

Congress wins 135 seats in 224-member Assembly; BJP reduced to 66 but retains vote share of 36%; JD(S) drops to 19

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Roif Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress on Saturday registered its first major win in Karnataka, though the Himachal Pradesh was wrested from the BJP in the midst of Rahul Gandhi-led 3,500 km foot march.

After Himachal, the Congress then lost Gujarat miserably and thereafter the entire party put up its entire energy in the southern State of Karnataka. And the efforts have been fruitful and will be a morale booster for the Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"major reshuffle" in the

ABJP Karnataka unit is

expected following the poll

defeat with a "detailed internal

analysis" by a committee con-

stituted by BJP president JP

PNS NEW DELHI

Nadda, according to

party sources. Nadda

on Saturday said his

party accepts the

mandate of the peo-

ple of Karnataka

with humility and it

will continue raising

their voice by playing

the role of a con-

The Congress improved its vote share by over 4 per cent in the Karnataka Assembly elections, taking its tally of seats to 135 in the 224-member Assembly. The party's vote share jumped at the cost of the JD(S) which saw a sharp fall of

about 5 per cent managing just 19 seats, according to Election Commission data on the Assembly elections. The BJP could win only 66

seats but retained its vote share of 36 per cent. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi congratulated the Congress for their big win. 'Congratulations to the Congress for their victory in the Karnataka Assembly polls. My best wishes to them in ful-



Folk artists perform during Congress party's celebrations after the party's decisive lead in Karnataka Assembly elections, in Bengaluru on Saturday

party leadership has called a meeting of its MLAs on Sunday filling people's aspirations," However, the selection of afternoon.

Sources said in Karnataka, the Chief Minister candidate between the two heavyweights the Congress went by its strat-- KPCC chief DK Shivakumar egy to ignore national, religion issues to be raked up by the BJP, and former Chief Minister K Siddaramiah — is the new "headache" for the party. The and remained focused on local issues like price rise, corrup-

its manifesto only to State boundaries. We had decided neither

to be provoked nor to respond to the irresponsible comments raised by the BJP just like they attempted to completely change the Bajrang Dal factor to Bajrangbali (Hanuman)," said Sanjiv Singh, AICC secretary, involved right from day one in the campaign in Karnataka.

The Congress has promised to implement poll "guarantees" — 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), ₹3,000 every month for graduate youth and ₹1,500 for diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport

tion, law and order, restraining buses - on the very first day after coming to power in the State.

> With the win in Karnataka, the Congress, particularly Rahul Gandhi has also bounced back after the recent losses in the Northeastern States and it will give the momentum needed to take on the battle for forthcoming Assembly and then the Lok Sabha elections for which the party has opened to any form of alliance.

The Congress entered the campaign with the challenge of keeping at bay the factionalism, especially between the camps of its two chief ministerial aspirants — Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar — who were often seen to be engaging in political one-upmanship, but succeeded in putting up a united front and ensured that no rift came out in the open and ruined its prospects. Continued on Page 2

Jalandhar from Cong

BJP's ally Apna Dal (S) wins both seats in UP PNS NEW DELHI/

JALANDHAR/RAMPUR The AAP on Saturday won

I the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat bypoll in Punjab while in the Assembly by-elections, BJP allies Apna Dal (Sonelal) won AAP workers celebrate after the party candidate Sushil Kumar Rinku won in Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat by-election, in Uttar Pradesh and the UDP in Jalandhar on Saturday in Meghalaya and the BJD bagged a seat in Odisha.

The bypolls to the lone Lok Sabha seat in Punjab, two Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh and one seat each in Odisha and Meghalaya were held on May 10. In the Assembly bypolls, the ruling BJP-led coalition in Uttar Pradesh ended Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's over four-decade dominance in Rampur as Apna Dal (S) won

the Suar seat. Shafeek Ahmed Ansari defeated SP's Anuradha Chauhan by a margin of 8,724 votes. Apna Dal (S) got its second success when Rinki Kol defeated SP's Kirti Kol by 9,587 votes to win the Chhanbey (SC) Assembly seat.

In Odisha, the ruling BJD retained the Jharsuguda Assembly seat with its candidate Dipali Das defeating her BJP rival Tankadhar Tripathy

The ruling BJP swept the mayoral elections in Uttar

porations, thanked the people

of Uttar Pradesh and congrat-

ulated BJP workers for forming

a "triple-engine government" in

the State after the party's

"biggest victory" in the urban

in Lucknow, Ayodhya, Jhansi,

Bareilly, Mathura-Vrindavan,

Moradabad, Saharanpur,

Shahjahanpur, Ghaziabad,

The urban local body polls

Of the 17 municipal cor-

Parineeti, Raghav engaged

The party's candidates won

Aligarh,

local body polls.

