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‘MANN KI BAAT’

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IMRAN SLAMS GOVT, SAYS NO
PLANS TO TRAVEL ABROAD

MONEY 10
SERVICES SECTOR TO DRIVE GDP
GROWTH TO 4.9% IN Q4 FY23: ICRA

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Fight over Sengol escalates

Why does Cong ‘hate’ Indian culture so much, asks Shah as Cong disputes that ‘Sengol’ is the symbol of transfer of power by British to India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The war of words between the BJP and the Congress over the historical roots of the ceremonial sceptre Sengol, to be installed near the Chair of the Speaker in the new Parliament building, intensified on Friday.

Lambasting the Congress for the boycott call and disputing the historical importance of sengol, Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweet, “Why does the Congress party hate Indian traditions and culture so much? A sacred Sengol was given to Pandit Nehru by a holy Saivite Mutt from Tamil Nadu to symbolise India’s freedom but it was banished to a museum as a ‘walking stick’”

Shah’s remarks came after Congress leader Jairam Ramesh claimed there was no documented evidence of Lord Mountbatten, C Rajagopalachari

and Jawaharlal Nehru describing the Sengol as a symbol of transfer of power by the British to India.

Ramesh tweeted, “There is no documented evidence whatsoever of Mountbatten, Rajaji and Nehru describing this sceptre as a symbol of transfer of British power to India. All claims to this effect are plain and simple — bogus. Is it any surprise that the new Parliament is being consecrated with typically false narratives from WhatsApp University? The BJP-RSS distortions stand exposed yet again with maximum claims, minimum evidence.”

Shah said, “Now, Congress has heaped another shameful insult. The Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam, a holy Saivite Mutt, itself spoke about the importance of the Sengol at the time of India’s freedom.”

The Congress, he further posted, is calling the



“Adheenam’s history as BOGUS! Congress needs to reflect on their behaviour”. The Tamil tradition of a high priest presenting a sceptre to a newly crowned king as a symbolic gesture dates back to the Chola dynasty.

Several Union ministers hit out at the 20 Opposition parties, including the Congress, over their decision to boycott the inauguration ceremony.

A group of 270 eminent citizens, including former

bureaucrats, ambassadors and veterans condemned the Opposition parties for their decision and claimed that all the “family-first” parties have come together to boycott all that represents India.

The head of a Tamil Nadu monastery sought to counter Ramesh’s claim, saying the Sengol was handed over to Lord Mountbatten and then it was presented to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 to symbolise transfer of power from British and wrong claims made in this respect by some people has caused sadness.

Tiruvavaduthurai Aadeenam, Ambalavana Desika Paramacharya Swami said the Sengol that was away from the gaze of people would now be prominently displayed in Parliament for the world to see.

To a question by reporters in Chennai on any proof for the handover of the Sengol, the pontiff said there were evidence, including photographs and reports that appeared in newspapers and magazines in 1947.

BJP president JP Nadda said what connects the boycotting parties is their dynastic leadership whose “monarchic” methods are at loggerheads with the principles of the Constitution.

While announcing the boycott, the Opposition parties had said the Prime Minister’s decision to inaugurate it by himself, “completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response”.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri hit out at the Congress and others who gave the boycott call, saying the “boycott gang” is insulting the legacy of their own leaders and the freedom fighters.

In a series of tweets, Puri cited an old article of the Time Magazine published in 1947 which he said was a must read for those who wish they had built the magnificent new Parliament instead of Prime Minister Modi.

New Parl will make Indians proud: Modi

PM urges people to share video that gives virtual tour of new Parl

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the new Parliament building will make every Indian proud, as he posted a video of the newly-constructed complex on Twitter and urged people to share it on the social media platform with the hashtag “MyParliamentMyPride”.

Modi also urged people to share the video with their voiceover which he will retweet.

The new Parliament building will be inaugurated on Sunday and the ceremony will begin with an early morning havan and a multi-religion prayer followed by a formal opening in the Lok Sabha by



Prime Minister Modi.

“The new Parliament building will make every Indian proud. This video offers a glimpse of this iconic building. I have a special request — share this video with your own voice-over, which conveys your thoughts. I will re-Tweet some of them. Don’t forget to use #MyParliamentMyPride,” the Prime Minister said on Twitter.

The video shared by the Prime Minister gives a virtual tour of the new Parliament building, including the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

As many as 25 parties are expected to attend the inauguration of the new Parliament building even as 20 Opposition parties have decided to boycott the event.

Officials said the havan will be held outside the new building around 7 am and the ceremonial sceptre Sengol will be handed over to Modi by the high priests of the Shaivite order.

The Sengol will be installed near the chair of the Speaker in the new Parliament building.

Former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla, former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh among others are expected to be present during the formal inauguration of the new complex.

The triangular-shaped four-storey Parliament building has a built-up area of 64,500 sqm. The building has three main gates — Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar.

SC rejects PIL for launch by Prez

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a direction to the Lok Sabha Secretariat for inauguration of the new Parliament building by President Droupadi Murmu.

A bench of justices JK Maheshwari and PS Narasimha told petitioner in-person advocate Jaya Sukin that the court understands why and how this petition was filed and it is not inclined to entertain this petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.

CAPSULE

FIVE JUDGES ELEVATED AS HC CHIEF JUSTICES

New Delhi: Five judges were on Friday elevated as chief justices of high courts with one of them due to retire on May 30.

NIA SEEKS DEATH FOR JKLF CHIEF YASIN

New Delhi: The NIA on Friday approached the Delhi High Court seeking death sentence for Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, who was awarded life term by a trial court in terror funding case.

AIMIM, BJP CLASH OVER ‘VANDE MATARAM’

Meerut: A clash erupted between AIMIM and BJP councillors of Meerut Municipal Corporation at oath-taking event organised for them here on Friday. The scuffle began following a disagreement over singing of ‘Vande Mataram’ to commence the event.

Imperial landmark’s tryst with destiny

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The old Parliament building, an architectural splendour and a historic landmark that guided the destiny of India for nearly a century and whose illustrious legacy will now be consigned to the pages of history, was inaugurated on January 18, 1927, by then Viceroy Lord Irwin.

On May 28, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building and dedicate it to the nation, the old Sansad Bhavan will also hand over its position



as the country’s hallowed legislature, a privilege it enjoyed for over 96 years.

Revered today as India’s temple of democracy, the old Parliament House has for these nine-and-a-half decades witnessed the imperial rule of the British and its chamber has heard the echoes of bombs hurled by revolutionaries

Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt in a bid to attain freedom.

The building has seen the dawn of Independence and its halls have reverberated with the historic “Tryst with Destiny” speech delivered by first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on August 15, 1947.

An architectural marvel with its charming circular design and an impressive colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone on the first floor, the old building was opened amid much fanfare at a time when the new imperial capital of the British Raj — New Delhi —

was being built at a site in Raisina Hill area.

According to archival documents and rare old images, a grand ceremony was held on January 18, 1927, to mark the opening of the majestic building, then called Council House.

Over a century ago, when the nation was still in the making and Independence 26 years away, Britain’s Duke of Connaught had laid the foundation stone of Parliament House on February 12, 1921, and said it would stand “as the symbol of India’s rebirth to yet higher destinies”.

Now HC to hear all petitions on Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah masjid dispute

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Friday directed all matters related to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute pending before a Mathura court be transferred to it.

Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra passed the order allowing a transfer application filed by Bhagwan Shrikrishna Virajman at Katra Keshav Dev Khawat Mathura through the next friend, Ranjana Agnihotri, and seven others. “It is requested to the respected chief justice to kindly nominate an appropriate bench for trial and disposal of such suits so withdrawn,” he added.

The petitioners had requested that the original trial must be conducted by the HC itself like the Ayodhya matter.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to clock the highest growth among the world’s big economies this year and the country’s economy is witnessing the “famous snowball effect” that will lead to more investments and more jobs, according to World Economic Forum (WEF) President Borge Brende.

“There have been reforms that have led to less red tape, better climate for investments and also the digital revolution is really happening in India,” Brende said and stressed that he is “very bullish and optimistic” about the country’s growth trajectory but not so optimistic about global growth. India, which currently



holds the G20 presidency, is one of the fastest growing key economies in the world and WEF has had close collaborations with the country for the past many years.

“When the snowball starts to roll, it gets bigger and bigger, and that is what is happening with the Indian economy.”

“The growth will lead to more investments, more jobs... It will be an exponential growth in the coming

years and you will see a situation where more poverty is eradicated and more opportunities are there for young people,” Brende told PTI in an interview in the national capital.

Brende, who was on a short visit to India, had discussions about ongoing collaborations as well as India’s G20 presidency with stakeholders. He met various Union ministers and company executives, among others.

“I think that nations in the developing world have something to learn from India. India is the largest democracy in the world and it is also an open society with entrepreneurs and innovators and free speech,” he said.

Rahul gets court NOC for passport for just 3 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Friday granted a no-objection certificate (NOC) to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for issuance of an “ordinary passport” for three years instead of the normal 10 years, following an objection raised by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

Rahul had surrendered his diplomatic passport upon his disqualification as an MP. Swamy argued that the court should listen the opinion of Union Home Ministry, which issued notice to Rahul on the controversial British citizenship holding issue.

“I’m partly allowing your application. Not for 10 years but three years,” Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vaibhav Mehta told Rahul’s counsel.

Special ₹75 coin to mark opening of new Parliament

New Delhi: The Government will issue a commemorative ₹75 coin to mark the inauguration of new Parliament Building on May 28 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As per a gazette notification by Department of Economic Affairs under the finance ministry, the weight of this coin could be 34.65- 35.35 gram.

Should be limit to politics: EAM on Opp boycott

Rajppla: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday described as “unfortunate” the decision by 20 Opposition parties to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building and said there should be a limit to doing politics. Jaishankar said the inauguration of the new Parliament building should be celebrated as a festival by the entire nation.

Impressive building: Omar

Srinagar: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday said the new Parliament building was a welcome addition and looks “pretty damn impressive”, amid criticism by the Opposition over its inauguration.

Abdullah, whose party’s MPs have also announced to boycott the inaugural ceremony, said when he was the

member of the Lok Sabha, many of his colleagues often spoke about the need for a new and improved Parliament building.

“Setting aside the brouhaha about the inauguration for a moment, this building is a welcome addition. Better late than never is all I will say and this one looks pretty damn impressive,” the NC vice president wrote on Twitter.

Gopal killed Naba Das due to ‘personal grudge’

But CB charge-sheet is silent on reason of culprit’s animosity
AK SAHOO ■ BHUBANESWAR



mentioned that Das was killed by ASI Gopal Krushna Das over a “personal grudge”. The accused has been charged under Sections 307, 302 of IPC and 27 (1) of the Arms Act. Shedding light on the mo-

tive behind the high-profile murder, the CB’s charge-sheet claimed that Gopal had developed personal grudge and anguish against Naba Das.

However, there is no mention as to why the ASI harboured a personal grudge against the minister.

“Gopal Das had developed personal grudge and anguish against Minister Naba Das. He felt threatened from Naba Das and his supporters and feared for his life. Gradually, he made up his mind to kill Das and executed the plan in a pre-planned manner,” stated the charge-sheet. The CB has clearly denied that Gopal

Das suffers from bipolar disorder. Medical examination by a special Medical Board constituted by the DMET, Odisha, has ascertained that his mental condition is quite normal and there is no abnormality.

Moreover, Gopal was cooperative in the investigation and replied to all the questions in a cogent manner, the CB stated in the charge-sheet. The charge-sheet further stated that Gopal had planned and executed the murder alone as there was no conspiracy or support from anyone else.

On the other hand, the filing of the charge-sheet on a court

holiday due to Sital Sasthi added to the allegation of conspiracy theory by several political leaders who claimed involvement of some bigwigs in the crime.

On January 29, Naba Das was on his way to attend an event at Brajarajnagar when Gopal opened fire at him from close range with his service revolver. Although the Minister was rushed to the Jharsuguda hospital and later shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar, he succumbed to the bullet injuries.

Naba Das’ daughter Dipali Das was elected as the MLA of his Jharsuguda constituency in a by-poll held on May 10.

In Sambalpur Rains occur as divine couple enters home

NIMAI CHARAN SAHU
■ SAMBALPUR

Finally, the great festival of Sital Sasthi ended with torrential rains for an hour or more. And the sizzling earth with 42 degree-Celsius day temperature in Sambalpur became Sital (cool).

It is a strong belief of the people here that Mother Earth gets cooled from the day of Sital Sasthi after the divine marriage. As Lord Siva entered the temples with Maa Parvati, there began the rains in Sambalpur city and the district as well.

Such an incidence is never coincidence but the real bless-



ings of Mahadev and Maa Parvati. It happens every year in Sambalpur,” said Prafulla Kumar Dash, a devotee.

The grand homecoming procession of the divine couple

that had begun on midnight of Thursday ended towards the evening of Friday. More than 10,000 artists from all over the country took part in the procession.

Dharmendra calls for double-engine Govt in Odisha

His marathon visits to Sambalpur, D'nal stir speculations that he may contest from either LS seat in 2024

BIJAY MISHRA ■ ANUGUL

The political atmosphere in Sambalpur and Dhenkanal Parliamentary constituencies is getting charged up due to the frequent and marathon visits of Union Minister Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, calling for establishment of a double-engine Government in Odisha.

After a marathon visit in Sambalpur attending various rituals and spiritual functions in the wake of Sital Sasthi, Pradhan addressed public meetings at Athamallik and Kishorenagar of Angul district on Friday, on the occasion of completion of the 9th year of



the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre.

Addressing a huge gathering at Athamallik, arranged by former BJD Minister and BJP leader Sanjeeb Sahu, Pradhan urged the electorate to bring the BJP to power both at the Centre and the State in 2024 to pave way for establishment of a double engine Government in Odisha. He criticised the BJD Government for misusing funds of Rs 50,000 crore,

which came from DMF sources to the State. On request of Sanjeev Sahu, Pradhan assured to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Athamallik.

The frequent visits of Pradhan to Sambalpur and Dhenkanal Parliamentary constituencies raised speculations by political observers that he may contest from either Sambalpur or Dhenkanal Lok Sabha seat in 2024. Both Dharmendra Pradhan and his father Dr

Debendra Pradhan were elected from the then Deogarh Parliamentary seat of which many parts are now in the Sambalpur constituency after delimitation. Moreover, it is alleged that Sambalpur BJP MP Nitesh Ganga Deb is not now very much active in BJP and public affairs. Sambalpur is a strong bastion of BJP. In view of this, it is speculated that Pradhan is interested to contest from the constituency.

Pradhan is also organising Dhenkanal Parliamentary constituency as the BJP is going stronger in the constituency. The BJP wants to take mileage due to revival of the Rs 13,200 crore Talcher Fertiliser Limited (TFL) project which is targeted to be completed by 2024. China's Wuhuan Engineering Company Limited (WECL) is executing the project, the foundation of which was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2018. Pradhan is also credited for several railway projects in Dhenkanal constituency.

People deprived of minimum healthcare: Cong



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In the 23 years of rule of the Naveen Patnaik Government, the people of Odisha have failed to avail the most minimum healthcare. But the Health Minister during a review of his department on May 22 praised the healthcare system, which is surprising. It seems he is patting his own back, said the Congress on Friday.

Senior Congress leader Panchanan Kanungo said that in Kerala there is one doctor for every 400 persons while it is one doctor for 2,187 persons

in Odisha, where there are only 87 Community Health Centres. According to the WHO, there should be one doctor per 1,000 persons. Accordingly, as per Odisha's population of 4.50 crore, there is a requirement for 46,000 doctors. But this could not be achieved. The Orissa High Court has said it should be examined whether half of the doctors are qualified or not.

