OPINION 6

THE UNIVERSALISM OF

GANDHI AND TAGORE

WORLD 8

UKRAINE SAYS IT HAS RETAKEN

TERRITORY NEAR BAKHMUT

MONEY 10

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES JUMP BY

\$7.2 BILLION TO \$595.98 BILLION

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

MESSI RETURNS FOR PSG AFTER SAUDI TRIP BAN 11 SPORT

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

Basavaraj Bommai of the BJP, Congress heavyweights Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar and JD(S)' HD

Kumaraswamy, among many others — will be known on

Saturday, both the ruling BJP

and the Congress on Friday

went into huddles and held

strategy sessions on ways to

keep the flock together.
While, Bommai expressed

confidence that the BJP will

cross the "magic figure" and the

question of coalition talks with

other political parties does not

arise now, JD(S) leader and for-

mer Chief Minister HD

Kumaraswamy expressed will-ingness to "help-out" in form-

ing the Government in case of a hung Assembly in the State.

HC dismisses

36,000 primary

teachers from

job in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $T^{
m he}$ Calcutta High Court on Friday ordered dismissal

of 36,000 illegally appointed

non-trained primary school

teachers in West Bengal Government-sponsored and aided schools, holding that

due procedure was not fol-

Government ahead of the upcoming panchayat elections with the West Bengal's cash-

for-job scam taking a new

ed the Board of Primary

Education to demote illegally

of para-teachers for three

months before terminating their service. The Judge also

directed the board to make sure

new teachers are appointed to the vacant posts within three

This has come as a blow on

lowed in the recruitment.

www.dailypioneer.com

HC for carbon dating Will help form K'taka Govt: JD(S) of Gyanvapi shivling

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

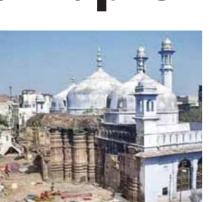
Setting aside the Varanasi District Court order that rejected a plea for scientific investigation of the shivling-like structure in the Gyanyapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, the Allahabad High Court on Friday ordered determination of the age of the structure using modern technology.

The HC directed the Varanasi district judge to proceed, in accordance with law, on the application by the Hindu worshippers for conducting a scientific probe of the "shivling", paving the way for determining the age of the structure.

The order said no harm should be done to the structure, which the Hindu petitioners claim is a shivling. However, the mosque authorities say it is part of a fountain in the 'wazu khana', where ablutions are performed before namaz.

Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra passed the order on a revision petition filed by Laxmi Devi and three others chal lenging the Varanasi court

The high court had obtained a report from various institutions, including the IITs in Kanpur and Roorkee and Birbal Sahni Institute of



Lucknow, before ordering for determination of the age of the

The report says direct dating of the structure is not possible and the age can be ascertained with proxy dating of materials, which can "correlate with the establishment of the lingam if there is any". "This needs a thorough study of the materials surrounding the lingam," it adds

The report also suggests the dating of some organic materials below the surface can ascertain the age but it needs to be established that they are related to the structure.

The court considered suggestions of Prof Javed N Malik of Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Kanpur.

Prof Malik suggested that to understand the buried material and structure it would be essential to undertake a

Penetrating Radar (GRP) This will be helpful towards identifying the remains of the ancient structures buried if any at the site, he

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in its 52-page report had given the opinion that the age of the structure can be determined through scientific method without causing any harm to the structure Its opinion was based on studies conducted by IIT Kanpur

Institute, Lucknow, and one more educational institute. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain appearing for the revisionists argued that the district judge had "passed the impugned order without any basis" and it should have called for expert opinion from the ASI

on whether carbon dating

could be done without causing

IIT Roorkee, Birbal Sahni

any harm. Additional Advocate General MC Chaturvedi, assisted by Chief Standing Counsel Bipin Bihari Pandey, appeared said, "If carbon dating and nature of the structure can be determined without causing any harm to the structure ther the State has no objection to it

for the State Government. He so that real nature of structure

Counting today; BJP, Cong keep flock together PNS ■ NEW DELHI Aday before the electoral fortunes of top leaders in Karnataka — Chief Minister

> Kumaraswamy, who was in Singapore, said his party has already received feelers from

the Congress and the BJP. A day ahead of the vote counting, Bommai met BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa, along with other party leaders, including Ministers Murugesh Nirani, Byrathi Basavaraj, party MP Lehar Singh Siroya and AT Ramaswamy, at the former chief minister's residence.

The counting will begin at 8 am in 36 centres across the State, and poll officials expect a clear picture about the outcome is likely to emerge by

mid-day.

The BJP and the Congress leaders also considered reaching out to independent candidates who are likely to win, as most exit polls predicted a tight contest between the two Hectic parleys were on at

Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge's residence here, with AICC general secretary and in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, party's state unit chief DK Shivakumar and former Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara among others.

UP civic polls results today

As voting for urban local body polls in Uttar Pradesh concluded peacefully on Thursday, counting will be done on Saturday and results will be declared the same day.

The final phase of the civic

polls drew 53 per cent vote turnout on Thursday, according to official figures, as the Samajwadi Party accused BJP supporters of indulging in malpractices, especially in Kannauj.

According to a press statement issued by the UP election commission, polling was held peacefully with 57 per cent in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 53.76 per cent in Etawah, 52.6 per cent turnout in Ayodhya, 50.49 per cent in Bareilly, 50.48 per cent in Aligarh, 45.52 per cent in Ghaziabad, and 42. 64 per Overall, the voting percentage in this phase is 53, said the statement.

The voting percentage in the first phase of urban body polls conducted on May 4 was 52. Polling will be held again in three wards in a Municipal committee in Bilhaur of Kanpur as some miscreants allegedly filled water in ballot boxes at these centres, according to the statement.

Officials also said that voters who lined up at the polling centres before 6 pm, were allowed to cast their votes.

Meanwhile, the main pposition Samajwadi Party (SP) though a series of tweets accused members of the ruling party of indulging in fake voting in the Gursahaiganj polling booth of Kannauj.

CAPSULE

3 DIE AFTER BATTERY OF E-RICKSHAW EXPLODES Lucknow: Two children and a woman have died after the battery of an e-rickshaw exploded inside their rented accommodation in the Niwazpurwa area here, police

said on Friday

DGCA SLAPS ₹30 LAKH New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA on Friday imposed a fine of ₹30 lakh for lanses in addressing "safety sensitive issue" related

to the incident of a pilot allowing a female friend in the cockpit during a Dubai-Delhi flight on February 27.

'DELIST CAR SEAT BELT ALARM STOPPER CLIPS' New Delhi: The Central Consumer Protection Authority

(CCPA) has directed five major e-commerce platforms -Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho. Snapdeal and Shopclues delist all car seat belt alarm stopper clips and stop their

DELHI LOGS 43 COVID CASES. TWO DEATHS New Delhi: The national Capita

Delhi recorded 43 fresh coronavirus cases with a positivity rate of 2.07 per cent and two Covid-related deaths on Friday, according to data shared by the city Government's health

Inflation drop means monetary policy on right track: RBI Guv

s retail inflation decreased cent in April, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the cooling off in headline inflation is "very satisfying" as it gives confidence that the "monetary policy is on the right track".

The RBI Governor, however, declined to comment if the release of the numbers will lead the RBI to be less hawkish or change the stance of the policy, quipping that all of it will be clear on the morning of June 8, when the next policy review is scheduled.

Speaking at the book launch of G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant's book 'Made in India', Das said the RBI is "quite optimistic and fairly confident" about the country's 6.5 per cent real GDP growth rate in FY24 even though other

analysts are not so sanguine. Admitting that there is a statistical base effect, Das said one must speak to any entrepreneur to understand the growth momentum of higher sales every month.



Das said private investments are also picking up, and enlisted steel, cement and petrochemicals as among the sectors where this is seen.

IIP growth slips to 5-month low of 1.1% in March

New Delhi: India's industrial production growth slipped to five-month low of 1.1 per cent in March from 5.8 per cent in February 2023, mainly due to poor performance of power and manufacturing sectors, according to official data



Continued on Page 2

released on Friday. See P10

Girls outshine boys in CBSE X, XII again

Girls continued to outshine boys in CBSE Class X and XIIth examinations while the pass percentage and the number of students scoring above 90 and 95 per cent marks dipped compared to last year.

The pass percentage in Class 10 stood at 93.12 per cent, a dip of 1.28 percentage points from last year.

Mamata Banerjee The pass percentage in 2019 (pre-pandemic year) was 91.10 per cent. Similarly, the pass percentage in the CBSE Class 12 exam has gone down by 5.38 percentage points and stands at 87.33 per cent as The Bench of Justice In 2019 (the pre-pandemic academic session), the pass appointed teachers to the rank

percentage was 83.40 per cent. In conversation with *The* Pioneer, some secondary school educationists and principals attributed the sudden decline of passing percentage to the introduction of the Common University Entrance Test Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated students who successfully cleared the CBSE Class X and XII examinations, saying he is proud of these youngsters for their hardwork and determination.

"I congratulate all exam warriors who have successfully passed the CBSE Class 12 (CUET) for undergraduate examinations. I am proud of

admissions as the board can-these youngsters for their didates focused more on secur- hardwork and determination,"

> He also congratulated the parents and teachers of these students for their monumental role in the success of the youngsters. On his part Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "One exam does not define a person's ability" and "success comes to those who never give up."

Continued on Page 2

MHA not clearing **Services Secy's** transfer, AAP Govt complains to SC

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government on Friday moved the Supreme Court alleging that the Centre is not implementing the transfer of its services secretary in

the national Capital.

The AAP Government told the apex court that the Delhi Government's order to transfer a senior official was not being executed by the services department despite the top court's verdict ostensibly because the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2015 was yet to be

cancelled or withdrawn. court on Friday after the AAP Govt's order to transfer out the services secretary Ashish More wasn't implemented despite the Constitutional bench ruling that the Delhi Govt has legislative and executive powers over administration of services except for public order, police

and land. Continued on Page 2

CBI books Wankhede for seeking ₹25 cr to let SRK's son off hook

PNS NEW DELHI

months.

The CBI on Friday conducted searches at the premises of former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer Sameer Wankhede after filing an FIR against him and four others for allegedly demanding ₹25 crore bribe for not framing Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the drugs-on-cruise case.

Besides Wankhede, then NCB Superintendent Vishwa

Vijay Singh, then Intelligence Officer of Mumbai Zonal Unit, NCB, Ashish Ranjan, KP Gosavi (private person), and Sanvile D'Souza (private person) as also unknown others have been listed as accused in the CBI case.

The accused have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Aryan was arrested in an alleged drug bust case on the



Cordelia cruise ship on

October 2, 2021. Searches are being conducted at 29 locations across Mumbai, Delhi, Ranchi, Lucknow, Chennai, and Guwahati which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles/cash, it said "The instant case was registered on a complaint from the NCB, Delhi for conducting an investigation by the CBI," the CBI said in a statement.

Continued on Page 2

NEP will do away with kitabi gyan: Modi

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said earli-er students used to get "kitabi gyan" (bookish knowledge) but the new National Education Policy (NEP) will change that.

Addressing teachers gathered here from across the country for the 29th Biennial Educational Conference, organised by the All India Primary Teachers Federation, Modi said Google can give data and information but the role of teachers is to be the mentors of students

"Earlier, we used to give just 'kitabi gyan' to our students, but this will change with the introduction of the New Education Policy," Modi said.

He said the new NEP focuses on practical learning. "Such an education system is at the centre of NEP and now it is the responsibility of the teachers to implement this system on the ground," said the PM in an appeal to the teachers. He recalled how one of his school teachers used to make him and other students learn about numbers using grains. Referring to the changes made in the NEP, Modi

stressed the need for giving primary education to students in their mother tongue and added that NEP has made provisions for it. According to Modi, education imparted in local languages will also help talented youths from villages to become



language. Even today, parents want their kids to study in English medium. As a result, talented teachers from villages and from poor family back-"After our Independence, grounds stopped getting oppor-

got a chance to learn English. Since NEP puts stress on edu-

cation in local languages, it will also help such teachers in getting opportunities," he said. Praising what he called the

noble profession of teaching, Modi said whenever he met any world leader, including royal rulers of Bhutan and Saudi Arabia, they told him that they had received their education from teachers from The King of Saudi Arabia

(Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud), who is a very senior and respectable leader, told me that his teacher was from Gujarat Modi said. Modi said though he has never been a teacher in his

entire life, he has been a lifelong student who observes things happening in society. He told the audience that despite being the PM, he is still in "live contact" with his school teachers who are alive tight security.

Continued on Page 2

In blanket relief, **Imran can't be** arrested in any case till Monday

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

▲Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court on Friday granted him protective bail for two weeks in a corruption case and barred the authorities from arresting the former Pakistan premier in any case registered anywhere in the country until Monday.

Three different benches of

the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted relief to the 70vear-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-İnsaf (PTI) chief who was escorted to the court amid

of CJM who convicted Rahul in Modi jibe case PTI NEW DELHI

n a major relief to embattled

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the promotion of 68 Gujarat lower judicial officers, including Surat Chief Judicia Magistrate Harish Hasmukhbhai Varma who had convicted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a

defamation case. A bench comprising Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said the promotion of the judicial officers was in violation of the Gujarat State Continued on Page 2 | Judicial Service Rules 2005,

amended in 2011, which states that promotions must be made on principle of merit-cumsuitability test.

"We are more than satisfied that

the impugned list issued by the high court and the subsequent order issued the Government granting promotion to district judges

are illegal and contrary to the decision of this court. The same are, therefore, not sustainable," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

SC stays promotion

Wrestlers' row: Police record statement of WFI chief Brij

The Delhi Police has recorded the statement of Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in connection with the allegations of sexual harassame to be allegated by the female ¬he Delhi Police has recordment levelled by the female wrestlers against him, officials said on Thursday. Police have also recorded the statement of the WFI's assistant secretary Vinod Tomar. Last month, the Delhi Police registered two FIRs against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

The first FIR pertains to allegations levelled by a minor which has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act along with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code concerning outraging modesty. The second one has been registered over complaints by adults pertaining to outraging of modesty.

A notice was sent to Singh asking him to join the investigation. He was questioned for nearly three hours in connec-



tion with the allegations of sexual harassment against him, a senior police officer said.

Singh, who is also a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, has been so far been questioned by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). In both instances he denied the allegations and claimed that he was being "falsely implicated" in the case, the officer said. The WFI chief has been asked to submit documents or proof to support his claims, he added.

The police said Singh will be interrogated further as statements of 30 witnesses have been recorded so far and more are to be documented.

"We have also received the report of the oversight committee formed to probe the complaints of sexual harassment against the Wrestling Federation of India chief," a

police official said. As part of the ongoing investigation into the case, several teams of the Delhi Police were sent to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Haryana to record statements and collect evidence.

Following the submission, the court posted the matter for further hearing on May 27. So far, only the statement of a minor who has accused

suspension of Param Bir Singh TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a reversal of a decision taken by the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government, the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government has withdrawn all the cases against Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh – whose "letter bomb" had led to the resignation and imprisonment of former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh - and revoked his suspension ordered by the previous MVA dispensation.

In what comes as a big relief for the 1988 batch IPS officer, the Maharashtra Government issued an order withdrawing all the charges against Singh. "The memorandum of charges dated 02-12-2021 issued against Param Bir Singh, IP (Retd) under Rule 8 of All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rule, 1969 is being withdrawn and the said matter is being closed," the order stated.

"As per the provisions of the All India Services (Deathcum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, the suspension of

Param Bir Singh, IPS (Retd) is revoked by this order and the period of suspension from 02-12-2021 to 30-06-2022 shall be treated as period spent on duty for all purposes," another order stated, while adding that the departmental enquiry instituted against him had been closed.

Maha withdraws cases, revokes

Given that Singh had been retired from the service, the revocation of the suspension order issued against him is beneficial for the former police commissioner as he will now be entitled for all retirement ben-

It may be recalled that Singh — a fortnight after a Mumbai court declared him as a "proclaimed offender" in an extortion case - had been suspended from service by the previous MVA government on December 2, 2021, in view of serious offences registered against him and the disciplinary proceedings launched into "certain irregularities and lapses" committed him, including his unauthorised absence from duty.

 $Sing \acute{h} - who \ had \ created$ sensation on March 20, 2021 by alleging that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai — has been booked for several serious offences registered against him in four different police stations in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district.

CBI books Wankhede for seeking ₹25 cr...

From Page 1

It has been alleged that the said officials of the NCB of Mumbai zone, in order to obtain undue advantage from the persons/others in the case no. 94/2021 of Mumbai zone, earlier registered and investigated under the supervision of then zonal director of Mumbai zone of NCB, had entered into criminal conspiracy with others and had allegedly obtained undue advantage in the form of bribes from the alleged accused of case no. 94/2021 of NCB Mumbai zone," the CBI said in a statement.

"It has also been alleged that the said persons entered into conspiracy in order to extort an amount of Rs. 25 crore (approx.) from the family members of the alleged accused of the case no. 94/2021 of NCB, Mumbai, by threatening them of the accusation of offences of possession of narcotics substances as per the alleged directions of then Zonal director being the supervisory officer. A token amount of Rs 50 lakh as bribe was allegedly obtained in furtherance of this conspiracy by the said persons," the CBI said.

In blanket relief, Imran can't be arrested in...

In the first case, a special bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz granted Khan protective bail in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case for two

The bench heard the case a day after the Supreme Court termed Khan's dramatic arrest from the IHC premises on Tuesday as "invalid and unlawful".

Hearing another petition, the IHC granted bail to former premier Khan in all cases filed against him from May 9, the day he was arrested. Khan had filed a petition seeking details of all cases filed against him with the request for bail.

A division bench presided over the hearing held in courtroom No.2 of the IHC.

After hearing the arguments from the lawyers, the court gave Khan protective bail until May 17 in all cases filed after his arrest on Tuesday when he was present in the court.

Khan, in his petition, had asked the court that he was While granting bail, the judge said.

क्रं./न.पा./2023/317

remarked that he should condemn all the incidents of vionce in the wake of his arrest.

The bench also ordered the authorities to provide foolproof security to Khan.

In another case, IHC judge Justice Tariq Mehmood Jehangiri conducted the hearing in the Zile Shah murder case and after arguments, the court accepted Khan's protective bail in the case till May

Shah was a PTI supporter and was killed in violence in March when police raided Khan's Lahore residence to arrest him. The bench also ruled that Khan should not be arrested in any case until Monday, a kind of blanket protection in all cases. He was asked to appear before the Lahore High Court on

Khan's lawyer Shoaib Shaheen told the media that the former premier had been given "blanket bail" in all cases and he cannot be arrested until Monday. "Khan can be arrested in any case registered anywhere till Monday when he will appear before cases had been registered. bail in relevant cases," he

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह (म.प्र.)

-:: निविदा सूचना ::-

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म/ऐजेंसी से अधोलिखित विवरण अनुसार ऑनलाईन दरें आमंत्रित की जाती है

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है तो केवल ऑनलाईन किया जावेगा समाचार पत्र में नहीं। 3. समस्त करों की कटौतियां शासन के नियमानुसार की जावेगी

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of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

SC stays promotion

of CJM who...

From Page 1 "We stay the implementation of the promotion list. Respective promotees are sent to their original post which

they were holding prior to their promotion," it said. The top court passed an interim order staying the promotions and directed that the matter be heard by an appropriate bench as Justice Shah is retiring on May 15.

The top court was hearing a plea of senior civil judge cadre officers, Ravikumar Maheta and Sachin Prataprai Mehta, challenging the selection of the 68 judicial officers to the higher cadre of district

Varma, the CJM of Surat, is one of the 68 officers of the district lower judiciary whose promotion has also been challenged by Maheta and Mehta, presently working as undersecretary in the legal department of the Gujarat governtor at the state legal services

दमोह दिनांक 09.05.2023

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EAM Jaishankar meets Nepal's Foreign Minister Saud in Dhaka

PTI KATHMANDU/DHAKA

Singh of sexually harassing her

has been recorded before the

remaining six female wrestlers will also be recorded before the

magistrate," the officer said.
Police have, however,

recorded the statements of all seven female complainants, including the minor, under

CrPC section 161. On Friday, the Delhi Police

informed a special court here

that an SIT has been consti-

before Additional Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate

Harjeet Singh Jaspal in

response to the court's earlier

order directing the police to file

Srivastava told the court that a

status report has been filed in

the matter in a sealed cover and

requested that it must not be

shared with anyone consider-

ing the nature of the case.

Public prosecutor Atul

a status report.

The submission was made

tuted to probe the cases.

Soon, statements of the

magistrate.

 $E_{\text{Jaishankar met his Nepali}}^{\text{xternal Affairs Minister S}}$ counterpart Narayan Prakash Saud for the first time here on Friday and discussed ways to boost bilateral ties in energy, trade, connectivity and hydro-

The two ministers met on the sidelines of the 6th Indian Ocean Conference being held in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. "A good first meeting with

FM N.P. Saud of Nepal. Congratulated him on his new responsibility. Discussed further steps in our steadily expanding partnership. Spoke about energy, connectivity, and our enduring people-to-people ties," Jaishankar tweeted.

"The two ministers expressed satisfaction over the excellent state of Nepal-India relations and discussed ways to further consolidate cooperation in the areas of trade, transit, connectivity, and hydroelectricity, among others," Nepal's embassy in Dhaka said.

Saud assumed the office of the Foreign Minister of Nepal

Jaishankar is in Dhaka to participate in the 6th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference which is being attended by President of Mauritius Prithvirajsing Roopun, Vice President of Maldives Faisal Naseem, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, and several ministers from across

HC dismisses 36,000 primary teachers from...

From Page 1 During an enquiry the court had found that out of 42,500 candidates who had been appointed by the primary teachers' education board 36,000 had no teachers' training degree — one of the criterions for appointment. Besides, it also found that there was massive corruption during the interview

So much so, that a majority of the illegal appointees obtained their jobs without even appearing in interviews --- as per the recruitment guidelines, advocate, Firdaus Shamim said.

The court, however, said the candidates who had subsequently secured teachers' training would be allowed to continue as teachers, provided they cleared a subsequent

interview process which the Board would organise within a three months period.

The court also directed the Board to conduct a fresh recruitment process to fill the posts that fall vacant after three months.

Thousands of candidates from primary and secondary to higher secondary levels — as also the Group C and D aspirants who had cleared their exams in 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017 etc had been sitting in the streets of Kolkata for the past several months in some cases several years demanding appointment.

The scam was brought to light only after these candidates filed writ petitions in the High Court which ordered the ED and CBI to investigate into the appointment scandal.

The school level recruit-

ment scam has not only seen a number of Trinamool Congress Ministers (like Partha Chatterjee the former number two in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet), MLAs and top functionaries including a vice-chancellor and an SSC chairman going to jail but also investigations into the SSC and TET scam conducted by the ED and CBI have unearthed another major recruitment scandal, this time in municipal services.

When asked to comment on the Friday's order, State TET (Teachers' Eligibility Test) board chairman, Gautam Paul said the Board would immediately not comply with the court order and would explore legal options indicating that the authorities were planning an appeal in the Division bench.

Girls

outshine

MHA not clearing Services Secy's...