Prayagraj,

PTI LUCKNOW

BJP's clean sweep in UP mayoral polls

Concress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala, Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar and KC Venugopal during celebrations after the party's win in Karnataka elections, in Bengaluru on Saturday

'mohabbat ki dukaanein' (shops of love) have opened," he said.

In the Karnataka polls, on one side there was power of crony capitalists and on the other there was the strength of poor people, Rahul said. The strength of the poor has defeated the power of crony capitalists and this will happen in all States, he said. Kharge said all the newly elected legislators have been asked to be in Bengaluru for her instructions and extend help in the

vote share. structive Opposition

"The BJP accepts the mandate of the people of Karnataka with humility. I thank the diligent karvakartas of @BJP4Karnataka for their efforts and the people who showed faith in our vision... nip of Prime require Minister Narendra Modi ji, the BJP will continue to work

for the betterment of the people and raise their voice by

constructive Opposition," Nadda said Conceding Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai submitted

K'taka BJP set for major rejig

Governor

more than 36 per cent votes, we have got less number of seats. Analysis is going on, but defeat is a defeat. In the party, we will do a detailed analysis of the

strategy might have been one actively playing the role of

> defeat, his resignation to

Thaawarchand Gehlot. However, Bommai won his seat in the Shiggaon against Congress candidate Yasir Ahmed Khan with 59 per cent of the

'This time despite getting results, and rectify wherever

of the major reasons for its win. Some party leaders admitted in private that a combative Congress was ahead in the "narratives front", noting that it

had relentlessly targeted the Bommai Government on corruption issues months before the elections. The BJP failed to counter the Congress allega tions on corruption effective-ly, another BJP leader said.

Modi said on Twitter.

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said, "Victory and loss are not new to BJP. Starting with only 2 seats BJP went to form govt in Karnataka. Although BJP leadership gave a pro development administration in Karnataka, we lost the election. We will introspect the setbacks of the party.

The BJP had won 104 seats in 2018 with 36.35 per cent vote share, but this time it could while

Market of hate closed, shops of love have opened: Rahul

PNS BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

¬ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday termed the Congress's good show in the Karnataka Assembly polls as a victory of "janata janardhana", saying people have voted "furiously" against BJP's "bad administration" in the State.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi too hailed the party's performance saying "nafrat ka bazaar" has closed down and "mohabbat ki dukaanein" have opened in the State, while his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi who too campaigned extensively in the State hailed the party's performance and said the mandate is a clear message that people want solution to their problems and that tactics of diverting attention from major issues will not

work. "I thank and congratulate the people of Karnataka, party workers and leaders," Rahul said at a Press conference at AICC headquarters. "I am happy we contested the Karnataka ising hate had without language We



Bommai said the Congress' "much organised" election

almost retaining the vote share of 36 per cent.

fought the polls with love. In Karnataka, 'nafrat processes for Government formation. ka bazaar (market of hate)' has closed down'

Continued on Page 2

Corruption, anti-incumbency, BJP not invincible, **NOTA gets more** Muslims, dole help Cong win say Opp leaders than 'spoilers'

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Congress' victory in the Karnataka Assembly polls has been hailed by Opposition leaders. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the people of the southern State had rejected the BJP's politics of money power and religion and its continued misuse of the official machinery to topple democratically elected Governments in the country.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Karnataka electoral results are the "beginning of the end" for BJP. She also asserted the moral of the Karnataka Assembly

poll results is that people "want plurality" and that "no central

design to dominate" can repress them. She said the poll results were a "lesson for tomorrow", implying the 2024 Parliamentary polls.

She forecast that the safforn party would lose in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh too.

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray said the BJP's electoral debacle marked the beginning of the defeat of the "dictatorial" and option. "tyrannical" rule in the coun-try. Pawar said, "The people of

Karnataka have rejected the BJP's politics of breaking Opposition Governments."

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI Over 2.6 lakh voters pressed "none of the above" or NOTA option in the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls, according to Election Commission figures. According to figures avail-able around 3.30 pm, 2,59,278

elections. (0.7 per cent) out of the nearly 3.84 crore people who came out to vote on Wednesday exercised the NOTA The NOTA number is

more than the votes that Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party,

Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AÍMIM), National Congress Party (NCP), All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) as well as the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI(M) got in the

As against NOTA's 0.7 per cent vote share, BSP secured 0.31 per cent, JD(U) secured 0.00 per cent, All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) 0.00 per-cent,AIMIM and CPI secured 0.02 per cent each, and CPI(M) secured 0.06 per cent.

The NOTA option on electronic voting machines (EVMs) was introduced in 2013.

