahmed Rubaie said. These young people say sectarian hatred is a thing of the past. They're unafraid to make their voices heard.

Mohammed Khaman, 18, toils in his family's café in a poor Baghdad neighborhood. He resents the militias' hold on power as an obstacle to his sports career. Khaman's a footballer, but says he can't play in Baghdad's amateur clubs — he has no "in" with militia-related gangs.

"If only I could get to London, I would have a different life."

The new Iraq offers more promise for educated young Iraqis like Muammel Sharba, 38. A lecturer at Middle Technical University in once violence-torn Baquba, Sharba left Iraq for Hungary to earn a PhD on an Iraqi scholarship. He returned last year, planning to fulfil obligations to his university and then move back to Hungary. Sharba became an biker in

Hungary but never imagined he could pursue his passion at home. Now, he's found a cycling community. He notices better technology and less bureaucracy, too.

So he plans to remain. "I don't think European countries were always as they are now," he said. "I believe that we need to go through these steps, too."

(The author is AP's vice president for standards and editor at large. Jerome Delay is chief photographer in Johannesburg, South Africa. AP reporter Qassim Abdul-Zahra and Abby Sewell, AP's Syria, Lebanon and Iraq news director, contributed from Baghdad)







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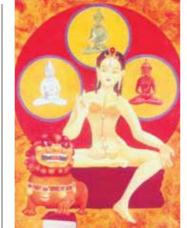




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

This is a terrific week for you on many levels. You will come across fresh experiences and welcome hosts who will embrace you and invite you into their world. Everything is coming together, and you can feel at peace with the situation. On the professional front, an improved position, promotion, or designation is on the table. You are quite sound and grounded this week, so you are likely to make crucial professional or relationship decisions. You are dedicated and focused. This week is likely to be challenging. Your wealth of energy and self-confidence will propel you forward. On the personal front, you have a considerable amount of energy. You have a clear understanding of a problem and may now defend your position to win.

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, your wisdom can help you solve a lot of challenges. You might be able to take control of your life with your experience and maturity. Instead of being innovative, you will need to adapt to the pre-existing set of beliefs and institutions. Any fresh theory does not fit you this week. You must adopt the conventional method. In terms of your career, you may be your own enemy. What you say is not as important as how you say it. At your workplace, there may be some inequality. Be certain that your behaviour is flawless. Strive to reduce your unnecessary spending. If you are already in a committed relationship, trust is important. If you're suspicious about your spouse, make a point to talk about it even if it's uncomfortable.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Camel brown Lucky day Sunday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will need to make some efforts to improve your health. More exercise under professional or nutritional direction is required. Take charge. This might be an extremely creative period for you. Loving yourself and your childlike enthusiasm will contribute to the enrichment of your life. This week's working atmosphere will be welcoming and consistent, increasing your efficiency. You will love working in a group and produce fruitful outcomes. You will be able to get your superior's support. Real love, a healthy partnership, dedication, and everything that is good are all around you. Since the foundation of your love is so strong, you may expect a real and long-term

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Turquise Lucky day Friday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week's health is going to be fine. This is the period when you are physically, psychologically, and emotionally at your best. Health, vigor, and inner liveliness energize and inspire you. Some creative thoughts will occupy and shine brightly in your imagination. Ladies who follow the family path will feel healthier and fed. Make sure you give yourself enough time to unwind. There may come a time in your life when you feel compelled to make changes in your profession. If you are dissatisfied with your job, you should consider changing jobs. Some of you may choose business over a career. Do not neglect your personal life. Your loved ones mean to you. Take some time out, let the heart speak louder than the mind.

