OPINION 6

THE HULLABALOO OVER

UK'S REFUGEE POLICY

WORLD 9

ANTI-GRAFT BODY SUMMONS

IMRAN'S WIFE

DEHRADUN, TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2

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BARCA BEAT **REAL MADRID** IN EL CLASICO

UK Govt, Indian diaspora slam Tricolour disrespect

British MP rapped for batting for Amritpal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ LONDON

A day after alleged Khalistani Supporters grabbed the Indian Tricolour atop the Indian High Commission, the United Kingdom Government on Monday termed the acts of vandalism as "disgraceful" and "completely unacceptable." Britain said it will take the security of the Indian High Commission in London "seriously." One person was arrested later in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, officials from the Indian mission in London said the "attempted but failed" attack was foiled and the Tricolour was now flying "grander," with a larger tricolour now adorning the India House façade.

As regards the incident of vandalism, Scotland Yard said it was called to reports of disorder on Sunday afternoon and that a man has been arrested as its enquiries continue.

"There was no report of any injury, however windows were broken at the High Commission building," the Metropolitan Police statement

British Labour MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi's tweet, expressing concern over the ongoing action to arrest Amritpal Singh and arrest of some alleged Khalistani elements, has received condemnation. Dhesi, an MP from Slough, tweeted, "Very worrying reports coming from internet blackout in the #Punjab state, with mass arrests and restrictions on gatherings. Praying that the tense situation is soon resolved and that human rights of all

<u>Capsule</u>

PRESENTATION OF DELHI **BUDGET PUT ON HOLD** New Delhi: The presentation of the Delhi Government's budget for 2023-24, scheduled for Tuesday, has been put on hold, with the Arvind Keiriwal dispensation and the Central Government trading charges over allocations in various heads. But the MHA denied the

ED GRILLS KAVITHA FOR 10 HRS; QUIZ TODAY ALSO New Delhi: BRS leader K

report

Kavitha was grilled by the **Enforcement Directorate for** more than 10 hours on Monday in a Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case and has been called again on March 21 officials said.



supporters at Indian High Commission in London, in New Delhi on Monday

are respected."

Taking exception to his message, Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi criticiod Dhesi for "nurturing

icised Dhesi for "nurturing

Khalistani sentiments" in the

United Kingdom and said his

tweet will not fetch him new

votes from Slough "which has a massive chunk of

Pakistan supporting popula-

Sharing the photograph in a Twitter post, the BJP's national spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said, "Jhanda Ooncha

Rahe Hamara-UK Govt must

act... Punjab and Punjabis

have a glorious track record of

serving/protecting the Nation.

Handful of jumping jacks sitting in the UK do not repre-

Tharoor termed the incident on Sunday at the Indian High

Commission "utterly shock-

The British condemna-tion came after India on

Sunday evening summoned the senior-most UK diplomat

in New Delhi to convey its

"strong protest" at the actions

British Deputy High

Commissioner Christina Scott

was summoned to the MEA in

view of the incident as High

Commissioner Alex Ellis was

taken by separatist and Indian High Commission in

ing" and a "major insult".

Congress leader Shashi

sent Punjab."

People from Sikh Community protest against vandalisation by Khalistani

Entrance blocked, Indian envoy in Canada cancels visit to event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA)

the pioneer

In an apparent fall out of the ongoing operation to nab Amritpal Singh in India, its envoy to Canada had to cancel an event in British Columbia due to security concerns as alleged Khalistani supporters blocked the entrance to the venue there.

Some of the protesters were also reportedly wielding

swords. In another incident, a 21-year-old Sikh student was assaulted in British Columbia.

The incident related to the Indian envoy took place late on Sunday in front of the Taj Convention. High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma was scheduled to attend a reception organised by the Friends of India and Canada Foundation in Surrey, British

Consulate hit in US; India protests, summons envoy

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/

An incident of vandalism by alleged Khalistani sup-porters targeting the Indian consulate in San Francisco has taken place. The perpetrators installed so-called Khalistan flag on the consulate premis-

This was the second such

incident involving the Indian embassies with the first one in London on Sunday evening when the Indian tri-colour was grabbed by the protestors. India on Monday sum-

monsed the US envoy to register protest against attacks on its consulate in San Francisco.

As regards the attack in the US, raising pro-Khalistan slogans, the protesters on Sunday

broke open the makeshift security barriers raised by the city police and installed two so-called Khalistani flags inside the consulate premises. Two consulate personnel soon removed these flags.

Soon thereafter, a group of angry protesters entered the consulate premises and started hitting the door and windows with the rods.

India, Japan to boost ties, free Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $I^{
m ndia}$ and Japan on Monday resolved to further deepen their strategic ties during talks here between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Fumio Kishida. The two leaders also said their ties are important for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific besides benefitting the two countries in diverse areas.

The two leaders also discussed the entire gamut of the ties covering trade and eco-nomics besides defence in the summit shortly after the Japanese Prime Minister arrived in the national Capital on Monday morning on a nearly 27-hour visit.

Kishida pledged \$75 billion plan to promote an open and free Indo-Pacific. The plan he announced is seen as Tokyo's bid to forge stronger ties with countries in South and Southeast Asia to counter China's growing assertiveness there. "We plan to expand the cooperation of the free and open Indo-Pacific framework," Kishida told the Indian Council of World Affairs.

The visit came amid the ongoing Ukraine conflict and its adverse impact on the global supply chains of energy and food. The visit also came in the backdrop of China's growing assertiveness in the strategically-crucial



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida at Buddha Jayanti Park in New Delhi on Monday

Indo-Pacific region.

In his media statement, Modi referred to India's presidency of the G20 and Japan chairing the G7 grouping, and said it is the best opportunity to work together on priorities of both sides for global good. Modi said he briefed Prime Minister Kishida extensively about priorities of the Indian presidency of G20.

The Prime Minister said the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on the democratic principles and respect for international rule of law and that it is important for the Indo-Pacific as well.

Modi said both sides also discussed the importance of reliable supply chains for semiconductors and other critical technologies.

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating,

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Individual Immediate Annuity Plan

Our WhatsApp No.

NSA slapped on Amritpal's

Curbs on Internet

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Monday flagged a possible stringent National Security Act ical preacher Amritpal Singh, whose uncle and driver surrendered amid a Statewide

The pro-Khalistan supout of Delhi, sources said. Ellis described the incident porter and radical preacher has "disgraceful" and "totally unacceptable".

and Pakistan's ISI to further his goal for a separate country for the Sikhs, officials said. While drug lords were allegedly helping the pro-Khalistan preacher financially, including gifting him a high-end Mercedes SUV, the ISI was helping him with

Meanwhile, the Punjab Government extended the suspension of mobile internet services, this time up to Tuesday noon. The Khalistan sympathiser's uncle Harjit Singh and driver Harpreet Singh gave themselves up before police past Sunday mid-

5 aides; uncle surrenders

services extended

against five men linked to radcrackdown against his "Waris Punjab De" group.

allegedly been maintaining close links with drug peddlers

logistics, they said.

Clear OROP arrears by Feb 28; no more sealed-cover note: SC

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to accept the sealed-cover note submitted by the Defence Ministry and fixed February 28, 2024, for disbursement of "One Rank, One Pension" (OROP) arrears. The Bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud ordered that the Centre is duty-bound to comply with its 2022 judgment on the payment sealed cover business being



of pension worth ₹28,000 2019-2022. "Sealed

covers in court are against transparency, we want to end it...Please share the sealed cover with the opposite side or take him to the chamber. We want to put an end to the

followed by the SC since High Courts also follow it," said the CJI when Attorney-General R Venkataramani submitted the details in a sealed cover.

"This is about implementing the orders. What can be the secrecy here? You must give a copy to the other side. Sealed covers are completely against settled judicial principles," said CJI when the A-G insisted on submitting it in a sealed cover.

Modi's push to make India energy atmanirbhar by 2047: US report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia, the world's fifth largest **⊥**economy, can achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047, a report by a top US research institute said, highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat push that spans from a massive renewable capacity addition to electric mobility, saving billions of dollars in imports.

Berkelev Lawrence National Laboratory, a US' federally funded research and development centre, along with



Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy published a report, "Pathways to Atmanirbhar Bharat", that highlights the steps taken by India towards the adoption of clean energy.

dependent on imports to meet its oil and coal needs. The price and supply volatility in global energy markets, as witnessed in recent years, strain India's foreign exchange reserves, resulting in economy-wide inflation. However, recent dramatic declines in clean energy costs provide India an opportunity to lower energy imports through investment in renewable energy, battery storage, EVs, and

green hydrogen, the report

Prime Minister Narendra

India is 80-85 per cent Modi has already set a target to install 500 GW (gigawatt) of renewable energy capacity by 2030. The government intends to grow EV sales in India to capture the markets of 30 per cent of private cars, 70 per cent of commercial vehicles and 80 per cent of two- and threewheelers by 2030. Also, it is targeting production of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by splitting water using electricity from renewable sources. Ábundant solar energy

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HC directs State to implement plastic waste management rules

Hearing on a public interest litigation seeking a ban on plastic waste in the State, the Uttarakhand High Court has directed the Panchayati Raj secretary to provide waste disposal facility in every Gram Panchayat and then submit a report in the court. The division bench of chief justice Vipin Sanghi and justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari also directed the State government to implement the plastic waste management rules according to which there is provision for penalty ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs two crore and present a report in the court. The government was also directed to submit a separate affidavit regarding encroachment by persons on land allocated for waste disposal works. The court further directed the authorities to probe five days in a month the cases wherein garbage is littered in places. Representa-tives of the Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board, police, Urban Development department and the district



ment secretary, Panchayati Raj

secretary, Forest and Environ-

ment secretary along with

Urban Development director

were also present in the court.

It was stated on their behalf

that orders of the court are

being implemented. The petitioner's counsel Dushyant

Mainyuli informed the court

that some people had en-croached upon the land allo-

The police have registered a

L case of abetment to sui-

cide in the Bageshwar mass

suicide case against those mentioned in the suicide note

allegedly written by 13-year-

old Anjali, one of the three

children found dead on March

16 along with their mother.

The police on Saturday found

a suicide note of six pages allegedly written by class VIII student Anjali before the

mother and three children

purportedly committed sui-

cide. The police matched her

handwriting with her writing

in her school notebook and

will soon confirm it through

the experts too. The superin-

tendent of the police of

Bageshwar, Himanshu Verma

told The Pioneer that the child

has written in the suicide note

about the humiliation and

mental harassment they all

Police register case of

abetment to suicide in

Bageshwar mass suicide case

volved in this. The HC also directed that fines should be imposed and collected from those guilty of littering and a report on the same should be presented in the court. The case will be taken up for hearing next on May 19.

During the hearing on Monday, the Urban Develop-

Further, there is no facility for waste disposal in the villages, he added.

As per the case details, Almora resident Jitendra Yadav had filed the PIL stating that the State government had prepared the plastic use and plastic waste disposal rules in 2013 but the same are not being followed. The Centre had introduced the plastic waste management rules in 2018 under which the responsibility of the producer, transporter and vendors had been fixed and they are supposed to take back as much used plastic as they sell.

They would provide fund to the local authority to dispose the plastic waste if they are unable to return the used plastic. However, these rules are being blatantly violated in Uttarakhand. There are heaps of plastic waste in the mountainous regions of the State and these are not being disposed of by the authorities, the peti-

were subjected to because of

the father Bhupal Ram who

had borrowed money from

several people and failed to

pay them back. He has also al-

legedly scammed many in the

name of providing them jobs.

His creditors allegedly used to

pressurise the mother and hu-

miliate the family. Besides

this, the family was also dis-

tressed financially and had no

ration or food at their home,

said the SP. "Anjali has men-

tioned names of some people

who allegedly harassed them

and pushed them to take the

extreme step of committing

suicide. We have registered a

case against them under sec-

tion 306 of the Indian Penal

Code," said Verma. He said

that the police are investigat-

ing the matter and will act ac-

cordingly if any new evidence comes to light in the case.

Chaitra Navratri to be celebrated as Nari Shakti Utsav in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

All districts across the State will celebrate Chaitra Navratri this year as Nari Shakti Utsav from March 22 to March 30. The culture department has issued Rs one lakh each to all district magistrates to organise proof worshipping goddess for the next nine days. The secretary of the department HC Semwal said on Monday that the State will celebrate the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri this year as Nari Shakti Utsav by worshipping nine forms of goddess Durga with rituals.

He said, "Chaitra Navratri has been given special

importance in the Veda and Purana. It has been considered the basis of self-purification and liberation. Worshipping goddess Durga in Chaitra Navratri removes negative energy and positive energy circulates all around." Considering such wide-spread religious importance of Chaitra Navratri, religious and cultural programmes will be organised in all major goddess tem-ples and Shaktipeeths across the State, said Semwal.

He said that the State government will conduct a special campaign to organise such programmes for nine days in Navratri

NABARD holds RAC meeting on

development of millet value chain

which are symbols of the strength and power of mother power in all the major Devi temples or Shákti Peeths of all the districts in the State. Each district administration will organise religious programmes like Ramcharitmanas, Devi Gayan and Devi Jagran among others and will ensure women and girls especially participate in these events. Semwal added that DMs have been directed to form a committee at the district or block level to decide in which temple the administration should organise the religious programme for the next nine days.

In my Service record my daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as ANUSHKA whereas my daughter's correct name is Anushka Rawat and DOB 29.01.2005 as mentioned in other documents. No 15767667M-HAV RAJIV SINGH RAWAT, Selaqui, Vikasnagar, Dehradun vide Affidavit 20.03.2023 before Dehradun

HDFC Bank Dehradun.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from PURNA CHAND KESTWAL (old name) to POORAN CHAND KESHTWÁL (new name). In future I should be known and recognised as Pooran Chand Keshtwal, s/o Purushottam Dutt Keshtwal, address: Ward No-9, Indira Udyan Marg, Vikasnagar, District-Dehradun, Uttarakhand

THE PIONEER

I have changed my name from

SHAHNAZ BANO to SEHNAZ BANO. In future I shall be known

as SEHNAZ BANO W/o Razaulla

Khan. Address H.No 52 Shimla

Enclave Shimla Bypass Near

सर्वजानिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं शशि भूषण शाह पुत्र श्री श्याम लाल शाह निवासी कलमा कुंज, काली मन्दिर एन्क्लेव बद्रीपुर, देहरादून की सम्पत्ति खसरा नं0 125 छ मि, पुराना खसरा नं० 245/1, मयूर विहार प्लाट नं0 103, रकबा 297 वर्ग मी० कंडोली परगना पछवादून, तहसील एवं जिला देहरादून में मेरे एवं मेरी पत्नी श्रीमती रेनू शाह के नाम रे उप–निबन्धक देहरादून तृतीय के कार्यालय बही सं0 1 जिल्द 4523 के पृष्ट सं0 1 से 28 पर क्रमांक 7335 पर दिनांक 16.08.2021 विधिवत रूप से दर्ज एवं अंकित है। उक्त सम्पत्ति को हमारे द्वारा श्री अजय कुमार सिन्ह पुत्र श्री बजरंगबली सिन्हा, निवासी 144/प वेगई स्टर्लिंग रोड, नुनगमबक्कम, चेन्नई र क्रय किया गया हैं, जो कि कार्यालय उपनिबन्धक तृतीय के बही सं0 1 वोल्यूम नं0 4 के पेज नं0 364, ए0डी०एफ० बुक नं० 1 वोल्यूम 396 के पेज नं0 57 से 80, क्रमांक नं0 4624 दिनांक 24.08.1993 पर विधिवत रूप से दर्ज है एवं अंकित है, जिसका मूल विक्रय पः दिनांक 24.08.1993 को विक्रेता द्वारा पूर्व में ही कही खो दिया गया है एवं इस बात की पुष्टि की गई कि उक्त सम्पत्ति किसी भी बैंक अथवा वित्तीय संस्थान में बंधक नहीं है तथा किसी भी व्यक्ति द्वारा उक्त विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 24.08.1993 का किसी भी प्रकार से उपयोग अवैध होगा उक्त विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 24.08.1993 के खोरे जाने के सम्बन्ध में मेरे द्वारा भी थाना नेहरू कॉलोनी, देहरादून में दिनांक 29.09.2022 के सूचना दर्ज की गई है। हमारे द्वारा उक्त क्रय की गई भिम में भवन निर्माण का कार्य प्रारम करवाना है, जिस हेतु हम एस०बी०आई०, देहरादून की एन0आर0आई0 शाखा, जिसक कोड 10646 है, में उक्त क्रय की गई सम्पत्ति का मुल विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 16.08.2021 क बंधक / गिरवी रखकर गृह ऋण लेना चाहते है।

Politics heats up on renaming Dehradun airport

What problem does BJP have in naming airport after Adi Shankaracharya, asks Congress

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The issue of naming the ■ Dehradun airport at Jolly Grant has become a point of a political battle between ruling BJP and opposition Congress. Recently a proposal to rename the airport after the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was passed by the airport advisory committee and sent to the union government. The former chief minis-

minister Harish Rawat had sent a proposal to name the airport after Adi Guru Shankaracharya. She said that the former CMs Trivendra Singh Rawat and Nishank talk about naming the airport after former PM Vajpayee which is an insult of Adi Guru Shankaracharya and more than 80 crore followers of Hinduism. Dasauni said that



Rain and snowfall likely

to continue in State today

ter and Member of Parliament Pokhriyal Nishank chaired the meeting of the committee.

The chief spokesperson of day that the foundation stone of the Dehradun airport was laid by late Brahmdutt and in the year 2016 the then chief

PNS DEHRADUN

The rainy weather is likely

⊥ to continue in various

parts of the State today. The

State meteorological centre has forecast that light to mod-

erate rain/ thunderstorm/

snowfall are very likely to

occur at most places in dis-

tricts of Kumaon region and at

many places in districts of

Garhwal region on Tuesday. Snowfall is likely to occur at

places situated at altitudes of

3,000 metres and above. The

meteorological centre has also

issued a warning (watch) re-

garding the possibility of

thunderstorms accompanied with lightning/hail likely to

occur at isolated places in the

districts today. The provisional State capital is forecast

to experience light to moder-

ate rain/thunderstorm/hail-

the BJP should refrain from engaging in politics on the institutes set up by the Congress party. She said that there is no doubt that the former PM Vajpayee was a leader who is accepted by all and he deserves the party should answer as to why they are against naming the airport after Adi Guru

storm with the maximum and

minimum temperatures likely

to be about 22 degrees Celsius

and 10 degrees Celsius respec-

tively in Dehradun today. The

maximum and minimum

temperatures recorded in var-

ious parts of the State on

Monday were 23.9 degrees

Celsius and 14.6 degrees Cel-

sisu respectively in Dehradun,

21.8 degrees Celsius and 12.8

degrees Celsius in Pantnagar,

9.8 degrees Celsius and 5.2 de-

grees Celsius in Mukteshwar

and 14 degrees Celsius and 7.8

degrees Celsius respectively in

New Tehri. Further, 34.5 mil-

limetres rain was recorded in

Mussoorie, 23 millimetres in

Khatima, 16 millimetres in

Nainital, 15 millimetres in

Dwarahat and 37 millimetres

in Pantnagar.

DM directs steps to implement NGT orders on Hemkund route PNS **■** JOSHIMATH

⊥ istrate Himanshu Khurana chaired a meeting regarding the National Green Tribunal's directions to ensure scientific disposal of plastic waste on Hemkund pilgrimage route, adequate number of toilets, regulating the number of horses and mules along with ensuring cleanliness of the environment. He directed officials to ensure plastic waste collection and installation of a compactor machine to scientifically dispose of the collected waste. Officials were also directed to ensure ade-

The Chamoli district mag-quate number of toilets and sanitation on the pilgrimage route. He further said that registration of horses-mules their insurance, health check and provision of warm water should be ensured while also regulating their numbers on the route. Arrangements should also be made to dispose of their dung, he said. The chief development officer Lalit Narayan Mishra, district tourism officer SS Rana, chief officer veterinary Pralayankar Nath and others were also present in the meet-

Govt committed to protecting Sanatan **Dharma & culture: Maharai**

PNS DEHRADUN

The State government is committed to the protection of Sanatan Dharma and culture. The officials who do commendable work for this through good governance will be felicitated, said the State's Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj. He was speaking at the all-India Jyotish conference organised by Sanskrit Academy, Uttarakhand here on Monday. He also appreciated the academy's assistant director's proposal to link Sanskrit schools and colleges

with the Char Dham Yatra in Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts. The minister said that commendable work also generates enthusiasm among others. About 70 scholars were presented certificates for presentation of research papers on various subjects. The academy's secretary SP Khali, assistant director Chandi Prasad Ghidliyal and a large number of persons associated with Sanskrit, astrology and education were also present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Purushottam ininitiative of the state government adding that Uttarakhand is the third come up with the millet is marketing, processing, creation of infrastructure, millet-based FPOs and

prove to be a milestone.

