OPINION 6

DIETARY PATTERNS AND

THEIR ECONOMIC IMPACT

WORLD 8

WEST IS WAGING 'REAL WAR'

ON RUSSIA, SAYS PUTIN

MONEY 10

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CSK TO FACE DELHI CAPITALS

Pilot bombards Gehlot with 'graft' questions

Gehlot's leader Raje, not Sonia: Raj ex-Dy CM

PNS JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Disgruntled senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Tuesday once again declared an "open war" against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, second within a month's time.

He said the recent speech by the Congress veteran (Gehlot) indicated that his real leader is BJP's Vasundhara Raje Scindia and not Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

Mounting pressure on Gehlot and the party's central leadership in the run-up to the Assembly polls, Pilot also announced a "Jan Sangharsh Yatra" over "corruption" and the recent cases of leaking of papers for State Government recruitment exams. The 125km "Jan Sangharsh Yatra" will begin from Ajmer, where the State's Public Service Commission (RPSC) is located, on May 11 and end five days later in Jaipur.



tion" by own party's government on alleged corruption during the previous BJP tenure

In the continuing tussle between the two leaders, Gehlot had on Sunday recalled the rebellion against him by Pilot and 18 other Congress MLAs in 2020. The CM said he survived

because BJP leaders Raje and Kailash Meghwal refused to support a conspiracy to topple an elected Government through money power.

Pilot rejected the charge that the dissidents — whom he had led — took any money from the BJP. The Congress

leader also reminded that he is the one asking Gehlot to probe charges of "corruption" during Raje's tenure as the Rajasthan Chief Minister. He pointed at the "contradiction" in what Gehlot is claiming — that the BIP had conspired to topple his Government and at the same time Raje helped save it. "This is a contradiction and it should be explained what you want to

Assets of 2 Cong MLAs, treasurer attached in C'garh coal levy case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has attached immovable assets, luxurious vehicles, jewellery and cash worth over ₹51 crore belonging to Chhattisgarh Congress MLAs Devender Yadav, Chandradev Prasad Rai, PCC treasurer Ramgopal Agarwal and IAS officer Ranu Sahu among others in the alleged coal levy probe case.

The agency has also attached properties belonging to coal trader Survakant Tiwari apart from two other individ-uals identified as RP Singh and Vinod Tiwari under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"During the investigations, direct evidence of the financial linkages of the above persons with Suryakant Tiwari were established and assets created by layering of the proceeds of crime or equivalent assets have been identified for attachment proceedings under PMLA," the agency said in a statement.

Earlier, the ED had attached properties worth ₹170 crore belonging to Suryakant Tiwari, IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi, Saumya Chaurasia (Chhattisgarh Civil Service Officer), Sunil Agarwal and others. Total attachment in this case has reached ₹221.5

Continued on Page 2

Imran's arrest from court sparks unrest

Supporters storm Army HQ; HC CJ summons top officials to explain arrest

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested and bundled into a prison van by paramilitary Rangers on Tuesday from the Islamabad High Court, sparking massive protests across Pakistan by his supporters who stormed the Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the Corps Commander's residence in Lahore. The arrest of the 70year-old former cricketerturned-politician comes a day after the powerful Pakistan Army accused Khan of levelling baseless allegations against a senior officer of the spy agency ISI.

The chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who travelled from Lahore to Islamabad, was undergoing a biometric process at the court when the Rangers broke open the glass window and arrested him after beating lawyers and Khan's security staff, according to senior party leader Shireen



the Islamabad police chief failed to appear. "Come to Aamer Farooq took notice of the arrest by Rangers when court and tell us why Imran has been arrested and in which Imran was present at the court case," Justice Farooq said. IG Akbar Nasir Khan duly to mark his biometric attendance. The IHC summoned various officials and heard appeared before the court and arguments on the merit of the said that Khan had been arrestarrest and if it was legal to ed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrest someone present inside the court. After hearing the in a case about him and his case, the chief justice reserved wife, Bushra Bibi, for alleged the judgment without giving a date for its announcement.

corruption.

TV footage showed the Rangers grabbing Khan from The chief justice initially ordered the interior secretary, the collar and bundling him Inspector General (IG) Police into a prison van. The Rangers, Islamabad and other officials to which operate under the come and respond to the arrest Interior Ministry, are usually commanded by officers on within 15 minutes. He added that he was showing "restraint" secondment from the Army. in the matter and warned to

Continued on Page 2

Pilot held a one-day fast last month in Jaipur over "inac-

'THE KERALA STORY' WILL BE TAX FREE IN UP: CM Lucknow: "The Kerala Story"

CAPSULE

will be tax free in Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Tuesday. prompting the opposition Samajwadi Party to say the state government should not use cinema and literature to impose "poisonous agenda on

CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST AAFTAB IN SHRADDHA CASE

New Delhi: A city court on Tuesday framed charges of murder and disappearance of evidence against Aaftab Amin Poonawala who is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar to death and chopping her body into pieces.

CYCLONE MOCHA TO INTENSIFY. ALERTS ON

Port Blair: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration has alerted the people as the cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal is likely intensify from late on Tuesday night.

STUDENT SLAPPED BY TEACHER LOSES EYE IN UP Shahiahanpur: A Government schoolteacher was booked after a five-vear-old student lost an eve when he was allegedly

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, with

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

addresses the media after a meeting in

 $B^{\rm ihar\ Chief\ Minister\ Nitish}_{\rm Kumar\ on\ Tuesday\ called}$

on his Odisha counterpart

Naveen Patnaik at Naveen

Niwas in Bhubaneswar, trig-

gering speculation about Nitish's renewed efforts to unite

Bhubaneswar on Tuesday

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Nitish calls on Patnaik,

but both claim 'no talks

held on Opp alliance'

slapped by her, police said

K'taka people's dream my dream, their wish my resolve, says Modi

Seeking the blessings of "brothers and sisters" of Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday zen of Karnataka is my dream. Your resolve is my resolve. When we come together and set our minds to a goal, no force in the world can stop us.

Modi expressed his gratitute for the affection he received in the State over the last few days, and said it has strengthened his resolve to make Karnataka number one across all sectors. "My appeal is for the bright future of Karnataka. It is for the bright future of your family, especially the younger generations."

Stating that the people have always showered him with love and affection, he said it feels like a divine blessing to me. "Ee Baariya Nirdhara, Bahumatada BIP Sarkara' (This time's decision: Majority BJP government) — this call of the people of Karnataka is still echoing in my ears.

the Opposition parties. However, both the CMs

claimed that no discussion on

any political alliance between

the JD(U) and the BJD for the

Lok Sabha elections next year

was held in the hour-long

After meeting Patnaik, Nitish is now likely to call on

Maharashtra stalwarts Sharad

Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray

later this week, sources in the

Patnaik and Kumar had lunch at the Odisha CM's res-

idence and then jointly

addressed the media, stating

they share a very old relation-

ship. "No discussion was held

ID(U) said here.



Kaal", we Indians have aimed to make our beloved country a developed nation, and Karnataka is keen to lead the movement to realise this vision.

is to reach the top three.

Whopping ₹375 cr seizure in K'taka

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Tuesday said enforcement agencies in pollbound Karnataka seized over ₹375 crore worth of liquor, drugs and freebies which was 4.5 times more than what was recovered during the last assembly election in the state.

It said that increased focus on expenditure monitoring was the reason being the seizures, which included freebies such as sarees, "food kits", pressure cookers and kitchen appliances.

Continued on Page 2

and said it was "a litmus test" for the poll body's capacity and

"Do the laws apply to PM or not," Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala asked in a

during macho

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

mon during such attempts".

Ministry. Earlier two predators died in March and April. Sasha, a captive-bred Cheetah, died in March from a kidney ailment, while the second Cheetah, Uday, died during treatment after he was found sick at the national park in April.

Continued on Page 2

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HIGHLIGHTS

In the Army, Brigadiers and above officers are those who have already commanded units, battalions and are mostly posted at headquarters or establishments where officers from all arms and services

work and function together. Continued on Page 2

and equitable organisation",

they said the headgear, shoul-

der rank badges, gorget patch-

es, belt and shoes of senior offi-

cers will be standardised as part

of the decision. The senior

officers will now not wear any

lanyard. However, there will be

no change to the uniform worn

by Colonels and below-rank

officers

Brigadiers, Generals to don common uniform PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

In an effort to enhance more synergy in senior leadership, the Army has decided that officers of the rank of

Khargone district on Tuesday PNS KHARGONE/BHOPAL

injured when a speeding private bus packed with passengers plunged into a dry river bed after breaking through railings of a bridge in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on

After the bus fell off the bridge, some villagers rushed to on any alliance today. I am the spot and pulled out trapped delighted that Nitish ji came to passengers from windows and Bhubaneswar", Patnaik told the rear side of the vehicle, as per eyewitnesses. Continued on Page 2

say exactly," he said. "After listening to the CM's speech in Dholpur, it appears that his leader is not Sonia, his leader is Raje Scindia," he told reporters.

Continued on Page 2

PM to launch ₹5,500 cr projects in Raj today December, this year. The

On a day Karnataka votes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will set his foot on another poll-bound State -Rajasthan — to inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth over ₹5,500 crore on May 10.

Rajasthan is to elect a new Assembly by NovemberCongress, the ruling party in the State will be pitched against the BJP, a strong contender for the power which traditionally does not repeat ruling junta. Modi will dedicate and lay

the foundation stone of various development initiatives in Nathdwara and thereafter will visit the Shantivan complex of Brahma Kumaris in Abu Road. Continued on Page 2

Love goes sour: Cheetah dies male mating bid

ndia lost yet another import-Led cheetah on Tuesday, third female Cheetah named Daksha to a courtship mating bid by her male counterparts inside the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh which the Government said was "com-

"Such violent behaviours by male coalition cheetahs towards female cheetahs during mating are common. In such a situation, the chances of intervention by the monitoring team are almost non-existent and practically impossible," said the Union Environment

24 killed, 41 hurt as bus falls off bridge in MP



A t least 24 people were killed and more than 42 others Tuesday morning, Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel said.

Continued on Page 2

Brigadiers and above will now don a common uniform irrespective of their parent cadre and appointment. The order comes into force on August 1. This decision to have a common uniform "in order to

promote and strengthen comers and during the recently concluded Army Commanders Conference, sources said here

on Tuesday.

also reinforce the Indian Army's character to be a fair

mon identity and approach in service matters amongst senior leadership, beyond the boundaries of regimentation," was discussed at great length among the various stakehold-

Underlining that "this will

India is the world's fifthlargest economy, our next aim

Cong moves EC against Modi for vote appeal during silence period

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday petitioned the Election Commission seeking immediate action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his appeals to Karnataka voters "in violation" of the model code,

willingness to enforce laws.

Cyclone Mocha: Andaman | When Vajpayee went & Nicobar sounds alerts

¬he Andaman and Nicobar ■ Islands administration has alerted the people as the cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal is likely intensify from late on Tuesday night. A well-marked low-pressure area now lies over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea.

It is likely to intensify into cyclonic storm 'Mocha' on Wednesday, the Met department said. 'Mocha' is likely to cause heavy rainfall in the Bay Islands till May 11 and move north-westwards till May 12. There are possibilities that the cyclone will gather more strength on May 12 before its likely landfall over the Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts around May 14, it said. Under its impact storms of wind speed

of 50-60 kmph, gusting to 70 kmph is likely over southeast Bay of Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Andaman Sea for the next two days, the department said. A S P Ś Ravi Prakash, secretary in the disaster management department of the union territory told PTI, "We have issued public advisories as per IMD's instructions and people have been asked to stay indoors for their safety.

The local administration has asked fishermen, ships, small boats and trawlers not to venture into the sea in South, North and Middle Andaman districts and in Nicobar and urged those already in the waters to return to the coast, he said.Tourists as well as locals have been asked to stay away from Radhanagar Beach at Swaraj Dweep (previously

Corbyn's Cove Beach, Chidiya Tapu and Wandoor Beach in Port Blair.Similar advisory was issued to tourists visiting Ross and Smith Islands, Ramnagar and Kalipur in North and Middle Andaman districts.

Prakash said.People have been asked to stay indoors during heavy rains and thun-derstorms, he said. "We have a structured quick response team to handle any emergencies. They are connected with the state emergency operation centers (helpline no 1070). There are three district emergency operation centers (helpline no 1077) which will work round the clock". Trees have been cleared/trimmed in the North and Middle Andaman districts as a precautionary measure, Ankit Yadav, the deputy commissioner of the area, said.

to nightclub in America

In his first trip to the US in 1960, Atal Bihari Vajpayee befriended a young IFS officer posted in the permanent mission of India to the UN and explored New York with him, visiting museums, art galleries and even nightclubs, says a new biography of the former prime

Vajpayee went to the US on an invitation from the American government to be an observer during the presidential election campaign between John F Kennedy and Richard Nixon and was also part of a delegation chosen by the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the UN General Assembly session. Abhishek Choudhary, in the first of his two-volume biography "Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right", says that on the

1960, Vajpayee boarded a plane for Washington DC, his first foreign trip."The invitation from the American government was for him to be present as an observer during the ongoing presidential election campaign. As reported in the 'Organiser', he was also invited for his 'special interest in the

welfare of the Railway labour'.
The mouthpiece did not mention another, perhaps the more important, reason for Vajpayee's visit: Nehru had included him in the list of delegates for the UN General Assembly session," he writes. According to the author, for most of his stay in New York, Vajpayee was in the company of IFS officer Maharajakrishna Rasgotra. "When not at the UN headquarters, Vajpayee divided his time writing (duti-

pieces) and exploring the city with Rasgotra. An expert on decolonization, Rasgotra deepened the Jan Sanghi's under standing of the UN. In return, the MP shared nuggets from his parliament life," the book, published by Picador India,

"They were both eligible bachelors in their early thirties, and also had some light camaraderie. Rasgotra took him to museums and art galleries, but these did not evoke any great interest in young Jan Sanghi. A few times Rasgotra also took him to nightclubs. It was not clear to Vajpayee what a nightclub was exactly. "Rasgotra assured him that it was not a strip club: 'Nagn nritya nahin hota hai. You would get to see what shape modern music is taking - there is jazz, instrumental, local music.'

Arguments that SC can make same-sex marriage law 'dangerous': Jamiat

▼amiat-Ulama-i-Hind', a body of Islamic scholars, told the Supreme Court on Tuesday the argument advanced by the petitioners that the SC should make a declaration about legal validation for same-sex marriage as Parliament is not likely to do anything about it, is a very dangerous proposition".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for 'Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind', told a fivejudge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that a declaration on the premise that Parliament is not likely to pass a law on same-sex union will be a 'wrong step forward".

He told the SC any law of this nature, which is pursuant to a "tectonic shift" in societal value, requires public discourse which includes discourse within and outside parliament.

Sibal submitted he was very worried" at the start of the hearing when the petitioners' side said Parliament is not going to do anything about it so the apex court should make a declaration.

"I am afraid that is a very dangerous proposition. It was said at the outset that we (petitioners) don't expect the Parliament to move forward, don't expect Parliament to pass such a law and therefore, your lordships should do it. I say that is a very dangerous route to take," Sibal told the bench, which also comprised Justices SK Kaul, SR Bhat, PS Narasimha and Hima Kohli.

Under construction bridge on Mumbai-Nagpur e-way collapses, none injured

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n under-construction An under-construction bridge along the Mumbai-Nagpur Super Expressway in the Sinnar-Ghoti area in Igatpuri taluka of Nashik district collapsed on Monday evening. However, as no construction work was taking place at that time, no one was injured in the mishap.

The bridge — which will connect Gangadwadi and Belgaon-Tarhale in Igatpuri taluka of Nashik district crashed at 7.30 pm on Monday, after some girders were placed on the bridge earlier in the

The Sinnar-Ghoti stretch of the expressway has not been thrown open to the public yet. The bridge is a link in the 701-

Thackeray Balasaheb Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg' Phase I, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 11, 2022.

The mishap has thrown up questions about the quality, processes and materials used and proper supervision in the road construction being undertaken on Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg (HHSBTMSM)- as Mumbai-Nagpur SuperExpressway has been

When completed, this expressway will reduce the travel time between Mumbai-Nagpur from the current 16 hours to barely 8 hours.

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on Speed Breakers in Area

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Pilot bombards Gehlot.

From Page1

His Press conference took place the day former Congress president Rahul Gandhi visited the State, attending a training camp for party workers in Mount Abu. A Rajasthan Minister, Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, also appeared to contradict Gehlot on Tuesday, saying Government survived because 102 Congress MLAs in Rajasthan had faith in Rahul and Sonia.

Targeting Gehlot over the claim of money changing hands during the 2020 revolt, Pilot said it is wrong to make allegations against leaders from one's own party.

"It is condemnable. I deny the false and baseless allegations." The Congress leader said if there was any evidence, action should have already been taken by the CM. "There is no point in making such accusations. Even after being

abused, I did not break the party discipline and am not breaking it even today. It is easy to accuse, but it is difficult to answer the public," he

The MLAs against whom the CM made the charges were senior leaders who have been in public life for over 30 years, Pilot said. As examples, named Hemaram Chaudhary and Brijendra Ola, who are now part of the Gehlot Ministry. Pilot said he had been

writing letters for a year and half demanding an investigation into corruption during Raje's tenure. "It is clear from the CM's speech in Dholpur on why no action is being taken, and why it won't happen," he said, in an apparent reference to Gehlot mentioning Raje's "help". Pilot said the planned yatra is not against anyone. "This is on the issue of corruption, this is for the youth who are disappointed due to repeated paper leak cases," he said.

He referred to the boycott in September of a Congress Legislature Party meeting by a majority of the state Congress MLAs, in an apparent show of

strength for Gehlot.

The pro-Gehlot MLAs, apprehending that the CLP meeting was meant to install Pilot as the new chief minister, had then reportedly submitted their resignations. Pilot called the episode an "insult" to Sonia Gandhi, saying the meeting had been called on her directions. This was the real "indiscipline" and "betrayal". People will raise questions 'if you insult her", he said.

He seemed to draw a parallel between the chief minister's claim about BJP "support" for the 2020 rebellion and the resignations in September. "Many people allege that the resignations were made at the behest of (Narendra) Modi and (Amit) Shah. If I say such things from this platform now, would it behove me?" he said.

Pilot said he has been called 'corona', 'gaddar' (traitor) and 'nikamma' (worthless), but the sequence of events reveals who "strength-ened" and who is "weakening" the party.

He said some people want to weaken the Congress party and indulge in "character assassination", but that would not be allowed to happen. The month-long crisis in 2020 ended with the intervention of the party high command, but infighting in its Rajasthan unit continues to embarrass the

Pilot's sharp rejoinder to Gehlot's remarks this time comes a day before polling in the Karnataka Assembly elections, in which the Congress is being seen as a strong con-

PM to launch ₹5,500 cr projects in Raj today

From Page1
The focus of the projects to be launched by the PM will be on bolstering infrastructure and connectivity in the region, the PMO said, adding road and railway works will facilitate the movement of goods and services, boosting trade and commerce and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people in the region. Among the projects, Modi will lay the foundation stones for road construction projects for upgradation to two-lane in Rajsamand and Udaipur and for redevelopment of the Udaipur

He will also lay the foundation stone for gauge conversion project and for setting up of a new line from Nathdwara to Nathdwara town in Rajsamand. Modi will inaugurate three national highway projects, including 114-km long six lane Udaipur to Shamlaji section of NH-48, 110-km long widening and strengthening to 4 lane with paved shoulder of Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur Section of NH-25, and 47 km long two lane with paved shoulder section of NH 58E.

The PM will also be visiting Shantivan complex of Brahma Kumaris, a religious organisation. The PMO noted that a special focus of the PM has been on giving impetus to spiritual reju-

He will lay the foundation stone of a super speciality charitable global hospital, second phase of Shivmani old age home and extension of nursing college. The hospital will be set up in Abu Road, spread across an area of 50 acres. It will offer worldclass medical facilities and will prove especially beneficial for the poor and the tribal people in the region, it said.

Assets of C'garh...

From Page1

The investigation relates to allegations of "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats,

amendments & corrigendum etc.

38/DGM(NTC)/

47/DGM(NTC)/

69/DGM(NTC)

70/DGM(NTC)

SM(NTC)/

SM(NTC)/

2022-23

SM(NTC)/

2023-24

S. Job No.

No

72/DGM(NTC)/ SM(NTC)/

02/DGM(NTC)

25.05.2023 at 11.00 AM.

60/DGM(NTC)/

18.05.2023 at 11.00 AM.

SM(NTC)/

2022-23

2022-23 71/DGM(NTC)/

SM(NTC)/

SM(NTC)/

SM(NTC)/

2022-23

2022-23

VOID5

S. Job No. No.

businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency had arrested under PMLA. All of them are in judicial custody. prosecution complaints (chargesheet in police parearlier said. ED had initiated a money laundering investiga-tion based on the FIR lodged on the complaint of income tax department. Searches at more than 145 premises have been conducted and so far nine accused persons have been

Amount

3099471.44

3115448.64

Amount

lance) dated December 9, .2022 and January 30, .2023 have been filed before the Special Court (PMLA) against Suryakant, Chaurasia, Vishnoi New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Brigadiers, Generals to don...

From Page1 A standard uniform will ensure a common identity for all senior-rank officers, while reflecting the true ethos of the

Indian Army, sources said. Different types of uniform and accoutrements have specific association to respective arms, regiments and services in the Indian Army.

This recognition with distinct identity within the Arms or Regiment or Services is essential for junior leadership and the rank and file to further strengthen camaraderie, esprit de corps and regimental ethos, which is the bedrock of sol-

Imran's arrest...

From Page1
"Khan has been arrested in

a land transfer case to proper-ty tycoon Malik Riaz and is being handed over to National Accountability Bureau (NAB)", a NAB official confirmed to

He said that Khan has been arrested in the Al-Qadir setting up of Al-Qadir University for Sufism in 2019 Sohawa area of Jhelum district of Punjab. Khan's arrest warrant, issued on May 1, said that he was accused of corruption and corrupt practice.

As the news of Khan's arrest spread, massive protests broke out in several cities across Pakistan. Protesters at several places turned violent and burned police vehicles and damaged public property. For the first time, Khan's supporters smashed the main gate of the army's sprawling head-quarters in Rawalpindi, where troops exercised restraint. The protesters chanted slogans against the establishment.

In Lahore, a large number of PTI workers stormed into the Corps Commander Lahore residence and smashed the gate and window-panes. The Army personnel present on

duty there, however, did not try to stop the enraged protesters who surrounded them and chanted slogans against the "handlers" of the PML-N led government in the military establishment. The protesters held a demonstration in the Cantonment area.

Lahore was virtually cut off because of the protest on main roads, including the entry and exit points. The caretaker Punjab gov-

ernment called the Rangers to control the law-and-order situation in the province and imposed section 144 under which not more than five people can gather at one point. The Punjab government also requested the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to suspend Internet and mobile services in the areas of the province where violent protests took place.

