**OPINION 6** 

**WORLD 8** 

CHINA, RUSSIA TO COUNTER US'

INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

**MONEY 10** 

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IYER TO MISS

11 SPORT

# ENTIRE IPL 2023 AND WTC FINAL

RANCHI. THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

# SIKHS HOLD TIRANGA IN HIGH ESTEEM

# the pioneer

# Plan for modern Delhi announced

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

Power subsidy, free bus rides to continue

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

# Flares, bottles hurled at Indian Mission

www.dailypioneer.com

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

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

# 'Take early action on Judges' appointment'

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

of Ramaswamy Neelakandan, advocate practising before the Madras High Court, as a judge of the High Court. As on March 31, 2023, Ramaswamy Neelakandan was 48.07 years of age while K Rajasekar on that date was 47.09 years of age. Neelakandan, who is a member of the Bar, has been recommended earlier in point of time and must be appointed before Rajasekar is appointed. Otherwise, Rajasekar, who

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

is a judicial officer and younger than

Neelakandan, would rank senior to

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

### **CAPSULE**

## RAILWAYS RESTORE AC 3-TIER ECONOMY FARE

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

#### **MUKESH AMBANI IS RICHEST INDIAN AGAIN**

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

#### **ISRO: CHANDRAYAAN 3, ADITYA L1 SOON**

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

# PM reviews Covid, influenza situation

Modi stresses on genome sequencing, observing strict Covid protocols

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

India has recorded 1,134 new coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths. One death each has been reported in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Maharashtra while one fatality was reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of districts with 10 per cent or more Covid-positivity has gone up to 14 during

March 12-18 against nine in the March 8-14 week. Modi



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

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

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



PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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





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# QR code on tomb keeps son's memories alive

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

PTI ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

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

Son of Francis, an officer

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

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



Ivin had created profiles of people using QR codes and his parents also decided to do the

same for him. "He also used to send me a lot of QR codes for information," the father said. He said the idea of placing a QR code was of Ivin's sister Evelyn "My daughter told me that

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

ficient to portray what all he did

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

visit the grave can just scan the OR code and can know what sor just writing something about Ivin on the tomb will not be sufof a person Ivin was.'

# Jamshedpur under grip of viral cases along with sudden rise in Covid-19

long with a gradual rise in COVID-19 cases, Jamshedpur is now also under the grip of fever, upper respiratory tract infections, and seasonal influenza. The city has also reported four fresh cases of Covid-19 that brought the health department on its toes

Experts opined that fluctuations in weather and rains have led at least 10-15 patients with lower and upper respiratory tract infections,

infections daily. Most of them are reporting with complaints of sore throat, fever, runny nose, cough, allergic bronchitis, asthma, and middle ear

With symptoms being similar to ČOVID, people are becoming increasingly confused. With a low platelet count and a number of symptoms being common signs both in COVID and dengue, some doctors are advising patients to get tested for both. An official of MGM Medical

seasonal influenza, also known as the flu, is a highly contagious viral infection that typically occurs in the fall and winter months. It is caused by different strains of the influenza virus, including influenza A (H1N1 and H3N2) and influenza B.

The symptoms of seasonal influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. In some cases, it can lead to more severe complications



such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and even death.

The flu can be spread from  $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\}$ person to person through droplets when someone with the virus coughs, sneezes, or talks. It can also be spread by touching a surface contaminated with the virus and then touching your mouth, nose, or

The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated every year. Other preventive measures include washing your hands regularly, avoiding close contact with sick

Jaideep Sarkar, has been nominated as Observer of

Steel Plants' Sports Board (SPSB) for the All India Inter Steel Plants' Volleyball

Championship is scheduled to

be organised by Tata Steel from 29 to 31 March at

Championships.

Jamshedpur.

or sneeze, and staying home if vou are sick. If you do get sick with the flu, it is important to rest, drink fluids, and take medications to alleviate symptoms as recommended by a healthcare professional.

The administration has decided to opt for a multipronged approach to deal with the highly contagious disease. On a priority basis, school and college students will be sensitized about the dos and don'ts to prevent

Jaideep nominated as Observer

Sports Culturing initiatives in

India Jaideep is Volleyball

International & Asian Silver

to Steel Plants' Sports Board

tion also has plans to create awareness through loudspeakers and distribution of pamphlets about its symptoms. "We will soon discuss the strategy of the campaign and train health workers and officers for it," said an official.

Officials said their focus will be to urge people to wash their hands regularly and keep away from crowded places. The awareness campaign will target slum dwellers and educate them about the disease.

#### XLRI: Experts to brainstorm on Innovating Supply Chain clave starts with an Inaugural

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

XLRI PGDM(GM) batch of 2022-23 is all set to host 'Clockspeed 3.0 - to be held on March 25, based on Innovating Supply Chain For The Future"

The event will be facilitated by Sanjana Varshney, Mohammed Adeeb, Shivank Choudaury and XLRI PGDM (GM) Student Conclave

CLOCKSPEED 3.0 aims to provide a platform for sharing best industry practices and their views on what strategies the organizations can implement to navigate their organization through turbulent times and make them futureready, through a series of and keynote addresses by industry leaders.

Innovating the supply chain for the future is key to meeting the demands of the ever-changing market and consumer Advancements in technology have allowed for the develop-

ment of automated systems and robotics, data analytics, sustainability practices, collaboration, and a culture of innovation. These innovations can help businesses reduce labor costs, improve accuracy, and increase efficiency in supply chain. Collaboration and partnerships with suppliers and logistics providers can help

address by Prof. Alok Raj of XLRI Jamshedpur. The Chief Speaker will be Subhash

Tesla Power USA

We have our First Panel on topic "Supply Chain Analytics: Shaping the Future of Logistics and Supply Chain Management" which will be

Managing Director / Principal, Abhay Chainalytics, Srivastava, President Operations, Mankind Pharma Soumov Kundu, Operations Director- East, DHL Supply Chain India Pvt.Ltd. Puskar Mukherjee, Vice President & Head of Chain, Emami Supply Agrotech Ltd. which will be Sanjana moderated by student Varshney, PGDM(GM)," said an official.

The Second Panel is titled "Importance of ESG in Supply Chain Management" which will be discussed by Ranjan Sinha, Global Solution and Implementation. Envision Enterprise Solutions, Anish Azeez, Optical

Limited , Senthil Indiran, Head & Sr. Director – ERP Supply Chain Practice, Oracle Global Services Center and moderated by Mohammed Adeeb General Management Area, XLRI Jamshedpur. The Third Panel is titled

"Global Supply Chain through Transparency" discussed by Jayanandhan Vasudevan, Senior Director Supply Chain Management, Chatterji, Shubhankar Executive Director Supply Chain, Cummins India Ltd. Rajiv Bhattacharya, Chief Operating Officer, V-Xpress(A Div of V-Trans India Ltd) Vijay Shetty, Vice President Distribution and Logistics, Alkem laboratories and this will be moderated by Shivank Choudaury.

#### Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Awardee 2022 for Medalist (AVC), International Tata Steel UISL celebrates World Water Day

Volleyball



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR:

Utilities Steel Infrastructure and Services Limited (Tata Steel UISL) marked the occasion of World Water Day with a series of activities, reiterating its commitment to water conservation and management.

Ritu Raj Sinha, Managing Director of Tata Steel UISL, graced the occasion as the chief guest, accompanied by Raghunath Pandey, President of Jusco Shramik Union, in the presence of Mr. Sinha, Corporate Services of Tata

This year's World Water Day theme, "Accelerating Change" was highlighted through various activities, including an interactive session on water conservation and a discussion on the challenges and opportunities in event also featured informative stalls showcasing Tata Steel UISL's various water conservation initiatives.

The day started with a rally from Keenan Stadium at 6 am, which was flagged off by Ritu Raj Sinha, Managing Director of Tata Steel UISL, with Raghunath Pandey, President of Jusco an exhibition and discussion. On the occasion Mr Ritu Raj Sinha addressed the gathering and said, "We take immense pride in our contribution towards water conservation, and this event gives us an opportunity to pledge our

water conservation," During World Water Day celebrations, various competitions and sessions were organised, including a Water Awareness drive in community centres and schools, Water conservation related messages on Radio, Poster/Slogan competition, an Internet Quiz, and LED dis-

vation and water harvesting. Tata Steel UISL is committed to reducing water consumption and recycling wastewater through sustainable initiatives. The company has implemented several rainwater harvesting projects, and community-based water conservation initiatives are a top priority.

plays related to water conser-

Through its efforts, Tata Steel UISL aims to contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The event was organised by the Water Division department of Tata Steel UISL, and it was an excellent platform to demonstrate its commitment to water conservation and management while encouraging other organizations to fol-

#### **Annual Award Function of JCSSI organised**

PNS: RANCHI

Industry (JCSSI) organised Annual Award Function on Wednesday at Ispat Bhavan, SAIL, Ranchi. It is noteworthy that JCSSI, a unique bipartite forum at National level having representation of management and trade union representatives from 23 member organisations involving public and private sector steel companies like SAIL, RINL, Tata Steel Jamshedpur & Meramandali, JSW steel, Vijayanagar & Dolvi, Arcelor Mittal

#### (MNVA) commissioned by the Government of Jharkhand as a prime and unique residential sports center for grass-

Volleyball Coach of SAIL

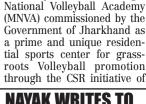
Bokaro Steel Plant and Lead

Officer of IOC supported

India's First Global Active

Jaideep is also the Secretary General of Mongia

Partner City Bokaro.



#### **NAYAK WRITES TO CM ON DALIT AND OBC RESERVATION**



PNS: RANCHI The Hemant government of the state should immediately

stop the politics of marginalizing the Dalit and OBC community in the district reservation roster and reform the reservation roster immediately; otherwise it will have to face serious consequences. Today, the Central Vice President of Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch cum former MLA candidate Vijay Shankar Nayak said the above things through his letter (email) sent to the Chief Minister Hemant Soren. He also said that OBC reservation has been made zero in 7 districts of the state and only 5 per cent reservation has been given to Scheduled Castes, which is a social injustice to these classes, which will be widely opposed in the coming days. Nayak further said that the MLAs belonging to Scheduled Castes and OBCs ave proved unsucces providing rights to their class. In such a situation, there is no justification for these MLAs to continue as legislators. All MLAs should either resign or not allow the House to function until the errors are rectified. He also said that the Hemant government of the state is doing anti-Dalit/OBC work, the result of which is that the census of OBCs has not been done till date, and moreover, how to keep the society marginalized in politics and all fields. There is no min-

#### improve the efficiency and Head- Logisticsresilience of the supply chain. Network Business, The first day of the con-STL - Sterlite Technologies Fresh advertisement to be

published for para medical vacancies HAZARIBAG

The district administration has decided to publish a fresh advertisement to fill up the vacancies in different primary health centres of villages, which are running under the DMFT plan in the district. The members of the management committee have been strictly instructed to follow all norms of the State government during the appoint-This decision was taken in

the meeting of the management committee of DMFT (District Mineral Fund Trust) in the chairmanship of deputy commissioner of Hazaribag Sahay has instructed all



committee members to follow all the directives, which were issued by the State government. The government has issued the directives that the applicant must have passed matric and intermediate from Jharkhand board.

She further said that we have published the advertisement before, but due to some celled by the administration. All the para medical appointhealth centres, which are running with the fund of min-

The committee has sanctioned 100 Anganwadi centres that are modernised with all facilities for the children. She directed them to start the work as they received the order from the concerned and safety tank of an old age home. The members have also sanctioned an amount for washrooms at playing grounds of the very block in the district.