A meeting of the regional advisory committee on Manduwa is going to in- sion at a swift pace and that crease a lot, which will ben- in the coming years Utdevelopment of millet value chain was organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was organised here on Monday. The bank's chief gen-

efit the farmers. He said that

the state government is

working on the millet mis-

Presiding over the meeting, Bist highlighted the characteristics of millets and the problems related to their production and said that this coarse grain, once called the food of the poor,

eral manager Vinod Kumar Bist presided over

the meeting with Agricul-

ture, Animal Husbandry

and Cooperatives secre-

tary BVRC Purushottam

as the chief guest.

has so many nutritious properties which are much higher than other grains. It is easily produced in adaptation to climate change and low input costs and rain fed areas. On this occasion, he expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, due to whose efforts the United Nations declared 2023 as the International Millet Year. This has increased awareness in the public and people have started eating more coarse grains than before. He also highlighted the problems of declining area of millet sowing, low availability of high quality seeds, low availability of low FPOs being millet-based, processing, technical aspects, lack of marketing, crop damage of wild animals and other issues. He also appreciated the separate MSP fixed by the state government for millets and said that agricultural universities, KVKs, research institutes and banks will have to come together to formulate a scheme which is short and long term to promote state government millets programme. Highlighting the schemes of NABARD, he said that if all the schemes of the state government and the central government are brought together and worked together in partnership, then it will

formed about the state in the country after Gujarat and Odisha to mission. He said that the objective of the mission making creating awareness among farmers about millets. Uttarakhand is the first state in the country to include millets in the public distribution system. Due to this, the demand for

G2 NORTHERN RAILWAY

Sr. DCM acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender agains Installation and Operation of Water Vending Machine On Stand Alone Basis at Cluster Wise Over Moradabad Division. Closing Date/Time 13.04.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Information regarding this tender is available on website via www.ireps.gov.in All Terms & Condition are Prescribed therein. No. V-20/WVM/MB-DIV/22C Dated

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Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 NOTICE of 30 days is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the dated mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentione Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also

× DATE &TIME OF E-AUCTION FOR PROPERTY: 26.04.2023 at 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.× Name of the Borrower, Co-Applicant & Guarantor :-1. M/s. Windal Auto Pvt. Ltd., 2. Mr. Abdulla S. Dalwai, 3. Mrs. Rabia

Amt. due: ₹ 199,96,78,910.09 as on 28.02.2023 + further interest at applicable rate, costs, dues, and expenses that may Dalwai, 4. Mr. Nabil A. Dalwai, 5. & settlement of dues by the Corporate Debtor accrue from 01.05.2019 till total repayment

Property No. 1 :- All that piece & parcel of land & Building bearing Khasra No 423, Plot 24A, adm. 8157.33 sq. mtrs. Sector 11-E, Opp. RSB Transmission Ltd., Pargana Rudrapur, Vill. Kalyanpur, Pargana, Rudrapur, Teh. : Kichha, Dist Udham Singh Nagar-263 153, UT. in the name of Mr. Rabia A. Daliwal & Mr. Abdulla S. Daliwal. ➤ Boundaries of the Property-As Per Site-As per Documents respectively: - * North: Rd. & RSB Transmission Ltd.-24 Mtrs. wide Rd.: * South : Closed Unit / Factory-Plot No. 25 & 26; * East : Dana Spicer Pvt. Ltd.-Plot No. 16 & 17; * West: ACE Engineering & Jai Hind Co.-Plot No. 24B & 24L

Reserve Price : ₹ 9,00,46,000/- Earnest Money to be Deposited

Property No. 2:- All the piece & parcel Resid. Land & Bldg. bearing Khata No 129, Khasra No. 42, adm. 153.13 sq. mtrs. Enclave I, Janpath Rd., Revenue Vill. Fulsungi, Pargana, Rudrapur, Teh. Kichha, Dist. Udham Singh Nagar-263 153, UT. in the name of Mr. Ashif Dalwai. > Boundaries of the Property-As Per Site-As per Documents respectively: * North : Plot No. B-7-Plot No. 7; * South : Plot No. B-10-Plot No. 10; *East: Rd.-Rd; *West: Vasundra Enclave-Land of Vendor. Reserve Price : ₹ 22,12,000/- Earnest Money to be Deposited

Property No. 3: - Plant & Machinery situated at Plot No. 24 A, sector IIE, Opposite RSB Transmission Limited, Paragana Rudrapur, Village: Kalyanpur, Tal. Kichha Dist. Udhamsingh Nagar-263 153 Uttarakhand.

Reserve Price : ₹ 84,53,000/- Earnest Money to be Deposited

• Date of Demand Notice: 03.05.2019 • Date of Possession Notice: 26.08.2019 For detailed terms and condition of the sale, Please refer to the link provided i. e.

https://www.ibapi.in OR www.mstcecommerce.com OR www.unionbankofindia.co.i DATE OF INSPECTION OF ALL THE PROPERTY

ON 24th APRIL 2023 (With Prior Appointment) For Registration & Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

For Further Details Contact: Mr. Abhishek Singh, Authorised Officer, lob. No. 6392741791, 9833913331 & Mr. Sidhartha Mhade Authorised Officer, Mob. No. 8980518779 (During office Hours)

Date :18.03.2023 Place: Rudrapur, Uttarakhan

Authorised Office Union Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE The General Public is informed that

the an old sale deed of property Khata No 20 Khasra No 161 Kha (Old Khasra No 111) situated at Mauja Nagal Hatnala, Pargana Parwadoon. Tehsil & District Dehradun, duly registered at Sub Registrar office, Dehradun vide Book No 1, Volume 2299, page 177 to 204 Document No 10915 dated 05.11.2015 and Gift Deed registered Sub Registrar office, Dehradun vide Book No 1, Volume 2081, page 237 to 258 Document No 2337 dated 13.04.2018 have been actually lost anywhere and not found yet. If found by anyone or has any claim, kindly

Shri Sher Singh, S/o Shri Pratap Singh, address Jadonpur, Post Baroli, District- Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

PUBLIC NOTICE Intimating the Loss of POA

(Power of Attorney)

Axis Bank Ltd POA No - 3947 Issued of 2016 (Axis Bank Ltd) Employee Name - Mr. Charan Preet Singh, Employee I.D No-18735, **Post** - Assistant Vice President. **Mobile No**. 9259514110.

The loss of Power of Attorney and warning to the Public at large that any misuse of the Said POA with effect from the date of loss POA is 23/2/2023 Shall not be binding on the bank and anybody who is Possession of the POA should return it to the Bank.

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Cabinet approves new excise policy of U'khand

The prices of regular brands to become competitive with other States; cess of Rs 3 on every bottle for women welfare, sports and protection of cows

PNS DEHRADUN

The State cabinet in its meeting held on Monday gave its approval to the new excise policy-2023-24. In an attempt to curtail the sale of illicit liquor and smuggling from other States the policy envisages bringing parity in prices of the liquor bottles of regular brands.

There would not be a difference exceeding Rs 20 per bottle between the prices of liquor of regular brand in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The excise department has also decided to carry forward the licences of existing liquor shops for the year 2023-24 as well. The existing license holders would have to submit an additional surcharge of 15 per cent on last year's rates to renew their licenses. The licences of the shops which are not renewed would be allotted on the



basis of a lottery. The State government has set up a target of Rs 4,000 crore for the excise department. In another decision the government has decided to levy a cess of Rs three on sale of every bottle of liquor in the state. A sum of Rs one each has been levied for sports, women welfare and conser-

vation of bovine species. In another decision the cabinet decided to extend existing fitness charges for the vehicles engaged in mining for one more year. The cabinet also gave its nod to the proposal that has a provision of self attestation to the applicant for construction of single story houses

Srinagar & Almora medical colleges to get 60 assistant professors each

PNS DEHRADUN

In view of the shortage of the faculty in the medical colleges located in the mountainthe areas, government has decided to send most of the recently recruited assistant professors to these colleges. The Medical Education department would appoint 60 assistant professors each in the Government Medical College in Almora and Government Medical College in Srinagar out of 171 assistant professors recently recruited. The government medical college in Haldwani would get 40 while government Doon Medical College (GDMC) would get 11 assistant professors from the latest recruitment drive. The Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that orders have been given to the department to give priority to Almora and Srinagar medical colleges while making appointments of assistant professors. He said that the appointment letters to these assistant professors would be given by the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on

March 22. Similarly an employment fair would be held at the residence of CM on March 21 when appointment letters to 824 Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery (ANM) by the CM. As per the National Medical Commission (NMC) there is a 30 per cent shortage of faculty in Śrinagar and Almora medical colleges.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Uttarakhand Medical Services Selection Board (UKMSSB) had recruited 171 assistant professors in different disciplines of medical sciences. The newly recruited candidates would be appointed in the pay scale of Rs 67,700 to Rs 2,08,700 and would be deployed in the vacant posts in the government medical colleges of the state. In Uttarakhand there are four functional government medical colleges; the Government Doon Medical College, Medical College Haldwani, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Medical College Srinagar and Almora medical college.

SIT nabs another accused in Lekhpal-Patwari paper leak case

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lekhpal-Patwari recruitment examination paper leak case arrested another accused-David on Sunday. He was also jailed for his alleged involvement in helping some candidates cheat in the online forest guard recruitment exam held in September 2021 via Bluetooth. The accused had also purportedly leaked the question paper of the Junior Engineer (JE) examination held from May 7 to 10 last year along with his accomplices. A case is also registered against him for allegedly scamming people in the name of providing jobs, said the senior superintendent of police of Haridwar, Ajai Singh.

He informed that the SIT investigation revealed that the accused along with his accomplices was involved in taking a hefty amount of money from some aspirants of the Lekhpal-Patwari examination besides collecting necessary documents from them before taking them to a Biharigarh situated resort to make them memorise answers of the leaked question paper. Singh who is monitoring the SIT said that a warrant of arrest was issued by



the court as the accused David was continuously absconding to avoid his arrest in the Lekhpal-Patwari paper leak case. He said that a reward of Rs 50,000 was also announced by the inspector general of the Garhwal range, Karan Singh Nagnyal.

He said that after conducting raids on several locations, David was finally nabbed on Saturday from the Bhagwanpur area. Singh said that seven charges under several relevant sections besides the Prevention of Corruption Act have been imposed on the accused in the Lekhpal-Patwari paper leak case. He said that it was revealed during the preliminary inquiry that he was also allegedly in-volved in leaking the examination paper of the JE examination by tak-ing lakhs of rupees along with his accomplices. It is pertinent to mention here that the Uttarakhand police constituted SIT of Haridwar to investigate irregularities in the Lekhpal-Patwari examination held on January 8

under Uttarakhand Public Service Commission (UKPSC).

The investigation was initially conducted by the Special Task Force but the state government ordered the formation of the SIT to probe the matter after receiving backlash for yet another recruitment scam in the State. The SSP said that the SIT is collecting concrete evidence and will soon arrest all the accused involved in the paper leak case. Evidence against those candidates who bought the examination paper are also being gathered by the team, added Singh.

500 encroachments demolished in Vikasnagar in two days

PNS DEHRADUN

The UJVN Limited along with district administration and police on Monday demolished 150 houses constructed illegally on the government land from Dakpathar to Dhalipur near

Shakti canal in Vikasnagar. Authorities have demolished over 500 encroachments out of nearly 600 in two days, many of which have been there for the past 22 years. According to UJVNL officials, they had issued notices and made announcements several times to make the dwellers evict the encroachments. When the dwellers did not act on them, the authorities had to start the anti-encroachment campaign on Sunday, as per the officials. The police on Monday continued to use drones to monitor the situation to tackle potential threats in the area and recorded the entire encroachment campaign through video recording. The officials said



that the police are also keeping an eye on anti-social elements that can potentially cause chaos during the encroachment. A considerable police force will also remain deployed in the area on Tuesday as well during the campaign under the supervision of superintendent of police (rural)

Kamlesh Upadhayay and strict action will be taken against those who would attempt to disrupt the campaign, said the officials. They added that police and district administration will demolish the remaining encroachments on

Amrit Mahotsav



Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover# is upto a specified limit* can opt for **GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2023-24** by 31st March, 2023

The eligible taxpayers, who wish to avail the Composition Scheme may opt for the same by performing the following steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):

Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface

Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy

Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit

Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.



*	Type of Suppliers	# Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2022-23			
Supplier of	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States	upto ₹75 Lakh			
0 1	Taxpayers registered in other States	upto ₹150 Lakh			
Supplier (of Services	upto ₹ 50 Lakh			

For more details, please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019- Central Tax dated 07.03.2019

GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers

NMOPS condemns statement of Finance minister on pension

PNS DEHRADUN

 $T^{\text{he employee organisa-}}_{\text{tions agitating for the restoration of the old pen-}$ sion scheme (OPS) have condemned the statement of the Finance minister Prem Chand Agarwal on the OPS. The minister had said that the restoration of the OPS is the issue of the Central government. The president of the Uttarakhand chapter of the National Movement for Pension Scheme (NMOPS) Jeetmani Painyuli said that more than 90,000 employees and officers are agitating for OPS from last four years. He said that many States such as Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have already given the benefit of OPS to

their employees while the so called double engine governments are continuing to adopt an apathetic attitude towards the demand of the employees. The general secretary of the organisation Mukesh Raturi said that the pension of employees is a state subject and terming it as an issue of union govern-ment is an attempt to hit the interests of the employees. He said that the NMOPS is organising pension march in all district headquarters of the country on April 16. The senior vice president of the NMOPS, Jagmohan Singh Rawat said more than 50 organisations of employees have extended their support to the NMOPS. He said that ' Pension Rath Yatra' would

be taken out in all parts of the country in the month of June and from August 1 to 9 pension Ghanti Bajao' programmes would be held outside the residences of Member of Parliament. A mega rally would be organised on October 1 in Delhi in which employees from all parts of the country would take part. The office bearers of the NMOPS point out that the pension is a tool of social security of the employees. After a service of 20-30 years the employees are getting only Rs 1,000 to 2,000 as pension in the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and in such a condition the employees are justified in demanding the benefit of OPS.

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Speaking on these ap-

UPES appoints deans for its three schools

Shankar Iyer has been appointed as the dean of the

School of Computer Sci-

ence. Venkat has 31 plus

years of experience in mi-

UPES has appointed deans for its three schools- School of Health Sciences and Technology, School of Design and School

of Computer Science. The university officials said that these recent appointments would boost the university's efforts to further enhance its pedagogy, research and overall student experience



across its respective schools. While Padma Venkat has been appointed as the dean of the School of Health Sciences and Technology pro-fessor Phani Tetali has joined UPES as the dean of School of Design and Ravi



pointments, UPES vice crobiology, biochemistry, chancellor Ram Sharma said phytochemistry, Ayurveda and public health. Tetali is a that their knowledge and viwell-known illustrator, desion in their respective fields signer, animator, educator would undoubtedly strengthen the innovative capabilities of their respecand cartoonist with more than 30 years of experience. tive schools of UPES. Iyer has over 25 years of

















For details please scan

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India vital for stability in Indo-Pacific: Kishida



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday said India is indispensable for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and no country should use force or coercion in trying to drive their territorial claims, after unveiling his plan for the region. These observations were in apparent reference to Russia and China.

Delivering the 41st Sapru House lecture, Kishida also strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and said global principles of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity must be adhered to in every corner of the world.

On the Ukraine conflict, Kishida also noted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that 'today's era

The Japanese prime minister delivered the lecture in the presence of a gathering of top diplomats, envoys and strategic affairs experts, hours after holding wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Modi on further strengthening the India-Japan 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'. "India is indispensable," Kishida said while elaborating on his vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Japanese prime minister also said Tokyo will collaborate closely with New Delhi in contributing to sta-bility in the South Asian

"Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) is a vision gain-ing traction. The FOIP is a visionary concept. It is to claims at sea.

defend rule of law and freedom," he said.

Kishida said countries must follow the United Nations principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of

'Peace is paramount. The principles such as respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and opposition to unilateral changes to status quo by force must be followed. The principles should be adhered to in every corner of the world," Kishida said.

His comments came amid

gans demanding a JPC probe into alleged stock manipulation by the Adani Group. increasing global concerns over the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's military "Sit down. Let the Question muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific. Kishida said states Hour continue....Nation wants to watch the House proceedshould not use force or coerings. This House belongs to cion in trying to drive their you," Speaker Birla said in an

Stalemate over Adani, Rahul continues in Parl $P_{ ext{for the day on Monday}}^{ ext{arliament was adjourned}}$ without transacting any business as the deadlock continued between the ruling and the opposition parties over Rahul Gandhi's alleged 'anti-India'

effort to bring the House in order. He also assured the members that they will get adequate opportunity to speak as per rules after the Question Hour.

The Speaker also objected to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) member Harsimrat Kaur Badal showing a placard from her seat, saying it was not allowed in the House.

"Please allow Parliament function" was written on one side of the SAD member's placard while "save democracy" was written on the other side.

As the members refused to relent, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. It was adjourned for the day after it resumed in the afternoon. Rajya Saba too was

adjourned for the day in the afternoon after its proceedings remained derailed in the morning session.

As soon as the Upper House reassembled for the afternoon session, after being adjourned in the morning session, Deputy Chairman Harivansh asked Sujeet Kumar (BJD) to raise a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship amid sloga-

neering by the treasury bench and the opposition members.

Even as Kumar tried to speak, the slogan shouting continued, forcing the deputy chairman to adjourn the House for the day.

Earlier, as the House assembled for the day, the ruling and opposition parties traded barbs over Rahul's remark in London and the demand for the probe into allegations against the Adani

During the morning session, as the ruling BJP and the opposition parties kept shouting slogans, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar had adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm.

Dhankhar said he had received notices under rule 267-9 from Congress members, including Pramod Tiwari, Rajneet Ranjan, Kumar Ketkar, Syed Nasir Hussain, Amee Yajnik, AKhilesh Prasad Singh, Neeraj Dangi and Mukul Wasnik, to discuss the failure of the government to constitute a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to look into allegations of accounting fraud and stock market manipulation against the Adani Group.

Rahul writes to LS Speaker, seeks permission

to speak over London democracy remarks

Opp accuses Govt of stalling Parliament, diverting attention from demand for JPC on Adani group



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

Several opposition parties on Monday accused the gov-ernment of stalling Parliament and finding ways to divert attention from the opposition demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe (JPC) into the Adani

Leaders of opposition par-ties, including those from the Congress, DMK, RJD, CPI-M, CPI, NCP, JDU, AAP, and Shiv Sena, met in the chamber of Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament House complex and coordinated their strategy on the demand for a JPC into the Adani issue.

Speaking to reporter outside Parliament House, Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari claimed nothing happens in the BJP without the directions of the prime minister. Despite several attempts our demand for a JPC is not being accepted, he said.

'Why is the government shying away from JPC...The BJP is running away from JPC and is finding ways to divert attention and is not allowing Parliament to function. We have pledged that till the time JPC is not constituted, we will not budge and continue with our struggle. This is not for leaders, but for the people," Tiwari said.

"You may carry on with police Raj', it is indicative of dictatorship. This seems just a trailer of dictatorship and the real dictatorship is yet to come," he charged.

Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said if a JPC probe is held then the real culprits will come out and the BJP

Platform screens at Patna rly stn show porn clip, ad agency contract cancelled



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Aday after TV screens installed at platform number 10 at Patna railway station played a porn clip, the Railways on Monday said it has cancelled the contract of the agency responsible for relaying advertisements on the screens.

Passengers at the Patna Junction railway station were in for a shock on Sunday when platforms displayed a porn video clip. Confirming the incident, a railway official said on Monday the private operator who was given the contract has been "blacklisted" and booked in FIRs lodged separately by the RPF and GRP.

Ín a statement, Virendra Kumar, Chief Public Relations Officer, East Central Railway (ECR), said that two FIRs have been registered against the agency, one each by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP).
"A serious note was taken

of the lapse when the matter was reported. The tender awarded to the operator concerned has been terminated forthwith and he is being blacklisted for any future contracts" said Virendra Kumar, chief public relations officer of East Central Railway zone.

"All TV screens installed by the operator have been disconnected. The RPF and GRP have registered separate FIRs in connection with the embarrassing incident. Investigations into it are on", he added.

MHA for CBI inquiry against Aman Biradari for FCRA violations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

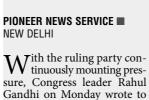
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recommended a CBI inquiry against activist Harsh Mander's NGO 'Aman Biradari'. MHA officials on Monday said a CBI inquiry has been recommended against the NGO for violation of various provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. Mander, who was a member of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council during the erstwhile UPA Government, founded Aman Biradari -- "a people's campaign for a secular, peaceful, just and humane

All NGOs receiving fortorily register with the Home Ministry under the FCRA. According to Mander's website (https://harshmander.In), he is the founder of Aman Biradari, a people's campaign for a sec-



ular, peaceful, just and humane world, established after the Gujarat communal carnage of "Aman Biradari works

closely with other people's organisations and groups for the defence of secularism; for public compassion; and for promoting the values of the constitution," it states. In October 2022, the MHA had cancelled the FCRA registra-Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) -- two NGOs headed by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi -- for alleged violation



remark in Loonon and a demand for a Joint-Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the charges of share manipulation against the Adani business Group.

Both the houses of Parliament have not conduct-

ed any business since the start of the second-leg of the bud-

In a repeat of scenes of the

earlier days, Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla again asked

agitating members to come to

his chamber to discuss issues

Both the ruling side and oppo-

sition come to the chamber and

discuss. We will find a solution

and run the House. We will dis-

cuss your topics and issues

also," he said after the house

resumed proceedings for the

day and members of the trea-

sury benches raised the issue

Countering the treasury benches, opposition members,

including those from the

Congress, also shouted slo-

of Rahul's remarks.

"You come, sit and discuss.

and find a way out.

get session on March 13.

Gandhi on Monday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Óm Birla to allow him to speak in the Lok Sabha over his democracy remarks made in London. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said time has been sought for Rahul Gandhi to speak in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday and he will make his statement if allowed. He has not made any public statement about his London remarks yet. Kharge also slammed the

Modi government over the Delhi Police team reaching Rahul Gandhi's residence on Sunday to inquire about his till being sexua ly assaulted" statement made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. "This is an attempt to target and harass. They want to weaken us by intimidation, but we will not get scared or be weakened,"



Priyanka Gandhi too attacked been stalling both houses of Parliamentary Consultative Police's notice to her brother an apology from him. The rul-Rahul Gandhi and said the people of the country are watching all the exploits of "the corrupt BJP government" and will reply when the time comes.

Party general secretary offensive against him and has ment at a meeting of the ing party has accused the Congress leader of seeking foreign intervention as "democracy in India is under threat". The former Congress chief has

and has claimed that he has never insulted the country.

