

OPINION 6
TRAIN IAS OFFICERS FOR
SELFLESS-SERVICE

WORLD 8
UK'S COMMUNITIES AMBIVALENT
ABOUT KING'S CORONATION

MONEY 10
RELIANCE-BP TO E-AUCTION
MORE GAS FROM KG-D6

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MAY 2, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**YASHASVI HAS
LONG WAY TO
GO**
11 SPORT

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 120
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CAPSULE

**MATHURA TEMPLE-MASJID:
COURT TO HEAR IT AFRESH**

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Monday remanded back to a trial court in Mathura the Katra Keshav Dev Temple-Shahi Masjid Idgah land dispute, while disposing the petitions of the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Shahi Masjid Idgah management committee which had moved the HC for the adjudication of the matter. **P2**

**CONVICTED BSP MP ANSARI
DISQUALIFIED FROM LS**

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Monday disqualified BSP's Afzal Ansari after he was sentenced to four-year imprisonment in a kidnapping-and-murder case by a court in Uttar Pradesh. Ansari, the Lok Sabha member from Ghazipur, was sentenced to four years in jail by an MP/MLA court on Saturday. **P4**

**TUGHLAKABAD DEMOLITION
DRIVE: SC WON'T STOP IT**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay a demolition drive to remove encroachment from the Tughlakabad area in S Delhi. **P3**

**ANAND MOHAN'S RELEASE:
SC HEARING ON MAY 8**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on May 8 a plea challenging the Bihar Government's decision to prematurely release former MP Anand Mohan who was serving life term in the 1994 murder case of then Gopalganj district magistrate G Krishnaiah. **P4**

**JAMIA SCUFFLE: 3
STUDENTS EXPELLED**

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia has taken "strict actions" against 15 students, including expulsion of three, for their involvement in last September's scuffle between two groups that had resulted in a student sustaining bullet injuries. **P3**

SC: Can grant divorce at once if all bridges burned

In case of 'irretrievable breakdown', SC can dissolve marriage sans 6-month waiting time, but contesting parties can't move apex court directly, rules SC



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court held on Monday that it has the discretion to dissolve a marriage on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown" in exercise of its plenary power under Article 142(1) of the Constitution, and it can grant divorce by mutual consent while dispensing with the 6-month waiting period mandated under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The apex court also said that contesting parties cannot directly approach it and seek dissolution of marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown by filing a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. Article 32 gives Indian citizens the right to seek constitutional remedy from the Supreme Court if they have been deprived of their fundamental rights.

Article 142 of the Constitution deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court to do "complete justice" in any matter pending before it. As per

Article 142(1), a decree passed or an order made by the apex court is executable throughout the territory of India.

Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act deals with divorce by mutual consent and sub-section (2) to this provision provides, after the first motion has been passed, the parties would have to move the court with the second motion, if the petition is not withdrawn in the meanwhile, after six months and not later than 18 months of the first motion.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said Article 142(1) of the Constitution, which gives "wide and capacious power" to the apex court to do complete justice should be exercised in a legitimate manner and with caution, as its verdict ends the litigation between parties.

The bench said grant of divorce by the apex court on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not a matter of right, but a discretion which is to be exercised with great care and caution, keeping in mind several factors ensuring that 'complete justice'

is done to both parties.

The bench was dealing with questions, including whether the top court can grant divorce in exercise of power under Article 142(1) when there is complete and irretrievable breakdown of marriage in spite of the other spouse opposing the prayer.

"This question is also answered in the affirmative, inter alia, holding that this court, in exercise of power under Article 142(1) of the Constitution of India, has the discretion to dissolve the marriage on the ground of its irretrievable breakdown," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, AS Oka, Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari.

"This discretionary power is to be exercised to do 'complete justice' to the parties, wherein this court is satisfied that the facts established show that the marriage has completely failed and there is no possibility that the parties will cohabit together, and continuation of the formal legal relationship is unjustified," it said.

The bench said as a court

Verdict will give women chance to move on in life: NCW chief

New Delhi: Activists, lawyers and women rights bodies on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court decision to do away with the six-month waiting period for divorce through mutual consent under some conditions, saying it will give a chance to women to move on and plan their future.

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said, "I welcome the decision. If done with mutual consent, it will give a chance to women to move ahead in their lives and plan their future." **See P2**

of equity, the SC is required to balance the circumstances and the background in which the party opposing the dissolution is placed.

Commenting on the verdict, senior advocate and Supreme Court Bar Association President Vikas Singh said he is against the judgment and the reason is that perhaps twice the Bills were moved in Parliament to amend the Hindu Marriage Act to include the aspect of 'irretrievable breakdown' of marriage as a ground of divorce and Parliament rejected it twice.

Continued on Page 2

GST mop-up record ₹1.87 lakh cr in April

Great news for Indian eco: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Reaching the highest monthly GST collection since the rollout of the indirect tax regime in July 2017, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in April grew by 12 per cent annually to over ₹1.87 lakh crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the record GST collection, in a tweet: "Great news for the Indian economy! Rising tax collection despite lower tax rates shows the success of how GST has increased integration and compliance."

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April



2023 is ₹1,87,035 crore of which CGST is ₹38,440 crore, SGST is ₹47,412 crore, ICGST is ₹89,158 crore (including ₹34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹12,025 crore (including ₹901 crore collected on import of goods), the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The previous monthly high GST collection was in April 2022 at about ₹1.68 lakh crore.

The revenues for April 2023 are 12 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

During the month, the rev-

enues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 16 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year, it said.

April 2023 saw the highest-ever tax collection on a single day on April 20. A sum of ₹68,228 crore was paid through 9.8 lakh transactions on that day. The highest single-day payment last year (on the same date) was ₹57,846 crore through 9.6 lakh transactions.

The ministry also said the number of e-way bills generated in March 2023 was 9 crore, which is 11 per cent higher than 8.1 crore e-way bills generated in February 2023.

During April, the government settled ₹45,864 crore to CGST and ₹37,959 crore to SGST from ICGST.

Continued on Page 2

14 apps used by ultras in J&K blocked

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major action against the communication channels of terror groups operating in Jammu & Kashmir, the Centre on Monday banned 14 mobile messaging applications which were being used by jihadi outfits to communicate with their cadres, supporters and over-ground workers.

The Government's move came after the recommendation of the Union Home Ministry that these mobile based communication apps were used by the terror outfits based on substantial evidence collected by the intelligence and security agencies in the Kashmir valley, sources said.

Continued on Page 2

Domestic air traffic all-time high at 4.6L

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The weekend (April 30) turned out to be a 'Super Sunday' of sorts for the Ministry of Civil Aviation as domestic air passenger traffic touched an "all-time high" of 4,56,082 travellers in a single day. This is the highest turnover of domestic air passengers since November 2022. Prior to Covid, the average daily domestic traffic was 3,98,579 passengers.

According to the Aviation Ministry, on Sunday 4,56,082 passengers were ferried on the 2,978 flights. On April 29, as many as 4.50 lakh domestic flyers were ferried on 2,975 flights by scheduled airlines.

In a tweet, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia said that the country's civil aviation sector is setting new records every day. Post Covid, the skyrocketing domestic air passenger number is a sign of the country's rising growth and prosperity, he added.

Earlier, the Ministry of Civil Aviation tweeted, "Indian Domestic Air Travel Hits New High, surpasses pre-Covid Average, on April 30. India's domestic air traffic reaches new heights with an all-time high!"

In March, domestic carriers flew 128.93 lakh passengers, an increase of 21.4 per cent compared to the period a year ago. During January-March, airlines carried 375.04 lakh fliers, according to Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Continued on Page 2

1 dies in hit & drag, another saved by alert PCR in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital witnessed two cases of road rage on Sunday night, both involving SUVs driving with a person hanging on to their bonnets. While one person hanging on to the bonnet of the moving SUV died, the other had a narrow escape because a PCR began following the vehicle forcing the driver to stop.

In the first incident, a 30-year-old cab driver was driven from Ashram Chowk to Nizamuddin while hanging on to the bonnet of a luxury SUV in South-east Delhi's Ashram area after the two vehicles had a minor accident. A purported



video of the incident also surfaced on social media where a man is seen clutching on to the bonnet of a moving SUV.

The victim narrated, "I work as a taxi driver and I was returning after dropping a passenger. When I reached Ashram, a SUV touched my car three times. Then I came out of

my car and stood in front of his vehicle to prevent him from leaving.

However, he started driving and I jumped on to the bonnet to make him stop. But he didn't

stop and I hung on to the bonnet. He went from Ashram Chowk to Nizamuddin with me hanging on the bonnet. I kept asking him to stop, but he did not stop. The person was totally drunk. On the way, a PCR saw us and forced him to stop the car," he said.

Continued on Page 2

BJP manifesto in K'taka pledges UCC, 10L jobs



Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah during a roadshow ahead of Karnataka Assembly elections, at Gubbi in Tumkur district, Monday **PTI**

Free LPG to BPL families, cheap food also on list

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday promised in its manifesto for Karnataka the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), introduction of the National Register of Citizens, 10 lakh jobs in the manufacturing sector and a State Capital Region tag for Bengaluru, besides free cooking gas cylinders thrice a year for BPL families and "Atal" food centres to provide affordable and healthy food.

In a bid to outmatch the Congress which is yet to release its manifesto, the BJP also seeks to launch the "Poshan" scheme through which every BPL household will be provided with half litre "Nandini" milk every day and five kg "Shri Anna" through monthly ration. The Congress, which is trying hard to make a come-

back in the State, has during the course of the campaign had already made a rainbow of promises to voters, including 200 units of free power to all homes, 10 kg of rice to BPL households, ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head in every family and a monthly allowance of ₹3,000 to unemployed graduates in the State.

The BJP said it would provide three free cooking gas cylinders to all BPL families — one each during the months of "Yugadi", "Ganesh Chaturthi" and "Deepavali" and set up an "Atal Aahara Kendra" in every ward of every municipal corporation in the State.

Releasing the manifesto called "Praja Pranalike" (citizens' manifesto) in Bengaluru in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Lingayat stalwart BS Yediyurappa, BJP president JP Nadda said the manifesto was not prepared in an air-conditioned room but after feedback from party workers who had visited every corner of the State and gathered inputs.

Continued on Page 2

Cong at it again: Now, Kharage's son Priyank calls Modi 'nalayak'

PTI ■ KALABURAGI

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's son and party leader Priyank Kharage on Monday dubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "nalayak" drawing the ire of BJP brass while the Congress asserted that such a remark was never made by him.

Priyank, seeking reelection from Chittapur in Kalaburagi district in Karnataka said Prime Minister Modi claiming to be a son of the Banjara community and promising to take care of them was "inept" because he and his party had created confusion about reservations for the SC community.

Continued on Page 2

Cantonments to be phased out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The British Raj era military cantonments all over the country will be history soon with the first such cantonment in Yol, Himachal Pradesh shedding the tag of the "fauji" area. There are a total of 62 cantonments and the next in line to go is Nasirabad in Rajasthan.

Giving details here on Monday, sources said the Government issued the notification for Yol last week adding in a major departure from the archaic colonial practice of creating cantonments, Yol in Himachal Pradesh has shed its tag as a cantonment.

The Military Area within the Cantonment will be converted into a Military Station and the Civil Area will merge with the Municipality.

Contrary to perception, this move will prove beneficial to all alike. Civilians who were, until now, not getting access to state government welfare schemes through the



Municipality, will now be in a position to avail these through the Municipality. As far as the Army is concerned, they too could now focus on the development of the Military station.

This is a first among a series of excisions of cantonments and is a move that has been welcomed by all. Cantonments are deemed Municipalities and running Municipalities is a State subject.

There were 56 Cantonments at the time of Independence and 6 more were notified after 1947, last one being Ajmer in 1962.

Continued on Page 2

Rain cools Delhi-NCR; more relief in store

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

People living in Delhi-NCR woke up to a pleasant Monday morning as many areas received heavy rain that helped to bring the temperature down and provide respite from heat on the first day of May.

Despite the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting rain for the next few days many were caught off-guard and pedestrians and two-wheeler drivers were left scurrying for shelter under trees, flyovers and bus stops.

The rain kept the mercury at a pleasant 26.1 degrees

Celsius, 13 degrees below average for this time of the year. It was the second-coolest day of May in 13 years and also the second day on the trot where the maximum temperature settled at 10 degrees below normal during the summer season, which generally sees the mercury soaring during the month.

Delhi recorded 14.8 mm of rainfall on Monday while the minimum temperature was recorded at 19.6 degrees Celsius, five degrees below normal, the IMD said.

Heavy rainfall was reported from parts of South and Outer Delhi and Noida, while other areas of the national Capital witnessed light rain.

Traffic snarls and waterlogging were also reported in several parts of the national Capital making it difficult for the commuters to reach their destination on time.

The IMD has issued an orange alert for rainfall over a major part of northwest India for the next three days.

Delhi, too, will experience heavy showers for the next three days due to western disturbances. According to the IMD, the western disturbances are currently situated over Haryana along with Pakistan and adjoining areas, which will lead to rainfall in north-west India.

Continued on Page 2



Traffic policewomen in raincoats in New Delhi on Monday **Pioneer photo**

Mathura temple-mosque land dispute: Court to hear afresh

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Monday remanded back to a trial court in Mathura the Katra Keshav Dev Temple-Shahi Masjid Idgah land dispute.

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Shahi Masjid Idgah management committee moved the high court for the adjudication of the matter, saying it had wider implications.

Disposing of the petition, Justice Prakash Padia directed the Mathura district judge to pass an order in the plea challenging the decision of a civil judge after hearing the matter afresh.

On May 19 last year, the district judge had directed the civil judge (senior division) Mathura to decide the case on merit after hearing the parties.

A regular civil suit was filed on September 25, 2020 by some devotees before the court of civil judge (senior division) of Mathura claiming right over a 13.37-acre property adjoining Katra Keshav Dev Temple which according to them is the birthplace of Lord Krishna and for the removal of the structure standing on it. At the time of the presentation of the



The Allahabad High Court on Monday remanded back to a trial court in Mathura the Katra Keshav Dev Temple-Shahi Masjid Idgah land dispute.

suit, the civil judge (senior division) did not register it as a civil suit and registered it as a miscellaneous case on the ground that the plaintiffs are not residents of Mathura.

The high court stated that summons have already been issued by the trial court on May 26 last year for filing the respective written statements and framing of issues and in light of the above, the petitions are disposed of by remanding the matter back to the trial court.

The high court also directed the Mathura trial court to adjudicate the suit after following due procedure as per law without being influenced by any observation or findings of the district judge vide impugned order dated May 19, 2022.

Verdict on instant divorce: Will give women chance to move on in life, say activists, NCW

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Activists, lawyers and women rights bodies on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court decision to do away with the six-month waiting period for divorce through mutual consent under some conditions, saying it will give a chance to women to move on and plan their future.

The apex court held on Monday it has the discretion to dissolve a marriage on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown" in exercise of its plenary power under Article 142 (1) of the Constitution and can grant divorce by mutual consent while dispensing with the 6-month waiting period mandated under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said the decision will help women move ahead in their lives.

"I welcome the decision. If done with mutual consent, it will give a chance to women to



move ahead in their lives and plan their future," she told PTI.

Women rights activist and founder of PARI (People Against Rapes in India) Yogita Bhayana said it is a progressive verdict, but the term 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' should be clearly defined.

"Also, how the alimony would be given should be clearly stated," she told PTI.

Lawyer Prabhshay Kaur said the top court verdict is premised on the principle that no consenting adults should be forced to continue a marriage which has irretrievably broken

down. She said the court has taken a balanced view and clarified that the grant of divorce under such circumstances cannot be done on a regular basis.

"In my view, there are two basic principles on which this judgement is premised -- firstly, it is the duty of the court, and particularly, the Supreme Court to do complete justice to the parties, in which endeavour court should not be bogged down by procedural requirements; secondly, no two consenting adults who have had an irretrievable breakdown of marriage should be forced to be in a formal legal relationship, for that causes more misery and acrimony and is against the interest of both parties," Kaur said.

The lawyer called it a welcome move, but said the court has also cautioned against its use regularly and stated that it should be exercised with care and caution, while listing out factors that should be applied.

Advocate Abhishek Prasad said the judgement has reaffirmed the Supreme Court's powers to do complete justice and rightly outweighed the interests of the parties over procedural requirements.

He said the judgement reinforces the idea that delaying the grant of divorce in marriages that cannot be repaired only leads to prolonging the agony of the parties.

"The judgment reinforces the idea that where a marriage has irretrievably broken down, prolonging its dissolution only prolongs the agony of the parties. While the six months waiting period has been made mandatory with a view to explore the possibility of reconciliation, in cases where there is no possibility of reconciliation, this becomes a mere procedural formality," he added.

Activist Ranjana Kumari said there is no point in wasting time in case of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage".

Vijayan's West Asia visit plan fails to get Centre's permission

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his new son-in-law Mohammed Riyaz who is the minister for PWD and another minister were denied permission by Union Home Ministry to visit UAE and other West Asian countries. The entourage of the chief minister was scheduled to leave Kerala this week end to attend civic receptions planned by the heads of the countries.

This has come as a setback to Vijayan who was seen in a sombre mood last Tuesday at Thiruvananthapuram when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express allocated to the State. Vijayan, in contrast to his aggressive posture, remained content with expressing his gratitude to the Prime Minister for granting the semi-high speed train to the State and other development works. But by Sunday the mood of the Chief Minister took a volte-face and lambasted the Prime Minister and the Union Government for denying the State its due rights. Sources who are privy to the state of affairs in Kerala told The Pioneer



that there was nothing surprising in the Centre's decision to derail Vijayan's dreams.

"The Home Minister had been told that Vijayan and his gang were visiting West Asia as part of Dubai Investment Summit. The chief minister was asked by the Home Ministry about his role in the summit and also asked whether Kerala was make any investments in Dubai. When the State said there was no plan to make any investments, the ministry asked the chief minister and his team to stay put in Kerala," said a senior Kerala official who did not want his name to be quoted.

The official also disclosed that the Centre has noted with concern Vijayan leaving the State last time without informing the Governor. Governor Mohammed Arif Khan had stirred a hornet's nest when he disclosed last time that Vijayan did not inform him about his foreign jaunt.

Indian Navy ships in Singapore to take part in first ASEAN exercise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy ships have arrived in Singapore to take part in the first Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) India Maritime Exercise (AIME) from May 2-8, the Navy said here on Monday.

Giving details here, officials said INS Satpura and INS Delhi with Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet embarked onboard arrived at Singapore on Monday.

The Harbour Phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from 02 to 04 May 2023 and the Sea Phase will be conducted from 07 to 08 May 2023 in the South China Sea. AIME 2023 will provide an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.

BJP manifesto in Karnataka pledges UCC...

From Page 1
The underlining theme of the document, he said was "justice for all, appeasement for none".

The BJP chief said that the party's Government in the State has abolished the "unconstitutional" reservation for Muslims. Just before the polls were announced, the Cabinet decided to do away with the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims and divide it equally between Lingayats and Vokkaligas -- two politically-influential caste groups in Karnataka.

The move has sparked protests from the Opposition, with the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) promising to restore the reservation if they come to power.

The manifesto said, "We will implement the UCC in Karnataka based on the recommendations given by a high-level committee which is to be constituted for the purpose" and "introduce the National Register of Citizens in Karnataka and ensure speedy deportation of all illegal immigrants in the State".

"The Constitution (of India) allows us to move in the direction of Uniform Civil Code. 'Justice to all; appeasement to none' is our policy", Nadda said.

Rain cools Delhi-NCR... 14 apps...

From Page 1

While the showers improved the air quality to the satisfactory category as AQI read 86, they also brought waterlogging and traffic woes for Delhiites who had to wade through knee-deep water to reach their destinations in several areas.

The Delhi Traffic Police said they received 31 calls at their control room regarding traffic issues, along with three calls related to waterlogging. Commuters experienced traffic snarls in Jhandewalan Mandir, Paschim Vihar, Rohini and south Delhi, they said.

The commuters also faced hardship while booking cabs and ride fares also fluctuated. Soumya Singh, who was travelling from Lajpat Nagar to Mandi

House, said six cab drivers cancelled her bookings.

"I was trying to book a cab from Lajpat Nagar to Mandi House, but it took me seven attempts to finally book a cab. In between, the prices were also fluctuating rapidly. During the rainy season, it becomes very difficult to get a cab or an auto-rickshaw through online cab aggregators," Singh said.

Several other commuters also shared updates on the traffic situation on Twitter. "Traffic choked under flyover towards August Kranti Marg from Panchsheel Park, Heavy traffic on Rohtak Road between Peeragarhi and Nangloi," a Twitter user said.

"Trafficjam at Rohini Sector-8 crossing near Rohini East Metro Station," another

commuter tweeted.