PTI BENGALURU

Acampaign against corrup-tion, guarantees of dole and consolidation of Muslim votes appear to have underpinned the Congress victory in Karnataka that was also aided by anti-incumbency against the BJP Government. The strength of the poor

has defeated the power of crony capitalists and this will happen in all States, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday. The Congress successfully wresting power in Karnataka after Himachal Pradesh will be a morale booster for the party in reviving its electoral fortunes

and strengthening its credentials as the main Opposition

quantities of narcotic contra

bands for distribution to receiv-

a close watch over the input

was maintained by the team.

gence collection and analysis

resulted in identification of a

highly probable route that the

mother ship would take for dis-

tribution of contraband," the

NCB said in a statement.

Assets were mobilised and

The continuous intelli-

ing vessels over the route).

player against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The party's all-out attack

on the BJP government over corruption allegations with the "40 per cent commission sarkar" barb, coupled with the Adani issue struck a chord with the people, according to party leaders.

Agra, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Firozabad and Meerut. The Congress pledged to implement on the very first day after coming to power its poll guarantees like 200 units of free were held in two phases — on May 4 and May $\hat{11}$ — to elect ower to all households (Gruha 17 mayors and 1,401 corporayoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistors. Nineteen corporators were tance to the woman head of elected unopposed, according every family (Gruha Lakshmi), to the State Election 10 kg of rice free to every mem-Commission. ber of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya).

porations, the BJP repeated its **Continued on Page 2** candidates only in Kanpur city,

municipal corporations on

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP leader Yogi Adityanath with Deputy Chief Ministers KP Maurya and Brajesh Pathak during celebrations following the announcement of results of UP local body elections, at party office in Lucknow on Saturday

by 48,721 votes. Synshar Kupar

Roy Lyngdoh Thabah of the

UDP beat Samlin Malngiang of

the NPP by 3422 votes to win

the Sohiong by-election in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills.

vacant following the death of Kaur's husband and Congress

MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary

Greeting the people of Punjab on the victory of AAP

in Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll,

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal on Saturday said his

party does politics of work, and

asks for votes in the name of

work only. Kejriwal called it "an

unprecedented victory" as its

Despite fielding former

candidate Sushil Rinku won.

Congress MLA Sushil Rinku, a

parachute candidate, the AAP

wrested the Jalandhar Lok

Sabha seat from the Congress.

in January

The Jalandhar seat fell

Bareilly and Moradabad and all three proved to be successful.

Adityanath said the win was a result of better coordination between the government and the organisation. Flanked by Deputy Chief

Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak at a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Adityanath said the BJP has won all the 17 municipal corporations for the first time.

"In all 17 municipal corporations, voters have reposed faith in BJP," he said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

NARCO-TERROR MODULE **BUSTED IN J&K; 4 HELD** Srinagar: An inter-State narco terror module was busted and its four members members were arrested in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir police said on Saturday They said around eight kilograms of heroine-like substance and cash was seized during the operation

BHONDSI PRISONER HITS INMATE WITH SPOON

Gurugram: A prisoner at the Bhondsi jail here attacked a fellow inmate with a spoon and injured him, police said on Saturday. According to a complaint filed by undertrial inmate Mangat Ram, the attack took place inside the jail Friday mornina

Pak man detained, 3K kg methamphetamine seized in joint op by NCB, Indian Navy PNS NEW DELHI

A joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Indian Navy has led to seizure of approximately 2,500 kg methamphetamine valued at ₹12,000 crore, from the Indian waters.

In the seizure which is part of Operation Samudragupt targeting maritime trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan, the NCB has detained one suspected, a Pakistani national, in connec-



₹12K-cr drugs seized from Indian waters

tion with the largest seizure of methamphetamine in the country, the NCB said.

This is the third major seizure made by the NCB relating to maritime trafficking through the southern route in the last one and half years. This is the first interception of a "mothership" carrying drugs by an Indian agency. As much as 3,200 kg

methamphetamine, 500 kg of heroin and 529 kg of hashish have been seized in the operations so far through the southern route, it said

Apart from NCB operations, inputs shared with Sri Lanka and Maldives have also resulted in seizures of the contraband in keeping with India's leadership in the maritime security of the region.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

"Continuing the efforts jointly with the intelligence fter playing hide-and-seek with the media After playing nice-and-sect with the hard her fans, Bollywood actor Parineeti wing of the Indian Navy, intel-Chopra got engaged to AAP politician and Rajva ligence about movement of a Sabha MP Raghav Chadha in Delhi on Saturday. Parineeti posted several pictures on

'Mother Ship' carrying methamphetamine from Instagram to announce the engagement. "Everything I prayed for... She said yes!" Makran coast was generated (Mother Ships are large sea

going vessels carrying large wrote the 34-year-old Rajya Sabha MP.

The ceremony, held at the Central Delhi's Kapurthala House, was attended by around 150 guests, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, and Parineeti's cousin and film star Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Raghav chose a simple achkan, specially crafted by his maternal uncle, fashion designer Pawan Sachdeva. On the other hand, Parineeti, 34, will wear an elegant traditional ensemble by Manish Malhotra.

