OPINION 6

CHOOSE WISELY ON

MONEY 10

ESSENTIAL FOR EMERGING ECO TO

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DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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DEFENDING

DC STUN **CHAMPIONS** 12 SPORT

Cong appeases terror, terrorists, says Modi

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 3, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



WORLD 9

DOHA MEET RAISES CONCERN ON

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CAPSULE

WAPCOS EX-CMD HOUSE

New Delhi: The CBI has seized more than ₹20 crore in cash during searches on the premises of Rajinder Kumar Gupta, former Chairman and Managing Director of Central Public Sector Undertaking WAPCOS Limited.

'THE KERALA STORY': SC REFUSES STAY ON MOVIE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking a stay on release of the movie "The Kerala Story" on grounds that its a "worst kind of hate speech" and an "audio-visual propaganda". P4

REMISSION IN BILKIS BANO CASE: HEARING ON MAY 9

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred to May 9 the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the remission granted to the 11 convicts last year in the case of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family members during the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

RAINFALL PULLS DELHI'S MAX TEMP TO 28.3 DEGREE

New Delhi: A day after heavy rain lashed Delhi, the maximum temperature on Tuesday settled at 28.3 degrees Celsius, the weather office said.

BAPU'S GRANDSON ARUN GANDHI PASSES AWAY

Mumbai: Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Arun Manilal Gandh died on Tuesday in Kolhapur following a brief illness

Pawar quits as NCP chief, stupefies all

Party workers urge Sharad to stay on

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a stunning political development that sent shock waves through his party circles, Sharad Pawar on Tuesday announced his decision to step down as the president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Pawar founded and built NCP after breaking away from the Congress as a rebel leader in 1999 and remained at its helm for the last 24 years.

"After having been in active politics for a long time, it is essential for me to think that I should stop somewhere. That's why I have decided to step down from my post as the NCP president," the 82-year-old Pawar said, while speaking at a function organised to release the revised version of his political autobiography in Marathi "Lok Majhe Saangati".

In a high-drama that unfolded after the announcement at the YB Chavan Centre in south Mumbai, hundreds of



NCP chief Sharad Pawar with his wife and party leaders during a book launch event in Mumbai on Tuesday

party workers rooted for Pawar withdrawing his resignation, by way of emotional outbursts sit-dharna and threats to quit from party posts.

Earlier, agitated party workers raised slogans like 'Sharad Pawar Zindabad", Take Back Your Decision", "We Need You, The Country

Needs You" and "We Are Orphaned".

Pawar and his wife Pratibha, who was present when the former made the announcement, sat quietly and helplessly watched the drama that lasted for nearly two hours.

After his announcement, senior party leaders, including

his nephew and leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Ajit Pawar and State party president Jayant Patil, requested Pawar to reconsider his decision or even continue in the post till the working president of the party is appointed.

Continued on Page 2

L-G orders probe into Delhi pharma varsity job 'scam' **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Congress accuses

religious feelings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ashing out at the Congress

Lifor its "appeasement" politics and "making every attempt to insult Karnataka's great legacy", Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Tuesday said, "People

of Karnataka should never for-

get Congress's history and

thinking. Congress's history is

about appeasing terror and

encounter happened in Delhi,

there were tears in the eyes of

Congress's top-most leader,

hearing about the death of ter-

rorists, and when surgical strikes happened, Congress

raised questions on the capability of the country's defence forces," Modi said at

addressed three rallies, cam-

paigning for the May 10

The Prime Minister, who

Chitradurga rally.

When the Batla House

terrorists?

PM of hurting

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has ordered an enquiry into the alleged large-scale irregularities in the recruitment of faculty

members by the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) in 2019. The L-G, who is Chancellor of the DPRSU. approved the proposal of the Chief Secretary for serving a notice of seven days for inspec-

tion and enquiry. The Department of Training and Technical plaints alleging that there was large-scale appointment scam, favouritism, and corruption involved in the faculty and staff

appointments of the DPSRU. Detailed report on P3

action as per law, including insult Bajrang Bali." Continued on Page 2 imposing a ban on organisa-In red, Go First files for insolvency after **P&W** engines fail

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with BJP leaders, beats a drum during an election

and PFI.

tions such as the Bajrang Dal

Modi of hurting religious sen-

timents of devotees by equat-

ing Lord Hanuman with the

Bajrang Dal, and demanded an

apology from him. Congress

spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "The prime minister is

insulting our faith in Lord

Hanuman. He should apologise

to the country as he has hurt

our religious sentiments as

well as of crores of devotees of

Bajrang Bali. No one has given

the prime minister the right to

The Congress accused

campaign rally for upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls on Tuesday

Assembly polls in Karnataka,

also hit out at the Congress for

promising to ban Bajrang Dal

in its election manifesto, saying

it wanted to lock up those who

"Congress had earlier locked up Lord Rama and now

it wants to lock up those who

chant 'Jai Bajrang Bali' (Hail

Hanuman)," Modi claimed

while addressing a rally in

Hospet in Vijayanagara district.

hours of the Congress releasing

its election manifesto, in which

it has promised to take decisive

His attack came within

worship Lord Hanuman.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Wadia group-owned air carrier Go First Airways on Tuesday filed for insolvency resolution proceedings in the National Company Law Tribunal, claiming it has been forced to move NCLT due to "serial failure" of Pratt & Whitney (P&W) engines resulting in grounding of 50 per cent of the fleet grounded 25 aircraft due to

financial crunch. non-supply of engines by Pratt According to the airline, it is no longer in a position to "Whereas no prior intima-

continue to meet its financial obligations and has taken the step to approach the NCLT "to protect the interests of all stake-holders". The airline, which has been grappling with engine issues since January 2020, said the situation came to such a pass as P&W refused to comply with an order issued by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), an emergency arbitrator.

& Whitney (P&W).

The grounding of close to 50 per cent of its fleet due to the serial failure of Pratt & Whitney's engines, while incurring 100% of its operational costs has set Go First back by ₹10.800 crore in lost revenues and additional expenses," the airline said.

Taking note of the development, aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to



Go First after the airline decided to cancel flights for two days

The DGCA has sought an explanation within 24 hours from date and time of issue the

tion has been given to DGCA for such cancellations which is non-compliance with conditions for approval of schedule. Thus Go First has failed to report in writing the cancellations and reasons thereof. Further, M/s Go First is also directed to submit the details of the steps taken to mitigate the inconvenience caused to the-passengers booked on flights for 3rd & 4th May 2023, and submit their plan of action to operate flights as per the approved schedule from 05th May, 2023 onwards," DGCA

said in its notice. Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said it was unfortunate that the operational bottleneck related to engine supplies has dealt a blow to the

airline's financial position. Continued on Page 2

conviction, HC to hear plea in June

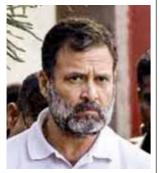
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHEMDABAD/NEW DELHI

¬he Gujarat High Court on Tuesday refused to grant interim relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his a criminal defamation case over his "all thieves have Modi as the common surname' remark, saying it will pass its final order post-summer vacation in the first week of June.

Rahul's counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi cited "extreme urgency" to request the HC for an interim or a final order after arguments from both sides in the matter concluded during

The court of Justice Hemant Prachchhak, however, said no interim protection can be granted at this stage. In final submissions, Singhvi said there was hardly any instance in criminal defamation where an accused was sentenced to more than 3 to 6 months in jail, and that his client was a first-time

offender. The complainant's lawyer opposed Singhvi's prayer for interim relief to the former Congress president, sentenced to two years in jail by the trial court in Surat, and said if the disqualified MP cannot apologise for his defamatory utter-



ances, then he should also not approach the HC for stay on conviction

Rahul had prayed in the HC for a stay on conviction, which if granted, will pave the way for his reinstatement as a Member of Parliament. Justice Prachchhak said he will pass a final order only after going through the records and proceedings, and posted the matter for verdict after reopening of the HC post- summer vacation, which will be from May 8 to June 3.

Advocate Nirupam Nanavati, who appeared for Gujarat BJP MLA Purnesh Modi, the original complainant in the case, opposed Singhvi's prayer for interim relief to the Opposition politician who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019.

Continued on Page 2

No stay on Rahul's Ukraine 'regrets' depicting goddess Kali disrespectfully

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/

Days after India took exception to the inappropriate depiction of Goddess Kali by Ukraine, its Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova on Tuesday expressed "regret" and said her country "respects unique Indian culture and

from India". She added the depiction had been removed. Her comments came after the tweet in question by the Ukraine Defence Ministry sparked out-



rage among netizens.
"We regret @DefenceU

depicting #Hindu goddess #Ukraine & its people respect unique #Indian culture and highly appreciate support. The depiction has already been removed... Is determined to further increase cooperation in

friendship," she tweeted. This came after an image of a female above blast smoke was

tweeted by the Ukraine defence ministry triggering outrage with social media users pointing out the resemblance of the image to the depiction of Goddess Kali.

On April 30, Ukraine's the caption "Work of art," and shared a picture of a blast with an improvised picture by Ukrainian artist Maksym Palenko.

Continued on Page 2

Rohini Court shootout accused Tillu Tajpuriya killed in Tihar jail

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Preaded gangster Sunil Mann alias Tillu Tajpuriya was killed on Tuesday morning after rival gang members attacked him with an iron rod and stabbed him with a "sua" (a big needle often used to break slabs of ice) 40 times in high security Tihar's Mandoli jail. To carry out the murder, the gangsters cut the iron grill of their cell and reached the ground floor with the help of bedsheets.

This is the second case of violence and gang rivalry in Tihar jail in a month. Last month, Prince Tewatia, a close aide of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, was killed in Tihar jail by rival gang members.



Tajpuriya was the main accused in the Rohini Court shootout case of September 2021. Police said Tajpuriya was rushed to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Another prisoner, identified as Rohit, was injured in the

attack. He is said to be out of danger now. "Today, at around 7 am, information was received from Deen Dayal Upadhyay

Hospital regarding two undertrial prisoners brought to the hospital from Tihar Jail. One of them, Sunil alias Tillu was brought in an unconscious state. He was later declared brought dead. Another person, Rohit is undergoing treatment and is out of danger," said additional DCP West district, Akshat Kaushal.

According to prison officials, the Gogi gang members were lodged on the first floor of the high-security ward, while Tajpuriya was lodged on the ground floor of the same ward.

Continued on Page 2

AAP used ₹100 cr liquor scam bribe in Goa poll campaign: ED including Rajesh Joshi and his

PNS NEW DELHI

Enforcement Directorate (ED) has accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of "using" a part of the ₹100 crore kickbacks allegedly received from the "South Group" liquor lobby to meet its expenditure for the Goa Assembly poll campaign in

The ED made the accusation in the agency's supplementary chargesheet filed in the money laundering case linked to the Delhi Excise policy "scam".

The agency has arraigned as accused a media publicity company, Chariot Productions



promoter Rajesh Joshi in the prosecution complaint (chargesheet in police parlance). The court took cognisance of this chargesheet on

"A careful perusal of findings of investigation has revealed that several persons,

company Chariot Productions Media Pvt Ltd, are actually involved in several processes/activities connected with a part of proceeds of crime i.e. the kickbacks of ₹100 crore received from the South Group," the ED alleged. "Chariot Productions

Media Pvt Ltd is not only involved in making payments through banking channels but also in cash through hawala network... And the actual beneficiary of these payments is AAP as these payments were used for meeting expenditure of Goa Elections in year 2022,"

Continued on Page 2



Kohli-Gambhir spat rekindles 2013 deja vu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he ugly bust-up between}}_{\text{Gautam Gambhir and Virat}}$ Kohli was quintessentially Delhi and waiting to happen. Both don't believe in pulling punches and have been

carrying their own baggage of

mutual dislike for each other. During their latest face-off, there was liberal use of the north Indian profanity which sounds similar to the name of English cricketer "Ben Stokes".

Opinions are divided among those who were present after the IPL game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants on Monday, when the altercation erupted between the two World Cup-winning players. Some found it juvenile, a

few others liked the spice and

the idea of intense rivalry, while the firm believers of the Gentlemen's Game thought it could have been avoided. So what happened in

Lucknow on Monday night? An eyewitness, who was in one of the team dugouts, gave a lowdown of events to PTI. "You saw on TV that

Mayers and Virat were walking side by side for a few metres post match. Mayers asked Kohli why was he constantly abusing them and Virat, in turn, questioned why was he (Mayers) 'staring' at him? Before that (Amit) Mishra had complained to umpire about Virat constantly abusing Naveen (ul-Haq), who is a No. 10 batter. Gautam, sensing that things could turn ugly, pulled Mayers and told him not to have a conversation, when



heated exchange that followed seemed a bit juvenile," he said.

"Gautam asked 'Kya bol raha hai, bol' (What were you you anything) saying?) and Virat replied,



naahin, aap kyon ghus rahe ho' (Why are you coming in between when I haven't told

"Gautam responded,

family ko gaali diya hai. (You abused my player and that's like abusing my family) and Virat's reply was, 'Toh aap apne family ko sambhal ke rakhiye'. (Then you take care of your family). "Gambhir's final reply before they were separated was, 'Toh ab tu mujhe

'Tuney agar mere player ko bola hai, matlab tune meri

sikhayega...' (So now I have to learn from you...)." The eyewitness said that while it was tense and a blow

away from turning into a freefor-all, it all seemed a bit juvenile at both ends. It was a 'deja vu' moment for everyone who had seen the duo nearly come to blows in 2013, when Kolkata Knight Riders were playing Royal Challengers Bangalore. Continued on Page 2

Omar: Centre has not given nod to EC for Assembly polls

Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Tuesday claimed the Centre has not given a green signal to the Election Commission of India for elections in J-K because the BJP does not want elections.

Omar also observed he does not see the assembly polls being held in the Union Territory in the near future. Interacting with the media outside Government Medical College hospital in Anantnag, Omar told reporters, "Can you see elections anywhere? I do not see elections anywhere. The incharge of state elections has clearly said that preparations are underway for Panchayat,

MANISH ANAND

Abdullah said. In response to a question, the NC vice president said the elections will not be held in Jammu and Kashmir even if people come out on the "If people are facing problems without elections, why do they not come out on roads? Will they get elections, if they come out on the roads? I don't think so," he said."

The BJP is not ready for assembly elections because they know they are going to lose the elections". He said they don't have the courage to face the people. We are also not ready to beg for polls. If they hold elections, well and good! If they don't, so be it!". Asked why elections were not being held for J-K assembly, Abdullah

'Haryana Model of dev

must also be discussed'

In red, Go...

From Page 1

Against the backdrop of the airline filing an application for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings, the Minister said, "It is prudent to wait for the judicial process to run its course." "Go First has been faced with critical supply chain issues with regard to their engines. The Government of India has been assisting the airline in every possible manner. The issue has also been taken up with the stakeholders involved," Scindia said in a statement.

In a detailed statement, Go First said promoters have infused funds worth ₹3,200 crore into the airline in the last three years and out of the total amount, Rs 2,400 crore was injected in the last 24 months. An amount of ₹290 crore was pumped in April this year. This brings the total investment in the airline since its inception to approximately ₹6,500 crore," the statement

> Ramayana era. Right next to Hampi is Anjanadri, the Anjaneya Hill at Gangavathi in Koppal district, which is believed by many to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. The BJP has decided to build a grand Hanuman temple at Anjanadri hill and develop the region.

Cong appeases

terror, terrorists,

From Page 1

"I have come to the land of

Hanuman. I am fortunate that

I got the opportunity to pay

obeisance to the land of

Hanuman, but see the misfor-

tune that when I have come to

pay my respect to Hanuman's

land, at the same time Congress

in its manifesto has decided to

"Initially, they locked up Prabhu Shri Ram (Lord Ram).

And now they want to lock up

people who say 'Jai Bajrang

Bali," the Prime Minister

country that the Congress had

a problem with Prabhu Shri

Ram and now it has a problem

with the people who say 'Jai Bajrang Bali," he added.

Krishnadevaraya is considered

by some historians as the

'Kishkindha Kshetra', the mon-

key kingdom of Vaali and Sugreeva of Treta Yuga or

The Vijayanagara empire of

ruler

"It is the misfortune of the

remarked.

lock up Lord Hanuman."

says Modi

Congress general secretary in-charge for Karnataka Randeep Surjewala charged that the prime minister and his associates refuse to speak about scams under the BJP's "40 per cent commission" government and are merely looking for excuses for polarisation.

He said Lord Hanuman depicts piousness and commitment to reverence and duty and symbolises service and

compare Lord Hanuman with any individual or organisation is an insult and PM is hurting the feelings and sentiments of millions of devotees of Hanuman ji. Of course, these canards were manufactured in the factory of B I Santhosh, the self-nominated Chanakya," he said, in a swipe at BJP national general secretary Santhosh.
"PM must apologise for

equating Lord Hanuman with Bajrang Dal. .

Being a leader of a national political party, which has ruled the country for over 40 years, Rahul must "learn a lesson" that using abusive language for his political opponents cannot be tolerated, the counsel for Purnesh said. "If Gandhi cannot apologise for his defamatory utterances, then he should also not approach the court with prayer for relief for stay of conviction," Nanavati said. He further said even after the pronouncement of conviction and his subsequent disqualification as an MP, Rahul continued to stand by his statement and refused to apologise, and cited a newspaper report in which the Congress leader had said he will not apologise as he is a "Gandhi and not Veer Savarkar".

Nanavati said Rahul neither apologised before the commencement of the trial in Surat nor said sorry or expressed regret and offered no explanation even during hearing on sentencing. "Coincidentally,

Minister of the country is also Modi. What message are you giving by this utterance to the world -- that an Opposition leader of India brands the PM as a thief in a public rally attended by thousands of people? Is this the language?" he asked during his submission.

Nanavati said Rahul is facing 12 criminal defamation cases for his remarks in different courts across the country. He said it is Parliament which made the law regarding disqualification of an MP.

Singhvi said the category for defamation makes it the simplest offence, and CrPC section 389 (for stay of conviction) will not find "a simpler conviction to suspend than defamation which is non-cognizable, which is simple imprisonment, bailable and not antisociety." "If there is a classic offence which is the mildest form of offence which must lead to section 389 suspension then it is this," said the senior

Rohini Court...

He was attacked by Deepak, Yogesh, Rajesh and Riyaz Khan at around 6.15 AM. Prison officials said

Asked how an incident like this has happened again, a jail official said the attack was completed within one-and-ahalf minute and the assailants exploited "dark spots", where no cameras could see, to enter Tajpuriya's cell."They (attackers) did not enter the barrack directly, or else they would have been caught," he said.

"When Tajpuriya saw the attackers, he ran towards another inmate's cell. The inmate (named Rohit) also tried to save him... Everything happened within a span of one-and-a-half-minute," he

According to police, Tajpuriya and Gogi were once friends, but became rivals during a student union election at Delhi's Swami Shraddhanand College as they supported different candidates. Over the next decade, the two men and their gang members targeted each other for area dominance.

Tajpuriya hailed from Tajpur Village, a hub for local

AAP used...

gangsters Neeraj Bawania, Sunil Bali, Cheenu and others. He was arrested in 2016 after being involved in over 11 cases of murder, the Arms Act, extortion, robbery etc. The Special Cell of Delhi Police also booked him under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

The police said Tajpuriya managed to run his gang from inside the jail for years and orchestrated several killings. He is survived by his parents and three siblings. His father was employed at the Delhi Municipal Corporation and retired recently.

Sources said Tajpuriya was involved in murder and dacoity cases in Delhi and Haryana. "In 2015-16, Gogi, along with gangster Kuldeep Fajja, was planning to eliminate Tajpuriya and made several attempts to send associates to jail to kill Tajpuriya. However, the police arrested Gogi and Fajja, and their plan failed.

Though Fajja was freed from police custody at GTB Hospital by gang members, he was later killed in a police encounter.

No stay on Rahul's... Pawar quits...

From Page 1

In their bid to prevail upon Pawar to change his decision, some workers lay in front of his car as he headed home from the venue. However, Pawar was in no mood to relent and left for his residence "Silver Oak" with his family members. Earlier, Pawar had told his senior party colleagues: "If they (party workers) are vehement in their demand, I am

more stubborn". Notwithstanding the immense pressure mounted on him by his party leaders and workers, it is quite unlikely that he would reconsider his deci-

After announcing his decision to step down from his post, Pawar said that a committee of party leaders - comprising senior leaders like Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, KK Sharma, PC Chacko, Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Supriya Sule, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse-Patil, Anil Deshmukh, Rajesh Tope, Dr. Jitendra Awhad, Hasan Mushrif and Dhananjay Munde - would oversee the election/appointment of the new NCP president.

Addressing the agitated party leaders and workers and leader in senior Pawar's presence, Ajit Pawar and senior NCP leader Praful Patel asked them to calm down, reconcile with the situation and allow him to go home. "We will meet him once again in the evening and try to convince him to reconsider his decision," Ajit Pawar said.

"Pawar saheb may not be party president from now on, but he will definitely there to guide us and the party. We cannot imagine the NCP without Pawar saheb.

We will seek his guidance in electing the party's new president," Ajit Pawar said.

Earlier, speaking at his autobiography release function, Sharad Pawar recalled his political journey lasting 63 years. "Maharashtra was founded on May 1, 1960 under the leadership of late YB Chavan. I became a member of the Pune Youth Congress on the same

Later on, I worked for the party in various capacities.... Since 1967, I have been a member of Maharashtra Assembly, Council, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha". "Apart from being the Chief Minister of the State for four terms, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly and Lok Sabha, I worked as Defence Minister in Narasimha Rao Government and later as the Agriculture Minister in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA

Government. I have been people's representative for the last 56 years," Pawar said, as he made a special mention of late Chief Minister Vasantrao Naik, who encouraged him as a young legislator and inducted him in his Cabinet as Minister of State for and General Administration Department

"I can never forget the amount of support and love I have received from the people during my six decades of public life," he said. "I am left with three more years of tenure as the Rajya Sabha member. During this period, I will concentrate on important State and national issues. But I will not accept any responsibility.

I will devote more time for institutions like the Rayatshikshan Sansthan (Satara); Vidya Pratishthan (Baramati), Maratha Mandir (Mumbai), Nehru Centre (Mumbai), Mahatma Gandhi Sarvodaya Sangh (Urali Kanchan, Pune), vasantdada Sugar Institute (Pune) Shivnagar Vidya Prasarak Mandal (Baramati); and Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Shikshan Parishad (Pune) with which I am associated," Pawar said.

"I may have stepped down as the NCP president, but I am not quitting public life. I will continue among the people. In fact, I will now get more time to work for the people... I will continue to strive for the growth of the party organization, to take the ideology and goals of the party to the people, and to serve the people, as they deem fit.

Even though I am stepping down from the post of president, I am not retiring from public life," Pawar said.

He said that he would continue attending public events, meetings, and would be available to all — whether in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Baramati or any other part of India".