Lucky number 30 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are receiving the benefits of your past. You will be focused on the truth that life is a circle and that what goes around always, will come around. Remember that giving, whether with your time, energy, or money, is also an investment in your future. Professionally, you may be motivated to embark on a new project. You've reached a point in time when you are content with who you are and how you feel. Allowing your imagination to flow opens up new possibilities for you. In terms of relationships, if you fall in love and intend to make him or her your life partner, get your parents' consent first. You will maintain contact with your elderly at home and receive their blessings

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

General health remains good. You are energized and enthusiastic. The efforts put into a health routine some time ago are finally beginning to yield results. New things, such as improved nourishment, new techniques, and fresh ideas, are required. Individuals who have recovered from a major illness must complete the required steps. On the professional front, if you are participating in any kind of competition, you should keep an eye out for any signs of cheating. The bottom line is to cover your back, make sure you're doing things correctly. You are not a very outspoken partner. Saying nice words to someone you care about allows you to express yourself. Your introversion and individuality do not help you get closer to someone you care about

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Sky Blue **Lucky day** Friday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

You are mentally active this week. Your inner thoughts may appear to be working overtime. Your desire to make things happen is reignited. Your analytical and thinking abilities are exceptional, and you do not listen to others. You believe that what you say or do is correct. Do not point out flaws in others. On the professional front, some good news is on the way. An unexpected opportunity may surprise you. Your calm demeanor will help you navigate through challenging situations. This week may bring deception and disputes in love affairs. You risk jeopardising things you desire, such as close, deeper relationships with your friends and lover. At this point, a lack of communication and understanding might be harmful.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are a calm and keen observer this week. A good attitude will alter your perspective on life. Spirituality things will be going well, and you will be feeling optimistic. You may have to decide whether to invest your energy in things, people, and situations in which you are already involved. On the professional front, you want your time and space, as well as some solitude. The agony of losing your career has overwhelmed you, as have financial and health concerns. You find most of the answers in your isolation. That is also not the time to make important decisions. The card shows the beginning of love, happiness, and compassion. The beginning of a new connection, whether friendship or romance, will put a smile on your face.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pinl Lucky day Monday



## **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week will bring you joy, excellent health, and worldly pleasures. You have a positive attitude and will carefully assess and examine what people ask you now. Yoga, meditation, cosmic healing, and discovering new hobbies are all on the agenda. Professionally, there is a rift between the two options. You must pick between job and leisure. This is a good moment to review your priorities and responsibilities. You must make judgments to improve working conditions and outputs. Stay away from anxiety and stress. Negative factors should not affect you. On the personal front, examine yourself carefully to see whether you are being realistic about love. Do not waste time dwelling in self-pity or wishing your life away.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Saturday



n tradition bound Indian society,

parents begin to lose their nerves, when their child's marriage gets

unduly delayed. Keen to expedite their

marriage, they run to pundits for reme-

dial measures. The charlatans keep wait-

ing to cash in such opportunities. They

driven pujas directed towards appease-

ment of divine forces. What people are

not aware that planetary and stellar

one's inherent nature, which set the

terms of interpersonal relationship

reflections in a chart are indicative of

skills, vital to a happy union. Also, they

speak of a programme layout for one's

evolution by offering time and space

necessary to overcome one's limiting

tendencies by going through learning

matured enough to handle relationship

Accordingly, the horoscopes indicate

time frame suitable for one's marriage.

That evidently varies from person-to-

person, depending on how much one

needs to work upon his/her fault lines.

gramme layout of a person, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past,

be changed by belief driven pujas medi-

ated by pundits? Also, given the fact

The question now is: "Can the pro-

lessons of life. One then becomes

issues with ease and comfort.

make them bleed in money for belief

## **CANCER** June 21-July 22

You are feeling trapped or confined in your life this week. Health problems are out of control. On the health front, there might be one issue after another. You must examine why you are feeling this way and attempt to free yourself from these restrictions. You require an emotional release from whatever is keeping you stuck. Professionally, you are in a good mood and want to have a good time. You spend some time pampering yourself to feel and look beautiful. Earnings will be satisfactory. This is an excellent time for home décor and home renovation. Messages of love and affection are likely to come your way. If you are single, you may meet a new suitor with whom you share many interests.

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Red Laucky day Wednesday



## SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Avoiding reality does not fit your personality. If you have a medical concern, see a doctor outside your vicinity. A change of scenery will revitalize your health. Do not worry about little matters; it will actually harm your health. On the professional front, you are prepared to face any unfinished business in your life. You are firm and determined. You've gone through your prior experiences and learnt from them. Your life's jigsaw pieces are finally coming together to create a whole. On the personal level, it is preferable to listen to your mind rather than your heart. Your desire to make things happen is reignited. At home, your dominant demeanor may anger others, and you may be left alone. Listen more and speak less.