From Page 1

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi Government, mentioned the matter before a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud saying to constitute a regular bench to formally set aside the 2015 notification that laid down that the Delhi Government will have no powers over services and empowered the Lieutenant Governor to exercise this power on behalf of the Central Government. Singhvi said, "On our order (to transfer services secretary) we have been told that the transfer cannot be

THE PIONEER Q

• CHANGE OF NAME

I, Prajitha CV W/o Sh. Liju Joseph R/o House No. A-4, Ground Floor, RPS Palm Sector-88, Kheri Kalan (113), Faridabad, Haryana have changed her Son's name from Nihal to Nihal Liju Joseph for all future purposes. PD/030/C

ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Under Article 141 of the urgently, Singhvi said. "They are saying we will not transfer anybody. I can file contempt in view of judgement passed yesterday. But it will take time. So kindly list the matter," he said. Chief Justice Chandrachud said he will constitute a bench to hear the matter next week.

Hours after the SC pronounced the verdict, the city Government's services secretary Ashish More was transferred and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a comprehensive administrative reshuffle will follow. Former Delhi Jal Board CEO AK

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ए–1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

पूर्णकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में विद्युत संबंधी विकास कार्यों हेतु

परकोरी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों

कार्य का नाम

Providing underground 33 kv line for 33/11 KV 1x10 MVA S/S unde Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. Babrala (Sambhal)

Providing H.T./L.T. Network on road no. 05, 07, 08 & 09 under Atal

निविदा दिनांक 15.05.2023 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 05.06.2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है,

जिसे दिनांक 06.06.2023 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल

प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। नोट- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी. सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर

देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करने समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विमान" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ में "क' श्रेणी अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को

Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.onlineupsida.com पर

Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. Babrala (Sambhal)

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initiated till we get an order quashing the notification (of 2015)."

Singh, a 1995-batch (AGMUT cadre) IAS officer, will replace More.

More.

More.

Singh, a 1995-batch (AGMUT cadre) IAS officer, will replace All India Services and joint UT cadres like DANICS (Delhi, Elaborating on the Delhi

> over services such as Indian Administrative Service, or Joint Cadre services, which are relevant for the implementation of policies and vision of the Delhi Government in terms of day-to-day administration of the region, shall lie with it. Referring to the triple chain of command to ensure democratic accountability, the SC said civil servants are accountable to the Ministers and they, in turn, are accountable to Parliament or the State

Under Article 141 of the Elaborating on the Delhi Andaman & Nicobar, Constitution, there can be Government's powers, the SC Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu contempt of this court's order said in its Thursday verdict and Dadra and Nagar Haveli lowing the administrative directions of the elected Government. Delhi BJP president

Virendra Sachdeva on Friday "The

legislatures. The Arvind Kejriwal Government has been alleging

boys in... From Page 1 "It is a moment to rejoice fruits of hard work that you put (in) all year round. Best wishes for a happy and bright future. Many friends might

said that it has been shocking to see Delhi Government has rushed to the Supreme Court on the issue of transfer postings. Kejriwal Government should have realised that even the Supreme Court in its order on Thursday has told that proper administrative process be followed before making transfers," he

CBSE Controller of examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj said a comparison cannot be drawn with last year's statistics as the academic session then was split into two terms because of the Covid pandemic and this was the first full fledged academic examination after the pandemic era.

not have met (their) expecta-

tions. I appeal to them to not

lose heart. One examination

does not define a person's abil-

ity," Pradhan said in a series of

"It is a very satisfying day for us because we have declared both (10th & 12th) results...more than 22 lakh students appeared for 10th exams this year and they've performed very well. The result is more than 93 per cent pass percentage," Bhardwaj said.

The board also announced that it will conduct exams for Classes 10 and 12 for the 2023-24 academic session from February 15 next year when a section of multiple choice questions (MCQs) will be introduced for the first time as part of competition based aptitude

Over 3.08 lakh students have scored above 90 per cent in the CBSE Class 10 and Class 12 exams, while over 66,000 secured scores above 95 per cent. While the number of students who scored above 90 per cent and 95 per cent has gone down in both the classes when compared to last year. CBSE officials said it would be wrong to draw a comparison as the academic session was split into two terms last year because of the pandemic.

Inflation drop means monetary policy... From Page 1

If India grows at 6.5 per cent, it will contribute 15 per cent of the world growth in the year, Das said, stressing that this is no mean achievement.

Das also said the expenditure on research and development has to go up in both the private sector as well as public sector. We also need to continue with reforms and also ensure that we keep accessing the best of technology," Das said.

NEP will do away with kitabi gyan...

mary teacher is very important in shaping a child because, after family, it is the teacher with whom he spends the maximum time and learns from the teacher's behaviour and mannerisms. In his address, Modi highlighted that the disconnect between students and schools

dents hardly remember their school after finishing their studies. To bridge this disconnect, the PM suggested that the school management along with teachers and local residents should start celebrating the foundation day of that school every year and invite past students.

Modi said the role of a pri-

vi Demonstration from

G-12790/23

4. Tender Schedule:

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Govt schools exceed overall pass percentage in Class 12

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he Delhi Government on Friday claimed to have bettered the CBSE board results for the schools under its jurisdiction when compared to the overall national performance with Class 12 achieving a passing percentage of 91.59%, whereas the overall result for CBSE Class 12 across the country recorded 87.33%. Similarly in Class 10 results, Delhi Government Schools faired well with an impressive 85.84%result which is 4.57% higher than last year.

A total of 2,27,020 students from Delhi government schools had appeared for the 12th board exams, compared to 1,64,641 students from these schools in the previous year and 129,917 students in 2018-19. 118 schools under the Delhi government achieved a 100% result, while 647 schools had a result of over 90%

Delhi also secured the fourth and sixth positions in the CBSE Class 12 board exams at the national level.

Education Minister Atishi said the Delhi government schools have proven that they are the best across the country and this outstanding result is a testa-ment to the hard work of our teachers and students.

The result of Delhi government schools in the Class 10 board exams was recorded at 85.84%, which is 4.57% higher than the previous year. This year, a total of 2,09,130 students appeared for the CBSE Class 10 board exams, out of which 1,79,512 students passed, and 28,076 students have compartment exams.

There will be further improvement in the results after the compartment exams. In this year's results, 124 schools under the Kejriwal government achieved a 100% result in the 10th board exams, and 528 schools had results with over 90% result.

Child actor Suhani Sethi, who featured in films such as "Saand Ki Aankh" and Akshay Kumar-starrer "Cuttputli", has scored 99 in two subjects in the class 12 CBSE board exams.



Students celebrate their success after announcement of 12th class results by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), in New Delhi on Friday

Sethi, a student of humanities in Delhi Public School, RK Puram, has a passion for acting and she has also appeared in movies such as "Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas" and "Student of the Year 2", playing the younger version of Tara Sutaria's character of Mia. She has also done adver-

tisements for popular brands. Tejaswvi, a student with

learning disability since class 3 at Amity International School, Mayur Vihar secured 83.6% in Class XII CBSE while six girls of Amitasha, a girls school run by Amity for underprivileged section of society, have

scored more 92 percent.

"Last year aggregate was 90.08 percent while this year its 85.7 percent. Average has dropped because no weightage in CUET,JEE etc and students focused more on competitive exams. After two years of lockdown it was the first batch offline and students were not in practice of writing for three ours at a stretch," said Meenu Kanwar, Amity School, Mayur

The Education Minister further added that for the first time in the history of the Directorate of Education, over

Services Secy unreachable, left

2 lakh students from Delhi government schools appeared for the 12th board exams, which is more than 72% higher compared to the previous year.

It is to be noted that in the

academic year 2022-23, a total of 2,27,020 students appeared for the 12th board exams, out of which 2,07,919 students passed the exams and 11,216 students have compartment

Once again, girls outperformed boys in the results.

The result for girls in Delhi government schools was 93.22%, while for boys, it was 89.76%. Last year, 1,58,528 students from schools under the Arvind Kejriwal government passed the 12th-grade examination, while this year 2,07,919 students passed the 12th board examination. This is 49,391 more compared to last

RD Public Secondary School, Krishna Vihar and RD International School Rohini, have secured 100 percent results in class 10th and 12th this year CBSE examination. According to Congress

dents got 96 percent in class Xth CBSE examination. "Arpit of class XIIth has secured 92 percent in the CBSE, followed by Prerna Sharma 87.2 percent; Rahul Gupta 86.2 percent an Ayan Aggarwal 85 percent. In class xth, Kajal has secured 96 percent; Deeksha 88.4 percent; Lavanya 86.2 percent and Aditya Kumar 84 percent," Jai Kishan said.

In Gurugram, Girls outshine boys in the latest class 12th and 10th CBSE board examination. Lakshay Sharma, a student at the GAV International School scored 98.4% while Nikita scored 98% of the same school. Lakshay secured 99, 97 and 96 out of 100 in three subjects.

While Nikita has scored 100, 98 bad 95 out of 100 in Music, Economics and Accountancy. Rakshita Sharma a student of Presidium School scored also scored 93%.

GAV International School has said that 85% of the students who appeared for the class 10th examination scored

LG has to act on aid, advice of Council of Mins in nominating 10 MCD aldermen: SC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed the Lieutenant Governor has to act on the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers of the Delhi Government in nominating 10 aldermen to the MCD, a day after it substantially clipped the wings of the Centre's point man in running day-to-day administration of the national capital.

The top court, which was hearing a petition filed by the AAP government challenging the nominations to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), meanwhile, permitted the counsel for the office of the lieutenant governor to withdraw the earlier reply in the wake of the SC's judgement holding that the LG has to act as per the aid and

advice of the council of minis-

A five-judge Constitution bench on Thursday held that the Delhi government has legislative and executive powers over all but three services public order, police and land. "Why don't you (Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the office of the LG) advice the LG that he cannot nominate members in the MCD. He has to act as per the aid and advice of the government," the CJI said.

The bench fixed the Delhi government's plea for hearing on May 16 and permitted the LG's office to file a fresh response to the petition. Earlier, the top court had said it will hear on May 8 the plea of the Delhi government challenging the power of the lieutenant governor to nominate

members to the MCD.

In the petition filed through lawyer Shadan Farasat, the Arvind Kejriwal government has challenged the decision of the LG to nominate the members allegedly without the "aid and advice" of the council Besides seeking quashing

of the nominations, the plea has sought a direction to the LG's office to nominate members to the MCD under Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act..., "in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of

"This petition has been

filed by the elected government of the NCT of Delhi seeking inter alia quashing of orders dated..., and consequent gazette notifications ..., whereby the Lieutenant Governor has illegally appointed 10 (ten) nominated members to the MCD on his own initiative, and not on the aid and advice of the

Council of Ministers," the plea

said. It said neither the DMC

(Delhi Municipal Commission)

Act nor any other provision of law says anywhere that such nomination is to be made by the administrator in his dis-"This is the first time such a nomination has been made by the LG completely bypassing the elected government, thereby arrogating to an un-

elected office a power that belongs to the duly elected gov-

secretariat without notifying: Min **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday alleged that Services Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has instructed Services Secretary Ashish More to present a file for the transfer of a new officer to the post of Secretary of Services Department. However, More unexpectedly left the Secretariat without notifying the Minister's office, rendering himself unreachable while his

phone also remained switched

The Delhi Government claimed in a statement that More has "refused" to put up the file for appointment of a new officer (AK Singh, IAS) to replace him. "Instead of putting up the file, he left the secretariat without informing the services minister's office," the statement added. The sources said More went on casual leave on



possibly under the influence of the Central Government, the Special Secretary of the Services Department sent a communication to Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj, indicating that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification dated May 21, 2015, has not yet been set aside. Along with this, the Services Secretary has not even initiated a file for posting a new officer. It has been brought to the attention of the Services Secretary that their failure to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court would potentially be considered contempt of court.

More was removed from his post on Thursday, hours after the Supreme Court gave the AAP dispensation control over the transfer and posting of officers in the city. The sources claimed that More was still not transferred as he was ordered to be removed from his post against the established proce-

dure.

"Even as the transfer of More has not been effected, the AAP government is ready for large-scale transfers of senior officers, including many principal secretaries and heads of departments. This will happen as soon as the present case is decided by the court," a top source in the Government claimed.

Soon after the SC verdict on Thursday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said a major reshuffle of officers in the city Government would be carried out in the coming days.

Signature bridge upkeep to be handed to PWD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Tourism Department has proposed to hand over the Signature Bridge to the Public Department

Built at a cost of ₹1,518.37 crore, the Wazirabad-East Delhi connecting bridge was thrown open to commuters in November 2018.

"The tourism department will be handing over the signature bridge to PWD. The PWD maintains bridges and therefore we will be handing it over to them so that the department can ensure its upkeep. We have already made a request in March," the official said.

Talking about the propos-al, he said that even in the past they have handed over bridges to PWD and this is a "routine

procedure".

"They have deputed a team and after checking all the documents they will take over. We have already handed over the approaches to Signature Bridge eastern and western approach

to them," he said.

The cantilever spar cablestayed bridge that connects Outer Ring Road with Karawal northeast Delhi was built by the

It boasts of 127 strands of steel cables and is projected as India's first 'asymmetrical cable-

The work on the construction of its lifts and viewing gallery continued for more

Delhi faces heat spell as max temp soars to 44 degrees C MeT office has predicted sim- es above the normal. "The maximum and minimum bances, weather systems that of dense fog. The minimum temperature dropped to 15.8

ernment," it said.

to 44 degrees Celsius – the season's highest – on Friday. Head of the Indian Meteorological Department's IMD) regional weather forecasting Centre in Delhi, Kuldeep Srivastava, said this is the highest temperature of the season so far. Delhities need to brace themselves for the warmer days ahead as the

ilar conditions for Saturday. The national capital reeled The heatwave conditions are recorded the highest tempera-

> However, a duststorm and cloudy sky under the influence of a fresh western disturbance may provide some relief from Saturday evening onwards. The Safdarduni observatory -Delhi's primary weather station - observed a maximum temperature of 42.5 degrees

Celsius, which is three notch-

Moreover, Najafgarh L under sweltering heat as the expected at isolated places, he ture in the national capital at Meanwhile, Pusa, Jafarpur and Pitampura recorded 43, 43.1 and 43.1 degrees Celsius, respectively. The sky remained clear

throughout the day with the minimum temperature settling six notches below normal at 19.3 deg Celsius. The humidity oscillated between 77 per



cent and 18 per cent. The IMD has predicted a partly cloudy clear sky for Saturday with a possibility of a dust storm, towards evening and night. temperature would be around originate in the Mediterranean 43 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively," it said.

long spell of cloudy weather sporadic rainfall from April 21 to May 7, which is rare during this time of the year. May has been historically the hottest month in Delhi, with a mean maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Čelsius. Officials attribute this to the back-to-back western distur-

region and bring unseasonal rainfall to northwest India.

three to four WDs since April 21-22. Delhi has not recorded a single heatwave day during this period. This is unusual. However, we cannot link it to climate change in the absence of data. There is no definite trend," Srivastava said.

On Thursday last week, Delhi saw an unusual episode degrees Celsius, making it the third coldest morning in May weather records in 1901. In 2022, Delhi recorded its second hottest April since 1951 with a monthly average maxi-

mum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius. The city saw nine heatwave days in April last year, including four in the first 10 days, which was the maximum in the month since 2010.

stayed bridge

Hindu reconsiders suspension of 40 students for vandalising college property, financial fraud

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Hindu College is "reconsidering" its decision to suspend over 40 students with the administration "looking into" their applications on an "urgent basis", principal Anju Srivastava said on Friday.

Srivastava has alleged that the suspended students were involved in vandalising the college properties and carried out financial fraud.

The North Campus college's suspension decision drew widespread criticism from the

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

students, who staged several protests on the premises, with those served notices alleging partiality on the part of the institute.

'They (the students) have given us verbal apologies and written apologies. We will give students another chance to put forward their sides. We are open to discussion with them. I have asked the disciliplinary committee to look into each application separately on an urgent basis. The work has started. We will soon inform the students," Srivastava told

Govt OK's cleaning of 21-km-long sewer lines

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Delhi Government has approved a}}$ project aimed at cleaning 21.3 km long trunk sewer lines in various parts of the national capital, Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Friday. This project will involve the cleaning of trunk sewer lines in West Delhi, stretching from Moti Nagar to Khyala, Raja Garden Chowk to Keshopur STP, Lajwanti Garden to Keshopur STP, and Raghubir Nagar Road No. 29 to Keshopur Sewage Treatment Plant.

Approving the project, Bhardwaj directed the Delhi Jal Board to prioritise and complete this work within the specified timeframe. This proactive approach will greatly benefit the citizens and minimise the sewage-related challenges they

"Cleaning of a 5 km long trunk sewer



line from Moti Nagar to Khyala in West Delhi will benefit residents of Moti Nagar, Karampura, Basai Darapur, Raja Garden, Bali Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Mansarovar Garden, Sudarshan Park, Rajouri Garden, Punjabi Bagh, Raghubir Nagar, Vishal Enclave, Shivaji Enclave, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, Khyala, and

other areas," Bharadwaj said. The cleaning of 6.2 km long trunk sewer line from Raja Garden Chowk to Keshopur STP via Najafgarh Road, Pacific Mall, 12 Block Tilak Nagar, 80 Gaj Harijan Colony, B Block Tilak Vihar, and Krishna Nagar will resolve sewer problems for the residents of Tilak Nagar AC, Tilak Vihar, Krishna Nagar, Prithvi Park, Gurunanak Nagar, and other areas under Rajouri Garden and Tilak Nagar constituencies.

The cleaning of a 6.35 km long sewer line from Lajwanti Garden to Keshopur STP via Jail Road, Najafgarh Road, and Outer Ring Road to Keshopur STP will benefit the people residing in Janakpuri, Vikaspuri, Hari Nagar assembly constituencies, as well as Tilak Nagar assembly constituencies.

The distilling the 3.5 km long trunk sewer line from Raghubir Nagar Road No. 29 to Keshopur STP (from the right bank of Najafgarh drain) will provide relief from sewer jams to the residents of Rajouri Garden Constituency and areas such as RZ, RZC, Z Block Vishnu Udyan, Ravi Nagar Extension, C, D, E, F Block Khyala, Sant Garh (under Tilak Nagar Constituency), and others.

Woman's gangrape in hospital: BJP protests outside CM's house

Activists of the Delhi BJP's women wing staged a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in the Civil Lines area on Friday over the alleged gang rape of a woman at GB Pant Hospital in

who worked at the Delhi government-run hospital, was allegedly sexually assaulted while on duty and died during treatment on May 7.

Addressing the protesters, Bidhuri said that the incident has exposed the anti-Dalit face of the Kejriwal government. The woman was brutally assaulted and hacked to death just like Nirbhaya.

The surprising thing is that till date Chief Minister

spoken a word of sympathy in this regard. He neither has shown any sympathy by visiting to the family nor sent any of his Ministers or MLAs, to meet the family, nor has he announced any financial help to the family.

No immediate reaction was available from the AAP over the BJP's protest and allegations against its leaders.

The Delhi BJP's Mahila Morcha vice-president Priya Bhardwaj accused the Kejriwal dispensation of being "indifferent and insensitive" over the matter and demanded the government provide compensation of Rs 1 crore and a job to the kin of the victim.

On Thursday, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva met the family of the victim and provided financial assis-

Brother of gangster Tillu Tajpuriya's close aide shoots self at home

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

25-year-old man, the Abrother of notorious shootlatter was brutally murdered in Tihar prison. The deceased was identified as Mohit alias Bunty. According to police, the deceased had no criminal antecedents and worked as a

Mohit lived in a threestorey building with his parents, wife, three-year-old son and one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, they said. Police said they have not recovered any suicide note from the spot, adding that the reason that triggered him to take the extreme

After returning home with his family members on Thursday night, Mohit had a brief conversation of 3-4 minutes with them before going to his room on second floor. Soon

They rushed to him and found his body lying in a pool of blood, a senior police officer

where he was declared brought dead, he said. Police were informed about the death by the hospital authorities. Enquiry revealed that Mohit had shot himself in head, he

after that the family heard a gun shot from Mohit's room.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

the national capital. The 40-year-old woman,

Arvind Kejriwal has not even

tance of Rs 2 lakh.

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted three international extortion modules operated by multiple gangs, including those led by Lawrence Bishnoi and Kala en and extort money from. The Jathedi, and apprehended eight people, along with six firearms.

These gangs were contacting juveniles and youngsters through social media and recruiting them to extort money from people, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav



Crime Branch busts extortion modules

operated by Bishnoi, Jathedi gangs

money extorted by them was then transferred through hawala channels to the gang leaders like Lawrence Bishnoi, who operate from abroad, the Out of the eight nabbed by police, three accused, including

two juveniles, had fired outside

son who had been threatened repeatedly over the phone from unknown international numbers and told to pay Rs 2 crore, the officer said, adding the caller identified himself as gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's rother Anmol

Ashram area on April 23. In this case, their target was a per-As part of the investigation, CCTV footage was analysed, and the identity of the shoot-

ers was established. A trap was

laid at Dhaula Kuan and the

trio was apprehended, he said.

a house in the Hari Nagar

er and close aide of slain gangster Tillu Tajpuriya, committed suicide by shooting himself at his house in Delhi's Tajpur Kalan village only days after the

step is being ascertained.

He was rushed to Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital in Narela

SC NOTICE TO BENGAL, TN OVER 'KERALA STORY' BAN —

No merit in ban as no ire anywhere: SC

'If people do not like the movie, they will not watch the film

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Friday sought replies of the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu Governments on a plea of the producers of "The Kerala Story" that the movie is not being shown in theatres in these two States. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha questioned the West Bengal Government saying the film is being screened in the rest of the country without any problem and there appears to be no reason for the ban.

"Movie is running in the rest of the country including in States having similar demographic composition and nothing has happened. This has nothing to do with the artistic value of the film. If people do not like the movie, they will not watch the movie," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the West Bengal Government.

Singhvi said according to intelligence inputs, there may



be a situation of law-and- order problem and peace among different communities may be

While West Bengal has banned the movie after three days of its screening in theatres, Tamil Nadu has not banned the film but the exhibitors have withdrawn from cinema halls owing to security concerns.

The bench also asked the Tamil Nadu Government to specify measures taken to provide adequate security to theatres screening "The Kerala

other way when theatres are attacked and chairs are being burnt," the bench told advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for Tamil Nadu government,

Groups under the TTC: (i)

Working Group on Strategic

Governance and Digital

Connectivity; (ii) Working

Group on Green and Clean

Energy Technologies; and (iii)

Working Group on Trade, Investment and Resilient Value

Chains. Both sides have main-

tained continuous engagement

thereafter within the Working

Groups at various levels and

meetings of the three Working Groups have also taken place leading to the Ministerial meet-

The recently-launched TTC is expected to facilitate

exchange of critical technolo-

gies relating to an array of

puting, semiconductors and

Technologies,

ing in Brussels.

after he submitted that there is no ban on the movie.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for producers of the movie, said there is de facto ban in Tamil Nadu as theatres screening the movie are being threatened and they have dropped the screenings.

"For West Bengal, we are seeking quashing of the ban order," he said. "We are issuing notices to both the states and they may file their response by Wednesday. We will take up the matter on Thursday," the bench said. "The Kerala Story", star-Story". said. "The Kerala Story", starring Adah Sharma, was released in cinemas on May 5.

Directed by Sudipto Sen, the film claims women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS).