Amitesh Kumar, who was travelling from Ramprastha to Green Park said, "Traffic at Anand Vihar is a nightmare for the commuter who passes through the stretch daily as half of the road is being encroached by the auto-rickshaws and buses. The rain on Monday made it more difficult for us to sneak through the road." Another commuter said that the Barapullah flyover was clogged with waterlogging in several places. Traffic was also affected near Civic Centre, on Pusa Road near Hanuman Mandir, near Max Hospital in Saket and Dwarka flyover, others said. Heavy rainfall was reported from Lajpat Nagar, ITO, Lodhi Road, Lutyn's Delhi, the eastern part and Noida.

From Page 1

The banned applications include Crypviser, Enigma, Safeswiss, Wickrme, Mediafire, Briar, BChat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Element, Second Line, Zangi, and Threema.

These apps have been blocked under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the official said, adding that these apps are detrimental to national security and also not in accordance with the prescribed Indian laws.

The sources in the security forces deployed in the Union Territory said that these applications were getting traction and downloaded in the PoK region which alerted the agencies, leading to surveillance being mounted on these apps.

NORTHERN RAILWAY 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	08(A,B)-23-24-W-2 Dated: 01.05.2023
1. Name of work with its location	As per IREPS Notice
A) Pre and post attention survey of track(longitudinal & lateral) for design mode packing by track machine in the section of Sr.DEN-I/INDLS	As per IREPS Notice
B) Provision of AT welding of avoidable joints, removal of defecting weld/rail and TRR in the section of ADEN/MUT.	As per IREPS Notice
2. Approx Cost of work NIT- 08(A,B)-23-24-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
3. Earnest Money NIT- 08(A,B)-23-24-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
4. Completion period of Work NIT- 08(A,B)-23-24-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
5. Cost of tender on cash/bid post NIT- 08(A,B)-23-24-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
6. Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	12.05.2023 to 26.05.2023 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 26.05.2023 at 15:00 hrs.
7. Similar nature of Work NIT- 08(A,B)-23-24-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1307/23

Cong at it again: Now, Kharge's son Priyank...

From Page 1
His remark comes days after Mallikarjun Kharge's "venomous snake" barb aimed at PM Modi.

BJP president JP Nadda said Opposition leaders have been using such language against the Prime Minister to "please" their masters, a reference to Sonia and Rahul Gandhi.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "In a state of despair of losing the election, he (Priyank) has forgotten his limits. A few days ago, his father withdrew his words. Now, it's his turn. People will teach them a lesson."

Mallikarjun Kharge stoutly defended his son and said he never made such comments.

The Congress president said: "No. No. It is very wrong. He never said it. Don't put these words into his mouth. He attacked the parliament member (not Modi) who abused him. So, don't put these words into his mouth (saying it was meant) for Modi. I am sorry, everywhere this is going on (misquoting) purposely. Morning he (Priyank) condemned it but still you people are asking."

Priyank, addressing a poll gathering quoted from Modi's speech and said: "When you (PM Modi) came to Gulbarga (Kalaburagi) what did you tell the people of Banjara community? 'Aap sab log darye mat. Banjara ka ek beta Dilli mein Baitha hai (You do not be

Cantonments to be... GST mop-up record ₹1.87 lakh cr in ...

From Page 1

Civilian residents of Cantonments are not benefited from state government welfare schemes since Cantonments are governed by Cantonment boards through the Defence Estates Department of the Ministry of Defence. Hence, there is a popular demand from the civilian residents and also state govts for excision of Cantonments, which were denotified before 1947.

Also, a considerable portion of the Defence Budget is spent on the development of Civil Areas of Cantonments. Also due to the ever-increasing expansion of Civil Areas of Cantonments, there is pressure on A1 Defence Land. Cantts

are colonial phenomena and Military Stations are better administered. Cantonment Board employees and assets will be taken over by the neighbouring municipality.

Incidentally, the defence ministry is the largest landowner in the country, with about 17.99 lakh acre. Of this, approximately 1.61 lakh acre is held within the 62 notified cantonments. The remaining land, around 16.38 lakh acre, is spread across the country and outside the cantonments.

Affairs related to the cantonments, including the construction of new buildings, the height of buildings, commercial conversion, sewage and rest were all controlled by the Cantonment Board.

From Page 1

The total revenue of the Centre and the States in April 2023 after regular settlement is ₹84,304 crore for CGST and ₹85,371 crore for the SGST.

Commenting on the GST numbers, Assocham President Ajay Singh said that the highest ever collection in April marks an excellent beginning of fiscal 2023-24.

Gautam Mahanti, Business Head, IRIS Tax Tech stated that the record-breaking GST collection is a clear indication of the positive impact of e-invoicing and strengthened compliance regulations, coupled with India's thriving economy.

From Page 1

ly an airline fills seats and generates revenue. India is the top domestic market in terms of PLF when compared to countries such as the US, China and Japan, it said. India recorded PLFs of 81.6 per cent in February, 85.2 per cent in January, 88.9 per cent in December 2022, and 87.9 per cent in November 2022.

Domestic air passenger traffic for all markets measured for February surged 25.2 per cent over the period a year-ago. Total February 2023 domestic traffic was at 97.2 per cent of the February 2019 level.

NOTICE

REGD/AD/ DASTI ANNEXURE-A

STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, HARYANA BAYS NO. 3-6, SECTOR 4, PANCHKULA

NO. SCDRC/MI/2023 DATED PANCHKULA

C. M. No. 334, 01/2022 In E.A. No. 03 of 2012C. No. 53 OF 2011

Nameesh Miglani, APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS M/s JMD Promoters Ltd, RESPONDENT(S)

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT(S)

To Nameesh Miglani S/o Sh. S.N. Miglani, Resident of 15-D Pocket-1, DDA Flats, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Whereas, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Commission that the Decree Holder / Complainant / Appellant above noted cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation is hereby issued against decree holder / Complainant / Appellant named above to appear either personally or through their counsel or duly authorized representative on 21.07.2023 at 10.30 am, and also bring with you all the documents / evidence upon which you intend to reply, failing which proceedings shall be taken against them in their absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission this on 22th day of March, 2023.

SUPERINTENDENT

SC: Can grant divorce at once if all...

From Page 1

"Hence, this was purely a subject which was considered by Parliament," he said, adding, "You can give judgment where you see that there was a grey area where Parliament did not discuss or thought of. But, here Parliament thought over the issue and rejected it."

Singh said irretrievable breakdown of marriage as grounds of divorce has been rejected by Parliament and, according to him, this is not the subject which could have been adjudicated by the court in the judicial pronouncement.

"In such a situation where Parliament has already looked into a particular subject and felt that it is not necessary to amend

the law then to still do the very same thing by a judicial order, according to me, is not appropriate," Singh said.

In its 61-page verdict, answering the question about the scope and ambit of power and jurisdiction of the apex court under Article 142(1) of the Constitution, the bench held the top court can depart from the procedure as well as the substantive laws, as long as the decision is exercised based on considerations of fundamental general and specific public policy.

"While deciding whether to exercise discretion, this court must consider the substantive provisions as enacted and not ignore the same, albeit this court acts as a problem solver by

balancing out equities between the conflicting claims. This power is to be exercised in a 'cause or matter,' it said.

The apex court also dealt with another question as to whether it can, while hearing a transfer petition or in any other proceedings, exercise power under Article 142(1), in view of settlement between the parties, and grant a decree of divorce by mutual consent dispensing with the period and procedure prescribed under section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act.

It also considered if it can quash and dispose of other proceedings under the Domestic Violence Act, section 125 of the CrPC or criminal prosecution under section 498-A and other

provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

While section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) pertains to order for maintenance of wives, children and parents, section 498-A of the IPC deals with offence of subjecting a married woman to cruelty.

"In view of our findings on the first question, this question has to be answered in the affirmative, inter alia, holding that this court, in view of settlement between the parties, has the discretion to dissolve the marriage by passing a decree of divorce by mutual consent, without being bound by the procedural requirement to move the second motion," the apex court said.

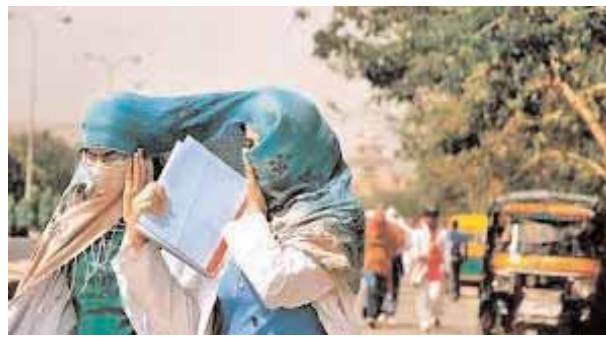
Kejriwal launches summer plan to combat air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday launched an action plan to combat air pollution during the summer months with a focus on controlling dust pollution. The Delhi government already has a winter action plan to curb air pollution.

The winter plan focuses on stubble burning, firecracker pollution and industrial and vehicular emissions. "The summer plan involves the participation of 30 government departments. The summer plan, is a comprehensive set of 14 focus areas aimed at reducing air pollution levels. The primary focus of the action plan is on dust pollution, which has been a major contributor to the city's worsening air quality," Kejriwal said during a press conference.

"To tackle this, the government has procured 84 mechanical road sweeping machines, 609 water sprin-



klers and 185 mobile anti-smog guns. Additionally, 70 integrated road sweeping machines and 250 integrated water sprinklers are being procured to improve the situation further," he said.

Patrolling teams have been set up to check dust pollution, open burning of garbage and dumping of waste in industrial areas. The government will deploy 225 and 159 teams during days and nights, respectively, to monitor dust pollution in the city. Real-time source apportionment studies will be

conducted at 13 air pollution hotspots and a mobile air lab deployed at each of these locations. Construction sites larger than 500 square metres will be closely monitored to check dust pollution.

The government has prepared a standard operating procedure to prevent fire incidents at landfill sites. A plan is also being prepared for the scientific disposal of industrial waste, the chief minister said.

Kejriwal added that a special team is being set up to improve the survival rate of

transplanted trees. The chief minister also claimed that Delhi's air pollution situation is improving while it continues to worsen in other parts of the country.

Kejriwal said there has been a revolutionary change in Delhi's air pollution levels, with a reduction of 30 percent in pollution levels from 2016 to 2022-23. The number of severe AQI days has decreased from 26 in 2016 to 6 in 2022, while the number of very poor and severe AQI days has come down from 124 to 72. Providing some data, the Delhi CM highlighted that in 2016, there were 26 such days where the AQI was in the 'severe' category, but in 2022-23 there were only 6 such days.

He further added that in 2016 there were 124 days in the 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' category, and in 2022-23 these were reduced to 72 days. He said that there were 109 days in 2016 in the 'Good/Satisfactory/Moderate

categories and this has further increased to 163 days in 2022-23. He further said that the most important factor to reduce pollution is to work in coordination with the neighbouring state governments. "The air does not belong to any one state. It is not as if the air in Delhi does not go to Haryana or the air from there does not come to Delhi. The same air moves around in the entire area, and therefore we are working in close coordination with our neighbouring states to curb air pollution," he said.

He also said that the state government was working in association with both the NDMC and MCD to sustain parks in the city. He said that there are around 3500 parks in Delhi that are greater than half an acre and these should be beautified by December this year. He said that there are a total of 17,000 parks under the MCD and these will be beautified by March next year.

3 expelled for Jamia scuffle

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia has taken disciplinary action against 15 students, including expulsion of three, for their involvement in a scuffle between two groups in September that had resulted in a student sustaining bullet injuries.

The punishments range from expulsion, campus ban, no hostel accommodation and monetary compensation to furnishing a bond of good conduct as per the gravity of charges against the student, a senior varsity official said. Three out of 15 students have only been allowed to give examinations with a 5-year campus ban and have been barred from admission in any other course at the university after completion of their course, the official said.

"The disciplinary actions have been taken after the due procedure and to set an example that the university will not tolerate any kind of indiscipline on the campus," Jamia Registrar Nazim Husain Al Jafri reportedly said. The students who have been expelled are identified as Mujeeb Rehman, BA (Hons) Political Science; Salman Khursid, BA programme; and Mohd. Faisal, MA (Social Exclusion) for disturbing

the peaceful environment of the university and inciting students for fighting, the officials said. The notices issued on April 24 to Rehman and Khursid mention that they did not appear before the disciplinary committee to defend their case. The notice furnished to Faisal mentions that the "committee took into account activities carried out by him during the period of suspension and campus ban".

While Rehman and Khursid could not be contacted despite repeated attempts, Faisal refused to comment on the matter. In September last year, two groups of students engaged in multiple brawls on and outside the campus. In one of the skirmishes, a student sustained bullet injuries in a hospital. Following the incident, the university suspended several students for "spoiling" the peaceful academic environment. The matter was taken up by the disciplinary committee of the university for further action.

In its meetings held on April 6, 2023 in the Mir Anis Hall, Administrative Block and subsequent meeting held on April 10 in the Committee Room, Registrar Office, the committee "took a serious view" of the involvement of these stu-

dents "in the name of regional conflict resulting in the series of fights between students of Western UP and Mewat Region on September 29 on the university campus and at Holy Family Hospital," according to the notices served to each student.

"The students were given show-cause notice. The committee held multiple meetings and hearings and then decided on the punishment to the students," the registrar asserted.

Out of 15, five Diploma in Electrical Engineering students — Suhail Nasrullah Ansari, Mohammad Shadab Choudhary, Sahil and Nazim Khan — have been allowed to complete their courses and suspension have been revoked against them but they will be banned from campus for a period of five years following their course completion, officials said.

These five students will not be allowed to get any hostel accommodation and warning letters have also been issued to them. Likewise, Momin Khan pursuing Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Abdul Hannan, MA (Development Extension) and Asif Ali, MA History Semester II, have been asked to pay Rs 1,000 each as a fine.

BJP stages sit-in over Delhi CM's ₹45 cr house facelift

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Monday launched an indefinite dharna near Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence asking him to open his bungalow to the people for a visit amid allegations that Rs 45 crore was spent on its renovation.

The BJP further alleged that the consultant fee of Rs. one crore in Kejriwal's 45 crore Raj Mahal bungalow scam is a big scam in itself and asked who was the consultant. The protesters demanded the Chief Minister open the gates of the 6, Flagstaff Road, Civil Lines residence to the general public so that they can see for themselves his "lavish living", even if the entry is ticketed. Leading the protesters, BJP MP from



BJP party leaders Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Vijay Goel raise slogans during a protest against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of spending crores on the renovation of his official residence, in New Delhi, on Monday. Ranjan Dimri Pioneer

Chandni Chowk Harsh Vardhan said Kejriwal should open his bungalow to the common people so that they can see for themselves the renovation

that was undertaken. He can do so by issuing entry tickets, the former Union minister said. The BJP has been attacking Kejriwal and his Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP), alleging that the chief minister spent Rs 45 crore on the renovation of his official residence during 2020-22. The AAP leaders have alleged that the BJP was trying to divert attention from the real issues faced by the country under its government at the Centre.

Party leaders, including Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, also defended Kejriwal questioning expenditures on the residences of the prime minister and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states. Harsh Vardhan said before Kejriwal came to power in Delhi, he used to talk about simplicity, living in a small bungalow and ending the VIP culture, but today he lives in a grand "Raj Mahal" and moves in a convoy of 20 vehicles.

Saxena awards recognition of prior learning certificate to 1,600 trainees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena on Monday awarded the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Certificate to 1,600 Trainees in a Certificate Distribution Ceremony held at Talkatora Indoor Stadium in the presence of Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakashi Lekhi.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken a joint initiative for the Up Skilling Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Enterprises, Govt. of India through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

On the occasion, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneur Secretary Atul Tiwari, Delhi Chief Naresh Kumar, Principal Secretary to LG Shri Chandra Bhushan Kumar, NDMC Chairman Amit Yadav, NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay, CEO, NSDC and MD of NSDC - Ved Mani Tiwari and Secretary, NDMC



Dr. Ankita Chakravarty were also present.

After distributing the certificates and congratulating all trainees Saxena said that every man has a skill by inheritance but needs to improve by up-skilling by the use of new techniques for upgradation of skill. Thereafter they will certainly make a diamond with great value. Saxena informed that the number of trainees from

the different professions will be enhanced to 75000 from the current 25000 completed.

He quoted two examples of Skill Development in the Community of Cobblers and Potters. And said that under the Khadi & Village Industrial Corporation (KVIC), an upskilling training programme for the cobblers who earn daily not more than Rs. 200 but after getting training they are able to earn Rs. 500 - 700 daily. Shri Saxena also informed that very shortly a website will be launched to consolidate all skill trainees on a single platform for accessing by clients requiring their professional services.

Till date, more than 26,700 candidates have enrolled in the programme, out of which 26,424 have been trained and 22,283 have been certified. The students received world-class training in digital literacy, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship development in specifically set up clusters and camps and at other industry premises.

Anti-encroachment drive in Tughlakabad: resettle displaced people, says Saurabh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has expressed concern over the rehabilitation of thousands of poor affected due to the demolition in Tughlakabad area of south Delhi by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and demanded that an alternative arrangement or rehabilitation plan put in place before demolition.

Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj also demanded that the Centre (ASI and the DDA) should provide land to the Delhi government, so that the Delhi Government can prepare a rehabilitation plan and make alternative arrangements for the living of these innocent people.

Bhardwaj said that the Delhi government will move an application in the Supreme Court with a plea that action should be taken against officials involved in allowing encroachment.

"The Delhi government will say the same thing before the Supreme Court that it is easy for the central government to destroy the houses of these people, but the task of rehabilitating them is huge.

We want that instead of taking action against innocent people, action should be taken against those officials, whose negligence led to the encroachment of these lands and people who earned crores of rupees." "Innocent people have built houses here by buying land without knowing it. Today, by destroying their houses, a big crisis is being created for Delhi and the people of Delhi.

The central government should have sympathy towards the poor people. Bhardwaj said that a major crisis looming large for the national Capital and the people of Delhi who facing removal of their residential structures by ASI.

'Consider allowing retd IAF officer to print book sans classified content'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court asked the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Directorate of Intelligence on Monday to consider whether a book written by a retired air force officer can be published after certain "classified" content is removed from it.

Hearing the retired airman's plea for permission to publish the book, Justice Prathiba M Singh directed that a meeting between the petitioner and the officials concerned be held within a month and sought a report on it.

The respondent authorities said the clearance for the book's publication cannot be given as its content is not conducive to the interests of the IAF. It was said that in accordance with the IAF's regulations, classified material cannot be discussed and the book contains certain information that has not been "declassified".

The court was told that the objectionable content included information about certain "counter-intelligence operations". The petitioner said he was willing to amend or delete the objectionable portion.

"Let the petitioner be heard by officials of the Indian Air Force and the Directorate of Intelligence in order to explore the possibility of whether the book can be published after the content is amended or deleted," the court ordered. The petitioner, a former group captain, told the court that he decided to write the book on his experiences and according to a reply to a query filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, there are no guidelines in place in respect of a retired air force official writing fictional books. The court also asked the authorities to file their response. The matter would again be heard by the court on October 20.

Gahlot orders dept to hold study of routes for mohalla bus service

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has directed the department to constitute a committee to conduct a study of routes for "mohalla" bus service, which aims to improve last-mile connectivity in the national capital.

The Arvind Kejriwal government plans to introduce 100 "mohalla" (neighbourhood) buses in Delhi soon to serve narrow and crowded roads and poorly connected residential as well as commercial hubs.

"The transport minister has written to transport commissioner last week asking him to constitute a committee to study routes for the service," said an official on Sunday. The Transport department will also hold a consultation with

the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation regarding the takeover of the feeder buses that will ply as "mohalla" buses. They will also be painted in hues of blue like the other electric buses.

These buses will be specifically designed to cater to areas where the width of the road is less or areas that are too crowded for regular 12-metre buses to ply. The move is expected to provide better connectivity and improve transportation access for people in these areas.

The "mohalla" bus service was announced in the Delhi budget presented by Gahlot, who also holds the finance portfolio. The scheme aims to deploy nine-metre-long electric buses.

The initiative is a step forward towards a more sustainable and accessible transportation system in the city.

Axed Constable held for posing as on-duty cop

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A dismissed Delhi Police constable was arrested for allegedly posing as an on-duty policeman to demand money from people citing exigencies only to get away with the amount. According to police, the accused has been identified as Rohit, a resident of Jhajjar in Haryana.

He was previously involved in seven cases, mostly of cheating. Rohit was selected as a Delhi Police constable in 2016 and was dismissed from service in 2021 for allegedly indulging in criminal activities, a senior police officer said.

Recounting how he was defrauded, Complainant Satendar Singh (55), a taxi driver from New Usmanpur, said the incident took place on Sunday when he was waiting at the Faridabad bus stand, opposite to the Kashmiri Gate ISBT. Around 1.30 pm, the accused, who was wearing a khaki pant,

a belt with Delhi Police monogram, black shoes and a casual shirt, introduced himself as a Delhi Police officer on duty at the police booth near Faridabad bus stand, the senior officer said. Rohit told Singh that he needed Rs 10,000 as he has to transfer the amount to someone urgently.