A large number of PTI workers also pelted stones at the residence of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in Faisalabad city. Similarly, protests were held in Multan, Jhang, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Khanewal, Vehari, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Gujrat cities.

24 killed, 41 hurt as bus...

From Page1

As many as 41 passengers were injured in the accident and undergoing treatment in various hospitals at Khargone and Indore, Patel, who is also minister in-charge of the district, told reporters. Patel said Khargone district's Assistant Regional Transport Officer came to light that the ill-fated bus was overloaded and speeding at the time of the accident. There were around 70 passengers in the bus which had capacity to accommodate only 37 people, the minister said.

Patel said the police have been directed to launch a drive against speeding and overloading in buses in the district. Officials said 18 seriously injured persons were referred to Indore for further treatment, while 23 were admitted at the Khargone district hospi-

A magisterial probe has been ordered into the accident which took place at around 8.40 am, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra Mishra told reporters earlier. Locals were seen carrying people and offering water to the harried passengers amid hot weather, they said. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi condoled the loss of lives in the road crash and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased. The bus broke through railings of the Dasanga bridge and fell into a dry bed of the Borad river near Dongargaon village, Mishra said.

cials said the vehicle was carrying around 50 passengers. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan séparately announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of those killed in the tragedy. The seriously injured per-

sons will be given Rs 50,000 and the passengers with minor injuries will get Rs 25,000 each, Mishra said. The state government will bear the cost of treatment of the injured passengers, he added. Prime Minister Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives and wished speedy recovery to the injured passengers.

"The road accident in Khargone is very saddening. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in this accident. Also, I wish speedy recovery to all the injured.

K'taka people's dream my...

From Page1

This is possible only when Karnataka rapidly grows to become a USD one trillion economy. "You have witnessed the work of the 'Double Engine' BJP government over the last 3.5 years. Our decisive, focused imparting momentum to the growth of Karnataka's economy", the Prime Minister said.

Despite the COVID pandemic, ĥe said, Karnataka has received over Rs 99,000 crore annually as foreign investment under the BJP government. It was just around Rs 30,000 crore under the previous government. This shows the BJP's commitment to Karnataka's progress and to a bright future for the youth.

"We want to make Karnataka the number 1 in investment, industry and innovation. We want to make Karnataka the number 1 in education, employment and entrepreneurship", Modi said. The Prime Minister said the government is working to empower farmers with a Beei Se Bazaar Tak' vision. Through new irrigation projects, expansion of storage facilities.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	l = /·	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
	LBFDB00004364371	Flat No-B-2201, Floor- 22, Tower-B, Ajnara Le Garden, Plot No- GH 02, Sector- 16, Greater Noida (Admeasuring An Area of 875 Square Feet/ 04 May, 2023	November 30, 2022 Rs.28,05,660/-	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.

Dy. General Manager Noida Traffic Cell CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA Date: May 10, 2023 Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Love goes...

From Page1

'They must have tried mating, and she must have retaliated, which would have made them aggressive," said JS Chauhan, chief wildlife warden of Madhya Pradesh. All three were poised to be released to the wild before June.

According to the Ministry officials, the female cheetah Daksha released from South Africa in the Park was found fatally injured by the monitoring team on May 9 in the morning. "Treatment was conducted by the veterinarians but the female feline succumbed to her injuries a few hours later.""Prima facie, the wounds found on the female cheetah Daksha seem to have been caused by a violent interaction with the male, during courtship/ mating attempt.

Nitish calls...

"We are old friends and colleagues ever since we served in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's cabinet," he said. Patnaik said the Odisha government will provide 1.5 acres of land to Bihar government free of cost in Puri for building facilities for tourists coming for darshan of Lord Jagannath.

Patnaik shared some photographs from the meeting, and tweeted: "Glad to meet #Bihar Chief Minister Shri @NitishKumar #Bhubaneswar. #Odisha shares a special bond with Bihar and the people of the neighbouring

Hope he had a pleasant and fruitful stay in Odisha." Nitish said, "Our relation with his

(Naveen) father Biju Babu and Naveen ji is very old. Due to the COVID pandemic, we could not meet. No political discussions were held. We have good relations and there is no need to discuss any politics." The denial of both leaders of discussing politics comes amid talks of unity among non-BJP parties ahead of next year's The Bihar CM, who is try-

ing to unite anti-BJP politicians, have so far met leaders of various parties including his West Bengal counterpart and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with the aim to form an Opposition front.

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Shraddha murder: Court frames charges against Aaftab

Father wants early trial, hopes killer will be hanged to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Setting the stage for trial, a city court on Tuesday framed charges of murder and disappearance of evidence against Aaftab Amin Poonawala, who is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar to death and chopping her body into pieces. Hours after the city court

framed charges against Aaftab, Shraddha's father Vikas Walker demanded that the trial starts at the earliest and hoped that the accused be hanged to death.

"We feel that he should be hanged to death. I will be requesting the court to start the trial as soon as possible and June 1 might be a little late. We welcome the court's decision," said Vikas Walker adding that that on May 17, he will hold a one-day protest in Mumbai to demand a speedy trial in the case. Earlier, after hearing arguments on framing charges, Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar said the arguments were heard at length and sufficient materials were placed on record by the prosecution.

The court, however, said whether Aaftab could be convicted for both offences was a matter of trial and could not be decided at the present stage.



Sufficient material has been placed on record by the prosecution which warrants trial of the accused for both the

"From the aforesaid material placed on record by the prosecution, a prima facie case for the offences under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code is made out against the accused," the judge said.

"Accordingly, charges for the offences under sections 302 and 201 of the IPC are framed against the accused. The charge is read over and explained to the accused in the presence of his counsel and the accused has submitted that he

ed he does not plead guilty and he has claimed trial," the judge

ASJ Kakkar noted the "circumstantial and corroborative evidence" relied upon by the prosecution, including the recovery of bones, a bunch of hair, and the jaw of the deceased which Poonawala had allegedly disposed of to conceal the murder along with the last seen evidence and digital trails. Other evidence included

blood stains in the fridge and kitchen shelves, DNA profiling report, voice recording on Dr Practo app, previous complaint given by the deceased in Mumbai, postmortem report, call detail records and statements of several witnesses, the judge noted.

Thus, in light of the afore-

the contention raised by the counsel for the accused that no substantive material has been placed on record by the prosecution to frame charges... Is without any merits," the judge said. "The stage of leading evidence cannot be trumped and the matter cannot be prejudged. In fact, if there is sufficient material placed on record by the prosecution qua both the offences, there seems to be no bar in framing charges for both the offences...," the judge said.

Referring to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the judge said although necessary particulars were to be provided at the time of framing of charges but if the offence was of murder, then the charge need not state the manner in which the murder was com-

the said particulars or manner would not render the charge defective.

"Consequently, since the case of the prosecution in the present matter is primarily based upon circumstantial evidence and not on any ocular account of a witness or any such direct evidence, there is no requirement of stating the manner of commission of the alleged offence under section 302...," the ASJ said. The judge also said at the time of framing of charges, only a prima facie view has to be formed, in order to weigh whether there is sufficient material available on record to proceed against the

The matter has been posted for further proceedings on June 1. Meanwhile, the court adjourned till May 22 the hear-

victim's father Vikas Walkar urging the judge that his daughter's remains be handed over to the family for the last rites as required by tradition and culture.

Delhi Police had also placed on record other evidence, such as the recovery of a knife, scissors and hammer (used allegedly for dismembering the body), narco analysis test, recovery of a ring of the deceased from one of the acquaintances or friend of the accused and chats between the friend of the deceased and the accused (to prove that Shraddha was not alive after May 18).

Earlier on February 21, a magisterial court after taking cognisance of the charge sheet, had committed the case

NDMC hikes health licence fees for hotels, restaurants

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has raised the annual health licence fee for several businesses, including sweet shops, small stalls/kiosks selling daily eatable items, restaurants, hotels, lodging houses, coffee shops, banquet halls and theatres, ranging between Rs 100 and Rs 5,300 across categories.

The highest increase is in

the five star hotels, that is Rs 5300. An order was issued on May 6 for the increase in fees with effect from April 1. According to officials, there has been no increase in health licence fee for a few categories of business such as laundry, boiler, DG set, hawking and dairy booths. NDMC would



process around 200 - 300 cases for health licenses this year.

The health licence fee for a five-star hotel was increased from Rs 75,300 to Rs 80,600, the highest across categories. Some businesses such as meat shops, hawking on cycle, water trolley and ice-cream trolley saw an increase of Rs 100.

In the hospitality area, ness activities like hotels,

there was an increase of Rs 200 for guest houses with one to 20 beds, Rs 500 for 21-50 beds, Rs 1,000 for 50-100 beds, and Rs 2,300 for ones with more than 100 beds, according to the order. "Annual revision in the health licence fees for grant and renewal of various trade licences for carrying out busiing houses, sweet shops and small stalls/kiosk selling daily eatable items, etc. In NDMC area has been effected by NDMC with effect from 01/04/2023," the NDMC said in a statement.

"The increase in amount is minimal from Rs 100 to Rs 2,000 annually except in case of lodging houses and five-star Hotels," the statement read. The NDMC also said the licence for each restaurant, cafe and coffee shop has to be taken separately and shall not be included in the licence of

The licence fee for hawking has increased from Rs 200 to Rs 300. The fee for sale of Ice Cream on the trolley has increased from Rs 1500 to

carts also increased from Rs 7500 to Rs 8000.

The fee for eating stalls/kiosks have been increased from Rs 700 to Rs 800. The fee for tea shops has been increased from Rs 700 to

The licence fee for Café/Coffee shop/ restaurants and eating establishments have been increased from Rs 7500 to Rs 8000. The fee for meat shops including fish mongers, have increased from Rs 600 to Rs 700. For the renewal application received after April 30 and within one year from the date of expiry of the health licence, late fee charges — five per cent of the licence fee per month — will be charged, the

BJP slams AAP leaders for silence in Nirbhaya-like case there were injury marks on the

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Tuesday lambasted the Aam Aadmi Party leaders for not uttering a word on the sensitive issue of the gangrape of a Dalit woman working as a private nurse at GB Pant Hospital here.

Addressing a joint Press conference on the gangrape of a Dalit woman, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Delhi BJP Vice President Barkha Singh said AAP leaders on this incident even as the leaders pat their backs every day and spew venom against others.

"Is it because the name of



the Aam Aadmi Party does not want to rise above the politics of Muslim appeasement," the BJP leaders questioned.

Bidhuri said a Dalit woman was raped in GB Pant Hospital on the night of May 1 and now it is being said gangrape took

place.
"The woman was brutalised so much that a rod was inserted in her private part,

woman's head and her teeth were broken. Like Nirbhaya, this woman died on Sunday, 7th May due to this terrible incident," Bidhuri said. The 40-year-old woman

was a resident of the trans-

Yamuna area and her husband

had died of cancer last year. She was taking care of her two young children who are now orphans by working as helpers at Pant Hospital. Bidhuri has questioned the

role of Aam Aadmi Party leaders in this incident.

He said that because the main accused is a Muslim, everyone is sitting silently on this incident till now.

L-G relaxes criterion, approves two people appointment in Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena relaxed the prescribed criterion of physical standards and granted them approval on compassionate grounds for appointment of two persons in the Delhi Police. According to Raj Niwas official, the applications of beneficiaries Muskan Rathore and Gopesh Meena were rejected by Delhi Police as their height fell short by a marginal 0.5 cm and 0.4

However, the LG, using his ecial power under section 30 of Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) Rules, 1980, relaxed the prescribed criteri-

on for physical standards in these two cases and directed for issuing appointment letters to the two beneficiaries. The application of Muskan Rathore dated October 18, 2019, was rejected by Delhi Police on November 12, 2020, while the August 26 application of Gopesh Meena, was rejected on June 23, 2021.

"In light of the penury conditions liabilities/responsibilities of the families, both the cases relaxation of prescribed criterion of physical standards, i.E. Height," the LG noted while overruling Delhi Police in the

LG noted Meena had the liability of a younger sister, brother and his widowed mother while Rathore too had the responsibility of a younger brother and widowed mother.

Saxena said it was important and in the interest of natural justice that such factors, including the families' financial conditions, are taken into consideration while deciding cases of compassionate appointment. Rathore, daughter of late Head Constable appear to be fit for appoint- Raj Narayan Singh, was rejectment on compassionate ed due to short height. Her the prescribed height of 152 cm and thus fell short by just 0.5 cm. DCP (Traffic) had recommended her appointment

'AAP working 24X7 to ensure no waterlogging this monsoon' **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Arvind Kejriwal government on Tuesday claimed that the Delhi gov-ernment is working round the clock to ensure no waterlogging this monsoon season.

PWD Minister Atishi, Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj and Delhi Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammed Iqbal held a joint review meeting on Tuesday with the officials of the Public Works Department (PWD), Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Municipal Counil, Delhi Development Authority and Delhi Cantonment Board to take stock of the preparations



During the meeting, they assessed the current situation across the capital and discussed potential solutions. The meeting focused on key areas such as the desilting of drains, construction of new drains, identification of water logging room for monitoring waterlogging incidents, with an emphasis on ensuring seamless coordination across various departments.

Atishi instructed the officials to assess the situation after rains now and hold joint inspections at waterlogging hotspots.

The focus should be laid on mitigating waterlogging in these areas with micro-level nodal agency, and the department's central control room will monitor waterlogged areas 24*7 through CCTV," she said.

has installed 128 pump houses, which have over 700 pumps. Of them, 11 pump houses are fully automatic and start operating automatically as the water level rises, using sensors. They said that PWD has

marked 165 areas with waterlogging problems, and preparations are underway to address their needs and tackle waterlogging issues. In addition to this, PWD will establish control rooms at 10 other locations.

The Flood and Control department informed that Delhi under it with a total length of approximately 382 kilometers.

To clean these drains, 53 During the meeting, machines have been deployed

by the department. As of April 30, 2023, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has already carried out 5,65,371 metric tons of desilting work. The remaining desilting work on the drains will also be completed soon.

The MCD informed that desilting of all small and large drains will be completed by

Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj directed DJB officials to complete the distilling of all sewage lines and drains before the

He added that in addition, sewage pumping stations (SPS) built in various parts of Delhi to alert officials of the Delhi Jal Board of any water overflow or malfunction.

Furnish report on Maken's letter for probe into Kejriwal's house, Chief Secretary directed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the chief secretary to furnish a report on several allegations levelled by former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Ajay Maken of "extravagant and obscure expenditure", environmental damage and violations related to heritage, among others, in connection to the renovation and construction activity at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Civil Lines residence. Saxena directed that the report be submitted to him within

In the letter to the LG, the Congress' senior spokesperson Ajay Maken claimed that the amount spent on Arvind Kejriwal's residence was not Rs 45 crore but Rs 171 crore and that too during the time of the Covid pandemic when people were running around for hospital beds and the lack of oxy-

Maken had also expressed his deep concern and disappointment regarding the "extravagant" expenditure, environmental damage, and violation of heritage protection and zonal plans in the con-struction of the chief minister's residence in Delhi.

Responding to Maken's complaint, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said the Congress leader is trying to tarnish the image of Kejriwal. "This is a false case. The Congress leader's complaint shows that



together and working against AAP. Maken is a puppet of BJP in Delhi. What does congress have to say about 2000 cr liquor scam in Chhattisgarh?, the AAP said

'The construction of the new CM house has cost the exchequer around Rs 171 crore, with 15 out of 22 officers' houses adjacent to CM's house at Flagstaff Road being demolished or got vacated. The rest have been asked to not re-allot with time. This figure (Rs 171 crore) includes around Rs 126 crore spent on purchasing 21 new Type 5 flats in the CWG Village to compensate for the housing shortage," the former Delhi Congress chief had claimed in the letter.

"I thus request you to conduct an inquiry into the matter. And if found guilty, grant sanction for prosecution of the principal beneficiary, the chief minister and the principal perpetrator the PWD minister of GNCTD," Maken had

After receiving the letter, the L-G in a communication to the chief secretary directed that a report be submitted to him within seven days.

The LG has desired that a detailed report on each of the issues raised in the aforesaid representation be furnished

within seven days," the communication read. Claiming that the renovation of the chief minister's house has violated the Master Plan Delhi (MPD) 2021, Maken had alleged that it has been constructed in the Civil Lines Old Bungalow Zone, an area protected under

The AAP has maintained that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence was built in 1942 and the roof had collapsed thrice. Following the roof collapse incidents, the Public Works Department suggested a new house be built, the party had

DU to issue notice to Rahul over unauthorised visit to campus

STAFF REPORTER

ing him against making any

campus in future, a senior offi-

cial said on Tuesday, days after

the Congress leader met stu-

dents at a hostel. The notice

will be sent either Tuesday or

Wednesday, Delhi University Registrar Vikas Gupta said.

tell the leader that this kind of

visit "jeopardise" the safety of

students and that proper pro-

tocol needs to be followed for

any such interaction.

Rahul visited a Post-

Graduate Men's Hostel of the

university on Friday, interact-

ed with some students and had

lunch with them. "It was an

unauthorised visit. Many stu-

dents were having lunch when

he barged in. We cannot toler-

He said the university will

'unauthorised" visit to the



pus. We will send a notice to Rahul Gandhi, telling him that he should not repeat such action and should not jeopardise the safety of students," the registrar said.

Meanwhile, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, has alleged that the administration was under pressure to take action against Gandhi. The registrar refuted the allegation and said, "There is no such pressure. It is a matter of discipline."

A day after Gandhi's visit, the Delhi University issued a sharp statement, saying the "sudden and unauthorised" entry raised serious security concerns for the hostel inmates and the leader. "University authorities will take necessary steps to avoid such incidents of this trespassing and will ensure that this does not happen in future again," it had said.

Fire breaks out at Army **Base Hospital**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

fire broke out Tuesday A fire broke our race, morning at the Army Base Hospital in the Delhi Cantonment in the southwestern part of the city, affecting an operation theatre and an intensive care unit, but no one was injured.

Officials said it was a very risky operation for firemen as the blaze was in a room next to the one in which oxygen and nitrogen cylinders were kept. It took around two hours for around 50-60 firemen to douse the flames.

Information about the blaze was received around 3.50 am and 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, Delhi Fire Service officials said. Police, meanwhile, said six fire tenders of the Army Fire Squad were also involved in the operation.

According to officials, the fire spread to the operation theatre, intensive care unit (ICU) and the store room of the hospital before it was was brought under control around 5.30 am. "Most dreaded thing for

firemen in fire incidents are cylinder blasts. But team DFS (Delhi Fire Service) has always taken risks to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Delhi. A fire in Base hospital, Cantt, was received...Team fought in presence of cylinder," Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg tweeted. Another senior fire official said oxygen and nitrogen cylinders were in the area where the fire broke

Unseasonal rain brings down power demand in capital



Unseasonal rains and a relatively cool atively cool weather in recent days have brought down the power demand in national capital. According to a senior officer of discoms, compared to the corresponding days of May last year, Delhi's peak power demand this year has been lower by up to 40 per cent.

Last year, the peak power demand in the first eight days of May ranged between 5,409 MW and 6,247 MW. During the same period this year, the maximum demand ranged between 3,644 MW and 4,634 MW, the official added. "Last May, Delhi's peak

power demand crossed 6,000 MW on 20 days, 5,000 MW on 7 days, and 7,000 MW once. Even in 2019, the demand throughout the month ranged between 4,277 MW and 6,461 MW," he

demands of April in both years, the official pointed out that the city recorded a peak demand between 4,170 MW and 6,197 MW in 2022 while it tapered off in 2023, with a range of 3,388 MW to 5,422 MW. The demand crossed the 5,000 MW mark only on three occasions. In contrast to April this

year, the peak power demand was higher on all the corresponding days in 2022, with a difference of up to 37 per cent, the official said. He, however, said the demand is likely to shoot up in the second half of May this year as the maximum temperature rises in the city.

Delhi clocked a record

peak power demand of 7,695 MW in 2022 and it is expected to cross 8,000 MW by June or July this year, Delhi Power Department officials said. The city's peak power demand touched 7,323 MW in 2021, they added.

Even L-G's accountability can be fixed: AAP on Guj court decision

The AAP on Tuesday cited a Gujarat court decision refusing Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena immuni-ty from criminal trial in a 2002 case to claim that this shows even his accountability can be fixed.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Addressing a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said Saxena, who is accused of assaulting activist Medha Patkar in 2002 at Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, had filed the application. The senior leader said that

Saxena's application had cited Article 361 (2) of the Constitution that says, "No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office." He had submitted that governors are selected by the central government and are appointed by the President of India, while the L-G is selected and appointed by the President. "LG overturned the Constitution itself. His application in the court said that he is above the Governor and below the President. But the court has rejected his application that LG does not get any immunity. Every day he issues orders to government departments to get work done that is not in his domain. This shows that even his accountability can be fixed,"

Bharadwaj said.

BJP to celebrate 9 yrs of Modi Govt

PNS NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{JP will celebrate from this}}_{\text{month the nine years of the}}$ Modi-Government at the Centre and its "milestone decisions", including the scraping of Article 370 in Jamnu & Kashmir.

Organisational programmes of awareness about "nine-years achievements" would be launched at the Central and State levels.

The party programmes could stretch for a month, said party leaders

Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Party President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah would address party workers.

The BJP has already constituted a committee including plan for the celebrations. The committee comprises Gajendra Shekhawat, Prahlad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal, V Muraleedharan, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Bharti Pawar,



Darshana Jardosh, L Murugan and Subhash Sarkar, among

BJP Ministers and the MPs have been asked to interact with party workers from booth, district and state level to raise the level of preparedness in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha

During the month-long 'activation programme', the party workers would "educate and inform public" as how the government "rescued economy" and effectivly coped with

Covid-19 as the world faced the downturn, they said.

Abrogated of Article 370 in J& K and 'restoration of peace' would be highlighted during the celebrations by the party

election bound states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, would particularly list-out the "dent made by the flagship Prime Ministerial schemes in poverty levels across the country", sources

AIME-23 successfully culminated in South China Sea, says Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The inaugural Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) successfully culminated in the South China Sea on Monday, the navy said here on

Approximately 1,400 personnel manning nine ships participated in the Sea Phase of the multilateral naval exercise. India's indigenously designed and built ships - destroyer INS Delhi and stealth frigate INS Satpura, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and integral helicopters exercised with ASEAN naval ships from Brunei, Indonesia. Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The two-day sea-phase witnessed a wide spectrum of evolutions at sea including tactical manoeuvres, cross deck landings by helicopters, seamanship evolutions and other maritime operations. Apart from honing skills in the maritime domain the exercise enhanced interoperability and demonstrated the ability of Indian and ASEAN navies to operate as an integrated force to promote peace, stability and security in the region.

HC seeks Centre's stand on exclusion of infertile couples from surrogacy benefits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday sought the}}$ Centre's stand on a petition challenging the exclusion of "infertile couples" from the benefit of surrogacy. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad issued notice to the Central Government on the petition by a married couple aggrieved by the amendment to the surrogacy law "effectively barring use of surrogacy services by infertile couples unless both of them have the ability to generate gametes".