The function began at 5 pm with Sukhmani Sahib path, followed by ardas and engagement *Continued on Page 2* took place at 8 pm.



Saturday. Official results for the Varanasi mayoral election came late at night on Saturday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who claimed victory in all the 17 municipal cor-

capital 02

2 girls hang self over **CBSE Class XII result**

sunday pioneer

STAFF REPORTER MINEW DELHI

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | MAY 14, 2023

Upset at their performance below their expectation Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class XII examinations, two students allegedly hanged themselves to death at their respective homes in separate incidents in the national Capital.

A 16-year-old girl allegedly hanged herself at her home in west Delhi's Hari Nagar after scoring low marks in the exam.

On Friday at 11.54 pm, Hari Nagar police station received information from DDU Hospital regarding the girl, a resident of Hari Nagar, who was brought dead to the hospital by her father, Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Ghanshyam Bansal said.

During enquiry, it was revealed that the deceased ended her life after scoring a low percentage in her Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class XII examination, the DCP said. She was a student of science stream and secured 75 per cent marks in the result declared on Friday.



She was deeply upset. No suicide note was found, Bansal said. The body has been preserved at the mortuary of DDU Hospital. An autopsy will be conducted on Saturday. Further enquiry is in progress,

police added. The second incident was eported from northwest Delhi's Sultanpuri

A 19-year-old girl hanged herself at her home on Friday after she failed the exam, police said. She was admitted to the SGM Hospital in Mangolpuri but died during treatment. Her family members told police that she was upset after finding out her Class 12 result.

A senior police officer said no foul play is suspected in her death and the family members have raised no such suspicion over her death. No suicide note has been found.

The autopsy was done on Saturday and the body has been handed over to her family. The post-mortem report determined asphyxia as a result

of antemortem hanging as the cause of death, police said. The Central Board of

econdary Education declared the results for Class 10 and 12 on Friday. The pass percentage for Class 10 stood at 93.12 per cent; it was 87.33 per cent for Class 12.

his friend are absconding. The accused has been

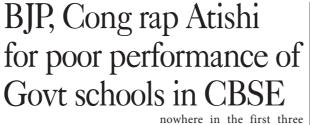
identified as Mangal, a resident

of Railway Colony, Mandawali.

six criminal cases, they said.

that on Tuesday at 9 pm when

The complainant reported



Bengaluru. The Delhi

government considers these

cities behind in comparison

with Delhi. Now in the results,

the claim of the Delhi

government has been exposed.

Last year Delhi's position was

fourth and fifth but this time it

has slipped one place further.

situation in class X is very bad.

CBSE Class 10th Result has

divided the whole country into

16 regions and Delhi has been

ranked 13th and 15th. Delhi

(West) at 13th position and

Delhi (East) at 15th position.

Last year Delhi (East) was in

14th position, this time it is in

Virendra Sachdeva said that

Covid affected the education

system of the whole country,

Trivandrum and Bangalore

maintained the education level

by introducing extra classes,

whereas due to the negligence

of Kejriwal & Sisodia Delhi

results have fallen and city has

ranked 13th in the country in

the 10th class result.

while

but

Delhi BJP President

Chennai

second last position.

The BJP leader said that the

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP and the L Congress slammed the Arvind Kejriwal government and Education Minister Atishi for poor performance in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) results.

The BJP said the Delhi government has become event management venue and school management committees a political play field during the

Kejriwal regime. Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has expressed surprise that Kejriwal and his education minister Atishi are patting themselves on the back despite that In Class 12, Delhi has been ranked 4th and 6th out of 11 regions while in Class 10 Delhi has been ranked 13th and 15th out of 16 regions.

Bidhuri said that the CBSE results have exposed the government's claim. He said Delhi has been ranked fourth and sixth out of 11 regions in Class XII. Delhi (West) is in the fourth position and Delhi (East) is in the sixth position. This means that Delhi is

22-km long human chain planned for clean Yamuna places. The first three places are STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI Trivandrum, Chennai, and

> A group of citizens is rallying thousands of people to form a 22-kilometre-long human chain on the banks of the Yamuna on June 4 to draw attention to the sorry state of the river plagued by pollution.

The chain will extend from Wazirabad to Okhla in Delhi, a 22-kilometer stretch which accounts for 75 per cent of the river's pollution load. Twentytwo drains fall into the river in this stretch. This will probably be the biggest such effort to sensitize the people of Delhi and ensure their participation in cleaning the Yamuna in the capital, said members of

"Yāmuna Sansad", a campaign by environmentalists, conservationists, academicians and researchers working to revive the river.