Block links as viral video of alleged forced conversion puts man's life in danger, HC orders media platforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed certain media houses and social media platforms, including Twitter and Google, to block the links of news reports and videos claiming that a Muslim man allegedly forced a woman to allegedly forced a woman to convert to Islam. Justice Prathiba M Singh passed the order after considering that there was a severe threat which was evident from the comments made by viewers on the news reports and videos avail-

The High Court issued notice to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), Press Council of India (PCI), News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) and Google LLC, Twitter Inc. It also issued notice to Sudarshan News chairman Suresh Chavhanke, Odisha Television Limited, Pittie Media LLP, Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Limited which is the owner of

'The Organiser, Voice of the

The High Court asked the parties to respond to the petition filed by the man, who is also facing a rape case lodged by the woman, and listed it for further hearing on May 24. Petitioner Azmat Ali Khan, who claims to be a classical music teacher, sought removal of news items and videos published and circulated on online platforms regarding the FIR lodged against him on April 19 by the woman, a Delhi resident, accusing him of forcing to convert. He submitted that the reports are in the form of fake news, threats and are severely jeopardising his life, reputation

Advocate Rajiv Bajaj, appearing for the petitioner, contended that such publication and circulation are being carried out by giving a communal angle to the entire story and it was done to incite hatred in the communities involved. The court also issued notice to the Delhi Police and directed it to place on record a status report regarding the investigation carried out in the matter.

11 Pak drones downed by BSF along Punjab border

87 incidents of UAV intrusions reported till April-end

RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has shot down 11 Pakistani drones in the Punjab sector till April 30 this year.

However, 87 incidents of drone intrusion into Indian territory were reported during the same period.

A total of 17 unmanned aerial vehicles were shot down by BSF in the Punjab sector in 2022, according to official data.

While not a single drone was shot In the Rajasthan Sector last year, one unmanned aerial vehicle was downed this year till April 30. The duration of the move-

ment of Pak drones into Indian territory has drastically decreased in the past few months, due to which BSF



troopers are facing problems in downing them, officials said.

According to official data on UAV/drone observation on western border for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023, Punjab topped the list of States with 224 drone sightings in 2022 and 87 from January to April this year.

As many as four drones were noticed in Gujarat sector in 2022 which jumped to seven in the first four months of this

year. Jammu recorded 21 drone sightings in 2022 and seven from January to April this year. Likewise, Rajasthan recorded 19 drone sightings in 2022 and 15 till April this year.

Two drones were sighted along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022 and none has been spotted so far this year.

Drone have become a major tool for gunrunning and drugs supply by the Pakistani state actors in cahoots with their terror affiliates, officials

The agencies here are also scouting for a foolproof solution to check the drone menace unleashed by the Pakistani terror syndicates backed by the Pak army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

1st India-EU Trade meeting on May 16

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¬he first Ministerial meeting I of the India - European Union(EU) Trade and Technology Council (TTC) will be held in Brussels on May 16. The meeting will be co-chaired on the Indian side by the Ministers for External Affairs S Jaishankar, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Announcing this here on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)said the TTC was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen during e latter's visit to India in Aprıl

Subsequently, both sides

India to launch its carbon Technology council credit trading scheme soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $A^{\text{fter finalising its list of}}_{\text{activities to be considered}}$ for trading of carbon credits under bilateral/ cooperative approaches in the international carbon market under the mechanism of the Paris Agreement on climate change, India is all set to launch the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme soon that will ensure a robust and credible domestic carbon

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power along with the Union Ministry of Environment are developing the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme aiming to attract more investment in India into technology and nature-based clidomains including artificial mate solutions.

develop the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) where a nation-



al framework will be established with the objective to decarbonise the Indian economy by pricing the GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emission through trading of the carbon credit certificates, said an official from the Union Power

To deliberate the issue threadbare, a one-day 'Stakeholder Consultation on Accredited Carbon Verifiers under ICM' was organised here

energy savings-based market erate carbon credits.

scheme will enhance the energy transition efforts with an increased scope that will cover the potential energy sectors.

For these sectors, the GHG emissions intensity benchmark and targets will be developed, which will be aligned with India's emissions trajectory as per climate goals, as per the

The trading of carbon credits will take place based on the performance against these sectoral trajectories. Further, it is envisaged that there will be a development of a voluntary mechanism concurrently, to encourage GHG reduction from non-obligated sectors.

The ICM will enable the creation of a competitive market that can provide incentives to climate actors to adopt lowcost options by attracting tech-Currently, India has an sustainable projects that gen-

WHO: Monkeypox no longer global

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared on Thursday the mpox, previous ly known as monkeypox outbreak, is no longer a global health emergency.
In July 2022, WHO had declared mpox, a

health emergency

public health emergency of international concern - "an extraordinary event" that constitutes a "public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease" and "to potentially require a coordinated international response.

Almost 90% of US mpox-related deaths were in Black men, and nearly all had weakened immune systems, CDC reports

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement that as per assessment by the emergency committee for mpox, I'm pleased to declare that the mpox is no longer a global health emergency.

"However, as with Covid-19, that does not mean that the work is over. Mpox continues to pose significant public health challenges that need a robust, proactive and sustainable The director-general urged countries to

maintain their testing capacity and ability to

From January 2022 through April 2023, more than 87,000 confirmed cases of mpox, including 140 deaths, were reported to WHO from 111 countries or territories. More than 30,000 cases have been reported in the United States. Globally, cases have been declining for months, especially as awareness has increased and a vaccine became more widely available.

In India, around 25 confirmed cases of Monkeypox were reported.

Tedros said there were 90% fewer cases reported over the last three months compared to the previous 90 days.

Dr. Nicola Low, co-chair of the International Health Regulations emergency committee on mpox, said that despite the number of cases falling, transmission continues to circulate.

'So, there's understandable uncertainty about the probability of a large resurgence of infection. There are also gaps in knowledge, which we acknowledge including about modes of transmission in some countries, about the effectiveness of vaccines, and continued lack of effective countermeasures, particularly in African countries where transmission and mpox cases occur regularly," she said.

SEBI may get more time to wrap up probe into manipulation of stock by Adani Group

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will consider granting three more months to the Securities and

Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to wrap up its probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani Group while rejecting suggestions that it had blamed SEBI for regulatory failure. The apex court said it was to ascertain whether there was a regulatory failure that it had appointed an expert committee whose report it

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud fixed May 15 for hearing a batch of PILs on the Adani-Hindenburg row as also an application by SEBI seeking extension of time to complete the probe into alleged stock price manipulation by the Adani group.

There has to be some sense of responsibility... You must be conscious of the fact that whatever allegations you make, it affects the stability and volatility of the stock market," Justice Chandrachud said, reacting angrily to submissions made by a petitioner's lawyer about regulatory failure on part of SEBI.

The bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, however, decided not to give much leeway to SEBI, which sought six months to conclude the probe, saying it has to show some alacrity and complete it within three months.

During the hearing, a lawyer appearing for petitioner Jaya Thakur referred to a March 2 regulatory failure on the part of SEBI and it cannot be granted extension in view of the fact that it was probing a matter related to shell companies registered in Mauritius since 2016 without

"How can you make such a submission? Sorry, don't just stand up and start making allegations like this. There has to be some sense of responsibility. We have constituted a committee and it has remit whether there was any regulatory failure. It will be unfair for you, particularly without looking at the report of the committee to say that we have said that there was regulatory failure. We never said that.

"We have asked the committee to verify whether there was any regulatory failure. We will see what the committee has to say on this. You must be conscious of the fact that whatever allegations you make, it affects the stability and volatility of the stock market. There has to be some sense of responsibility," the court said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, who represented petitioner Anamika Jaiswal, said SEBI should tell the court what it has done so far in its investigation on the complaint about the shell companies registered in Mauritius since 2016.

Labrador tea leaves kill drug-resistant malaria parasite: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Unal plant, Labrador tea — closely related plant of the genus Rhododendron — can kill the drug-resistant parasite responsible for malaria, as per a study published in the journal ACS Omega. These are small, evergreen shrubs with fuzzy leaves that are steeped to make herbal teas commonly

ompounds in the leaves of a traditional medici-

the researchers said. Past studies have shown that essential oils extracted from the plants have antimicrobial properties, which could help fight antibiotic-resistant

used by the indigenous regions in the US and Canada,

Researchers from the University of Laval, Canada and colleagues wanted to characterise the makeup of Dwarf Labrador tea, or Rhododendron subarcticum,



for the first time and test its antiparasitic activity. The team gathered R. Subarcticum leaves from Nunavik, a region in northern Quebec, Canada. The researchers extracted the essential oil from the leaves and analysed it with gas chromatography, mass spectrometry and flame ionisation detection, to iden-

tify 53 compounds. They found that 64.7 per cent of the oil was com-

posed of ascaridole, followed by p-cymene at 21.1 per cent. This combination of compounds has not previously been reported in closely related North American Labrador tea varieties, though it has been found in subspecies originating in Europe and Asia, according to the researchers.

The team exposed two strains of Plasmodium falciparum, a malaria-causing parasite, to the oil or to just ascaridole. In the experiment, one of the strains was resistant to known antimalarial drugs.

The study found that ascaridole was primarily the component that acted against both strains of the parasite, which is consistent with other, antiparasitic traditional medicines also rich in the compound.

The finding bolsters the importance of investigating and protecting plants used in traditional medicines, especially those from harsher climates impacted by climate change, the researchers added.

Excess QACs in disinfectant solutions: Scientists warn against needless use

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

microbes, they said.

Scientists have flagged increased usage of anti-microbial quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) in disinfectant solutions, wipes, hand sanitizers, sprays and foggers besides personal care products, textiles, paints, medical instruments and

One of the most common QACs is benzalkonium chloride, but others can be identified on ingredient labels with names that end in "ammonium chloride" or similar. Most QACs are not regulated at all, nor are they comprehensively screened for health hazards, more than two-dozen scientists, including Northwestern University's Erica Hartmann have issued a warning about the overuse of antimicrobial chemicals.

They noted that disclosure and regulation of QACs varies widely. For example, pesticide labels are required to list QACs, but paint labels are not.

The scientists have recommended eliminating uses of these QACs that are either unnecessary or where their effec-



Disinfection with QACs, for example, often has no benefit over cleaning with plain soap and water. Other recommendations include requiring full disclosure of QACs in all products and closely monitoring their levels in people and the environment.

The Covid-19 pandemic boosted the unnecessary use of these products, many of which are linked to health problems, antimicrobial resistance and environmental harm. In a new critical review, the scientists specifically cite the use of qua-

ternary ammonium compounds (QACs) which are increasingly marketed and used in home, health care, educational and workplace settings — despite the availability of safer alternatives, including plain soap and water. The review was published May 9 in the

journal Environmental Science & Technology. "It's ironic that the chemicals we're

deploying in vain for one health crisis are actually fueling another," said Hartmann, a co-author and associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering. "Antimicrobial resistance was already contributing to millions of deaths per year before the pandemic. Overzealous disinfection, especially with products containing QACs, threaten to make it worse."

"Drastically reducing many uses of QACs won't spread Covid-19," said Carol Kwiatkowski, a co-author and scientist at the Green Science Policy Institute. "In fact, it will make our homes, classrooms, offices and other shared spaces healthier."

CCPA orders e-com platforms to delist car seat-belt alarm stopper ads, sale

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed five major e-commerce platforms — Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho, Snapdeal and Shopclues to delist all car seat belt alarm stopper clips and stop their sale. These car seat belt alarm stopper clips violate Consumer Protection Act and compromise the lives of car passengers as they stop the alarm beep when not wearing seat belts. As a result, 13,118 car seat belt alarm stopper clips have been removed from the five ecommerce platforms. While Amazon has delisted 8,095 such clips, Flipkart has delisted 4,000-5,000, Meesho 21 and Snapdeal and Shopclues one each.

The CCPA headed by its chief commissioner, Nidhi Khare had issued the orders after carrying out investigations to "permanently' delist all car seat belt alarm stopper clips and associated motor vehicle components which compromise the safety of passengers and the public. The issue of the sale of car seat belt alarm stopper clips came to the notice of CCPA by



the consumer affairs ministry after the road transport ministry flagged this issue. The ministry's letter highlighted the issue of blatant sale of car seat belt alarm stopper clips and requested for action on errant vendors and online platforms and to an advisory CCPA passed orders against the five

e-commerce players for violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, it said. CCPA said it took cognizance of the issue of the sale of car seat belt alarm stopper clips and "found that said clips were being blatantly sold on several e-commerce platforms in an easy-to-access manner resulting in direct violation of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and pose a high risk to the valuable life of the con-

As per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, wearing seat belts is mandatory for all passengers in cars. However, online sale of such items that compromise passengers' safety by stopping the alarm beep when not wearing seat belts can be unsafe and dangerous to the life and safety of consumers.

MoRTH said the rule 138 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 makes it mandatory to wear seat belts. However, online sales of such items that compromise passengers' safety by stopping the alarm beep when not wearing seat belts can be unsafe and dangerous to the life and safety of consumers. The action taken in the present cases assumes significance given that as per the latest report published by MoRTH, more than 16,000 persons were killed in road accidents in 2021 due to not wearing seat belts, of which 8,438 were drivers and the remaining 7,959 were pas-

It was also found during the proceedings that some sellers were selling the clips under the garb of bottle openers or cigarette lighter, etc, it added.

Uddhav pushes for early polls in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Reiterating his demand for the resignations of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis over the Supreme Court's verdict in the Shiv Sena crisis case, Maharashtra's former chief minister and Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday rooted for early Assembly elections in the State.
A day after the Supreme

Court passed strictures against former Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for his questionable role in the Shiv Sena crisis witnessed last year, Uddhav also demanded that the post of the Governor be either scrapped or non-partisan people be appointed to protect the dignity of the Constitutional office.

Uddhav said that the current chief minister and his deputy had no moral right to continue in their posts. "(After the rebellion in the Serna), I resigned as the chief minister on moral grounds. I am satisfied with what I did then. After the Supreme Court's verdict, Shinde and Fadnavis have no moral right to continue in their posts. Now it's time for all of us to seek fresh elections in the state. Let's go to the court of the people. Let them give their ruling. We will accept whatever they decide," he said.

Talking to media persons here, Uddhav said that the apex court's verdict had



exposed the ugly face of the ruling BJP which had come to power with the Hindutva

"After the Supreme court's verdict, the image of Maharashtra has taken a severe dent. Chief Minister Shinde and deputy chief minister Fadnavis should immediately resign. We are all for holding of early Assembly elections in Maharashtra," Uddhav said.

Coming down heavily for the questionable role played by Koshyari leading to the dismissal of his government, Uddhav said: "The office of Governor should either be scrapped forthwith or a new

system is evolved to appoint non-political and non-partisan people in the post of Governor to protect the interests of the Constitutional office".

The role played by Koshyari as the Governor was disgusting. The apex court has exposed his role thoroughly. The apex court has also gone against the Governor of Delhi," said Thackeray.

Maintaining that the trend of "activists of political parties or organisations like the RSS who are named as Governors" was lowering the dignity of this important post", the Sena (UBT) president said: "They (Governors) take the oath of

Deepak Chand and others also

paid rich tributes to their loved

Saproo, while paying tributes to PM package and Reserved cat-

egory employees targeted by the terrorists said, "we expect

the UT administration to hold

ees and understand their pain

isolation before resolving their

grievances". He said ever since

we have joined our duties after

getting recruited we are deal-

ing with the security situation

stand surroundings and take

on ground zero. "We under-

necessary precautions to ensure our safety".

Cyclone Mocha:

people to safety

PTI KOLKATA

said on Friday.

Bengal Govt shifts

West Bengal government has taken precautionary

measures to combat possible

devastation by Cyclone Mocha

A senior teacher Rubon Ji

ones on the occasion.

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut on Friday asked the bureaucrats and police in the state not to implement the orders of the Eknath Shinde- Devendra Fadnavis government which had been declared as "illegal and unconstitutional" by the Supreme Court.

Talking to media persons, Raut said: "This 'illegal' government can not continue beyond three months. We are waiting for the decision of the Speaker on the disqualification of 16 MLAs. On its part, the apex court has declared this government as unconstitutional. Even the remaining 24 rebel Sena MLAs will be disqualified now".

Don't follow illegal

Govt's orders, Raut

tells babus, police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

"All the decisions taken and orders passed by the Shinde-Fadnavis government have been rendered illegal after the Supreme Court's verdict. I call upon the officials and police in the state not to follow any orders of this 'unconstitutional' regime, or it could spell consequences even for them later," Raut

Raj Cong leaders talk ways to tackle Pilot's challenge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Top Congress leaders of Rajasthan on Friday held discussions to chalk out a strategy to tackle the challenge thrown by their senior leader Sachin Pilot, who has launched a foot march against corruption by the previous BJP Government in the State and has accused Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of going soft of the erstwhile Vasundhara Raje Government. Rajasthan in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said Pilot's 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' is a "personal" one and the party "is keeping an eye on" it.

Randhawa said further discussion on all issues would be held when Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge returns from Karnataka after the results. He made the remarks after a meeting with state unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra and co-in-charges Qazi Muhammad Nizamuddin, Amrita Dhawan and Virendra Rathore, among others, at the party's Gurdwara

issues and preparations for the assembly polls this year were discussed. "I met the three secretaries attached to me and the

Rakab Ganj Road office where

Pilot's march, organisational

Pradesh Congress Committee chief here. This was our first meeting together as we were busy with the elections in Karnataka and the Jalandhar bypoll. The strengthening of the organisation and appointments for the frontal organisations in the state were discussed," Randhawa told reporters after the meeting.

Asked about Pilot's yatra, he said, "It his personal yatra, he is taking out the yatra on his own, we are keeping an eye on that and when Kharge ji comes back from Karnataka, all issues would be discussed." Pressed further and asked if action would be taken against Pilot, Randhawa said, "I have said in one line (that) we are keeping an eye on it. I will convey my views to the Congress president." Pilot has launched a 125-

kilometre 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' from Ajmer to Jaipur to raise the issue of corruption during the previous BJP

regime led by Vasundhara Raje and cases of paper leaks in government recruitment exams. He has said his march is not against anyone but over issues of corruption. Pilot claimed that he has been writing to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for a year and a half for action on corruption but nothing has been forthcoming. The five-day yatra mounts pressure on the Congress leadership ahead of the Rajasthan assembly elections slated for later this year with the party also facing anti-incumbency, apart infighting in the state unit. Pilot and Gehlot have been engaged in a power tussle since the Congress formed government in the state in 2018. In 2020, Pilot led a failed revolt against the Gehlot government after which he was removed from the posts of party state unit chief and deputy chief minis-

PM package staff resume work but still feel insecure

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Even after resuming their Eduties in different parts of Kashmir Valley at the end of about 300-day protest in Jammu, a large number of PM package employees continue to feel insecure in the wake of prevailing security situation. At present some of them have been camping in Jammu as they have been advised to stay in a safe environment in the run up to the G-20 group meeting.

A year ago on May 12, 2022, one of the PM package employee Rahul Bhat was killed in cold blood inside his office in Chadoora tehsil of the central Kashmir district of Budgam. Fearing for their lives around 4000 employees returned to Jammu and launched an agitation seeking relocation to safer areas outside

On Friday, these employees assembled together to mark the first death anniversary of Rahul Bhat and also paid rich tributes to Rajni Bala, Deepak Chand, Supinder Kaur and Vijay Kumar also killed by terrorists while they were discharging their duties inside

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

f you are spending most time in the ambience filled

with fumes emitted from

cooking meat on barbecues,

wood burning stoves and

tobacco, then you have a high

chance of getting rheumatoid

arthritis — a chronic autoimmune disease where the

immune system mistakenly

attacks the cells lining the

from a team of researchers

after they found that people

surrounded with the highest levels of chemicals called poly-

cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

also given off by cigarette

smoke and gas cookers — had

the highest risk of the inflam-

matory disease. It is due to the

release of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) dur-

ety of toxicants, including

PAHs, PHTHTEs (chemicals

used in manufacturing plastics

and consumer products), and

volatile organic compounds (VOCs) derived from paints,

cleaning agents, and pesticides. They included nearly

22,000 adults, 1,418 of whom

had rheumatoid arthritis,

while the remaining 20,569

did not. The team gathered

blood and urine samples to

The team studied a vari-

ing the procedure.

This warning has come

NEW DELHI

Grilled meat fumes may

arthritis, warn researchers

lead to rheumatoid



Echoing the similar sentiments of these PM package employees, J & k BJP Chief Ravinder Raina, who also attended the 'Shradhanjali Samaroh' along with several other community elders and representatives of different parties advised them to stay safe. exclusive talks with the employ-"Though several security mea-UT administration to ensure your safety, we still worry for your safety and security all the time. "Humey har waqt aap sab ki chinta rahti hai", Raina said while paying homage to Rahul

Emotionally charged Bitta Ji Bhat, father of Rahul Bhat,

measure the total amount of

PAH, PHTHTEs, and VOCs

in the body, as per the

research reported in BMJ

environmental pollutants,

form during the burning of

coal, oil, gas, and wood, as well as during the flame

grilling of meat and other

7,090 participants had PAH in

their system, 7,024 had PHTHTEs, and 7,129 had

VOCs. Regardless of their

smoking status, the highest

risk of developing rheumatoid

arthritis were found among people with the top 25 per

cent of bodily PAH levels. In

particular, people with the PAH 1-hydroxynaphthalene

in their body were 80 per cent

more likely to have rheuma-

However, people with high levels of PHTHTEs and

VOCs did not show an

increased risk of rheumatoid

toid arthritis.

They discovered that

These particles, which are

Kerala Christians want Centre to crack whip on 'love jehad'

jehad reality: CASA official

office as Governor to safe-

guard and protect the

Constitution, but they violate

their own oaths, as has been

now established by the apex

court rulings both the cases of

Maharashtra and Delhi yester-

While urging the current Speaker Rahul Narvekar to

take immediate decision on his

party's seeking disqualification

of 16 rebel Sena MLAs, includ-

ing the current chief minister

Eknath Shiude, Uddhav said

that if the Narvekar, who

belongs to the BJP, took an ille-

gal decision, his party would challenge the chair's ruling in

the Supreme Court.

Despite reports about Christians in north and north eastern States of India coming under attack by various Hindu zealots, their brethren in Kerala by and large are for a united front with the BJP and the RSS against terrorism and 'Love Jehad'. Kevin Peter, general secretary of Christians Alliance for Social Action (CASA) said in a statement on Friday that the situation in Kerala has become fearsome some extremist elements who kidnap Christian and Hindu girls for forcible conversion and dump them after some

"The case of Haadiya (previous name Akhila) is enough proof of Love Jihad after waging a legal battle that went upto Supreme Court,

movie 'The Kerala Story' was an attempt by the CPI(M) and the Congress to appease the Islamic community, their main vote bank.

"We all know that Love Jihad is a reality. When the Bishop of Pala Joseph Kallarangatt warned the laity about the danger posed by narcotics jihad, the Kerala Government filed a FIR against the Bishop under

backdrop of certain realities like the spurt in the number of girls admitted to the deaddiction centers run by the Church in the State," said

He said the boat tragedy at Malappuram that claimed 22 lives was yet another fall out of the appeasement politics. "The boat that was deployed for joy ride had no fitness certificate and it had outlived its utility. A fishing boat made of fiber was put into service without any mandatory safety measures. The owner happens to be the close associate of the minister. The case is likely to be hushed up after some time," said Kevin Peter.