In their petition, the couple said before the March 14 notification by the Centre which introduced the exclusion in question by amending Para 1(d) of Form 2 under Rule 7 of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, they were looking for a surrogate as the wife was found to be infertile but have now been deprived of their right to parenthood for all times to come and their fertilised embryo has



become "legally unviable".

"Infertile couples are discriminated only on the basis of whether they have the capacity for bearing gestational pregnancy. Where the wife has a viable or healthy uterus, such a couple are permitted the use of donor gametes whereas if the wife in another case does not have the capacity to carry gestational pregnancy the couple is denied surrogacy and parenthood rights," the petition filed through lawyers Lalit Mohan Bhat and Saumya Tandon said.

"The notification bars 'infertile couples' access to legally regulated surrogacy services unless both of them generate gametes. Thus, if the husband or the wife is not able to produce sperm or egg (Oocyte), they are disentitled to avail the facilities under the

Surrogacy Act,", it stated. The petition said this "restrictive condition" violates the fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Construction as well as deprives the petitioners of their basic civil and human right to parenthood and a complete family life.

"Petitioners have a vested right to parenthood and the amendment cannot be allowed to render their legally fer-tilised embryo unviable," the plea said. "The impugned notification seeks to restrict surrogacy services only for couples having the capacity to produce their own gametes as such violates their fundamental rights under Article 21. Genetic purity of the embryo and the foetus cannot be the basis of depriving infertile couple of parenthood, if it was, adoption would be impermissible in law," argued the peti-

The plea stated that a lawful surrogacy has been rendered unlawful by the amendment and the petitioners are at risk of criminal prosecution if they proceed with surrogacy at this stage.

Jaishankar, Cohen review India-Israel ties; agreement on mobility inked

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/JERUSALEM

India and Israel on Tuesday **⊥**reviewed the entire spectrum of their strong bilateral ties in various fields here during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Eli Cohen. They also reportedly prepared the ground for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's likely visit later this year to India. The two sides also inked an agreement on mobility and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen India-Israel relationship.

Jaishankar said after the

talks he had productive and wide ranging talks with Cohen adding "the main pillars of our strategic partnership-agriculture, water, defence and security-are taking our ties forward."

He also said new agreements in water and agriculture on Tuesday underline the potential to do more. The two ministers also discussed cooperation in hi-tech, digitial and innovation as also connectivity, mobility, tourism, finance and health, Jaishankar



said adding the two sides noted the progress in I2U2 and cooperation in multilateral fora.

The I2U2 is a grouping of India, United Arab Emirates(UAE), the US and Israel. It was launched during Jaishankar's visit to Israel in October 2021 when the foreign ministers of the four countries laid down the basic principles of taking this alliance forward with the Foreign Ministers of UAE and the US participating

Meanwhile, the two sides also exchanged perspectives on our respective regions, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific, Jaishankar said. The two counin the field of mobility, the min-

"Paid homage at the Teen Murti Haifa Chowk with Israel Foreign Minister Eli Cohen. This symbol of our shared history reflects the enduring India-Israel friendship," Jaishankar tweeted.

During World War One in 1918, Indian troops sacrificed their lives in the liberation of Haifa from the Ottoman Empire.

Cohen tweeted "Excellent meeting with the Foreign Minister of India -@DrSJaishankar We are strengthening ties with the most populous country in the world, and expanding coopertries also inked an agreement ation in the fields of cyber, agriculture and water. Our coop-

eration will strengthen Israel's position in the world and stability in the Middle East."

Cohen arrived in India on Tuesday for his first official visit which was for three days. However, he decided to cut short his India visit due to a security update amid action by the Israel Army against members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement.

The visiting minister also said India and Israel are strategic partners which do not compete with each other but complete each other while addressing the India-Israel Business Forum organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). He also said India-Israel trade volume will surpass the USD 20-billion

Terming India "the gate from the east to the west", Cohen said trades from India will sell everywhere. "It is very important to emphasise that Israel and India are strategic partners. We are not competing with each other. We definitely complete each other," he

Expressing "great satisfaction" at the achievements of 30 years of full diplomatic ties between India and Israel, Cohen said it is time for the two nations to "re-accelerate" their relations in various fields to strengthen the strategic part-

Just ahead of his three-day visit starting on Tuesday, Cohen told PTI in Jerusalem that the visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in 2017 and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu to India in 2018 helped bring the bilateral relations to "new heights of cooperation, understanding and even deepened the friendship not only between the governments but also between the peoples".
"We expect that Prime

Minister Netanyahu's visit to India later this year will continue the momentum in relations both in the areas in which I will be engaged during my visit and in other areas", he said.

India and Israel have seen an intense last few months of engagement starting with the visit of Knesset's (Israeli parliament) Speaker Amir Ohana at the end of March followed by the visit of Minister of Economy Nir Barkat in April and now comes the visit of the for further strengthening bilat-Israeli Foreign Minister in

quick succession. The visits are being seen as a build-up to the much-anticipated visit of Netanyahu towards the end of this year.

In January, Modi invited Netanyahu to visit India at an early date.

The Israeli prime minister visited India in 2018. His visit to India in 2019 was called off due to scheduling issues. Both sides were working on a plan for his visit to India in 2021 but that did not materialise as he was ousted from power in June of that year.

Netanyahu came back as the prime minister in December after his Likud party formed a coalition with some other parties following the elections The ties between India and

Israel have been on an upswing in the last few years in a range of sectors including defence, agriculture and water management. In January, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation with his İsraeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during which both leaders agreed on the potential eral strategic cooperation.

Israeli FM cuts short visit, returns to Tel Aviv

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Visiting Foreign Minister of Israel Eli Cohen on Tuesday cut short his threeday visit to India and returned to Tel Aviv. He landed here in the morning and decided to go back after receiving a security update.

He reportedly decided to return after Israel launched air strikes against some militants in the Gaza Strip. Some commanders of the militant group Islamic Jihad were killed in the military action.

"A short while ago I landed in India for a very impor-tant strategic and political visit. I am receiving constant update from Israel on the situation and I hope to meet today with the Indian Prime Minister, and after that will shorten my visit and go back to Israel," Cohen said. He left after holding talks with

Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and calling on Prime Minister Modi. Announcing the decision,

External Affairs Minister S

the Israeli Foreign Ministry said "Foreign Minister Eli Cohen landed a short while ago in New Delhi, the capital of India, and as soon as he landed he received a security update. In light of the events in Israel, Foreign Minister Cohen decided to cut short his diplomatic visit to India and return to Israel after the meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that

will take place today."

According to reports from
Tel Aviv, Israel has launched a major military offensive targeting some militants in Gaza Strip. At least 12 Palestinians, including three commanders of the militant group Islamic Jihad, have been killed in the air strikes, they said.

NIA arrests 5 more in TN PFI criminal conspiracy case; weapons seized

PNS NEW DELHI

fter extensive searches in Avarious parts of Tamil Nadu, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested another five accused, taking the total number of arrests in the Tamil Nadu PFI criminal conspiracy case to 15.

The searches were conducted by the NIA at six locations in the districts of Theni, Dindigul, Madurai and Chennai. Places searched included

properties of the accused,

mostly houses and farm-houses, the NIA said in a statement."A host of incriminating material, including sharp edged weapons, digital devices and documents, were

seized during the searches,

leading to the arrest of the five accused," it said. The five arrested accused have been identified as Abdul Razzak (47) of Chennai, Advocate Mohamed Yusuf, (aged 35 years, resident of Madurai), Advocate M Mohamed Abbas (aged 45, Madurai), Kyzer A (aged 45,

Dindigul district) and Sathik Ali (aged 39, Theni district). The case relating to unlawful and anti-national activities of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), was initially registered by

NIA on September 19, 2022.

The NIA had filed a chargesheet against 10 accused persons on March 17, 2023

"Investigations had revealed that the accused had conspired and planned to eliminate their 'perceived enemies' who were not aligned to the PFI ideology



and were opposed to its plans to establish an Islamic State in India by 2047.

In pursuance of the conspiracy, the accused persons had radicalized a large number of PFI cadres, especially youth, handpicked by the outfit's leadership, and had also trained them in the use of different kinds of weapons to assault, maim and kill their adversaries," the NIA added.

NIA carries out 2nd extensive searches in week in crackdown against J&K ultras

PNS NEW DELHI

n its second such crackdown against Jammu and Kashmir ultras in a week, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday carried out extensive searches in the Valley at the premises of terror cadres, hybrid terrorists and over ground workers linked to the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of several major banned Pak-backed terror out-

The raids, in the terror conspiracy case, were continuing till late in the evening. They were spread across locations in Anantnag, Srinagar, Budgam, Shopian, Kulgam and Baramulla districts of Kashmir, as well as in Poonch, Rajouri and Kishtwar districts of

The NIA has been investiating the activities of newly floated terrorist groups, such as "The Resistance Front (TRF)", "United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (UL J&K)",

"Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind

(MGH)", "Jammu & Kashmir



Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others. These outfits are affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda among

Tuesday's raids, conducted at a total of 16 locations (12 in the Kashmir Valley and four in Jammu division), were part of NIA's investigations into the activities of OGWs and cadres in support of these new terror

"These cadres and workers have been found involved in collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, IEDs, cash, drugs and small weapons, as well as in spreading activities relating to terror, violence and subversion in

J&K," the NIA said in a state-

Investigations have further revealed that Pak-based operatives were using drones to deliver weapons, bombs, drugs etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley.

On May 2, NIA had conducted raids at 12 locations in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the seizure of incriminating material and digital devices, in the terror conspiracy case it had registered suo motu on June 21,

The case relates to the hatching of a conspiracy, both in physical and cyber space, and plans by the proscribed ter-rorist organisations to unleash violent terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs and small

The plans are part of a larger conspiracy by these terrorist outfits to commit acts of terror and violence, in association with local youth/overground workers, to disturb peace and communal disharmony in Jammu and Kashmir, it added.

year from preventable causes: WHO report PIONEER NEWS SERVICE deaths each year, 1.9 million

Over 4.5 million women and babies die every year during pregnancy, childbirth or the first weeks after birth, equivalent to one death happening every seven seconds, mostly from preventable or treatable causes if proper care was available. according to a new UN World Health Organization (WHO) report released on Tuesday. It noted that overall global progress in reducing the premature deaths of pregnant women, mothers



and babies, has flatlined for eight years due to decreasing investments in maternal and newborn health.

Overall, the report shows that progress in improving survival has stagnated since 2015;

4.5 mn pregnancy, childbirth related deaths every

stillbirths - babies who die after 28 weeks of pregnancy and a staggering 2.3 million newborn deaths, during the first month of life.

The COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty, and worsening humanitarian crises have intensified pressures on stretched health systems. Just one in 10 countries (of more than 100 surveyed) report having sufficient funds to implement their current plans.

According to the latest WHO survey on the pandemic's impacts on essential health services, around 25 per cent of countries still report ongoing disruptions to vital pregnancy and postnatal care and services

for sick children. "Pregnant women and newborns continue to die at unacceptably high rates worldwide, and the COVID-19 pandemic has created further setbacks to providing them with the healthcare they need," said Dr. Anshu Banerjee, Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Health experts for inclusion of thalassemia in Sickle Cell anemia elimination drive

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

While lauding the Government's move to launch Sickle Cell anemia elimination mission, health experts strongly have batted for inclusion of other genetic blood disorders too, particularly thalassemia, in the mega drive given that they have same screening and prevention strategies.

Dr JS Arora, General Secretary of the National Thalassemia Welfare Society said, "After polio, sickle cell elimination is the biggest health project of the central government. However, thalassemia should not be left behind in this mission as both are genetic blood disorders."

The procedure of screening for sickle cell disease is almost similar to screening for thalassemia. "Screening of sickle cell anaemia is done by using a solubility test. This approach



cases of sickle beta-thalassemia," Dr Arora explained while talking to The Pioneer on the sidelines of an event held to release the national guidelines for thalassemia.

As per the government data, India has the largest number of children with thalassemia major – nearly 1.5 lakh — and almost 4.2 crore carriers of beta thalassemia trait. Close to 15,000 babies with thalassemia major are born every year and are depen-

dent on transfused blood for survival. Overall, there are more than 27 crore thalassemia patients in the world.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder where red blood cells

contort into a sickle shape, whereas thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder characterised by less oxygen-carrying protein (haemoglobin) and fewer red blood cells in the body than normal.

Dr Arora further suggested that the addition of a simple blood test called complete blood count (CBC) can serve the dual purpose of identifying other hemoglobinopathies along with sickle cell anaemia without adding human

Advisory council discusses stalled projects, rules PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

The Central Advisory ■ Council constituted under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act on Tuesday discussed issues like legacy stalled projects and uniformity in rules framed by States and Union territories under the provisions of the Act.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri chaired the CAC (Central Advisory Council) meeting where participants were informed that 32 states/UTs have set up real estate regulatory authorities.

It was informed that Ladakh, Meghalaya and Sikkim are yet to establish any such authority, while six states/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Telangana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry) are yet to establish permanent regulatory authorities.

Stage set for K'taka Assembly elections today

After a high voltage campaign, it is now time for the mega battle of ballots in Karnataka, with the State all set to elect its representatives to the 224-member Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

With the stakes being high in this election, the major political parties in contention the BJP, Congress and JD(S)and their candidates have made a strong pitch seeking to boost their prospects at the

The voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm. A total of 5,31,33,054 electors are eligible to cast their votes in 58,545 polling stations across the state, where 2,615 candidates are in the fray. Among the electors, 2,67,28,053 are male, 2,64,00,074 female and 4,927 "others", while among the candidates 2,430 are male, 184 female and one from third

As many as 11,71,558 are young voters, while 5,71,281 are persons with disabilities (PWDs) and 12,15,920 are aged above 80. Around 4 lakh polling personnel are engaged in the poll process. While the ruling BJP, riding on the Modi



38-year jinx — the State has never voted the incumbent party to power since 1985 and retain its southern citadel, the Congress is seeking to wrest power to give the party much-needed elbow room and momentum to position itself as the main opposition player in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Also what needs to be watched out for, is whether former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular), will emerge as a kingmaker" or a "king" by holding the key for government formation, in the event of a hung verdict, as it has done in the past. A total of 75,603 Ballot Units (BU), 70,300 Control Units (CU) and 76,202

juggernaut, wants to break the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) are slated to be

used during voting. According to poll officials, elaborate security arrangements have been made across the state for the smooth conduct of elections and forces have been deployed from neighbouring states as well.

As many as 84,119 State Police Officers and 58,500 CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) police in 650 CoYs (companies) are on Law & Order and security duty on poll day across the state. 'Critical Polling Stations' are covered by one or more of the measures like Micro Observers, Webcasting and CCTVs to keep a watch on the polling process as force multipliers.

in large numbers, CEC urges voters

On the eve of polling in Karnataka, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday appealed to voters, especially first-timers, to come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise.

Karnataka has more than 5.3 crore electors, including 11.71 lakh first-time voters, spread across 224 constituen-

He urged the young and urban voters to take inspiration from elderly voters like 103year-old Mahadeva Mahalinga Mali and participate actively in the "festival of democracy, defeating the prevalent trend of urban apathy in the state".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CEC Kumar hailed Mali, a resident of Belagavi district, for casting his vote for the Karnataka assembly elections



using the home voting facility

There are more than 5.3 crore registered electors in the state with almost equal numbers of men (2.66 crore) and women (2.63 crore).

More than 5.71 lakh per sons with disability, 12.15 lakh senior citizens aged 80 years and above and over 16,000 centenarian voters are registered as voters in Karnataka. Congress leader Siddaramaiah cries foul over fake letter in his name.

Come out and vote Pre-poll money seizure soars to ₹375. 61 crore

2018 Assembly polls and Rs

88.27 crore in 2019 Lok Sabha

polls. According to the EC, the

enforcement agencies have

seized a cash to the tune of Rs

147.46 crore; 2227045 litre

liquor worth Rs 83.66 crore;

drugs valued Rs 23.67 crore;

precious metals including gold,

silver and precious stones

wroth Rs 96.60 crore; freebies

the seizure of Rs 4.04 crore cash

in Bangarapet constituency in

Kolar district, a raid on a lab-

has marked 81 assembly seats as "expenditure sensitive" con-

the state mark a significant 4.5

times increase as compared to

the assembly election in 2018.

Strict vigil, extensive monitor-

ing, coordination with neigh-

bouring states and inter-agency

coordination has led to check-

ing flow and distribution of

"The recorded seizures in

stituencies.

"Notable hauls included

worth Rs 24.21 crore so far.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Pre-poll seizures in Karnataka made so far since the announcement of the 2023 Assembly elections touched a whopping Rs 375. 61 crores so far. This is over 4.5 times higher than what was recorded during the corresponding period in 2018 when Rs 83.93 crore had been seized.

Besides, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also attached assets worth Rs 288 crore after the imposition of the model code of conduct (

In fact, this time's seizures are almost equal to the pre-poll seizures made in the last five elections in Karnataka.

As compared to seizures during the ongoing assembly polls in Karnanata, the EC's data showed that Rs14.42 crore was seized in 2013 Assembly polls, Rs 28.08 crore was confiscated in the 2014 Lok Sabha

sure cookers and kitchen appliances were also seized from Bailhongal and Kunigal and other assembly constituencies,"

it said in a statement. The EC has put in place 2,040 flying squads, 2,605 static surveillance teams, 266 video viewing teams, 631 video surveillance teams and 225 accounting teams. Of the total 942 check posts, 171 have been set up at inter-State borders to track the movement and distribution of goods and monetary transactions to ensure inducement-free election.

Election Chief

urban electors in the IT Capital of the country to take inspira-tion from the elderly voters like 103 year old elderly voter Mahadeva Mahalinga Mali and participate actively in the festival of democracy, defeating the prevalent trend of urban apathy in the State.

inducements in Karnataka this time," the Commission said. Significant liquor seizures have been made by all the districts, it said. "Another striking feature of expenditure monitoring has been huge seizures of freebies. Sarees and food kits have

been seized from Kalburgi, Chimanglur and other dis-

Kolar district, a raid on a laboratory illegally manufacturing Alprazolam in Hyderabad using intelligence and trail mapping by the Narcotics Control Bureau and the seizure of 100 kg ganja in Bidar district, the EC said. The Commission Commissioner Rajiv Kumar appealed to over 5.3 crore electors, especially 11.71 lakh first time electors, in the state to participate enthusiastically in the elections scheduled tomorrow for 224 ACs in Karnataka. He urged the young and

> CEC Kumar also thanked over 76,000 senior citizens (80+) and 18,800 PwD voters in the state who casted vote using Home Voting Facility provided by the Commission. There are over 5.3 crore registered electors in the state with almost equal male (Rs 2.66 crore) and female electors (Rs

Siddaramaiah cries foul on fake letter in his name

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday appealed to the people not to "take into account" a fake letter in his name, which is being circulated on social media. The Congress strongman and Leader of Opposition termed it a "handiwork of mischief mongers of RSS".

"I appeal to the people that a fake letter has been written in my name addressing to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. This is not my letter. Some mischievous people hatched the conspiracy of creating a fake letter with an intention to create a dispute

between me and Congress state president D K Shivakumar," Siddaramaiah said in a video message. Clarifying that the letter was a fake one and not written by him, Siddaramaiah said, "The mischief mongers of RSS have made it viral on the social media. I appeal to all the people to reject this letter."

The Congress leader added that he would lodge a com-plaint with the Election Commission and the police asking them to find out people behind this fake letter and take action against them. The elections to the 224-member assembly will be held on May 10 and results will be declared

Cong peddling divisive policy to weaken India, tweets Rijiju

New Delhi: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday accused the Congress of "peddling a divisive policy" to weaken the country over its social media post on Karnataka's sovereignty attributed to party leader Sonia

Rijiju's remarks came a day after the BJP moved the Election Commission over the issue seeking an FIR against Gandhi and her party's derecognition. The poll panel has asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to clarify and rectify the party's social media post.

PTI

Cong accuses Modi of 'model code violation', seeks EC action PNS NEW DELHI the laws apply to Prime Minister model code...As well as various

The Congress on Tuesday petitioned the Election Commission seeking immediate action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his appeals to Karnataka voters "in violation" of the model code, and said it was "a litmus test" for the poll body's capacity and willingness to enforce laws.

In a lengthy complaint to the chief election commissioner, Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala asked the commission whether it will remain a "mute and helpless spectator" or fulfil its constitutional duty and act against the Prime Minster. "Do

or not and if ECI has the capacity and willingness to enforce such mandate or remain a helpless bystander? Truly a litmus test for ECI," Surjewala asked in

The Congress also raised objections to comments made by Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda and other senior BJP leaders. "One thing is extremely clear...(they) consider themselves above the law and the Constitution and presume that the ECI is either intimidated by the high offices they hold or that the ECI is too weak to act against them or hold them accountable for blatant and repeated violations of the

other electoral laws," the party wrote to the poll panel.

Congress raised objections to Prime Minister Modi's appeal to the voters of Karnataka after the campaign ended Monday evening and said it was "flagrant and defiant violations" of the model code of conduct. The polling will be held on Wednesday.

Making a strong pitch for the return of the BJP government in Karnataka a day before polling, Prime Minister Modi said the affection he received in the state over last few days has been unparalleled and it has strengthened resolve to make it number one across all sectors.

IOB shielding officials in **PC** relative's hotel grab case: CBI

Overseas Bank is not granting sanction for prosecution against officials involved the case related former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's family involved hotel grabbing case by misusing Sarfaesi.

The agency filed the affidavit previous week said that though they found gross violation and illegalities by certain bank officials in helping Chidambaram's family members to grab Hotel Comfort Inn in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu. CBI filed Preliminary Enquiry and

Kathirvel approached Delhi High Court in 2016. The hotel promoter's advocate Yatinder Chaudhary argued that then

Chidambaram's wife Nalini's sister Padmini grabbed the hotel in connivance with IOB officials violating all laws. . CBI in its recent affidavit said that after finding gross illegalities, in mid 2020 onwards they are seeking sanction for prosecution against the three bank officers from IOB and the bank has rejected their application. The

New Delhi: The CBI informed later registered Regular Case agency in its affidavit said that ly declared the hotel business as NPA and illegally conducted auction to hand over the hotel to Chidambaram's sister in law

> "The CBI is not in a position to initiate investigations against D Palanisamy, then senior manager, A.Mani,then Chief Manager, S Palanivel, then senior manager for want of previous approval from the competent authority as mandated under Section 17(A) of Prevention of Corruption Act,"

'Politicisation' of Muslim quota in K'taka upsets SC bench of Justices KM Joseph, not wrong. "Solicitor General quota issue. The arguments Nagarathna and making a statement in the turned bitter when Dave said

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday voiced displeasure}}$ made about withdrawal of four per cent quota for Muslims in poll bound Karnataka, after it was told Union Home Minister Amit Shah was making public statements about the hugely contentious issue at the hustings. Terming as "inappropriate" the political statements about the matter which is subjudice, the apex court asserted "Some sanctity needs to be maintained". The withdrawal of four

per cent reservation for Muslims and its reallocation



between the politically influential Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities just before the assembly elections has become a hot button issue in the southern state. "When the matter is pending before the court and there is court order on Karnataka Muslim quota, then there should not be any political statements on the issue. It is not appropriate. Some sanctity needs to be maintained," a

Ahsanuddin Amanullah said.

the scrapping of the Muslim quota by the state's BJP government, said, "Every day the home minister is making statements in Karnataka that they have withdrawn the four per cent Muslim quota. Why should such statements be made?'

