OPINION 6

CHANGING PARADIGM

IN INTL RELATIONS

WORLD 9

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CHARGES AGAINST ISI OFFICER

MONEY 10

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MUMBAI INDIANS TO FACE RCB IN IPL MATCH TODAY

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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MAY 9, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

K'taka sovereignty row: BJP 3 killed as Mig-21 jet seeks Cong's derecognition

Party moves EC. seeks FIR, action against Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Aday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his public meetings accused Congress leader Sonia Gandhi of advocating for "separating" Karnataka from India over her use of the term "sovereignty" for Karnataka, the BJP on Monday moved the Election Commission seeking action against Sonia, her party's derecognition and an FIR against the former Congress chief.

The Congress had tweeted, "CPP Chairperson Smt Sonia Gandhi ji sends a strong message to 6.5 crore Kannadigas: The Congress will not allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's reputation, 'sover-

eignty' or integrity."

A BJP delegation headed by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav submitted a memorandum to the poll panel in Delhi

over the issue. "When a country becomes independent, that country is called a sovereign country. India is a sovereign country and the State of Karnataka is a proud part in it. Till today no one raised any question about the integrity of Kannadigas with the sovereignty of the nation. The meaning of what Congress is saying is that the Congress believes that Karnataka is separate from India. This statement is divisive in nature. It is aimed at dividing the citizens and creating a rift between people of different States," reads the complaint.

Continued on Page 2



BJP leaders Anil Baluni, Bhupender Yadav, Jitendra Singh, Tarun Chugh and Om Pathak come out after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner, at Nirvachan Sadan, in New Delhi on Monday

Cong rejects BJP's charge as 'fakery and falsehood'

Rejecting BJP's charge on Congress former president Sonia Gandhi's "Karnataka sovereignty" remark as "fakery and falsehood", the Congress accused the BJP of denigrating the State's "swabhimaan".

The desperation of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP is glaring as they seek to clutch at straws for want of a narrative in Karnataka. We reject the fakery and falsehood being perpetuated by PM as he refuses to answer a single question on why BJP is denigrating the

'swabhimaan' of Karnataka," said Congress general secretary in-charge of the State Randeep Surjewala.

The Congress leader said, The PM should answer on the '40 per cent commission BJP Sarkar'. Excuses cannot be the refuge of BJP in this election."

Surjewala also asked, "Why are GST dues of Karnataka worth over ₹8,000 crore not being released by Modi Government? Why has reference to Lord Basavanna, Kovempu, Kanaka Das omitted or partially removed from text books?"

BJP's silent 3 in K'taka campaign

MANISH ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

While the BJP's three top faces — Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttan Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath — hogged the limelight in Karnataka poll campaign, the three others — party chief JP Nadda, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed a number of meetings with specific target audience to warm up the State for

crashes into Raj home

Pilot ejects after failing to resolve emergency; IAF orders enquiry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/SURATGARH,

hree women died on I Monday when the wreckage of a Mig-21 fighter jet fell on their home in Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. The pilot of the ill-fated aircraft managed to eject and suffered minor injuries. The IAF has ordered the mandatory court of inquiry to ascertain the caus-

es of the mishap.
Giving details in New
Delhi, IAF officials said a MiG-21 fighter aircraft crashed at about 9.45 am. The aircraft had got airborne for a routine operational training sortie from the Air Force Station at Suratgarh. Soon thereafter, the pilot experienced an onboard emergency, following which he attempted to recover the aircraft as per existing procedures. Having failed to do so, he initiated an ejection, sustaining minor injuries in the process. The pilot was recovered from about 25 kilometre North East of Suratgarh base.

The aircraft wreckage fell on a house in Bahlol Nagar in

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance



Har Pal Aapke Saat

Hanumangarh district, unfortunately, leading to the loss of three lives. The IAF regretted the loss of lives and offered its deepest condolences to the bereaved families. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the acci-

Recounting the incident, a local said he heard a loud sound and saw a parachute coming down. Within seconds, a plane crashed into the house of Ratti Ram, killing his wife and two other women — Leela Devi and Banto Kaur — the

news agency PTI quoted him as saying. "The villagers tried to douse the flames with the help of water and sand before the police and fire brigade reached the spot," an official said.

Police said a rescue oper ation has been launched in the area where the aircraft had crashed.

"The pilot made all efforts to avert human casualties and crash-landed the plane on the outskirts of the village," said Om Prakash, Inspector General of Police, Bikaner.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

COURT EXTENDS SISODIA CUSTODY TILL MAY 23

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday extended till May 23 the judicial custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged

FIRST CHATGPT ARREST IN CHINA OVER FAKE NEWS Beijing: Chinese police have detained a man for generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology to "concoct information" and nost it on multiple accounts in

what was reported to be China's

first arrest for misuse of

IRAN HANGS 2 IN RARE BLASPHEMY CASE

Dubai: Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest

SONAM AT KING CHARLES CORONATION CONCERT



London: Actor Sonam Kapoor delivered a spoken word piece about the Commonwealth at the Coronation Concert to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla as part of the United Kingdom's long celebratory weekend

Kerala Story ban sparks BJP-TMC feud; producer to sue Mamata Govt



PNS KOLKATA/MUMBAI

As West Bengal on Monday became the first State to ban the screening of film "The Kerala Story" in the State, the BJP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's TMC indulged in war of words.

Slamming Mamata for the order to ban the film, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said it was beyond his understanding why the TMC chief's sympathies were with terror organisations and not with the inno-cent girls from Kerala. Thakur watched the film at a cinema hall in Delhi.

The film's producer Vipul Shah said they will take legal action against the ban imposed by the TMC Government. Continued on Page 2

Delhi Govt plans premium buses to woo car users. awaits L-G's nod

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELH

The Delhi Government has sent a proposal for introducing premium buses on Delhi roads through private aggregators for Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's approval.

Announcing this on Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal the scheme will encourage the middle and upper middle classes to stop using private cars for this pub-

transport.

Detailed report on Page 3 collars. Animals are generally not released into the wild dur-

Why didn't you tell HC it can't order quota: SC asks Meiteis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Hearing a batch of pleas on the Manipur situation, including one challenging the Manipur High Court order on the issue of Scheduled Tribe status to the Meitei community, the Supreme Court on Monday questioned one of the advocates representing the original petitioners (who sought quotas for Meitei community) why he did not inform the high court about the two Constitution bench judgments showing the fact that HC does not have the power to recom-

mend reservation. "You never told the high court that this power the high court does not have. These are presidential powers...," said the

PNS NEW DELHI

Monday

 $F^{\rm ive\ cheetahs\ -\ three}_{\rm females\ and\ two\ males\ -}$

will be released from the accli-

matisation camps into free-

ranging conditions in Madhya

Pradesh's Kuno National Park

(KNP) before the onset of the

monsoon in June, the Union

Environment Ministry said on

be allowed to move out of KNP

and will not necessarily be

"recaptured unless they venture

into areas where they are in sig-

nificant danger". All the preda-

tors are fitted with satellite

It also said the cheetahs will



bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and also comprising Justices PS

Narasimha and JB Pardiwala. The Supreme Court asked the Centre and the Manipur Government to step up relief and rehabilitation efforts for those hit by ethnic violence, besides protecting places of worship, many of which were

targeted during the mayhem. While listing out steps taken to deal with the situation, the Centre told the SC that no untoward incidents have been

ing the monsoon season as

harsh weather conditions make

it difficult for them to find food

and shelter and adapt to their

cheetahs brought from

Namibia have been released

from the fenced acclimatisation

camps into free-ranging con-

Continued on Page 2

So far, four of the eight

new environment.

ditions in KNP.

KNP to let cheetahs

venture out of park

till they're in danger

reported in Manipur in the last two days and the situation there is gradually returning to normalcy.

The Bench said since Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has maintained action is being taken by the State before a competent forum with regard to reservation for Meiteis, the apex court will not go into it

any further.

"We must give that forum an opportunity to correct itself," it said, adding the top court has made its concerns very clear to

the solicitor general.

The bench said right now, its immediate target is "protection, restitution and stabilisation" and it is concerned about only these humanitarian

Continued on Page 2

Travel with QR code tickets in Delhi Metro from May end

Monday said that by the end of ing to introduce mobile-based QR tickets to make travel in nating the need for queuing up

For the moment metro passengers will be able to buy QR code-based "paper" tickets for travel on all its lines. The DMRC said it will phase out the concept of physical tokens. At present, in addition to a token, the commuters have to buy a QR code-based paper ticket from the station counter.

Continued on Page 2

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on May, the transporter is target-Delhi Metro more seamless easy, and time-saving, elimifor tickets at stations' counters

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1 hurt in 2nd low-intensity blast near Golden Temple in 30 hours

Alow-intensity explosion occurred on Monday on a heritage street near the Golden heritage street near the Golden Temple here, the second in the area in less than 30 hours, prompting authorities to further step up security.

One person was injured in the blast that took place 6.15 am on the road that is dotted with shape and food joints.

with shops and food joints and witnesses heavy footfall

Forensic teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and police held a flag march as additional security personnel were deployed in the area.

No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief" or there's a ter-



Yadav, who visited and inspected the spot, said one person was injured in the

The explosive was very adely made and assembled. Though no shrapnel was used, there was a loud sound, he said. The police chief said two explosions in the area are being

scientifically investigated". "Our forensic team is pre-

sent on the spot," he said. "We have not found any

triggering device or any detonator," Yadav said, referring to the two incidents.

The DGP said the absence of a triggering mechanism means it was a crude device. It appears that the exploa thread was hanging out of it and a passerby may have accidentally pulled the thread and the device fell, causing the blast, Yadav said.

"At this moment, we are not ruling out anything...It could be someone's mischief, but it is too early to say whether it is a mischief, or there is a ter-ror angle to it," he said, referring to the two incidents.

The DGP said CCTV footage is being scanned and details are being sought from eyewitnesses.

Amritsar Commissioner Naunihal Singh said a case has been registered in connection with the two blasts, which took place in a span of nearly 30 hours.

"We have stepped up security in the area," he said. The spot where the explosion took place had been cor-

ED seizes 3 properties of ZS Poonawalla for FEMA violations

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized three immovable properties located at Ceejay House, Worli, Mumbai worth Rs 41.64 crore for forex violation in its investigation against Zavareh Soli Poonawalla and his family

The ED is investigating a case of misuse of the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act against Zavareh Soli Poonawalla and

His name was found in the Panama Papers revelations regarding off-shore entities.

"ED investigation revealed Zavareh Soli Poonawalla and his family members had remitted foreign exchange abroad by mis-utilizing the provisions of LRS scheme. They used the maximum permissible limit



and from the year 2011-12, they remitted money abroad via mis-declarations under the pretext of 'family maintenance and self-maintenance' etc. how ever none of their family members was residing abroad or holding NRI status," the ED said in a statement.

The entire funds remitted by Poonawalla and his family members under LRS were invested into StallastLimited based in BVI. The funds remitted by Poonawalla and his family members were utilized by Stallast Limited to purchase four properties in the UK, the

TMC won't touch double digit mark in 2024: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The BJP has said that a "scam-tainted" Trinamool Congress will not be able to win even 10 --- out of 42 --- Lok Sabha seats from Bengal in next year's general elections.

The BJP's reaction comes close on the heels of TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee setting a 40-seat target for the party

men.
"If elections were to be held today the TMC will not win more than 8-10 seats because the people of Bengal have decided to vote them out ... Bengal is fed up of its thieves," BJP State leader Sajal Ghosh said.

When asked about the large gatherings at the 'Jan Sanyog' rallies of Abhishek who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Ghosh said, "there is a difference between people coming to see a leader and voting for him."

Ghosh said, "Abhishek's role is like that of Hanuman. Just as



Hanuman set fire to Lanka with his tail, Abhishek is going around and will set fire to Mamata's empire. Just like Lord Hanuman's face was burnt after he put his tail in his mouth to extinguish the fire, his face will also be burnt after a few days."

Banerjee had earlier called upon the people of Bengal --from a mass reach-out rally Muslim-dominated Murshidabad district --- to help TMC win 40 seats this time

Apparently he had spoken in reaction to a previous speech of Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Birbhum rally told BJP workers to target 35 seats from

KNP to let cheetahs venture out of park till they're in...

"Five more cheetahs (three females and two males) will be released from the acclimatisation camps into free-roaming conditions in KNP before the onset of the monsoon rains in June," the Ministry said in a statement.

The decision was taken after a team of experts reviewed the current status of the "Project Cheetah" on the directions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority

The team comprising Adrian Tordiffe, Veterinary Wildlife Specialist, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Vincent van der Merwe, Manager, Metapopulation Project, South

Africa; Qamar Qureshi, Lead Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, and Amit Mallick, Inspector General of Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority, visited KNP on April They said all the cheetahs

were in good physical condi-tion, making kills at regular intervals and displaying natural behaviours.

Cheetahs were chosen for release based on their behavioural characteristics and approachability by the monitoring teams.

The rest of the cheetahs will remain in the acclimatisacamps for the duration of the monsoon season.

"Certain internal gates will be left open to allow these cheetahs to utilise more space and for interactions between specific males and females to take place," the Ministry said.

The situation will be reviewed after the monsoon season and further releases into KNP or surrounding areas will be done in a planned manner as per the Cheetah Conservation Action Plan to establish meta population, it said.

Qureshi said a majority of the five cheetahs are those brought from South Africa and that India would like to release all the cheetahs into the wild as soon as possible.

We can conduct another row: BJP... review before the monsoon and release more cheetahs if there's a window to do so," he From Page 1

"We are going for staggered

release of cheetahs because we want them to settle down and claim their territory," the WII official said. Of the four cheetahs that

have already been released into free-ranging conditions, two (Gaurav and Shaurya) have stayed within the park and have not shown any interest in exploring the landscape beyond the borders of the park, according to the ministry statement. A female cheetah named

Aasha has made two exploratory excursions to the east of KNP beyond the buffer zone but has remained within the broader Kuno landscape and has not ventured into humandominated areas. Another male (Pawan)

explored areas well beyond the boundaries of the park on two occasions, venturing into farmland near the border with Uttar Pradesh during his second excursion. He was darted by the veterinary team and returned to an acclimatisation camp in KNP.

The Ministry said movements of cheetahs, like other large carnivores, are known to range widely during the initial few months after being rein-

"These movements are unpredictable and depend on many factors. After several months, the cheetahs should establish their own communication networks and settle down in relatively fixed home

ranges.
"It is important that individual cheetahs do not become totally isolated from the reintroduced group during this phase as they will then not participate in breeding and will thus be genetically isolated," it

Their degree of isolation will be assessed once they settle down and appropriate action will be taken to enhance their connectivity to the group.

K'taka sovereignty

Karnataka is not different from India. This is a shocking

statement leading to igniting divisive sentiments and to create disharmony in the society, added the BJP's complaint. "Karnataka is a very

important member State in the Union of India and any call to protect the sovereignty of a member State of the Union of India amounts to a call for secession and is fraught with perilous and pernicious consequences," the party said.

Speaking to reporters, party leader Tarun Chugh, who was part of the delegation, besides BJP MP Anil Baluni and leader Om Pathak, cited the Representation of the People Act and said the Congress party should be derecognised.

Modi had on Sunday alleged that the disease of the "tukde-tukde gang" (anti-national elements) has reached the Congress' top level.

The BJP filed a complaint with the Election Commission in Bengaluru as well and requested it to issue direction for registration of an FIR against her over the use of the word "sovereignty".

Describing the Congress'

tweet quoting Sonia as "shock-Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who filed the complaint, said the former Congress chief had violated provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and requested the EC to take stringent action against her for making "such a statement".

Karandlaje, convener of the BJP Election Management Committee, also requested the EC to issue directions to register an FIR against her and take exemplary punitive action.

This is an insult to freedom fighters from Karnataka, who fought for India's independence. It is an insult to crores of patriotic Kannadigas, who swear by India and cherish their Indianness," said the Union Minister of State.

Kerala Story ban sparks BJP-TMC feud...

From Page 1 The film's producer Vipul

Shah said they will take legal action against the ban imposed by the TMC Government. To avoid any incident of

hatred and violence and to maintain peace in the state, the CM has directed an immediate ban on screening of 'The Kerala Story'. Action will be taken against any cinema hall that violates the ban," the West Bengal Government official

Earlier in the day, Mamata alleged at a news conference that 'The Kashmir Files' was made to humiliate one section of the society whereas 'The Kerala Story' was a distorted movie aimed at defaming the southern State.

On Sunday, President of Tamil Nadu Theatre and Multiplex Owners Association M Subramaniam, popularly known as Tiruppur Subramaniam, said a few multiplexes that had screened the film in the state have decided to withdraw it.

Directed by Sudipto Sen, the film depicts how women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic State(IS). The film, which was released on May 5, has kicked up a political storm.

"If that's what she has done, then we will again take legal action. Whatever is possible under the provisions of the law, we will fight that," Vipul Shah told a press conference in Mumbai when asked to comment on the ban in the TMCruled state.

"If a State Government or private person will try to stop the film, then we will try every legal route possible. Shah called "The Kerala Story" a film on a "serious social subject" and requested the Tamil Nadu Government to ensure a "smooth and fair' release of the movie. "In Tamil Nadu, one individual has threatened and forced the Government to stop the release," he said without nam-

3 killed as Mig-21 jet

The IAF has planned to phase out all remaining squadrons (a squadron has 18 to 20 jets) based in Srinagar was number plated, which in IAF parlance means that the squadron was retired

crashes into Raj...

The squadron became a household name when one of its pilots wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman, who was awarded Vir Chakra, shot down a Pakistani F-16 during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27, 2019.

The aerial battle took place a day after IAF bombed a terror facility in Pakistan's Balakot. Three remaining squadrons will follow suit over the next three years.

The Russian made MiG-21's were inducted into the IAF in 1963 and till now nearly 400 mishaps have taken place involving this aircraft. Around 200 pilots have been killed in these crash-

In fact, the planes acquired the dubious nickname of "Flying Coffin" due to its alarming safety record. The IAF has over the years been phasing out MiG-21 which at one point of time numbered 874 and formed the mainstay of the country's air defence.

The planes were upgraded from time to time to ensure operational readiness and fill the gap arising out of delays in procurement of the latest jets.

Pee-gate: SC to hear woman's plea on SOP for airlines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine the plea of a 72-year-old woman, on whom a male copassenger allegedly urinated on board an Air India flight in November last year, seeking a direction to the Centre, aviation regulator DGCA and all airlines to frame an SOP to deal with such incidents.

A bench of Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala took note of the plea of the woman and issued notices to the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and all airlines, including Air India. The top court also sought

the assistance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who General Tushar Mehta, who was present, in the case for formulating the standard operating procedure (SOP), and fixed the plea for hearing after the summer vacation in July. "This is that 72 year old woman who had suffered an incident in a flight. Mr incident in a flight.... Mr Solicitor General, she wants

that such cases do not arise, the CJI said while issuing notices to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and others. Besides the Centre and DGCA, the top court also

issued notices to Air India,

Vistara, Indigo, Go Airlines

guidelines to be formulated so

(India) Ltd, Akasa Air and Spicejet Ltd on the plea of the The woman had filed a PIL in March saying she was constrained to approach the top court because Air India and the DGCA failed to treat

her with care and responsibil-

ity after the incident. The woman, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, referred to seven instances of passenger misconduct on board from 2014 to 2023 alleging that

they were not dealt with properly by the airline concerned.

The public interest litigation (PIL) sought a direction from the Central Government and the DGCA to ensure that Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) norms adhere to the highest standards laid down internationally.

SC seeks reply from Centre, Bihar over premature release of Anand Mohan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and the Bihar Government on a plea chal-State lenging the Government's decision to prematurely release former MP Anand Mohan, who was serving life term in the 1994 murder case of then Gopalganj District Magistrate G Krishnaiah. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and JK Maheshwari issued notices to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Bihar Government and Mohan on the plea.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Uma Krishnaiah, the wife of the slain officer, said it is an unfortunate matter. The bench said it is issuing notice on the plea. Mohan was released from the Saharsa jail on April 27 fol-lowing an amendment in Bihar's prison rules.

The petitioner has contended that life imprisonment awarded to the gangsterturned-politician meant incarceration for his entire natural course of life and it cannot be mechanically interpreted to last just 14 years.

Why didn't you tell HC it can't order quota...

The bench noted in its order, "The solicitor general has stated that the State of Manipur is taking appropriate steps in respect of order of a single judge of the high court dated March 27, 2023 by moving the competent forum in that regard."

Terming the aftermath of the violence "humanitarian issues", the apex court emphasised that due arrangements must be made in the relief camps and the people sheltered there be provided with basic amenities like food, ration and medical facilities. "We are concerned very deeply about the

loss of lives, about the loss of properties and the government is taking steps...," said the SC.

The bench said, having expressed its concerns, it must leave it to the Government to take action because ultimately the court can't say that go to this area with so much of equipment. The top court said it has no reason to doubt what the government is doing to tackle the situation. The bench said the authorities should ensure that due arrangements are made in relief camps for providing all basic amenities, and make endeavour for rehabilitation

of those displaced and protect

places of religious worship. The Solicitor General informed the bench that 52 companies of the central armed police forces (CAPF) and 105 columns of the Army/Assam Rifles have been deployed in Manipur and flag marches have been conducted in the disturbed areas. He said a senior former police officer has been appointed as security advisor by the state and another senior officer has been repatriated yesterday from central deputation to serve as the chief secretary to the Government of Manipur.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई रूपांकण प्रमंडल दुमका शिविर देवघर

ई - निवि<u>दा आमंत्रण स</u>ूचना e-Tender Reference No.: WRD/MIDDDC/DEOGHAR/F2-02/2023-24

आमंत्रित करने आमंत्रित करने की योजना का नाम प्राक्कलित राशि अग्रधन की राशि प्रखण्ड प्रकाशन की खोलने की तिथि पदाधिकारी के पदाधिकारी का संपर्क कार्यालय का नाम एवं पत जोरिया पर 1,52,06,928.75 3,04,200.00 10,000.00 श्रृखलाबद्ध चेकडैम निर्माण कार्य टेपरा जोरिया पर अभियंता, लघु 9142781867 सिंचाई रुपांकण **10 AM To** श्रुखलाबद्ध चेकडैम सोनारायठाडी 1,13,84,253.27 2,27,700.00 10,000.00 31.05.2023 29.05.2023 कदमातरी जोरिया प्रमंडल दुमका शिविर देवघर 05 PM पर चेकडैम निर्माण 5,000.00 कार्य पथरिया जोरिय 5,000.00 पर चेकडैम निर्माण 41.32.780.63 82,700.00 11 माह कार्य हेठठाड़ी जोरिया पर चेकडैम निर्माण 55,29,439.64 12.05.2023 29.05.2023 31.05.2023

केवल ई—मिविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा । 2. प्राक्कलित राशि घट—बढ़ सकती है । 3. सरकार के द्वारा निर्गत सभी अद्यतन परिपत्र, अधिसूचना 🗦 निविदा में लागू रहेंगे । 4. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtenders. gov. in पर लॉगआन करें | 5. परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि ओदी कागजात प्रमंडलें कार्यालय में जमा करने की तिथि <u>दिनांक 12.05.2023</u> के <u>पूर्वाहन् 10:00 बजे से 30.05.2023</u> के <u>अपराहन् 03:00 बजे तक </u>

10,000.00

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चेकडैम निर्माण

कार्यपालक अभियंता लघु सिंचाई रुपांकण प्रमंडल, दुमका शिविर देवघर

Date :- 08.05.2023

Travel with QR code tickets in...