Rahul Gandhi had met Birla last week after his return from the UK and on the same day told the Press that he eral secretary said.

requested the Lok Sabha presiding officer to allow him to speak in the House. Congress leaders said that Rahul Gandhi wants to speak in the Lok Sabha to clarify his remarks made in London, over which the BJP is demanding an apology from him after accusing him of insulting the country and its institutions on foreign In a tweet message

Priyanka Gandhi said, "Notice is being given to Mr Rahul Gandhi as to why did you raise the voice of women, dalits, tribals, poor, farmers and youth who were suffering from atrocities?" "PM's friend Gautam Adani accused of having business relations with 38 shell companies abroad, no notice. InfiÎtration of fake com-Adani, no notice. The government itself is accused of changing the rules to benefit Adani, not even discussed in the Parliament," the Congress gen-

SC directs all HCs to set up RTI portals within 3 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed all High Courts to set up RTI portals within three months. The apex court also asked High Courts to implement RTI portals in district judiciary also. The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the apex court had also set up a portal for filing RTI applications to help people access information about the top court. The bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, was apprised that the High Courts of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have already set up web portals for the purpose, while in Karnataka the High Court is using the website which is being set up by the State Government.

We are of the view that such an exercise be carried out by all the High Courts in the country no later than within a period of three months from the date of this order," the bench said. The apexcourt was hearing a plea seeking direction to the registrar general of all high courts to establish and operationalise online RTI portal, both for the high courts as well as the district

India records 1,50,000 road accidents deaths annually

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

While the West has seen steady fall in incidence of road traffic accidents, India continues to record higher injuries with nearly 1,50,000 deaths annually of which 25 per cent is contributed by two wheeler road mishaps, doctors flagged concerns on World Head Injuries Awareness Day on Monday. Among children particularly under

12, prominent reasons for death are a fall from a height, usually a balcony, they said. As per the Government 2020 data, 328 people died every day due to road traffic accidents.

Dr Deepak Gupta, Professor of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, pointed out that helmets reduce risk of death and head injury by 50-60 per cent. "Two times higher deaths have been noted



in non-helmeted riders, the majority of whom are women compared to helmeted riders. No doubt, helmets reduce risk of death by 50 per cent.

"With helmets, hospital deaths are reduced by 16 per cent, cervical spine injuries are lesser and facial injuries are also lesser by 12-60 per cent. New road safety rules should be followed (Six airbags in LMVs, mandatory seat belt usage for back seat riders, helmets for pillion riders) introduced by the Government," he added.

Now the doctors have launched two campaigns, 'SAHE" that aims to create awareness about safety gears like seat belts, airbags, helmets and road etiquettes while another is about 'safe balcony' as a disturbing chunk of accidents is due to fall from the balcony.

Well known neurologist Dr AK

Mahapatra pointed out that high falls contributes to 5-7% of TBI, a unique injury pattern reported from India. "Many of these are potentially preventable if one targets improved balcony/barricading/ check on new home/work place building norms," he

Similarly, over speeding and drowsy driving continues to be the greatest killer on new highways. Dr Gupta also precautionary measures was meager when compared to the cost incurred on

treatment post TBI.

To draw home his point, he said that helmets cost Rs 2500, seat belts cost Rs 1000 and expenditure incurred on car airbags is a few thousand rupees and in fact they are pre-fitted in your vehicle. But if severely injured, costs incurred can run more than Rs 10-50 lakhs in private set ups and months of stays in public hospitals. Needless to say, pain, agony and loss of bread earners of the family are priceless, he added.

Dr Deepak Jha, Neurosurgeon from AIIMS, Jodhpur talked about the government's role in enforcing the law such as mandatory seat belts for both front and rear passengers in the cars and headgears for men and women on two-

ED grills Kavitha in excise policy case

Enforcement 1 Directorate (ED) on Monday grilled BRS leader K Kavitha for over 10 hours after she appeared before the agency for a second round of questioning in the money laundering probe linked to the Delhi excise policy 'scam'.

Kavitha entered the ED headquarters here at 10:30 AM and after making formalities like marking attendance, her questioning and recording of statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act began at about 11 AM and continued till about 9.30 PM, officials said.

The 44-year-old Bharat



Rashtra Samithi MLC daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been asked to appear again on Tuesday, they said.

She was first questioned in the case on March 11 for around nine hours following which she was summoned again on March 16.Kavitha had skipped the deposition last week citing her pending plea before the Supreme Court

for relief against the ED action in the case.

The agency, however, rejected her claims and asked her to depose on March 20. The apex court has fixed the hearing on her petition on March 24.

On March 11, Kavitha was confronted with the statements made by Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Ramchandran Pillai, an arrested accused in the case who

allegedly shares close ties with During Monday's session,

her, apart from some other suspects in the case. Kavitha is said to have been physically confronted with Pillai and her former auditor

Butchibabu Gorantla, officials

The ED has been on record stating that Pillai "represented the South Group", an alleged liquor cartel linked to Kavitha and others, that paid kickbacks amounting to about Rs 100 crore to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to gain a larger share of the market in the national capital under the nowscrapped Delhi excise policy for 2020-21.

The "South Group" comprises Sarath Reddy (promoter of Aurobindo Pharma) Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy (YSR Congress MP from Ongole Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh), his son Raghav Magunta, Kavitha and others, according to the ED.

Pets may pass multi-drug resistant organisms to sick owners: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

 $H^{ ext{ealthy dogs and cats could}}$ be passing on multidrugresistant organisms (MDROs; bacteria that resist treatment with more than one antibiotic) to their hospitalized owners, and vice versa. according to new research being presented at this year's European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Copenhagen, Denmark to be held next month. However, the researchers have also clarified that "we identified only a handful of cases suggesting



ership is an important risk factor for multidrug-resistant organism colonization in hospital patients.'

The study of over 2,800 hospital patients and their companion animals is by Dr. Carolin Hackmann from Charité University Hospital Berlin, Germany, and col-

leagues.
"Our findings verify that the sharing of multidrug-resistant organisms between companion animals and their owners is possible," said Dr. Hackmann. The role of pets as poten-

tial reservoirs of MDROs is a growing concern worldwide. Antimicrobial resistance happens when infection-causing microbes (such as bacteria, viruses or fungi) evolve to become resistant to the drug designed to kill them. Estimates suggest that antimicrobial resistant infections caused almost 1.3 million deaths and were associated with nearly 5 million

deaths around the world in

In this case control study, researchers wanted to find out whether pets (ie, cats and dogs) play a role in the infection of hospital patients with MDROs.

They focused on the most common superbugs in hospital patients—methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), 3rd generation cephalosporin-resistant Enterobacterales (3GCRE) and carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE), which are resistant to multiple antibiotics including penicillin and cephalosporins

'Only Lord Krishna can crack layers of Bengal job scam'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Only Lord Krishna can crack the mutli-departmental and multi-layered recruitment scandals." That was how an advocate representing the Enforcement Directorate on Monday put his case before a designated court in Kolkata while demanding custody of Ayan Sil a builder and a latest fish netted by the Agency presently investigating the multi-crore school level recruitment scam

in Bengal. The arrest of Sil a close aide of jailed Trinamool Congress leader Shantanu Banerjee has opened a new dimension in the recruitment scandal, ED told the court adding his arrest has unveiled a parallel scam in the municipal department.

A 38-hour raid in Sil's house has yielded incriminating documents and hard discs which are a "data mine," and have brought to the surface illegal appointment of at least 5,000 civic employees in 60 municipalities out of which seven are in North 24 Parganas

For the first time the Agency has stumbled upon a detailed "rate chart" for jobs at detailed rate chart for jous at Sil's residence. According to this rate chart Group D employees including the sweepers, drivers etc were charged Rs 4 lakh per job while for Group C jobs including assistant teachers and typist an aspirant had to cough up Rs 7 lakh, the ED referring to the hard discs and documents

The Agency has also recovered several hundred original OMR sheets apparently referring to the 2012 Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) exams, sources said. Besides, like Shantanu Banerjee and Anubrata Mondal, the senior TMC leader of cattle smuggling fame, Sil too had taken recourse to at least 50 fake accounts to chanelise his black money, sources said.

Earlier after arresting Banerjee, a TMC leader from Hooghly district the ED had told the court that they had struck a "gold mine" adding

bordering Kolkata only, the how the CDR or call data ED told the court. how the CDR or call data recorder of his two mobile phones had yielded the names of some topmost politicians of the State.

The names cannot be revealed in the open court considering its political sensitivity and hence they have been listed in the case diary," the ED officials said leading the Opposition parties to immediately demand interrogation of such "senior most" leaders based in South Kolkata.

In Sil's case too, the ED said the CDR has revealed the names of 4-5 "influential persons," who played an important role in money transaction and functioning of the multidepartmental and multi-layered job racket, sources said.

The ED officials pointed out that apart from SSC and municipal job scam, the "data mine" recovered from Sil's residence could also lead to a parallel recruitment scandal in Fire Brigade department too, adding the data were being studied in that respect.

Reacting to the Monday's arrest Bengal Opposition

Leader Suvendu Adhikari said he was contemplating a Public Interest Litigation seeking revelation of the educational certificates of the employees appointed in the past one

"The TMC's organized job syndicate has left no depart-ment untouched ... I want someone to file a PIL so that the certificates based on which these people have obtained their jobs ... most of these jobs were given to the close aides of the TMC leaders, MLAs, MPs councilors etc," he said.

When contacted, Bengal Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim said that he would soon order an internal inquiry to ascertain whether there were people who had obtained their jobs illegally. Last eight months have

seen recovery of cash and property worth several hundred crores and arrest of a number of senior ministers, MLAs, leaders, party strongmen and senior government functionaries including vice chancellors and secondary

Cong sounds K'taka poll bugle

Gives 3 poll guarantees — 200 units of free power, ₹2,000 monthly assistance to Gruha Lakshmi, 10 kg rice free to every BPL family member

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday called on party leaders in the state to fight the BJP with unity, as he exuded confidence of "sweep-ing" the forthcoming Karnataka Assembly polls with absolute majority. He also announced unem-

ployment allowance for the youth, as the party's fourth poll guarantee, on coming to power. The Congress has already announced three poll 'guarantees' — 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), anḋ 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna

Addressing a public rally at Belagavi in northern Karnataka, Gandhi hit out at the BJP-led Central government, saying "this country belongs to everyone, does not belong to two to three selected, it is not Adani's". "Select people, who are BJP's friends, are getting all the benefits. It is



during the 'Yuva Kranti Samavesha', in Belagavi, on Monday

leading to corruption," the Wayanad MP alleged. Gandhi and AICC President M Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from the state, said an unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 per month would be given for graduates and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders for two years in the event of the party gaining power in the State, where Assembly elections are due by May. Gandhi attacked the Basavaraj Bommai government

in Karnataka, dubbing it as the 'most corrupt government". "It is a 40 per cent commission government," he claimed. The Congress, on coming to power, will fill up all the government job vacancies in Karnataka, he asserted. Exuding confidence in the party winning the Assembly election, Gandhi said: "All Congress leaders will fight the Karnataka Assembly election united, Congress will sweep this election.'

I cannot be intimidated by police, cases: Rahul Gandhi

PTI ■ WAYANAD (KERALA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said he cannot be intimidated by the repeated political attacks on him, police being sent to his house numerous times or the many cases lodged against him as he believes in the truth and always stood with it.

Gandhi's remarks came in the wake of a Delhi police team reaching his residence on Sunday to inquire about his "women are still being sexually assaulted" statement made during the nationwide Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"Many people may be scared of the Prime Minister, BJP, RSS and the police, but I am not. I am not scared of them in the least and that is their problem.

Mamata on alliance hunt; to meet Naveen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

After holding talks with Samajwadi Party chieftain Akhilesh Yadav, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit Odisha later this week apparently to meet her counterpart Naveen Patnaik. Banerjee who will visit the Puri Jagannath Temple will also "call on Navin Babu" at Bhubaneshwar, senior leaders in the Trinamool Congress said not ruling out political talks between the two leaders. Banerjee - a devotee of

Lord Jagannath — who seems to have been facing one of the worst crises of her political career in the wake of the multidepartmental recruitment scam exploding the her government's face sending a number of her close aides including Partha Chattaerjee and Anubrata Mondal to jail will offer special prayers at the Jagannath Temple, sources said.

Banerjee had performed a residence ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections that saw her coming out with flying colours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Digital health is a great enabler in delivery of

health care services and has the

potential to support overall

universal health coverage tar-

gets, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya,

Union Health Minister on

Monday said and added a two-

pronged approach has been

adopted in this regard with a

focus on digital health through

policy framework and by cre-

ating a digital ecosystem for

path breaking interventions.

availability, accessibility, afford-

ability but also equity of health

services, said the Minister at the

inaugural of the two-day con-

ference here co-hosted by the

Ministry and the WHO South-

'silos to systems' with collabo-

ration of all countries for

enhanced coverage and quali-

ty of healthcare services," he

said in his virtual address at the

'Global Conference on Digital

Health - Taking Universal

Health Coverage to the Last

Citizen', a co-branded event under India's G20 Presidency

organised by WHO - South-

East Asia Region in collabora-

mitment towards Universal

Health Coverage, the Minister

cited digital interventions have

become the foundations of

many crucial health pro-

Reiterating India's com-

tion with the Ministry.

"It is time to move from

East Asia Regional Office.

These focus on not just

NEW DELHI

Digital platforms have

universal health targets

potential to meet



routing the BJP by many miles. Though Banerjee is likely to raise a dialogue on a possible non-BJP, non-Congress alliance the Biju Janata Dal chief who too has maintained equi-distance from the two national parties is unlikely to join the alliance being con-templated by Banerjee, Yadav et al, sources said reminding Patnaik had hardly been in any political meeting which was staunchly anti-Narendra Modi.

Earlier this week like Banerjee, SP chief too had said that they were not contem-plating any Congress-led alliance against the BJP adding nitely try to stitch together an alliance keeping the two bigger

grammes such as reproductive

child healthcare, Ni-kshay, TB

control programme, integrated

disease surveillance system,

hospital information system.

Poonam Khetrapal Singh,

South-East Asia Region, said

digital health can significantly

improve the quality, accessi-

bility, affordability and sus-

tainability of person centric

health services and effective-

ness of disease management.

imperative today as it can democratize healthcare and

fast track what our Region has

been working intensely towards

since 2014 - the universal

"Digital health is a critical

Addressing the event, Dr

among many others.

Omar says BJP not ready to face electors

 $F^{\text{ormer Jammu and Kashmir}}_{\text{Chief Minister and National}}$ Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday observed that his party machinery was still intact and flourishing in the plain areas of Jammu region against all odds.

Sporting a white headgear Omar, in his inimical style, also lashed out at the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) for not showing raw courage to hold the much-awaited Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Omar while addressing his first public meeting, after the Abrogation of Article 370, in Bajalta area of Jammu also

'NCP would not support any policy to punish relatives of terrorists'

Jammu: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Monday claimed his party would not support any policy to punish relatives of terrorists as it is against natural justice.

Omar also clarified no terrorist was given government jobs by previous dispensation in J&k. Interacting with reporters after addressing a public rally Omar Abdullah also raised issue of "misuse of police against civilian population".

"No terrorist was given a (government) job but we did not punish people because they were relatives of terrorists. Is it fair for me to punish you for the crime committed by your father or a son? Tomorrow, if God forbid a close relative of (Lt Governor) Manoj Sinha Sahab commits a crime, should he be sent to jail?" the former chief minister said.



they were running away on one pretext or the other from holding elections. First they said it is necessary to complete delimitation of Assembly constituencies then they said summary revision of electoral rolls should also be completed. Then they talked about weather not being conducive but now they have no justification to further delay the polls. Abdullah said the weather is getting pleasant, they have only two reasons for delaying the polls further, one could be the worsening security situation which they claim has improved and the second being that they they had been brave, they would have gone for the elections.

After today's public rally, some people (among the BJP) who were supportive of early elections will also feel jittery," he said in an apparent reference to former legislator Devender Singh Rana who resigned from the post of NC provincial president and joined the BJP in October 2021.

Abdullah said the public meeting has proved beyond any doubt that the NC is alive both in Kashmir and the Jammu

province. "People come and go but those who have love for the organisation and are not linked to any particular individual will stay back because they are with the party's principles, flag and agenda," he said. The NC will show its real strength during the assembly elections, Abdullah asserted. "They will try to

We have to frustrate their attempts by standing united," he

said for the first time he is witnessing a government which "feels happiness in inflicting difficulties on the people. It will be better to get rid of this govern-

The former chief minister

ment as soon as possible".

"They are only engaged in propaganda, drama and showoff... Sometime back, we heard of an outside company making an investment in Srinagar but it proved much ado about nothing," the NC leader said referring to the Emaar laying the foundation of a mega mall project worth Rs 500 crore on Sunday.

He said his party was accused of being an obstacle in the path of development and job creation, and asked what happened over the past three years. There is no new project, and recruitment for government jobs was cancelled owing to scams," Abdullah said.

Those who celebrated the abrogation of Article 370 in Ladakh and Jammu are equally sad, he claimed. "We were angry from day one but there were some people who celebrated it with a hope of 'New J&K'.

The people in Jammu suffered economically because of the stopping of the darbar move and anti-encroachment drive, while Leh people are openly expressing that they were happy to be part of J&K," the NC leader said.

10-day all-India Police Commando Competition to begin in Manesar

New Delhi: The 10-day 13th all India Police Commando Competition will begin on Tuesday at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus at Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana. The 13" All India Police Commando Competition will be organised under the aegis of NSG at its Manesar Campus from March 21 to March 31.

The prestigious National Level Competition is designed to assess the Best Commando Team amongst CAPFs and State Police Forces based on their physical fitness, tactical skills, mental robustness, shooting prowess, leadership qualities and esprit-de-corps," the NSG said in a statement. In the event, 24 teams are in the fray for this prestigious annual event conducted under the aegis of All

SC clubs 3 FIRs against Cong leader Pawan Khera PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

1 Supreme Court on Monday clubbed three FIRs lodged against Congress leader Pawan

Khera for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and transferred them to the Hazratganj police station in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.

Extending the interim bail till April 10, a bench compris-ing Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala took note of the facts that three FIRs were lodged against Khera. Out of the three FIRs, two were lodged at the Cantonment police station in Varanasi and the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow. The third FIR was lodged in Assam.

The apex court bench directed that the three FIRs stand transferred to Hazratganj police station in Lucknow. Khera, whose interim bail was extended till April 10, will have to appear before the court of competent jurisdiction in Lucknow to seek regular bail in the matter.

The apex court, from time to time, had been extending the interim bail of Khera who was arrested by the Assam Police on February 23 in connection with his alleged remarks against Modi made at a press conference in Mumbai on February

Delhi airport after he was deboarded from a plane that was supposed to take him to Raipur. He obtained bail from a magisterial court here on February 23 after CJI-led bench granted him interim bail during an

India Police Sports Control Board. This event holds importance for participating teams since it is being held post-Covid pandemic after a gap of three years, the last such event being held at Pune in December, 2019. "During ten-day event, the teams will display their

expertise in multiple facets of Special Forces training, including precision shooting, endurance, special operations planning and execution, and special survival skills, which aptly demonstrate collective preparedness of nation to face terrorists challenges," it said. PNS



ED attaches properties of Pune edu group for money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Enforcement **I** Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached four properties, including land and a school building, of the promoters of a Pune-based education group under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The action is part of a probe into an alleged bank loan fraud against a cooperative bank in Pune. The attached assets belong to Rosary Education Group and its main partners Vinay Aranha and Vivek Aranha. A provisional order for attaching four properties has been issued under the PMLA, the agency said in a statement.

"The present market value of the attached properties is estimated to be around Rs 98.20 crore," it said. On March 10, the ED had arrested Vinay Aranha. The money laundering case stems from a Pune Police FIR filed on the basis of a complaint made by Shivaji Vithal Kale of Cosmos Bank against Vinay Aranha and Vivek Aranha.

The complainant alleged that the accused obtained loans of Rs 20.44 crore from the bank by submitting "fake" property documents. Vinay Aranha submitted "bogus" work invoices (in the guise of refurbishment of the Rosary schools) and got loans disbursed to bogus vendors which were immediately withdrawn in cash and handed back to Aranha

(Vinay), it said. The ED alleged that Vinay Aranha "diverted" the loans and got crores of rupees in cash. He also got loan amounts worth Rs 34 crore disbursed to

Paramount Infrastructure, Shabbir Patanwala, Ashwin Kamat, Deepti Enterprises and others. "All these so-called vendors have admitted that they did not do any work and returned the cash to Aranha. Despite giving repeated opportunities, Vinay Aranha has not given any account of the utili-

sation of the cash," it said.
The ED found the schools of the group "did not" maintain any account of revenue, expenditure and income since 2012 and no ITRs (income tax returns) were filed.

"All this was purposefully done to enable Vinay Aranha to siphon off funds as per his whims and fancy. He admittedly splurged large amounts on celebrities and to host gala events (in the name of Vinay Aranha Foundation) for selfaggrandisement and also purchased multiple luxury cars," the ED said.

In a separate case, the ED attached immovable properties worth Rs 20.16 crore of Bengaluru-based Injaz International represented by its partners Misbahuddin S. and Suhail Ahmed Shariff money laundering charges. The accused had allegedly acquired the 'proceeds of crime; and layered the same in the form of various immovable properties.

The ED had initiated an investigation on the basis of the FIR registered by the Wilson Garden Police Station (Bengaluru) against Injaz International and its associated group, under various sections of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, Indian Penal Code and Chit Funds Act. The 'Proceeds of Crime' in this case is Rs 80.99 crore.

BJP welcomes Kerala Bishop Mar Joseph Pamplany's support Kerala. Freedom of Expression

'There is no freedom Regional Director, WHO of expression for Bishops in Kerala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday wel-Comed Kerala Bishop Mar Joseph Pamplany's "support" to the BJP and "Church's willingness" to hold discussions with the Modi-government to "protect the interests of farm-

health coverage," she said.