The members have taken

The committee has sanc-

tioned the amount for con-

struction of a boundary wall

the decision to convert the five schools for the set up of the lab. The deputy commissioner Sahay said that it is the duty of the committee members to watch and inspect the plan from time to time and check the quality of the construction material. If the contractors will use the low quality material, then show cause to be issued to the members

#### **INCREASES PRICE OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

**TATA MOTORS** 

Tata Motors, leading commercial vehicle manufacturer , will be implementing a price increase of up to 5% on its commercial vehicles starting from April 1st, 2023. The decision to increase prices is a result of the company's efforts to comply with the more stringent BS6 phase II emission norms. As Tata Motors transitions its entire vehicle portfolio to meet these standards, customers and fleet owners can expect a range of cleaner, greener, and technologically superior offerings that deliver higher benefits and lower total cost of ownership.

### Tata Network Forum: Experts brainstorm on a respectful workplace TNF has been connecting stakeholders. She shed light manager to leadership level.



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Network Forum (TNF) Eastern region chapter organised an Éthics Conclave. A panel discussion on the

theme "Respectful Workplace for an Inclusive Tomorrow' was held at the Beldih Club on this occasion. Avneesh Gupta, Vice President, Total Quality Management (TQM) & Engineering & Projects

(Engineering & Projects) Tata Steel, Manik Sharma, General Manager, Ethics, Tata Play, D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President, Raw Materials, Tata Steel, and Sandeep Kumar, Managing Director, Steel Downstream Products Limited, were the keynote speakers. The session was moderated by Monika Agarwal, Chief Counsellor, TSDPL.

group companies, to dissemi nate best practices and nurture the ONE-TATA philosophy. The year 2022 was a year of transition and adoption to the new normal following the COVID-19 outbreak. The theme of the year is Respectful Workplace for an inclusive tomorrow. Shalini Sulakshana, Head

Ethics, Tata Steel, welcomed the dignitaries who joined the conclave from different parts of the country.

Chief Ethics Soni, Counsellor, Tata Steel, set the context and talked about the significant contributors: collaboration, cross-learning, and confirmation. The Tata Group has always promoted a culture of respect and inclusion at its workplace, not only for its employees but for all its

Steel's various companies' efforts to promote an ethical ecosystem. In our transformational journey, we are not only increasing our footprint in different geographies but also embracing people from diverse backgrounds. Through this mechanism, we are nurturing a culture of collaboration, inclusion, and respecting diverse thought processes for an inclusive tomorrow based on trust and mutual respect.

R Nanda, Chief Human Officer, Chemicals, talked about the best practices in ethics and emphasised upon the discussion of dilemmas. Ethics is not confined to a person or specific designation; rather, it should reflect on the three

vanda aiso snared best prac tices on ethics deployment at Tata Chemicals

Suresh Tripathi, Chief Human Resource Officer, Air India, was the keynote speaker on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Tripathi's major thrust was on collaboration with quality and accountability and a respectful workplace that consists of both individuals and systems. He went on to say that "being on the right side" has now become the norm rather than the goal, and that we should

not encourage that culture. While speaking about the Respectful Workplace, he said, "Tata Group has always believed in creating a culture of collaboration and involving diverse thoughts in the work

Joint Committee on Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Nippon Steel, Hospet Steel Ltd.

# No loss of life is acceptable in road accidents



RAJESH KR DAS

The 2022 World Health Organization report road traffic crashes kill more than 1.3 million people worldwide and injure about 20 to 50 million people to suffer non-fatal injuries, with many incurring a disability as a result of their injuries for the rest of their lives. As per Global Burden of Disease Report of 2019, road crash induced mortality rate has bounced vertically up to 8th

position from 16th between . 1990 and 2019. As per National Crime Records Bureau, 1,55,622 people have been killed on Indian Roads with 3,71,884 injuries across India in the year 2021. 425 deaths every day and 18 every hour is quite a scarv number. Moreover, most of the accidents have taken place in productive age groups covering young people in great numbers and with such worsening rate; India has inched above all other countries with regard to road crash related deaths. Jharkhand is not lagging behind in adding to the menace of road crashes. People are getting killed every day & except a report of their death or announcing an Ex-gratia in the media, the Govt is not doing anything substantial to prevent such crashes for saving precious human lives.

THE POLICY GAP- The Govt. of all types in India are largely Automobile Oriented & so their strategies are focusing more on building up new roads, adding more speed to the motorized vehicles, flyovers, road widening, achieving manufacturing goals by sale of cars etc that further results in adding up of more vehicles into our roads. Under the Road Safety category they only implement a few awareness oriented programs which are highly defi-

killer roads. Awareness is necessary for road safety but it can be equally ineffective as waking up an awakened person and making an educated person aware unless the policy & technology aspects are also accorded due importance. If there is any mechanism that

cient in saving human lives in

the Governments can look inside the houses of victims of road accidents, listen to their sobs & internalize their feelings, they can easily find out that it is primarily the Government policies & absence of enabling technologies which are responsible for these accidents, killing people mostly our children & if at all they do so then there can be a lot of change we can see in days to come. The key flaw is that the

understanding of the intermediate & lower level Govt officials is not up to the farreaching technical consequences of policies and also the options in their hands are very less as they mostly follow orders from the top. That's why they only talk about awareness in a mechanical way. The elected Govt representatives and top officials can surely talk and

implement other options provided they do really wish that the youth and children of the country mustn't be killed in our roads

THE WAY FORWARD:

1. Shifting focus from Automobiles to People. The **Public Space Management** should integrate key areas of mobility i.e. Pedestrian Pathways/Secured Cycle Lanes/Multi-Modal Mass Transit Systems etc. Each Rupee to be spent on Road infrastructure should be apportioned adequately on Pedestrian Pathways/Secured Cycle Lanes/Multi-Modal Mass Transit Systems. This strategy will give options to the people at large to use it as per their choices & reduce dependency on private vehicles over a very less period of

Secured Pedestrian & Cycling Tracks should be integrated in City's mobility planning which can not only help in traffic management but also provide solutions for a sustainable future. The same infrastructure can be made along all the Highways that can help develop adventure tourism to boost the local economy.

2. Speed being the major culprit in road deaths, the Government must urgently stop auto companies to manufacture & market vehicles beyond permissible legal speed limits. The DTOs must urgently issue directives to stop the registrations of vehicles whose speed limits are above the legal category. Moreover the two-wheelers, who have accounted for about 40% of deaths involving mostly young people as

the high time to cap the speed limit of two-wheelers to a lower side of about 40-50 KMPH or as deemed fit by the experts.

3. The victims of the road accidents must get free & best possible treatment by the Government being the custodian of the Roads. Proper orientation to ambulance control-blood bankhospitals, proper implementation of golden hour system.

**4.**Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) should be brought into focus for Road Safety issues for Alcohol Beverage Manufacturers, Auto Companies, Toll Management Companies & Tyre Companies etc.

**5.** Its time to check colossal Loss of Human lives in Road

Accidents by innovative, practical, easy technology driven, smart and uniform Transport Management /Smart Mobility System in place all through the country's roads.

ister from the Scheduled Caste

category in this government.

The government has also not

today's date, there is no minis-

ter from the scheduled caste

class, which is the culmination

representation. In

given

The writer is a Waste Management professional with expertise in Solid Waste Management, Cleaning-Housekeeping, road safety and traffic management and various development sector projects. Other than waste management issues, he has been working towards technology driven community initiatives particularly in field of road safety, traffic and Mobility issues. He is a member of Chotanagpur Chamber of Commerce & Industries as well. The views expressed in the article are personal.

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#### **RANCHI I THURSDAY I MARCH 23, 2023**

# **Jharkhand Medical Protection Bill sent to Select Committee**

### THE BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE THIRD

he Medical Protection Bill of Jharkhand seeking to prevent healthcare staff and hospitals from attacks by patient parties was sent to the Select Committee after MLAs cutting across party lines opposed to some of its provisions. The Bill Jharkhand Medical Service, Medical Service Association (Prevention of Violence and Property Damage) was introduced in the House, but it was not passed for third time.

Chief Minister Hemant

Soren, after going through the Bill urged the Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto to send the bill to the select committee for proper study and give its opinion within 30 days after he noticed that as many as 30 proposals for amendment in the bill had come.

In the last Cabinet meeting, the Bill got the nod. Doctors of State have been demanding implementation of the Medical Protection Act in the state for a long time. The bill was introduced to ensure security to doctors and para-medical staff in Jharkhand

been demanding amendments in the bill as they claim that it does not provide any security to patients. Ajsu legislator Lambodar Mahto criticized the bill demanding a Patient Protection Bill and explained how dangerous the bill could be in the state where people die in government hospitals due to negli-

Some MLAs have opposed some of the provisions of the bill and demanded that provisions for the protection of the patients' rights should be there in the bill. The medical



Ministers attending Budget Session of State Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

in 2013 and 2017 too, but it could be implemented after it was sent to select committee. Some of the provisions of bill include jail term of up to two years and a monetary fine of up to Rs 50,000 against any person found guilty of assault on medical professionals and vandalising government and private hospital properties.

The Cabinet gave its nod to the bill as there were repeated demands of the medical fraternity in the state for such a law. The state has witnessed several cases of attack in hospitals involving

family members of patients. Two such attacks happened this year in Garhwa and Dhanbad districts, leading to strikes of medical professionals in respective districts.

BJP legislator Amar Kumar Bouri said there are several provisions to ensure security to all. In this situation a special bill to give protection to a particular section is not advisable. He said it often comes into the knowledge that doctors run around and beat relatives of a patient when they protest in case of death of a patient due to neg-

Another BJP legislator supported Bouri saying one can easily imagine the behavior of a high handed doctor in the state where doctor like Dr O.P.Anand did not hesitate to misbehave with the health minister in his home con-

The not passing of bill is setback for medical fraternity in State as Jharkhand is 24th state to introduce Medical Protection Act in state. Many states including Bihar, Odisha and Bengal already have medical protection act in their state

# BJP demands implementation of NRC in State

#### BJP MLA Anant Oja says demography of Santhal Pargana is changing

PNS: RANCHI

Demand for implementation of NRC was once again raised in the House. BJP MLA Anant Ojha raised the issue of Bangladeshi infiltration in the state. Ojha demanded implementation of NRC in the state at Zero Hour. He said that the demography of Santhal Pargana is changing due to Bangladeshi infiltrators. He said that in Sahebganj, Pakur, Godda, Dumka and Jamtara, the number of tribals and Hindus population is decreasing, while the number of population is increasing. At the same time, he said that the state government should take initiative to implement NRC to stop Bangladeshi infiltrators. Ojha said that the youth of neigh-



Ranchi MLA CP Singh speaks during the ongoing Budget Session of State Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

getting involved in antiactivities. employment of the people here is being snatched away. The MLA said that Jharkhand's water, forests land are encroached upon.

He said that this has been

in the House and something During this, the MLA said that the widow and old age pension given under the Social Security Scheme is being made in a fake way in

Sahibganj. He said that during the investigation, it has come to light that a fake death certificate was used for widow pension in Rajmahal block. At the same time, a Bangladeshi youth arrested near Sahibganj Taljhari railway station in the past. At the same time, he said that cow smuggling is also happening openly in Santhal Pargana. He said that

that we have not come to pro-

vide resources to Bangladeshi

infiltrators. He said that the

Chief Minister says something

as long as the person involved in anti-national activities is identified on the basis of religion, till then such illegal business will continue. Bangladeshi infiltrators are doing the work of usurping Jharkhand's resources. At the same time, he demanded to constitute a high level task force in this regard.