Amid ongoing debate over Gujarat and Delhi model of developments, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said that the economists should also take a look at the Haryana model. He said that Haryana has pursued the path of

painstaking reform by changing the attitudes of the people while also ensuring the upliftment of the last man in the social ladder with administra-"It's upto the media and

others to talk about the Haryana model of development. We don't seek publicity. But in the last eight years we have undertaken deep-rooted reforms to address some of the fundamental concerns faced by the state and the country," said the Chief Minister while interacting with a select group of scribes from

all across the country. Lal said

that there had been several ini-

(a) Position of AAA = Accorded

1. Date of issue of tender notice

any matter that may be raised at that stage.

The important dates and time are as under

3. Date time and place of pre bid meeting

6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online



studied by other state governments. The Chief Minister ranked the Swaimtva Yojana at the top of the initiative inspired

"In 2014, we started demarcating plots through drone surveys, and Haryana became the first state in the country to issue property rights backed by digital maps. This was subsequently adopted by Central Government as the Swamitva Yojana," said Lal. To a query on the Gujarat and Delhi model hogging the limelight and where his state fits in. the chief minister said that "the

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE Executive Engineer

PMGSY division JAMMU.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

e-NIT No:-EE/PMGSY/j/44 of 2023-24 Dated:- 29.04.2023

(i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and Eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Governments up to 5.0

34.17

4.10

Cost of Bild Form per Package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan as mentioned above.

Availability of Bild Document and mode of submission: The bild documents are available online and bilds should be submitted online on website www.pmg

(a)The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in from 06.55 P.M on 29.04.2023 to 27.05.2023 (05:00 PM)

(b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in from 06,55 PM on 29,04,2023 to 05,00 PM on 27,05,2023

opened online on the next working day at the same time.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in, This is conveyed to the bidders aut

The bidders are required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain

the same from the website: www. pmgsytendersjk.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature

Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and Bid Security Declaration Form duly signed by the bidder and attest

the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period

be opened online at 12.00 Noon on 30.05.2023 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be

essage on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division J.

0.02

0.06

03.05.2023 (12.00 Noon

29.04.2023 (10.00 AM)

To be notified after Tecl

38.27

178.75

0.77

29.04.2023 (6.55 PM) to 27-05-2023 (5.00 PM)

media should talk about the Haryana model". He said that the state government has taken tough measures in the larger interest of the people. "We could achieve the power transmission and line losses coming down from over 34 per cent a few years ago to about 11 per cent now because of painstaking efforts to persuade the people, including the villagers, to pay their electricity bills, while the state government guaranteed 24-hour supply," added Lal.

The chief minister also stressed that the Haryana government's 'Parivar Pehchan Patra', "which is now being studied by the Uttar Pradesh government, has also ensured that the genuine beneficiaries avail the benefits of the BPL cards and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). "Now, the digital records on the basis of field surveys benchmarked against a few parameters automatically add and delete the beneficiaries of scheme for free foodgrains.

Mahatma's grandson Arun Gandhi dead

PTI MUMBAI

 $M_{
m son\ Arun\ Gandhi's\ grand}$ ahatma Gandhi's grandaway at Kolhapur in Maharashtra on Tuesday after brief illness, family sources said. "Bereaved. Lost my father this morning." tweeted Arun Gandhi's son Tushar Gandhi on Tuesday.

The funeral of the 89-yearold author and socio-political activist will be held at Kolhapur later today, his son Tushar Gandhi told PTI. Born to Manilal Gandhi and Sushila Mashruwala in Durban on April 14, 1934, Arun Gandhi followed in the footsteps of his grandfather as an activist.

From Page 1 The agency said the money laundering investigation launched by it in this case last Money Laundering Act (PMLA) found that "a part of proceeds of crime of ₹30 crore were transferred through hawala network to make payments to vendors for adver-

"The payment was made both through the banking channel as well as through cash," the ED said. It added, as part of the chargesheet filed in this case last month before a local court, "a part of money trail of proceeds of crime of ₹80 lakh (approx) is traced back to advertisement vendors and surveys for AAP during Goa elections." "All these transactions are interconnected which represent the utilisation of pro-

tisement in Goa election cam-

paign of AAP."

ceeds of crime of ₹100 crore through various multiple processes and activities which are interconnected for the reason that ultimately all the money was used by the leaders of AAP, including Ministers Government who were the architect of this liquor scam," it alleged.

The agency, like in an earlier chargesheet, again mentioned the name of AAP leader and MP Raghav Chadha as part of a statement recorded by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's secretary C Arvind.

However, Chadha has not been named as an accused in the chargesheet. "...That at Dy CM's (Sisodia's) residence there was a meeting of Raghav Chaddha, ACS Finance of Punjab Govt, Excise Commissioner, Sh Varun Roojam, FCT and officers from Punjab Excise where Vijay Nair was also present," the ED said.

Ukraine 'regrets' depicting goddess Kali disrespectfully

From Page 1

yet offensive blend of famous American actress Marilyn Monroe in her 'flying skirt' pose with the face and detailing resembling Hindu Goddess "Maa Kali". Kanchan Gupta, senior advisor, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting called the image "an assault on Hindu sentiments". Gupta was among the many netizens who demanded an apology from Ukraine over the image.

"Recently Ukraine Dy Foreign Minister was in Delhi soliciting support from India. Behind that fakery lurks the real face of Ukraine Govt. Indian goddess Ma Kali has been caricatured on a propaganda poster.

This is an assault on Hindu sentiments around the world. @UkrembInd," Gupta tweeted on April 30 while sharing the tweet by Ukraine's Ministry of Defence.

Gupta also said Ukraine has mocked "Goddess Kali in a manner no foreign government or country has ever done". He also branded the Ukraine ministry's actions as "brazen

work of art. Our faith is not a matter of joke.

Take it down and apologise

ed India, the first visit by a In the picture, the artist Ukrainian minister to India war in February last year. During the visit the Ukrainian minister held talks with Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakashi Lekhi. The Ukrainian minister handed over a letter from President Volodymr Zelenskyy addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lekhi seeking India's intervention in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict.

The Ukraine defence ministry's tweet, which has now been deleted, was captioned 'Work of art" with an image of Goddess Kali superimposed over a blast fume. Some Twitter users even sought External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's intervention. "Please take note of this defamatory post that shows Maa Kali in a bad light," a user said tagging Jaishankar.

"Absolutely disgraceful behaviour from @DefenceU (Defense of Ukraine) with their distasteful depiction mocking Maa Kali. India has given aid to Ukraine and this is how they repay them. Hindus demand an apology NOW," another Twitter

"Shocking! The official handle of the Ukraine Defence Ministry portrays Maa Kali in a demeaning pose. This is not a work of art. Our faith is not a matter of joke. Take it down and apologise @DefenceU," another user tweeted.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi President "no military solution" and that India is ready to contribute to

hate speech". After posting the picture, the tweet triggered a massive backlash, forcing the Defence Ministry to delete the Twitter post. One Twitter user posted, Shocking! Official handle of the Ukraine Defense Ministry is portraying Maa Kali in a demeaning pose. This is not a

@DefenceU" Meanwhile, another Twitter user said, "Hurting sentiments of 1.4 billion Indians is not Okav @DefenceU. This is a blatant display of Hinduphobia by Ukraine's defence ministry. Please remove this."

spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy several times. In a phone conversation with Zelenskyy on October 4 last year, Modi said there can be

any peace efforts.

Kohli-Gambhir spat rekindles 2013 deja vu

Kohli was then the superstar-in-the-making and Gambhir, out of the Indian team, was a shrewd captain at KKR.Cut to 2023, Gambhir remains a firebrand who is a TV pundit and also mentor of a franchise where he is the remote-control skipper.

Ditto for Kohli, who remains the skipper of RCB in spirit. On paper though, Faf du Plessis is the captain. It is a bit of a complicated relationship between the two. Gautam is not a bad human being but not the easiest person to handle. He had no business to gesture that finger on lips to the crowd

knows that Gautam has been a staunch critic of his captaincy and even he won't take a step back," a former India player, who shared the dressing room with both, said. As Kohli said in a RCB video, "You got to take it, otherwise don't give it." Both players have been fined their full match fees although no one knows how a mentor's penalty is computed by the BCCI.

It also didn't help that Kohli has 55.4 million followers on Twitter alone, while the BJP Parliamentarian is no light either, with 12.5 million followers of his own. The people

team asking regular skipper du Plessis about Kohli's "aggression", which bordered on boorishness. This is the same kind of aggression which the former India skipper admitted that it felt "fake' But the RCB social media

team, in trying to justify it, is making themselves look more silly. On the other hand, Gambhir's political secretary Gaurav Arora from his twitter handle @gauravbir786 wrote: "Asking your trolls to abuse Gautam Gambhir's daughters is an unacceptable low. Matches will come and go. Show some class Kohli!" In the end, it was

at Chinnaswamy, which swears in their close quarters are either another uncalled for bust-up No:- DIP/J-906/23 Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammi trying to lionise them or create by Virat's name. Now here, and a rivalry from which no a false narrative. Like one from one came out smelling roses. | Dzhaporava had recently visit-Virat got a chance to show one Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before

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LG orders probe into Delhi Tihar Jail security under spotlight after pharma varsity job 'scam'

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered an enquiry into the alleged large-scale irregularities committed in the recruitment of faculty members by the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) in the year 2019. The Lieutenant Governor, who

is Chancellor of the DPRSU, approved the proposal of the Chief Secretary for serving a notice of seven days for inspection and inquiry in terms of Section 8 (3) of the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University Act, 2008.

The Department of Training and Technical Education had received several complaints alleging that there was large scale appointment scam, favouritism, and corruption involved in the faculty and staff appointments of



The complaints had startcoming in since 2020 regarding irregularities in the appointments for the posts of professor, associate professor and assistant professor in the university for which advertisements were published in the media in February and July,

After obtaining the relevant records from the university, the department, through its vigilance branch, examined the recruitment process concerning six candidates against whom the complaints were

The vigilance department, in its findings, stated that the candidates either lacked experience for the posts or submitted forged documents to meet the eligibility criteria. In its report, the vigilance department also said "such large-scale irregularities in the appointment of faculties are not possible without the active connivance of the Vice Chancellor, DPSRU, who acted as the Chairman of the Selection

Top Delhi government officials who examined the files and reports of the vigilance department were of the view that this was a serious matter concerning the alleged irregularities and illegalities in the recruitment process conducted by the DPSRU.The chief secretary proposed to invoke section 8 of the DPSRU Act for causing an inspection or

Committee".

Section 8 empowers the chancellor to conduct an inspection or inquiry into the affairs of the university. The DPSRU had advertised 21 posts of faculty through an advertisement dated February 23 2019 and subsequently, the recruitment rules were amended by the university, enhancing the the age limit for the assistant professor's post from 35 to 40 years, along with other changes. After the amendment of the recruitment rules, the university issued another advertisement on July 26, 2019 for filling up 52 posts of faculty, including 21 posts notified

The department said there is a possibility that the recruitment rules were changed to accommodate or favour specific candidates and therefore, it is imperative to scrutinise all cases of recruitment made in reference to the advertisement dated July 26, 2019.

two prisoners killed within a month

The killing of a second gang-ster in less than a month inside the Tihar jail here has once again put a serious question mark on the security at one of the largest prisons in Asia despite officials claiming they were implementing a detailed plan to avoid such inci-

Sunil alias Tillu Tajpuriya (33), lodged on the ground floor of the high-security prison, was killed by members of the Gogi gang with an improvised weapon around 6.15 am on Tuesday.
On April 14, Prince

Tewatia $(3\overline{3})$, an associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, was killed similarly in an earlymorning attack inside the jail by rival gang members following an altercation with an inmate. An under-trial prisoner, he was lodged in ward no. 6 of the jail no. 3 which has around 380 inmates.

Officials claimed they were carrying out intensive searches in wards for improvised weapons and other illegal

items, such as mobile phones, after the Tewatia incident. They were also maintaining a "strict vigil" through CCTV cameras.

Asked how an incident like this has happened again, a jail official said the attack was completed within one-and-ahalf minute and the assailants exploited "dark spots", where no cameras could see, to enter Tajpuriya's cell.

They (attackers) did not enter the barrack directly, or else they would have been caught," he said.

When Tillu saw the attackers, he ran towards another inmate's cell. The one-and-a-half-minute," he

Asked why cameras were not installed to cover the dark spots, the official said cameras are not installed in some areas, such as washrooms, to ensure privacy of the prisoners.

An inquiry has been ordered into the incident to find out the lapses, officials said. They said they are working on a detailed plan to improve the response time in case of a clash between inmates and taking other steps to make security fool-proof inside the

NHRC seeks report from **Delhi Govt, DG of prisons**

New Delhi: Hours after the killing of jailed gangster Tillu Tajpuriya on Tuesday inside the Tihar Jail, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the Delhi Government and the Director General of prisons, seeking a report within four weeks. The rights body said the report should include steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of prisoners inside the Tihar Jail so that such violent and fatal incidents do not recur in the future. The NHRC said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that an under-trial prisoner was killed and another injured in an attack by other inmates

CM house row rocks MCD House as BJP protests

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In its first meeting after AAP's Shelly Oberoi was re-elected as Delhi mayor on April 26, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House witnessed a huge uproar on Tuesday as BJP councillors staged a protest against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly spending Rs 45 crore between 2020 and 2022 on the renovation of his official residence. The session began with a

two-minute silence to pay tribute to the victims of the recent Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada, which killed 10 policemen and one civilian. Soon after, BJP leaders, many of them carrying placards with anti-AAP and anti-Kejriwal messages, began sloganeering in the House. The House was



briefly adjourned due to the demonstrations.

The protests continued after the session resumed even as Mayor Oberoi asked the members to maintain order in the House. Later, amid the noisy

scenes, several items on the

in the written submission.

that stellar breed of brilliant

scholars who are star teachers,

intensely admired by the stu-

dents and colleagues. A quiet,

prolific reader and deep, orig-

inal thinker. Samarveer was

often seen reading in a corner

of the otherwise noisy staff

room of Hindu College," the

plan in 2004, thousands of

teachers from socially weak-

er sections joined DU as ad

hoc teachers and have been

working for a long time with

job insecurities, it claimed.

are first-generation learners

coming from poor and rural

backgrounds without many

elite connections. After a long

struggle, they have reached so

far, and loss of a job at this juncture leaves them in the

lurch with depression and

desperation," the submission

inquire into factors and forces

holistically which has driven

a well-qualified OBC faculty

member to commit suicide.

Justice should be dispensed to

Samarveer so that such fate-

ful incident doesn't recur,"

Anand Prakash, Member DU

Executive, Ramkishore Yadav,

Member of Academic Council

and DUTA Executive, Prem

Chand, Member, the AADTA

National Committee, and

Assistant Professor Sarvendra

The delegation comprised

Association

the submission added.

Teachers'

"So, we request you to

"Most of these teachers

After the OBC expansion

submission noted.

'Samarveer represents

agenda of the House were passed before it was adjourned for the day.

The BJP on Monday launched an indefinite dharna near the Delhi chief minister's official residence -- 6, Flagstaff Road, Civil Lines -- following the controversy over its reno-

vation. The BJP also urged the chief minister to open the gates of the residence to the general public so that they can see his "lavish living", even if the entry into it is ticketed. 'The most shameful thing

in this is that this scam was done at a time when coronavirus was in its worst form in Delhi and hundreds of people were dying every day," BJP's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva had said. In a press statement, MCD

Mayor Shelly Oberai said that the BJP councillors yet again disrupted the proceedings of the MCD House, on Tuesday. "The MCD House was sup-

posed to review the progress reports of landfills and facilitate open debates on issues of education, health, and sanitation but the BJP councillors did not even allow the business of the House to commence by flashing placards, sloganeering and climbing over the tables of the House," Oberai said.

Oberoi expressed her disappointment in the BJP councillors' conduct, stating that they were hindering the House proceedings from moving forward for the benefit of Delhiites. She appealed to the BJP councillors to help the House proceedings move smoothly, but instead, they indulged in hooliganism and shouting. Oberoi regretted that detailed discussions on these matters could not take place and the agenda items had to be voted upon and passed, because BJP councillors continued to derail the proceed-

Representatives of 360 Delhi villages to meet protesting wrestlers today, says AAP

inmate (named Rohit) also

tried to save him... Everything

happened within a span of

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said representatives from 360 villages in Delhi, including MLAs and councillors, will visit Jantar Mantar on Wednesday to express solidarity with the protesting wrestlers.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, AAP Delhi unit convener Gopal Rai said the wrestlers who brought fame for the country have been braving adverse weather conditions. The wrestlers have been

staging a sit-in since April 23 over allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan

Singh.
"Yesterday they sat there in



ter has no time to listen to them. SC (Supreme Court) had to direct that an FIR be registered. Even the sports minister is not

ready to hear their pleas," he Rai accused the BJP of ing to malign the movement. They were not allowed to put up tents.

maligning them.

They are try

allowed to put up microphone system. The whole nation is watching it. People are supporting them over social media and

they are also reaching Jantar Mantar," he added.

Recalling how efforts were made to crush the farmers' movement, he said that the BJP-led Centre had to bow down and repeal the three farm

AAP teachers' wing meets Delhi OBC panel head over ex-lecturer's death



delegation of Aam Aadmi AParty's teachers' wing AADTA met with Delhi State **OBC** Commission Chairman Jagdish Yadav and demanded an inquiry into the death of Samarveer, a former ad hoc teacher of Hindu College.

Delhi University teachers have alleged that the massive displacement of ad hoc teachers was the reason behind the death of the young faculty member Samarveer. Samarveer allegedly died by suicide on April 26 in the Rani Bagh area.

A delegation of Academic for Action and Development Delhi Teachers' Association (AADTA) led by its national incharge Aditya Narayan Misra met Yadav on Monday.

The delegation demanded inquiry into the suicide by Samarveer, who was a former ad hoc teacher of Hindu College and belonged to the OBC community, the AADTA said in a statement. "They also made a written submission in the case," it added.

Samarveer had been an adhoc teacher under the OBC category in the Hindu College since 2017 till he was "unceremoniously removed" from the interviews for permanent positions on February 9 this year, the statement alleged.

"Massive displacements of ad hoc and temporary teachers in the ongoing interviews in the University of Delhi (DU) have taken a very heavy toll by taking away the life of a young faculty member, Samarveer, who compassport to minor after deleting father's name for deserting his child PTI ■ NEW DELHI $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court has}}_{\text{directed the reissuing of a}}$

HC directs reissuing of

minor's passport after deleting name of his father who "completely deserted" him. Justice Prathiba M Singh

noted that the minor was being brought up by his mother and the father has given up all rights on him. The mother had sought the deletion of the boy's father's name from his pass-

She told the court that her husband had deserted her when she was pregnant, and she was now divorced and raising the child as a single par-

"In the unique and peculiar circumstances of this case, it is accordingly directed that the name of the father of petition-er no.2 (minor) be deleted from the passport and the passport be re-issued in favour of the minor child without the name of the father...Let the new passport be issued (by the passport office concerned) without the name of the father within one week thereafter," the court said in a recent order.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

almost a week with a fake

insurance policy. It was a

spelling mistake in my name

which helped me trace the

Katara murder case: HC dismisses Vishal Yadav's plea for parole

The Delhi High Tuesday dismissed a plea by Vishal Yadav appeal in the

seeking parole to pursue filing of an Supreme Court chal-

lenging his conviction and life sentence in the killing of business executive Nitish Katara in 2002. Vishal's cousin Vikash Yadav is a co-accused in the case and

The high court noted that Vishal was granted custody parole

in 2015 but he did not avail it. It said consistent refusal to accept custody parole for filing

of Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the apex court does not work to his advantage since it is not as if there is a denial in exercising a constitutional right, but rather to calibrate it and allow it along with safeguards which are necessary for securing life, liberty and protection of the victim and witnesses. Even in 2018 when the high court had rejected his parole,

it had noted that the petitioner would be granted custody parole for filing an SLP and an application in that regard could be moved.

This opportunity was not availed on that stage as well, which also does not work to the advantage to the petitioner, the court said. Justice Anish Daval said Vishal's contention of denial of a constitutional right in context of the plea for parole, therefore, has to be appreciated, viewed, weighed, sifted and winnowed in this light and not viewed in isolation. "The petitioner (Vishal) is not precluded from pursuing his remedy to file an SLP before the Supreme Court, irrespective that it is 8 years after the decision that he wishes to assail," the High Court said.

Delhi riots: HC asks cops to explain role of accused, evidence attributed

The Delhi High Court on file a chart detailing the role assigned to Shahrukh Pathan, who had allegedly pointed a gun at a policeman, and other accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots case.

The high court was hearing a bail plea filed by Pathan.

"Special public prosecutor is directed to file a chart showing roles of the accused persons, including the petitioner, and the evidence attributed to them," Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma said.

During the hearing, Pathan's counsel submitted that he had filed the bail plea in January 2022 and it has been pending for the last 15 months and that he has been in custody for over three years.

The counsel said the other



accused in the case, who were even identified by witnesses, have been released on bail but Pathan who was neither named in the FIR nor identified by anyone was still in custody.

He claimed that no role has been attributed to him

and the "entire case is a farce". "It is not their case that I shot the victim... examination of the main victim is complete. That is full of contradictions and there is nothing," Pathan's counsel submitted.

Delhi Police pleas against bail to 3 2020 riots accused dismissed by SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

I Tuesday dismissed the pleas by the Delhi Police against the bail granted in June 2021 to three student activists in a case related to the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, saying they are out on bail for almost two years and it sees no purpose in keeping the matter alive.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A Amanullah passed the order while hearing the pleas filed by police challenging the Delhi High Court's June 15, 2021 verdicts granting bail to activists Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha in a case related to communal violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

AQI improves as rain lashes Delhi, more showers predicted

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aday after heavy rain lashed many parts of Delhi, the minimum temperature settled at 19.3 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal, the weather office said on Tuesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thundershowers and gusty winds during the day in the The national capital

recorded 15 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ended at 8.30 am on Tuesday, the IMD said. Delhi recorded 14.8 mm of

rain on Monday while the minimum temperature was recorded at 19.6 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal.

On Tuesday, the minimum temperature settled at 19.3 degrees Celsius.

The relative humidity stood at 87 per cent, the IMD

On Monday, the maxi-

tered at 26.1 degrees Celsius, 13 degrees below average for this time of the year. It was the second coolest

May day in 13 years and also the second consecutive day when the maximum temperature settled 10 degrees below normal during this year's summer season, which generally sees the mercury soaring during the month.

The wet spell is likely to continue for two more days owing to western disturbances,

officials said on Monday. The weatherman has forecast a generally cloudy sky with light rain, thundershowers and gusty winds.

On Tuesday, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was 'satisfactory', recording a reading of 73.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor, and 401 and 500 'severe'.