"At 6.30 am on June 4, a 22km-long human chain will be formed on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi. Around one lakh people will stand hand in hand between Wazirabad and Kalindi, pledging to keep the Yamuna river clean," it said.

31 drug offenders, 12 bootleggers held under 'Operation Kawach'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

he police raided around 100 locations in Delhi and arrested 31 drug offenders and 12 bootleggers under "Operation Kawach" to combat drug abuse in the city, officials said on Saturday.

The operation is primarily intended to save the youth and children from the menace of drugs, they said.

"Operation Kawach" was launched all over Delhi to focus on identifying and apprehending individuals involved in trafficking and distribution of narcotics, police said.

It was decided to target both street-level dealers and high-level traffickers to effectively counter drug trafficking, they said.

A total of 80 police teams consisting of ANTF (which acts as nodal agency for narcotics related matters and coordinates with NCB) and Crime Branch from all police stations of all the districts were constituted to carry out the operations. The ANTF in coordination with all districts of

community.

Mallikarjun Kharge's 'venomous snake" barb at

Prime Minister Modi and

then his son and Chittapur

MLA Priyank Kharge's

"nalayak beta" (incompetent

son) remark against him, were

latched onto by the BJP which

had urged the voters to

punish the Congress for its

controversies, the Congress

manifesto's promise of banning the Bajrang Dal

caused some anxiety to the party, as the BJP and PM

Modi aggressively picked up

the issue to portray the grand

Amid these back-to-back

politics of abuse".

Delhi Police carried out a ground-level survey and choose more than 100 potential targets to perform simultaneous raids, police said.

The raids were effectively executed across Delhi during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. A total of 31 drug offenders were arrested in 30 NDPS cases while 12 bootleggers were arrested in six Excise Act cases, they said.

During the operation, 957.5 grams of heroin, 57.884 kg of ganja and 782 quarters of illicit liquor were seized, police

In this year so far, Delhi Police has arrested 534 narcooffenders in 412 NDPS cases and recovered around 35 kg of heroin/smack, 15 kg of cocaine, 1,500 kg of ganja, 230 kg of opium, 10 kg of charas and 20 kg of poppy, they said.

BJP's...

DU to begin UG admission process through CSAT system by month's end

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is planning to begin the admissions process for admissions to undergraduate programmes through the Common Seat Allocation System by the month's end. The university will launch two separate portals for admissions to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday declared the Class 12 results, with 87.33 per cent of students clearing the exam. "The CBSE results of the

PUBLIC NOTICE RE: LAND KHASRA No.686 & 687, V. ACCHEJA, HAPUR (U.P)

It is hereby inform to public at large that our client M/s Echelon Promoters Pvt Ltd has entered into an agreement to purchase the Immovable property detailed below & hereinafter referred as the said detailed below & hereinafter referred as the said property from M/s PTM & Associates (presently known as PTM Associates) PAN No. AAKFP5568Q. (hereinafter called the said firm) having its reg. office A-3/409, Milan Vihar, Apartment. 72, I.P Extension Patparganj, Delhl-110092 at present, through it's partners Rajat Tayal & Anil Kumar Gupta, vide a reg. Agreement to sel dated 15-9-2022 bearing reg. serial no.6199. The said firm through it's then partner Mr. P.D.Taneja,



12th class have been announced. The CUET UG is also starting later this month. We are in process to launch our admission procedure. Most probably it will begin the admission process by the month end," a senior varsity official said. The admissions for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes will

she was having dinner on the first floor of her residence, be done through CSAS (UG) 2023 and CSAS (PG) 2023. three people with muffled faces Students aspiring to get forcibly entered her residence, a senior police officer said.

into DU will have to appear for CUET(UG)-2023 and CUET (PG)-2023 as well as register on the CSAS UG and PG portal of the DU. The university is hopeful that this year the admission process would be "smoother", the official said.

"We are fully prepared to admissions t vide a regisale der UG and PC programmes through the CUET. We will be launching two separate portals for admissions to graduate and postgraduate programmes," the official said.



Woman robbed of ₹84K,

son behind act arrested

cameras installed in the area. One of the footage came on record where three people were seen running in the street near He was previously involved in the premises of the victim, they said.

Later, the whereabouts of the suspects were traced and they were identified. A trap was laid, following which Mangal was arrested and a juvenile was apprehended.

The third accused Tinku is at large, Special Commissioner One of them pushed her into the room and covered of Police (Crime) Ravindra her face with hands, while the Singh Yadav said. It was found that Sachin was the mastermind behind the second person choked her throat and the third one started robbery. He is addicted to checking and frisking the drugs and is known to Tinku, They then tied the hands who too takes drugs, police aid Both Sachin and

about the exact locations of the

valuables placed in his house,

police added.