So, it is no surprise that the patients are apprehensive due to the fake doctors and medicines. As many as 1,211 specialist doctor posts are vacant, said Kanungo.

Metro train in BBSR by year-end



CM likely to lay stone for project in June

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The much-awaited metro train project in Bhubaneswar would begin by the end of 2023, informed Housing & Urban Development Minister Usha Devi on Friday.

A Metro Rail System for the Bhubaneswar Capital Region has already been sanctioned by the Chief Minister. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is engaged as the consultant for the project and a DPR is under preparation. Construction work is likely to commence before end of 2023, said the Minister after a

review meeting chaired by CM Naveen Patnaik here on Friday.

The Chief Minister is likely to lay foundation-stone for the project in the month of June, informed Principal Secretary, H&UDD, G Mathivathanan while briefing the media.

The survey for the proposed project has been completed. The DPR, which is being prepared by the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, has reached its final stage. The routes for running the metro train have been identified. Initially, the train would run between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Subsequently, it would be extended to Jatni and Puri, he said.

UU Psychology Dept signs MoU with Capital Hosp

To facilitate inter-institutional learning and research

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration between the Department of Psychology, Utkal University, and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) & Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar, was signed on Friday in the presence of Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sabita Acharya and PGIMER and Capital Hospital Director Prof Nibedita Pani for facilitating inter-



institutional learning and research.

Collaborative research would be undertaken where there are possibilities and opportunities in the interdisciplinary research areas. Provision of short-term learning experience and exposure in the areas of Psychiatry, Public Health and other relevant interdisciplinary areas such as Positive Psychology, Mental Health, Stress Management and

Psychological Counselling through workshops would mutually benefit the stakeholders concerned. Cooperation in internship opportunities for students of the Department of Psychology would also be included in this collaboration.

Prof Sabita Acharya said such collaboration would facilitate a holistic approach to health promotion in the State. "Today, it is imperative to integrate both physical and

mental health in addressing any disease or disorder," she said.

Prof Nibedita Pani hailed the event as coming together of two of the leading institutions prioritising public health and mental health in Odisha. Utkal University Registrar Dr Avaya Kumar Nayak said the collaboration would be mutually beneficial and all cooperation would be extended from the university to facilitate the partnership activities.

Head of the Department of Psychology, Utkal University, Prof Bhaswati Patnaik said she is optimistic that such an agreement would boost quality interdisciplinary research as the Capital Hospital is expanding with new PG departments.

+2 exams results by May-end

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The results of the Odisha Plus Two Examinations-2023 conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) are expected to be announced by May 31.

While an exact date has not been confirmed yet, reports suggest that the results will likely be published on either May 30 or 31.

According to sources, the CHSE will make an official announcement regarding the

publication date of the results on May 28. As for the Arts and Vocational courses, students can expect their results to be announced by June 8.

The process of evaluating the answer sheets took place

at 65 offline evaluation centers and 39 online evaluation centres. Students who appeared for the Class-XII examinations will be able to access their results by visiting the official website of CHSE at www.chseodisha.nic.in.

Apple farming can be big hit, proves Jaipur farmer

AKSHAY ROUT ■ JAIPUR

While it is believed that apples can't be grown in hot climates, Rabindra Nayak, a farmer from Dulakhapatana village under Korei block in Jaipur district, has proven the concept wrong and is currently reaping gold by growing these juicy fruits.

If you are a first-time visitor to the apple orchard of Rabindra, you could be forgiven for feeling being either in Himachal Pradesh or in Kashmir. There are lines of apple trees laden with apples in the orchard. Visitors to the orchard are surprised not because of apples but because these fruits are grown even in the summer season.

A visibly delighted Rabindra said he planted apple saplings a year ago and this year, for the first time, the trees have borne fruits. Rabindra used to grow vegetables earlier. His village being a flood-prone area, he would suffer loss every year. Then he decided to switch over from traditional vegetable



farming to fruit farming. Initially, he grew fruits like guava, mango, papaya, orange, litchi and Thailand berry.

The success prompted him to try apple farming. Last year, he procured 60 saplings of Anna and Golden Dorsett varieties of apples. The feature of these varieties is that they

can withstand hot climates. "I planted the saplings on January 1, 2022. Fruits started appearing from March, 2023. I am happy that my labour is paying off," said Rabindra.

Initially, the villagers ridiculed Rabindra for his change of mind as they were sure that apples can't be grown in hot climates like the one in

Odisha. Now, they feel proud of him. "When he bought apple saplings, I ridiculed him, saying these saplings were not for our climate. But when the plants started flowering and bearing fruits, I was delighted," said Adhira Nayak, a villager.

Rabindra, who is earning Rs 5 lakh from his orchard per year and has engaged four farm

labourers, is hopeful that the apple plants will earn him a good return from next year. "Earlier, we were wandering in search of work. Now we are engaged at his (Rabindra's) garden. And it has given us a secured income," said Alekh Jena, a labourer. Engineer Taraprasad Mishra said that this is the result of hard work.

2-lane roads to all block hdqrs by June next

267 block hdqrs already provided 2-lane roads

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With a view to strengthen road connectivity in rural areas also, the State Government has set an ambitious target to construct two-lane roads to all block headquarters by June 2024.

This was informed by Works Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik while speaking to media following the departmental review meeting taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on Tuesday. Works Principal Secretary Vir Vikram Yadav was present.

Patnaik reviewed the implementation of the election manifesto-2019, discussed the achievements of the department in the last two decades and the achievement in the last four years. Mallik said 267 block headquarters have been provided with 2-lane road connectivity while

Land registration: Online slot booking mandatory

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Online slot booking process has been made mandatory for land registration in the State. Inspector General of Registration Jyotiprakash Das has written a letter in this regard to all concerned officials, attaching a gazette notification with it.

As per the notification, if no prior appointment through online booking of slot has been taken, and the citizen has applied in writing with justification for not being able to do so, to the Registering Officer, for acceptance of the Document for Registration on demand, then on acceptance of the reasons by the

Registering Officer and subject to availability of any time slot on that day be termed as "Tatkal". The process would help people not waste time by running to different offices for the land registration process unnecessarily. As per the new process, after the online slot booking, the concerned person would give a certain date on which he/she has to reach the Tehsil and Sub-Registrar office. The sale and purchase agreement of lands would be made in that period.

"This initiative is first-of-its-kind in India. It will ensure that people do not waste time for land registration," said Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick.

Harekrushna Mahtab Library to be renovated

Users to get Wi-Fi facility, food court, Aahaar Kendra

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the direction of CM Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited the Harekrushna Mahtab State Library on Friday and discussed with the students who use the library.

Notably, hundreds of students come to the library every day to prepare for various competitive exams, while people at large use it for reading books and magazines. Since the library has been very old, there is a need to renovate it and its facilities, it was felt.

Besides, books and other materials of the library would be preserved with modern

technologies and a new building in the premises of the library would be made functional keeping the ease of the users in mind. Landscaping of the premises of the library would be done, apart from opening up a food court and cafeteria by the Mission Shakti.

An Aahaar Kendra would also be opened for the students. All kinds of magazines for competitive exams in adequate numbers would be made available and the library would be run by IT enabled Smart Management. Career counseling and motivational talk would be arranged to encourage the students facing competitive exams. The entire library would have Wi-Fi facility round the clock. To lessen the crowd in the library, a Jan Library would be opened at Bapuji Nagar.

Traffic rule violation Offenders with 5 e-challans under lens

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday announced to tighten enforcement measures to reduce road accidents and streamline the traffic system by taking action against habitual offenders.

In the first phase, traffic violators with five or more unpaid e-challans would be identified by the special traffic teams and steps would be taken to extract the pending fines from the violators. Police complaints would be lodged against them if they fail to comply with the traffic rules and pay the fine immediately, said Commissioner of Police

Saumendra Priyadarshi. "Despite several e-challans, most violators do not bother to deposit the fine. They continue to drive recklessly without caring about traffic rules. So, we have decided to take steps to collect fines or lodge police complaints against regular offenders," said Priyadarshi.

"Accordingly, in the first phase, we have decided to impose strict rules and take action against those who have violated traffic rules more than five times. If they still do not comply, necessary action will be taken against them as per law," the Commissioner added.

In Nuapada Road work stopped due to tribals' protest

AJIT PANDA ■ BHUBANESWAR

The construction work of a road from Liad to Ranimunda in forest and private lands initiated by RD Department in Nuapada district without obtaining necessary permission from concerned authorities has been stopped due to opposition from tribal people of the area.

In a letter sent to the secretary of Zilla Adibasi Kalyan Sangha (ZAKS), the Rural Development Superintending Engineer, Khariar, has stated that the work will not be executed on the private land and forest land until and unless necessary official permissions are obtained from the concerned authorities.

The ZAKS had raised objections to the construction



stating that the proposed road would disturb the local biodiversity as the area is rich in flora and fauna and is part of the Chaura Dongar-protected forest having indigenous forest species very rich in diversity and density.

Construction of the road had been approved under the CUVDA-LWE scheme, for which the proposal had been finalised by the SP, Nuapada (Home Department). Accordingly, the work was finalised on the basis of an e-tender and the agreement drawn in favour of Sameerkant Panda, "A" Class contractor, amounting to Rs 588.06 lakh at 4.98% less.

The road as per the agreement is about 5.960 km with a denomination of forestland of 3.660 km, revenue land 1.400 km and

private land 0.900 km.

"Necessary permissions have been sought from the concerned authorities before execution of work which is yet to be obtained. Accordingly, no work will be executed in the forest area measuring about 3.660 km and the private land measuring about 0.900 km unless and until necessary permissions are obtained from the concerned authorities. The agency has been instructed to immediately shift the quantity of earth work executed on the private land within 15 days positively" stated the SE.

ZAKS secretary Balkrishna Sabar said, "The contractor had already started execution of work in the private land, not listening to the objection of tribal land owners which forced us to get to the street to protest the project."

In Kalbaishakhi aftermath TPCODL responds swiftly to restore power

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/PURI

The TP Central Odisha Distribution Co Ltd (TPCODL) is actively addressing the impact of the severe Kalbaishakhi storm that occurred on Thursday across various parts of central Odisha. The storm caused significant damages, including uprooted trees and disruptions to the power supply infrastructure, affecting a total of 6.33 lakh customers.

The TPCODL workforce has been working around the clock to restore power supply to the affected areas. As of Friday morning, the company successfully restored power to 5.26 lakh customers while every minute more customers were being helped. The TPCODL's teams were working to bring back rest 107,787 customers also online as quickly as possible.

The main areas impacted by



the storm included Bhubaneswar, Nimapada, Puri, Khordha, Jagatsinghpur and Dhenkanal. The damages caused by the storm were substantial; and the TPCODL's entire team was fully engaged in the restoration efforts.

"We assure our customers that we are prioritising the restoration efforts with utmost diligence and utilising all available resources. Our goal is to bring back power supply to all affected communities in the shortest possible time," said TPCODL CEO M Shenbagam.

In Jagatsinghpur Priest held for attempting to rape woman

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Police on Friday arrested a priest of a temple in Jagatsinghpur district after a woman alleged that he attempted to rape her.

The accused was identified as Samir Roul, a priest at the Maa Sarala Temple, and the victim of Bansa village under the Jagatsinghpur police station.

As per reports, the woman had approached the priest to conduct a ritual for her son, who was having some heart problems. Accordingly, the priest reached her home on Thursday night.

Roul allegedly asked the woman to stay alone in the room for the Puja and then attempted to rape her during the rituals. Hearing her screams, family members and villagers rushed to the spot and detained the priest and handed him over to police.

While a police case was registered by the woman, the accused priest's wife also filed a counter case, dismissing the allegations as fake. Even as police arrested the priest, the husband of the victim was also detained for questioning based on the complaint of the wife of Roul. Further investigation was on, police sources said.

103 kg ganja seized in Malkangiri



7 including Telangana cops held

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

The Kalimela police arrested seven persons, including a Constable of the Telangana police on Thursday while they were transporting a huge quantity of ganja in Malkangiri district.

The Constable, identified as R Sreeny Naik, was among those taken into custody during the operation. Acting on intelligence inputs, the police team intercepted the accused near the Kamala Padar area, where they were caught red-handed with a staggering 103 kilogram of ganja.

The estimated market value of the seized contraband is around Rs 5 lakh.

Along with the substantial drug haul, the cops also confiscated crucial evidence from the possession of the arrested.

The seized items included two cars, three iPhones, ATM cards, PAN cards, and Aadhaar cards.

Preliminary probe suggest that the consignment was being transported from Malkangiri to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Kalimela police charged the seven individuals under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Subsequently, they were produced before a court to face legal proceedings.

In Athmallik Mandis not opened; Dalua farmers worried

PNS ■ ATHAMALLIK

Even as the farmers have started Dalua paddy cutting for the Rabi season, the Government has not yet set up mandis in Athmallik block in Angul district.

After the construction of the Manjoor Irrigation Project near Madhapur, the farmers of Madhapur, Kampala, Lunhandi, Kandhapada, Kudgaon and Puruna Mantri Panchayats under Athmallik block have taken up Dalua paddy but the production of paddy has gone down

compared to the previous year.

In the last Rabi season, paddy was grown over 1,512 acres of land and 2,145 metric tons of paddy was produced but this year paddy has been grown only in 850 acres. There are 16 Co-operative Societies in Athmallik. However, the Government has not yet decided to open Mandis.

The Odisha Krusaka Mahasangha, Athmallik has appealed to the district Collector to arrange Mandi in Madhapur for procurement of paddy soon.

AIIMS BBSR President Bisoi visits institute

**Says TA, RA
prog to be put in
place for UG
students**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To create an atmosphere full of energy and enthusiasm for research and innovation among undergraduate students at the AIIMS Bhubaneswar, teaching assistant (TA) and research assistant (RA) programmer would be put in place soon. The meritorious senior MBBS students would be engaged as TA and RA. They would guide the junior students both in education as well as in research, said newly-nominated President of



AIIMS Bhubaneswar Prof (Dr) AK Bisoi during his maiden visit to the institute on Friday after assuming the post.

The engaged TA and RA MBBS students would also be provided incentives. This system would be very helpful for the medical students to adopt and acquire more from the modern medical science as

well as flourish their innovations in the field of research, said he.

Dr Bisoi, who is an accomplished cardiac surgeon with three decades of professional excellence and innovation, was given a rousing welcome by AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas.

Dr Bisoi interacted with the department heads and students.

Dr Bisoi emphasised on democratic, rule-based and transparent governance systems at the AIIMS Bhubaneswar for timely and appropriate decisions. He also focused on larger participation and leadership building in all levels. For efficient healthcare delivery, he stressed on functional coherence between different departments and to create a culture of devotion towards duty and empathy both in education and healthcare service.

Dr Biswas said the institute would achieve success in research and education under Dr Bisoi's able guidance.

'India's credibility has grown thanks to Modi'

**BJP meet held in
Brahmapur**

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Ganjam District BJP Working Committee's meeting was held here presided over by district president Bibhuti Bhusan Jena.

State BJP spokesperson Biranchi Narayana Tripathi attended as the guest on the occasion. In the introductory speech, Jena narrated the poverty alleviation programmes implemented by PM Narendra Modi. India became more famous in the world upon the dynamic qualities of Modi as it fulfilled



the dreams of the New India, he said.