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka Government, said he is not aware of any such remarks being made. He, however, contended those criticising religion-based quota are

1971, a West Bengal political leader was hauled up for contempt for holding a press conference defending a rationing order which was pending before the court," Justice Joseph

"We understand and respect the sentiment of the court," said Mehta but added as a counsel, "I am saying that any religion-based reservation is unconstitutional". Justice Nagarathna also expressed displeasure over statements being made outside the court on the

court is not a problem but statements proudly claiming Senior advocate Dushyant someone saying anything on a credit for the withdrawal of Dave, appearing for the peti- sub-judice matter outside the Muslim quota were being made urged the court to restrain the senior lawyer from making such statements without a context. "This is the Supreme Court bench and don't let it be turned into a fish market.

This court has to restrain him (Dave) from making such statements. What they (Dave and others) are saying is without any context. They need to show what is the context, what is the content, and tenor of the statements. Let them file an application to this effect, we will file our reply," he said.

SHAH'S TAGORE SPEECH

On Tagore birth anniv, BJP, TMC engage in war of words

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

In what the pundits saw as an attempt by rival outfits to "exploit" the birth anniversary of Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore to further their pre-poll political agenda both the BJP and the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday claimed how only they were the true followers of Tagorean philosophy.

While in an apparent move to further the cause of the New Education Policy Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said so painstakingly introduced and carried forward by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi the philosophical crux NEP was actually what Tagore professed.

This even as Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stopping short of naming Shah, reminded how the first Nobel Laureate of the continent unlike the saffron brigade never preached the idea of 'division'. As per the Bengali Calendar, 'Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti' is observed on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Baishakh, and this day is being celebrated today, May 9. While through the language he speaks rattling out a long list of Tagore's and not the one he is forced to exploits as a philosopher, author, poet, political thinker, composer, playwright, organizer, choreographer et al Shah said, "Gurudev (the appellation he won from Mahatma Gandhi) was the first person in the country to champion the cause of the typical ancient Indian model of education — a policy that not very many backers of English as a medium of teaching would pioneer those days and later introducing it in Shantiniketan.'

Insisting that the "NEP pioneered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is basically in sync with what Gurudev preached," Shah said that Tagore was the first to advocate the cause of education through mother language. Incidentally the Left Front which has of late gained much ground in Bengal have been protesting against the NEP and accusing the TMC of not doing enough in this regard. Speaking on the issue Shah

said that "the child will best

understand and realize the crux

of what is being taught to him

mug up," Shah said adding how the Poet once said that the goal of the educationists should not be to hail the foreign languages but to uphold greatness of education that were purely Indian.

None can jeopardise India-Bangladesh relationship: Shah

Kolkata: Union Home Minister Amit Shah who was on a two-day trip to Bengal on Tuesday insisted that there was none who could jeopardise the friendly relationship between India and its Eastern neigbour Bangladesh.

Shah who earlier visited Petrapole border later said, "India shares deep ties with Bangladesh. Our culture, religion, customs and lifestyle have been intertwined for thousands of years. No one can ever break our ties with Bangladesh.

Pawar rejects Saamana's criticism, says party knows what it's doing

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBA

Aday after the Shiv Sena UBT's official mouth-piece "Saamana" criticised him for his failure to groom a successor to take his party forward, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said on Tuesday that he did not attach much of importance to what newspapers wrote about him, because "we know what we are

Talking to media persons at Satara in western Maharashtra, Pawar snubbed Shiv Sena MP and executive editor of "Saamana" Sanjay Raut, who writes editorials in the newspapers, by saying: "We don't attach importance to what people write about us. It is their right to express their views. We ignore such write-ups because we know what we are doing".

"In our party, our colleagues express their views, but we don't make those views public, because these are issues that relate to our family. All our colleagues know how our party will move forward. Our colleagues are confident about how we build new leadership," Pawar said. Pawar recalled that his party formed a government in



Congress in 1999, his party included several new faces in the ministry. "In our ministry, we had included new leaders like Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar, R R Patil, Dilip Walse-Patil and Anil Desĥmukh.

Among the ministers, there were several new faces. They were experiencing the seat of power for the first time. All these leaders have proved themselves. That's why when people question us or write as to whether we have built a second rung leadership, we do not attach importance to such views," he said.

In an editorial published on Monday, "Saamana" had dwelt upon massive tremors caused by Pawar's announcement about his decision to step down as the NCP chief and attributed the turmoil witnessed in that party to the lack of a successor to the outgoing party president.

Nitish to meet Pawar, Uddhav tomorrow

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

As part of his ongoing effort to cobble a grand alliance at the national level to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Janata Dal (U) President and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will meet NCP president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray separately during his visit to the city on Thursday.
Nitish, who will arrive in

Mumbaion Thursday, will have a luncheon meeting with Uddhav at the latter's Bandra residence "Matoshri".

During the meeting, the JD(U) president will brief Uddhav about the initiative he had undertaken to bring all the Opposition parties together to put up a united fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.) **E-Procurement Tender Notice** Main Portal :- https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-सेस्टम नं. निविदा लागत निविदा डाउनलोड करने कार्य का विवरण की अंतिम तिथि निगम भिलाई क्षेत्रांतर्गत सेमी ओलंपिक 29.05.2023 133114 188.96 लाख स्वीमिंग पुल निर्माण के संबंध मे। नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई अंतर्गत 133139 | 387.64 लाख 29.05.2023 ५०० सीट, शहरी माहिला आजीविका केंद्र का निर्माण कार्य

निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज आनलाईन जमा की जाये। उक्त कार्य हेतु दी जाने वाली दरे आनलाईन (Online)दी जावें। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तुत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी https://cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड कार्यपालन अभियंता (परियोजना शाखा) हस्ता/-नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई

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Title of the Project	Women Empowerment and Employability: An Insight since Independence to Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Prophesies 2047	
Project Director Project Co-director Project Co-director Project Co-director	Prof (Dr.) Madhu Arora, NDIM Delhi Dr. Miklesh, IIFT, Kakinada Prof. (Dr.) Raveendra Saradhi Valdlamudy, IIFT, Kakinada Prof. (Dr.) Poonam Khurana, VIPS Delhi	
Department	Management	
Duration of Project	Two (02) years	
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PAPER WITH PASSION-

A sad story

UP and MP find *The Kerala Story* so good that they make it tax-free, Mamata Banerjee bans it in Bengal

o we have the rule of law, or the rule of men and women? The former is supposed to be objective and well-defined, while the latter is the product and function of rulers' whims. The drama following the release of The Kerala Story, a movie about a conspiracy by jihadists to convert non-Muslim women to Islam, suggests that the rule of law is weak in our country. The Government of Yogi Adityanath found the movie to be so good that it made it tax-free in Uttar Pradesh. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government did that earlier in Madhya Pradesh. But Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee found The Kerala Story so bad that she decided to ban it in the State on the grounds that it may create unrest. Evidently, opinion on The Kerala Story is divided on political lines, as was also the case with Kashmir Files: BJP supporters like the two movies, and the opponents oppose



them. This is not surprising; predilections towards arts, culture and cinema often guide choice. But should the differences be so stark, even brazen? And should it have such an impact on governance? After all, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are both States of India and both follow the same Constitution and laws. So, what makes it possible for the laws to be interpreted in such a diverse manner? This is not just the politicisation of art but also of governance.

Then there is the issue of freedom of expression, a Fundamental Right that is enshrined in our Constitution. If a movie is banned just because some politicians are not comfortable with the idea

that a filmmaker espouses or the message that he or she wants to be disseminated, the action practically muzzles free expression. The Supreme Court and several High Courts did the right thing by dismissing the petitions to proscribe The Kerala Story. "You must think of the actors, producer... You must be very careful about staying films. The market will decide if it is not up to the mark," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said while dismissing a petition seeking ban on the film. If someone doesn't like a film (or, for that matter, a book, song, etc.), they can avoid watching it. Why should they want the others to be deprived of the opportunity to watch it? They can also make another movie on a theme antithetical to that of the movie they dislike. Filmmakers too should try to be focused on their work rather than on claims that fuel controversy. Before its release, the makers of The Kerala Story showed a teaser in which an actress claimed that her character was one among 32,000 women from Kerala who had become Islamic terrorists. When this claim was disputed, the makers updated the description on YouTube to the "compilation of the true stories of three young girls from different parts of Kerala." The earlier claim was unfortunate.



Karni Sena members take part in a procession to celebrate Maharana Pratap Jayanti, in Nagpur

Dietary patterns and their economic impact

The impact of our dietary choices extends beyond our well-being; it affects the economy, growth, and other related sectors

he way we eat and what we eat plays a crucial role in shaping our economy. In this context, this article examines the food consumption patterns of Indians and how they differ across various occupations and states. This will give us a better understanding of the dietary behaviour of different segments of the Indian population.

This study has employed the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) data from CMIE from January to June 2022 to evaluate the well-being of households in India. The CPHS is an ongoing survey that endeavours to measure and track changes in household well-being across various domains. This survey collects data from a sample of households across India following a multi-stage stratified design. Data is collected in Waves, and each Wave is completed over four months. CMIE has surveyed 1.78 lakh households for the waves of CPHS that are used for this analysis.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS Based on this survey, an Indian with an average monthly income of Rs 17169 typically allocates around 25% of their income, or approximately Rs 4225, to food expenditures, regardless of their occupation or region. The household's consumption expenditure is presented as a percentage of its income. However, some states and union territories, such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and West Bengal, spend more than the national average on food (25%). In contrast, states and union territories like Chandigarh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Telangana, and Uttarakhand have the lowest percentage of income spent on food, ranging from 16% to 20%. FOOD CONSUMPTION

Apart from these percentage values, what does the Indian population consume? The Indian diet comprises a diverse range of food items that can be broadly classified into three categories: nutritious foods, junk foods, and beverages. Food items like meat, egg, fish, fruits, vegetables, milk products, cereals, pulses, and other low-earning classes in

essential health supplements can be included in nutritious foods. Ready-to-eat food, noodles, flakes, chocolate, cakes, and ice cream are considered junk foods to be consumed occasionally. Assuming an average Indian household with a monthly income of Rs 17169, the average consumption of nutritious foods is approximately 16%. Meanwhile, the consumption of junk foods has increased to around 1% over the years.

The top five states/UTs that spend more than the national average of 16% on nutritious food are West Bengal (24.6%), Bihar (23.4%), Gujarat (22.2%), Tripura (22%), and Jharkhand (20.8%). In contrast, the bottom five states/UTs in terms of consumption of nutritious food are Uttarakhand (9.4%), Chandigarh (11.7%), Punjab (12.1%), Meghalaya (13%), and Karnataka (13.2%).

OCCUPATION EFFECT

India's diverse population can be classified into various occupational groups, including farmers, agricultural labourers, entrepreneurs, white-collar employees, wage labourers, business/salaried employees, managers, industrial workers, small traders, and qualified self-employed professionals. in Gujarat, where food expen diture is highest, most occupational groups spend more than the national average. Similarly,



ASSUMING AN **AVERAGE INDIAN** HOUSEHOLD WITH A MONTHLY INCOME OF RS 17169, THE **AVERAGE CONSUMPTION** OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS IS **APPROXIMATELY** the state, such as agricultural labourers (42%), wage labourers (47%), home-based workers (41%), and organized farmers (39%), spend a significant portion of their income on food, while the wealthy classes (business and salaried employees/entrepreneurs/whit e-collar job holders) spend only 19-27%. Nationally, lowearning classes spend 25-33% of their income on food, while wealthy income groups spend 15-20%

INCOME IMPACT Let's examine the income

aspect of food consumption across different states. Chandigarh, with an average income of Rs 46918, is the highest-earning state/UT, while Sikkim, with an average income of around Rs 5055, is the poorest. Among the various occupational groups in Chandigarh, such as support staff (44%), wage labourers (48%), industrial workers (42%), and self-employed entrepreneurs (42%), food consumption is higher than the national average values. In contrast, Sikkim spends comparably less on food items, but farmers, both organized farmers (33%) and small/marginal farmers (31%), spend a significant portion of their income on food.

in conclusion, it is evident that the production and income levels of each state greatly influence consumption patterns. Given that rice,

wheat, and pulses are the dominant crops, they make up the primary food sources for the average household regardless of income. While these foods are nutritious, it's also alarming that the lowerincome groups spend a disproportionate amount of their income on food, leaving little for other necessities. To address this issue, the government's policy must focus on these populations as they are left with a bare minimum income for their remaining needs. To better understand consumer behaviour in a country as diverse as India, policymakers need to conduct a comprehensive analysis that takes into account the major socio-economic parameters, including food habits and occupational groups. Only by doing so can they develop effective strategies to ensure that everyone has access to

The article has been coauthored by Biswajit Patra, Santosh Kumar Dash and Bhavana.

nutritious food and is not

forced to spend more than

they can afford.

(Patra is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal, Dash is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). Bhavana is a BS-MS Student in Economics)

Mudslinging in election campaign



Namecalling by the campaigners in Karnataka has made the ambience of the election vicious and ugly

ersons occupying top positions in the country and who are leading lights in the public domain should be role models for the people, especially for the youth. But the slanging match which is going on in Karnataka as part of electioneering to the assembly tells the world how an election should not be fought and the decency to be maintained during the campaigning.
Instead of ideology and

development agenda, what we hear from a State known for its beautiful literature, music and brave soldiers is the choice of abuse by the main protagonists. Last week saw D K Shivakumar, the chief ministerial candidate of the Congress accompanied by his sidekick filing a police complaint against one of the star campaigners of the BJP, the main challenger. The run-up to the election saw many prominent figures of the BJP crossing over to the Congress protesting over the denial of tickets to them to fight the polls. Those who crossed over include a former chief minister and a former deputy chief minister. two characters in a famous of democracy. Politicians

For these leaders, membership in the legislative assem-

bly is the minimum requirement to serve the people.

The name-calling by the campaigners has made the ambience of the election vicious and ugly. An octogenarian leader, who should have confined himself to his palatial bungalow pampering his grand and greatgrandchildren, is out in the scorching sunlight showering the opponents with terms and phrases which are alien to the organisation which he leads. The response from the other side is equally deplorable, reminding one of the wordy duel between

short story. While the more aggressive of the two addresses the rival with grubby and nauseating terms, the latter retaliates by calling the former names of fruits like apple, tomato, orange, guava etc. At the end of the slanging match, one of the bystanders asked the latter why he did he address the rival with names of fruits while the former had used only manky terms, the answer he gave was interesting. "The gentleman told me the kind of things he consumes and I said the materials I use." It is not known whether these leaders have

heard this story or not. Election campaigns should be a learning process not only for the voters but for the contesters too. The focus should be on why the State continues to lag in infrastructure and what prevented the rulers from opening more and more hospitals, schools, and institutes of higher learning. The debate should have pinpointed the lacuna and failures of those who administered the State for decades. Name-calling has no space in this festival

should not turn this festival into a cacophony. Campaign meetings are the ideal classrooms for the citizens to know about the success and failure of democratic values. After listening to the speeches delivered by the leaders, the public should be able to choose the right person for the right job. No purpose would be served by name-calling and

the use of abusive language. In Kerala, there is a temple at Kodungallur where the devotees assemble once a year and sing POORAP-PATTU, songs made of filthy words that the common man would never sing even if he is all alone. If the reports coming from Karnataka are to be believed, the campaign speeches are thousands of fathoms deeper than POORAPPATTU. Our politicians are not setting a precedent for the youngsters. Let the voters in the State elect a party with an absolute majority so that we don't have to wait with bated breaths to watch live "crossing over" of MLAs and resort

politics which were the hall-

mark of Karnataka politics.

God save Democracy.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DOWNGRADED

Sir — India's world ranking in freedom of the press further lowered whereas the ranking of Pakistan and Afghanistan is better than India why it is so I quote here two instances which held recently and will clarify why the ranking of the country is so much low:

The basic ingredients of democracy are government by the people for the people of the people. But when this democracy is converted into 'Buy the People Far the People and Off the People' then ranking automatically downgraded. It is worth mentioning that rating can be improved by the government and only by the govern-

How press freedom had been gagged can be judged from the ranking as India's ranking in the 2023 world press freedom index which has slipped to 161 out of 180 according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog, Reporters without Borders. Constraints on press freedom due to hostile working conditions and threat to the physical and mental safety of personnel severely impacts the ability of journalists to gather, select, produce and disseminate news in the public interest.

This extreme right-wing authoritarian regime has ensured that whatever vestiges of the free press remain in India are gagged or made beholden to the ruling dispensation. We should all hang our heads in shame at this dubious distinction. And in the last, we as common citizens can only pray and expect from the Govt that necessary steps should be taken to improve the ranking so that the sanctity of democracy be strengthened

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

SEBI REGISTERS RUSSIAN INVESTORS

Sir — The recent registration of three Russian investors with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to enter the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) list has been viewed as a win-win situation for both parties. Foreign Portfolio Investors are entities that invest in the Indian market, primarily in stocks, bonds, and other finan-

Screening ban

HE EDITOR



Banerjee on Monday ordered an immediate ban on the screening of the controversial film 'The Kerala Story' to avoid "any incident of hatred and violence", and called it a

est Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

propaganda film. She warned that strong action will be taken against any theatre found showing the film and possibly their licence will be cancelled as per the official report. Mamata Banerjee described 'The Kerala Story' as a distorted movie, aimed at defaming the southern state. 'The Kerala Story', directed by Sudipto Sen, depicts how women from Kerala were converted to Islam and recruited by Islamic State terrorist groups. The film was released on May 5. With this, it is possible that non-BJP opposition rule states may follow the example of Bengal and will ban the screening of the controversial film The Kerala Story in the coming days.

Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

cial assets. This move by the Russian investors signals their interest in investing in the Indian market and their confidence in its potential for growth. According to reports, the three Russian investors who have registered with SEBI are ELANA Investment, ITI Funds, and White Oak Capital. These investors are expected to bring in a significant amount of capital into the Indian market, which will have a pos-

itive impact on the country's economy. One of the main advantages of having foreign investors is the inflow of foreign currency, which can help stabilize the Indian rupee. Additionally, foreign investors can bring in expertise, knowledge, and access to global markets, which can be beneficial for Indian companies. From the perspective of Russian investors, the Indian market presents a significant growth opportunity. India has a large and growing consumer market, a strong technology sector, and a rapidly expanding middle class. This makes it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

Moreover, the Indian government has aken several steps to make it easier for foreign investors to enter the Indian market. This includes initiatives like the 'Make in

Rajpal Singh Chouhan | Ujjain

SEPARATE SCHOOLS FOR POOR CHILDREN

Sir — A new school session is going to commence soon and it is a timely measure to build separate schools for the poor children. The underprivileged children need to get quality education and it is time to inculcate basic knowledge among the poor. These poor students must be a force to reckon with and instead of having roadside schools, regular schools can do a world of good. Instead, the government should start separate institutions for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and make it compulsory for all parents from these strata of society to send their children to such schools. Has anyone thought of the mental agony and the psychological impact of such a move on the minds of young stu-

The stark difference in their social, economic and cultural upbringing will create a rift in the classroom. This will only create a new generation of frustrated and rebellious youngsters. Let's not bring politics to the doorstep of education. The government should set up schools at par with

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

STUDYING ABROAD CAN SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

An international student can explore new opportunities available abroad



KARUNN KANDOI

wouldn't be in the position I am today if it wasn't for studying abroad. I gained tremendous experience from the unique qualities an international education offers, the exposure to studying abroad, and the networking opportunities with other classmates, which led to life-long friendships and connections.

Below I've rounded up some of the key ways studying abroad makes you stronger, shapes your character, and leads to positive outcomes for vour future.

LOOK BEYOND THE CHALLENGES

In the early days of my career, I realized I wanted to study abroad to pursue higher education as working with people from other countries indicated there is plenty to learn from different cultures and backgrounds. I started by researching and identifying the institutions that provided scholarships and teaching assistant positions for students. This improved my prospects of keeping costs down and receiving the education I wanted in a foreign country.

In 2004, I completed my MBA in Product Management and Marketing in the United States. My first three months as an international student were the most difficult because I had to uproot my life to a new country. There were language barriers, the culture was completely new to me, and I was still building my confidence. As an international student, you learn to stretch your learning capabilities and comfort zone in ways that you never thought you could. I quickly learned how to network and build confidence even in scenarios where I didn't naturally feel at ease



EMBRACE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Being an international student led me to engage in activities and sign up for new opportunities that I had never tried before. I was motivated to meet and embrace new cultures and thought processes in order to make the most of my experience abroad. The professionals that I met along the way and the networking opportunities helped me build some lifelong friendships.

My advice to any students planning to study abroad is to extend their friend circle outside of their own community and form friendships with people from different cultures. This helped me gain a global perspective. To this day, I have friends in different parts of the world that I can discuss business ideas with and whose networks I can leverage

BUILDING BLOCKS TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Even though I was hired for a job after my MBA program, I was inspired to make a difference in the education field and start a business in my home country. I ran a company for several years where I was able to apply the global best practices I learned and the curious mindset I had

I used my study abroad journey as an opportunity to build my character, mindset, and a stronger sense of self. Letting go of the fear that comes along with risk-taking is a skill that I've used in every aspect of my personal and professional life. All in all, the experience trained me and prepared me for future career opportunities.

Today we live in a global village, with the transformation of connectivity and information exchange. In this new evolved world, education across borders can give you the exposure to build businesses and serve global customers from wherever you are.

My journey as an international student led me to continue to find meaningful and impactful ways to improve and fix a problem that I'm very passionate about to this day, enabling access to education.

(The writer is Head of Business Operations - India, ApplyBoard)

Nano fertilisers can reduce subsidies



Nano fertilisers can yield better results but they can't perform miracles. For a substantial reduction in subsidy, the Govt must implement agri reforms

n April 26, 2023, Union Minister for Home and Cooperatives Amit Shah launched liquid nanodiammonium phosphate (nano-DAP) developed by the Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) (Kalol) of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO). During the current fiscal, IFFCO plans to produce 50 million bottles (500 ml) of nano-DAP which will be scaled up to 180 million bottles by 2025-26. According to US Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO, by then imports of DAP might not be required; currently, India imports over 50 percent of its DAP requirement.

Earlier, on October 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched liquid nano urea also developed by NBRC. IFFCO started its production on August 1, 2021, and produced 29 million bottles (500 ml) till March 31, 2022. The central government has also roped in public sector undertakings (PSUs) such as Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) to make it. During 2022-23, the total production of nano-urea was 50 million bottles of which IFFCO produced 27.5 million.

