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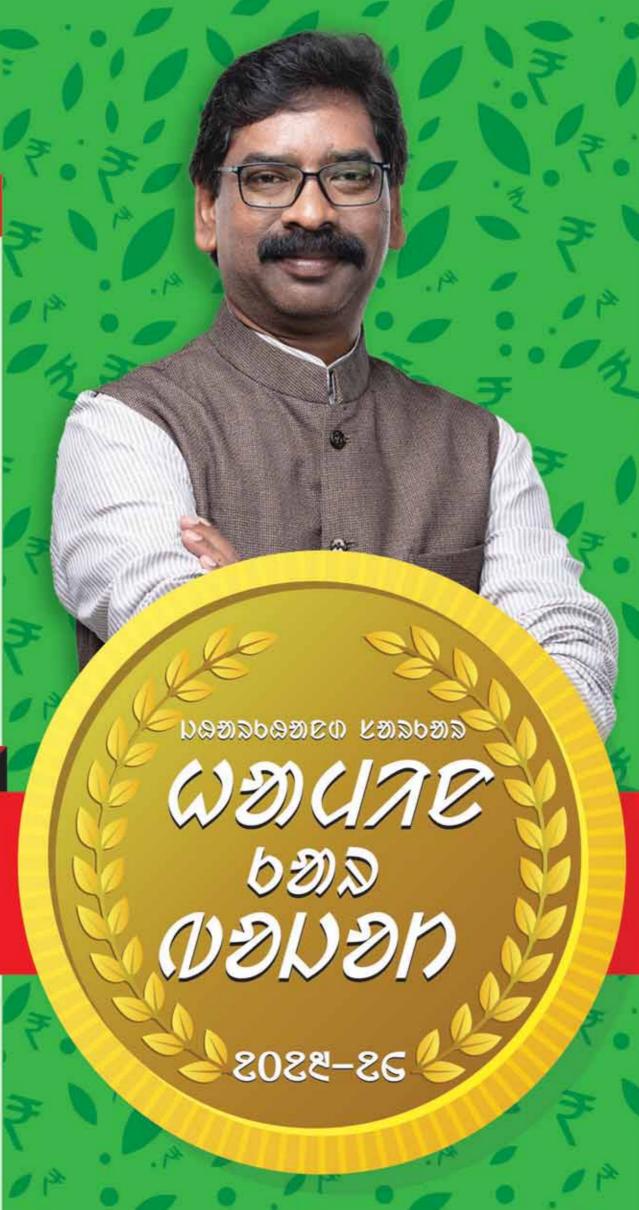
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RANCHI, TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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H3N2 VIRUS ALERT IN JAMSHEDPUR, ISOLATION WARDS COME UP

a time when the virus spreading across the country, the district health department has alerted the city too to be on vigil. Following confirmation of Jharkhand's first case of influenza A virus with subtype H3N2, being treated at Tata Main Hospital, the administration has tightened its belt to deal with the situa-

Civil Surgeon Dr Jujhar Manjhi advised doctors to test patients who report fever symptoms for influenza as



send swabs for testing. They should also give the treat-ment for viral fever, especially to children, pregnant women and those who have any comorbidity.

He further said cold, fever and respiratory difficulties are symptoms of influenza. Many are apparently reporting respiratory difficulties when infected with fever these days. This can be due to influenza variants. Therefore, patients are advised to avoid self-medication.

Isolation wards equipped with ventilators and oxygen have been set up at two government hospitals, MGM Medical College Hospital and Sadar Hospital.

An isolation ward has also been set up at the private Tata Main Hospital, where a 66-year-old woman with cold and fever symptoms tested positive for H3N2 on Saturday. According to health department officials, the elderly patient had no prior travel history. However, on get-ting tested positive she is being monitored in the isola-tion ward of Tata Main Hospital. The first case of H3N2 influenza was reported in Jamshedpur, with the second case involving a fourRanchi

Singhbhum districts each reported two new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, while Deoghar registered one. According to a Covid bulletin issued by the state health department. Singhbhum, and Latehar districts, each reported one

Officials from the health department stated that teams would be formed and directives would be sent to all hospitals today to conduct tests on suspected cases of H3N2 influenza and Covid- 19.

A health official said it's

boiled water, even when not thirsty. "Keep water with you while travelling. As per the instructions of the Disaster Management Authority, people have been asked to ensure they don't work outside between 11 am and 3 pm. "Don't subject yourself to direct sunlight and don't send kids out to play. Also, don't leave kids or others inside cars parked outside during

hot weather. It will lead to

discomfort. One should think

that any illness you experi-

ence can also be due to the

heat," he said. Chickenpox

and diarrhoea cases are on

International seminar on radio

concludes on resounding tunes

H3N2 is a subtype of the Influenza A virus. It is a strain of the flu that can infect both humans and animals. H3N2 is also known as the Hong Kong flu, as it was first identified in Hong Kong in 1968. H3N2 is one of the most common strains of influenza that circulates during flu season. It can cause a range of symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, and fatigue. In some cases, it can lead to severe illness and even death. particularly in elderly individuals and those with weakened immune systems.

AMC Chas Anil Kumar scripts success story in civic amenities faithfully upholds all of these smooth traffic through public make significant changes



R SHARMA: BOKARO

AGood Leader provides guidance and is always engaged in making the difference in the lives of individuals, families and society. The focus areas of an effective Leader are service, social justice, dignity and worth of a person, the importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. It's easy to imagine how a person who

values would also make a stellar leader hence exemplisame Additional Municipal Commissioner Chas Anil Kumar putting in all the efforts to ensure the Chas Municipal corporation (CMC) excels all parameters in terms all rounds developments of the society and making life of the people prosperous and notably Chas is one of the fastest-growing urban regions in Jharkhand and was ranked as the cleanest city of Eastern

It is noteworthy that Chas is a Municipal Corporation in Chas subdivision of the Bokaro district of the state of Jharkhand, India. It is often referred to as a suburb of Bokaro Steel City, though it predates the steel plant. As Chas is surrounded by major industrial hubs hence Public Transport Ridership is critical consequently

bus transport in cities with population (5 - 40 Lakhs) recently under the consent of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA), Government of India and leadership of AMC Anil Kumar presentation programme of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the consultant for Chas Bokaro City Bus Service was organized where consultant informed that Chas Bokaro city bus service will be started under PPP mode with an amount of about 376 crores. In this, 40 per cent amount has to be collected by the Centre, 35 per cent by the state government and 25 per cent by earning revenue on its

own. A total of 67 buses will

be operated in the first phase.

These buses will run on CNG

and electric. A total of 67

buses are proposed to be

operated and once this City

Bus service starts CMC will

make significant changes in public transport at economical rates with quality rides.