The DMRC has upgraded its AFC (automatic fare collection) gates, and token or customer care counters, to support the new feature, a senior offi-

Initially, two AFC gates, one each for entry and exit, were upgraded at all stations for travel by QR-based paper tickets, the DMRC said. "The concept of issuing tokens will be gradually phased out with the introduction of these more transparent and human intervention-free and cashless mechanisms thereby facilitating more convenient, seamless, time saving and error fee travel for its passengers," it said in a statement.

It has also targeted to make the AFC gates across the network QR code-compliant by the end of June this year along



with upgrading the ticket vending machines for dispensing QR-based paper tickets, they said. Delhi Metro, which began its operations in December 2002 with a corridor of just 8.2 km spanning six stations on the Red Line, has grown into a network of 391 km with 286 stations. Mobile-based QR tickets are currently available only at Airport Express Line.

Officials said the passengers will only be able to enter from the station where the QR ticket (non-refundable) has been issued and not from any other station. However, in case of failure in revenue services, refund of QR-based paper ticket will be granted.

Passengers will be allowed to enter the metro system within 60 minutes from the time of the issuance of such a ticket. If a passenger fails to enter the system through the ticket within 60 minutes, the ticket will become invalid, the DMRC For now, a QR-based paper

ticket will only allow one to travel between two specific stations, the statement said. If the passenger wants to exit from any intermediate station. that it, before the destination station, the AFC gates will not open with the ticket. In such a case, a free exit ticket will be

issued to the passenger and the old QR-based paper ticket will be retained by the customer care operator.

In case a passenger wants to exit from a station beyond the destination station, the AFC gates will again not open with the ticket. The passenger will then be asked to pay the difference of fare, before he or she could exit. The customer care operator will issue an exit ticket and will retain the old QR-based paper ticket, the statement said.

Any photographic image (taken on a mobile phone) or copy of a QR-based paper ticket will not be considered valid, and passengers with such an image or copy of it, will be treated as "without a valid ticket" and be dealt with according to DMRC rules, offi-

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Wazirabad plant: L-G asks DJB to submit ATR in 15 days

Out of Saxena's jurisdiction, political move, says Water Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Slamming the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) for not addressing the "miserable hygiene and sanitary conditions" that he had flagged at the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant almost two months ago, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said "major" penalty proceedings are required to be initiated against all the officers named in the report submitted by the

"The role of other officers



tain any negligence on their part and action be taken," he said, asking the DJB to furnish an action taken report (ATR) within 15 days. Meanwhile, Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj condemned L-G's move and termed it as politically motivated. He said that Delhi LG's office for interfering with the functioning of the DJB despite it being out of his juris-



diction. According to a note issued by the LG Office, the DJB submitted a report to the chief secretary on April 6 without addressing the issue of water quality being supplied from the Wazirabad and Chandrawal Water Treatment Plants. The L-G said that despite his clear direction to expedite de-silting/ cleaning of the pondage area at Wazirabad

not only reflectlack of urgency, it also does not fix accountably upon those concerned. "There is also no mention about the plans for upgradation of the WTP, which was desired to be taken on priority," he said. In a fresh note to the chief secretary, the LG said: "It is again emphasised that providing potable drinking water of adequate standard to the citizens of Delhi is the forement record." Delhi is the foremost responsibility of the DJB, which should never be compromised. Any dereliction in this regard should be immediately identi-fied and exemplary action ini-tiated against the erring officers/officials."

"However, from the conclusions, suggestions and actions proposed in the instant report, it is discerned that my

soning adduced in respect of the grave lapses observed during my inspection are unacceptable," he said.

After his visit, Saxena wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressing "deep distress" on the state of the Wazirabad water treatment plant (WTP) and feeder pondage area at Wazirabad Barrage, that feeds the Wazirabad and Chandrawal WTPs, following a visit earlier Seeking the CM's "urgent intervention", the L-G said the

"miserable hygiene and sani-tary conditions" at Wazirabad WTP, which supplies drinking water to large parts of the city, has an impact on its quality. Delhi gets around 40 per cent raw water from the Yamuna from the Ganga from Uttar Pradesh, and Bhakra Nangal from Punjab.

The Wazirabad Barrage on the Yamuna in north Delhi is the primary holding area where raw water is lifted for Wazirabad and Chandrawal treatment plants. In the note, the L-G said that however, despite the urgency of the issue that involved threat to health and lives of lakhs of people dependent on water supply from the Wazirabad and Chandrawal WTPs, the Action Taken Report by the DJB has been found to be extremely shoddy and perfunctory, and does not even address the basic issues apart from not fixing

The L-G has accordingly written in his note to the Chief Secretary, "It is again empha-

responsibility and taking action

against the guilty officials.

sized that providing potable drinking water of adequate standard to the Citizens of Delhi is the foremost responsibility of DJB, which should never be compromised. Any dereliction in this regard should be immediately identified and exemplary action initiated against the erring offi-cers/officials. However, from the conclusions/ suggestions/ actions proposed in the instant report, it is discerned that my concerns have not received the

expected response. The reasoning adduced in respect of the grave lapses observed during my inspection are unacceptable to say the very least." As per the statement issued by the Water Minister, the LG is well aware of the fact that DJB is grappling with artificial shortage of funds created

for many months since officials of the finance department have been asking for voluminous information back and forth. DJB has not even received complete funds allocated by the government for the year 2021-22 due to never ending R&D being done by Principal Secretary finance from September 2022 at the cost of public service."This conduct has been brought to the knowledge of LG by Legislative Assembly Committees, senior officials of the department in meetings as well through pub-

It is hard to believe how Principal Secretary Finance is sitting over the budget which is duly approved by Cabinet and Legislative Assembly for welfare schemes of Delhi govern-

Delhi Govt plans premium buses to woo car users, sends proposal to L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has sent a proposal for introducing premium buses on Delhi roads through private aggregators for Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's approval. Announcing this on Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the proposal for plying premium buses has been

sent to Lieutenant Governor for Once the LG approves this scheme, the government will table it for public feedback for one month. This initiative aims to encourage people who comtowards the public transport network. "Following the LG's approval, we will share the policy online for seeking public feedback," the chief minis-

will be approved. Kejriwal said the buses, which will be equipped with CCTV cameras, Wi-Fi, GPS, panic buttons and will be air conditioned, will encourage the middle and upper middle classes to use public transport.

ter said at a press conference.

He said he hoped the scheme



People will be able to book their seats online or through an "Furthermore, CNG buses will not be more than three years old, and each bus will have at

Moreover, the Delhi Government will only allow aggregators to ply electric buses after January 1, 2024. Aggregators will also be allowed to chart bus routes on their own, but they must provide complete information to the government," he said.

The policy stipulates that no bus older than three years will be used by aggregators. Buses purchased after January 1, 2024 will be electric. The seats in the buses will be

booked through an app," he said. The booking prices for these buses will be higher than those of DTC tickets and in accordance with the market. Hence, there will be no provi-

sion for free travel for women,

Kejriwal said there is a large number of cars and scooters on Delhi roads. "Delhi is the capital of our country and our public transport should be world class and at par with foreign cities. If we want to get people to use public trans-port, we should make public transport safe, comfortable and punctual," he said. The biggest revolution was when Delhi Metro started and people started using it, he said. "This

reduced the number of vehicles reduced on roads," he said. But the metro has also become crowded and people have started using private vehicles again. There are cluster buses and DTC buses but they are restricted to the lower middle class, the chief minister said. "We will invite public feed-

back on the scheme and if we get some good suggestions, we will incorporate it into the scheme and then it will be implemented in Delhi. I firmly believe that such a scheme will greatly benefit public transport in not just Delhi but throughout the country," he

Kejriwal also informed the media that this scheme has been finalised and the file will be sent to the LG Office today. "As the protocol mandates here in Delhi, we will be sending this file to the LG Office today. It is upto the LG to decide if he wants the citizens of Delhi to have this service, or whether he wants to send the file to the President's Office. But since it is a public welfare scheme, I hope that the LG will give his approval to the scheme," he

Group of farmers breaks through barricades to join wrestlers' sit-in

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tantar Mantar on Monday witnessed dramatic scenes this morning as a group of farmers broke through barricades to join the wrestlers' protest over sexual harassment allegations against the national wrestling federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and BJP MP, even as Delhi Police denied any unto ward incident at the site. Visuals from the spot showed farmers crossing over and removing barricades put up by the police near the wrestlers' protest site. Purported videos showed farmers climbing the barricades and even dragging and pushing some of them away in a bid to enter the protest venue.

Hours later, the police barricades, which were damaged during the hustle, were welded together and placed at the site as part of a precautionary measure to ensure that no untoward incident takes place. Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal said some farmers were "in a hurry" to reach the dharna site. The barricades were removed to escort the farmers into the site and the



Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

meeting was being held peacefully, he added. "A group of farmers were escorted to Jantar Mantar. At entry barricades they were in a hurry to reach the dharna site and some of them climbed the barricades which fell down and were removed by them. Policemen kept the barricades aside to facilitate their

entry," the DCP said in a tweet. "The protestors have reached the dharna site and the meeting is going on peacefully," he added. Police insisted that there was no clash with the protesters and that the cops at the site were facilitating the protesters and ensuring a peaceful

believe in fake news. The protestors at Jantar Mantar are being facilitated. Entry is being regulated through DFMD to ensure safety. Please remain peaceful and abide by the law," a tweet by Delhi Police's official Twitter handle said. Farmers in large numbers reached the site to express their solidarity with the protesting wrestlers. Demanding justice for female wrestlers, the farmers, carrying their union flags, raised anti-Modi slogans. Shiv Sena MP Taking to Twitter, she shared pictures from the protest site and demanded justice for the wresters. "In solidarity with our women wrestlers. Justice needs to be served, the GoI should stop shielding the accused," she

the protesters and addressed

tweeted. In a statement, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said thousands of farmers gathered at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara around 11 am and marched on foot towards Jantar Mantar. Farmer leaders said they stand united with the wrestlers and that they will work under the leadership of protesting Today they will have to fight

to save the honour of the daughters of this nation as well as their agriculture at the same time, the leaders said. "A case under the POCSO Act has been registered against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Singh. Yet he has not been called by Delhi Police for questioning. He is being shielded by BJP leaders. These female wrestlers are our daughters and we will fight for their honour,"

Excise case: Kejriwal says BJP maligning AAP

DKejriwal on Monday said that the excise policy case is a desperate attempt by the BJP to "malign an honest party like the AAP". Kejriwal also took to Twitter and said the whole liquor scam is false.

Kejriwal said that BJP is saying 'Kejriwal is next on the list, this means BJP is controlling ED-CBI. He further said that BJP is threatened by the honesty of AAP, and that's why they are resorting to such tactics.

His remarks came two days after a Delhi court granted bail to two accused in a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in relation to alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. Alleging that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has fabricated the entire liquor scam plot and then instructed the ED-CBI to make up false evidence against the AAP, the chief minister said that 'Delhi Liquor Scam' alle-

the party's image and betray the people's trust was carried out under the guise of the 'Delhi Liquor Scam', he said, adding that the BJP had claimed that the South Lobby paid a bribe of Rs 100 crore to AAP members but it has failed to prove it. "The CBI-ED have also accepted in the court that out of Rs 100 crore, they do not have any evidence of this scam.

The CBI-ED had alleged that a person named Rajesh Joshi translocated Rs 30 crore from the South Lobby and handed it over to the AAP leadership in Delhi. The only 'proof' they have is that someone had stated to them that Joshi gave Rs 30 crore to AAP,"

Dismissing charges of of any liquor scam, Kejriwal said that the accusations were entirely false, and the party has always maintained its integrity. "The Aam Aadmi Party is known for its commitment to honesty, and its leadership has earned the trust of the entire

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI gations nothing more than BJP's conspiracy against AAP. A conspiracy to malign A conspiracy to malign of May 6 bail order, says Bhatia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at the Chief ■ Minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that the AAP leaders are holding press conferences to "spread lies" using parts of the May 6 bail order of the court as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is scared and worried about his fate since his deputy Manish Sisodia was arrested in the

"Court's bail order is not its judgement. Yet, all spokespersons of the Aam Aadmi Party are lying and using the bail border to say that that court held there was no proof of any scam in the case," Bhatia charged. The court in the May 6 order granted bail to co-accused Rajesh Joshi and Gautam Malhotra in the case and did not acquit them, he said.



BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

'When such kind of press conferences are being held, Delhi High Court should take cognizance of it. It is being done only to influence the judiciary and mislead the public. This is matter of contempt of court," Bhatia added.

The BJP spokesperson also hit out at AAP national convenor Kejriwal alleging that he came into politics with the promise of eradicating corrup-

tion but became "a synonym of corruption" himself. "Kejriwal is synonymous with corruption.... He is hardcore dishonest and kingpin of the liquor scam," Bhatia charged. AAP leaders are holding press conferences and using the court's bail orders to spread lies and mislead people as Kejriwal is "so scared and worried" about his fate since his deputy Sisodia was arrested in the case, he added. "If there is no prima facie case, why Manish Sisodia has not got any relief from the court so far.

The Supreme Court also declined to entertain his plea," the BJP spokesperson contended. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva accused Kejriwal of trying to divert attention from the renovation "scam" involving his bungalow, by hoisting the issue of bail granted to two accused in the excise policy case.

HC raps Tihar authorities over recovery of 4 knives

STAFF REPORTER | NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on ■ Monday questioned jail authorities over recovery of four knives from Tihar prison premises where gangster Tillu Tajpuriya was stabbed to death allegedly by inmates belonging to a rival gang and termed it as "unacceptable state of affairs". The court asked why no preventive or remedial action was taken by authorities when the incident took place as the entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in jail premises.

Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice to the Director General of Prisons (Delhi), Delhi government and Commissioner of Police on a petition filed by Tajpuriya's father and brother seeking an investigation by the CBI into the "brutal murder" inside Tihar Jail premises on May 2. The petitioners, represented through senior advocate Maninder Singh, said they are



DTC drivers and sought adequate security for themselves. The senior lawyer argued that it was a case of connivance between the jail officials and the offending inmates who killed Tajpuriya as it could be seen in the video that no jail official intervened to save him. He said the deceased was earlier lodged in Rohini jail and was shifted to Tihar jail just 15

days before the incident.

The high court directed the Delhi Police to ensure safety and security of both the petitioners, and listed the matter for further hearing on May 25. The judge watched the video in the court and said it was seen that Tajpuriya was taken out of his cell and stabbed to death.

The court said it was unable to comprehend why no action was taken by jail officials and sought to know if any of the officials have been suspended for the lapses. "This is totally an unacceptable state of affairs. The security of every prisoner is on the respondent. am unable to gather what is happening here," the judge

The high court directed additional standing counsel Rahul Tyagi, representing the state, to file an affidavit within one week through the Director General of Prisons explaining how four knives were found in prison. It also asked jail superintendent concerned to be present in the court on the next date of hearing. "The affidavit shall also explain if incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in Tihar jail premises, why no preventive/remedial action was taken by the respondents.

Delhi Prisons DG meets with TN Police, ITBP to discuss ways to address security concerns in Tihar

New Delhi: Senior officers of the ITBP and the Tamil Nadu Police that are deployed in Tihar Jail met the Delhi Prisons Director General Sanjay Beniwal on Monday to discuss ways to address security concerns in the wake of the brutal killing of gangster Tillu Tajpuriya inside the prison premises last week, officials

The meetings come after Beniwal wrote to the heads of the security agencies whose personnel are deployed at the Tihar, one of the largest prisons in Asia, as part of security arrangements.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Bhanwar Singh met DG Prisons today. The two senior officials discussed various issues including security concerns in Tihar," a jail official said. H M Jayaram, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Tamil Nadu Police, also met the DG Prisons to dis-

cuss the matter, he said. After meeting the senior officials, Beniwal said that the Tamil Nadu DGP had sent the ADGP to assess and see what improvements are needed at the Tihar Jail. He added that the meeting was very nice. When asked about the steps being taken, "At every step dos and dont's are being reviewed. We will take lessons from our mis-takes and will take steps to strengthen security.'

We reviewed the security and I would say it's a work in progress. It's an ongoing process and I feel we will improve by learning from mistakes," Beniwal said.

DU Academic Council urges VC to appoint principal of Bhagat Singh (evening) College to 1.5 years ago. As per the

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

section AUniversity's executive and academic council members have demanded the appointment of a principal at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (evening). They have also called for halting of teachers' interview till a permanent principal is recruited at the college.

At present, the morning college's principal has been assigned additional charges of the principal of the evening college. However, teachers have said that this is against the rules as the senior most teacher should be assigned as acting principal till the permanent



appointment is made. In a letter to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Sunday, seven DU's Academic and Executive Council members claimed that the temporary arrangement for the full-fledged working college goes against the "ethos and practised norms of the university". "The post got vacant 1

rules, the senior teacher at the college would act as the acting principal and he was retired. No efforts were made to fill this post. Moreover, the incumbent principal of the morning college has been assigned additional charge of the principal evening college

There is no provision to do this," a professor said. In the letter, the teachers highlighted that the stakeholders are in deep concern about the future of the college as the "incumbent principal in collaboration with governing body chairman has been instrumental in displacing a large

number of experienced teach-

a recently held recruitment". "Hence, in the larger interest of the institution and supporting the genuine demand of the staff association, we appeal to you to adhere to the provision of the university ordinance and appoint the senior most professor of that college officiating/acting principal till the permanent principal is appointed," read the letter. "Further, we request you to

speed up the process of recruiting the permanent principal and halt the appointments till a permanent principal is recruited. We hope you will act in the interest of the institution," it added.

Man shot in lawyer's office in Govindpuri Commissioner of Police

New Delhi: A man was shot dead at an advocate's office in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri following a scuffle between two parties over a monetary dispute.

The incident took place on Sunday night when advocate Sushil Gupta called his client Zafrool and Syed Mukkim Raza, with whom he had a monetary dispute of Rs. 4,000, to his office. Raza along with Ankit, Mukim, Varun and Gulam Md reached Gupta's office. During the meeting, a scuffle broke out between the two parties. Upon hearing the commotion, locals gathered at the advocate's office, Deputy

(Southeast) Rajesh Deo said. Seeing the crowd, Varun took out a pistol and fired several shots inside the office. One of the bullets hit Anas Ahmad who was present there, he said. The injured was taken to Majidia Hospital where he was declared brought dead, he said. The public caught hold of

AIIMS Trauma Centre, the DCP said. A black creta bearing a Haryana registration number was found damaged by the public following the firing incident, he said.

Gulam and thrashed. He is

undergoing treatment at

Chinese ships close in |4-nation NSA-level talks held in Jeddah on ASEAN drill in SCS

Naval Base, Singapore from

May two to four, while the sea

China has longstanding

resource-rich South China Sea

with several members of the

regional bloc including

Malaysia, the Philippines and

Vietnam. The opening ceremony of the inaugural ASEAN-

India Maritime Exercise (AIME-23) was held at the Changi Naval Base in

Singapore last week. Indian ships INS Satpura and INS

Delhi are participating in the exercise along with its P-8 I

long range maritime recon-

Kumar and his Singaporean

counterpart Rear Admiral Sean

Wat, and senior dignitaries

from ASEAN were present.

The regional bloc consists of

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia,

Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the

Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The

inaugural edition of AIME is

being co-hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy

ingly belligerent in stressing its

claims in the South China Sea.

Beijing has been increas-

and Indian Navy.

Navy chief Admiral R Hari

naissance aircraft.

Move seen as bid to disturb naval drill which India is part of, escalate tension in the region



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

phase was scheduled to be \mathbf{I}^{n} apparent bid to flex its muscles in the South China conducted on May seven and eight in the South China Sea. Sea, Chinese ships have report-Notably, this is not the first time edly come in close proximity of that the Indian Navy is conthe ongoing Association of ducting an exercise with the South-East Nations Association navies of other countries in the (ASEAN) naval drill there. South China Sea. Indian Navy is also participating in the maiden exercise. territorial disputes in the

The move by the Chinese militia on Monday was also seen as an attempt to disturb the maritime exercise, sources said here adding it was attempt to escalate tension in the region. They also said the participating ships in the ASEAN drill have taken defensive manoeuvres in response to the Chinese action.

It was learnt the Chinese militia on its way to Spratlys Island changed its course and started heading towards the South China Sea where 'Exercise Flotilla' was being conducted. According to sources, the distance of the Chinese ship from the location of the ongoing exercise has been reduced to 30 km from 145 km in the last five hours.

According to a statement released by the Indian Navy, the joint drill is aimed at "promoting maritime cooperation and enhancing trust, friendship and confidence among the ASEAN and Indian navies".

The harbour phase of the exercise was held at the Changi IAF was keeping close watch over stray Pak plane

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

s a Pakistan International Asirlines (PIA) Boeing 777 passenger plane entered the Indian airspace on May 4, the IAF was keeping a watch. Also, the Delhi air traffic control was informed of the conditions the plane was experiencing and had processed a request for the Boeing to fly a detour given the weather in the area. The Pakistani plane reportedly remained in the Indian airspace

Giving these details here on Monday, sources also said the incident of the PIA that was flying in Indian airspace due to bad weather was coordinated between Lahore and Delhi, with information being shared with the Air Traffic Liaison Unit. The Indian Air Force was in the picture and was monitoring the situation. The PIA flight PK-248 took off from Muscat for Allama Iqbal International Airport in Laĥore when it had to abort its landing due to bad weather condi-

A tracker on Flight Radar 24, a commercially available app that monitors aircraft movement around the world, reports that the PIA jet flew north of Bhikhiwind in Punjab at 8.42pm on May 4 shortly after entering Indian airspace.

It then flew over the city of Tarn Taran before turning southwest to eventually return to Pakistani airspace where it diverted to Multan and landed there. Pakistan International Airlines has permission to operate certain flights over Indian airspace, including flights to Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.

Several Indian airlines operate daily flights to West through Pakistani airspace.

Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval on May 7 in Saudi Arabia to advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world."

"Sullivan also held bilateral meetings with the Crown Prince, Sheikh Tahnoon, and Doval to discuss bilateral and regional matters. He looks forward to further consulting with Doval on the margins of the Quad Summit later this month in Australia," the White House said. This is the first meeting between Doval and Sullivan after they launched the ambitious India US ICET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology) dialogue here in January. Sullivan is currently travelling to Saudi Arabia.

With Crown Prince Mohammed, Sullivan reviewed significant progress in talks to further consolidate the now 15month-long truce in Yemen and welcomed ongoing UN-led

India, US, UAE, Saudi aim to advance shared vision of secure West Asia linked by rail, sea lanes with South Asia

close, as well as covering a range of other issues. "The four delegates agreed to maintain regular consultations and follow up on the matters discussed throughout the day," the White House said.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on Monday reported the meeting between Sullivan and Crown Prince in Jeddah. They discussed Saudi-. US strategic relations and how to enhance them in various fields, as well as regional and international developments of common interest, the SPA reported. Separately, the Crown Prince held another meeting with the deputy ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh 'Tahnoun and Indian national security adviser Doval, which Sullivan and the US delegation also attended, it said.

The SPA reported that the meeting involved discussions of ways to strengthen ties between the respective countries in a manner that would enhance the growth and stability of the

Meanwhile, Axios, a Virginia-headquartered news company, reported that the US, Saudi, Emirati and Indian national security advisers were to discuss a possible major joint infrastructure project to connect Gulf and Arab countries via a network of railways that would also be connected to India via shipping lanes from ports in the region.

The project is one of the key initiatives the White House wants to push in the Middle East as China's influence in the region grows, the report said. The Middle East is a key part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) vision. Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, the BRI is a vast collection of development and investment initiatives that have been planned to link East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure, significantly increasing China's economic and political influence across the world.

A US official had said the project would be one of many topics discussed during the visit. The idea for the new initiative came up during talks held over the last 18 months in another forum called I2U2, which includes the US, Israel, the UAE and India, the report quoted two sources as saying. The forum was established in late 2021 to discuss strategic infrastructure projects in the Middle East.

"Nobody said it out loud but it was about China from day one," a former senior Israeli official directly involved in early discussions on the issue

C-295 aircraft successfully finishes its maiden flight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW

Given the close ties between Tthe four countries, National Security Advisors (NSA) of India, the US, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates(UAE) discussed the

entire gamut of their ties and

regional matters besides their

shared vision of a more secure

and prosperous Middle-East.
The NSAs also reportedly

discussed the feasibility of a rail

link between the countries of

West Asia and connect the

region to South Asia via sea

lanes. India is likely to provide

the expertise in building the rail

infrastructure as it runs a vast

between the NSAs took place

in Jeddah on Sunday, the White

House said late Sunday in Washington. "National

Security Advisor Jake Sullivan

met with Saudi Prime Minister

and Crown Prince Mohammed

bin Salman, UAE National

Washington.

The crucial meeting

rail network in the country.

DELHI/WASHINGTON

The first C-295 medium transport tactical aircraft for India has successfully completed its maiden flight, marking a significant milestone towards its delivery by the second half of 2023.

The tactical aircraft took off from The tactical aircraft took off from Seville, Spain, on May 5 and landed after three hours of flight.

The IAF had inked a contract with Airbus Defence and Space last year to for 56 C-295 aircraft to replace its aging fleet of Avro fleet. While 16 C-295s will be bought off the shelf from the manufacturer, the remaining aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by the Tata Advanced Systems (TASĹ) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October last year laid the foundation stone of the manufacturing facility in Vadodra, Gujarat. The development was seen as significant since this is the first time that a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private consor-



tium. As regards the maiden flight, the Airbus said on Monday "This first flight represents a significant accomplishment for the first Make in India aerospace

With the Indian Air Force set to become the largest operator of the C295 in the world, this programme exemplifies our commitment to improve the Indian Air Force (IAF) operational capabilities," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Military Air Systems at Airbus Defence and Space. The C295 Final Assembly Line being built in Gujarat is the first concrete, large-scale Make-in-India defence programme in the private

sector that will unlock the industrial value chain of design, manufacturing, assembly, testing, delivery and maintenance of the complete lifecycle of the

This programme will significantly contribute towards developing the indigenous capabilities of Indian companies for an 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'. The global C295 programme comprises a total of 280 orders from 39 operators, making it an unmatched aircraft in its weight and mission class.

In September last year, the defence ministry signed a Rs 21,935-crore contract with Airbus Defence and Space for 56 C295 planes to give a push to the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (selfreliant India campaign). Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space are jointly executing the programme.

As part of the contract, 16 C295 aircraft will be delivered by Airbus in flyaway condition from Spain, and the remaining 40 will be manufactured in India. The 16 flyaway aircraft are scheduled to be delivered between September 2023 and August 2025 while the first Made in India C295 will roll out of the new facility in September 2026 and the remaining 39 by August

The C-295 can carry up to nine tonnes of payload or 71 personnel (or 45 paratroopers) and has a maximum speed of 480kmph. It can also operate from short or unprepared airstrips, has a rear ramp for paradropping troops and cargo, and will strengthen the logistics capabilities of IAF. Apart from the 56 planes already ordered, the C295 facility at Vadodara will be capable of meeting the additional requirements of the air force and catering to export

All 56 aircraft will be fitted with an indigenous electronic warfare suite developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Limited. After the completion of the delivery of 56 aircraft to the IAF, Airbus Defence and Space will be allowed to sell the aircraft manufactured in India to civilian operators and export to countries cleared by New

e-Procurement Cell JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI Date- 08-05-2023 **Short Term e-Procurement Notice**

No	No.	'	Nork Name	Amount in (Rs)	Time
1	JSBCCL/45/2023-		Furniture and Miscellaneous work)	2,36,07,561/-	06 Months
_	24	of New Profess	ional College, Jamshedpur	2,30,01,301,	00 1110111113
2	JSBCCL/46/2023-	Construction of Indoo	r Stadium at Margomunda under	4,42,63,300/-	11 Months
-	24	Madhupur subo	division in Deoghar District	4,42,63,300/-	TT MOUTIN
3	Date of Publicatio	n of Tender on Website	17.05.2023 at	11:00 AM	
4	Start Date of	Submission of Bids	17.05.2023 at	11:00 AM	
5	Last Date/Time	of Submission of Bids	07.06.2023 at	05:00 PM	
6	Last Date/Time	of Submission of Bid	00.06.2022 unto	11.20 ANA	
0	Security Mor	ney and Tender Fee	09.06.2023 upto) 11:30 AIVI	
7	Date/Time	of opening of Bid	09.06.2023 at	12:00 PM	
8	Name C Address	of office to divine head a	e-Procurement Cell, Jharkhand S	State Building Co	nstruction
0	Name & Address	of office Inviting tender	Corporation Ltd	d., Ranchi.	
9	Helpline Number	of e-procurement Cell	0651-244	6259	
10	e-	-mail ID	jsbccljharkhand@	gmail.com	
Δην	change can be se	en on Wehsite http://	/ Iharkhandtenders aov in		

Any other information can be seen on http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell **Jharkhand State Building Construction**

PR 296832 Jharkhand State Forest Development Corp Ltd(23-24)#D Corporation Ltd., Ranchi

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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 notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from 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 genera that the undersigned has taken 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 belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
	Tarun Lalwani/ Anita Lalwani/ Jawaharlal Mahender Kumar Lalwani/ Premlata Lalwani/ Neatxcess Communications Ltd/ Telexcell Information Systems Ltd/ LBDEL00002438189	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, Gurgaon Gateway, Tower-B, Sec- 112 & 113, Village Bajghera, Gurgaon Manesar, Gurgaon 122001/ May 05, 2023	April 02, 2022 Rs. 2,10,13,401/-	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 09, 2023

Authorized Officer

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank LTD Office Number 201-B, 2ND Floor, Road No 1 Plot No –B3, WIFI IT PARK,Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400604

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 notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the older of receipt of the said region. 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 with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

	No.	Borrower/ Loan Account Number	of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	of Branch
			Unit No. A-1505, 15th Floor, Casa Elite, Lakeshore Greens, Khidkaleshwar, Kalyan-Shil Road, Dombivali East, Survey No. 96/2A, 150/2A, 95/3, 150/3, 150/4A+4B, 97, 96/2A, Village Khoni, Taluka Kalyan, District Thane, Maharashtra- 421203/ May 03, 2023	October 19, 2022 Rs. 78,09,316.00/-	Mumbai
l	The	above-mentioned borro	owers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day no	tice to repay the am	ount, else

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as pe the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: May 09, 2023 Place: Delhi/ Ncr Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

DGCA asks Go First to stop sale of tickets with immediate effect

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of L Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday directed embattled Go First to stop the sale of tickets with immediate effect till further orders. DGCA has also issued a show cause notice to Go First under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for its failure to continue operations in a safe, efficient, and reliable manner. DGCA said it has asked Go First to submit its reply within 15 days of the receipt of the show cause notice. Post airline's reply in 15 days, DGCA will decide on its licence.

"In view of the sudden cancellation of flights and initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process under IBC by Go Airlines (India) Limited (Go First), DGCA has issued a show cause notice to Go First under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for their failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner," the DGCA said. "The airline operator has been asked to submit their reply within 15



days of the receipt of this notice, and further decision on the continuation of their Air Operators Certificate (AOC) will be taken on the basis of the reply submitted by them. Further, Go First has been directed to stop booking and sale of tickets directly or indirectly, with immediate effect and until further orders," it added.

This came after the airline earlier in the day requested the National Company of Law Tribunal (NCLT) to urgently pass an order on its insolvency

Earlier, the airline had suspended the sale of tickets till May 15 and has cancelled flights till May 12. The airline has filed a plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which has reserved its order.



affecting up to 10 per cent of patients. Now, researchers have developed "smart" coatings for such gadgets that they say can monitor strain on the devices to provide early warning of their failure while killing infection-causing bacteria. The coatings developed by

researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US, integrate flexible sensors with a nanostructured antibacterial surface inspired by the wings of dragonflies and cicadas. The research, published in

the journal Science Advances, found the coatings prevented infection in live mice and mapped strain in commercial implants applied to sheep spines to warn of various implant or healing failures.

'This is a combination of bio-inspired nanomaterial design with flexible electronics to battle a complicated, longterm biomedical problem," said study leader Qing Cao, professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Biofilms



can still form on waterrepelling surfaces, and coatings laden with antibiotic chemicals or drugs run out in a span of months and have toxic effects on the surrounding tissue with little efficacy against drugresistant strains of bacterial pathogens, according to the researcher. The team created a thin foil

Smart coating developed to kill

infection in orthopedic implants

patterned with nanoscale pillars like those found on the insects' wings. When a bacterial cell attempts to bind to the foil, the pillars puncture the cell wall, killing it. 'Using a mechanical approach to killing bacteria allowed us to bypass a lot of the problems with chemical approaches, while still giving us the flexibility needed to apply the coating to implant surfaces," said professor Gee Lau, coauthor of the study.

On the back side of the

nanostructured foil, where it contacts the implant device, the researchers integrated arrays of highly sensitive, flexible electronic sensors to monitor strain. This could help physicians watch the healing progress of individual patients, guide their rehabilitation to shorten the recovery time and minimise risks, and repair or replace devices before they hit the point of failure, the

researchers said.

The group then implanted the foils in live mice and monitored them for any sign of infection, even when bacteria were introduced. They also applied the coatings to commercially available spinal implants and monitored strain to the implants in sheep spines under normal load for device failure diagnosis. The coatings performed both functions well.

New tech for quick detection of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

new diagnostic technique A new diagnostic technique. A has been developed by the US researchers that will allow for faster and more accurate detection of neurodegenerative diseases Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and chronic wasting disease in animals.

Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, mad cow disease, and CWD (widely found in deer) share a common feature

 the buildup of misfolded proteins in the central nervous system. Detecting these misfolded proteins is crucial for understanding and diagnosing



these devastating disorders. However, existing diagnostic methods, like enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and immunohistochemistry, can be expensive, time-consuming, Biomedical Sciences. "What and limiting in terms of antibody specificity. But the novel we're seeing now is this really method, developed by the exciting time when new, next-

University of Minnesota generation diagnostic tests are researchers, dubbed Nano-QuIC (Nanoparticle-enhanced Quaking-Induced Conversion), significantly improves the performance of advanced protein-misfolding detection methods, such as the NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratories' Real-Time Quaking-Induced Conversion (RT-QuIC) assay." Testing for these neurodegenerative diseases in both animals and humans has been a major challenge to our society," said Peter Larsen, Assistant Professor in the University's Department of Veterinary and

emerging for these diseases. The impact that our research has is that it's greatly improving upon those next-generation tests, it's making them more sensitive, and it's making them more accessible," he added. The RT-QuIC method,

detailed in the journal Nano Letters, involves shaking a mixture of normal proteins with a small amount of misfolded protein, triggering a chain reaction that causes the proteins to multiply and allowing for the detection of these irregular proteins. Using tissue samples from deer, the team demonstrated that adding 50-nanometre silica nanoparticles to RT-

cally reduces detection times from about 14 hours to only four hours and increases the sensitivity by a factor of 10. A typical 14-hour detection cycle means that a lab technician can run only one test per normal working day. However, with a detection

QuIC experiments dramati-

time of less than four hours, researchers can now run three or even four tests per day. Having a quicker and highly accurate detection method is particularly important for understanding and controlling transmission of CWD, a disease that is spreading in deer across North America, Scandinavia, and South Korea.

High-voltage Karnataka election campaign ends

BJP, Congress, JD(U) hope to better 2018 performance

PNS NEW DELHI

As the high voltage campaign for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka came to an end with the three main political contestants -BJP, Congress and JD(S) hoping to better their performance from the last 2018 assembly polls, BJP stalwart and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday claimed that his party would return to power in Karnataka with 130 to 135 seats and Congress leader Siddaramaiah will lose the election from

Varuna constituency. As Congress Sate Chief D K Shiv Kumar predicted 141 seats its party and another of party's top leader Siddaramaiah put the number to more than 145, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has maintained that his party would get "full majority" in the state assembly.

The leaders from the BJP



and the Congress have miserably in this election," he announced that there would be a clear-mandate for their respective party and not be a fractured verdict. The JDS, however, is suggesting that the elections could give a hung assembly helping it to play a role of a 'king-maker' in the state. Yediyurrappa has put the BJP figure to touch 120-135 – higher than the simple majority of 113 in the 224 assembly.

The former CM also said V Somanna, the BJP candidate in Varuna assembly seat Varuna would emerge victorious against the Congress candidate Siddaramaiah.

"(V) Somanna (Minister and BJP candidate) will win the election in Varuna constituency. That's also I wanted to convey to you because I had been there one or two days. Somanna has worked day and night and (former Chief Minister) Siddaramaiah is going to lose

told reporters Bengaluru after the end of the electioneering.

"I am telling you today that we are going to get a minimum of 130 to 135 seats. After the elections we are going to meet again. Whatever I said previously also had come true. Even now I am telling you that we are going to cross 130 to 135 seats and we are going to form the government," the four-time Chief Minister said.

On why Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not spell out any achievements of the state government in any of his speeches, the state BJP strongman said the Centre released maximum grants to Karnataka and it's the reason for Karnataka's development. "There was no need for

him to repeat those works. The Prime Minister knows how Karnataka is treading on the development path," he said.

Karnataka win crucial for Cong's bid to play BJP's silent three worked 'elder brother' role in united Opp for 2024

NEW DELHI

As Karnataka goes to polls on Wednesday in the high stakes Assembly elections for both the ruling BJP and Opposition Congress, the grand old party's bid to 'play' the elder brother under the umbrella of Opposition com umbrella of Opposition combine remains crucial to crack the Modi's juggernaut in the Lok Sabha elections at the same time next year.

While several camps from the Opposition front led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his counterparts in West Bengal, Telangana and Delhi - Mamata Banerjee, K Chandrshekhar Rao, Arvind Kejriwal and other top leaders like Sharad Pawar and Askhilesh Yadav have initiated the talks for unity, the Congress' Rahul Gandhi led 4,000 km long Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and the party has been seeking to weigh upon its own performance in Karnataka to bargain hard to



lead from the front. In a message to galvanise Opposition unity further, Mamata on Monday stated that voters of Karnataka should not vote for BJP but for a stable government albeit she did not name

Mamata who earlier toed different line to go without the Congress and align with the likes of Akhilesh Yadav, was convinced by Nitish Kumar that the only solution to defeat Narendra Modi is to keep the Congress within.

Nitish also met Akhilesh to pitch the point. Earlier, Kejriwal and the Congress took an extra step to bridge the gap as Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge personal-ly called the Delhi Chief

when the latter was summoned by ED for questioning in the Delhi excise scam.

Karnataka Assembly polls are being considered the first of the four "semi-finals" between the BJP and the Congress before the 2024 gen-eral elections. The calcular tion of gaining sympathy factor for the grand old party post the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha and as well as his 4,000 km foot march would also be put to test in the high-stakes con-

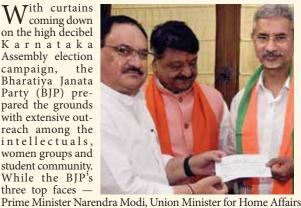
Four assembly elections -Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh -- are scheduled for this year in which the BJP and the Congress are in a direct contest and they would set the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The contest in Karnataka is largely between the BJP and the Congress but JD(S) in the past has proven to be a crucial cog in the political

intellectual space in Karnataka

MANISH ANAND | NEW DELHI

With curtains coming down on the high decibel K a r n a t a k a Assembly election campaign, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prepared the grounds with extensive outreach among the intellectuals, women groups and student community. While the BJP's three top faces -



Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath - hogged the limelight, the three others — party chief JP Nadda, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman — addressed a number of meetings with specific target audiences to warm up the state for the saffron out-

Nadda was slotted to address intellectuals all across Karnataka. Besides, he also held public rallies and roadshows. But he was extensively invested in his closed door meetings, which were broadcast live on social media platforms, to pump the principal poll plank of the BJP - the double engine government.

Sithraman also was slotted for a clear role. She had to mobilise support for the BJP among the women voters. Also, Sitharaman had to counter Congress' five-guarantee – unemployment allowances for graduates (Rs 3000 per month for two years) and diploma holders (Rs 1500 per month for two years), 200 units of free electricity, Rs 2000 per month to women, free bus rides

Before heading onto the Karnataka poll pitch, Jaishankar had gained experience of election-time work in Gujarat where he had been extensively used by the party to drum up Modi's foreign policy and the "India image on the world stage". Jaishankar was thus seen in action in Karnataka, as he held interactive sessions with students, business leaders and others. "The BJP MP Tejaswi Surya was tasked to host Jaishankar at various places in Karnataka. Within his busy schedule, Jaishankar was able to find time for Karnataka Assembly elections, and his principal target came out to be Rahul Gandhi, former Congress chief," said a senior BJP

Nadda toiled hard with intellectuals, as the main task came on his shoulder to explain the efficacy of the double engine poll plank of the BJP. "Even before the top campaigners of the party began electioneering, Nadda was busy in Karnataka. His first outreach was to the heads of the Mutts, of Lingayats, Vokkaligas and other caste groups. But majorly he was addressing small groups of intellectuals to drive home the arguments that the double engine government of the BJP in the last three and a half years delivered for the people of the state," added the BJP functionary.

Sitharaman is also a Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka. The BJP had slotted Sitharaman to counter Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the guarantees of the main Opposition party. "The BJP had known well that Vadra would once again be fielded by Congress to mobilise women voters on the lines of Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. We needed Sitharaman to counter Vadra, because she is a Rajva Sabha MP from Karnataka and as a woman Finance Minister she was in a better position to explain the achievements of the BJP gov-

ernment," added another BJP functionary.

On the campaign trail, Vadra was seen holding small group meetings with women. She also interacted with roadside dosa makers. Vadra was adding human touch to Congress election campaign. "The BJP could not have left this space empty, and Sitharaman quite effortlessly slipped into the role as she even interacted with residents of housing societies where she would take up questions and answer with human touch," said a BJP strate-

ments were grabbed and amplified quickly, which were mostly aimed at Rahul Gandhi. "We had three silent who worked with clear objectives and purposes," added the BJP strategist.

Raj BJP's MLA, candidate booked for 'murder' over 'threat' to Kharge

PTI ■ JAIPUR/DEHRADUN

Rajasthan Police has booked Manikanta Rathod, a BJP candidate in upcoming Karnataka Assembly poll, and local BJP MLA Madan

Dilawar under charges of murder and criminal intimidation for their remarks against Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a senior officer said on

Sanjay Circle Police Station here at the complaint of Congress state secretary Ram Singh Kaswan.

According to Kotwali ACP Narendra Kumar, an FIR has The FIR has been filed at been registered against BJP Madan Dilawar, is a sitting

Ramganj Mandi MLA Madan Dilawar and Manikanta Rathod, a BJP contender in the upcoming Karnataka assembly

"As one of the accused,

MLA, the matter will be investigated by the CB-CID," said der), 506 (criminal intimidation), and under sections of Kumar, who is also the investigating officer in the case.

According to the FIR, the under IPC section 302 (mur- conspiracy is enough.

tion), and under sections of SC/ST Act.

Kaswan in his complaint According to the FIR, the two men have been booked necessary, even hatching a

Curfew relaxed in parts of Manipur

ife was crawling back to somewhat nor-Monday as people came out of their homes to buy essential items with the curfew being relaxed for a few hours in the morning, officials said. Drones and helicopters continued a

close watch over the state and its border with Myanmar, while personnel of the Army and Assam Rifles held flag marches in different areas that have been rocked by ethnic violence over the last few days, they said. Over 100 columns of the Army have been deployed in the state after the violence broke out on Wednesday, and along with Assam Rifles, paramilitary and state police, around 10,000 security personnel are on the ground to maintain the law and order situation, officials said. The employment of aviation assets was

being intensified, a defence spokesperson said, adding that Unmanned Aerial not only in the hinterland but also along

Probe ordered into



"Use of the third dimension is of utmost importance in modern military warfare. It gives the security forces a major edge to not only carry out effective surveillance of anti-national elements but also target elements that may harm important installations," he said. "Employment of these assets is giving

a major fillip to the effectiveness of Army and Assam Rifles," he added. The securibeen pressed into action for surveillance ened to prevent any misadventure by other vehicles were seen outside petrol Manipur Vally-based insurgent groups pumps in different parts of the state, from camps on the other side, the including the epicentre, Churachandpur.

TN RAGHUNATHA

remained intact.