According to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya by 2024-25, India will be producing around 440 million bottles of nano urea and after 2025 India need not import urea as domestic production of conventional and nano liquid urea could be sufficient to meet domestic demand.

Urea imports decreased from 9.83 million tons in 2020-21 to 9.13 million tons during 2021-22 and further down to 7.48 million tons during 2022-23. Whether or not these can be brought down to zero by 2025, we can only wait and watch. As for DAP, these are early days as production has just started.

A tantalizing claim refers to the possibility of nano-fertilisers enabling the complete elimination of fertiliser subsidies. For a better understanding, let us look at some basics.

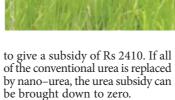
To make fertilisers affordable to farmers, the Centre controls the maximum retail price (MRP) of urea at a low level unrelated to the cost of production and distribution, which is higher. The excess cost over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer as a subsidy, which varies from unit to unit depending on its cost. For non-urea fertilisers, it fixes uniform subsidies on a per-nutrient basis for all manufacturers and importers. Subsidy on every ton of fertilizer produced and sold multiplied by the total tonnage gives the total subsidy paid from the Union Budget.

Fertilizer subsidy went up from an already high of Rs 162,000 crore during 2021-22 to Rs 253,000 crore during 2022-23. The budget estimate (BE) for 2023-24 is Rs 179,000 crore (this reduced allocation is no consolation as invariably, the actual payment turns out to be higher than the BE; for instance, during 2022-23 the actual was more than double the BE of Rs

Nano urea is urea in the form of a nanoparticle containing nitrogen particles of 20-50 nanometres in size. It provides nitrogen to plants in liquid form as an alternative to conventional urea. A 500ml bottle of nano urea is equivalent to a 45kg bag of conventional urea. While the former is available to farmers for Rs 240 without any subsidy support, to supply the latter at the same price, the government has



THE INNOVATOR **ALSO CLAIMS** THE EFFICIENCY OF NANO UREA IS OVER 80 PER **CENT AGAINST** AROUND 40 PER **CENT FOR** CONVENTIONAL **STUFF**



nitrogen and phosphate nutrients to plants in liquid form as an alternative to conventional DAP. A 500ml bottle of nano-DAP is equivalent to a 50-kg bag of conventional DAP. While the former is available to farmers for Rs 600 without any subsidy support, the latter is made available at more than double this price or Rs 1,350 and that too with the government giving a subsidy of Rs 2650. If all conventional DAP is replaced by Additionally, farmers will need to pay half of what they currently pay.

If a similar outcome is possible in the case of a third major fertilizer viz. muriate of potash (MoP) (currently IFFCO is working on nano-Potash as well besides micronutrients such as nano-Zinc, nano-Boron, etc), overall the government could save on the entire gargantuan payout on fertilizer subsidy. It seems to be too good to believe. There is something amiss. Take the case of urea. The basic material for making nano urea is none other than conventional urea. The former contains by weight 85 to 99.98 per cent of the latter, 0.01 to 5 per cent of quinhydrone, and 0.01 to 10 per cent of calcium cyanamide. The upper end of the range is 99.98 per cent, almost the entire raw material (even at the lower end 85 per cent,

it is overwhelming) for making nano urea is conventional urea.

Then, how can the cost of producing the former at Rs 240 be a Likewise, nano-DAP provides tiny fraction of the latter's cost at Rs 2650? This could be possible if only nano urea is mammoth times more efficient than conventional urea. To unravel this, let us look at the equivalence ratio between the

A 45kg bag of conventional urea contains 46 per cent nitrogen (N) nutrient or 20 kg (45×0.46), whereas a 500ml bottle of nano urea has 4 per cent 'N' or 20 grams (500x.04). In other words, urea in nano form with a mere 20 grams nano-DAP, DAP subsidy can be can achieve what conventional brought down to zero. urea does with 20 kilograms. The former is 1000 times more efficient than the latter. If agriculture experts can demonstrate, this indeed is the case then India could be heading for a revolutionary transformation with zero fertilizer subsidy budget. But, that is daydreaming.

The innovator (read: IFFCO/ NBRC) also claims the efficiency of nano urea is over 80 per cent against around 40 per cent for conventional stuff. Furthermore, nano urea increases crop yield by 3-16 per cent. Its use causes less soil, water and air pollution. These claims don't take us into a land of fantasy though the claim with efficiency gain is somewhat inflat-

Normally, urea is applied in two dosages: one, basal application being even spreading of solid fertilisers over the entire field before

or at sowing or planting; two, top dressing which involves applying fertiliser directly to the leaves as opposed to in the soil. Nano urea is meant to replace conventional urea only in top dressing even as basal application is entirely in solid form.

This means that the benefit of 80 per cent efficiency (albeit of nano urea) will be available only on 50 per cent of the total quantity of fertiliser applied. Hence, the achievable effective efficiency would be 60 per cent (80×0.5 $+40\times0.5$). In other words, the efficiency gain with the use of nano urea would be only 20 per cent instead of 40 per cent as revealed by a plain reading of numbers.

This together with a yield increase of 3-16 per cent puts nano-urea in a vantage position; the same when used in conjunction with conventional urea will give promising results. Likewise, the substitution of conventional DAP by nano-DAP (according to Shah, replacement of up to 20 per cent in crops such as sugarcane and wheat is possible) can deliver gains in efficiency of use and increase in yield.

To conclude, nano fertilizers can yield better results but they can't perform miracles. For a 'substantial' and 'sustainable' reduction in subsidy, the government should implement longpending reforms such as the removal of all controls on fertilisers and direct benefit transfer (DBT) of subsidy to farmers.

Opportunities in the Indian tech startup ecosystem

India has the required capabilities, a stable banking system, responsive administration and a strong government supporting the country's startup dream

(The writer is a policy

ndia has the required capabilities, a stable bank-Ling system, responsive administrative bodies, and a strong government supporting the country's startup dream

Startups from diverse industries, like data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain, regularly rake in angel and seed funding. A few of these companies have even made news over acquisitions by major tech firms like Facebook, Google, and Apple. Though the country's everevolving startup space attracts the youth with its success stories, certain significant challenges exist. Despite showing much promise in their early stages, numerous Indian startups fail to scale as they



KOTHAMASU

Challenges Encountered by Indian Startups

Funding crunch: Even with the Indian startups crescendoing, the prevailing macroeconomic uncertainty and the threat of a recession have signalled the arrival of a funding winter for Indian startups. According to Inc 42's Indian Tech Startup Funding Report, there has been a 77% YoY decrease in mega deal counts.

Skill gap: The growing skill gap in emerging technologies is another concern for leaders across industries. While the number of STEM graduates has increased over the years, the number of individuals with employable skills leaves much room for improvement. If the current

look at a shortage of 14-19 lakh tech professionals by 2026, per the NASSCOM-Zinnov 2022 report.

Offer shopping: The growing prevalence of offer shopping in the industry is making the hiring situation trickier for IT companies. Xpheno, a popular specialist staffing firm, identified that the average offer acceptance rate for positions in data science, full stack development, frontend, and backend engineering slumped to 50% in 2022 from 73% in 2021. This rising rate of offer shopping makes it highly challenging for companies to hire desired talent, slowing the whole hiring process. Diverse market: While

the customer base of the

Opportunities for Startups Technically sound population: India's position as the

third-largest startup hub following the US and China is strongly backed by its rising tech-savvy English-speaking talent, meeting the IT sector's demand for superior communication skills. Growth of smaller cities: The Indian Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities have become the new and emergsituation prevails, India will Indian startup ecosystem is ing loci of development for up income tax benefits till

diverse in terms of regions IT/ITes companies. Cities like March 2024 to boost the and cultural backgrounds, Jaipur and Ahmedabad are most companies have limited emerging as the new hubs knowledge of the market and have experienced 40 per beyond the areas they are cent growth. Governmentfamiliar with. Such a diverse backed endeavours like The divide makes it challenging Digital India, Startup India for Indian startups to create campaigns, JAM Trinity, and Smart City Mission promote impactful products for the urban transformations of India's Tier 2 and 3 cities. Zinnov reports out of the 1,257 Global In-house Centres established by 976 MNCs, 68 are in Tier 2 cities. Government initiatives: The GOI is proactively supporting the growth of Indian startups through a slew of policies and campaigns like the Startup

Leadership Program, Startup

India Seed Fund, and ASPIRE, among others. The

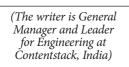
recent budget extended start-

country's entrepreneurship environment. Extending the DigiLocker benefits will also go a long way to provide ease of doing business, ensuring paperless administration.

Internet Connectivity: India has the second largest internet user base after China, thanks to the affordable data plans available. The 5G rollout will further increase the number of internet users and positively impact the Indian tech space. Startups working with AR, VR, AI, and IoT can introduce more advanced features with 5G connectivity. Though the rollout was initially slow, it is moving on hot wheels. Indigenous innovation: India's innovation capabilities are not new to the world, and one such was the

UPI or Unified Payments Interface. Launched in 2016, the UPI proved favourably for the country's SMBs, simplifying transactions and eliminating costly point-of-sale devices. Its success is now crossing borders, piquing the interest of many nations.

Challenges exist in every sector, and the Indian startup ecosystem is no different. But despite the multiple challenges, there are ample opportunities in the industry that tip the scales in favour of the country's tech entrepreneurs. India has the required capabilities, a stable banking system, responsive administrative bodies, and a strong government supporting the country's startup dream – and in time, will be leading the global tech space.



West is waging 'real war' on Russia: Putin

President Vladimir Putin declared Tuesday that the West has unleashed "a real war" against Russia, reprising a familiar refrain at scaled-down Victory Day celebrations that may reflect the toll the Ukraine conflict is taking on his forces.

Putin's remarks came just hours after the Moscow fired its latest barrage of cruise missiles at targets in Ukraine, which Russia invaded more than 14 months ago. Ukrainian authorities said air defences destroyed 23 of 25 missiles launched.

The Russian leader has repeatedly sought to paint his invasion of Ukraine as necessary to defend against a Western threat. Kyiv and its Western allies say they pose no such threat and that Moscow's war is meant to deter Western influence in a country that Russia considers part of its sphere of influence.

"Today civilisation is once again at a decisive turning point," Putin said at the annual commemorations celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. "A real war has



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, left. Russian President Vladimir Putin, centre, and Uzbek President Shaykat Mirziyoyev arrive for a working breakfast of the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the Kremlin in Moscow. Russia on Tuesday

been unleashed against our

Putin has often used patriotic rhetoric that harkens back to the earlier war in an effort to rally his citizens and forces and May 9 is one of the most important dates in the Russian

political calendar. But this year's celebrations were markedly smaller, at least partially because of security concerns after several drone attacks have been reported inside Russia.

Some 8,000 troops took part in the parade in Moscow's

Red Square on Tuesday — the lowest number since 2008. Even the procession in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, featured some 13,000 soldiers, and last year, 11,000 troops took part. There was no fly-over of military jets, and the

"This is weak. There are no tanks," said Yelena Orlova, watching the vehicles rumble down Moscow's Novy Arbat avenue after leaving Red Square. "We're upset, but that's all right; it will be better in the future." The Kremlin's forces deployed in Ukraine are defending a front line stretching more than 1,000 kilometres

ing more than 1,000 kilometres (600 miles), presumably thinning the ranks of troops available for such displays.

"This is supposed to be a showpiece for Russian military might. But so much of that military might has already been mauled in Ukraine that Russia has very little to show on its has very little to show on its parade in Red Square," said Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think

Meanwhile, the traditional Immortal Regiment processions, in which crowds take to the streets holding portraits of relatives who died or served in World War II — a pillar of the holiday — were cancelled in multiple cities.

that those people who have lost their relatives in this current war on Ukraine might actually join the processions and show just the scale of the casualties that Russia has suffered in its current war," Giles said.

Russian media counted 24 cities that also scrapped military parades — another staple of the celebrations — for the first time in years.

Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation" for the restrictions and cancelations. It wasn't clear whether their decisions were taken in coordination with the Kremlin. Last week, Russia claimed

it foiled an attack by Ukrainian drones on the Kremlin that it called an unsuccessful assassination attempt against Putin. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denied involvement. There was no independent verification of the purported attack, which Russia authorities said occurred overnight but presented no evidence to support it.

US busts Russian cyber operation in dozens of countries

Washington (AP): The Justice Department said on Tuesday that it had disrupted a longrunning Russian cyberespionage campaign that stole sensitive information from computer networks in dozens of countries, including the US and other NATO members. Prosecutors linked the spying operation to a unit of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, and accused the hackers of stealing documents from hundreds of computer systems belonging to govern-ments of NATO members, an unidentified journalist for a US news organisation who reported on Russia, and other select targets of interest to the

"For 20 years, the FSB has relied on the Snake malware to conduct cyberespionage against the United States and our allies — that ends today," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the head of the Justice Department's National Security

Division, said in a statement. The specific targets were not named in court papers, but US officials described the espi-onage campaign as "consequential", having successfully exfiltrated sensitive documents from NATO countries and also targeted US government agencies and others in the US.

The Russian operation relied on the malicious soft-ware known as Snake to infect computers, with hackers operating from what the Justice Department said was a known FSB facility in Ryazan, Russia.

US officials said they'd

been investigating Snake for about a decade and came to regard it as the most sophisticated malware implant relied on by the Russian government for espionage campaigns. They said Turla, the FSB unit believed responsible for the malware, had refined and revised it multiple times as a way to avoid being shut

Canada expels China diplomat for alleged threats to lawmaker

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's govern-ment is expelling a Chinese diplomat whom Canada's spy agency alleged was involved in a plot to intimidate an opposition lawmaker and his relatives in Hong Kong.

A senior government official said Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei has five days to leave the country. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. It's wasn't immediately clear if he's left yet.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said in a statement that Canada declared Torontobased diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata." "We will not tolerate any

form of foreign interference in our internal affairs," she wrote.
"Diplomats in Canada have been warned that if they engage in this type of behavior, they will be sent home." Canada's spy service indicated that in 2021

China in tit-for-tat response expels Canadian envoy

Beijing: China announced the expulsion of a Canadian diplomat on Tuesday in retaliation for Ottawa ordering a Chinese consular official to leave the country over alleged threats he made against a Canadian lawmaker and his family.

The Foreign Ministry said China was deploying a "reciprocal countermeasure to Canada's unscrupulous move," which it said it "firmly opposes." It said Jennnifer Lynn Lalonde, the top Canadian diplomat in the business hub of Shanghai, has been asked to leave by May 13 and that China "reserves the right to take further actions in

opposition Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong and his Hong Kong relatives were targeted after Chong criticized

response." The Canadian Embassy in Beijing had no immediate comment on the expulsion order. Canada earlier on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is expelling a Chinese diplomat whom Canada's spy agency alleged was involved in a plot to intimidate an opposition lawmaker and his relatives in Hong Kong. China took control of the former British colony in 1997, and in recent years has effectively ripped up an agreement to maintain its unique political and civil rights for 50 years by

Beijing's human rights record. Canada's spy agency has not released details publicly.
Chong has been critical of

gutting its democratic institu-

tions and free press.

Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang

It became public after a Globe and Mail report last week. Chong said he learned about it from that report and Trudeau denied knowing about

"This should have hap-pened years ago," Chong said

"I hope that this makes it clear not just to the People's Republic of China, but other representation here in Canada, that this crossing the line of diplomacy into foreign interference threat activities is utterly unacceptable here on Canadian

On Monday, China's embassy in Ottawa issued a statement that accused Canada of breaching international law and acting based on anti-Chinese sentiment. It said the move has "sabotaged" relations between China and Canada and promised unspecified retaliatory measures.

Sudan's death toll rises as warring sides continue talks

Cairo (AP): The death toll from the ongoing clashes in Sudan has risen to 604 people, including civilians, the UN health agency said on Tuesday. The new figures come as representatives of the warring parties are holding talks in Saudi Arabia.

More than 5,100 people were also wounded in connection with the fighting, World Health Organisation spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic told reporters.

On Monday, the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate, which tracks only civilian casualties, said that the fatalities had reached 487.

The conflict started on April 15, after months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

PM Rishi Sunak expands role of UK pharmacies to cut GP waiting times

PTI LONDON

 $B^{
m ritish\ Prime\ Minister\ Rishi}_{
m Sunak,\ who\ worked\ in\ his}$ mother's pharmacy as a young boy growing up in Southampton, was back in his hometown on Tuesday to unveil plans for an expanded role for pharmacists to cut down long wait times for patients wanting to see a general practitioner

The 42-year-old British Indian leader had his blood pressure checked at Weston Lane Surgery in the south-east England port city and got a clean chit as he spoke to reporters about the initiative to cut down waiting lists for the state-funded National Health Service (NHS), one of his government's top priorities. Patients with minor ailments like earache and sore throat would now be encouraged to go directly to their pharmacist, freeing up GPs for more serious illnesses.

"By expanding the role of pharmacies, fewer people will need to see their GP in the first place," said Sunak



to free up around 15 million GP appointments over the next two years for patients who need them most. Which means the next time you want to see your GP, you should be able to do so quicker," he said. Sunak branded his plans as

a "bold and innovative package" of measures to significantly change how the NHS works and also tackle the "frustrating" 8 am local time call to a GP practice to get an appointment for the day. "We will end the 8 am rush by making sure patients are either given an appointment immediately when they call or signposted to a more appropriate service such as NHS 111 or their local pharmacy. You will no longer be told to call back later," said Sunak. Cutting down on NHS wait

times made worse as a result of the COVID pandemic, was among Sunak's five key pledges at the start of this year. According to him, transforming primary care is the next part of this government's promise to cut NHS waiting lists. NHS chief executive Amanda Pritchard said the reforms would "help us to free up millions of appointments for those who need them most, as well as supporting staff so that they can do less admin and spend more time with patients". "We are already making real progress with 10 per cent more GP appointments happening every month, compared to before the pandemic. I want to make sure people receive the right support when they contact their general practice and bring an end to the 8 am scramble for appointments," said UK Health Secretary Steve Barclay.

Germany's Scholz urges EU to reform, strike migrants deal

Berlin (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called Tuesday for the European Union to address the political economic and strategic challenges it faces by embracing a series of reforms, including pooling its defence procurement efforts, forging new trade deals and setting aside longrunning disputes over migration from outside the bloc. Speaking to lawmakers in

the European Parliament, he said strengthening the EU's military, technological sovereignty and independent sources of crucial commodities would boost the bloc's ties with its closest partner, the United States. Scholz said it was impor-

tant for the EU to keep its promise toward prospective members such as the Western Balkans countries, while ensuring they undertake the necessary reforms to be able to join Efforts to rebuild Ukraine,

another aspiring EU member,



will need "political and financial capital over the long term," he said, adding that a prosper-ous and democratic Ukraine would be the strongest counter-point to Russian President Vladimir Putin's "imperialist, revisionist and illegal policies on our continent."

He said rivalry and competition with China has increased lately, but warned against efforts to decouple the bloc from its major trading partner, instead calling for a "wise de-risking" that would minimise the harm to European economies if tensions with Beijing flare.

Myanmar violence, sea feud tough challenges for ASEAN

AP ■ LABUAN BAJO

Alarm over Myanmar's still-unfolding deadly civil strife, including an armed attack on an aid convoy, and China's aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea are expected to challenge Southeast Asian leaders' commitments to non-interference and consensus decision-making as they meet in Indonesia this week.

Top diplomats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations convened on Tuesday in the resort town of Labuan Bajo to finalize the agenda ahead of the two-day summit of the 10-nation bloc's heads of state.

The United States and China are not part of the twiceyearly summit, but their escalating rivalry looms large over the high-profile Asian gathering. Beijing has warned that US efforts to strengthen security alliances and intensify combatreadiness drills with Asian allies would endanger regional stability. Founded during the Cold War in 1967, ASEAN has avoided getting entangled in majorpower competition as a bloc. But its diverse members are often involved in partnerships and disputes with superpowers. They range from authoritarian Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, which are closely aligned with Beijing, to liberal democracies like the Philippines, which is Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia and recently allowed an expansion of American military presence in the country, to China's outrage.

The other members — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — have heavy economic and security engagements with both the US and China. "ASEAN wants to remain

open, to cooperate with anyone," said Indonesian President Joko Widodo, this year's ASÉAN chair. "We also don't want ASEAN to be anyone's proxy." Bedrock principles of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs and deciding by consensus have held the unwieldy club of autocrats, monarchs and decades. But that approach has also prevented it from dealing swiftly with crises that spill

across borders. ASEAN's principles have been tested since Myanmar's army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 and plunged the country into deadly chaos. It's become one of the bloc's gravest crises since its establishment.

Military airstrikes in April killed as many as 100 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony by opponents of army rule, according to the tribute as a surface of the ing to witnesses.

Human Rights Watch on Tuesday described the strike as an "apparent war crime."

Lina Alexandra of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta said ASEAN's inability to persuasively and rapidly address a potential political conflagration like the Myanmar crisis should prompt it to take a second look at its founding principles.

Mexican Prez to talk to Biden on immigration

Mexico City(AP): Mexico's president said on Monday he will talk with US President Joe Biden by telephone on Tuesday about immigration and the fentanyl

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the leaders will also discuss development programmes to help stem the flow of migrants to the US border. The conversation comes two days before the end of pandemic-era immigration restrictions that allowed US authorities to quickly expel migrants who crossed the border illegally.

López Obrador appealed to migrants not to use smugglers to travel to the US border. "Don't allow yourselves to be fooled," López Obrador said during his morning news briefing. "Don't allow yourselves to be blackmailed by coyotes, smugglers, who put you at risk." Mexico agreed last week to continue to accept migrants from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba and Nicaragua who are turned away at the border, as well as some other migrants from Central America.

Diversity is America's strength: Joe Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

America's strength is its diversity, President Joe Biden has said, as he hosted one of the largest gatherings of Asian Americans at the White House attended by several prominent Indian-Americans.

The gathering on Monday was organised for the screening of the "American Born Chinese" movie as part of a celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

"You embody the truth that our diversity is our strength as a nation. That's not hyperbole. That's a fact. That's why we rebuild our economy, invest in America," Biden told a packed gathering of the AANHPI community from various parts of the country including several Indian-Americans in the East Room of the White House. Biden said the AANHPI

represents diverse community culture that is reflected in thropy, media and so much every part of American life, more.



including in the government. "I'm determined to remind everyone and we're doing it

again tonight that our strength lies in our diversity," he said. Biden has appointed a record number of more than 150 Indian-Americans in his

administration. This is for the first time in America's history that a US administration is as diverse as this led by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is of

Indian and African heritage. "We see the community in all of you here tonight, leaders of business technology, philan-

Barbara Kingsolver, Hernan share fiction Pulitzer Prize

AP ■ NEW YORK

The Pulitzer Prize for fic-I tion was awarded Monday to two class-conscious novels: "Demon Copperhead," Barbara Kingsolver's modern recast-ing of the Dickens classic "David Copperfield," and Hernan Diaz's "Trust," an innovative narrative of wealth and deceit set in 1920s New

Beverly Gage's "G-Man," her widely acclaimed book on longtime FBI leader J. Edgar Hoover, was given the

Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice," by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, won for general

Sanaz Toossi's play
"English" won for drama and
Jefferson Cowie's "Freedom's
Dominion: A Saga of White
Resistance to Federal Power" was honored for history.
The Pulitzer board hailed "English" as "a quietly pow-erful play about four Iranian

Pulitzer for biography. "His storefront school near Name Is George Floyd: One Tehran, where family separations and travel restrictions drive them to learn a new language that may alter their identities and also represent a new life." Finalists included "On Sugarland," by Aleshea "On Sugarland," by Aleshea Harris, "an ambitious drama inspired by Sophocles of a community shaped by the trauma of a nameless war" and "The Far Country," by Lloyd Suh, "an account of emigrants who traveled from China to San Francisco and China to San Francisco and adults preparing for an suffered in the shadows of a English language exam in a strange new world.