AMC Anil Kumar while expressing his views towards all round improvements said that his parallel focus and action plan for Restoration of Chas Garga Riverfront beautification activities and rainwater harvesting project along the stretch of the river to save its purity seeking various contaminated discharges from various sources is there. Rainwater harvesting can help in attaining the minimum flow in the river water for scouring the sediments and dilution water availability. AMC Kumar while anticipating exponential reforms in coming days as already things started taking shape at Chas Municipal area appealed all to come reunite together and be a part of all the developments works where we all can flour-

REGIONAL RAILWAY OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD**

The 77th meeting

Regional Railway Official

PNS: RANCHI

Language Implementation Committee was organized by East Central Railway, Headquarters/Hajipur under the chairmanship of Anupam Sharma, General Manager on Monday. While presiding over the meeting, Sharma made a thorough review of official language PNS: JAMSHEDPUR promotion and said that the way Indian Railways is the lifeline of the country and connects this vast country Department geographically, in the same way official language Hindi weaves the Indian public in one thread. He said that the country which does not have any language of its own, that nation is dumb. For these reasons, the demand for making Hindi the official language was first raised by non-Hindi speaking people.
The importance of official language Hindi can be understood from this fact. Amidst all the adversities in our country, the official lan-guage Hindi is continuously moving forward on the path of progress. We often underestimate the importance of language, but we must understand that the tradition and culture of a nation is realized in the language. If we have to enrich our tradition and culture while preserving it, then first of all we have to enrich our language and this will be possible only when we give Hindi its proper place as a working lan-guage. The GM gave certain instructions to increase the



The third and last day of the ■ International Seminar on Radio being organised by the Communication, Karim City College, was concluded on resounding tunes . In this last day, the programs started with a special session of the subject expert, in which three special speakers were invited. Sakhi Saheli Ke Naam famous presenter of Vividh Bharti from Mumbai, Mamta Singh, country's well-known program presenter and film writer Yunus Khan and writer and educationist Shalini Verma from Qatar were pres-

Mamta Singh spoke on the role of video on women empowerment. Through many live examples, he told how radio has awakened modern consciousness among women. Whether it is rural women or urban women, radio has always stood with them through all its programmes. On the other hand. Yunus Khan ji gave an exciting presentation on the changing way of presentation in radio. Yunus Khan, known across the country for his unique address, systematically explained the changes in program presentation over 100 years, which greatly benresearchers reminded listeners of the old days of radio. Shalini Verma, representing all the overseas Indians, told how radio keeps the Indians settled abroad connected with their language and culture. Shalini told how many Indians live in Qatar who belong to different languages but use Hindi there and because of radio they feel close to the country. Was the only one who was giving information in a correct and

well mannered manner. As the convenor of this

international seminar, Dr. Neha Tiwari was introducing all the specialties. Welcome speech was presented by Dr. Mohammad Riaz.

Part of today's second program was the last and fifth technical session in which researchers from Doha, London, America, Delhi and Malaysia presented their papers by connecting online. The session was chaired by Dr. Sanjeev Bhanawat and moderated by Dr. Rashmi Kumari.

The presentation of all the research scholars was appre-

The closing ceremony was the last event of the day in which Dr. Sanjeev Bhanawat, Editor of Communication Today and Founder and Retired Professor of Mass Communication, University of Rajasthan, was specially invited online. He elaborated on various dimensions and future direction of radio as a medium of mass communication. Along with this, Big FM's Cluster Head Shadab Umar Hashmi was also present online as a special speaker. Shri Hashmi spoke about the challenges of FM broadcasting. Eminent educationist and radio artist of the city Dr. C. Bhaskar Rao was also present. Director Education Dr. Mohammad Zakaria Sir of Karim City College was specially present. A website was launched by him to mark the completion of 25 years of Department Communication, Karim City College. Created by Tanmay Singh Solanki, an alumnus of the department and now visiting faculty. Country's top grade drama artist Gautam Shankar Das was also special-

nuances of acting on stage and radio. Rajeev Ranjan had come to cover on behalf of All India Radio.

Shahid Anwar of All India Radio who played an important role in the seminar was also present on the occasion.
All the distinguished

speakers appreciated the organization of this international seminar by the Department of Mass Communication. It is noteworthy that the Department of Mass Communication has become the first department in the country to celebrate the completion of 100 years of radio broadcasting in India. This type of international seminar focused on radio across the country is also rarely heard. For this concept, all the subject experts appreciated Dr. Neha Tiwari, who conceptualized this international seminar. It is noteworthy that in this international seminar, about 20 experts from Morocco, Argentina, South Africa, Australia, Qatar, and India participated in a special session through online medium and gave information on various dimensions, as well as more than 80 researchers more than 80 researchers from abroad presented their

Parvez, Syed Shahzeb Parvez played a special role in making the presented program successful. Taseer Shahid, Dr. Rashmi Kumari, Dr. Nida Zakaria as moderators contributed to make the program successful. While giving the vote of thanks at the end of the program, Dr. Neha Tiwari, Convener of the International Seminar and Head of the Department Communication, gave special thanks to the students, subject experts, and researchers.

Bapi Murmu, Syed Sajid

research papers.

FIRST MANUFACTURING **UNIT OF WELLGREEN STARTS IN HAZARIBAG**

PNS: HAZARIBAG

The pillow manufacturing company of India Wellgreen has started its first manufacturing unit in Hazaribag. This is the first unit of Jharkhand and 7th unit of India. This was inaugurated by the General Manager of district Industry office Rajeev Ranjan in

Lohsighna road.

The CEO of the company Joydeep said that this is the 7th unit of India and first unit of Hazaribag. We have manufactured 14 products for all over India and are selling through the distributors

The products which are manufactured namely I care pillow, memory pillow, I fresh pillow, dream pillow, fit sleep pillow, feel pillow, bolster pillow, kids pillow, decorative pillow neck pillow. He further said that the range of prize starts from 200 and ends to 2000

The owner of the local unit Mahi enterprises Syed Sahil Ahmad said that we have taken this manufacturing unit on the demand of the Hazaribag customers and state wise demand.

On this occasion the manager of industry office Shyam Gupta, Suddep kumar and Neeraj Kumar Gupta alongwith other guests were present.

'Cases must be disposed in time with proper coordination of Depts'

SHAILESH SHARMA: HAZARIBAG

The cases of the revenue department must be disposed of in time with the proper coordination with the other departments which are concerned with the cases. The maximum work which is concerned with the revenue department is pending in the district, directed Hazaribag DC Nancy Sahay during a review of work and cases of revenue department of the district. She further said that the drought relief plan, PM Kissan, mutations, e-court, e-KYC must be on the priority of the

She said that district administraion is getting the regular complaint that the maximum cases of mutations are pending on the block level. She said to all the circle officers of the block that it must take seriously and clear the pending cases as early as possible.

She further said that this is the duty of all Block Development Officers to provide the hundred per cent benefits to all the farmers of the villages under

the Chief Minister Draught Plan. The projects which are going to establish for the purpose of Basic infrastructure, the land must be allotted to such projects according to the rule and regulation of the state gov-ernment. The forest department must



issue the no objection certificate to the proposed land of the project.