BJP legislator Biranchi Narayan today pointed out the ploys which the state government took to deprive youths of jobs during the last

Speaking in favour of a cut motion brought by BJP's Ranchi legislator C.P. Singh on the budgetary demands by several departments, including home and prison, Narayan said: "In the first



Chief Minister Hemant Soren plays a shot during a friendly cricket match between Chief Minister's XI and Journalist's XI at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium Hotwar in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

## DC holds meeting to organise festivals peacefully



PNS: RANCHI

An important meeting was organized today, under the chairmanship Commissioner, Ranchi Rahul Kumar Sinha for holding upcoming festivals in a cordial atmosphere. Senior Superintendent of Police, Ranchi Kishor Kaushal, Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order), Ranchi RN various Muharram Committee members of the Mahavir Mandal Committee members and peace-loving people were present in the meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner Auditorium, Collectorate Block A. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the celebration of Sarhul festival, Ramzan and Ram Navami in a cordial atmosphere. Suggestions were given by the members of Moharram Committee and Mahaveer Mandal Committee in turn, sharing their past experiences for better law and order maintenance dur-

ing Ram Navami. Members of the Moharram Committee said that as usual, the tradition of welcoming the Ramnavami will be carried out in Ranchi in a cordial atmosphere. The members of Muharram Committee said

that during Ramnavami procession in the holy month of Ramzan, after Iftar, all out efforts would be made to ensure that there is no unnecessary crowd at sensitive places so that the procession can depart in a timely and smooth manner.

In the meeting, the members of the committee also talked about elaborate arrangement of lights at prominent places along the route of the procession. In regard, Commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha directed the Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order), Ranchi to talk to the Ranchi Municipal Corporation and make it the nodal for the particular area and share its information with the concerned police stations and committees. The Deputy Commissioner asked all the committees to give a list of the places where repair of roads, arrangement of lights, etc. is to be done so that work can be done in this regard as soon as possible. The members of Mahaveer Mandal Committee said that Ram Navami has been celebrated in Ranchi in a cordial atmosphere and this time also Ram Navami will be celebrated with the co-operation and cordial atmosphere of all sec-

# Governor encourages students, meets villagers in Dumka



raised by me continuously in

the assembly, at that time the

ministers of the UPA coalition

have been denying it. He said

that even in the last session,

when I said that Bangladeshi

infiltrators are using the

resources here, the govern-

ment is doing appeasement

**Governor CP** Radhakrishnan worships at Baba Baijnathdham on the occasion of the first day of "Chaitra Navaratri" festival, in Deoghar on Wednesday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

 $\neg$  overnor Radhakrishnan today went to Mohli Tola of Ghasipur village under Dumka district. First of all, he reached to observe the Anganwadi center located there. On the said occasion. the Governor inquired about the number of children in the Anganwadi center and obtained information regarding the nutrition of the children. On this occasion, he also planted trees in Anganwadi premises. in

The Governor then went to the upgraded Primary School, Ghasipur and met the children studying there. He interacted with the children and got information about the facilities available in the school. He encouraged the children by asking their



Governor CP Radhakrishnan taking information about making material from bamboo during his visit to the Anganwadi center Mohali Tola of Ghasipur village under Dumka district in Dumka on Wednesday. PNS

names and asked about the subjects being taught through the smart class. He inquired the from Deputy Commissioner, Dumka about the mid-day meal scheme along with the number and attendance of students in the school. After getting information about their studies from the local youth present there, the Governor encouraged

them to take up education. After this, the Governor met the local women present and got information about their livelihood and appreciated their talent of making bamboo material and asked the Deputy Commissioner, Dumka to take initiative to increase their income. After this, in a program organized there, apart from distributing medical grants among the villagers, the Governor benefitted the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Irrigation Well Construction Scheme, MGNREGA Scheme, Saree-Lungi Scheme.

In front of the Governor, the head of the village distributed nutrition food insects among TB patients by becoming a non-decaying friend under the 'Pradhan Mantri TB-free India Scheme'. He told the villagers that it is expected that this area will become a developed area with mutual relations, harmony and understanding. He said that those who are not able to reach Raj Bhavan, they will have access to them. He also encouraged folk artists. Deputy Commissioner, Dumka, Superintendent of Police, Dumka and other officers of the district administration were present on the said

#### INTERNATIONAL FOREST DAY AND **WORLD WATER DAY PROGRAMME**

CONCLUDES PNS : RANCHI

The three-day program organised from March 20 to 22 on International Forest Day and World Water Day ended on Wednesday. The chief guest of the concluding program was Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force, Jharkhand. He gave detailed information regarding the importance of water, its usefulness and its conservation in the concluding programme. In the programme, on the occasion of "All India Spring Art Camp-Prakriti 2023" organised on the theme of protection of nature, forests Jharkhand water, West Odisha. Bengal, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh etc. The artists (painters) who came from the states were honoured by giving mementos, certificates and wearing shawls. Along with this, the exhibition of paintings done by him in these three days on the subject of management and conservation of nature, forest and water was organized in the premises of Palash Auditorium with the aim of bringing awareness among the people

#### **Important to save religious** places: Shahdeo

Former Deputy Mayor of Ranchi, Ajay Nath Shahdeo today inaugurated Sarna Sthal developed by local Pahan at Bada Ghaghra in Doranda. Pahan Chukam Kutchhap has personally beautified the Sarna Sthal from his own funds. Shahdeo said that this is a very

proud moment for the local Sar opment of this place just before the Prakriti Parv Sarhul, the entire village will be greatly facilitated. It is very important to save our religious places. Apart from being a heritage, it is linked to our existence and identity. Mahato Gopal Kachhap, Sanjay Minj, Rajan Minj, Poornima Minj, Vimla Tirki, Birsa Kachhap, Sudarshan Kachhap, Vinod Minj, Munna Minj, Nitesh Lakda, Rohit Kachhap and Sarna Dharmavalambi of entire vil-

#### **ILCC conducts GK quiz competition**



lage were present in the programme.

The International Library and Cultural Center conducted a General Knowledge Quiz on Wednesday. The competition was open to the young student members of ILCC. A total of 52 enthusiastic members registered for the quiz, which was conducted in two stages. A written screening test for all was

held on Saturday, 18/03/2023. Applicants, who scored 24 points and above (out of 54) qualified for the final quiz. Four teams of 4 members were formed. The members were well prepared and answered smartly and knowledgably. They were grilled on Current Affairs, Sports and GK. The Quiz was conducted in 8 rounds. The Quiz Master was Ravi Sharma. The program was organized and conducted by the ILCC Librarian Nivedita Sharma. Present on the occasion were Cultural Committee members Rekha Mishra and Anchala Singh. First prize was awarded to Team No. 3 (Ajay Gope, Mukesh Sahu, Rahul Kumar, Samyak Kumar), while the Second Prize was bagged by Team No. 4 (Rahul Kumar, Shambhu Kumar, Sourabh Kumar, Bikinder Sahu). The third prize went to Team No. 1 (Madhu Kumari Singh, Pallavi, Pragya Kumari, Swadha Raj)

# CM FELICITATES 4 WOMEN FOR EXCELLENT WORK IN WATER CONSERVATION, CLEANLINESS

PNS: RANCHI

hief Minister Hemant Soren felicitated Munni ▲Devi, head of Pithoria Panchayat of Kanke block of Ranchi district, Parvati Devi, member of Markachho Panchayat Samiti of Koderma district Markachho from Koderma district, Pooja Devi, ward member of Arkocha Panchayat located in the block and Parvati Devi of Lakshmipur Panchayat of Domchanch block of Koderma district for their special contribution in the field of Jal Jeevan Mission, water conservation and cleanliness

The Chief Minister congratulated them for doing better work. He took information from all of them about the works and activities being done by them and

appreciated them. Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Mithilesh Kumar Thakur was also present on the occasion. The CM said that life can-

not be imagined without water. In such a situation, water conservation is the urgent need of today. He said that you should run a campaign for water conservation and planting more and more trees and connect others with it, because, only with collective effort can we achieve success in this

It may be mentioned that President of India Draupadi Murmu honoured the women in a programme organised at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4 March 2023. Munni Devi was the only head of Jharkhand in this programme, who was honoured with the Swachh Sujal Shakti



**Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Minister Mithilesh** Thakur present certificates to the Mukhiva Munni Devi. Panchayat Committee Member Parvati Devi, Ward Committee Members Pooja Devi and Parvati Devi for better work in the field of Jal Jeevan Mission. Water Conservation and Sanitation during a programme, in the Chief Minister's Room Jharkhand Legislative Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

Samman-2023. She received this honour for the successful operation and maintenance

of the Multi Rural Water Supply Scheme. At the same time, Parvati Devi was honoured by the Union Jal Shakti Minister for Jal Shakti Abhiyan, whereas Pooja Devi was honoured for doing better work in the field of ODF Plus (Sanitation).

On this occasion, Secretary of Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Manish Ranjan, Cĥief Engineer Sanjay Kumar Jha, Special Secretary Rajeev Ranjan, Joint Secretary PN Mishra, Executive Engineer Anil Gupta and other officers were present.

Meanwhile, in another development, members of Mahavir Mandal today and invited him to par-

March 30. They urged the

Shri Mahavir Mandal, Ranchi Steering Committee and Shri Metropolitan Committee met Chief Minister Hemant Soren ticipate in the grand Ramnavami festival and Shobha Yatra to be held on

Chief Minister to shower flowers by helicopter on the devotees involved in the procession as per the tradition that has been going on for the past several years. They presented an idol of

Shri Hanuman ji to the Chief Minister as a symbol of Ram Navami. On this occasion MLA CP Singh, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishor Kaushal, Jai Singh Yadav, Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, Dr. Ajit Sahai, Deepak Ojha, Ramdhan Burman, Shankar Sahu, Roshan Lal Yadav, Raju Yadav, Lalit Ojha, Sagar Kumar, Kailash Kesari, Abhinav Anand and President of Mahavir Mandir Mahanagar Samiti, Kunal Ajmani, General Secretary Munchun Rai, Coordinator

Dr. Dilip Soni and Ramesh

Bali were present

#### DPS Ranchi students shine in Mental Maths



The young mathematicians of DPS Ranchi once again proved their mettle in the Mental Maths competition 2023 organised by Ignited Mind Lab. As per the declaration of the Grand Finale results of this competition, Viraj Pratap Singh (Class III), Vivaan Singh (Class III), Agastya (Class IV), Aadarsh Gupta (Class V) bagged All India Rank 01. Rudransh Ranjan (Class VII), Pranay Kumar Singh (Class VII) and Dhairya Barnwal (Class VII) secured All India Rank 03 while H. Angel Katrina (Class VI) bagged All India Rank 06. Around 438 students participated in this competition out of which 118 students were selected for the Grand Finale Stage of this coveted examination. Principal, DPS Ranchi, Dr Ram Singh, said, "The school has been nurturing brilliance amongst the students in all the streams. It is a matter of pride for all of us to have got this remarkable result. The hard work of students and teachers has always paid off the best results".

# 'Hike capital budget of Army'

 $F_{
m bours}^{
m aced}$  by two hostile neighbours namely China and Pakistan and the ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, a Parliament Standing Committee on Defence report has called for a hike in capital Budget of the Army. It will enable it to enhance deterrent capabilities to meet any challenge, the report noted.