He also told the complainant that he will return in cash. The complainant said he had only Rs 5,000 with him. Rohit provided a QR code and Singh paid Rs 5,000 to him after scanning the Quick Response (QR) code, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

"When Singh asked for the cash, Rohit started making excuses. After sometime, he told the complainant that if he does not trust him, he can keep his mobile phone until he returns money, but the complainant refused the proposal. Later, the accused started running from the footover bridge towards ISBT," the DCP said.

Govt to involve pvt players to operate 4 tourist destinations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government is looking to involve private players to operate four tourist destinations, including Azad Hind Gram and the Dilli Haat in Janakpuri and Pitampura. "We are planning to involve private players for our tourist destinations... We are planning to float an EoC next week to understand how it can be utilised.

It is difficult to run them on our own. So the private party can take it over and run it on a revenue-sharing model or any other model," the official said. The Dilli Haat in Pitampura is a complex set up in an area of 7.2 acres. It has

108 craft stalls, along with an amphitheatre with a capacity of 450 persons, and three air-conditioned halls for exhibitions, conferences, workshops, and music and dance shows. The Dilli Haat in Janakpuri is spread over an area of eight acres. It is more spacious than the other two Dilli Haat in INA and Pitampura.

It has 100 craft stalls, 74 open platform shops and 46 air-conditioned shops. The official said the Azad Hind Gram Tourist Complex at Tikri Kalan is a project developed by Delhi Tourism to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and to

create a quality leisure space and wayside amenities for people. With a view to beautify all the entry points of Delhi, the government set up Guru Tegh Bahadur Memorial near the Singhu Border on G T Karnal Road. "This complex has been constructed in an area of 11.87 acres.

A 24-metre-high central pylon with petals at the base represents the Guru and his strength and the three 'C' arches denote his three followers and the monoliths represent the 10 Sikh Gurus with their sayings inscribed on them," the official said.

NCRPULSE

GOVT OK'S 1ST TRANCH OF ₹773 CR TO MCD

New Delhi: The Arvind Kejriwal Government has approved the release of the first instalment of Rs 773 crore to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). This decision will ensure timely payment of salary/pension to the serving and retired employees of MCD. "Due to the misgovernance by the earlier regime the hardworking employees of the MCD had to go on strikes for their basic right of timely salaries which use to cause a lot of trouble for the employees of MCD , their families and people of Delhi. The primary focus should be given towards cleanliness of delhi but in the earlier regime it was more focussed on troubling employees for salaries," reads the statement.



KEJRIWAL MEETS WITH GOVT SCHOOL JEE TOPPER

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met with Asteek Narayan, a student of a Delhi Government School who scored 100% in JEE Mains. During the meeting, the Chief Minister presented Asteek with the book Becoming Babasaheb Ambedkar and congratulated him on his remarkable achievement. Expressing his happiness, Kejriwal said that Asteek's parents would be very proud of his success, and the Delhi Government is also very proud of him. He added that such progress was the dream of Babasaheb and Sardar Bhagat Singh, and the government is only trying to fulfil their dreams.

MAHA, GUJ FOUNDATION DAY HELD AT RAJ NIWAS

New Delhi: The Foundation day of Maharashtra and Gujarat was on Monday observed at Raj Niwas with Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena lauding the role of the two States in the growth and development of the country. The Lieutenant Governor recalled the Growth of Gujarat under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion, Saxena said "Since 1960 the two states came into existence, the world has seen and praised Gujarat and Maharashtra for climbing the ladder of success and development in the last 60 years. If I say that these two states have set a new norm of India's development, then there should be no surprise in it".

HAJ COMMITTEE CHIEF MEETS SAUDI ENVOY

New Delhi: Delhi Haj Committee chairperson Kausar Jahan on Monday met the ambassador of Saudi Arabia and requested him for better facilities for pilgrims going for Haj from the city. A total of 2,540 people from Delhi will go for Haj this year, she said in a statement. Jahan, a BJP leader, met Saudi Arabia's ambassador Saleh Eid Al Hussein and discussed with him issues related to pilgrims visiting the country for Haj this year, according to the statement. The committee has approved 2,540 Hajjis from Delhi that include a group of 39 women who will be going on the pilgrimage without any male accomplice, she said.

67L SMART METERS TO BE INSTALLED IN UP

New Delhi: A smart metering and digital solutions company, IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd, has received the order to install 67 lakh prepaid smart meters along with substantial service cabling and auxiliaries in 14 districts in Uttar Pradesh falling under the purview of Pashchimanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam Limited (PVNML). IntelliSmart will implement the project in Tixam mode under the Design Build Finance Own Operate and Transfer (DBFOOT) arrangement. The project will be undertaken in Amroha, Baghpat, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, GB Nagar, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Hapur, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal and Shamli districts of Pashchimanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam Limited.

ISIS recruitment in India sees spike

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The number of recruits to the international terror outfit ISIS from India has witnessed a sharp increase over the last few months.

While the outfit recruited 21 radical youths in December 2022, the number jumped to 28 in January this year followed by 37 gullible youths joining the terror group in February, 36 in March and this spiraled up to 68 in April, counter-terror experts tracking the group said. They said the number of the recruits is more from Karnataka and Rajasthan and the same is steadily rising.

ISIS has recruited the youth through online mode and enrolled them for radicalization and terror training on the Dark Web Academy set up by the outfit.

ISIS identified the youths by contacting them online through social media platforms. A group specializing in gathering data from universities by hacking and indulging in online theft under the banner of Transparent Tribe gathered data of about 100 universities from India in September/October last year.

The Transparent Tribe collects data and supplies them to



terror groups including ISIS. After getting the data, the ISIS contacted the Indian youths through various social media platforms and roped them in for the online radicalization training programme.

The ISIS scanned the data of universities provided by Transparent Tribe and filtered the likely targets by identifying their traits and inclination for jihad. Counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "Most of the youths recruited to ISIS are from technical background and of young age profile which is a deadly combi-

nation for carrying out terror attacks." These youths with engineering degrees or diplomas could possibly be used to fabricate sophisticated IEDs to carry out hits.

Their technical background could also be exploited for developing communication apps to evade the security agencies, Dr Mate added.

ISIS has been seeking to expand its footprint in India by publishing radical articles in its propaganda magazine and gaining traction among the gullible youths of a particular community.

BSP MP Ansari disqualified from LS after 4-year jail sentence

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Monday disqualified BSP's Afzal Ansari after he was convicted and sentenced to four-year imprisonment in a kidnapping-and-murder case by a court in Uttar Pradesh.

Ansari, the LS member from Ghazipur, was sentenced to four years in jail by an MP/MLA court on Saturday. His brother, mafia-politician Mukhtar Ansari, was also convicted in the same case and was sentenced to 10 years in jail.

The brothers were booked under the UP Gangsters Act in connection with the murder of the then MLA from Ghazipur, Krishnanad Rai, on November 29, 2005 along with the kidnapping and murder of Varanasi-based trader Nand Kishore Rungta in 1997.

"Consequent upon his conviction...Afzal Ansari, Member of Lok Sabha representing the Ghazipur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh, stands disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction i.e. 29 April, 2023 in terms of the provisions of Article 102(1)(e) of the Constitution of India read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951," according to a Lok Sabha secretariat notification. PNS

As Centre reviews, SC defers plea against sedition law

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the sedition law after the Centre said it is at an advanced stage of consultation on re-examining the colonial-era penal provision.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala noted the submission of Attorney General R Venkataramani that the government has initiated the process to re-examine Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code. The bench posted the hearing on the matter in the second week of August.

The batch of pleas challenged the constitutional validity of the penal provision. Venkataramani said the consultation process has been at the advance stage and before it goes to the Parliament, it will be shown to him.

"Kindly post the matter for further hearing after the Monsoon session of Parliament," he urged the bench. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan urged the bench to constitute a bench of



seven judges for adjudicating the issues. The bench said that even if the matter has to go to seven judges, it will have to be first placed before a five-judge bench.

On May 11 last year, in a landmark order, the top court had put on hold the colonial-era penal law on sedition till an "appropriate" Government forum re-examines it and directed the Centre and States to not register any fresh FIR invoking the offence.

Besides the lodging of FIRs, ongoing probes, pending trials and all proceedings under the sedition law across the country will also be in abeyance, the top court had ruled.

Plea against Anand Mohan's release: SC hearing on May 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on May 8 a plea challenging the Bihar Government's decision to prematurely release former MP Anand Mohan who was serving life term in the 1994 murder case of then Gopalganj District Magistrate G Krishnaiah.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said it would take up the matter on May 8 after the counsel appearing for Uma Krishnaiah, the widow of slain the officer, sought urgent hearing.

Mohan was released from the Saharsa jail on April 27 following an amendment in Bihar's prison rules. The petitioner has contended the life imprisonment awarded to the gangster-turned-politician meant incarceration for his entire natural course of life and it cannot be mechanically interpreted to last just 14 years.

"Life imprisonment, when awarded as a substitute for death penalty, has to be carried out strictly as directed by the court and would be beyond application of remission," she

said in her petition before the Supreme Court. Mohan's name figured in a list of more than 20 prisoners who were ordered to be set free by a notification issued by the state's law department earlier this week as they had spent more than 14 years behind the bars.

The remission of his sentence followed an April 10 amendment to the Bihar Prison Manual by the Nitish Kumar government whereby the restriction on early release of those involved in killing of a public servant on duty was done away with.

This, the critics of the State Government's decision claim, was done to facilitate the release of Mohan, a Rajput strongman, who could add heft to the grand alliance led by Nitish Kumar in its fight against the BJP. Several others, including politicians, benefited from the amendment to the state prison rules.

Krishnaiah, who hailed from Telangana, was beaten to death by a mob in 1994 when his vehicle tried to overtake the funeral procession of gangster Chhotan Shukla in Muzaffarpur district. Mohan, then an MLA, was leading the procession.

JPC is needed to probe Adani Group issue, says Ramesh

'Six month extension to SEBI to finish probe raises questions'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said granting a six-month extension to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to complete its probe into the alleged stock price manipulation by the Adani group may create the perception the investigation is not



being seriously pursued but being "buried". The Market Regulator SEBI has moved the Supreme Court seeking the extension to complete its investigation. Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe is needed to fully investigate the Adani issue, but a speedy SEBI investigation is also required to get to the bottom of the "very

serious allegations". The top court had on March 2 asked the SEBI to probe the matter within two months and also set up a panel to look into the protection of Indian investors after a damning report by a US short-seller wiped out more than USD 140 billion of the conglomerate's market value.

SEBI has found many irregularities worthy of investigation in the Adani Mega

Scam, and we urge it to pursue each lead to its logical conclusion. But a long six-month extension risks the perception that the investigation is not being vigorously and seriously pursued but is being buried, as happened with at least two previous SEBI investigations into the Adani Group," he said.

"India needs a JPC to fully investigate Modani, but it also needs a speedy SEBI investigation to get to bottom of very serious allegations," Ramesh added, attacking the Prime Minister.

In an application moved before the court, the SEBI has submitted it would take six more months to ascertain possible violations related to misrepresentation of financials, circumvention of regulations and/or fraudulent nature of transactions.

ICMR sets up 'Hub & Spoke model' to stop breast cancer deaths in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned at the low survival rates in breast cancer in India—as low as 66 per cent when compared to over 90 per cent in the western world, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has initiated steps to set up a Hub and Spoke Network of hospitals to ensure quality care in the sector across the country.

Under the Hub and Spoke model, the ICMR will identify hospitals with best survival rates for breast cancer from East, West, North, South and North-East India which could mentor other institutes with poor survival rates to bring uniformity in breast cancer treatment. "The project will work on a Hub and Spoke model with a co-ordinating centre located at the ICMR

Headquarters in the national capital. Hubs will be distributed over the five regions of the country (North, South, East, West and North-east) and will function as nodal points for that region. These Centres will include institutes/medical colleges/hospitals of repute with experience and expertise in conducting multicentre studies," explained an official from the ICMR.

In this regard, the premier research body has sought expression of interest from the hospitals across the countries to initiate breast cancer survival studies spanning the next three years. "Currently because of poor health resources in the cancer care segment, at stage II, breast cancer survival rate is 66-70 per cent in India as compared to developed countries, which is 90-99 per cent. Only

those hospitals can be part of this network which have cancer based registry and implementing Ayushman Bharat scheme. Those reporting at least 1000 new breast cancer cases annually will serve as Hub while Spoke categories will have 500-500 new breast cancer cases.

Breast cancer is on rise in the country. According to a study by Globocan 2020, in India, every four minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. With some 1,78,000 new cases being diagnosed every year, the incidence of breast cancer has overtaken cervical cancer to become the most common cancer in Indian women. She said that each regional hub, thus identified, will act as the mentoring body for a region, with the responsibilities of sup-

portive supervision and troubleshooting as required. They will have an inclusive expansion plan so that the newly identified potential partnering agencies/institutes/organizations are inducted in the regional network.

Funding for human resources, as well as for the mentoring activities at each of these hubs will be provided by our organization," she added. The number of regional hubs will be scaled up in a phased manner.

Yet another study has attributed the rising number of breast cancer cases to lack of awareness among women who get diagnosed with breast cancer at its advanced stages and thus, have to undergo all the related treatment modalities that are both physically and mentally challenging.

'Mann Ki Baat' reached 100 cr people in 8 yrs: PPRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Think tank Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC) Report, titled 'Mann Ki Baat se Jan Ki Baat', was released by BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda, along with both the Directors of Public Policy Research Centre, Dr Vinay Sahasrabudde and Dr Sumeet Bhasin.

The report said 'Mann Ki Baat' has achieved a massive reach of over 100 crore people in 8 years, as per an exten-

sive study by IIM-Rohtak, commissioned by Prasar Bharati. It has brought significant transformation in the Indian demographic, initiating mass movements towards various social causes ranging from 'swachhata', environment protection, promotion of 'Make in India' products like Khadi, women empowerment to yoga, showcasing India's Jan Shakti. Many of these issues are linked with the Sustainable Development Goals, it said.

"PM's appeals on 'Mann Ki Baat' to promote Khadi have resulted in manifold increase in its production (115%) and sales (179%) from 2013 to 2020, directly resulting in the empowerment of the artisans and weavers involved in Khadi production, significantly boosting their income by 33% and 10% respectively", the report maintained.

Besides, the report sought to say the Prime Minister has "celebrated India's cultural richness and diversity, rein-

vigorating India's ancient soul."

"The PM has celebrated India's luminary figures, propagated the teachings and learnings of various ancient texts and different religions and festivals, and promoted tourism, illustrating the beauty of 'Incredible India', it said. Nadda appreciated how PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat has tied the country and the society together by having a dialogue and inspiring and encouraging the people.

2-day Vedic Science summit held

New Delhi: Over 40 research papers were presented on various subjects based on scientific facts in Vedas in the two-day 'All India Vedic Science Conference' organised here.

The conclave focussing on various aspects of vedas, thus far not known aspects of Vedic Science, also marked the 200th birth anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati. The conference was inaugurated by Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla and concluded with the address of former president Ram Nath Kovind who was Chief Guest of the event.

The theme of the first session of the second day of the conference was 'Women Empowerment in the context of Vedic thought'. Speakers said such conferences are necessary to spread the message of Vedas and to reach the

masses and they be included in school curriculum. "It is a matter of pride for all of us, the origin of Indian culture which we call Vedas. This is the speciality of Sanatan Dharma that even today our culture is the same." He quoted the words of Kathapanishad - 'Utishtat Jagrat Prapya'.

He recalled the country's motto Satyameva Jayate Mundakopanishad. PNS

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION** **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	03.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12148 (R1), 12481 (F1, F2 & R1), 12646 (F1 & F2), 14316 (R1), 14812 (F1), 22421 (F1, F2 & R1), 22482 (F1, F2 & R1)
2.	04.05.2023 at 10:30 am	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 12226/12225, 12236/12235, 12264/12263, 12284/12283, 12425/12426, 12432/12431, 12438/12437, 12442/12441, 12445/12446, 12454/12453, 12488/12487, 14033/14034, 20408/20407, 22412/22411, 22414/22413, 22420/22419, 22428/22427, 22429/22430, 22434/22433, 22460/22459 & 01 VP (23 tonnes) on round trip basis in train number : 22418/22417
3.	06.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12034 (F1), 12802 (F1), 14303 (F1 & R1), 14305 (F1 & R1), 14331 (F1, F2 & R1), 14545 (F1, F2 & R1), 15058 (F1), 20488 (F1, F2 & R1), 22858 (F1)
4.	08.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12011 (F1), 12017 (F1), 12029 (F1), 12040 (F1), 12148 (F1 & F2), 12432 (F1), 12455 (F1), 12566 (F1), 12644 (F1, F2 & R1), 14041 (F1), 14206 (F1), 14521 (F1, F2 & R1), 14553 (F2), 15657 (F1), 22454 (F1, F2 & R1)
5.	10.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12013 (F1), 12015 (F1), 12031 (F1), 12448 (F1), 12459 (F1), 12463 (F1), 12986 (F1), 15280 (F1), 22210 (F1), 22414 (F1), 22472 (F1, F2 & R1)
6.	11.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12045 (F1), 12963 (F1), 14152 (F1), 14164 (F1, F2 & R1), 14681 (F1), 20938 (F1 & R1), 22401 (F1)
7.	12.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12226 (F1), 12265 (F1, F2 & R1), 12444 (F1), 12584 (F1), 14014 (F1), 14035 (F1, F2 & R1), 14212 (F1), 14553 (R1)
8.	15.05.2023 at 10:00 am	12191 (F1 & F2), 12350 (F1), 12918 (F1), 14316 (F1), 15035 (F1, F2 & R1), 22463 (F1), 22466 (F1), 22485 (F1)
9.	16.05.2023 at 10:30 am	12457 (F1, F2 & R1), 12646 (R1), 13430 (F2), 14507 (F1, F2 & R1), 19338 (F1), 20914 (F1, F2 & R1), 20946 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22479 (F1), 22654 (F1)

Important notes:

- For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html (e-Auction/leasing section).
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.
- Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. **1313/2023**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Researchers discover two colourful spiders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Two new species of colourful spiders, usually covered with metallic iridescent scales, jumping spiders which have been discovered from southern India—'Phintelladhritiae' from Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and 'Phintellaplatnicki' from Salem district of Tamil Nadu—now adorn the country's web of fauna.

The researchers Souvik Sen and Sudhin P P, from ZSI, Kolkata and John T D Caleb from Chennai discovered these new species of spiders.

'Phintelladhritiae' has been named in honour of Dr Dhriti Banerjee, the first woman director of the ZSI. Banerjee had taken over as the director of the more-than-100-year-old institution in August 2021. 'Phintellaplatnicki' has also been named in honour of late Dr Norman Platnick for his contribution to the field of arachnology, said a statement



Representational picture

from the ZSI here. Arachnology is the scientific study of arachnids, which comprise spiders and related invertebrates such as scorpions and pseudoscorpions. The newly described species, which belong to the genus Phintella, are small-to-medium sized, colourful spiders, usually covered with metallic iridescent scales, the statement said.

The head is somewhat rounded or oval, relatively high with a distinct posterior slope, while the abdomen is ovoid or elongate, usually with pale and dark horizontal bands. Members of this genus generally inhabit under leaves and

bark of shrubs and grasses, the ZSI statement said. Before the discovery of these new species of jumping spiders, 12 species of Phintella were known to be valid from India. The discovery of these new species came up in the March 2023 issue of 'Arthropoda Selecta', a prestigious journal.

Earlier this year, the team described another two new jumping spiders—'Stenaerillurillusmegamalai' and 'Stenaerillurillusneyyar' - from the Western Ghats region. Before the discovery of these new species of jumping spiders, 12 species of Phintella were known to be valid from India.

Dhami briefs Modi on Joshimath rehab work

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Monday for one and half hours and informed him about the rehabilitation work being done in Joshimath with the help of the Central Government and invited him for the state investors meet in October-November.

The CM said the situation in Joshimath which recently witnessed sinking of earth and subsequent developing of major cracks in several houses there as "normal".

The Chief Minister invited the Prime Minister for the inauguration of the proposed Investor Summit in the state in the month of October-November. Dhami expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's "guidance and cooperation" in the development of Joshimath, a state government statement said.

The Chief Minister presented 'Prasad' of Kedarnath and Badrinath, GangaTulsi, water from Gangotri Yamunotri, Alaknanda and

Mandakini along with the Prime Minister. In the meeting Dhami said that a record number of devotees are coming for 'Char Dham yatra' in the state.

According to the statement, the Prime Minister assured all possible cooperation from the Central Government in the context of Joshimath. The Chief Minister requested Prime Minister to visit Jageshwar Dham, "Adi Kailash", Parvati Sarovar, Om Parvat, Mayawati Ashram in Lohaghat, as well as to address public in border district Pithoragarh. The CM also requested to Prime Minister to inaugurate and lay foundation stone of various development schemes under Manaskhand.

The Chief Minister said that air services are increasing gradually in the state under the regional connectivity scheme under the guidance of the Prime Minister. He informed Modi that 243 acres of land is being acquired for the expansion of Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun. Besides, he said feasibility survey has been done for expansion of Pantnagar airport.