Sahay also discussed and reviewed the progress of the road department, electricity distribution plant and other departments which are related to the development of the district. She said that all the pending work must be cleared after the Ramnavami with proper coordination.

On the review of NH 31, the Barhi-Koderma National Highway officer said that out of 65 pending cases 53 cases had been cleared by the depart-

In the meeting the additional collector of Hazaribag Rakesh Roshan, DLAO Binod kumar, SDM Barhi Poonam Kujur, DCLR Barhi, all circle officers and the representatives of the companies were present.

Lohardaga DC flags off mobile medical units

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

our mobile medical units operated by Hans Foundation were inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna on Monday. Through these mobile medical units (medical vans), free medical check-up, treatment and medicines will be provided to people in 20 revenue villages of four blocks -Senha, Kudu, Bhandra and Sadar block. In this medical van, there will be a team of medical officers, pharmacists, lab technicians and ANMs, who will go from village to village every day to check-up patients, provide medicines along with treatment. As per requirement, this team will also do the work of referring serious patients to Sadar Hospital, Lohardaga.

The Deputy Commissioner said on the occasion that it would be like a medical camp in rural areas where people would get the facility of testing for various diseases at one place. This team will also have the right to refer patients to Sadar Hospital. Medical team will be present in this which will have MBBS doctor, Pharmacist, Lab Technician and ANM. On this occasion, Civil Surgeon in-charge Dr. DN Singh, District Public Relations Officer Paltu Mahato, DPM Nazish Akhtar, Epidemiologist Prashant Chauhan, Project Coordinator of Hans Foundation Vibhas Mukherjee and all the members of the medical team



Naman to take out massive 'Tiranga Yatra' on March 23

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

After a hiatus of three years, social cultural organisation, Naman-Shaheedon ke Sapno ko is all set to organise its massive 'Tiranga Yatra' in the city to pay tribute to the martyrs on March 23. The yatra is poised to be the largest taken out in the honour of the Tricolour.

Addressing a press meet, founder of Naman, Amarpreet Singh Kale, said that after a gap of three years the procession is being taken over with renewed vigour. Overwhelmed with spontaneous response from previous years, the organisers had made it an annual affair. However, it was suspended for the last three years due to Covid-19. The organisers have promised to make the event grand this

Kale said that the idea is to instill nationalism among the people of Jamshedpur. This was the reason a social cultural organisation,



was formed in 2017. The organisation also felicitates soldiers and their family members for their contribution to national security during several wars. He said that the event is being organised in memory of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh along with Rajguru, Sukhdev Thapar who were hanged to death

The procession will start from Agrico Transport Ground at 09.55 am. Continuous meetings have been held in various areas of Jamshedpur for the preparations of the yatra and the turn out is expected to be

use and spread of official

language. He asked to make

necessary efforts to fulfill the

targets set in the annual

program year 2022-2023,

ensure compliance of all

members section 3(3), all

officers must give one dicta-

tion daily in Hindi, leave

application and tour pro-

gram should be submitted in

Hindi only, try to write/issue

maximum comments/orders

in Hindi on e-office and

while inspecting all officers

should also inspect official

language progress.

unprecedented. This yatra started in Jamshedpur when in 2016 in JNU, slogans like "Bharat Mata Tere Tukde Honge Hajar" were raised. In response to that, Naman was formed. This formation was done under the leadership of Amarpreet Singh Kale, a well-known social worker of the city, and since then this yatra is taken out under the

leadership of Kale. The route of the yatra is starting from Agrico Transport Ground via Agrico Chowk, it will head towards Bhalubasa Chowk, Kashidih Chowk, Sakchi Vegetable Market, Sakchi Gol Chakkar,

Basant Cinema Chowk, Bus Stand No. 9, Howrah Bridge, RD Tata Chowk, Police Line, Golmuri Akashdeep Chowk. From there again, the journey will end at Agrico Transport Ground.

Arrangements have been made for Bhog Prasad for all the patriots involved in the journey at the time of conclu-

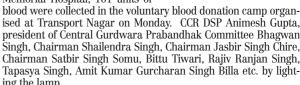
Renowned artists of the country, such as Anoop Jalota, Kailash Kher, Lakhbir Singh Lakkha, Manoj Tiwari etc. have issued their appeal to participate in this journey. "The key objective of the purpose of this yatra is to keep alive the dreams of the heroic sacrifices and to make the youth power aware of their responsibilities towards the nation. The dream that the martyrs had of how our independent India should be, how the people of India should unite with each other and not become a toy in the hands of any disruptive force, keep it burning," said Rakeshwar Pandey, patron, Naman.

Blood donation camp of Truck and Trailers Owners Association held

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR.

Under the joint aegis Jamshedpur Truck and Tailors Owners Association and Blood Bank of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, 101 units of

ly invited. He explained the



According to the chief guest, blood donation is the most pious and religious work and by this one's life can be saved and blood donation makes a person sensitive and destroys narrow thoughts. The sensitivity of the police officers serving the general public was also seen when Vinod Tudu, in-charge of Olidih police station reached there and two police sub-inspectors also contributed to this great yagya by donating blood. To encourage blood donors, former state spokesperson of BJP Amarpreet Singh Kale, social workers Avinash Singh Raja, Brij Bhushan Kumar, Rajwinder Singh, BJP leaders Dharmendra Prasad, Vikas Singh, Anil Singh, Vipin Jha, Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Bugge etc. reached and congratulated the blood donors and honored the medical team by presenting mementos. Association President Jasbir Singh Chheere, Chairman Satbir Singh Somu, Bittu Tiwari, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Amit Kumar Ranjit Singh Tapasya Singh, Gunjan Yadav Jasvir Singh Soni, Charanjit Singh, Sanjay Singh, Shankar Dayal, Harjit Singh, Gurnam Singh were involved in making it a success, Rambalak Singh etc. had a commendable contribution.

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THE HULLABALOO OVER

UK'S REFUGEE POLICY

WORLD 9

ANTI-GRAFT BODY SUMMONS

IMRAN'S WIFE

RANCHI, TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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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 are

<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 Kejriwal 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

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.



People from Sikh Community protest against vandalisation by Khalistani supporters at Indian High Commission in London, in New Delhi on Monday

Taking exception to his message, Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi criticiand Dhaoi for "curturing and phasi for "curturing and "curturing and phasi for "curturing and "curturing and phasi for "curturing and "curturi

cised Dhesi for "nurturing

Khalistani sentiments" in the

United Kingdom and said his

tweet will not fetch him new

have a glorious track record of

serving/protecting the Nation.

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

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor termed the incident

on Sunday at the Indian High Commission "utterly shock-

tion came after India on

Sunday evening summoned the senior-most UK diplo-mat in New Delhi to convey

"strong protest" at the actions

taken by separatist and

Indian High Commission in

Commissioner Christina Scott

was summoned to the MEA in

view of the incident as High

Commissioner Alex Ellis was

British Deputy High

ing" and a "major insult". The British condemna-

sent Punjab."