Tripathi briefed that on May 30, the Modi Government has completed its nine years of ruling. From May 30 to June 30, the BJP will move its activities through the Block and Booth levels. During the movement the workers will

keep contact with the beneficiaries and explain the various types of development works undertaken by the Modi Government. State BJP vice president Bhruhu Boxipatro advised the delegates to work unitedly to fight against the rivals.

In the meeting former

district president and State executive member Kanhu Charan Pati, Saroj Sabat, Pravat Kiran Sadangi, Manoranjan Dyansamantra, Kamana Padhy, Manoj Patanaik, Suresh Padhi, Ram Kumar Patro, Sunil Sahu, Pradeep Satapathy, Babita Patro and Sidhanta Gangadeo were present among others.

Startup Odisha to feature on CII ICONN



**For strong
corporate
connection, scale
businesses, reach
new markets**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Startup Odisha has reached an agreement with the Confederation of Indian Industry - Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups (CII- CIES) whereby Startup Odisha will feature on CII ICONN Platform, a one of its kind, industry-led platform for the startup ecosystem to catalyse collaboration between corporates, startups and other key players of the startup ecosystem.

A Letter of Intent (LoI) to this effect was shared between Startup Odisha Executive Chairman Dr Omkar Rai and Chairman CII-CIES Kris Gopalakrishnan at CII Startup Summit in New Delhi on

Wednesday. The CII ICONN platform will provide Startup Odisha with a pavilion for Startups from O-Hub (the Incubation Centre), help it organise exclusive sessions to promote services offered by Startup Odisha, organise startup pitch presentation sessions, have discussion sessions for startups and enable participation in Corporate Accelerator Programmes etc.

Dr Ray emphasized on having a strong rural innovation ecosystem and Startup ecosystem in tier-II and tier-III cities, one that is well-connected with corporates and unicorns.

**OUAT holds
special session**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) organised a Special Session on "Innovations in Millet Research and Extension" on Thursday under the aegis of the State Level Research Extension Council at its campus. Delivering the key note address on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department, Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee emphasized on promotion of millet from ground to global level.

The OUAT is playing a vital role for developing productivity enhancing technologies, developing capacity of stakeholders for upscaling activities in value addition and marketing with focus on SHGs and FPOs, Dr Padhee said.

He also said identification and multiplication of local land races preferred by farmers



through participatory varietal trials has also given scope for revitalisation of biodiversity in millets. Millet crops have become the point of conversation among farmers, practitioners, scientists and extension workers. The knowledge on improved agronomic practices in millets has not just remained within the research stations and personnel working specifically on millets, but has reached almost every extension worker

INBRIEF

MAOIST CAMP BUSTED; ARMS SEIZED IN KANDHAMAL

Phulbani: Maoists and security forces exchanged heavy fire during a combing operation by Special Operations Group personnel in the Sindhipankhal jungle under Balliguda and



Tumudibandh police stations of Kandhamal district. The ultras attacked the police team with rocket launchers and country-made mortars. Policeman Ganeswar Rana was severely injured. In self-defence, the security personnel also retaliated. As per Kandhamal SP Suwendu Patra, many Maoists were injured and fled into deep jungle. Search operation was continuing. A rifle, two country-made guns, a mortar, a tiffin bomb, wire and women's dresses were recovered from the spot.

SUNDGARI'S MEENU MISS UTKAL RUNNER UP

Sundargarh: Meenu Bhoi, an Ayurvedic student of Sundargarh, has made the people of Sundargarh proud by becoming the Miss Utkal RunnerUp. She said she won the feat after a long time planning and hard work. Her earlier achievements include Ms. Glory Queen 2023 (1st Runner- up) , Ms. Stycon, Barbil 2022 (winner) and Ms Catwalk in Odisha Queen 2022.



TPCODL OPENS TRAINING CENTRE AT BARAMUNDA

Bhubaneswar: The TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has inaugurated a state-of-the-art training centre at the Baramunda training centre here aimed at fostering capacity building and knowledge enhancement for its executive-level employees. The initiative reflects the TPCODL's commitment to nurturing its workforce and ensuring the highest standards of professional development within the organisation. The centre was inaugurated by T&D-Tata Power president Sanjay Banga, in the presence of TPCODL CEO Shenbagam.

IN2IT EBS SAP DELIVERY CENTRE LAUNCHED IN BBSR

Bhubaneswar: "In2IT EBS" launched an SAP delivery centre in Bhubaneswar, a step towards marketplace competitiveness. The centre is operational at Fortune Tower. The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of dignitaries, including State Minister of E & IT, Sports & Youth Services Tusar Kanti Behera along with Special Secretary, Department of Electronics & IT, and Managing Director of the Odisha Computer Application Centre Manas Panda.



COMMUNITY TOILET, COMMUNITY CENTRE IN LAPANGA

Bhubaneswar: The CSR department of JSW BPSL has constructed a community toilet at Binova Nagar of Lapanga village which would reduce various kind of water and vector borne diseases caused due to open defecation. The primary purpose of the community toilet is to minimise open defecation in the region and promote sanitation. Also, a Community Centre has been constructed at Kultapada village by the CSR department to provide a gathering space for social groups as well as for individuals of all age groups to connect and socialise. It was inaugurated by Vishal Raj, Head CSR and Mihir Mishra, Associate Vice-President of Civil Projects & Admin.



New panel formed to guide Project Cheetah

NTCA formed 11-member committee after death of 6 felines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the death of six cheetahs, including three newborn cubs, within a period of two-and-a-half months at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, the Centre has set up yet another high-level panel of national and international experts to oversee and monitor the ambitious Project Cheetah in India.

A statement issued by the Union Environment Ministry said the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has constituted yet another panel an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee

The decision to form the committee was taken in a meeting with the additional chief secretary of the Madhya Pradesh government. The move comes in the wake of the death of three cheetah cubs born to the Namibian cheetah allegedly died of dehydration and malnourishment.

The Committee will be



chaired by Rajesh Gopal (former member secretary of the NTCA and currently with the Global Tiger Forum).

Members of the Committee include RN Mehrotra, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Rajasthan; PR Sinha, a former director of the Wildlife Institute of India; HS Negi, a member of the NTCA; GS Rawat, former Dean of the WII; Qamar Qureshi, a scientist with the WII; the current Inspector General of the NTCA; the current Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh, and others. The NTCA has also constituted a panel of international cheetah experts who will provide advice “as an when required” to Project Cheetah.

They experts are Adrian Tordiffe (Veterinary Wildlife Specialist, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria,

Opposition unity risks becoming talking shop

MANISH ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

While the Opposition unity efforts are gaining pace with a meeting being planned to be held in Patna next month, the Congress is keeping the regional satraps guessing.

The Janata Dal (United) is hoping that the Congress will be benign and show large heartedness to accept the proposal of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to focus on just 200 Lok Sabha seats and leave the rest to other constituents of the Opposition.

“As of now we are optimistic that the Congress will come on board. The Congress will also be attending the Opposition meeting in Patna next month. But it will be premature that there will be an understanding on all the 545 Lok Sabha seats. We are aiming to bring everyone onboard for a one-on-one contest with the Bharatiya Janata Party on most of the Lok Sabha seats,” said a senior JD (U) functionary, who is known to be close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

What appears to be worrying the Opposition is that the Congress is gaining confidence after the Karnataka election verdict, and the key movers of the unity plank are now keeping fingers crossed over the



channel of communication with the Gandhis. “The Congress needs to remember that the party had won 2013 and 2018 Karnataka Assembly elections, and we all know the seat count of the party after the 2014 and the 2019 general elections.

Besides, the Congress had wrested all three BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh,” said another leader from the Opposition camp. There is clear emphasis from the non-Congress Opposition camp for pre-poll seat adjustment so that there is scope for one-on-one contest against the BJP.

Yet, the Opposition leaders are also acknowledging the fact that the pact events in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh don't infuse enough confidence even of the outcome of the one-on-one contest. “Uttar Pradesh is going to be too sticky for the Opposition unity efforts. The

NIA seeks death penalty from Delhi HC for Yasin Malik

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has urged the Delhi High Court to award death sentence to Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief and Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik. The petition is listed for hearing on May 29 before a Division Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh.

Kashmir separatist leader Malik who was involved in many terror attacks was sentenced to life imprisonment by a special NIA court in a terror funding case in May 2022. He had pleaded guilty in the case. The NIA had demanded capital punishment for Malik before the trial court as well. Earlier, the prayer was refused by the Special Court stating that death penalty should be awarded only in exceptional cases “where the crime by its nature shocks the collective consciousness of the society”.

Malik was convicted of offences under Section 120B, 121, 121A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 and 15 of UAPA read with 120B of the IPC besides Sections 17, 18, 20, 38 and 39

of UAPA. In a detailed judgment, the NIA Court had observed that Malik betrayed the good intentions of the Government by choosing the violent path.

“Betraying the good intentions of government he took a different path to orchestrate violence in the guise of political struggle...the evidence on the basis of which charges were framed and to which convict has pleaded guilty, speaks otherwise,” the special court had underscored. The judge had also rejected Malik's argument that he had become a Gandhian after 1994.

“It only took one small incident of violence at Chauri Chaura for the Mahatma to call off the entire non cooperation movement but the convict despite large scale of violence engulfing valley neither condemned the violence nor withdrew his calendar of protests, which had led to the said violence,” the judge underlined.

Mark 9 years of Modi Govt as ‘Maafi Divas’, says Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Congress Party leader Jairam Ramesh with party leaders Supriya Shrinete (L) and Pawan Kherra (R) and others during a Press conference, in New Delhi on Friday, Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

next few days to highlight the “failures” of the Narendra Modi Government in the last nine years. The press conferences have been titled ‘Nau Saal, Nau Sawaal’ (nine years, nine questions).

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said at a Press conference that Rahul

Gandhi had raised critical issues during the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the nine questions are based on that. Flanked by party colleagues Pawan Kherra and Supriya Shrinete, Ramesh said the booklet is a report card of the nine years of the Modi Government and Congress

leaders will hold press conferences in 35 cities across the country to highlight the “failures” of the government. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took to Twitter and said, “In last 9 years, the Modi Government has become a “Vishwaguru” in snatching away employment of crores of youths” and used the hashtag “#NaakamiKe9Saal” to mark the occasion.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said, “The BJP built its edifice in 9 years on false promises and people's suffering. Inflation, hatred and unemployment - Prime Minister ji, take responsibility of these failures of yours,” Rahul said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag and shared nine questions to Prime Minister.

BJP asks Cong to do fact check before pointing finger at Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Ravishankar Prasad

The BJP on Friday ridiculed Congress for allegedly “not leaving panchtatva”— Prithivi (earth), Pavan (air), Jal (water), Tej (solar energy), Nabh (sky)—untouched by its ‘corruption saga’ as it listed-out ‘major achievements’ of the Modi-Government in last nine years.

BJP which is celebrating nine-years of the Modi Government at the Centre by organising various organisational events and assigning central Ministers and MPs constituency-wise tasks, dismissed the ‘nine questions’ posed by the Congress party on Modi's nine years in office. Addressing a press conference here BJP's National spokesperson Ravishankar Prasad called

Congress as a “bundle of lies and mountain of deception.” The BJP's Rajya Sabha member alleged that the questions were the result of Congress's “hatred towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Listing-out ‘achievements’ of Nine-years of the Modi-government, BJP's spokesperson said inflation at 4.7 percent was one of the lowest across the world, economy

crossed three trillion and export increased to Rupees thirty lakh crore under Modi's dispensation. He asked Congress to check facts before pointing finger at the ruling party. Prasad said poor received Rs six lakh sixty eight thousand four thirty five crore from Direct Bank transfer (DBT) through 312 schemes.

He said in 2014 India imported 78 percent of its mobile “but today 99 percent of mobiles are manufactured in India, generating employment, particularly for women.” India is now second largest exporter of mobiles as it is also exporting Rs Rs Sixteen thousand crore defence exports, he said. Prasad claimed at 4.7 percent inflation in the country is at the lowest if compared with

that of the US 8.9 per cent, Australia 8.5, France 13.5 and Sweden 20.2 percent. “Under Manohan Singh government India was fragile-five economies but under Modi it is among the top five countries, ahead of England”, said Prasad. Taking a swipe at the Congress for raising the issue of corruption against the BJP government, the BJP leader said the Opposition party had covered all “panchtatva” in its corruption activities during its regime at the centre.

“We talk about ‘Panchtatva’...Congress party's associates did corruption in all five elements of ‘Panchtatva’ - Commonwealth games scam, Coal scam, 2G scam, helicopter and submarine scam...”, said Prasad.

UPSC mulling criminal action against 2 for fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is considering criminal and disciplinary penal action against two candidates for allegedly claiming selection in the civil services examination, the results of which were declared on Tuesday, according to an official statement.

The case relates to Aysha Makrani (from Madhya Pradesh) and Tushar (from Haryana) who fraudulently claimed that they have been finally recommended by the Commission in the civil services examination 2022 against two roll numbers of genuinely recommended candidates, it said. “The claims of both per-

sons are fake. They have forged the documents in their favour to buttress their claims,” said the statement issued on Friday.

By doing so, both Makrani and Tushar have acted in contravention of the provisions of the Rules of the Civil Services Examination, 2022 notified by the government of India (Department of Personnel and Training), it said.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Examination Rules, the UPSC is contemplating both criminal as well as disciplinary penal action against the two candidates for their fraudulent acts, the statement said. “The system of the UPSC is robust as well as foolproof and such errors are not possible,” it added. The

UPSC conducts civil services examination annually in three stages — preliminary, main and interview — to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Sharing details, the Commission said Aysha Makrani, daughter of Salimuddin Makrani, who is claiming her final recommendation by the UPSC, is found to have forged documents in her favour. Her actual roll number is 7805064. She appeared in preliminary examination held on June 5th, 2022 and scored only 22.22 marks in General Studies Paper-I and 21.09 marks in General Studies Paper-II, it said.

India, US to review Def ties during Austin's visit

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON



Rajnath. This visit underscores Germany's keen interest in deepening its defence co-operation with India, an emerging global power.

Announcing Defence Secretary Austin's visit to New Delhi, the Pentagon said late Thursday, “this visit provides an opportunity to accelerate new defense innovation and industrial cooperation initiatives and drive ongoing efforts to expand operational cooperation between the US and Indian militaries.” the Pentagon



said. Austin will also meet other leaders in the Indian capital as the United States and India continue to modernise the US-India Major Defense Partnership, the Pentagon said. Austin will also visit Japan, Singapore and France next week.

Austin will begin his trip from Japan, as part of his seventh official visit to the Indo-Pacific region. In Tokyo, he plans to meet with Japanese Defense Minister Yasukasu Hamada and other senior lead-

ers and also visit the US troops stationed in Japan, it said. The visit also comes as the United States and Japan take important strides to modernise alliance capabilities, optimise US force posture, and build links with like-minded partners following the historic US-Japan “2+2” ministerial meeting earlier this year, the Pentagon said.

From there, Austin will travel to Singapore where he will deliver plenary remarks at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) 20th Shangri-La Dialogue. On the margins of the Dialogue, the secretary will meet with key leaders to advance US defense partnerships across the region in support of the shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, anchored in ASEAN centrality. After Singapore, Austin will visit New Delhi and then con-

clude his trip in France to participate in events commemorating the 79th anniversary of D-Day, and meet with French and United Kingdom defense leaders, it added.

Meanwhile, ahead of Prime Minister Modi's state visit to US, officials of both countries have intensified their discussions on co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

At a meeting with Indian Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane at Pentagon last week, US Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks termed proposals to co-produce jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under iCET “unprecedented opportunities” to strengthen ties between defence sectors of two nations.