Activists dispute 'consent' claim for RRPL land acquisition

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The activists protesting against the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Project (RRPL) at Barsu in Ratnagiri district of coastal Konkan region on Monday questioned Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Sawant's claim that the State Government had obtained the consent letters of farmers from whom it acquired 2,500 acres of land for the controversial project.

Industries Minister Uday Samant is going around the town claiming that the state government has obtained consent letters from farmers from whom it has acquired 2,500 acres of land for RRPL. We would like to see the names of the farmers who have given their land for the project. There is a strong possibility the list of farmers from whom the state government has purportedly acquired land for the project may contain names of such farmers with whom the district authorities have indulged in benami transactions. We have a reason to believe that these benami transactions have taken place between 2019 and 2022.



for RRPL, we suspect that the state government is going all out to acquire the land for the project forcibly from farmers," Sawant said. Sawant said in his statement that "if anything, the minister is talking technical terms of having acquired the land required for the project from the affected farmers, while ignoring the resolutions passed by the affected villages".

RRPL being located at Barsu. Sawant also appealed to the farmers from whom the state government acquired the land for the project not to allow the land to be used for RRPL. "You people (farmers) have not acquired this land. You have got this land from your ancestors. You are merely trustees of the land. This land has taken care of your earlier generations. You will be earning your livelihood doing farming on this land. In fact, you have to protect your land and nature in our area for future generations. My request to you is: learn from your mistakes, get united and fight for the cause".

Government would not go ahead with the RRPL without the consent of the affected farmers in the six villages surrounding the project site. In a statement made a day after he called on NCP chief Sharad Pawar and other party leaders to brief them about the state government's stand on the RRPL, Samant said: "Yesterday, representatives of the locals who are protesting against the RRPL met Pawar, and later CM Shinde separately. I conveyed a clear message that the project will not be taken up without the consent and co-operation of the local people".

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Saudi Aramco) for setting an oil refinery and petroleum products complex in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district. After the then ruling Shiv Sena which ruled the state along with BJP, opposed the location of the project at Nanar in Ratnagiri, then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had written to the Centre for locating the project at Barsu, a request that the Narendra Modi government accepted. Meanwhile, the affected villagers who had suspended their on-going agitation for three days on April 28 are likely to resume their agitation in the coming days.

Soon, land ownership rights for West Pak refugees: J&K L-G

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday announced that the ownership rights of land to West Pakistani Refugees will be granted by the UT administration on the directions of the Central Government soon. The significant announcement was made by the LG during the inauguration of the Special Governance Camp for West Pakistani Refugee families, at Chakroi, RS Pura.



rights to the West Pakistani Refugees". Gandhi said the officials of the Union Home Ministry have issued necessary directions to the Revenue department of the Union Territory. We have also submitted the village wise list of families for the verification process. "I am hopeful the final ownership rights will be granted soon", Gandhi added. Referring to the issue of grant of compensation @ 5.50 lakhs to West Pakistani Refugees, Labha Ram Gandhi said, out of 5764 families an estimated number of over 1130 families have received compensation so far. "We have also requested the UT administration and also raised this issue before the LG Manoj Sinha to relax certain conditions to enable poor families complete necessary documentation to avail the benefits of the compensation package". In his speech the Lt Governor earlier said the objective behind organising the special Governance Camp was to

Congress ranks swell as hundreds desert TMC in West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
Amid reports of regular Amigration from the Trinamool Congress to other Opposition parties, particularly the CPI(M), the Bengal ruling outfit on Monday suffered yet another blow with at least a thousand party men led by a district secretary and a bevy of panchayat members joining the Congress. The seemingly mass migration took place in Malda days ahead of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's visit to this Muslim-dominated North Bengal district. Malda District TMC secretary Md Hosamuddin joined the Congress along with a thousand party members alleging rampant corruption and what he called "cut money raj". "People like us had been with the Congress since the days of ABA Ghani Khan Chowdhury. Subsequently we joined the TMC inspired by Mamata Banerjee's sacrifices ... but of late there has been a massive degeneration in the TMC ... though the top leadership speaks of 'zero tolerance to corruption' here the leaders are sunk neck-deep in it ... there is cut-money raj everywhere ... posts are sold in lieu of money ... the people are very angry with the ministers and MLAs who are going to jail

IIT-M researchers develop ML tool for better detection of brain tumours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a Machine Learning (ML)-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumours in the brain and spinal cord such as Glioblastoma. Their findings were published in the peer-reviewed journal *Briefings in Bioinformatics*. The tool called aGBMDriver' (Glioblastoma Mutiformer Drivers), was developed specifically to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations in glioblastoma. The tool is publicly available online. "We have identified the important amino acid features for identifying cancer-causing mutations and achieved the highest accuracy for distinguishing between driver and neutral mutations," said Prof. M. Michael Gromiha, Department of Biotechnology at IIT Madras, in a statement. "We hope that this tool (GBMDriver) could help to prioritise driver mutations in glioblastoma and assist in identifying potential therapeutic targets, thus helping to develop drug design strategies," Gromiha added.

Maha accused of double standards as cops stop Rahman show at 10 PM

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The move by the Pune police to stop the concert of music maestro AR Rehman's concert at 10 pm in Pune on Sunday on grounds of time limit has sparked a controversy, with the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) flagging the issue of a BJP youth leader Mohit Kamboj Bharatiya being in an inebriated condition at a Mumbai bar as late as 3 AM on April 30. The Opposition is questioning the Maharashtra Government's double standards. On a day when a video clip of the police personnel walking onto the stage at Raja Bahadur Mill area in Pune where Rehman was performing live and demanding that the show be stopped immediately went viral on social media, the police went on the defensive and issued a clarification. Deputy Commissioner of

EC orders enhanced vigil at 185 checkpoints on Karnataka border

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on Monday ordered enhanced vigil at 185 checkpoints on Karnataka's border with six neighbouring states to prevent any unauthorised movement of inducements such as cash, liquor, freebies and drugs ahead of the May 10 assembly polls. The Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, held a virtual meet with top officials of Karnataka, its neighbouring states of Goa, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well as representatives of central agencies to review the election arrangements and law and order coordination. Chief secretaries, police chiefs and nodal police officers of Karnataka and the six neighbouring states and nodal officers of central forces and senior officials from enforcement agencies such as Coast Guard and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) attended the meeting. The poll panel directed state teams to enhance vigilance on the state border. CEC Kumar specifically emphasised on the need for vigil at the 185 inter-state checkpoints to ensure that no cross-border movement of illicit cash, liquor, drugs, freebies takes place. While taking note of seizure of more than Rs 305 crore till date as compared to Rs 83 crore in the last assembly elections, Kumar said there was a need to fix responsibility of local officers failing to control money power. The CEC asked the officials to step up the seizures with support from adjoining border states and instill fear of administration amongst the violators to ensure inducement-free election. He also directed Coast Guard and Narcotics Control Bureau officials to keep strict vigil and help curtail the menace of drugs. The CEC also directed officials to keep a strict watch over social media for any violations and fake narratives aimed at vitiating the election atmosphere. He urged the officials to raise the bar further on voter turnout. Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey sought strict action against anti-social elements, follow-up of pending non-bailable warrants and strict vigil during the "silence period" -- 48 hours before the end of polling -- to ensure elections without fear and favour. Election Commissioner Arun Goel asked the officials to tighten vigilance without causing inconvenience to the public and ensure a thorough follow-up post seizure operations. He noted that the objective of the review was



to sensitise neighbouring states also to put in the best efforts for smooth conduct of elections. This poll is not about you, but people: Rahul hits out at Modi in election rally **PTI ■ TURUVKERE** Hitting out at the Prime Minister over his charge that he was "abused 91 times", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said Narendra Modi should understand that the Karnataka election was not about him. Asking the Prime Minister to speak about the BJP government's work and future programmes for Karnataka, instead of talking about himself, the former AICC president took a dig at Modi's statement about verbal abuses hurled at him. Addressing a public meeting here in Tumakuru district, Gandhi said, "This election is not about you, it is about Karnataka's people and its future. You say Congress abused you 91 times, but you never speak about what you did for Karnataka. In your next speech, you speak about what you did and what you will do in the next five years." Claiming that when he comes to Karnataka and gives speeches he speaks about his party leaders like Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar and about their work, Gandhi said, "We take the names of all our leaders. You (Modi) come here and don't even take the name of your Chief Minister (Basavaraj Bommai) and (B S) Yediyurappa (former CM). Your speeches are all about Narendra Modi."

Educational Hub : Nainital

Pine Crest School's unique beginning in the realm of education

The Pine Crest School has embarked on a unique educational journey. Its mission is to brighten the future of the students and to ensure all-round development of their personalities with imparting of quality education. This is a boarding school offering accommodation and food to its students. The teachers are all endowed with vast and long experiences. All facilities meant for the fullest development of the students' personalities in accordance with requirement of the present time are available in this school. This is an English medium school from nursery to class 8. Santosh Kumar is the manager of this school.

Mohan Lal Shah Bal Vidya Mandir

This English medium school enjoys a special place among the schools of the city. Students come from across the country. This is a day cum boarding school and it fulfills all the criteria of good education while remaining alive to its responsibility for decades. Thousands of students have passed out of this school and made their marks in life. The school being endowed with all facilities, the teachers caringly teach students, keeping in mind their mental conditions. The school boasts of all sporting facilities to develop physical fitness in the students. The school has been progressing apace and giving cent percent passing percentage in board exams. The principal of the school Anupma Shah says that the school will continue to thrive in the coming days. The school has been treading the path of progress under the instructions of the manager Vinay Shah.

The Pine Crest Elementary School

Near Sherwood College, Ayarpatta Hills
Tallital Nainital

05942-232245
Cont. No.: 7579435277
9837052521

www.pinecrestschoolnainital.com
schoolpinecrestnainital@gmail.com

MOHAN LAL SHAH BAL VIDYA MANDIR SR. SECONDARY SCHOOL (Affiliated to CBSE)

Day-Cum-Boarding School with excellent boarding facilities are for Girls only
www.mlsbalvidyamandir.com

ADMISSION OPEN 2023-24

Peter's Field, Mallital, Nainital
Phone No. 05942-236189, 231198
Email: mlsbvm@gmail.com

St. John's School engaged in all-round development of students

St. John's School began its journey as a play school in 1982. It was founded by H.C. In 1989, it was taken over by E Thomas and S A Thomas and they expanded the school upto class 8. Now the principal is Vinita Rawat. This school is now enjoying a special status among the little children for its unique atmosphere for learning. This English medium school has remained engaged in bringing about all-round development of the students. Along with the compulsory subjects, additional subjects are also being taught to the students. The trust of the people of this city in this school has been deepening with time.

St. John's School Nainital

ADMISSION OPEN 2023-24
Class Nursery to VII

BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL
New Pre-Nursery Section 'HAPPY FEET'
Co-Educational
Provision for Games, Drama, Music, Out Door Activities, Treks etc.Excellent Teaching Staff
Large Dormitories with Qualified Matron and Maids

Above High Court Mallital, Nainital, Uttarakhand
☎ 8126562778, 8218336268 ☉ stjohnsnt@gmail.com

For the little children the first choice is Acorn School

This English medium school up to class V has become the first choice of the little children of the city. The students love the relaxed atmosphere of the school. The level of teaching is very high. The experienced teachers teach with full understanding of the mental condition of the students. The school boasts of all sporting facilities to develop physical fitness in the students. Equipped with all facilities, this school has been progressing apace. The principal of the school Asha Arya says that her life is deeply dedicated to the shaping of the students' future positively.

Acorn By Oakwood School

English Medium Day Cum Residential School
Class Pre-Nursery to V

ADMISSION OPEN FOR THE SESSION 2023-24

The best school in the town with loving and caring atmosphere

Visit:
HH Apartments, Belvdre Compound, Mallital, Nainital, Uttarakhand
Call to find out more:
+91- 8865928856, +91 9837066353
E-mail: acornoakwood565@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

AI IS TRANSFORMING THE AD INDUSTRY

It is making a seismic shift to ad agencies' engagement with their clients



SAHIL CHOPRA

From generative art to coding, artificial intelligence has cropped up with a new-found transformation, and leaders from every industry look forward to making the most of it. We are racing towards a world dominated by digitization and technology, and marketers welcome AI with much joy.

Artificial Intelligence has evolved further than existing merely as a tech buzzword. It's bringing a seismic shift to how businesses communicate and engage with their customers. Chatbots and customer service are two of the most touched aspects of digital AI. AI is at the core of replacing old, monotonous, inefficient practices with a personalized, engaging, efficient approach. This approach has had a dramatic impact on the advertising industry. Customer service is seen as a wearisome game of long wait times and impersonal interactions. The advent of AI has introduced much-needed disruption, transforming customer servicing to be more personalized and intuitive.

Chatbots are leading the show for countless brands, and these AI-powered assistants not only automate monotonous jobs but also provide 24/7 customer service that's fast, consistent, and personalized. Deploying a chatbot is like having a personal concierge that is always ready to help.



With the availability of countless data from customer interactions, chatbots are leveraged to serve hyper-targeted ads that relate to the customers' diverse needs and preferences. As a result, chatbots have changed the narrative, and it's no longer shooting in the dark and hoping something works. Instead, it's about understanding your customer and delivering a message that aligns with their expectations. In addition, chatbots are now programmed to stitch advertising into natural conversations seamlessly.

If you want people to engage with ads, they shouldn't be interruptions but relevant suggestions that add value. Moreover, AI-powered customer service and chatbots are taking advertising to the next stage, from a transactional interaction to a personalized one. When technology is integrated into our daily life, there are unlimited possibilities. Today, AI is being used by businesses worldwide to give impetus to customer engagement, conversions, and customer loyalty.

However, the efficacy of artificial intelligence in advertising depends on how efficiently we utilize it. We should not forget that despite the many time-saving perks, AI-powered chatbots are mere tools developed to strengthen human interaction. AI-powered chatbots are not meant to replace actual human interaction. Combining tech play with a human touch is crucial to spark customer conversations.

With more and more AI-powered chatbots coming into the picture, the advertising world is waking up to a new future. Customer service and advertising go hand in hand to transform the customer journey and add a flavour of personalization to it. As we move closer to witnessing the AI revolution, it's quite clear that AI and chatbots will continue redefining the advertising experience.

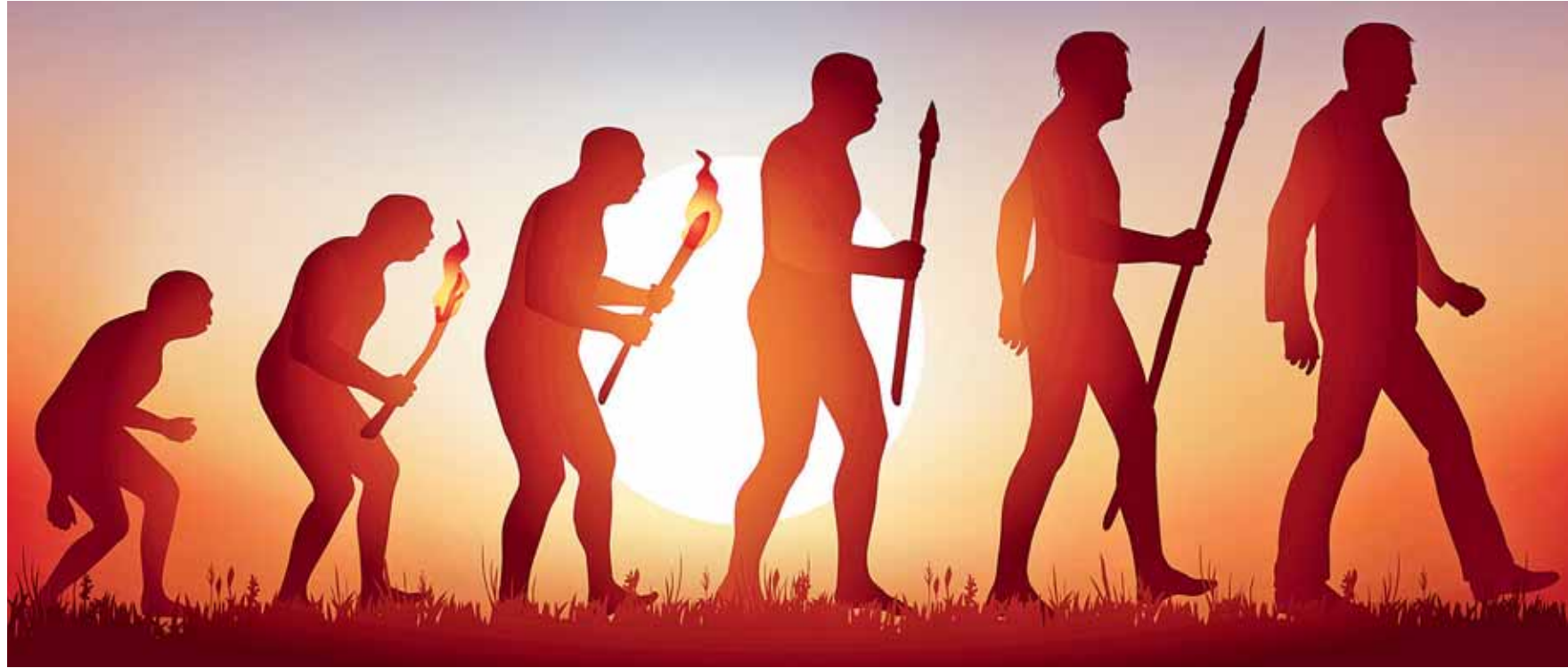
(The writer is Founder & CEO, iCubesWire)

Rejecting evolution is a horrible mistake

Several scientists and educators are protesting against the exclusion of Evolution Theory from curriculum



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE



History indeed repeats first as tragedy and then as farce, as Marx had said. In 2017, the fundamentalist state of Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan removed Darwin's Theory of Evolution from the school curriculum because it was a "controversial subject", "above the students' level and not directly relevant." It was a tragedy for the Turkish state founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who had combined Islamism and political pluralism to make Turkey a model democracy in the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia is the only other country to exclude evolutionary theory from the school curriculum. Both Christian and Muslim creationists reject the theory of evolution. "The forces of darkness and ignorance are never permanently defeated", the celebrated scientist and science-writer Asimov noted. Even in the USA, powerful evangelist groups have succeeded in banning evolution in some states and local schools. In 1925, a high school biology teacher named John Thomas Scopes was fined a hundred dollars by a court in Tennessee for teaching that humans had evolved from lower forms of life, against a law passed by the Tennessee legislature forbidding teachers in publicly supported schools to teach evolution.

Even now, equal time has to be given for teaching evolution and creationism in many of the publicly funded schools in the USA. But it was unthinkable that such a thing could ever happen in India, known for its prowess in science and technology that has propelled the country, once called the "Sick Man of Asia", to the fifth largest economy in the world. But history never ceases to spring surprises. It is indeed a farce that in the pretext of rationalising the curriculum and reducing the load on students, NCERT has now removed the Theory of Evolution from the Class IX-X curriculum. According to a document released by NCERT, Chapter: 9 'Heredity and Evolution' has been replaced with 'Heredity'. Among the list of other dropped chapters are Charles Robert Darwin, Origin of Life on Earth, Molecular Phylogeny, Evolution, Tracing Evolutionary Relationships and Human Evolution.

Over 1,800 scientists, science teachers



THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN FORTHRIGHT AND RATIONAL IN HIS VIEWS ON SCIENCE. THE REST OF THE OFFICIALDOM MUST COME CLEAN ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ON SCIENCE TOO

(The author is a former Director General from the Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. Views expressed are personal)

and educators from TIFR, IISc, IISER, IITs, and many other institutions have signed an open letter - 'An Appeal Against Exclusion of Evolution from Curriculum' - protesting against the move. They demanded that the theory of Darwinian evolution in particular be restored in secondary education. The letter rightly stated, "In the current educational structure, only a small fraction of students chooses the science stream in grade XI or XII, and an even smaller fraction of those choose biology as one of the subjects of study. Thus, the exclusion of key concepts from the curriculum till grade 10 amounts to a vast majority of students missing a critical part of essential learning in this field." The letter further stated that an understanding of the process of evolution, "a law-governed process that does not require divine intervention", is also crucial in building a scientific temper and a rational worldview: "The way Darwin's painstaking observations and his keen insights led him to the theory of natural selection educates students about the process of science and the importance of critical thinking. Depriving students, who do not go on to study biology after the 10th standard, of any exposure to this vitally important field is a travesty of education."

NCERT has recently been on a rampage of textbook revision. It has already dropped quite a few chapters from the history textbooks, mainly those dealing with the Mughal rule of India, which has already run into controversies with academicians. But its latest misadventure in biology is fraught with grave danger because it has the potential of turning India, a modern democratic secular state, into a fundamentalist Turkey or a Saudi Arabia. History can indeed be a tragedy.

Textbooks do not simply provide a framework for teaching and

learning; their impact goes far deeper in shaping the future of a country because textbooks determine how young minds are to be moulded for the benefit of society. It will be dangerous to allow young minds to be shaped according to the ideology of any ruling party. Evolution is often derided by the Hindutva fundamentalists who contend that we had descended from Rishis and Munis and certainly not from lowly apes. The ignorance runs so deep that even a minister, and that too of human resources, had said in 2018 that the theory of evolution was 'scientifically wrong' because "no one has ever seen a monkey turn into a man."