He said the Christian community in the State is being denied the benefits of Muslim community has usurped all benefits. This is discrimination of the highest order, said the CASA statement embellished with strong words. The stance of CASA is not a one-off incident as more and more Christian priests are joining the chorus cautioning the community members. The 2010 incident of the Popular Front of India chopping the hand of Prof T J Joseph is still fresh in their memory.

'There should not be any more Josephs in our community. We have a number of issues and it is for the Centre and State administrations to resolve them," said the CASA statement. It said banning the movie was like shutting down one's own eyes and blaming the darkness around.

The CASA statement is further proof of the futility of the efforts by the leaders of Congress and the CPI-M holding meetings with spiritual leaders of the Church after last month's visit of Prime Minister Modi to Kochi and the capital city.

Love, narcotics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

threw her out after two years. Now she is under the control of Sathya Sarani, an Islamic organisation specialising in religious conversion," said Kevin Peter. The CASA general secretary said that the ban on the

Bishop's warning was in the

and has shifted residents of low lying and coastal areas of the charges of creating communal state to safe shelters, an official hatred in the society. The

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

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

Sr. No.		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
	Pratap Singh/ Vimla Choudhary LBJAI00001135566	Plot No. E-170, Scheme Balaji Vihar- 6, Ext- 1st, Near Benar Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur- 302001/ May 10, 2023	December 29, 2022 Rs. 6,29,380/-	Jaipur/ Delhi

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

Date: May 12, 2023 Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Franch Giller, 10005 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained

Sr. No.	ce they are hereby notified by way of this publi Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/	Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta- nding as on	NPA Date
4	Number) & Address	Asset to be Enforced	nding as on Date of Notice	00/4/
1.	Preeti Khanna, Deepak Khanna, 747 1st Floor, School Appartment Arun, Vihar Sec- 28 Noida Arun Vihar, Sec-28, Uttar Pradesh, Noida- 201301. A/C:- LBDEL00002362672/ LBNOD00005309629/ LBNOD00004620624/ LBNOD00002361776.	Unit No.306, 3rd Floor, Tower 12 A, Lotus Panache, Situated At Plot No Gh 05 Sector 110 Noida- 201301	16/03/2023 Rs.9,73,398/- Rs.10,50, 048.05/- Rs.9,45,364/-	202
2.	Abhishek Vaish, Puneeta Vaish, Flat 11/C, B 12 Dhawalgiri Appartment Sec 34 Noida, Noida- 201301, A/c:- LBGHZ00002363986	Flat No.304, 3rd Floor Tower-3, Block- C, Plot No. GH-16F, Unibera Towers, Sector-1, Greater Noida-201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 22,03,262/-	03/0 202
3.	Devender Shahi, Ruchi Mahajan, Flat No.10D, Pocket J and K Dilshad Garden, Delhi- 110095. A/c:- LBNOD00001942563	Flat No.703, Dwarka 4, 7th Floor, Gulmohar, Garden PH 2, NH 58, Raj Nagar Ext.ghaziabad- 201010	18/03/2023 Rs. 15,53,163/-	09/0 202
4.	Dilip Kumar Patel, Radha Patel, 85 1st Floor Near Mcd Hospital, Ambedkar Nagar, Madangir Villar Bedi, New Delhi, Delhi, 110062. A/c:- LBDEL00004105521	Plot No. Ce-322, Block C Ansal Golf Links-I Builder' Area Situated at Plot No. P-8, Gautam Buddha Nagar Greater Noida-201301	18/03/2023 Rs. 46,33,928/-	02/0 202
5.	Mukesh Kumar, Suman Kumari, G-504 Block-G, Sangam Vihar, Hamdard Nagar, South Delhi- 110062, Delhi- 110062. A/C:- LBDEL00004976018	Shop No. O-605, 6th Floor, Wing-b at "Gaur City", Gaur City Centre, Plot No. Gh-01, Sector 4, Noida- 201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 21,15,941/-	30/1 202
6.	Naveen Bothra, Sandhya Bothra, Flat No.71 Building No.1655, Rd- 2120 Block- 321, Block- 321, Manama, 973. A/C:- LBDEL00003042580	Flat No.401, 4th Floor, Sun World Arista, Tower-9, Plot No. Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida- 201301	18/03/2023 Rs. 76,46,320/-	30/0 202
	Satyendra Kumar, Shikha Verma, A-10 2nd Floor Sector-12 Near Motherdairy Sector-11 Noida, Noida, 201301. A/C:-LBNOD00002027751	Flat No- E 1606 15th Floor, Tower- E, Jm Florence, Plot No. Dv-gh-09 C, Sector-techzone-iv, Noida- 201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 26,02,505/-	09/0 202
	Seema Saxena, Yatish Saxena, C 1/63 Gold Crofts Dwarka, Plot 04 Sector-11 Delhi, Delhi- 110075. A/C:- LBGUR00002123290	Flat No. Minor-H/ A/ 1202, 12th Floor, Tower H, "Beethovens 8", Sec-107, Dwarka Expressway, Gurgaon- 122001	18/03/2023 Rs. 30,56,014/-	09/0 202
9.	Sharik Khan, Haris Khan, Rana Khan, Premium Marketing Services, Llc P O Box 941, Sharjah- 20248. A/C:- LBNOD00002355234	Flat No.18178, 18th Floor, Marvella Situated at "Mahagun My Woods" Plot No Gh-04 Sector- 16 C, Noida- 201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 45,16,193/-	30/0 202
	Sukhvinder Kaur, Manjeet Singh, B 35 Vishnu Garden Newdelhi, Delhi- 110018. A/C:- LBNOD00004232257	Plot No.331, 3rd Floor With Roof, Property Bearing No-Wz-93, Chand Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi- 110018	18/03/2023 Rs. 33,16,561/-	03/0 202
11.	Tanu, Narendra Kumar, Tanu., Angel Murcury Apartment Flat No. B 1603, Mall Road Ahinsa Khand 2 Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, 201014. A/c:- LBNOD00005176382	Flat No-A-1711, 17th Floor Without Roof Rights Tower-A "Kw Srishti" at Kh. No.1125/1, 1125/2, 1125/3, at Village Noor Nagar, " Raj Nagar Extension, Nh-58, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad- 201001	18/03/2023 Rs. 21,97,600/-	03/0 202
12.	Tarif Khan, Mohd Ahmed Khan, Finance Dubai Silicon Oasis, It Plaza 810 Sharjah Dubai, Dubai- 10079. A/C:- LBNOD00002380736	Flat No.10173, 10th Floor of The Building Marvella Named as "Mahagun Mywoods" Plot No. GH 04, Sector 16C, Noida- 201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 35,84,564/-	30/0 202
100	Vandana Sinha, Kamlesh Kaur Sinha, Rz C 11 A Street No. 0 22 Sadh Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, Near Million Studio, New Delhi, Delhi- 110045. A/c:- LBDEL00003217779	House No. Rz F-1/49, On Plot No- 49 In Gali No.1-A, 1st Floor Mahavir Enclave, Delhi- 110068	18/03/2023 Rs. 34,05,158/-	03/0 202
7.07. (912.070.07	Deepak Goyal, Kriti Goyal, S-86, Durga Mandir Marg School Block, Shakarpur Delhi, Delhi- 110092. A/c:- LBDEL00003769496	Flat No.08242, 24th Floor, Building No.8, Proposed Name as "Ats Allure" Situated at Plot No. P7/ Ts-2A, Sec-22D, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201307	18/03/2023 Rs. 38,68,502/-	30/0 202
	Manish Kumar, Harish Kumar, Rekha Rani, BB -27 D, East Shalimar Bagh, East Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Delhi- 110088. A/c:- LBDEL00005123296/ LBDEL00005332921	Dda Lig Flat No.27 D, Third Floor Block BB, Type-E, Shalimar Bagh East, Delhi- 110088	21-03-2023 Rs. 24,82,050.2/- Rs.4,32,653.6/-	09/0 202
	Manoj Kumar, Anshul Sharma, Flat No. B607, Tower- B Ajnara Homes, Sector 16- B, Sector 16-B, Noida- 201301. A/c:- LBGHZ00004861411/ LBGHZ00005341948	Unit No. B 607, Tower B 7th Floor, "ajanra Homes", Plot No. Gh 03 Sector 16 B, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida- 201307	21/03/2023 Rs.16,09,221/- Rs.1,81,762/-	03/0 202
	Sumit Kumar Rana, Ramesh Singh Rana, E-53 Ali Vihar Sarita Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi- 110076. Alc:- LBNOD00003993841/ LBNOD00004656829 LBNOD00004903059	Plot No. G-17, Kensington Park Plot, Phase-1 Situated In Sec- 133, Jeypee Greens Wish Town, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida- 201301	21/03/2023 Rs.42,78,983/- Rs.25,51,118/-	
	Usha Goel, Atul Kumar Goyal, House No.1334, Daultabad Ward No.19, Sector 16, Faridabad- 121002. A/c:- LBFDB00002409994/ LBDEL00002974123	H No- 1334, Ground Floor, Without Roof Rights, Sec-16, Urban Estate, Faridabad Faridabad- 121001	21/03/2023 Rs.86,19,163/- Rs.5,27,012/-	03/0 202
	Sanjay Kumar, Rupam Sinha, 336/13A First Floor Shiv Mandir, Nyay Khand-3 Amrapali Vill, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201014. A/C:- LBGHZ00005528318/ LBGHZ00005595410	Flat No. Sf 3, Plot No. Nk -2/279, Second Floor, Hig, Back Side, Rhs With Roof Rights Situated Atniti Khand 2, Indirapuram Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201001	21/03/2023 Rs.7,84,735/- Rs.4,62,146/-	03/0 202
	Rita Mehta, Kumud Mehta, Gulshan Mehta, 45d 3rd Floor, Sarswati Garden, Delhi- 110015. A/c:- LBDEL00003408974 LBDEL00003869957	Plot No-16, Block A, Village Basai Dararpur, Saraswati Garden, Delhi Delhi- 110015	08/04/2023 Rs.84,68,075/- Rs.45,56,737/-	03/1 202
21.	Kamaljeet Kaur, Balbir Singh, C-92, Khasra No.16/19 Village, Colony Uday Bihar Nilothi Extn, Delhi- 110041. A/c:- LBLUD00004690198/ LBDEL00004981261.	House Bearing Corporation No. B- 31-1716/B/P-22-B, Khasra No. 505, 507, Khata No.470/505, 472/507, Jamabandi Year 2007- 2008, Hadbasat No.172, Village Taraf Saidan, Abadi Ajeet Nagar, Tibba Road, Tehsil & District	23-03-2023 Rs.15,25,819/- Rs.2,30,893/-	03/0 202

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : May 12, 2023 Place : Delhi/NCR

www.dailypioneer.com

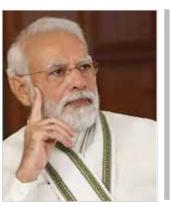
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Narrative, not numbers

Opposition leaders need more than a patchy arithmetic and Mandal 2.0 to face the Modi juggernaut

■ n the run-up to every general election, the spectre of a third front haunts the political arena; this time it's no different. Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) boss K Chandrashekar Rao is arguably the most enthusiastic supporter of a third front. Along with a quest for a third front, search is also on for the holy grail called 'Opposition unity.' Given the electoral strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party, a number of leaders are striving to cobble together an alliance strong enough to take on the ruling party, at the helm of whose election machine are Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is among those who are trying to bring anti-BJP leaders and parties together. On Wednesday, he met his Odisha counterpart, Naveen Patnaik, leading to the speculation of the satraps coming together. The next day, he met former Maharashtra chief



minister Uddhav Thackeray who was elated that the Supreme Court found fault with former Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's action last year. Kumar and Thackeray talked about restoring democracy in the country, but the former also had a setback the same day: Patnaik announced that his Biju Janata Dal would not join a third front to challenge the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "There is no possibility of a third front as far as I am concerned," he reportedly said after meeting Modi in Delhi. Then, Patnaik added, "Not now." This looks like 'maybe." But, they say, when a politician says 'yes,' he means 'maybe'; when he says 'maybe,' he means 'no'; and when he says 'no,' he is no politician. Political pun-

dits may indulge in pedantry over Patnaik's statement, but he doesn't seem very keen on uniting the Opposition and challenging the BJP at the Centre. He seems content in his own State.

Kumar also met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar; he even proposed that the senior Maratha leader be made the face of the Opposition alliance. The pleasantries apart, there is little that binds various Opposition parties. Pawar, for instance, is not very keen on the Congress' strategy of focusing on the Adani-Hindenburg issue; he has also made it very clear to everyone about that. In essence, the endeavour towards Opposition unity remains an exercise in arithmetic. The Modi phenomenon, however, is not just about arithmetic, though numbers are also on the side of the ruling dispensation; it is principally about a narrative that the saffron party and its sister organisations have been able to build. None of the Opposition leaders striving to forge unity have a viable, alternative narrative to offer to the electorate. In terms of magnitude, they are still struggling to bring big egos and petty interests of parties together; in terms of narrative, the likes of Kumar have nothing but Mandal 2.0 to offer. They need more than that to face the Modi juggernaut.



hool children visit the Kaman Post in Uri Sector of Baramulla district, Kashmir, as it opens for tourists

The universalism of Gandhi and Tagore



Despite their differences on many issues, both recognised that preserving different cultures, traditions and beliefs were crucial for a vibrant society

Hail the new,

Let the sacred hour of birth approaches once more

May you appear in glory, unveiled from the mist as does the sun.

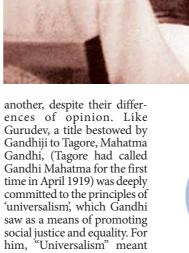
...From this twenty-fifth day of

or the last 161 years now, Tagore lovers all over the world have been invoking every 'Pochishe Boishakh (25th day of the month of Baisakh)', his birthday, with "He Nutan, Dekha Dik Arbar...". The song, specially created for the occasion, was written and composed by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore himself. While May 7 is Tagore's official birth date, May 9, 2023, will be celebrated as the 162nd birthday of Gurudev Tagore as it is the 25th day of the month of Baisakh.

Welcoming the new dawn, the song, set in the morning raga Bhairavi, prays for the auspicious moment of birth to return, like the sun rises every day displacing all morning haze and mist. He Nutan... celebrates Gurudev's love for life. Written at a time during World War II, when the world was witnessing a dance of death, the song gives the message of a strong hope that human life won't wither away. The date when he wrote the song was May 6, 1941. Two days later, his birthday was celebrated with much fanfare. Exactly three months later on August 7, 1941, the Bard of Bengal breathed his last.

The poem presents the universal values that encompass Tagore's persona which is reflected in his poems, essays, stories, letters and lectures. For Tagore, "Universalism" was not merely an abstract idea, but a practical approach to social, cultural, and political issues. Tagore was a poet, writer, and philosopher, whose work emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and dialogue in building a more inclusive and equitable world. His advocacy for universalism was deeply rooted in his vision of a ee and democratic india.

This was perhaps one of the many reasons that brought Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi close to one



Moreover, both recognized that different cultures, traditions, and beliefs were an essential part of human experience and that preserving these differences was crucial for maintaining a healthy and vibrant society, which could find common ground to build bridges between different com-

recognizing the dignity and

worth of every human being,

and working to create a soci-

ety that was inclusive, compas-

sionate, and respectful of diver-

The relevance of Gandhi and Tagore's philosophy of 'universalism' is evident in today's world, where divisions and conflicts are all too common. The principles of respect, tolerance, compassion and empathy that underpin universalism can help to build bridges between different com munities, promoting understanding and cooperation. American philosopher Martha Nussbaum has argued that



'UNIVERSALISM' CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN THE **GROWING**

THE PRINCIPLES

IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL ISSUES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, WHICH HAVE AN EFFECT ON **PEOPLE**

"Universalism is an antidote to the politics of fear and exclusion that are so prevalent today." In her book "The Cosmopolitanism Reader," she points out that "The global interdependence of our world makes it increasingly necessary for us to recognize the importance of our shared humanity and to build institutions and practices that reflect that recognition." Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen also points out that "The world is much more connected now than ever before, and the only way forward is to understand and respect each other's cultures

and traditions." The principles of 'universalism' can also be seen in the growing importance of global issues such as climate change, poverty, and inequality, which have an effect on people, regardless of their nationality, race, or religion, and require collective action and cooperation to address this effectively, further emphasizing, the shared responsibility that all individuals have to bear for the health and wellbeing of the planet.

Tagore and Gandhi's philosophy of "universalism' has influenced leaders around the world. Nelson Mandela, for example, was inspired by Gandhi's ideas of nonviolent resistance, which he applied in his own struggle against

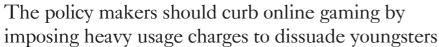
apartheid in South Africa. Similarly, the Dalai Lama has spoken about the importance of Tagore's philosophy of universalism, emphasizing the need for a compassionate and inclusive approach to global issues. Similarly, the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber saw Tagore's ideas as a way to bridge the divide between East and West and to create a more inclusive and interconnected world. International organizations such as the United Nations, which is based on the principles of respect for human rights, equality, and social justice have upheld this principle of 'universalism' and even through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that provide a blueprint for building a more equitable and

sustainable world. In a world that is increasingly interconnected and facing global challenges, the principles of 'universalism' can provide a basis for building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all which can be found in the vision of Gurudev Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, where focus on respect, empathy, and compassion, rejecting violence and intolerance has been given prime importance. It is time we add it to our DNA.

(The writer is a programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

THE EDITOR

Digital disruptions affecting the young ones



remain worried about my younger son. He is 12 Lyears old and studying in 7th standard, addicted to online gaming. Though we set a timer on the tablet to monitor the usage he always exceeded the time limit. When my wife and I interrupt his gaming session or his broadband goes down, he responds with anger or rageincluding shouting, screaming, or physical attacks, then this is something worth noting. A strong sense of urgency to get back to gaming remains there and it's become difficult to pull him away. Many times, he skips his regular meals and relies on junk food and even resists taking toilet breaks. Compulsive play can manifest in playing past switch-off times, late at night, or secretively making it harder to get to sleep. The inappropriate violent or hateful content regularly in online gaming can take its toll on children's well-being and growth and

'Kahani Ghar-Ghar KI'. Three years back before Covid-19, my son was doing well in outdoor activities. He did skating for a few months was a single black and white India' can spare its coming

can lead to desensitization. I

think this trauma is now a



and then switched over to cricket but as covid surged he had been forced to leave the outdoor activities. During Covid to continue their online mode of studies we bought a tablet for him. Unfortunately, he comes across inappropriate manners in exams also and begins to copy what his elder brother has done online.

Many times simultaneously he uses two or more screens concurrently while in bed. I am talking about a mobile phone, a games console or a tablet maybe with a TV playing in the background but even so. Using a smartphone while watching TV or playing online games is becoming normal for him.

The intention defines destiny. Seeing all this technology-led transformation in the surroundings, we recall our childhood days when there

TV screen to watch 'Chitrhaar' on every Wednesday, and a movie on Sunday evening kept the families waiting for the whole week. In the last two decades as the technology buzz created, we all have to pay much more for it. The gully (streets) games like Gullidanda, Pakram-Pakrai (Hide and Seek)Staapu, Kho-kho, Kanche(small coloured glass balls), and many more traditional games which were good for physical and mental nealth, are nowhere around.

However, every addiction is bad and best understood as a symptom rather than a problem. I tried a lot to reduce my son's online gaming by restricting access to devices, which probably won't solve the problem permanently. To overcome gaming addiction and how to cope with it in healthier ways, it's an important step for any child to acknowledge the consequences of harmful online gaming including cyberbullying, and how it is vulnerable to mental health like drug addiction causes isolation-affected relationships

and education. Does 'New

generation to be captured by the dopamine addiction to online gaming? How many productive hours do youths have and how are they spending these days? Are they spending their time in outdoor sports activities to improve their physical and mental fitness or are they spending on online games?

A lasting recovery from gaming disorder comes through awareness at the school level itself and emotional resilience at home. A child needs to know how to recognize and handle emotional distress, anxiety, depression and overall loss of generation when they crave gameplay. The most significant way out is - That policymakers should come forward to curb dopamine-soaked online gaming through a policy imposing heavy usage charges linked to the time spent on gaming, which would force them automatically to get logged out in a few

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with NSDC, and a Network Member of IISC, *View expressed are personal)*

BANGA NEW WORLD BANK CHIEF Sir — One Happy & one Sad news for

India. Indian-origin financial wizard Ajay Banga has been elected as the new President of the World Bank (Head Office: Washington: USA: North America). Hearty congrats to him. Sad and shocking that Indian woman Aishwarya Thatikonda was one of the nine dead in the Texas (USA) shooting incident. May God give enough energy and courage to her family to bear the agony.

We request the US government to immediately ban all pistol and gun licences for civilians. Take back those weapons already allotted. Increase security personnel in public places as a balancing act. One solution is to have separate classrooms (at least benches) for girls- students and boys- students. Also separate cabins/rooms for Male employees and female employees (as the White House, USA Govt. had suggested earlier). Can that help? Worth trying.

God's grace is always full of happy development, peace, prosperity and progress. It is human acts that are dev-

PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

POLITICAL UNREST IN KERALA

Sir — In the wake of political unrest in the state of Kerala after the release of Kerala Story, now a lady doctor is killed in a bizarre incident in front of onlookers, which include the police and a home guard. A police detainee fatally stabbed a woman doctor, Vandana Das, at the Kottarakkara government taluk hospital in Kollam district and the daylight murder caused concern. The attack occurred at 4 a.m. Ms Das succumbed to her injuries at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram later. Kerala Government Medical Officers Association (KGMOA) State president for a Statewide protest against the government's alleged failure to give workplace protection to health profes-

Turmoil in Pakistan for Imran khan," the Pakistan Supreme Court



s per a report the Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday said the anti-graft agency's arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan was illegal and ordered his immediate release. "What happened was not justice

observed. PTI chief Imran Khan was arrested on Tuesday by Pakistani Rangers from outside the Islamabad High Court. He was arrested in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust Case. An arrest warrant against him was issued by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Rawalpindi on May 1. Following his arrest, supporters of Imran Khan stormed the Pakistan Army headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and the Corps Commander's residence in Lahore. Violence erupted in several cities in Pakistan. On Thursday, a three-member bench of Pakistan's Supreme Court, comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah, ordered the country's anti-corruption watchdog to bring the former prime minister as it heard his plea against his dramatic arrest in a graft case. Thereafter the Pakistan SC ruled the arrest of Imran Khan as illegal.

Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

sionals. The incident kicked off a political row over Health Minister Veena George's statement before the media that the victim was a house surgeon and therefore, inexperienced and got scared when the attack occurred adding salt to the wound. It is a matter of shame to function in such a shape when the health worker suffered such a fatal fate. CK Dorairamani Suresh | Calicut

KARNATAKA EXIT POLLS

Sir — As the results of the Karnataka election exit poll start coming in, it is clear that the race between the major parties is neck and neck. The results have shown a close contest between the BJP and the Congress, with the possibility of a hung assembly. This is not surprising, as both parties have been aggressively campaigning for the past few weeks. However, what is concern-

ing is the amount of money and resources that have been poured into these campaigns. The sheer amount of money being spent on political advertising and rallies is staggering, and it raises questions about the role of money in our democracy. It is important to remember that the voters have placed their trust in these politicians, and they have a responsibility towards the people who elected them. While it is still too early to predict the outcome, the exit poll results suggest that there is no clear winner. I hope that whoever forms the government in Karnataka, prioritizes the welfare of the people and works towards making the state a better place for everyone.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

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FIRST COLUMN

RISING POPULARITY OF ELDER CARE HOMES

Technology is making elder home services more efficient and responsive



TARUN SHARMA

s the whole world is aging, India is no exception. According to the United Nations Population Division, the number of elderly persons aged 60 years or over in India is expected to increase from 133 million in 2021 to approximately 300 million by 2051 – to put that into perspective, that is slightly lesser than the entire population of The United States at the moment. This fast-approaching demographic shift has increased the demand for elder care services in India. Many individuals, especially those living abroad, turn to care-at-home service providers to support their loved ones with any required assistance.