 $F_{\text{Soni, who handles cases of}}^{\text{ifty-year-old lawyer Nitin}}$ April 21. The telecaller identicyber fraud, became a victim himself when a woman caller, fied herself as a representative posing as a representative of a of Policybazar.Com and had prior information of the expiry leading online insurance broker, sold him a fake car insurof Soni's car insurance. After ance policy at an attractive rate. initial discussion on the phone, the woman shifted to The whole transaction was done in such a clever manner

that Soni did not realise he was the company's logo. dealing with a fake agent. He They even owned an realised the fraud a few days almost similar domain name, later when he spotted a spelling error in his name in the policy document and tried to get it corrected. "In fact, I drove my car for

FIR was lodged at Mandir Marg cyber police station on

WhatsApp messages where the display picture (DP) resembled

Fraudster represents top insurance portal, sells

fake car insurance policy to cyber crime lawyer

Based on his complaint, an

fraud," Soni told PTI.

carrenewalpolicybazar.Com, from where they sent emails to Soni and made some lucrative offers with added features. Aware of such frauds, Policybazar.Com has already

put up an advisory on its web-

site for the general public where

up with identical fake websites to dupe consumers hence people should always cross-verify such claims by writing to feedback@policybazaar.Com. "We do keep educating

it says that fraudsters can come

our customers not to fall prey to imposters," a representative from Policybazar.Com said. Soni claimed in his complaint, "The woman sent me

the features of the policy from email address support@carrenewalpolicybazar.Com in respect of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance where I was supposed to pay 17,700." He further said that the woman sent him the bank

account details with beneficia-

name as "policy bazaar" along with an account number and IFSC code. mum temperature was regis-

Don't vitiate atmosphere during polls rallies: EC

 $T^{\text{aking serious note of the}} \\ \text{"plummeting level of campaign discourse"}, \text{ the Election}$ Commission has advised the political parties and their star campaigners to exercise caution and restrain themselves from saying anything that could vitiate the elections atmosphere. Campaigning for the May 10 polls is hotting up with the Congress and the BJP being engaged in a war of words. Recently, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge first called Modi a "poisonous snake" and his MLA-son has now made another objectionable remark by calling him "nalayak" (inept).

Taking serious note of the "plummeting level of campaign discourse" during electioneering, the poll panel referred to the instances of "inappropriate vocabulary and language" used during the ongoing campaign by persons, "in particular, by those invest-



star campaigner".

"Such instances have occasioned various complaints, cross complaints and have also attracted negative media attention," the EC said in a state-

The Commission's attention has recently been brought to the instances of inappropriate vocabulary and language used during the on-going campaign by persons, in particular, those invested with the statutory status of star campaigner. Such instances have occasioned various complaints, cross complaints and have also attracted negative media atten-

stakeholders to remain within the confines of the Model Code of Conduct and the legal framework in their utterances while campaigning so as to maintain the dignity of the political discourse and not to vitiate the campaign and the election atmosphere. They are thus expected to contribute in maintaining and raising the level of discourse to "issue" based debate, provide pan India perspective, depth to the local discourse and to reassure all sections of electors to participate fully and fearlessly in a free and fair election"

According to Section 504 of the IPC-"Whoever intentionally insults, and thereby gives provocation to any person, intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause him to break the public peace, or to commit any other offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which n. may extend to two years, or The advisory states "It is with fine or with both."

CBI seizes ₹20 cr in raid at WAPCOS ex-CMD's house

The CBI has seized more than Rs 20 crore in cash during searches at the premises of Rajinder Kumar Gupta, former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Central Public Sector Undertaking WAPCOS Limited.

Gupta was booked recently for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

After registering the FIR against Gupta and his family members, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) teams conducted searches at his premises where Rs 20 crore in cash was seized in addition to documents related to properties and other valuables, offi-

WAPCOS or Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) wholly owned by the Government under the administrative control of the

Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Searches were conducted on Monday at around 19 locations including Delhi, Chandigarh, Gurugram, Sonipat and Ghaziabad at the residential and commercial premises belonging to the

During the searches, a cash of around Rs 20 crore, incriminating documents and digital devices were recovered from the possession of the accused, they said.

During the tenure from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2019, the accused had possessed disproportionate assets way beyond his known

alleged that the accused after retiring from the service had started a consultancy business in the name of a private company based at Delhi. The alleged immovable properties belonging to the

accused include flats, commercial properties and a farmhouse spread across Delhi, Gurugram, Panchkula, Sonipat and Chandigarh," the CBI said in a statement. Searches were conducted

on Monday at 19 locations across Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Sonipat and Ghaziabad at the premises of the accused which led to recovery of huge cash of Rs 20 crore, large quantity of jewelry, valuable items and incriminating documents.

Besides Gupta, his wife Reema Singal, son Gaurav Singal and daughter-in-law Komal Singal have been named as accused in the case.

Mulling panel to examine current mode of execution of convicts: Centre to SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday was apprised by}}$ the Centre that it was considering setting up a committee of experts to examine the prevalent mode of execution of death row convicts by hanging in the country. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala took note of the submissions of Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, that the government was considering his suggestion on constituting a committee of experts and deliberations were on.

The top law officer said there were processes related to finalisation of names for the proposed panel and that he will be able to respond on the issue after some time. "The Learned Attorney General states that the process of appointing a committee was under consideration. In view of the above, we



will give a fixed date after the (summer) vacation," the bench

The top court on March 21 had said it may consider setting up of a committee of experts to examine whether execution of death row convicts by hanging was proportionate and less painful and had sought "better data" from the Centre on issues pertaining to the mode of exe-

Lawyer Rishi Malhotra had filed a PIL in 2017 seeking to abolish the present practice of executing a death row convict by hanging and replace it with less painful methods such as "intravenous lethal injection, shooting, electrocution or gas

'Indian patent landscape set to change for better'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $E^{\text{very year, just 23,000 patents}}_{\text{are granted in India, a poor}}$ show when compared to over 5 lakh in neighbouring China and 3.5 lakh in the US. The time duration of patent-filing and grant of patents which is three years in India is also long when compared to the global average of two years.

However, the Indian patent landscape is all set to change for the better, Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said on Tuesday, informing that the Government is mulling to make the Indian Patent Act more simple and result-friendly for product-oriented results to keep up with the global peers.

He was addressing the



Global Science, Research and Innovation Summit organized by business chamber CII themed "Fostering Science, Research and Innovation Partnerships' under the aegis of the India's G20 Presidency' held

Dr Gupta admitted that India lacks the culture of Patents filing and taking it to its logical conclusion. He knows better. According to the Economic Survey 2021-2022, though patents filed in India have grown considerably, the World

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

Dated: 20.04.2023
Summons to defendants under
Section 19(3) of the Recovery of
Debts due to Banks and Financial
Institution Act, 1993 read with

Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

ICICI Bank Ltd.

Kiran Kumar Arya & Others

S/o- Sri Chand Ramesh Arya R/o- K-603, Aditya Mega City,

To,
1. Kiran Kumar Arya

Ghaziabad- 201010

Ghaziabad- 201010

D/o. Shri. Sevaram Pawar

R/o. K-603, Aditya Mega City,

Near Nathu Sweet, Indirapuram

In the above noted Original

application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two

sets along with documents and

affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised

agent or legal practitioner in this

Tribunal, after serving copy of the

same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent

after publication of the summons

and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 30/10/2023 at 10.30

A.M. failing which the application

shall be heard and decided in your

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal

2. Sapna Pawar

Dated: 20.04.2023

...Defendant No.1

...Defendant No.2

Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data reveals that the number is still less as compared to 1.79 lakh granted in Japan in 2021 and 1.35 lakh were granted in South Korea, respectively, as of 2020. The number of patents filed in India is merely 3.8 per cent of China and 9.5 per cent of the

USA in 2020.

However, on its part, India reporting increase in the number of patent applications, up from 45,444 in 2016-17 to 66,440 in 2021-22. Similarly, the patents granted in India have gone up from 9,847 to 30,074 during the same time period, as per the Government data.

Dr Gupta, who is also Secretary of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) also flagged data that around .69 percent of budget being spent on R&D in India and exhorted the private sector to pitch in with higher research allocation to match and support the government for a win-win proposition.

Echoing similar views, Dr Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary in the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government underlined that the main reason and the huge gap of the low R&D budget of India is due to almost non-participation of private sector to take big risks in emerging and cutting -edge tech-

Dr Maini said, out of 90,000 start-ups in India, only 12,000 are technology-based and also only about 3,000 of them are deep tech start-ups. She said, unless industry will not lend funding support to innovative and bright ideas, India will miss the bus, which is now on its way to full bloom.

IIT-D will start M-tech in Robotics this year and appealed to Industry to support this mission, Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT, Delhi said while Ryuhei Nishi, First Secretary, S&T, Embassy of Japan stressed on increasing more people to people contact as she noted that only 1000 Indian students are there in Japan, which is 8 times less than China.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Vipin Sondhi, Chairman, CII National Mission on Technology, Innovation 7 Research and Alok Nanda, Co-Chair National Mission on Technology, Innovation & Research Dr Ashish Mohan, Executive Director, CII.

SC to hear pleas against remission of convicts in Bilkis case on May 9

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred to May 9 the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the remission granted to the 11 convicts last year in the case of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family members during the 2002 post-Godhra riots. A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna was told by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Gujarat government that they are not claiming any privilege and are not filing any plea for review of the March 27 order of the court, which had asked for production of original records, with regard to the remission granted to the convicts. The SG raised preliminary

objections with regard to petitions filed in the matter other than by Bano, saying it will have wide ramifications as every now and then third parties will come to the courts in criminal cases. Government was objecting the petitions filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and TMC leader Mahua Moitra. The bench fixed May 9 for hearing the matter as several counsel for convicts, who have been released in the case, said that they need time to file their replies to the plea by Bano.

"We are only fixing timelines, so that whichever court takes up the matter, it will not have to waste time on these procedural issues. I am retiring during vacation on June 16. My last working day will be on May 19. My sister (Justice Nagarathna) will be going to attend a conference in Singapore till May 25. If all of you agree, then we can sit during vacation and finish hearing this case," Justice Joseph said.

Advocate Shobha Gupta

said that the matter will take a very short time as only the question of law needs to be decided. Justice Joseph told Gupta, "It is apparent from the way counsel appearing for convicts that they do not want this hearing to take place. Every time the matter will be called up, one person or the other will come and say that he needs time to file a reply. It is more

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Summons for Filing &

Appearance by Publication O.A. No. 887/2022 Date. 18/04/2023 [Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts

Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993] ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant

Versus SANJIV CHAUHAN & OTHERS ...Defendants Defendants:

1. SANJIV CHAUHAN S/O RAMPAL SINGH CHAUHAN R/o House No. 106/4, Jagriti Vihar, Meerut-250004. Also at: LIG H. No. 591/6, Jagriti Vihar, Scheme No.6, Meerut-250001, U.P. 2. RUPALI CHAUHAN

W/o SANJIV CHAUHAN

R/o House No. 106/4, Jagriti Vihar, Meerut-250004. Also at: LIG H. No. 591/6, Jagriti Vihar, Scheme No.6, Meerut-250001, U.P

Scheme No.6, Meerut-250001, U.P. In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 26/10/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

Air Marshal Manikantan new Chief of Southern Air Command



 A^{ir} Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of Southern Air Command on Monday. An alumnus of Sainik School Kazhakootam and National Defence Academy(NDA), the Air Marshal was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in 1986. He has flown over 5400 hrs on various types of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. He is a Helicopter Combat

Leader and a Type Qualified Flying Instructor. Prior to assuming the current appointment, he was the Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command, handling air operations, the IAF said here on Tuesday. He is a recipient of the Presidential Awards of Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vayu Sena Medal (VM).

Rajnath gifts fast patrol vessel to | Protein critical to spread Maldives, talks with Prez Solih

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Signifying close defence ties between the two countries, Defence Minister Rajnath a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives as India's gift at an event in Male. Rajnath also held talks with Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to expand the already close bilateral strategic ties. The defence minister is on a three-day visit to the island

nation beginning Monday. Addressing the top civil and military brass at the ceremony, Rajnath said the India-Maldives relationship is "truly special" and that it has evolved as a model for the entire region

to follow. The defence minister also highlighted the need for India, the Maldives and other likeminded nations of the region to enhance cooperation in addressing the common challenges in the Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

At the handing-over ceremony, Solih commissioned the offshore patrol vessel into the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

Rajnath said the relation-



ship between the two countries has evolved as a model for the entire region to follow. "There is a need for India, Maldives and other like-minded nations of the region to enhance our cooperation, towards addressing the common challenges of the Indian Ocean Region," he

"We must, therefore, ensure a collaborative effort, towards ensuring that the maritime expanse of the Indian Ocean is peaceful and the maritime resources therein are optimally harnessed, for ensuring regional prosperity," he added. India's handing over of the two platforms to one of its strategically key maritime neighbours came amid China's increasing efforts to enhance its strategic influence in the Indian Ocean Region.

"We wish to create symbiotic relationships, where we can learn from each other, grow together and create a win-win situation for one and all. We also want to assure you that India's commitment to support MNDF and Maldives will only get better and stronger with

He said India has significantly enhanced its defence capabilities that has enabled it to further support the capaci-ty building initiatives of its partner countries.

time," Rajnath said.

"India offers an enhanced defence partnership to friendly foreign countries, that is accommodative of their national priorities," he said.

"India's strong and vibrant defence cooperation with the Maldives emanates from our policies 'Neighbourhood First' and 'SAGAR' -- Security and Growth for All in the Region,"

of Covid may help develop anti-viral drugs: Researchers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

↑ specific protein, occludin, plays a critical role in the spread of coronavirus from cell to cell after infection, could help in the development of new antiviral drugs in the future, researchers from University of Missouri, US, said in their study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The protein mediates the transmission of the virus between cells. "This basic, scientific research is very important to better understand the underlying mechanisms of disease progression inside the body's cells so that the proper countermeasures can be identified and developed," said Wenjun Ma, an associate professor at the university and lead author of the study.

The research team examined how the coronavirus spreads through cells by analysing cell samples.

They found that when the occludin protein in a single cell is damaged by the coronavirus, the virus is able to quickly replicate and spread to neigh-



bouring cells throughout the body, making the infection worse and symptoms potentially more severe.

This knowledge would be helpful for developers of antiviral drugs by examining the potential impact the antiviral drugs have in strengthening the occludin protein against

infection, Ma said. "We learned that the virus may only start off by infecting a singular cell, but cells are incredibly complex, and when the occludin protein gets damaged, the virus quickly replicates and spreads to neighbouring

cells.

"For example, if only one infected at cell in the lungs is infected at first, the ability to breathe may

not be significantly impacted. "However, once the virus spreads to neighbouring cells throughout the lungs, it can lead to difficulty breathing and other respiratory problems," said Ma.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Luckno

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession		Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Spaak Super Infra India Pvt Ltd/	Flat No 1, 2nd Floor, Royal Retreat 3, Charmwood Village, Faridabad 122009/ Flat No 2, 2nd Floor, Royal Retreat 3, Charmwood Village, Faridabad 122009/ 29 April, 2023	November 30, 2022/ Rs.2,27,59,048/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Infra India Pvt Ltd/ Khairoon Rathore/	Flat No 1, 2nd Floor Royal Retreat 3 Charmwood Village Faridabad 122009/ Flat No 2, 2nd Floor Royal Retreat 3 Charmwood Village Faridabad 122009/ 29 April, 2023	November 30, 2022/ Rs.1,44,91,044/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : May 01, 2023 Place : Delhi NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

stay of release of 'The Kerala Story' PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

SC refuses to entertain plea seeking

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on ■ Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking a stay on release of the movie "The Kerala Story" on grounds that its a "worst kind of hate speech" and an "audiovisual propaganda". Later on the day Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind also approached the apex court seeking a direction to the Centre and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to not allow the screening and release of the movie "The Kerala Story" at theatres and on OTT plat-

Meanwhile a public interest litigation (PIL) was moved in the Kerala High Court on Tuesday against certain state-



ments in the teaser and trailer of controversial Hindi film, 'The Kerala Story', and seeking that the court set aside the certificate for public display given to the movie by the censor board. The High Court bench comprising Justices N Nagaresh and CP Mohammed Nias also gave time to Deputy Solicitor General of India (DSGI) Manu S, appearing for the Centre and the censor board, to obtain the CBFC's stand on the PIL before the next date of hearing, scheduled on May 5.

Dengue pathogen has evolved dramatically over decades: IISC

that they are very different

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

After conducting a detailed computational analysis of the available (408) genetic sequences of Indian dengue strains from infected patients collected over six decades in India, scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISC) Bengaluru have concluded that the pathogen has evolved dramatically from its ancestors

in the presence of serotypes. This calls for urgent need for development of vaccines against the mosquito-borne

viral disease, they said. 'We were trying to understand how different the Indian variants are, and we found

from the original strains used to develop the vaccines," said Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the institute, Rahul Roy, who led the study published in the journal PLOS Pathogens. There are four broad cate-

gories—serotypes—of the dengue virus (Dengue 1, 2, 3

and 4).

"We found that the sequences are changing in a very complex fashion," said Roy, corresponding author of the study. The researchers noted that at any given time, several strains of each serotype exist in the viral population.

The antibodies generated

serotypes for about 2-3 years. Over time, the antibody levels begin to drop, and cross-serotype protection is lost, they Until 2012, the dominant strains in India were Dengue 1 and 3, the researchers said.

in the human body after a pri-

mary infection provide com-

plete protection from all

However, in recent years, Dengue 2 has become more dominant across the country, while Dengue 4—once considered the least infectious—is now making a niche for itself in South India, they found. The team also investigat-

ed what factors decide which strain is the dominant one at

Raut likens Pawar quit call to Balasaheb's resignation

'Thackeray had to withdraw resignation, Pawar too soul of Maha politics'

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a reaction that surprised many in the State political circles, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday likened Sharad Pawar's decision to quit as the NCP president to Bal Thackeray's move to quit as the Shiv Sena chief in the past. Amid continued specula-

tion about Sharad Pawar's nephew and current leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly switching sides and joining the NCO, Raut - considered close to Sr Pawar, took to Twitter to compare Pawar's resignation as the NCP president with that of late Thackeray's decision to quit as the Sena chief after the latter was "fed up with dirty politics and allegations".

"Fed up by dirty Politics and allegations, Shivsena Supremo Balasaheb Thackeray too had resigned as the Shivsena Pramukh. History seems to have repeated itself... But owing to the love of Shivsainiks he had to withdraw his decision... Like Balasaheb, Pawar Saheb too is the soul of the State's politics. @PawarSpeaks @OfficeofUT," Raut tweeted. In the process, he



appeared to be hinting indirectly that senior Pawar's decision might have something to do with at the anti-party activities allegedly indulged in by the NCP leader and current leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Ajit Pawar, who has been in the news over the speculation making rounds in the state political circles that he might quit the Sharad Pawar-led party and join the BJP.

Curiously enough, NCP leader and sitting MP Surpriya Sule, daughter of Sharad Pawar, had said on April 19 that there would be political earthquakes in the next one fortnight. Now that Sr Pawar has resigned on the 13 th day of her prediction, political observers have a strong reason to believe that Sr Pawar's resignation as the NCP president was one of the two political earthquakes she was referring, while it is not certain yet

Pawar decision NCP's internal issue: Fadnavis

Nagpur: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as party chief was the Nationalist Congress Party's internal matter.

He was replying to a reporter's question here about Pawar's surprise announcement earlier in the day. "It is his personal decision....NCP's internal matter. I do not think it will be appropriate to talk about it at this stage.

Sharad Pawar is a senior leader and deliberations are going on in his party. It will be appropriate to comment only after the situation gets clear," the BJP leader said. Asked about Pawar's statement during the launch of a revised version of his autobiography that he



had no inkling about his nephew Ajit Pawar's decision to form a government by joining hands with the BJP in 2019, Fadnavis said, "I have not read Pawar's book, hence I would not speak on it now.

"But I also want to write a book, which I will write at the right time. You will know the truth when I write it," he said. Fadnavis had taken oath as chief minister with Ajit Pawar as his deputy following the 2019 Assembly elections though the government fell in a few days as it could not muster the numbers.

Another BJP man abducted, killed in East Midnapore

Suvendu calls for 2nd | Mamata again calls for Opp bandh in a week in WB | unity before 2024 polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

With the panchayat elections barely a couple of months away, Bengal continued to witness political murders one after the other. BN Bhuniya, BJP booth president at Moyna block in East Midnapore, was on Monday abducted and then bludgeoned to death by alleged Trinamool Congress goons, State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adĥikari said calling a second regional bandh in a span of three days in the State.

The BJP has called a bandh in parts of East Midnapore district on Wednesday. Bhuniya, a BJP booth president in Adhikari's East Midnapore district first beaten up in front of his wife and children before being whisked away by the attackers his wife said adding frantic calls to the local police station yielded no result.

"Our booth leader was abducted and killed by TMC men," said former India bowler and BJP MLA from Moyna, Ashok Dinda who along with



Adhikari on Tuesday staged a brief road blockade before warning, "the BJP will not spare the murderers ... we will move the High Court and get CBI enquiry into this act of murder." Adhikari saw the hands of a number of TMC leaders — including ministers Soumen Mahapatra, Akhil Giri and local Trinamool leader Sahjahan Ali — in the murder.

Incidentally Opposition Leader in a Tweet called May 2 — the second anniversary of ruling Trinamool Congress' third consecutive coming to power in the State — a Black Day in the electoral history of Bengal alleging post polls violence had seen more than a 100 saffron workers getting murdered at the hands of the TMC goons since 2nd May 2021.

KOLKATTA/NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday reiterated for an Opposition parties unity to prevent BJP in the 2024 General Elections and hence bring "a change the country

Interestingly, Mamata asserted for a united opposition on a day when another significant plitical veteran and a long time constituent of UPA, Sharad Pawar, resigned as chief of NCP creating flutters in the political circles both in Maharashtra and New Delhi.

The TMC supremo clarion call comes after successive and series of meetings top Opposition leaders in last month which include her meetings with her Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Nitish's meeting with Congress top bosses, Left leaders, Akhilesh and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. Pawar too met last fortnight Congress high command to

discuss modalities. Mamata also took a swipe at PM's "Mann Ki Baat" radio programme by claiming that the BJP befools people with "Jhoot ki Baat" (lies).