The present government's intention and attitude towards science are becoming intriguingly suspect. Very recently, it has come out with a notification for winding up Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) whose brief includes the popularisation of science and promoting scientific temper in the country. It is a unique institution in India with no parallel, within the government or outside, an institution that has been working quietly since 1989 when it was set up, to popularise science and to disseminate scientific knowledge through print and electronic media, books, journals and newsletters and films, and also through workshops and events conducted all over the country, with the help of a skeletal staff of only 10 scientists and some 25 administrative staff, on a scanty budget only Rs 14 crore a year for all its activities including establishment costs.

During its short span of existence, what it has produced will be the envy of any organisation: it has published 400 books by renowned scientists and science writers, produced over 3000 radio science programmes in 19 languages and 12 dialects and made more than 5000

films on popular science. It publishes a monthly bilingual journal called Dream 2047 in English and Hindi, with outreach to almost every government school in the country, besides 10 other monthly newsletters in Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Maithili, Urdu, Kashmiri and Punjabi. It runs "India Science", an internet-based 24x7 OTT channel telecast by Door Darshan and Sansad TV that remains the only source of scientific information for most of our students and rural folks to learn about science in layman's language.

The decision to wind up such an exemplary and lean organisation, an apolitical and neutral space for promoting science and scientific temper that the country needs so badly has been shocking, to say the least, and might spell the end of science popularisation in the country, despite the government's pretensions to the contrary. It is supposedly being done for evolving a "new communication structure" to replace Vigyan Prasar, no details of which have been spelt out, because probably there is none. It is inconceivable that the DST will have the capacity to carry out these tasks - in any case, science communication is not a bureaucratic job, it requires specialised skills to take science to the people. It also requires a commitment and a missionary zeal that bureaucrats are hardly likely to possess. After all, why close down an efficient organisation that has been serving its purpose so well unless there is some other motive? Is this the way to promote science in a country that is still steeped in deep-seated superstitions and irrational beliefs, practices and attitudes, even among the so-called educated? The prime minister has always been forthright and rational in his views on science. The rest of the officialdom must come clean on the government's policies on science too.

PM Modi touched the right chord with Mann Ki Baat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has successfully established a dialogue with his fellow countrymen not as the PM but as an elderly person of the family

"This year, as we move forward in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and presiding over the G20, our resolve has strengthened for further enriching our diverse global cultures. We have always promoted the matter of cultural preservation," said PM Modi in his remarkable 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat to the nation. The journey of Man ki Baat has been remarkable and inspiring in the annals of India's radio service. He compared this journey with the mantra from the Upanishads, Charaiveti Charaiveti, which has been inspiring for centuries. He emphasised it further, saying that through this program, every countryman becomes the inspiration of others, and this optimism



SACHIDANAND JOSHI

moves the nation forward. He expressed happiness that Mann Ki Baat has started a new tradition in the country, in which one can see everyone's efforts.

When 'Mann Ki Baat' started on 3rd October 2014 two questions hounded many: why a dying or not-so-popular Radio and why 'Mann Ki Baat'. Now that it has completed 100 episodes, these questions have been answered automatically.

We deal with things at different levels in our life and it is very well explained in our Indian Philosophy, Innermost circle of a person is 'chitt' and above 'chitt' is 'Mann'. 'Mann' is connected with the heart as well as the mind so it controls the intellect as well as routine life. That is why it is often said

that we should keep our 'Mann' in control to have proper balance in our lives. In the 100th episode, PM confessed that he had choked his throat many times narrating the efforts of his countrymen. This shows that his involvement with this programme was not superficial but was true "Mann Se".

When a Prime Minister thinks of establishing a dialogue with his fellow countryman not as the PM but as an elderly person of the family what could have been a better choice of the medium than the Radio and on that doing 'Mann ki Baat' rather than doing anything else.

The 'Mann ki Baat' is replete with cultural references to festivals, art forms, heritage, places, people and

personalities. In the 100th episode, he mentioned Lakshdeep's Kummel Brothers Challengers club and Karnataka Kavemshri's Kala Chetna march. He further emphasized enriching our diverse global cultures. In today's global context, various personalities from India, their thinking, beliefs and contributions to the evolution of India's culture have a message for the world undergoing a churn. Remarkably 'Mann ki Baat' episodes aired so far contain mention of various cultural references nearly 300 times. If we calculate the time devoted to discussing cultural subjects in the 'Mann ki Baat' it would come to nearly 15% to 20%. This is a unique initiative to connect with the citizens on daily life issues by re-igniting

the zeal to recognize and strengthen their cultural roots.

The essence of these episodes has had a tremendous tangible effect but the feat is seen in awakening the thought process of the masses. The episodes have also engaged in bringing to the fore the cultural pursuits of spirituality and sustainability in one's lifestyle. Individuals such as Antonietta Rozzi in Italy popularised Yoga across Europe and finds mention in the 54th episode of the 'Mann ki Baat'. Kenji Yoshi-ji and Matsuo-ji from Japan are Filmmakers whose contribution is acknowledged in the 89th episode for having made multiple films of the Ramayana in Japanese. In the 75th episode of 'Mann ki Baat', PM talks about Sikari Tisso of

Assam who has devoted his entire life to document the Karbi language. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav made the entire country re-visit and pay tribute to the unsung sacrifices of our heroes.

It almost felt like a revolution had swept through the whole country where citizens poured their heartfelt compositions marked by brimming revolutionary sentiments and remembering the sacrifices of our freedom fighters. Various programmes and events were curated to give homage to our heroes like Alluri Sitarama Raju, Lachit Borphan, Subramania Bharati, Birsu Munda and many more.

Vocalising the use of locally produced handicrafts, and traditional foods, and adopting the traditional way of liv-

ing has been the major take-away from some of the 'Mann ki Baat' episodes. Multi-faceted programmes were organized to provide a platform to local artists and facilitated the engagement of their art and craft with the masses.

As the 'Mann ki Baat' has reached its 100th episode, it has become the most powerful facilitator for revising our cultural roots in the 21st century. As PM himself described, Mann Ki Baat is like a thread of any garland, which holds each bead together. In every episode, the Spirit of service and capability of the countrymen has been inspiring others. PM has touched the right chord, to create a happy, healthy and harmonious society. In strengthening the social fabric of India.

First Republic Bank seized, sold to JP Morgan Chase

AP ■ NEW YORK

Regulators seized troubled First Republic Bank on early Monday and sold all of its deposits and most of its assets to JPMorgan Chase Bank in a bid to head off further banking turmoil in the US.

San Francisco-based First Republic is the third midsize bank to fail in two months.

It is the second-biggest bank failure in US history, behind only Washington Mutual, which collapsed at the height of the 2008 financial crisis and was also taken over by JPMorgan.

First Republic has struggled since the March collapses of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and investors and depositors had grown increasingly worried it might not survive because of its high amount of uninsured deposits and exposure to low interest rate loans.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said early Monday that First

Republic Bank's 84 branches in eight states will reopen as branches of JPMorgan Chase Bank and depositors will have full access to all of their deposits.

Regulators worked through the weekend to find a way forward before US stock markets opened.

Markets in many parts of the world were closed for May 1 holidays Monday. The two markets in Asia that were open, in Tokyo and Sydney, rose.

"Our government invited us and others to step up, and we did," said Jamie Dimon, chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase. As of April 13, First Republic had approximately USD 229 billion in total assets and USD 104 billion in total deposits, the FDIC said.

At the end of last year, the Federal Reserve ranked it 14th in size among US commercial banks.

The FDIC estimated its deposit insurance fund would take a USD 13 billion hit from taking First Republic into

receivership. Its rescue of Silicon Valley Bank cost the fund a record USD 20 billion.

Before Silicon Valley Bank failed, First Republic had a banking franchise that was the envy of most of the industry.

Its clients — mostly the rich and powerful — rarely defaulted on their loans. The bank has made much of its money making low-cost loans to the wealthy, which reportedly included Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Flush with deposits from the well-heeled, First Republic saw total assets more than double of 2019's first quarter, when its full-time workforce was 4,600.

But the vast majority of its deposits, like those in Silicon Valley and Signature Bank, were uninsured — that is, above the USD 250,000 limit set by the FDIC. And that worried analysts and investors. If First Republic were to fail, its depositors might not get all their money back.

Those fears were crystallised



in the bank's recent quarterly results. First Republic experienced a modern day bank run as customers rushed to pull out more than USD 100 billion in deposits following the failure of Silicon Valley and Signature Bank.

Unlike bank runs throughout history, First Republic's demise was fuelled by the speed of social media and digital withdrawals that can be made

in seconds from a cell phone.

San Francisco-based First Republic said that it was only able to stanch the bleeding after a group of large banks stepped in to save it with USD 30 billion in uninsured deposits.

First Republic had been looking for a way to quickly turn itself around.

The bank planned to sell off unprofitable assets, including the low interest mortgages that

it provided to wealthy clients. It also announced plans to lay off up to a quarter of its workforce, which totalled about 7,200 employees in late 2022.

Investors were skeptical, and the devastating quarterly report sent them running for the exits. First Republic shares fell 75 per cent last week and closed Friday at USD 3.51.

Any remaining shareholders are likely to get wiped out.

The shares traded at USD 115 on March 8, right before Silicon Valley Bank failed.

The Fed and FDIC, which regulate the banking industry along with the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, could face renewed criticism over their handling of First Republic.

Both acknowledged Friday in separate reports that lax supervision had contributed to the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

For Dimon and JPMorgan, there may be a sense of déjà vu: Back in 2008, Dimon was the go-to banker for Washington to find private solutions for that banking crisis and JPMorgan acquired both Bear Stearns and Washington Mutual.

In a statement, JPMorgan portrayed the First Republic deal as beneficial both to the financial system and the company.

As part of the agreement, the FDIC will share losses with JPMorgan on First Republic's loans.

'Israeli fire kills teen in West Bank raid'

Tel Aviv (AP): Israeli forces fatally shot a Palestinian teenager in a raid in the occupied West Bank on Monday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, part of a relentless wave of violence that has rocked the region for the last year.

The Israeli military said gunmen opened fire at soldiers on an arrest raid and the troops shot back. The military has been staging near-nightly raids in West Bank cities, towns and villages in what it says is an attempt to stamp out militancy.

Dozens of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire this year and 19 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis during that time.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the teen as Jibril al-Laada, 17. It said three others were seriously wounded in the fighting, which took place in the Aqabat Jabr refugee camp near the West Bank city of Jericho. The camp has been a frequent target of Israeli raids.

Israel launched the raids after a spate of Palestinian attacks last spring. That set off some of the worst fighting between Israel and Palestinians in the West Bank in years and while Israel says the raids are meant to thwart future attacks, violence against Israelis does not appear to be slowing.

Nearly 150 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank and east Jerusalem last year, making 2022 the deadliest year in those areas since 2004, according to leading Israeli rights group B'Tselem.

Casualties have spiked this year, with 98 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire, with just under half of those affiliated with militant groups, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

Israel says most of those killed have been armed fighters, but youths protesting the incursions have also been killed as have people not involved in the confrontations.

The Palestinians see the raids as a further encroachment of Israel's 56-year, open-ended occupation. The Palestinians seek the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem for their hoped-for independent state.

2 killed in Mississippi shooting; man held

Mississippi (AP): Police have charged a 19-year-old man with killing two teenagers and wounding four others in an early Sunday shooting at a house party on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Cameron Everest Brand of Pass Christian is charged with murder and aggravated assault, jail records show. Bay St. Louis Police Chief Toby Schwartz said in a news release that police identified Brand as the sole shooter through witness and victim statements.

An 18-year-old and a 16-year-old died in a New Orleans hospital, Schwartz said. The Orleans Parish coroner did not return a phone call seeking to confirm their identities.

Brand was arrested at his home in neighbouring Pass Christian and taken to jail, Schwartz said. Bay St. Louis Municipal Court Judge Stephen Maggio denied Brand bail, and

he was being held in the Hancock County jail. It is unclear if Brand has a lawyer who could speak for him.

Students had gathered for a party at the home on a sparsely populated road after Bay High School's prom. Local news outlets reported that trails of blood could be seen on the pavement Sunday outside the home, while cars were peppered with bullet holes. The home is less than a mile from Bay High.

Police said the six victims wounded by gunfire ranged in age from 15 to 18. All were taken to area hospitals, some by helicopter. Casey Woods, an 18-year-old student at Pass Christian High School, told the Sun Herald of Biloxi that he was at the party with a girlfriend. He told the paper he saw Brand talking to people and then walking away before he returned and the shooting started.

British Indian gets BAFTA Fellowship

London (PTI): Popular UK-based Indian-origin actor-writer Meera Syal has been conferred a BAFTA Fellowship, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) upon an individual in recognition of an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film and/or television.

The 61-year-old, who was born to Punjabi parents and grew up in the West Midlands region of England, was honoured with an MBE and then a CBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to drama and literature.

Best known for television shows such as 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42', Syal has made her mark as an award-winning actor, screenwriter and novelist over the years.

Russia missile attack on Ukraine injures 34, damages homes

AP ■ KYIV

Russia launched its second large salvo of missiles at Ukraine in recent days early Monday, damaging buildings and wounding at least 34 people in the eastern city of Pavlohrad but failing to hit Kyiv, officials said.

Air raid sirens began blaring across the capital at about 3.45 am, followed by the sounds of explosions as missiles were intercepted by Ukrainian defence systems.

Eighteen cruise missiles were fired in total from the Murmansk region and the Caspian region, and 15 of them were intercepted, said Ukrainian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

The head of Kyiv's city administration, Serhii Popko, said all missiles fired at the city

were shot down, as well as some drones. He didn't provide further details, but said more information would be available later.

The attack follows Friday's launch of more than 20 cruise missiles and two explosive drones at Ukraine, which was the first to target Kyiv in nearly two months.

In that attack, Russian missiles hit an apartment building in Uman, a city about 215 kilometres (135 miles) south of Kyiv, killing 21 people including three children.

In Monday's attack, missiles hit Pavlohrad, in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, wounding 34 people, including five children, according to Serhii Lysak the region's top official.

Seven missiles shot at the city and "some were intercepted" but others hit an industrial facility, sparking a fire, and a

residential neighbourhood where 19 apartment buildings, 25 homes, six schools and five shops were damaged, he said.

Missiles also hit three other areas in the region, damaging residential buildings and a school, he said.

The attacks also damaged Ukraine's power network infrastructure, which will take several days to repair, according to Energy Minister Herman Haluschenko.

He said that nearly 20,000 people in the city of Kherson and wider region had been left without power, along with an unspecified number of people in the Dnipropetrovsk region, including the city of Dnipro.

Moscow has frequently launched long-range missile attacks during the 14-month war, often indiscriminately hitting civilian areas. Ukraine has recently taken delivery of

American-made Patriot missiles, providing improved anti-missile defences, but it was not clear whether any of them were employed in trying to stop Monday morning's attack.

Ukraine has also been building up its mechanised brigades with armour supplied by its Western allies, who have also been training Ukrainian troops and sending ammunition, as Kyiv prepares for an expected counteroffensive this spring. On Saturday, two Ukrainian drones hit a Russian oil depot in Crimea in the latest attack on the annexed peninsula as Ukraine gears up for its counteroffensive.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an interview last week that his country would seek to reclaim the peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014 in the upcoming counteroffensive.

Biden, Harris meet top donors to raise funds for poll campaign

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris over the weekend met top 150 donors, including an Indian-American entrepreneur, to develop a successful strategy to raise funds for their 2024 re-election campaign, participants of the meeting said.

During the event, Biden highlighted the importance of donors and their contribution to preserving democracy, while lambasting former president Donald Trump-led "MAGA Republicans" and emphasising abortion rights.

Although the reception was not a fundraiser, it marked a new effort to bring in untapped donors into the fold, participants of the meeting said.

Leading Indian-American fundraiser, Ajay Jain Bhutoria, who is the Democratic Party



deputy national finance chair, was among the 150 major Democratic donors to attend the meeting in Washington DC.

It is understood that the campaign has set a target of raising USD 2 billion for the 2024 re-election campaign.

The event marked the first in-person donor conference of Biden's 2024 re-election campaign, where Democratic Party officials presented their cam-

aign strategy and began their fundraising efforts to reach the goal of USD 2 billion — double the USD 1 billion raised during the previous election cycle.

Participants of the meeting, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that both Biden and Harris along with their strategists appeared confident of winning the 2024 election cycle based on their accomplishments so far.

G7 biz group endorses India's G20 theme

Washington (PTI): Top business executives of G7 countries have endorsed India's G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' and said it is essential to achieve sustainable growth that is compatible with the protection of the global environment.

Unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year, the theme of India's G20 Presidency - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad.

Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life - human, animal, plant and microorganisms - and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. Representative business federations of the G7 - Japan, Italy, Canada, France,

the US, the UK, Germany, and the European Union - held the B7 Tokyo Summit on April 19-20, ahead of the G7 Summit meeting in Japan later this month.

"Through creating a problem-solving society that is equipped with both digital technology and creativity and imagination of diverse people, it is essential to first achieve sustainable growth in a way that is compatible with the protection of the global environment and to distribute the fruits in a fair and equitable manner, which is conducive to 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' as the theme of India's G20 Presidency," said the B7 in a declaration following two days of brain-storming sessions.

India assumed the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022, to 30 November 2023.

Manhunt for Texas gunman slowed down by 'zero leads'

AP ■ CLEVELAND

A widening manhunt for a Texas gunman who killed five neighbours continued turning up nothing as officers knocked on doors, the governor put up USD 50,000 in reward money and the FBI acknowledged they had "zero leads" after nearly two days of searching.

"What we need from the public is any type of information, because right now we're just running into dead ends," James Smith, the FBI's special agent in charge, said during an afternoon news conference. "I can tell you right now, we have zero leads."

The search for the suspect has grown in scale since the Friday shooting, with more than 200 police from multiple jurisdictions searching for Francisco Oropeza, many going



Mass shooting survivor Wilson Garcia, left wearing striped shirt, takes part in a vigil for his son, Daniel Enrique Laso on Sunday in Cleveland, Texas.

door-to-door, looking for the 38-year-old suspect and asking for tips.

Local officials and the FBI also chipped in reward money, bringing the total to USD 80,000 for any information about Oropeza's whereabouts.

Oropeza is considered armed and dangerous after

fleeing the area Friday night, likely on foot, San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers said late Saturday. He said authorities had widened the search beyond the scene of the shooting, which occurred after the suspect's neighbours asked him to stop firing off rounds in his yard.

UK's communities ambivalent about King's coronation

AP ■ LONDON

Musician Deronne White is ready to play on King Charles III's coronation day. The flautist and his fellow young musicians aren't playing anything regal or solemn — they're planning to parade through south London's streets entertaining crowds with an uplifting "coronation carnival" set mixing gospel, jazz, grime, disco and rap. There'll even be a calypso take on the UK national anthem.

While he's excited about the gig, White says he has mixed feelings about the coronation. Like some others at the Brixton Chamber Orchestra, White is a descendant of migrants from Jamaica — a former British colony and Commonwealth member that wants to cut its ties with the monarchy and has called for the UK royals to address their historical ties to slavery. "Personally it's a little bit hard to connect to the whole occasion," he said. "I think that the coronation could possibly

Special diversity stamps issued to mark coronation

London (PTI): A set of four stamps reflecting subjects close to the heart of King Charles III, such as diversity and the Commonwealth, has been unveiled to mark the 74-year-old monarch's Coronation on Saturday.

Royal Mail said the stamps illustrate the Coronation ceremony as well as some of the causes Charles has dedicated his years of public service to: cultural diversity and community; the global ties of the

Commonwealth, which he now leads; and sustainability and biodiversity.

The 'Diversity and Community' themed stamp is designed to reflect a multi-faith community and the cultural diversity of contemporary British society.

"The stamp features figures representing the Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist religions and is representative of all faiths and none.

allow people like me to try and connect to (the monarchy). But it can be a bit tough." Towns, cities and villages across the UK will be awash with Union flags and patriotic decorations to celebrate Charles' coronation at Westminster Abbey this weekend, and officials say the festi-

ties will bring Britain's diverse communities together. But the event is viewed with a large dose of ambivalence by some in the UK, not least those with African-Caribbean backgrounds and other minorities for whom the British Empire's past wrongs still loom large.

Pope willing to return artefacts

AP ■ ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE

Pope Francis said on Sunday that talks were underway to return colonial-era artefacts in the Vatican Museum that were acquired from Indigenous peoples in Canada and voiced a willingness to return other problematic objects in the Vatican's collection on a case-by-case basis.

"The Seventh Commandment comes to mind: If you steal something you have to give it back," Francis said during an airborne press conference en route home from Hungary.

Recently, Francis returned to Greece the three fragments of the Parthenon sculptures that had been in the Vatican Museums' collection for two centuries. The pope said on Sunday that the restitution was "the right gesture" and that when such returns were possible, museums should undertake them.