In an indirect criticism of senior Nationalist Congress

Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar,

the Shiy Sena (Uddhay) said here on Monday that Sharad

Pawar's return as the NCP

chief might have stopped some

functionaries temporarily from

his party switching over to the ruling BJP, but their plans

indirect comment over the

speculation that Ajit Pawar

might move over to the BJP, the

Shiv Sena's official mouth-

piece "Saamana" stated in his

editorial: "(Sharad) Pawar has

taken stock of who is doing

what. That's why he said 'we

cannot stop those who wish to

quit'. Pawar's return as the

NCP chief may have stopped

the switch-over of people tem-

Alluding to the NCP chief's

broke out on Wednesday after tribals organised a demonstration in the ten hill districts of the state to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, leading to the death of at least 54 people. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent

of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and live in the hill districts. So far, 23,000 people have been res-

cued from the violence-hit areas and moved to military garrisons, officials said. The curfew, imposed after the violence

broke out, was relaxed from 5 am to 8 am in Imphal West district and some other parts of the state to allow people buy essential items. People came out in large numbers to buy vegetables, groceries and

Vehicles, including auto-rickshaws, were also seen on the road in Imphal in pumps in different parts of the state,

Pawar's return to helm scuttled NCP

leaders shift to BJP: Uddhav's Sena

porarily, but their 'lodging-

boarding' booking in the BJP

erence to Ajit Pawar, the "Saamana" stated: "Those wanting to join the BJP should

realise that once these people

switch sides, people will finish their political career irrespec-

tive of how big the leader is.

We have seen this in the case

of the Shiv Sena leaders joining

the BJP. The leaders have been

reduced to a state akin to stray

dogs in the BJP. Hence, for all

those wanting to join the BJP

means shooting oneself in the

With an unmistakable ref-

has not been cancelled".

Special flights meet demand as people scramble to leave

PTI ■ KOLKATA/GUWAHATI

Several airlines were operating special flights from Imphal to help people stranded in violence-hit Manipur return home, officials said on Monday, maintaining that this resulted in airfares on the route not rocketing out of control despite the massive jump in demand.

Regional carrier Flybig said it operates a Guhahati to Imphal flight via Tezu six days a week. But, since Saturday it has operated three additional flights between Imphal and Guwahati, on which people from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra

"A total of 150 passengers were brought back from Imphal to Guwahati over the

"These days, anyone can

join the BJP. There is nothing

like morality or moral value these days. By joining the BJP,

you may get temporary relief from the CBI and ED, but the

sword of criminal action will be like swinging swords over the

heads of the," the Sena mouth-

tremors that Pawar's announce-

ment about his decision to

step down as the NCP chief

caused within the NCP, the "Saamana" stated: "Sharad

Pawar is the Nationalist

Congress Party. He is like a

mythological banyan tree. He

broke away from the Congress,

founded and built the NCP

independently... However, he

has not prepared the second

run leadership to take the party

forward after him and failed to

produce a successor".

Dwelling upon the massive

piece said.



ple from Arunachal Pradesh were brought back, while people of Meghalaya came on Sunday, and a group from Maharashtra were brought to Guwahati on Monday," Flybig's director of corporate affairs Ajay Jasra told PTI. "Flybig operates under the

UDAN scheme, and our average fare from Imphal to no question of charging more from distressed passengers,"

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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 notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from 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 with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr No	l	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Technocrats Tooling Private Limited/ Umesh Kumar Singh/ Praveen Rao/ Sps Technology/ Reena Singh/ 002105023126/ 002155000039/ 002155000045		01-12-2022 Rs. 64,82,277.00/-	Gurgaon, Bhiwadi (alwar)

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.

ICICI Bank Limited

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

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	of Branch
	Pramod Kumar Jain/ Madhu Jain/ LBNOD00002393443	Apratment No- 304, 3rd Floor, Block-A, 7th Avenue (GC-7) Gaur City, Plot No- Gh-01, Sector- 04, Greater Noida/ Date of Symbolic Possession- 03 May, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs.7,18,123/-	Delhi/ NCR
	Priyanka Singh/ Pratigya Singh/ LBNOD00002438139	Flat No. 2508, 25th Floor, Tower Ganga, Mahagun Mantra II, Plot No- Gh 01, Sector 10, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ Date of Symbolic Possession- 03 May, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs.23,83,263/-	Delhi/ NCR
	Rachana Sekhri/ Anil Kumar Sekhri/ LBNOD00002886933	Flat No-2519, 25th Floor, Tower Vidhi, Mahagun Mantra-I, Plot No-Gh-01, B, Sector-10, Greater Noida (West), Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ Date of Symbolic Possession- 03 May, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs. 38,86,897/-	Delhi/ NCR

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.

Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav with party leaders Vandana Bajpai and Ragini Sonkar visit a temple of Lord Hanuman, in

Kanpur district on Monday.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else

Date: May 09, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR

There were apprehension regard. More than 500 lives have been lost in 65 boat capsizes in the State during the last

 $K^{\text{erala}}_{\text{Pinarayi}} \ \text{Chief Minister} \\ \text{Pinarayi} \ \text{Vijayan on} \\ \text{Monday ordered a judicial}$ probe into Sunday's accident in which 22 people lost their lives in a boat accident. It turned out to be a Black Sunday for people in Malappuram district as 22 of the 40 holidaymakers who boarded Atlantic, a fishing boatturned-sailing boat, met with a watery end. The holiday makers who had come to Tanur Beach in the

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

district boarded the boat rom the newly-opened Thooval Theeram (Shore of Feathers) late evening for a joy trip and the overcrowded which did not have any mandatory safety equipment capsized throwing the gullible travellers into the rollicking waves of the sea.

The NDRF and divers of Indian Navy who rushed to the spot saved nearly 20 people from the sea and rescue operation was called off by 1 PM Monday.

It was on April 23, Kerala's Minister for Tourism Mohammed Riyaz (who is the new husband of Veena Vijayan, daughter of choef minister Pinarayi Vijayan) declared open the new Floating Bridge at Tanur beach as part of the Government's mission to make the region a centre of adventure

among the people at that time itself over the safety measures of the beach.

death of 22 in boat mishap in Kerala PP Musthafa, Tanur Municipal Councillor who is also a fisherman, told The Pioneer that there was blatant

violation of all rules and regu-

This boat was not supposed to go out after 5 pm. Because of the holiday, there was a massive turnout of people. My colleagues who witnessed the boat sailing off after 5 pm said me that there were more than 40 persons jampacked in it .There were no life belts and the boat was taken to an uninhabited area and this made the rescue operation impossible for the local population," said Musthfa.

He said there were many complaints against the boat Atliantic. "It had outlived its utility and the owners made some cosmetic change on it. The owner is said to be a close friend of powerful politicians," said Musthafa.

While Prime Minister

Narendra Modi declared a

solatium of Rs 2 lakh to each of the deceased, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared a cash compensation of Rs 10 lakh to each of the deceased. Judge of Kerala High Court who headed an inquiry commission that probed past boat accidents in the State said that though the

K Narayana Kurup, former Government had been told to appoint safety commissioner to ensure the safety of boats, noaction has been taken in this

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Big fillip

US private equity firm General Atlantic decides to quadruple its annual investment in India

nowth-equity investor General Atlantic's announcement that it would invest up to \$1 billion in new investments in India annually for the next few years is a big fillip to economic policy. "We are tracking big policy changes announced by the Government that will accelerate creation of digital infrastructure for services and products," General Atlantic managing director and India head Shantanu Rastogi told a news agency. "Affordable supply, affordable infrastructure for financial inclusion, affordable data are big themes for us." The New York-based private equity firm, which manages about \$71 billion of assets globally, has deployed \$4.6 billion in India over more than two decades. From an average of \$230 per year to \$1 billion per year would be quite a quantum jump. The Walmart-owned digital payments app, PhonePe Pvt., is one of the firms General Atlantic has backed in India. The PE's India



operations have evolved from funding companies providing export-oriented services to focusing on investments targeting India's rising domestic consumption. Its focus areas have been enterprise software, healthcare and financial services companies. Against the backdrop of a dip in foreign direct investment, General Atlantic's announcement is especially heartening. In the first three quarters of 2022-23, equity FDI stood at \$36.7 billion, which was 15 per cent lower than \$43.2 billion in the corresponding period in 2021-22.

The Narendra Modi Government has received a lot of criticism regarding its ability, or lack of it, to attract investment and generate employment. The sit-

uation seems somewhat incongruous: here is a regime which is committed to fiscal discipline (even the debilitating pandemic and the resultant disruptions didn't result in profligacy), capital expenditure, and lately reforms; and yet it is not able to attract FDI. Perhaps, it was because in its first term the Modi Government was focused on welfare schemes, not bothering too much about augmenting the scale and scope of liberalisation. An illustration: it took the Government more than seven years to privatise Air India which was beyond redemption as a public sector undertaking (PSU). In the last few years, however, the Government has shown a greater inclination to expedite economic reforms, the boldest manifestation of which is privatisation. It not only sold off Air India but also tried to exit big PSUs like BPCL and Shipping Corporation; it has not been able to do so, but that is primarily because of the lack of buyers. Similarly, the Government never fell prey to the pernicious counsel of many people, including economists, to go on a spending spree on this pretext or the other. And then there is the massive spending on infrastructure. All this seems to have impressed global business, investors and financiers that India is a good place to put their money. Hence Apple's newfound interest in the country, and General Atlantic's announcement.



Inseasonal snowfall brought back the winter-like conditions in Kashmir valley

Changing paradigm in intl relations



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Nations across the globe, and particularly in Asia, need to diversify their strategies to address the numerous challenges they face

haring a common strate-gic vision and a combined approach to ensure mutual economic pros-perity through a multilayered and multilateral strategy is going to dominate the world order in the coming days. What is required is to develop a fresh perspective for a more mature reliance on international cooperation between nations to enunciate a new strategy of retaliation, threatening a severe response to any attempt to destabilise the world order. There are areas where strong relations can generate development funds for integrated education, medicine, science, technology and biotechnology and strategic planning dealing with threats by various nations across the globe.

The new opportunities such as the Presidency of G 20, Quad Group and Chair of Interpol and SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) provide a great opportunity for India to have an in-depth analysis and systematic examination of the myriad problems of International Relations and make a sincere effort to find solutions and fill the gap in the existing realms of strategic strategies. There is bound to be a serious concern over the need to change the existing — and also evolve a new — strategic approach. The heads of the States of the Quad Group — India, Australia, Japan and the US recently held a meeting to counter the Chinese threat and to ensure a free and secure Indo-Pacific.

Analysts are of the view that it will provide the much-needed impetus to work out a new security roadmap in dealing with the most obnoxious forms of modern terrorism. It is a welcome development as it would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation to deal with various other issues like funding terrorist activities, policing cooperation and dealing with cyber threats through enhancing technological innovation and tightening border and maritime security information-gathering exercises.

international cooperation through such platforms may further provide help in tracing the roots of the problems. It is already getting clear that nations across

the globe and more so in Asia need to diversify their strategies to counter the numerous challenges they face. Our strategic policies should be able to adapt to the challenging environment as well as efficiently implement recommendations. Since today threats are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security should be followed. These are changing times and many changes have occurred in international relations recently.

A modern, vigilant and assertive military, intelligence, police and paramilitary network should replace the old one. Many important suggestions and recommendations of various committees are out of tune with existing circumstances. The old mindset and predilections of powerful syndicates within the system haven't changed as desired. There are concerns about the need for a new consensus in strategic planning in the backdrop of sponsored terrorism from across the border.

Nevertheless, there have been constant efforts at the various summits that would further boost and cement the ties between nations giving a push to the environment for stabilizing economic growth strategic security, prosperity, stability and compating sud den challenges arising due to climate change. Foreign relations operate with the help of an efficient diplomatic system



THOUGH THE

CONTIGUITY OF INDO-US **RELATIONS IN** THE FIELD OF **NUCLEAR ENERGY AND MODERNISATION** OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IS HIGHLY DESIRED, INDIA WILL HAVE TO WORK **CAREFULLY TO** PROTECT ITS NATIONAL **INTERESTS**

and diplomacy is all about the right gestures and cooperation and coordination in times of crisis. The Prime Ministers of Belgium and Spain and the French President appreciating India's efforts to combat the pandemic can only lead to further cooperation. There is, however, no lack of unanimity concerning nuclear energy, sustainable development and environmental issues. The encountered at early stages. increasing support and agreement concerning limiting climate change issues and opening up gateways for renewable energy and development in technological knowhow along with channelizing the sources of power generation and creating a mechanism to withstand any sudden threat posed by China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiatives) augur well for peace and prosperity of all member countries. During the last few years, there have been closer ties with Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, them being the biggest importers from India while Germany, France and Belgium are the largest exporters of goods. Further

negotiations may lead to the

creation of a strategic mecha-

nism to provide a shield

against terrorism, internation-

al crime, drug dealing, smug-

gling and cyber threat

unleashed by non-state actors.

This may also accelerate mar-

itime-irienaly ties and boister

security around the Indian

Ocean and Indo-Pacific areas

which have lately become areas

of concern. The Prime

THE EDITOR

Minister's call for coming together and close cooperation in fighting international threats including cybercrimes, poaching, corruption, and international terrorism exhibits the need to develop international strategies for the establishment of an extremely capable international intelligence system in close cooperation to ensure such threats can be

Though the contiguity of Indo-US relations in the field of nuclear energy and modernisation of military and intelligence is highly desired, India will have to work carefully to protect its national interests. The key here is freedom of expression with emphasis on non-hierarchical and egalitarian ways of structuring social relationships, and in a manner that is consistent with our inherited core values.

The world order has already transformed from Cold War Era Bipolar into Unipolar and now with multipolar centres of power. The voice of those nations once not so prominent due to international politicking now become extremely vital for IR. This is a time of essence and high time we realised that in changing the paradigm of international politics all nations need to chip in their best to make it a much better place to live in.

> (Autnor, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award is a professor and an expert on strategic affairs. Views *expressed are personal*)

PM MODI'S ROADSHOW A ray of hope for Alzheimer's

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a 26-kilometre roadshow in Bengaluru on Friday, April 16, ahead of the state assembly elections. During the roadshow, Modi stated that Bengaluru wants the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to lead the state government. The BJP is the current opposition party in the state, with the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Indian National Congress

(INC) in power in a coalition government. Modi's roadshow attracted a large crowd of supporters, with people lining up on both sides of the street to catch a glimpse of the prime minister. Modi waved at the crowd and even got out of his car to greet some of them. In his speech, Modi criticized the ruling coalition government for its alleged lack of development and its failure to provide basic amenities to the people of the state. He promised that a BJP government would prioritize development and work towards making Bengaluru a worldclass city. Modi also highlighted the BJP's track record in other states, where they have implemented various development programs and schemes.

The state assembly elections are scheduled to take place on May 12, with results to be announced on May 15. The BJP is hoping to win a majority of seats in the assembly and form the state government. The outcome of the elections is crucial for both the BJP and the current ruling coalition government, as it could impact the national political landscape in the run-up to the 2019 general elections.

In conclusion, Modi's roadshow in Bengaluru and his statement that the city wants the BJP to lead the state government has further heated the political atmosphere in the state. With the elections just a few weeks away, it remains to be seen which party will emerge victorious and form the state government.

Delhi Police stopped a group of farmers at

Rajpal Singh Chouhan | Ujjain

KARAIKUDI R MANI IS NO MORE

also help scientists better understand the under-



Izheimer's disease is a debilitating condition that affects millions of people worldwide. and there is currently no cure for the disease. If approved by the FDA, donanemab could be a significant breakthrough in Alzheimer's treatment and could potentially improve the quality of life for patients and their families. The drug's ability to reduce abnormal plaque buildup in the brain could

lying causes of Alzheimer's and potentially lead to the development of more effective treatments. However, the risks associated with donanemab, including brain swelling and hem-

orrhaging, must be carefully considered before the drug is approved for widespread use. Patients and healthcare providers must weigh the potential benefits against the risks and ensure that appropriate safety measures are in place. The FDA will conduct a thorough review of the drug's safety and effectiveness before deciding on whether to approve it for use in Alzheimer's patients. it's also worth noting that even if donanemab

is approved, it is unlikely to be a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The drug is designed to slow cognitive decline in early-stage patients, but it may not be effective for those in later stages of the disease. Therefore, continued research and development of other treatments and potential cures for Alzheimer's will remain crucial

Sabita Kumari I Jamshedpur

s an individual are you the one who is keeping regular contact with

your friends and families; spending quality time with them; participating in community events; celebrating your traditions and culture; keeping yourself engaged in volunteer work or has joined a group based on your interests? If the answer is yes then, as an individual you are socially well defined. Wellness is the active pur-

suit of activities, choices and lifestyles that leads to an individual's overall well-being. Social well-being or social wellness (as referred to at times), is the development and maintenance of positive interactions which allows a person to feel valued and build a sense of belongingness at the workplace. It is one of the 8 pillars of health and wellness that is required for individual holistic development.

In the words of Aristotle "Man is by nature a social animal." Human beings are mutually dependent social creatures who need to love and be loved. Social and emotional well-being is a holistic concept that encom-



maintaining healthy connections with everyone around

Maintain good relations

Social well-being is not just about social interactions but also about

for social well-being

passes how an individual thinks and feels about themselves and others. It helps in developing and maintaining positive interactions with people and with local and global communities. Also, social well-being affects physical health. People with meaningful social relationships and good social connections tend to be happier, healthier and even live longer than those who don't.

During COVID, when remote working and flexible work arrangements became the norm – there was a considerable need for dispersed employees to feel connected, engaged and supported. It is only the act of social wellbeing that helps the employees to stay connected and well-defined. Also, in the long run, both the employees and the workplace are benefitted due to social well-being

as it gives a sense of belong-

ing. When a person is socially inclined it makes the individual feel valued as a member and feel connected to a wider social environment. Social well-being is an

important tenet of overall well-being. It is not just about social interactions but also about maintaining healthy relationships with everyone. At times, these social interactions have an impact on an individual's mental and physical health including increased happiness with others. Being in love with loved ones, spending quality time with family and friends, being active in the community and volunteering at times are some of the ways that boost this social pillar of health.

On the contrary, the lack of a positive social network can be highly detrimental to an individual's health along with some dramatic consequences. In a recent statistical survey, it was found that approximately 4 million adults in the UK and the US suffer from chronic loneliness. People with few social ties end up having health issues due to poor social health. The risk of heart disease and heart attack: chronic diseases; high blood

pressure; elevated stress hormones: Cancer: Poor menta health; Anxiety and depression and at times even suicide. Social well-being is a real and important piece of an individual's overall well-being. Our health is multidi-

mensional. Good social wellbeing includes not only having good and healthy relationships but also behaving appropriately in these relationships and maintaining acceptable social standards. There are numerous benefits when a person is inclined towards social connections and good mental health. Studies and statistics have proven that when a person is socially inclined there is a lower rate of anxiety and depression, greater empathy, high self-esteem and more trusting and cooperative relationships. Also, it helps to reduce stress and other heartrelated risks, thereby improving an individual's ability to fight off germs and giving a more positive outlook on life along with formulation of bonds and relationships with others thus improving the quality of life and helping in

strengthening communities.

(*The writer is an educator*)

WRESTLER'S SUPPORTERS STOPPED Sir — Nervous and under pressure the

to enter the city to join the wrestlers' protest at the Jantar Mantar, headed by Bajrang

unia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat. The protesting wrestling is confident that the khap maha panchayat at Jantar Mantar on Sunday will be of huge success and will help in getting more support for them in their fight against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. While the wrestlers are currently hopeful for the maha panchayat and candlelight march event on Sunday. With this, all is not well for the BJP and the Centre by supporting the guilty

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Sir — In the passing of Mridangam maestro Karaikudi R. Mani, the world of Carnatic music has lost a legend, whose legacy is unparalleled. Mr Mani had a unique style of playing and technical brilthe Tikri border, as they were attempting liance that were phenomenal. He was

known for his flawless timing, perfect synchronization, and ability to create complex rhythms that left connoisseurs transfixed. Apart from his performances, Mr Mani was also an orchestrator. One of his notable collaborations was with popular violinist V. S. Narasimhan in 1990, where they presented "Melodyssey", a project that featured 40 artists playing Western and Indian instruments.

He was credited with the unique concept of formulating the "Thani Avarthanam" concert in Carnatic percussion, which revolutionized the role of Mridangam and proved that it can also be played as a solo instrument in concerts in its own right. The creative genius of Mridangam may not be with us in the flesh, but his legacy will live on through his disciples the

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

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FIRST COLUMN GOD IS THE ONLY REAL SHELTER

But for taking shelter purity of mind and action is required



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

thers can be partial shelters only. Additionally, these partial shelters may get tempted to take advantage of/exploit those who approach them for various reasons. The following examples will illustrate this point. We go to someone, who is not competent for the purpose we are taking shelter. The most glaring example is of those bogus gurus, who don't practice what they preach. For them, being a guru is a profession to earn money, gain importance, etc. This does not mean that they are not genuine spiritualists, but even they can be partial shelters only. They can guide us to seek the ultimate or real shelter, which is God. Then, whoever we seek as a shelter may not be available to us. An appropriate example is that of a super-specialist in the medical profession. Even if one is able to approach him, he may not be always able to help us; only God really can. Many doctors honestly declare: "I treat

The third instance is that of lawyers. Unfortunately, a vast majority are bent on getting dates in collusion with advocates of the other side. And one gets more and more frustrated as the case drags on. Then, the usual practice is to seek loans from others when in financial difficulties. This is where cheating is most prevalent. You go to a zamindar and he takes away your land papers, which are not returned even though you have paid all the installments in full along with interest. This is not as bad as getting sexually exploited when a girl or a woman seeks some favour. In short, taking shelter from others is fraught with danger. The best one can hope for is give and take, and not be deprived of one's rights, get humiliated, etc. Because human beings are not the best shelter, even though many are very helpful; only God is the real shelter. Read



There is a joint family, in which three members, unfortunately, have different psychiatric problems. One suffers from mood swings. Another gets depressed frequently. And the third has bad relationships with others. The one with mood swings needs to see a psychoanalyst for help. The one with depression requires a psychiatrist. And one who cannot get along with others can be helped by a family counsellor. But all three can be helped by God. In a verse, the Lord instructs, "Practice equanimity in pain and pleasure; self-situated (not disturbed); neutral towards pleasant and unpleasant; steady; and poised in criticism and apprecia-

In another family, one person gets afflicted by lust, and greed and becomes a great egoist over a period of time. These problems have generally no solutions, but God has; one just has to follow God's instructions. God is available 24x7 to all of us, being omnipresent. We just have to take His shelter. Whenever a problem appears, God is there to guide and help; one just has to turn to Him, God is omnipotent and omniscient. God knows our past, present and future. God is of another level; human beings are very lowly placed in comparison. God is so powerful that He can help with our fate also, both the 'prarabdha' (what has manifested) and our obstinate nature. No one else has this right. In spite of all these, God never misuses His unlimited powers. And God punishes but never condemns anyone: He is that considerate and forgiving.