‘Unvaccinated at risk of long Covid’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



study, coordinated through Researching Covid to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) initiative of National Institutes of Health (NIH), US, examined data from 9,764 adults, including 8,646 who had Covid-19 and 1,118 who did not have Covid-19.

Based on patient-reported symptoms, the researchers established a scoring system. They gave each patient a score based on symptom combinations after assigning points to each of the 12 symptoms. Thus,

they identified a meaningful threshold for identifying participants with long Covid. They also found that certain symptoms occurred together and defined four subgroups or “clusters” with a range of impacts on health.

In addition to establishing the scoring system, the researchers found that participants who were unvaccinated or who had Covid-19 before the Omicron strain emerged in 2021 were more likely to have long Covid and more severe cases of long Covid.

Based on a subset of 2,231 patients in this analysis who had a first Covid-19 infection on or after Dec. 1, 2021, when the Omicron variant was circulating, about 10 per cent experienced long-term symptoms or long COVID after six months. Further, reinfections

were also linked to higher long COVID frequency and severity, compared to people who only had Covid-19 once.

“This study is an important step toward defining long Covid beyond any one individual symptom,” said study author Leora Horwitz, director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation and Delivery Science, US, and co-principal investigator for the RECOVER Clinical Science Core, at NYU Langone Health, US.

“This approach, which may evolve over time, will serve as a foundation for scientific discovery and treatment design. The researchers explained that studying the underlying biological mechanisms of long Covid is central to advancing informed interventions and identifying effective treatment strategies.

Study: Running stops age-related memory loss

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



If long-term running continues to be the part of your exercise even as you are in your mid-age, in all likelihood you will not face age-related memory problems, so say a team of researchers.

They reached the conclusion after studying the effects of long-term running on a network of new hippocampal neurons generated in young adult mice, at middle age.

More than six months after tagging the adult-born neurons with a fluorescent reporter vector, they identified and quantified the direct afferent inputs to these adult-born neurons within the hippocampus and (sub)cortical areas, when the mice were middle-aged. “The long-term running as

part of exercise in middle age helps in wiring ‘old’ new neurons born in early adulthood, or adult-born neurons, into a network relevant to the maintenance of episodic memory encoding during aging,” they said.

Episodic memory is a type of long-term memory involving conscious recollection of previous experiences together with their context in terms of time, place and associated emotions. Published in the journal eNeuro, the researchers from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), US, and Center for

Research and Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV), Mexico, said the study provided novel insight into the benefits of exercise and that it should motivate adults to keep moving throughout their lifetime, especially during middle age.

Deficits in cognitive ability linked with aging are associated with reduced hippocampal volume. The hippocampus and adjacent cortices are brain areas essential for learning and memory.

Aging-related memory function decline is also associated with the degradation of synaptic (junction between two neurons) inputs from the perirhinal and entorhinal cortex onto the hippocampus, brain areas that are essential for pattern separation, and contextual and spatial memory. Along with significantly

increasing these adult-born neurons, long-term running was found to enhance the recruitment of presynaptic (sub)-cortical cells to their network. That is, running not only rescued perirhinal connectivity but also increased and altered the contribution of the entorhinal cortices to the network of old adult-born neurons.

“Long-term exercise profoundly benefits the aging brain and may prevent aging-related memory function decline by increasing the survival and modifying the network of the adult-born neurons born during early adulthood, and thereby facilitating their participation in cognitive processes,” said Henriette van Praag, corresponding author, an associate professor of biomedical science in FAU.

ROW IN WB OVER NEW MOVIE ‘THE DIARY OF WEST BENGAL’

BJP slams TMC for police action

‘State Govt is trying to control free speech’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The dust raised by ‘The Kerala Story’ had hardly settled down when a new controversy erupted in Bengal, this time over a new film, ‘The Diary of West Bengal’.

The BJP has strongly criticized the Trinamool Congress Government for the Kolkata Police action of serving a notice to the film’s director Sanoj Mishra.

Criticising the State Government for trying to control free speech, BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh on Friday said that the ruling outfit was “afraid of everything and the notice served on the film’s



director is a mark of that fear.” He said, “I have no idea of the facts and neither do I know

anything about the film ... but from whatever I have heard it seems that the State Government has become unnecessarily afraid of the developments ...if the TMC has nothing to do with what the film says then there is nothing

to be afraid of.” Alleging that in its fear of losing power the TMC Government was trying to control free speech, Ghosh said, “The Government cannot suppress the fundamental right of people ... everyone has a right to express and in case of films there is censor board and similar regulating authorities ... So I do not understand how the police came into the picture ... why have the police serve notice on film directors.”

He recalled how the State Government had “received a rap on its knuckles from the Supreme Court after banning ‘The Kerala Story’ in Bengal.”

Acting on an alleged complaint — based apparently on the trailer of the film — lodged by an individual the Amherst Street Police Station had earli-

er issued notice of appearance to Sanoj Mishra the director of the film.

The director however, on Friday made it clear that he had no intention to bring Bengal to disrepute. Speaking about the notice allegedly served on his reported act of trying to defame the State Mishra on Friday “my intention is not to malign the image of the State. We have shown only facts in the film which are well-researched.”

Meanwhile, though the TMC would not react officially to the controversy, a senior leader from North Kolkata of which Amherst Street Police Station is a part said, “the single-point agenda of the BJP is to provoke communal divide and tension in the country by getting its agents to write books or produce communally angled films.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

Navy, ISRO release recovery training plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to ensure synergy for the Gaganyaan mission, the Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have released the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at INS Garuda in Kochi, officials here said on Friday. The document outlines the training plan for recovery of the crew module of the Gaganyaan mission.

The training document was jointly released on Wednesday by Vice Admiral Atul Anand, Director General of Naval Operations; Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC) and Umamaheshwaram R, Director, Human Space Flight Centre of ISRO, the



navy officials said.

The document defines overall requirements with respect to training of various teams participating in recovery operations including divers, MARCOs (marine commandos), medical specialists, communicators, technicians and naval aviators, a senior official said.

The recovery training is planned in incremental phases starting from unmanned

recovery to manned recovery training in harbour and open sea conditions. The recovery operations are being led by the Indian Navy in co-ordination with other government agencies, the officials said.

The Crew Module Recovery Model was also formally handed over to the Indian Navy at its state-of-the-art Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at INS Garuda, Kochi. The mass and shape simulated mock-up will be used for familiarisation and training of Gaganyaan recovery teams, they said.

The Navy will also assist the ISRO by undertaking a series of trials to fine tune the standard operating procedures for training the crew and recovery teams of Gaganyaan, the officials said.

Cambodian King to visit India on May 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni will pay a state visit to India on May 30 and will meet President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The President will hold a banquet in honour of the King. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will call on the King.

The King is visiting India nearly six decades after his father Nordom Sihanouk’s visit.

It is pertinent to note that the King’s state visit will coincide with the culmination of the celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between New Delhi and Phnom Penh. The Cambodian King will arrive

here in New Delhi for a two-day (May 29–31) official tour whereby he will be accompanied by a 27-member high-level official delegation, the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) announced here on Friday.

Briefing the reporters ahead of the King’s visit, MEA Secretary (East) Saurabh Kumar said the King’s state visit will coincide with the culmination of the celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between New Delhi and Phnom Penh, which were established in 1952.

He said the state visit paves the way to consolidate India-Cambodia ties with symbolic value, as this is the first time in six decades that a King of Cambodia is visiting India.

K’taka Cong on mission to repeat victory in 2024 polls

Dy CM who is KPCC chief too focused on bagging all 28 seats in LS polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ BANGALORE

Though the cacophony of electioneering and victory parades have come to an end with the high-decibel swearing in of Siddaramiah as Chief Minister and D K Shivakumar as his deputy, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee continues to be in a mission mode. Though the Lok Sabha election is expected only in the months of March-April 2024, it has not deterred Shivakumar, who holds the additional post of KPCC president, from his hectic schedule. He is on a mission to make a clean sweep of all the 28 seats at stake in the State to establish his command over the party.

The report going round Karnataka is that Shivakumar would be elevated as the Chief Minister after 30 months of rule by Siddaramaiah. This is the formula which has been worked out by the Congress High Command to placate Shivakumar who was the frontrunner along with Siddaramaiah for the post of



chief minister.

Both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah refuse to tell anything about the arrangement though minister M B Patil courted controversy on Wednesday by blatantly ruling out any change of leadership for the next five years.

Shivakumar has been asked to lead the Congress till the Lok Sabha election and this is being seen as the confidence he enjoys with the High Command. The fact that he has not lowered the guards is proof of his single point pursuit to win Karnataka and hand it over to the national leadership. Sources close to Shivakumar told *The Pioneer* that the war room in his office in the Pradesh Congress Committee Office is functional round the clock as his close aides are filtering and analyzing the short-comings faced during the assembly poll. Shivakumar is personally overseeing the records of past Lok Sabha polls and method of voting in the constituencies.

Cabinet expansion at noon today, portfolios to be allotted by evening

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister K H Muniyappa on Friday said the Cabinet expansion will take place on Saturday afternoon and the portfolios would also be allotted by evening.

Muniyappa also said barring four or five ministerial posts, rest would be filled up in the same day.

According to the Minister, the Cabinet would be a mix of seniors and young people.

“Tomorrow, the Cabinet expansion will take place. Time has also been fixed. It would be tomorrow afternoon. Most of the posts would be filled,” Muniyappa told reporters after returning from New Delhi.

To a question on how many ministerial posts would be filled, he said, “Barring four or five, rest all would be filled up.”

When asked whether senior leaders have put up any demand before the party high command regarding ministerial positions, Muniyappa said at t it would be difficult to say anything.

Over 73% women want menstrual leave, says study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28, a survey has said that around

73 per cent of women want companies to allow them to take menstrual leave while 86.6 per cent are in favour of a menstrual-friendly workplace where hygiene methods and support infrastructure are available to women.

The Menstrual Hygiene Survey 2023, conducted by Everteen, a feminine hygiene brand, also pointed out that 71.7 per cent of the participants in the survey do not want the menstrual leaves to be paid, fearing that it may make companies reluctant to hire female employees.

Nearly 10,000 women in the age group of 18 to 35 years participated in the survey that was conducted in multiple cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Patna.

“While 73 per cent of women want that companies should allow them to take

menstrual leaves, 71.7 per cent of them do not want these to be paid and fear that it may make companies reluctant to hire female employees.

“Also, 86.6 per cent of women are in favour of the concept of a menstrual friendly workplace where females are not hesitant in discussing the subject openly, and menstrual hygiene methods and support infrastructure is made available to women. Besides, 68.9 per cent of women have taken a leave of absence from work during menstrual periods,” the survey stated.

The survey recommended that, “Corporates need to make it a priority to adopt practices for a menstrual-friendly workplace. In fact a similar survey conducted by the researchers from the UVA School of Medicine, Flo Health, University College London, Technische Universitaet Berlin and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine too had found that menstrual symptoms hurt workplace productivity of many women, with 45.2% reporting that their symptoms require them to take days off.

Virtual workshop on ‘Misuse of Internet’ held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in cooperation with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) jointly with its outlying training unit, the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, organised a virtual workshop on the ‘Misuse of Internet’ on May 25-26.

The workshop was held under the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

The virtual workshop was addressed by Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary (D&ISA) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Neeraj Sinha, Additional Director General, BPR&D

and Anurag Kumar, Director, BPR&D, the MEA said here on Friday.

Invited speakers shared their expertise on various topics including the Misuse of Internet in Organised Crime; Use of Malware and Ransomware as a tool for Financial Crime; Prevention of Information and Communication Technology Crime against Women and Children; Use of Dark Web and Cryptocurrency in Illegal Trade and Terror; and Futuristic Information and Communication Technology Crime and Internet of Things Hacks.

Representatives from several CICA Member States like Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Tajikistan and Vietnam participated in the virtual workshop, the MEA said.

Progress on cutting plastic pollution slow, stakeholders not well integrated: Scientists

PTI ■ PANAJI

The progress in reducing plastic pollution across the globe has been painfully slow and the consequent damage to the natural environment and to human health is likely to increase further, according to a network of scientists researching on the subject.

In a research paper published in the scientific journal ‘Nature Communications’, scientists from many countries, including India, have said that the views and ways of working of four distinct stakeholder communities – scientists, industry, society at large and those making policy and legislation – are “not sufficiently well integrated.”

The paper has been jointly published by Richard S Lampitt, Stephen Fletcher, Matthew Cole, Alice Kloker, Stefan Krause, Fran O’Hara, Peter Ryde, Mahua Saha, Anastasia Voronkova and Adrian Whyte from the UK, France and India.

Mahua Saha, a scientist from Goa-based CSIR-National



Institute of Oceanography, is the only Asian scientist who is representing the region in this group.

The researchers claim that about 400 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated every year, and this quantity is expected to increase dramatically over the coming decades.

“Less than 20 per cent of this waste is managed adequately, with most of it being incinerated, discarded into landfill or released into the natural environment,” they have said.

According to the researchers, much of the public concern has been centred around the effects of plastic pollution on marine environments, but there is also increasing evidence of the deleterious impacts of plastics in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

They have said that given the international nature of the plastics supply chain, any action to tackle plastic pollution must be coordinated globally and across all main actors.

“It is our view that, in order to be effective, a comprehensive approach to tackle plastic pollution must involve the input and support of a wide and diverse groups of interdisciplinary stakeholders. We identify four different relevant communities of stakeholders, each of which must be included and given the opportunity to contribute to solutions to this crisis,” says the paper.

The researchers have said that the scientific, industrial, societal and policymaker communities must be equitable partners in any international treaty.

Smuggled gold worth ₹3 cr seized at Indo-Bangla border

PTI ■ BANGAON

Gold worth around ₹3 crore was seized along the international border in West Bengal’s North 24 Parganas district while being smuggled from Bangladesh, BSF said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel



at the Petrapole border seized

36 gold biscuits weighing a total of 4.8 kg from an empty truck coming from the neighbouring country.

The gold was hidden in the driver’s cabin, a BSF official said, adding that the driver, identified as Pradeep Roy Chowdhury of Matiganj area of North 24 Parganas district, was arrested.

Seat sharing formula will be same as that in 2019: Shinde Sena

No decision taken yet, asserts BJP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The seat-sharing arrangement between the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party will be the same as that in 2019, senior Sena leader Gajanan Kirtikar said on Friday.

The BJP, on the other hand, said no decision had been taken on the issue yet.



The Sena, which was then undivided, and the BJP had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in alliance.

“Shiv Sena contested 22 seats (out of 48) last time and

won 18, and BJP contested 26 and won 23. The arrangement will be the same this time. We have already started preparations (for the 2024 polls),” Kirtikar told reporters here.

Of 18 Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena from Maharashtra, 13 owe allegiance to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and five belong to the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction.

Sena spokesperson and state education minister Deepak Kesarkar too said elsewhere that his party hoped that the seat-sharing formula will remain unchanged.

But BJP leader and culture minister Sudhir Mungantiwar maintained that no formula has been worked out yet.

“No BJP leader has said that

Eknath Shinde’s demands will not be accepted. Shinde joined hands with the BJP to provide a government that works to protect the interests of people. His demands would be respected. BJP has high regard for the Shiv Sena led by Balasaheb Thackeray earlier and now by Eknath Shinde,” he told reporters at the Raj Bhavan. Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will sit together and take a decision on seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha as well as Assembly elections, the BJP leader added.