The ongoing COVID-19
pandemic has particularly highlighted the importance of the application of digital tech-Minister of State for External and Parliamentary nologies to health and its Affairs V. Muraleedharan hitpotential to strengthen health out at the Left parties and the systems, prevent disease and Congress "for criticizing enhance service delivery at the Bishop for supporting the cenglobal, national and subtre." "There is no freedom of national level, she said. expression for bishops in

is denied to bishops, either because they are Christians or their views favour the government of India," said the BJP leader. Addressing a press conference here, Muraleedharan said " how the Bishop of Pala was ridiculed for pointing out the dangers of Narcotic Jihad, and its impact on the Christian community.

Taking a dig at CPM and Congress he said "they say they are for minorities and freedom of speech but when a Christian bishop speaks his mind or indirectly favours the government of India - they pounce upon him, a ridiculous situation in Kerala", said the union minister adding "it exposed the double standards of Congress and CPM and

Muraleedharan claimed that

these parties never cared for either farmers or minorities and "just wanted them to remain as safe vote banks and they should not be allowed to be moved away." On attacks on Churches, Muraleedharan questioned Congress's doublespeak- and reminded them of the incidents in Chhattisgarh ruled by the Congress. Speaking about the "accep-

tance" of the Christian community of BJP "and Prime Minister Narendra Modi" he mentioned that Meghalaya with over 75% Christians, Nagaland withover 80% Christians and Goa with around 25% Christians have 'reposed their trust in BJP." Besides Muraleedharan

former Union Minister KJ Alphonse and BJP Spokesperson Tom Vadakkan also attended press conference.

The Congress spokesperson was arrested from the

urgent hearing earlier in day.

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Asian alliance

Japanese PM Kishida's visit to New Delhi has the potential to open new vistas in bilateral ties

apanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit to New Delhi Monday is important not just from the perspective of bilateral relations covering a gamut of spheres U but also a critical signal it sends to the big bullies in the international arena: democracies are joining hands like never before. The two nations are discussing a raft of issues, ranging from defence and security to trade, investment, and technology. Committing themselves to a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kishida vowed to expand the India-Japan global strategic partnership. This century has seen the deepening and broadening of the bilateral ties, which became 'Global Partnership' in 2000, 'Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2006, and 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014. This is of great importance against the backdrop of China's bellicosity in the region. It is serendipitous that India's pres-



idency of G20 coincides with Japan's presidency of the G7. It needs to be mentioned here that Kishida has been striving to bring the rich and poor nations of the world together. In his address to the Japanese Parliament earlier this year, he revived the term Global South. This was a favorite of the votaries of non-alignment, used to depict and highlight the North-South conflicts. But the Japanese Prime Minister resuscitated just the term, not the idea that it connoted to the pinkish non-alignment enthusiasts. He doesn't seem to be an admirer of Nehruvian principles in international matters; he would not like to act as the trade union leader of poor nations and fight against rich countries; indeed he comes from a rich country. He wants to unite all countries, rich as well as poor, for a rules-based international order.

Kishida is following the late prime minister Shinzo Abe's foreign policy, which has been called "panoramic diplomacy." It has been officially described as a "diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the terrestrial globe." Gone are the days of Tokyo's pacifism. A quarter of a century ago, when India carried out nuclear explosions, Tokyo condemned New Delhi. Today, however, Japan sees an ally in India in the eventuality of a conflict with China; it is arming itself. Japan's role in strengthening the Quad is critical. It is a measure of growing proximity between the two nations that Modi and Kishida met three times in 2022. Along with defence and security cooperation between the two Asian democracies, trade is also growing. Last year, the bilateral trade was \$20.75 billion, the largest ever. The two countries signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement or CEPA in 2011. Now both sides emphasise reliable supply chains for semiconductors and other critical technologies. A year ago, Kishida had promised a Rs 320,000-crore investment target in India in five years. This may be the time to redeem the old promise — and make new ones. The same is true for India.



The hullabaloo over UK's refugee policy SARADINDU MUKHERJI

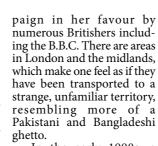
There's been a sharp increase in the number of asylum seekers to Britain. PM Rishi Sunak is trying to put a timely end to the impending danger

he outcry over the Refugee/Asylum Bill in Britain was not unexpected. The Indian media has not remained unaffectd. Incidentally, even a fraction of this "concern" is seldom seen in the latter's coverage of genuine refugees fleeing to India — victims of religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan!

The website of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) indicates that it "is profoundly concerned by the asylum Bill introduced by the UK Government in the House of Commons" . It further stated, 'The legislation, if passed, would amount to an asylum ban-extinguishing the right to seek refugee protection in the U.K. for those who arrive irregularly, no matter how genuine or compelling their claims may be". It further urged, "the Government, to all MPs and Peers to reconsider the Bill and instead pursue a more humane and practical policy solution".

Be that as it may, the ground reality is that there has been a sharp increase in the number of small boat arrivals on British shores in recent times. All of them have sought asylum in the country. In the year ending September 2022, the UK received 72,027 asylum applications. This is double the number of applicants received in 2019. Add to this the number of unresolved cases. In the critical backdrop of the UK's declining Christian population and a sudden upsurge in the Muslim population, it assumes a serious complexion. These are the real causes of concern.

Since the 1950s, there have been many legal and illegal immigrants who have settled down in English and have done well. Most of them have complied with the norms of the host community. As against them, there have been a growing number of Islamic terrorist activities, targeting the sons of the soil and their civilizational values. One voula ao well to recall, among many, the activities of the ISIS bride Shamima Begum, who had been stripped of her British citizenship and the forceful cam-



In the early 1990s, a "Muslim Parliament" had been set up in Britain and had been clamouring for absurd favours including the introduction of Sharia! This writer pointed out this emerging threat thirty years ago. ("Muslim Parliament in Secular Britain", The Pioneer, Feb 1992: "Islamic Assertion in Britain", The Pioneer, 30 June 1995) They carry with them

the medieval religious-socialpolitical norms of their original homeland that were notorious for inhumane treatment of religious minorities. Then, there are the crimes committed by the Muslim grooming gangs who have played systematic havoc with the British white girls besides many Hindu/ Sikh girls, unfortunately abetted by the British society on the pretext of multiculturalism that has generally failed. Integration of such a sizable and viciously

NO RELAXATION FOR EWS MEMBERS

Sir — The rationale behind the reservation of seats in Government employment and

education is often asserted to be the inadequate representation of various social

groups. Due to poor implementation of

government policies, sometimes even by

the Government itself, the purpose of reser-

vation in favour of reserved categories, be



MANY OF THESE

IMMIGRANTS CARRY THE MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS-SOCIAL-**POLITICAL** NORMS OF THEIR **ORIGINAL** HOMELANDS, WHICH ARE INFAMOUS FOR THEIR INHUMAN TREATMENT OF RELIGIOUS ungrateful segment of the population into the mainstream was a non-starter to begin with. After all, the UK, is a sov-

ereign nation and its political culture is shaped by the ideas of Hobbes- who had enunciated the concept of untrammeled sovereignty (Leviathan, 1561) which came to be tempered by the liberal ideas of John Lock and the subsequent political revolutions and remedial parliamentary legislations. While its claim to "civilizing mission" in its erstwhile colonies, when the Sun had not yet set on the British Empire, need not be taken seriously, it is absurd to demand that every refugee/asylum seeker entering Britain by hook or crook is entitled to stay back and enjoy all the benefits of a welfare state free of cost. Those who find this Nazi like may have to revise their knowledge of some rudimentary

Rishi Sunak, and his Conservative Party may have correctly sensed the nature of the impending danger, and are now trying to put a timely end to it. Surely, the number of their sympathisers in agency. Britain and elsewhere in the civilised world would

increase. Sunak belongs to a Hindu family that once lived in a part of undivided India which is now in Pakistan. Unlike many of India's political classes, he must be aware of the disastrous consequences of a changing religious demographic. There is still a solution to the problem in Whitehall even without

Palmerston and Disraeli. Following the mass expulsion of Asians by Idi Amin from Kenya, their rehabilitation in Britain was both legal and justified, and so is the status of the asylum seekers from Hong Kong, which had been a Crown colony till it was returned to China, and inhabitants of the Falkland islands for which the "Iron Lady" had fought with Argentina.

It is high time that the UNHCR and its parent bodies extinguish the very roots of this malady in the countries of origin — the persecution of religious minorities and their flight across boundaries. Why should they not begin with India's neighborhood? That should be a top priority for any non-political

(The author is a Member of

Memories rush back as the mangoes bloom



AMIT KANWAR

time. I savoured every day

trying to hold on to those

smells, sights and flavours

and enjoyed every moment

Being in the midst of nature is unmatched. To be one with nature is to live a pristine life in tune with the moment

n spring, trees bloom, turning the world into a colourful garden. One bloom that stands out is the bloom of mango trees. The trees bloom and the air is filled with a sweet scent that attracts bees, birds, and people. For me, as a child, the season of spring, which starts in February in north India and spills into the month of March, was a season of extremes. The first few days were spent studying for final exams, and the last few days were spent jovially and academically free. We played hide and seek or explored the jungle trails during the balmy, pleasant weather filled with colors and fragrances of spring. Occasionally, we sneaked into a friend's ox driven 'Belna', (country made sugarcane juice machine) where freshly prepared jaggery coming from a huge boiler, treated our taste buds.

As the weather gets warmer, the bloom starts maturing and with the onset of monsoons, the fruit is ripe and ready. During school days, the ripening of mangoes coincided with the two-



month long monsoon break and there are so many memories associated with those mango-savouring holidays. Every tree had a folklore and history associated with itsome were planted by a revered ancestor and some took to roots by accident, some had divine powers and pany of friends made those some were the abode of

ghosts, some bore fruits

of spring at home. The sun rises woke me up early to witness the most spectacular sights of nature and the sunsets took me to the highest hilltop in the village, the flowing streams led me on paths less taken, the forests took me in a search of wild, I sat under trees and felt the morning breeze touching my cheeks, I roamed in wheat fields and saw the fresh dew drops kissing the tender plants, I heard the birds chirping in the silence of mornings, I sat on the every year and some never. The rain soaked days, paddy bank of the rivers to feel the fields and trees blanketed in stillness and solitude, I met green, mango trees loaded old friends and we talked late into the nights, like good old times and doing all this I with fruits, the streams filled with fresh water meandering leisurely downhill, the early understood the true meanmorning calls of 'koel' (Cuckoo) and the coming of living in moments. (The writer pens down sto-

ries of human interest and times truly memorable ones. his travels. He also likes to It was like reliving all click portraits)

it OBC, SC, ST, or the newly introduced EWS, often gets defeated in other dimensions. I recently observed that the application fee for various government examinathose past moments when I was at home at the beginning tions such as Provincial Civil Service (PCS) in states like Uttar Pradesh for EWS of the mango bloom. A whiff of fresh fragrance from our courtyard blooming mango tree transported me back in

candidates is exactly the same as for the unreserved (General) candidates. This is ironic because the very purpose behind the EWS quota is to uplift economically weaker sections as is evident from the very definition of EWS. Thus, it defeats the very purpose of reservation. This is because EWS candidates may find it difficult to fill out the forms for those exams where the application fees are very high.

Shivanshu K Srivastava | Lucknow

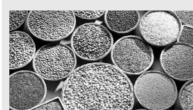
NATIONALIST MUSLIMS

Sir — According to a certain prominent leader of a poll-bound state, his party definitely needs the support of "nationalist Muslims"! However there has been no mention of asking for support from "nationalist Hindus"! Surely in his dictionary, the entire Hindu community is "nationalist" by default! After all no Hindu can afford to terrorise or work against the nation, such is their "sanskar"! Disgusting, but hardly surprising given his party's "glorious tradition" of flexing rabid religious muscle mixed with invocations of barbaric Islamophobia!

Also thanks to him, we can arrive at the conclusion that loudspeakers "screaming" azan (which get performed few times a day for just a few minutes) disturb the neighborhood students and patients; but his silence upon the day/days long screams (shlokas, bhajans, mantras, drums, conch, bells) coming from loudspeakers of tem-

Millets: Superfood against hunger

MINORITIES



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

he United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) in response to a suggestion made by the Indian government to promote millets as a nutritious and climate-resilient crop. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also voiced his support for Millets. He stated that they are the gateway to prosperity for small farmers and a key to fighting hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

The Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference held in Pusa, New Delhi, is a crucial event for

year prove that if sound emanates from temples, it acts as balm or honey upon ears without causing minimum disturbance to the neighbourhood students and patients! What better can be expected from such a force which treats electoral wins of their own as "Victory of democracy" but the Opposition wins are "triumph of dynasts"! What a blatant example of hypocrisy!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

CLOSING OF MADRASAS IN ASSAM

Sir — Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's decision to shut down all madrasas is a foolish decision. It is nothing but a move to suppress the Muslim community. By closing all madrasas in the State and saying that there is a threat to our culture and tradition is against our constitution. This is because it is against the right to practice and learn his own religion. Instead of converting Madrasas into other schools why don't the Assam Government construct new modern schools? Government funding should only be stopped if they believe the Quran ples during various festivals throughout the is being taught in madrasas. Who are

the global good, highlighting India's increasing responsibility for the global good. It is a matter of great honor for India that after its proposal and efforts, the United Nations declared 2023 the International Year of Millets.

Millets have been a staple in India for centuries, mentioned in some of the oldest Yajurveda texts. However, with the Green Revolution in the 1960s, millets were replaced by rice and wheat, which were considered more profitable. But now, with the promotion of millets as a superfood, their popularity is once again on the rise. The International Year of Millets is an opportunity to promote millets as a superfood and raise awareness of their benefits. The Indian government's Millet Mission is an example of the importance placed on promoting millets and their potential to fight hunger, malnu-

Amarjeet Kumar I Hazaribagh

these people to decide what to study and what not to study? If madrasas are closed, there will be mass dropout of female students. Is this Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao? In any madrasa, besides Islamic studies and languages such as Arabic and Urdu, general subjects and other modern Indian languages are taught to all students. Many parents who prefer their daughters to get Islamic education along with reg-ular subjects will pull them out of schools.

The Assam Government has forgotten that notable personalities such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Munshi Prem Chand, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Dr Zakir Hussain studied in madrasas. Previously the Government cited that madrasas are funded by terror activities. However, the Government could found nothing like that in the madrasas. The Assam Government should know that these madrasas were set up to fulfill a religious need rather than promote enmity with any community.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

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FIRST COLUMN LIFE INSURANCE UNDER THE NEW I-T SCHEME

What to do with the insurance policies already taken, is the big question



S KALYANASUNDARAM

he Union Budget presented for the next fiscal year has provided the necessary incentive for taxpayers to switch to a new income tax scheme. Individual taxpayers are free to choose the old scheme or the updated scheme as per his/her convenience. Under the old scheme, tax payers were claiming deductions based on different savings, expenses and loan repayments as per provisions of the IT Act. The revised scheme does not allow any such deductions and immediately provides a higher exemption limit. Therefore, individuals opting for the new scheme need not continue with their savings.

The situation provides an opportunity for individuals to continue or discontinue endowment policies (and also similar life cover instruments like Money back policies, ULIP etc.). Though ideally term insurance will be the best option for life coverage, many have contracted for endowment policies on the perception that it is also a saving instrument. If they have taken the insurance only as a saving measure, they now have the option to discontinue it. The following options are available when choosing a new tax scheme for endowment policies (and similar policies).

Surrender the policy

It is possible to surrender the insurance policy to the issuer. This means no more premium is payable on this and the life cover will also lapse. The insurance company will return what is called the surrender value. Surrender value is the amount the policyholder will get from the life insurance company if he decides to exit the policy before maturity. Surrender value varies from policy to policy and it is printed on the policy itself.

Do not surrender but stop paying premium

This would not be the only option available. One need not surrender the policy but simply stop paying further premiums. When one continues with the policy without paying any further premium, the policy will have what is called "Paid up Value". In other words, the paid up value is the value payable at maturity of the discontinued policy (of premium payment).



Generally, a life insurance policy with an investment value earns some paid up value after at least 3 years in force (5 years for ULIPs). This means that policies like money-back endowment will have paid-up value after 3 years and ULIP will have market value after 5 years. To calculate the paid up value, multiply the number of premiums paid by the sum assured by the total number of premiums. This method will offer continuing life coverage at a reduced amount (paid up value) and maturing.

By not paying premiums further, one can allow the policy to lapse if it has no surrender value. The premium paid will be a loss. But cash outflows for many more years in the future will be a big saving.

The surrender value of a life policy is allowed as a tax-free benefit only if it fulfils some conditions with regard to the number of years premium paid. But as the surrender value eligibility matches this, the surrender value will be tax free. (Only if the policy was issued between 1st April 2003 and 31st March 2012, there are additional conditions). There is no change in the deductions allowed in earlier years on account of premium payment. For paid up value, the amount received on maturity will be tax free. Takeaway

The revised income tax regime allows the discontinuation of insurance policies taken with intent to save. This should not be confused with the necessity of life insurance. One may need life insurance protection, and it may be appropriate to have term insurance for the amount of coverage required. The decision of surrendering, continuing the policy without further premiums, or letting it lapse depends on the individual's determination of opportunity cost.

(The writer is a retired banker)

Inflation management needs salutary changes



The Reserve Bank of India's MPC will meet in the first week of April. The stakeholders are concerned if it will emerge wiser from recent global experiences



ietnam became the first country to break ranks with the global community to cut the policy rates. The Central bank of Vietnam surprised the global economists to cut the benchmark interest rate. The East Asian nation was wary of the fact that the blind-walking alongside the US Federal Reserve to keep raising the interest rates would have surely taken its economy into fast

Europe remains hawkish with rate hikes, increasing the policy rate by 50 basis points last week. Jerome Powell, the head of the US Federal Reserve, has come under intense fire within his country. He is being accused of walking the US economy to the doorsteps of a deep recession. He has been dogged in pursuit of higher interest rates despite fellow members cautioning him of risks associated with hawkish measures.

Within a span of a few days, three banks in the US have come to their knees, with one collapsing in 48 hours. The US and Europe are now battling the worst ears of economists of banks failing the high interest regime. The monetary policy meeting (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India will meet in the first week of April. The concerned stakeholders are watching out with intense curiosity to see if the MPC of the RBI will be wiser from the immediate global experiences of following a hawkish path. Inflation indeed is a cause of concern.

The poor suffers the most from an uncontrolled inflation. Therefore, there is an unequivocal understanding that inflation must be tamed with all the policy might available at the RBI and the govern-

But it must not be ignored that high interest rates may be suicidal for the economy, as a number of factors make it less effective at controlling inflation, while harmful economic growth more. High interest rates drive away capital, which may exacerbate inflation further, while harming emerging economies more by putting pressure on their currencies.

Several studies and reports have taken



WITHIN A FEW DAYS, THREE BANKS IN THE **US HAVE COME** TO THEIR KNEES, WITH COLLAPSING IN 48 HOURS. THE US AND **EUROPE ARE** NOW BATTLING THE WORST FEARS OF **ECONOMISTS** OF BANKS FAILING THE HIGH **INTEREST**

(Author is a policy

REGIME

note of the creditstress, harming small businesses and low-income to be done by the state governments with effective utilization of households, who are most sensitive to changes in interest rates, while being at loan repayments risks when rates are high. Also, economic growth naturally takes the blows of high interest rate regime, as private investment and private consumption take backseat in the economy.

Furthermore, increasing interest rates may not address the underlying causes of inflation, which can be caused by a range of factors, including rise in the money supply, high production costs, or changes in consumer demand. For instance high cereal costs in India is driving inflation high. Indeed, core inflation is also staying above six per cent. But cereal and fruits are making the management of inflation a daunting task. India indeed needs to take steps to work on post-harvest management with the participation of the private capital to ensure that the cereals, fruits and vegetables don't march on high price trajectory to give fresh legs to inflation.

Thus, it's incumbent upon the policymakers to consider targeted interventions to address specific drivers of inflation. The government has done well by proactively asking the Food Corporation of Índia (FCI) to auction the public wheat stock in the open market. The four rounds of the auctions of the wheat stocks have shown sobering impact on the wheat prices, which have significantly cooled down in the last few days.

Similar interventions are needed to cool down the prices of the specific drivers stepping up the inflation. The price stabilization fund, which is a mechanism created by the Centre, to deal with the volatility in the prices of food items needs effective utilization. This has

the market intelligence architecture. It will be worthwhile to explore if there could be a mechanism to incentivize the states for better performances on the price stabilization front.

Failures among banks, including Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), have been attributed to a variety of factors, with high-interest rates bring the principal culprit, which has proven to be unsustainable and even disastrous. Banks resort to offer high-interest rates to attract depositors in pursuit of rapid growth. But the banks tend to gain customers who are primarily interested in the rate, leading to a higher concentration of risky or unstable deposits. This makes banks becoming host to hot money, which can make a sudden flight from the first sign of stress, as had been the case with Silicon Valley Bank and other regional banks in the US.

By all accounts the RBI will not be able to meet the projected inflation rate of 5.7 per cent for this fiscal. This will be possible only if inflation crashes by over 230 points in the last month of the financial year. This will call for the RBI to explain why it failed in the inflation management as mandated by Parliament. We already know that couple of the members of the MPC had opposed the Repo Rate hike in the last meeting. Therefore, it will be desired that the RBI embraces a course correction in the light of the fresh developments globally.

Pausing the rate hike trend will be most desired by the stakeholders. Cut in the rate hikes will, however, be the demand of the prevailing situations. Also, the fact that India had not resorted to printing

uations arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic may be factored in since the market is not flush with cash that requires to be sucked out. Indeed, the US and the European nations had excessively printed their currencies to deal with the economic crises due to the pandemic. They may require flushing out the excess cash from the system to control the inflation. This is surely not the case in India.