In a video message to the people, the Chief Minister said, "In the name of Mann ki Baat, the BJP befools people with 'Jhoot ki Baat'. The BJP makes promises before every election and forgets those after the polls." On Sunday, the 100th episode of the prime minister's Mann ki Baat was broadcast."I urge all opposition parties to

When all opposition parties come together, BJP will lose battle and India will win war against divisive forces," the TMC supremo said on the occasion of celebrations on second anniversary of TMC's emphatic victory in 2021 WB assembly polls. The BIP, however observed

the day as 'Shradranjali Diwas' to remember the activists who lost their lives in alleged postpoll violence in the state in

IN SHORT

NHAI ENGINEER BOOKED IN BRIBERY CASE

New Delhi: The CBI has booked NHAI Superintending Engineer Akil Ahmad and his wife Rafia Ahmad for allegedly possessing disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹4.1 crore. The duo has been booked under section 109 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to abetment of offence and provisions of the Preventior of Corruption Act relating to criminal misconduct. The case was registered on April 21, the day Inspector of CBI Dinesh Kumar submitted a complaint against him. The disproportionate assets case is a fallout of a separate CBI probe during which huge cash to tune of ₹50 lakh, gold and iewellery worth over ₹2.22 crore and documents related to three immovable properties were recovered during raids at his premises.

NAVY CHIEF ATTENDS AIME IN SINGAPORE

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar is on an official visit to Singapore from Tuesday to co-officiated the inaugural ceremony of maiden Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2023 on Tuesday, Navy officials said here. The harbour phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from May 2-4 and the Sea Phase will be conducted from May 7-8 in the South China Sea. In addition to representing India and the Indian Navy during the AIME 2023, Admiral Kumar, will also be attending the opening ceremony of International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and will deliver a talk on 'Cooperation and Collaboration in the Future Maritime Environment' during a panel discussion at 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), being conducted on the side lines of

IAF CHIEF MEETS SL's **TOP MILITARY LEADERS** New Delhi/Colombo: Given

IMDEX - 23.

strong ties between two countries, IAF Chief V R Chaudhari on Tuesday met Sri Lanka's top military leaders and exchanged views on several matters of bilateral importance while recalling longstanding friendship between the two countries. China has enhanced its influence in the island nation. Chaudhari, who arrived in Colombo on Monday on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka, called on Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF), Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana at Air Force Headquarters in the SR Lanka capital. As part of India's commitment towards capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces, the IAF chief presented AN-32 propellers to ensure high operational readiness of the aircraft held with Sri Lanka Air Force, "Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari #CAS @IAF MCC donated AN-32 propellers to Commander @airforcelk at Katunayake Air Base on behalf of Government of India

90% of crimes in Goa by migrant labourers: CM

oa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has said that about 90 per cent of the crimes in the coastal state are committed by migrant labourers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other areas, urging contractors to obtain "labour cards" before employing them. Sawant made the claim at

a Labour Day function on May 1 in Panaji. The chief minister said that every migrant labour-er working in the state should have a labour card given by the state government. The Goa government

issues labour cards to those working in the private, unorganised and industrial sectors to keep a record of employment labourers are issued the cards. sures to this category. Sawant said that it is nec-

essary to track the details of labourers as "after committing a crime in Goa, migrant labourers often return to their state and it becomes difficult to locate them". The chief minister said that "about 90 per cent



of the crimes in Goa are committed by migrant labourers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other areas". Sawant said that the state government has roped in two NGOs to ensure that all that the facility to enrol the labourers for the card would be made online soon.

He said that once the cards are issued to all the labourers, it would be easier to access the database. "It will also help the police investigate the cases and track them," Sawant added.

Chargesheet filed against Guj conman Patel by J&K Police

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against Gujarat conman Kiran Bhai Patel, charging him of cheating and criminal conspiracy against the J&K state.

Patel, who posed as Additional Director (Strategy & Campaigns) in the Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi, was picked up by the police from a Five star hotel in Srinagar after receiving a tip from the CID wing of the J&k Police on March 2.

In a tweet, Srinagar police Tuesday said, "Chargesheet against Kiran Patel was filed in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar in FIR NO

According to Srinagar police, "Patel has been charged with cheating, impersonation, and criminal conspiracy under Sections 419, 420, 468, 471, 170, 120B of IPC and Sections 3, 5 of Emblem and Names (Prev of improper use) Act,

1950". Patel is currently lodged in central Jail, Srinagar. Patel had also managed to get Z-category security protocol during his visits to the valley and attended several official meetings along with IAS officers and He had also visited many

sensitive areas, including the Line of Control in the Uri sector. Amit Pandya and Jay Sitapara, who accompanied Kiran Bhai Patel at the time of his arrest, have also been arrest-

ed by the J&K police.

He is believed to have roped in several high profile bureaucrats and also lured them with specific offers ranging from organising chociest transfer/postings and other benefits for facilitating him Kashmir valley.

On April 25, his close aide Piyush Kantibhai Vasita was arrested by Kashmir Police for making fake visiting cards for him to dupe officials and civilians. Vasita is being probed and police have not filed chargesheet against him yet.

MARCOS to secure water bodies in J&K G20 summit area

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir police have decided to secure the water bodies around the G-20 summit venues in Kashmir valley with the help of Marine Commandos (MAR-COS). In addition, elite commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG) team will be used for counter fidayeen attack along with Special Operations Group (SOG) and specialised NSG teams for counter drone will be deployed at all venues.

Chairing a joint meeting with the officers of Police, intelligence agencies and security forces at Police Control Room, Srinagar Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar emphasized the need for Marine Commandos (MARCOS) to be put in place to provide a strong security cover for the water bodies around the summit venues.

During the meeting, spe cial focus on the emerging threat of Vehicle borne IEDs and other modes of potential terror attacks including potential fidayeen attacks, standoff fire & grenade attacks were discussed in detail and counter measures to counter these terror threats were also discussed.

Iranian Prez pitches for taking India-Iran ties to 'new level'



NEW DELHI

Underlining the robust relations between the two nations, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has pitched for taking India-Iran ties to a "new level", especially in the economic and commercial fields. He made these observations during a meeting with National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval in Tehran.

Raisi also conveyed to Monday that groupings such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the BRICS can be "very effective" in view of the global geopolitical changes, according to a statement issued by the Iranian President's office on

long visit to Iran on Monday. Besides calling on Raisi, Doval held separate talks with his Iranian counterpart Ali Shamkhani and Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian.

In their meeting, Doval d Amirabdollahian exchanged views on development of the Chabahar port, ways to deal with terrorism, issues relating to bilateral banking and the situation in eign ministry said.

In a statement, it said the Iranian foreign minister called the relations.

Now 'Chakka Komban' haunts Idukki residents

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though Ari Komban, the wild tusker who had been tormenting the residents of Chinnakanal settlement colony in Idukki district was tranquilised and "exiled" to the Periyar Tiger Reserve 106 km away, the woes of the local community continues without abatement.

A new character by name Chakka Komban (Chakka is the Malayalam for jackfruit) has taken the space vacated by the departure of Ari Komban since Sunday night.

He started raiding the colony accompanied by his women consorts and has demolished three houses though no casualties have been reported, according to A K Sojan, a resident of Chinnakanal.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* er telephone from Chinnakanal, sojan who has been a resident of the colony for the last four decades said the translocation of Ari Komban from the area would not solve the problems.

"His place would be taken over by another elephant.

The issue could be solved only by addressing the root cause of these attacks. We have to accept the fact that the settlements were built after denuding the reserve forests. The area which measures more than 2000 acres have been

and this has destroyed the greenery as well was water streams," said Sajan.

Quoting from scientific journals, Sojan said each eucalyptus tree is capable of sucking 40 litres water per day. There is no need to search for the reasons behind the disappearance of wild streams and small tributaries that fed the Perivar River. All water bodies in the for-

est have disappeared altogether," he said. The eucalyptus plantation was set up to take cre of the needs of a public sector newsprint factory in the John Peruvanthanam said

the elephants come out of the forests as there were no bamboos, the staple food of the pachyderms. "Some of them are drawn

to the smell of rice while some get fascinated with jackfruits and mangoes," said John. He said that the day human beings stop destroy the forests, the wild animals too would stop their forays into the settle-On Tuesday, the two

Kumki elephants Konni Surendran and Kunchu which were brought from elephant kraals in Pathanamthitta district returned to their homes. Whether they would come back to Chinnakanal depend on Chakka Komban and his

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby informed that LATE GULSHAN KUMAR NARULA S/o SH. AMAR SINGH NARULA R/o B 221 ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-1 DELH 110052 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with GULSHAN KUMAR & SONS (HUF) in our project named First India Place. Flat No.402 a Fourth Floor admeasuring 749.78 sq. ft. which his legal heirs (1) NIRMAL NARULA (2) AMIT NARULA (3) ANJALI LAMBA, requested the company to transfer his share to his daughter ANJALI LAMBA, any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which no claim would be

PREM PRAKASH 207,Plot-1, Sec-10, Central Market Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Mob:9871266399

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Amar Chand Goel intends to purchase & mortgage the **Plot** No. D-189, admeasuring 233.33 Sq Yds., Khasra No. 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3529/1, 3529/2, 3529/3, 3531, 1342/3, 123/1, 123/2, 124, 125 & 149/5, situated at Rameshwar Park, Village Loni, Ghaziabad (U.P.), with our clien against the financial assistance Whereas, Mr. Y. K. Shukla had acquired the Said Property by way of Sale Deed dt. 05-09-1967 and after his death, his son Mr. Kartik Yagneshwar Shukla becomes the owner thereof by way of Letter of Administration dt. 03-05-2017 and now, he intends to sell the same to Mr. Amar Chand Goel.

If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned withir 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Pirama Capital & Housing Finance Limited will proceed with the mortgage process DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE A-13, LGF, South Extn-II,

New Delhi-110049 # 011-40587824

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near

Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow - 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons For Filing & Appearance By Publication O.A. NO. 96/2023 Date 20 04 2023

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financia Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant Anupam Mehrotra and Others

...Defendants

Defendants:-Anupam Mehrotra
S/o. Anil Mehrotra

R/o Flat No. 375, Tower-J, Fifth Avenue Gaur City-1, Near Gaur Chowk, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddh Nagar- 201301,

Also At - Flat No. - 2505, 25th

Floor Tower B, Anjana Panorama Tower Development Area, District Greater Nioda, Nioda- 201307 Namrata Kakkar W/o. Anupam Mehrotra R/o Flat No. 375, Tower-J, Fifth Avenue Gaur City-1, Near Gaur Chowk, Greater Noida West,

Gautam Buddh Nagar- 201301,

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly horized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 30/10/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registra Debts Recovery Tribunal Luckno

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Hanumar SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

Dated-:17.04.2023 [Summons to defendants under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act. 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.]

Original Application No. 72 of 2023 ICICI Bank Ltd. V/s Bipin Chhetri & Others

1. Bipin Chhetri S/o Sri Pol Bahadur Chhetri R/o - Flat-1409, M-Regalia Heights, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad -201014 ...Defendant No. 1 2. Rebecca Chettri

W/o-Sri Bipin Chhetri R/o-Flat-1409, M-Regalia Heights, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad -201014 ...Defendant No. 2 3. M/s Palm Developers Pvt. Ltd.

Corporate Office: 6th Floor Matrix Tower B-4, Sector 132, Expressway Noida (U.P) -201301 Through its Authorized Signatory ...Defendant No. 3 In the above noted Original

application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 25/10/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your

Registra Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

Date-20.04.2023 Summons to defendants under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

No. 99 of 2023 ICICI Bank Ltd. V/s Desh Deepak Mishra & Others

Original Application

1. Desh Deepak Mishra S/o- Sri Lalit Kumar R/o- 405, 4th Floor, Tower-07, Paras Tierea, GH-01, Sec-137, Noida- 201307 (U.P) ...Defendant No. 1 2. Suraj Mishra

S/o- Sri Lalit Kumar R/o- 405, 4th Floor, Tower-07, Paras Tierea, GH- 01, Sec-137, Noida- 201307 (U.P) ... Defendant No. 2

3. Narain Bharti Media Advertisement
Office: 419, 4th Floor, Angel
Mega Mall, CK-I, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad- 201010 (U.P.)
Through its partner: Desh Deepak
Mishra ...Defendant No. 3

In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tehunal offer environment of the Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 30/10/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal

for boosting trade ties and hoped that the holding of a meeting of the joint economic commission in Tehran will generate fresh momentum in

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons for Filing & Appearance by Publication

O.A.No. 95/2023 [Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

ICICI BANK LTD. ... Applicant Versus SAURABH JAIN AND OTHERS

Defendants:-1. SAURABH JAIN S/o SURESH JAIN
R/o 802 1 C Ng Suncity Phase-2,
Thakur Village Kandivili East,
Mumbai-400101. Also At- Flat No. 1004, 10th

Floor, Tower-H Ajnara Ambrosia Plot No. Gh-01, Sector 118, Noida-201301, U.P.

Rold-201301, C.F.

2. SHWETA JAIN

W/o SAURABH JAIN

R/o 802 1 C Ng Suncity Phase-2,
Thakur Village Kandivili East,
Mumbai-400101. Also At- Flat No. 1004, 10th

Floor, Tower-H Ajnara Ambrosia Plot No. Gh-01, Sector 118, Noida-201301, U.P In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication

of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 30/10/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence. Registrar,

Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Sound policies

GST collection has reached all-time high at ₹1.87cr, and manufacturing may be on an upward swing

Just as sorrows come in droves, sometimes good things also come in twos. On Monday, the government announced that it collected Rs 187,035 crore in April U as goods and services tax (GST). It is the highest ever GST collection in a single month. In fact, it is for the first time that the gross GST collection has crossed Rs1.75-lakh crore mark. The same day we also came to know that Manufacturing PMI increased to 57.2 in April, up from 56.4 in March, according to S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index. This was also the fastest ever improvement in factory production. The April GST collection is 12 per cent higher than that in April 2022. Also, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 16 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during April last year. Another feat in the last month was on 20th, the highest ever tax collection



on a single day, when Rs 68,228 crore was paid through 9.8 lakh transactions. The GST mop-up elicited a response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He tweeted: "Great news for the Indian economy! Rising tax collection despite lower tax rates shows the success of how GST has increased integration and compliance." Needless to say, technology has played a great role in integration. The Modi regime's reliance on technology is immense. All its decisions and policy announcements, whether they are related to infrastructure development or welfare measures, are predicated upon adoption of the latest technol-

The two developments, the highest ever GST mop-up and the fastest ever improvement in manufacturing, seem to be linked. Manufacturing PMI had also done well in March. Is industrial growth finally picking up? Two months' data is not sufficient to answer this question; we will have to wait for some time to see if the measures that the Government has introduced in the recent past have yielded dividends. It is, however, indisputable that some signs are comforting. The index of industrial production (IIP) for February showed manufacturing growth of 5.3 per cent. This was not very good, especially because the base was very low—0.2 per cent in February 2022. For the April 2022-February 2023 period, however, there was a rise of 4.9 per cent, which was against 13 per cent in the corresponding period in 2021-22. Importantly, capital goods, indicating capacity addition to the economy, have been doing very well. In the first eleven months of the last fiscal, capital goods grew by a whopping 13.4 per cent, against a very high 19 per cent in the corresponding period in 2021-22. On the whole, the government's instincts and policies—with emphasis on lower taxation, economic reforms, and infrastructure development—are sound. It just has to stay the course—and not get swayed by the compulsions of electoral politics.



A tourist boat caught in high waves at Eedakkal, in Thiruvananthapuram

Choose wisely on options in Myanmar ASHOK K MEHTA

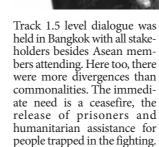


New Delhi has abandoned the democratic forces in Myanmar, practising realpolitik to deal with the Govt of the day, not the elected Govt

ilitary coups usually end in instant success or instant failure. The coup in Myanmar has lasted more than two years and has reached a stalemate. The Resistance forces consisting of the National Unity Government (erstwhile National League for Democracy and Peoples Defence Forces allied with Ethnic Armed Organisations) are putting up a stiff fight. They appear to have some external support. The junta is in control mainly in urban centres while PDF and EAO control most of the rural areas. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is the undisputed leader with his corps commanders loyal to him although desertions have taken place - 6000 police and 2000 Army have crossed over. But elite units are intact. On 10 April military air strikes killed 100 civilians supporting the opposition. On 17 April of 17500 prisoners, 3000 were released to mark the lunar new year.

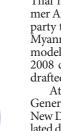
At one stage, there was speculation the army's high command could split and the coup dissipate. But that has not happened because the stakes are very high for soldiers. For the last 78 years, they have run the country bar a decade 2011-2020 when hybrid civil-military rule was in place. Military casualties are known to be high – one estimate puts army/police at 10,000 and PDF at 1200. The State Administration Council runs the country of 54mn people which is the poorest in South East Asia. Nearly 4 to 5mn people have fled the country excluding 1mn Rohingyas who were forced out before the coup. Another 1.2 mn have become internally displaced

As both sides call each other terrorists' there is little hope of reconciliation as direct talks between junta and NUG have not materialized. The Asean Five-Point Consensus brokered in April 2021 has failed to take off as Asean is badly divided with Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia pro-military and remaining Indonesia (current chair) Malaysia, Brunei, tution. Elections if held will be Singapore and the Philippines a sham as the junta's writ runs taking a hard line. Last month a only across only 20 per cent of



The junta has pledged to hold elections in August and the Election Commission has decreed new electoral laws. Political parties were to register by 31 March and as NLD did not, it was dissolved. By military courts awarding 76year-old NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi 33 years in jail, the junta has ensured the elimination of the most popular party which won the 2020 elections overwhelmingly. The new laws relating to funding, banning parties with links to terrorist groups, securing 100,000 members within three months, and establishing offices in half of 330 towns. Election laws will be altered to ensure Union Solidarity Development Party (Military) wins as it did in the 2010 elections.

There are as many as 90 political parties in the fray. As the junta has ruled for more than two years under emergency rule, acting President Myint Swe said on state 1



CONSEQUENCE OF VIOLENCE, MORE THAN 100,000 REFUGEES **INCLUDING SOME** LAWMAKERS HAVE CROSSED **OVER INTO** MIZORAM AND **MANIPUR** the territory though it has been negotiating with certain EAOs and declared a unilateral ceasefire. The military admires the Thai model where three former Army chiefs run a civilian party that wins elections. But Myanmar will have its own model with changes in the 2008 constitution which was drafted by the military.

At the recent Director General Police conference in New Delhi, three papers circulated dealt with North East and Act East policy. They recalled how China exploited Indian insurgencies and provided weapons to insurgents. The biggest casualty of the civil war in Myanmar is India's Act East policy. Former Army Chief, Gen MM Naravane at a seminar in March on Myanmar: Two Years After the Coup, said that the Act East policy has an inner and external dimension. Both have to be addressed with a focus on the development of the northeast. He said India should provide electricity to villages across the border to have friendly population there.

As a consequence of violence, more than 100,000 refugees including some lawmakers have crossed over into Mizoram and Manipur. Mizoram acted with alacrity and humanity to welcome refugees while the central government had ordered they be pushed back. Similarly, fencing the border has been opposed by people on both sides. One of the reasons for insurgency was the mishandling of people residing along the border.

India's premier projects central to Act East Policy like the trilateral highway connecting India with Asean and the multimodal Kaladan road/port project are in a mess though Ports and Shipping Minister S Sonowal said recently Sittwe port will be inaugurated soon. It is key to the development of the northeast but is stuck due to fighting in the Rakhine state. The investment at Sittwe port can fructify only once the Arakan Army which Indian security forces engage, can pacify Rakhine.

A truce between the Arakan Army and Junta will allow the projects to prosper. Chinese presence on Myanmar's Coco Island will pose a threat. New Delhi has made hard choices virtually abandoning NLD and democratic forces, and practising realpolitik to deal with the government of the day, not the elected Govt. Keeping other options is a prudent policy.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander. IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and jounaer member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

Revamp IAS officers' training programme



SANGRAM MISHRA

If the mission and values are well defined and the young officers are aligned with those values, it would inspire them to be proactive and positive

paradigm shift relating to training is essential to ensure vision, mission and value alignment for the probation period during training in LBSNAA at Mussoorie. A clear vision mission and value statement should be projected before the young recruits and that should be inculcated in their mind.

At present the subjects generally taught in the classrooms of the academy are Indian policy, law, constitution and public administration etc. But no step has been taken to keep subjects like value statements, vision and mission ideals for the civil servants so as to align them to these values to give their

A vision statement like 'Service before self, so as to bring smiles on the faces of people and to take the nation on the path of a holistic and inclusive growth' would project the goal in a clear fashion. Similarly, the mission statement may be pronounced as' to boost the trajectory of growth with equitable distribution being propoor, pro-people and positive officers with the quali-

ties like honesty, integrity and alacrity and always committed to the development of nation and the constitution of India'.

Value statement can be defined as 'to be pro-poor, positive officers with democratic way of development. Strive to stick to the cardinal principles like honesty, integrity, sincerity, alacrity and devotion towards the nation. Always to keep the dignity and prosperity of the

nation above everything else. If the vision, mission and value statements are well defined and the probationers are aligned to those values, automatically it would inspire them to be proactive and positive and the young officers with

give their best for administration and governance keeping service to people before self-interest. The bureaucracy is giving way under pressure because of deviation from these values as mentioned above. Moreover, complacency is also one of the undoings of bureaucracy.

The implementation of these vision, mission and value statements and huddle and bottlenecks thereon should be taught and young minds should be imbued with thoughts of purity. These should constitute a subject and be given maximum focus in the academy so as to bring out the best in

instruction to perform as per the guidelines. Another thing that should also be thought of is that promotion should not be an automatic and routine affair for civil servants so was to curtail the complacency apparent. At each level of promotion, a committee (taking retired bureaucrats and academicians etc) should rigorously find out the eligibility of the officer for promotion keeping in view his performance and his commitment to vision, mission and value statements all through. This would energize the not-soactive bureaucracy to spring into action so as to deliver as a proactive and positive unit.

These ideas may not be taken happily by laggard officers accustomed to a life of comfort and unethical rewards, but the harsh reality is that some steps like these as mentioned above can transform the bureaucracy and metamorphose the scenario to achieve the most difficult task and start a glorious period.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. Views expressed are personal) Concluded

THE REASON FOR BUILDING COLLAPSES Sir — Bhiwandi and Bhandup are the old-

est residential places, which form the best part of old buildings and monsoon rains every season cause the residents fear to factor all the time. BMC has failed to follow construction norms strictly and educate the residents of dilapidated buildings in a better way to avoid such fatal mishaps and that made matters worse in fatal mishaps.

Residents on the other hand fail to adhere to Municipal instructions and pay a heavy price for that. The residents not only lose their property as well dear life of near and dear ones. Now BMC should check on erring builders, who resort to illegal construction without proper plan alterations done without permission. Building crashes in Bhiwandi and other similar incidents have created a fear among the residents. The death toll touched 6 and eight people are still trapped inside the debris.

CK Suresh Ramani Dora | Coimbatore

KING CHARLES' CORONATION

Sir — Apropos, King Charles' coronation... May 1. Earlier in 1953, the British had the royal coronation to acquire its Queen but had to make do with a Prince and there was no King. At that cusp of its history, it had greater politico-economic standing and heading the Commonwealth of erstwhile subject nations. Seven decades later today, it is poised to anoint a new king and a queen too. But then it has come to lose much of its sheen and clout.