A flamingo at the DPS Lake, in Navi Mumbai on Friday

PTI

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FIRST COLUMN


FAITH AS INTERACTION,
NOT AS KNOWLEDGE



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Yes, it is not a matter of knowledge. With the advent of the internet, who is not aware of God? But how many pursue this knowledge? Very few to say the least. Why? Because faith comes from interaction with God. We approach God and He responds, otherwise this relationship is a non-starter. A simple example will help. I don't have any interaction with a particular resident of my neighbourhood. There will be no progress in my relationship with that person. Yes, we must get in touch with God, who limits himself to instruct us through bonafide scriptures, preachers, who have a wide following, etc. We must approach God by exercising our free will. And we can do so in multiple ways like praying to God, going to a temple, chanting God's name, etc. Every such act is taken notice of by God, who responds appropriately.

To bring clarity to this phenomenon, I will narrate my experience in this connection. The very first thing God notices is our dutifulness. We, human beings, have been given the responsibility of doing our duties according to time, place and circumstances. This is how the creation can go on. Lord Krishna warns that even maintenance of the body will not be possible through inaction. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 3.8) God gets interested in those who are dutiful. The next thing, which impresses God is obeying dharma. After all, dharma is the bedrock on which the creation rests. God even incarnates to re-establish dharma. (4.8) Now such persons are keenly watched because such people become good people. The mode of goodness in them becomes predominant by overpowering the other two modes of passion and darkness. (14.10) If such a person requests help, God is prepared to do so; one just has to sincerely pray for it.




We normally seek help from God in two ways. One is to get out of some trouble and the other is to gain something material like a decent job. But God's response? Let us understand one simple rule: God is always just; He couldn't be favouring someone at the cost of another, as will be in the case of landing a job. However, God can be more generous in case of helping someone to recover from a major illness. In this case, also, God has to determine if the sick person deserves such a favour and how much. But all said and done, God does respond. How much and when is decided by God, as found appropriate by Him. No request for help is ignored; only the quantum and the quality are to be decided.

In one matter, God is more forthcoming, i.e. to guide. If a person is sincerely seeking guidance to do something noble, God will be very keen to help, because being the owner of everything, He must encourage what suits the creation. Don't we need good people to keep all of us going? God gives the right intelligence, as in the case of medical scientists. If someone is genuinely looking for a medical solution, which can help millions, and the motive is not to encash it to the fullest extent, God will help. What do you think we will do if we were to decide? God gives me spiritual solutions to common problems which I can write. One may call it realisation as it really helps me personally. What more than any other favour reinforces faith is peace, which we all know is sought by everyone, but only a few manage it.

The conclusion is to approach God in ways, which please Him, about which He has given detailed instructions. Swami Ravi Das was a leatherworker. He had no formal education, but he became a great devotee of God. Knowledge is helpful only as a tool, even spiritual; it must be practised. Spiritual activities take us to a higher level. Therefore, let us get going and link with the owner of the creation. He is waiting and He has plenty to give.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

US must undertake a midcourse correction



K A BADARINATH

Even if the US revises its debt ceiling of \$31.4 trillion, its risk-ridden economy may precipitate a global crisis of a larger magnitude



With the looming debt crisis in the United States with the potential to default, a showdown between Republicans that control the House and the democratic white house may not augur well for the global economy and developing countries like India. Owing unsustainable economic policies over a few decades and irresponsible handling of resources has led the largest global economic powerhouse into a big mess of its own making. Even if president Joe Biden manages to clinch a last-minute deal with Republican top leadership to push up the debt ceiling beyond us \$ 31.4 trillion, larger questions continue to haunt the Americans. Mobilizing loans through US bonds or debt paper may not be the immediate concern but potential default on June 1 is what may turn catastrophic to not only Americans but the entire world. For Americans, it means that democrats will not be able to fund their fancied social security payments on medical and health insurance, pension or social development projects.

President Biden and his Democratic administration will have to put on hold all fancy projects like waiving student loans or fees to provide personal tax concessions to youngsters and new taxpayers democrats understand the full importance of lifting the already unsustainable debt limit of \$ 31.4 trillion. In fact, this also explains US President Biden's decision to forgo the scheduled quad summit in Australia and head back home after the G-7 leaders meeting in Hiroshima. Eventually, the quad summit had to be called off with heads of the US,



THERE IS EVERY POSSIBILITY OF US MOVING INTO ECONOMIC RECESSION, THEREBY STYMIEING DEMAND FOR GOODS AND SERVICES GLOBALLY

(The author is the director and chief executive of this non-partisan think tank based in New Delhi)

Australia, Japan and India meeting briefly at Hiroshima on the sidelines of the G-7 congregation. The larger issue that confronts us and the world is a wee bit different and difficult.

There is every possibility of us moving into economic recession thereby stymieing demand for goods and services globally. This will hit the economic growth sentiment internationally big time. Secondly, the possibility of banks getting stuck with worthless dollar-denominated bonds or debt paper in the medium term cannot be ruled out unless both the federal reserve and political leadership in the US take recourse to the mid-course correction that involves massive spending cuts or improve the country's revenues. Such a policy may be very unattractive for Democratic voters when they have to elect their president in 2024.

Thirdly, containing the contagion effect of the US economy moving into the abyss will be a herculean task. One cannot easily forget the global financial crisis triggered by real estate-linked mortgages that turned worthless in 2007-08. This housing bubble stirred a perfect storm to impact both large developing countries like India as well as least developed countries alike. Excessive risk exposure taken by banks was the biggest element in this crisis of the worst kind after the great depression of 1929.

Fourthly, if the US default finally happens, then countries like India having huge exposure to American greenback will also face the heat.

But, this diversification should go the whole hog and consciously lead to pursuing the de-dollarization of the Indian economy as a state policy. Fifthly, while exports to the US become attractive and import bills get squeezed, a demand slump globally will negate the advantages gained in trade deals. There is no reason why India should not pursue a more independent trade and currency policy keeping herself at a safe distance from the federal reserve and recalibrating her linkages with Washington DC. Sixthly, Democrats and Republicans must work towards mid-course correction on the economic and development front rather than recklessly going for borrowing more from Tom to pay Peter.

Limiting the fresh debt limit to us \$ 1.5 trillion till March 31, 2024, and achieving concomitant cuts in spending by us \$ 1.47 trillion would save the perilously placed our economy. Seventhly, precipitating a perfectly cooked crisis is not in anyone's interest and hence reining in the fresh spending to less than one per cent as per the limit, save, grow act of 2023 makes eminent sense. On the parallel, limiting the mop-up of fresh debt and gradual reduction

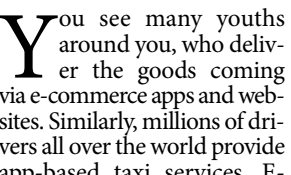
in existing debt stock would augur well for the US economy that's seeking to reposition itself and instil confidence in its trading and investment partners.

The debt-to-GDP ratio was approximately 97 per cent at the end of FY 2022, and under current policy and based on this report's assumptions is projected to reach 566 per cent in 2097, it pointed out. While pursuing a revised economic policy dispensation, president Biden should not easily forget the 2011 crisis that was triggered by our congress. This pushed up the borrowing costs for the treasury by a humongous us \$ 1.3 billion in just one year. Also, we should not provide any leverage to China for encashing its crisis. China is easily the largest holder of us debt paper, notes and long-term bonds with valuations ranging from \$ 859.4 billion to \$ one trillion.

China may like to leverage our debt paper to rebalance its own resources position which again may not be looking too good. China's own debt of us \$ 14.34 trillion as of April 12, 2023, and swelling at a whopping \$ 3.81 trillion annually may not be something to brag about by president Xi's oligarchs driven communist party. Potential defaults in us, and machinations in China have valuable lessons for India that are overtly conservative on borrowings, especially by the Narendra Modi government.

The tragedy for workers in today's 'gig' economy

All temporary, freelance and contract workers must be properly defined and identified to ensure minimum wages, maximum working hours and social security



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

payment to its delivery agents by half. Significantly, before this change, the company used to pay Rs 25 to the delivery agent for each delivery. Till about a year ago, the delivery agents were given Rs 50 per delivery. Delivery workers' complaint is that fuel costs have skyrocketed during this period, but their wages have shrunk to a quarter.

The reality is that today youth in big and small cities are forced to work as delivery agents in the absence of any decent employment. In the initial phase, these workers also used to earn sufficiently, but due to low payouts, now their economic condition has become very pathetic. The reality is that in the absence of alternative employment, it has become almost a compulsion

for the youth to work as delivery agents.

On the other hand, companies like 'Ola' and 'Uber' providing app-based taxi services have also started charging highly exploitative commissions from taxi drivers. Due to this, the drivers of 'Ola' and 'Uber' have also resorted to agitational means like strikes many times. But the exploitative commission policy of 'Ola' and 'Uber' continues unabated. Despite the strike by Bilinkit's delivery agents, no solution is in sight.

Gig workers like drivers of 'Ola', 'And Uber', delivery agents of 'Blinkit', 'Zomato', 'And Swiggy' etc. or any other type of workers registered with any other app-based service provider, whose employment depends on the mercy of

these app companies, businesses or whose livelihood depends on the delivery of goods or ordering of services based on messages received from these apps, are today suffering from the exploitation by these companies.

Nowadays the word gig is very much in vogue. Till two-three decades ago, the word gig was not much in use. It has become necessary to understand the meaning of the word 'gig' and the terms such as 'gig economy' and 'gig worker' etc. and their effects on society.

A few decades back, there were only two types of workers. One, the salaried employees and the other, the casual workers. Salaried workers are generally employed on a permanent basis with a fixed salary and other facilities. A

certain procedure has to be followed for the removal of these workers from employment. On the other hand, casual labour means daily wage workers. These labourers are paid wages on a daily basis and have to go in search of employment every day.

In the organized sector, earlier most workers were generally employed on a permanent or regular basis and their employment was also fairly secure. In the unorganized sector like agriculture, construction and sometimes in manufacturing, the practice of daily wage labourers is seen. Generally, educated and trained workers were mostly salaried workers and most of the daily wage laborers used to be uneducated and untrained workers. But these days even

organised sector employers have found an easy way to employ gig workers or sometimes on contract or on fixed term; where workers lack job security and social security. Further, there is the absence of regulations like working hours and working conditions, as these workers in order to earn sufficiently have to work for longer hours and under precarious conditions.

This new class of labour, namely, gig labour is the outcome of the emerging gig economy, based on new technology. This new category has emerged in the form of online platforms, cloud working, freelancing, e-commerce, supply chain, etc. That is, it can be said that new technology and new business models are the creators of this new labour class.

These workers who are serving based on work/order provided by the apps are clearly working under the instructions of the apps owned by e-commerce companies, but in government definitions, they are not considered workers, they are called 'freelancers'.

All such gig, temporary, and contract workers will have to be properly defined and identified while ensuring minimum wages, maximum working hours and various types of social security for them. If this does not happen, this system will be called nothing more than Jungle Raj, whose rule is 'survival of the fittest'. The Government of India is expected to make policies for the social security of the workers of these online platforms i.e., gig workers.

Belgium, Iran conduct prisoner swap in Oman



Protesters wear clothes reading Free Olivier during a solidarity demonstration with Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele in Brussels on December 25, 2022. AFP

AP ■ DUBAI

Belgium and Iran conducted a prisoner exchange Friday in Oman, with officials saying Tehran released a Belgian aid worker in exchange for an Iranian diplomat convicted of attempting to bomb a meeting of exiles in France. The initial announcement by Oman's Foreign Ministry did not identify the prisoners being swapped. Later Friday, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said in a statement that the aid worker, Olivier Vandecasteele, had been freed. Iranian state television later confirmed that the diplomat, Assadollah Assadi, was freed as well.

Oman's Foreign Ministry said that "those released were transferred from Tehran and Brussels to Muscat today, Friday, in preparation for their return to their countries." It added that "the sultanate of Oman appreciated the high positive spirit that prevailed in the talks in Muscat between the Iranian and Belgian sides, and their keenness to settle this humanitarian issue."

De Croo said Vandecasteele was transferred to Oman on Thursday night. He was received by a team of Belgian diplomats and military officials, then was assessed by doctors.

'Time to widen India-UK relations'

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer on Friday said it was time for the India-UK relationship to be widened across all critical areas as he set out the Labour Party's foreign policy pitch in the lead up to the general election expected next year. Starmer said he sees huge scope of mutual benefit from enhancing the bilateral ties.

According to a statement, he would be making a keynote address to open India Global Forum's (IGF) annual UK-India Week summit in London next month. The address will mark the first major insight into the Labour leader's vision for the party's relationship with India, which went through some strain over sensitive issues such as Kashmir under his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn.

"The time has now come to look to the future and work on how we can deepen and widen our cooperation in critical areas such as trade and investment, technology and innovation, climate action, diversity and inclusion, and healthcare, the future of work, skills and education – all areas where I see huge scope for mutual benefit," said Starmer.

The IGF UK-India Week, now in its fifth year, is a five-day series of events to be held between June 26 and 30 to bring together senior politicians, business and thought leaders from the UK, India and around the world to focus on the prospects of strengthening India-UK ties across different sectors. "I believe it's timely that Sir Keir will be opening UK-India Week this year. We are at a critical juncture, and so his participation underscores the importance of the need for a bipartisan approach to the relationship with India," said IGF Founder and CEO Professor Manoj Ladwa.

US, Chinese trade officials concerned over restrictions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and her Chinese counterpart, Wang Wentao, expressed concern Thursday about policies of each other's governments following Chinese raids on consulting firms and US curbs on exports of semiconductor technology, their governments said. The two sides announced no progress in disputes over technology and security but said Raimondo and Wang promised to strengthen exchanges on trade issues.

Companies from both sides have been buffeted by tighter official controls on trade in semiconductors and other activity on security grounds. Political relations between the two governments are at their lowest level in decades following disputes over technology, security, China's territorial claims and Beijing's treatment of Hong Kong and ethnic



minorities. Raimondo "raised concerns" about Chinese actions against US companies in China, her office said in a statement. It said they also discussed the trade and investment environment and "areas for potential cooperation" but gave no details.

Chinese police raided offices of consultants Bain & Co. and Capvision and a due diligence firm, Mintz Group, following the expansion

of national security and intelligence laws. Authorities have given no explanation for the raids.

The raids rattled foreign companies, which the British Chamber of Commerce in China said this week want "greater clarity" about enforcement. Chinese authorities have said companies are obliged to obey the law but have given no indication whether they see possible violations.

'Debt ceiling talks making progress'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Friday negotiators "made progress" on an agreement with the White House to raise the debt limit as they race to close out a deal ahead of a looming deadline to avert a potentially catastrophic default.

McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol that there is still more work to do.

The two sides are narrowing on a two-year agreement that would curb federal spending and lift the borrowing limit ahead of a deadline as soon as June 1 when Treasury could run out of money to pay the nation's bills.

President Joe Biden and the Republican speaker hope to strike a budget compromise this weekend. Any deal would need to be a political compromise, with support from both

Democrats and Republicans to pass the divided Congress.

A person familiar with the talks said the two sides are "dug in" on whether or not to agree to Republican demands to impose stiffer work requirements on people who receive government food stamps, cash assistance and health care aid, some of the most vulnerable Americans.

Yet both Biden and McCarthy expressed optimism heading into the weekend that the gulf between their positions could be bridged. A two-year deal would raise the debt limit for that time, past the 2024 presidential election.