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

Indian envoy took place late on Sunday in front of the Taj Convention. Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma was scheduled to attend a reception organised by the Friends of India and Canada

assaulted in British Columbia. The incident related to the

Foundation in Surrey, British

Consulate hit in US; India protests, summons envoy

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/

votes from Slough "which has a massive chunk of Pakistan An incident of vandalism by Alleged Khalistani sup-porters targeting the Indian consulate in San Francisco has supporting population."
Sharing the photograph in a Twitter post, the BJP's national spokesperson Jaiveer taken place. The perpetrators installed so-called Khalistan Shergill said, "Jhanda Ooncha Rahe Hamara-UK Govt must flag on the consulate premises. act... Punjab and Punjabis

This was the second such incident involving the Indian embassies with the first one in makeshift security barriers 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 raised by the city police and installed two so-called Khalistani flags inside the consulate premises. Two consulate personnel soon removed

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

Sabse Pehle

India, Japan to boost ties, free Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$ 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

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

The Prime Minister said the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is

discussed the importance of reliable supply chains for semiconductors and other critical technologies.

NSA slapped on Amritpal's

Curbs on Internet

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

out of Delhi, sources said. Ellis described the incident as "disgraceful" and "totally unacceptable".

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

Meanwhile, the Punjab

services extended

Punjab De" group.

close links with drug peddlers

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 midnight.

5 aides; uncle surrenders and Pakistan's ISI to further his

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

against five men linked to rad

The pro-Khalistan supporter and radical preacher has allegedly been maintaining

other 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



of pension w o r t h
₹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. Šealed covers are completely against settled judicial principles," said CJI when the A-G insisted on submitting it

2022 judgment on the payment sealed cover business being 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



The India Energy and Climate Center (IECC) located at UC 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.

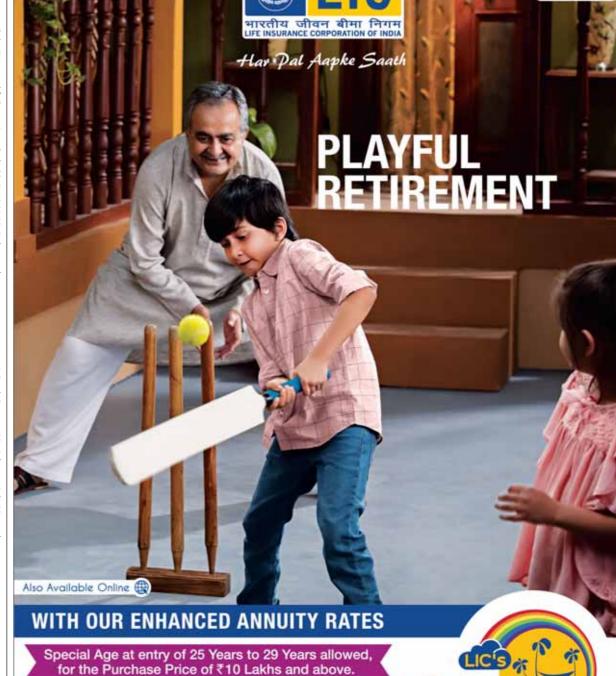
and supply volatility in global energy markets, as witnessed in recent years, strain India's foreign exchange reserves, resulting in economy-wide inflation. However, recent dramatic declines in clean energy costs provide India an opportunity to lower energy imports through investment in renewable energy,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

EVs, and green hydrogen, the

report said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already set a target

India is 80-85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil and coal needs. The price by 2030. The government 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 three-wheelers by 2030. Also, it is targeting production of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by splitting water using electricity from renewable sources. Abundant solar energy

and local technology will aid this and also reduce carbor emissions.



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Educated State will realise developed Jharkhand dream: CM STUDENTS TO GET QUALITY EDUCATION IN 80 SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE SOON

or the first time in the history of Jharkhand, such an event has been organized to improve the education system here. We think that in this era of competition, the children of government schools should not be less in any field than the children of private schools or schools of big cities. Our government has resolved to provide quality education to the students studying in government schools in the state. In the first phase, our children have started getting education on the lines of CBSE in 80 excellent schools. In the coming time, this system will be implemented in more than 4000 government schools in the state. By giving quality education to the coming generation, they will be made intellectually and socially strong," said Chief Minister Hemant Soren while addressing the State level conference of the management committee members of the excellent school organized by the Jharkhand Education Project Council at Tana Bhagat Khelgaon Stadium

The CM said that the vision of a developed state will be



Chief Minister Hemant Soren addresses students during the state level conference of the management committee members of the excellent school organized by the Jharkhand **Education Project Council at Tana Bhagat Stadium** Khelgaon, in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

fulfilled only through an educated state. He said that the state which is educated does not need anyone's support. He shared his experiences citing the example of the state of Kerala. The CM said that God has blessed our state with natural resources as well as natural beauty. There is no shortage in our state, just a little we all and the coming generations need to be aware. With time automatically everything will improve and our state will move forward at

a fast pace. Soren said that our children are not behind in any field, it is necessary that we connect them with resources. Our government is determined to take forward the children who are not able to move forward due to backwardness and poverty due to lack of resources. Day and night, our government is making policy decisions and schemes after thinking deeply about the future of these children. The CM said that the

boys and girls of Jharkhand have brought laurels to the country and the world in the field of sports. It feels very good when our children play the game of Jharkhand in the field of sports in the country and the world. Soren said that it is the effort of our government that along with sports, now our children should also make their mark in the field of education within the country.

The CM said that the chil-

dren of the state who want to go beyond school education and study in engineering, medical and other streams, the state government will provide financial assistance and bear all the expenses incurred in their studies. He said that for the first time in the country, this state has provided 100 per cent scholarship to its children for studying abroad for higher education. Some children who went abroad to study at the expense of the state government are doing well after returning to the state with degrees, while some children have even got

jobs in foreign countries.

The CM said that the school system of the state is run under the supervision of the Management Committee. For the successful and excellent operation of the schools,

Chief Minister Hemant Soren visits a stall during the state level conference of the management committee members of the excellent school organized by the Jharkhand **Education Project Council at Tana Bhagat Stadium** Khelgaon, in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

the responsibility of the Management Committee remains important and important. The school management committee now needs to be better than before, only then we will be able to realize the vision of an excellent school. The Chief Minister said that children of every class and every group have to be given equal rights and opportunities for education. The members of the management committee

should ensure 100 per cent

enrollment of children in schools by reaching every village and every house.