It stands as a self-inflicted outcast of Europe and in the ongoing socio-economic tumult with strikes in every sector. Its transition from Great Britain to the United Kingdom, which endured two centuries, is under increasing strain as its constituent kingdoms seem to be disenchanted in staying united. Yet, in defiance or hope, it refuses to give up its purple splendour, no less in the grandeur of a once flourishing empire, to stage a flashy coronation this

R.Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

Mann Ki Baat@100 episodes

THE EDITOR



unique way of the world's most populous (very soon) country India's Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi connecting with citizens through his favourite 'Maan ki Baat'. To memorise it as the milestone was regarded as "historic" as the 100 episodes were also broadcasted live at the United Nations headquarters. PM Modi's journey of 'Mann Ki Baat' started on the day of Vijaya Dashami, and this monthly episode is continuing. In his 100 episode PM Modi reminded us how his episodes "Whether it is about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (nothing have so much improved and torturing in woman a daily phenomenon), or the Swachh Bharat movement, love for Khadi or nature, whether it is the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav or Amrit Sarovar (not for your 'Maan kk Baat', but your day and night advertisement) any subject with which 'Mann Ki Baat' got associated, turned into a mass movement, and you people have made it so."

But PM Modi a simple question to you, why should I listen to what you want us to hear? Have you ever heard of public ki Mann-ki-Baat? Do you answer what we want to know? We want to know your nexus with Adani, or why SEBI wants 6 months more to investigate ...so that Adani can clear his tracks and give you a clean chit? Through our 'Maan ki Baat' we want to know why unemployment is so high? We want to know why fuel cost is so high when we are buying cheap Russian oil. Why ED and CBI are activated overnight for opposition Why have you not ever talked about the increasing Hindu-Muslim rift, and why are you sheltering goons in BJP like WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh? It's good to hear when PM Modi says one India, but Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath scream Hindu Muslim. Whereas the country is on the verge of war with China and the government is misleading people every day by controlling the media. After all his 'Maan ki Baat there is one significant victory for India that people have made it so, is India now the most populous country in

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee I *Faridabad*

the World. That's progress!

DEALING WITH TERRORISM IN J&K

Sir — As per report the to curb terrorism and unrest in Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre block 14 mobile applications which were reportedly used by Pakistani terrorists to gather and spread information in the valley. The government sources also said that these mobile applications were used by terrorists in Kashmir to communicate with their supporters and on-ground workers (OGW). This comes as the Centre continues its crackdown against Chinese apps that steal data from Indian users. Agencies keep track of channels used by Overground workers (OGWs) and terrorists to communicate among themselves. While tracking down one of the communication, agencies found that the mobile application does not have representatives

in India and it is difficult to track down activities happening on the app," said an official. Thereafter, with the help of other intelligence agencies operating in the valley, a list of such apps was prepared that pose a threat to national security and do not follow Indian laws. In official communications to higher-ups, the intelligence agencies informed that these apps are spreading terror propaganda in the Valley. Sources said these apps include Crypviser, Enigma, Safeswiss, Wickrme, Mediafire, Briar, BChat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Element, Second Line, Zangi, and Threema

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN ADVENTURE SPORTS TO EXPERIENCE IN 2023

Try these adventure sports to add zest to your life



NIHARIKA **NIGAM**

profound spiritual feel, breathtaking landscapes, spawning rivers, jungles, beaches and the most fascinating white blanket in the north makes India the perfect destination to reconnect with self. People have already started making plans to explore various destinations in the country this year and while we have already wasted many days, let's plan an amazing 2023!

The 2 years of isolation made all of us realize the importance of adventure and thrill in our life and gradually the adventure sports industry in India witnessed a plethora of youth participation like never before. Some of the extreme adventure activities have gone viral on social media- bungy jumping, flying fox, giant swing, paragliding, and others. So what are you waiting for? Sit back and relax as we bring you the best of thrilling activities to give your inner explorer a chance this vear. Let's do this!

BUNGY JUMPING

What comes to your mind when thinking of jumping off a cliff? Bungy jumping is not for the faint-hearted! Albeit, there is nothing better than this extreme adventure sport to experience the ultimate adrenaline rush. The popularity of this adventure has catapulted Rishikesh to the st satire of India's adventure capital!

Make sure to purchase your photo and video packs. This is a solo activity but having this experience amidst friends or family adds a lot to your bank of shared memories. Recommended destinations: Rishikesh is the OG to have popularised Bungy in India, and Goa is the only destination in the country that offers a bungy-over-a-lake experience!



This one is a lesser-known hero. Adapted from the Canyon Swing in New Zealand, this was modified for the wild mountains of Rishikesh. Operated from the same bungy platform, this is an unparalleled thrill, with double the free fall of the bungy with almost as much fear. Suited with a chest and seat harness, the jumper swings through the panoramic valley over a tributary of the Ganga. This is an experience to be

SCUBA DIVING

Scuba diving at Andaman & Nicobar Islands is arguably one of the best scuba spots in the world. While it attracts divers from around the world, scuba as an adventure is only now gaining momentum. This is a crash course on mind over matter as the ocean consumes you. Experience the tranquillity of a whole different ecosystem in an experience you aren't likely to forget anytime soon.

Experiencing the underwater flora and fauna, and the rich marine life is a soul-soothing experience. Tiny reef fishes, coral ecosystems, reef sharks and turtles swimming over and under beautiful plants is an unforgettable memory to make.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Be it any adventure activity you go for, do not miss getting yourself medically checked before. Begin warming up a month before to maintain stamina and core strength. Also, research the climatic conditions and challenges that your destination might face around the time you are visiting. Planning is an important part of any adventure trip. You don't want the 2023 adventure to go in vain, right? Try to experience as much as possible and embrace positivity in every moment so that there is no room for anything else once you are back in your hustle and bustle world.

> (The writer is Director, Business Development at Jumpin Heights)

Mindfulness: A path to mental well-being



Mindfulness is emerging as a great hope for humanity in promoting mental well-being through self-awareness

indfulness has, in recent times, emerged as a powerful tool to promote our mental well-being. It can alleviate stress, regulate emotions and mood, and improve cognitive function. This practice has been widely accepted as an effective tool for overall improvement in our mental health. Across the world, mindfulness has now taken the shape of a widespread movement. It's already a multi-billion-dollar industry. Meditation and yoga, two ancient practices, are now among the most popular alternative health practices in many parts of the world. Many Fortune 500 companies have introduced mindfulness-based meditation in their workplaces. In addition, medical institutions and hospitals are introducing practices to manage chronic pain and stress.

Jon Kabat-Zinn, an American professor emeritus of medicine and the Centre for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, USA, has been universally recognized as a global leader in mindfulness. He famously remarked in a 2019 publication, "We have the potential to ignite a global renaissance catalyzed by the cultivation of mindfulness and heartfulness at this critical juncture in the arc of human evolution and development." According to him, the cause of dissatisfaction and distress among us lies in our heads, and it's a 'thinking disease.' His research and a plethora of studies conducted across nations have established a positive correlation between mental well-being and mindfulness.

Mental well-being refers to our overall psychological and emotional health so that we can think and work efficiently in our daily life. When we feel mentally healthy and sound, we can effectively manage the stress we encounter on a dayto-day basis and face adversity that may arise unexpectedly in life. In fact, during adversity and tough times, we often break down, and we don't know how to live with emerging situations. We may get badly trapped in a negative loop of thoughts. In fact, the real test of life comes when we face such eventualities. Here the role of psychological and mental wellbeing comes in. If we are mentally fit and tough, we can quickly come out of those circumstances. Besides, mental wellbeing affects our relationships, work performance, and physical nealth in many

It's now largely accepted among the medical community that mindfulness has numerous benefits for mental health and overall well-being. It's also being used as a therapeutic tool to help people manage a range of mental health conditions. Many studies have supported the claim of establishing a positive impact of mindfulness on our mental health, including stress reduction, emotional regulation, reduced worry, and rumination. Even it helps alleviate symptoms in mild to moderate cases of depression and anxiety. Some studies further establish the role of mindfulness in overcoming addictions, especially

What exactly is mindfulness? Mindfulness is nothing but our experience of 'being present' and observing whatever is happening around us in a non-judg-mental way. We are, in fact, in the high-est state of awareness when we are attentive and focused on the present moments. This state is known as mindfulness.



three crucial ingredients: first, we are in the 'present.' Second, we are focused and attentive to those moments. Our mind is not wandering in various directions. Lastly, we experience 'non-judgmental awareness.' We take things as they are rather than reacting, passing judgment, or assigning meaning to those experiences. In other words, we accept things as they are rather than as we perceive them. On the contrary, we generally

don't pay close attention to the things happening to us or the surrounding. The reason is we are mostly lost in our own inner world. We may become mindless, impulsive, and reactive when we are not present and fully conscious of those moments. We, therefore, become prone to miss valuable experiences. The same happens when we work, eat, walk, talk to others, and so on; we are in a way 'unconscious' and in 'half-sleep'

Not being mindful has a huge cost. We tend to keep worrying, ruminating, and getting trapped in a loop of distressing thoughts. We become prone to mental stress and experience anxiety of varying degrees. When we are not mindful of an ongoing stream of thoughts and fail to manage them,

we don't know when such conditions may lead to mental health problems. As a result, we become highly vulnerable to mental health conditions such as being highly stressed, anxious, depressed, and

Benefits of mindfulness on our mental well-being: Many research studies have undoubtedly supported the claim of having a positive impact of mindfulness in different aspects of mental health. We become mentally fit and tough. Not only can mindfulness regulate our thoughts and emotions, but also enhance cognitive flexibility. Improved emotional regulation leads to greater self-control and increased resilience to stress and adversity. We gradually become more focused and attentive, and these attributes lead to better control in our workplace as well as our personal life. As we continue to practice mindfulness, we become more compassionate, empathetic, and loving, leading to improved relationships with others. In a broader sense, we become better human beings.

How to develop mindfulness: The only way to develop mindfulness is to practice and experience more and more of the present moments. It's necessary to maximize our experiences of being fully aware and awake. We need to make a conscious effort to bring back our wandering minds to the present. We should develop a habit of doing this simple exercise of bringing back our attention to the present. This should be in the

back of our minds all the time. When we walk, eat, work, play, watch TV, listen to others, and so on, we should be able to focus and be present on that activity to the best of our ability. However, it sounds simple and easy, but difficult to sustain. This is because our habitual and conditioned minds and behaviour are at work most of the time. However, with conscious efforts, we can become more and more mindful as the practice of

mindfulness progresses. Mindfulness can be practiced not only through meditation but from mindful breathing, walking, eating, and communication with otners. when we meditate, we observe our stream of constant thoughts that arise in our mind in a non-judgmental way; our mind becomes quiet and peaceful. Also, we keep bringing our attention back to breathing when we do breathing-based meditation. This mental exercise leads to the state of 'being mindful'.

With the habit of being mindful and self-aware, we begin to manage our minds and thoughts effectively. This automatically leads to better control over our lives; it's then more manageable for us to handle life's adversities and challenging times. We can come out from those tough times quickly and with greater ease. With a simple and easier-to-do mental exercise of mindfulness-based meditation, we can witness a host of transformative changes in our physical and psychological well-



AMONG THE

COMMUNITY

MINDFULNESS

BENEFITS FOR

AND OVERALL

WELL-BEING

HAS NUMEROUS

MENTAL HEALTH

MEDICAL

(The writer is a retired IAS officer. He is an author and founder of

The coronation of King Charles will be historic

King Charles would need to show the world that his reign would be modern and the Commonwealth would be inclusive

iewers worldwide will witness the coronation ceremony of British King Charles and his Queen Camillaon on May 6. The critical moment in modern British history will be 70 years after Queen Elizabeth 11 coronation in 1952 Though Charles succeeded Queen Elizabeth 11 in September 2022 after her death, the coronation will only occur now. From the investiture ceremony to the big coronation day, it will be a long weekend of many events, lunches, and community events. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said it was a "unique moment" for the country.

The ceremony will include the Recognition, the Coronation Oath, the



(The author is a senior

journalist)

Anointing, the Investiture, and the Enthronement and Homage. While most other world monarchies have discontinued this pompous event, Britain continues. King Charles now also heads the Commonwealth, a group of 54 independent countries comprising 2.4 billion people. He needed to show the world his reign would be modern and the Commonwealth would be inclusive. There is a growing demand for reparation payments and an apology for slavery.

The guest list for Charles' ceremony has been slashed from 8 000 to just 2 200

from 8,000 to just 2,000. Other monarchs like Monaco's Prince Albert and Princess Charlene, Japan's Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko, the Sikh community and

Poland's President Duda, and President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will participate for the first time in 900 years. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will represent India at the coronation.

Most British royal family members will attend, including William, Prince of Wales, his wife Katherine, and their children. Notable absentees include Meghan Merkel, but her husband, Prince Harry, will be present, and so will Prince Andrew. US President Joe Biden will be absent, but his wife, Jill Biden, will lead the US delegation. The service will include different faiths and community groups following the King's wishes. Indian-origin peer Lord Indarjit Singh will represent

Hindu community. Charles has long expressed interest in all religions, regardless of race or religious beliefs.

That brings us to the larger question of whether such an event holds the significance it once did, and does the monarch need one. There has been a debate in the country on this issue. While some would like the continuation of the monarchy, others consider it a burden on the country's economy, particularly the younger generation, when there is an economic crisis. Some antimonarchy groups feel it might seem out of place in 2023.

The latest YouGov opinion poll to assess the public mood before the coronation revealed that Charles is not mother. Terminal 2 became

Lord Patel will represent the unpopular but is certainly less popular than his mother and son, Prince William. The survey suggests broad support for the monarchy, with 58% preferring it to an elected head of state - which was sup-

ported by 26%. There were doubts about how effective Charles would be. He impressed the royalists and non-royalists during his first six months on the job. He has reshuffled royal residences. He would like to slim down the royal household. The new postage stamps bearing the image of King Charles III without the crown were released by the Royal Mail. Also, Charles rejected Heathrow's offer to name Terminal 5 after him, an honour it also extended to his

the Queen's Terminal in 2014. In the past, Charle's bro-

ken marriage with Diana left him unpopular. Now this is changing. People are willing to accept Charles and his Queen Camilla. As the Prince of Wales, King Charles started The Prince's Trust in 1976 with his severance pay from the British Navy. This provides first grants for people with disadvantaged backgrounds. His other interests include climate change, employment prospects for young people, and interfaith relations.

There is an Indian connection, too, with the coronation. So far, the queens have worn the famous 105-carat Koh-i-Noor diamond, mined in Golconda in Andhra Pradesh, to coronations. The Kohinoor

the crown and sent to the Tower of London for public display to avoid controversy. After the coronation, the King plans to downsize the royal household and the number of working royals. Also, the

Mary's crown in 1911. Still, the

diamond was removed from

Sunday Times reported Charles wanted Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, Windsor Castle, and Balmoral to be transformed into public places. Politically, too, the King would like to be more flexible than his mother. He has developed a good rapport with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. He has already said he will abide by the constitutional principle to avoid controversy as King. Overall, King Charles aims to be a modern king in was put in a cross on Queen line with the changing times.

No new members for Quad group: White House

¬here is no plan to add new members to the Quad now, the White House has said, emphasising that the relatively young grouping welcomes opportunities to work with a wide range of Indo-Pacific partner countries on issues like maritime security, infrastructure and climate change

The Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and US President Joe Biden - are scheduled to meet in Sydney, Australia for the third in-person summit on May 24, amidst China's aggressive behaviour in the strategically important

"The Quad was established

a relatively young partnership. There are no plans for new members at this time," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Monday at her daily news con-

Quad members, she said, have agreed that for now, they'll focus on cementing the quad's many strengths.

However, the Quad welcomes opportunities to work with a wide range of Indo-Pacific partners, such as through its Indo-Pacific partners on maritime domain awareness, which is delivering cutting edge maritime domain awareness technology around the region," she said in response

The May 24th Sydney Summit will showcase other opportunities for the Quad to partner around the region on climate, global health, infrastructure, and more. The



Quad's top priority is ensuring it is well-positioned to deliver

for the Indo-Pacific. And so, there's no conversation on extending or expanding at this time," Jean-Pierre said.

In May last year, the Quad leaders met in Tokyo for the 2nd in-person summit.

During that summit, President Biden launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which is an

initiative aimed at deeper cooperation among like-minded countries in areas such as clean energy, supply-chain resilience and digital trade.

The rollout of the IPEF is expected to send a signal that the US is focused on pushing forward a strong economic policy for the region to counter China's aggressive strategy on

In March 2021, President Biden hosted the first-ever

the virtual format that was followed by an in-person summit in Washington in September.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence, amidst China's growing military presence in the

strategic region. India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South

'Republicans have used immigration reform as political tool'

Washington (PTI): The opposition Republican party has used comprehensive immigration reform as a political stunt and a political tool and they are not interested in resolving the issue, the White House has

"As we've seen, Republicans have continued to use this as a political stunt, a political tool, and not actually come to the table to have a conversation on how to protect Dreamers and farm workers. You know, more immigration judges and asylum officers are needed. More funding for border security is needed," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference on Monday.

"This is something that

we have put forward in that legislation and so much more. They don't want to do that. They want to do political stunts, as we've seen from governors and mayors across the country," she alleged responding to a question on comprehensive immigration reform in particular on legal immigration. President Joe Biden on the very first day of his administration, put forth comprehensive immigration legislation, she said. "That's to show how seriously he took this, how he understood that the system had been broken. It needs to be modernised, be moved to the 21st century," she said.

'This is something that the president has talked about. He has asked Congress to take action, Republicans in Congress to take action, and to work on this in a bipartisan way. He's going to continue to do that. "In the meantime, he's put forth some — he has tools that he's used to making sure that we do this, we actually deal with the immigration system in a humane way, and in a way that actually deals with what we're seeing at the border,"

Jean-Pierre said. "That's why you've seen the parolee programme be so successful. When it comes to illegal migration, you've seen it come down by more than 90 per cent. That's because of the actions that this president has taken. But we know that more action needs to be taken, so it has to be legisla-

Taiwan minister unsure of war ally

AP CANBERRA

 $T \hbox{aiwan intends to fight for itself in any armed conflict with China and is unclear as to} \\$ what countries might stand beside it, the self-governing island's foreign minister said.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, and concerns are rising about a possible armed con-

In an interview last Friday with Sky News Australia, Joseph Wu said Taiwan, with a population of 23 million compared to China's 1.4 billion, has to defend itself and is not asking other countries to fight for it. However, asked who might fight alongside Taiwan in the event of a war with China, Wu answered, "This is a very good question." "A lot of people are debating strategic ambiguity or strategic clarity, but to us, we know our own responsibility," Wu told the news channel from Taipei.

"Taiwan has to defend itself, the people have to defend Taiwan, this country, and we are determined to defend ourselves and we are not asking other countries to fight for Taiwan,"

US President Joe Biden has

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Parminder Singh
Sabharwal & Mrs. Jasteen Kaur Sabharwal have
acquired the Entire Ground Floor without roof rights
'said floor', Built on Property Bearing No. 46, (area
property of 120 New yells) bitterfait the January Hear of

said floor, Built on Property Bearing No. 46, (area measuring 192.80 sq. yds), situated in the layout Iplan of Adarsh Bhawan Cooperative House Building Society Ltd, near Madipur, New Delhi vide two separate Gift Deeds dated 17.01.2023, Doc no. 289 and dated 24.12.2022. Doc no. 8690 and Now, Mr. Parminder Singh Sabharwal & Mrs. Jasle en Kaur Sabharwal Above said owners have misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 14.03.1997 registered as document no. 2165, SR-II. and Sale Deed dated 28.08.1997 registered as document no. 6849, SR-II. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.Mr. Parminder Singh Sabharwal & Mrs. Jasleen Kur Sabharwal are ritends to sell above said property to Mr. Bimlesh Aggarwal and further Mr. Bimlesh Aggarwal is mortgaging the above said property with Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawar/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Iower, (18-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at

Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the genera public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of BAHUHAN CHETNA

proposed to be registered by the name of BAHUHAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA, The office of the party is located at C-8, Kachnar City, Post-Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482001. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Name/ address of the Office bearers of the Party are as follows:-1.

of the Party are as follows:-1 President/ Chairman- Khemra

President/ Chairman- Khemraj Jharia, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 2 General Secretary/ Secretary-Narendra Kumar Dass, Jabalpur M.P. 3. Treasurer- Manohar Dehariya, Seoni M.P. If any one has

Dehariya, Seoni M.P. If any one has any objection to the registration of BAHUJAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA thy may send their object with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Electiion Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

(Khemrai Jharial-President

(Khemrai Jharia)-President

BAHUJAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA

GEM/2023/B/3398723

Approx. Cost of work

Completion period of work

Date and time for submission of

tender and opening of tender

Website particulars notice board

can be seen and address of the

128-W/269/OET/23-24/WE/NIT/08 Dated: 01.05.2023

office from where the tender

form can be purchased etc.

EMD amount

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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1327/23

9066707172/9818228636 (M).

repeatedly said American forces would help defend Taiwan, although US official policy remains ambiguous over if and how forces would be dispatched. Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said in March that his country had made no promise to support the United States in any future conflict over Taiwan as part of an agreement to obtain American nuclearwered submarines.

Australia and the United Kingdom have announced that Australia will purchase nuclearpowered attack submarines from the US to modernise its fleet, amid growing concern about China's influence in the Indo-

argue that the United States would not hand over as many as five of its Virginia-class submarines without assurances that they would be made available in the event of a conflict with China over Taiwan.

tined for war, Wu replied, "I certainly hope not."

The reason is very clear: War means devastation, not just

Biden and the leaders of

Australian critics of the deal

Asked if Taiwan was des-

for the one who got attacked but possibly also for other countries as well," Wu said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bai W/o. Mr. Gurnam Singh who is owner of the

comprised in Khasra No.192/213, out of land admeasuring 0.23 hectare, Situated at wake village Falsa, Tehsil Tapukda, District Alwar

mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it

Uday Park, New Delhi-110049

Contact # 011-40046316 PUBLIC NOTICE

Philippine coast guard faces China tered more than 100 small

When two Philippine coast guard vessels set out to patrol the volatile South China Sea recently, they had to face more than China's growing territorial ambitions.