House Republicans have pushed the issue to the brink, displaying risky political bravado in leaving town for the Memorial Day holiday. The US could face an unprecedented default as soon as June 1, hurling the global economy

into chaos. In remarks at the White House on Thursday, Biden said, "It's about competing versions of America."

"The only way to move forward is with a bipartisan agreement," Biden said on Thursday. "And I believe we'll come to an agreement that allows us to move forward and protects the hardworking Americans of this country,"

Lawmakers are tentatively not expected back at work until Tuesday, just two days from the early June deadline when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the US could start running out of cash to pay its bills and face a federal default.

Biden will also be away this weekend, departing on Friday for the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, and Sunday for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. The Senate is on

recess and will return after Memorial Day.

Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings agency placed the United States' AAA credit on "ratings watch negative," warning of a possible downgrade.

Weeks of negotiations between Republicans and the White House have failed to produce a deal — in part because the Biden administration resisted negotiating with McCarthy over the debt limit, arguing that the country's full faith and credit should not be used as leverage to extract other partisan priorities.

The White House has offered to freeze next year's 2024 spending at current levels and restrict 2025 spending, but the Republican leader says that's not enough.

"We have to spend less than we spent last year. That is the starting point," said McCarthy.

Princess Sophia's UK home gets Blue Plaque

PTI ■ LONDON

Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh – the last ruler of the Sikh empire – and the goddaughter of Queen Victoria, was honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London on Friday. The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the significance of particular buildings associated with historical figures. In memory of the British-Indian Princess, it now adorns Faraday House, which was granted to Sophia and her sisters as a grace and favour apartment at Hampton Court Palace southwest of London by Queen Victoria.



"As a political journalist, I thought I knew the story of the suffragettes, and then I found this extraordinary woman and she blew me away," said Anita Anand, the author of the biography 'Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary'.

"As the last princess of the Sikh Empire, goddaughter of Queen Victoria, society darling and fashion icon, a life of comfort and celebrity was hers for the taking, but she chose a harder path. Using her international fame and influence, putting herself in physical danger, she fought for the right of women to vote. Campaigning with unrelenting ferocity, loyalty and selflessness, she moved the dial," she said.

Named after another former resident, the eminent English physicist Michael Faraday (1791–1867), Faraday House was Princess Sophia's main residence for over four decades.

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AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED	
		31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Total Income from Operations	5395.29	7136.79	25431.18	10742.97	376835.26	356364.81	1507482.34	1250241.17
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (including discontinued operations)	5309.94	7075.96	25272.22	10542.20	73890.93	78768.92	299956.60	259314.72
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (including discontinued operations)	5322.52	7026.94	24845.82	10493.61	56578.96	60265.36	232444.82	188885.87
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	5322.20	7027.15	24845.26	10493.80	64092.06	63449.69	218325.06	197235.02
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	641.81	645.26	641.81	645.26	641.81	645.26	641.81	645.26
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	(a) Basic :	82.53	108.90	385.25	162.63	445.45	471.10	1,943.98	1,483.68
	(b) Diluted:	82.53	108.90	385.25	162.63	445.45	471.10	1,943.98	1,483.68

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financials Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.kamaholdings.com).

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26th May 2023

For and on behalf of the Board
Kartik Bharat Ram
Chairman
(DIN:00008557)

INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED

(CIN : U74140MH1993PTC074596)

Extract of the audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2023

(Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 31 March 2023	Quarter ended 31 Dec 2022	Quarter ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations	5.87	5.58	4.95	22.07	21.01
Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	4.41	2.56	2.20	11.76	7.37
Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	4.41	2.56	2.20	11.76	7.37
Net profit for the period after tax(after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	3.12	1.80	1.65	8.66	5.34
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	3.13	1.85	1.66	8.67	5.36
Paid-up equity share capital	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	33.33	30.20	24.66	33.33	24.66
Securities premium account	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83
Net worth	149.96	146.83	141.29	149.96	141.29
Outstanding debt	49.95	49.90	49.75	49.95	49.75
Debt equity ratio	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.35
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (Face Value of Rs. 10 per Equity Share) (EPS for the quarter and nine months are not annualised)*					
-Basic (Rs)	*0.75	*0.43	*0.39	2.07	1.28
-Diluted (Rs)	*0.75	*0.43	*0.39	2.07	1.28

Note to financial results:

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26 May 2023.
- The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/ annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosure requirements) regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly / annual financial results are available on the company's website (http://indiabullsruralfinance.com) and on the website of BSE (http://www.bseindia.com).

Registered Office: One International Center, Tower-1, 4th Floor, S. B. Marg, Elphinstone(W), Mumbai, 400013

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Place : Gurgaon
Date : 26 May 2023

Purav Acharya
Whole Time Director



PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Rubi Devi W/o Mr. Tejvir Singh who is purchasing the Residential Plot of land measuring 50 sq. yards., out of Kharsa No. 1890K, Old Kharsa No. 1238, Kharsa No. 00354, Village Gullistanpur (Shyam Vihar), Pargana Dabri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. from Mrs. Sanjana W/o Mr. Satyavir, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Sale Deed dated 26.11.2021 (Document No. 22228) and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. That the Original Sale Deed dated 07.02.2018 executed by M/S Ambrosia Buildcon Pvt. Ltd in favour of Mrs. Vandana Kumar (Document No. 3513), is misplaced/ lost /not available. To Comply the requirements of Bank/ NBFC, we give this public notice that If any Person having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.
Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301
Contact #0120-4269379

LEGAL NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that House No. C-60, Ground Floor, Back Portion, South Extension Part -1, Delhi 110049 is the lawfully owned property of Mr. R. Srinivas, as has also been declared by the Hon'ble Apex Court vide Order dated 21.02.2023 in Civil Appeal No 1329-1333/2023. It has come to light that certain miscreants are attempting to sell/mortgage /rent the said property claiming to be the owner. It is hereby informed that the lawful owner of the property is not selling the said house and the general public is being cheated and misled. Any attempt to sell the house will be met with stern legal action by the lawful owner.
Places: New Delhi
Date: 25/05/2023

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LTD.

CIN : L21012UP1989PLC010589

Regd. Office: Vill: Jat Mujhera 10.6 km Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar - 251308 (U.P.)

Website: www.parijatpapermills.com, Email: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & YEAR ENDED 31.03.2023				
S. No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter ended	Year to Date figure (12 months ended)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year
		31.03.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
1.	Total Income from operations (net) Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	2990.60 50.69	13103.02 223.97	3855.50 -88.21
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after exceptional and/or extra ordinary items)	50.69	223.97	-88.21
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after exceptional and/or extra ordinary items)	19.46	165.71	-103.51
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	19.46	165.71	-103.51
6.	Equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	329.00	329.00	329.00
7.	Reserves [excluding revaluation Reserves] as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	836.94	836.94	671.22
8.	Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) 1. Basic 2. Diluted	5.04	5.04	1.88

Note: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual Financial Results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & year to date Financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.mseil.in) and the company's website (www.parijatpapermills.com)
2. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 26th May 2023

Date: 26.05.2023
Place: Muzaffarnagar
For and on behalf of
Parijat Paper Mills Limited
Amit Mittal (Whole time Director)
Sd/-
DIN 00754471

Russia says border regions under attack

Kyiv (AP): Russia's southern Belgorod region bordering Ukraine came under attack on Friday from Ukrainian artillery fire, mortar shells and drones, authorities said, hours after two drones struck a Russian city in an area next to the annexed Crimea Peninsula.

Moscow's forces, meanwhile, struck a building containing psychology and veterinary clinics in the city of Dnipro, in central Ukraine, killing two people and wounding 30, including two children, Ukrainian officials said.

Video released by regional Gov Serhiy Lysak showed fire engulfing the three-story building that appeared almost destroyed, with only parts of a wall standing, as firefighters battled the flames.

A Russian S-300 missile hit a dam in the Karlivka district of Donetsk province in eastern Ukraine, threatening nearby settlements with flooding. The town of Graivoron in Russia's Belgorod region, about 7 kilometres (more than 4 miles) from the Ukrainian

border, came under fire for several hours, damaging four houses, a store, a car, a gas pipeline and a power line, Gov Vyacheslav Gladkov reported.

Closer to the frontier, a recreation centre, a shop and an empty house were damaged in the village of Glotovo. One woman was wounded when nearby Novaya Tavolzhanka was shelled, Gladkov said.

Earlier this week, the Belgorod region was the target of one of the most serious cross-border attacks from Ukraine since the war began 15 months ago. Details of the raid were murky. Russia blamed the Ukrainian armed forces, but two Russian groups said they were involved, with the aim of bringing down Russian President Vladimir Putin. Officials in Russia's southern city of Krasnodar, in the region of the same name bordering Crimea, said two drones struck there. Witnesses told local media they heard something like the sound of a moped and then two explosions.

'Documented dreamers' urge US lawmakers to pass Children Act

Washington (PTI): Running from pillar to post for the last several years, 'documented dreamers', a significantly large number of whom are Indian Americans, are seeking an end to their uncertain future.

A group of these long-term visa holders known as documented dreamers made another round of the US Capitol – the temple of American Democracy – knocking on the doors of one lawmaker after the other, seeking support for the recently introduced 'America's Children Act'.

The 'dreamers' are basically undocumented immigrants who enter the United States as children with parents. They grew up legally in the US but risk deportation when they turn 21 years old.

At a time when the US Congress is bitterly divided on political lines, these young dreamers, who are estimated to number 250,000 are looking for more support from congressmen and senators to make necessary legislative changes that give citizenship pathway to aged-out kids. "It is time to permanently end the aging out and pass the America's Children Act," Dip Patel, founder, Improve The Dream, said. He is leading an unprecedented fight on behalf of the documented dreamers.

Of the 2,50,000 dreamers, 90 per cent are pursuing STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers, he said.

Imran slams govt, says no plans to travel abroad

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Unfazed after being placed on the no-fly list, Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday took a swipe at the top leaders of the ruling coalition, saying he has no plans to travel overseas as he neither owns properties nor has any businesses abroad. Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and other leaders and former assembly members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party were reportedly barred from leaving the country on Thursday.

Taking to Twitter, Khan wrote: "I want to thank the government for putting my name on the ECL as I have no plans to travel abroad, because I neither have any properties or businesses abroad nor even a bank account outside the country." "If and when I do get an opportunity for a holiday, it will be in our northern mountains, my favourite place on earth," he said. The Exit Control List (ECL) is maintained by the

interior ministry and deals with individuals who are not allowed to leave the country due to pending court cases or for other reasons.

Earlier, the Samaa News channel reported on Thursday that the Pakistan government had barred Khan, his wife and at least 80 people from leaving the country.

"The federal government has decided to add the names of 80 people, including PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, to the no-fly list," the report said.

Top leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) including the party's supremo Nawaz Sharif are accused of amassing huge wealth in country's like the UK.

Sharif was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment by an anti-graft court in one of the three corruption cases against him in the Panama Papers scandal in 2018.

During the trial, the National Accountability Bureau

(NAB) had presented around 21 witnesses to prove that Sharif family cannot justify the money trail to buy four apartments in Avenfield House, Park Lane, London. It is alleged that the properties were bought with graft money in 1990s when he served twice as the prime minister.

Sharif, however, has rejected any wrongdoing and insisted they were bought with the legitimate money.

Khan, 70, and several top leaders of his party are facing cases in connection with the violence that erupted after the PTI chief's arrest on May 9 in a corruption case.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

Senior leader quits ex-Pak PM's party

Islamabad (PTI): Firdous Ashiq Awan resigned from Imran Khan's party on Friday over the recent violent and "terrorist activities" and said the former prime minister and Pakistan cannot go together, becoming the latest senior leader to quit the opposition party.

Awan, 53, served as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting from 2019 to 2020.

She is the latest politician who resigned from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Awan, the former Federal Minister for Population Welfare, said she was parting ways with the PTI over the party's "violent and terrorist activities".

Only 33 suspects handed over to military for trial: Sanaullah

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday said that only 33 suspects have been handed over to authorities so far to be tried by military courts for their alleged involvement in the attacks on sensitive defence installations during the May 9 protests following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan. Thousands of supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party ransacked and set ablaze military and civilian buildings after party chief Khan was arrested from the Islamabad High Court in a case of alleged corruption, following which a crackdown was launched to arrest and punish the perpetrators.

Amidst criticism from local and international rights groups, Pakistan started the legal process

to prosecute those involved in the violence under military and civilian laws. Sanaullah, at a press conference, provided details about the number of people arrested and handed over to the military for trial under the stringent military regulations for attacking the Army's facilities. "So far, only 19 accused have been handed over to the military courts or military officials in Punjab and 14 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he said.

The minister said that police registered 499 First Information Reports (FIRs) at various police stations, and only six of them, including two in Punjab and four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces, are being processed for a possible trial in the military courts.

"But an atmosphere is being created as if all are being tried in

military courts," he said. Asserting that only those involved in attacks on military installations would be tried under military laws, Sanaullah said that no innocent person would be harmed.

He clarified that military officials would investigate the cases but would not start prosecution until it was determined where the Army Act or the Official Secrets Act would be applicable. Details of the FIRs, he said 88 cases were registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the remaining 411 under other charges, like vandalism, arson or interfering in state matters. Sanaullah added that around 3,950 people were arrested in cases registered under terrorism charges, including 2,588 in Punjab and almost 1,100 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

'Pope runs fever, skips meetings'

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis skipped meetings on Friday because he was running a fever after a particularly busy day, the Vatican said. The Vatican No. 2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said Francis was tired and attributed the fever to the fact that Francis had greeted, one by one, a particularly big crowd of his school foundation on Thursday afternoon.

"He wanted to greet all of them and probably at a certain point lost his resistance," Parolin was quoted as saying by the LaPresse news agency.

The last time Francis spiked a serious fever, in March, the 86-year-old pontiff was rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with acute bronchitis.

He received intravenous antibiotics and was released three days later.

Credit Suisse owes millions to Georgia's ex-PM: Court

London (AP): Credit Suisse owes former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili hundreds of millions of dollars for failing to protect the billionaire's money held in a trust pilfered by a manager, a Singapore court ruled Friday, the latest scandal for the Swiss bank whose yearslong problems forced its takeover by a rival.

Ivanishvili in 2004 put more than USD 1.1 billion into a trust overseen by the bank's Singapore subsidiary, Credit Suisse Trust Limited, and the employee managing the trust "misappropriated many millions of dollars" over nine

years before being caught and sent to prison, the Singapore International Commercial Court said. Bidzina, who amassed a fortune in Russia as a businessman before serving as Georgia's prime minister from 2012 to 2013, sued the Swiss bank for about USD 1.2 billion, saying it failed to properly administer the trust and keep its assets safe.

"The judgment published today is wrong and poses very significant legal issues," Credit Suisse said in a written statement.

"Credit Suisse Trust Limited intends to vigorously pursue an appeal."

Strong quake shakes Tokyo, eastern Japan

Tokyo (AP): A strong earthquake shook Tokyo and other areas of eastern Japan on Friday, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The magnitude 6.1 quake was centred off the east coast of Chiba Peninsula at a depth of 44.5 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. Strong shaking was reported in Chiba and Ibaraki prefectures, but the USGS said there was little chance of serious damage or fatalities. Kyodo News service said no problems were reported at the Tokai No. 2 nuclear power plant in Ibaraki.

Recession may be necessary to get inflation down: UK Treasury chief

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Treasury chief said he would be prepared to see the UK economy slip back into recession if further interest rate hikes are necessary to bring down inflation.

With the Bank of England expected to keep raising rates following higher-than-anticipated inflation figures this week, Jeremy Hunt said it was necessary to prioritise measures to slow the pace of price increases.