Washington Post reporter Caroline Kitchener gets embraced in the newsroom after winning the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, in Washington on Monday. Her mother, Nancy Kitchener, watches at right.

jobs in fresh tech cuts London(AP): Professional unbridled growth. networking platform LinkedIn LinkedIn, which is owned

LinkedIn axes over 700

says it's laying off more than 700 workers and shuttering its China jobs app, in the latest round of tech industry down-

LinkedIn blamed "shifts in customer behavior and slow-er revenue growth" for the cuts, which it announced in a blogpost late Monday.

Technology companies have resorted to recurring waves of layoffs over the past year, in new phenomenon to hit the industry that reverses more than a decade of mostly

by Microsoft, indicated that the net number of job losses could be less than 500.

As part of its strategic shakeup, LinkedIn said it would be "opening up more than 250 new roles" in parts of its operations team as well as new business and account new business and account management teams starting on May 15. LinkedIn said it will also shut down its local jobs app for China, InCareer, by August, citing "fierce competition and a challenging macro-

Israeli strikes kill 3 top militants, 10 others

AP GAZA CITY

 \mathbf{I} srael killed three senior commanders of the militant Islamic Jihad group in targeted airstrikes early Tuesday, the military said. Palestinian health officials said 13 people were killed in all, including the commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby.

The attacks in densely populated residential areas set the stage for a new round of heavy fighting. They hit the top floor of an apartment building in Gaza City and a house in the southern town of Rafah. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 20 people were wounded, and that ambulances were continuing to evacuate people from the targeted areas. Airstrikes continued into early Tuesday, targeting militant training sites, Israel said.

In the past, Palestinian militant groups in Gaza have retaliated for such targeted killings. In anticipation of Palestinian rocket attacks in response to the airstrikes, the Israeli military advised residents of communities within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of Gaza to stay close to designated bomb shelters.

Israel's Home Front command ordered the closure of schools, beaches and highways in cities and towns in southern Israel, and limited



Mourners gather around bodies of Palestinians who were killed in Israeli airstrikes during their funeral at the Omari mosque in Gaza City on Tuesday

The military said the three targeted men had been responsible for recent rocket fire toward Israel.

It identified them as Khalil Bahtini, the Islamic Jihad commander for northern Gaza Strip; Tareq Izzeldeen, the group's intermediary between its Gaza and West Bank members; and Jehad Ghanam, the secretary of the Islamic Jihad's military council. Their funerals were planned for later in the

The Iran-backed Islamic Jihad, which is smaller than City. Gaza's ruling Hamas group,

confirmed the three were among the dead. The Palestinian Health Ministry said that along with the three commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby were also killed -

The Russian diplomatic delegation in Ramallah, in the West Bank, said that one of the men killed, Jamal Khaswan, was a Russian national, and that his wife and son were also killed in the airstrike. Khaswan was a dentist who lived downstairs from Izzeldeen in Gaza

The Israeli airstrikes drew

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh, Jordan's foreign ministry and the Egyptian government, which often brokers between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

Tor Wennesland, the U.N. envoy to the Mideast, said he was "deeply alarmed" and condemned the civilian deaths, calling on all sides "to exercise maximum restraint."

Dawood Shahab, an Islamic Jihad official, said that there would be a "unified Palestinian response" to the strikes at a time and place of its choosing.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh warned that Israel will "pay the price" for the killings. "Assassinating the leaders with a treacherous operation will not bring security to the occupier, but rather more resistance," Haniyeh said in a statement.

Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, told municipal leaders in southern Israel that we must be prepared for every eventuality, including a prolonged campaign and widening ranges of fire," his office The airstrikes came at a

time of boiling tensions between Israel and militants in the Gaza Strip. It is linked, in part, to increasing violence in the occupied West Bank, where Israel has been conducting detain Palestinians suspected in planning or carrying out attacks on Israelis.

Last week, Gaza militants fired several salvos of rockets toward southern Israel, and the Israeli military responded with airstrikes following the death of a hunger-striking senior member of the Islamic Jihad in Israeli custody.

The exchange of fire ended with a fragile cease-fire mediated by Egypt, the United Nations and Qatar.

The airstrikes are similar to ones in 2022 in which Israel bombed locations housing commanders of Islamic Jihad group, setting off a three-day blitz that saw the group lose its two top commanders and other dozens of militants.

Israel says the raids in the West Bank are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. The Palestinians see the attacks as further entrenchment of Israel's 56-year, open-ended occupation of lands they seek for a future independent state.

So far, 105 Palestinians, about half of them are militants or alleged attackers, were killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank and east Jerusalem since the start of 2023, according to an Associated Press tally.

At least 20 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks in Israel in the same

Court issues order against events commemorating Rajapaksa's fall

Magistrate's Court on Tuesday

based on a request made by the

year since the countrywide

unrest that broke out on May

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna

(SLPP) supporters attacked

anti-government protesters at

the Galle Face Green in

politicians were accused of

attacking the protesters who

urged for the resignation of

Gotabaya for his bungling

which led to the island's bank-

ruptcy for the first time since

received USD 330 million as

the first tranche of the IMF

bailout programme after hectic parleys. This will pave the

In March, Sri Lanka

Some of the government

Sri Lanka today marks one

The unrest broke out after

Colpetty Police.

9, 2022.

Colombo.

Sri Lankan court on ATuesday accepted a request by the police to curb the commemoration of the events which led to the resignation of the bankrupt government of president Gotabaya Rajapaksa a year ago. On May 9 last year, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned, hours after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters outside embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's

Last year, thousands of demonstrators protested across Sri Lanka seeking the resignation of President Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda, as the Sri Lankan government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines, and electrici-

Police on Tuesday said the Colombo Fort magistrate has issued a restraining order on commemoration of the protest preventing them from entering key installations such as the president's house, presidential secretariat, finance ministry, and the prime minister's official residence. The restraining order was issued by the Fort try to achieve better "fiscal discipline" and "improved gover-

Mahinda resigned on May 9 hours after some of his supporters attacked peaceful pro-testers who had been camped out in front of government offices. Dozens of people were injured. Retaliatory attacks on government ministers' homes were reported across the coun-

Nearly 100 government parliamentarians suffered arson attacks on property throughout the island nation.

Three days later, the curent president Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the prime minister who soon began tackling the eco-

People suffered in the economic crisis with long queues for essentials which were in short supply, fuel, and over tenhour power cuts.

Two months later, an even bigger protest led to the resignation of president Gotabaya

Under the Sri Lankan Constitution, if both the president and prime minister resign, the Speaker of Parliament will serve as acting president for a maximum of 30

EU lawmakers warn of Hungary spyware abuses

Brussels (AP): European Union lawmakers investigating the use of Pegasus spyware against opposition politicians and journalists on Tuesday raised deep concern about abuses in Hungary and Poland and lamented a lack of cooperation with their inquiry.

The spyware developed by developed by Israeli cyberintelligence company NSO has been used around the world to break into the phones and computers of political figures, human rights activists, reporters and even Catholic clergy. It was allegedly only made available to government agencies.

Cybersleuths have found traces of Pegasus or other spyware in Poland, Hungary, Spain and Greece. But after a yearlong investigation, members of the European Parliament said they had been unable to come up with a smoking gun. "Do we have evidence? No, because none of the authorities are lawmaker Sophie Int Veld, who helped lead the probe.

In't Veld said the lawmakers suspect, but cannot prove, that Greece exported Predator spyware to Cyprus, which then delivered it to Sudan, where more than 600 people have been killed in fighting between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and a rival paramilitary group. Dutch conservative lawmaker Jeroen Lenaers said the refusal of Poland's far-right government to cooperate appeared to be "part of a wider approach to silence any kind of dissent in Poland and it's extremely concerning". In their final report, the lawmakers said that Poland's use of Pegasus was part of "a system for the surveillance of the opposition and critics of the government — designed to keep the ruling majority and the government in power

20 bodies found in Congo mass grave AP ■ BENI (CONGO) ple who have been buried

The remains of at least 20 people were found buried in a mass grave in an area used to cultivate cacao in Ndoma village in Congo's North Kivu province this weekend, according to local authorities and a military spokesperson. A team of forensic and

security officers exhumed the bodies after residents of villages in Beni territory found bones and clothing and alert-Until earlier this year, the area had been under the con-

trol of the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, a rebel militia with links to the Islamic State group. The area is now controlled by the Congolese army. Muyisa Kambale Sindani, representative of nearby Kilya

village, said Saturday that the remains were reburied "with dignity and security." He confirmed that bones of at least 20 people were found, but that it wasn't possible to search further because of a lack of secu-

The first British minister

I visiting Hong Kong in five years said his country will

not "duck" its historic respon-

sibilities to people living in its

former colony while engaging

with China in areas they

Johnson, minister of state in

the Department for Business

and Trade, were published in

an opinion piece in the South

China Morning Post on

Tuesday. He wrote that the

UK will be clear about its

right to act when China

breaks its international com-

mitments or abuses human

rights. Johnson's trip this week

came after relations between

Hong Kong and Britain

The remarks by Dominic

share common interests.



UK official visits HK after years of strained ties

rity in the region. It wasn't immediately clear how long the bodies had been there. Eastern Congo has been plagued by violence for decades as more than 120 armed groups fight for power, influence and resources and some to protect their commu-

The ADF attacks have concentrated on North Kivu province, but the group has recently extended its opera-

became increasingly tense

following the enactment of a

Beijing-imposed national

security law, which the U.K. earlier called "a clear breach"

of the 1984 Sino-British Joint

Declaration. The declaration

included a promise to retain

Hong Kong's rights and free-

tions into neighbouring Ituri province and to areas near the regional capital, Goma, in South Kivu. The rebels are accused by the UN and rights groups of targeting, maiming, raping and abducting civilians, including children. Capt. Anthony Mwalushayi, regional spokesperson for the Congolese army said the area

"There are innocent peo-

doms for 50 years after it was

returned to China's rule in

tion of the sweeping securi-

ty law in 2020, 105,200 resi-

dents have started new lives

in Britain via a special visa

that allows them to live and

Rita Lee, Brazil's long-reigning

Queen of Rock, dies at 75

Following the introduc-

had been an ADF strong-

here. This is really a mass grave, " he said, but noted that among the bones that were found, there were military insignias. Mwalushayi pledged authorities would investigate and bring those responsible to

Local residents are demanding more protection from the government but also

"We demand justice to be done so that the perpetrators of this massacre answer for their actions and set an example for other rebels to stop killing us unfairly" said Richard Kakule, a farmer from Ndoma.

After the forensic and experts collected the remains and placed them in white body bags, locals organized a small ceremony and sang while burying the bodies with their own hands.

ADF rebels have been active in eastern Congo for decades and have killed thousands in the region since they resurfaced in 2013.

British citizenship after six years, according to UK offi-

included meetings with the city's leading investors and

government officials to foster

investment ties between both

that he met with CK

Hutchison chairman Victor

Li, the elder son of tycoon Li

investment plans in Britain.

he also talked to Christopher

Hui, Hong Kong's secretary

for financial services and the

Treasury, on their works to

remove market barriers and

increase trade between both

Ka-shing, to discuss their

In another tweet, he said

He tweeted on Monday

Johnson said his trip

Lanka's main Tamil political party to meet President to settle outstanding issues

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party will meet President Ranil Wickremesinghe here on Tuesday for "constructive" talks to address the long-pending demand for political autonomy for the minority community within a specified time limit.

The representatives from the an alliance of parties who represent Tamils from the North and East regions will meet Wickremesinghe to discuss a demands.

main Tamil party was ready to "constructively engage in talks with the government to settle the Tamil national question within a specified time limit".

Tamil National Alliance (TNA), peaceful resolution to their A TNA release said that the

"North and East are the areas

of historic habitation of the Tamil speaking people which is acknowledged locally and internationally".

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which

have completed their life Petrol Cars 15

Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these

vehicle owners are informed to come to

the company's office and claim the scrap

value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these

vehicles will be scrapped in the next three

DL7\$AY7181,

DEE3173.

DL6ST8666

DL5CC2576, DL4CAA7447, DL4SBH1879

DL3CAL5529.

UK16E6578,

DL1SP9481

DL3SP5864.

DHVBLD1829,

DL4SAF7439.

DL8SAM2156

DL4SBJ1966

DL8SAJ5361

DI 8SU4492

DL8SNA6325

UP32AK6698

DL8SAJ7861

DL1SL7037.

DL8SAK6858,

DL4SBF4932

DL8SNB1964.

DL3SAZ5042

DL8SAJ9816

UP12L6055

DL8\$AJ7177,

DBU2291.

DL1SQ2574, DL5SU2920

DL3CAD2732, DL2CQ2793,

2496, DL6SP6624,

MA3FXFB1

S00159621.

UP14BL6143,

HR51AB2206

MALAA51HL

AM514788,

MA3EED81

S00918169.

DL7CF5650.

DI 3CBF0452

DL3CP6507.

UP169378,

DL8SAE1283,

DL3CAW571

DL4CAJ0905

DL8SNA2631

DL8SY5213

DL8SAJ1485

DL6SY5643

DL6SY8039,

DL3SAF7236

UP13E8122

DL3SAK9069

MA3ERLF1

S00227747 DL2CAD244

UP13F6602

DL2W3526

DL7SAJ9463

DL2CAJ0520

DL2CAG2732

NOREG79,

UP16R0500

HR12U1301

DL3SW0012

DL8CL5948

DL9CC0004.

DL2CAN5577

China exports rises by 8.5 per cent in unexpected climb

Beijing (AP): Chinese exports grew 8.5 per cent in April, showing more unexpected strength despite weakening global demand, customs data showed Tuesday. Exports grew to USD

295.4 billion compared with a year earlier, although at a slower pace, building on momentum seen in the March data when exports rose 14.8 per But imports shrank at a

faster pace, with the total slumping 7.9 per cent to USD 205.2 billion compared to the same time last year, according to data Tuesday from the General Administration of

It was down 1.4 per cent in March. Trade with the US and European Union showed a contraction in comparison with

China's trade surplus in April widened, growing 82.3 per cent compared to the same period last year.In the first four month's of the year, exports edged up 2.5 per cent over the same period of 2022 to USD 1.12 trillion, the General Administration of Customs of China reported. Total imports contracted 7.3 per cent to USD

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that M/S United Strainers and Allied Industries through its Partners Sh. Pramod Kumar Bajaj and Sh. Behari Sharan Bajaj both S/o Sh. Brij Mohan Bajaj, Sh. Sumit Bajaj and Sh. Mohit Bajaj both S/o of Sh. Pramod Kumar Bajaj and Sh. Amit Bajaj and Sh. Puneet Bajaj both S/o Sh. Behari Sharan Bajaj all R/o A-128, New Friends Colony, New Delhi are the owner of Property bearing Plot My client Kiran kochhar w/o late Sheetal kochhar R/o h.no-148 DDA Flats new seemapuri Delhi-95 her disowned her son name Raman kochhar and his wife Delhi are the owner of Property bearing Plot No.A-68, Naraina Industrial Area Phasel, New Delhi We lost/misplaced our Original Perpetual Lease Deed and other documents etc. of the above said property. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station, vide LR No: 422791/2023 dated 09/05/2023. Any kochhar from he moveable-immoveable properties due to misconduct. Any persor deals with them. My client will not LR No: 422791/2023 dated 09/05/2023. Any objection may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 3871028004 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally inform or write to Dy. Director(IND) or Asstt, Director(IND) A-Block, First Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA New(Pelbi be responsible. Advocate R.K.

E-TENDER NOTICE

IIM Ranchi invites e-tender from eligible bidders for Providing Catering, Hospitality and Facility Management Services. Last date for submission of e-bid is 03:00 pm on 24.05.2023. For More details, please refer to our website:-www.iimranchi.ac.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE** 1) HYUNDA CAR HYI20 ENG NO. D4FCHM380920-YOM-2017 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH

IS UNDER SALE IN ITS INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR BRANCH ADDRESS: 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, CONTACT: JAGBIR SINGH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO.9999996157 EMAIL - jagbir.singh@kotak.com

Public Notice This is to inform General Public that Mr 2001id Notes This is to inform General Public that Mr. Gaurar Gupta acquired the First Floor (Withhout Roof Rights), "Said Floor" Built on Property Bearing No. 5, in Block-2-1, (Commonly Known as "Property No. 2-16) Lend area measuring 196.83 Sq. yds. Shuated in the residential colony known as "Model Town", Near Kingsway Camp at Mall Road, in the revenue estate of village Malikpur Chhaoni, Delhi vide Partition Deed dated 17.11.2022, (Doc. no. 187487). Now, Mr. Gaurar Gupta intends to self the above-mentioned grometry for Mr. Pholi with the programment of the programm 17.11.2022, [Uoc. no. 16/46/]. Now, Mr. Gaturav Gupra Intends to sell the above-mentioned property for Mr. Phoji Dignal and further Mr. Phoji Dignal agreed to create nortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our joint IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, pody, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest

Public Notice Commercial Office Space DPT 826, 827, DLF Prime Tower, Plot,

No. 79 & 80, Pocket F, Okhla Phase I, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi, Delhi 110020 was also registered in the name of Smt Pushpa Jain W/o Sh. Pradeep Kumar Jain BG/2A1 Modern Aliganj Enclave, Chandganj Garden, Aliganj, Lucknow, UP -226024 in the capacity of joint applicant, who has expired on 21.12.2021 leaving behind her natural survivors as Sh. Pradeep Kumar Jain (Husband), Sh. Sachir Jain (Son) and Smt. Swyeta Jain Gupta (Daughter). Whereas Sh. Pradeep Kumar Jain and Smt Swyeta Jain Gupta has surrendered their claim as legal heir and accordingly the name of Mr. Sachin Jain is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she máy approach Ms/ DLF Home

> Adv. Gaurav Sachdeva Sachdeva Associates Basement, Shvalik, DDA Flats, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

Hurt Indian mountaineer to be flown to Delhi as his infection spreads

Kathmandu: The family of injured Indian mountaineer Anurag Maloo is planning to fly him to New Delhi from Nepal for further treatment as the infection is spreading in his body, a relative and an official of an expedition company said here on Tuesday.
Anurag, 34, a resident of

Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing in mid-April after he fell from around 6,000 meters while descending from Camp III.Mount Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the world.He was found alive in a deep crevasse at some 5800metre altitude on April 20 after three days of continuous search by a team of rescuers. He was rushed to Manipal Hospital in

Pokhara and then airlifted to Kathmandu for further treat

told PTI that the family is planning to fly him to New Delhi for treatment but cannot say anything till all arrangements are done.

and needs further treatment, so he will soon be flown to Delhi," an official at the Seven Summit Trek, the organiser of the expedition of which Anurag was a

that he has no information as to when the Indian mountaineer will be discharged from the Kathmandu hospital and flown to New Delhi.

Rita Lee Jones, Brazil's million-selling "Queen of

Sudheer, Anurag's cousin, "His infection has spread

part, said. The official, however, said

Rock" who gained an international following through her

colourful and candid style and such hits as "Ovelha Negra", "Mania de Voce" and "Now Only Missing You", has died at 75. Otherwise known as Rita Lee, she died at her home in Sao Paulo on Monday evening, according to a statement posted to her official Instagram With a career spanning six decades, the Sao Paulo native

left a lasting mark with her irreverence, creativity and compositions containing messages that helped introduce Brazilian society to feminism, while also candidly addressing her struggles with drug abuse. Although she regarded her



enjoyed a long run of top-selling albums, including "Rita Lee" and "Rita Lee"; Roberto de Carvalho", and dozens of her songs were featured in widely watched telenovelas in Latin America.

The behemoth television

dition of the song "Poison Weed" (Poison Ivy) in three of its programmes. "I was not born to get married and wash underwear. I

wanted the same freedom as the boys who used to play in the street with their toy cars," she told the Brazilian edition of Rolling Stone in 2008. "When I got into music, I realised that the "machos" reigned absolute, even more in rock music. Wow', I said, this is where I'm going to let my fangs out and, literally, give them a hard time."

DL3CR8368, DL8SW9394, DL2FGA0003, DL8SAK0513 DL8SN8743. DL5SA1560,

writer praised for her versatility, playing at least five instruments: drums, guitar, piano, harmonica and autoharp. She was also one of the first Brazilian musicians to use

DI 3CAP9185 DI 8SN6243 DI 4SBF2246 network Globo used her ren-DL6SY6333. DL6SAB0158 DL8SNB171 DL7CE6434 DL6SM4216 DL4SAY9941 DL8CH6619 DI 8SNA5311 DL8CN7442. MA3EYE31 DL4SAM8753 19511165428 S00622678, DL6SE0111. DL8SAJ8744, DL7CH3683 DL8SAJ9362 DL8SAJ9572, DL8CL4627 UP13A8050. HR36E4783. DL1CW0342 DL4SAN4240, DL5CE0770, DL8CQ2151 HR20M8995 DI 4SAN6024 DL7CN3083. DL7SX9466. DL8SAC5007 DL4CND295 DL8SAJ2279, DL3SAF7279, DL6CG7225,

DL8S0070,

DL7SAS9566

DL3SQ0128,

DL8SN6881

She was a singer and song-

both to Orient seams timited in the life, all persons body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and for objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said properly or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 14 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, falling which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 14 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 14 days of this publication to Mr. Muneses Dhawari Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netal's Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, TWINDERJIT SINGH alongwith my wife Mrs. GURPREETKAUR are the joint owners of

Developers Ltd or the undersigned within 21 days of

publication of this notice

ON GROUND FLOOR, CATEGORY-LIG SECTOR-D, POCKET-6, VASANT KUNJ NEW DELHI-110070. The original DDA Possession Slip dated 15.10.2012 of the Information Report of this effect has Branch, Delhi vide LR No.413966/2023 on 06.05.2023. Any person(s) claiming any right interest having any objection or found in possession of said misplaced original

DDA Possession Slip, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9718323400 within 5 days from the date of publication of his notice. In case found by anyone may nentioned the phone number.

Markets end flat in volatile trade amid weak trends in global equities

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Tuesday, paring their intra-day gains, as investors resorted to profit-taking after the recent upsurge amid weak trends in global equities.