A question may be asked as to why more people do not take God's shelter in spite of what all have been detailed earlier. Most of us are afflicted by greed, lust, and 'ahankar' (ego) to various degrees. These faults in our natures don't allow us to take shelter from God; they overpower our intelligence. Then, for taking shelter purity is required in what we do with our minds, words and bodies. In order to achieve that, we need to be detached; must do lots of 'tapasya'. A modern man, in spite of being proud of his knowledge, is terribly ignorant about spiritual truths. One rejects anything else or is too impatient for results to turn to God because spiritual progress is both subtle and slow. But those fortunate souls, who do, are rewarded handsomely by God, as experienced by them; I have. (The writer is a spiritual teacher)

Karnataka will bless politics of development



The BJP has been in power in Karnataka only for three and a half years, yet it laid the foundation for a fast-paced economic growth



he people in Karnataka have to make a choice for owning their destiny on May 10. This is a task ordained on the electorate by the next generation. Karnataka is on a trajectory to attain a \$1 trillion economic scale in the next few years. India's ambition to become the fourth largest economy shortly is incumbent on the Karnataka growth engine. This sets up the May Assembly election in Karnataka as an abundant responsibility for the electorate to make their decisions carefully and wisely.

The choice before the electorate is clear. They have to choose between economic growth and the politics of freebies. The resources of Karnataka can keep running the growth engine of Karnataka for the collective well-being and prosperity of the people and future generations. Or, the resources of Karnataka be locked into financing freebies to bind the state to limitations and derail the growth engine.

This contest between the economic models of inclusive growth which caters to all the cross sections of society and politics of freebies, which feeds on povertarianism, is being watched out with keen interest by all. Karnataka is among the progressive states of India. Karnataka is also a state where the youngsters find fulfilment of their dreams. Karnataka is the startup capital of

The Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) grew from \$311 million in 2019 to \$1.34 billion in 2020-21. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, Karnataka's share in total FDI inflows into the top 5 states remarkably increased from 22.43 per cent in 2019-20 to 49.40 per cent in 2021-22. The state has maintained its pole position even in 2022-23.

Karnataka is growing with a GSDP of double digits. Also, it is estimated that Karnataka can accelerate its growth to a GSDP of \$500 billion by 2026 and a GSDP of \$1 trillion by 2030. Karnataka can very well become 10 per cent of the national

Karnataka's per capita income has also been rising fast. In the last decade, the state witnessed a record increase of 208.86 per cent while the national average growth was 136.87 per cent. Karnataka's per capita



KARNATAKA ARE **ENTERPRISING**

ASPIRATIONAL. THEY, LIKE THEIR **COUNTERPARTS** IN GUJARAT AND HARYANA, **WOULD PREFER** THAT THEY HAVE **ENOUGH INCOME** FROM GAINFUL **ACTIVITIES SO** THAT THEY **COULD PAY** THEIR OWN **ELECTRICITY**

BILLS

The extraordinary economic growth of Karnataka has touched the lives of all. The resources of Karnataka are being spent on the expansion of small and micro irrigation facilities, as well as in scaling up the access to potable drinking water in households, including in the rural parts of the state. The Vidyanidhi scheme of the state government is covering children of farmers, landless labourers, weavers, and poor women in the scholarship programme so they access quality education and write their own destinies

In FY2022, the total exports of Karnataka stood at \$25.87 billion in which petroleum products, iron and steel, and organic chemicals remained the key contributors. Karnataka proved its mettle during the Covid-19 pandemic, as the state fulfilled its all global commitments in the supply chains. There was zero disruption in the global supply chains even during the national lockdown from Karnataka.

I his must be borne in mind that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been in power in Karnataka only for three and a half years. Much of the time of the incumbent BJP government overlapped with the pandemic. Yet, the BJP government laid the foundation for fast-paced economic growth.

On the lines of NlTlAayog, the Karnataka government 2022 restructured the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC) as the State Institute for Transformation of Karnataka (SITK), which is chaired by Chief Minister BasavrajBommai. The think tank is principally tasked to remove the regional imbalances in development indicators.

The state government has been incentivizing the setting up of industries and industrial clusters all across Karnataka by leveraging its land pool and the affidavit-based investment clearance system.

The other objectives of SITK include attaining sustainable development goals (ŠDGs) by 2030 and India@2047 goals and realising the vision of 'Nava Karnataka,' thereby contributing to the vision of 'New India' as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The state government has shown the ease of undertaking structural reforms. Karnataka 2021 unveiled the e-Sahamathi platform, a consent-driven system that gives citizens complete control over choosing what personal data to share with private companies, upholding the Right to Privacy.

The Karnataka government's good governance leveraged technology to ensure the safety of citizens, especially women, children, and senior citizens. The state government decided to spend Rs. 667 crores for various projects under the Nirbhaya fund for installing more than 16,000 state-of-the-art CCTV cameras in GIS-mapped sensitive locations, along with safety lights and panic buttons. Moreover, 4,100 cameras have been installed across Bengaluru as per Karnataka state budget 2023.3 Furthermore, the state government has also installed CCTV cameras in all district and taluk level hospitals, including ICU wards, for the safety of citizens.

More than 68 per cent of the workforce in Karnataka is employed in the agricultural sector. Also, 64.50 per cent of the entire territory is under agriculture, and the state is ranked fifth in India for the largest area dedicated to horticulture. It ranks fifth in the production of vegetable crops and third in the production of fruit crops. Karnataka is the biggest producer of medicinal crops, tropical fruits, aromatic plants, and spices. It is the second-largest milk producer. Karnataka also is the second-largest producer of grapes in the country.

Much of the groundwork to make Karnataka integral to the glob-

al supply chains has been laid by the BJP government in the last 42 months. Karnataka's rapid expansion in its economy can also be gauged from the fact that the state has taken the second slot in the GST collections behind Maharashtra.

India by 2047, when the country would commemorate 100 years of Independence, aims to be at least a \$30 trillion economy and take the rightful place of the third biggest economy. When that stage comes, the gains of status will touch the lives of all and lift an extraordinary chunk of the population to a state of prosperity.

But a few questions beg answers. Can India and Karnataka in particular seize the opportunity to knock at the doors by entertaining the regressive politics of freebies of Congress? Is it even responsible on the part of Congress to indulge in politics of freebies, which the grand old party is copying from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)? What vision has Congress brought before the electorate of Karnataka to take the state to the coveted goal of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030?

The people of Karnataka are enterprising and aspirational. They, like their counterparts in Gujarat and Haryana, would prefer that they have enough income from gainful activities that they could pay their own electricity bills. The youth of Karnataka will be emotionally hurt if the state government offers them Rs 3000 per month and stay idle. The youth of Karnataka are launching startups. They are busy designing satellites. They know that a government that is visionary will provide opportunities.

Karnataka was the first to tap hydropower in Asia. Karnataka is India's top green energy producer. Karnataka is the land of innovation. Karnataka is a global village for research and development. Karnataka will thus bless the politics of

The impact of development initiatives in Karnataka polls

(Author is a political

Karnataka BJP is banking on development and people-welfare schemes of the Centre

As the ruling BJP and main opposition Congress are engaged in competitive politics of people's welfare, even triggering a debate over 'freebies', the moot question is- Will BJP's politics of development help pave the way for its victory, overshadowing other dominant issues of caste, quota, unemployment, uniform civil code, NRC etc.

BJP on its part is showcasing various development schemes undertaken by the Modi government at the Centre and the pro-development initiatives taken by the Karnataka government. BJP is seeking a fresh term based on 'good work' done by it in the last five years to ease the life

of people. Going by the official sta-



(The writer is a senior

journalist and *is* columnist.

The views are personal)

tistics, in Karnataka under the centre's flagship' Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' (PMAY-U) 5.77 lakh houses have been grounded and 3.07 lakh houses have been completed since 2015. Along with these houses, 46.31 lakh individual household toilets were constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission between October 2, 2014, and February 7, 2022. Karnataka government allocated Rs 764.32 billion of infrastructure budget for 2023-24 with a large 33% share for PMAY, and a 30% share for MRTS/Metro projects. In its election campaign, BJP is particularly highlighting the success of infrastructure projects such as the Bengaluru-Mysore Expressway to reap the beneFearing the positive impact of the Bengaluru-Mysore expressway and other development-oriented initiatives on voters, the Congress party is countering this mega infrastructure project by saying that it will result in the loss of a large number of small

businesses. On the other hand, BJP is upping its ante on the development agenda by promising more development-oriented initiatives like identifying 1 million housing sites for the homeless, allocation of Rs 30000 crore fund to set up micro cold storage facilities and agro-processing units in every gram panchayat to help farmers.

Karnataka BJP is banking on the development and people-welfare schemes of the

Centre like PMAY, Jal Jeevan Mission, construction of toilets, Ujjawala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). The Centre has built 3 crore pucca houses under PMAY in the last 9 years. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, 11 crore toilets have been built in the same period. As part of the Ujjawala Scheme, 9 crore cooking gas connections have been provided and under Ayushman Bharat, 2 crore poor people have been covered. For providing safe drinking water under Jal Jeevan Mission, 8 crore tap water connections were given while 80 crore people benefited under

has taken several initiatives on the infrastructure front to provide a big connectivity push through highways and railways for promoting not just ease of living but also ease of doing business, in turn promoting employment. Fifty thousand kilometres of national highways were added in the last 9 years. Even the pace of national highway construction has gone up to 30 km a day in FY 23 against 12 km a day in 2014-15. A record budget of Rs 241267.51 crore was allocated for railways in FY 24 to invest in laying of new tracks, expansion of narrow-gauge to broad gauge and electrification of railway lines. Between 2014 and 2023, 37011 route km of tracks were electrified. A new target has The central government been set by railways to lay

19km of new railway tracks per day in 2023-24 against 12 km in 2022-23.

Encouraged by the positive impact of these development and people welfare measures, the Modi government, ahead of assembly elections (including Karnataka) and general elections, hiked the allocation for key development schemes in FY 24 budget. PMAY budget allocation was increased by 66% to Rs 79590 crore to provide a major push to the government's flagship

programme, 'Housing for All'.

Moreover, PMAY was
extended till March 2024. The budget of the Jal Jeevan Mission was hiked from Rs

54808 crore to Rs 69684 crore. With its consistent focus on urban and rural development besides other welfare

schemes, BJP, over the years has built a sizable 'Labharthi Vote Bank' (beneficiaries of development schemes) as this vote bank cuts across caste and religion, it has helped BJP garner the support of even a section of Muslims, especially backward Muslims. In the last Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, BJP got 5-7% Muslim votes, mostly of Muslims belonging to the backward class. Buoyed by it BJP has been

aggressively consolidating this vote bank. İn Karnataka where 40 assembly seats have a Muslim presence, this vote bank assumes significance. These Muslim voters may well turn out to be BJP's saviours and the party's politics of development may pay dividends to the party in Karnataka polls.

CHINESE FM MEETS US AMBASSADOR

Sets off buzz about resumption of stalled bilateral talks

hinese Foreign Minister Qing Gang on Monday met with US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns during which he sharply criticised Washington's policy towards Beijing, specifically on Taiwan, but at the same called for stabilising the ties between the two countries, saying that it is a "ton priority"

a "top priority". Qin's meeting with Burns, his first ever since he took over as Foreign Minister after serving as China's envoy to Washington, has set off speculation that the two countries are on the verge of restarting their active dialogue that stalled since February this year after the US shot a Chinese spy balloon. Following the balloon incident, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken put off his visit

to Beijing.
Chinese Foreign Ministry
spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing on Monday that the meeting is a normal diplomatic arrangement. In his meeting with Burns, Qin said a series of erroneous words and deeds by the US has undermined the hard-won positive momentum of the bilateral ties, disrupted the planned dialogue and cooperation agenda,



and chilled bilateral relations

He urged the US to deeply reflect and work with China to get the ties back on track. The top priority is to stabilise China-US relations, avoid a downward spiral and prevent accidents from occurring between China and the US. This should be the basic consensus between the two countries and is also the bottom line that must be upheld when dealing with state-to-state relatwo major countries," Qin

The US must stop undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests, correctly handle the Taiwan question in particular, refrain from hollowing out the one-China principle, and stop supporting or conniving with the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, the Chinese foreign minister said.

China claims Taiwan as

cussed "challenges in the US-China relationship and the necessity of stabilising ties and expanding high-level commu-

In a brief post on Twitter, Burns said he and Qin dis-

Qin's meeting with Burns followed the US envoy's comments last week that Washington is "ready to talk" to

"Our view is we need bet-ter channels between the two governments and deeper channels, and we are ready to talk," Burns said at an event at the Stimson Centre, which he attended virtually. "We've never been shy of talking, and we hope the Chinese will meet us halfway on this," he was quoted as saying by CNN.

After Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, China cut off talks with Washington on major issues, from climate change to military relations and the spy balloon incident further exasperated

Burns told the Stimson Centre event that the US has been calling on China to open all of the channels suspended following Pelosi's Taiwan trip. He reiterated Blinken's visit to China would be rescheduled "when conditions are appropriate."

Pak Army slams Imran for charges against ISI officer

Pakistan's Army on Monday slammed Imran Khan for "highly irresponsible and baseless" allegations by him against a serving ISI officer without any evidence as a fresh war of words broke out between the powerful military and the former prime minister.

In a strongly worded statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the military- also said that Khan's "fabricated and malicious allegations are extremely unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable.

"This has been a consistent pattern for last one year wherein military and intelligence agencies officials are targeted with insinuations and sensational propaganda for the furtherance of political objectives," it said.

The statement came two days after the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician at a rally on Saturday accused spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence's (ISI) Gen Faisal Naseer of orchestrating plans to murder him.

"We ask the political leader concerned to make a recourse to legal avenues and stop making false allegations. The institution reserves the right to against patently false and malafide statements and propaganda," the ISPR said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief to task for "maligning and threatening" the army and

intelligence agencies.
"Imran Niazi's act of routinely maligning and threatening the Pakistan Army and Intelligence Agency for the sake of petty political gains is highly condemnable. His levelling of allegations without any ling of allegations without any proof against Gen Faisal Naseer and officers of our Intelligence Agency cannot be allowed and will not be tolerated," he tweeted on Sunday. Sharif blasted Khan for

alleging that ISI's Major-General Naseer, who allegedly tried to kill him twice, was also involved in the brutal murder of senior journalist Arshad

Arshad Sharif, who was critical of the Army, was shot dead by police in Kenya last October days after he fled the country, citing threats to his life from the security agencies. The killing of Arshad Sharif caused outrage in Pakistan.

Kenya's police, in an initial report, had said the 49-year-old was shot dead in a moving identity.

Khan had earlier accused Gen Naseer, along with Prime Minister Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah of an assassination attempt on his life in November last year in Punjab province's Wazirabad, where he received three bullets in his leg.

"As someone who has suf-fered two assassination attempts on his life in the last few months, can I dare to ask SS (Shehbaz Sharif) the following question" and proceeded to raise several critical queries about the role of army officials, Khan asked.

Khan asked if he, as a citizen, has the right to nominate those "I feel were responsible for assassination attacks on me?", and followed by questioning, "Why was I denied my legal & Constitutional right to register an FIR?"

Then he raised the critical question about calling out any from the Army if involved in the violation of the law. "Does SS (Shehbaz Sharif)

tweet mean military officers are above the law or that they cannot commit a crime? If we allege one of them has committed a crime, how is the institution being maligned?" Khan

Pak SC resumes hearing pleas against CJ powers

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Monday resumed the hear-}}$ ing on the pleas challenging the newly enacted law aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice. The bill, titled the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, was aimed at depriving the office of the CJP of powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity. The draft law was initially

passed by both houses of Parliament in March and sent to President Arif Alvi for his assent. However, the president sent it back, saying that the pro-posed law travelled "beyond the competence of Parliament". The bill was subsequently adopted by a joint session of Parliament on April 10 albeit with some amendments.

The top court — while hearing three petitions challenging the then-bill - in an "anticipatory injunction" on April 13, barred the government from enforcing the draft law, saying the move would "prevent the imminent apprehended danger that is irreparable" as soon as it became an act of parliament. An eight-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial is hearing the pleas on Monday.

At the outset of Monday's hearing, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that a plea had been filed for the formation of a full court to hear the case. "The Pakistan Muslim League-

a petition for the formation of a full court," he said.

Justice Ahsan noted that the government's plea had not yet been fixed for hearing. He then asked the AGP whether the documents sought by the court at the previous hearing had been submitted, the Dawn newspaper reported. Awan replied that he

expected to receive the record of parliamentary proceedings by tomorrow and had also contacted the National Assembly Speaker in the matter. "The judiciary's independence is a fundamental element of the Constitution," the AGP added. He said that the law in question had set out the procedure for constituting benches as well as dealing with appeals.

China moots new areas of military co-op with Pak

Beijing (PTI): China's Defence Minister Gen. Li Shangfu told Pakistan's naval chief Amjad Khan Niazi on Monday that the two all-weather friends should seek new areas of military cooperation and jointly safeguard their security interests and region.

part of its mainland and has

stepped up military actions

around the self-governing

island as the US has increased

its contacts with Taipei, since

the visit of then-US Speaker

Nancy Pelosi in August last

On the spy balloon incident, Qin said, "accidental inci-

dents" in bilateral relations

should be dealt with in a calm,

professional and pragmatic

manner to avoid further shocks

to China-US relations.

Li said the relations between the militaries of the two countries are an important part of China-Pakistan relations, and cooperation between the two sides in various fields, including the two navies, has achieved good results.

Li said the militaries of the two countries should expand exchanges in new areas, create new cooperation highlights, and work together to safeguard the security interests of both countries and the region, a defence ministry statement here said. Observers say Sino-Pakistan military cooperation in recent years focussed more on the navy as China gradually stepped up its naval presence in India's backyard, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea where it is developing Pakistan's Gwadar port.

Besides acquiring four modern naval frigates from China, Pakistan will also be getting eight Chinese submarines as part of the efforts to modernisation, Admiral Niazi told the Chinese media during his

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban agree to boost trade, lower tension

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed government have agreed to boost trade and lower tensions along their border amid a surge in militant attacks on security forces, officials said Monday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, struck the deal Sunday in Islamabad, according to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry. The agreement is designed to improve bilateral trade, combat terrorism and boost bilateral ties. Earlier, Bhutto Zardari and

Muttagi also held talks with China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang, a departure from recent years when such dialogue had

been on hold, according to analysts, who say China is expanding its influence in the region. China also has played a role in the resumption of Saudi-Iran diplomatic ties.

In Pakistan, Beijing is bankrolling the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC — a sprawling package that includes such projects as road and power plant construction and boosting agriculture production. The package is considered

a lifeline for this impoverished Islamic nation, which is currently facing one of its worst economic crises amid stalled talks on a bailout with the International Monetary Fund. CPEC, also known as the One Road Project, is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, a global endeavor aimed at reconstituting the ancient Silk Road and linking China to all corners of Asia.

Qin arrived in Islamabad on Friday and met with President Arif Alvi, Foreign Minister Bhutto Zardari and Pakistan's powerful army chief, Gen. Asim Munir. During these meetings, he was assured that Pakistan will boost security for all Chinese nationals who are working on multi-billion dollar projects in cash-strapped Pakistan.

China has been demanding more security from Pakistan for its nationals residing and working in the Islamic country since 2021, when a suicide bomber killed nine Chinese and four Pakistanis in an attack in Pakistan's volatile northwest.

Police deployed in schools in Serbia as opp plan march

Belgrade (AP): Police were deployed on Monday in schools throughout Serbia in an effort to restore a shaken sense of security following two mass shootings last week - including one in a primary school that left 17 people dead and 21 wounded, many of them children. The shootings last Wednesday in Belgrade and a day later in a rural area south of the capital left the nation stunned.

The shootings also triggered calls to encourage tolerance and rid society of widespread hate speech and a gun culture stemming from the 1990s wars.

Opposition parties urged citizens to come to a march against violence in central Belgrade later on Monday.

They demanded the resignations of government ministers and changes in mainstream media that often host convicted war criminals and crime figures on their airwaves. Education Minister Branko Ruzic submitted his resignation on Wednesday and authorities launched a gun crackdown, but opposition said this was too little, too late.

how to speak to each other and how to create a healthy future ... to nurture the beauty of living, of art, science and humanity," said Biljana Stojkovic, a leader of the leftist Zajedno, or Together, party. "The worst among us have

"We have to learn anew

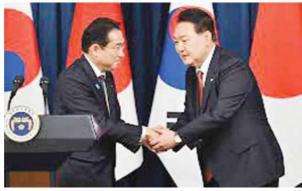
been in power for an entire decade, and they imposed the norms of aggression, intolerance, crime and lies." The ruling populists reacted with fury, accusing the opposition of fuelling instability with their planned protest. President Aleksandar Vucic said late on Sunday on state RTS television that the opposition march was "wrong" and "bad for the state" after such tragedies.

Yoon, Kishida vow better relations

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday called for officials to map out specific steps to hasten security and economic cooperation with Japan following his weekend summit in Seoul with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Kishida during Sunday's meeting expressed sympathy toward Koreans forced into industrial slavery during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula as the leaders vowed to overcome historical grievances and strengthen cooperation in the face of the North Korean nuclear threat and other challenges.

The summit, which was the second meeting between the leaders in less than two months, drew a mixed reaction in South Korea. Critics, including Yoon's liberal opponents who control majority in the National Assembly, said



Kishida's comments fell short of a meaningful apology and accused Yoon of letting Japan off the hook over its past aggressions while pushing to repair bilateral ties.

Others saw the summit as a sign that the two key US allies are finally moving forward after years of bickering as they step up their three-way partnership with Washington.