Cong's landslide...

party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra pitched in subsequently and with Sonia Gandhi a day whose statement on Karnataka sovereignty led to a controversy ending up clarification by the Election Commission. The poll was touted also

to be a battle of prestige for Kharge, who hails from Kalaburagi district, at its helm as the non-Gandhi AICC president.

Though the campaign initially centered around its leaders like state Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Kharge gave it momentum and thereby prepared the pitch for the party's top leaders Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi to join in.

The brother-sister duo extensively travelled across the State, challenging the BJP's campaign blitz led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, countering him on various issues, and raising

rallies and his winning strike rate as per experts was at 68 percent and considered to be more than all other politicians while Modi addressed 42 rallies and his winning strike rate was at 40 percent.

The focus of the Congress attack on the BJP government was over corruption and the charge of "40 per cent commission", coupled with the Adani issue, which according to several party leaders seems to have echoed with the sentiment of the people. Adani issue was later side stepped by the Congress think tank realising that it would not be able to cash amongst the Karnataka electorates.

While extensively highlighting its five key poll 'guarantees', the party tried to inform the people about its charge against the BJP government of having "failed in fulfilling 90 per cent of its promises" made in its 2018 manifesto. Congress was successful

old party as being against Lord Hanuman and the also to attract the Lingayat vote base of the BJP by trying sentiments of Hindus. ect that the

From Page 1 Earlier in a tweet, the chief minister said, "Hearty congratulations to all the while accusing the BJP of

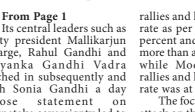
spreading communal hatred. dedicated and hardworking At a time when it seemed workers of the BJP and the like all was going well for it, people of Uttar Pradesh, who Congress also waded into love good governance, on the controversies massive victory of the BJP in with the Uttar Pradesh municipal Siddaramaiah's statement that "there's already a Lingayat elections. CM who is the most corrupt", which the BJP turned into an "insult" to the entire Lingayat

"This massive victory reflects the successful guidance of respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and immense public faith in the pro-people, developmental and all-inclusive policies of the double-engine government," he added.

Adityanath had led the campaign for the urban local body polls, holding several election meetings across the state. During the campaign, he had repeatedly urged voters to add a third wheel or third engine to the "double-engine"

government in Uttar Pradesh. In the Lucknow Municipal Corporation, the BJP's Sushma Kharkwal won the mayoral election. According to the State Election Commission, Kharkwal bagged 5,02,660 votes while Vandana Mishra of the Samajwadi Party got 298519 votes.

In Ayodhya, BJP candidate Girish Pati Tripathi won the mayoral election, defeating his nearest rival Ashish of the Samajwadi Party by a margin of 35,638 votes.



chased th dated 15-1-12007, which was duly registered with the office of Sub Registrar, Hapur end entered In the Book No.1, Volume 4448. on pages 164 to 187 at serial no. 724/15-1-2007 from its erstwhile owners Ramniwas & others.

On 15-1-2007 the said firm initially consisting of four partners 1.Mr. Pushpender Kumar, 2. Mr.P.D.Taneja, 3. Mr. Tarun Mittal & 4. Manoj Kumar Goel, after that in the year 2009, Mr. P.D.Taneja wa retired and a new partner entered to it, Mr Anil Kumar Gupta, vide an new doed of Admission cum irement dl 15-1-2009. Further In the year 2015 the said firm was again reconstituted, as Mr. Pushpender Kumar & Mr. Manoj Kumar Goel were resigned and a new partner Mr.Saurabh Tayal entered in to the firm vide an Amended Partnershin Deed dt.1-4-2015. Once again in the year 2016 the said firm was reconstituted, as Mr. Tarun Mittal & Mr.Saurabh Tayal wero resigned and a new partner Mr. Rajat Tayal entered in to the firm vide an Amended Partnership Deed dt.1-4-2016. Later on in the year 2017 the remaining partners of the said firm i.e. Mr Anil Kumar Gupta & Mr. Rajat Tayal have applied and get registered with the Sub Registrar of Assurance-VIII, Preet Vihar, New Delhi, the Partnership Deed dt. 30-1-2017. Further in the year 2023, the said firm was again reconstituted, as Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta gifted his share in the said firm to her sister Mrs. Neelam Gupta and she has entered in to the firm in lieu of him vide a reg. Partnership Deed of Admission cum Retirement (Roconstitution Deed) dt 2-1-2023. Finally both the continuing partners of the said firm i.e. Mr. Rajat Tayal & Mrs. Neelam Gupta, have amended the said firm name and get registered an amended Partnership Deed dt.10-4-2023 with the Sub Registrar of Assurance-VIII, Preet Vihar, New Delhi. Now the sale transaction of the said scheduled property will be completed and executed by the present partners of the said firm **M/S PTM ASSOCIATES.** Any person / company / firm / financial Institutions etc., if have any objection of any kind in respect of the said sale transaction of property or have any kind of claim, rights, share, interest, immediately contact and submit the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersign at below written address within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice & if within this period of 10 days, no objection raised from any person/body, it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share, claim, demand exist in resped of the said land and stand waived hereinafter, considering that property in question is free from any kind of prior charge. encumbrances whatsoever & our client will proceed prudently to purchase the said property & get mutated its name in the concerned revenue record Details of property above mentioned All that piece and parcel of agricultural land with bhumidhari rights, bearing Khata No.128 (for fasli year 1425 to 1430) consisting of two Khasra Nos. namely 686 having an area of 0.433 Hect. & Khasra No.687 having an area of 0.600 Hect., out of which only 0.484 Hect. jointly admeasuring a total land of 0.917 Hectare, situated at Village Achheja, Tehsil & District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh ABHINAV KUMAR GARG