Traders were also awaiting the US inflation data which is expected to remain at March level prompting the Federal Reserve to prolong monetary tightening.

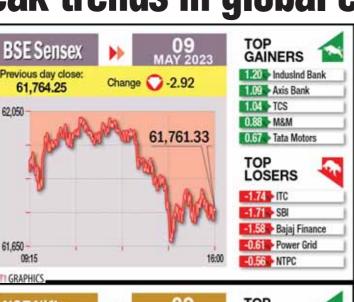
Even after trading with gains for most part of the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on to the momentum and skidded 2.92 points to settle at 61,761.33 due to fag-end volatility. During the day, it hit a high of 62,027.51 and a low of 61,654.94.

The NSE Nifty ended marginally up by 1.55 points or 0.01 per cent at 18,265.95.

"The domestic market relinquished its gains as weak global sentiments took hold. The upcoming US inflation figures have become the focal point in determining the global market trend. The US inflation rate, which is expected to remain unchanged at its March level of 5.0 per cent, is causing worries that the Fed will

remain stricter for long. However, the sustained support from FIIs is guarding the domestic market from a steep correction," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among the Sensex firms, ITC, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement



NSE Nifty 18,264.40

were the major laggards. IndusInd Bank, Tata Con-

sultancy Services, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Wipro, HDFC and Maruti were among the

"Nifty opened positive but some profit-booking at higher levels led to flat closing for the day at 18,266 levels. Global cues

await US inflation data as this will set the tone for FOMC's next meeting," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head — Retail Rese-

arch, Motilal Oswal Financial

GAINERS

2.95 Divis Labs

1.50 Coal India

Axis Bank

M&M

TOP LOSERS

1.59 Bajaj Finance

127 Indusind Bank

Services Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.35 per cent and midcap index ended marginally up by 0.03 per cent. Among indices, utilities fell by 1.04 per cent, realty went

FMCG (0.44 per cent) consumer durables (0.37 per cent) and financial services (0.24 per cent).

Telecommunication jumped 0.94 per cent, teck (0.59 per cent), IT (0.59 per cent), energy (0.34 per cent) and healthcare (0.17 per cent).

"Markets mostly moved in tandem with global equities, which were sluggish to negative. After exhibiting some volatility in the early session, markets ended almost flat as investors resorted to selective profit-taking after the sharp spike in recent sessions, Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo settled in the green.

European markets were trading in the neg-ative territory. The US markets had ended on a mixed note on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers on Monday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,123.76 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.88 per cent to \$76.33 per barrel.

Fitch on Tuesday affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBBwith a stable outlook, on robust growth and resilient external finances, but said weak public finances remain a challenge.

The BSE benchmark had rallied 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25 on Monday. The Nifty had climbed 195.40 points or 1.08 per cent to

'Irdai's order to stop loan re-payment via credit card good for policyholders'

Regulator Irdai's decision to bar repayment of loans taken against life insurance policies through credit cards is a good move and will prevent policyholders from falling into a debt trap, according to insurers.

Insurers said it was never in the interest of the customer to repay the loan by borrowing on a credit card and paying much higher interest rates on the outstanding balance on the card.

In a recent order, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has asked all life insurers to stop the acceptance of credit cards as a mode of re-payment of loans granted against insurance policies with immediate effect. Experts are of the view that

financial discipline is paramount and repayment of loans through credit cards should be avoided because, in case of default or a part payment, one will have to

Shares of Indiabulls Real Estate tumbled 20 per Scent on Tuesday after the National Company

Law Tribunal, Chandigarh bench, withheld the

merger of realty firm Embassy Group's certain res-

idential and commercial projects with the com-

pany.

The stock tanked 19.98 per cent to settle at

₹55.34 apiece on the BSE. On the NSE, it fell sharply by 20 per cent to

finish at ₹55.40 per piece — its lower circuit limit. In volume terms, 20.29 lakh shares of the com-

pany were traded on the BSE and over 3.93 crore

The company's market valuation fell ₹748.59

Mumbai-based Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd

(IBREL) said it will decide on the next course of

action after reading the full judgement and will

explore all options, including filing an appeal

against the order of the National Company Law

Tribunal (NCLT) before the appellate tribunal.

Embassy Group entered into a definitive agree-

In August 2020, Bengaluru-based realty firm

shares on the NSE during the day.

crore to ₹2,997.63 crore.



pay heavy interest rates to the card issuing companies.

Commenting on the regulator's move, Sunil Sharma, President, Chief Actuary and Chief Risk Officer, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company, said it is a good move by the Irdai as it protects the interests of policyholders.

"Interest rates on the policy loan are much lower compared to unsecured personal loan and

Indiabulls Real Estate shares tumble 20%

cial sense for the customers to use credit cards to repay policy loans," he said.

Kapil Mehta, co-founder SecureNow, said the regulator is probably concerned that those repaying insurance loans through a credit card get into a debt trap where the cost of repayment is higher than the cost of continuing the loan.
"Most insurance loans are

between 8 per cent and 15 per cent whereas credit card interest rates can be upwards of 20 per cent," he said.

Mehta further said that perhaps there is also the issue about who bears the charges of using a credit card.

Generally, the insurer will receive an amount that is less than what the customer paid because charges are deducted, he said, adding insurers would have to bear this substantial cost which may not be factored into

ment to merge its certain residential and commercial projects with IBREL through a cashless

scheme of amalgamation. Embassy Group will

become the promoter of the merged entity.
Through a regulatory filing, IBREL informed

that "the sanction to the merger of NAM Estates

Pvt Ltd (NAM Estates) and Embassy One

Commercial Property Developments Pvt Ltd

(Embassy One) into IBREL has been withheld by

the National Company Law Tribunal, Chandigarh

been sanctioned by the NCLT, Bengaluru Bench,

which has jurisdiction over NAM Estates and

Embassy One, on April 22, 2022.

IBREL said the merger scheme has already



Rupee falls 27 paise to close at 82.05 against dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell 27 paise to close ▲ at 82.05 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday, weighed down by a strong greenback against major rivals overseas and a muted trend in domestic equities. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.84 against the dollar and slipped below the 82 levels to close at 82.05 (provisional), down 27 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee witnessed a high of 81.83 and a low of 82.15 against the greenback. On Monday, the rupee settled at 81.78 against the dollar.

The rupee depreciated and is at its lowest level in two and half weeks on the positive US Dollar index. However, soft crude oil prices cushioned the downside, said Anuj Choudhary Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.10 per cent to 101.47. "US Dollar gained on risk aversion in global markets and as the Federal Reserve's Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey shows banks continued to tighten credit conditions for business and households, but it was better than

LIC's shareholding in HPCL crosses 5%

PTI MUMBAI

ife Insurance Corporation L(LIC) on Tuesday said its shareholding in state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has crossed 5 per cent.

the ordinary course of transaction through open market purchases, LIC said in a regulatory filing to stock exchanges. The holding in the company crossed 5 per cent on May 8, 2023.

HPCL is engaged in the business of refining crude oil and marketing petroleum products. Its market capitalisation is Rs 36,194 crore.

LIC's holding in HPCL increased from 4.901 per cent to 5.013 per cent.

It is an increase of 0.112 per cent on May 8, at an average cost of ₹253.01, the insurance behemoth said. LIC's shares closed at ₹557.35 apiece on BSE, down 0.93 per cent. HPCL's share was up 0.81 per cent at closed at

Global

announced the launch of its Institute of

Gastro and Liver Sciences today. The

motive behind the launch of this institute

is to provide high quality care to people

with liver and gastro related ailments. The

instiute will strive to provide high quality

treatment to those requiring specialised

Adani group to prepay \$130 million debt to boost investor confidence

 $\begin{array}{c} P_{\text{group on Tuesday said it will}} \\ P_{\text{group$ it looks to boost investor confidence post being targeted by a US short-seller. Adani Ports and Special

pany of the Adani Group, had last month floated a tender to buy back as much as \$130 million of its July 2024 bonds and similar amounts in each of the next four as it looked to regain investor confidence by showing that its liquidity position is comfortable.

In a stock exchange filing, APSEZ said an aggregae principal amount of \$412.7 million was validly tendered.

Since the principal amount of notes validly tendered and not validly withdrawn on or prior to the early tender date (of May 8) exceeded the maximum acceptance amount of \$130 million in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes, the company will accept such notes for



purchase subject to the proration factor of 34.2649 per cent," it

Shares of Adani group companies pummelled after Hindenburg Research in a January 24 report accused it of accounting fraud and improper use of offshore tax havens for stock manipulation.

The group has denied all allegations.

APSEZ said the buyback programme for its 3.375 per cent 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds closed on May 8.

"The purpose of the tender offer is to partly prepay the company's near-term debt maturities and to convey the comfortable liquidity position," it had said in a statement last month.



Gold jumps ₹450; silver declines ₹380

¬old prices jumped ₹450 to €61,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a rise in precious metal prices internationally, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had finished at ₹60,850 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, went lower ₹380 to ₹77,400 per kg.

"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹ 61,300 per 10 grams, up ₹450 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst — Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas market, gold was trading higher at \$2,024 per ounce and silver was down at \$25.45 per ounce.



Electronic equipment manufacturer Mitsubishi Electric India has decided to set up a new manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu at an investment of about ₹1,891 crore and the foundation stone was laid by Chief Minister M K Stalin here on Tuesday. To set up the factory in neighbouring

Tiruvallur district, top officials of Mitsubishi Electric India entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Guidance TN



The manufacturing facility for room airconditioners and compressors is expected to come up on a 52 acre land owned by Origins by Mahindra in Peruvoyal village, Gummidipoondi Taluk in neighbouring

Through a video conference facility, Stalin formally laid the foundation stone for the manufacturing facility along with the Minister of Industries Thangam Thennarasu, additional chief secretary industries department S Krishnan, Mitsubishi Electric India MD Kazuhiko Tamura among others.

Mitsubishi Electric India shall be investing ₹1,891 crore by way of one hundred per cent foreign direct investment. The facility would create over 2,000 jobs of which 60 per cent would comprise women employees, the

SRF Q4 consolidated PAT falls 7.13% to ₹562.45 cr

Tndustrial and specialty inter-Imediates manufacturer SRF on Tuesday reported a 7.13 per cent decline in consolidated net profit after tax at ₹562.45 crore in the March quarter.

The company's Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at ₹605.65 crore during the corresponding period of 2022-23, SRF said in a regulatory filing. During the quarter under review, SRF's rev-



enue from operations grew 6.10 per cent to ₹3,719.30 crore as compared with ₹3,505.28 crore in the year-ago period.

"It has been an excellent year for the company. Despite weakness in our technical textiles and

packaging films businesses due to cyclical reasons, we have seen the chemicals business deliver outstanding results. This shows the resilience of our business model and I remain cautiously optimistic about the future," SRF Chairman and

Bharat Ram said.

In FY23, the company's PAT increased 14.47 per cent to ₹2,162.34 crore from ₹1,888.92 crore during FY22.

Managing Director Ashish

NCLT to pass order on Go First's insolvency plea today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will pass its order on Wednesday on crisishit airline Go First's plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings.

The two-member bench comprising President Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and L N Gupta would pronounce the order on Wednesday morning, according to the tribunal's cause

list for Wednesday.

Besides, the bench would decide on Go First's plea seeking an interim moratorium on its financial obligations.

On May 4, the NCLT reserved its order after hearing the Wadia group-owned carrier and its aircraft lessors, who have opposed the petition seeking interim protection.

Go First, which has been flying for more than 17 years, stopped flights from May 3 amid financial crunch caused by grounding of more than half of

its fleet due to non-availability

the BSE during the day and over

Eveready Industries posts ₹14.4 crore net loss in March quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading battery and flashlights maker Eveready Industries India Ltd on Tuesday reported narrowing of its consolidated net loss to ₹14.39 crore for the quarter ended March 2023.

The company had posted a net loss of ₹38.41 crore in the January-March period a year ago, it said in a regulatory filing.

However, its revenue from operations was up 18.62 per cent to ₹286.17 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹241.23 crore in the year-ago

"PAT (Profit After Tax) for the quarter and FY23 was impacted adversely by a non-cash charge of ₹17.4 crore against unamortised front-end fees for loans repaid during the quarter and the full year," it said.



quarter, Eveready's total income jumped 21.32 per cent to ₹293.81 crore. "Each of the company's three segments saw growth during Q4 — batteries at 21 per cent, flashlights at 25 per cent and lighting at 26 per cent," the company said in its earning

statement.

For the financial year ended March 2023, Eveready's net profit was down 40.54 per cent to ₹27.63 crore. It was at ₹46.47 crore in FY22. The company's consolidated revenue from operations in FY23 increased 10.02 per cent to ₹1,327.73 crore from ₹1,206.75 crore in the year-ago

Raymond Q4 profit falls 26% to ₹196.5 crore; income rises 10% to ₹2,150 crore PTI NEW DELHI Raymond said in a regulatory

Diversified group Raymond Ltd on Tuesday reported a 25.84 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at ₹196.48 crore in the fourth quarter ended on March 31, 2023, on account of exceptional items.

company's stock ended at

The leading textile and apparel maker had posted a net profit of ₹264.97 crore during the January-March period of the previous fiscal,



filing. However, its revenue from operations was up 9.8 per cent to ₹2,150.18 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹1,958.10 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of the Sing-

hania family-controlled firm were at ₹1,939.27 crore, up 17.34 per cent from ₹1,790.12 crore of the corresponding quarter. Its total income during in the March quarter was at ₹2,192.20, up 7.89 per cent.

of Pratt & Whitney engines.

Mankind Pharma shares jump over 32% in debut trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chares of Mankind Pharma Omade a remarkable debut on the stock exchanges on Tuesday and ended with a premium of over 32 per cent against the issue 32.40 per cent. price of ₹1,080.

The company commanded The stock began the trade at a market valuation of ₹57,045.80 ₹1,300, up 20.37 per cent on the "Mankind Pharma, the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 32.40 per cent to ₹1,430. The biggest IPO of 2023, made its

debut in the market at a listing



price of ₹1,300," Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

In volume terms, 12 lakh shares of the firm were traded on

3.31 crore shares on the NSE. "Mankind Pharma got listed at a 20 per cent premium to the IPO price following an

overwhelming response from QIBs," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd. The ₹4,326-crore initial

share sale of Mankind Pharma received 15.32 times subscription last month.

VELLORE NARUVI HOSPITALS TO OFFER 3-YR PG PROGS Vellore: Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore an emerging, leading destination

SRM GLOBAL HOSPS TO LAUNCH GATSRO-LIVER INSTITUTE

care for liver or gastro related complications, while extending a helping

hand to those who cannot afford treatment for the ailments, Dr. Joy Verghese, Liver Transplant Specialist said. Dr. P Sathyanarayanan,

President of SRM Global Hospitals said he was happy towards taking

this initiative. This is a part of their continued mission to provide world

class healthcare to patients through state-of-the-art medical

Hospitals

for excellence in world-class health counselling). The PG courses offe-

care and innovative medical practices, will be offering 3-year Post Graduate master's programmes (DNB) in Anaesthesiology and Dr. G.V. Sampath (fifth from right), Radiology from this year. The Chairman, Naruvi Hospitals, Diplomate of National Board (DNB) receiving the approval letter to launch

red by Naruvi Hospitals have been approved and recognised by the



Medical Council of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu.



Giroud 'hungry' for CL success with Milan



AP MILAN

livier Giroud on Tuesday said that he has a young man's hunger for European success ahead of AC Milan's all-Italian Champions League semi-final with Inter Milan.

Veteran France striker Giroud won the competition with Chelsea in 2021 and wants to continue his Indian summer at Milan with another triumph after winning the Serie A title

Milan host local rivals Inter on Wednesday in the first leg

of the biggest local derby the Italian city has seen for nearly two decades.

"I'm motivated more than ever. For me it's a big opportunity to win it again. Almost 37 years old but still hungry like a young boy," Giroud told reporters.

"In football it's never good to underestimate the others. I know what I'm talking about. At that level every single game is very tough and it's on small margins, small details, that you win it.

Giroud was a key figure in Milan's league title win this

time last year and this season has netted five times in his team's impressive run to a blockbuster derby in the last

He scored the decisive goal which sent Milan through at the expense of Napoli, who last week dethroned the seventime kings of Europe as champions of Italy.

JUST WANT TO DREAM'

Milan are gunning for their first Champions League final since the last time they won the competition back in 2007. We are focused on Inter

be in the race for the top four and in a semi-final of the Champions League. I'm very proud of this team." Coach Stefano Pioli is

added Giroud.

fered a thigh injury in Milan's home win over Lazio. The Portugal winger has started every single one of Milan's ten Champions League

sweating on the fitness of star

forward Rafael Leao, who suf-

and we just want to dream,"

year I couldn't hope for better

than to win the Scudetto first

year and in the second year still

"This club is special... Last

matches and played the crucial pass for both goals in the lasteight triumph over Napoli.

Milan have won only one of the eight matches this season which Leao has either missed through injury or not

Today he did the work that he was scheduled to do, tomorrow we'll try to push him and on the basis of what happens in the morning we'll decide what to do," said Pioli.

Tomorrow it will be Rafa and the doctors who tell me how he is. If he's well we'll pick

Euro showdown with Milan 'the derby': Inzaghi

Simone Inzaghi said Tuesday that Inter Milan's Champions League semi-final with rivals AC Milan is more than just another local

The Milan giants, who between them have been crowned European champions ten times, face off on Wednesday in the biggest match between the two sides in nearly two decades, and Inter coach Inzaghi is well

aware of its importance. It will be the first time the Serie A pair have played each other in Europe's top club competition after 2005's socalled "derby of shame", a quarter-final won by Milan whose second leg was abandoned after livid Inter fans launched a barrage of flares onto the San Siro pitch with their team way behind in the

"It's not a derby, it's the derby," Inzaghi told reporters. "We know what it means for us, the club, our fans and

myself. But I'm feeling calm because I've seen that the boys are very concentrated.

"Over the last 20 months we've played seven derbies... we've won and we've lost. "Every match is its own story, there will be times when we will be more offen-

we want," said Inzaghi. "I'm not worried now just as I wasn't worried sive and times when we will before. The problem for me is more defensive. Just as we did in the last 16 and quarters we when attackers don't have opportunities, but our forwill have to play all together wards always had chances to

> Italy defender Federico Dimarco was still a child and a San Siro regular in 2005 and is keen to get stuck into a tie which could be revenge for one of the most painful derby defeats for his boyhood club.

Thinking that 20 years ago I was watching the match and now I'm playing in it is an incredible feeling," said

"We know the importance of match and of the derby, we'll give it a good go."

Messi scoops individual, team Laureus double

rgentina and Paris Saint Argentina and Land Germain veteran star Lionel Messi on Monday scooped a unique double, landing individual and team Laureus awards for his exploits and those of his World-Cup winning nation.

Messi, 35, finally landed a first World Cup winners medal in Qatar last December after a thrilling penalty shootout final win over France -- enough to earn him an individual accolade while the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner also accepted the team award at a prestigious Paris ceremony.

The Argentine, who attended the ceremony with wife Antonela Roccuzzo, previously had won the award jointly with British Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton in 2020.

The accolade saw Messi see off competition notably from clubmate Kylian Mbappé, whose World Cup final hattrick was not enough to earn him glory in

Jamaican sprinter Shelly-

August earned a fifth world 100m crown at Eugene, Oregon, picked up the female athlete award while US Open tennis champion Carlos Alcaraz earned the World Breakthrough of the Year award.

Going back to football, Denmark and Manchester United star Christian Eriksen earned a Comeback Award for returning to the top of the European game after collapsing with cardiac arrest during the Euros two years ago.

Swiss para-athlete sensation Catherine Debrunner meanwhile picked up the Disability Award after triumphing in her opening two marathons

The Sport for Good Award was presented to TeamUp -- a programme for children displaced by war -- by Barcelona and Poland star Robert Lewandowski. Meanwhile, Chinese-American Olympic ski freestyle champion Eileen Gu won the World Action Sportsperson accolade.



AP ■ LONDON

 $E^{\rm verton\ moved\ out\ of\ the}_{\rm Premier\ League\ relegation}$ zone with a ruthless 5-1 win at Brighton on Monday, while Leicester's hopes of survival are hanging by a thread after a 5-3 defeat at Fulham.

Nottingham Forest also pulled themselves clear of the bottom three as they beat fellow strugglers Southampton

Brighton are in the hunt to qualify for Europe for the first time in the club's history, but a heavy schedule appeared to have taken its toll on Roberto De Zerbi's men as they were torn apart by an away since October.

The Toffees had the dream start as Abdoulaye Doucoure opened the scoring after just

Doucoure's brilliant volley from Dwight McNeil's cross doubled Everton's lead before Brighton goalkeeper Jason Steele deflected McNeil's cross into his own net. De Zerbi responded by

making four half-time substitutions and Brighton peppered the Everton goal but were caught out on the counter-attack when McNeil showed great poise to round Steele to make it 4-0.

Alexis Mac Allister pulled goal back after Kaoru Mitoma's initial effort came off the post.

But McNeil had the final say as he rounded off a dazzling performance by smashing into the top corner in stoppage time.

A first win in eight games lifts Sean Dyche's men two points clear of the drop zone.



Brighton remain in seventh, two points behind Tottenham with two games in hand, but their outside shot at a top-four finish appears gone.

Victories for Everton and Forest pushed Leicester into the relegation zone and they also face a tough run-in with Champions League-chasing Liverpool and Newcastle to come before ending the season at home to West Ham.

Leeds Bournemouth have conceded more goals than Leicester in the Premier League and defensive deficiencies were again their undoing at Craven

Goals from Willian, Carlos Vinicius and Tom Cairney put Fulham 3-0 up before half-time.

Cairney and Willian struck again either side of Harvey Barnes' consolation goal to make it 5-1.

James Maddison converted a second penalty before

Barnes pounced to make it 5-3 after a calamitous defensive mix-up between Shane Duffy and Leno.

Forest moved three points clear of the drop zone in a seven-goal thriller that virtually sealed Southampton's fate.

Two goals in three minutes from Taiwo Awoniyi put Forest on the road to victory before Carlos Alcaraz pulled a goal back.

Morgan Gibbs-White restored the hosts' two-goal

lead from the penalty spot, but they had to survive some nervy moments after Lyanco's header made it 3-2 early in the second half.

and make sacrifices.

Inter come into the

match on a run of five straight

wins and with a previously

misfiring attack suddenly banging in the goals. Inzaghi's side have scored

fourteen goals in that run, ten

of which have been netted by

the forwards, with Romelu

Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez

"We had a period in which the attackers weren't

having a great time but now

thankfully they have started

scoring again and that's what

both in a hot streak.

Danilo rounded off a fine team move 17 minutes from time to give Cooper's men breathing space at the bottom despite James Ward-Prowse's penalty in stoppage time cutting the arrears once more.

Southampton are eight points from safety with three games remaining.

BARCA VS KOBE

Barcelona will play a friendly against Andres Iniesta's Japanese team Vissel Kobe in Tokyo after the La away Spanish league leaders said on Tuesday.

