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K'taka sovereignty row: BJP seeks Cong's derecognition

Party moves EC, seeks FIR, action against Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

A day 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, 'sovereignty' or integrity."

A BJP delegation headed by Union Minister Bhpender 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, Bhpender 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'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 ₹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 Uttar 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 the saffron outfit.

See P5

3 killed as Mig-21 jet crashes into Raj home

Pilot ejects after failing to resolve emergency; IAF orders enquiry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SURATGARH, RAJASTHAN

Three women died on 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 causes 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



Locals gather after a MIG-21 fighter aircraft crashed into a house in Hanumangarh district on Monday

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 accident.

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 operation 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 excise scam.

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 post it on multiple accounts, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT.

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 innocent 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

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 recommend reservation.

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



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

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 problems.

Continued on Page 2

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five cheetahs — three females and two males — will be released from the acclimatisation 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 Monday.

It also said the cheetahs will be allowed to move out of KNP and will not necessarily be "recaptured unless they venture into areas where they are in significant danger". All the predators are fitted with satellite collars. Animals are generally not released into the wild dur-



ing the monsoon season as harsh weather conditions make it difficult for them to find food and shelter and adapt to their new environment.

So far, four of the eight cheetahs brought from Namibia have been released from the fenced acclimatisation camps into free-ranging conditions in KNP.

Continued on Page 2

Travel with QR code tickets in Delhi Metro from May end

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday said that by the end of May, the transporter is targeting to introduce mobile-based QR tickets to make travel in Delhi Metro more seamless, easy, and time-saving, eliminating the need for queuing up for tickets at stations' counters.

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

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Chinese ships close in on ASEAN drill in SCS

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In apparent bid to flex its muscles in the South China Sea, Chinese ships have reportedly come in close proximity of the ongoing Association of South-East Nations Association (ASEAN) naval drill there. Indian Navy is also participating in the maiden exercise.

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 attempted 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

Naval Base, Singapore from May two to four, while the sea phase was scheduled to be conducted on May seven and eight in the South China Sea. Notably, this is not the first time that the Indian Navy is conducting an exercise with the navies of other countries in the South China Sea.

China has longstanding territorial disputes in the 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 reconnaissance aircraft.

Navy chief Admiral R Hari 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 and Indian Navy.

Beijing has been increasingly belligerent in stressing its claims in the South China Sea.

IAF was keeping close watch over stray Pak plane

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As a Pakistan International Airlines (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 for ten minutes.

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 Lahore when it had to abort its landing due to bad weather conditions.

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.

4-nation NSA-level talks held in Jeddah

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Given the close ties between the 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 rail network in the country.

The crucial meeting 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

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 15-month-long truce in Yemen and welcomed ongoing UN-led



efforts to bring the war to a 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 Tahnoon 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 region.

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 told Axios.

C-295 aircraft successfully finishes its maiden flight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SEVILLE, SPAIN

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 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 (TASL) 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-



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

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 aircraft.

This programme will significantly contribute towards developing the indigenous capabilities of Indian companies for an 'AtmaNirbhar 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 (self-reliant 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 fly-away 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 2031.

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 parachuting troops and cargo, and will strengthen the logistics capabilities of IAF. Apart from the 56 planes already ordered, the C295 facility at Vadodra will be capable of meeting the additional requirements of the air force and catering to export orders.

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 Delhi, officials said.

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

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Work Name	Amount in (Rs)	Completion Time
1	JSBCC/45/2023-24	Repairing (Building Part, Furniture and Miscellaneous work) of New Professional College, Jamshedpur	2,36,07,561/-	06 Months
2	JSBCC/46/2023-24	Construction of Indoor Stadium at Margomunda under Madhupur subdivision in Deoghar District	4,42,63,300/-	11 Months
3	Date of Publication 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 Security Money and Tender Fee 09.06.2023 upto 11:30 AM			
7	Date/Time of opening of Bid 09.06.2023 at 12:00 PM			
8	Name & Address of office Inviting tender e-Procurement Cell, Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.			
9	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell 0651-2446259			
10	e-mail ID jsbcc@jarkhand@gmail.com			

Any change can be seen on Website <http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in>.
 Any other information can be seen on <http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in>.

Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell
 Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.

PR 296832 Jharkhand State Forest Development Corp Ltd(23-24)#D

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of 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 plea.

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.

Smart coating developed to kill infection in orthopedic implants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Both infection and device failure are major problems with orthopedic implants, each 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, long-term biomedical problem," said study leader Qing Cao, professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Biofilms



can still form on water-repelling 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 drug-resistant strains of bacterial pathogens, according to the researcher.

The team created a thin foil 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.

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

Whereas
 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 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.	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
1.	Tarun Lalwani/ Anita Lalwani/ Jawaharlal Mahender Kumar Lalwani/ Premilata Lalwani/ Neatness Communications Ltd/ Telexcell Information Systems Ltd/ LBDEL00002438189	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, Gurgaon Gateway, Tower-B, Sec-112 & 113, Village Baghera, 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 Place : Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank 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

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 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.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s. S. R. Enterprises & Mr. Shaikh Shahbaz Ali & Mrs. Reshma Khatun Shaikh- 005705018529 & 005755000029	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

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 Place : Delhi/ Ncr Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A new diagnostic technique 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, and limiting in terms of antibody specificity. But the novel method, developed by the

University of Minnesota 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 Biomedical Sciences. "What we're seeing now is this really exciting time when new, next-

generation diagnostic tests are 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-

QuIC experiments dramatically 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 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.

and the Congress have 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. Yediyurappa has put the BJP figure to touch 120-135 — higher than the 224 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 miserably in this election," he told reporters Bengaluru after the end of the electioneering.

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

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ 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 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 Chandrshahkar Rao, Arvind Kejriwal and other top leaders like Sharad Pawar and Akhilesh 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

Minister to express solidarity 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 general elections. The calculation 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 contest.

BJP's silent three worked intellectual space in Karnataka

MANISH ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

With curtains coming down on the high decibel Karnataka 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 — Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Home Affairs 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 outfit.



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

Dilwar under charges of murder and criminal intimidation for their remarks against Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a senior officer said on Monday. The FIR has been filed at

Sanjay Circle Police Station here at the complaint of Congress state secretary Ram Singh Kaswan. According to Kotwali ACP Narendra Kumar, an FIR has been registered against BJP

Ramgaj Mandi MLA Madan Dilwar and Manikanta Rathod, a BJP contender in the upcoming Karnataka assembly election. "As one of the accused, Madan Dilwar, is a sitting

MLA, the matter will be investigated by the CB-CID," said Kumar, who is also the investigating officer in the case. According to the FIR, the two men have been booked under IPC section 302 (mur-

der), 506 (criminal intimidation), and under sections of SC/ST Act. Kaswan in his complaint said committing a crime is not necessary, even hatching a conspiracy is enough.

Curfew relaxed in parts of Manipur

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Life was crawling back to somewhat normal in violence-hit Manipur on 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.



"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 security at the international border was heightened to prevent any misadventure by Manipur Vally-based insurgent groups from camps on the other side, the

spokesperson said. The ethnic clashes 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 rescued 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 medicines. Vehicles, including auto-rickshaws, were also seen on the road in Imphal in the early hours. Long queues of cars and other vehicles were seen outside petrol pumps in different parts of the state, including the epicentre, Churachandpur.

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 Flybix said it operates a Guwahati 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 returned from Imphal. "A total of 150 passengers were brought back from Imphal to Guwahati over the



three days. On Saturday, people from Arunachal Pradesh were brought back, while people of Meghalaya came on Sunday, and a group from Maharashtra were brought to Guwahati on Monday," Flybix's director of corporate affairs Ajay Jaisra told PTI. "Flybix operates under the UDAN scheme, and our average fare from Imphal to Guwahati is Rs 3,500. There is no question of charging more from distressed passengers," he said.

Probe ordered into death of 22 in boat mishap in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 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 boat-turned-sailing boat, met with a watery end. The holiday makers who had come to Tanur Beach in the district boarded the boat from the newly-opened Theoval 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 rolling 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 chef 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 sports. There were apprehension among the people at that time itself over the safety measures of the beach.