But it must not be forgotten that India has paid a heavy prices for such quick-fix approach of the government to deal with the situations arising out of the economic crisis. The UPA government led by Manmohan Singh, former prime minister, had done exactly the same thing, of giving cash in the hands of the people in its bid to find an easy way out of the economic crisis, which India faced in the wake of the 2008 global crisis. This had led Indi to double-digit tood inflation for the remainder of the term of the UPA government. It was only when Narendra Modi took charge of the country as the prime minister that the Central government could tame the runaway food inflation with agile policy making.

The weather scientists have

warned that India may have to face El Nino this year. There may be a risk of weather pattern disruptions, which could also have bearing on prices of several items, which constitute the retail inflation basket. This also calls for the RBI to elicit wider participation in the process of the inflation management, since some of the solutions may lie in the domains of the Centre and the state governments.

It must be understood that working in silos is an ailment that made India suffer the most. The RBI must make sure that it's not

Reforming Parliament: Charity begins at home

It is high time that parliamentary reforms are undertaken to make the House more effective and in sync with the changing times

ust as we need reforms in many other areas, Parliament needs reforms urgently. Right now, both Houses remain paralysed. The Opposition is looking for public and media attention to embarrass the Government, while the Government is also

in an aggressive mood. The BJP opposed the earlier Congress Governments precisely as the Congress is following now, everything which could attract the public and media attention. The direct TV telecast also makes members

play to the gallery. The face-off between the adamant Treasury Benches and the belligerent Opposition continues over two controversial issues. The first concerns Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent alleged defam-



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior

journalist)

atory comments about the Modi government in the U.K. Strangely, the treasury benches are demanding, "Rahul Gandhi sadan mein aao, sadan mein aakar maafi mango (Rahul Gandhi come to the

House and apologise)." The second comes from the Opposition, which demands a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue. The Adoni issue had been simmering for some time, but the Government has been unwilling to discuss it in the House.

The second half of the budget session opened on March 13. The row has become intense now, with the Opposition taking to the streets. The Congress also gave a privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in Lok Sabha.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, "A member of this House (meaning Rahul Gandhi) went abroad and made defamatory comments. He has to tender an apology. And how these people (some Opposition MPs) who are protesting and carrying placards in the House should be acted against; in my opinion, they should be suspended."

This brings us to the larger question of Parliament's functioning. There are enough checks and balances. Parliament's liberal framework provides many opportunities for vigorous debate, discussion, and dissent. Political parties must replace disorder, disruption and delay in legislation with debate, discussion, and decision in a democracy. The

adage is while the Opposition should have its say, the Government should have its

Historically, there was a degree of homogeneity in both Houses in the fifties and sixties. Many members

like Piloo Modii enlivened the House with their repartees, humour, and healthy debates while maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House.

Congress shrank since the eighties while others, including regional parties, grew, leading to coalition politics.

Another area for improvement is the duration of sittings. Most state legislatures sit for barely 30 days a year. In some, like Haryana and Punjab, the average is about a fortnight. The Parliament spends less time on legislative business

resulting in lawmakers spending less time on law-making. The first three Lok Sabhas

sat for an average of 120 DAYS a year. The Lok Sabha spent less than 10 minutes to pass a law, and the Rajya Sabha less than half an hour.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommended that Lok Sabha should have at least 120 and Rajya Sabha 100 sittings. A single minute in Parliament leads to an expenditure of Rs. 2.5 lakhs approx to the exchequer.

The former chief justice I.V. Ramana recently lamented how Parliament passed laws without deliberation and debate. The judiciary interprets the law and always looks for the discussion before passing the law. The presiding officers

of both Houses have time and again urged the members to maintain the dignity of the House in mind.

There should be a complete revamp of the rules to make clearing legislation and discussion on issues open, transparent, and outcome-oriented. Secondly, political parties should choose eminent

men and women as members. Thirdly, new members should be given adequate time

to participate in the proceed-

Fourthly, the party leaders should focus more on Parliament's functioning as they are also stakeholders.

Fifthly, Question Hour should not be disturbed as that is when Government answers many questions. The cancellation of Zero Hour and

Question Hour indicates that parliamentary reforms are urgently needed.

Sixthly, presiding officers should be given more teeth. Seventhly, accommoda-

tion and negotiations should

be part of the conduct of the Eighthly, new members should be trained to under-

stand the House's rules and regulations. The parliamentary committees have gradually

decreased their number of sittings. The Government also only refers some pieces of legislation to the committee. A healthy democracy

needs a fit functioning Parliament. Indian democracy has matured over the years, and it is time to make some necessary corrective issues.

Xi, Putin hold talks in Moscow

China pushes plan to end Ukraine war

PTI ■ BEIJING/MOSCOW

hinese President Xi Jinping Cand his Russian counterpart and ally Vladimir Putin held crucial talks in Moscow on Monday amid concerted efforts by China to push for a peace deal to end the Ukraine war, weeks after Beijing successfully bro-kered a pact between Iran and Saudi Arabia to end their bitter

Xi and Putin, who met over 40 times in the last 10 years to forge close ties to oppose the US-dominated world order, held talks hours after the Chinese leader arrived in Moscow for a three-day state visit to a "grand welcome", official media on both sides reported. Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov told the media that Presidents Xi and Putin will hold face-to-face talks followed by their delegations later. They will continue their talks on Tuesday too, according to Russian official media.

Ushakov said the visit would be strictly a business visit, "there will be no additional protocol stuff, the main thing is negotiations, negotiations and negotiations." In his arrival statement, Xi said, "Our two countries have consolidated and grown the bilateral relationship on the basis of no-alliance, no-con-



frontation and not targeting any third party, and set a fine example for developing a new model of major-country relations". He said China will continue to work with Russia to safeguard the international system with the UN at its core, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN

President Putin said that Moscow has studied Beijing's proposals for resolving the conflict in Ukraine and that he will discuss it at a meeting with President Xi, state-run Tass news agency reported.

"We have thoroughly studied your proposals for resolving the acute crisis in Ukraine Putin said, addressing the Chinese leader at a meeting on Monday. "Of course, we will have an opportunity to discuss this," he stressed.

"We know that you proceed from the principles of justice and observance of the fundamental provisions of international law and indivisible security for all countries," Putin said, noting that China was taking a "fair and balanced position on most pressing international problems."

Putin stressed Russia's openness to negotiations. "Of course, we will discuss all these issues, including your initiatives, which

US to send ammunition, tanker trucks to Ukraine

poised to announce that it will send Ukraine \$350 million in weapons and equipment, U.S. officials said Monday, as fierce battles with Russian forces continue for control of the city of Bakhmut, and troops prepare for an expected spring offensive.

The latest package of aid includes a large amount of various types of amountion, such as rockets for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, and an undisclosed number of fuel tanker trucks and riverine boats, according

we treat with respect, of course,"

Significantly, as Xi arrived in Moscow becoming the first world leader to meet Putin after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against the Russian leader accusing him of committing war crimes in Ukraine, Beijing strongly criticised the Court accusing it of double standards. The ICC should uphold an objective stance, respect the immunity of heads of state from jurisdiction under international law, exercise its functions and powers prudently in accordance with the law. and avoid politicisation and double standards, Chinese

it will be announced later Monday. It comes as Chinese leader Xi Jinping arrived in Moscow on Monday, giving a political lift to Russian President Vladimir Putin against the West just days after an international arrest warrant was issued for the Kremlin leader on war crimes charges related to Ukraine. Officials said the American aid will be taken from Pentagon stocks through the presidential drawdown authority, so it will be able to be delivered quickly to

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told the media in

While there is no imminent danger of Putin being arrested by the ICC, its warrant was seen as a serious image crisis for him as 123 countries are members of the Court.

Ahead of his crucial talks with Putin which were expected to focus on beefing up Beijing-Moscow close and strategic ties, Xi on Monday spoke of his peace plan to end the raging Ukraine war. Xi said his plan takes into account the "legitimate" concerns of all parties and reflects the broadest common understanding of the international community.

Countries urged to rally behind court probes in Ukraine

London (AP): Ukraine's justice officials and the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court appealed Monday to countries around the world to boost funding and support for the global court's investigations into alleged war crimes in Ukraine to ensure Russia is held accountable.

Justice ministers from over 40 countries travelled to London for the war crimes conference, jointly hosted by Britain and the Netherlands, aimed at rallying extra support for the International Criminal Court's probes into atrocities allegedly committed by Russian forces in Ukraine.

The conference came days after the global court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing him of personal responsibility in the abduction of children from Ukraine.

Friday's move was the first time the court has issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. "We share the belief that President Putin and the wider leadership must be held to account," Britain's Justice Secretary Dominic Raab said as he opened the meeting. "Let's make sure that we back up our words with deeds, that we back up our moral support with practical means to effectively investigate these awful crimes."



Deana Uppal, a film-maker, philanthropist, entrepreneur and former Miss India UK has been honoured with the prestigious Points of Light award by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak. The award recognises Uppal's exceptional work through her charity, the DKU Kindness Diaries Charitable Trust, in supporting poverty-stricken communities in Rajasthan, India. The Kindness Diaries Trust, founded by Uppal in 2015, has been working tirelessly to address poverty in India through a variety of initiatives. The trust provides food, clothing, and shelter to those in need, and also runs education and vocational training programs to help individuals become self-sufficient. Alongside the charity work. Deana produced and directed a documentary on the Nomadic community, Gaddia Lohars in Rajasthan: 'India's forgotten people', which can be seen on Netflix.

NYCB to buy Signature Bank New York (AP): New York

Community Bank has agreed to buy a significant chunk of the failed Signature Bank in a USD 2.7 billion deal, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said late Sunday.

The 40 branches of Signature Bank will become Flagstar Bank, starting Monday. Flagstar is one of New York Community Bank's subsidiaries. The deal will include the purchase of USD 38.4 billion in Signature Bank's assets, a little more than a third of Signature's total when the bank failed a week ago.

The FDIC said USD 60 bil-

lion in Signature Bank's loans will remain in receivership and are expected to be sold off

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Ltd, having one of its Branch at 23, Himalaya House, First Floor, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001, intends to grant loan facility to Sh. Dheeraj Kharbanda against security of Entire Second Floor without roof rights including undivided proportionate ownership rights in the land underneath along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits (hereinafter referred as "Said Portion") Buill-up Property bearing No.315, with roof rights, having area measuring 125 Sq. vish noof rights, having area measuring 125 Sq. vish in the layout plan of The Delhi Sainik Co. Operative House Building Society, known as Sainik Chereinafter referred to as "Said Property"). Smt. Satya Gupta Wlo Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta was the recorded owner of the Said Property yirtue of Conveyance Deed dated 05.07.1994 duly registered as Document no. 6274 on 08.07.1994. Thereafter, Smt. Satya Gupta Wlo Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta expired intestate on 20.08.2013 and her husband Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta already expired on 18.11.2006, leaving behind only one legal heir i.e. Sh. Jeewan Jyofi Gupta, who executed an Indemnity Bond dated 16.09.2014 duly registered as Document no. 8636 on 16.09.2014, who claimed be be the Said and associated on the Said as Document no. 865 on 16.09.2014, who claims as Document no. 865 on 16.09.2014, who claimed to be the sole and absolute owner of the Said Property by virtue of Hindu Succession Law. Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said property in any manner whatsoever, must immediately confact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/ objection(s). no such claim is received with in a period of

7 days from the date of publication of this notice hen it will be presumed that no one has an paramount right title or interest in the said prope and even if someone has any claim/objection

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049 E-mail Address : alolegals@gmail.com

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01632-244154

Sr.DMM/UMB

0171-2611203

Donald Trump gets muted response to protest call

President Donald Trump's calls for protests ahead of his anticipated indictment in New York have generated mostly muted reactions from supporters, with even some of his most ardent loyalists dismissing the idea as a waste of time or a law enforcement trap.

The ambivalence raises questions about whether Trump, though a leading Republican contender in the 2024 presidential race who retains a devoted following, still has the power to mobilize farright supporters the way he did more than two years ago before the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. It also suggests that the hundreds of arrests that followed the Capitol riot, not to mention the convictions and long prison sentences, may

Washington (AP) Former have dampened the desire for repeat mass unrest.Still, law enforcement in New York is continuing to closely monitor online chatter warning of protests and violence if Trump is arrested, with threats varying in specificity and credibility, four officials told The Associated Press.

Mainly posted online and in chat groups, the messages have included calls for armed protesters to block law enforcement officers and attempt to stop any potential arrest, the officials said.

The New York Young Republicans Club has announced plans for a protest at an undisclosed location in Manhattan on Monday, and incendiary but isolated posts surfaced on fringe social media platforms from supporters.

Nepal PM Prachanda wins vote of trust **PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday secured a vote of confidence in parliament, winning the second floor test within three months, an outcome he said would provide stability to his government. Prime Minister Prachanda secured

172 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives. Other 89 lawmakers voted against him whereas one abstained. A total of 262 members of the lower house were present in the house. The 68-year-old Maoist leader

needed at least 138 votes out of 275 lawmakers. Eleven political parties including Nepali Congress, CPN-Maoist Centre, Rastriya Swatantra Party, CPN-Unified Socialist, Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal, Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party, Nagarik Unmukti Party, Janamat Party among others voted in favour of Prachanda.

Party voted against him. Nepal Workers and Peasants Party abstained. Speaking to the media after receiving the vote of confidence from the House, Prachanda said he would start discussions with the parties in the alliance. "The government will get full shape within two to four days," he said, adding that "Now the government will run smoothly."

Prachanda's victory paved the way for the expansion of the cabinet by inducting ministers from the ruling alliance including the largest party in the Parliament - the Nepali Congress, which has already announced plans to join the government.

The expansion of the cabinet is likely within the next two-three days to give a full shape to the government, according to party sources. Prachanda on Sunday exuded confidence that he will comfortably win a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.

rty among others voted in favour of achanda.

"Last time, I received support from 99 per cent members of the House of Representatives, and I hope, this time

Ramsahay sworn in as Vice-President

Kathmandu (PTI): Ramsahaya Prasad Yadav, a senior Madhesi leader, was on Monday sworn in as Nepal's third Vice President, days after he comfortably defeated a candidate fielded by the CPN-UML. At a special ceremony at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office, President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to 52-year-old Yadav. Yadav, a candidate from the

Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP), defeated his nearest rival, Ashta Laxmi Shakya of the Communist Party of

I will get one hundred per cent votes," he said. Prachanda sought a vote of confidence as two parties in the seven-party alliance - Rastriya Prajatantra Party and CPN-UML - withdrew support to his government following his decision to support Nepali Congress candidate Ramchandra Paudel in the presidential

President and the first from the Madhes region, bordering India. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Speaker of the House of Representatives Devraj Ghimire, former prime ministers, ministers, and Members of Parliament were among the dignitaries present at the occasion. election. Prachanda, who was sworn in

Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)

[CPN-UML] led by former prime

minister KP Sharma Oli, by a com-

fortable margin in the election for the

post held on March 17. He becomes

the Himalayan nation's third Vice

as the country's Prime Minister in December, comfortably passed the first floor test on January 10 with 268 votes after all parties except the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party and the Rastriya Janamorcha voted in favour of

Single-packet system for the following work.



"Carrying out Final Location Survey (FLS), Geotechnical studies, preparation of GAD of Bridges, L-Section, Yard Plans, Drawing of other structures, preparation and submission of DPR & other preliminary activities in c/w

	5.	Date & Tir	on of	Tenders m 11.04.2023		•					
	4.	Earnest Money to be deposited			3,4	3,40,000/-					
	3.	Approx. Cost of work			3.8	3.80 Cr. only					
	2.	Completion of the work			08	08 (Eight) Months					
				VELOPED AS FEEDER ROUTE OF WDFC (245 Km)							

Detailed Notice &

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

e-Auction Notice No. April/2023

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned

Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P.Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil،

Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme

e-AUCTION DATES FOR April, 2023.

round

4

10.00

10.00

10.00

10.00

11.00

11.00

which will be opened at $11.30 \, hrs. \, on \, 11.04.2023$.

i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 22/03/2023 to 11/04/2023 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 28/03/2023. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Dated: 20.03.2023

round

29

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29

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round

24

25

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Tender Notice No. 482-ACS-C-BNW-ROK-PNP-UMR-TK.I SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 845/23

round

10

12

11

12

round

17

18

20

tacing two motions of no-confidence

ment is facing a critical, maybe fatal, moment Monday with no-confidence motions filed by lawmakers who are furious that President Emmanuel Macron ordered the use of special constitutional powers to force through an unpopular bill raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 without giving them a

Paris (AP): France's govern-

National Assembly lawmakers are set to vote in the afternoon on two no-confidence motions, one from the far-right National Rally and the other, more threatening one from a small group that has gathered support across the left. The Senate, dominated by conservatives who back the retirement plan, passed the legislation last week. The no-confidence motions each need the backing of 287 lawmakers in the National Assembly, the lower chamber, to pass. Although the motions appear unlikely to succeed, the climate of protest that Macron's pension reforms has sparked in parliament and on the streets means the outcome of voting in the National Assembly is not guaranteed.

No such motion has suc-

ceeded since 1962. Macron's centrist alliance still has the most seats in the National Assembly. A minority of lawmakers from the Republicans party could stray from the party line, but it remains to be seen whether they're willing to bring down Macron's government. The tensions in the political arena are echoed on the streets. marked by intermittent protests and strikes in various sectors, from transport to energy and sanitation workers. Garbage in Paris is piling ever higher and reeking of rotting food on the 15th day of a strike by collectors. The three main incinerators serving the French capital have been mostly blocked, just like a garbage sorting centre north-west of Paris. "The goal is to support the workers on strike in Paris ... to put pressure on this government that wants to pass this unjust, brutal and useless and ineffective law," said Kamel Brahmi, of the leftist CGT union, speaking to workers with a bullhorn at the

French government | Thai Parliament dissolved. **election set for May**

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's Parliament was ▲ dissolved Monday by a government decree, setting the stage for a May general election that poses an opportunity to lessen the military's influence in politics.

The dissolution, just a few days before the end of the four-year term of the House of Representatives, was initiated by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is seeking a fresh mandate in the vote provisionally set for May 7. The election will pit the popular opposition Pheu Thai party, backed by billionaire populist Thaksin Shinawatra, against parties representing the conservative establishment, close-

ly linked to the military. Thaksin-led and -backed parties have won the most seats in every election since 2001, but have been blocked from staying in power by military coups, unfavourable rulings by the conservative judiciary and election laws drafted to favour army-backed parties. The leading Pheu Thai candidate is Thaksin's daughter, 36-Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who is heavily favoured in opinion polls.

If elected, she would be the third member of the Shinawatra family to be prime minister in the past two decades. Her father held office in 2001-2006, and Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra in 2011-2014. Both of them were toppled by coups.

Dissolving Parliament before the end of its term allows lawmaker candidates to switch party affiliations just 30 days before the election, instead of the 90 days required if Parliament's term had merely expired. This allows candidates to shop around for parties offering them the best support, while parties can beef up their roll of potential winners by recruiting candidates with a proven record of winning votes in their local constituency. More than 52 million of the country's population of over 66 million are eligible to vote across 400 constituencies. Four hundred seats will be determined by first-past-thepost races in each constituency. A separate party preference ballot will seat the other 100

Representatives from national party lists. Prayuth, who turns 69 on Tuesday, was the sole prime ministerial candidate of Thai politics' conservative wing in the 2019 election. He first assumed the top job after staging a military coup as army commander, ousting Yingluck's elected government in 2014.

He did not run in the 2019 election but was selected prime minister by Parliament after the Palang army-backed Pracharath party formed a coalition government.

This year, however, he faces a challenge from his longtime comrade-in-arms and deputy prime minister, 77-year-old Prawit Wongsuwan, who has been named the new Palang Pracharath candidate for prime minister. Prayuth joined the recently formed United Thai Nation party in January to become its candidate, even though a court ruled last year that he can serve only two more years in office under the constitution. The party is less experienced, raising the question of whether it can win the minimum 25 seats in the lower house to put forward Prayuth as a prime minister candidate.

Officials abducted; jihadists repelled in Nigeria vote

governors on Saturday while

state lawmakers were also elect-

ed for nearly 1,000 constituen-

cies. Nigeria's constitution

AP ■ ABUJA

ecurity forces repelled an Sattack by Islamic extremists on a coalition center in northeastern Nigeria and several election officials elsewhere were kidnapped as results trickled in Sunday from the gubernatorial vote

Meanwhile, the incumbent governor in the battleground state of Lagos appeared to have secured reelection, though results from more than twothirds of the states were still

being counted. Festus Okoye, a states held elections for new spokesman for Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission, said Sunday it had received reports of violence and was reviewing them. Nigeria's election laws grant the electoral body the power to void the outcome of an election in certain circumstances.

Romainville sorting plant.

"Some of our staff were abducted, some were harassed, some were intimidated, some were hospitalized and in one case killed," Okoye said. Twenty-eight of Nigeria's 36

grants governors both enormous powers and immunity from any form of prosecution while in office, making them very influential both in their states and at the federal level.

Saturday's elections were held as the political opposition continues to reject the recent victory of President-elect Bola Tinubu, who belongs to the rul-

ing All Progressives Congress party. In the northeastern Borno state, Islamic Statebacked extremist rebels attempted to disrupt the collation of results on Sunday but were repelled by security forces who killed many of them, local officials and residents said.

members of the House of

Babangida Ajiri, head of a local security outfit collaborating with the military, said at least 40 of the rebels were killed with their arms recovered. "They wanted to surround the village, but the troops

engaged professionally and thwarted their mission," said Ajiri. "It was during the early morning search that we discovered most of the bodies of the killed terrorists." The ruling All Progressives

Congress' Babajide Sanwo-Olu had won 19 of the 20 council areas in Lagos state, defeating Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour of the Labour Party. He immediately rejected the outcome, alleging that their supporters were intimidated and that the result was manipulated.