Advocate & Legal Adviso A-G5, Gaur Cascades, Rajnagar Extension Ghaziabad Mobile: 9719199294, WhatsApp: 9719559999 robbed valuables, including 120 grams of gold jewellery, cash Rs Rs 84,000 etc., police said During the investigation,

house, the officer said.

police checked the CCTV

₹12K-cr drugs seized from... 125 1st Floor Ashok Enclave Faridabad Amar Nagar Faridabad Haryana, My Flat No. A-902 9th Floor From Page 1 Tower A The Golden Palms Plot G H 01E Sector 168 Noida allotment letter and

Accordingly, these details were shared with the Indian Navy nd an Indian Naval Ship was deployed in the vicinity. builder buyer agreement dated 11.05.2023 has gone missing Based on this input, a large sea going vessel was intercepted somewhere in Abul Fazal Enclave Jamia

by the Navy. As many as 134 sacks of suspected methamphetamine were recovered from the ship and an Iranian national was also detained. The intercepted speed boat was occupied by one person who is suspected to be a Pakistani national.

The recovered sacks, Pakistani national, the intercepted boat nd some other items salvaged from the mother ship were brought to Mattancherry Wharf, Cochin on Saturday (May13, 2023) and handed over to NCB for further action, the agency said.

The NCB has initiated the seizure procedures and the primary analysis is that all of the packets contain Methamphetamine. As the seizure procedures are still underway, the exact quantity of methamphetamine recovered is not clear yet.

Any patient requiring may ner				
Medical Records may approach the undersigned within 30 days	कार्यालय नगर पालिक	निगम,	भिलाई	(छ.ग.)
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Medical Record Officer	Main Portal : https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in			
Kailash Hospital & Heart Institute	आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई—निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:—			
H-33, Sector 27 Noida	क्र. कार्य का विवरण	सिस्टम नं.	निविदा लागत राशि	गिविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
•CLASSIFIEDS•	 जोन 04 अंतर्गत खुर्रीपार गेट मार्ग, शारजी मार्केट मुख्य मार्ग, जलाराम मंदिर रोड, शर्मा आश्रम रोड, लोधी पारा मुख्य मार्ग वार्ड 50 सडक 27 से 29 न्यु, खुर्सीपार मिलन बौक एवं मशाल बौक डामरीकृत मार्ग का बौडीकरण कार्य। 	133420	164.00 लाख	01.06.2023
• CHANGE OF NAME • I, Zakirah Khatoon W/o.	 जोन 04 अंतर्गत शिवालय रोड, एनवी रोड, राकेश होटल तथा वार्ड 48 के आंतरिक डामरीकृत मार्गों का वौडीकरण कार्य। 	133409	192.50 लाख	01.06.2023
Matiullah, R/o. N-145, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar,	 जोन 04 अंतर्गत केनाल रोड से छावनी चौक तक रोड का चौडीकरण कार्य। 	133373	137.53 लाख	01.06.2023
New Delhi-110025 have declared that my name has been wrongfully mentioned in my son's school record as Zakirah instead of Zakirah Khatoon.	निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज आनलाईन जमा की (Online) दी जायें। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु निविदा की र निविदा विद्यपित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी <u>htt</u> है।	सामान्य शर्ते, धन	रोहर राशि, विस e.gov.in से ड कार (पा	ਹੁਹ
PD(031)A				भिलाई

the issue of corruption, hatched a conspiracy to rob the promising to provide a better former's mother. Sachin was alternative for Karnataka. the insider who let Tinku know

The party held 99 public meetings and 33 road shows by its top state and central leaders. Rahul alone did 22

Market of hate...

From Page 1

Congress' good show was a "Janata Janardhana Victory", he said, crediting the people for the party's apparent return to power as it established a clear lead ahead of its rival meetings, BIP.