The committee appreciated the efforts made by the Defence Ministry towards the indigenisation of military platforms and hoped that the country would see "100 per cent contract value" going to Indian



vendors in the years ahead. The report was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday

Referring to the challenges before the Army, the parliamentary standing committee cited proxy wars, in an apparent reference to Pakistanbacked cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee was of the view that funds slated for modernisation of the armed forces should always be incremental. The committee also desired that there should be a separate allocation for committed liabilities and new schemes, under the modernisation/capital bud-

be in proportion to the increase in defence spending of our neighbours. Therefore, the committee recommended that the capital budget of the Army should be increased to have a deterrent capacity to ward off at least two hostile neighbours," it said, in an indirect reference to Pakistan and China.

The committee noted that the capital outlay for the Navy for 2023-24 was projected at Rs 52,804.75 crore. "Against this projection, the committee found that this year's allocation is pragmatic and supportive for the Navy as the ministry actually allocated the same amount as projected, although, this projection is Rs 14,818.21 crore

on the Adani issue and in

return it would drop the call for

an apology over Rahul

Gandhi's remarks in the UK,

asserting there was no question

Jairam Ramesh said efforts are

being made since the last few

days that a "formula" or mid-

dle path is found with both the

Congress general secretary

of any such compromise.

in the year 2022-23," it said.

"This also indicates that the requirements of the Navy for the new scheme have decreased, and gone down which may affect its modernisation drive. The committee recommended to be apprised of the reasons for the lower projection in comparison to last year," the panel said.

The committee recommended that from next year onwards a separate statement of the net budget be provided after taking into account the inflation, noting that it is a recurring and unavoidable phenomenon in all aspects of economic theory which applies to

# 'Sensationalist lies': India's High Commissioner to UK on Punjab

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW

Terming the reports on the situation in Punjab as "sensationalist lies," Indian High Commissioner to London Vikram Doraiswami said on Wednesday the situation is normal in the State and visitors including from the UK are safe.

He made these observations in the backdrop of ongoing operation in India to nab Amritpal Singh and Waris Punjab De.

While summarizing the situation in Punjab, the envoy said in London "there is no truth to sensationalist lies

being circulated on social

media. The Indian High

Commissioner was talking

about the law enforcement

action against Waris Punjab "The situation for travel is normal and visitors including

"Let me assure all our friends here in the UK, especially brothers and sisters with relatives in Punjab that there is no truth to sensationalist lies being circulated on social media," Doraiswami said in a video address released by the Indian High Commission in London.

It was reported on Saturday that mobile Internet services have been suspended in several districts of Punjab, state police said after launching an operation to arrest the chief of suspected pro-Khalistan outfit 'Waris Punjab De', Amritpal Singh

# India likely to be severely hit by water scarcity by 2050: UN report

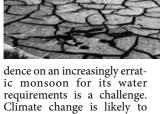
ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

ome 2050 and India is Lexpected to be the most severely water-hit nation due to scarcity of the precious item with a flagship UN report warning that overall the global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to increase from 933 million in 2016 to 1.7-2.4 billion people within the next 27 years.

The flagship UN report 'United Nations World Water Development Report 2023: partnerships and cooperation for water', released Tuesday ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, said that around 80% of people living under water stress lived in Asia; in particular, northeast China, as well as India and Pakistan.

"The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to increase from 933 million (one third of global urban population) in 2016 to 1.7-2.4 billion people (one third to nearly half of global urban population) in 2050, with India projected to be the most severely affected," the report said, citing data.

No doubt, the observations of the report hold importance for India which is home to 18 percent of the world's population, but has only 4 percent of its water resources. The UN report comes a month after the government's policy think tank, the NITI Aayog had pointed out that India's depen-



exacerbate this pressure on water resources, even as the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts in the country Yet another report by the United Nations Institute for Water, Environment and

Health in January 2023 had

estimated that India's 3,700

large dams will have lost on

average 26 per cent of their initial total storage by 2050. Against such a bleak scenario, experts have called for setting up strong mechanisms to prevent the global water crisis from spiralling out of con-

"There is an urgent need to establish strong international mechanisms to prevent the global water crisis from spiralling out of control," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. "Water is our common future, and it is essential to act together to share it equitably and manage it sus-

Globally, two billion peo-



ple do not have safe drinking water and 3.6 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation, the report found with Richard Connor, the report's editor-inchief pointing out that "uncertainties are increasing"

"If we don't address it, there definitely will be a global crisis," he said, pointing to rising scarcity that reflects reduced availability and increased demand, from urban and industrial growth to agriculture, which alone consumes 70 per cent of the world's sup-

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in the report that "Water is the feblood of humanity.

It is vital for survival itself and supports the health, resilience, development and prosperity of people and planet alike.'

Guterres voiced concern that humanity is blindly travelling a dangerous path. 'Vampiric overconsumption and overdevelopment, unsustainable water use, pollution and unchecked global warming are draining humanity's lifeblood, drop by drop."

### Won't go back on JPC PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Congress on Wednesday that the Government wants the party to take back its demand for a JPC

Opposition and

Government relenting.
"This is unacceptable to us, these two things are completely unconnected. One is a reality. The questions we are asking are fundamental questions, this has happened. The BJP's demand of apology is just baseless, it is on false allegations. So

to say that you take back your demand then we will take back the demand for an apology, we are not ready for any such bargain," Jairam said at AICC Press conference.

Jairam however clarified that no one from the govern-ment has talked directly to the opposition on the issue and is only being known unofficially. He said Rahul Gandhi has written to the Speaker to be allowed to speak under rule 357 (in the Lok Sabha), saying it is his democratic right and what the speaker decides on it only time will tell.

"But to say that there is a formula, it is not acceptable to us. We are not agreeable to this because the two things are like 'chalk and cheese' between the demand for a JPC and a demand for an apology. The demand for apology that is being repeated, it is being done so that attention is diverted from the Adani issue. Their strategy is 3D -- distort, defame and divert. They distorted Rahul Gandhi's remarks, defamed him and now want to divert attention from the Adani

issue," he said. To a suggestion by TMC

governments can initiate investigation in their own states, Ramesh said, "It is laughable. Those who have given this suggestion, their only intention is to give a clean chit to the government.'

"This is the question at the doorstep of the prime minister. How can state governments probe into these issues, it is the responsibility of the central government. This is a non-serious suggestion. Those who have given this suggestion neither know about the economy nor politics," he said.

### **Railways restores fare of AC 3-tier** economy class travel in trains

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{
m ailways}$  on Wednesday issued an order to restore the fare for AC 3-tier economy class travel which had been withdrawn in November last year when it was merged with

Despite the restoration in price, Railways will continue offering linen to passengers, the order indicated.

The present order has withdrawn an earlier circular in which the fare for AC 3-tier economy class ticket had been made equal to the fare of an AC 3-tier ticket. The reason for the merger was stated to be the cost of linen which was initially not provided in the economy air conditioned class. According to the order, passengers who have



The railways, while introducing the 3E as a class in 2021, had September announced that fares in these newly-introduced coaches will be 6-8 per cent less than normal AC 3 coaches, pitching the class of travel as the "best and cheapest AC travel service" in

the pre-booked tickets.

Before the November 2022 order, passengers could book AC 3 economy tickets under a separate category of "3E" in specific trains where railways offered such seats.

Officials said, currently there are 463 AC 3 Economy coaches compared to 11,277 normal AC 3 coaches.

AC 3 economy coaches have better facilities for passengers than normal AC 3 coaches, officials said.

### CAG extending its outreach to include political executives to highlight audit concerns

demand: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW

¬he Comptroller and Auditor ■ General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday said the audit watchdog outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

"The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions," Murmu said during an orientation programmes with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) belonging to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Noticing that most of the

officers are from engineering background, she said technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, especially with emerging selfhelp AI tools such as ChatGPT. He said that the trainee IIS officers should gear up to meet the challenges posed by Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

Murmu said the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. "In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government's plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve country's image," he

## rmy introduces millets in soldiers' ration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to promote consumption of millets in light of the United Nations (UN) declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the Indian Army has introduced millets flour in the rations of soldiers. Special emphasis is on providing healthy millet based food and snacks to troops guarding the China front or the Northern Border.

This landmark decision will ensure troops are supplied with native and traditional grains after over half a century, when these were discontinued in favour of wheat atta, officials said here on Wednesday

Traditional millet foods with proven health benefits and suited to our geographical and climatic conditions would be a vital step in mitigating life style diseases and enhancing satisfaction and morale of the troops. Millets would now form an integral part of the daily meal for all ranks, they said.

Government sanction has been sought to procure millets flour not exceeding 25 percent of the authorised entitlement of Cereals (Rice and Wheat Atta), in rations for troops com-



mencing from the year 2023-24 onwards. Procurement and issue will be based on option exercised and quantity demanded.

Three popular varieties of millets flour including Bajra, Jowar and Ragi will be issued to troops duly considering preference. Millets have the benefit of being a good source of proteins, micro-nutrients and phyto-chemicals thus boosting the nutritional profile of soldier's

In addition, advisories have been issued for Millets to be extensively used in organised functions, Barakhanas, canteens and in home cooking. Centralised training of chefs is being undertaken to prepare wholesome, tasty and nutritious millet dishes. Special emphasis for introducing value added millet items and snacks to troops deployed along Northern borders have been given.



Awards 2023 ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

¬he Defence Ministry on ■ Wednesday justified in Delhi High Court on the policy barring married individuals from applying for Judge Advocate General (JAG), the legal officer in the army, and said considering the "effects of marriage", the bar is a "reasonable restriction placed in public interest and the interest of national security". In an additional affidavit filed in response to a petition chal-



lenging the embargo, Defence Ministry said the condition of being unmarried for grant of commission to cadets aged 21-27 years is "restricted only for the period of recruitment and pre-commissioned training" which involves a high amount of stress and rigours of military

training and the restriction on marriage before successful commission is in the interest of the candidates as well as organ-

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Datta granted time to petitioner Kush Kalra to file his response to the Centre's stand. Last year, the high court had asked the Centre to explain the reason behind the policy on an affidavit while remarking that the policy barring married individuals from applying for the

post "does not make any sense". The Centre, in its earlier affidavit filed in March 2019, said that right to marry cannot be a right to life under the Constitution and there was no discrimination on the basis of marital status of the candidates. The authorities have sought dismissal of the PIL saying the Constitution does not stipulate

tal right. In the latest affidavit, the Centre submitted that in the Indian Army, both males and females are treated equally and

NPG under PMGatiShakti examines,

right to marry as a fundamen-

lar qualification requirements for basic military training and in all types of entries, "unmarried clause" is common. It explained that once the unmarried cadets complete their training and are granted commission, there is no bar on marriage or its "natural consequences" like pregnancy and several service benefits are also given, but during conduct of basic military training that lasts for minimum one year, such provisions are not possi-

## SC cautions lower courts for not applying mind in bail matters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

The Supreme Court has cau-I tioned the lower courts for not applying mind and remanding the accused persons into the custody of the probe agency the moment they appear before them in response to the summons. The apex court noted that the appellants fear arrest not at the behest of the CBI but at the behest of the trial court. It ordered that the appellants be released on bail in the event of their arrest subject to terms and conditions as may be imposed by the special court, including the condition for the surrender of the passport, if any.

The top court said this while hearing the appeals of four accused challenging Allahabad High Court orders that rejected their pleas for presented heil in a case probably. arrest bail in a case probed by the CBI. "Suffice for the present to note that it is not the CBI which is seeking their custody, but the appellants apprehend that they may be remand-



ed to custody by the trial court and this is why they seek protection. We must keep this in mind while deciding the fate of these appeals," it said.

"This is for the reason that in some parts of the country, there seems to be a practice followed by courts to remand the accused to custody, the moment they appear in response to the summoning order. The correctness of such a practice has to be tested in an appropriate case," a bench of Justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal said in its verdict delivered on March 20. The case was related to a bank loan default case.

# PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM GatiShakti at its 45th session examined and recommended six Infrastructure projects including that from Railways and Road Transport Highways

These projects will be developed in tandem with the PM GatiShakti Principles using the integrated and holistic approach. These projects will also provide multimodal connectivity, seamless movement of goods and passengers as well as increase logistics efficiency across the country.

A project by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was also examined by the NPG. A one of its kind project for the Inter-State Transmission System for Renewable Energy Projects in Ladakh is a big step towards achieving the Government of India's target of 500 GW capacity from non -

fossil fuels by the year 2030. The Ministry of Railways proposed a project for city ogistics. The project was for



Anwarganj Mandhana elevated railway track. It is a City specific project as it will increase line capacity utilization for railways and improve city logistics in the region. The project is located in the heart of Kanpur city wherein 16 Level Crossing (LC) are located in 16 Km stretch with GT road running parallel to this track.

On both sides of the railway track there are important components such as universities, medical college, cardiology centre, cancer centre, good shed, consumption centres, warehouses, agricultural com-

ponents, among others.
Eventually, it leads to traffic jams and an increase in waiting time of trains, and vehicles. After the construction of this track rail logistics will improve by 4.2 MTPA. Further,

a project by the Ministry of Railways for construction of Rail Bridge across river Ganga in connection with the new railway line connecting Vikramshila - Katareah railway station on East central railway in Bihar State was examined by the NPG. The project is about 40 KM from Bhagalpur alongside a stream on river Ganges. The NPG examined two projects by the Ministry of Roads, Transport and

Highways pertaining to construction of 4 Lane to Bijni to Mandi section including construction of twin tube tunnels of Pathankot - Mandi. The second project proposed by MoRTH was the con-

struction of a 4 Lane of Belgaum - Hungsund -Raichur, as a part of Panaji -Hyderabad

# **Varanasi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on March 24 and inaugurate and lay a number of projects in his home constituency and address the 'One World TB Summit at Rudrakash Convention Centre.

Prime Minister will dedicate and lay the foundation stone of various projects worth more than Rs. 1780 crores at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University ground, according to the Prime Minister's office.

On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, the Prime Minister will address the One World TB Summit.

The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Stop TB Partnership. Founded in 2001, the Stop TB Partnership is a United Nations hosted organisation that amplifies the voic-



es of the people, communities, and countries affected by TB.

He will launch various initiatives including the TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative; official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment, Family-centric care model for TB and release of India's Annual TB Report 2023. Prime Minister will also award select States and UTs and Districts for their progress towards ending

# Modi to visit BJP seeks CBI probe into Kerala 'waste mgmt scam'

 $\mathbf{I}^{\text{n}}$  the backdrop of a major fire in the waste dump in Cochi in Kerala on March 2 the BIP on Wednesday claimed a major 'waste management scam by the son-in-laws of the UDF-LDF Government' in the state and demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged corruption. The BJP accused the Kerala Government of "not following rules" speltout by the 'Swachata abhiyan' of Prime Minster Narendra Modi.

Addressing a press conference here , the BJP-in-charge of Kerala and former environment minister Prakash Javadekar said While the solid management rules were notified by the Centre in 2016, the lowed them, leading to a complete "mismanagement" of waste all over the state, he said.

He said the firm chosen for the waste management in Kochi received a Rs 54 crore-contract and it in turn subcontracted the

22 crore. "Rs 32 crore went straight into its pocket," the BJP leader claimed.

"Goa and Indore have been among the best examples of managing waste and turning it into wealth. But the Kerala government never tried to do anything in this regard," he said. Javadekar said since Kerala government is not allow permission for the CBI probe, the High court may order such a probe into the alleged scam.

The BJP leader said that corruption involving kin of the Left and Congress functionaries in Kerala led to the absence of a waste-management plan and a consequent fire at a landfill in Kochi which among damages caused innumerous health problems to the Cochin inhabitants, he said.

The former union minister alleged involvement of son-inlaw of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan besides sons-in-law of a former Left Democratic Front (LDF) and a Congress leader in the "monumental" corruption

disaster recently. While the Left is in power in Kerala, the Congress is the main opposition party. Both are now together in looting the state, Javadekar

There are three sons-inlaw, two companies and a big scam. The LDF and the UDF have come together in looting Kerala," he said, claiming that the companies assigned to deal with waste management in the city are linked to the kin of politicians.

Kerala BJP leaders, including Union minister V Muraleedharan and former Union minister K J Alphons, were present at the press conference. "I am directly saying that the chief minister has taken interest," Javadekar said.

BJP has been electorally focusing on Kerala and has recently received support from one of the Bishops in the state. The Prime Minister has recently hoped that the BJP may come to power in Kerala in

# Shah opens Maa Sharda temple virtually

The precincts of a newly L constructed Maa Sharda Devi Temple, located close to the line of control in Tithwal village of North Kashmir district of Kupwara, came alive on Wednesday as large number of devotees assembled here for the first time to worship the idol, made from panch dhatu(five metals).

The 3.5 feet-tall idol of Goddess Sri Sharadamba, was donated by the Sringeri Sharada mutt for installation at the newly-constructed Sharda

The temple, constructed on a piece of land provided by the local villagers in the area, was formally inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah through video conferencing. Several dignitaries including Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, were present on the occasion and became witness to the historic occasion. Several



guests including Ravindra Pandita, Founder Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, Kashmiri pandit scholars were given warm reception by the local villagers on their arrival in Tithwal.

Amit Shah began his address by wishing countrymen for the New Year. He said that today on occasion of New Year, the newly constructed temple of Maa Sharda has been opened for the devotees and this is an auspicious sign for devotees from all over India. He said inauguration of Maa Sharda's temple is beginning of a new era. He said that today's beginning will help in bringing back lost glory of this place and

tre of worship and continue to awaken the consciousness of India for ages. "Sharda Peeth has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage, like Kartarpur Corridor, Government under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will move forward to open Sharda Peeth for devotees"

The Union Home Minister said that the architecture and construction of this temple has been done according to mythological scriptures under the aegis of Sharda Peeth.

Shah said the idol of Sharda Maa, donated by Sringeri Math, and its installation here, the time period from 24 January till today was like a

The reconstruction of Maa Sharda's temple in Kupwara is a necessary and important step in direction of discovery of Sharda-civilization and promotion of Sharda-script.

# NIA arrests Khurram in NGO terror funding case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested the Programme Coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS) in connection with the NGO Terror Funding Case. Following the first arrest

made in this case, the NIA arrested Khurram Parvez, the Programme Coordinator of JKCCS and Chairperson of Philippines-based NGO Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), the NIA said in a statement.

"Investigations revealed that Khurram Parvez has been collecting funds under the garb of fighting for Human Rights, from various international entities/ persons based abroad and channelizing those funds for funding terror activities in the Kashmir valley," the agency

He, along with his associates, were also propagating a secessionist agenda through Parvez has already been chargesheeted in another NIA case. He was formally arrested upon production in this case on Wednesday, it said. The case relates to the terror funding of



tions, such as Lashkar-e-Toiba LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, by certain NGOs, Trusts and societies based in the Valley. Investigations have revealed that Khurram Parvez and his associates raised funds to support individuals who were involved in pelting stones at security forces personnel and also motivated others to extend similar support, it said.

These trusts and societies, tigation, have utilised the funds raised by them to publish antinational and incriminating materials to cause hatred and Government of India, it added.

# Will challenge hegemony of BJP in 2024 LS polls: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday that his party would challenge the hegemony of the ruling BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He also said that the SP would contest all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the Yadav also hit out at the

BJP-led state government and alleged that it was against farmers. He said other political parties should decide their respective roles ahead of the general elections next year. He alleged that the BJP government was selectively targeting the leaders of the Samajwadi Party and its associates. "Azam Khan is being vic-

timised by the Yogi Adityanath government as he is a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party," Yadav said while addressing mediapersons here on Wednesday.
"The SP will lead UP's

opposition alliance in the Lok Sabha elections," said Yadav, who returned to Lucknow after attending the two-day national executive meeting of the

He said that the SP would play a major role in the opposition alliance in UP. "In the upcoming assembly elections in various states, the SP will field candidates where it has a



presence. The party will contest the assembly elections with alliance partners in those states. The SP chief had recently visited Telangana to participate in the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS) rally organised by K Chandrashekhar Rao. He also visited Tamil Nadu to participate in MK Stalin's birthday programme.

Alleging that the BJP-led government in UP was against farmers, he said the arrears of so far. Yadav also said that the state government should give compensation to farmers who have faced losses due to damage to their crops in the recent unseasonal rains and hailstorm.

## **SP** supremo takes jibe at **Tourism Min**

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday took a jibe at UP Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, saying the latter played a key role in the victory of Dimple Yadav in the bypoll to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in November last year.

"Jaiveer Singh is the tourism minister. He is unpredictable and as a tourist, he can stray in any direction," Yadav said. Jaiveer Singh was elected to the UP assembly from Mainpuri Sadar, a seg-ment of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat.

Mainpuri is the stronghold of the Samajwadi Party and its founder Mulayam Singh Yadav held this seat.

Retaliating to the jibe, Jaiveer Singh said: "People of the Samajwadi Party many times since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. In fact, people of UP have sent Akhilesh Yadav on permanent tourism to political oblivion."

### India home to spiritual ancestors of Koreans: Yogi PNS LUCKNOW embrace friendship, oneness,

Even as the diplomatic relations between India and South Korea complete halfcentenary, the spiritual ties between the two go back to centuries because India is not 'foreign' but 'home' to spiritual ancestors of the Koreans, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said at the felicitation ceremony of Jogye Sangh. The function was held on

the completion of the 43-day 'padyatra' of Buddhist pilgrimages by Jogye Sangh of South Korea on the completion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and South About 108 Buddhist pil-

grims from the Republic of Korea walked over 1,100 kms in over 43 days as part of the walking pilgrimage organised by Sangwol Society of South Korea.

Speaking on the occasion, Yogi said: "Lord Gautam Buddha had started his Dhamma Yatra from Sarnath by giving his first sermons. I congratulate you on completing your 43-day pilgrimage. The 'padyatra' is being organbetween the two countries on the completion of half-century of the diplomatic relations between India and South Korea. When saints make efforts to deepen the relations,



Lord Buddha's meditation tradition entered Korea through his disciple Huineng in China. "Shravasti, the origin of your meditation tradition Seon, is where your journey came to

tors," Yogi said.

The group of monks travelled on foot along the entire Buddhist circuit, including Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, to Kushinagar,

an end. In this sense, you have

not come abroad but to the

home of your spiritual ances-

the place of Mahaparinirvana. Yogi said: "Both India and South Korea celebrate independence on August 15. India got the opportunity to chair the G20 summit in its 'Azadi ka Amrit Kaal'. This year, the One Family, One Future'; it connects us with the spirit of Kutumbhakam".

"Buddha's preaching inspires the entire mankind to

compassion, and humility. India is the centre of reverence and faith for the Buddhist society of the world," the CM added. He went on to say that many places associated with the life of Mahatma Buddha are in Uttar Pradesh. "Lord Buddha had deliv-

ered his first sermon in Sarnath while in Shravasti, he spent most of his 'varshavaas', and Kushinagar is his place of 'Mahaparinirvana," Yogi noted. "Lucknow is surrounded

by the aura of Lord Buddha from all sides. Shanti Upvan Buddha Vihar is in UP and so is the International Buddhist Research Institute. As the international airport has become operational in Kushinagar, the development of an airport in Shravasti is also underway on a war footing.