10.00 6 13 26 28 20 0591-2413141 Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311 The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours

sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.

4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway websi (Om Kumar

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

Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P

Anti-graft body summons Imran's wife

 $P_{\text{watchdog on Monday sum-}}^{\text{akistan's anti-corruption}}$ moned Imran Khan's third wife Bushra Bibi in a corruption case, a day after police registered a terrorism case against the ousted premier and over a dozen leaders of his party for indulging in vandalism and creating unrest outside the judicial complex here.

Clashes erupted outside

the Islamabad Judicial Complex on Saturday when Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party arrived in Islamabad from Lahore to attend a much-awaited hearing in the Toshakhana case. However, due to the violence outside the judicial complex, the judge allowed Khan to return home after signing a reg-

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team arrived at Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore and issued notice to Bushra, according to The Express Tribune newspaper. She was summoned on

Tuesday, the report said. Earlier, the NAB sum-

moned Khan and his wife to their Rawalpindi office on March 9 to question them on the Toshakhana case.

TOSHAKHANA CASE



The hearing in the Toshakhana case was adjourned till March 30 as the judge observed that the situation was not conducive for holding the hearing.

Khan, 70, the former prime minister, has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana, and selling them for profit.

He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan in October last year for not sharing details of the sales. The election body later filed a complaint with the district court to punish him, under criminal laws, for selling the gifts he had received as prime minister of the country.Khan has vehemently denied those charges.
Lahore Police on Sunday

booked Khan and over 1,000 PTI workers under terrorism charges. Khan, the cricketerturned-politician was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan.

Since his ouster, he has been demanding early elections to remove what he termed an "imported government" led by prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif has maintained that elections will be held later this year once the parliament completes its five-year tenure.

Khan's nephew, supporters held

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan checkpoint, several cars and

police arrested Imran Khan's nephew and a number of his supporters on Monday for their alleged involvement in the attacks on the security personnel outside a court here over the weekend where the ousted premier arrived from Lahore to appear in the muchawaited hearing in a corrup-

The raft of arrests was the latest amid the mounting cases filed against Khan, the chief of the main opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Monday's arrests bring the total number of Khan's followers detained in Islamabad to 198 since Saturday.

Among those arrested also include Hassan Niazi, Khan's nephew. The details of the other

arrests were not known immediately. His supporters threw firebombs and hurled stones at the officers as riot police wielded batons and fired tear gas. More than 50 officers were injured and a police

motorcycles were torched.

Lahore Police on Sunday booked Khan and over 1,000 PTI workers under terrorism charges in two cases. The number of cases against Khan has climbed up to 97. Police also claimed to have recovered rifles, Kalashnikovs, bullets, marbles and petrol bombs from his house during the search operation.

Khan, 70, who arrived in the federal capital from Lahore on Saturday, appeared at the gates of the district court in the much-awaited corruption case. However, due to the violence outside the judicial complex, the judge allowed Khan to return home after signing a register.

The former prime minister has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana, and selling them

Shehbaz Sharif condemns smear campaign against Army Chief

Prime Minister Shehbaz PSharif on Monday strongly condemned the "disgusting" smear campaign against Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir and other institutions by his predecessor Imran Khan and urged Pakistanis living abroad to raise their voices against it. Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, has accused Gen Munir of orchestrating the crackdown against him last week by the country's security personnel in a corruption case.

"The campaign against the Army chief is intolerable and a continuation of the conspiracy against the institutions," Prime Minister Sharif was quoted as saying by the PM Office. In a tweet, Sharif directly held Khan responsible for the campaign against Gen Munir.

"PTI's disgusting smear campaign against Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir at the behest of Imran Niazi is deserving of the strongest condemnation," he tweeted. "This man (Khan) is stooping to unprecedented lows in his desperation for power & going to the extent of damaging the country &



& their leadership," he said in another tweet.

Prime Minister Sharif said the campaign against Gen Munir, who he said was the "first army chief to be appointed on merit in Pakistan," could only be the agenda of the enemies of Pakistan. Gen Munir, who served as chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), replaced Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa as the Chief of Army Staff in November last year.

Sharif said "toxic politics" was being spread, as he urged patriotic Pakistanis living abroad to raise their voices against the "foreign-funded campaign."

The Pakistan Prime Minister also blamed Khan for dragging heads of state institutions for his dirty politics, which he said was against the Constitution. "Strict legal

those who instigate chaos, riots and rebellion in Pakistan," the premier warned. Pakistani police on Sunday registered a terrorism case against Khan and over a dozen PTI leaders for indulging in vandalism, attacking security personnel and creating unrest outside the judicial complex here ahead of a court hearing in a graft case involving the ousted premier.

Clashes erupted outside the Islamabad Judicial Complex on Saturday when Khan arrived in Islamabad from Lahore to attend a muchawaited hearing in the Toshakhana case. Khan has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana, and selling them for profit. Established in 1974, the Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign digni-

IMF denies tying economic bailout to compromise on Pak's nuclear prog

on Monday rubbished claims that it has attached nuclearprogramme-related strings for the revival of Pakistan's muchanticipated bailout programme that has been stalled for months, a media report said. Cash-strapped Pakistan is awaiting a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was originally due to be disbursed in November last year. The funds are part of a ÚSD 6.5 billion bailout package the IMF approved in 2019, which analysts say is critical if Pakistan is to avoid defaulting on external debt obligations.

Pakistan, currently in the throes of a major economic crisis, is grappling with high external debt, a weak local currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves enough to shore up for barely one month's

Esther Perez Ruiz, IMF's resident representative in that the federal government around June.

Islamabad (AP): The supreme

leader of the Taliban has issued

a decree against nepotism,

istration from hiring relatives

in government positions. The

shadowy leader, Mullah

Hibatullah Akhundzada, also

ordered all Taliban officials to

sack their sons and other rel-

atives who are already working

in their administration. The

decree was posted late on Saturday on the Taliban gov-

"It is an order to all offi-

ernment's Twitter account.

cials in the ministries, depart-

ments and independent

authorities that no one is

allowed to appoint family

members or relatives in gov-

ernment positions," the decree

said. The tweet did not elabo-

rate on the reasons behind the

decree but it followed rumours

that many Taliban officials

have appointed their sons and

officials Afghanistan's Taliban admin-

barring

Top Af Taliban leader issues

decree against nepotism

Islamabad, has denied attaching any strings to the External Fund Facility (EFF), according

'Regarding recent speculation that programme discussions with the authorities for the ninth review under the IMF-supported programme may have covered Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, I want to be categorical that there is absolutely no truth to this or any insinuated link between the past or current IMF supported programme and decision by any Pakistani government over its nuclear programme," the report said, quoting the official. The IMF chief said dis-

cussions have exclusively focused on economic policies to solve Pakistan's economy and balance of payments problems, in line with the Fund's mandate for promoting macroeconomic and financial stability. It comes days after Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar assured Parliament

relatives in high-ranking gov-

ernment positions rather than

professionals or those with

experience needed for the

posts Taliban government

spokesmen were not immedi-

ately available on Monday to

elaborate on the order or pro-

vide further details. The

Taliban seized power in

Afghanistan in mid-August

2021 amid the chaotic depar-

ture of U.S. and NATO troops

after 20 years. Despite initial

promises of a more moderate

stance, the Taliban gradually

reimposed their harsh inter-

pretation of Islamic law, or

Sharia, as they did during their

previous rule of Afghanistan

from 1996 to 2001. Girls are

now barred from school

beyond the sixth grade and

women are banned from work-

ing, studying, travelling with-

out a male companion, and

even going to parks, gyms or

mise on the country's nuclear and missile programme despite tough economic conditions and hurdles to secure a loan from the IMF. "Let me assure you that nobody is going to compromise anything on the nuclear or the missile programme of Pakistan - no way," Dar told Parliament last week. Dar also indirectly held Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and its chief Imran Khan responsible for the delay in the IMF funding as he blamed the then government of Imran

Separately, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan's nuclear programme was being "jealously guarded by the state" Pakistan has been hosting

Khan for agreeing on tough conditions to get the funding.

the IMF mission since early February to negotiate the terms of the deal, including the adoption of policy measures to manage its fiscal deficit ahead of the annual budget due

At least three Kenyan legis-lators and several protesters

have been arrested in protests in

Kenya's capital, Nairobi, organ-

ised by the opposition demand-

ing the resignation of President

William Ruto. Hundreds of

demonstrators spread across

the city have not managed to

reach the designated meeting

point in the central business dis-

trict as police dispersed them

with teargas through the morn-

ing. The opposition called for

protests against Ruto who they

say was not validly elected in the

August 2022 elections. They are

also blaming Ruto's adminis-

tration for the rising cost of liv-Nairobi police boss

Adamson Bungei said those

arrested in the protests would be

released after paying cash bail.

Bungei had over the weekend

said police had denied the

opposition permission to hold

their protests and that any con-

gregation would be illegal.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga

'No such thing as Palestinian people'

Kenya Opp leads anti-Govt protests

Tel Aviv (AP): A firebrand Israeli minister claimed there's "no such thing" as a Palestinian people as Israel's new coalition government, its most hard-line ever, plowed ahead on Monday with a part of its plan to overhaul the judiciary. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition said it was pushing a key part of the overhaul — which would give the coalition control over who becomes a justice or a judge — before the parliament takes a monthlong holiday break next week.

The development came a day after an Israeli and Palestinian delegation at a meeting in Egypt, mediated by Egyptian, Jordanian and U.S. officials, pledged to take steps to lower tensions roiling the region ahead of a sensitive holiday season. It reflected the limited influence the Biden administration appears to have over Israel's new far-right government and raised questions about attempts to lower tensions, both inside Israel and with the Palestinians, ahead of a sensitive holiday season. As the negotiators were issuing a joint com-munique, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich delivered a speech in Paris saying the notion of a Palestinian people was artificial."There is no such thing as a Palestinian nation. There is no Palestinian history. There is no Palestinian language," he said in France late Sunday. He spoke at a lectern draped with what appeared to be a map of Israel that included the occupied West Bank and parts of Jordan. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said Smotrich's remarks were "conclusive evidence of the extremist, racist Zionist ideology that governs the parties of the current Israeli

government." A far-right settler leader who opposes Palestinian statehood, Smotrich has a history of offensive statements against the Palestinians. Last month, he called for the Palestinian town of Hawara in the West Bank to be "erased" after radical Jewish settlers rampaged through the town in response to a shooting attack that killed two Israelis.

Amazon to lay off 9,000 more employees

New York (AP): Amazon plans to eliminate 9,000 more jobs in the next few weeks, CEO Andy Jassy said in a memo to staff on Monday.

The job cuts would mark the second largest round of layoffs in the company's history, adding to the 18,000 employees the company said it would lay off in January.

In the memo, Jassy said the second phase of the company's annual planning process completed this month and led to the additional job cuts. He said Amazon will still hire in some strategic areas. "Some may ask why we didn't announce these role reductions with the ones we announced a couple months ago. The short answer is that not all of the teams were done with their analyses in the late fall; and rather than rush through these assessments without the appropriate diligence, we chose to share these decisions as we've made them so people had the information as soon as possible," Jassy said.

and the role of the police is to

protect them after they issue a

notification in advance. Police

have been heavily deployed to

State House with motorists and

pedestrians being stopped from

accessing the road there. Most

shops in Nairobi's central busi-

ness district closed on Monday

as business owners feared loot-

arrested include the senate

minority leader Stewart

Madzavo and members of par-

liament Opiyo Wandati and

Amina Mnyazi. Other legisla-

tors who had turned up at the

designated meeting point in the

city were dispersed by the police

ment buildings where they

announced that protests would

continue through the after-

noon. Kenya's opposition has in the past held violent demon-

strations in which people have

They retreated to parlia-

The leaders who have been

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to General public that my cliet ANAND KUMAR is purchasing property i PROPERTY BEARING NO-RZ-B-75,(THR FLOOR) NORTHERN SIDE AREA 100 SQ YARD OUT OF KHASRA NO-31/4 SITUATED IN TH AREA OF VILLAGE DABRI DELHI STATE DELE
COLONY KNOWN AS BABRIEXTN. NEW DELH
110045., from Sh. Satyavir Singh an
mortgaging with Aditya Birla Housing Final
Ltd. and Sh. Satyavir Singh don't have origin
Probate of will executed by Smt. Jaswan
Devi in favour of Sh. Satyavir Singh And If ar
person is having any objection, right or claim
respect of the said property in capacity in ar
manner or said mortgage then he may conta
the undersign within 8 days of publication of
this Notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jist Ghaziabad, U.P. Pili 201 002, measuring 288.1, (quare Maters is mortgaged with the State Bank in dia, SME Branch, Sector 18, Noida, Dist Gauta budch Nagar since 2013 it is further informed in he public at large that Original Allotment Letter an information of the state of the state of the hind Chatan Swarup Sio Late Shri Tulis Ram bi haziabad Development Authority are not traceab in the records. Any person dealing with the sai roperty in the name of bona-fide owner Sh historias Warup shall be degine soat his sawn risk an historias Warup shall be degine soat his sawn risk an

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Sangita Jain is the owner of Built up First floor, without roof rights, L Type, having area measuring 60 Son, Vds., "said floor" part of Property bearing No. WA-106, Old Plot No. 23, out of Khasra No. 178, Situateo at abadi Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi sali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi sali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi sali or his had property kilago bendering the salid property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if any-body has any objections/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/hornitgage/flitigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned

l, Nikita Arora D/o Lajpat Arora, R/o 87A, HIG Flats, Express View Apartment Pocket-B, Sector-105, Noida my Original Document Receipt No. 046, dated 16th July 2016, in the name of my

roberny in the Indian of bonding so this own risk and ur client shall not be responsible Pawan Kumar Tyagi (Advocate Ch. No. 345, District & Sesion Noida Court, Gautam Greater Budh Nagar

mother Late. Seema Arora having an area of 495 Sq.feet, 45.187 Sq.mt. of Anandam Suites & Omaxe Eternity Vrindavan District Mathura Uttar Pradesh unit Number ASV/14/001 Pin Code 281121. Developer M/s. Kansal Infraplanne Pvt.Ltd. bought from whose Registered Office is B-3/252, 253 Ground Floor Sector-6 Rohini Delhi-110065 Whereas Factually Lost Somewhere Whose Complaint/Fir In E-station Lucknow Police Station Fir/Station Dairy No.20230000158003 Dated 18/03/2023 have registered.

UJVN LIMITEDH.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone.: 0135 -2763508, 2763808 Fax 2763507, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Tender Extension Notice Due to unavoidable circumstances the Office of the Executive Enginee (E&M) SHP, UJVN Limited, Rishikesh hereby extends the date of bids nvitation for E-Tender No 01/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2022-23 As per details

ast date for submission of Tender 28/03/2023 to 17:00 Hrs Date of Opening of tenders 29/03/2023 to 11:30 Hrs

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal

Executive Engineer (E&M) (SHP)Rishikesh "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)







"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on i) Website of Coal India Limited: www.coalindia.in, ii) Website of ECL: www.easterncoal.nic.in, iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal: https://coalindia tenders.nic.in, iv) Central Public Procurement Portal:https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal: https://gem.gov.in". (By Order)

> **ECL** ECL's Website: www.easterncoal.gov.in

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Read. Office: Khemka House ,11, Community Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017. Phone: 011-26963172/73 , 26863310, 26961211, 41664818, Fax No. : 011-26856350 E-mail Id:- info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com NOTICE

{For the Attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company} Compulsory Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to the DEMAT Account of the

Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority Notice is published in pursuance of section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the nvestor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules 2016 ("the said Rules") notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs as amended from time to time and Regulation 39 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations

The Rules, inter alia, require the Company to transfer all the shares in respect of which Dividen has not been claimed by the Shareholders during the last 7 consecutive years starting from the Final Dividend of the financial year 2015-2016, to the demat account of the Investor Education and rotection Fund (IEPF) Authority set up by the Central Government within 30 days from the due

date of transfer i.e July 2,2023 , in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules. Accordingly, the Company has sent individual communications to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to the demat account of the IEPF Authority in compliance of the said Rules, at their latest available address advising them to claim their dividends expeditiously. The Company has uploaded the complete details of such shareholders and their folio number or DPID- Client ID on its website i.e. www.indagrubber.com. This Notice shall be med to be the adequate notice in respect of issue of new Share Certificate(s) by the Company on behalf of those Shareholders who hold Shares in physical form, for the purpose of transfer of heir Shares to the DEMAT Account of the IEPF Authority in the manner as prescribed in the said

Concerned shareholders may note that, any further dividend, including other corporate benefits on such shares shall be credited to the IEPF Account of the IEPF Authority. Upon credit of such hares to the said Demat account, no claim shall lie against the company in respect of the inclaimed dividend amount and such shares transferred to IEPF Account. However, shareholder nay claim back the shares credited along with the unclaimed dividend amount from the IEPI Authority after following the procedure given under the IEPF Rules. The procedure for claiming the ame is available at www.mca.gov.in and www.iepf.gov.in.

For any further information/ clarification on this matter, the concerned shareholder may write to the Company at Indag Rubber Limited, Khemka House, 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, Tel.: 011-26963172-73. Email-info@indagrubber.com or contact the Company's egistrar and Share Transfer Agent - Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Limited at D-153/A, 1st Floor Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 Tel.: 011-26812682-83. email min@skylinerta.com

> For Indag Rubber Limited Company Secretary

estate

University all took part in the excavation. Umm al-Quwain, the least-populated emirate in

the UAE, plans to build a visitor's center at the site. Today, the area near the marshland is more known for the low-cost liquor store at the emirate's Barracuda Beach Resort. In recent months, authorities have demolished a hulking, Sovietera cargo plane linked to a Russian gunrunner known as the "Merchant of Death" as it builds a bridge to Siniyah Island for a \$675 million real development.

Authorities hope that development, as well as other building, will grow the emirate's economy. However, even this ancient site bears lessons for

there all year around." said Monday they have found town," said Timothy Power, an In the homes, archaeologists have discovered loose the oldest pearling town in the associate professor of archaeology at the United Arab Persian Gulf on an island off pearls and diving weights, Emirates University, using a word that means "Gulf" in one of the northern which the free divers used to sheikhdoms of the United

Arab Emirates. Artifacts found in this town on Siniyah Island in Umm al-Quwain, likely once home to thousands of people and hundreds of homes, date as far back as the region's pre-Islamic history in the late 6th century. While older pearling towns have been mentioned in historical texts, this represents the first time archaeologists say they have physically found one from this ancient era across the nations of the Persian Gulf.

"This is the oldest example of that kind of very

Arabic. "It's the spiritual ancestor of towns like Dubai." The pearling town sits on Siniyah Island, which shields the Khor al-Beida marshlands in Umm al-Quwain, an emirate some 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Dubai along the coast of the Persian Gulf. The island, whose name means "flashing lights" likely due to the effect of the white-hot sun overhead, already has seen archaeologists discover an ancient Christian monastery dating back as many as 1,400 years. The town sits directly

of the curling fingers of the island and stretches across some 12 hectares (143,500 square yards). There, archaeologists found a variety of homes made of beach rock and lime mortar, ranging from cramped quarters to more sprawling homes with court-

south of that monastery on one

ification, Power said. The site also bears signs of year-round habitation, unlike other pearling operations run in seasonal spots in the region.

on Sunday insisted that protests

would proceed as planned and

demonstrators would march to

yards, suggesting a social stratafter conquering Mecca in present-day Saudi Arabia. Umm

"The houses are crammed in there, cheek by jowl," he

their held breath. The town predates the rise al-Quwain's

Date: March 20, 2023

added. "The key thing there is Institute for the Study of the permanence. People are living Ancient World at New York

Archeologists uncover 'oldest pearling town' in UAE

with teargas.

quickly drop down to the seabed while relying only on

of Islam across the Arabian Peninsula, making its residents likely Christians. Islam's Prophet Muhammad was born around 570 and died in 632

State House, the official resi-

dence of the president. Odinga

said Kenyan citizens have a con-

Department of Tourism and Archaeology, UAE University, the Italian Archaeological Mission in the emirate and the

PSU banks' gross NPA declines to 5.53%, profit of ₹70,167 cr in April-Dec made

≺he government has taken various reforms following which asset quality of public sector banks has improved significantly with gross NPA ratio declining from the peak of 14.6 per cent in March 2018 to 5.53 per cent in December 2022, Parliament was informed on Monday.

All PSBs are in profit with aggregate profit being Rs 66,543 crore in 2021-22, and that further increased to Rs 70,167 crore in first nine months of current financial year, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply to

At the same time, resilience has increased with provision coverage ratio of PSBs rising from 46 per cent to 89.9 per cent in December 2022, he said, adding capital adequacy ratio of PSBs improved significantly from 11.5 per cent in March 2015 to 14.5 per cent in

Shares of Credit Suisse plunged 63 per cent in Searly trading Monday after the announcement

that banking giant UBS would buy its troubled

rival for almost USD 3.25 billion in a deal orches-

trated by regulators to stave off further market-

UBS shares were down 14 per cent in early

Swiss authorities urged UBS to take over its

Shares of Credit Suisse and other banks

Credit Suisse is among 30 financial institu-

The deal was "one of great breadth for the sta-

smaller rival after a plan for Credit Suisse to bor-

row up to 50 billion francs (USD 54 billion) failed

plunged after the failure of two banks in the US

raised questions about other potentially shaky

tions known as globally systemically important

banks, and authorities worried about the fallout

bility of international finance," Swiss President

Alain Berset said as he announced it Sunday night.

"An uncontrolled collapse of Credit Suisse would

lead to incalculable consequences for the coun-

member governing body that includes Berset,

passed an emergency ordinance allowing the merger to go through without shareholder

of regulators to restore calm. Global stock mar-

kets sank Monday, with Hong Kong's main index

sliding more than 3 per cent. Market benchmarks

in Frankfurt and Paris opened down more than

declined. Wall Street futures were off 1 per cent.