"In the case where you can return things, where it's necessary to make a gesture, better to do it," he said. "Sometimes you can't, if there are no possibili-



ties — political, real or concrete possibilities. But in the cases where you can restitution, please do it. It's good for everyone, so you don't get used to putting your hands in someone else's pockets." His comments to The Associated Press were his first on a question that has forced many museums in Europe and North America to rethink their ethnographic and anthropological collections.

The restitution debate has gathered steam amid a reckoning for the colonial conquests of Africa, the Americas, and Asia and demands for restitution of

war loot by the countries and communities of origin.

The Vatican has an extensive collection of artefacts and art made by Indigenous peoples from around the world, much of it sent to Rome by Catholic missionaries for a 1925 exhibition in the Vatican gardens. The Vatican insists the artefacts, including ceremonial masks, wampum belts and feathered headdresses, were gifts. But Indigenous scholars dispute whether Native peoples at the time could have freely offered their handicrafts given the power differentials at play in colonial periods.

Francis, the first-ever Latin American pope, knows the history well. Last year, he travelled to Canada to personally apologize to Indigenous peoples for abuses they endured at the hands of Catholic missionaries at residential schools.

In the run-up to the visit, Indigenous groups visited the Vatican's Anima Mundi museum, saw some of their ancestors' handiwork, and expressed interest in having greater access to the collection, and the return of some items.

Long-held correspondent released: Al Jazeera

Dubai (AP): The satellite news network Al Jazeera said Monday that a correspondent for one of its channels held in Egypt since 2019 has been released after nearly four years in pre-trial detention. The Qatar-funded network in Doha said that Hisham Abdel Aziz, a producer with its Al Jazeera Mubasher channel, had been freed.

Authorities in Egypt did not acknowledge his release. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

He was freed on Sunday, said Khaled el-Balshy, head of Egypt's Journalists' Union. Abdel Aziz's wife posted an image Sunday of Abdel Aziz online, thanking God for him.

The network has said that Abdel Aziz, an Egyptian who had been based in Qatar for the public affairs channel, was stopped at Cairo International Airport in June 2019 while he was travelling for a family trip.

They say he was "subjected to enforced disappearance for around a month" before being



found in custody. In the time since, authorities repeatedly had applied and been granted repeated 45-day extensions for his detention.

Al Jazeera long had been targeted by Cairo since the country's 2013 military takeover that installed Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sissi into the presidency. Qatar had backed Egypt's elected president, the late Islamist Mohammed Morsi, after the 2011 Arab Spring. Morsi belonged to the pan-Arab Islamic group the Muslim Brotherhood, viewed by some Gulf Arab nations as a threat to their hereditary rule.

China seeks UNSC reforms for developing countries

Silent on India's inclusion

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has maintained its stance on the UN Security Council reforms, saying there should be more representation for developing countries, especially the small and medium countries, but avoided a direct response to India and other countries' call for its expansion and their inclusion.

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee met Tareq M A M Albanai and Alexander Marschik, co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on UNSC reforms, in Beijing on Saturday and outlined China's stand on the reorganisation of the top organ of the world body.

China is one of the five veto-wielding members of the 15-member UNSC along with France, Russia, the UK and the US.

The remaining 10 members are elected as non-permanent members for two-year terms and do not have veto powers.

India has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts to reform the Security Council, saying it rightly deserved a place as a permanent member of the United Nations.



In his interactions with the IGN representatives, Wang said in the reform of the Security Council, efforts should be made to uphold fairness and justice, increase the representation and voice of developing countries, give more small and medium-sized countries the opportunity to participate in decision-making and correct historical injustices against Africa in particular.

It is hoped that the co-chairs will guide all parties to remove disturbances and build consensus so that the reform process of the Security Council will be widely recognised by the international community and the results will stand the test of history, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Wang as saying.

Court nixes plea for ownership over Raj Kapoor's Haveli in Pak

Peshawar (PTI): A Pakistani court has dismissed a petition seeking ownership over legendary Bollywood actor Raj Kapoor's Haveli in the historic walled city here in the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which has been declared a national heritage by the provincial government in 2016.

A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court comprising Justices Ishfaq Ibrahim and Abdul Shakor on Thursday dismissed the ownership case of the petitioner. The court dismissed the petition in light of an earlier judgment of the same court pertaining to the acquisition process of legendary actor Dilip Kumar's haveli in Peshawar's famous Qissa Khwani Bazaar, which had already been declared a national heritage by the federal government led by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The Additional Advocate General of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province told the court that the provincial archaeology department had declared the Kapoor Haveli a national heritage in 2016 through a notification.

On this point, Justice Shakor asked the archaeology department whether they had any documents or proof that indicated that the Raj Kapoor family ever lived in the haveli.

Advocate Sabahuddin Khattak, the counsel for the petitioner, Saeed Muhammad, told the court that the father of the petitioner had purchased the mansion during an auction in 1969 after competitive bidding, paid its cost and remained as absolute owner till the commencement of the acquisition process initiated by the provincial government.

He further claimed that there are no



documents with any department of the provincial government to prove that the late Raj Kapoor and his family ever lived or owned this property.

However, the bench told the counsel that the matter ought to be taken to a civil court.

The mansion is now in a very dilapidated condition and its current owners want to demolish the structure and construct a commercial plaza in view of its prime location. However, all such moves were stopped as the archaeology department wanted to preserve the mansion, keeping in view its historic importance.

Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, is situated in Peshawar's famous Qissa Khwani Bazaar. It was built between 1918 and 1922 by the legendary actor's grandfather Dewan Basheswar Nath Kapoor. Raj Kapoor and his uncle Trilok Kapoor were born here.

'PTI will be ultimate loser if talks fail'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Terming "impracticable" Imran Khan's demand that the National Assembly be dissolved by May 14 for a successful outcome of talks, Pakistan's ruling coalition has warned the former premier that his party will be the "ultimate loser" if the parleys failed as the polls can be delayed for a year.

Ahead of the third round of talks between the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N)-led federal coalition and the PTI scheduled for Tuesday, the government told Khan that he cannot hold talks at gunpoint.

"We want to tell Imran Khan that he cannot hold talks at gunpoint. The first condition of talks is, there are no pre-conditions. Khan is so desperate that he wants his way or the highway," PML-N Secretary General and Federal Minister for Development Ahsan Iqbal was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

The federal coalition termed Khan's ultimatum "impracticable" and asked him to be more flexible for the success of this dialogue between the government and the oppo-

sition, the report said on Monday.

"If the talks fail, the ultimate loser will be the PTI as there is a provision for delaying elections for a year under the Constitution. Imran Khan has warned of creating a law and order situation in the country (if polls are not held this July) and in such a scenario, the elections will be delayed for another year," Iqbal said on Sunday.

The federal coalition parties sat with the PTI with an 'open mind', but Khan continued to ask for the dissolution of assemblies (National, Sindh and Balochistan) by May 14, he said, adding that the demand is not acceptable to the federal coalition.

"The people of Sindh and Balochistan cannot be punished for the folly of Imran Khan who dissolved Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies to force elections... under the patronage of his 'handlers' in the institutions," the minister said, adding that Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party would have to agree on a code of conduct for polls, besides the same-day elections.

RSP to take a call on joining Prachanda govt on Friday

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) will decide whether or not to join the government at a party meeting on Friday, a senior party leader said on Monday, a day after its Chairman Ravi Lamichhane met Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' here.

The RSP, the fourth largest party in Nepal's Parliament, won two out of three seats of the House of Representatives in recently held by-polls, raising its tally in the lower house to 22.

Speaking at a press conference after the central committee meeting of RSP on Monday, RSP General Secretary and Spokesperson Mukul Dhakal said that a meeting has been called for Friday to decide on the issue of the party joining the current government, My Republica newspaper report-

ed. In Monday's meeting, the central members gave their views on whether or not to join the government, the paper said.

The development comes a day after RSP Chairman Lamichhane met Prachanda at the Prime Minister's residence on Sunday. Their meeting assumed significance as the Maoist leader has been trying to persuade the former TV journalist to join the government to strengthen his fragile ruling coalition.

The Prime Minister had congratulated Lamichhane over the phone immediately after he was elected, and he again congratulated him during their meeting on Sunday, Press Coordinator Surya Kiran Sharma said.

The RSP was the third largest member of the ruling coalition in Nepal before quitting the government after Prachanda denied

Lamichhane's reinstatement to the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister after his citizenship controversy.

Lamichhane's Parliament membership was revoked by the Supreme Court earlier this year after he was found guilty of not producing a valid citizenship certificate to contest the parliamentary election. He was compelled to obtain back his citizenship and prepare for the by-election.

The RSP has not yet withdrawn its support to the Prachanda-led coalition government, though its ministers had already quit the government. The ruling eight-party coalition includes the Nepali Congress, Communist Party Nepal-Maoist Centre, CPN- Unified Socialist, Nagarik Unmukti Party, Janamat Party, Janta Samajwadi Party, Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorchha.

Sri Lanka PM keen to end ethnic conflict by year-end

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday said he is keen on settling the ethnic conflict with the minority Tamil community by the end of this year as he emphasised that the cash-strapped country could only move forward with the IMF bailout if this long-pending issue is resolved.

Wickremesinghe, in his message to mark International Workers' Day, said that he expects to reach an agreement by the end of this year to solve the country's long-drawn ethnic conflict with the help of the government's commitment to policies that benefit all communities in Sri Lanka.

"The country could only move forward with the IMF programme if two conditions are fulfilled. One is that we must resolve the ethnic conflict. We are continuing our talks on this."

"I hope to be able to come to some agreement by this year-end. We should not undermine any community. We must move forward protecting the Sinhala majority, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher and other minority groups. We must be dedicated to achieving that," Wickremesinghe stressed.

The island nation has witnessed a three-decade-long brutal war with Lankan Tamils in the North and East, which claimed at least 100,000 lives.

Wickremesinghe, who took over as the president last year amidst the unprecedented economic crisis and political turmoil, earlier, underlined the need to fully implement the 13th Amendment to the Constitution to grant political autonomy to the minority Tamils in the country.

"We have created economic stability. No food shortages now. Democracy is being practised in the country. Parliament meets without threats.

'Turkish forces killed IS chief in Syria'

Ankara (AP): Turkish forces have killed the leader of the Islamic State group during an operation in Syria, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said late Sunday.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan told TRT Turk television in an interview that the IS leader, code-named Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi, was killed in a strike conducted on Saturday.

Erdogan said the Turkish intelligence agency, MIT, had been following him "for a long time."

"We will continue our struggle against terrorist organisations without discriminating against any of them," Erdogan said in the interview.

There was no immediate confirmation from the IS group.

Turkey has conducted numerous operations against IS and Kurdish groups along the Syrian border, capturing or killing suspected militants. The country controls large swaths of territory in northern Syria following a series of land incursions to drive Kurdish groups away from the Turkish-Syrian border.

Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi was named leader of the militant group after its previous chief was killed in October, with an IS spokesman calling him "one of the veteran warriors and one of the loyal sons of the Islamic State."

He took over leadership of IS at a time when the extremist group has lost control of the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria.

Sudan's warring sides agree to negotiate, says UN envoy

AP ■ CAIRO

Sudan's warring generals have agreed to send representatives for negotiations, potentially in Saudi Arabia, the United Nations' top official in the country told The Associated Press on Monday, even as the two sides clashed in the capital despite another three-day extension of a fragile cease-fire.

The talks would initially focus on establishing a "stable and reliable" cease-fire monitored by "national and international" observers, Volker Perthes said. A string of temporary truces over the past week has de-escalated fighting only in some areas, while in others, fierce battles have continued to drive civilians from

their homes and push the country into a humanitarian crisis.

Perthes cautioned that logistics for talks were still being worked out. So far, only the military has announced it is prepared to join negotiations, with no public word from its opponent, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Any talks would be the first major sign of progress since fighting erupted on April 15 between the army, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the RSF, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

Around 530 people, including civilians and combatants, have been killed since, with another 4,500 wounded, the Sudanese Health Ministry said.

The United States, meanwhile, conducted its first evacuation of American civilians from Sudan. Watched over by US military drones, a group of Americans made the perilous journey by road from the capital, Khartoum, to the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.

On Monday, a US Navy fast transport ship took 308 evacuees from Port Sudan to the Saudi port of Jeddah, according to Saudi officials.

Explosions and gunfire echoed in parts of Khartoum and its neighbouring city, Omdurman, on Monday, residents said.

The two sides announced late on Sunday they would abide by a 72-hour extension of their nominal cease-fire of the past week.

World's workers rally, France sees pension anger

AP ■ PARIS

People squeezed by inflation and demanding economic justice took to the streets across Asia and Europe to mark May Day on Monday, in a global outpouring of worker discontent not seen since before the COVID-19 pandemic sent the world into lockdowns. French police charged at radical protesters smashing bank windows as unions pushed the president to scrap a higher retirement age.

South Koreans pleaded for higher wages. Spanish lawyers demanded the right to take days off. Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon marched in a country plunged in economic crisis.

While May Day is marked around the world on May 1 as a celebration of labour rights, this year's rallies tapped into broader frustrations. Climate activists spray painted a Louis Vuitton museum in Paris, and protesters in Germany demonstrated against violence targeting women and LGBTQ+ people.

Celebrations were forced indoors in Pakistan and tinged with political tensions in Turkey, as both countries face high-stakes elections.

Russia's war in Ukraine overshadowed scaled-back events in Moscow, where Communist-led May Day celebrations were once massive affairs. Across Asia, this year's May Day events unleashed pent-up frustration after three years of COVID-19 restrictions.

This year's events had bigger turnouts than in previous years in Asian cities, as



Riot police officers shield from an explosive device during a demonstration on Monday. AP/PTI

activists in many countries argued governments should do more to improve workers' lives.

Across France, thousands marched in what unions hope are the country's biggest May Day demonstrations in years,

mobilised against President Emmanuel Macron's recent move to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Organisers see the pension reform as a threat to hard-fought worker rights, while Macron argues it's economically necessary as the population ages.

While marchers were largely peaceful, groups of extremist protesters shattered windows of stores and banks in Paris, drawing tear gas from rows of riot police.

One was filmed dismantling a surveillance camera, and French police deployed drones exceptionally to film unrest, a move that has raised concerns among privacy defenders and activist groups. Paris police detained 30 people, and clashes were reported in Lyon and Nantes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large that my clients Mr. Shiv Dutt, Mr. Nand Kishore Juyal, Mrs. Bhana Devi who inherited Property bearing No. 152 area measuring 75 sq. yards. Pertaining Khata No. 1061, Wakya Mauja Gaunchi Tehsil Balabagar District Faridabad Haryana after the death of Shankar Dutt who was the owner of the said property through Sale Deed dated 05.05.1993 executed by Smt. Vidwati through Sh. Durga Prasad vide Doc. No. 443, SRO-Balabagar, Now, they intend to mortgage the property to Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Mohd. Khairul Hussain (Advocate)
A-38, Kailash Colony, Khairati & Khairati
New Delhi-48, Mob-8810391672

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd. (the Developer) is in the process of undertaking the development of a Group Housing Colony for an additional area measuring 7.0875 acres in addition to Group Housing Colony measuring 25.44 acres (Licence no. 78 of 2010 dated 15.10.2010) in the revenue estate of village Badshahpur In sector - 69&70, Gurugram, Haryana. Whereas, Director General Town country Planning Haryana has granted a letter of intent for setting up Group Housing Colony on the additional Land area measuring 7.0875 acres in the revenue estate of village Badshahpur In sector - 69, Gurugram, Haryana to Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd. (the Developer) in Collaboration with Ram Niwas and others vide Memo no. LC-1233-B-JE(DS)/2023/12068 dated 27-04-2023. And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/ entered into flat buyer agreement for allotment of flat/ property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). And, whereas, the Site/Layout plans earlier approved for the said colony are now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the company has not created any third-party rights on the applied land measuring 7.0875 acres and the applicant company intends to revised the approved Site/Layout plan. The Site/Layout plan earlier approved after grant of License for the said colony is now proposed to be revised, and revised Site/Layout plan of the colony over an area measuring 32.5275 acres has been proposed. And whereas, the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of Site/Layout Plan as pre-condition for allowing such revision in the Site/Layout Plan. Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in said colony on the proposed revision of the Site/Layout plan of said colony. A copy of the earlier Site/Layout plan approved vide memo no. ZP-663/AD(RA)/2021/8279 Dated 26.03.2021 and proposed Site/Layout plan are available for perusal on our website (www.tulipgroup.in) and at the office of undersigned at Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd., 76-G, Sector-18, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram, Haryana. Any allottee having any objection on proposed Site/Layout, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram within 30 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed Site/Layout plan. For, Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd., 76-G, Sector-18, Gurugram Place : Gurugram Dated: 02.05.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our Client KICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Nandini Hazare is the owner of Entire First Floor without roof rights (Gate Floor), Built on Property No.2016-4B, area measuring 14.4 Sq. Yds., Situated at Tikka Nagar, New Delhi, the said property by virtue of Reacquisition Deed dated 18.05.2012, Registration No. 12306 executed by Mr. Anand Singh Bhasin & Mr. Binod Singh Bhasin, after demise of Late Mr. Bhupinder Singh Bhasin, who was owner of the said floor on the basis of registered will dated 24.11.1977, executed by Late Mr. Harbajan Singh Hazare. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said floor from KICI Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objection(s) upon the ownership of Mrs. Nandini Hazare in respect of the said floor to sale through litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present notice.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
20, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Meot Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41122728 Fax: 011-41122728

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
Registered Office : 288, AGCR Enclave Delhi - 110092, India
Corporate Office : B - 16, Second Floor, Sector-2, Noida - 201301, India
Email: info@integratedindustries.in | Website: www.integratedindustries.in
Tel: +91 98110 90171 | CIN: L31909DL1995PLC277176

NOTICE OF 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION, BOOK CLOSURE, RECORD DATE

In compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and rules made thereunder, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08.08.2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 05.02.2021, Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05.02.2021, Circular No. 02/2022 dated 05.02.2022 (collectively referred as 'MCA Circulars') and SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/IR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 (SEBI Circular) (MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular collectively referred as 'Circulars'), NOTICE is hereby given that the **Thirty Seventh (37th Annual General Meeting ('AGM'))** of the Members of **Integrated Technologies Limited ('Company')** will be held on **Monday, May 22, 2023 at 4.00 P.M. (IST)** through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means (VCO/AVM), without the physical presence of the Members at the AGM, to transact the business as set out in the AGM Notice. Members attending the AGM through VCO/AVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Act. In compliance with the Circulars, AGM Notice along with the Annual Report for FY 2022-23 ('Annual Report') has been sent only through electronic mode to those Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA)/Depository Participant ('DP'). The emailing of AGM Notice to all members has been completed on 29th April, 2023. The aforesaid documents are also available on the Company's website at www.integratedindustries.in, website of the Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Manner of registering / updating email address, mobile number and bank account mandate
Members whose email ids are already registered with the Company/RTA/DP, may follow the instructions for remote e-Voting as well as e-Voting at AGM as provided in the AGM Notice. Members who have not registered their email ids, are requested to register the same for receiving all communications including Annual Report, Notices etc. from the Company electronically as per process mentioned below -

- Members holding Equity Shares of the Company in physical mode are requested to provide a duly signed Form ISR-1 along with supporting documents to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent-Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, either at their office at Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020, Tel: 011-40450193-97; or by email at admin@skylinefra.com. The said form is available on the website of the Company at www.integratedindustries.in
- Members holding Equity Shares of the Company in dematerialised form are requested to register / update their email address, mobile number and bank account details with their relevant depositories through their depository participants.