In the past, joint families had been a traditional way of life in the country, where all elders were revered and respected. However, the trend of nuclear families, and the brain drain that started in the 1980s, when individuals moved abroad to explore better career and personal opportunities, has changed modern family dynamics. The traditional family structure, where parents and grandparents were cared for at home by family caregivers, is no longer sustainable for many families. With children living in different cities or countries, the elderly are often left alone and vulnerable.

While this has led to a clear-cut need for elder care services, many of these individuals are often opposed to shifting their elders into assisted living facilities or nursing homes due to their prohibitive, high-cost nature. There is also often a strong sense of abandonment, loneliness, and resentment associated with this transition. On the other hand, homebased care is a more affordable, flexible, and comfortable alternative that families use. Another advantage of home-based elder care is that they allow seniors to age in place, surrounded by a familiar environment and companions. This can be particularly important for these seniors with some cognitive impairments who may become confused or disoriented in new spaces. Home-based care can also be customised to meet the specific needs of each individual, thus providing a level of support and care that is difficult to achieve in institutionalised settings.



Some companies, like Yodda, use this philosophy coupled with stateof-the-art technologies to provide reliable, efficient, and easy-to-use services to elders. There are many ways in which Yodda is leveraging technology effectively for premium service delivery. In the growing technological world where everything from groceries to banking is conducted online, it can be overwhelming for most seniors to complete their routine tasks easily. However, failure to use the available infrastructure can make simple tasks challenging to fulfil and navigate. Now they are being trained to do just that. Members request routine assistance by simply tapping a button on their app, and for emergencies, they keep that button pressed and held for 3 seconds.

Furthermore, integrations have also been done with numerous lines of smartwatches, including the Apple Watch, which allows elders to seek help no matter where they are. In addition, AI/ML technologies also have great potential to improve elder care. For example, intelligent cameras and motion sensors can be used to detect falls, bleeding, and other accidents, alerting family members, caregivers, and organizations in realtime. Al-powered speech recognition tools can help seniors with cognitive or speech impairments communicate more effectively and analyse speech changes and other behaviours that may indicate health concerns.

Lastly, the rise of telemedicine and health record digitisation after the COVID-19 pandemic are essential technologies that support elder care, particularly in unstructured healthcare systems like those found in India. Telemedicine allows remote consultations, enabling disabled seniors to access healthcare providers without leaving their homes. Health record digitisation improves coordination between all parties involved in a particular service by ensuring that all relevant medical information is available to providers, regardless of anyone's location. This technology can help reduce medical errors and improve patient outcomes.

(The writer is the founder and CEO of Yodda Elder Care)

Govt flip-flop over banning pesticides



The Union Government has reversed its earlier decision on 27 pesticides, which were banned in May 2020



he manufacturing, import, sale, distribution and use of pesticides are regulated under the Insecticides Act (1968) with a view to preventing risk to human beings or animals and for matters connected therewith. The Registration Committee (RC) - set up under the Act - registers every pesticide after scrutinising the formula, verifying claims of effi-cacy and safety to human beings and animals and specifying the precautions against poisoning and any other functions. It is empowered to refuse registration of any pesticide if issues pertaining to safety have not been satisfactorily adhered to.

From time to time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) — the nodal Ministry for the regulation of pesticides — orders a review of the registered pesticides with particular reference to the risk these pose to human beings, animals and the environment. Based on examination by a committee of experts, it arrives at an appropriate decision on "whether to allow their continued usage (with additional precautions, pronibit their use completely

In July 2013, the MoA&FW set up an expert committee under Anupam Verma to study the continued use or otherwise of a total of 66 pesticides, which are banned in two or more other countries, but continue to be registered for use in India. The committee submitted its report in November 2015.

In December 2015, the Government accepted the report and based on its recommendations, ordered a review of 27 pesticides (including 12 insecticides, eight fungicides and seven herbicides, comprising almost 130 formulations) to be completed by 2018. Till the completion of recommended studies and the review, it allowed continued usage of the 27 pesti-

In December 2016, it issued a draft ban order on 27 pesticides seeking public feedback. During 2017-18, it constituted two more committees to look at public feedback on the draft order. Meanwhile, in December 2019, the RC set up anoth-



THE SC MAY HAVE PUT A **BRAKE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S** DIFFERENT STROKES NOW. BUT, EVERY BIT OF DELAY IN TAKING THESE PESTICIDES OFF FARMERS' FIELDS **WOULD MEAN** CONTINUED DAMAGE TO **HUMAN AND** ANIMAL HEALTH AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**

(The Writer is a Policy

to review the proposed ban on 27pesticides. In May 2020, the RC accepted the recommendations of this sub-committee and sent it to the MoA&FW for taking a final

In a gazette notification issued on May 14, 2020, the MoA&FW issued a draft order intended to ban the manufacture, usage and storage of these 27 pesticides and sought comments or suggestions from stakeholders over 45 days. The notification said: "Sixty-six

insecticides, which are banned or restricted or withdrawn in other countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India, were reviewed by an expert committee set up by the MoA&FW. The Ministry considered recommendations of this committee and recognised that use of 27 insecticides is likely to involve risk to human beings and animals as to render it expedient or necessary to take immediate action". It also mentioned the names of the pes ticides proposed to be banned.
At the same time, the ministry

also set up another panel under the chairmanship of TP Rajendran, former assistant director general of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), and a well-known expert in the field. Based on the recommendations of this panel, on February 15, 2023, the Union Government came out with a Draft notification seeking to lift the ban on 24 out of the 27 pesticides which were banned as per its earlier order.

The February 15, 2023 order was challenged by Civil society groups in the Supreme Court (SC) which will take up the matter after the summer vacation. Meanwhile, the Centre has submitted an affidavit saying this was "merely a proposal and has not attained finality". A spate of committees to deliberate on a given subject matter by itself looks weird. Apart, a number of anomalies can be seen in the manner it was handled. First, as per the decision on the

Anupam Verma committee report taken in December 2015, the government needed to wait for the 'completion of recommended studies and the review' by 2018. Only thereafter, it could decide what to do with the 27 pesticides. Then, how come it issued a draft ban order before that i.e. in December 2016? It was seeking public comments and set up committees (albeit two) to examine those comments on something it couldn't have made up its mind as the study reports weren't available.

Second, instead of taking the Anupam Verma committee report to its logical end, in December 2019, another sub-committee was set up (this time by the RC) and based on its recommendation, the government issued a draft order on May 14, 2020, banning all the 27 pesticides. If, the intention was to go by the latter then why did it spend so much time and energy on

Third, the government had no intention of even staying with this decision as alongside it set up another committee (read: TP Rajendran). Based on its recommendations, on February 15, 2023, it has come up with another draft notification that reverses its May 14, 2020. ALAS! even this is not

Going by what it has stated in the affidavit submitted to the SC it is just a proposal on which feedback from all stakeholders concerned has been taken; that is "to be reviewed by the central government in consultation with the RC, considering all aspects related to technical and scientific requirements, substitutes available, farmer's interest, safety of the pesticides, toxicity and efficacy concerns, updated status of required study and submission of data in compliance to recommendations of the various expert committees, etc.", and a final decision will be taken accordingly.

Pesticides are hazardous substances with the potential of damaging impact on human health and the environment. If, following a review based on scientific studies, it is concluded that any pesticide is harmful then the government must not delay a decision on its withdrawal. The RC sub-committee had indeed found some of the above pesticides have severe health effects viz. hormonal changes, neuro-toxic effects, reproductive and developmental health effects, carcinogenic effects as well as environmental impacts such as toxicity for bees.

For others, adequate data needed for regulatory purposes are not available. There are 17 pesticides in this category also referred to as "deemed to be registered pesticides" in the country. These were in use before the Insecticides Act (1968) came into force. The concerned companies were required to generate the required data to convincingly demonstrate their safety and efficacy to the regulator. But, that hasn't been done to date. Thus, there was a strong case for banning all 27 pesticides. This is precisely what May 14, 2020, did.

The volte-face now to let 24 remain in use (the decision to ban the other three pesticides is inconsequential as the manufacturers are no longer making them) is untenable. Dr Rajendran's argument that "all chemicals and pesticides including the toothpaste we use is harmful for human health. What matters is the dosage, the formulation composition and the way humans have been asked to use the product" is generic; it can't be a credible basis for arriving at the decision.

The caste-based discrimination continues unabated

The hidden nature of caste atrocities indicates that the problem is more pervasive and deeply rooted than official records may suggest!

aste-based discrimination is a persistent problem deeply ingrained in Indian society. Addressing this complex issue requires a collective effort from various stakeholders, including the government, communities, and educational institutions. However, a significant challenge arises when individuals in positions of authority within these entities themselves believe in the caste system and engage in discriminatory prac-

Multiple reports highlight the prevalent issue of caste discrimination in rural schools where generations of students have been subjected to such discrimination, even during activities like the mid-day meal program. Take the case of the government school locat-



(The writer is a student of

class 10 from Pothing village

in Bageshwar in Uttarakhand. Charkha

Features)

ed in Charson village in Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand. The principal of this school is accused by the locals of discriminating against students based on their caste. Recently, the principal faced allegations of severely beating an 11-year-old child belonging to the scheduled caste.

Manju Devi, the mother of the child, recounted her repeated visits to the school, where she pleaded with the principal to refrain from physically abusing her child and making derogatory comments about their caste. Despite her efforts, her child returned home on several occasions, sharing stories of being physically assaulted and humiliated due to their caste. "The government school in our village is the only viable option for my

child's education, as we lack the means to afford private schooling. The prevalence of such discrimination within government institutions directly impacts the quality of edu-cation my child will receive," Manju expressed. Her child was beaten up so

much that she was forced to go to the police station and file a complaint against the principal. Following Manju's complaint, parents of many other children also came forward and lodged complaints against the discrimination faced by their children. Although the principal has refuted all the allegations, the gravity of the situation called for an administration-level investigation into the matter. Currently, the accused has been removed from her position of principal

by the higher authorities. Besides educational intuitions, the community has a bigger role in promoting this age-old discriminatory practice. 20 km away from Charson, lies Lamchula, a remote village, where caste discrimination is even more deeply rooted. The settlement of the entire village is divided based on upper and lower caste communities. Different sources of water have been reserved for both the lower and upper castes. Moreover, the right to worship has been taken away from the people belonging to lower castes, as they are not allowed to enter temples in the village. "During the fair held in our village during Janmashtami, Dalits are not allowed to enter inside the

the right to worship. When offering is being distributed outside the temple, two lines are formed based on our caste," informed Dolly (name changed), a teenager from the village. Padam Ram, the village head, strongly condemns the discriminatory treatment of individuals from lower castes, particularly concerning their freedom to worship as they please. He expressed his dismay over the upper caste households maintaining sep-arate utensils exclusively for visitors from lower castes. Padam Ram also highlighted the troubling prevalence of caste-based favouritism in political dynamics, emphasising the need to address caste politics and foster a more inclusive society. Regardless of temple. They don't even have education, caste takes prece-reveals a notable escalation in

dence over everything else, revealing that society still grap-ples with deep-rooted casteism. Not only do Indian villages suffer from such discrimination, but even renowned institutions in metropolitan cities are making headlines for this very reason. A recent tragic incident at IIT Bombay, where a young boy from the Dalit community took his own life due to the unbearable humiliation he faced based on his caste, vividly illustrates the extreme and severe nature of this practice. In the period spanning from 2019 to 2021, India has witnessed a distressing 11 per cent surge in atrocities against Dalits. Recent data sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

recorded cases, with numbers escalating from 45,961 incidents in 2019 to 50,900 incidents in 2021. Notably, the state of Uttarakhand alone has experienced a staggering 35% increase in crimes targeting the Schedule Caste and Tribe communities over the past three years.

These cases represent only a fraction of the numerous caste-based atrocities occurring within society. It is important to acknowledge that many incidents go unreported, allowing the insidious roots of caste discrimination to further entrench themselves. The hidden nature of these atrocities highlights a concerning trend, indicating that the problem is more pervasive and deeply rooted than official records

'Pakistan SC favouring Imran Khan'

Ruling coalition to hold protest outside top court

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan government's leading coalition partner on Friday announced plans to hold a sit-in before the Supreme Court on Monday to register its protest against the alleged judicial favouritism towards the ousted prime minister Imran The announcement was

made by the chief of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman before the media following a meeting of leaders whose parties are part of the group headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"Today we have decided that there will be a protest against the Supreme Court's behaviour. I while representing PDM leadership and appeal to the whole nation that the whole nation should head out for Islamabad on Monday. A big protest will be carried out in

Delay in IMF deal should not be linked to default: Dar

Minister Ishaq Dar has expressed optimism that Pakistan would not default on its external repayments despite facing an acute balance of payments crisis with no sign of receiving the IMF bailout anytime soon, a media report said on Friday. Speaking at a session on the country's economic challenges during an event titled 'Islamabad Security Dialogue-2023' on Thursday, Dar reiterated that "Pakistan has fulfilled all the IMF conditions [for the

front of the Supreme Court," Rehman said.

In a major relief for the chief of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaaf (PTI) party, the Supreme Court on Thursday declared Khan's dramatic arrest "unlawful" and "invalid" and ordered his immediate release revival of its loan programme]", The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "The government took steps to meet those conditions. It has ensured its external repayments till December," Dar was quoted as saying.

The statement came after the IMF said that Pakistan needs significant additional financing for the successful completion of the long-stalled ninth review bailout package, the report said.

Commenting on a recent report by a global credit rating

Tuesday outside the Islamabad

High Court (IHC) and an

accountability court on

Wednesday handed him over to

the National Accountability

Bureau (NAB) for eight days

bench on its orders.

after he was produced before a remand in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case. Khan, 70, was arrested on

report said.

On Friday, Rehman lashed out at the Supreme Court's decision to declare Khan's arrest as invalid, saying that the top judiciary was showing partiality towards him.

agency that Pakistan might

default on its external repay-

ments, the finance minister

said if the IMF sought more time to reach a staff-level agree-

ment with the country, it could

He said that Pakistan had arranged funds to pay off its external repayments to the tune of USD 3.2 billion in May and

June on time and that the

friendly countries would soon

fulfill their pledges to finance

the crisis-struck country, the

proceed ahead with it.

"The court should behave

mother-in-law," he said.

The "mother-in-law" jibe referred to a recent audio clip of the mother-in-law of Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial who is heard expressing her anxiety over Khan not getting relief from the courts.

He also said that "hooliganism and terrorism" were being carried out in the whole country and the "court is protecting that terrorism".

"The Army chief's head-quarters is attacked, the corps commander's house is attacked .. the way state defence institutions are being disrespected, is the court for their security [or not]?" he asked. He also criticised the IHC for granting protective bail to Khan in several cases on Friday. "You can yourself imagine

where our judiciary is standing and how it is giving decisions against the law and the Constitution," he said. The Maulana, who is also chief of his Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) party, warned that his workers would react if attacked by any group or person.

3,000 apprehended during clashes in Punjab province

Police in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday claimed to have arrested 3,000 people, including women, during the violent clashes between the supporters of Imran Khan and security agencies after the former prime minister's arrest earlier this week.

The law and order situation in Punjab province was under control on Friday after Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was granted protective bail in a corruption The PTI chief was arrested

from the premises of the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday in the Al-Qadir Trust case after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) issued an arrest warrant against

Inspector General Police, Punjab, Dr Usman Anwar, told reporters that 3,000 people were arrested across Punjab, majorly from the provincial capital Lahore, during the violent clash-



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, center, is escorted by security official as he arrive to appear in a court, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Friday.

es since Tuesday.

He said the miscreants torched and damaged over 80 vehicles of the law enforcement agencies besides damaging 14 state buildings/installations in the province. Over 150 police personnel were also injured, Anwar said, adding those arrested would be tried under terrorism charges.

As the law enforcement agencies put the death toll at 10, the opposition PTI party claimed that 40 of its workers were killed in the clashes. "At least 40 workers of the PTI have been killed and over

100 injured during the clashes across Pakistan," PTI leader and former federal minister Murad Saaed said in a video message.

Police on Friday also arrested several PTI leaders, including former ministers Dr Shireen Mazari, Dr Yasmin Rashid, Khusro Bakhtiar and Ijaz Chaudhry. Law enforcement agencies had already arrested Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry, Asad Umar, Qasim Suri, Ali Muhammad Khan and Maleeka Bokhari, the party's

Thailand's election may be a mandate for change

Voters disaffected by nine years of plodding rule by a coup-making army general are expected to deliver a strong mandate for change in Thailand's general election Sunday. But a predicted victory by the allies of Thaksin Shinawatra, whose ouster by coup 17 years ago plunged the country into prolonged instability, has caused concern for an unhindered democratic transi-

Dissatisfaction with the incumbent prime minister running for reelection, Prayuth Chan-ocha, is high, due in part to a slumping economy and his government's mismanaged response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But weariness and even anger at the military's habitual interference in politics is a major factor. Thailand has had more than a dozen coups since becoming a constitutional monarchy in 1932, the last one in 2014 carried out by Prayuth when he was army commander. Prayuth's governments slapped down democratic reforms and prosecuted



campaign rally in Bangkok, Thailand on Friday.

"The main factor could be that people are no longer willing to tolerate the authoritarian government that has been in power for over nine years, and there is a significant wish for change among the people." said Pinkaew Laungaramsri, a professor of anthropology at

Chiang Mai University.

Seventy political parties are contesting the 500 seats up for grabs in the House of Representatives: 400 are directly elected, with 100 chosen via a form of proportional representation. Opposition parties endorsing reforms to rein in the army are running strides ahead in opinion polls. But pitching policies that threaten the status quo alarms the ruling conservative establishment.

It has repeatedly shown itself capable of bringing down popularly elected governments it didn't like, through rulings in the royalist courts and army

Prayuth represents one pole of the country's politics, centred around royalists and the military

Thaksin, the billionaire populist ousted in the 2006 coup, represents the other.

Indian-owned companies

Loperating in the UK have hit

a record high of 954 this year,

registering a significant

increase over the previous

year, according to the 'India Meets Britain Tracker 2023'.

The 2023 analysis, released

here on Thursday evening,

found the combined turnover

of Indian-owned companies in

Britain has more than doubled

- from 19 billion pounds in

2014 to 50.5 billion pounds in

"We all agree that now we are on the cusp of something

sensational and as a British

government minister, I want to

be a part of that," said Lord

Dominic Johnson, UK

Minister for Investment in the

Department for Business and

Japan, S Korea eye visit by experts as N-plant prepares water release

Friday in Seoul and online, and the Japanese government was expected to give updates on the status of the tsunamiwrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

release the water, saying it's an unavoidable step for the decommissioning process.

plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say the release will begin between spring and summer and take decades to

Indian-owned firms register

"I want these two free

democracies - India and the

UK - who believe in the val-

ues of liberty and human

endeavour to come together to

truly, by our common partner-

ship, create a stronger set of

annually by professional ser-

vices firm Grant Thornton

and the Confederation of

Indian Industry (CII) to analyse the contribution of

Indian businesses to the UK

economy, marks its 10th edi-

tion this year. "Nobody seems

to know that Indian companies

are here in such numbers... I

think we can do better with

this. There is an opportunity

for us to find verticals in

which we can connect the two

economies for joint opportu-

The Tracker, released

economies as one," he said.

strong growth in UK

Daiichi plant's cooling sys-

Water used to cool the of the reactor buildings and is collected, treated and stored in about 1,000 tanks that now cover much of the

The government and TEPCO say the tanks must be removed to make room to build facilities for the plant's decommissioning and to minimize the risk of leaks in case of another major disaster. The tanks are expected to reach their capacity of 1.37 million tons in spring 2024. Japanese Prime Minister

Fumio Kishida, during his May 7-8 visit to Seoul for a summit with South Korean receive a team of experts at the plant later in May to address South Korea's concerns in a show of his desire to further improve

'Humanitarian deal is a first step toward ceasefire in Sudan' clashes in the western Darfur

UN envoy for Sudan on Friday welcomed a deal between the country's warring generals promising safe passage to civilians fleeing the conflict in the East African nation and protection for humanitarian operations. The envoy, Volker Perthes, said the agreement was an important first step toward a cease-fire to the fighting which is about to enter its fourth week.

The Sudanese military and the country's paramilitary, the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, signed a pact late on Thursday vowing to alleviate humanitarian suffering across the country, although a truce remains elusive. Both sides also agreed to refrain from attacks likely to harm civilians.

The most important element is that both sides commit to continue talks," Perthes said during an online UN news conference from his office in Port Sudan. International efforts to turn the deal into a cease-fire have already started. he added. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the agreement, which outlines a series of



"facilitate humanitarian action in order to meet the needs of

The deal signing-ceremony, brokered by the United Sates and Saudi Árabia, was aired by Saudi state media in the early hours Friday morning.

It does not provide any detail on how the agreed-on humanitarian promises would be upheld by troops on the ground. Previously, both sides agreed to several short ceasefires, since the fighting broke out on 15 April, but all have been violated. The violence in Sudan has so far killed over 600 people, including civilians, according to the World Health Organization. The fighting has since turned the capital Khartoum into an urban battle-

Around 200,000 people have fled the country, said UNHCR spokeswoman Olga

Sarrado, who was also present at Friday's news conference. The US State Department said, late Thursday, talks in Jeddah will now focus on

arranging "an effective ceasefire of up to approximately 10 The UN and several rights groups have accused both sides

the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo — of numerous human rights violations. The army has been accused

of indiscriminately bombing civilian areas, while the RSF have been condemned for widespread looting, abusing residents, and turning civilian homes into operational bases. Both continue to level blame at each other for the violations.

Perthes, who has received death threats and calls to resign, said he is committed to staying in Port Sudan and overseeing the humanitarian effort taking place in the coastal city.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

, Suman Laul D/o Jagan Nath Vasudeva, R/o J-185, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi- 110027 have lost on 12/06/2019 my Ultratech Cement Folio No. 81167061, Certificate No. 00219527, name of

holder, Lekh Raj Laul no. of Share 20, Distinctive No. 132169958 - 132169977 Finder please contact above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my clients Shri Ram Sarup Malhotra and his wife Shrimati Rani Malhotra both Resident of W-30C, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi -110027 have severed all their relations with their only son Shri Ravi Malhotra and his wife Romie Malhotra (nee Raminder Bawa alias Dimple) both resident of 306, Lvory Court II, Essel Towers, M.G.Road, Gurugram, Haryana due to their violent and abusive behaviour, indifferent attitude and constant threats causing severe mental stresses, embarrassment leading to deterioration of their health and unhappiness in their lives embarrassment leading to deterioration of their health and unhappiness in their lives specially both being Senior Citizens. Both my above-named clients do hereby disown and debar their son and his wife from all their moveable and immoveable properties and severe all relationships with them. Public is informed anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risks and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds or dealings done by Ravi and Romie Malhotra.