Yoon, Kishida and

President Joe Biden are expected to hold a trilateral meeting later this month on the sidelines of the Group of Seven meetings in Hiroshima to discuss North Korea and geopolitical uncertainties created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's assertive foreign policy. While South Korea isn't a G-7 country, Yoon was invited as one of eight outreach nations. Yoon during a meeting

Monday instructed them to establish follow-up measures to carry out bilateral security, economic and technology cooperation and facilitate culture and youth exchanges between the countries, which were discussed in his meeting with Kishida. Yoon's office did-

Speaking to reporters before departing Seoul, Kishida said he hoped to further strengthen his personal relationship with Yoon and "work together to carve out a \new era." Kishida, who earlier on Monday separately met with groups of South Korean lawmakers and business leaders, stressed the need for facilitating people-to-people exchanges between the countries, which he said would "help further promote our mutual understanding and give widths and thickness to our

First ChatGPT arrest in China over fake news

PTI ■ BEIJING

hinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT. Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement on Sunday that a suspect surnamed Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

The case first caught the attention of the cyber division of a county police bureau when they spotted a fake news article that claimed nine people had been killed in a local train accident on April 25, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday. The cybersecurity

officers in Kongtong county found the article simultaneously posted by more than 20 accounts on Baijiahao, a blogstyle platform run by Chinese

search engine giant Baidu. The stories had received more than 15,000 clicks by the time it came to authorities' attention, it said. The Gansu public security department said Hong was suspected of the crime of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a charge that normally carries a maximum sentence of five years. But in cases that are deemed especially severe, offenders can be jailed for 10 years and given additional penalties, the Post reported. This is the first time the public has been made aware of an arrest by Chinese authorities after Beijing's first provisions to regulate the use of "deepfake" technology officially took effect in January, it said.

100 killed in **Sudan clashes**

Cairo (AP): At least 100 people were killed in clashes that erupted last month between armed fighters in a city in Sudan's restive region of Darfur, according to the Sudan's Doctors Syndicate.

Hospitals were still out of service in the Darfur city of Genena and an accurate count of the wounded was still hard to make, the doctors' union added in a statement posted on their official Facebook page late Sunday. The fighting in Ğenena, which broke out a few days after Sudan's two rival generals took arms against each other in Khartoum, pointed to the possibility that conflict in the capital could spiral to other parts of the East African country. At least 481 civilians were killed in Khartoum clashes that erupted in mid-April between the military, led by Gen Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

ASEAN leaders to tackle regional crises at tropical resort solve problems through diaand its member states will meet

logue. That includes Myanmar

AP LABUAN BAJO (INDONESIA)

picturesque tourist destina-Apicturesque tour street Southeast Asian leaders with sun-splashed tropical islands, turquoise waters brimming with corals and manta rays, seafood feasts, and a hillside savannah crawling with Komodo dragons. The sunshiny setting is a

stark contrast to the seriousness of their agenda. Indonesian President Joko

Widodo picked the far-flung, rustic harbour town of Labuan Bajo as a laidback venue to discuss an agenda rife with contentious issues.

These include the continuing bloody civil strife in Myanmar and the escalating territorial conflicts in the South China Sea between fellow leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The 10-nation regional bloc

for three days starting Tuesday, with the growing rivalry between the United States and China as a backdrop.

US President Joe Biden has been reinforcing an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to better counter China over Taiwan and the longseething territorial conflicts in the strategic South China Sea which involve four ASEAN members: Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Indonesia, this year's ASEAN chair, has also confronted Chinese fishing fleets and coast guard that have strayed into what Jakarta says was its internationally recognised exclusive economic zone in the gas-rich Natuna Sea.

Widodo, who's in his final year on the world stage as he reaches the end of his two-term limit, said ASEAN aims to collaborate with any country to

where, two years after the military power grab that forced out Aung San Suu Kyi's administration and sparked a bloody civil strife, ASEAN has failed to rein in the violence in its member state. A five-point peace plan by ASEAN leaders and the top Myanmar general, which calls for an immediate stop to killings and other violence and the start of a national dialogue, has been

disregarded by Myanmar's rul-

ing military. ASEAN stopped inviting Myanmar's military leaders to its semiannual summits and would only allow non-political representatives to attend. Myanmar has protested the move. In an additional concern involving Myanmar, Indonesian officials said Sunday that 20 of their

nationals, who were trafficked

into Myanmar and forced to

perform cyber scams, had been

Myawaddy township and brought to the Thai border over the weekend.

During the summit, ASEAN leaders planned to express their concern over such human trafficking schemes in a joint statement, a draft copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. Foreign Indonesian

Minister Retno Marsudi said her country, as ASEAN chair, has tackled the Myanmar crisis in a non-adversarial way. "Colleagues certainly know that in the early stages of its leadership, Indonesia decided to

take a non-megaphone diplo-macy approach," Marsudi said. "The aim is to provide space for the parties to build trust and for the parties to be

more open in communicating." Widodo's choice of a seaside venue with stunning sunrises and sunsets and the sound of

freed from Myanmar's birds chirping all day complements that approach The Indonesian leader also

hoped the high-profile ASEAN summit would put Labuan Bajo and outlying islands, dotted with white-sand beaches and even a rare pink-sand beach, under the global tourism spot-

"This is a very good moment for us to host the ASEAN summit and showcase Labuan Bajo to the world," said Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who flew in Sunday with his wife to a red-carpet welcome flanked by military honor guards and dancing villagers with flower-filled headwear. But there are a few hitches. The far-flung fishing town with only three traffic lights and about 6,000 residents is acutely short of hotels for ASEAN's swarm of diplomats, delegates and jour-

nalists. Many had to arrange to

10 Indians held for illegally acquiring citizenship cards

Kathmandu (PTI): Ten Indian nationals, including three women, have been arrested here for allegedly acquiring Nepali citizenship cards illegally by producing fake documents, police

A Kathmandu Valley Crime Investigation Office team apprehended the Indian nationals, all hailing from Bihar, from various parts of Kathmandu on Saturday, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravindra Regmi said.

Of those arrested, seven were males, while three were females. The Kathmandu Valley Police Office revealed their identities at a press conference at its office on Sunday.

The Indian nationals were found to have obtained the Nepali citizenship certificates on different dates from the district administration offices of Rupandehi, Bara and Parsa districts by producing fake documents, Regmi said. Police said those arrested

have lived in Nepal for a long time, some since as far back as 2006, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. The arrests took place after

a three-month-long investiga-

tion, and those apprehended were engaged in the business of making sweets and ran sweet shops in Nepal, MyRepublica newspaper quoted the police as saying. The Indian nationals have been identified as Bharat Prasad Gupta, 55; Rahul Gupta, 30; Gyanmati Devi Gupta, 50; Gopal Gupta, 39; Ram Sundar Gupta, 44; Ram Prabesh Gupta, 43; Bharat Gupta, 46; Snehalata Gupta, 42; Mindevi Gupta, 49, and Rajesh Kumar Gupta, 52, all of them are from Bihar and currently reside in different parts of the Kathmandu Valley.

ahead of WWII tributes

Ukraine shoots down 35 drones over Kyiv as attacks kill four

 $R^{\text{ussia enacted a major security}}_{\text{clampdown ahead of Tuesday's}}$ annual commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, curbing the use of drones, jet skis and car-sharing services in its largest cities amid its 14-month war with Ukraine.

At least 21 Russian cities cancelled May 9 military parades — the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia — for the first time in years, Russian media said.

Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation" for the restrictions and cancellations. It was not clear whether their decisions were taken in coordination with the Kremlin.

Last week, Russia — which hasn't witnessed the carnage endured by Ukraine during the invasion was rattled by ambiguous official reports that two Ukrainian drones flew into the heart of Moscow under the cover of darkness and reached the Kremlin before being shot

Media and local officials have blamed other sporadic drone attacks, especially targeting oil depots near the two countries' border, on the Ukrainian military. Kviv officials decline to comment on such claims.

The fears of a possible Ukrainian attack appeared real, even though parades will go ahead in Russia's largest cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. But the use of drones has been banned in both cities ahead of Victory Day.

In St. Petersburg, often referred to as "Venice of the north" for its network of rivers and canals, using jet skis in certain parts of the city is prohibited through May 10. In the Russian capital, car shar-

ing services have been temporarily barred from the city centre — drivers will not be able to start or finish rides there - amid preparations for the traditional Red Square parade. Initially, only one foreign leader was expected to attend this



Police inspect an apartment building damaged by a drone, that was shot down during a Russian overnight strike, in Kyiv, Ukraine on Monday.

AP/PTI Russian overnight strike, in Kyiv, Ukraine on Monday

year's Moscow parade Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov, who arrived Monday and met Putin for talks.

That was one more foreign guest than last year, when no leaders went amid Russian President Vladimir Putin's broad diplomatic isolation over the war. The Kremlin at the time said it hadn't invited any because it wasn't a "round-number anniversary."

But on Monday officials announced that Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon would be joining Putin and Zhaparov at the festivities, along with Armenia's prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, and Kazakhstan's leader, Kassym-Jomart

The latter two were surprising choices for the guest list as they have in the past diverged from Putin's line. Pashinyan snubbed Moscow earlier this year by refusing to host military drills of the Russia-dominated security alliance Armenia is part of, the Collective Security Treaty Organization. May 9 is normally a bank holiday in Ukraine, too, but not this year, because of the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that he had sent a draft bill to parliament proposing a Day of Remembrance and Victory over Nazism in World War II on May 8 and a Day of Europe on May 9, further distancing Kyiv from Moscow.

Meanwhile, Ukraine air defences shot down 35 Iranianmade drones over Kyiv in Russia's latest nighttime assault, as attacks

across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces killed four civilians, officials said on Monday.

Five people in the capital were injured by falling drone debris, according to Serhii Popko, head of Kyiv City Military Administration. Air raid alarms sounded for more than three hours during the night.

Drone wreckage struck a twostory apartment building in Kyiv's western Svyatoshynskyi district, while other debris struck a car parked nearby, setting it on fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram post.

Facing economic sanctions and limits on its supply chains due to its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has routinely turned to Iranian Shahed drones to bolster its firepower. Russian shelling of 127 targets across northern, southern and eastern parts of Ukraine killed three civilians, the Ukrainian defence ministry said. Russian long-range bombers launched up to eight cruise missiles at Ukraine's southern Odesa region, authorities said. One person was killed and three wounded. Some of the Sovietera cruise missiles fired against the Odesa region self-destructed or fell into the sea before reaching their targets, according to Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat.

Meanwhile, Russian-installed authorities have begun evacuating residents of Tokmak, a town in the front-line southern Zaporizhzhia region, toward the Black Sea coast, Ukraine's General Staff said.

Russia puts curbs in place | War shadows Russia's Victory Day

Victory Day, Russia's most important secular holiday, lauds two tenets that are central to the country's identity: military might and moral rectitude. But the war in Ukraine undermines both this year. The holiday falling on Tuesday marks the 78th anniversary of Germany's capitulation in World War II after a relentless Red Army offensive pushed German forces from Stalingrad, deep inside Russia, all the way to Berlin, about 2,200 kilometres (1,300 miles).

The Soviet Union lost at least 20 million people in the war; the suffering and valour that went into the German defeat have been touchHowever, many regions have and an inability to take Bakhmut, a cancelled their May 9 observances small city of questionable value, because of concerns the events could be targets for Ukrainian attacks. Moscow's famed Red Square military parade will go ahead following Russia's claim of an attempted Ukrainian drone attack on the Kremlin, whose spires loom next to the parade venue.

For all the fearsome armaments that will growl through the square, Russia's failure to make gains in Ukraine spoils the image of its army's indomitability.

After seizing sizable parts of the neighbouring country in the opening weeks of the invasion, the Russian campaign saw an abandoned attempt to enter Kyiv, retreats in northern and southern Ukraine,

small city of questionable value, despite months of exceptionally gruesome fighting.
President Vladimir Putin, in his

speech during the parade, is sure to praise the Red Army's determination to wipe out Nazism and to repeat his assertion that Russia is taking the moral high ground by fighting an alleged Nazi regime in Ukraine, a country with a Jewish president.

But the missiles that rain down on Ukrainian civilian targets have drawn worldwide condemnation of Russia, while the Western countries that made common cause with Moscow to defeat Nazi Germany send billions of dollars' worth of weapons to Ukraine. Analysts are divided on whether the May 3 drone

uine attack or a "false flag" concocted to justify increasing the ferocity of Russia's missile barrages in Ukraine. Either explanation risks undermining the sense of security among Russians already rattled by attacks, likely committed by Ukraine or by domestic opponents, that have risen sharply in recent weeks. Two freight trains derailed this week in bomb explosions in the Bryansk region that borders Ukraine. Notably, the region's authorities did not blame Ukraine, which could be an attempt to whitewash the Ukrainian capability to carry out sabotage. But Bryansk authorities claimed in March that two people were shot and killed when alleged Ukrainian saboteurs penetrated the region.

'Biden would veto House GOP bill on immigration'

AP WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden would veto a House GOP bill that aims to restrict asylum, build more border wall and cut a programme that allows migrants a chance to stay in the US lawfully for two years, an administration official said Monday.

Republicans are looking to capitalise on the spotlight as immigration surges into the national news this week with the ending of COVID-19 restrictions that allowed border authorities to quickly return many migrants who crossed the border illegally.

They aim to vote on their Secure the Border Act on Thursday — the same day the emergency powers expire. Officials have already seen a surge of migrants at the US-Mexico border and are bracing for

The legislation represents the GOP's first major immigration policy proposal since the Trump era, when hardline immigration opponents controlled the White House. The 213-page bill resurrects a slew of Trump's policies, such as building barriers along hundreds of miles of border country, and in some cases, pushes beyond the former president's aggres-

It stands little chance of passing the Democratic-held Senate and faces strong headwinds from some Republicans representing agricultural areas over requirements that businesses verify employees' legal immigration status.

But if it were to end up on the president's desk, he'd veto it, said the official, who was not authorised to speak publicly



about a decision that hasn't yet been announced and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The bill would cut the programme that allows US officials to quickly turn away migrants from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba and Nicaragua.

The Biden administration has long argued Congress needs to act on the border in order to fix major problems that have led to record numbers of people illegally crossing. But this isn't the way to do it, in the view of the White House.

Strict new rules about to go into effect this week limit the number of people who can claim asylum at the border and instead encourage migrants to skip the dangerous and deadly journey north and apply for asylum through a new app, or at a regional hub opening in both Guatemala and Colombia.

Iran hangs 2 in rare blasphemy case as executions surge

Dubai (AP): Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone, according to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights. But carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authori-

The two men executed, Yousef Mehrad and Sadrollah Fazeli Zare, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Both men faced months of solitary confinement and could not contact their families, the commission said. The Mizan news agency of Iran's judiciary confirmed the executions, describing the two men as having insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad and proMizan also accused them

of burning a Quran, Islam's holy book, though it wasn't clear whether the men allegedly did that or such imagery was shared in the Telegram channel. Mahmood Amiry-

Human Rights, decried the executions as exposing the "medieval nature" of Iran's theocracy."The international community must show with its reaction that executions for expressing an opinion is intolerable," he said in a statement The refusal of the internation-

Moghaddam, who leads Iran

al community to react decisively is a green light for the Iranian government and all their like-minded people around the world."

It wasn't immediately clear when Iran carried out its last execution for blasphemy. Other countries in the Middle East, like Saudi Arabia, also allow for death sentences to be imposed for blasphemy.

The streak of executions, including members of ethnic minority groups in Iran, comes as monthslong protests over the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police

EU cancels Tel Aviv event in protest over radical min

Jerusalem (AP): The European cancelled a diplomatic reception to prevent a radical ultranationalist Israeli minister from attending. The act of protest by the EU's delegation to Israel against a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, the most religious and ultranationalist in the country's history, could cause a diplomatic spat between Israel and the

Relations already have been strained over Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank. Itamar Ben-Gvir, the leader of the Jewish Power faction, serves as the national security minister and was assigned to represent the Israeli government at the EU's Europe Day event on Tuesday. Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said on Sunday in a Kan radio interview that Ben-Gvir had been assigned by the government secretary to attend "not as a representative of the Jewish Power party ... but to represent the government of Israel." The EU said that it decided "to cancel the diplomatic reception, as we do not want to offer a platform to someone whose views contradict the values the European Union stands for.

Turkiye's opposition denounces fairness of vote under Erdogan

As Turkiye heads for presidential and parliamentary elections at the weekend that the Republican People's Party, strongest challenge to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his 20 years as leader, complaints are growing about the fairness of the vote. Turkiye's opposition has long said that the country's elections are played out on an unlevel playing field, claims often backed by international observers.

Media coverage stands out as the most obvious example of where Erdogan enjoys an advantage over his opponents, but factors such as the use of state resources while campaigning and the questionable interpretation of electoral law also feature.

Some 90 per cent of Turkiye's media is in the hands of the government or its backers, according to Reporters Without Borders, ensuring overwhelming airtime for the president. Only a handful of opposition newspapers remain in print, most having transitioned to online-only editions.

During April, Erdogan received nearly 33 hours of airtime on the main state-run TV station, according to opposition members of the broadcasting watchdog. His presidential opponent, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, received 32 minutes.

The main opposition party, legal action against broadcaster TRT for failing to screen its campaign video.

Unfortunately, Turkish Radio and Television Corporation has moved away from being an impartial and objective institution and has turned into the Tayyip Radio and Television Corporation," CHP lawmaker Tuncay Ozkan

The remaining independent media also face increasing restrictions. Last month, broadcasting authority RTUK fined independent channels Fox News, Halk TV and TELE1 over news and commentary deemed a breach of regulations.

Ilhan Tasci, an opposition-appointed RTUK member, said in all three cases the stations had been accused of criticising or questioning ruling-party actions.

In a statement following the last presidential and general elections in 2018, observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe noted that Erdogan and his ruling Justice and Development Party

(AKP) enjoyed "an undue advantage, including in excessive coverage by governmentaffiliated public and private media outlets."

has also been extended over social media, where many opposition voices have retreat-

A "disinformation" law introduced in October allows a jail sentence of up to three years for spreading false information "with the sole aim of creating anxiety, fear or panic among the public."

Sinan Aygul, the only journalist to be prosecuted under the new law, was handed a 10month prison term in February. He is currently free while appealing the case.

"The real aim is to silence

all dissident voices in society," said Aygul, chair of the journalists association in Bitlis southeastern Turkiye. It is "a law that targets any-

one who expresses an opinion.

It targets not only individuals

but also media organs," he The ill-defined law creates crimes from "basic journalistic activities," Aygul said, adding that it could be used during the elections to target groups seeking to protect bal-

lot box security who use social

media to highlight abuses.

UK's Coronation celebrations conclude

Indian-American man charged for wiring money to IS women

Washington (PTI): A 33-year-Virginia for transferring thousands of dollars to Islamic State women, hoping to smuggle them out of a Syrian refugee camp, a media report said. Mohammed Azharuddin Chhipa used social media to raise funds for IS women in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria and voiced his support for violent jihad online, The . Washington Þost newspaper

reported on Friday. The report, citing an FBI filing, said that in 2019 Chippa began using social media to raise funds for "sisters" in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria, which is assessed to be a stronghold of ISIS ideology," claiming the money was for "shelter", the FBI said. The FBI said that "thousands of videos, pictures, essays, books and search histories about extremist ideology, jihad, ISIS, and violent propaganda on multiple devices" turned up during a search of Chhipa's home in 2019. Chippa, being held in jail after making an initial appearance in a Virginia court on Friday, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation, the report said.

Fire in gold mine kills at

 $A_{
m gold\ mine\ in\ southern}$ workers during an overnight shift, Peruvian authorities reported. The Yanaquihua mining company said in a statement that a total of 175 workers had been safely evacuated after the accident, which happened late

> mining. Government officials said the cause of the incident was under investigation. Some news reports said preliminary investigations indicated an explosion might have been set off by a short circuit in a part of the mine about 100 metres below the surface.

> Relatives of the victims were brought by buses to the mine in Yanaquihua in the Arequipa region, where they were briefed by security agents. Some sat in front of posters at the entrance to the mine to wait for the bodies of their loved

> Marcelina Aguirre said her husband was among the dead. She said he had told her there were risks at the mine.

"We are very worried, very



Relatives of trapped miners wait outside the SERMIGOLD mine in Arequipa. Peru. on

sad we are, to lose a husband, leaving two abandoned children," she said. The Public Ministry of Arequipa's Fiscal District said investigators were working to clarify what happened. "During the investigation, the Prosecutor's Office will determine the cause of the

tragic event and the responsibilities of those involved," its

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक मेगा फूड पार्क, बहेडी

statement said. **PUBLIC NOTICE** This is to inform to all general public that my Client Smt. Sheela (UID No 759314851340) W/o Late Gyan Chand R/o H.No.57,Bharat Nagar,New Friends Colony,New Delhi 110025,

Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110025, has dissowned her Daughters (1) Lalita Tomar (UID No. 509888508644) (2) Sonia Sharma (UID No. 462158438670) (3) Nisha Sharma (UID No. 953892693631) from all their immoveable and moveable properties as he is not under our control. If anybody deals with Ms. Lalita Tomar, Ms, Sonia Sharma & Ms. Nisha Sharma in any manner then she/he himself would be responsible and liable for that dealing and We will not be responsible and liable for that dealing and the sharma in any manner then she/he dealing and the proposible and liable for that dealing in any manner. Advocate: Devendra Kumar Ch. 89, Patiala House Courts

PUBLIC NOTICE

o be known to all that, I, Munindra Dvivedi, fo Shri Ashok Dvivedi,R/o House No.365 treet No.13,Block-D, Laxmi Nagar,Delhi 10092, acting and on behalf of Mrs. Shehla doonis, who is the co-owner and in physica ossession of Flat No.65, on Second Floor, ir ocket-2,Category-III,SFS Flats,situated at atwaria Sarai Residential Scheme, Katwaria arai,New Delhi,which has been allotted by DA vide File No.F.99(36)1983/SFS/ KS/III a oplied for conversion from lease hold into ee hold of said flat in D.D.A. The origina llotment/Allocation Letter, Fifth and Fina Allotment/Allocation Letter, Fifth and Final Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Librator, Possession Letter, Possession Librator, Possession Letter, Possession Librator, and all original Bank Challans and other related locuments of said flat have been lost. An F.I.R. or this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original locuments may write/contact with above hamed person at above address/Phone No. 1958097420 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to his flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-I, D Block 3" loor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Britain's Kate tries her hand at archery while taking part in the Big Help Out, during a visit to the 3rd Upton Scouts Hut in Slough, England, on Monday.

with 'Big Help Out' volunteering drive PTI ■ LONDON unteering for themselves and

The long celebratory Coronation weekend in the UK concluded on Monday with a nationwide volunteering initiative entitled the "Big Help Out", made up of around eight million opportunities for charities and local communities to participate in volunteering ini-Conceived by Buckingham

Palace as a tribute to newly

crowned King Charles III's

focus on public service, the "Big

Help Out" encouraged people

from all walks of life to try vol-

join the work being undertak-en to support their local areas. While British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty joined the initiative at a lunch club in southern England, Opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer answered calls for the National Health Service (NHS) volunteer responders programme. "This is part of the Big Help Out, tens of thousands of events taking place across the country just like this, respecting and reflecting His Majesty's

long tradition of service," Sunak

vegetables for food being prepared at the MacMillan Lunch Club in Hertfordshire. "It is community spirit like

told reporters as he chopped

this that binds our country together. It's fantastic to be a part of it," he said. The King and Queen final-

ly got a day of rest after the hectic activities of the weekend, with other royals deputed to support various volunteering initiatives. William and Kate, and their children joined volunteers in renovating the Upton Scout Hut in Slough,

उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए–1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर सामान्य/अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना

एतद द्वारा सुचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत

अनुरक्षण एवं रख—रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत एवं अर्ह ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसेन्सी फर्मों/डीलरों/अनुमवी निर्माता/ठेकेदारों से ई–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

1 at I.A. Mega Food Pa	ark, Baheri.	e अल्पकालीन	7.46
	e Contract of Street Lights and ars I.A. G.C. Shahjahanpur	d सामान्य	36.47

जमा की जा सकती है। क्रमांक—2 हेतु निविदा दिनांक 10.05.2023 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 29.05. 2023 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। जिसे दिनांक 30.05.2023 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे खोला जाएगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 02.06.2023 को साय 5:00 बजा बाला जाएगा। गावदादाताओं हाश संगय संत्रा का मूल प्रांतया विनाक 02.06.2023 का साथ 5.30 बजे तक कार्यात्वय में जमा की जा सकती है। नोट - 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी. सहित दर्रे अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करना अगिया "विद्युत सुरक्षा निवागा" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनक में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित ताइशेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website:

www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई-लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

Investors wealth climbs over ₹2.27 lakh cr as markets rally

nvestors became richer by over Rs 2.27 lakh crore on Monday as equities re-bounded, with the BSE Sensex rallying over 1 per cent amid continuous foreign fund inflows and upbeat global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25. During the day, it zoomed 799.9 points or 1.31 per cent to 61,854.19.