In an interview with Sky News that aired on Friday, Hunt said the "only path to sustainable growth" is to bring inflation

under control. Asked if he was comfortable with further rate hikes even if it could precipitate a recession, Hunt said, "Yes, because in the end, inflation is a source of instability. ... It is not a trade-off between tackling inflation and recession."

Like other central banks, the Bank of England has been raising interest rates aggressively over the past 18 months or so to a 15-year high of 4.5 per cent after inflation spiked sharply, first because of bottlenecks caused by the coronavirus pandemic and then Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused energy and food prices to surge.

Higher borrowing costs are aimed at making it more expensive for individuals and businesses to borrow, which dampens demand in the economy.

"If we want to have prosperity, to grow the economy, to reduce the risk of recession, we have to support the Bank of England in the difficult decisions that they take," Hunt said.

There had been hope that the bank, whose primary task is to keep inflation at around 2 per cent, may pause rate hikes but the inflation figures this week raised alarm bells that it will have to go on tightening monetary policy.

Passenger opens emergency exit door of S Korean flight

Seoul (AP): A passenger opened an emergency exit door during a South Korean flight Friday, causing air to gust inside the cabin before the plane landed safely, airline and government officials said. Some people aboard the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321 aircraft tried to stop the person from opening the door but it was eventually opened partially, the Transport Ministry said.

The plane with 194 people was heading to the southeastern city of Daegu from the southern island of Jeju. The flight is normally about an hour, and details of the incident, including how long the

door was open, were under investigation, according to Asiana Airlines.


Video footage apparently taken by a person on board that was posted on social media show some passengers' hair being whipped by the air blowing into the cabin through the open door.

Police detained the unidentified person who opened the door, the airline said. Their motive wasn't immediately known.

The passengers included teenage athletes who plan to attend track and field competitions in Ulsan, another southeastern city.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that M/s SGC Logistic Solutions Ltd. having CIN no. U00231DL2006PLC155555 and registered office at E-5 PART 1 SOUTH EXTENSION NEW DELHI - 110048 is claiming to be the absolute owner & in possession of Residential Plot No. 387-P area measuring 286 sq. mtrs., (342.056 sq. yds.), situated in Sector-39, Urban Estate, Gurugram, vide a Sale Deed No. 23837/09-03-2023, (SRO-Wazirabad), and is mortgaging the same to Hero FinCorp Ltd., and therefore inviting any or all objection/s on its title or creation of mortgage or on any knowledge of dispute, litigations, notices etc. in respect of the above said Property with documentary evidence to Adv. Vikram Saw, Viksha Legal, mobile No. 9899538462, 4E/3, 2nd Floor, Handewalan, Ext-110055 or at email - vikshalegal@gmail.com, within 7 days from publication of this notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Krishan Lal Nagpal, was the owner of the movable (i.e., Built up Property Bearing No. E-4-A, area measuring 140 Sq. Yds. out of Total area 280 Sq. Yds.), and immovable properties, by virtue of Will dated 11.08.1987, regd. at doc. No. 9103, who along with his Father Mr. Kanhya Lal Nagpal died on 08.05.2016 & 10.08.1991 respectively. The aforesaid property is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., Axis Finance Limited and the only surviving heirs of Late Mr. Krishan Lal Nagpal are Mr. Munish Kumar Nagpal & Mrs. Seema Bajori, and Mrs. Sushila Nagpal. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Thwari, Advocate
Ch. 530, Patila House Courts
New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-8076198328

**ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ**
ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈਂਪਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਥਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਬਲਾਕ ਦੀ ਕੈਟੀਨ ਦੀ ਅਲਟਮੈਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਤੀ 05-06-2023 ਤੱਕ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ।
ਅਲਟਮੈਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਦੇਵਰਾ, Term & Conditions ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਇਟ
www.gndu.ac.in→ (Tenders) ਤੋਂ download ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਸਾਖਾ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ।
ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ

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 15.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,37,738/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLDPR00490720, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 17.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 18.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AJIT KUMAR, GULAB KUMAR and MUNNI DEVI.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
PLOT NO. 173, BLOCK K-3, FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, KHASRA NO. 44/17, VILLAGE HASTSAL, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI- 110059.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 24.05.2023
Place : NEW DELHI
Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

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 30.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 31,94,928/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLNOI00488283 (Earlier LAN Code 0000994) of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 15.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 16.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from JAVED ALI and ABIDA.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 33,22,000/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Two Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,32,200/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT TERRACE RIGHTS, MEASURING 90 SQ. YDS., OF THE PROPERTY BEARING NO. 94/2, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 600/92, SITUATED AT GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI, DELHI- 110019.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 24.05.2023
Place : DELHI
Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

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 30.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 43,95,331/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00294018, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 17.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AJAY VEER SINGH, GAURAV KUMAR and SARVISTA.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 48,80,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Eighty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 4,88,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BEARING HOUSE NO. S.M-47, (THREE STOREYED HOUSE HAVING TOTAL COVERED AREA 165.80 SQ. MTRS.) BUILT ON THE LAND ADMEASURING TOTAL AREA 77.90 SQUARE METERS, SITUATED IN BLOCK-M, SHASTRI NAGAR, GHAZIABAD-201010, UTTAR PRADESH.BOUNDED AS UNDER:
EAST : BHAWAN NO. 46 WEST: BHAWAN NO. 48
NORTH : BOUNDARY OF RAJAPUR SOUTH : 30 FT. WIDE ROAD
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 24.05.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD
Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

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 30.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 43,95,331/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00351329, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 22.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 23.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from KUMAR KULDEEP @ KULDEEP KUMAR and POONAM.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,88,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,48,800/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF-2, ON THE FIRST FLOOR, (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT) FRONT LEFT HAND SIDE, HAVING TOTAL COVERED AREA MEASURING 550 SQ. FT. EQUIVALENT TO 51.09 SQ. MTRS SITUATED/BUILT ON PLOT NO. B-11/4, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, VILLAGE SADULLABAD GHAZIABAD-201014, UTTAR PRADESH, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:
ON THE EAST BY : PLOT NO. B-11/5
ON THE WEST BY : FLAT NO. FF-1.(MIG)
ON THE NORTH BY : ROAD 12 MTR. WIDE
ON THE SOUTH BY : FLAT NO. FF-5.(LIG)
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 24.05.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD
Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (Formerly "Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited" & "Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited") (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)					
Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2023					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-23	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-23	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	-	13.95	5.01	185.90	22.50
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(70.48)	(7.89)	(39.10)	84.69	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(70.48)	(7.89)	(39.10)	84.69	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(70.83)	(7.41)	(53.11)	94.85	(145.77)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(90.85)	(12.53)	(133.01)	58.58	(154.88)
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet				(242.79)	(313.85)
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items					
-Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(7.06)	(0.74)	(5.29)	9.44	(14.51)
-Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(7.06)	(0.74)	(5.29)	9.44	(14.51)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items					
-Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(7.06)	(0.74)	(5.29)	9.44	(14.51)
-Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(7.06)	(0.74)	(5.29)	9.44	(14.51)

Notes:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26 May 2023.
2) **Key Standalone Financial Information:**

Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-23	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-23	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	32.48	23.30	4.50	529.69	20.79
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(39.41)	(11.75)	(43.60)	412.77	(170.15)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(39.66)	(11.28)	(43.60)	412.99	(170.15)

3) Figures for the quarters ended 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the respective financial year.
4) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.yaari.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016
Place : Gurugram
Date : 26 May 2023
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Kubair Khera
Executive Director & CEO

Indiabulls Enterprises Limited (CIN: U71290HR2019PLC077579)					
Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2023					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-23	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-23	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Refer note-3	Audited	Audited
Total Income from operations	17.95	18.88	27.93	87.97	117.18
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Share of Profit / (Loss), Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2.18)	5.20	(11.75)	14.75	(8.11)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Share of Profit / (Loss) (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(11.24)	5.20	(11.75)	5.69	(8.11)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(11.65)	1.41	(33.00)	4.59	(102.69)
Equity share capital	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet				231.41	226.83
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from continuing operations					
-Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	0.23	(0.62)	0.11	(0.58)
-Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	0.23	(0.62)	0.11	(0.58)
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from discontinued operations					
-Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.05)	(0.15)	(1.06)	0.09	(4.62)
-Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.05)	(0.15)	(1.06)	0.09	(4.62)

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26 May 2023.
2. **Key Standalone Financial Information:**

Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-23	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-23	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Refer note-3	Unaudited	Refer note-3	Audited	Audited
Total Income	14.54	14.02	32.29	84.71	125.52
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(382.15)	(0.11)	(9.37)	(368.56)	2.85
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(381.24)	(3.94)	(14.02)	(383.46)	(15.04)

3. Figures for the quarters ended 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the respective financial year.
4. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly / annual financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.indiabullsentprises.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016
Place : Gurugram
Date : 26 May 2023
For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Vijay Kumar Agarwal
Executive Director

DJOKOVIC EYES HISTORY AT FRENCH OPEN



AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic will bid for a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title at a French Open without his old rival Rafael Nadal for the first time since 2004, while Iga Swiatek attempts to become the first woman to defend the title in 16 years.

Serbian veteran Djokovic will not be the favourite for the title, though, after struggling with an elbow injury and failing to get past the quarter-finals in any of his three clay-court events

so far this season.

Carlos Alcaraz won the Barcelona and Madrid Opens en route to taking over from Djokovic as world number one, while Daniil Medvedev is seeded second for Roland Garros after his maiden clay triumph in Rome.

But Djokovic will know this is a massive opportunity to break out of his tie with 14-time French Open winner Nadal at the top of the all-time list of most men's Slam singles titles.

The two-time champion has lost eight of his 10 French Open meetings with Nadal who

is missing this year's edition due to a hip injury he suffered at the Australian Open.

"I know I can always play better," Djokovic said after losing to Holger Rune in the Italian Open last eight.

"Definitely am looking forward to working on various aspects of my game, of my body, hopefully getting myself in 100 percent shape. That's the goal."

Djokovic and Alcaraz are seeded to meet in the semi-finals after being placed in the same half of the draw.

The 36-year-old may also

have to get past Monte Carlo Masters champion Andrey Rublev in the quarters.

The other side of the draw appears wide open, with in-form Medvedev the highest seed despite never having previously got past the quarter-finals on the Paris clay. The Russian lost in the first round on each of his first four visits before making the quarters in 2021.

"I would never (have) thought I would be able to make this (win a clay-court title)," Medvedev said after beating Rune in the Rome final.

"But I have to be honest — a Grand Slam is always bigger."

In-form youngster Rune, who made a surprise run to last year's quarter-finals, could face Casper Ruud in the last eight in a rematch of a bad-tempered meeting 12 months ago.

Ruud went on to be thrashed in the final by Nadal and also lost the US Open showpiece match to Alcaraz.

But the Norwegian world number four has struggled for form this year, only reaching the quarters in two of the 10 tournaments he has played.

Sabalenka faces no Ukraine handshake at French Open

AP ■ PARIS

Aryna Sabalenka on Friday said that "it's OK if she hates me" as the Belarusian star braced to face Ukraine rival Marta Kostyuk in a highly-charged French Open showdown.

World number two Sabalenka knows that Kostyuk, an outspoken critic of tennis authorities over their handling of players from Russia and their Belarusian allies in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine, will refuse to shake hands after their first round match at Roland Garros.

"If she hates me, OK. I can't do anything about that," said 25-year-old Sabalenka.

"There are going to be people who love me; there are going to be people who hate me. If she hates me, I don't feel anything like that to her."



Kostyuk refused to shake hands with Belarus's two-time Grand Slam title winner and former world number one Victoria Azarenka at last year's US Open in New York.

They agreed to touch racquets instead at the net at the end of the match.

"If I could I would stop the

way," said Australian Open champion Sabalenka.

"And about the no shaking. I can kind of understand them. Like I imagine if they're going to shake hands with Russians and Belarusians, then they're gonna get so many messages from their home countries."

"So I kind of understand why they are not doing it. At the same time, I feel like sports shouldn't be in politics. Like we're just athletes. If they feel good with no shaking hands, I'm happy with that."

Sabalenka defeated Kostyuk in Dubai in February 2022, just one week before Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

Last week in Rome, Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina refused to shake hands with Veronika Kudermetova after beating the Russian in the semi-final.

Man Utd thrash Chelsea to secure Champions League return

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag said Manchester United are back where they belong after a 4-1 thrashing of Chelsea on Thursday secured a return to the Champions League next season.

Casemiro, Anthony Martial, Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford were on target as the Red Devils moved up to third in the Premier League.

A miserable night summed up Chelsea's season despite spending over £500 million (\$620 million) in the transfer market as they slumped to an eighth defeat in 10 games since Frank Lampard returned as interim manager.

By contrast, confirmation of a top-four finish rounds off a successful first season in charge for Ten Hag after also ending United's six-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup in February.

More silverware could be to come next month should United halt Manchester City's charge towards the treble in the FA Cup final.

But a return to Europe's elite competition next season was one of Ten Hag's primary aims when he took the reigns after a disastrous 2021/22 campaign when United finished sixth.

"I think (it is) a successful season but the season is not finished," said Ten Hag.

"This club belongs in the Champions League, but this league is very strong, with many clubs competing for this position."

"It is the main objective of the sea-

son to get into the Champions League. The competition is tough, many teams with really good squads, good managers, so you are doing a good job (to qualify). For this moment it is the maximum but we want more (next season)."

Casemiro's arrival from Real Madrid has been fundamental to United's revival.

The 31-year-old's class and experience shone through against a youthful Chelsea side that were punished for a lack of efficiency in both boxes.

"It was another reality day today when you look at the emphatic nature at the top end of the pitch of United compared to us," said Lampard. "Results for

Chelsea this season are not good enough."

Mykhailo Mudryk should have netted his first Chelsea goal when the Ukrainian sliced wide a glorious chance on five minutes. Just 60 seconds later, the visitors trailed as Casemiro was afforded a free header to turn home Christian Eriksen's free-kick.

A positive night for United was blighted by an injury to winger Antony, who was forced off on a stretcher with an ankle injury that will make him a major doubt for the FA Cup final in 10 days' time.

But the home side ended the game as a contest in first-half stoppage time when Casemiro's no-look pass opened up the Chelsea defence for Jadon Sancho to square for Martial.

Ten Hag's men should have had more goals to round off a fine night in the second period as Fernandes smashed against the bar and Eriksen somehow failed to turn in Tyrell Malacia's cross from point-blank range.

Fernandes did finally get his goal from the penalty spot after the Portuguese midfielder was brought down by Wesley Fofana.

More calamitous Chelsea defending invited Rashford to become the first United player in a decade to score 30 goals in a season.

Fernandes pounced on Fofana's loose pass and teed up the England international, who needed two attempts to beat Kepa Arrizabalaga.



Real still without Vinicius for Sevilla trip: Ancelotti

AP ■ MADRID

Vinicius Junior subjected to racial abuse last weekend will miss a second successive match due to a knee problem Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Friday.

The 22-year-old Brazilian winger has received worldwide support since being racially abused by Valencia fans last Sunday.

Vinicius did not play against Rayo Vallecano in Madrid's midweek win because of some knee discomfort, but was present as his team-mates showed him their support by wearing his number 20 shirt before the game.

He has failed to shake off the problem for Saturday's away match with Europa League finalists Sevilla.

"Vinicius will not travel because he will not play, he'd go if he had the chance of playing (but) his knee is still giving him problems," Ancelotti told a news conference on Friday.

"It doesn't matter if it's home or away, he can't play. I



hope that he can play in the last game."