Instructions for remote e-Voting and E-voting during AGM
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations), Members will be provided with the facility to cast their vote electronically, through the remote e-Voting facility (before the AGM) and e-Voting facility (at the AGM), on all the resolutions set forth in AGM Notice. The facility of casting votes will be provided by NSDL. Facility for e-Voting at the AGM will be made available to those Members who are present in the AGM through VCO/AVM facility and have not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-Voting. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VCO/AVM but shall not be eligible to vote at the AGM. All the Members are informed that:

- The business as set forth in the 37th AGM Notice will be transacted through voting by electronic means in the form of e-Voting.
- The voting rights of members(s) shall be in proportion to their shares in the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date i.e. Monday, May 15, 2023. A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date, i.e. Monday, May 15, 2023 only shall be entitled to vote through remote e-Voting/e-Voting at the AGM.
- Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes member of the Company after sending the notice of the AGM and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. Monday, May 15, 2023, may obtain the User ID and password by sending an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or info@skylinefra.com by mentioning their Folio No./DP ID and Client ID. However, if a person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-Voting then existing user ID and password can be used for casting the votes.
- The remote e-Voting period commences at 09:00 A.M. (IST) on Friday, May 19, 2023 and ends at 05:00 P.M. (IST) on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The remote e-Voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- During this period, Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form may cast their vote by remote e-Voting before the AGM.
- The Members will be provided with the facility for e-Voting at the AGM and those Members participating at the AGM & who have not already cast their vote by remote e-Voting before the AGM, will be eligible to vote at the AGM.
- The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VCO/AVM, but shall not be eligible to vote again at the AGM.
- Detailed process and manner of remote e-Voting, e-Voting at the AGM and instructions for attending the AGM through VCO/AVM is being provided in the AGM Notice & also available on the Company's website at www.integratedindustries.in and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in who will also address the grievances connected with the voting by electronic means.
- The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Loveleen Gupta (FCS No. 5287), Practising Company Secretary as 'Scrutinizer' to scrutinize the process of e-voting during the AGM and remote e-voting held before the AGM in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Results shall be declared within two working days of the conclusion of the AGM and the same, along with the consolidated Scrutinizer's Report, shall be placed on the website of the Company at www.integratedindustries.in, NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and shall be communicated to BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, May 16, 2023 to Monday, May 22, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

For Integrated Technologies Limited
Saurabh Goyal (Managing Director)
Date: 29.04.2023
Place: New Delhi
DIN : 01094455

Reliance-BP to e-auction more gas from KG-D6

Starting price of auction around US\$ 11.44 per mmBtu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP of the UK have offered for auction 6 million standard cubic metres per day of more gas from their KG-D6 block as the partners bring the deepest field in the block to production. The two partners will on May 19 e-auction 6 mmscmd of gas, whose supplies will start from June 1, according to a tender document. Bidders have been asked to quote a variable 'v' over and above the JKM price, the spot market benchmark for liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivered to Japan and South Korea. The starting bid price is V = USD -0.06 (minus 0.06) per mmBtu. "Each Bidder is required to enter bids that are higher than or equal to the starting bid price," the tender document said, adding the maximum value of 'v' that would be accepted will be USD 0.75 per mmBtu. The JKM price is around USD 11.5 per million British

thermal units at present. And the start price of the auction translates into a gas price of USD 11.44 per mmBtu and at the ceiling, it would result in a price of USD 12.25. Bidders can seek volume for a tenure of 3 to 5 years. Reliance-bp had last month sold 6 mmscmd of gas to buyers like state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Adani Total Gas Ltd and Shell. IOC walked away with almost half of the 6 mmscmd of gas sold in an e-auction on April 12 while state-owned gas utility GAIL bought 0.7 mmscmd, Adani Total Gas Ltd 0.4 mmscmd, Shell 0.5 mmscmd, GSPC 0.25 mmscmd and IGS another 0.5 mmscmd. In that auction too, bidders were asked to quote variable 'v' in the gas price formula 'JKM + V'. But this price was subject to the government-notified ceiling price. The final bid price in that auction came at USD 0.75 per mmBtu premium over the JKM price (JKM + USD 0.75 per mmBtu), sources said, adding

at the JKM price prevailing at that time of around USD 12.6 per mmBtu, the implied price for gas came to USD 13.35. But the bidders will only have to pay the ceiling or the cap price that the government fixes bi-annually for gas produced from difficult areas, such as deepsea and high-temperature, high-pressure (HTHP). The ceiling price for April to September is USD 12.12 per mmBtu, they said, adding 29 bidders secured gas supplies for 5 years. In the new auction, Reliance-bp has not indicated any such condition in the latest auction. Gas produced from wells drilled below the seabed is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser or turned into CNG for powering automobiles or piped to household kitchens for cooking as well as in industries. In May last year, Reliance-bp had auctioned 5.5 mmscmd of incremental gas from the newer discoveries in the KG-D6 block, benchmarking it to

the same JKM gas marker. The price discovered in that e-auction came at a USD 0.06 discount to the JKM (Japan-Korea Marker) LNG price. Prior to that, the duo had sold 7.5 mmscmd of gas at a discount of USD 0.18 per mmBtu to JKM. Reliance has so far made 19 gas discoveries in the KG-D6 block. Of these, D-1 and D-3 — the largest among the lot — were brought into production in April 2009, and MA, the only oilfield in the block, was put into production in September 2008. While the MA field stopped producing in September 2018, output from D-1 and D-3 ceased in February 2020. Since then, Reliance-bp is investing USD 5 billion in bringing to production three deepwater gas projects in block KG-D6 — R-Cluster, Satellites Cluster, and MJ — which together are expected to meet about 15 per cent of India's gas demand by 2023.

Post expansion, Delhi airport to handle 100m passengers annually: DIAL

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the government looking to establish the national capital as an international aviation hub, Delhi airport operator DIAL on Monday said the airport's terminals will be able to handle 100 million passengers per annum once expansion work gets completed this year. In FY23, the airport, which has three terminals now, handled around 65.33 million passengers, including 15.65 million international passengers. Phase 3A expansion work is going on at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is operated by Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL). "Post completion of Phase 3A expansion work scheduled in 2023, Delhi airport will become the only Indian airport whose terminals would be able to handle 100 million passengers per annum (MPPA)," it said in a release. The airport offers connectivity with more than 142 domestic and international destinations. During April 2022 to February 2023 period, the airport handled more than 14.50 million transfer passengers



(hub traffic), including more than 3.37 lakh who were international to international transfer passengers. Currently, 63 airlines operate out of Delhi airport. "Nearly 70 per cent of Indian airports fall under Delhi's catchment area, which is a good mix of industrial and tourist destinations and can be reached by air within 60-90

minutes. "Delhi airport is a dominant airport in the North and North East region. It also provides seamless connectivity between Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the rest of the world," the release said. Meanwhile, the government is working on plans to make Delhi an international aviation hub.

"The government has asked Delhi airport and some of the major airlines to examine the global best practices on scheduling to ensure that international and domestic operations complement each other and provide enhanced connectivity from Delhi airport, essential for setting up India's first international aviation hubs," the release said.

Commercial LPG price cut by ₹171.5, ATF by 2.45%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Price of commercial LPG, one which is used by business establishments like hotels and restaurants, on Monday was cut by a steep Rs 171.5 per cylinder and rates of jet fuel (ATF) were reduced by 2.45 per cent on softening international oil prices. A 19-kg commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,856.5 in the national capital, down from Rs 2,028, according to price notification from state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second straight monthly reduction in commercial LPG prices. Rates were cut by Rs 91.5 per 19-kg cylinder on April 1. The two reductions, however, haven't neutralised the Rs 350.5 per cylinder hike in prices effected from March 1. Domestic cooking gas LPG prices remained unchanged at Rs 1,103 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital. Domestic LPG rates were last changed on March 1, when they were hiked by Rs 50 per

cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revised cooking gas prices on the 1st of every month based on average international prices in the previous month. Separately, ATF price was cut by 2.45 per cent in line with international trends. Accordingly, jet fuel rates were reduced by Rs 2,414.25 per kilolitre to Rs 95,935.34 per kl in Delhi. This is the third straight monthly reduction in rates. Prices were cut by 4 per cent (Rs 4,606.50 per kl) on March 1 and by 8.7 per cent (Rs 9,400.68 per kl) on April 1. ATF price is revised on the 1st of every month based on the average rate of international benchmark and foreign exchange rates. International oil prices have erased all gains made since OPEC+ producers announced a surprise produc-

tion cut earlier last month, as recession concerns continued to weigh on the fuel demand outlook. Brent, the benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, was trading at USD 79.62 a barrel on Monday, down from USD 88 it had hit after OPEC+ producers announced voluntary crude output cuts of 1.16 million barrels per day on April 2. Petrol and diesel prices, however, continued to remain on freeze for a record 13th month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62. State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022. Prices were last changed on May 22 when the government cut excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

Acreeage under summer crops slightly down

New Delhi (PTI): The area under coverage for summer crops is marginally down so far at 65.29 lakh hectares, according to the agriculture ministry data. The sowing area under rice and oilseeds is less, while the acreage of pulses and coarse cereals is higher, the data showed. The ministry on Monday released the progress of area coverage under summer crops as of April 28, 2023. As per the data, the area under coverage for rice stood at 27.45 lakh hectares so far against 29.14 lakh hectares in the year-ago period. Pulses acreage rose to 17.57 lakh hectare from 16.23 lakh hectares, while sowing area of coarse cereals increased to 10.86 lakh hectares from 10.19 lakh hectares. In the non-food-grains category, oilseeds acreage is down at 9,400 lakh hectares till April 28 from 10,46 lakh hectares in the year-ago period. Overall, the total area under summer crops till April 28 stood at 65.29 lakh hectares, marginally down from 66.02 lakh hectares a year ago.

India's exports to UAE likely to increase 60% by 2026-27

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports to the UAE are expected to rise by about 60 per cent to reach USD 50 billion by 2026-27 from USD 31.3 billion at present on the back of the free trade agreement between the countries, a top government official said on Monday. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that trade between India and the UAE has grown significantly after the implementation of the trade agreement on May 1 last year. "We are hoping that we will be able to reach USD 50 billion in exports by 2026-27. In the five years of trade after CEPA, I feel that we should be able to reach USD 50 billion in exports. I am very sure that the kind of response that we are hearing, we will definitely reach that," Barthwal told reporters here. He said that a lot of trade is happening through the preferential route of the trade pact. "We would like traders of the two countries to take advantage of the CEPA," the secretary

added. The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022, officially came into force on May 1 last year. India's exports to the UAE in 2022-23 rose by 11.8 per cent to USD 31.3 billion, while imports grew by 18.8 per cent to USD 53.2 billion in the last fiscal due to high inbound shipments of oil. Under the free trade agreement domestic exporters in various sectors like textiles, agriculture, dry fruits, gems and jewellery are getting duty-free access to the UAE market. Issuance of the number of preferential certificates of origin (CoO) has increased to 8,440 in March as against 415 in May 2022. A trader has to submit a 'certificate of origin' at the landing port of the importing country to claim duty concessions under free-trade agreements. This certificate is essential to prove where their goods come from. During May 22 - March 23, a total of 54,142 CoOs have

been issued. The main export sectors which recorded healthy growth during 2022-23 included mineral fuels, electrical machinery and equipment, gems and jewellery, automobiles, essential oils, coffee, tea, spices, and chemicals. Exports of automobiles rose by 42 per cent to USD 715.58 million during 2022-23, electrical machinery shipments increased by 32 per cent to USD 3.65 billion. Gems and jewellery exports rose by 17 per cent to USD 5.8 billion in the last fiscal. However, exports of iron and steel, and apparel recorded negative growth in exports. On the imports front, oil imports rose by 36 per cent to USD 27.7 billion in 2022-23. Similarly, imports of aircraft, spacecraft, and their parts jumped multi-fold to USD 1.9 billion in 2022-23 from USD about 39 million in 2021-22. Further Barthwal said that there is a joint trade committee which looks after the implementation of this trade pact and if any issue would come both

sides would jointly resolve that. He added that the issue of gold was addressed by this committee. The CEPA agreement has been in force since May 1 last year. As per the agreement, India can import 110 tonnes at a concessional import duty of one per cent from the UAE. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) invited applications for Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for 2023-24 with the last date being February 28, 2023. One of the reasons for the fall in gold imports from the UAE was less utilisation of the TRQ, but now "we have opened it for traders" also. The has notified a fresh window for the import of up to 140 MT of gold by manufacturers and traders of yellow metal from the UAE at a concessional rate under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Aqeel Panaruna, former chairman of the Council for Leather Exports said that the trade agreement is the "most effective which we have seen in recent times".

Improve recovery from written-off accounts, FinMin tells PSU banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Worried over the low recovery rate from written-off accounts, the Finance Ministry has asked state-owned lenders to increase it to about 40 per cent, sources said. Currently, the recovery rate from written-off accounts is less than 15 per cent. Public sector banks (PSBs) could recover only 14 per cent of the written-off loans worth Rs 7.34 lakh crore in the last five years ended March 2022. Of Rs 7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered Rs 1.03 lakh crore. So after recovery, the net written-off stood at Rs 6.31 lakh crore at the end of March 2022. It seems that after the write off banks get complacent about recovery from those non-performing assets (NPAs), the sources said, adding, this level of recovery is not acceptable. Besides, they said, higher recovery from written-off accounts directly adds to their bottomline and improves their capital. To review the situation on the issue, the sources said, the Department of Financial Services would soon hold a meeting with senior officials of PSBs. The proposed meeting would take stock of pending cases with regard to such accounts in various courts, including Debt Recovery Tribunal and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal. Banks have been directed to be more proactive with regard to big written-off accounts. Banks have written off Rs 11.17 lakh crore as bad loans

from their books in the last six years till the financial year 2021-22. As per RBI data, public sector banks (PSBs) and private sector banks wrote off an aggregate amount of Rs 8,16,421 crore and Rs 3,01,462 crore, respectively, during the last six financial years. Non-performing assets (NPAs), including those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance sheet of the bank concerned by way of the write-off. Banks write off NPAs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance sheet, avail tax benefits and optimise capital. The write-off is carried out by the banks in accordance with the RBI guidelines and policies approved by their boards. 'Large corporates will never be allowed to open a bank in India' MUMBAI: Large corporates will never be allowed to open a bank in India, veteran banker N Vaghul has said. Vaghul said India has learnt from its pre-bank nationalisation experience and will never repeat the same mistakes by allowing large corporations into banking. In the last round of licensing before it was made on-tap, a slew of corporates had unsuccessfully applied for a banking license. Two years ago, a RBI discussion paper made a case for allowing the large corporations because of their ability to get capital which will in turn fund economic growth. That discussion led to a raft of criticism by many, including former RBI top brass, and did not move ahead. Speaking to reporters, Vaghul suggested that the capital needed for economic growth will come from the public, which is keen to invest in a lender which is run professionally. Industrial houses "cannot be banking", Vaghul said, recalling the past experiences with them and how state ownership of banks became popular. "There used to be a talk about, even in professional banking circles, that things are not alright in the banks which are owned by the industrial houses. "I don't think this country will have a repetition of that. It will be all professional banking," he told reporters on the sidelines of the launch of "Reflections", his memoirs, last Friday. PTI

PMI hits 4-month high

New Delhi (PTI): Manufacturing activities in India accelerated further and touched a four-month high in April, boosted by robust new business growth, mild price pressures, better international sales, and improving supply-chain conditions, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased from 56.4 in March to 57.2 in April, indicating the fastest improvement in the health of the sector so far this year. The March PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 22nd straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 indicates contraction. "Reflecting a robust and quicker expansion in new orders, production growth took another step forward in April. Companies also benefited from relatively mild price pres-

ures, better international sales, and improving supply-chain conditions," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said. Factory orders and production rose at the strongest rates in 2023 so far, more jobs were created and companies stepped up input purchasing, owing to stock-replenishment efforts. "It seems like Indian manufacturers have abundant opportunities to keep powering ahead. Besides seeing the strongest inflow of new work in 2023 so far, capacities were expanded through job creation, input buying was lifted and pre-production inventories rose at a record rate," Lima said. New orders placed with goods producers rose at the quickest pace since last December. According to panel members, the upturn was supported by favourable market conditions, demand strength, and publicity. It further revealed that the real estate sector spearheaded non-technology industries, witnessing a 21 per cent upswing in recruitment compared to the same month of the previous year. This growth predominantly resulted from an increase in new launches of residential and commercial properties across metropolitan areas, prompting hiring in key roles such as tender manager, construction engineer and civil engineer positions, it added. Among the large metros, Kolkata, Pune and Hyderabad exhibited recruitment surges of 28 per cent, 22 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively, in hiring for the real estate sector, the report found. The demand was highest for senior professionals with

India's fuel sales rise in April as agri demand picks up

New Delhi (PTI): India's fuel sales rose in April as diesel demand grew on the back of a pick up in harvesting of Rabi crops and expansion of economic activity, preliminary industry data showed on Monday. Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, soared 6.7 per cent to 7.15 million tonnes in April compared to a year ago period. Month-on-month sales rose 4.8 per cent when compared with 6.83 million tonnes of diesel consumed in March which witnessed a seasonal slowdown. Petrol sales rose about 2.5 per cent to 2.64 million tonnes during April when compared with the same period

of the last year. Sales, however, fell marginally by 0.5 per cent month-on-month, the data showed. Petrol and diesel sales have been on the rise from the second half of March on the back of a pick up in industrial and agriculture activity. In the first half of March, petrol sales had fallen 1.4 per cent and diesel by 10.2 per cent year-on-year. Consumption of petrol in April was 23.5 per cent more than COVID-marred April 2021 and more than double in the same period of 2020. Diesel consumption was up 21 per cent over April 2021. With the continued opening of the aviation sector, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-COVID levels. The report also found that Demand for senior professionals with more than 16 years of experience increased by 30 per cent compared to April last year, while the demand for 13-16 years of experience increased by a respectable 20 per cent. The demand for fresh graduates and professionals with 4-7 years of experience has declined compared to the same month last year, it stated. "The growth in April hiring activity was dominated by a few key sectors such as real estate, BFSI and oil and gas. While IT-focused metros exhibited a cautious hiring sentiment, emerging cities such as Ahmedabad and Vadodara continue to shine," Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

presence of IT-focused companies, such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune, were the hardest hit. Besides IT, sectors such as BPO, EdTech and retail also registered a decline of 18 per cent, 21 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, it noted. Naukri JobSpeak Index further noted that among non-metro cities, Ahmedabad led hiring trends with a 28 per cent growth in new job creation compared to last year, followed by Vadodara and Jaipur with 14 per cent and 9 per cent growth in new job creation, respectively. Banking, auto and insurance sectors have primarily contributed to the hiring activity observed across the non-metro cities, while real estate and oil and gas were the other sectors witnessing positive hiring sentiment in the smaller

Job demand declines 5% on IT hiring corrections: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

White-collar job demand in April declined by 5 per cent compared to the same month last year with 2,715 job postings following a correction in hiring in the IT sector, a report said on Monday. Overall job postings on Naukri.com platform stood at 2,863 during April 2022, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index. Active hiring in non-tech sectors such as real estate and BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) mitigated the dip in IT sector hiring, the report added. The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly index representing the state of the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume data-

base on Naukri.com. It further revealed that the real estate sector spearheaded non-technology industries, witnessing a 21 per cent upswing in recruitment compared to the same month of the previous year. This growth predominantly resulted from an increase in new launches of residential and commercial properties across metropolitan areas, prompting hiring in key roles such as tender manager, construction engineer and civil engineer positions, it added. Among the large metros, Kolkata, Pune and Hyderabad exhibited recruitment surges of 28 per cent, 22 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively, in hiring for the real estate sector, the report found. The demand was highest for senior professionals with

more than 16 years of experience, it said. Besides real estate, the sectors with high growth in hiring activity included the oil and gas sector registering 20 per cent growth, the insurance sector with 13 per cent growth and the banking sector with 11 per cent growth compared to the same month the previous year. Auto sector and pharmaceutical sector recruitment increased by a modest 4 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, it stated. Meanwhile, the report revealed that the IT industry hiring continued its ongoing correction with a 27 per cent decrease in hiring activity compared to April last year. IT behemoths, startups, and unicorns have all felt the impact of the ongoing global slowdown, said the report, adding that cities with a heavy

presence of IT-focused companies, such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune, were the hardest hit. Besides IT, sectors such as BPO, EdTech and retail also registered a decline of 18 per cent, 21 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, it noted. Naukri JobSpeak Index further noted that among non-metro cities, Ahmedabad led hiring trends with a 28 per cent growth in new job creation compared to last year, followed by Vadodara and Jaipur with 14 per cent and 9 per cent growth in new job creation, respectively. Banking, auto and insurance sectors have primarily contributed to the hiring activity observed across the non-metro cities, while real estate and oil and gas were the other sectors witnessing positive hiring sentiment in the smaller

cities, it said. The report also found that Demand for senior professionals with more than 16 years of experience increased by 30 per cent compared to April last year, while the demand for 13-16 years of experience increased by a respectable 20 per cent. The demand for fresh graduates and professionals with 4-7 years of experience has declined compared to the same month last year, it stated. "The growth in April hiring activity was dominated by a few key sectors such as real estate, BFSI and oil and gas. While IT-focused metros exhibited a cautious hiring sentiment, emerging cities such as Ahmedabad and Vadodara continue to shine," Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.



RCB take revenge against LSG | DC to reconsider Axar's batting place



DC to reconsider Axar's batting place



DC vs GT
Live from 7:30 pm IST
JioCinema

address it going forward. Keeping the in-form Axar Patel for the death overs is understandable but considering his dream run with the bat over the past 12 months in international cricket, Warner could push him to number five if not higher.

Coming into the season as a replacement player, Priyam Garg has got a much needed opportunity and he only has himself to blame if he cannot make it count. Veteran Manish Pandey can also do better at number four.

The Indian bowlers on the side are not faring as badly as the batters but Mukesh Kumar can definitely improve his economy rate, having conceded close to 11 runs per over in seven games.

Old horse Ishan Sharma has done his job in the three games he has been part of while Anrich Nortje will be looking for wickets in the coming games.

Delhi are in deep trouble and they are up against an opponent in Gujarat Titans who have built a reputation of winning a game from any situation.

Chasing 180 against KKR on Saturday, they were in a spot of bother but eventually got home with 13 balls to spare.