Marry when naturally due

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Camel Brown Lucky day Friday



## PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are thinking about self-improvement this week. To avoid stress, engage in some creative activity and keep oneself active. Don't be afraid to discuss your feelings with trusted people or to seek their assistance. Professionally, this is an excellent time to begin long-term planning. What do you want to achieve in the next five years? How are you going to make it happen? Concentrate on your abilities and potential. You have high aspirations for life and like the surprises it frequently provides. Your previous investments are likely to return to you with interest. An existing relationship may suffer because of a misunderstanding. Think calmly and carefully about your relationship limitations.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday

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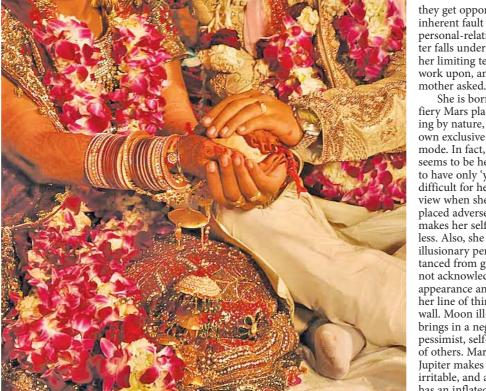


## **ASTRO**TURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

that one's personality trends have mind genesis, can the pundits invade a person's mind space to correct inherent thought process?" It is simply difficult to digest.

The other day, a worried mother of a girl child in late thirties and yet not married came with her daughter asking: "What is in store of my daughter's destiny? Why is her marriage getting unduly delayed? My relatives keep making uncomfortable remarks. Please guide

Well, your focus should be a stable and happy married life for your daughter, no matter how much it gets delayed. You don't need to prove yourself to anybody and everybody. True, by usual standards her marriage has got delayed. But that is purposeful. It needs to be appreciated that marriage is a union of two individuals, both born unique, each reflecting varying mind traits. Yet, the two are to live for each other more in a 'giving' than 'demanding' mode, overriding their individual limitations, as they have a shared destiny. It doesn't happen in case of those still stuck to their habit tendencies and illusionary perceptions. Their individualistic egos drive them crazy. Such characters are to have a delayed marriage. In the process,



#### they get opportunity to overcome their inherent fault lines and develop interpersonal-relationship skill. Your daughter falls under this category. "What are her limiting tendencies that she needs to

work upon, and what is its basis?" The

She is born in Gemini lagna with fiery Mars placed there. She is dominating by nature, who wishes to live on her own exclusive terms in a demanding mode. In fact, 'my way or high way seems to be her nature. She would like to have only 'yes persons' around. It is difficult for her to digest contrarian view when she would go wild. The Sun placed adverse to Uranus and Neptune makes her self-willed, erratic, and tactless. Also, she would be stuck to her illusionary perceptions and beliefs, distanced from ground realities. She may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance and would blindly pursue her line of thinking till pushed to the wall. Moon ill-disposed off to Saturn brings in a negative mindset, makes her pessimist, self-doubting, and overcritical of others. Mars adverse to Moon and Jupiter makes her aggressive, impulsive, irritable, and argumentative. Also, she has an inflated ego, which limits her

scope of vision to self-defined beliefs

and perceptions, not open to look beyond for a reality check. Mars placed adverse to Saturn makes her temperamental, bad tempered, impatient, and habitually suspicious. In the event of differences in opinion, she would carry the tendency of fight to finish to prove her point. Venus placed opposite Jupiter and also adverse to Uranus and Neptune, speaks of a volatile emotionality. She may get overexercised even on trivial issues, and stretch it beyond due, unnecessarily brooding and contemplating, when she may lose her sense of reasons and order.

She has enough of positives also. But the above tendencies would prove detrimental to marital happiness and stability. The girl in question said that she did carry the above tendencies, which she has been able to overcome during the last couple of years. So, you are now ready for marriage and in all probability it should come about next year, I observed. It will be still desirable to submit to meditation process as suggested to do away with your inherent tendencies from the root level.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

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