The Associated Press and three other news agencies were invited by the Philippine coast guard two weeks ago to join a 1,670-kilometre (1,038-mile) patrol of one of the world's most fiercely contested seas. The invitation was part of

a new Philippine strategy aimed at bringing attention to China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea. China has rapidly built up its military presence in the area in recent years, pushing back other claimants like the Philippines and building artificial islands with airstrips and military garrisons. The rich fishing archipel-

ago is believed to sit atop vast undersea deposits of oil and

The Philippines dispatch regular patrols to assert their claims to the islands, spot encroachments, and resupply Filipino sailors stationed on the islands. Arrayed against far larger and more powerful fleets of Chinese coast guard vessels, navy warships and seaborne militias, the Philippine coast guard says its patrol vessels often face David and Goliath confrontations, especially near



Beijing's artificial island bases. The BRP Malabrigo and BRP Malapascua, Japanesebuilt 44-metre (144-foot) patrol ships, planned to make a circuit of disputed islands, islets and reefs claimed by the Philippines in the Spratly Islands, some occupied by Philippine garrisons and some by Chinese military installa-

The voyage provided a glimpse of what it's like for Filipino coast guard personnel to work on the frontlines of multiple geopolitical conflicts, while facing a constant battle against sun, sea, stress and gnawing isolation.

The sailors, a mix of sunburned veterans and sprightly recruits, brought cellphones brimming with personal photographs and videos and

Life on patrol was a mix of hard work and claustrophobic one reef, the patrol encounlasted for more than an hour.

leisure. It was often so hot that sailors got dizzy after a few minutes outside, so crewmembers spent most of their down time between four-hour shifts in tiny, air conditioned cabins. When there was room in

the mess hall, a few people might gather to watch a film or sing on the karaoke machine - a Filipino necessity. Some liked to take walks in the ship's narrow passages. The two ships visited one

or two destinations a day, working without interruption day and night. The easiest stops were at places occupied by Filipino forces, where the ships sent motor launches to deliver basic supplies like water, crude oil and cigarettes. At one, thirsty sailors offered dried fish in exchange for extra drinking water. Visits to Chinese-con-

trolled areas were harder. At

Chinese boats, suspected of belonging to the militia, anchored in groups. The Filipinos lowered launches and demanded the boats leave Philippine waters. The Chinese boats did not reply, or leave.

They faced off with the

Chinese Coast Guard at Chinese-occupied Subi Reef, and later at the Second Thomas Shoal, which is occupied by Filipino sailors on a beached, crumbling navy ship, surrounded by Chinese ships. These encounters are

tense, drawn-out affairs. Chinese coast guard and navy ships shadowed the patrol for more than an hour, and over the radio accused the Filipinos of intruding into what Beijing claims as its territorial waters and ordered them by radio to leave or face unspecified counter actions.

A radio operator, holding a paper script in the corner of the bridge, asserted Philippine sovereign rights and asked the Chinese ships to stay away and abide by international anti-collision regulations. Meanwhile, the rest of the

bridge was quiet, and intensely focused. A radar operator watched intently for tiny changes in the other ship's speed or bearing. When it approached one knot faster, the commander barked an order to alter the Malabrigos's speed in response. The encounter

to Myanmar border BEIJING (AP): China's foreign der trade development, and bilateral relations," he was quot-

China FM's rare visit

minister called for stability and a crackdown on cross-border criminal activity along the country's border with Myanmar, during an unusual visit to the volatile region on Tuesday.

The 2,129-kilometre (1,323-mile) border runs through densely forested mountains and has long been notorious for drug smuggling into China from the "Golden Triangle" region where the borders of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand meet. The United Nations says

the production of opium in Myanmar has flourished since the military seized power in 2021, with the cultivation of poppies up by a third in the past year as eradication efforts have dropped off and the faltering economy has led more people toward the drug trade. During his visit, Foreign Minister Qin Gang said local Communist Party and government departments, the People's Liberation Army, police and civilian bodies should join in "strengthening the border defence system."

Qin called for improvements in "maintaining distinct and stable borders, and severely cracking down on cross-border criminal activities."

ed as saying in a ministry news release. Fighting between

Myanmar's military and ethnic armed groups has also occasionally flared along the border, sending refugees and sometimes mortar fire into China. China has sought to maintain contacts with all sides, although it has been criticised for expressing unequivocal support for the junta after it said it would back Myanmar "no matter how the situation

Myanmar has been wracked by violence since the army's overthrow of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The takeover was met with massive public opposition, which security forces quashed with deadly force, in turn triggering widespread armed resistance. Despite the security challenges, China has sought to encourage legal trade between the sides and recently reopened border crossings after closing them for more than 1,000 days as part of strict COVID-19 control measures. During his visit to the Wanding-Ruili crossing point, Qin promoted the concept of a China-Myanmar economic corridor to aid business and other development on both sides, the

"It is necessary to coordinate border management, bor-

"We believe to have found everything that we were seeking this morning. Our hearts go out to

जनपद-ऊधम सिंह नगर (उत्तराखण्ड) Mob. No. 8392928226, 9410121166 Email: purchasekichha@gi

Rajasthan.; which is gifted by her husband Mr Gurnam Singh, vide Gift Deed dated 24.03.2023 which is duly registered vide Document No. 202303111101784. at SRO-Bhiwari. oi 24.03.2023 and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating

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Authorities searching a rural Oklahoma property for two missing teenagers discovered the bodies of seven people on Monday, including the suspected remains of

the teens and a convicted sex

bodies found during search for missing Oklahoma teens with them, the local sheriff said.

Eddy Rice said the state medical examiner will have to confirm the identities of the victims, but "we believe that we have found the perbelieved to include those of 14year-old Ivy Webster and 16-yearold Brittany Brewer, along with

Foreign Ministry said.

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Tel : 0135-2714074 Web: www.nagarnigamdehradun.con E-Mail: nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com E-Tender Notice for Establishment of Project Implementation

Unit (PIU) under Swachh Bhart Mission (Urban)

NND invites RFP for Selection of Agency for the Establishment of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under Swachh Bhart Mission (Urban) from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to download the RFP document from e-tenders portal government of Uttarakhand between the said dates. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at 2:30 pm on

Public at large are hereby informed that MHS MANJU W/O. MR. CHANDER SAIN C/o Mr. Sohar Lal House No. 246, Ward No. 03, Ferozapur J blirks Mewat, Haryana-122104; is taking loan from Satin Housing Finance Limited. The property Papers regarding this property submitted to SHFL loar against property i.e. PLOT OF LAND AREA MEASURING 6 MARLA, OUT OF KHEWATKIHATA NO. 113/115, MUNO. 104, KILA NO. 14 (8-0) SITUATED IN MOUJA: FIROZPUR JHIRKA DISTRICT: NUH HARYANA same is owned by MRS. MANJUR AN W/O. MR. CHANDER SAIN vide Registered Sale Deed dated 19 11.2 2005 executed by (1) Mr. Bodh Ra (ii) Mr. Udeyraj both S/o. Mr. Dharmu (for self) and as GPA holder of (i) Mrs. Kantuli W/o. Mr. Dharmu (ii) Mrs. Savirt (iii) Mrs. Resham & (iv) Mrs. Sumartial D/o. Mr. Chander Sain. Duly registered in the Office of the Sub Registrar Firozpur, Jhirka V/de Doc. No. 1037 Book No.1, Registered on dated 19.12.2005. The said original sale deed dated 19.12.2005. The said original sale deed added 19.12.2003. And Con. no. 1037, perlatning to the aforesaid property has been lost somewhere by my client and for that E-Fir., vide Application/LR No.399782/2023. dated Doc. no. 1037, perlatning to the aforesaid property has been registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi and it is not liceaseble, if any persor found the same kindly return it at address mentioned below. The General public hereby informed that i anybody has any charge/interestitite in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within of Adsy from the date of publication failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is entirely is free form all such claims 16.05.2023. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is 24.05.2023 at 2:00PM. Municipal Commissioner, Letter No. 378 SBM/23/24

address within 07 days from the date of publication. failing which it shall be presumed that the saic property is entirely is free from all such claims interest, charges, encumbrances etc.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm F18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Valbhav Mhand, Indirapura Ghaziabad 201014.E-mail: sgasshociates)@gmail.con Pn: 7011172764, 813020083.

Date: 02/05/2023



Supplying and laying of blanketing material, supplying o machine crushed hard stone ballast of 65mm gauge and Name of work and

supplying and laying boulder apron laid in wire crates or river bed and under water in c/w Construction of Nev bridge over Yamuna in lieu of Br. No. 249 on Delh Shahdara section of Northern Railway.

Nagar Nigam Dehradun

Earnest money amount Rs. 4,05,800/- (Rupees Four lakh five thousand

Completion period of 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance Rs. 511.48 Lakh (Rupees Five crore eleven lakh fort eighty thousand only)

(to be deposited Online) eight hundred only) 5 Date & Time for Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. or submission of e- 25.05.2023 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in tender and opening 6 Detailed Tender Notice

The bidders can participate in the e-tender the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 25.05.2023 Above tender document will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.05.2023 to 25.05.2023 All other terms and conditions in respec of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the

No. 220-Acs-1-1229-Ballast-YB Date: 02.05.2023 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

Okmulgee County Sheriff

Jesse McFadden, the felon authorities had said the teens were travelling with.
"We are no longer looking,"

the families and friends, schoolmates and everyone else." He declined to provide details of how they died or other details.

Palestinian prisoner ed hunger strikes about a decade ago. His death raises the potential for renewed vio-lence between Israel and Palestinian mil-Ain Israeli custody on Tuesday after a nearly three-month hunger strike, Israel's itant groups as violence surges in the West Shortly after his death was announced,

Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a volley of rockets into southern Israel. Palestinians called for a general strike in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and

protests were expected later in the day. Palestinian prisoners have for years

gone on lengthy hunger strikes to protest their detentions and to seek concessions from Israel. The tactic has become a last recourse for resistance against what Palestinians see as unjust incarcerations. The prisoners often become dangerously

ill by refusing food but deaths are rare. Dawood Shahab, an Islamic Jihad spokesman, called Adnan's death "a fullfledged crime, for which the Israeli occupation bears full and direct responsibili-

Still sinking in, says Pune-born architect invited to Coronation

the Palestinians.

high-profile Palestinian prisoner died

prison service announced, at a time of

already soaring tensions between Israel and

Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group,

is the first Palestinian prisoner to die since

Palestinian inmates began staging protract-

Khader Adnan, a leader in the

LONDON: Sourabh Phadke, a Pune-born architect and teacher who has been named among the selected charity champions invited to attend the Coronation ceremony of King Charles III, says he is still absorbing the news and approaching it with the spirit of the unknown. The 38-year-old was cho-

sen for his association and great success through the causes supported by the Prince's Foundation, the charity founded by Charles when he was the Prince of Wales. Originally trained as an architect, Phadke joined the foundation's He was rushed to Manipal Traditional Building Skills pro-Hospital in Pokhara and then

'Maloo improving, but not out of danger'

ndian mountaineer Anurag Maloo's health condition has shown some signs of improvements, but he is not out of danger, his brother said on Tuesday, nearly a fortnight after he was found alive by rescuers on Nepal's Mount Annapurna.

Anurag, 34, a resident of Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing in mid-April after he fell from around 6,000 meters while descending from Camp III. Mount Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the He was found alive in a

deep crevasse at some 5800metre altitude on April 20 after three days of continuous search by a team of rescuers.

hospital, Ashish said. Anurag has slightly moved



tion is gradually improving, but he is not out of danger," his brother Ashish Maloo told PTI, quoting doctors involved in the treatment.

He is currently undergoing treatment at the Medicity Hospital in Lalitpur near Kathmandu. Anurag is undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit of the

Karam -- Veer Chakra and became the 2041 Antarctic Youth Ambassador from

He is on a mission to

climb all 14 peaks above 8,000

metres and the seven highest

points in all seven continents

to create awareness and drive

action towards achieving the

He has been awarded REX

much elaborating.

UN Global Goals.

gramme and expanded his airlifted to Kathmandu for Notice Board of the above office repertoire by training as a further treatment.

Doha meet raises concern on terror groups in Af: UN chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS/DOHA

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who convened a meeting on Afghanistan in Doha that was attended by India, on Tuesday said that participating nations have expressed "serious concerns" over persistent presence of terrorist groups in the war-torn country that pose a risk for the region and beyond.

Guterres arrived in the Qatari capital on Monday to host the two-day meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan to reach points of commonality on key issues, such as human rights, in particular women's and girls' rights, inclusive governance, countering terrorism and drug trafficking.

The meeting is intended to achieve a common understanding within the international community on how to engage with the Taliban on these

India is among the countries and organisations participating in the meeting, according to a note issued by Guterres'

"The meeting was about developing a common international approach, not about recognition of the de facto Taliban authorities," Guterres said in Doha at a press

The UN chief said that participants in the meeting are "worried" about the stability of Afghanistan and have expressed those serious con-

They relate to the persistent presence of terrorist organizations — a risk for the country, the region, and further afield," he added.

The other participants in

the meeting are from China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, European Union and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Guterres stressed that it

understand each other's concerns and limitations, but agreed that it was in everyone's interest, foremost the Afghans, to work together."

The participants agreed on the need for a strategy of engagement that allows for the stabilization of Afghanistan but also allows for addressing important concerns.

He noted that concerns were also raised over the lack of inclusivity, which importantly includes human rights, in particular those of women and girls, severely undermined by recent Taliban decisions and the spread of drug trafficking with all its dramatic conse-

"While different countries placed different priorities on these concerns, according to their own situation, there is a general recognition that they are intertwined. That prioritizing one issue was not to ignore the importance of the others, which allows for an overall shared approach," he

sent to the president.

BILL TO LIMIT CJ'S POWERS

Pakistan SC seeks record of parliamentary proceedings

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the government to produce the record of parliamentary proceedings regarding a bill aimed at depriving the office of the chief justice of powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity and form a panel of judges for hearing of cases.

Relations between the judiciary and the ruling coalition have soured ever since the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led government has been pushing for the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) The bill was initially passed

by both houses of parliament and sent to the president for his assent. However, the president sent it back, saying that the proposed law travelled "beyond the competence of parliament". The bill was, however,

passed again by a joint sitting of parliament with certain amendments on April 10 and

But three days after the

parliament session, an eightmember bench of the Supreme Court (SC), including CJP Bandial, issued an order that bars the government from implementing the bill after it becomes a law.

On Tuesday, the eight-member larger bench led by Chief Justice Bandial heard the case and instructed the attorney general to provide copies of Parliament proceedings regarding the bill.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Bandial said that the law was the first of its kind in Pakistan that impacted the judiciary – the third pillar of

"It is, for the first time, claimed that a necessary element of the Constitution is violated through legislation," he

He rejected a plea to remove a judge from the bench as a complaint was pending against him. The chief justice also rejected another plea to form a full court to hear the

reward for Goldy Brar, who features on the 15th number in the

The Canadian government

■ on Tuesday named Satinder

Singh Brar, nicknamed Goldy

Brar, the alleged mastermind in

the killing of famous singer-politician Sidhu Moosewala,

among the country's top 25 wanted criminals.

of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang is wanted by the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police after India

obtained an Interpol Red

Notice for Brar in June 2022,

Commission in New Delhi

among all 25 fugitives has been

displayed at Toronto's Yonge-

Dundas Square, according to

the 'Bolo (Be On the Lookout)

of murder, attempted murder,

conspiracy to commit murder,

and illegal arms trafficking in

The 29-year-old is accused

Programme' list issued.

Brar's life-sized cutout

said in a statement.

Canadian High

The Punjab-origin affiliate

Brar, who reached Canada

However, there is no

allegedly claimed responsibilfor the murder of Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, 2022. Brar is accused of commit-

Sidhu Moosewala murder suspect

on a student visa in 2017,

on Canada's most-wanted list

ting these crimes while being in Canada and is currently under investigation, but is not charged with any criminal offences in Canada, the statement said.

Goldy Brar, who belongs to Punjab's Muktsar, has been on the run since then.

Interpol notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information. In the case of Red Notices, the persons concerned are wanted by national jurisdictions for prosecution or to serve a sentence based on an arrest warrant or court deci-

In Canada, an Interpol Red Notice does not provide police the authority to arrest a person. An individual may only be arrested if reasonable probable grounds exist that the individual has committed a crime in Canada, or if a Canadian arrest warrant has been issued.

The offences Brar allegedly committed in India are very serious in nature and merit the interest of the police in Canada, the statement said, adding that "Brar is believed to be in Canada and represents a risk to

The Punjab Police have blamed Goldy Brar and gang-ster Lawrence Bishnoi for the killing of Moosewala.

public safety".

Bishnoi, who continues to remain in jail after his arrest in 2015, has been operating his terror-crime syndicate from prisons in different states, along with Canada-based Goldy Brar, who is also an accused in the killing of 'Dera Sacha Sauda' follower Pradeep Kumar at Faridkot (Punjab) in November 2022. Goldy Brar has been named in the 1,850-page police charge sheet filed in the Mansa court on August 26 last year. Jailed gangsters Bishnoi

and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria have also been named in the chargesheet alongside a dozen



A policeman walks past a minibus that was burned and its passengers robbed during clashes near the Kibera slum of the capital Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday. The fresh round of demonstrations called by opposition leader Raila Odinga demanded

Sudanese fleeing clashes flood port city, borders

udanese fleeing the fighting Sbetween rival generals in their capital flooded an already overwhelmed city on the Red Sea and Sudan's northern borders with Egypt, as explosions and gunfire echoed on Tuesday in Khartoum.

Many exhausted Sudanese and foreigners arrived in Port Sudan, the country's main seaport, joining thousands who have waited for days to be evacuated out of the chaos-strick-

Others have been driven in packed buses and trucks, seeking shelter in Egypt, Sudan's northern neighbour.

"Much of the capital has become empty," said Abdalla al-Fatih, a Khartoum resident, "all (residents of) our street fled the

The fighting, now in its third week, has turned Khartoum and its neighbouring city of Omdurman into a battlefield. Fierce clashes taking place inside residential neighbourhoods that have become "ghost areas", residents say. The conflict, which capped

months of worsening tensions, pits the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, against a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

Al-Fatih's family managed to get out of Khartoum over the weekend after they spent the past two weeks trapped in their home in Khartoum's neighbourhood of Kafouri, a major flashpoint since the fighting broke out on April 15.

late on Monday, after an exhausting 20-hour trip, he said. There, they found thousands, including many women and children, camping outside the port area. Many had been there for more than a week, with no food and other services, he said.

Port Sudan has become a hub for foreign governments to evacuate their citizens air and

At the congested crossing points with Egypt, thousands of families have waited for days inside buses or sought temporary shelter in the border city of Wadi Halfa to finalise their paperwork to be allowed into

. Yusuf Abdel-Rahman is a Sudanese university student who crossed into Egypt along

crossing point late on Monday. They spent their night at a community hostel in Egypt's southern city of Aswan, and plan to board a train to Cairo later on Tuesday, he

Abdel-Rahman's family went first to the Arqin crossing point over the weekend. It was overcrowded and they couldn't reach the customs area. They then decided to move to the Ashkit crossing after they heard from people there that the crossing would be easier, he "It's a chaotic situation (in

Arqin)," he said over the phone. "Women, children and patients are stranded in the desert with no food, no water."

Abdel-Rahman reported

looting particularly in upscale neighbourhood in the capital. He said a neighbour told them by phone said armed men in RSF uniform stormed their home in Khartoum's Amarat neighbourhood on Friday, a day after they fled the capital.

Many Sudanese have taken to social media to complain that their homes were stormed and looted by armed men. "We are lucky" that they

didn't at home at the time of storming," he said. "We could be ended up dead bodies." The fighting has displaced

at least 334,000 people inside Sudan, and sent tens of thousands more to neighbouring countries, including Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Ethiopia, according to UN

TTP commander among 3 militants killed in KPK

PTI ■ PESHWAR

Pakistani security forces have killed a notorious Tehreeki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander and two others and made several key arrests in separate intelligence-based opera-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, media reports said on

Acting on information about the reported presence of militants, security forces conducted two separate operations on Monday in the Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts of the country's northwest bordering province Afghanistan, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Abdul Jabar Shah of the banned TTP Gandapur group was among the three militants killed by the security forces following an intense exchange of fire, the report

Kishida to visit Seoul before G-7 Summit

Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday he is arranging a trip to South Korea for talks with President Yoon Suk Yeol in

Tokyo and Seoul have been working to repair relations that were strained over wartime history disputes as they deepen three-way security cooperation with Washington in response to growing regional threats from North Korea and

Speaking to reporters Tuesday in Ghana as part of his multi-nation trip to Africa and Singapore, Kishida said he hopes to visit May 7-8 and exchange views with Yoon on ways to speed up the bolstering of bilateral ties and discuss

regional and global issues. "If my South Korea visit is achieved ahead of the G-7

Sweden's king, queen visit Estonia

Tokyo (AP): Japanese Prime summit, I expect it will be a great opportunity to give impetus to our 'shuttle diplomacy' and have a heart-toheart exchange of our views on return for his March visit to accelerating Japan-South Korea Tokyo, aiming to further ties and drastically changing strengthen their ties before the the global situation," said upcoming Group of Seven Kishida, who is hosting the Hiroshima.

Later Tuesday, both gov ernments confirmed Kishida's trip and their talks in Seoul.

Yoon's office said Kishida will make a "working visit" to South Korea with his wife, Yuko Kishida, following the president's invitation during his Tokyo visit in March, marking a fresh start in their diplomacy. Kishida's office said talks between the leaders were scheduled for Sunday.

Kishida will be the first Japanese leader to visit South Korea since former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended the Pyeongchang Olympics in February 2018.

Ugandan min shot and killed by bodyguard

A bodyguard shot and killed a government minister in Uganda early Tuesday in an apparent private dispute,

The attacker, who has not

The victim, Charles Engola, served in the government of President Yoweri Museveni as the junior minister in charge of labour. He was a retired army colonel.

Army spokesman Brig. Kulayigye said on Twitter.

AP ■ KAMPALA

local media.

been publicly identified, then turned the gun on himself, according to state broadcaster UBC and others.