Following the rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped by Rs 2,27,794.46 crore to Rs 2,76,06,443.06 crore.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers on Friday as they bought equities worth Rs 777.68 crore, according to exchange data. "Markets recouped all of Friday's losses as bulls took over the positive baton from the strong close at Wall Street amidst upbeat US jobs data. Realty, auto and banking stocks were star outperformers that triggered a sharp rally in benchmark indices," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

The BSE benchmark had tanked 694.96 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 61,054.29 on Friday. The Nifty fell 186.80 points or 1.02 per cent to end at 18,069.

"While the undertone continued to remain bullish, the upbeat US market close last Friday further buoyed the local market sentiment. Hopes of interest rate hike cycle reaching its peak and banking woes in the US receding, investors latched upon ratesensitive stocks of banking, automobile and realty as strong monthly sales numbers are pointing towards a decent recovery,"

RUPEE VS DOLLAR

Rupee falls

US dollar

2 paise to close

at 81.80 against

The rupee pared initial gains to settle lower by 2 paise at 81.80 (provisional) against the

US dollar on Monday, tracking a recovery in crude oil prices.

as the gains from weak

American currency and positive

domestic equities were negated by a recovery in crude oil prices.

on a positive note at 81.76 but

pared early gains to settle 2 paise

lower at 81.80 against the US

dollar despite a firm trend in

touched a high of 81.70 and a

low of 81.82 against the

which gauges the greenback's

During the day, the rupee

Meanwhile, the dollar index,

domestic equities.

American currency

At the interbank foreign

Forex traders said the rupee consolidated in a narrow range



Bank jumped 4.92 per cent. The other winners were Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Maruti

Value buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank also added to the momentum. In the broader market, the BSE midcap jumped 0.94 per cent and smallcap climbed 0.56 per cent.

Among indices, auto rallied 1.71 per

cent, realty jumped 1.54 per cent, bankex consumer durables index ended lower.

from strong domestic earnings and fading concerns over the US economic slowdown following robust job data. The recent weakness in the US dollar is drawing more foreign funds to the domestic market, with FIIs remaining net buyers for seven consecutive days," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at

Indian financial system well protected, regulated: Seth

which was not possible but

today with the use of technolo-

said, "With the use of technol-

ogy, how a seamless experience

can be provided to potential

investors, whether they come

through the RBI infrastructure,

which is the market infrastruc-

ture route, or the Sebi infrastruc-

ture route, hitherto which was

not possible but today with the

use of technology is possible".

work in a time-bound manner

to create a seamless environment

for investment, he added.

So all stakeholders should

The council also deliberat-

On the G-sec market, he

gy (it) is possible," he noted.

Indian financial system is well protected and regulated despite the daunting global financial situation, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Monday.

Briefing media on the meeting outcome of the 27th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Seth said "The Indian financial sector is well protect-ed, well regulated but at the same time, we have to be cautious and be on our toes as soon as early warning indicators are there".

There are a set of indicators which provide early warning indicators so that the stresses are noticed well in time to take the corrective measures, he said.

Asked if the spillover of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and liquidity pressure faced by Credit Suisse was discussed, he said, it was not specifically brought but there's no spillover coming.

About the Government Securities (G-Sec) market, he said the effort is to have a seamless experience for potential with the use of technology.

Select segments of strategic buyers and

PE (private equity) roll-ups are expected to

In 2022, the technology service sector, including IT Services, BPM (Business

process management) and ER&D (engineer-

ing and R&D), saw an uptick in transaction

activity, with a total of 947 deals - the high-

est number recorded in the past five years.

doubled from the levels seen in 2020, though

deal value remained relatively steady

throughout 2021 and 2022 (excluding two

USD 10 billion-plus deals in 2021)," it said.

Private equity participation in IT services deals increased 2.5 times in 2022 com-

pared to 2020 and dominated the large deal (USD 500 million plus) segment with a 62.5

per cent share. Notably, BPM and ER&D

services experienced growth of 1.5 times

and 1.8 times, respectively, compared to

FY24, and denied it being a

moderation, saying the lender

tered a corporate loan book

expansion of over 20 per cent in

FY23, and has a sizeable pipeline

of loans in various sectors like

infrastructure where it is wit-

worth Rs 22,000 crore have

been sanctioned for various

projects that are yet to start.

on their preferences, curate holiday packages based

on variable inputs like occasion, budget, activity

preferences, time of travel, among others, and even

help book these holiday packages, MakeMyTrip

tion of e-commerce, travel and technology, and

are proud to introduce a feature that breaks down

the barriers of language, literacy, inability to nav-

igate complex app environments, physical impair-

"We have pioneered offerings at the intersec-

said in a statement.

According to him, loans

nessing a healthy demand.

Raju said the bank regis-

believes in over-delivering.

The total deal value and volume in 2022

continue driving the deal momentum.

"Whether they (potential investors) come through the ed on early warning indicators for the economy and our pre-RBI infrastructure... Or the Sebi paredness to deal with them, infrastructure route, hitherto reducing the compliance burden

financial sector by improving regulatory quality, debt levels of corporates and households in India, simplification and streamlining of KYC framework to meet the needs of Digital India, he said. Besides, the seamless expe-

rience for retail investors in government securities, Bimakrit Bharat — Unique Value Proposition to take insurance to the last mile and support required in terms of resolving inter-regulatory issues for GIFT IFSC to play a strategic role in Atmanirbhar Bharat was also discussed.

The council also took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the action taken by members on the past decisions of the FSDC.

Besides RBI governor, Securities and Exchange Board of India chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) chairman Debasish Panda, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) chairman Ravi Mital and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's newly appointed chairman Deepak Mohanty participated in the

Sales of luxury flats jump 2.5 times across 7 cities in March qtr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cales of luxury residential Oproperties — each priced Rs 4 crore and above — jumped 2.5 times to 4,000 units in January-March this year across 7 cities on strong demand for large apartments with better amenities, according to CBRE.

In its report, real estate consultant CBRE said the sales of luxury homes stood at 1,600 units in the year-ago period.

As per the data, sales of luxury flats in Delhi-NCR jumped over three-fold to 1,900 units in the March quarter from 600 units in the year-ago period. Sales of premium apart-

ments in Mumbai increased to 1,150 units from 800 units.

In Pune, sales stood at 150 units, a sharp jump from 10 units in the year-ago period. Bengaluru saw flat demand at 50 Sales of luxury homes dou-

bled to 100 units from 50 units in Kolkata. Hyderabad witnessed more

than eight-time rise to 430 units from 50 units. Sales of luxury apartments

in Chennai rose five times to 250 units in January-March 2023 from 50 units in the corresponding period a year ago. After posting a strong per-formance in 2022, the luxury

residential segment witnessed a continued momentum in sales and launch activity, the consul-

"Post-pandemic uptick in ownership of luxury housing results from homebuyers' mindset looking for larger spaces and a higher preference for home ownership with better amenities," it added.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO — India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa at CBRE, said, the demand for luxury housing this year will primarily be driven by the aspiration of continued home ownership.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd

and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

The deal activity in the global technol-

▲ ogy services sector has softened, with

over 150 transactions announced in the

first quarter of 2023 compared to 270-plus

deals in Q1 2022 and over 220 in the first

quarter of 2021, according to an EY-

(M&A) Trends and Outlook in the technol-

ogy services sector - noted that in 2022,

the technology service sector proved to be

of the year and in Q1 CY23, the technolo-

gy service sector witnessed a surge in M&A

and private equity deals, reaching a total of

over USD 57 billion in 2022, which was

more than double the amount seen in 2020

On the outlook for 2023, the report said

a year of paradoxes.

(at over USD 27 billion).

State-owned Canara Bank on Monday reported a 74 per

cent jump in March quarter con-

solidated net profit to Rs

3,336.51 crore, helped by high-

er core income and lower pro-

The Bengaluru-based len-

der had reported a net profit of

Rs 1,918.80 crore in the year-ago

The report - Mergers and Acquisitions

Despite signs of a slowdown at the end

(1.50 per cent) financial services (1.46 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.08 per cent) and services (0.93 per cent). Only the BSE "Indian equities gained confidence

Geojit Financial Services.

After strong 2022, deal making in tech services

sector softens in Q1 2023: EY-Nasscom report

that with greater emphasis on emerging digital capabilities, the market is likely to

become more cautious and adopt creative

with 150 plus deals announced in Q1 CY23

compared to 270 plus in Q1 CY22 and 220

plus in Q1 CY21, deal activity for mid-sized

companies is expected to remain strong

ing to a statement outlining the findings of

across the broader M&A market," accord-

Canara Bank consolidated net profit

jumps 74% to ₹3,337 cr in March qtr

Canara

Op Revenue 24518.42 11774(CL) 29.59

Expenditure 6565.89 757/755 11.58

Net Profit 1969.04 3232.8464.18

Satyanarayana Raju said the

bank will aim to grow its over-

MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft for

voice-assisted booking in Indian languages

17952.53 2444777 36.18

2838.55 4727873 48.98

In the latest March quarter,

the lender's core net interest

income grew 23 per cent to Rs

8,617 crore. This was due to a 17

per cent growth in advances and

a 0.14 per cent expansion in the

net interest margin to 3.07 per

cent to Rs 4,776 crore but was

also hit by a 72 per cent decline

in the treasury income. Canara Bank's managing director and chief executive K

Its other income grew 7 per

"Although deal activity has softened,

deal structures to manage risk.

Indian Bank Q4 net profit rises 47% to ₹1,447 cr

PTI NEW DELHI

State-owned Indian Bank on Monday reported a 47 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 1,447 crore for the March quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest

The bank had earned a net profit of Rs 984 crore in the year-

During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 14,238 crore against Rs 11,405 crore a year ago, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Interest income grew to Rs 12,244 crore during the period under review from Rs 9,832 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal.

The bank's board has recommended a dividend of Rs

NCLT issues notice

The National Company Law Tribunal on Monday issued

a notice to SpiceJet on a petition

filed by an aircraft lessor seek

ing initiation of insolvency res-

olution proceedings against the

budget carrier and the next

hearing is scheduled for May 17.

bench of the NCLT headed by

President Ramalingam Sudha-

kar issued the notice to SpiceJet

and directed to list the matter on

said that in the Aircastle issue,

notice was issued in normal

ing against SpiceJet. The court

has recognised the fact that

parties are under settlement

discussions and they can contin-

ue to pursue the same," he said.

comes at a time when crisis-hit

rival Go First has filed for vol-

untary insolvency resolution

The latest development also

A SpiceJet spokesperson

There was no adverse rul-

May 17 for the next hearing.

Aircastle (Ireland) Ltd.

The petition was filed by

A two-member Principal

to SpiceJet on

aircraft lessor's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



8.60 per share or 86 per cent of Rs 10 face value for the year ended March 31, 2023.

assets (NPAs) were reduced to 5.95 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2023, from 8.47 per cent by the end of March

Net NPAs also came down to 0.90 per cent of the advances from 2.27 per cent a year earlier. The fall in the bad loans ratio helped cut the provisions towards NPAs for Q4FY23 to Rs 1,040 crore compared to Rs 2,046 crore in the year-ago peri-

Over 19 lakh PACL investors get their money back: Sebi

insolvency petition

More than 19 lakh PACL investors with claims of up to Rs 17,000 have received Rs 920 crore in refunds, markets regulator Sebi said on Monday. The regulator had found

that PACL Ltd, which had raised money from the public in the name of agriculture and real estate businesses, collected more than Rs 60,000 crore through illegal collective investment schemes (CISs) over 18 years.

A panel headed by retired Justice RM Lodha had initiated the process of refunds in phases for investors, who had invested in PACL. "As on date, the committee has successfully effected refunds in respect of a total number of 19,61,690 eligible applications with outstanding (principal) amount up to Rs 17,000 aggregating to Rs 919.91 crore," according to a statement

The committee, in February, had called for original PACL certificates from investors whose outstanding (principal) amount with PACL was more than Rs 15,000 and up to Rs 17,000 in order to refund the money to

available on Sebi website.

them after verification of original certificates.

The window for accepting original certificates was kept open from February 27 to March 20, 2023. The committee, subsequently, after considering the difficulties faced by the investors in submitting original certificates, decided to refund the money without insisting on original certificates. Accordingly, payment of Rs 85.68 crore was returned to 1.14 lakh appli-

Earlier, a total of 3,747 applicants, with claims of up to Rs

15,000, received payment of Rs 2.45 crore. In December 2015, the Securities and Exchange Board Board of India (Sebi) had ordered the attachment of all assets of PACL and its nine promoters and directors for their failure to refund the money that was due to investors.

India coal imports surge to 162 Birla Estates acquires 28.6-acre land in Bengaluru for housing project; eyes ₹3,000 cr revenue PTI ■ NEW DELHI emerging as the next big IT centre of

MT in FY23; inbound coking coal shipment grows to 54 MT

¬ravel portal MakeMyTrip on Monday said it

has collaborated with Microsoft to use

Generative AI to make travel planning accessible

by introducing voice-assisted booking in Indian

Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and Azure

Cognitive Services, will converse with the user to

offer personalised travel recommendations based

The new, in-platform tech stack powered by

tions or managed office space. Around 58 per cent of the enterprise leases (around 11,000 seats) were of large size for 300 seats and above per deal.

Most of the demand (61 per

co-working operators, of which 65 per cent demand was for managed office space.

leased by flex operators during the 15-month period from January 2022-March 2023. During this period, 67 per cent of the seats (around 19,000 seats) were for enterprise solu-

cent) for flex seats in the same period (January 2022 to March 2023) was driven by domestic firms. Startups accounted for 38 per cent of this demand as it provides flexibility in lease tenures, the ability to scale up or down in shorter turnaround times, and agility to position different project teams across multiple loca-

year, 21,299 seats were leased by

cial year against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period, according to a report.

tion said in its latest report. In March alone, the noncoking coal import stood at 13.88 MT against 12.61 MT in the same month last year. Coking coal imports were 3.96 MT against 4.76 MT imported



world. However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major con-

sumers of the dry fuel. For coking coal — a key raw material used in steel making the country remains heavily dependent on imports.

Birla Estates on Monday said it has acquired a 28.6-acre land in Bengaluru

to develop a housing project with an estimated sales potential of Rs 3,000 crore. In a regulatory filing, Century Textiles and Industries Ltd said its arm Birla Estates Pvt Ltd has purchased the 28.6-acre prime land parcel in the fast-developing micro-

market of Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru. The company, however, did not disclose the deal value. Birla Estates is the real estate arm of the Aditya Birla Group. "The proposed project is estimated to

have a revenue potential of about Rs 3,000 crore," the filing said. The development will essentially com-

prise residential housing along with conve nience retail options. KT Jithendran, MD and CEO of Birla



Estates, said, "We believe that this region has immense potential to become the next IT hub, and our Grade-A residential complex will serve as a haven for modern professionals in the area"

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield said in a statement that it facilitated the deal

Shalin Raina, Managing Director -Residential Services at Cushman & Wakefield, said, "The area of Sarjapur is Bengaluru. It's phenomenal connectivity to various prominent corridors makes it a promising residential destination for the large population of IT professionals, who comprise a big part of the new generation of homebuyers. Birla Éstates, a 100 per cent whollyowned subsidiary of Century Textiles and

Industries Ltd, develops premium residential housing in key markets. The company is developing land parcels both through outright purchases and asset-light joint ventures, apart from developing its own land parcels. Last month, Birla Estates bought a 5.76-

acre land in Pune to develop a housing project worth Rs 2,500 crore as part of its expansion plan. It also acquired a prime land parcel in South Mumbai to develop a luxury housing project with an estimated revenue potential of Rs 600 crore.



visions.

period.

Co-working operators leased 7,068 office desks to clients in NCR in Mar gtr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

o-working operators provid-⊶ed on lease 7,068 desks in January-March across Delhi-NCR, highest since December quarter of 2019, amid rising demand for flexible workspace from corporates and others, according to JLL India. Education, consulting and

technology companies led the leasing demand for flexible seats. The demand for managed office from enterprises was high and they contributed 75 per cent of the total leasing of flexible seats during the January-March

quarter of this calendar year. "What is interesting to note is that most of this leasing demand was for managed office space by enterprises who were looking for a more customized flex space with a focus on endto-end amenities and workplace management," the consultant said. During 2022 calendar More than 28,000 seats were

India's coal imports increased by 30 per cent to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022-23 finan-

The import of coking coal rose 5.44 per cent to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22, mjunc-

in March 2022.

India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the

MAX WINS MIAMI GRAND PRIX

orld champion Max Verstappen powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez and win the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. The victory extends Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings and follows his triumph in the

inaugural Miami race last year.
The 1-2 for Red Bull is their
fourth in five races so far this season as the team utterly dominate the sport leaving their rivals to battle for the third podium position. Aston Martin's Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso took third for his fourth podium in five races this season as he continues to enjoy his late career revival.

Perez, starting on pole, made the perfect start, racing clear of his rivals but Verstappen, on hard tyres, quickly moved through the field and took just 15 laps to reach second place behind his team-mate.

Perez pitted on lap 20 allowing Verstappen to take the lead but the Dutchman had to give that up when he went into the pits on lap 46, changing to the medium compound tyres and

coming out 1.2 seconds behind.
It took just two laps for
Verstappen, who won the inaugural Miami Grand Prix a year ago, to take advantage of his fresher tyres with better grip as, after a brief joust, he overtook



the Mexican, on 25-lap-old tyres, to take the lead.

Verstappen's 38th win for Red Bull equals the team record set by Sebastian Vettel. "I took the cars off one by one and then

I could stay out really long on the hard tyres and that's where we I think made the difference," said Verstappen. "For sure winning a race from P9 is always very satisfying," he said

Mercedes had some consolation at the end of a difficult week with George Russell taking fourth place ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and team-mate Lewis Hamilton finishing sixth.

Charles Leclerc, who crashed late in qualifying and started seventh on the grid, finished in seventh place with Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Alpine in eighth.



Mercedes and Ferrari have 'underdelivered' says Red Bull's Horner

Team principal Christian Horner said Red Bull's total dominance of Formula One this season is mainly due to the failings of their rivals Mercedes and Ferrari rather than any big steps forward from his team.

Red Bull have won all five races and had four 1-2 finishes so far this season, leading some to worry the sport is becoming too predictable.

But while this is Red Bull's

best-ever start to an F1 season, Horner doesn't want to take too much credit for his team.

"We feel that we've made a good step from the (previous car) but the kind of step that

you would expect, it's more that it feels like others have lost ground," Horner told reporters.

The Englishman said that he has been surprised by the lack of competitiveness of the rivals. "I think it surprised us that the others have perhaps under-delivered compared to where they were last year, but no doubt they will be looking to address that, and I'm sure starting in Imola we're going to see big updates starting to come through," he said.
Horner said those updates

for the next race could see "big gains" for the likes of Ferrari and Mercedes but he was clearly keen to put some pressure on them, taking aim again in his post-race interview with broadcasters Sky Sports. "We are wondering: 'Where are the others?' We have made a normal step over the winter. Where did Ferrari and Mercedes go?' he asked.

But despite Verstappen and Perez being in a league of their own so far this season and Red Bull already 122 points clear in the constructor's championship, Horner said much remained to be fought for. "We've got a great car, we've got a great team, we've got two great drivers, but still a long way to go, he said. "Let's reserve judgement until after we see what it turns out to be at Imola, (Monaco) and Barcelona.'



Alcaraz 'at the world No. 1 again

AP MADRID

becoming the top ranked tennis player in the world again after defending his Madrid Open title on Sunday.

The Spaniard earned his 10th career title with a hardfought 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Jan-Lennard Struff and can reclaim the world number one ranking from Novak Djokovic simply by playing a single match at the Rome Masters next week, before the French Open.

Currently ranked second, Alcaraz spent 20 weeks in the top spot after his US Open triumph in September, becoming the youngest player to reach world number one.

Djokovic's Australian Open triumph saw him depose Alcaraz but the 20-year-old confirmed he would play next week in the Italian capital. "These are very nice achie-

Alcaraz was given a tricky vements, winning my fourth Masters 1000, defending my title here and being almost at the door of recovering the number one spot," Alcaraz told a news conference. "These are very big things

I'm doing, and I'm very proud of the work and of these accomplishments. I am ambitious and we'll try and go for Rome."
Alcaraz continued his

arlos Alcaraz celebrated Roland Garros build-up by tories in Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Indian Wells this year, although he was below his best against lucky loser Struff, the world number 65.

The triumph and his impending return to the top of the rankings reiterated his bright future at the game's summit.

Alcaraz said his only worry for his future in tennis is injury, rather than any mental aspects. "You have to try to take care

of yourself as much as possible," said Alcaraz. The mental issue, of getting

tired of winning, travelling or playing tennis, doesn't worry me because I know it's not going to happen.
"What may worry me in the

future is the issue of injuries, which is what we are going to try to take care of together with my

time by his German opponent but eventually became the youngest player since Rafael Nadal in 2006 to defend an ATP Masters 1000 title. On Saturday, world number two Aryna Sabalenka beat top-ranked Iga Swiatek to win the women's title in the Spanish capital.