DEEPAK KOCHHAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mortgage of Freehold Residential Apartment No. F-304, 3rd Floor, Tower-F, Parkview City 2, Secor-49, Gurugram, Haryana. (Herein after referred as the "said property"). Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Neeraj Tandon & Ms. Neelema Tandon are stated to be the owners of the said property by with the of Conveyance Deed dated.

by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 18.07.2011. The original Allotment letter & Apartment Buyer agreement has been stated to be lost/misplaced. Now the said Mr. Neeraj Tandon & Ms. Neelema Tandon intends to sell the said property to my client. The client is availing the financial facility to purchase the above referred property and against the security of above referred property. If any person including banks, financial institutions or any other person, relative, organization, company, firm or government authority, etc. having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the above-referred property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD/Speed Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 7 (days) days of publication of this notice, failing which the same shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. In the event of no response being received to this notice, the purchase/ mortgage of this property shall be completed by my client without any reference to and without in any manner being affected by any such right title, interest or claim

Mayank Mehandru Y-11/A Naveen Shahdara, Delhi 110032 Email: mayank@manuvidhishala.in Ph.: 9891949124

I, Suman Laul D/o Jagan Nath Vasudeva R/o J - 185, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110027 have lost on 01/10/2019 Grasim Industries Limited Folio No. 417183 Name of holder

Lekh Raj Laul, Certificate No. 3094180 number of shares 175, Distinctive No. 444750621 - 444750795. Finder please contact above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE To whom it May concern

arak Hospital, C-7, Jai Bharat **Enclave, Dwarka More,** Opp. Metro Pillar No. 789, New Delhi-110059

Have decided as per rule to destroyed all medical records lie between 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2018 Concern Person can contact at reception with in 15 days.

Tarak Hospital Medical Director PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my client Surjeet Kaur wife Late. Shri Joginder Singh resident Gali Mohan Lal Jain Wali Gali, Ward no. 06, Raniya, District Sirsa, Haryana. has wned his Son Gurdarshan Singh and his daughter Paramjit Kaur from all his movable/ immovable properties and severed all elations both legal & social due to their disrespectful behavior and anti-social acts. Any person dealing with Gurdarshan Singh and Paramjit Kaur shall be doing so at his/her own risk, and my client shall not be responsible Sanjeev Dwivedi (Advocate) Tis Hazari Courts, ND-54

United Textiles Limited Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana) CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 30th May, 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/ Year Ended 31st March, 2023.

Financial Results for the Quarter/ Year Ended 31st March, 2023. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.03.2023 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com.

For United Textiles Limite (Vivek Aggarwal) Whole Time Director (DIN 07079208)

tems, causing three reactors to melt and release large Officials from Japan and South Korea are discussing a visit by South amounts of radiation. three damaged reactor cores, Korean experts to the Fukushima nuclear plant which remain highly radioacbefore it begins the controtive, leaks into the basements

versial release of treated but radioactive water into the sea. The safety of the water is a major sticking point as the two sides work to improve long-strained ties. Discussions were held

Officials are preparing to

The government and the

A massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 destroyed the Fukushima relations.

President Yoon Suk Yeol, announced that Japan will

nities in which Indian busi-

nesses come here to leverage

opportunities and take fin-

ished products back into the

Indian economy," said Indian

High Commissioner to the

UK companies to leverage

opportunities on offer in small-

er Indian cities and rural areas

with a "considerable upsurge in

demand". With the ninth

round of negotiations on an India-UK free trade agree-

ment (FTA) now complete, the

latest research found that the

number of Indian-owned com-

panies operating in the UK

remained at its highest level

over the past 12 months

despite businesses and

economies worldwide still feel-

ing the impact of the

Doraiswami also called on

UK Vikram Doraiswami.

Mitsotakis hopes for better relations with Turkiye

field, triggering deadly ethnic

AP ■ VOLVOS (GREECE)

Greece's prime minister says the will extend "a hand of friendship" to the winner of upcoming elections in the country's neighbour and longtime regional rival Turkiye but adds that he hopes the next government will "reconsider its approach toward the West."

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, himself facing an election in just over a week, said he is willing to speak to whomever emerges victorious from Sunday's polls in Turkiye.

"But I'm not naive," he told The Associated Press in a wide-ranging interview while on the campaign trail in central Greece on Thursday evening. "I know that foreign policies of countries don't change from

one day to the next." Turkiye's increasingly

authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has led his country as prime minister and president since 2003, faces his most challenging election. Amid a faltering economy, Erdogan has lost some ground to his main rival, the secular, center-left Kemal Kilicdaroglu. Although not to the same

level as with Greece, a fellow NATO member, Turkiye's relations with the United States and several European countries have seen strain. Turkiye is blocking Sweden's request to join NATO, pressing the country to crack down on Kurdish militants and other groups that Turkiye regards as terrorist threats. "I would hope that the next Turkish government

would overall reconsider its approach towards the West, not ust towards Greece, towards Europe, towards NATO, and towards the United States," Mitsotakis said. "But again, I have to be a realist and not be too naive, and that is why we will continue with ... our firm foreign policy. That means we will continue to strengthen our deterrence capabilities and

our defence capabilities."
Greece and Turkiye have been at odds for decades over issues including their maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean. But bilateral relations in recent years plummeted to new lows that saw the two countries' warships shadowing each other and Turkish officials suggesting they could invade Greek islands.

race, is a former academician

and expert on Russia and the

Caucasus region. His candida-

cy is backed by small right-

wing parties, including the anti-migration Victory Party

which seeks the repatriation of

Syrian refugees. Ogan himself

has said in a television inter-

view that if elected, he would

consider sending Syrians back

"by force if necessary."

A look at Turkiye's presidential poll candidates

AP ANKARA

Turkiye is heading toward ■ presidential and parliamentary elections on Sunday.

President Recep Tayyip, who has dominated Turkish politics over the past two decades, has never appeared more vulnerable to an opposition challenge. The president has tight-

ened his grip on power and steered the country toward increasingly authoritarian

But Erdogan is trailing behind Kemal Kilicdaroglu — the joint candidate of a united opposition that has vowed to restore democracy according to opinion polls. The elections are being

held amid a crippling eco-

nomic downturn and high

strophic earthquake in February.

If none of the candidates win more than 50 per cent of the votes in the presidential election on Sunday, a runoff election between the two candidates with the highest votes will be held on May 28. Here's a look at the candi-

dates seeking election in the

inflation as well as a catapresidential race: **RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN**

ERDOGAN

The 69-year-old strongman politician, who has been in office for the past two decades as prime minister and president having easily won five elections, is seeking a third consecutive presidential term. Sunday's elections, however, are his toughest elec-



KEMAL KILICDAROGLU

The 74-year-old politician has led Turkiye's centreleft and pro-secular main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, since 2010. The soft-mannered former bureaucrat has managed to unite Turkiye's fragmented and diverse opposition. It



seeks to unseat Erdogan and return Turkiye to a "strong parliamentary system" with strong checks by scrapping the presidential system that the Turkish leader introduced by referendum in 2017.

The 55-year-old national-

ist politician, considered an

outsider in the presidential

SINAN OGAN

Party, dropped out of the race on Thursday, hours after a respected polling organisation showed a significant drop in his popularity. Ince will still feature on the ballot paper, and the votes that he received in the overseas balloting that ended this week will still be counted.

MUHARREM INCE The 58-year-old leader of the centre-left, Homeland

Ukraine says it has retaken territory near Bakhmut

Ukrainian military commanders said on Friday that their troops had recaptured more territory from Russian forces at the scene of the war's longest and bloodiest battle, for the eastern city of Bakhmut, but it wasn't clear if this marked the start of Kyiv's long-expected counteroffensive. Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said Kyiv had stepped up attacks north of the region.

The 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) of territory retaken by Ukrainian forces south of Bakhmut this week represented a significant gain and will protect an important supply chain, according to commanders of Ukraine's 3rd Separate Assault Brigade, a special forces unit that led the

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he met with the top military

China to send envoy to Ukraine, Russia

Beijing (AP): China is sending a special envoy to Ukraine and Russia starting next week in an effort to help reach a political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, its Foreign Ministry said Friday. Li Hui, who is China's special representative for Eurasian affairs and a former ambassador to Moscow, will also visit Poland, France and Germany, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. China says it remains neutral over Russia's war in Ukraine but has declared it has a "no limits" relationship with Moscow and blames the US and NATO for provoking the

commanders Friday, noting that he heard a report from Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi

conflict. Beijing has put for-ward a peace plan for Ukraine that has been largely dismissed by the country's supporters, who say a resolution can only come when Russia ceases its attacks and withdraws its troops from Ukrainian territory. Ĉhinese leader Xi Jinping spoke by phone with Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelenskyy last month, setting the stage for the diplomatic push.

"The visit of the Chinese representative to relevant countries expresses China's commitment to promoting peace and negotiations," Wang said at a daily briefing Friday.

whose forces "stopped the enemy and even pushed him back in some directions."

In a statement on Telegram on Friday, Deputy Defense Minister Hanna

The battle for Bakhmut, once a salt-mining town, has been grinding on for eight

Maliar confirmed that

Ukrainian forces gained ground around the city, reit-

erating statements from mil-

itary commanders earlier this

months. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the millionaire owner of the Russian military contractor, the Wagner Group, harshly criticized the Russian military for losing ground around Bakhmut and exposing the flanks of his forces battling for

In a video statement, Prigozhin mocked the Russian Defense Ministry's report claiming that its forces regrouped to take more favourable positions, saying that they effectively fled and "our flanks are crumbling."

Palestinian militants continue to violate truce

Palestinian militants fired rockets toward Jerusalem on Friday, further escalating the most violent confrontation in months between Israel and militants in the Gaza Strip despite efforts to broker a cease-fire. The burst of rocket fire from Gaza sent warning sirens wailing as far north as the contested capital of Jerusalem — about 48 miles (77 kilometres) from the Gaza border — breaking a 12-hour lull that had raised hopes that regional powers could soon broker a truce.

There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side Friday. The fighting, which started on Tuesday, between Israel and Islamic Jihad — the second-largest militant group in Gaza after the territory's Hamas rulers — have killed 31 Palestinians in the strip, including women and children, and a 70-year-old man in central Israel.

A rocket slammed into an open field in the Israeli south Jerusalem settlement of Bat Ayin, said Josh Hasten, a spokesperson for the area.

Dull thuds could be heard inside the city, home to major sites holy to Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Videos showed Israelis jumping out of their cars and crouching beneath highway rails as the sirens sounded.

Residents in nearby Israeli settlements reported hearing explosions and seeing black smoke rising from the hills

the strikes hit targets in open areas. The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was conducting a security assessment to mount a further response. "We continue," he tweeted.

after an apparent missile interception.

separate from Gaza.

message," Islamic Jihad said in a statement.

'What is happening in Jerusalem is not

its warplanes struck four Islamic Jihad mil-

itary posts and a mortar shell launcher

across the Gaza Strip. Residents reported

"The bombing of Jerusalem sends a

In response, the Israeli military said

The Israeli military urged residents living within 40 kilometres (25 miles) of the Gaza boundary to remain close to bomb shelters and limit public gatherings until Saturday evening.

back to the spring of 2021, when Hamas fired rockets toward the city, which helped set off a bloody 11-day Gaza war.

At that time, the militant group cited a provocative far-right march through the Palestinian neighbourhoods of Jerusalem as one of the reasons for its rocket barrage, along with the displacement of Palestinians from the city's east.

Israeli police said they will allow the same Jewish ultranationalist parade meant to celebrate Israel's capture of east Ierusalem — to take place next Thursday.

Since Tuesday, Israeli strikes have killed five senior Islamic Jihad figures and hit at least 215 targets in Gaza, including rocket and mortar launch sites and militants preparing to use them. Islamic Jihad has retaliated with nearly 900 rockets fired toward densely populated parts

Israeli bombs and shells have destroyed 47 housing units, and damaged 19 so badly they were uninhabitable, leaving 165 Palestinians homeless, Gaza's housing ministry reported. In addition, nearly 300 homes sustained some damage. Palestinians on Friday surveyed the

wreckage from the fighting.

"The dream that we built for our chil dren, for our sons, has ended," said Belal Bashir, a Palestinian living in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, whose family home was reduced to a heap of rubble in an airstrike late Thursday.

Aus trade min seeks to mend ties with China

Beijing (AP): Australia's Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell appears to be making progress in restoring a nearly decade-long rift in relations with China during a visit to

Farrell was holding meetings and visiting businesses on Friday in a sign that relations were getting back on track. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaking in Sydney on Friday said the sides needed to "develop understanding and dialogue and I've said we'll co-operate with China where we can, we'll disagree where we must and we'll engage in a national interest." China is Australia's biggest trading partner, with two-way exchanges totalling USD 287 billion in

Title-42 restrictions lifted in US

AP TEXAS (EL-PASO)

Dandemic-related asylum Prestrictions that expelled migrants millions of times were lifted early Friday, as people raced to enter the United States before new rules announced by President Joe Biden's administration set in. The new system aims to

get asylum-seekers to stop coming across the border illegally and start using an online system to book appointments to seek asylum at a ports of entry, but many migrants weren't sure whether to trust

Some, including children, paced along a Mexico-US border strung with barbed wire and bolstered by troops, unsure of where to go or what to do next. Others settled into shelters, determined to secure an appointment that can take months. Meanwhile, the



administration was dealt a potentially serious legal setback when a federal judge temporarily blocked its attempt to release migrants more quickly when Border Patrol holding stations are

At Matamoros, across the Rio Grande from Brownsville,

"Be careful with the children," an official shouted through a megaphone. "It is especially dangerous for the children." The expired rule, known as Title 42, was in place since March 2020. It allowed border officials to quickly return asylum seekers back over the border on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. While Title 42 prevented many from seeking asylum, it carried no legal consequences, encouraging repeat attempts. After Thursday, migrants face being barred from entering the US for five years and possible criminal prosecution.

"I don't know what's going to happen," said Jhoan Daniel Barrios, a former military police officer from Venezuela as he paced with two friends along the the border in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, looking for a chance to seek refuge in the US.

US wants to move beyond spy balloon, Chinese diplomat told

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Wang Yi during talks in Vienna this week that the Biden administration is "looking to move beyond" tensions spurred by the US shooting down a Chinese spy balloon that traversed the continental United States, according to a senior Biden administra tion official.

The meeting was not publicised by Washington or Beijing ahead of the high-level talks on Wednesday and Thursday in the Austrian capital. The White House described the wide-ranging discussions, in which the two leaders spent more than eight

hours together, as "candid" and "constructive."

The administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting, said that both sides recognise that the February incident was "unfortunate" and are now looking to "reestablish standard, normal channels of communications."

The talks are the latest in a series of small signs that tensions could be easing between the world's two biggest economies.

As the political and military rivalry between China and the US intensifies, American officials and analysts are worried that a lack of reliable crisis communications

tion to spiral into greater hostilities. They cite the ability to communicate with the former Soviet Union as allowing the Cold War to end without a nuclear exchange.

could cause a minor confronta-

The White House in a statement said the meeting was part of "ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage competition," and that Sullivan and Wang discussed key issues in the US-China relationship, Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, Taiwan,

The meeting took place in a luxury hotel along Vienna's historical Ringstrasse, according to an Austrian official familiar with the matter.

G-7 talks focus on fortification of supply chains

AP ■ NIIGATA (JAPAN)

 B^{ank} runs, cyber security and building more reliable supply chains to ensure economic security were among items on the agenda of closeddoor financial talks Friday in advanced economies.

Tensions with China, and with Russia over its war on Ukraine, loomed large on the wide horizon of issues the G-7 is tackling this year in Japan, its only Asian member.

But while G-7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs discussed ways to protect the international rules-based order and prevent what they are calling "economic coercion" by China, Beijing lashed back, accusing the club of wealthy nations of hypocrisy.
Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Thursday that, "to put it bluntly, the international rules that G-7 talks about are the Western rules of ideology and values and the rule of small clique that puts the US first, that

'ICC issues 4

for alleged

arrest warrants

crimes in Libya'

United Nations (AP): The

prosecutor of the International

Criminal Court announced

Thursday that judges have

issued four new arrest warrants

stemming from his investiga-

tions of alleged war crimes and

crimes against humanity in

also said he recently applied for

Council that he has applied to

the court's independent judges

to unseal the four new arrest

warrants, and they will decide

"in due course." Khan called the

warrants "an important step in

the rights of victims and sur-

vivors" for accountability, but

referred Libya to The Hague

based ICC launched an inves-

tigation into alleged war

The Security Council

only a first step.

two additional warrants.

Prosecutor Karim Khan

He told the UN Security



Group of Seven (G7) finance ministers and central bank governors with invited non-G7 countries' counterparts, attend a family photo session at Toki Messe in Niigata Japan, on Friday

is dominated by G-7."

"The G-7 demands that China abide by international rules, but it is a representative of those who violate and break international rules," Wang said in a routine news briefing.

China accuses Washington of hindering its rise as an increasingly affluent, modern nation through trade and investment restrictions that the United States says are needed to protect American economic security. Speaking before the talks began, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said such of China using economic coercion on countries that take actions that China's not happy

measures are "narrowly targeted" and focused on nation-

"It's not focused on undermining China's economic competitiveness or preventing them to advance economically," Yellen said. Asked what G-7 countries mean by trying to prevent "economic coercion," namely by China, Yellen cited trade actions by Beijing against Australia as one example.

"There have been examples of China using economic coerwith from the geopolitical perspective," she said. "We in the G-7 share a common concern with this kind of activity and are looking to see what we can try to do to try to counter this kind of behaviour."

ed only briefly as the deadline

passed and asylum restric-

tions shifted before entering

the waters of the Rio Grande

from Mexico, holding cell

phones above the water to light

the migrants to turn back.

US authorities shouted for

the way toward the US.

China's relations with the which is also a member of the G-7, have also been frayed by friction over trade and over its tacit support for Russia.

Leaders attending the talks in Niigata said they would be considering ways to prevent countries from skirting sanctions against Moscow meant to hinder its ability to continue the

Both the US and European Union maintain they are not advocating "decoupling," or dismantling extensive economic ties with China, but support "de-risking" relations to avoid becoming too dependent on China. For its G-7 presidency Japan has prioritised launching a partnership with low- and middle-income countries to build "robust supply chains" to help cut carbon emissions.

Public intimation for communication by compliance-team for Mrs. Anukarn Kaur Khangura for client-protocol-Notification basis query for resolution. Reference Communication number 1.01AKFG-1 dated 12 May 2023.

Addressed to client mentioned above for information clarity and resolution. Responses can be marked to: COMPLIANCES@sync-global.in

We have recently accessed closed-group broadcast-information by possibly yourself (client name mentioned above); basis which; we have intimated our compliance-team to please suggest course of action for response and resolution wrt an information-mention by an individual (possibly yourself)/ set of individuals- reflected vide an incoming CRM-handle-manageddata on an official mobile number-vide one of our official portal observations- wrt "an in-complete-transaction" - mentioned by you "as complete". Wherein the task completion is yet-pending as per the best of information available with us in-lieu of an ine expected deal for which, the security cheque collateral issued from our representative, basis your request tier-3 city transaction; has been issued. Also, tier-3 city support, (case-sensitive); is not part of our domain and has been handled with borne-expenses basis a very-special case to be cross-charged-wrt request by you/your office which has been halted/delayed due to non-availability of a member consultant to complete task in-consideration but not contracted, due to health issues clearly informed to all partners and alliances well-in advance

We are going forward to publish this information in newsprint by our audit-mandation and information-disclosure supportteam, restricting all to-and-fro requested non-compliance transactions requested by yourself vide email/ CRM-portalrequest(s) as observed by our team; in- or-out of India (direct or in-direct/liaise) basis data-sets mentioning true information; that we; as a support consulting group- do not deal in any non-compliant transactions till any compliance /tax mitigations are

We, as an office or our any of the representatives -do not owe, (vide our office or our representations); any monies to yourself or your office-and that the special case-sensitive support which is being considered by special-request by you is delayed possibly vide an an-unforeseen incident/situation; which is being overseen and in-consideration of a third party request-support sought and as consented by you; (basis the invoices of reimbursement submitted to us by you post your consent) and in consideration by us to support (as yet) -wrt your mutual consent in-lieu of an incomplete transaction pending for resolution- till compliances are effected; wherein we understand that you are seeking support on a mutually discussed but not-contracted-support in-lieu of an urgency mentioned by you (not known to our team, although; in the best protocol of our NDA policy).

We also understand that our office colleagues have been in regular touch with you and that support deficiencies, if any from your side; will be mitigated and adjusted to the best of our extended consideration of already active support for you; (if any)- as and when actual transaction may(if) be effected or will be duly reversed in case of any failure, (if so)- which has been informed to your office vide regular emails for your requested urgent support-task/due to some urgencies mentioned by you (client mentioned above). Our office has been regularly working to find a compliant way-till transaction(s) in-consideration; actually progress, if-so (else reversal may be effected and clearly communicated) due to pendencies and non -completion; till same mentioned and requested task by and for you is actually completed and mitigated. We as an organisation and wrt our representing teams have no obligation for same and are purely supporting basis grounds of engagement for support vide our endorsement for our valued-and-trusted, on-leave; consulting-member

We are also organising an online collaborated video call involving the compliance team- vide a request along with the consulting-member's care taker in-loop, (only if feasible wrt his possibility of presence)- to get in touch with you along with the observed broadcast group with a copy of the newsprint compliance data herewith being sent for publishing as we will not be interested to either support or transact any non-compliant transactions in-or-out of India, requested by any client whatsoever without due compliances wrt reimbursement sought by any client whatsoever- basis control with our finance and CRM teams as clearly mentioned to all relevant contacts- also vide representation of any consultant(s) of any relationship manager(s) including the valued member who is on medical leave- wrt noticed and clearly pre-intimated information- also re broadcasted several times. Same has been also intimated by our weekly assigned CRM coordinators basis information shared- in multiple broadcasts also for an acquainted group/ set of querying individuals- mentioning an instance recently observed by our handling CRM team-with a false-mention of a yet-to-be-completed-task mentioned as completed-by yourself wrt the engaged client and also wrt mentions to the context above -that our office or any of our representation (yet) "owes" you the monies instead of the fact that the task-deal (requested by you/your office)- is yet to be closed and "pending for closure" - wherein support has beer requested by you in-lièu of your urgency mentioned in communications and suggested by our representatives as a "specia one-time support in-consideration only" also considering mitigation for proposal for an office setup in-planning by our projects team, without any-obligation of contract-mandation-yet; vide requests and application(s) generated to our office vide mitigation. Our office still has an issued but an un-received and pending security amount cheque for transaction/ task yet inprocess and in-consideration, wrt the a non-completed transaction task-related which is still pending; due to non-compliance as well as non-availability of the applicable member-consultant-as intimated multiple times by our CRM team co-ordinators.

This information has been made available to clarify any statements of non-compliances vide publishing in newsprint wherein our team will also seek assessment from eVAL team at IN-Region for any consideration for a support which may be withdrawn as is being taken-up with compliance team from our office; in case any of insisted non-compliant transactions without relevant compliance-treatments, if any; in-lieu of support sought for pending transaction not-yet-completed; which our office does-not encourage

We have been repeatedly requesting official formal communications to you and contact-individuals for single-window compliance and finance resolutions for support and have intimated not-to-adopt multiple channels-wherein we would like to encourage and ensure taxation and compliance support, which is core of our consulting with any client.