The members of the management committee should work to provide benefits of a better education system to every boy and girl in the village just like the children of their own family. The state government is always standing with you. The CM said that during the district visit, he himself would do a surprise inspection of these excellent schools. Departmental offischools from time to time. The system is big, we will also keep a close watch on these systems. In the coming times,

cers will also inspect the

many changes will be made in

the arrangements and many more links will also be added. Soren said that work is being done in the field of education for the last several years. But at present it is very important for all of us to understand the importance of education. The CM said that in a state like Jharkhand, people have been moving forward only in the form of skilled and unskilled labourers. Keeping this in mind, our government is working to advance the education level here with a new dimension. We have taken up the education system of Jharkhand as a challenge. Now is just the beginning, many important schemes will be added in the important field of education. The CM said that many big groups are associating with the state government to improve our education system. These groups will give us full cooperation in improving the education system. The CM said

Soren said that in this time of competition, the boys and girls studying need to be encouraged to move forward. At the state level, along with the incentive amount, the state government will also provide laptops and mobiles to the meritorious topper boys and girls, which is necessary for quality education at present. The CM said that now competition will be organized in selected excellent schools as well. The staff and children of the schools whose results will be better will be taken on tour to other states of the country. Our children will see and learn what is better than us in the schools of other states.

The CM said that along with quality education in schools, the state government will motivate our children to preserve the art culture of Jharkhand and a separate related subject Jharkhand's art culture will be added as new subjects in the curriculum. He said that it is the moral responsibility of all of us that the coming generation should not forget the language and art culture of the state. We will always have the need to keep our language and culture intact.

Speaker, ex-Speaker clash over wrong answer' row tion of POCSO, NDPS and



Opposition MLAs protest outside the Assembly during the ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

Speaker Rabindranath Mahto and former Speaker CP Singh had a heated argument in the House on the issue of getting incomplete and wrong answers from the government officials in the House. The verbal duel between CP Singh and Mahto

reached to such an extent that Speaker termed the BJP leader of being confused and unnecessary interrupting the House, due to which many legislators are not getting time to raise their query.

The situation came when legislator Hazaribagh Manish Jaiswal raised the issue of poor atten-

Cyber cases in the State. Jaiswal said that due to the government's poor handling, cases such as POCSO, NDPS and Cyber Acts are neither registered nor there is proper investigation of cases. The BJP lawmaker targeting the ruling party legislators said that government confusion can be gauged from the fact that they don't know which department has to reply on the question.

ought to be given by the law department, was given by the home department. Secondly, the information which Jaiswal had already procured from the law department contradicted the reply of the home department. When Jaiswal was arguing

First, the reply, which

on the issue with the Affairs Parliamentary Minister, the Speaker said that he will look into the matter. On this Singh sought permission to speak. As Singh sought permission, Speaker Ravindra Nath Mahto got angry. He alleged Singh of unnecessarily interfering in the discussion between a legislator and minister.

On this, CP Singh justified his intervention saying he, as a legislator, was not sitting in the House as a mute spectator and has every right to know what the fact is. He expressed his concern over the wrong reply and the minister coming unprepared in the house. On which, the Speaker

said his intention was to get the matter sorted out instead of passing the time on unnecessary allegations and counter allegations. In another development

the depleting ground water table issue was raised in the House. Congress Pradeep Yadav raising the issue said that depleting ground water table has become a cause of concern for the state. The groundwater has gone down in many districts of Jharkhand. The biggest problem is in Ranchi, Dhanbad and Ramgarh districts. Yadav, expressing his concern over the falling water level in the Assembly, asked that there is an alert in many districts, as there is a Central report that if even a little water is extracted from it, the crisis will become bigger. What is the government doing to deal with this water

Mithilesh Thakur said, government has taken full care and attention that ground water should not be exploited now. We have implemented Nilambar Pitambar Jal Samridhi Yojana through schemes. schemes are going on by the Development Department. The government is concerned about the extraction of groundwater.

Water Resources Minister



that soon a big organization

Azim Premji Foundation will

also do the work of training

Winning Team Speaker's 11 lift the trophy after a friendly cricket match between Speaker's 11 and Chief Minister's 11 at JSCA Stadium in Ranchi on Monday. Pics by Vinay Murmu

JSLPS TO DEVELOP 176 ORGANIC CLUSTERS IN10 DISTRICTS TO MARK INTERNATIONAL MILLETS' YEAR

PNS: RANCHI

harkhand Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) decided to develop 176 organic clusters in 22 blocks of 10 districts of Jharkhand to mark 2023 as an 'International Year of Millets'

JSLPS organized a two day conclave on organic crops and millets under the chairmanship of CEO, JSLPS, Suraj Kumar. The winners of the Pratibha Award under the Farmer Organization Producer (FPOs) were felicitated and discussion on Jharkhand perspective of organic crops and millets. On the occasion it was decided that to develop 176 organic clusters in 22 blocks of 10 districts of Jharkhand from financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 implemented by Value Chain and Women Farmer Empowerment Project under JSLPS "Farming the sustainable way for an evergreen tomorrow: Rolling out organic clusters in Jharkhand" to be developed. Under the project, a total of 42,240 farmers will be benefited by promoting 176 organic clusters in 1056 villages, as well as setting up of Farmer Field School

for training on a large scale. Kumar while addressing the gathering appreciated the work of JSLPS and encouraged them to work in the field of rural develop-ment. He said, "The year 2023 has been declared as the "International Year of Millets", in this series JSLPS the Rural Development Department has organized several awareness programs at the district and block level to

the use and benefits of Shri Anna," he added. Appreciating the work of cussed.

make the villagers aware of

the women group, Kumar said that every woman of the group is an inspiration for us today, who have achieved success by facing challenges and are playing an important role in village development. Talking about the program, he told that "Farming the sustainable way for an evergreen tomorrow: Rolling out clusters organic Jharkhand" implemented by Value Chain and Women Farmer Empowerment Project under JSLPS will be implemented for three financial years that is 2022-23 to 2024. "In 25 months, work is being done to develop 176 organic clusters in 22 blocks of 10 districts of Jharkhand. The project aims to promote 176 organic clusters in 1056 villages, where 2640 clusters will be formed, benefitting a total of 42,240 farmers. A Farmer Producer Company is also to be formed in this scheme. Farmer Field School will

be established for training on a large scale," he added.

In the second phase of the program, Jharkhand Perspective of Organic Crops and Millets, Promotion of Organic Crops and its use as alternative to daily con-sumption food – opportunities and challenges, scope of promotion and biofortification of millets in Jharkhand were discussed through various panel discussions.