David De Gea made a huge goal-keeping howler as Manchester United suffered a 1-0 defeat at West Ham on Sunday that threatens to send their season into a tailspin.

Just a few days ago United were heavy favourites to finish in the Premier League's top four but now they are wobbling badly while the Hammers have edged closer to safety.

The result hinged on a catastrophic first-half error by De Gea, who let a tame shot from Said Benrahma squirm past him in the 27th minute after his team had largely dominated the opening period.

De Gea's blunder came on the day on which he became the most-capped goalkeeper in Manchester United's

PSG closer to title

history, appearing for the 540th time to move ahead of Alex Stepney. United, who suffered the pain of

De Gea blunder costs Man Utd dear

conceding a last-gasp penalty in their defeat at Brighton on Thursday, had been boosted by Arsenal's 2-0 win at third-placed Newcastle earlier in the

They are still in fourth place but are now just one point ahead of red-hot Liverpool in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League, even though they still have a game in hand.

A disappointed Erik ten Hag defended his beleaguered goalkeeper but said his team were still in control of their destiny this season with four league games left to play. Mistakes are part of football and

in this team you have to deal with it and

praised the "huge character of his side", saying it would be tough for teams below them to catch them, even though they are not mathematically

the United manager told BT Sport. "Over the season he is the one with

the most clean sheets and also we did

it as a team. It can happen, it's football

but everybody has to take responsibil-

Conference League semi-finals this

week, are now seven points clear of the

West Ham, who play in the Europa

West Ham boss David Moyes

"The number isn't confirmed that it keeps you in the Premier League so we have to look forward to the next game and try and pick up more

door' to becomes Apologetic Messi returns to PSG training



AP PARIS

ionel Messi returned to train-Ling with Paris Saint-Germain on Monday six days after Argentina's World Cup-winning captain was suspended for going on an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

"Leo Messi returns to training Monday morning," tweeted

the club along with a photo of the 35-year-old in action.

His return makes it likely he will feature in PSG's home match with relegation-threatened Ajaccio next Saturday. PSG hold the whip hand in defending their Ligue 1 title, a six

point lead over Lens with four matches remaining. He was suspended by the

lexandre Lacazette and Elye

Mbappe takes

goals but only one of the strikers saw their team win on Sunday as Lyon overturned a three-goal deficit to beat Montpellier 5-4 in a French league match full of twists and turns.

Lacazette completed his quadruple deep in added time from the penalty spot. His shot to the top right corner sparked wild celebrations in the stands that lasted long after the game was over. It was the first time in the league that both teams had one of their players scoring at least four goals since Reims beat Monaco 8-4 in 1974.

"We played with character and managed to come back,

Lacazette said. Lacazette the league's top striker alongside France star Kylian Mbappé - took his tally for the season to 24 goals as seventh-place Lyon kept alive its hopes of qualifying for a European competition next season.

Mbappé scored his 24th league goal during PSG's 3-1 victory at struggling Troyes. It was a welcome win for the defending champion, following a turbulent week which included a home loss and Lionel Messi's suspension for making an unauthorized trip to Saudi Arabia. The win in Troyes extended PSG's lead over Lens at the top of the standings to six points, with four games left to

turn up for training last Monday.

Ballon d'Or winner travelled to

Saudi Arabia without PSG's

the country's tourist office.

Instead, the seven-time

Qatar-owned club after failing to lowers. "I had organised this trip to Saudi Arabia having cancelled it previously. This time I couldn't cancel it. I am sorry for what I did and I wait to see what the club decides to do."

permission to fulfil commitments as part of a contract with The affair has made it increasingly unlikely that Messi Messi subsequently apologised in a video posted on

Instagram to his 458 million foltract with the club expires.

will remain at PSG beyond this season, when his two-year con-

> match lap of honour. "I had the confidence I

A party mood has enve-



relegation zone.

Napoli hold Serie A title party at home

AP NAPLES

Napoli fans hailed the return of their Serie A title-winning heroes on Sunday as Victor Osimhen shot Napoli to a 1-0 win over Fiorentina in their first home match since being crowned kings of Italy for the first time in 33 years.

Nigeria striker Osimhen lashed home the winning penalty in the 74th minute, after missing from the spot just after half-time, to take his leagueleading tally to 23 just a few days after netting the goal which sealed Napoli's third Scudetto with a record-equalling five matches to play. The 24-year-old is now the

highest scoring African player in the history of Serie A after overtaking George Weah and lapped up the applause of Napoli fans as the team did their post-

would score the second one. It's a good feeling to get the goal," said Osimhen to DAZN.

loped Naples since Thursday's draw in Udine, and on Sunday afternoon fans let off fireworks and flares in the jammed streets around the stadium named after their icon Diego Maradona on a gorgeous sunny day in southern Italy.

Packed bars and restaurants did a roaring trade with locals and tourists alike decked out in blue as a festive but relaxed mood dominated the

Before kick-off supporters put on a display of the Italian flag with the number three in honour of their title wins and hailed their team with loud chants of 'we are the champions".

But once the match got underway a torpor slowly washed over the ground, not helped by two teams with nothing to play for going through the motions and Napoli creating next to

nothing.

However Osimhen saved the day when Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's weaving dribble towards goal was stopped illegally by Nicolas Gonzalez and the striker duly punished Fiorentina.

Supporters in the ground were then treated to music from local pop stars while Oscar-winning director Paolo Sorrentino cut through an over-the-top spectacle which featured flames, powerful fire works, a light show and a pulsating electronic Italian flag flashing on the running track.

"We've won this Scudetto because Maradona showed us how it's done," said Sorrentino to warm applause.

Owner Aurelio De Laurentiis promised that Napoli would try to win the Champions League next season and that Napoli needed to "repeat, repeat, repeat, win, win and win", before the team and then coach Luciano Spalletti were called out one by "It must be true that Naples

is the city of miracles because if it can help me win a title then anything can be done," joked Spalletti, who has crowned a long career with his first Scudetto. "If there were a way to transmit the joy here tonight you could light up every stadium in

Bellingham helps Dortmund keep pace with Bayern happens, but the belief is defi-Ryerson's deflected cross and The Germany striker could have had a hat-trick when

AP ■ DORTMUND nitely still there," said Dortmund ¬wo goals from England's Jude Bellingham helped Borussia Dortmund to a spectacular 6-0 win over Wolfsburg on Sunday, keeping the Bundesliga title race on a knife edge with three games to go.
Bellingham struck twice in today," he said.

the second half as Dortmund ran Wolfsburg ragged in a statement victory to keep alive their hopes of a first title in 11 years.

The win keeps Edin Terzic's team within a point of league leaders Bayern Munich, who battled to a narrow 2-1 win over

Werder Bremen on Saturday. "It's not over yet. We need to win all our games and see what midfielder Emre Can, who also heaped praise on Bellingham and fellow goalscorer Karim Adeyemi. "It makes it easier for me when they play like that. They both have the quality to score goals and they showed that England international

Bellingham, who has been linked with a move to Real Madrid in recent days, now has 13 goals in all competitions this season. Dortmund took the lead

after just 14 minutes as both sides went for the throat in the ening exchanges. Adeyemi was quicker than his marker to pick up Julian



headed the ball expertly under the bar for the opener. Unfazed, Dortmund dou-

bled the lead through a Sebastien Haller tap-in just before the halfhour mark. With Dortmund's attacks now flooding through the leaky Wolfsburg defence, Malen quickly added a third. The home side continued to

tear through their guests after the break, with Bellingham scoring his goal after a rampaging run from inside his own half. Adeyemi made it 5-0 a few

minutes later, tapping the ball into the empty net after he and Haller had teamed up to win back possession in the Wolfs-

Bellingham was brought down in the box, but blasted his penalty high over the bar. Bellingham completed the rout a few minutes from time, slotting the ball in from close range after a flick on from Julian Brandt. The England midfielder's future remains uncertain, but

Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl insisted before the game that he was yet to receive any official offer for a transfer. "It's not surprising that the rumours are swirling, we've been in this situation before. But there's nothing new to announce and there has been no offer," he told DAZN.

WTC Final squad

The BCCI has named wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan as the replacement for KL Rahul, who suffered a right upper thigh injury during an Indian Premier League match recently, for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against

Rahul, the Lucknow Super Giants skipper, had been ruled out of the remainder of the ÎPL and the WTC final after he picked up the injury while fielding during a match against Royal Challengers Bangalore earlier this month.

The WTC final will take place between June from 7-11 at The Oval in London.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ishan Kishan as KL Rahul's replacement (for the WTC final)," said a statement from BCCI secretary Jay Shah. "KL Rahul suffered an injury to his right upper

thigh while fielding during Match 43rd of TATA IPL 2023 between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore on 1st May Many thought veteran stumper Wriddhiman

Saha, who is having a great IPL, will get a call-up for the one-off game but Kishan's selection showed that Shiv Sunder Das' committee has gone Once Saha was categorically told last year that

he won't be picked any more for national duty as they want someone younger as Rishabh Pant's deputy, there was no chance that the soon to be 39-year-old veteran would have been named as the replacement.

"Kishan was the designated second keeper for Border Gavaskar Trophy. There was no discussion on Wriddhiman Saha," a source privy to development said.

The BCCI also said that a decision on left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat's, who suffered a shoulder injury to his bowling arm while practising for LSG ahead of the RCB game, participation in the WTC final will be taken at a later stage.

Shah said Rahul will undergo surgery "at the earliest", which will be followed by a "rehab at the National Cricket Academy for the same".

"After consultations with specialists, it has been decided that Rahul will undergo surgery at the earliest. He is ruled out of the upcoming ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia," said the BCCI statement.

"Jaydev Unadkat sustained a left shoulder injury by tripping over the side rope while bowling in the (LSG) nets. A specialist consultation has been sought and the left-arm fast bowler is currently at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru undergoing strength and rehab sessions for his shoulder. A decision on his participation in the WTC final will be taken at a later stage."

The BCCI also added that pacer Umesh Yaday, who sustained a minor left hamstring injury



during the RCB vs Kolkata Knight Riders game on April 26, had started "low-intensity" training.

The fast bowler is currently under the care of the KKR Medical Team and has started lowintensity bowling as part of his rehab process. The BCCI Medical Team is in regular touch with KKR Medical Team and is closely monitoring Umesh's progress," the statement added.

The national selectors also raised a few evebrows by not picking up India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran as a standby for the oneoff final when the Bengal opener is apparently fit

Ruturaj Gaikwad, known more for his exploits in the IPL for CSK, has been named in the standby list although Easwaran has a far better record at the India A level. It is believed that both team management and

national selectors feel that Gaikwad has shown time and again in the IPL (different format) that he has the temperament to succeed at the high-For selectors, it is often not about the quan-

tum of runs scored but more about how the runs are being scored, how one shapes up against qual-

Easwaran's not being able to breakthrough in an IPL team and not winning any major knockout games for Bengal in their last three seasons have also gone against him.

India's squad for WTC final: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Ishan Kishan (wk).

Standby players: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar, Suryakumar Yadav.

Ishan replaces KL in KKR WIN LAST BALL THRILLER

Rinku Singh added another bright chapter to his legend as a "finisher" with a last-ball boundary as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Punjab Kings by five wickets on Monday to keep their IPL play-off hopes

It was a complete 'RRR' show by KKR as skipper Nitish Rana's half-century and Andre Russell adding muscle to the chase of 180 enabled Rinku to finish off the game with a 10ball-21 not out.

Earlier, Varun Chakravarthy once again brilliantly spearheaded their bowling department to grab 3/26 as KKR put up a tidy bowling show to restrict PBKS to a below-par 179 for seven after the visitors opted to bat on a slow wicket.

In reply, KKR show batting show was led by Rana's stellar effort when he promoted himself to No 3 and laid the foundation with a 38-ball 51 (6x4,

On a wicket where the odd ball was gripping and batters struggled to find their timings, Rana stiched a crucial fiftyplus stand with Venkatesh Iyer (11) before Andre Russell and Rinku Singh sealed the issue.

Needing 56 off 28 balls after Rana became Rahul Chahar's second victim, Russell went ballistic against Sam Curran smoking him for three sixes in four balls in a 20-run over to change the equation in favour of KKR who needed six off the last

But death over specialist Arshdeep Singh who had six to defend took it down the wire with four off first four balls. Arshedeep has often floundered of late failing to nail his yorkers.

There was more drama when Russell was ran out in the penultimate ball as a calmheaded Rinku Singh (21 not out; 10b) once again came to KKR's rescue sealing the win with a boundary off the last ball.

The duo off Russell and Rinku put together a matchwinning 54 runs partnership from

Their second win in a row



pushed KKR (-0.079) past Royal Challengers Bangalore (-0.209) to top-five on net run-rate as five teams are locked a mid table rush for playoff with 10 points.

Chahar bowled a brilliant 10th over conceding just three runs to have them 76/2 at the half-way stage as the home side still had a lot of work to do with 104 needed from the back-10.

But Rana turned it around, taking charge on Livingstone when he hit the PBKS part-time spinner for two fours and a six in a row in a 16-run over.

It was still not a cakewalk with legspinner Rahul Chahar quietly doing his role in his tidy 4-0-23-2.

plus stand between Rana and Venkatesh Iyer but also dismissed the duo in space of nine runs to keep PBKS hopes alive.

Earlier, KKR Impact Player Jason Roy (38; 24b) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (15; 12b) gave them a flying start when they cruised to 36 for no loss in four overs after they took Arshdeep Singh to cleaners in a 16-run over.

But the opening duo failed to convert their starts and got out in space of 16 deliveries when the match was evenly poised. Nathan Ellis gave the breakthrough trapping Gurbaz LBW with a slower one, before

Roy became the victim of Brar after he failed to clear deep mid-

On a day Sunil Narine (4-0-29-0) was decent but went wicketless yet again, Chakravarthy relished the slow nature of the track where the odd ball was gripping to return with excellent figures of 4-0-26-3 after PBKS opted to bat. It would have been worse

for PBKS but the duo of Shahrukh Khan (21 not out; 8b) and Harpreet Brar (17 not out; 9b) brilliantly stepped it up in the last two overs that yielded 36 runs in a 40-run unbroken stand that came off just 16 balls. Fresh from his last over

runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Chakravarthy removed the Punjab's in-form duo of Liam Livingstone and Jitesh Sharma that seemed to have broke their back in the middle overs.

Livingstone was looking at his destructive best, smashing Andre Russell for three fours in the fifth over.

Looking dangerous in his nine-ball 15, Livingstone was squared up by a perfect fast legbreak from Chakravarthy to be trapped plumb on his back-foot.

2) grabbing two inside the powerplay, KKR had a perfect start reducing PBKS to 58/3. Skipper Shikhar Dhawan

With Harshit Rana (3-0-33-

(57; 47b) anchored the show in a Virat Kohli-like innings the other day against Delhi Capitals but the lefthander could never take off and was dismissed by KKR skipper Nitish Rana.

Dhawan put together 53 runs partnership with Jitesh Sharma (21).

Rana smartly bowled Chakravarthy once inside the powerplay and then in the 8th, 13th and 17th over as he finished his quota, cleaning up Rishi Dhawan with a wrong one.

Rishi (19; 11b) had his intention clear smashing Chakravarthy for a six in the first ball, but the KKR spinner had the last laugh.

On an Eden wicket that

looked on the drier side from the outside, seamer Rana gave KKR a perfect start, striking twice in two overs after Prabhsimran teed off in style with three boundaries off Arora in the first over. Gurbaz took Prabhsimran's

his next over Rana had comeback man Bhanuka Rajapaksa for a three-ball duck. Things however still tilted in favour of PBKS as in-form Liam

catch on second attempt and in

Livingstone counter-attacked Andre Russell with three backto-back fours in a 19-run over. PBKS looked on course

with 51/2 after five overs, when Chakravarthy trapped Livingstone plumb on his back-foot in a crucial turnaround for KKR.

If you get going, don't change your tempo: Shastri to Kohli



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ormer India coach Ravi Shastri on}}_{\text{Monday advised Virat Kohli that he must}}$ not drop the tempo of his innings after getting a start as his consistent 'bat-deep' approach triggered a debate if such batting style is suited for T20 cricket.

Kohli's approach was questioned after he made 55 off 46 balls in a losing cause against Delhi Capitals at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Saturday night.

It was his sixth fifty plus score of the season but the pace of his innings probably cost Asked if the under-performing RCB

middle-order is forcing Kohli to play deep, Shastri told ESPNcricinfo that the Indian super star doesn't need to worry about the form of other batters.

"Once you gain tempo, don't change don't worry about the others. That will be my message to Virat. Let them do their job. In a T20 game, you don't need that many batsmen. If you are hot keep that going. Prime example of that was Phil Salt. You saw the way he batted. Once he got into the groove he didn't let go.

"It took the pressure off the other batsmen. Having said, even they were hammering whether it was Marsh or Roussow. So that is something that could be there from change your tempo, try and up the ante," said Shastri referring to Phil Salt's match winning 87 off 45 balls for Delhi.

Former Australia cricketer Tom Moody feel with the introduction of 'impact player', the game has really moved on from that style (bat deep) of cricket.

"That's why we are seeing so many totals go to 200+. There is no such role. We all need to be going here at 150+ without a doubt because we have the comfort of depth,' Moody, former Sunrisers Hyderabad coach, Talking about India and Mumbai

Indians captain Rohit Sharma, Shastri said the lack of runs is also having an impact on his captaincy. Rohit has managed just 184 runs in 10 innings so far. "If you start getting a purple patch where

you are scoring runs, the job as a captain becomes much easier, the body language on the field changes, that energy on the field is different as opposed to when you are not getting runs. You can go flat no matter who you are," Shastri said

"That's where, as a captain, it is more important that your performances come into play. It is harder now because of the stage of his career, the kind of team that they have.

The same team could be a terrific team in a year's time or two years' time, once they start gelling together. But to get that right mix, that's the job of the captain.



New Zealand avoid Pakistan whitewash

Henry Shipley and Rachin Ravindra shared six wickets as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 47 runs in the fifth and final ODI in Karachi on Sunday. The victory meant New Zealand avoided being swept in the five game series, which Pakistan won 4-1.

New Zealand batted first

and were bowled out for 299 in 49.3 overs with half centuries from Will Young and Tom Latham.

Fast bowler Shipley then took 3-34 and spinner Ravindra a career best 3-65 as New Zealand survived a brilliant 72ball 94 not out by Iftikhar Ahmed to dismiss Pakistan for

252 in 46.1 overs.

The defeat means Pakistan's rise to number one in the ODI rankings lasted just 48 hours and they are now third behind Australia and India. Ahmed led Pakistan's fightback from 66-4 as he added 97 for the fifth wicket with Agha Salman who scored run-a-ball 57 but New Zealand held their nerve to get last man Haris Rauf run out for one.

Ahmed's fiery knock contained eight fours and two sixes. "The way we planned, we

couldn't finish it that way," said

"However, the entire series was outstanding. There were good performances. There were many positives, we were able to check on our bench strength."





PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the race for playoffs intensifying, captain Rohit Sharma's form with the bat and bowling in the death overs will be a huge concern for hosts Mumbai Indians when they meet Royal Challengers Bangalore in a mid-table IPL clash here on Tuesday.

With 184 runs in 10 matches at a forgettable average of 18.39 and a solitary half-century, Sharma is enduring a second consecutive poor season with the bat. For the sixth-placed Mumbai Indians to move up in the points table, it is imperative that their best batter in the line-up fires.

Sharma's role in this IPL has been to provide brisk starts at the top, and at times he has had some success too, but consistency has deserted the right-arm batter whose early dismissal in huge chases has only added pressure on a relatively new batting line-up, which fortunately, from MI's point of view, has delivered too.

In last year's IPL, which also was MI's poorest in terms of performance as they finished last, Sharma averaged a little over 19 while scoring 268 runs in 14 matches. However, with Sharma not firing at the top, MI have had the likes of Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Cameron Green consolidating in the middle while Tilak Varma and Tim David have also found their groove as finishers late in the

At the same time, Mumbai Indians will also be concerned about their death overs bowling, having conceded four consecutive totals in excess of 200 while bowling first, two of which were recorded on flat decks here at the Wankhede Stadium. On the other hand, RCB will

hope that their troika of Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell fire at the top, since whenever they have done so collectively, the team has found itself mostly on the right side of the results.

Mahipal Lomror struck a quality 54 against Delhi Capitals but his knock was not enough as RCB suffered a shock defeat, which kept them at the fifth spot in the points table with five wins and as many defeats in 10

With 511 runs, Du Plessis is the only batter this season to have crossed the 500-run mark and RCB will hope that their skipper gets going with others in his tow to a big total if they bat

But it remains to be seen if RCB have more in their batting shelf apart from the big three, who have done the heavy lifting so far in the IPL. Dinesh Karthik has failed with the bat this season and RCB also do not have a big hitter in their lower-middle order either.

The inclusion of Josh Hazlewood has provided a shot in the arm to RCB's bowling with Mohammed Siraj at the helm, having snaffled 15 wickets in 10 matches so far.

Bajrang, Vinesh hit mat for first time in 15 days PTI ■ NEW DELHI was not possible. But now, we will do their training-cum-exposure stints on

Star wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat hit the mat on Monday for the first time in 15 days to be ready for the Asian Games trials even as IOA's ad-hoc panel set the ball rolling for resumption of activities by finalising dates for the Asian Championships

(U17, 23) trials. Sparring was out of question for these top wrestlers after they resumed their sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who they have accused of sexual exploitation of

women wrestlers.

Bajrang and Vinesh have not competed in any international tournament since January and have not gone for training abroad though the Sports Authority of India (SAI) had cleared

their request. Till recently, they were adamant that unless their demands are met they won't train or compete in international tournaments. In the last fortnight, they had two light training sessions at Jantar Mantar only.

However, Vinesh on Sunday had said they will resume training and won't shun tournaments anymore.

In the one-hour session at a nearby stadium, Bajrang had Jitender Kinha as his sparring partner while Vinesh trained with her cousin Sangeeta and Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik. Satyawart Kadian trained with his brother Sombir.

"The last time we did mat training was a day before the resumption of this protest. And you have seen how busy we were in meeting supporters in the last 15 days. The discussions were happening even late in the night, training



mat training consistently," said a wrestler who was part of the training

"We had light training today as we followed techniques. Gradually, we will start strength and endurance training as well. We are hoping that a proper resolution will come and by that time we want to be ready for the Asian Games trials. We also want to compete in the upcoming Ranking Series tournament," he added.

However, the team for the UWW Ranking Series event, scheduled to be held in Bishkek from June 1-4 has already been decided. It's more or less the same team that had competed at the Asian Championships in Astana in April and won 14 medals. Bajrang, Vinesh, Sakshi, Satyawart and Sangeeta were not a part of the Indian team in Astana as they were protesting.