This information shared herewith, however; does not stop the process of compliant-support to you or your office and has been shared with respective concerned queried individuals for our clear-operation-protocols Our teams are already in touch with you anyhow, on a very-regular-basis on multiple resolution exploration possibilities vide emails w.r.t. requested support by you wherein we reinstate that no dues are applicable till effected completion of any process

and our teams will still seek and provide support to you irrespective of above-mentioned information. Henceforth,

Information issued by

Support compliance team

E: COMPLIANCES@sync-global.in Cellular text-messages: Type: SYNC COMPLIANCES _your message_ and SMS to 56161. Sync-YHML-eVAL Consulting Support Team (IN-Region)

FÁREAL GLOBAL **STRATA MANAGEMENT**

we request all emails to be marked in cc to: COMPLIANCES@sync-global.in

Pope joins Meloni in urging Italians to have more kids, not pets

Dope Francis joined Italy's conservative premier on Friday in encouraging Italians to have more children, denouncing the financial precariousness facing young couples and "selfish, egotistical" choices that have led to a record low birth rate that is threatening the country's economic future.

Francis urged concrete political action to invert the "demographic winter," which in population terms resulted in the disappearance of a city the size of Bari last year.

Blasting couples who have pets instead of children, Francis called for resources to be dedicated to helping couples grow their families, saying it was necessary to "plant the future"



"Let us not resign ourselves to sterile dullness and pessimism," Francis told an annual gathering of pro-family organizations. "Let us not believe that history is already marked, that nothing can be done to reverse the trend."

Italy recorded a record low number of live births last year, 392,598, which combined with an elevated number of deaths, 713,499, has accelerated the demographic trend that threatens to crash the country's social security

Ravi Menon reappointed as Singapore's central banker

gin Singaporean Ravi Menon has been reappointed as the central banker of the prosperous city state for two more years, an official announcement said on Friday.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) reappointed Menon as its Managing Director for a further term of two years, from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2025.

whichever is earlier, the announcement said. Menon, who turns 59 this year, has been at the helm of the central bank since 2011 and was rumoured to leave

Singapore (PTI): Indian-ori-

He will serve as Managing Director until May 31, 2025 or his retirement from the Singapore Public Service

MAS this year when his term ends on May 31, reported The Straits Times newspa-

India's forex reserves jump by \$7.2 billion to \$595.98 billion



ndia's foreign exchange reserves jumped by USD 7.196 billion to USD 595.976 billion in the week ended on May 5, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves had dropped by USD 4.532 billion to USD 588.78 billion in the previous reporting week.

In October 2021, the country's forex reserve had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

During the week ended on May 5, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by nearly

USD 6.536 billion to USD 526.021 billion, according to the latest Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange

Gold reserves increased by USD 659 million to USD 46.315 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 19 million to USD 18.447 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was up by USD 20 million to USD 5.192 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

Inflation slips to 18-month low of 4.7% in April

Retail inflation declined to an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent in April mainly due to falling prices of vegetables, oils and fats, and came closer to Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, showed government data eleased Friday.

It was for the second month in a row that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remained within the RBI's comfort zone of below 6 per cent. The government has tasked the central bank to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The retail inflation was 5.66 per cent in March 2023 and 7.79 per cent in the year-ago period. Later month's inflation is the lowest reading since October 2021, when it stood at 4.48 per cent.

According to the National Statistical Office, the inflation in the food basket was 3.84 per cent in April, as against 4.79 per cent in March and 8.31 per cent in the year-ago period. The food basket accounts for nearly half of the CPI.

Retail inflation rose from 5.7 per cent in December 2022 to 6.4 per cent in February 2023 on the



back of higher prices of cereals, milk and fruits and slower deflation in vegetable prices. As per the latest NSO data, prices of 'oil and fats' declined by 12.33 per cent, followed by vegetables (6.5 per cent), and 'meat and fish (1.23 per cent) during April on an annual basis. On the other hand, spices, cereals and prod-

ucts, and 'milk and milk prod-

ucts' became dearer. Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA said the April 2023 CPI inflation eased to an 18-month low, benefitting from the high base as well as cooler than normal temperatures, which delayed

the seasonal rise in prices of perishable items.

"Although the impact of a favourable base effect related to escalation of geopolitical conflict is likely to have peaked in April 2023, ICRA foresees the CPI inflation to remain range-bound at 4.7-5 per cent in May-June 2023," she said.

With a dip in the CPI inflation below 5 per cent and surprisingly subdued IIP growth (March), "we foresee a high likelihood of a pause from the MPC in its next meeting", she said. However, a pivot to rate cuts by the RBI appears quite distant, Ńayar added.

Narinder Wadhwa, National

President, CPAI (Commodity Participants Association of India) said a lower CPI inflation rate is seen as positive for consumers, as it indicates that the cost of living has increased at a slower pace and indicates that inflation is not a significant concern.

This, in turn, can make borrowing cheaper, increasing the demand for loans and potentially leading to increased investment and economic activity. Good news for capital markets, he said. The RBI primarly factors in the CPI data while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

RBI increased the benchmark lending rate by 250 basis points in six tranches since May 2022 in a bid to tame high inflation in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. However, it went for a pause in its rate hike spree in April. The NSO data furher showed the retail inflation in the rural areas during April was 4.68 per cent and 4.85 per cent in urban areas.

The price data were collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states/UTs through personal visits by field staff of Field Operations Division of NSO, an official release said.



Industrial production growth slips to 5-month low of 1.1% in March

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I} India's industrial production growth slipped to five-month low of 1.1 per cent in March from 5.8 per cent in February 2023, mainly due to poor performance of power and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released on Friday.

The previous lowest level of growth was recorded in October 2022 at a contraction of 4.1 per cent.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 2.2 per cent in March

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 0.5 per cent in March 2023 as against 1.4 per cent a year ago.

Power generation declined by 1.6 per cent in March 2023 against a growth of 6.1 per cent.
Mining output rose by 6.8

.1 per cent against a contraction of 4.4 per cent earlier. Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 5.4

per cent during the month under review compared to a growth of 3.9 in the year-ago

As per use-based classifica-

tion, the capital goods seg-

ment recorded a growth of 8.1

per cent in March against a

growth of 2.4 per cent a year

out during the month declined

by 8.4 per cent against a con-

traction of 3.1 per cent a year

goods output too declined by

Consumer durables out-

Consumer non-durable

per cent compared to a 6.7 per cent expansion in the same period a year ago. The data also showed that

the output of primary goods logged 3.3 per cent growth in the month against 5.7 per cent in the year-ago period.

Improve credit delivery in rural areas: **DFS Secretary**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Friday urged Regional Rural Banks to further improve their performance in achieving financial inclusion and credit delivery in rural areas. During the financial review meeting of RRBs, Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary Vivek Joshi discussed their viability plans as some of these RRBs are loss-

making.

The meeting at Pune was also attended by senior officials of DFS, Reserve Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) senior officials of sponsor banks, and chairpersons of RRBs. Joshi expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved by the RRBs on different operational parameters consequent to the infusion of recapitalisation funds by the government of India, the finance ministry said.

strive for further improvement in their performance so that the government's efforts towards financial inclusion and improving credit delivery in rural areas are implemented successfully.

These banks were formed under the RRB Act, 1976 with an objective to provide credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans in rural areas. Currently, the Centre holds 50 per cent stake in RRBs, while 35 per cent and 15 per cent are with the concerned sponsor banks and state governments, respectively.



Foreign institutional inflow in real estate jumps over 3-fold to \$26.6 bn in 2017-22: Colliers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian real estate sector received USD 26.6 billion as foreign institutional investment during 2017-22 period, a threefold jump from the previous six years, driven by inflows from USA and Canada with a share of 70 per cent, according to Colliers India. Real estate consultant Colliers India on Friday released a report "High on Investors' Agenda" report that delves into the factors that make India a preferred choice for global investors.

Foreign investments in the last few years as the industry underwent an overhaul, with major structural, policy reforms inducing transparency and ease of business operations, the consultant noted

As per the data, total institutional investments in real estate rose to USD 32.9 billion during 2017-22 period from USD 25.8 billion in the 2011-16 period. Out of the total inflow, foreign institutional inflow rose to USD 26.6 billion from USD 8.2 billion. However, the investment from domestic investors fell to USD 6.3 billion from USD

17.6 billion. In foreign funding, the inflow from USA jumped to USD 11.1 billion from USD 3.7 billion, while investment from Canada rose sharply to USD 7.5 billion from USD 0.5 billion.

Inflow from Singapore also umped nearly three-fold to USD 6 billion during 2017-22 from USD 2.1 billion in 2011-16

"India's favourable demographic indicators, deep digital talent pool, developmental government policies, infrastructure advancements and competitive costs have made it one of the top fuelling real estate demand in India," said Sankey Prasad, Chairman & Managing Director at Colliers India. "The strong economic and business fundamentals are enhancing institutional investors' sentiments; forging strategic partnerships to expand their portfolios," he said.

Piyush Gupta, Managing Director, Capital Markets & Investment Services at Colliers India, said India is on a longterm structural upcycle over the next few years and opportunities galore across spectrum and asset classes in real estate.

Sebi cancels registration of Bharat Bhushan Finance and Commodity Brokers in NSEL case

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday cancelled the registration of brokerage house Bharat Bhushan Finance and Commodity Brokers Ltd for participating in illegal 'paired contracts' launched by now defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL). In addition, the regulator

has asked the broker to allow its existing clients to withdraw or transfer their securities or funds held in its custody within 15 In case of failure of any

clients to withdraw or transfer their securities or funds within this period, the broker will transfer the funds and securities of such clients to another broker within a period of the next 15 days thereon under the advice of the said clients.

The case relates to the par-

ticipation of Bharat Bhushan Finance and Commodity Brokers in 'paired contracts' that did not have regulatory

The broker traded in the alleged paired contracts from April 2012 to May 2013 on the screen based trading platform of NSEL on behalf of and in accordance with the instructions of

"The noticee (Bharat Bhushan Finance and Commodity Brokers) has participated/ facilitated the trading in paired contracts' on NSEL platform during the relevant period as a trading member/ clearing member... The act of Noticee in offering access to 'paired contract' ... Also seriously calls into question the integrity, honesty and lack of ethical behaviour on its part," Sebi Executive Director Pramod Rao said in his order.

By indulging in such an act,



Brokers does not satisfy the "fit and proper person" criteria specified under Intermediaries Regulations and accordingly cancelled the registration of the In September 2009, NSEL

(now defunct) introduced the concept of 'paired contracts' for trading, which allowed buying and selling of the same commodity through two different contracts at two different prices on the exchange platform.

Under this arrangement, investors could buy a shortduration contract and sell a long-duration contract and vice versa at the same time at a predetermined price. Further, it was noticed that

trades for the buy contract and the selling contract used to happen on the NSEL on the same day at the same time and at different prices, involving the same counter-parties. The scheme of 'paired contracts' traded on the NSEL ultimately caused a huge loss to investors to the extent of Rs 5,500 crore, the order noted.

In a separate order, the reg-ulator has barred Capital Gain Research's proprietor Ruchit Gupta from the securities market for six months for providing unauthorised investment advisory services and asked him to refund investors' money collected through such services within three months

IIFL FINANCE OFFERS UP TO ₹10 L BUSINESS LOAN ON WHATSAPP

New Delhi: IIFL Finance offers up to Rs 10 lakh business loan to customers on WhatsApp with quick approval. IIFL Finance's business loan on WhatsApp is the first-of-its kind initiative in MSME lending industry, where 100% of the loan application-to-disbursal happens digitally. Over 450 million users of WhatsApp in India can avail a 24x7 endto-end digital loan facility from IIFL Finance.

IIFL Finance is one of India's largest retail-focussed NBFCs with over 10 million customers, mostly unbanked and underbanked. IIFL Finance is the preferred loan destination for small entrepreneurs across India, where its present through branches and multiple digital platforms.

Sensex rises 123 points to close above 62K-mark

PTI MUMBAI

 $B^{\text{enchmark BSE Sensex}}_{\text{recovered from early lows}}$ to close at a five-month high on Friday, riding on gains in banking and auto stocks ahead of the release of key inflation data. The 30-share index gained 123.38 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 62,027.90, the highest closing level since December 12, 2022.

The barometer opened lower due to early weakness in energy, power and IT stocks and touched a low of 61,578.15

in the day trade. Later, it rebounded on buying in financial and auto shares to hit a high of 62,110.93 points.

The broader NSE Nifty edged up 17.80 points or 0.1 per cent to close at 18,314.80 points. The 50-stock index rose by 245.8 points on weekly basis, marking its third straight week of gains. Among Sensex scrips,

Mahindra and Mahindra rose the most by 1.92 per cent. IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL, Bajaj Finance and HCL Tech were among the other

.67 per cent, followed by

"A slew of weak economic

PowerGrid fell the most by

NTPC (2.34 per cent) and Tata Steel (1.43 per cent). Ultratech Cement, Nestle, Sun Pharma, Infosys, L&T, Kotak Bank, TCS and Wipro also

data points from the US and China hinting towards a slower pace of economic growth disturbed the mood of the Asian market. The domestic market recovered in the second

half as investors back home awaited the release of inflation data that is expected to cool down below 5 per cent," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Markets remained volatile for yet another session and ended almost on a flat note, Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

"The tone was negative in the first hour, however, buying in index majors, especially from banking, financials and auto space helped the index to

trim losses," Mishra said. In the broader market,

BSE smallcap index dropped by 0.08 per cent while BSE midcap fell 0.33 per cent.

Among major sectoral gainers, BSE Auto advanced 0.93 per cent, Bankex by 0.73 per cent, and Financial Services by 0.42 per cent.

On other other hand, BSE Utilities dropped 1.83 per cent, Metal by 1.69 per cent, Oil & Gas by 1.13 per cent, Power by 1.19 per cent, Commodities by 0.99 per cent, and Energy by 0.77 per cent.

Rupee falls 7 paise to 82.16 against \$

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{straight session, the rupee}}^{\text{alling for the second}}$ depreciated by 7 paise to 82.16 against the US dollar on Friday, as a strong greenback overseas weighed on investor

However, a positive trend

in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund inflows cushioned the downslide, traders said. Investors were cautious ahead of inflation data due to

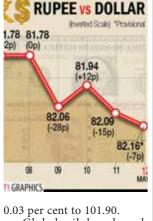
be released later in the day, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 82.11

against the US currency and

closed at 82.16 (provisional), registering a fall of 7 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched its intra-day high of 82.09 and a low of

82.23 against the dollar. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 82.09 against the US

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose



Global oil benchmark

Brent crude futures slipped 0.07 per cent to USD 74.93 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 123.38 points or 0.20 per cent to end at 62,027.90, and the broader NSE Nifty closed 17.80 points or 0.10 per cent higher at 18,314.80.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 837.21 crore, according to exchange data.

Go First crisis will not change Indian aviation's growth trajectory: Boeing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US aircraft maker Boeing on Friday said the crisis at Go First will not change the trajectory of the Indian civil aviation market in terms of growth and macro trends while legislative clarity on aircraft leasing aspects will provide more comfort to the lessors.

India is the third largest as well as one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world, and Indian carriers are expected to require more than 2,200 aircraft in the next 20 Against the backdrop of

insolvency proceedings being initiated against cash-strapped Go First, Boeing India President Salil Gupte said it is "never a positive" when an airline runs into financial challenges because it takes a toll on the management, employees, all stakeholders and also puts a strain on the overall transport infrastructure. On whether the Go First cri-

sis will have an impact on the bullish outlook for the country's aviation market, Gupte said he does not feel so and that growth vill continue.

"In generally, we don't feel that the trajectory of the market



changes at all in terms of the growth and macro trends... Progress is never a straight line and there is always ups and "Ultimately, growth in India

through the challenges that Go First is going through today," he told PTI in an interview. Meanwhile, aircraft lessors have raised concerns about the insolvency proceedings initiated against Go First as the resul-

will continue even as we work

from taking back the planes leased to the crisis-hit carrier. In India, domestic airlines mostly operate aircraft on the sale and lease back model.

tant moratorium also bars them

On what needs to be done to address the concerns of the lessors, Gupte said that legislative clarity on leased aircraft in the context of Cape Town Convention will provide more comfort to the lessors.

"The key concern that lessors have is about the liquid-

ity of their assets. They look at risk. They really want to make sure that their assets are accessible. Aeroplanes are really expensive assets.

"India has acceded to the Cape Town Convention that oversees how assets are traded globally... There is some legislation on the table that will provide clarity in India on how these assets will be handled going forward," he said. According to him, passing

that legislation will be one of the clearest things India can do to provide more comfort to the lessors and remove the challenges that they face in these type of situations. "If India does that, you will

the lessors in the past few days will go away," Gupte said in the context of the Go First crisis. Some lessors have also challenged the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) decision

see some of the issues raised by

insolvency resolution petition. While speaking at the Boeing Commercial Airplanes new office in Gurugram, Gupte said that there is a significant growth in the Indian economy and that also drives aviation



Passenger vehicle dispatches rise 13% in April: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic passenger vehicle dispatches witnessed a 13 per cent year-on-year rise in April as demand remained robust across segments, industry body SIAM said on Friday.

The total passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers rose to 3,31,278 units last month compared to 2,93,303 units in April 2022. Market leader Maruti

Suzuki India dispatched 1,37,320 units to dealers last month against 1,21,995 units in to admit Go First's voluntary April last year. Hyundai Motor India, on the other hand, sold 49,701 units in April compared to 44,001 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, two-wheeler dispatches last month increased by 15 per cent

to 13,38,588 units from

11,62,582 units a year ago.

HPCL net jumps 79% on better refining, marketing margins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Friday reported a 79 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit on the back of a recovery in fuel marketing margins and better refining margins.

Consolidated net profit was at Rs 3,608.32 crore in January-March compared with Rs 2,018.45 crore in the same period a year back, according to a company's

stock exchange filing.

The company however posted a loss of Rs 6,980.23 crore for the full fiscal year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) after it suffered huge losses in the first half on holding petrol, diesel and LPG prices despite a surge in

It continues to hold prices but a fall in international oil prices has meant that it is making healthy margins now. Petrol and diesel prices

Sales income was up 9 per January-March.

cent at Rs 1.14 lakh crore in For the full fiscal, the

have been on a freeze since April 6 last year. The basket of income came at Rs 4.64 lakh crude oil that India imports crore as compared to Rs 3.72 was over USD 100 per barrel lakh crore in 2021-22.



around USD 75-76.

Crude oil is processed in

While the prices have fall-

refineries such as ones owned

by HPCL at Mumbai and

Vizag in Andhra Pradesh into

en, the company, just like other state-owned firms -

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) -

continues to hold rates to

recoup losses suffered in the

first half of the fiscal year.

GATTI SAVES JUVE FROM DEFEAT

¬ederico Gatti headed home in the 97th minute to earn Juventus a 1-1 draw against Sevilla in their Europa League semi-final first leg on Thursday.
Youssef En-Nesyri gave

the record six-time champions the lead in the first half and they seemed set to take that advantage back to Seville before Gatti's late interven-

Moroccan international En-Nesyri finished a sharp counter-attack in the 26th minute to break the deadlock

Jose Luis Mendilibar's side deserved their lead at the break and although Juventus improved, the Andalucians shut them out well in their bid to take their advantage back to the rowdy Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan next week.

However Gatti nodded home from point blank range after substitute Paul Pogba headed the ball back into his path from a corner.

"It's a shame, given the game that we played, that they levelled in the last play of



the match, but it is what it is," said Mendilibar

'We stopped Juventus in every moment and we played well at times too, we have to think about that, not the last moment of the game."

Sevilla, who dumped Manchester United out in the

quarter-finals, have never been knocked out of the tournament in the semi-final

The Spaniards, who won the Europa League at the Juventus Stadium in 2014, made themselves at home in

ROMA BEAT LEVERKUSEN Edoardo Bove fired Roma

to a 1-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in a tight first leg of their Europa League semi-

Bove scored the only goal of the game in the 63rd minute at the Stadio Olimpico, allow-

take a slender lead into next week's second leg in Germany.

The win gives Mourinho the chance to reach his second European final in as many years as Roma coach after winning the Europa Conference League last season.

'It's all down to the boys tonight who played with desire and the right mentality, Mourinho said to Sky Sport.

"I have put in a lot of miles over the course of my career but even I really felt the support of the fans tonight and the boys responded with the desire to

make them happy."

Roma took the win despite having a host of players either out or barely fit to play, with stars Paulo Dybala and Georginio Wijnaldum only coming on in the final 15 minutes to help out an exhausted, largely second-string team.

'Ŕoma were a bit more dangerous in the second half, but we had the feeling that we could beat them in their own backyard," said Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky.

"It's not the best result for us but it could have been

West Ham, Basel take control of Conference League semis

West Ham moved a step closer to a first European final for 47 years as Michail Antonio sealed a 2-1 win over AZ Alkmaar in the Conference League semi-final first leg on Thursday

While West Ham eye a landmark final appearance, FC Basel are chasing history of their own after seizing control of the other semi-final with a dramatic 2-1 victory against Fiorentina.

At the London Stadium, David Moyes' side trailed to Tijjani Reijnders' first-half goal before fighting back with a stirring display after

Said Benrahma equalised with a penalty before Antonio bagged the late winner to put West Ham in control of the tie ahead of the second leg in the Netherlands on May 18.

West Ham have won 12 of their 13 games in the competition this season, taking them to the brink of a first major trophy since the 1980

FA Cup.

Last season, the Hammers lost in the Europa League semi-finals against Eintracht Frankfurt, but they are in position to go fur-

The east Londoners haven't reached a major



European final since they were beaten by Anderlecht in the 1976 Cup Winners Cup show-

Despite being one of the smaller clubs in the Dutch Eredivisie, AZ have reached their first European semi-final since 2005.

Świss club FC Basel have even less European pedigree than West Ham, but that could be about to change after they stunned Serie A side

Man City fully focused on Everton: Guardiola



AP MANCHESTER

before the second leg as they are Pep Guardiola said all thoughts about Manchester in La Liga action on Saturday. Guardiola, whose team are targeting a fifth Premier League City's Champions League semifinal against Real Madrid have title in six years, would have preferred to play on Saturday too been banished ahead of Sunday's Premier League trip to Everton. but says he is beyond complain-

Treble-chasing City hope to Europe's elite club competition when they host Real on Wednesday after drawing 1-1 in the first leg of their last-four tie

City have never won the Champions League, while Guardiola's wait to get his hands on the trophy has now reached 12 years since he lifted it for the second time as Barcelona boss.

Despite the significance of the Real tie, the Premier League leaders cannot afford to take it easy when they travel to relegation-threatened Everton in a clash that is crucial at both ends of the table.

Any slip-up at Goodison Park would open the door again to second-placed Arsenal, who are just one point behind City, although they have played a game extra.