PP Musthafa, Tanur Municipal Councillor who is also a fisherman, told *The Pioneer* that there was blatant violation of all rules and regulations. "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 jam-packed 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 Musthafa. He said there were many complaints against the boat Atlantic. "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 solum 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. K Narayana Kurup, former Judge of Kerala High Court who headed an inquiry commission that probed past boat accidents in the State said that though the Government had been told to appoint safety commissioner to ensure the safety of boats, no action has been taken in this regard. More than 500 lives have been lost in 65 boat capsizes in the State during the last 100 years.

Pawar's return to helm scuttled NCP leaders shift to BJP: Uddhav's Sena

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



In an indirect criticism of Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav) 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 remained intact. Alluding to the NCP chief's indirect comment over the speculation that Ajit Pawar might move over to the BJP, the Shiv Sena's official mouthpiece "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-

porarily, but their 'lodging-boarding' booking in the BJP has not been cancelled." With an unmistakable reference 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 irrespective 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

foot." "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 mouthpiece said. Dwelling upon the massive tremors that Pawar's announcement 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".



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

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Whereas 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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Technocrats Tooling Private Limited/ Umesh Kumar Singh/ Praveen Rao/ Sps Technology/ Reena Singh/ 002105023126/ 002155000039/ 002155000045	Flat No Ngh 051, 5th Floor Tower H New Town Heights Sector 90 Gurgaon 122001/ May 04, 2023	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.

Date : May 09, 2023
Place : Gurgaon
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pramod Kumar Jain/ Madhu Jain/ LBNOD00002393443	Apartment 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
2.	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
3.	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 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
Place : Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Big fillip

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

Growth-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 situation 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.

PICTALK



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

PTI

Maintain good relations for social well-being

Social well-being is not just about social interactions but also about maintaining healthy connections with everyone around

As 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 pursuit 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-



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 well-being 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 mental 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 multidimensional. Good social well-being 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 heart-related 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)



SAKSHI SETHI

Changing paradigm in intl relations

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

Sharing a common strategic vision and a combined approach to ensure mutual economic prosperity through a multi-layered 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 combating sudden 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 AND 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 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 mechanism to provide a shield against terrorism, international crime, drug dealing, smuggling and cyber threat unleashed by non-state actors. This may also accelerate maritime-friendly ties and bolster security around the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific areas which have lately become areas of concern. The Prime

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 encountered at early stages.

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.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM MODI'S ROADSHOW

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 world-class 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.

Rajpal Singh Chouhan | Ujjain

WRESTLER'S SUPPORTERS STOPPED

Sir — Nervous and under pressure the Delhi Police stopped a group of farmers at the Tikri border, as they were attempting

A ray of hope for Alzheimer's



Alzheimer'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

also help scientists better understand the underlying causes of Alzheimer's and potentially lead to the development of more effective treatments.

However, the risks associated with donanemab, including brain swelling and hemorrhaging, 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 | Jamshedpur

to enter the city to join the wrestlers' protest at the Jantar Mantar, headed by Bajrang Punia, 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 WFI chief.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

KARAIKUDI R MANI IS NO MORE

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 brilliance 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 world over.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

GOD IS THE ONLY REAL SHELTER

But for taking shelter purity of mind and action is required



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Others 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 He cures."

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 on.



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 appreciation." (14.24)

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 'prarabha' (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



SUMEET BHASIN

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



The 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 India.

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 economy soon.

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 GSDP is Rs3.32 lakhs.



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 SO THAT THEY COULD PAY THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY BILLS

(Author is a political analyst)

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.

This 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 NITI Aayog, 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 Basavraj Bommai. 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 (SDGs) 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 development.

The impact of development initiatives in Karnataka polls

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-



VINOD BEHL

(The writer is a senior journalist and is columnist. The views are personal)

tics, 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 benefits.

Fearing 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 PMGKY.

The central government

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 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. In 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.

MAX WINS MIAMI GRAND PRIX

AP ■ MIAMI

World 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 'under-delivered' says Red Bull's Horner

AP ■ MIAMI

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 door' to becomes world No. 1 again

AP ■ MADRID

Carlos Alcaraz celebrated "being almost at the door" of 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 hard-fought 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 achievements, 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 Roland Garros build-up by adding the Madrid trophy to victories 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 team."