Felix Kulayigye said in a short statement that an "unfortunate incident" led to the killing of Engola. "We shall inform the public the details as we jointly investigate the matter,

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10 Million+ 14.000+ 790¹ Cr. (↑982 Cr.) 480² Cr. (↑672 Cr.) 27,713 Cr. (↑41%) 2.6% ($\sqrt{0.8\%}$) 41,497 Cr. (↑26%) Loan Book Disbursal Unaudited/Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2023

S. No	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended			
		March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023			
		(Unaudited#)	(Unaudited#)	(Audited)	(Unaudited#)	(Unaudited#)	(Audited)			
1	Total Income From Operations	1,662.95	1,231.77	6,032.93	1,779.54	1,323.58	6,447.55			
2	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	319.09	76.34	712.60	331.14	89.07	735.22			
3	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	319.09	76.34	712.60	331.14	89.07	735.22			
4	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	214.33	55.69	457.33	226.38	68.42	479.95			
5	Total Comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period [Comprising profit/ (loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	226.77	54.77	457.18	240.85	66.44	480.87			
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	127.31	127.31	127.31	127.31	127.31	127.31			
7	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	5,161.31	4,710.64	5,161.31	5,120.52^	4,642.67^	5,120.52^			
8	Securities Premium Account	3,940.30	3,946.30	3,940.30	3,942.75	3,947.64	3,942.75			
9	Net worth	5,288.62	4,837.95	5,288.62	5,247.83^	4,769.98^	5,247.83^			
10	Paid up debt capital / outstanding debt	33,383.68	26,207.77	33,383.68	36,627.86	28,679.73	36,627.86			
11	Outstanding redeemable preference shares	-	-	-	-	-	-			
12	Debt Equity ratio	6.31	5.42	6.31	6.98	6.01	6.98			
13	Earnings per share (of ₹ 10 each)									
	i). Basic :*	16.84	4.37	35.92	17.78	5.37	37.70			
	ii). Diluted :*	16.82	4.37	35.89	17.77	5.37	37.67			
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-			
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-			
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.			
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.			
*not annualised for the quarter ended										

^ includes non-controlling interests # The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2022 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of full financial yea

approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on May 01, 2023. These financials results for the year ended March 31, 2023 have beer subjected to audit by joint statutory auditors in compliance with Regulation 52 of the Securities Exchange Board of India ('SEBI') (Listing Obligations) and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The above is an extract of detailed format of quarterly and annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarterly and annual standalone and consolidated financial results are available on the websites of National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India at www.nseindia.com and the Company at

The financial results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently

www.herofincorp.com. For the items referred in sub-clauses of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed at www.nseindia.com and the Company at

liability, as per Ind AS 32 'Financial Instruments: Presentation' and presented it in accordance with Schedule III division III of the Companies Act, 2013 (disclosed under the Head of Subordinated Liabilities). These CCPS are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss as per Ind-AS

During the quarter ended March 31, 2023, the Company reassessed the classification of these CCPS and has now classified them as a financia

31, 2023, would be higher by ₹ 310.05 Crores and total equity would be higher by ₹ 2,310.05 Crores and subordinated liab ₹ 2,310.05 Crores as at March 31, 2023.

Further, if the CCPS were classified in accordance with Section 43 of the Companies Act, 2013 i.e., as equity, profit after tax for the year ended March For and on behalf of the Board

AP TALLINN Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia began a three-day state visit to Estonia on Tuesday — their

first official visit to the former Soviet repubic in more than 30 Estonian President Alar Karis and his wife welcomed

the Swedish king and queen at Tallinn's central Freedom Square with full military honours, and an enthusiastic crowd of adults and children alike waved the Estonian and Swedish flags. The president's office said the visit, to both Tallinn and the second city of Tartu, "under-

scores the close friendship between Estonia and Sweden, all the more so given that it is taking place during the 50th anniversary of King Carl XVI Gustaf's accession to the throne". The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — all former Soviet republics that are

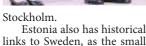
members of the European

Union and NATO — are

Sweden's neighbours across the

Baltic Sea and have close busi-

ness and political ties with



links to Sweden, as the small nation of 1.3 million was a province of the Swedish Empire in the 17th and early 18th cen-The last time King Carl

XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia paid a state visit to Estonia was in 1992, a year after the Baltic nation regained in its independence after nearly fifty years of Soviet rule.

The royal visit will focus on

boosting cooperation between the two countries in the security and defence sectors, economy and in the field of education, research and innovation, the Estonian president's office King Carl XVI Gustaf

ascended the throne on September 15, 1973, and is Sweden's longest reigning monarch. In early June, the king will mark his 50 years on the throne with extensive cel-

Albanian charged with supporting terror attacks Tirana (AP): Albanian law

enforcement authorities on Tuesday charged an Albanian man with supporting terror attacks in Western Europe on social media.

A statement from the special prosecutor's office against corruption and organised crime accused Bledar Zeneli of promoting and urging terror attacks, falsifying documents and weapon possession.

If convicted, he faces up to

17 years in prison.

Using a false profile on Facebook Zeneli and other people, who have yet to be identified, supported terror attacks in Nice, France, and Vienna in October and November 2020 "and other terror attacks and radical actions from extremist persons", according to prosecutors.

A decade ago hundreds of them joined radical groups in Syria and Iraq, although the mainstream religious leaders urged believers not to become

About two-thirds of Albania's 2.8 million people are

Date: May 01, 2023

Abhimanyu Munjal Jt. Managing Director & CEO

June 30: Deadline for MSMEs to submit | Essential for emerging eco to refund claims for forfeited bid security

the finance ministry on Tuesday said MSMEs will have time till June 30 to submit refund claims for performance or bid security and liquidated damages forfeited by government departments and public sector entities during the Covid-19 period.

To give relief to MSMEs, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in 2023-24 Budget announced 'Vivad se Vishwas-I' scheme which provides that in cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during the Covid period, 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security will be returned to them by government

and government undertakings.
"The scheme was com-



menced from April 17, 2023 and the last date for submission of claims is June 30, 2023," a ance ministry statement said.

Under the scheme, ministries have been asked to refund 95 per cent of the performance security, bid security and liquidated damages forfeited/ deduct-

power. Coal is used to generate

some 70 per cent of the electric-

ity in the country and its avail-

ability is being shored up to meet

the increased demand for cool-

trend of previous fiscal, CIL

excavated 169.5 million cubic

meters of OB in April, achieving

109 per cent target," it said.

growth was 31 per cent."

"Sustaining the growth

Compared to 129.6 million cubic meters in April 2022, the

CIL's coal production grew

by 7.7 per cent to 57.6 million

tonne in April. The volume

increase of 4.1 million tonne was

achieved over a high base of 53.5

page of work for four days by

contractual workers in Talcher

coalfields of MCL," said a senior

All the subsidiaries of CIL

million tonne in April 2022.

April, except ECL.

ing in the summer months.

ed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain relief has also been provided to MSMEs debarred for default in execution of contracts during the Covid-

19 period till March 31, 2022. All contractors or suppliers registered as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)

on March 31, 2022, would be eligible to claim a refund of the forfeited amount for contracts which had an original delivery or completion period between February 19, 2020, and March 31, 2022.

This relief will be provided in all contracts for the procurement of goods and services, entered into by any ministry/ department/attached or subordinate office/ autonomous body/ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)/ Public Sector Financial Institution etc. With MSMEs.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has developed a dedicated web page for implementation of this scheme. Eligible claims shall be processed only through GeM, the finance ministry

become engines of growth: FM



Help resolve global crisis. says Sitharaman

PTI ■ SEOUL

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said it is essential for emerging economies to become growth engines and help in resolving challenges facing the world.

She further said the G20

Presidency has come at a crucial stage to the emerging economies, stressing that three years are critical for the global economy, which is going through a reset.

India currently holds the presidency of G20, which is a grouping of developing and developed countries. India has taken over the presidency from Indonesia and will hand it over

to Brazil later in the year. Addressing the Indian diaspora in Seoul, the minister said India is being noticed worldwide not just because it is the fastestgrowing large economy - this year as well as the coming year

- but also because of the way in which it has handled the pandemic and economic revival. The minister is in Seoul to

attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank She said while the advanced

economies today are looking at a long-drawn recession, central banks in those countries are raising interest rates and dealing

"In such a situation globally, how can economies, particularly emerging market economies, who are all showing good signs of growth...Is it possible for us to sustain that growth, is it possible for us to give greater energy to that growth momentum so that emerging markets can literally be the engines of growth and help the global crisis be solved," Sitharaman said.

The minister said the G20 troika — Indonesia, India and Brazil— are all emerging economies, and hence it is important that the voice of the global south be heard. The Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

to be important for the global economy to reset itself and readjust to the global realities," she said, adding there is a recession on one hand and economic revival from COVID on the

Also, artificial intelligence, deep data analytics and the Internet of Things are being used extensively, she added.

India, Sitharaman said, has already adopted a digital payment system, faceless tax assessment and digital ID, and is scaling up technology at a very fast

Companies in India are also resetting themselves, using artificial intelligence and adapting to the requirements of the 21st century.

She also invited NRIs settled in South Korea to contribute to developments taking place in India in the fields of technology and innovation.

"India is going through a major rapid transformational change. Companies are also realising that this is the time to invest in such technology, which is bringing innovation and AI,"

UCO Bank shares climb 2%

on BSE after Q4 earnings,



Sensex, Nifty finish higher on foreign fund inflows; log 8th day of rally

Equity benchmarks ended thigher on Tuesday mainly due to buying in index heavyweights Infosys and Reliance Industries amid foreign fund inflows. Also, firm trend in Asian gauges and record GST collection in April added to the optimism. Rallying for the eighth straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 242.27 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 61,354.71. During the day, it jumped 373.8 points or 0.61 per cent to 61,486.24.

The broader NSE Nifty went up 82.65 points or 0.46 per cent to finish at 18,147.65.

"Defying the trend in global peers, Indian benchmark indices continued its upward momentum, fuelled by strong Q4 earnings and favourable domestic macroeconomic data. The manufacturing PMI surpassed expectations due to an increase in new business, moderation in price pressures, and improved supply chain condi-tions. "Additionally, the GST collection in April was the highest recorded to date. While western markets traded with mild cuts ahead of the US Fed policy announcement, the domestic market benefited from strong inflows by FIIs," said Vinod

Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Coal India output rises 7.7% in April

CIL, the world's largest coal miner, on Tuesday said coal production rose 7.7 per cent in April and supplies to users shot up just as summer began.

In a statement, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said it logged an impressive 31 per cent growth in overburden removal (OBR) in April compared to the same month a year ago. "This helps in stepping up production in the upcoming monsoon months," it said. The company logged a whopping 44 per cent year-on-year growth in supplies to nonregulated sector (NRS).

CIL is firing on all cylinders in anticipation of a summer hotter than the last. It is scaling up production, holding additional coal stocks at its pitheads and has issued directives to power producers to hold higher inventory at their end.

electricity demand touching a new high this summer. Already, the government

All this in anticipation of

NTPC coal output

from captive mines

rises over two fold

to 2.75 MMT in Apr

State-owned NTPC Ltd on Tuesday reported an over

two-fold jump in production of

coal from its captive mines at 2.75 million metric tonnes in

April 2023. "NTPC recorded

2.75 million metric tonnes

(MMT) of coal production dur-

ing the month of April 2023 as

compared to 1.11 MMT record-

ed for the month of April 2022,"

in April 2023 over despatch vol-

umes of 1.23 MMT achieved in

duction of 23.2 million tonnes in FY23, witnessing a 65 per cent

growth against 14.02 million

tonnes a year-ago from its four

operational coal mines - NTPC

Pakri-Barwadih (Jharkhand),

NTPC Chatti Bariatu (Jhar-

khand), NTPC Dulanga (Odi-

sha) and NTPC Talaipalli

April 2022 was highest ever.

Coal despatch at 2.95 MMT

NTPC recorded a coal pro-

a company statement said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rupee falls 6 paise to 81.88 against \$

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 6 paise lower at 81.88 (provisional)

against the American currency on Tuesday as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the US Fed meeting outcome. At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened on a positive note at 81.75 but

pared early gains to settle 6 paise

ower at 81.88 against the US

dollar despite a firm trend in domestic equities. During the day, the rupee

touched a high of 81.72 and a low of 81.95 against the American currency. On Friday, the rupee closed at 81.82 against the US cur-

rency.
Forex and equity markets
were closed on Monday on account of 'Maharashtra Day'.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.15 per cent to Brent crude futures, the

global oil benchmark, declined 0.55 per cent to USD 78.87 per

Ambuja Cements March Q profit falls 11% to ₹763 cr; revenue at ₹7,966 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ambuja Cements on Tuesday reported a decline of 10.87 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 763.30 crore for the quarter ended on March 31, 2023.

have registered the highest-ever production for the month of The company, now part of the Adani Group, had clocked a net profit of Rs 856.46 crore in "Production could have the January-March quarter a year-ago, Ambuja Cements said been even higher by around 1 million tonne but for the stopin a BSE filing.

Its consolidated revenue from operations was almost flat at Rs 7,965.98 crore during the

port from the gov-

ernment and better

front, IFFCO report-

ed the highest produc-tion of 95.61 lakh

tonne last fiscal. It

On operational

management.

also achieved the highest pro-

duction of nano fertilisers at 479.38 lakh bottles of 500 ml

each. The company sold 128.07

lakh tonne of fertilisers in the last

fiscal. The sale of nano fertilis-

ers was at record 326.53 lakh

cheaper, effective and efficient

alternative to traditional fertil-

izers, requiring less raw materi-

als and help in making nation

self-sufficient while reducing

dependence on imports, thus

moving in the direction of

'Atmanirbhar Bharat, Atmanir-

bhar Krishi," IFFCO said.

"Nano fertilizers provide a



7,900.04 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

The consolidated results of Ambuja Cements include the financial performance of its step-down firm ACC Ltd, in which it owns around 51 per cent stake.

up 4.47 per cent from Rs 6,813.51 crore a year ago.
Its total consolidated revenue in the March quarter was

up 3.25 per cent to Rs 8,250.45 On a standalone basis, Ambuja Cements reported an increase of 1.61 per cent in its net profit to Rs 502.40 crore in the

January-March quarter as

against Rs 494.41 crore in the

year-ago quarter. Its standalone revenue from

operations increased 8.39 per cent to Rs 4,256.31 crore, as against Rs 3,926.73 crore earli-

Punjab & Sind Bank Q4 net profit up 32% at ₹457 crore

State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank on Tuesday reported a 32 per cent increase in net profquarter ending March 2023, helped by a decline in bad loans.

The bank's profit stood at Rs 346 crore in the January-March quarter of 2021-22.

In a stock exchange filing, the lender said gross non-performing assets (NPA) declined to 6.97 per cent in the fourth quarter from 12.17 per cent a year ago.

Similarly, net NPAs reduced to 1.84 per cent from 2.74 per

Punjab & Sind Bank also reported its highest-ever net profit in a fiscal at Rs 1,313 crore, up 26.37 per cent annually. The net profit was Rs 1,039 crore in 2021-22. The bank's shares closed at Rs 37.35 apiece on BSE, up 3.84 per cent.

net rises 86% to ₹581 crore PTI KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Shares of UCO Bank on Tuesday climbed 2 per cent after the firm reported an 86.2 per cent rise in net profit for the March 2023 quarter. The company's stock gained

2.06 per cent to settle at Rs 30.72 on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 4.71 per cent to Rs

At the NSE, it advanced 0.66 per cent to finish at Rs 30.30.

In terms of traded volume, were traded on BSE and over 5.10 crore shares at NSE during the day. Net profit of city-based UCO Bank increased 86.2 per cent to Rs 581 crore at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022-23 as compared to Rs 312 crore in the corresponding similar previous period.

Global business of the bank for the fiscal 2022-23 touched more than Rs 4.10 lakh crore, with deposits at Rs 2.50 lakh crore and advances at Rs 1.61

lakh crore. MD&CEO of UCO Bank Soma Sankara Prasad said that the bank will raise money from

the market in the form of Tier I capital. "Government holding in

the bank stands at 95.39 per cent.

It will be brought down to a reasonable level for which it will tap the capital market," Prasad said

GNPA of the bank stood lower at 4.78 per cent at the end of the fourth quarter, while NNPA was at 1.29 per cent. Prasad said some of the

On asset quality, he said the

restructured accounts are under stress. "There is no general stress in the SME loan book", he

According to him, there is good demand for credit from corporates in sectors like cement, steel, chemicals, FMCG, renewables and NBFCs.

The bank has also entered into co-lending activity with a number of NBFCs, Prasad said.

fourth quarter of the last fiscal stood at 16.51 per cent.

The capital adequacy ratio of the bank at the end of the

month a year ago, the company

said. Commercial vehicle sales

were up 49 per cent at 43,293

units, as against 29,063 units in

April 2022. In the domestic

Adani Gas net Bajaj Auto Apr total sales **rises 21% in Q4**

Adani Total Gas Ltd, the city gas joint venture between the Adani Group and French energy giant TotalEnergies, on Tuesday reported a 21 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit in the March 2023 quarter.

Consolidated net profit of Rs 97.91 crore in January-March quarter was compared with Rs 81.09 crore net earnings in the same period a year back, according to company's stock exchange filing. Sales volume rose 2 per cent to 193 million standard cubic metres. The firm retails CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to household kitchens as well as industries.

CNG stations now increased to 460 with addition of 126 new outlets, the company said in a statement. Total piped cooking gas (PNG) home increased by 1.24 lakh to 7.04 lakh while industrial and commercial connections increased to 7,435.

For the full 2022-23 fiscal (April 2022 to March 2023), Adani Total Gas Ltd reported a



consolidated net profit of Rs 546 crore on a revenue of Rs 4,683 crore. The firm commissioned 104 EV charging points at 26 locations across India and started 1st Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) station at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

"ATGL has shown resilience and delivered a good all-round performance both on physical infrastructure and financial front despite high gas prices through-out the year. "The fast-track development of steel pipeline and CNG stations has helped in creating natural gas ecosystem in geographical areas where we are present and will now help in connecting PNG consumers going forward," said Suresh P Manglani, Executive Director & CEO of Adani Total Gas Ltd

rise 7% to 3,31,278 units PTI NEW DELHI $B_{\text{reported}}^{\text{ajaj}} \text{ Auto Ltd on Tuesday} \\ \text{reported a 7 per cent} \\ \text{increase in total sales at 3,31,278}$

units in April 2023, as compared to the same month last year. The company had posted a

total sales of 3,10,774 units in April 2022, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing. The total two-wheeler sales

rose 2 per cent at 2,87,985 units, as compared to 2,81,711 units in the year-ago month, it added. In the domestic market, two-wheeler sales grew by 95 per cent to 1,81,828 units last month, as compared to 93,233 units in April 2022.

Exports of two-wheelers, however, dipped by 44 per cent

at 1,06,157 units, as against

1,88,478 units in the same

market, commercial vehicle sales jumped three-and-half fold at 31,344 units, from 8,944 units in the same month of the previous year, the company said. However, exports of com-

mercial vehicles were lower by 41 per cent at 11,949 units in April 2023, as compared to 20,119 units in the year-ago month, Bajaj Auto said.

Tata Steel Jan-Mar net profit falls 84% to ₹1,566.24 cr

Tata Steel on Tuesday posted a steep fall of over 84 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,566.24 crore in the quarter ended March 2023, mainly on account by lower income.

The steel major had reported a net profit of Rs 9,835.12 crore in the year-ago quarter, it said in a BSE fil-



Tata Steel's total income also trimmed to Rs 63,131.08 crore from Rs 69,615.70 crore in January-March period of financial year 2021-22 While the company's total

expenses rose to Rs 59,918.15 crore from Rs 57,635.79 crore a year ago. Tata Steel is among the top six

steel producing companies in India.

(Chhattisgarh).

BSES CSR LAUNCHES MISSION TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE, HYGIENIC PADS The unavailability of an adequate facility for menstrual

hygiene is experienced by many adolescent girls and women. Doing its bit, BSES is on a mission to improve access to affordable and hygienic sanitary napkins for those in need. As part of the efforts, BSES has facilitated the installation of 20

Automatic Sanitary Napkin Vending & Incinerating Units across 9 government medical facilities in South and West Delhi. Apart from this, BSES's Self Help Groups have stitched and distributed lakhs of pads in the last three years alone, making a significant difference in the lives of thousands of women.

IFFCO's net profit up 62% to record ₹3,053 cr last fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ooperative major LIFFCO, which sells conventional granular as well as nano (liquid) fertilisers, has reported 62 per cent increase in

net profit to record Rs 3,052.73 crore for the last fiscal year on better income. Its profit stood at Rs 1,883.77 crore in the previous year. Total revenue also grew to Rs 60,324 crore in 2022-23 from

Rs 40,171.67 crore in the previous year.
"IFFCO has registered the highest ever Profit After Tax of Rs 3,053 crore along with the highest ever turnover of Rs 60,324 crore for FY22-23,"

IFFCO's MD U S Awasthi said. He attributed the record profit to better plant performance, efficient marketing

UltraTech Cement shares decline 1.50% as Q4 net falls PTI ■ NEW DELHI

hares of UltraTech Cement Sfell by 1.50 per cent in morning trade on Tuesday after the company reported a 36.1 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

The stock went down by 1.55 per cent to Rs 7,436.75 on the BSE. At the NSE, it fell by 1.53 per cent to Rs 7,440. Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement on Friday reported a 36.1 per cent decline.

Ambuja Cements' total ex-Mahindra sales up 36%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Tuesday said its total sales increased by 36 per cent to 62,294 units in April. The company's total dispatches to dealers stood at 45,640 units in April 2022. The company's passenger vehicle wholesales in the domestic market rose by 54 per cent to 34,698 units last month against 22,526 in April last year, the Mumbai-based auto major said

month, compared to 20,411 units in the year-ago period. The company said its exports last month declined 33 per cent to 1,813 units, as compared to 2,703 units in the year-

increased to 25,783 units last

ago period. M&M Automotive Division President Veejay Nakra said after a record-breaking year in FY23, the company continued

its growth in SUVs.

to 62,294 units in April Commercial vehicle sales

EVERTON RESCUE DRAW AT LEICESTER



AFP UK

wobi scored a second-half equaliser at the King Power Stadium after James Maddison wasted a chance to put Leicester 3-1 up when his penalty was saved by Jordan Pickford.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin put Everton in front with an early penalty, before Leicester hit back with goals from Caglar

Soyuncu and Jamie Vardy. Leicester, who have won one of their last 12 league games, moved out of the relegation zone on goal differ-

ence.
The Foxes, Premier League champions in 2016, are fighting to avoid playing in the Championship for the first

time in nine years.
"We missed a penalty for 31, but also in the first half we were second best for long periods," Leicester boss Dean Smith

"We knew the result today would not define what happens. We came out of the bottom three, but there are still

Everton, who last played in the second tier in 1954, remain in 19th place.

Sean Dyche's side are one point from safety with four games left for each of the bottom five clubs.

Everton narrowly escaped relegation last season under Frank Lampard, but their struggles again this term led to Dyche's appointment in

The Toffees beat Arsenal and Leeds in two of Dyche's first three games, but have won just one of the 11 games since then, sparking furious fan protests against the club hier-

archy.
"We held our nerve, kept trying to create things and overall it's a good performance, although we didn't get the three points," Dyche said.

"I didn't come here for a walk in the part. I knew it was going to be a challenge. The only crime tonight was two really soft goals, but the mentality is what we want."

Despite the mutinous mood among Everton's travelling fans, they took the lead in

the 15th minute.

Timothy Castagne needlessly conceded a penalty with a rash shove on Calvert-Lewin as the striker tried to control Seamus Coleman's lofted pass.

Calvert-Lewin smashed the spot-kick into the roof of the net for his first goal since October and only his second of an injury-plagued campaign.

Leicester needed a response and they delivered emphatically with two goals in the space of 11 minutes.