Oil prices plunged more than USD 2 per barrel.

for Credit Suisse, for Switzerland and for the glob-

al financial markets," Lehmann said, adding that

the focus is now on the future and on Credit

Suisse's 50,000 employees, 17,000 in Switzerland.

central banks announced coordinated moves to

the sale to UBS "a clear turning point."

Credit Suisse Chairman Axel Lehmann called

"It is a historic, sad and very challenging day

Following news of the Swiss deal, the world's

Switzerland's executive branch, a seven-

Markets remain jittery despite the best efforts

try and the international financial system."

to reassure investors and the bank's customers.

shaking turmoil in the global banking system.

trading on the Swiss stock exchange.

global financial institutions.

if it were to fail.

AP GENEVA

crore in December 2022, he said.

Karad also said banks, earlier placed under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework by RBI, have made significant improvement.

Talking about various measures taken to improve the financial health of PSBs, Karad said, the government implemented a comprehensive 4R strategy of Recognising NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalising PSBs, and Reforms in the financial

Major banking reforms undertaken by the government over the last eight years addressed credit discipline, responsible lending and improved governance, besides adoption of technology, amalga-

Credit Suisse, UBS shares plunge

after takeover announcement

Total market cap of PSBs (excluding IDBI Bank, which was categorised as private sector bank in January 2019) increased from Rs 4.52 lakh crore in March 2018 to Rs 10.63 lakh

mation of banks, and maintain-

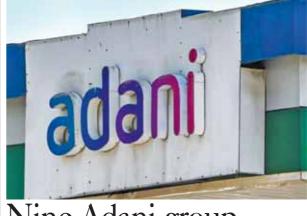
In reply to another question, Karad said, as per the information provided by Ministry of Transport & Highways (MoRTH), the total estimated vehicle fleet is 30.48 crore (excluding data from Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep), of which 16.54 crore vehicles are uninsured.

Replying to another ques-

handled by DIPAM, strategic disinvestment transactions have been completed in 10 cases; 5 PSEs are under consideration for closure; 1 case is held up due to litigation, 1 case is under Insolvency Corporate Resolution Process (CIRP) in NCLT and 2 transactions are under review for feasibility," he said, adding, remaining 14 transactions are at various stages.

In other PSEs, where the government continues to retain control, disinvestment through minority stake sale is carried out through various SEBI-approved methods such as initial public offer (IPO), offer for sale (OFS), buyback of shares etc. From time to time based on prevailing market conditions and investor interest, he said.

The modernisation and capacity expansion of PSEs are taken up by the respective boards of PSEs under the administrative control of different ministries, he added.



Nine Adani group stocks end lower; snaps 2-day winning streak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nine out of ten listed compa-nies of the Adani group closed with losses on Monday, snapping two-day of gains amid an across-the-board sell-off in the broader market.

While some Adani stocks hit their lowest circuit prices, flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd declined 3.84 per cent to close at Rs 1,805.10 on BSE. The flagship commanded a market capitalisation of Rs 2.05 lakh crore. The stock was the second biggest loser among Nifty stocks, dropping by 3.44 per cent.

Adani Total Gas plunged 4.99 per cent to end at Rs 853.10, Adani Power tumbled 4.83 per cent to close at Rs 190.30 and Adani Transmission went lower by 1.49 per cent to settle at Rs 1,009.60 per share. The three stocks hit their lower price bands on the exchange before recovering some ground.

Shares of Ambuja Cements nosedived 3.37 per cent to close at Rs 365.50, Adani Wilmar fell 3.16 per cent to end at Rs 413.85, NDTV dived 3.11 per cent to settle at Rs 199.30 and ACC declined 1.84 per cent to end at Rs 1,697.05 on the BSE.

Also, shares of Adani Ports Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) fell 1.96 per cent to end at Rs 666.75 apiece on the

However, Adani Green Energy climbed 3.91 per cent to settle at Rs 848.75 per share. The company's market valuation rose to Rs 1.34 lakh crore.

The BSE Sensex benchmark plunged 360.95 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 57,628.95 points. The broader NSE Nifty fell 111.65 points or 0.65 per cent to close at 16,988.40.

On Friday, seven Adani group companies had settled

Last week, NSE and BSE announced that two Adani group stocks - Adani Green Energy and NDTV — will be moved to the first stage of the long-term additional surveillance measures (ASM) framework from Monday.

The move also comes close on the heels of the two exchanges excluding Adani Enterprises, Adani Power and Adani Wilmar under the shortterm ASM.

After taking a beating on the bourses, following the report by US-based short Hindenburg Research, many of the group stocks have recovered some lost ground. However, amid sluggish broader market trends, the group's stocks have declined in the last few trading

The report had made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against it. The group has dismissed the charges as lies, say-

PSUs asked to issue LoCs based on their financial strength



The Finance Ministry has asked central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) to issue letters of comfort (LoCs) on the basis of their own financial strength so that no liability devolves on the Government of

The Office Memorandum dated March 20, 2023, has been issued following a request from some CPSUs in the oil and power sector seeking relaxation with regard to the issuance of "In view of requirements, it

has been decided that CPSUs may issue LoCs on its own financial strength and all such LoCs shall only be issued after specifically inserting the fol-lowing clause — under no circumstances, the liability under this Letter of Comfort shall devolve on the Government of India," the memorandum said.

Under the provision of the fiscal responsibility law, the budget requires to provide details of guarantees given by the govern-

It further clarified that ministries and departments will not issue any letters of comfort as specified under the Office Memorandum dated March 31, 2022 on behalf of the Government of India.

Issuance of LoCs based on own financial strength is a part of regular business practice.

It enables these entities to raise resources at competitive rates for their capex or working capital needs as well as furthering the business interests of their joint ventures or subsidaries or Group companies.

Indian Bank

tion, Karad said the government

since 2016 has given 'in-princi-

ple' approval for strategic disin-

vestment of 36 cases of public

sector enterprises (PSEs) and/or

subsidiaries/ units/ joint ven-

being handled by Department of

Investment and Public Asset

Management (DIPAM) and 3

cases are being handled by the

Of the 36 cases, 33 are

tures of PSEs/ banks.

ing general confidence of bankers, he said.



Sensex, Nifty close lower amid global equity rout on banking crisis worries

Benchmark Sensex declined by 360 points while the Nifty closed below the 17,000-level on Monday due to a sell-off in financials, IT and capital goods shares amid a global rout in "Today is one of the most significant days in equities on lingering worries European banking since 2008, with far-reaching repercussions for the industry," said Max Georgiou, over the banking crisis.

Snapping its two-day gaining streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 360.95 points or 0.62 per cent to close at 57,628.95 as 23 of its stocks ended in the red. The index tanked more than 900 points to touch a low of 57,084.91 before

The broader Nifty of the NSE plunged by 111.65 points or 0.65 per cent to close below the 17,000-level at 16,988.40. As many as 40 Nifty stocks declined while 10 advanced.

Analysts said investors fretted over the US banking crisis even as Federal Reserve and other central banks took efforts to ease a fast-growing banking

Investors were also concerned ahead of a Federal Reserve meeting to decide on more possible interest rate hikes.

"The fear of contagion of the financial crisis has kept investors away from the equity markets as the global market faces numerous hurdles. Despite Swiss regulators' intervention to protect the global financial system, investor sentiment remained shaky," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Banking giant UBS is acquifor around USD 3.25 billion in a deal arranged by Swiss regulators to avoid further turmoil in the global banking system.

The move failed to calm jittery investors as Credit Suisse tanked 63 per cent and UBS sank 14 per cent on Swiss bourses. Credit Suisse is among 30 institutions known as globally systemically important banks.

Toxic work culture, excessive pressure main

demand; aims to help buy-sell of ₹2,000 cr The company has opened office to cater to the demand

 $P^{\text{roptech unicorn NoBroker}}_{\text{on Monday said it has}}$ opened an office in Dubai to tap demand from non-resident Indians (NRIs) and is expecting to facilitate transaction of prop-

The firm has opened the branch office in the Business Bay spread over 1,500 square feet.

Saurabh Garg, Ĉo-founder & Chief Business Officer of NoBroker, said it has hired 10 people to provide services to NRI's who are looking to buy properties in India and plans to recruit more employees.

coming from the NRIs who are looking to purchase a property

ing it complies with all laws and

NoBroker enters Dubai to tap NRI's property

disclosure requirements.

"We are looking at doing business worth Rs 2,000 crore in the first year," Garg said.

to NRI demand from international markets such as the UAE, Singapore, Australia, and the US. Given the volumes of

queries and interest in the Indian residential sector from the NRI community, the company has decided to station its representatives closer to the customers to address the same.

"The NRI interest in the

Indian residential sector had peaked during Covid and is still quite strong. We realised that customers feel more confident about their purchase decisions when dealing with a company representative in person," Garg

A builders and has a robust primary sales vertical.

"Buyers are comfortable using a portal for online property discovery. But before making the final purchase of a new property where the house is not already constructed, buyers have a lot of queries, and the physical presence of a company representative helps," the firm said.

Samsung to invest in smart manufacturing capabilities research and development in India

PTI ■ BENGALURU

rorean electronics major Korean electronics Samsung will invest in setting up smart manufacturing capabilities at its mobile phone plant in Noida to make production more competitive, the company's global head for mobile business said here on Monday.

Samsung Electronics President and Head of Mobile eXperience Business T M Roh, in response to a PTI query on the company's investment plan in India, said that the company will continue to invest in research and development facilities in the country.

"We will continue our investment to bring the optimised and or smart factory to the Noida facilities. We will continue our investment there. I believe that our investment for the smart factory will bring competitiveness in the production," Roh said.

The company started a manufacturing and R&D centre in India in 1996 and now has close to 70,000 employees in the

Samsung now has its second

the world at Noida and biggest research and development centre at Bengaluru in India.

Galaxy S23 series in India. focussing on make in India,

meeting the domestic need but also use it as a hub for export," Roh said. He said the company is col-

laborating with local vendors in India for mobile chargers and components like mechanics.

possible to be competitive without collaboration with local partners. The technology collaboration will continue with local partners. We have products for export, which are done in close collaboration with local vendors. In the case of OLED display manufacturing, we have been closely working with local ven-

biggest manufacturing facility in

The company this year started manufacturing its premium

'Śamsung India has been make for India. We are not only

It could not have been dors," Roh said.

Samsung has around 10,000 employees at its R&D centres across India, out of which the largest base of close to 3,500 is located at its Bengaluru centre.



stabilize banks, including access to a lending facil-

ity for banks to borrow US dollars if they need

them, a practice widely used during the 2008 cri-

lapsed in September of 2008, such swap lines had

been tapped for USD 580 billion. Swap lines also

were rolled out during market turmoil in the early

an analyst at Third Bridge. "These events could alter the course of not only European banking but

also the wealth management industry more gen-

"enormous opportunities" from the takeover and

highlighted his bank's "conservative risk culture" more swashbuckling gambles in search of bigger

returns. He said the combined group would cre-

ate a wealth manager with over USD 5 trillion in

of Credit Suisse or reduce the bank's size.

UBS officials said they plan to sell off parts

Swiss Finance Minister Karin Keller-Sutter

said the council "regrets that the bank, which was

once a model institution in Switzerland and part

of our strong location, was able to get into this sit-

total invested assets.

Colm Kelleher, the UBS chairman, hailed

stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three months after Lehman Brothers col-

 $N^{\text{early half of Gen Z respondents consider toxic work}}$ culture and excessive work pressure as the trigger for quiet quitting, a report said on Monday. Over 48 per cent of Gen Z,

those born in mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s, attribute toxic work culture as the primary cause for quiet quitting, while a mere 6 per cent believe it to be a result of extended office timings, according to a report -Quiet Quitting and its Effect on Organisational Work Structure by Kolkata based staffing firm Genius Consultants.

Notably, it revealed that 23 per cent of the respondents

sive work pressure for the issue.

Quiet quitting is a term which is used for those employees who put no more effort into their jobs than absolutely neces-According to the report 'Quiet Quitting' has led to a new

trend - Bare Minimum Mondays, where the employees specially the Gen Z tend to put in bare minimum efforts on the work front on the first day of the The report, Quiet Quitting

and its Effect on Organisational Work Structure, is based on an online survey among 1,928 employees across sectors.

It further revealed that over



54 per cent of India Inc are aware the term 'Quiet Quitting' and 74 per cent of the respondents believed that the quiet quitting culture is distressing the work environment.

In current times, the work-

force perceives their job as more than just a means to an end, namely a source of income, said the report.

"Given the current situation, both the 'quiet quitting culture' and the 'Bare Minimum

organisations, and when coupled with layoffs, can aggravate the issue further. It's imperative for companies to address this issue proactively to foster a culture of engagement, motivation, and resilience in the face of adversity. We believe such surveys are critical to gather insightful perspectives on ongoing issues," Genius Consultants CMD R P Yadav said.

The report found that despite the trend of quiet quitting and layoffs, 43 per cent of respondents believed that the problem can be mitigated through better employee bene-

February 2023 recorded 11 exits worth USD 731 million compared to USD 1.4 billion recorded in February 2022 across 13 deals, and USD 898 million recorded across 20 deals

overall such commitments.

Funds dedicated to India raised USD 881 million as compared to USD 347 million in the year-ago period, it said, adding that Kotak Alternate Assets USD 590 million for a data cen-

Issues trademark infringement notice Mondays' are co-related and to Third Unicorn Ltd can have adverse effects on PNS NEW DELHI Näsico Brands UK Ltd.

Clasico Brands UK

recently issued a legal notice to Third Unicorn Private Limited and its shareholders with respect to infringement of the trademark MINISTRY OF CRICKET, which is owned by Cläsico in various countries, including India. Clásico Brands is a global

company having its roots in all 5 continents of the world and operates in the personal and home care category with selfowned brands as well as global license franchisees. It owns production facilities are located across Europe, Asia, Middle East & Latin America.Third Unicorn is a tech start-up by Ashneer Grover. Madhuri Jain Grover and Aseem Ghavri are the Co-founders of Third Unicorn. BACKGROUND

MINISTRY OF CRICKET Mr. Aiav Bindroo, the founder

of Clasico Brands, had conceptualized and adopted the brand MINISTRY OF CRICKET as far back as the year 2014, and had begun to take steps to register this trademark around the world from the year 2019. Cläsico is about to launch business operations under the brand MIN-ISTRY OF CRICKET in the very near future under the entrepreneurship of Bindroo.

PE/VC investments nearly halve in Feb 2023: Report concerns, increasing cost of capital and mismatch in valuaactions getting recorded as against 139 in the year-ago period, the report said, adding that aggregating to USD 3 billion in

nvestments by private equity Land venture capital funds declined by 44 per cent to USD 3.7 billion in February compared to the same period a year ago, a report said on Monday. The bets by the long-term

investors were 13 per cent lower when compared to the investments in the preceding month of January, the report by industry lobby Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association and consultancy firm EY, said. ...rising global recession

tion expectations between sellers and investors are turning out to be major impediments in the deployment of capital," EY's partner Vivek Soni said. He added that the recent events in the global financial

world after the failure of SVB and the contagion spreading to other mid-market US banks catering to the technology sector has added to the overall uncertainty, and "may discourage investors from making bold bets in the immediate term".

The venture investing industry poured in USD 6.6 billion into companies in February 2022, while the same stood at USD 4.314 billion in January

In volume terms, the number of deals dropped by 60 per cent in February with 55 trans-

real estate led by bagging USD 2.4 billion of the overall USD 3.7 billion in investments with the

there were 75 deals in January From a sectoral perspective,

CDPQ and Temasek to set up an investment platform for office properties in India being at the There were only nine large

USD 1.9 billion funding announcement by an arm of

deals of USD 100 million or

in January 2023, it said.

tre fund was the largest.

Barca snatch Clasico win over Madrid

arcelona snatched a 2-1 Clasico Win over Real Madrid with Franck Kessie's late goal Sunday to move 12 points clear at the top of La Liga. The victory dents Madrid's ambitions of retaining the title and leaves the Catalans close to lifting the trophy for the first time since 2019.

Carlo Ancelotti's Real took the lead through a Ronald Araujo own goal but Barcelona pulled level when Sergi Roberto tucked home just before halftime. Both sides had chances to win the game and Marco Asensio struck for Madrid, but the goal was ruled offside by VAR, before Alejandro Balde set up Kessie in the 92nd minute.

"We came from a Marco Asensio goal that we didn't know was offside and from losing, we scored Franck's goal, and the truth is it tastes a bit better, winning like that in the last minute," Sergi Roberto told Movistar.

There are a lot of games left and you can never give Madrid up for dead. 12 points is a tricky distance to have to go, but it's up to us, and that is good." The build-up to the match was

overshadowed by Barcelona's corruption charge in the "Caso Negreira" refereeing scandal. Madrid joined Spanish prosecutors' complaint against Barcelona last week

and their president Florentino Perez snubbed the game for the first time in over 20 years, amid rising tensions between the two Spanish giants.

That fed the match's intensity,

both on and off the pitch, in Xavi's sixth Clasico as Barcelona coach but only his first at Camp Nou. Xavi asked fans to make the stadium a pressure cooker and they

responded, selling it out, whistling Madrid in possession and conjuring one of the best atmospheres of the sea-Madrid did not manage a single

shot on target in their Copa del Rey semi-final first leg defeat by Barcelona earlier in March, but Karim Benzema



stung Marc-Andre ter Stegen's palms inside the first minute.

Robert Lewandowski responded at the other end by testing Thibaut Courtois as the veteran marksmen exchanged shots. When Barcelona conceded the opening goal of the game, it was friendly fire. Araujo deflected Vinicius' cross in at the near post, with Ter Stegen helpless.

Araujo, playing at right-back to counteract the Brazilian, has enjoyed his duels with Vinicius in the past but this time the winger triumphed, albeit fortuitously. Barcelona supporters became enraged by his emphatic celebration in

front of them. It was the first goal from open play Barcelona have conceded at Camp Nou in La Liga all season long, and only the second strike at home and ninth overall.

COMEBACK CHARGE

Barcelona complained defender Nacho, already booked, should have been sent off for a hand-off on Raphinha.

The hosts did not get their wish, but were building up steam and found the breakthrough just before half-time, from an unlikely source.

Selected in place of injured mid-

fielder Pedri, Sergi Roberto was in the right place at the right time to control a loose ball in the box and arc it beyond

Barcelona had significantly more ossession than in their cup win over Madrid and significantly more chances.

Lewandowski sent a deflected piledriver narrowly wide as Madrid wobbled, prompting Carlo Ancelotti to roll the dice and bring on Rodrygo and Ferland Mendy.

It almost paid instant dividends as Madrid robbed Sergio Busquets and Rodrygo lashed inches over the bar. Madrid substitute Asensio fired

home what might have been the winner but the goal was ruled out for offside after a nervy wait for VAR instruc-

Barcelona seemed content with the draw but Kessie's last-gasp strike sparked wild celebrations at Camp Nou.

Asked if Madrid's hopes of defend-ing the title were over, Courtois told Movistar: "Yes, we have to be honest, we will keep fighting until the end but it's (12 points) now, we have the better head-to-head, but they have to lose four games and we have to win them all.

"Nothing is impossible but it's



Leverkusen shock Bayern to keep Dortmund top

Argentina's World Cup win-ner Exequiel Palacios struck twice from the spot as Bayer Leverkusen blew the Bundesliga title race wide open with a shock 2-1 win over Bayern Munich on Sunday.

With a little help from VAR, Leverkusen came from behind to hand coach Xabi Alonso a famous win on his first reunion with former club Bayern and keep the champions from regaining top spot.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. I'm so proud of the way we played today," said Alonso, who played for Bayern from 2014 to 2017.

Bayern are a point behind leaders Borussia Dortmund and the two sides set to meet in the next round of games on April 1.
"That is now a must-win

game for us, because it will be very difficult to win the title otherwise," said Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann.

"It was a deserved defeat today. Apart from the last 10 minutes, they were the better team," he added.

Bayern sporting director

Hasan Salihamidzic was scathing in his criticism of the performance.

"We let ourselves be overrun by a team who played in midweek. That's not what it means to be Bayern Munich,"

"VAR was a lifesaver today

and it was a perfect example of how the system should work," said referee Tobias Stieler. The win also kept Lever-

kusen afloat in the race for Europe, with Alonso's side now just three points adrift of Elsewhere, Union Berlin

gave their Champions League hopes a boost as a rare goal from Rani Khedira helped them to a 2-0 win over Bundesliga top-six rivals Eintracht Frankfurt. Khedira — the brother of

2014 World Cup winner Sami - stabbed in the opener to score only his seventh goal in 194 Bundesliga appearances and lift Union back into third

"It's also my first goal for Union so I am very happy," Khedira told Dazn. "Today was much more about mentality than about tactics."

A stinging backhand winner gave

Alcaraz an early break in the opening set

He gave himself a set point with a sharply angled forehand volley and

sealed it with an unreturnable serve, then won the first 10 points of the second set

polished it off in one hour and 11 min-utes, a diving volley winner giving him match point that he converted with

"I expected a tougher match," he said.
"Against him is always a tactic match, and I did perfect today. That's why it looks

despite a late start to the year. Injury

forced him to miss the Australian Open,

February Alcaraz has won a title in Bue-

nos Aires and reached the final in Rio de

equalling 22nd Grand Slam title.

Alcaraz has returned to number one

Since launching his season in

He didn't face a break point as he

ratchet up the pressure on him.

as he raced to a 3-0 lead.

on the way to a 4-0 lead.

another service winner.

easy — but it wasn't."



Rennes cut PSG's lead in Ligue 1

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain's march towards another Ligue 1 title was slowed on Sunday as they went down 2-0 at home to Rennes, a result that allowed Marseille to close the gap on the leaders to seven points with 10 games remaining.