Biofortification on millets and its impact on second day of the programme, role of TSA in promotion of organic crops in Jharkhand, importance of millets in Jharkhand, TSA in promotion of millets in the State in terms of scope and production support action, Startups, NGOs The role of organizations will be dis-

1000 pilgrims embark on Dwarka-Somnath journey

Minister, Department of Tourism, Art, Ĉulture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Jharkhand, Hafizul Hassan Ansari, today flagged off a special pilgrimage train under the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana - 2023, with a total of 1000 pilgrims from all the districts of the state, who

were above 60 years and belonged to BPL category, to Dwarka and Somnath from Ranchi's Hatia Railway Station at 5.15 pm. The tour that started from March 20 will end on March 27. In the yatra, all the pilgrims will be provided free train travel, breakfast, food, hotel stay and local pilgrimage sites through bus. Director Tourism Anjali Yadav and

four reminders to the health



other dignitaries were present in the programme organised to flag off the train. The state

government is providing darshan of pilgrimage sites to senior citizens of BPL category above 60 years of age under Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana. Under this scheme, all the pilgrims are provided free train travel, breakfast, food and hotel accommodation and tour of local religious places through buses. Last month, in

2023, a total of 830 senior folstate's BPL category above 60 years of age were selected, who were allowed to visit the pilgrimage sites of Ajmer Sharif, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri from February 15 to February 21 by IRCTC and Development Corporation Ltd. In this pilgrimage, all the pil-

grims were given free train travel, breakfast, food and hotel accommodation and a tour of local religious places through bus. All the pilgrims were happy with the facilities provided by the Jharkhand government under this scheme and thanked the Jharkhand government and requested to continue this

Banna, Saryu lock horns over 'Covid incentives' issue



PNS: RANCHI

There was a heated argument between Health Minister Banna Gupta and Independent Legislator Saryu Roy over the 'corona incentive' issue.

Roy, participating in a debate on cut motion brought following demand by the health department of Rs 7040.90 crore for his expenditure in financial year 2023-24, pointed out how the health department is reluctant to reply to his question on the matter.

The Independent legislator stated that he raised the question during the Monsoon session but its reply has not come to him so far though the assembly secretary sent

department. He said that it was a matter of concern that the health minister who filed a defamation suit in the court and registered an FIR in the matter is not daring to reply to the matter on the floor of the house. It may be noted that last year, the health department filed an FIR (first information report) against Independent legislator Saryu Roy under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Official Secrets Act, 1923, for allegedly leaking secret documents. The health department has lodged the FIR as Roy had accused state health minister Banna Gupta of misusing his office and disbursing Covid-19 incentives equivalent to one month's basic salary to 60 employees in his department, including himself, his personal assistant and other staff illegally and unethically. Roy had produced documents to back the allegations, which were

denied by the health minister. Roy today once again raised the issue stating that he is not getting a reply from the health department despite months having passed. Health minister Gupta dared Roy to prove the allegation stating that he

would prefer to resign if he



had taken even a single rupee as incentive. The Health minister also suggested that Roy not consider himself as the only honest person. He said the legislator is not sure about the allegation as the latter sometimes says that the former had taken incentive and sometimes says the minister could not take money as the treasury was closed

"You are not a judge. Sometimes you speak in favour of the government, sometimes you speak against the government. Our performance gives you pain. Whether we work for construction of a flyover or take up cleanliness work vou always raised objections over it. Sarju Roy, keep your advice with you, we are not going to be afraid of you,"

Gupta said. Roy, who is a senior legislator of the house, reacted and presented the documents before the house supporting his allegation asking the minister to reply to the question raised by him if he thinks that nothing wrong had happened. On which, the health minister said it was a matter of investigation how the legislator accessed the secret

file of the health department. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto interfered many times during the debate but the health minister continued speaking in high pitch in the

Paradise continues social work



The Paradise society on Monday provided necessary medical check-up, free medicines, nutritional facilities to needy pregnant women (35) of Lalkhatanga Panchavat, Hudwa

Panchayat, Chandaghashi Panchayat and Dungri Panchayat. The total Project Cost was Rs. 50,000. To make this project a success M/s Premsons Motors Udyog Pvt Ltd. played a crucial role. Asha Sansthan also made this project a reality by providing the society cooperation, which helped the members of Paradise so that we could do this whole programme.

Free Health Camp at Gumla

Fiveelements Polyclinic, a Super Speciality Polyclinic of Ranchi, organized a Free Health Check Up Camp in association with Tej Orthopedic & Surgical Hospital, Gumla on Sunday.



Renowned doctors from Ranchi Dr Shailendra Mohan Shukla, Urologist and Dr Aditya Vardhan Singh , Gastroentrologist of Ranchi provided Free Consultations. Fibroscan test and Uroflowmetry tests were done by Abbott Healthcare and Alkem. Around 40 Patient were benefitted through this Mega Health Check-up Camp

Consumers viewed retirement positively

Retirement is a pause and not a stop," is the current attitude of Indians towards one of the most important milestones in their lives. This was revealed in an ICICI Prudential Life Insurance study titled "Is India prepared for retirement?" to understand people's attitude towards retirement planning. The findings show that retirement is viewed positively as a time full of possibilities. It is seen as a time when one can make a fresh start and live life the way one wants to. A large number of individuals view it as a phase of maintenance, up gradation, and growth. Continuing with the current lifestyle into their retirement is the topmost priority, as indicated by 83 per cent of respondents.

'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 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 board chairmen.

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 unemployment 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 ■

A fter 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 Manďaviya,

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

These focus on not just

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.

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.

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 health coverage," she said. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has particularly

national level, she said.

"Digital health is a critical

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

doing elsewhere in the country. We have to frustrate their attempts by standing united," he

The former chief minister 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-

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

 $T_{ ext{Supreme}}^{ ext{h}}$ 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

Addressing the event, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, 'There is no freedom Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said of expression for digital health can significantly improve the quality, accessi-Bishops in Kerala bility, affordability and sustainability of person centric

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-

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 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 com-munity 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



MANY OF THESE **IMMIGRANTS CARRY THE MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS-**SOCIAL-**POLITICAL** NORMS OF THEIR **ORIGINAL** HOMELANDS, WHICH ARE INFAMOUS FOR THEIR INHUMAN TREATMENT OF

RELIGIOUS

MINORITIES

ungrateful segment of the population into the mainstream was a non-starter to begin with.

After all, the UK, is a sovereign 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

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 some were the abode of

ghosts, some bore fruits

every year and some never. The rain soaked days, paddy fields and trees blanketed in green, mango trees loaded with fruits, the streams filled with fresh water meandering leisurely downhill, the early morning calls of 'koel' (Cuckoo) and the company of friends made those times truly memorable ones.

It was like reliving all

those past moments when I was at home at the beginning of the mango bloom. A whiff of fresh fragrance from our courtyard blooming mango tree transported me back in time. I savoured every day trying to hold on to those smells, sights and flavours and enjoyed every moment 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 bank of the rivers to feel the stillness and solitude, I met old friends and we talked late into the nights, like good old times and doing all this I understood the true meaning of living in moments.

(The writer pens down stories of human interest and his travels. He also likes to click portraits)

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 reservation in favour of reserved categories, be 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 examinations such as Provincial Civil Service (PCS) in states like Uttar Pradesh for EWS 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.

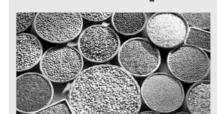
Shivanshu K Srivastava | Lucknow

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



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.

held in Pusa, New Delhi, is a crucial event for

What better can be expected from such a

force which treats electoral wins of their

own as "Victory of democracy" but the

The Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference 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!