The state government is

going to set up an agriculture and technology university named after Mahatma Buddha in Kushinagar itself. The relations between India and South Korea are scaling new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he

that the mutual trade between India and South Korea is \$28 billion, in which India exports goods worth \$9 billion and imports worth \$19 billion from

# NIA court sentences Bodo militant to life imprisonment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has secured conviction for life and rigorous imprisonment against a Bodo militant in the 2014 Assam indiscriminate firing case. The NIA Special Court,

Guwahati, on Tuesday sentenced Bodo militant Rabi Basumatary alias Rongjabaja alias Rabi to life imprisonment, along with rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, in various cases of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2014 case of indiscriminate firing on villagers in Assam, the NIA said in a statement here on

Wednesday. Rabi, who was convicted by the court on March 13, 2023, has been sentenced to life imprisonment in two cases and rigorous imprisonment in

two others. He has been convicted under IPC sections relating to murder, attempt to murder and common intention besides relevant provisions of the

UAPA He has also been fined in all the cases, and will have to undergo additional simple imprisonment in case of failure to pay the same. All the substantive sentences will run concurrently, the agency said.



Seven villagers were killed and two grievously injured in the case, in which Rabi was arrested in September 2016 and chargesheeted by NIA in March 2017 through the first supplementary chargesheet.

Investigation in the case had revealed that Rabi Basumutary alias B Rongjabaja was a member of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), an armed separatist outfit fighting to obtain a sovereign Boroland for the Bodo

people. On May 1, 2014, Rabi, along with six other NDFB cadres, had entered Balapra village under Gossaigaon police station area of Kokrajhar district of Assam, where they opened indiscriminate fire on the villagers on instructions from top NDFB leadership headed by G Bidai and Songbijit. The Special NIA Court had subsequently registered the case as Special Case

# Mamata offers prayers at Shree Jagannath Temple

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday offered prayers at the Shree Jagannath Temple here and offered a huge flag, which was tied atop the 12th-century shrine, seeking the welfare of all people. Banerjee, accompanied by senior government officials from her state and Odisha, entered the temple at 4 pm and had a dar-

shan of the sibling deities-Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath. 'She offered prayers to the deities standing alone near the 'Bhitar Katha' (inner cordon). She is a devotee of Lord Jagannath," said Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, her priest.

She witnessed 'aarti' while standing near Bhitar Katha. She also went to 'Mukti Mandap' (seat of religious pundits) and sought the blessings of the pundits there. Later. She also visited the temple of Maa Laxmi and Maa Bimala in the temple premises while making a round of it.

The West Bengal Chief Minister stood at the 'Pata Agana' (a corridor near the main temple) to witness the 'Bana Bandha' (tying of flag) ritual during which the flag atop the 65 m high temple is changed every day. "She offered a 14-haath flag to the Lord

praying for the wellbeing of all," the priest said. One haath is 1.5 feet.Local police in plainsclothes provided security to her and no one was allowed to go close to her.

The devotees were, however, allowed to enter temple and have 'darshan' of the deities when Banerjee was inside temple. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration presented a wooden idol of Lord Jagannath to her.





People buy dates near the Jama Masjid ahead of the start of the holy month of Ramzan in New Delhi on Wednesday

# Ahead of polls, NCP chief calls meeting of Opposition leaders

Amid talks of opposition unity in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar has invited leaders of various opposition parties here on Thursday 23 to discuss issues of common interest and efficacy of EVMs. Sources said the meeting will take place at 6 pm.
Pawar has held that in the

interest of free and fair elections, electronic voting machines (EVMs) need to be accurate and any doubts over their efficacy must be addressed by the Chief Election Commissioner. Experts have said that any machine with a chip inside can be hacked and we cannot allow democracy to

elements. Therefore, in the interest of free and fair elections, we must sit together and listen to the views expressed by eminent IT professionals and cryptographers, Pawar said in his letter to the opposition Leaders of several opposition parties are likely to attend

the meeting keeping in view Pawar's stature. The meeting

comes in the wake of several

efforts being made to bring

unity in opposition ranks to help take on the BJP together. West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata

Banerjee and Telangana Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao have made some efforts in this direction in the recent past.

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#### PAPER WITH PASSION

# Already engaged

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

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



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

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

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



# Sikhs hold Tiranga in high esteem

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Legal remedies for crimes against women



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an advocate

#### **WORRYING SIGNS IN PUNJAB**

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

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

#### **UNSEASONAL RAINS AND FOOD SECURITY**

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

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

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

### **Parliament logiam continues**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

pen, some pragmatic and corrective measures

consume salt in food according to taste and

need. Without salt, food is tasteless and

bland. Nevertheless, excessive salt consump-

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

Organization has explained why salt is prov-

ing fatal. According to this WHO report,

every year around 20 lakh people around

the world die because of eating too much

salt. At present the average use of salt per

person in the world is 10.8 grams. While

the WHO has set a maximum limit of 5

That means we are consuming double the amount of salt. These figures are proof

grams per person's consumption of salt.

that it is healthy to take salt in limited quan-

tities, not according to taste. If we all reduce

Zeeshaan I Kazipet

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

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

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

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

#### **EXCESSIVE SALT IS DANGEROUS**

the amount of salt, the number of deaths due to heart diseases worldwide every year can be brought down. WHO estimates that can be saved by 2030.

consuming less salt can save the lives of 22 lakh people by 2025 and about 70 lakh lives Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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# **FIRST COLUMN ROBOTIC AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE**

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The writer is cofounder and CEO of Addverb Technologies)

# Moral compass is critical for democracy



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



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

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

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

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



THE 75+

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

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Stress among women is rampant but it can be managed

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

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

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



**DR JYOTI KAPOOR** 

(The writer is the founder

and Senior Psychiatrist,

Manasthali)

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

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



Practice mindfulness med-

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

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

#### Get enough sleep

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

#### Connect with others

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

#### Eat a healthy diet

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

#### Take breaks throughout the

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

stressed throughout the day. Seek professional help

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

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

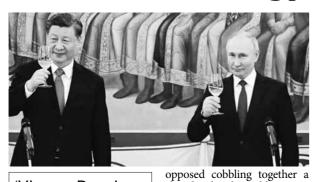
# China, Russia to counter | Civilians killed by Russian missiles, drones **US' Indo-Pacific strategy**

PTI ■ BEIJING/MOSCOW

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

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

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



closed and exclusive bloc struc-

ture in the Asia-Pacific region

creating camp confrontation,

in an apparent reference to the

Quad alliance comprising the

US, India, Australia, Japan and

AUKUS, consisting of Australia, the UK and the US. Both sides

said the US adheres to the Cold

War mentality and pursues the

Indo-Pacific strategy, which has

a negative impact on peace and

stability in the region, it said.

China and Russia are commit-

ted to building an "equal, open

and inclusive security system" in

the Asia-Pacific region that does

not target third countries, in

order to maintain regional

peace, stability and prosperity, it

said. Both countries expressed

serious concerns over the con-

sequences and risks of the tri-

lateral security partnership — AUKUS and related nuclear-

powered submarine cooperation

programmes on regional strate-

gic stability, it said.

### 'Xi sees Russia as counterweight to US influence'

Washington (PTI): In President Vladimir Putin and Russia, Chinese President Xi Jinping sees a "counterweight" to American and NATO influence on the continent and elsewhere around the world, the White House has said. The statement by John Kirby, National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, came as Putin accorded a red carpet welcome to his Chinese counterpart Xi in Moscow and held marathon talks spread over two days on a range of issues, including the raging

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

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

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

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

100 kilometres (60 miles) from the rubble on a dormitory's the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest which has previously come under threat during the war.

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

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

"Over 20 Iranian murderous

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

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

the city of thousands."

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

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

**AP** ■ ISLAMABAD

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



party for allegedly receiving prohibited funding. The prohibited funding case was filed by PTI's estranged founding member Akbar S Babar in the Election Commission of Pakistan in 2014. A two-member bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri conducted the hearing on the plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. The court also rejected the request to cancel the bail of co-accused Tariq Shafi, the report said. The FIA filed an application in the IHC on February 28 against the banking court's decision to grant bail to the PTI chief and appealed to the court to annul the decision as it was "against the

### **'Israel attacked Aleppo** airport, no casualties'

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

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

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

the strike damaged the airport's

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

	Azadi Ka mrit Mahotsav	NDER NOTICE  b. E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)		
	N.I.T. No.	44A-22-23-W-2 Dated 21.03.2023		
1.	Name of work with its location	A) Augmentation in capacity of LHS by one time cleaning of 76 nos. LHS under ADEN/SMQL		
2.	Approx Cost of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
3.	Earnest Money NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
4.	Completion period of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
5.	Cost of tender on cash/by post NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
6.	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	30.03.2023 to 14.04.2023 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 14.04.2023 at 15:00 hrs.		
7.	Similar nature of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice		
8.	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can ased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in		

**HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED** CIN: L65910DL1980PLC010617 Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092

Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in NOTICE OF 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of

nembers of Hindustan Auto Finance Limited will be held on Friday, 14th April, 2023 at 02:00 p.m. at the registered office of the Company to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM The Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 including the Notice

convening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has been sent to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday March 17, 2023. Physical copy of the Annual Report along with AGM Notice has been sent by permitted mode to members who have not registered their e-mail address. The emailing and dispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.ir website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com The shareholders whose email ids are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email id registered with the Company by sending e-mail at hindaf1980@gmail.com and follow the egistration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annua Report for FY 2019-20 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains the instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration o email id members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow the process advised by DPs Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Place: New Delhi

Date: March 22, 2023

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited

Rishabh Aggarwa (Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

NORTHERN RAILWAY Azadi <sub>Ka</sub> Amrit Mahotsav E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites ope e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work: "Part-A Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV OHE modification work inconnection with Provision of Machine siding & over run at Safdarjung station Part-B Provision of 25 KV/J230V 25KVA Auxiliary Transformer inconnection

		with Electronic Interlocking work at DSJ station				
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 6600101.05/-				
3	Earnest Money Depos	sit	Rs. 132000.00/-			
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period		03.04.2023			
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time		17.04.2023 (15.00 Hrs.)			
6	Fund Allocation		deposit work			
7	Website particulars where complete details		www.ireps.gov.in			

E-Tender No.: 37-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date : 21.03.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur New Delhi-110092 Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in NOTICE OF 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING

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

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

Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act. 2013 ("Act") and the applicable rules framed thereunder and Reg. 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, ("Listing Regulations"), the register of members and share transfer books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, April 08, 2023 and will end on Friday, April 14, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 39th AGM of the Company.

he process advised by DPs.

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

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

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Place: New Delhi

Date: March 22, 2023

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited

Rishabh Aggarwal (Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

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

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

pher Michael D'Antonio, would



abusing the system is so well established, is being caught." "Throughout his life, he has done things for which he could have been investigated and potentially prosecuted and ences that he could act with impunity," he said.

people at the highest level of

business, whose devotion to

Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family's real estate business. Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which accused them of refusing to rent apartments to Black tenants in predominantly white buildings. Testimony showed that applications filed by prospective Black tenants were marked with a "C" for "coloured". Trump counter-sued for USD 100 million, accusing the government of defamation. The case ended with a set-

tlement that opened the way for some Black tenants but did not acknowledge they had "failed and neglected" to comply with the Fair Housing Act. Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and improp-

attorney into sales at the Trump SoHo ĥotel-condominium in Lower Manhattan.Indeed, according Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government vatchdog group abbreviated CREW, as of November 2022, Trump had been accused of committing at least 56 criminal offenses since he launched his campaign in 2015, not including allegations of fraudulent business dealings. But he has never been formally indicted.