Alcaraz was given a tricky 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.



De Gea blunder costs Man Utd dear

AP ■ LONDON

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

history, appearing for the 540th time to move ahead of Alex Stepney.

United, who suffered the pain of 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 day.

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 bounce back because it is a team sport,"

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 responsibility."

West Ham, who play in the Europa Conference League semi-finals this week, are now seven points clear of the relegation zone.

West Ham boss David Moyes 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 safe.

"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 points," he said.

Apologetic Messi returns to PSG training



Mbappe takes PSG closer to title

AP ■ PARIS

Alexandre Lacazette and Elye Wahi each scored four 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,

with the support of the fans," 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 his 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 play.



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 league-leading 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-match lap of honour.

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

A party mood has enveloped 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 city.

Before kick-off supporters put on a display of the Italian flag with the number three in hon-

our 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 Laurentis 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 one.

"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 Serie A."

Bellingham helps Dortmund keep pace with Bayern

AP ■ DORTMUND

Two 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 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

happens, but the belief is definitely still there," said Dortmund 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 today," he said.

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 opening exchanges.

Adeyemi was quicker than his marker to pick up Julian



Ryerson's deflected cross and headed the ball expertly under the bar for the opener.

Unfazed, Dortmund doubled the lead through a Sebastian Haller tap-in just before the half-hour 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 Wolfsburg box.

The Germany striker could have had a hat-trick when 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.

Ishan replaces KL in WTC Final squad

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 Australia.

Rahul, the Lucknow Super Giants skipper, had been ruled out of the remainder of the IPL 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 with continuity.

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 Yadav, 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 low-intensity 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 eyebrows by not picking up India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran as a standby for the one-off final when the Bengal opener is apparently fit and fine.

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 highest level.

For selectors, it is often not about the quantum of runs scored but more about how the runs are being scored, how one shapes up against quality attacks.

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.

KKR WIN LAST BALL THRILLER

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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 alive.

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 10-ball-21 not out.

Earlier, Varun Chakravarty 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, 1x6).

On a wicket where the odd ball was gripping and batters struggled to find their timings, Rana stitched a crucial fifty-plus 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 over.

But death over specialist Arshdeep Singh who had six to defend took it down the wire with four off first four balls. Arshdeep has often floundered of late failing to nail his yorkers.

There was more drama when Russell was run out in the penultimate ball as a calm-headed 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 match-winning 54 runs partnership for 26 balls.

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.

He not only broke the fifty-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

heroics when he defended nine runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Chakravarty 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 leg-break from Chakravarty to be trapped plumb on his back-foot.

With Harshit Rana (3-0-33-2) grabbing two inside the powerplay, KKR had a perfect start reducing PBKS to 58/3.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan (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 Chakravarty 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 Chakravarty 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 catch on second attempt and in his next over Rana had come-back man Bhanuka Rajapaksa for a three-ball duck.

Things however still tilted in favour of PBKS as in-form Liam Livingstone counter-attacked Andre Russell with three back-to-back fours in a 19-run over.

PBKS looked on course with 51/2 after five overs, when Chakravarty 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

Former India coach Ravi Shastri on 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

"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 Virat's point of view. If he gets going don't 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 rule. We all need to be going here at 150+ without a doubt because we have the comfort of depth," Moody, former Sunrisers Hyderabad coach, said.

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



AP ■ KARACHI

Henry Shiplee 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 Shiplee then took 3-34 and spinner Ravindra a career best 3-65 as New Zealand survived a brilliant 72-ball 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 Azam.

"However, the entire series was outstanding. There were good performances. There were many positives, we were able to check on our bench strength."

RCB, MI eye top 4 spot



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 order.

Bajrang, Vinesh hit mat for first time in 15 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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.

Sparrring 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 training-cum-exposure stints on 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 medalist Sakshi Malik. Sanyawart 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



was not possible. But now, we will do mat training consistently," said a wrestler who was part of the training session.

"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, Sanyawart and Sangeeta were not a part of the Indian team in Astana as they were protesting.

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 matches.

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 first.

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.