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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

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

Question Hour indicates that

parliamentary reforms are

should be given more teeth.

tion and negotiations should

be part of the conduct of the

should be trained to under-

stand the House's rules and

mittees have gradually

decreased their number of sit-

tings. The Government also

only refers some pieces of leg-

Sixthly, presiding officers

Seventhly, accommoda-

Eighthly, new members

The parliamentary com-

urgently needed.

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

regulations.

islation 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."



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 Delni-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") Built-up Property bearing No.315, with roof rights, having area measuring 125 Sq. Yds. In the layout plan of The Delhi Sainik Co. Operative House Building Society, known as Sainik Vihar, situated at Pitampura, New Delhi-110334 /ihar, situated at Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"). Smt. (hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"). Smt. Satya Gupta W/o Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta was the recorded owner of the Said Property by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 05.07.1994 duly registered as Document no. 6274 on 08.07.1994. Thereafter, Smt. Satya Gupta W/o 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 Jyoti Gupta, who executed an Indemnity Bond dated 16.09.2014 duly registered as Document no. 865 on 16.09.2014, who claimed 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 Properly 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 mmediately 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

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

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

Depot

conducting auction

Alambagh/Lucknow

0522-2451257

Shakurbasti

011-27015387 Jagadhari

01732-252388 Sr.DMM/LKO

0522-2234756 Sr.DMM/FZR

01632-244154

Sr.DMM/UMB

0171-2611203

0591-2413141

Sr.DMM/DLI

Sr.DMM/ME

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 as the country's Prime Minister in December, comfortably passed the first

Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)

[CPN-UML] led by former prime

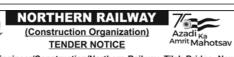
minister KP Sharma Oli, by a com-

fortable margin in the election for the

post held on March 17. He becomes

the Himalayan nation's third Vice

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



Dated: 20.03.2023

5th

round

29

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28

4th

round

24

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26

25

26

round

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The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Limited e-tender under Single-packet system for the following work.

	Completi	on or the work	oo (Eight) months	
2	Completion of the work		08 (Eight) Months	
		BE DEVELOPED AS FEEDER ROUTE OF WDFC (245 Km)		
			ANIPAT-AMBALA/SHAMBHU- TO	
			other preliminary activities in c/w	
	location		other structures, preparation and	
			f GAD of Bridges, L-Section, Yard	
1.	Name of	"Carrying out Final Lo	cation Survey (FLS), Geotechnical	

	3	2.	Completion of the work		08 (Eight) Months	
	:	3.	Approx. Cost of work		3.80 Cr. only	
	4	4.	Earnest Money to be deposited		3,40,000/-	
		5.	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 11.04.2023 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bid of which will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 11.04.2023.		

The detailed e-tender notice is available on IREPS websit Detailed 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 Notice & from 28/03/2023 All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are

given in tender document. Tender Notice No. 482-ACS-C-BNW-ROK-PNP-UMB-TKJ SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

round

10

12

13

12

13

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،

e-AUCTION DATES FOR April, 2023.

round

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6

10.00

10.00

10.00

10.00

11.00

11.00

10.00

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

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 Romainville sorting plant.

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, closely 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 25 29 28 11 24 4 18

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.

"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.

governors on Saturday while

state lawmakers were also elect-

ed for nearly 1,000 constituen-

cies. Nigeria's constitution

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.

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

To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on las sold rates in auctions are available at **www.railnet.gov.in**.

For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway websit

(Om Kumar Dv. Chief Material Manager/S&P 859/2023

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

Islamabad (PTI): The IMF 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, 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

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

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

IMF funding as he blamed the

then government of Imran

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

'No such thing as Palestinian people'

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

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

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

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 Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Gali No. 16, WA Block, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Dalok, Shakarna No. 178, Situateo at abadi Dalok, Shakarna No. 189, Shakarna N

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 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.



Tender Extension Notice

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

Last 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 porta

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



"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

INDAG

Date: March 20, 2023

INDAG RUBBER LIMITED (CIN: L74899DL1978PLC009038)

Regd. 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

{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 th 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 Protection 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 shareholder 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 xpeditiously. 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 nares 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

Kenya Opp leads anti-Govt protests

Top Af Taliban leader issues decree against nepotism

Islamabad (AP): The supreme leader of the Taliban has issued a decree against nepotism, barring officials Afghanistan's Taliban administration from hiring relatives in government positions. The shadowy leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, also ordered all Taliban officials to sack their sons and other relatives who are already working in their administration. The decree was posted late on Saturday on the Taliban government's Twitter account.

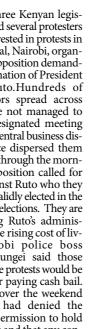
"It is an order to all officials in the ministries, departments and independent authorities that no one is allowed to appoint family members or relatives in government positions," the decree said. The tweet did not elaborate on the reasons behind the decree but it followed rumours that many Taliban officials have appointed their sons and

relatives in high-ranking government positions rather than professionals or those with experience needed for the posts Taliban government spokesmen were not immediately available on Monday to elaborate on the order or provide further details. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in mid-August 2021 amid the chaotic departure of U.S. and NATO troops after 20 years. Despite initial promises of a more moderate stance, the Taliban gradually reimposed their harsh interpretation 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 working, studying, travelling without a male companion, and even going to parks, gyms or



gregation would be illegal.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga





would proceed as planned and demonstrators would march to

State House, the official residence of the president. Odinga said Kenyan citizens have a con-

there all year around."

their held breath.

In the homes, archaeolo-

Madzavo and members of parliament Opiyo Wandati and Amina Mnyazi. Other legislators who had turned up at the designated meeting point in the city were dispersed by the police with teargas. They retreated to parlia-

ment buildings where they announced that protests would continue through the afternoon. Kenya's opposition has in the past held violent demonstrations in which people have

University all took part in the

excavation. Umm al-Quwain,

Archeologists uncover 'oldest pearling town' in UAE

said Monday they have found the oldest pearling town in the Persian Gulf on an island off one of the northern 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

town," said Timothy Power, an associate professor of archaeology at the United Arab Emirates University, using a word that means "Gulf" in 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

south of that monastery on one 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 in there, cheek by jowl," he cramped quarters to more added. "The key thing there is

sprawling homes with court-

yards, suggesting a social stratification, Power said. The site also bears signs of year-round habitation, unlike other pearling operations run in seasonal spots in the region. "The houses are crammed

permanence. People are living

of Islam across the Arabian Peninsula, making its residents likely Christians. Islam's Prophet Muhammad was born around 570 and died in 632 after conquering Mecca in present-day Saudi Arabia.