Trump University and charitable Trump Foundation and a

probe by the Manhattan district

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

# Indian-American receives National Humanities medal from Joe Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON US President Joe Biden has presented the prestigious

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

tist," the US President said.

"Above all, she is hardworking

and an adoring mom, just like



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

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

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

Colson Whitehead and Native

America Calling were the

recipients of the National

Humanities Medal.

### California faces more flooding after strong storm

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

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

# **Macron wants French pension** plan implemented by year end

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

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

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



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

the violence at some protests. He notably referred to

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

to move the country forward ... but we cannot accept factious

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

Unions have called for

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

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

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

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

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

**PTI** ■ BEIJING

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

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

# 12 dead as strong quake jolts Pak, Af



Rescue workers and people gather at a hospital, where earthquake victims are brought, in Saidu Sharif, a town Pakistan's Swat valley on Tuesday.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

tant landslides created fear.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 'IMF facility debunks Sri Lanka's bankrupt status'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

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

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



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

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

retired soldiers and depositors

who have had limited access

to their savings after local

banks imposed informal cap-

ital controls amid the crisis.

withdrawals from accounts

to avoid folding amid curren-

accounts can only withdraw small sums in Lebanese

pounds, at an exchange rate

far lower than that of the black

riot police and army special

forces were deployed around

the government headquar-

ters, an Ottoman-era three-

story building known as the

Nearly two hours after the

Grand Serail of Beirut.

testers dispersed.

Since early on Wednesday.

cy shortages.

The controls restrict cash

People with dollar

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

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

# Boris Johnson to be grilled over partygate scandal

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

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

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



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

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

### UK inflation jumps to 10.4 per cent

**AP** ■ LONDON

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

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

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

### **UK opens inquiry into** killing claims in Af

London (AP): A senior judge troops were deployed to Afghanistan as part of a twodecade-long NATO-led campaign in the country following

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

the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Many British soldiers engaged in heavy fighting with insurgents in southern Helmand province. Britain ended all combat

security forces until 2021, when the international coalition withdrew from the country. Haddon-Cave said many

behind closed doors for nation-

# Clashes erupt at Lebanon govt HQ



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

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

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

There was no immediate information about any injuries during the violence. The soon approve 'born alive abortion bill Topeka (US): A Kansas pro-

Kansas could

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

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

the power to greatly restrict or

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

ban abortion.

REVOCATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public no behalf of our client IDFC First Bank limited. Had Mr. Sanjoy Kumar Das & Mr. Bhucendra Sharma are joint owners of Property bearing NaZC-12A, India drae measuring 83 Sz. yds, with roof rights, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala, out of khasra No.2/Zz. Situated in the area of Village Khyala. Delhi State, Delhi colony known as Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 Said property by virtue of Sel deed dated 26.03.2021, Registration No. 3945, executed by Mr. Dilwars Sngh, who was owner of the said property by virtue of GPA Agreement to sell and will dated 66.05.1987, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property and p PUBLIC NOTICE and will dated 66.05.1987, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property and someone want to purchase the same by taking Home loan from our client, if anybody has any objectionly taking Home loan from dist somership / its fille / sale and mortgage of above owners, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the pressure.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultant Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultant) 200, Ilind Floor, 33, Shiviyi Minay, Mol Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Pn: 011-1112527-28 kumarassociates advocate@gmail.com

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Principal Chief Materials Manager** 

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S/Sales/Auction Programme/2023-24 Dated - 20.03.2023

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. June/2023

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under.

e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'June, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

operations in Afghanistan in 2014, although a small number of troops stayed to train Afghan

hearings would have to be held

# NORTHERN RAILWAY

Ref: Tender Notice No. 01/2022-2023 dated 09.03.2023 S.No.04 & 06 Tender Number 40235047 opening date 06.04.2023.

Eligibility criteria and specification has been added/edited in above referred tender. Al other terms and conditions remain unchanged

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

21.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER 30-Elect-57-T-R2-22-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with strengthening of wiring cabling

	Delhi division.			
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 56.26 lacs Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.			
Address of the office				
Bid Security	Rs. 112500.00			
Date & time of submission of tender	17.04.2023, 12.00 Hrs.			
Opening of tender	17.04.2023, 12.00 Hrs.			
Wahsita & notice heard	www.irone.gov.in			

& Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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

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

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

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

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

**AUTHORISED OFFICER** Date: 20.03.2023 Place: SONEPAT INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

# DoT seeks ₹33,111 cr for BSNL AGR dues

### Expects PSU to become profitable by FY 2027

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

crore have been spent till December 2022.

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

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

The DoT has informed the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Government said it would make



It jumped 39.6% Tuesday. depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank whole, even Other smaller and midthose with more than the sized banks also rallied, includ-\$250,000 limit insured by the ing a 7.2% climb for Comerica Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and a 7.7% gain for Zions They were the second- and

third-largest U.S. Bank failures Hopes for the banking industry began to turn over the They had struggled as weekend after regulators pushed depositors rushed to pull their

together two huge Swiss banks. Shares of both banks in Such runs can topple a that deal rose Tuesday in Switzerland, including a 9.8% jump bank, and investors have since been hunting for the next one for acquirer UBS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

hurt Silicon Valley Bank, which saw the value of its bond investments drop with the rise in rates. The Federal Reserve is

That's one of the factors that

beginning its latest meeting on interest rates Tuesday, with an announcement slated for

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

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

cantly exceeded more than half

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

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

### IIFL AIMS WORLD RECORD WITH IIFL JITO AHIMSA RUN

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

### NTPC COMMEMORATES WORLD WATER DAY

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

### PFC INKS PLA FOR JPY 2.65 BN WITH JAPAN BANK

PFC recently signed a Project

# Modi launches ITU Area office, innovation Centre PTI NEW DELHI it, making it unique amo

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

Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test ITU is the United Nations'

specialized agency for information and communication technologies Headquartered in Geneva, it has a network of field offices, regional offices and area offices.

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

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

Document is prepared by Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021 with members from various ministries/departments, research and development institutions, academia, standardization bod-

The area office, fully fund-

Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region, a statement said. Bharat 6G Vision

It will serve India, Nepal,

ies, telecom service providers.

# Tomar launches blended learning platform for higher edu in agri

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

money out en masse.

that could fall. Much focus has

been on First Republic Bank,

which shares some similar traits

with Silicon Valley Bank, and its

stock had lost 90% for the month through Monday.

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

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

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

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

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

universities have an important

role to play in promoting preci-

sion farming, environmental

Loan Agreement (PLA) for JPY 2.65 Billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a ceremony held at JBIC headquarters, Tokyo, Japan. This PLA was executed under General Agreement signed between PFC & JBIC for JPY 30 Billion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

exploration activities," it said.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking on the sidelines of a CII event here, Boeing India President Salil Gupte also said the South Asian region is expected to remain the fastest-growing market globally over the next several years.

Courage of the government to go forward and privatize Air India and Tata Group to take up the airlines will transform the Indian aerospace industry, he said. "India is going to need over 31,000 pilots and 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years to take care of the aircraft coming in. This is as important a part of the Indian growth story as the aircraft (orders)," Gupte told reporters.



He said considering India's air traffic growth, a lot of focus has to be on making infrastructure robust, both hard infrastructure which includes airports as well as critical infrastructure, which includes pilots, among others. Tata Group-owned Air India last month announced placing orders for a total of 470 planes with both Boeing and European aviation major Airbus.

Âir India's mega aircraft deal with Boeing, Gupte said, is a massive deal for

getting a representation on the global stage. Last September, Boeing had projected India's air traffic growth at around 7 per cent through 2040. He also said that after com-

ing out of the pandemic, the recovery in air Boeing does not see any impact of the financial crisis on air travel growth. It is "too early to know what the consequences of the bank situation of the US and Europe and others are going to be. At

this stage, we really see no slowdown in the demand for aviation," Gupte added. There is a huge market for narrow-body aircraft for Boeing in India, he said and added that, "(as much as) 90 per cent of the market over the next 20 years is going to be a narrow body market and we expect we will be successful in competing for those every

single campaign (aircraft order)."

# Google suspends Chinese shopping app amid security concerns



oogle has suspended the Chinese shopping app Pinduoduo on its app store after sources.

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

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

They allege that such apps could be used to spy on

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

even iOS apps can often be

found on websites that allow

people to download apps without going through official app "Google Play Protect enforcement has been set to block installation attempts of these

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

identified malicious apps,

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

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

# India will not slow down: RBI article

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

They said the NSO's end-February data release indicates that the Indian economy is

reliance on domestic drivers. Currently available forecasts of India's real GDP growth for 2023-24, including those of the RBI, settle between 6.0 and 6.5 per cent.

intrinsically better positioned

than many parts of the world to

head into a challenging year

ahead, mainly because of its

demonstrated resilience and its

The article observes that hawkish minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) meeting, a sharp rise in US treasury yields, and fresh geopolitical risks after Russia suspended its participation from the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) dented positive sentiment in the Indian equity market during the second half of February

Consequently, the BSE Sensex reversed its earlier gains and registered a cumulative decline of 1 per cent during February 2023.

#### Hindustan Zinc board approves 4th interim dividend of ₹10,985 cr for FY23 PTI N NEW DELHI 2 per share for the financial Year

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Tuesday said its board has approved a fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share or 1,300 per cent for FY2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore. This takes the Udaipurbased Hindustan Zinc's total payout to shareholders at a record Rs 32,000 crore this fiscal, making it among the topdividend payers in the country.

"The board of directors of the company in its meeting held on March 21, 2023 have approved fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share i.E. 1300 % on face value of Rs

2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore," Hindustan Zinc said in a filing to BSE. The fourth interim divi-

dend will be paid within stipulated timelines as prescribed under law, it said. Hindustan Zinc (HZL) said

that it has declared its ever-highest dividend of Rs 32,000 crore for FY'23 by announcing the fourth interim dividend. HZL, in which Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent stake and

has for long been unsuccessfully trying to buy back the residual government stake, is the largest and only integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver in

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

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

increases are tied to technology, will increase by 10.2 per cent in 2023, lower in comparison to 10.4 per cent (actuals) in 2022, but still in double digits, according to a 'Future of Pay' 2023 report by professional services organisation EY.

The projected salary increases for 2023 are slightly lower a survey with over 150 leaders.

for blue-collar workers, who are projected to have a slightly larger decrease in compensation in 2023, it stated. The top three sectors with the biggest projected salary

said the report. E-commerce has the highest projected salary growth at 12.5 per cent, followed by professional services at 11.9 per cent

and IT at 10.8 per cent, it added national security threat. The data presented in 'EY Future of Pay' report is based on



AP HONG KONG

malware was discovered in versions of the app from other Google said in a statement

#### Pinduoduo is a popular e-commerce app in China which often offers discounts if users team up to buy multiples of an

# Oz beat India in 3rd ODI, seal series

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Skipper Rohit Sharma (30

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

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

Rahul's first boundary came in his 45th ball when he hit Zampa over his head for a four. Next over, Starc fired from wide off crease but the length ball was hit for a straight six. However a ball fired by Zampa into the blockhole was dug-out by Rahul but Abbot timed his jump well to hold onto it at the boundary. Then it was the turn of Agar to quickly send back Kohli and the out-of-form Survakumar Yadav (0) for his third first-ball

duck in as many games. From 146 for 2, India had slumped to 185 for 6 when Pandya and Jadeja joined forces with the Australian close-in fielders making it infinitely dif-

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

opposition.