Ancelotti said Madrid were also without Karim Benzema and Marco Asensio with other injury issues.

Los Blancos are second in

the table, a point ahead of city rivals Atletico.

Sevilla, 10th, still have a chance of qualifying for next season's UEFA Conference League, sitting just a point behind Osasuna in seventh.

Klopp optimistic for future despite Liverpool's disappointing season

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says he has "lots of reasons" for optimism despite the crushing disappointment of missing out on Champions League qualification.

Klopp, whose team are guaranteed to finish fifth, told his pre-match press conference on Friday he had expected United and Newcastle to get the points they needed this week after Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Aston Villa. It means Liverpool, who narrowly missed out on a historic quadruple last year, have failed to qualify for the competition after featuring for six straight seasons.

"For a long time it was clear this will not be a historically good season," said Klopp.

"I think I said everything about it, that we are absolutely not happy with it, that we made mistakes, that we couldn't deliver, ultimately we weren't consistent enough." But he said Liverpool's late-season form, including a seven-match winning run in the league, had been impressive.

"If we could have done that over the whole season we would be in a different place," said the German.



"Of course there are reasons for optimistic views because of the things we showed in the last few weeks. That's definitely the case." We have other reasons for an optimistic view because of the

‘Nervous’ Klopp hopes for ‘massive’ Dortmund title win

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp admitted on Friday to being "a bit nervous" ahead of his former side Borussia Dortmund's title-deciding match on Saturday. Currently two points clear of second-placed Bayern Munich at the top of the Bundesliga, Dortmund will lift the title if they win at home against Mainz.

Dortmund have not won the title since 2011-12, when Klopp was in the Westfalen Stadium dugout. Asked if he was following the title race in Germany, Klopp told reporters in Liverpool "yes, I'm not dead, I'm alive." "I'm a bit nervous to be honest" the 55-year-old German admitted, saying there

were "ups and downs, (but) it looks like they can do it."

Dortmund can still lift the title without a victory on Saturday, provided they equal or better Bayern's result away at Cologne, with all games kicking off at the same time.

Bayern have won the last ten German titles since Klopp took Dortmund to the championship and the manager said he hoped for change at the top.

"I can imagine Bayern see it differently but it's not fun if the same team always becomes the champion and we all know Bayern will strike back next year anyway."

"Nobody thinks they have done it already. It's a big one and I just hope they will get through it. It will be massive."

Sindhu, Prannoy in Malaysia Masters semis, Srikanth out



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy advanced to the women's and men's singles semifinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament with hard-fought wins over their respective opponents here on Friday. While double Olympic medalist Sindhu, seeded sixth in the tournament, beat lower ranked Yi Man Zhang of China 21-16, 13-21, 22-20, Prannoy

earned a 25-23, 18-21, 21-13 win over Kenta Nishimoto of Japan in the quarterfinals.

Sindhu faces seventh seed and world number nine Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the semifinals on Saturday. Tunjung upset second seed Yi Zhi Wang of China in the quarterfinals 21-18, 22-20.

Tunjung has been in fine form recently and Sindhu had lost to her in the Madrid Spain Masters final in straight games

BAI to conduct trials for Asia Junior C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) will conduct a selection trial at the Karnail Singh Stadium here from June 4 to 7 to pick the team for the Asian Junior Championships.

The Asian Junior championships is scheduled to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from July 7 to 16.

The players will be selected on the basis of their performances in the selection trials.

The trials will include top-8 boys and girls singles shuttlers

as well as top-4 pairs from doubles events from the All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament held in Guwahati earlier this month, along with top-4 singles players and top-2 doubles pairs in the BAI rankings. Anwesha Gowda (4th), Anupama Upadhyaya (8th), Unnati Hooda (14th) and five other players, who are ranked inside top-20 in BWF rankings, will also take part in the trials.

India have so far won nine medals, including two gold, one silver and six bronze in the continental championships.

semifinals of Saturday.

Prannoy has never played against the 21-year-old Adinata, who began playing at the senior level just last year.

In another men's singles quarterfinal, Srikanth lost 21-16, 16-21, 11-21 to Adinata in 57 minutes to bow out of the tournament.

GILL'S 129 TAKES GT TO 233-3 VS MI

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Sensational Shubman Gill's 129 off 60 balls — his third hundred plus knock of the season — propelled Gujarat Titans to a daunting 233/3 against Mumbai Indians here in Qualifier 2 of the IPL here on Friday.

Gill began sturdily and turned brutal in the second half of the innings to smash an overall seven fours and 10 sixes in his breathtaking knock. In the process, Gill added 138 runs for the second wicket with B Sai Sudharsan, who happily played second fiddle with a 31-ball 43 before he was retired out.

Gill's whirlwind knock made him only the second Indian batter after Virat Kohli (2016) and overall fourth in the history, after Jos Buttler (2022) and David Warner (2016), to score more than 800 runs in an IPL season.

Gill hit three sixes off MI's hero of the last game, Akash Madhwal (1/53), in the 12th over to cross the 800-run mark, continuing his form to single-handedly lead Gujarat Titans' charge.

He brought up his fifty off 32 balls with two sixes and three fours and unleashed a flurry of sixes against seamers and spinners alike here at the nearly-packed Narendra Modi Stadium here.

Gill also surpassed Yashasvi Jaiswal's 62-ball 124 to record the highest individual score this season, with



GILL'S WHIRLWIND KNOCK MADE HIM ONLY THE SECOND INDIAN BATTER AFTER VIRAT KOHLI (2016) AND OVERALL FOURTH IN THE HISTORY, AFTER JOS BUTTLER (2022) AND DAVID WARNER (2016), TO SCORE MORE THAN 800 RUNS IN AN IPL SEASON

Mumbai Indians being on the receiving end on both the occasions.

In the process, the 23-year-old also surpassed RCB's Faf du Plessis (730 runs) to claim the Orange Cap.

Additionally, Gill's 129 bettered Virender Sehwag's 122 against Chennai Super Kings in the 2014 season as the highest score for a batter in the IPL playoffs.

After a 30-minute delay to the start due to rain, GT had made a sedate start.

A vital moment had come at the end of the sixth over when Tim David at mid-on dropped a catch to provide Gill with a lifeline, with GT finishing the powerplay at 50/0.

The first breakthrough for MI came in the seventh over when Piyush Chawla had Wriddhiman Saha (18) stumped on a delivery down the leg.

Gill certainly had luck on his side as twice in as many balls he managed to survive, off Kumar Kartikeya.

After Ishan Kishan could not run-out the batter who had gone down the track and had an inside edge deflecting the ball into his pads, Gill hit the next delivery in the air only to find the ball dropping very close to the fielder at deep mid-wicket.

At the halfway mark, GT reached 91 for one with Gill bringing up his fifth half-century. But courtesy Gill's onslaught, the defending champions managed 142 runs in the second half.

Divine to perform at IPL 2023 finale

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rapper Divine will be performing at the finale of the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) on May 28.

Divine, whose real name is Vivian Fernandes, will perform at the first-ever mid-innings/half-time show during the finale, to be held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, a press release stated.

The rapper will be joined by long-time collaborator and Canadian play-back singer Jonita Gandhi for a special collaborative showcase of their track "Naya Sher", which features Indian cricketer Virat Kohli.

"I am proud to be representing the hip hop movement at the country's largest stadium and bringing together the parallel worlds of cricket and music. I'm looking forward to performing for all my fans all around the world, including all the sports aficionados of the country at the most prominent sporting league of the country."

"This is my very first performance at the IPL and I'm excited and grateful. From being a big fan of cricket, to playing at the stadium for the finals, is truly a dream come true," Divine said in a statement.



Dhoni takes someone else's trash and makes it treasure: Hayden

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a "magician" who can turn someone else's "trash into treasure" says the great Matthew Hayden, who also reckons that the former India captain's unmatched contribution to the CSK success story makes his playing future with the franchise "almost irrelevant".

Dhoni's tactical genius has played a big part in CSK reaching their 10th IPL final. He did not have the best of bowling attacks at his disposal at the start of the tournament but he has been able to bring the best out of it. How he has used Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube in the batting department has also been praised widely.

Dhoni, who has played with a knee injury throughout the tournament, has given himself 8-9 months to decide on his playing future. Hayden, however, feels the World Cup winning captain will not be around for the next IPL.

"MS is a magician. He takes someone else's trash and makes them treasure. He is a very skilful and positive captain. He said something really interesting which I thought summed up not only his humility and his truth around cricket where he is represented and that is in Tamil Nadu Cricket Association," Hayden said.

resented and that is in Tamil Nadu Cricket Association," Hayden said.

"The alignment between that association and the franchise, how strong that is in terms of building that process. To me that is MS. There is a systematic way of going through things and working through them. He did that for India and he is doing it for Chennai Super kings. "Whether he plays or not next year it is almost irrelevant. Personally I don't think he will but then he is M S Dhoni," he said at an event organised by University of Technology Sydney (UTS). With the rapid rise of T20 cricket around the world, it has become increasingly difficult for the players to play all three formats.

Hayden thinks not only that makes it impossible for players to commit to all formats, it also questions the future of the game, especially the 50-over version. "The time of three-format players is shortly coming to an end. I would challenge the game around whether those formats are even viable anymore."

"It seems to me there is great enthusiasm still to play Test cricket and World Test Championship is a good example of that. Otherwise I see lot of T20 cricket being played."

BCCI could rest all seniors for Afghanistan series

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Contrary to reports in some quarters that BCCI is planning to cancel the proposed home series against Afghanistan due to cramped calendar, there is possibility that a second string team might play with all seniors including ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma along with senior player Virat Kohli rested before West Indies tour.

All Indian players were involved in a gruelling IPL for nearly two months and will be in England for a one-off WTC final but after that, most seniors like Kohli and Rohit will need rest before they embark on West Indies tour where all three formats will be played. Kohli and Rohit are certain two play Tests and ODIs and would need adequate rest.

With only window for Afghanistan series between June 20-30, the BCCI might have

shorten the series or may be only convert it into either T20I or ODI series and play the a second string side led by Hardik Pandya.

Mirwais Ashraf, the president of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) is in India for the final of the IPL and while a meeting between the members of the Asian Cricket Council is slated to take place, India and Afghanistan cricket boards could also finalise the details of their proposed white-ball series.

The Indian team has a packed schedule lined up after the conclusion of the IPL. While the coaching staff and some members of the team have already flown to England to prepare for the final of the World Test Championship against Australia starting on June 7, there is also a full tour of the Caribbean lined up ahead.

India will play two Tests, three ODIs and five T20Is against the West Indies from July



12 to August 13, after which the team is expected to play a three-match T20I series in Ireland. The Ireland series will mostly feature IPL performers and even Pandya could rest from that series keeping Asia Cup in mind.

The ACC board members will meet on the sidelines of the IPL final to finalise the future of the Asia Cup 2023, which means that the workload will only increase for the Indian players, given that there is an all-important 50-over World Cup lined up for October-November.

If finalised, the Asia Cup 2023 is expected to be played in September, which means that the Indian players will be hard pressed to find time to rest and recuperate, and a packed calendar has already witnessed big injuries to key players such as Jasprit Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer with no set timeline of comeback.

Additionally, in September, India are also set to play a three-match ODI series against Australia — a second such series this year — to finalise World Cup preparations.

According to 'Cricbuzz', the BCCI is finding it difficult to schedule the Afghanistan series, proposed to be having three ODIs, given the time constraint and also because the broadcast deal with Disney Star has ended and a new tender is yet to be issued.

However, a senior BCCI secretary Jay Shah during an earlier interaction with media in Mumbai had said "BCCI media rights tender will be on schedule this year (June-July) and will depend on the Afghanistan tour, but more likely the process will start from the Australia series. The Board will speak to all stakeholders concerned and will come up with an interim decision."

WTC winners to get \$1.6 mn prize money

PTI ■ DUBAI

The winners of next month's World Test Championship Final between India and Australia at The Oval will take home USD 1.6 million in prize money, while runners-up will get richer by USD 800,000, the ICC announced here on Friday.

The championship decider will be played at The Oval, London from June 7-11 with June 12 as the reserve day.

The tournament prize money is the same as that for the inaugural World Test Championship Final in 2019-21 — a total purse of USD 3.8 million besides the WTC Mace. The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand side were rewarded with USD 1.6 million besides the glittering Mace in Southampton two years ago, courtesy an eight-wicket win over India in the six-day final.

All nine teams will get a share in the USD 3.8 million purse with South Africa earning USD 450,000 for finishing third in the WTC 2021-23 standings.

England, who made a late surge and finished their campaign in fourth spot, will bag



USD 350,000. Sri Lanka, who were among the top teams in the race for a spot in the decider during the epic finale, finished fifth to earn USD 200,000.

The remaining teams New Zealand (No.6), Pakistan (No.7), West Indies (No.8), and Bangladesh (No.9) will be rewarded with a sum of USD 100,000 each.



Oz include Peirson as cover for Inglis

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia have selected wicketkeeper Jimmy Peirson as cover for back-up gloveman Josh Inglis, who will return home after the opening Ashes Test for the birth of his first child.

Alex Carey is Australia's first-choice keeper for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against India and the five Ashes Tests and Inglis has been selected as his back-up.

But Inglis will return to Perth after the first Ashes Test starting on June 16 and his place will be taken up before the second Test at Lord's by 30-year-old Queensland gloveman Peirson, who has 65 first-class games to his credit, according to cricket.Com.Au on Friday.

The Australian team management has said Inglis will rejoin the squad later in the series.

Peirson, who has been impressive at the domestic and Australia 'A' level with both the bat and gloves, trained with the Test squad in Brisbane last week and would be fancying his chances of wearing the iconic Baggy Green during the Ashes.

The right-handed lower-order batter has improved his

batting drastically over the years, going from an average of less than 30 in his first 35 first-class games to 42.56, including six tons in 30 games since the 2020-21 season.

He also struck an unbeaten 128 for Australia 'A' during their tour of Sri Lanka last year.

Peirson's appearance in the Australian Test squad has partly been delayed because Tim Paine was the first-choice keeper for a long time and then Carey replaced the former captain, who stepped down due to a controversy ahead of the 2021 Ashes series at home.

Peirson said he was driven by the desire to set higher standards for himself.

"These guys (Carey and Inglis among others) are setting their benchmark, and I want to set my benchmark higher, and maybe bring a few other attributes into that as well, through leadership or whatever else," said Peirson. "It's great to have that competition. That's what drives you to be the best you can be. If someone's pipping you, you want to be better than them. That's certainly one of my great driving factors: I want to be the best, I want to be the next man in."

Roy ends England deal to play T20 cricket in USA

AP ■ LONDON

Batting star Jason Roy is ending his England contract to play in the first season of Major League Cricket in the United States.

The aggressive opener, who has just returned from a stint with Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, reportedly has an offer from their affiliated MLC franchise, the Los Angeles Knight Riders.

It is understood the 32-year-old has been offered about £300,000 (\$370,000) for the first two seasons of the new American Twenty20 competition, which launches in July.

Roy was dropped from England's central contract list last

year, downgraded to an incremental deal worth between £60,000 and £70,000.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Thursday that it had agreed for Roy to play in the US "on the proviso that he gives up the remainder of his ECB incremental contract, which both parties have agreed to."

"The ECB wish to clarify that this decision will not affect Jason's selection for England teams going forward," it added. "We have absolute confidence and faith that Jason is committed to England cricket."

The aggressive opener did not feature in England's T20 World Cup triumph in October and November, but has held on to his place in the 50-over side and will