Umm al-Quwain's Department of Tourism and Archaeology, UAE University, the Italian Archaeological Mission in the emirate and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York

gists have discovered loose the least-populated emirate in pearls and diving weights, the UAE, plans to build a viswhich the free divers used to itor's center at the site. Today, quickly drop down to the seabed while relying only on the area near the marshland is more known for the low-cost liquor store at the emirate's Barracuda Beach Resort. In The town predates the rise 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 estate development. Authorities hope that development, as well as other building, will grow the emirate's economy. However, even this ancient site bears lessons for

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

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 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



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

respective Administrative

Ministry/Department, he said.

Of the 36 cases, 33 are

tures of PSEs/ banks.

mation of banks, and maintaining general confidence of bankers, he said.

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

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, saying it complies with all laws and

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.

crore vehicles are uninsured. 2015 to 14.5 per cent in adoption of technology, amalga-Replying to another ques-Credit Suisse, UBS shares plunge

AP GENEVA

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 orchestrated by regulators to stave off further marketshaking turmoil in the global banking system.

UBS shares were down 14 per cent in early trading on the Swiss stock exchange.

Swiss authorities urged UBS to take over its smaller rival after a plan for Credit Suisse to borrow up to 50 billion francs (USD 54 billion) failed to reassure investors and the bank's customers.

Shares of Credit Suisse and other banks plunged after the failure of two banks in the US raised questions about other potentially shaky global financial institutions.

Credit Suisse is among 30 financial institutions known as globally systemically important banks, and authorities worried about the fallout if it were to fail.

The deal was "one of great breadth for the stability 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 country and the international financial system."

Switzerland's executive branch, a sevenmember governing body that includes Berset, passed an emergency ordinance allowing the merger to go through without shareholder

Markets remain jittery despite the best efforts of regulators to restore calm. Global stock markets 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.

Credit Suisse Chairman Axel Lehmann called the sale to UBS "a clear turning point."

"It is a historic, sad and very challenging day for Credit Suisse, for Switzerland and for the global 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.

Following news of the Swiss deal, the world's central banks announced coordinated moves to



stabilize banks, including access to a lending facility for banks to borrow US dollars if they need them, a practice widely used during the 2008 cri-

Three months after Lehman Brothers collapsed 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 stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Today is one of the most significant days in European banking since 2008, with far-reaching repercussions for the industry," said Max Georgiou, an analyst at Third Bridge. "These events could alter the course of not only European banking but also the wealth management industry more gen-

Colm Kelleher, the UBS chairman, hailed "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 create a wealth manager with over USD 5 trillion in total invested assets. UBS officials said they plan to sell off parts

of Credit Suisse or reduce the bank's size.

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-



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 equities on lingering worries 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

NoBroker enters Dubai to tap NRI's property demand; aims to help buy-sell of ₹2,000 cr

disclosure requirements.

 $P^{\text{roptech unicorn NoBroker}}_{\text{on Monday said it has}}$ 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.

The company has opened office to cater to the demand coming from the NRIs who are looking to purchase a property

"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.

Clasico Brands UK Issues trademark

infringement notice

to Third Unicorn Ltd

Näsico Brands UK Ltd.

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,

company having its roots in all

5 continents of the world and

operates in the personal and

home care category with self-

owned brands as well as global

Clásico Brands is a global

PNS NEW DELHI

including India.

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

biggest manufacturing facility in the world at Noida and biggest research and development cen-

Galaxy S23 series in India. 'Śamsung India has been focussing on make in India, make for India. We are not only

Roh said. He said the company is collaborating with local vendors in India for mobile chargers and

It could not have been 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-

tre at Bengaluru in India. The company this year started manufacturing its premium

meeting the domestic need but also use it as a hub for export,"

components like mechanics.

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.

reason of quiet quitting for most Gen Z: Report blame office politics and excessive work pressure for the issue.

 $N^{\text{early half of Gen Z respondents consider toxic work}}$ 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

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

can have adverse effects on 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.

Mondays' are co-related and

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-

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 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".



lion 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-

against 139 in the year-ago period, the report said, adding that there were 75 deals in January From a sectoral perspective,

real estate led by bagging USD 2.4 billion of the overall USD 3.7 billion in investments with the USD 1.9 billion funding announcement by an arm of CDPQ and Temasek to set up an investment platform for office properties in India being at the

There were only nine large deals of USD 100 million or

overall such commitments. 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 in January 2023, it said. Funds dedicated to India raised USD 881 million as com-

pared to USD 347 million in the year-ago period, it said, adding that Kotak Alternate Assets USD 590 million for a data centre fund was the largest.

Barca snatch Clasico win over Madrid

arcelona snatched a 2-1 Clasico Bwin 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 corrup-

tion 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 defending 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,"

and it was a perfect example of how the system should work," said referee Tobias Stieler. The win also kept Leverkusen afloat in the race for

"VAR was a lifesaver today

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 on the way to a 4-0 lead.

He didn't face a break point as he

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

Alcaraz has returned to number one

despite a late start to the year. Injury

forced him to miss the Australian Open,

equalling 22nd Grand Slam title.

ratchet up the pressure on him.

as he raced to a 3-0 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

Alcaraz routs Medvedev for Indian Wells title

AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

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 tour-

ing 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.

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.

defenses.

best level, but I'm very happy for my performance and how I played this tourna-

"Daniil obviously didn't play at his

Indian Wells was his comfort level on the game's biggest stages.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz swept past Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win

naments 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 tournement."

Serbia's Djokovic, barred from enter-

Alcaraz, 19, who became the youngest

He was unstoppable on Stadium Court, breaking through what he'd called the "wall" of Medvedev's formidable

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-

He said the big change in him since a semi-final defeat to Nadal last year at

"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



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 num-

ber 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,"

to interject, "I will make sure it was the last one."
"We'll see next time," Rybakina laughed.

Rybakina said as she accepted the trophy, a

smiling Sabalenka leaning to the microphone



Since launching his season in February Alcaraz has won a title in Buenos Aires and reached the final in Rio de

> 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 trophy 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 turned out to be tougher than expected," he said. "The safety car tried

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

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.

"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 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 Ctop 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 ended in the quarter-finals.

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



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.

Swiss Open: Title holder Sindhu eyes turnaround

Enduring a wretched run of form, defending champion PV Sindhu will hope to get back to winning ways when she competes at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament, beginning here World number 9 HS Prannoy, who

had finished runners-up in the last edition, too will eye a better show after a second round exit in the All England Championships.

The fifth seeded Indian, however, will have a tough task at hand as he opens against 2018 world championships silver medallist China's Shi Yuqi, who finished second best in Rirmingham lest week

Birmingham last week. While Prannoy has been the most consistent singles player from the country, Sindhu and Lakshya Sen have

struggled this season, making early exits Sindhu, who parted ways with Korean coach Park Tae-sang after failing to get results following a long injury

lay-off, made a first round exit last week after losing to Zhang Yi Man of China. Malaysia and India Open, notched up

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

Sen, who had made early exits from 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

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

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

1:49.05

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

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-

egory, Lovlina, who received a first 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

to follow by strategy to the T. I am not



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