Kylian Mbappe had an effort disallowed for offside before Karl Toko-Ekambi put Rennes in front with a magnificent strike right on half-time.

Arnaud Kalimuendo made it 2-0 three minutes after the restart against his former club, as PSG — faced with a defensive injury crisis — slumped to a first home league defeat of the cam-

It is the Parisians' fourth Ligue 1 loss this season, all of them in 2023, and the second time they have been beaten by Rennes. They also lost when the teams last met in Brittany in January. Marseille responded by winning 2-1 away to Reims later, with Alexis Sanchez scor-

"A defeat is always upsetting. Obviously I can't be happy with the way the match went but in the context, with the number of

players we had out, we knew we moments in defence," said PSG coach Christophe Galtier.

PSG only have a ninth Ligue 1 title in 11 seasons left to play for after being knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 by Bayern Munich. Galtier has insisted that the

prospect of what would be a French record 11th top-flight title is sufficient motivation for his team, but their performance indicated otherwise.

"The objective is to win the league. Will this defeat mean the board will consider my future? Maybe. But everything needs to be put into context," Galtier added when asked about his position. "There are no excuses but there are reasons for it."

The result allowed Rennes to reclaim fifth place from Lille in the fight for European qualification.

"To beat Paris twice in the same season says something about us. If we are capable of taking six points out of six against such a team, it means we have progress to make so we can do that in 90 percent of our matches," said Rennes coach Bruno

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz swept past Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000 and secure his return to number one in the

US Open champion Alcaraz ended Medvedev's 19-match winning streak, denying him a fourth title in as many tournaments to ensure he will supplant Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic atop the rankings.

"It feels amazing to lift the trophy here, to recover the No. 1," Alcaraz said. "I would say this has been the perfect tour-

would say this has been the perfect tour-

Serbia's Djokovic, barred from entering the United States because he hasn't been vaccinated against Covid-19, sat out Indian Wells and will miss the Miami is the defending champion. Alcaraz, 19, who became the youngest

world number one ever after his triumph at Flushing Meadows last year, claimed his third Masters 1000 title and joined compatriot Rafael Nadal as the only players to win at least three as a teenager. Nadal won six before turning 20. He was unstoppable on Stadium

Court, breaking through what he'd called the "wall" of Medvedev's formidable defenses.

Medvedev, coming off titles in Rotterdam, Doha and Dubai, could find no answer as Alcaraz fired winners from all over the court, defying the windy con-

"Daniil obviously didn't play at his best level, but I'm very happy for my performance and how I played this tourna-

He said the big change in him since a semi-final defeat to Nadal last year at Indian Wells was his comfort level on the game's biggest stages. "I think my tennis didn't improve so

much since last year. What I improve a lot is to not take the pressure, just to play relaxed. That, for me, is the most impor-

"That's why I show a great level, because I feel like I have no pressure. I

Medvedev certainly wasn't able to



Alcaraz routs Medvedev for Indian Wells title

RYBAKINA BEATS SABALENKA TO WIN WOMEN'S TITLE

AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

7imbledon champion Elena Rybakina edged Aryna Sabalenka 7-6 (13/11), 6-4 on Sunday to win the Indian Wells WTA title and avenge her loss to the Belarusian in the Australian Open final.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina, the world number 10 who ousted top-ranked defending champion Iga Swiatek in the semi-finals, followed up with her first victory over secondranked Sabalenka in five career meetings.

Rybakina, projected to rise to seventh in the world, handed Sabalenka just her second defeat of the year, denying her a third title to go with a win in Adelaide that presaged her first Grand Slam triumph at Melbourne.

"It's actually the first time it goes my way," Rybakina said as she accepted the trophy, a smiling Sabalenka leaning to the microphone to interject, "I will make sure it was the last

one." "We'll see next time," Rybakina laughed.



But to stay at the top he'll have to successfully defend his Miami title over the course of the next two weeks.

Medvedev, a former world number one and US Open winner himself, was disappointed that he didn't play his best, but pleased to get past the fourth round at Indian Wells for the first time, despite twisting his ankle in a win over Alexander Zverev and cutting his thumb in another tumble against Alejandro

Davidovich Fokina. 'Why didn't I play my best? I don't know. Maybe it was his ball. Maybe it was the wind, was pretty windy today, and for him it was easier to go through this wind, and that's normal.

"But the week was amazing," added Medvedev never a fan of the slow hard courts of Indian Wells.

"I had a pretty toxic relationship with the courts here," he said during the tro-

phy ceremony as he reeled off a long list of those to thank.

"I would like to thank this court. I was giving a hard time to it, so it gave me a hard time also, rolled my ankle, but it gave me the chance to finish the tournament so thanks a lot to this court."

Perez leads Red Bull sweep in Saudi Arabian GP

 $R^{\rm ed \, Bull's \, Sergio \, Perez \, flexed \, his \, street}$ circuit muscles with dramatic effect on Sunday by storming to victory ahead of team-mate Max Verstappen at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

While the top two were clear cut, the next two places remained in confusion long after the race had finished with Fernando Alonso first stripped of third place and then reinstated in the early hours of Monday morning. Perez, a 33-year-old Mexican, came

home 5.355 seconds clear of the defending double world champion as Red Bull reeled off a masterful one-two triumph, the Dutchman having stormed through the field from 15th on the grid.

Verstappen also clocked the fastest lap of the race on the final lap to retain his lead of the embryonic drivers'

championship, snatching it back from Perez as they duelled at high speed.

It was Perez's fifth career win having previously triumphed in Monte Carlo and Singapore to earn his reputation as a 'street fighter'. "It turned out to be tougher than

to take the victory from us again here, but not this year! The team did a great job. Now we must keep pushing."

Verstappen was eliminated from qualifying after a drive-shaft failure.

expected," he said. "The safety car tried

"It wasn't easy to get through the field," he said. "We settled for second so it's a good recovery in the end."

Two-time world champion Alonso finished a stirring third on track for Aston Martin to claim a 100th podium finish on his record-extending 357th

That place was initially taken from



him. He had received a five-second penalty for starting outside his grid position. When he tried to serve it during a pit stop, stewards ruled a jack had touched the car too soon and they hit Alonso with a 10-second penalty.

George Russell rose to third for Mercedes.

But Aston Martin requested a review and showed stewards videos of similar incidents that went unpunished. Stewards accepted that it was not clear the offence had broken Formula One rules and lifted the punishment. Alonso was back to third followed

by the two Mercedes cars of Russell and Lewis Hamilton. Next were the Ferraris of Carlos

Sainz and Charles Leclerc, who started 12th. Esteban Ocon and his Alpine ended in the quarter-finals. team-mate Pierre Gasly occupied the next two places.

Alcaraz reclaims world No 1 ranking, Nadal out of top 10

AP ■ PARIS

arlos Alcaraz returned to the top of the ATP rankings on Monday after his Indian Wells triumph, while Rafael Nadal dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in 18 years.

Spanish teenager Alcaraz cruised past Russian Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final to retake top spot from Novak Djokovic who was missing Indian Wells due to being unvaccinated against Covid

American Taylor Fritz dropped five spots to world number 10 after his title defence

Nadal, who has been out injured since a second-round exit



13th place. The 22-time Grand Slam champion had previously been inside the top 10 since April 2005.

GRACE KNOCKS RCB, GG OUT OF WPL

UP Warroirz's Grace Harris (72 off 41 balls) once again set the stage on fire with her heavy-duty hitting, as the team defeated Gujarat Giants for the second consecutive time by three wickets with just one delivery to secure a place in the playoffs of the inaugural season here on Monday.

Following the win, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and UP Warriors have made the grade, while Gujarat Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore have been eliminated from the tournament.

Grace smashed the Giants attack to smithereens, hitting seven fours and four maximums in the chase of the Giants' 178/6. When she departed at 172, caught by Kim Garth of Harleen Deol, there were still seven runs to be scored for vic-

There were a few nervous moments when Simran Shaikh departed and it became 177/7 for the Warriorz. Two runs off the last two deliveries can always be a tricky proposition, but Sophie Ecclestone swept a Sneh Rana delivery to the boundary to signal the win with just one ball to spare.

Grace was involved in two productive partnerships, with countrymate Tahlia McGrath (57) and Sophie Ecclestone (19 not out).

While Graces' stand with McGrath was worth 78 runs, with Sophie it fetched 42 runs and it ensured an easy passage into the knockouts with just one balls to spare.

The partnership between Grace and Tahlia had laid a solid foundation and the former con-

mate had departed at 117/4.

Grace, who had scored an unbeaten 59 the last time the teams had met at the DY Patil Stadium and ensured a thrilling victory for the Warriorz with just one ball to spare, played with such ferocity, it made the Giants bowlers look mere pedestrians.

All this despite the UP Warriorz being off to a rank bad start on a pitch that offered good bounce and carry. The team was down in the dumps at 3/39 before Grace and Tahlia came together to turn the tables on the

Skipper Alyssa Healy (12) went early after giving indication she meant business.

Young Giants mediumpacer Monica Patel took the prized scalp in just the second over of the innings after being dispatched for consecutive boundaries by the Australian.

Monika was given a pep talk by team-mates, and the result was the big wicket two deliveries later. The left-armer kept a back-of-length delivery on middle and leg stump that bounced a bit extra and Healy committed herself to a pull shot slightly early, getting an edge which flew to Harleen Deol at deep deep square leg.

The third over saw the

Warriorz lose their second key batter in Kiran Navgire with Australian right-arm quick Kim Garth dismissing the quick for just four and reducing the War-riorz to 2/19.

To add to their woes, left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar got Devika Vaidya caught behind the story by Sushma Verma in the fifth over. Devika aimlessly raced down the track



feather touch which flew to the

Earlier, a brilliant 93-run partnership between Dayalan Hemalatha (57 off 33 balls) and the second costliest player Ashleigh Gardner (60 off 39 balls) helped Gujarat Giants post 178/6 in their do-or-die

The authority and attacking ways with which the duo played indicated they were on a mission, given the do-or-die nature of the contest as the tournament enters its business end.

By the time the partnership ended, with Hemalatha dismissed by Parshavi Chopra in the 17th over with the team total on 143, the stand had put the team on course for a competi-

South African opener Laura Wolvaardt and Sophia Dunkley went about their task of scoring runs in powerplay with a lot of urgency. Runs flowed freely while the two batting stalwarts were at the crease, with Wolvaardt smacking a fine boundary off just the third ball of the opening over bowled by left-arm pacer Anjali Sarvani.

The 23-year-old used the width on offer to steer it past backward point, making her intentions clear. Just two overs into the match and Gujarat Giants were in overdrive, with the team having scored 26 runs.

The powerful six by the South African off a length delivery outside off stump from left-arm India spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad in the second over had class and power written all

Soon England batter Dunkley took charge, giving a further

Gujarat Giants gave bewildering reasoning for my omission: Dottin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Indian Deandra Dottin has expressed disappointment at her exclusion appointment at her exclusion from Women's Premier League franchise Gujarat Giants, terming it "bewildering".

The 31-year-old Caribbean all-rounder was signed for Rs 60 lakh by the Adani-owned side but before the start of the

side, but before the start of the tournament, she was excluded from the squad on medical grounds.

The Giants had stated that Dottin failed to get medical clearance by the deadline, which was the reason why they replaced her with Australia's Kim Garth. But Dottin refuted the claims made by the

"I wish to issue a brief statement in light of ongoing speculation surrounding my recent exclusion from the inaugural Women's Premier League that is currently taking place in

"I remain deeply disappointed by what can only, plausibly, be described as bewildering reasoning for my omission from the tournament," Dottin said in statement which she posted on Twitter.

"I was bought at the WPL auction by the Gujarat Giants, a franchise owned and operated by the Adani Group. At the commencement of the tournament, the franchise claimed that I was excluded from the team because I was apparently "recovering from a medical situation".

"This was followed by a

subsequent, clarifying statement that contended that I was, in fact "unable to obtain medical clearance" despite being granted as recently as February 20th," she said.

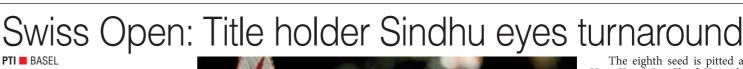
The veteran of 143 ODIs and 127 T20Is said that she was shocked by the decision taken

by Giants' team management.
"I would like to make it clear that I had experienced minor abdominal pain and swelling for which I had sought treatment in December 2022. This was followed by two further referrals to specialists for second opinions in December and January 2023, respective-

"Following testing and investigations by the specialists, I was asked to rest until February 13th and was cleared to resume fitness and playing activity from February 14th.

"Consequently, I recommenced my personal training and fitness regime according to the guided timelines and experienced some soreness on the first day of resumed training which was anticipated and reasonable, given that I had been asked to rest in the weeks pre-ceding training." Dotting said her words were misinterpreted by the Giants.

"I was transparent about this in correspondence with the Gujarat Giants physiotherapist, however, this was misconstrued and later conveyed to members of the franchise's management team as me experiencing abdominal pain post-session" which was not what I had indicated.





New Zealand whitewash Sri Lanka

AP WELLINGTON

anky fast bowler Blair Lanky rast bowier Lickner and spinner Michael Bracewell slogged all day in a Basin Reserve gale to bowl New Zealand to an innings and 58 run win over Sri Lanka in the second Test on Monday and a sweep of the two-match series.

The win was completed with only minutes remaining on the fourth day and capped New Zealand's extraordinary summer of home Test matches, which includes a one-run win over England at the Basin Reserve and a two-wicket win over Sri Lanka from the last ball of the first Test.

Once again New Zealand couldn't win without drama as it pursued Sri Lanka's last two wickets in fading light and a blustering wind on Monday. Had it not bowled out Sri Lanka, it would have had to have returned to try to do so on the final day, when rain was forecast in Wellington.

Sri Lanka's last two pairs defied the New Zealand bowlers for almost two hours before the home team secured the wickets it needed for victory. New Zealand had to bowl 142 overs to dismiss Sri Lanka in the second innings, after bowling 67 in the first innings before enforcing the follow on.

Dhanahaya de Silva made 98 and Dinesh Chandimal 62 to help Sri Lanka bat throughout all but a few minutes of the final day. Kusal Rajitha then batted for 2-1/2 hours, Prabath Jayasuriya and Lahiru Kumara for an hour each as the Sri Lanka tail gallantly tried to force the match into the fifth day when weather might intervene. Southee took 3-

New Zealand claimed an extra half hour as the light faded and Rajitha's long vigil ended when he fell to Tim Southee for 20 as Sri Lanka was all out for 358.

"Losing the toss and being asked to bat and being able to put a score on the board was very pleasing to see, and set up the performance the bowlers produced over the last two days," New Zealand captain Tim Southee said.

"There are few weary bodies tonight so it's good to have that extra day off. We thought if we could put that one last push in tonight it was one less warmup to do tomorrow."

Double centuries by Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls allowed New Zealand to post 580-4 in its only innings before it bowled out Sri Lanka for 164 and enforced the follow with the tourists 416 behind.

New Zealand came into the fourth day in a commanding position: Śri Lanka was 113-2 when play begain, still 303 runs behind, and New Zealand found itself in a race to complete the win against the possibility of a rained-out final day.



lay-off, made a first round exit last week

A double Olympic medallist, dence as she returns to the \$210,000 event, opening her campaign against

Sen, who had made early exits from after losing to Zhang Yi Man of China. Malaysia and India Open, notched up an intense win over Chou Tien Chen world number 2 and two-time world championships medallist Anders

The eighth seed is pitted against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu and is likely to run into fellow Indian Kidambi Śrikanth, who opens against the 23year-old Weng Hong Yang of China. Following a second successive semi-

final finish at All England, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will run into second seeds Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti from Indonesia in the opening round.

opening round.

The top Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty looked good before narrowly going down China's world No. 10 Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

The second seeded combination will open against a pair which will enter

will open against a pair, which will enter the main draw from the qualifying

Among others in doubles, the men's pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Vishnuvardhan Goud, and the women's combination of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam, are also in the fray.

MI bags New York franchise in Major League Cricket

Birmingham last week.

While Prannoy has been the most

Sindhu, who parted ways with

consistent singles player from the coun-

try, Sindhu and Lakshya Sen have

struggled this season, making early exits

Korean coach Park Tae-sang after fail-

ing to get results following a long injury

fter Delhi Capitals and Chennai After Delhi Capitais and Chemiai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians have now joined the US cricket revolution bandwagon as they acquired the New York franchise in the upcoming Major League Cricket (MLC), here on Monday.

"The team will participate in the inaugural edition of Major League Cricket (MLC) subject to completion of customary due diligence; negotiation, and execution of definitive binding agreements, and receipt of required corporate, regulatory and third-party approvals and compliances," a press release stated.

Earlier, GMR group, co-owners of Delhi Capitals, have invested alongside Microsoft CEO



Satya Nadella in Seattle Orcas, while Chennai Super Kings are part of the

"I am thrilled to welcome our New York franchise to the growing MI Family! With our entry into the first cricket league in the US, I hope we are able to establish Mumbai Indians as a global brand of fearless and entertaining cricket! This is another new beginning for MI and I look forward to the exciting journey ahead," owner Nita Ambani said. The MI New York will be the fifth

franchise after Mumbai Indians (IPL), MI Cape Town (SA20), MI Emirates (ILT20), and Mumbai Indians (WPL), in three different continents, four different countries, and five different leagues.

Lovlina, Sakshi advance to quarterfinals of Women's World C'ships

RR to continue with Sangakkara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $K^{\mathrm{umar}\,\mathrm{Sangakkara}\,\mathrm{will}\,\mathrm{continue}\,\mathrm{to}\,\mathrm{serve}\,\mathrm{in}\,\mathrm{the}\,\mathrm{dual}}$ role of Rajasthan Royals' director of cricket and head coach, and will be assisted by Trevor Penney, the IPL franchise said on Monday. Fellow Sri Lankan legend Lasith Malinga also continues with the franchise as fast bowling coach, along with Zubin Bharucha as strategy, development and performance director, Giles Lindsay as head of analytics and technology, Siddhartha Lahiri as support coach and Dishant Yagnik as fielding coach.

The Sanju Samson-led team has also retained the services of John Gloster (head

physio), Dr. Rob Young (team doctor), and AT Rajamani Prabhu (strength and conditioning coach). The IPL 2022 finalists have also on-boarded Mon Brokman as their mental performance coach and Neil Barry as the assistant physio.

Brokman, who has previously worked with athletes from various Olympic sports, joins the Royals to assist with mental conditioning and help the players with their decisionmaking during pressure situa-tions. Meanwhile, Barry has served Rajasthan Royals' partner franchise Barbados Royals in the Caribbean Premier League, and will be assisting John Gloster during the IPL

Hima Das, Ancy Sojan win gold in 200m and long jump in IGP

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Star sprinter Hima Das won the 200m race quite comfortably in 23.79 seconds while long jumper Ancy Sojan shared the limelight with a best effort of 6.49m in the Indian Grand Prix-1 athletics event here on Monday.

Assam's Hima beat Aishwarya Kailash Mishra (24.81) of Maharashtra and VK Vismaya (24.82) of Kerala to take the women's 200m gold at the Laxmibai National College of

Physical Education here. Sojan, meanwhile, produced a series of leaps beyond 6.00m and won with a best effort of 6.49m, just past the 6.45m mark laid down as the Asian Games qualifying stan-

The meet though received lukewarm response with very few top athletes competing in it. Many events had just three ath-

letes competing. Women's high jump and men's triple jump saw just two competitors each, men's 400m hurdles four, women's 400m hurdles three - one disqualified later -, women's shot put three, 800m women three and women's 5000m three partici-

Haryana's Krishan Kumar stepped up the pace approaching the halfway mark and topped the men's 800m race, clocking 1:47.26, his second best time over the distance. The Army man went past the Asian Games qualifying standard of 1:49.05

The men's 5000m race saw three Uttar Pradesh runners come home inside the Asian Games qualifying mark of

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain made a winning start to her campaign as she and Sakshi Chaudhary moved to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Championships with dominant victories here on Monday.

Both Sakshi (54kg) and Lovlina (75kg) notched identical 5-0 unanimous decision wins respectively.

While Lovlina out-punched Mexico's Vanessa Ortiz, Sakshi got the better of Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan to progress to the last eight stage.

But the most electrifying Indian performance of the day was displayed by Preeti (54kg). The youngster though eventually lost her bout to last year's 52kg silver medallist Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas by a 4-3 verdict, the bout was so close that a review had to be taken.

Preeti entered the tournament on the back of a selection row, where her place in the side was questioned as she to follow by strategy to the T. I am not

didn't win the National Champion-

However, the 19-year-old justified her place in the Indian team with her fearless performance. The tenacious Preeti showed

aggression against a more experienced opponent to take the first round 4-1. She fought toe to toe with

Jutamas as both pugilists connected punches but the the Thai was able to edge the Indian and took the remaining two rounds with the final result being decided by a bout review. "I learned a lot from this bout, the

competitor was also good. I need to work harder. I was aggressive in the first round and I should have continued that and I should have dominated the bout," Preeti said. Competing in her new 75kg cat-

round bye, won her opening encounter to walk one step closer to a medal. "It was my first bout, the boxer was shorter than me. I was not able

egory, Lovlina, who received a first



very happy with this performance, I could have done better. She was coming ahead so I was forced to move back," Lovlina said after her bout.

"It is my first World Championships in this weight category. It will be difficult as the other boxers are already competing in this weight class. We will have to see how to play with which opponent. I think I can do better."

Sakshi, the 2021 Asian Championship bronze medallist, utilised her height and long reach to her advantage. She would punch Urakbayeva and step back quickly, not letting her opponent counter-

The Indian danced around the ring, playing with aggression and released a number of punches to emerge victorious.

"Ĭ played much better than I expected. She is a good boxer so I thought it would be a 19-20 fight but the strategy worked for me and I was able to dominate," Sakshi said after