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

The five wickets added 131

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

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

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

David Warner (23 off 31

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



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

source told PTI on conditions

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

#### **IYER TO MISS ENTIRE** IPL, DOUBTFUL FOR WC

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

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

looks dim at the moment.

# Fleming to be Texas Super Kings coach in MLC

passage of time

PTI DALLAS

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

Four-time IPL champions, CSK had recently said that they would make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the US.

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

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

Fleming is a long-serving CSK head coach and has guided the Chennai franchise

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

Unicorns, Lost Angeles, MI New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington DC. Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR

Group, are partnering with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class cricket team", while Mumbai Indians have joined the US cricket revolution by acquiring the New York franchise.

Meanwhile, all six MLC teams completed the domestic player draft at the Space Center in Houston, where they selected nine players each from more than 100 cricketers eligible to represent the "US cricket commu-

nity".

The remainder of each team's player roster will be filled with top T20 cricketers from across the world.



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

he captains of IPL teams can name their I playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI. According to playing conditions clause

1.2.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after "Other than set out in Clause 1.2.9 no

player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain." This effectively means that after the

situation, he is free to do that till the match

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

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

The "Impact Substitution" where a new player can be introduced during the toss, if a skipper feels that he needs to match from the five designated substituchange his eleven as per demands of the tions had already been announced by the tournament committee.

# Siraj slips from top spot to third in ODI rankings Mohammad Shami, who



PTI DUBAI

Pacer Mohammed Siraj was on Wednesday dethroned from the top spot by Australia's Josh Hazlewood in the latest ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, as the Indian slipped to third place.

Another Australian pacer, Mitchell Starc, who impressed during the first two ODIs of the three-match series in India, also moved up to join Siraj at joint

Siraj, who returned with impressive figures of 3/29 to help India win the first ODI against Australia, was expensive in the second ODI giving away 37 runs in three overs and consequently lost his position as the top-ranked bowler.

The right-arm pacer had copped the brunt of the attack

by Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head during the second ODI in Visakhapatnam. Siraj, who has had a successful run across formats in recent past, was crowned as the world No. 1 bowler in ODIs in January this year.

Starc claimed three wickets in Mumbai to stage Australia's fightback while his 5/53 in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam powered the visitors to a 10wicket win.

Hazlewood, who missed the entire tour of India consisting four Tests and three ODIs, became world No. 1 bowler in ODIs for the first time ever.

"Hazlewood, whose careerbest second position was attained for the first time in June 2017 and which he had kept since August 2022, is No. 1 in ODIs for the first time," the ICC produced a match-winning spell in Mumbai, also moved five spots up to reach to 28th in the KL Rahul's unbeaten 75,

which helped India recover from a poor start and win the first ODI by five wickets, helped him move up three places to get to the 39th spot.

In the ODI ranking among

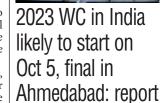
batters, India's Shubman Gill -who made 'marginal progress' -- and Virat Kohli remained fifth and seventh respectively, while one place to ninth. New Zealand's Kane Willi-

amson moved up to the second spot among batters in Test cricket following his dominant show with the bat against Sri Lanka, with the former skipper notching up scores of 1, 121 not out and 215 in the two-match series which the Kiwis won 2-0.

With his sixth double ton in Tests, Williamson is now just one behind Kohli (seven) as players with most scores over 200. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne remains the top ranked batter in Test cricket.

New Zealand's left-handed batter Henry Nicholls, who made 200 not out in the Wellington Test and was involved in a massive 363-run stand with Williamson in what was Test cricket's 2,500th match, jumped up 20 spots to reach to 27th.

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne occupies the 10th



**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The 2023 ODI World Cup in India is likely to start on October 5 with the final to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on

The BCCI has shortlisted at least a dozen venues for the 10team marquee event, which will see 48 matches, including three knockouts across the 46-day period, an ESPNcricinfo report

The 11 other shortlisted venues, according to the report, are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow,

Indore, Rajkot and Mumbai. Except for the final match, which is set to be played at the world's largest stadium in Ahmedabad, the BCCI has not specified the venues for any

games as yet. The list of 12 cities, however, does not include Mohali and Nagpur, which had hosted a Test match against visiting Australia recently.

India had won the title when it last hosted the 50-over World Cup in 2011.

# WORLD NO 1 ALCARAZ RETURNS TO MIAMI AFTER RAPID RISE

AP MIAMI

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

A year ago, the 19-year-old came to Miami on the back of wins on clay in Croatia and Brazil and hoping to make his mark on the hard courts. His victory in South Florida launched a remarkable

The highlight was his US Open triumph which made him the youngest player to become world number one and he returns to Miami after last week's win in Indian Wells, achieved without

dropping a set in the tournament. 'It's all been very fast, when I got to Miami last year I was around number 20 and a year later I am coming in with the number one ranking. That is something very

special. I fulfilled my dreams quicker than I expected," he told reporters on Tuesday. Because of his victory in Miami last year, Alcaraz must win at the Florida event again if he is to hold on to his number one spot, but he says he feels no pressure in that regard or to meet newly raised expectations.

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

"My goal is always the same. To feel comfortable on court. To enjoy playing tennis and try to have great thoughts when playing. That is why I am playing at a good level. I am enjoying every single second and playing relaxed. That is what I am thinking about on court," he added.

As at Indian Wells, world number two Novak Djokovic is missing after being refused entry to the United States due to his lack of a COVID vaccine and Alcaraz says he misses the Serb's presence,



along with the injured Rafael Nadal. "I'm a professional tennis play-

er, but also I'm a huge fan of tennis and I always want to watch the best players in the world, like Rafa, like Djokovic," he said. "I played a couple of times

against Rafa and I wish to play

against him more and with

Djokovic as well. I wish to play against him more times, you know, but obviously in every tournament I want them to be playing and I hope we get them back soon," he

Far from feeling the weight of following in the footsteps of the 'Big

Three' of Djokovic, Nadal and the

now retired Roger Federer, Alcaraz says he is trying to draw lessons from their successes

"You have to improve, you have to get better every day. That's why the big players, the Big Three, for example, did all through their careers - to improve every day a little bit," he said.

Alcaraz can expect plenty of support from the crowd in Miami, which includes many Spanishspeaking fans. "It's so special to come back

here and feel the same energy that I felt, for example, last year," he said. "I have great supporters here,

a lot of people supporting me. I remember last year it was unbelievable you know, with the crowd. I feel like I am at home, you know," he added.

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

#### I'VE NEVER FELT THAT **MUCH HATE: SABALENKA** understand that there's so many people

**AP** ■ MIAMI GARDENS

Belarus' world number two Aryna Sabalenka says she has faced "hate" in the women's tour locker-room but hopes tensions with Ukrainian players will eventually ease. Australian Open champion Sabalenka lost to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in Sunday's Indian Wells final and at the media day for this week's ATP-WTA Miami Open was asked about her recent comments on "tensions" in the locker-room between Ukr-

ainian and Russian and Belarus players. "It was really, really tough for me because I've never faced that much hate in the locker room," said Sabalenka.

"Of course, there are a lot of haters on Instagram when you're losing the matches, but like in the locker room, I've never faced that," she added.

"It was really tough for me to

who really hate me for no reason, like no reason. I mean, like I did nothing, she said. Sabalenka said sometimes the tension had gone beyond awkward silences and abrupt conversations. "I had some, not like fights, but I had

some weird conversations with, not the girls, but with members of their team. It was really, it was tough. It was tough period. But, now it's getting better," she said. In comments at Indian Wells Sabalenka had said she had been in a dispute with Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko's coach Nikita Vlasov. Tsurenko was due to play Sabalenka at Indian Wells but withdrew before their match.

The Ukrainian said she had a "panic attack" and had also been upset with a conversation about the war and the position of Russian and Belarusian players with WTA CEO Steve Simon.

# NITU, NIKHAT & SAWEETY CONFIRM MEDALS

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

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

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

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



Following Nitu's victory, Nikhat (50kg) successfully continued her title defence by recording a hard-fought 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed against the two-time World Championships bronze medallist Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand. Both pugilists were at the top of their game and gave it their all to emerge victori-ous in this bout that went right down the wire. However it was the 26 year old Indian who utilized her superior technical ability to edge out her Thai opponent and come out on top with the

"Yes, today's bout was stressful but

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

bronze medallist Ingrit Valencia of Colombia in the semi-finals.

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

"The boxer from Belarus (Viktoria)

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

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

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

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

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

# Sarabjot clinches men's air pistol gold

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the battle for the top

mat, the winner of a single shot in the final gets awarded two points and the first to race to 16 points is the winner of the com-

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

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

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



# Portugal back with Martínez as coach, Ronaldo in squad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and away. We have to be cau-

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

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



men's doubles last week before losing in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Malvika Ban-

sod qualified for the main draw of the women's singles after beating USA's Lauren Lam 21-17, 21-7 in the qualifying round. The women's doubles pair

of Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil also made it to the main draw after beating Paula Lynn Cao Hok and Lauren Lam 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy notched up a 21-17, 15-21, 21-18 win over Germany's Patrick Scheiel and Franziska Volkmann to book a berth in main draw.

However, Meiraba Luwang Maisnam and Priyanshu Rajawat couldn't qualify for the main draw. Rohan Kapoor and B Sumeeth Reddy also lost in the first round of men's doubles qualification. On Wednesday, PV Sindhu, seeded fourth in the tournament, will look to snap her three first-round exits on the trot this season when she faces local player Jenjira Stadelmann in women's singles. Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will also begin their campaign in men's singles.

# De Bruyne 'honoured' to be named Belgium skipper

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

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

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

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

knocked out in the group stage in Qatar.

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





# winner Mesut Ozil retires

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

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

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

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

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

football. Ozil, born in the German city of Gelsenkirchen but of Turkish descent, played on some of football's biggest stages but also became embroiled in

German public of "racist"

international politics and accusations of racism. When Germany were knocked out of the 2018 World Cup at the group stage, a wounded Ozil accused the

playing time and his close personal friendship with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan was the best man at Ozil's Istanbul wedding to former Miss Turkey and actress

His club career blossomed

when his deft passing and

vision helped secure his move

from the Bundesliga to Jose

Mourinho's Real Madrid side

in 2010. He soon led La Liga

in assists while helping the

Spanish club to their 32nd

Cup drought the following

final as Germany beat Lionel

Messi's Argentina 1-0 in the

Maracana in Rio de Janeiro

thanks to Mario Goetze's extra-

listed for the Ballon d'Or but

the later stages of his career

were troubled by disputes over

Ozil was repeatedly short-

time goal.

His big-money move to Arsenal in 2013 helped the London club end their FA

In 2014, Ozil started the

league title in 2012.

Amine in 2019. But it was Ozil's decision

to be pictured with Erdogan on the eve of Turkey's 2018 presidential election that caused particular controversy during that summer's World Cup. He ended his internation-

career before moving to Fenerbahce and most recently Istanbul Basaksehir.

# European Challenge Tour returns to India after 10 years

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

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

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

The European Challenge Tour returns to India after a 10-year absence.

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

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



to reach the highest levels of the men's pro-

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

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

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

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

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

the week but I am just going to focus on the little things and prepare the best I can," he "Golf in India is growing in popularity in recent years and Karnataka Golf

Association is such a busy golf course

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

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

Tvesa fires 68 to rise to top of

¬vesa Malik, playing on her

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

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

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

round of the year, to take a oneshot lead into the final round. Following up on her mod-

est 74 on the first day, Tvesa, with 68, moved to two-under 142 and was one shot ahead of last week's winner, Gaurika (71-72).Amateur Vidhatri Urs,

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