The game will take place Tokyo's National Stadium on June 6, two days after the final day of the La Liga season.

The announcement comes amid Japanese media reports that the 38-year-old former Spain and Barca midfielder Iniesta will leave Kobe this summer.

Iniesta is contracted to Vissel until the end of the year but reports say he will be released early so that he can find another club in the United States or Middle East.

Iniesta joined Vissel in July 2018 after making almost appearances Barcelona.

He signed a two-year contract extension with the Japanese club in May 2021.

He has played a total of 38 minutes in three league appearances for Kobe in 12 games so far this season.

Vissel are currently top of the J-League table.

Neymar ready to **leave PSG**

AP PARIS

Neymar no longer feels welcome at Paris Saint-Germain and believes he'd be better off playing elsewhere next season, sources told ESPN's Julien Laurens.

The Brazilian reportedly had a change of heart after being targeted by dozens of hardcore supporters at his house last week. The ultras demanded he and Lionel Messi leave the club in vulgar protests nat PSG strongly con-

Neymar would prioritize a move to the Premier League if he were to leave the French capital, according to Laurens. Chelsea reportedly reopened talks with PSG over the 31-yearold forward, who initially attracted the attention of the Blues in the summer and has a big admirer in Chelsea co-owner Todd Boehly.

With Neymar currently earning around \$\infty\$40 million per season, any prospective deal would require a significant financial outlay. He still has four years remaining on his contract with PSG, but Laurens reports that the Ligue 1 leaders won't stand in his way if he wants to end his time in Paris. PSG could even allow him to leave on loan, eschewing a hefty transfer fee just to get his wages - which rank among the highest in world football off their books.

Messi set for megabucks Saudi move: Source



Argentine superstar Lionel Messi will play in Saudi Arabia next season under a blockbuster deal, a source told AFP on Tuesday, potentially joining his arch-rival Cristiano Ronaldo as the kingdom lavishes its oil wealth

Messi will sign a "huge" deal with an as-yet-unnamed club, said the source, who is close to the negotiations that are taking place iust months after the 35-year-old lifted the World Cup in Qatar.

'Messi is a done deal. He will play in Saudi Arabia next season,"

said the source. "The contract is exceptional. It's huge. We are just finalising some small details," added the

There was no confirmation

from Messi's current club Paris Saint-Germain, which noted simply that he was under contract until June 30. A separate PSG source said:

"If the club had wanted to renew his contract, it would have been done earlier.' Just five years after allowing

its first non-Muslim tourists visit and letting women drive, Saudi Arabia is attempting to open up its conservative society and diversify its oil-reliant economy.

The world's biggest oil exporter has thrown hundreds of millions at sports deals including Ronaldo's signing, F1 in Jeddah and the divisive LIV Golf tour, drawing frequent claims it is 'sportswashing" its human rights

Messi was suspended by Qatari-owned PSG last week for

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ambassador. OIL EXPORTER HAS THROWN HUNDREDS in the footsteps of his long-time sparring partner Ronaldo, who OF MILLIONS AT joined Saudi Pro League club Al

SPORTS DEALS **INCLUDING** RONALDO'S SIGNING, F1 IN JEDDAH AND THE

DIVISIVE LIV GOLF TOUR, DRAWING FREQUENT CLAIMS IT IS "SPORTSWASHING" ITS HUMAN RIGHTS **RECORD**

Both deals -- along with others including LIV Golf and the 2021 purchase of Newcastle United football club -- are being bankrolled by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), one of the world's biggest sovereign wealth

funds, the source said.

. Nassr in a massive deal in January.

2025 is said to total more than

400 million euros (\$439 mil-

lion), making him the world's

highest paid athlete according to

Ronaldo's agreement to June

"The negotiations didn't take as much time as the ones with

an unauthorised mid-season trip Ronaldo. As we now know the to Saudi, where he is a tourism recipe to contract world-class players," said the source. His expected arrival follows

"It's Saudi Arabia that brought him not a specific club. The Money comes from one place --

Despite several reports linking Messi with Al Hilal, one of the top Saudi teams, club sources said they had not been in direct con-

tact with the Argentine's team. "He is a player at the end of his career and he is not here only for football. He is here to secure international attraction for the kingdom," said the source follow-

ing the Messi negotiations.
"The plan is not only Messi and Ronaldo, the plan is to bring glorious players like these two and also upcoming youth players who have a promising future.

"We want people to visit

Saudi Arabia to watch football stars," the source added. "Who could imagine that local league matches would attract foreigners? It's just the Ronaldo impact." Messi, who turns 36 in June,

has had two lacklustre seasons in Paris after a glorious era at Barcelona where he won four Champions League and 10 La Liga titles, and is still worshipped by the fans.

The record seven-time world player of the year, joining a mouth-watering attack featuring Kylian Mbappe and Neymar, scored just 11 goals in his first season as he helped PSG to a routine Ligue 1 title.

But PSG have got no closer to coveted maiden Champions League victory, bowing out twice in the last 16 even with the illustrious Argentine in their line-up.

Surya takes Mumbai to No. 3

uryakumar Yadav put on display a power-hitting masterclass to post his highest score in IPL — a 35-ball 83 — and with Nehal Wadhera blasting an unbeaten half-century, Mumbai Indians handed Royal Challengers Bangalore a six-wicket defeat in Match No 54 of India Premier League (IPL) 2023 at Wankhede Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Suryakumar started on a sedate note after Ishan Kishan had given Mumbai Indians a whirlwind start with a 21-ball 42, and raced to his half-century in 26 balls. He raised 140 runs for the third wicket partnership with Wadhera (52 not out off 34 balls) in just 66 deliveries as Mumbai raced to 200/4 in 16.3 overs, chasing Royal Challengers Bangalore's 199/6 in 20 overs built around blazing half-centuries by Faf du Plessis (65) and Glenn Maxwell (68).

Thanks to Suryakumar Yadav's 83 and an unbeaten 52 by Wadhera, Mumbai twice survived double-strike overs by Wanindu Hasaranga and Vijaykumar Vyshak to race to their sixth win of the season and zoomed to the third spot in the points table.

Mumbai Indians were tied with four other teams at 10 points before the match but are now at 12 points from 11 matches and are placed behind Gujarat Titans (16) and Chennai Super Kings (13) and in a superb position to seal a place in the Playoffs if they win their next three matches.

Mumbai Indians started in whirlwind fashion thanks to Ishan Kishan who blasted a 21-ball 42 to give them

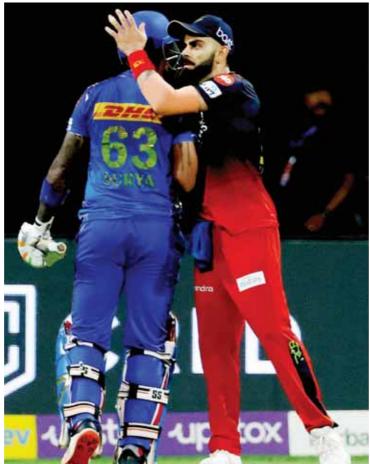
a dream start. As his skipper Rohit Sharma, who returned to his opening slot after batting down the order against CSK, and watched from the other end, Ishan Kishan went hammer and tongs at the Royal Challengers Bangalore bowling, hitting four boundaries and four maximums during his superb knock.

He started the Mumbai Indians' reply with a four off the first delivery when Mohammed Siraj strayed down the legside and whipped through midwicket and lofted to long-on Josh Hazlewood for fours off successive deliveries in the second over. Siraj came under attack in his next over too as Ishan Kishan, who was on Monday included in the India Test squad for the World Test Championship (WTC) Final, hammered back-to-back sixes over the long-on and deep backward square leg boundary.

A monster hit off Hazlewood into the top tier in deep square-leg area was the pick of the shots in his brief knock and he celebrated it by smashing a four and a six off Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga. But the leg-break bowler had the last laugh as he got Ishan Kishan on the next delivery after the six by cramping the Mumbai Indians batsman for space with a quicker one as thin-edges it to Anuj Rawat.

Hasaranga struck again in the same over, sending back Rohit Sharma for seven, trapping him lbw with a superb delivery, and getting three reds from ball tracking on a fine DRS review by RCB skipper Faf du Plessis.

From 50 for no loss, Mumbai slumped to 52/2 in the fifth over after Hasaranga's double strike and though



Rohit Sharma's side recovered from the slump thanks to a timely partnership between Suryakumar Yadav and Nehal

Wadhera. They shared a 100-run partnership in 53 deliveries as they put the Mumbai innings back on track.

Wadhera, who was dropped by Hasaranga off his own bowling, pulled Vijaykumar Vyshak for a six off the second delivery he faced before French cutting and driving Harshal Patel for two fours. He slog-swept Hasaranga for his second six in the 11th over.

Suryakumar Yadav, on the other hand, had to dive to survive a run-out attempt in the sixth over before Virat attempt in the sixth over before Vırat Kohli came up with a poor effort, off Harshal Patel, at the deep midwicket giving him his first four. The Mumbai batter guided Vyshak to the boundary in the eighth over and then survived a DRS review for ball tracking confirming the impact is outside off. He ing the impact is outside off. He exploded into action in the 12th over by hammering Hazlewood for back-toback fours and then struck Harshal Patel for another four through the gap behind point.

Suryakumar treated Siraj on his return for his second spell with a four and six off successive deliveries and the slog-swept Hasaranga into the crowd at deep backward square leg and followed it up by launching the Sri Lankan spinner over deep square leg boundary for another big six.

He raced to his half-century off 26 balls and welcomed Vyshak's return to the attack with a six off a no-ball, followed it up with a four off the free hit, and planted a full-toss into the second tier over deep backward square. However, the bowler had the last laugh as he got Suryakumar Yadav caught by Kedar Jadhav with a slower one that the batter swung to legside. Yadav got out for a brilliant 83 off 35 deliveries, his highest score in IPL so far, which put Mumbai on course to victory



DC face CSK in must-win match

Chennai Super Kings enter the final lap of the ongoing Indian Premier League's preliminary phase, looking to beat back the challenge of a resurgent Delhi Capitals here on Wednesday and get closer to a play-offs berth.

CSK returned to winning ways with a convincing victory over Mumbai Indians — a bogey team at their fortress Chepauk — and would be hoping to pick up two more points against the Capitals, who have struggled in the tournament for the most part.

The Super Kings trumped MI in a low-scoring game last Saturday with the bowlers, Matheesha Pathirana in particular, doing a good job to restrict the opposition. The chase was wrapped up without much ado, with contributions from Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devon Conway and Shivam Dube.

While the top-order batters (Conway 457 runs, Gaikwad 292 runs and Ajinkya Rahane (245 runs) have been doing a great job, the middleorder hasn't fired as much as the think-tank would have hoped for.

The experienced Ambati Rayudu (95 runs in 11 games) and Ravindra Jadeja (92 in 11 games) haven't got going, making for a floundering middleorder. Skipper M S Dhoni has managed the cameos expected of him whenever he has got in.

The team will be hoping that the middle-order is not put to test in a crunch game. Dhoni and the CSK fans will be praying for the likes of Rayudu, Moeen Ali and Jadeja to rise to the occasion when it matters the most.

The big-hitting Shivam Dube has so far collected 290 be eyeing bigger contributions in key games.

Tushar Deshpande with 19 wickets so far has done a fine job but his economy rate of 10.33 and giving away runs at crucial junctures has hurt CSK at times. The captain would like him to be more thrifty with the ball.

Jadeja, as always, has struck crucial blows while slinger Pathirana will be keen to continue the good run, like against MI.

Pathirana will be one bowler the Capitals, including the aggressive Phil Salt, who shone in the team's last game, would be wary of.
The DC batters have

under-performed but Salt has expressed confidence that they can turn it around in the remaining games.

Skipper David Warner has not been his usual ebullient self and the batting line-up which includes Mitchell Marsh and Rovman Powell among others has flattered to deceive. As the season winds down, DC managed to keep their chances alive by winning four of their last five matches.

Whether the team can sneak into the top four remains to be seen. They will need to perform very well if they aim to surprise ĆSK in their den, which is easier said than done.

For that, the DC batters need to come to grips with the spin challenge expected to be posed by CSK and the bowling department needs to find ways to contain the methodical Conway and Gaikwad first before dealing with the others. Veteran Ishant Sharma,

who seems to have rediscovered his mojo, would be one to watch out for apart from pacer Anrich Nortje, Marsh and the slow bowlers — Kuldeep Yadav and Avar Pate

CSK's Dube is a unique talent: Hussey

Chennai Super Kings batting Coach Michael Hussey on Tuesday said big-hitting batter Shivam Dube is a unique talent and he been playing at his best because of the clarity of his role.

"He is a unique talent. His ability to hit the ball out of the nomenal power. We see him in practice all the time. What is really important is the clarity on his role in the team, maybe we did not quite have it last year and the start of this year," Hussey

"Through Stephen Fleming and MSD (Dhoni), they have been very clear in the role they see him playing and how they see him playing at his best for us. In his mind, he is so clear about how he needs to go about playing in any situation.

"It is a floating role, it sort of depends on the situation of the game and on who the opposition are bowling," Hussey said ahead of the IPL match against Delhi Capitals in response to a question on Dube, who has scored 290 runs in nine innings

The batting coach added, "Talking to him and working with him, he just feels very clear about how he needs to go about it. That mixed with his unique talent and power is a very dangerous thing for opposition teams. He is in a great place.

"He had a sort of finger injury trying to take a catch in

the last game. It was great signs that he was able to come out and bat. Fingers crossed, he will be fine to get through the DC match," Hussey said of Dube.

On Wednesday's match against Delhi Capitals, the former Australia batter said CSK will have to be at their best as the opposition had been in good five matches.

"It (Delhi Capitals) has been in good form. It has won four of its last five matches. It is good to come here (Chennai) with a bit of confidence. It did well in the last match (against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Delhi), it was a dominant win.

"We have to play at our best. I know DC is sitting at the bottom of the table, but it is so close to jumping up very quickly with a couple of wins.'

Speaking about CSK's star all-rounder Ben Stokes, Hussey said he was training really well and was available for selection for Wednesday's match.

"Stokes has been training really well. I am pretty sure that he is available for selection. It just comes down to the balance of the squad. Obviously, we have been playing in sort of spinning conditions, so they have decided to go for the extra spin-bowling option rather than Stokes, an all-rounder who can bowl seam," he said.

"He has been training really well; he has ticked all the boxes as far as being available for selec-

Boult expresses 'big desire' to play ODI WC in India

Having opted out of a New Zealand contract, pacer Trent Boult still has a big desire" to play the ODI World Cup in India later this year and has seen "little bit of movement" in that direction Boult gave up his New

Zealand contract last August to spend more time with family and continue playing franchise cricket around the world.

The 33-year-old has not been picked for the national team since the T20 World Cup last year with the selectors preferring to give contracted players more opportunities.

"I've still got that big desire to play for New Zealand. It is what it is: I've made my decision. I've been lucky enough to have a 13-year career in the Black Cap and hey, I've still got a big desire to play in the World Cup as well.

"We'll see how that unfolds: there's still a bit of movement in the landscape at the



lines of his IPL stint with Rajasthan Royals. New Zealand had come

up agonisingly short in the 2019 World Cup final against England but Boult feels his team has a good chance of going all the way in the ICC event scheduled in October-November. "I remember after the

2019 final, I said to Kane [Williamson] that we've got

to be there again, come 2023 in India. It's a shame with what's going on with his knee but he'll be working as hard as he can to try and get there. It's such a great tournament... One hundred percent, I've got that desire to be out there," he said referring to the injury Williamson suffered at the start of IPL.

"We're a great one-day side. We've got some players that have travelled to India and experienced the conditions a lot, and that's what it comes down to in World Cups. You can't buy experience, and you can't replace players that have toured for however many years across

Fakhar wins ICC Player of Month Award

Dakistan batter Fakhar Zaman was named the ICC Men's Player of the month for April while Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai was adjudged best in the women's section after both produced match-winning performances for their countries in the ODIs. Fakhar becomes the first Pakistan player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen in November 2022, and does so on the back of two crucial match-winning centuries in Pakistan's ODI series

success against touring New Zealand.
Following a quiet T20I series,
Fakhar was at the forefront of his side's success in the subsequent ODI showdowns.

Chasing 289 in the first match in Rawalpindi, the batter scored 117 from 114 balls in a 124-run opening stand with Imam-ul-Haq to secure

Team 'full of all-rounders didn't need me to bowl': Thakur

Ctar all-rounder Shardul Thakur on Tuesday allayed concerns over his fitness, saying he has been under bowled in the IPL due to the abundance of allrounders in the Kolkata Knight Riders

Speaking to PTI, the World Test Championship final-bound Indian cricketer said there's no injury issue with him and his team full of allrounders did not "need" his service.

'We have a side full of all-rounders with (Andre) Russell, Sunil (Nairne)... We have got maximum of eight bowling options that also includes Nitish (Rana) who also bowls an over or two nowadays," Thakur said.

Thakur, who did not play three matches this season due to a niggle, has bowled just 89 balls (14.5 overs) in six matches, returning with four wickets.

He was not bowled in two of the eight matches he played, and in batting too he was used sparingly as it is clearly evident that the team seemed to be managing his workload ahead of the Australia at the Oval next month.

In their match against Punjab Kings here on Monday, KKR used up seven bowling options and looked woefully inexperienced in the pace department but Thakur was not bowled.

The rookie duo of Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana leaked 36 runs in the last two overs as PBKS managed to score 179/7. As it turned out KKR survived

some anxious moments in the chase before Andre Russell and Rinku Singh pulled off a last-ball victory to keep their playoff hopes alive. Thakur was seen coming as a bat-

ter at the non-striking end in the last delivery when Rinku sealed the chase with a boundary. "It also depends on the situation of

the game, if the captain feels the need to bowl me or not bowl me completely depends on him. As far as teams' strategy decision making is concerned, I would not pay attention to it a lot."

"I had a small niggle, so I didn't play a few games, when I came back, I didmarquee WTC summit clash against n't bowl as I was not bowling-fit. But



es, now I'm back to bowling and hopefully whenever I get the ball, I will get the job done," said Thakur.

Thakur did not answer queries on

the WTC final and also did not reveal whether he was practising with the red Dukes ball which would be used for the

Being an all-rounder is a difficult task and the 31-year-old is fully aware

"It is difficult and not easy. It's difficult in the sense body-wise, because when you go in for practice, you literally have to do everything - fielding practice, bowl and bat. On top of that you have to do a bit of running around to stay fit. "Overall, it's not easy but yeah that's

the challenge in modern day's cricket that you have to manage your body to stay fit and keep going," he said. Thakur had played a 29-ball 68 to

inspire KKR to a comprehensive 81-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the first phase of the tournament.

On his evolution as a batter, he said: "I always try to contribute with the bat whenever I get an opportunity. Obviously, I succeed and fail on fewer occasions. But that's completely part and parcel of the game."

Asked his favourite batting posi-

tion, he said: "There is no preferred number, whenever the team asks me to bat I'm ready to do it. In fact, in a game like T20 I'm ready to bat at any posi-

In fact I had padded up to go at No 3 against Punjab Kings. The T20 game is such that you need to be ready at any given position. "Overall, I'm enjoying my time at KKR. We come up with different ideas

"I padded up in a lot of games and

they could have sent me at any position.

and strategies against the team, against individual batters. But it all depends how bowlers are executing their skills in the middle.

Thakur further said KKR coach Chandrakant Pandit is back to his natural style of coaching.

"I've a good rapport with him (Pandit). Obviously, it's the first year in IPL for him, so he's also learning a lot about the nature of this tournament.

"As the tournament progressed he's really come out strong and back to his natural instinct and natural style of coaching. That's what makes him different from others," Thakur added.

Deepak, Nishant storm into World Championships quarterfinals

Indian boxers Deepak Bhoria (51kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) produced dominating performances to cruise to the quarterfinals of the men's World Championships here on

Tuesday. Continuing his good run in the tournament, Deepak brushed aside China's Zhangh Jiamao by a 5-0 unanimous verdict in the 51kg round

of 16 bout. Nishant, on the other hand, hardly broke a sweat as he registered a first-round RSC (referee stops the contest) win against Palestine's Foqahaa Nidal in his 71kg last 16

The two along with along with Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg), who will go up against J. Diaz Ibanez of Bulgaria in the quarterfinals, are one win away from securing medals.

Such was Nishant's domination that he spent less than a minute in the ring before being declared the win-

The Indian southpaw resorted to body blows before striking Nidal with a powerful right hook that compelled the referee to give the Palestinian his first standing count. A few seconds later Nishant unleashed a combination of left-

canvas, forcing the referee to give him his second count before stopping the contest. Nishant will face Jorge Cuellar Of

right-left hooks as Nidal fell on the

Cuba in the quarterfinals. Competing in the 51kg Olympic

category, Deepak put up a brilliant display once again.

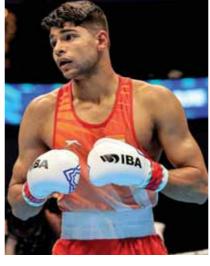
While the first round was neck and neck, with both boxers exchanging blows, the 25-year-old Indian managed to take a slender 3-2 lead.

He went into defensive mode at the start of the second round and used his counter-attacking game to strike some heavy left hooks on his opponent. The Haryana boxer then ramped

up the tempo in final three minutes. He used his nimble foot to move around the ring, landing a combination of punches while also ducking away from his opponent's attacks rather effortlessly. "My strategy was to use my

strongest weapon in the match which is my left hook and everything went according to our plan in the match.

"I tried to get the momentum early in the bout and lure my oppo-



nent before striking some accurate punches," Deepak said after the victory. On Sunday, Deepak pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the tournament when he upstaged Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist and 2021 world champion Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan.

Deepak was selected ahead of World Championship silver medallist Amit Panghal and the 25-year-old has put up impressive performances in all the three bouts he has played so far.

He will now play his next bout against Diushebaev Nurzhigit of Kyrgyzstan and will look to confirm a medal for India.

SACHIN &AKASH OUT

Sachin Siwach (54kg) and Akash Sangwan's (67kg) campaign, however, came to an

Both boxers went down by a similar 5-0 margin to Kazakh pugilists. While Sachin was ousted by to top seed Makhmud Sabyrkhan, Akash was sent packing by Dulat Bekbauov.

Ákash had a slow start and grew into the game with every round but in the end, it wasn't enough for the judges to give decisions in his favour.

On the other hand, Sachin started brightly as he landed heavy punches on his opponent in the first round.

After an even second round, the bout went down to the wire in the last round where Sabyrkhan showed his experience to get the better of the Indian boxer.

Rana fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining slow over-rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders captain Nitish Rana has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match against Punjab Kings at the Eden Gardens. As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's code of

conduct relating to minimum overrate offences, Rana was fined Rs 12 lakh, the league said in a statement. On Monday night, Rinku Singh

added to his reputation of being an expert finisher with a last-ball boundary as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Punjab Kings by five wickets to keep their IPL play-off hopes alive.