Harvey Barnes' 22ndminute cross was headed back across goal by Wout Faes and Soyuncu pounced with a halfvolley that eluded Jordan Pickford's weak attempted

Vardy rolls back the years Everton's creaky defence was exposed again after 33 minutes.

Iwobi lost possession too easily and Vardy rolled back the years with a blistering run to reach Maddison's pass and round Pickford for a cool fin-

Everton were in disarray at the back and Michael Keane conceded a penalty in first-half stoppage time when he blocked Barnes' cross with his out-stretched arm.

But Maddison blasted his penalty straight at Pickford to give Everton renewed hope.

The save was also a tribute to England keeper Pickford's



Alcaraz earns Zverev revenge

Third-ranked Daniil Medvedev crashed out against Russian compatriot Aslan Karatsev, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4.

In the women's competition world number two Aryna Sabalenka was forced to sweat by Mayar Sherif but eventually came through 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals.

Top-seeded Spaniard Alcaraz, who also beat Zverev in last season's Madrid final, gained revenge for the German's triumph when they met later in the 2022 French Open quarter-finals.

Two-time Madrid winner Zverev, 26, was blown away in the opening set. He improved a little in the second but not sufficiently to trouble Alcaraz, who moved his opponent around at will.

"I played at a great level, I didn't let him dominate, I went on the attack the whole time, and above all, I returned really well," said Alcaraz, who won in one hour 22 minutes.

"I played a complete game, and that's how we have

this result -- but it's not a normal result against (Zverev)."

Zverev zipped past Hugo Grenier 6-1, 6-0 in the third round, appearing to find form after the ankle injury he suffered last year, but was exposed by a razor sharp

The US Open champion dropped just two points in the first set in his near-immaculate service games, and put strong pressure on the German's serve.

Alcaraz converted his third break point to take a 2-0 lead in the 11-minute second game, before wresting another from Zverev for 5-1, consolidating to take the set.

The duo traded blows

on serve at the start of the second set before Alcaraz carved out a break for 3-2 when Zverev sent a forehand return Alcaraz again broke for a

5-2 lead with a neat forehand down the line and triumphed on serve when Zverev batted a return long.

Alcaraz, who turns 20 on Friday, is aiming for his

10th tour-level title after defending the Barcelona Open in April.

In the last eight, the Murcian will face Karen Khachanov who dispatched Andrey Rublev 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 in another all-Russian bat-

Medvedev, second seed in the Spanish capital, has admitted he struggles on clay and fell to another defeat against Karatsev on the dirt, as he did in Rome two seasons ago.

The 27-year-old secured an early break but Karatsev immediately struck back for

They stayed on serve and Karatsev triumphed comfortably in the tie-break, his ball striking immaculate throughout the clash, hitting 28 winners to just four unforced errors.

Ranked 121st in the world, qualifier Karatsev broke the 2021 US Open winner for 3-2 in the second set and only dropped two points on his serve after that to progress.



Serena debuts baby bump at Met Gala

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Was so excited when Anna Wintour invited the 3 of us to the Met Gala," Williams said on Instagram just before she decked out in a black and white gown, for fashion's biggest night of the year

In the photos, the 41-year-old tennis great is seen posing in a black and white gown with her husband Alexis Ohanian, the founder of Reddit, and cradling the baby bump.

Williams and Ohanian are already parents to Olympia, born in September 2017.

Last year, Williams, who won 23 singles Grand Slam titles and multiple Olympic gold medals throughout her long career -- bid an emotional farewell to tennis at the US Open.

"I'm ready to, like, be a mom, explore a different version of Serena," she said at the

Last year, in an essay for Elle magazine, Williams described the difficulties she experienced in giving birth to Olympia, eventually via emergency C-section, and how she suffered blood clots in her lungs shortly there-

Williams was not the only person to reveal a baby bump at the Met Gala; model Karlie Kloss also confirmed her second pregnancy at the event.

Referee row down to 'emotion and anger': Klopp

AFP ■ FRANCE

 $T^{he\ Football\ Association\ is}_{investigating\ comments\ by}$ the Reds boss that appeared to call into question the integrity of referee Paul Tierney after Sunday's 4-3 victory at Anfield.

Following Diogo Jota's late winner, Klopp ran down the touchline to celebrate in front of fourth official John Brooks and received a yellow card from

"The whole situation should-n't have happened at all," Klopp said at a press conference on Tuesday. "It was out of emotion, out of anger in that moment. That's why I celebrated the way I

"I didn't say anything wrong. I couldn't get close to the fourth official and I didn't want to get close to him."

Klopp, whose team are fifth in the Premier League table after four straight wins, added: "Paul Tierney came over and I didn't expect a red card, I expected a yellow. He said to me: 'For me it's a red card,' but he gave me a yellow.

"After the game I tried to calm down and didn't properly. I said (in TV interviews): 'What he said to me was not OK'. I opened the box which I didn't want to open. "The rest was things I said about how I felt in that moment and Paul Tierney doing our



games. I'm not a resentful person PGMOL (Professional Game but these things which happen in the past happens, not intentionally but they are there.

"Obviously the refs are real-

ly angry about what I said. I did a lot of things that day but I didn't lie.'

Klopp said after the game that he did not know what the official "has against us".

Speaking ahead Wednesday's home match against Fulham, Klopp said he expected to face punishment.

"Refs think I questioned their integrity, which if I am sitting here now calm, I don't do," said the German.

Shortly after the Spurs game,

Match Officials Limited) issued a statement.

"PGMOL is aware of the comments made by Jurgen Klopp after his side's fixture with Tottenham Hotspur," it said.

"Match officials in the Premier League are recorded in all games via a communications system and, having fully reviewed the audio of referee Paul Tierney from today's fixture, we can confirm he acted in a professional manner throughout including when issuing the caution to the Liverpool manager so, therefore, we strongly refute any suggestion that Tierney's actions were improper."

Djokovic set for US Open after vaccine mandate lifted



AFP ■ NEW YORK

Diokovic, one of the highest profile athletes to remain unvaccinated, has not been able to play in the United States since the vaccine mandate came into effect in November 2021.

The 35-year-old world number one last played the US Open in 2021, when his bid to complete a calendar year Grand Slam ended in defeat in the final to Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

Since then Djokovic has

been a glaring absentee from US tennis tournaments due to the travel mandate.

The 22-time Grand Slam singles winner applied unsuccessfully for a special exemption to enter the United States to play this year's Masters events at Indian Wells and Miami. US Open organizers, as well as the US Tennis Association, both called for Diokovic to be granted an

exemption.

US tennis great John McEnroe was one of several who questioned the decision to

continue to bar Djokovic from the United States, noting that the Serb played the US Open in 2021 when the pandemic was

still raging.
"He played (the US Open)
in 2021 and then wasn't allowed to play in 2022, someone explain that to me, McEnroe said earlier this year. "And now he's still not permitted to play? It's absurd."

Djokovic was also infamously deported from Australia last year due to his vaccine status, missing the Australian Open.



Wolfsburg beat Arsenal to reach Women's Champions League final

AFP ■ LONDON

The Germans won 3-2 in **⊥** the semi-final second leg at the Emirates Stadium as Bremer's goal in the closing seconds of extra time sealed a

5-4 aggregate success. Stina Blackstenius put Arsenal ahead, with Jill Roord and Alexandra Popp netting for Wolfsburg before Jennifer Beattie levelled for the Gunners, setting the stage for Bremer's decisive goal.

Barcelona, who beat Chelsea in the other semifinal, lie in wait for Wolfsburg in the final at Eindhoven's PSV Stadium on June 3.

Wolfsburg, who beat Arsenal in last season's quarter-finals, are back in the final for the first time since losing the showpiece to Lyon in 2020.

"It was a tough game. I thought it was going to go to penalties but we won," Roord

"Credit to Arsenal, they've

been through a lot as a team but they made it super hard. At the end they could have won, we could have won. We were the lucky ones. Arsenal are the only

Women's Super League club to

have won the Women's Champions League, lifting the trophy in 2007. But their hopes of another crack at the trophy were dashed in the most painful

fashion. The Gunners had battled back to draw the first leg 2-2 in Germany despite trailing by two goals after just 24 min-

Yet Jonas Eidevall's side were ravaged by injuries to Reth Mead, Vivianne Miedema, Leah Williamson, Caitlin Foord and Kim Little and the attrition eventually took its toll.

"It's tough. No doubt about it, because it was a game of such fine margins and they're not on our side tonight," Eidevall said.

The Gunners had battled back to draw the first leg 2-2 in Germany

"But I also choose to look at it that we came to the Champions League semi-final with all the injuries we have, with all the challenges we have. That is actually incredible." In front of a sold-out

Emirates crowd of more than 60,000 -- a record attendance for a women's club match in England -- Arsenal took the id in the 11th minute.

Blackstenius forced the mistake from Kathrin Hendrich with her tenacious pressing and applied the finishing touch after rounding

Manuela Zinsberger preserved Arsenal's advantage when she palmed away a fierce long-range strike from Lynn Wilms. But Wolfsburg had the momentum and Roord equalised in the 41st minute, curling into the far corner from the edge of the area after Popp headed down a free-kick. Wolfsburg's pressure paid off again as Popp put them ahead in the 58th minute.

Felicitas Rauch's corner was met by a glancing header from the Wolfsburg captain that flashed past Zinsberger.

Beattie forced extra time when she equalised in the 75th minute with a clinical header from Wubben-Moy's cross. But with a penalty shoot-out just seconds away, Wolfsburg booked their final berth as Jule Brand's cross was turned in by Bremer.



AFP ■ FRANCE

Australian Open champion Sabalenka struggled badly at first but turned the twohour match around convinc-

ingly to reach the semi-finals.
"I was just trying to keep fighting to keep playing my game and find my rhythm," said Sabalenka. "She's a clay court special-

ist and I'm very happy with this win. It was a very tough

Sherif, the first Egyptian to reach a WTA 1000 quarterfinal, capitalised on Sabalenka's erratic start to break in the first game.

The 26-year-old became the first player to take a set off Sabalenka in Madrid, breaking again for 4-1 and missing set point at 5-1 before clinching it on serve.

However the Belarusian, 24, bounced back strongly, converting all four of her break points in the second set and hitting 10 winners to Sherif's one to force a third. The 2021 Madrid winner

second but won 11 of the next 12 games. Sabalenka showed her power as she battered Sherif

was a break down at 2-1 in the

back to break in the third set before consolidating for 3-0. Sherif, who beat world number five Caroline Garcia in straight sets in the third round, was eventually overrun by the

big-hitter, who secured another break and then served out. Sabalenka will face Greek world number nine Maria Sakkari or Romanian Irina-

Camelia Begu, who play in the second quarter-final later Tuesday.

Mame In 2023

DC STUN DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

man Khan's maiden T20 fifty was beautifully complemented A by the pacers as Delhi Capitals kept their playoff hopes alive with a tense five-run win over Guiarat Titans in the IPL here on Tuesday. Bowling impeccable lengths, Mohammed Shami (4/11 in four overs) was lethal with the new ball as he knocked the wind out of the Capitals' top order, as Gujarat Titans restricted DC to 130 for eight after being asked to bowl. Aman (51 off 44) waged a lone battle, putting some much-need runs on the board. He added 50 off 54 balls with Axar Patel (27) and 53 off 27 balls with Ripal Patel (23). In reply, Hardik Pandya's (59 off 53) sedate fifty and Rahul Tewatia's (20) hattrick of sixes were not enough as Delhi bowlers held their nerves to stop the defending champions at 125 for $\hat{6}$.

It was the third win of the season for Delhi, who continue to remain at the bottom of the table, while Gujarat continued to remain on the top spot.

Defending a modest target, Delhi quicks were able to make an early breakthrough, as Gujarat lost three wickets inside the powerplay. If 'Impact Player' Khaleel Ahmed

(2/24) bowled a beautiful first over which was a wicket-maiden, pace spearhead Anrich Nortje (1/39) got rid of the dangerous Shubman Gill (6).



(2/23) too joined the party as he outfoxed Vijay Shankar (6) with a perfectly executed knuckle ball.

Wickets continued to tumble with the introduction of the slow bowlers, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (1/15) bamboozled David Miller (0) in the seventh over. Pandya and Abhinav Manohar (26) steadied the Gujarat ship with 62-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Pandya anchored the innings with Tewatia hitting three back-to-back sixes off the penultimate over. But with 12 needed off the final over, Ishant gave away just six runs while taking the vital wicket of Tewatia.

Earlier, Delhi once again suffered a dramatic collapse, losing five wickets for 23 runs inside five overs and at the centre of it all was Shami.

The veteran Indian pacer set the tone of the match as he struck off the first ball of the game to get Phil Salt for a golden duck. A horrible mix up between young Priyam Garg (10) and skipper David Warner (2) cost Delhi the wicket of the Australian in the second over. Rilee Rossouw (8) was next to depart as Shami struck once again. The veteran Indian induced slight movement away from Rossouw. An outside edge led the ball to straight into the hands of wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha's gloves as Delhi fell to 16 for

Rahul's injury big concern as LSG get ready for CSK challenge



KL should have come out in middle overs: Moody

 $F^{\rm ormer\ India\ cricketer\ Deep}_{\rm Dasgupta\ and\ former\ Australia}$ cricketer Tom Moody recently shared their thoughts on KL Rahul's late arrival to bat during the second innings of the match between LSG and RCB, after he sustained a thigh injury in the first innings.

In an exclusive interview with ESPNcricinfo, Dasgupta and Moody shared their differing opinions on when and why Rahul should have come out to bat and whether he would change the outcome of the game.

Deep Dasgupta spoke on

when he felt KL Rahul should have come out to bat, after the LSG captain succumbed to a thigh injury during the first

"See, top of the order, you would think, that you're going to chase it, and your top order looks good. And you weren't even thinking of KL Rahul batting or needing him to bat. But obviously, looking at the last over, 23 off six, you never know, four sixes, if it comes off. And you would expect that, he's got that ability. But obviously, it was going to be difficult. And anyway he wasn't running, so there was no chance of him getting runs like that," he said.

 $F^{\text{ive-time champions Mumbai}}_{\text{Indians' class and pedigree}}$ will once again be tested when they take on an unpredictable Punjab Kings in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. A win will give MI the much-needed push on the

PTI MOHALI

familiar course like the previous edition. MI had finished 10th and last in the previous edition. The Mumbai team is cur-

points table, while a loss will see

them slip further and chart a

points from eight matches and things are not looking great for Rohit Sharma's side.

The win against Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium on April 30, though, would have instilled a fair bit of

very few PBKS batters have contributed enough to their overall totals, though all that changed in their previous game PBKS vs MI against Chennai Super Kings at

PBKS to test MI's

class in crucial game

JioCinema

in the final over during his 14-

ferocity of David's strokes.

The 27-year-old middle-

A similar commitment

order batter smashed five sixes

and two boundaries at a strike

rate in excess of 300 as Mumbai

Indians won on home turf.

two valuable points.

Chepauk on April 30. Set a stiff 200-run target by MS Dhoni's side, the entire top confidence in the MI team after and middle-order came to the it chased down a massive 212 party to win a last-ball thriller by with three balls to spare to earn four wickets. With Prabhsimran and Dhawan laying a good foundation in powerplay, The win was crafted by England all-rounder Liam Singapore-born Australian cricketer Tim David, who smashed three sixes on the trot Livingstone, Sam Curran and wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh

would be required against Punjab Kings, who are known to play aggressive cricket, though

their biggest drawback is an

and to an extent his opening

partner Prabhsimran Singh,

Barring Shikhar Dhawan

unreliable top order.

ly have to face the fiery pace of Mumbai Indians' Jofra Archer, who was back in the game against Rajasthan Royals, bowling his quota of overs and tak-Kishan (28) and Tilak Varma (29 ing a wicket as well.

Sharma all chipped in to make

though, is the biggest concern for the five-time IPL champions and much would depend on the India captain on Wednesday to shore up his side, after contributing just three runs in the match

ball unbeaten 45 to snatch vicit a memorable chase. The team, though, will liketory from the jaws of defeat. While there were vital contributions from India's T20 specialist batter Suryakumar Yadav (55), tall Australian all-rounder Cameron Green (44), Ishan

against the Royals.

PTI LUCKNOW

Hit by injuries to skipper KL Rahul and seamer Jaydev Unadkat, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) would be wary of Chennai Super Kings' ability to bounce back when the two sides face each other in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

would also be facing the hea after failing to chase down a meagre total of 126 in their own den, getting bundled out for just 108 in 19.5 overs by Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday.

Rahul sustained injury on his right thigh during the match against RCB here on Monday, while Unadkat slipped badly

while bowling at the nets, resulting to a nasty fall on Sunday.

The extent of both the injuries is yet

to be ascertained but Rahul came out to bat at No. 11 in LSG's unsuccessful run chase, facing three balls without opening account. His inclusion in the LSG team for Wednesday's match is doubtful.

Players like Kyle Mayers, Nicholas Pandya have chipped in individually as well as collectively in previous games to keep the Lucknow franchise afloat while skipper Rahul has not been at his best after the two half centuries (74 against Punjab Kings and 68 against Gujarat

LSG's performance this season has swung wildly. While on the one hand, they have given commanding performances that have become the envy of other sides, they also have a self-destruction button hidden somewhere, which goes off automatically.

Their match against Punjab Kings on April 28 was a reminder what the team against RCB on Monday was an example of how calamitously a team could lose while chasing a miniscule total of 126. The 257 for five against Punjab

Kings, resulting to a 56-run win, had class and composure written all over it, with Mayers, Badoni, Stoinis, Pooran, Naveenul-Haq and Yash Thakur all chipping in, while they failed collectively against RCB. Their weakness of succumbing to pressure, especially when their skipper Rahul might not be able to play on Wednesday due to a likely pulled hip flexor muscle, could give the MS Dhoni-led CSK enough confidence to go all out on the offensive.

standings with 10 points from nine games but the shattering blow to their morale following the 18-run loss to RCB could be exploited by CSK, who too are on 10 points from nine matches but placed fourth due to an inferior net run

arke wants Hazlewood to focus on preparing for Ashes

 $F^{ormer\ Australian\ captain}_{Michael\ Clarke\ is\ not}$ pleased with Josh Hazlewood's decision to compete in the ongoing IPL 2023 as he believes the pacer should be focusing on preparing for the World Test Championship final and the

After being out of action for nearly four months due to Achilles injury, Hazlewood had a successful comeback to cricketing action as he bowled three overs for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the IPL match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and returned

with impressive figures of 2/15. Hazelwood sustained an Achilles injury during a Test match in Sydney in January and has since not featured in any format of the game.

He was initially selected for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India but was headed back home midway through the series to continue his rehabilitation from an Achilles com-

With his return to IPL, Hazlewood will begin his attempt to demonstrate his physical readiness for Australia's upcoming six-Test tour of England, which includes the World Test Championship

The 32-year-old was one of only four specialist pacemen named in the Aussies' squad for the first half of their campaign in England.

While national selectors were pleased that Hazlewood used the IPL to build up his bowling loads, Clarke believes that the pacer should be in Australia and concentrate on red-ball cricket.

"I don't know why he's over playing IPL. I don't know why he's not over here in Australia preparing to play Test match cricket," Clarke was quoted by Fox Cricket.

"I know they'll have people



bowling more than what the IPL players are bowling, in preparation for Test match

"But I just don't know if him bowling three overs, four overs right now is his best preparation for an Ashes series, after the injuries he's had and the amount of time he's had out of Test cricket.

"It's great to see him back playing, there's no doubt about it... but for Australian Test cricket fans, you want to see him at his best for this Ashes series," Clarke said.

Clarke further stressed that a significant amount of money

make it difficult for players to refuse the chance to participate in the tournament. He was unsure whether Cricket Australia should have intervened and prevented Hazlewood from participating in the T20 tourna-

They can do it now. They can stop you going. But it's India. Are you kidding? No-one is saying no to India," he said.
"Unless Cricket Australia

are going to say, 'OK the IPL has just offered you \$3 million for eight weeks... we'll pay you that \$3 million you stay home and train with us, there's nothing they can do," he added.

The annual rankings consider all series

completed since May 2020, with series com-

pleted before May 2022 weighted at 50 percent

and all subsequent series weighted at 100 per-

India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as their 2-0 defeat to New Zealand

in March 2020 no longer figures in the rank-

ings, which assesses series completed prior to

May 2022 at 50 per cent and subsequent series

(2-0) and New Zealand (3-0) in 2019/20 were

no longer in consideration, while their 4-0 win over England in 2021/22 has its weighting

halved. Consequently, Australia's ratings

of the ICC World Test Championship 2023 at

The Oval from 7 June, were the top-ranked Test

side since January 2022 while India were last

at the top for a month in December 2021.

Australia's home series wins over Pakistan

Australia, who take on India in the final

cent, according to the ICC release.

at 100 per cent.

dropped from 121 to 116.

Eng announce revised dates against Sri Lanka

IANS LONDON

The England & Wales Cricket (ECB) on Tuesday announced the change in dates and venues for their women's team's three-match T20I and threematch ODI series against Sri Lanka, starting on August 31.

The change has been made after a request from Sri Lanka Cricket due to the confirmation of women's cricket being a part of the Asian Games 2023.

"Following a request from Sri Lanka Cricket due to the confirmation of the women's cricket tournament at the 2023 Asian Games, the England & Wales Cricket Board have mutually agreed to a schedule change to the England Women's whiteball home series against Sri Lanka planned for September,"

the ECB said in a statement. Sri Lanka's white-ball tour of England will now begin on August 31, with the commencement of the three-match T20I series. The three matches will be played in Hove, Chelmsford, and Derby.

This will be followed by a three-match ODI series between

Leicester.

The Hove which was originally scheduled to host an ODI will now host the T20I series opener. Canterbury, which was originally set to host an ODI, will no longer host a match during the series.

September 9-14 in Chester-le-

Street, Northampton, and

The series will be key for Sri Lanka in their bid to prepare for the Asian Games, which is scheduled in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October

SCHEDULE:

1st T20I: August 31, Hove 2nd T20I: September 2, Chelmsford **3rd T20I** - September 6, Derby 1st ODI: September 9, Chester-le-Street 2nd ODI: September 12, Northampton 3rd ODI: September 14, Leicester

Ind overtake Aus to become No. 1 4-0 Ashes defeat and a 1-0 defeat in the West

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$ pipped Australia to become the No.1 team in Men's Test Rankings following the annual update, that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020, released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on

Australia's reign at the top of the Men's Test Rankings comes to an end after 15 months with India going past the Aussies ahead of next month's ICC World Test Championship Final. India currently sits at the top of the ladder with 121 points, with Australia in the sec-

ond spot with 116 points.

Prior to the annual rankings update, Australia were at the top with 122 points with

India trailing them by three points (119). England remain in third position but the gap between them and the second placed side is reduced from 13 to two rating points owing to some consistent performances in recent months as well as reduced weightage of their