Batting alongside David Miller, Vijay Shankar played one of his best IPL innings to take the team to its sixth win in eight games. The defending champions remain the team to beat this season.

Irish left arm pacer Joshua Little is coming into his own after learning some harsh lessons in his debut season.

In the spin department, they could always bank on Rashid Khan but now they have another Afghanistan gem in Noor Ahmad, who has bagged eight wickets in four games with an impressive economy rate of 7.33.

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Aided by KL Rahul's injury early in the match, Royal Challengers Bangalore did just enough to eke out an 18-run win over Lucknow Super Giants in a low-scoring Indian Premier League game here on Monday.

LSG skipper Rahul pulled his right thigh muscle in the second over of RCB innings while trying to stop a boundary and came out to bat only towards the end, which acted in favour of the visitors. LSG dished out a fine bowling display to restrict RCB to a below-par 126 after being asked to bowl first.

RCB never had momentum in their innings despite the

opening pair of skipper Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli sharing a 62-run partnership.

The spin duo of Ravi Bishnoi (2/21) and veteran Amit Mishra (2/21) shone bright with the ball in the middle overs to keep a check on RCB's scoring rate. Later, it turned out to be a nightmarish start for LSG while chasing a modest 127-run target, as they lost their first three wickets for just 21 runs in 4.1 overs.

In Rahul's absence, Kyle Mayers and Ayush Badoni opened the innings but failed to live up to the expectations.

While Mayers departed in the second delivery of the innings without troubling the scorers, stand-in captain Krunal



Ravi Bishnoi then ran himself out as LSG collapsed to 77 for eight in 14.4 overs.

Naveen-ul-Haq and Amit Mishra tried their best with a gutsy 26-run stand for the ninth wicket. An injured Rahul came out to bat last with LSG needing 24 off eight balls, but he looked in discomfort and failed to open his account.

Earlier, Rahul failed to stop the boundary, looked in considerable pain, and limped off the field. In his absence, Pandya led the side.

The duo of du Plessis and Kohli gave RCB another good start. Both the openers failed to get going but gave a platform for the rest of the batters to take RCB to a decent score.

Pandya played an 11-ball 14-run knock before being caught by Virat Kohli at long-off off Glenn Maxwell.

Badoni followed suit in the next over while going for big shot, caught by Kohli off Josh Hazlewood (2/15).

If that was not enough, Deepak Hooda was stumped by Dinesh Karthik off Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva, as LSG

slumped to 27 for four in 5.1 overs. Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/20) then accounted for Nicholas Pooran (9) and Marcus Stoinis (13) in a span of four overs to make matters worse for LSG. The asking rate was under control, but LSG kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Krishnappa Gowtham was the next to depart, run out after a 13-ball 23.

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Delhi Capitals will need their under-performing Indian batters to deliver when they take on the mighty and versatile Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Tuesday.

The abject failure of Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan has contributed significantly to Delhi Capitals' travails this season as they find themselves in a do-or-die situation with six losses from eight games.

They will probably need to win all of their remaining six games to make the IPL play-

offs but considering the resources at their disposal, it looks highly unlikely.

Shaw's dismal run has given an opportunity to Phil Salt to open alongside David Warner. He was at his destructive best in the last game and team would need him to be consistent alongside Warner and number three Mitchell Marsh, who finally played to his potential against Sunrisers Hyderabad with an all-round performance.

Delhi have been guilty of losing too many wickets in the middle overs and they must



KL Rahul sustains thigh muscle injury

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Team India wicket-keeper-batter and Lucknow Super Giants captain KL Rahul sustained an injury on his right thigh during an IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday.

Rahul limped off the field with the help of team physio and a teammate, who was in the reserve. He was finding it difficult to walk and lay on the ground writhing in pain for quite some time after what seemed like a pulled thigh muscle while chasing the ball racing to the boundary. He first held his right

thigh and limped before collapsing onto the ground.

The injury happened off the last ball of the second over when Faf du Plessis punched a Marcus Stoinis delivery through the extra cover region and Rahul sprinted to save an imminent boundary.

The extent of the injury is yet to be ascertained and it remains to be seen if the LSG skipper is in a position to bat when his team comes out to chase.

If it is a muscle tear and not a pull, his participation in the World Test Championship final, where he is a wicket-keeping option, could be in jeopardy.

Yashasvi has long way to go, not just with us but internationally: Sangakkara



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Yashasvi Jaiswal is a quick learner and has the ability to excel not just for his IPL franchise but also India, feels Rajasthan Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara. The 21-year-old Jaiswal has emerged as

the top run-scorer in IPL this season with 428 runs at an average of 47.5 with three fifty and a hundred.

"He is not just extremely talented but also really hard-working. He has spent a lot of time in preparations, a lot of time in the nets working on his preparations,"

Sangakkara said during the post-match press conference.

"He has worked on his game for three to four years with us and it shows he is very focused, driven and the results are showing."

Jaiswal was adjudged the Player of the Match award on Sunday after he amassed 124 runs off 62 balls with the help of 16 fours and eight sixes.

"He played beautifully. He batted almost entirely through the innings and it was exceptional. He has a long way to go, not just with us, but internationally. He just has to keep scoring runs and keep knocking on the door," said Sangakkara, who is also the Royals' Director of Cricket.

On Sunday, Jaiswal took the attack to the pacers, especially Jofra Archer, playing his cuts and pulls with equal ease. He has been the leading run-scorer in the powerplay in IPL 2023 with a strike rate of 165.69.

"It is about playing good cricket shot, trusting his ability, reading the game situation really well and when he does get a start to maximise it and get the intent going throughout the innings," Sangakkara said.

"Before this IPL, he hasn't batted a huge amount outside the powerplay, averaged a little low against pace but today and in the previous game as well, he has showed when he keeps his intent going, he has the ability to play big innings for us."

"He learns and keeps learning very quickly and he has a great attitude, he is very positive in everything that he does."

Jaiswal's sensational knock powered RR to 212 for 7 but it was not enough as Mumbai Indians chased down the total with three balls to spare for a six-wicket win after 'Tim David (45 off 14 balls) smashed Jason Holder for three sixes in the first three balls of the last over.



RCB will have to fix Batting loophole: Irfan

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL 2023 game against Lucknow Super Giants, former India cricketer Irfan Pathan has said that the management of the Bengaluru based franchise will have to fix loophole in their batting line up, especially the Indians players need to uplift their performance.

Revenge will be on the minds of RCB as they go up against LSG in the reverse fixture of IPL 2023 in Lucknow on Monday evening.

RCB are coming to Lucknow on the back of a crushing defeat at home against KKR and beating LSG in their backyard isn't going to be an easy task for them. The Faf du Plessis-led side had earlier lost against KL Rahul & Co. in a high-scoring contest at home.

Former India all-rounder Irfan reckons RCB looks reliant on its top three batters i.e. Faf du Plessis, Virat Kohli and Glenn Maxwell. Their Indian players haven't fired with the bat in IPL 2023, which is concerning.

"RCB will have to find a solution that if KGF (Kohli, Glenn, Faf) do not work then who will steer the team through troubled waters. Whether Dinesh Karthik or Mahipal Lomror.

RCB's middle order looks very weak. Karthik could not prove even once in the last 8 matches that the team can rely on him for big scores or during chases. RCB management will have to fix this loophole in their batting," Irfan said on Star Sports' Cricket Live.

RCB are currently placed at 6th spot in the points table with four wins while LSG lie at the second position with five wins.

ACC has not floated any proposal to postpone Asia Cup: Source

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Contradicting media reports that Asia Cup could be postponed and a parallel tournament, excluding Pakistan, could be played in Dubai in the same window, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) sources on Monday said that they have not sent out any such proposal to the member nations.

A report in Pakistan media claimed that if PCB will not agree to play Asia Cup at a neutral venue, the tournament could be taken away from the country.

The hosting rights of the 2023 Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in ODI format, are with the Pakistan Cricket Board but BCCI secretary Jay

Shah, who is also the ACC chairman, has made it clear that the Indian cricket team will not travel to Pakistan.

The PCB has proposed to host Asia Cup on a 'hybrid model', where Pakistan play their matches on the home soil, while India play at a neutral venue -- in all likelihood Dubai.

It is understood that the BCCI wants the entire tournament to be shifted to the UAE -- which has three grounds in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi -- much like the 2018 and 2022 editions when India and Sri Lanka were the tournament hosts.

"There has been exchange of messages but no discussion or proposal to postpone the Asia Cup has

been floated," an ACC Board member, privy to discussions on the sidelines of an ICC meet in Dubai, told PTI on the conditions of anonymity.

"Secondly, if the Asia Cup is cancelled, PCB will be implicated first. Nothing of that sort has happened till now. The ACC chairman (Shah) hasn't yet put anything on record."

"To postpone or cancel the event, the ACC will have to call an Executive Board meeting. The chairman (Shah) can call the meeting in seven days (virtual or physical). To date, there is no intimation about any such meeting," the source added.

The ACC source said that, to the best of his knowledge, the last official mail exchange between the PCB,

ACC and BCCI was an invitation sent to the Indian team with assurance of highest degree of security and best hospitality.

"But, obviously, it is difficult for India to travel to Pakistan in the current sensitive political environment," he agreed.

The other issue is amount of money the official broadcaster has committed on telecast deals, that includes at least two assured India-Pakistan games. If the two teams make the final, the third game would be a bonanza.

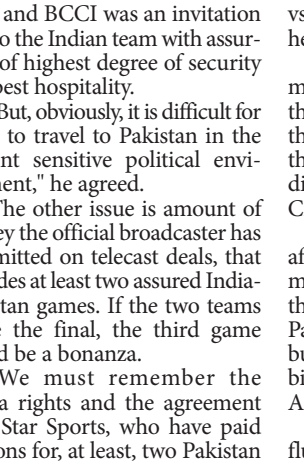
"We must remember the media rights and the agreement with Star Sports, who have paid millions for, at least, two Pakistan

vs India matches in the Asia Cup," he said.

It is learnt that when the informal discussion was held between the ACC members about hosting the tournament at neutral venue, the source confirmed that BCCI did get support from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

"Look, if Asia Cup is cancelled after the ACC chairman summons an Executive Board meeting, the ramifications will not just be Pakistan's World Cup participation but also PCB's FTP calendar and bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, Afghanistan or Bangladesh."

"The situation is still very fluid," the source said.



Educational Hub : Nainital

SCHOOLS BUSTLING AGAIN IN NAINITAL AFTER COVID-19

The whole world was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic particularly hard hit by it. About two years after the schools have now reopened and are functioning as earlier. All are prepared to tackle the challenge of clearing the academic that all efforts will be made to maintain the golden history of being conducted successfully from this session with special

Schools in Nainital have a history of more than 150 years. their schooling from here and have made a name for themselves in the nation. Manekshaw, film stars Amitabh Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, Danny Denzongpa, Dutt Tiwari have all studied from schools in Nainital. Sherwood College, All Mary College, Birla Vidya Mandir, Vasant Valley Public School, Amtul Public School, St Xavier School, Don Bosco Public School, St Xavier School, Parvati Prema Jagati Saraswati Vihar, Longview Public School, Mohan Lal Sah Bal Vidya Mandir, Mothers Heart, Vrindavan Public School, Bishop Shaw Inter College, Radha Children Academy, Nancy Convent, Chetram Sah Thulgharia Inter College, Bharatiya Shahid Sainik Vidyalay, GIC and GGIC are the prominent schools in Nainital.



though the education sector was lockdown was first enforced, the educational institutions in Nainital backlog. The school authorities state schools in Nainital. All the schools are focus on Covid protocols.

Many noted personalities have done and abroad. Field marshal Sam and former chief minister Narayan Saints' College, St Joseph College, St Mary College, Birla Vidya Mandir, Vasant Valley Public School, Amtul Public School, St Xavier School, Don Bosco Public School, St Xavier School, Parvati Prema Jagati Saraswati Vihar, Longview Public School, Mohan Lal Sah Bal Vidya Mandir, Mothers Heart, Vrindavan Public School, Bishop Shaw Inter College, Radha Children Academy, Nancy Convent, Chetram Sah Thulgharia Inter College, Bharatiya Shahid Sainik Vidyalay, GIC and GGIC are the prominent schools in Nainital.

NAINITAL'S ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE FOR EDUCATION
The environment in Nainital is quite conducive for education. During the summers, the maximum temperature reaches about 32 degrees Celsius while the average temperature remains 15 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature reaches zero during the winter, considering which the schools have winter vacation at that time. The good environment of this place also contributes to the conducive atmosphere for education in Nainital. This is the reason why thousands of children have been coming here for education since the colonial era.

ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE NAINITAL

FOUNDED IN 1869

DIOCESE OF AGRA CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA
From Class I to XII (ICSE Board)
A DAY BOARDING SCHOOL
Admission Open

Ph.: 05942-235121
E-mail: principal@allsaintscollege.org
Website: www.allsaintscollege.org

BIRLA VIDYA MANDIR, NAINITAL

(Sarla Birla Group of Schools) (Estd. 1947)

A fully Residential English Medium Public School for Boys

Ranked amongst Top - 10 Boys Boarding Schools in India, as per Education World 2021 ranking

Website: birlavidvamandir.com
Phone: 05942 - 238993, 238729, +91 9410338207

Key Features:

- A legacy boarding school campus, founded in 1870.
- 70-acre campus with the greenest environs amongst Indian boarding schools.
- The only school in Nainital with a central heating facility.
- Distinguished old boys include Jim Corbett (Oak Openings High School), Anil Sadgopal (Jamnalal Bajaj awardee), Lt. General J. S. Ahluwalia (PVSM), Dr. Anand Mishra (Professor & Head, Endocrine Surgery, KGMU, Lucknow) and Danny Denzongpa.
- Excellent Board results over the decades, backed by a learning environment which is augmented by an experienced faculty, modern teaching pedagogy, personalised care and well-equipped science, robotics and IT labs.
- A judicious mix of co-scholastic activities through a variety of clubs, societies and hobby centres. Hosts Annual National Inter-School Literary and Sports Conclave, with a wide participation of schools.

Distinguished Knowledge Affiliates

21 years of LPS
Awards winning School of Nainital

LONGVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL

No.1 CBSE School of Nainital
Most Innovative CBSE School of UK
Top Day cum Boarding School in Uttarakhand for Holistic Development

A reputed Boarding cum Day School with all modern amenities

Admission Open 2023-24
Few Seats Available

Rajbhawan Road, Tallital, Nainital, Tel: 05942-231333
Email: lpsnainital1@gmail.com, www.lpsnainital.edu.in

GLORIOUS HISTORY & BRIGHT FUTURE OF ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE

The All Saints' College has been functioning since the colonial era. Thousands of students have done their schooling from here and made a name for themselves in India and abroad. Kiran Jeremiah is the principal of this school which was established in 1869. Girls from different parts of India and abroad come to study in this school. The principal states that with focus on educational standards, the school provides quality education which will continue in the future too.

BIRLA VIDYA MANDIR BUILDS FUTURE OF STUDENTS

The Birla Vidya Mandir is considered to be among the leading public schools in the nation. This school has achieved a unique position. Affiliated to the CBSE board, this is a fully residential English medium school. It is located in one of the highest locations in the city. Many students from across the nation and abroad study in this school under principal Anil Sharma. He states that along with providing good education, the school also focuses on making the children good humans. To ensure their all-round development, the students also participate in various extra-curricular activities and competitions apart from their studies. The school has a history of 100 per cent board results which will be maintained in the future.

LONGVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL CLIMBING THE LADDER TO THE TOP

The Longview Public School has achieved much success in a comparatively short time with its dedicated efforts. The school has been felicitated by various institutions across India for its able education and management. This school has been able to achieve its own position in the city and State due to this. This English medium school has classes upto class X. The school principal BC Tripathi states that the school is being operated keeping global educational standards and trends in mind. This benefit the students considerably and on this basis, the school also progresses.

Estd. 1869

SHERWOOD COLLEGE NAINITAL

Co-ed from Class 3 to 12

ADMISSION OPEN 2023-2024

Affiliated to CISCE.

New Delhi & IGCSE, AS & A Level
Cambridge
London U.K.

Amandeep Sandhu
Principal

Mob.: 9456316655, Ph.: 05942-236361
E-mail: admissions@sherwood.edu.in, Web: www.sherwood.edu.in

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL NAINITAL

Senior Secondary Affiliated to CBSE (Co-Educational Boarding/Day School)

ADMISSION OPEN

FOR CLASS: II-IX & XI (SCIENCE, COMMERCE & HUMANITIES)
Amongst The Top Elite Well Established English Medium Public School of Nainital

Special Features

- Value Education & Fostering Correct Social & Moral Attitudes
- Inculcating Winning Spirit
- Emphasizing on self Discipline
- Highly Qualified, Experienced, Dedicated and Motivated Team of staff
- Excellent Board Results
- Many Students Qualified in A/EEE/ND/IIIT
- Implementing Zee Brain Cafe Learn by Doing Program

Contact No.: 05942-236247, Fax No.: 235575, 9412647025
website: www.stxaviersntl.com, E-mail: stxaviersntl@gmail.com

ST XAVIER ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

THE MOTHERS' HEART SCHOOL NAINITAL

GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED
A Co-ed English Medium Day/ Residential School

- A reputed school from nursery to V
- Teaching with audio visual play way method
- Preparing children for prestigious Schools in Nainital
- Excellent result since 1999.

Provides day boarding facility also

Shanti Niketan, Near Rikshaw Stand, Mallital, Nainital
Ph.: 9837347989, E-mail: themothersheart123@gamil.com

SHERWOOD COLLEGE PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE IN EDUCATIONAL WORLD

The Sherwood College is considered one of the prominent schools in the nation. This fully residential school has all necessary facilities for its boarding students. A team of experienced faculty takes care of the academics while various facilities are provided as per the requirement to secure the future of the students. This English medium school has classes from III to XII. The current school principal Amandeep Sandhu is ably managing all aspects of this renowned school.

Maintaining all standards of education, the St Xavier School is moving forward consistently on the path of progress. It has successfully completed its journey of 32 years. The school principal Naem Ali Khan states that he is discharging this responsibility in taking this school forward. This English medium school has classes from I to XII for residential and day students. It has all the necessary and modern facilities for the convenience and welfare of its students.

THE MOTHERS' HEART SCHOOL

THE MOTHER'S HEART SCHOOL Brief History and objective of the school The Mothers heart school was established on the 1st last march of 1999, in the town (Nainital) Uttarakhand. It was the need of the town where people early sought for the quality of preparatory education for their children seeking admission in the prestigious school of Nainital The mothers heart school started as a preparatory School to purpose the children to give awareness to the children about their duties and responsibilities a citizen of India to remove the learn of culture creed caste class and gender to help them decision to be morally responsible spically alert mentally strong, because 90% of the brain develop at the age of five year. The School admits the children without the barrios of caste creed, class and financial status and promoting with education.

Naghma Parvez (Principal)

BISHOP SHAW INTER COLLEGE

EST.1971 ENGLISH MEDIUM, CO-EDUCATION RECOGNIZED U.A. BOARD FOLLOWING

ADMISSION OPEN
Class Nursery to 12

Veena Massey Neelam Dani
PRINCIPAL MANAGER

TALLITAL, NAINITAL, PH. 05942-235371

SANWAL SCHOOL

(A Senior Secondary Co-Education School)
Affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi

ADMISSION OPEN For Session 2023-24
From 1 to 9 & 11 And KINDERGARTEN

Offered Streams For Class 11&12: Science • Commerce

Contact Us: E-mail: sanwal_school@rediffmail.com, Ph.No: 05942-235747 Mob: 7579207575
Address: MALLITAL, NAINITAL-263001 UTTARAKHAND

Vasant Valley Public School

Class Prap to VIII

ADMISSION OPEN
Tallital, Nainital

SANWAL SCHOOL REACHES CLASS XII LEVEL

Good education and able management have enabled the Sanwal School to start conducting classes upto the intermediate level. It was established by Angeline Grace Sanwal in 1952. Since then, the school has completed 70 years of successfully educating thousands of children. Affiliated to the CBSE board, this English medium school is managed by Gaurav Sanwal while A Emanuel is the school principal. The principal states that the school is committed to development, providing modern education and securing the future of the children.

VASANT VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL ESTABLISHES UNIQUE IDENTITY

The Vasant Valley Public School has a unique identity among schools in Nainital. This English medium school has classes upto class VIII. It provides education to children from varied backgrounds while maintaining academic standards. The school principal Neeraj Singh states that the temple of education is the same for all where it is the aim of the school to provide model education to the students. A dedicated team of experienced faculty members have been doing their bit to ensure the education and all-round development of the students.

VRINDAVAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

PLAYWAY, PREPARATORY & ACTIVITY CENTRE

Tallital, Nainital
Phone- 05942-237038

VRINDAVAN PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDS NAME IN SHORT TIME

The Vrindavan Public School was established a few years ago. This English medium school focuses on mental and physical development of the children for which all the necessary facilities are available. Principal Rakhi Shah states that she is doing this work due to the immense affection she has for children. The school is committed to the all-round development of children, she added.