"My thought is just Everton -- no more than that," Guardiola said on Friday

"It's 11 months working for the Premier League. We don't have much time to Madrid because we play Sunday -- thank you so much -- but it's a real, real priority, Goodison Park.

not going to fight it anymore," said the City boss. "I don't understand it but we have to adapt. The schedule, it is what

Erling Haaland was voted "Footballer of the Year" in England for his prolific debut season with Manchester City, and Chelsea striker Sam Kerr became the first back-to-back winner of the women's award on

The Football Writers' Association said Haaland took 82% of the vote, ahead of Arsenal teammates Bukayo Saka and Martin Odegaard.

The 22-year-old Norway international has scored 51 goals in all competitions to help put City in contention for titles in the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League. He set a record for most goals (35) in a Premier League season. Kerr beat out Aston Villa forward Rachel Daly and Chelsea teammate Lauren James for her second straight FWA award.

Newcastle 'excited' by top-four challenge: Howe

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

ing about the schedule.

ddie Howe is confident his Newcastle players will ⊿not be daunted by the challenge of securing Champions League qualification as the Premier League season enters its final stretch.

Real have an extra day's rest

The Magpies have four games in which to cement a top-four finish as they, Manchester United, Liverpool, Brighton and outsiders Tottenham jockey for position behind top two Manchester City and Arsenal.

A 2-0 home defeat by the Gunners last weekend slowed Newcastle's charge and prompted hopes among the chasing pack of a late-season wobble, but head coach Howe remains upbeat.

be our emotion," he said on the



eve of Saturday's trip to relegation-threatened Leeds.

"We're looking forward to the challenges ahead, we're not in any way, I don't feel, daunted by it.

"In sport, sometimes the more you think the more you damage yourselves, so play the game. These players have played all their lives and played because they enjoy it, so let's strip away everything and let's "We're excited, that has to just perform well in our next

eve of match press conference. "Obviously I've spoken to

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier con-firmed Lionel Messi "will start" Saturday's Ligue 1 game against Ajaccio, marking the Argentinian superstar's return from suspension.

AP ■ PARIS

The 35-year-old World Cup winner was banned by the club after an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

"Yes, Leo is going to start tomorrow," Galtier told an

him, he's very relaxed, really keen to play, and very determined to claim another

French league title.' With PSG out of the Champions League and only four Ligue 1 matches remaining as they target a record 11th title, this is likely to be Messi's penultimate appearance at the

After an uninspiring two years in France, the seven-

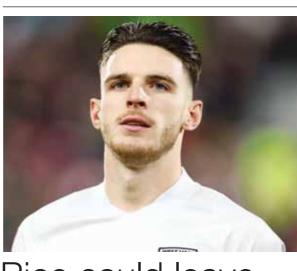
Parc des Princes.



time Ballon d'Or winner is reported to be lining up a blockbuster deal to play in Saudi Arabia next season where he would join his old sparring partner Cristiano

His move to Saudi or even his departure at the end of his contract in June, however, have yet to be confirmed by the club or his agent father

But all the signs are that



Rice could leave West Ham: Moyes

David Moyes says there is a "good chance" that indemand Declan Rice will leave West Ham in the summer transfer window, admitting the club are making contingency

Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United are all understood to be interested in the England midfielder, who is valued at around £100 million (\$125 million).

"We honestly hope he stays," West Ham manager Moyes said on Friday. "We'd love for him to be a West Ham player but we are aware that might not be the case at the end of the season.

"So that's one of the scenarios around planning. There are plans that we have Dec here but we're also fully aware there is a good chance we won't have

Moyes has been unable to formulate plans for next season while West Ham's Premier League status remains unclear, although last week's win over Manchester United has left them all but safe.

"The planning has been put on the back burner," added the Scot. "It's always been about making sure you're a Premier League club. Your planning will go completely if you weren't.

"A lot of it will only start to go into place once we've realised we have kept our Premier League place. We're watching a lot of players, a lot of games, doing a lot of scouting, but the truth is the focus has been on staying in the Premier League.'

West Ham, seven points above the relegation zone, head to Brentford on Sunday.

sign off with bronze at World's

PTI ■ TASHKENT

Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Mohammad Hussamudin (57kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) signed off with bronze medals at the World Boxing Championships, wrapping up India's best-ever show at the marquee event here on Friday.

It was heartbreak for Hussamudin as the Nizamabad due to a knee injury about an hour before his semifinal bout.

But Deepak and Nishant gave a good account of themselves, stretching their more experienced and revered opponents in their respective semi-Deepak's phenomenal

campaign came to an end as he went down fighting to twotime World Championships bronze medallist France's Bilal Bennama 3-4 in a close contest which went into bout review. Nishant's semifinal also

went to bout review with the judges ruling in favour of the 2022 Asian champion and 2018 Asian Games silver Aslanbek medallist Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan.
The fact that all three

medals come in Olympic categories bode well for India heading into the Asian Games, which is the first qualifying event for the Paris Olympics.

It was the first men's World Championships under new High Performance Director Bernard Dunne, for-



and CA Kuttapa, who returned as head coach.

Hussamudin, Deepak, Nishant

It was also the first time the men's team was selected based on the new selection policy, under which boxers are evaluated over a period of

In the first bout of the evening session, Deepak, who was named in the squad ahead of 2019 Worlds silver medallist Amit Panghal, began cautiously as did his opponent. Both boxers tried to get the measure of their opponents.

Deepak was able to land a

few punches but Bennama used his left jabs to great effect and took the round 3-2. Bennama was the aggressor in the second round as he moved around the ring to dodge Deepak's punches but the Indian found a way to breach the frenchman's defences and land some eye-

catching right crosses. The final three minutes

were fought intensely with both boxers throwing punches but the frenchman was successful in blocking Deepak's blows to take the win. Like Deepak, there was very little separating Nishant

and Shymbergenov. The 22-year-old southpaw, who had missed a medal by a whisker in the last edition, did well to throw several left and right crosses, jabs and hooks but the inaccuracy of those punches helped the

Kazakh edge past him. Earlier, the 29-year-old Hussamudin sustained a knee injury in his quarterfinal bout against J Diaz Ibanez of

Bulgaria.
With the Olympics next year and qualifiers approaching, Hussamudin decided

against risking aggravation. Hussamudin, who was

competing in his debut World Championships, was scheduled to face Cuba's Saidel Horta in the last four clash.

Swiatek gets off to perfect start in Italian Open

 \mathbf{I}^{ga} Swiatek started her bid to win her third straight Italian Open title in perfect fashion on Friday, not dropping a game in her straight-sets thrashing of Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

World number one Swiatek looked in exceptional form as she demolished Pavlyuchenkova 6-0, 6-0 in just over an hour to ease her way into the third round in Rome. Losing finalist in Madrid last weekend, Swiatek looked in great form in the tournament she won last year before going on to blitz the French Open.

Swiatek now faces either

Tsurenko in the last 32 after extending her winning streak in the Italian capital to 12 matches.

Earlier, Jannick Sinner cruised into the men's last 32 with a straight-sets win over Thanasi Kokkinakis, 6-1, 6-4.

World number eight Sinner took one hour, 18 minutes to deal with Australian qualifier Kokkinakis, and will now play Russian Alexander Shevchenko, who beat Argentinian Sebastian Baez

"I'm happy with my level today, it was not easy, it was a little bit breezy, a bit windy,' Sinner said on court.

"Especially in the second



I also had a couple of chances which I didn't use but very happy about how I served, I struck the ball very well.'

Italian winner of the tournament since Adriano Panatta in

With local boy Matteo Berrettini out of action again with abdominal problems, Sinner will be getting the bulk

of the capital city's support.

"It is a very special feeling especially here in Rome," Sinner

"You know trying to be an example for the young kids, also spending a little bit of time with them. It's important to show them the love.' Sinner has had a decent

season, winning in Montpellier

in February and losing the

finals in Miami and Rotterdam

to Daniil Medvedev

Novak Djokovic said Thursday that Carlos Alcaraz is the man to beat at the Italian Open, but reassured fans that he "feels good" after

his recent elbow injury. Top seed Djokovic comes into the clay-court tournament, where he has been champion six times, braced to lose top spot in the world rankings to Alcaraz.

The flamboyant Spaniard, fresh from back-to-back clay

titles in Barcelona and Madrid, just needs to play a match in the Italian capital to return to the summit ahead of the French Open which starts later this month.

Djokovic 'feels good' after return from injury

"He's going to be number one after this tournament and if it happens it will be deservedly so. He plays very impressive tennis, a great level. He's the player to beat on this surface no doubt," said Djokovic.

Djokovic won a recordequalling 22nd Grand Slam at the Australian Open in January but missed the American hardcourt swing in March due to his there that bother you at this refusal to be vaccinated against Covid.

The 35-year-old has endured a tough start to the European clay-court season, being eliminated in the last 16 at the Monte Carlo Masters, in the quarter-finals at Banja Luka and then pulling out of Madrid with his elbow problem.

However Djokovic said that he had overcome the physical problems which have blighted this part of his season.

always some things here and

"It's all good. There are

level," he added. 'It's normal. When you're not 20-25 anymore you expe-

rience that a bit more than what used to be the case. "I feel good... Historically throughout my career Rome

has been a very nice tournament for me, I had success in it many times, got to finals. "It's my most successful clay court event. Coming into

the French Open it can be a great springboard for what's coming up in Paris where I want to be at my best."

SKY takes MI to 3rd spot

🗖 uryakumar Yadav played Some outrageous shots en route his maiden IPL hundred (103 not out) as his stunning knock outshone a superlative all-round show from Rashid Khan to set up Mumbai Indians' 27-run win over Gujarat Titans here on Friday.

Invited to bat, MI posted 218 for 5 on the back of world number one T20 batter Suryakumar's 103 not out off just 49 balls and then restricted GT to 191 for 8 to notch up their seventh win this season.

This was MI's fourth consecutive 200-plus score on their home ground.

While Suryakumar played a blinder of an innings which was studded with 11 fours and six sixes, Rohit Sharma (29), Ishan Kishan (31) and Vishnu Vinod (30) chipped in for the home side.

Chasing 219, GT were in danger of being bowled out for a low total, but a brutal unbeaten 79 off just 32 balls from Rashid -- which had three fours and 10 sixes -reduced the margin of the defeat drastically.

For Mumbai, Akash

Madhwal (4-0-31-3), Kumar Kartikeva (3-0-37-2) and veteran Piyush Chawla (4-0-36-2) produced a superb show

All but out of play-off reck-oning, Delhi Capitals will

expect a more purposeful

approach from its Indian bat-

ting unit as it plays for pride

against Punjab Kings in a

With four wins in 11

games, DC are staring at an

unceremonious exit as winning the next three matches

will only take them to 14

points, which might not be

enough to earn them a place

in the top four, leaving their

fate in the hands of other

ters have hardly contributed

and it has all been about

either skipper David Warner,

keeper-batter Phil Salt or all-

rounder Mitchell Marsh, who

have given the team some

Pandey, Ripal Patel and

Aman Hakim Khan have

lacked the killer punch as

they have not been able to

change their game according

dle-order to rotate the strike

or find big hits has put paid

better with spin duo of Axar

Patel and Kuldeep Yadav

bowling a good line, while

The inability of the mid-

The bowlers have fared

to the match situation.

to their hopes.

The likes of Manish

momentum with willow.

The specialist Indian bat-

on Saturday.



But the indomitable Rashid was simply unstoppable. He followed his superb

pacers Ishant Sharma and Khaleel Ahmed getting wickets most times. The absence

of speedster Anrich Nortje,

who had to return home due

to personal reasons, howev-

er, was felt in the last match.

looking at a must-win game,

following back-to-back

defeats against Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight

and cold this season. In the

last two matches, their

bowlers have failed to defend

totals as MI and KKR out-

PBKS have blown hot

Riders respectively.

Punjab Kings, with 10

Do-or-die game for DC & Punjab

bowling effort of 4/30 during the MI innings with a stunning show with the bat as he ninth wicket with Alzarri

added 88 runs from just 40 balls for the unconquered effort was just not enough.

GT's fourth loss in 12 matches was their first in away games this season.

With eight wins and 16 points, they remained at the top of the table.

MI's seventh win in 12 matches thus took them back to third spot with 14 points and a net run rate of -0.117.

Gujarat Titans made the worst possible start. Coming off a fine 81 in his last outing, Wriddhiman Saha played one across the line to be adjudged LBW for 2 off Madhwal, while captain Hardik Pandya (4) was caught behind off Jason Behrendorff in the third over.

The in-form Shubman Gill (6) was also beaten by the skiddy pace of Madhwal, who sent the opener's off-stump cartwheeling.

With the task of rebuilding falling on their shoulders, Miller made a cautious start while Vijay Shankar unleashed a flurry of fours.

After powerplay, GT had knocked off 48 from their target but a huge blow was dealt by Chawla, who got a googly to pass between Shankar's bat and pad to crash into his wickets. In 14 balls, Shankar did well to hit six fours to make 29.

Kartikeya cleaned up Abhinav Manohar (2) next, leaving the visitors reeling at mark.

Miller (41 from 26 balls) added 45 runs for the sixth wicket with Rahul Tewatia (14) to help GT stabilise, but could not lead a comeback for

his side.

In the 12th over,
Madhwal's skiddy pace once again found another victim as Miller fell leg-before.

In the next over, Tewatia swept one straight to Cameron

Green at deep square leg. Earlier, India and MI skipper Rohit could not convert his start but appeared to be getting back to his usual self at the crease, hitting a few exquisite shots in his 61-run opening stand in the powerplay with Ishan Kishan (31) to lay the platform for a big

Rashid, who took his overall wickets tally to 23 to top the bowling chart, jolted MI right after the powerplay to have Rohit caught in the first slip for an 18-ball 29, which included three fours and a couple of sixes.

The second breakthrough came four balls later, with the Afghan leg-spinner trapping Kishan LBW.

Rashid continued to make inroads as he had Nehal Wadhera (15) chop one onto his wickets, but MI's acceleration was enough to take them to 96 for three at halfway



Sunrisers face LSG in must-win match

PTI HYDERABAD

ucknow Super Giants will Lbe itching to get back to winning ways against a buoyant Sunrisers Hyderabad with young wrist spinner Ravi Bishnoi holding the key in a must-win IPL game here on Saturday.

LSG, having lost two of

their last three matches, will take a huge step forward if they happen to get past Aiden Markram's team, which is languishing in ninth place in the 10-team table.

The Krunal Pandya-led team is currently fifth with 11 points and is very much there in the play-off mix.

However, on an Uppal track that has produced middling team totals, the role of spinners will be paramount, and that's where Bishnoi, veteran 'Impact Sub' Amit Mishra and skipper Krunal himself come into the pic-

The spin troika will have its task cut out against a Hyderabad line-up whose batting will be dependant on their three overseas recruits -- Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen and Glenn

Phillips is a new entrant into the playing XI after Rs 13.25 crore buy Harry Brook's underwhelming returns of 163 runs in first nine games.

With his fast googlies Bishnoi, the team's best bowler with 12 wickets, could trouble the overseas trio while Mishra's guile and Krunal's steady wicket-towicket bowling could be key against the 'Orange Army'.

In Hyderabad, the track the spinners, who bowl at a duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar higher speed, will certainly and T Natarajan to contend

If one compares man to man, LSG's spinners are better placed since SRH already

are hamstrung by Washington Sundar's pull out from the tournament. The only spinner doing well for them consistently is Mayank Markande, who has 11 wickets from eight games at an economy rate of 7.31.

Hyderabad, which

looked a good team on paper, have suffered on many counts but primarily due to the loss of form of two premier Indian batters Mayank Agarwal (9 matches 187 runs) and Rahul Tripathi (10 matches, 237 runs). Their poor strike-rates of 114.02 and 127.41 tell the whole

In fact, except Klaasen (185.34), the only other toporder batter with a 150 plus strike-rate is southpaw opener Abhishek Sharma (152.63).

As far as LSG's batting is concerned, regular skipper KL Rahul's injury has proved to be a blessing in disguise with both Quinton de Kock and Kyle Mayers attacking from the word go.

However, down the order Marcus Stoinis (239 at strikerate of 139) and Nicholas Pooran (248 at 160), despite having the odd good knocks under their belt, need to do more. Ayush Badoni (212 at 147 SR) has also been very effective, but it is the slow tracks of Lucknow that has been an impediment to the team's success with the bat.

The away match will certainly provide the team with an opportunity to make optimum utilisation of their batting firepower, but they will

Hardik will have a lot of say in India's T20 WC squad: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri is expecting a number of new faces in India's T20 World Cup squad next year with skipper Hardik Pandya having a "big say" in selection matters.

While the likes of Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli still remain in the T20 scheme of things, the phasing out process had started after a disappointing semi-final exit in last year's global meet in Australia.

"I think they will (look in new direction)," Shastri told ESPN Cricinfo.

"The T20 World Cup is coming up and there is lot of talent among youth. This year's IPL, we have seen some refreshing new talent. There will be new faces not a new team. He (Hardik) is already captain of India, so he will continue unless he is not fit," the former India all-rounder said.

Shastri feels that just like the 2007 World Cup, when India went with a relatively new Singh Dhoni, the same would happen in the upcoming tournament.

"Now they would go the 2007 T20 IPL.



World Cup route and identify talent, and he be different and he would have played IPL, and seen a lot of other players as captain of

"Obviously, he is the man who is going to take these guys out on the park, no one else, so whatever he says has to be given importance," he added.

But Shastri also wants everyone to have

'Don't even think of T20 World Cup till ODI World Cup is over, and after that you have enough time for T20s."

As far as Hardik is concerned, Shastri finds him at his decision-making best

when he is fit and leading from the front. "He is supremely confident about his own abilities and the fact that he is fit now,

makes a massive difference," he said. The IPL no doubt will determine how India's T20 resources are stacked up next

year, Shastri said.
"I believe one should be captain of his state in Ranji to captain in Test matches. Similarly IPL is your biggest domestic T20 tournament.

"It is a great (platform) to test temperament of a bloke against good opposition. is far better and you take all that into account and see who's leading which franchise and

Venkatesh defends Rana's decision to bowl first over

opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's

onslaught as he smashed the

part-time off-spinner for 26

"With a lefthander (Jaiswal)

at the crease and him being an

offispinner I don't think it was

a wrong option," Venkatesh

pointed out at the post-match

media interaction. The decision

seemed baffling as KKR had in-

batted them. Shikhar Dhawan remains ✓olkata Knight Riders top Order batter Venkatesh Iyer their best batter and has done has defended Nitish Rana's the job at the top but the same can't be said about his opendecision to bowl the first over ing partner Prabhsimran against Rajasthan Royals after the skipper ended up conced-Singh.
Bhanuka Rajapaksa's ing 26 runs. Defending a modest 149, Rana was the victim of RR

Thursday.

return from injury was marked by a three-ball duck and his form will be important. The ever-improving Jitesh Sharma and all-rounder Liam Livingstone produced some sensational hitting to get them to good scores.

In the bowling attack, Arshdeep Singh has been their key bowler but he along with Nathan Ellis and Sam Curran have leaked runs off late. The absence of a quality off-spinner has hurt their

form spinner in Varun Chakravarthy (17 wickets) but Venkatesh said it was more to do with match-ups.

"We all know what he's capable with the bowl. He has picked crucial wickets in his career. Unfortunately, it didn't go in our favour, had he picked up the wicket (of Jaiswal), it would have been a captain's masterstroke. These things happen on the field.

Terming Rana an "unbelievable bowler", Venkatesh runs with two sixes and three fours that set the tone for RR's elaborated more on the contentious call. win in just 13.1 overs here on

> little bit and was on the slower side. We wanted to exploit the spin with the new ball "It didn't work out so the

The wicket was holding a

questions. But Rana is an unbebowled with economical bowllievable bowler, he has come up ing. One game would not make and picked wickets wherever he

Hailing RR's fielding effort Venkatesh further said Shimron Hetmyer and Sandeep

Sharma's spectacular catches dragged them back.

While Hetmyer dismissed Jason Roy with a well-judged running and jumping catch at square leg boundary, a diving Sharma took a blinder at midoff to bring an end to Rahmanullah Gurbaz's brisk

The opening duo was dismissed in Trent Boult's successive overs in the powerplay.

"Both of them were good shots and great catches. They easily saved around 20-odd runs on the field which in T20 is unbelievable.

"Two wickets and two new batters on the pitch which was not easy to bat that's where I

sibility of playing a lot of dot balls there. I should have rotat-

think we slowed down. "I would take the respon-

ed more, phase was owned by Rajasthan," Venkatesh said about his slow start. RR's young opener Jaiswal

to his 98 not out (47b) on a difficult wicket. "The wicket didn't change much. It's just that Jaiswal batted unbelievably. The way he

hit the fastest IPL fifty en route

played every ball we had no answers to his onslaughts," Venkatesh hailed. "It felt for us that he's batting on a different track altogether because no other batters

found it easy there, so credit to "It's the variety of shots he hit, effective and still orthodox.

There was just one reverse hit, rest all were orthodox cricketing shots. He is a man in form, an amazing batter," Venkatesh

Windies recall Paul and Motie for WC qualifiers

West Indies have recalled all-rounder Keemo Paul and left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie for the World Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe in June and

July.

The poor performances of who have the Caribbean side, who have slipped to 10th in the ICC's ODI rankings, mean that they must compete with six other teams for the two available places in the 2023 World Cup in India from October

New ODI skipper Sai Hope will be able to call on Paul and Motie for the first time since last July's ODI series against India in Trinidad.

Lead selector, former test



THE MAIN OMISSION FROM THE SQUAD IS SHIMRON HETMYER WHO WAS DROPPED FROM THE WORLD **CUP SQUAD LAST** YEAR

opener Desmond Haynes, said he had high hopes for the returning pair.

"Paul is a three-dimensional player, who can bowl the new ball effectively, he's dynamic in the outfield and he can also make vital runs. He is now fully recovered from injury and with his skill-set we see him as a potential match-winner for us,"

"Motie was excellent in the Test matches in the Zimbabwe earlier this year, where he took 19 wickets, and we anticipate similar conditions for the qualifiers. We believe he will again relish the chance to bowl in those conditions," he added.

The main omission from the squad is Guyanese batsman and T20 star Shimron Hetmyer who was dropped from the World Cup squad last year.

Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Ireland and the Netherlands are the main rivals for West Indies in the battle for qualification for the main tournament.

Nepal, Oman, Scotland, the United Arab Emirates and the United States are also competing for a chance to make it to

West Indies will play three ODI warm-ups against the United Arab Emirates without players performing in the Indian Premier League, who have been allowed rest time in the Caribbean before heading to Zimbabwe.

West Indies squad for World Cup qualifiers:

Shai Hope (captain), Rovman Powell (vice captain), Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Nicholas Pooran, Romario Shepherd

Big Bash shortens schedule yet again

AP SYDNEY

Australia's premiere T20 competition is being shortened again in an attempt to counteract criticism that the Big Bash League schedule is too

long.
Cricket Australia on Friday
said the league would be shortened to 10 games per franchise a year earlier than planned after it struck a deal with broadcasters, confirming the move from 56 to 40 regular-season games will happen this season.

The playoffs will also be tweaked, going from five teams qualifying to four, with a yet-toin July and matches will begin in December. The reduction in men's matches takes the competition back to 2017-18 when the eight-

be-determined four-match finals

format. The tournament sched-

ule is expected to be announced

team Big Bash was in its prime. The reduced competition timeframe should allow the sea-

son to be played entirely within the Christmas school holidays. It will also ensure marquee overseas players are available for a higher percentage of matches, along with giving a greater chance for Australia's whiteball stars to play all matches.