"People themselves have women's meetings and a got up and supported us, they have voted for us furiously workers' meet. against the bad administration. This shows countered Modi's charge that voters of Karnataka are the Opposition hurled abuses awakened. Despite the Prime at him, saying he should focus Minister (Narendra Modi), on people's issues rather than Home Minister (Amit Shah), talking about himself. The Karnataka sweep, which comes close on the heels of dozens of Ministers, Chief Ministers of other States camping here, and despite Rahul's disqualification from manpower, money and the Lok Sabha and withdrawal muscle being used, people have unitedly voted for of accommodation, also signals Congress," he added at a joint sympathy for the Congress, Press conference with senior with the BJP's charge that Rahul was anti-OBC, having party leaders.

Kharge said those who wanted 'Congress Mukt made "defamatory remarks against all Modis", failing to Bharat' ended up facing 'BJP stick. Mukt Dakshin Bharat'. Kharge took a swipe at the spokesman Jairam Ramesh said this win will help in the BJP, saying egoistic statements will not work anymore and Congress resurrection at the one should understand the national level and has given sufferings of people. Priyanka the much-needed "booster dose" to the party. "It is a who is currently on a private visit to Shimla, along with her decisive victory for the mother and former party Congress, but we have a long chief Sonia Gandhi, said the way to go as many assembly entire campaign of the elections are there. It is bound Congress in Himachal to have an effect in state Pradesh, where the party won elections," he said.

ιο party had over years neglected them

the Assembly polls last year,

Congress

chief

Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi repeatedly invoked 12th Century social reformer Basavanna in their speeches

it did not sw Howeve voters in Karnataka who against voted "misgovernance" and "rejected attempts at polarisation and division", Congress leaders said.

Corruption, Muslim...

From Page 1

and Karnataka was on issues Also, Rs 3,000 every month of public concern. Privanka for graduate youth and Rs had run a high-octane 1,500 for diploma holders (both campaign for the elections in the age group of 18-25) for and addressed 13 public two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public besides participating in 12 road shows. She had also held two transport buses (Shakti) were promised.

"This is the victory of 'janata janardhan'. All our During the campaign, she leaders have worked unitedly and people have voted for our guarantees," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on the party's performance in his home state.

Another key factor, according to Congress leaders, was the consolidation of the Muslim votes, which accounted his Government for nearly 13 per cent of the electorate and were usually split between the Congress and JD(S), in its favour.

The party had promised to restore the four per cent quota for Muslims which has been scrapped by the BJP government.

The Congress manifesto's promise of banning the Bajrang Dal was picked up by the BJP and PM Modi aggressively to portray the grand old party as being against Lord Hanuman and the sentiments of Hindus.

However, it did not swav the people in Karnataka who voted against "misgovernance" and "rejected attempts at polarisation and division",

Congress leaders said. With the win in Karnataka, the Congress has also bounced back after the recent losses in the Northeastern states and it will give the momentum needed to take on the battleready election machinery of the BIP later this year in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and

Rajasthan. The Congress entered the campaign with the challenge keeping at bay the of factionalism, especially between the camps of its two chief ministerial aspirants --Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar -- who were often seen to be engaging in political one-upmanship, but succeeded in putting up a united front and ensured that no rift came out in the open and derailed its prospects.

"I think this election is crucial. This result is the stepping stone for the party in the Lok Sabha election in 2024 I also hope that Rahul Gandhi becomes the prime minister of this country," party stalwart and former chief minister Siddaramaiah said.

The election was also a prestige battle in a way for the grand old party with a Kannadiga Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Kalaburagi district, at its helm as the national president.

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Panchkula



Anuj (96.36)

Hisar



(98.57) Gurugram

Aakil Parvej (98.54)



Aman (98.47) Karnal

Palak (96.83)

Hisar



Lisha (96.77)

Kurukshetra

Daksh Pokhrial (96.47)

Yamunanagar

Srishti Rai (94.94)

Faridabad

Apoorv (93.96)

Ambala

















Panchkula



Mukul (96.34) Hisar

Narender Kumar

(94.52) Fatehabad

Yogesh Kumar

(93.80) Sirsa

Rashi (92.11)

Nuh

Alok Kumar (90.60)

Faridabad

Yash Mangla (90.85)

Nuh



Tanveer Ahmed Khan

(97.52) Gurugram

Khushi (95.76) Patwal



Manish (97.25)

Sirsa

Jatin (95.51) Mahendragarh

Jatin (95.40)

Khushi (97.07)

Mahendragarh



Arshit (95.35) Fatehabad

Ajay Kumar (95.25) Sirsa



Jayant Saini (96.80)

Mahendragarh

Navdeep Kaur

(95.19) Sirsa



Hisar



Lovish Mehta (93.01) Sirsa

Aaditya Sharma (91.01) Panchkula



Uday Bhaskar Singh



Kanika (90.99) Sirsa



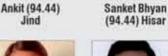




Hisar



(90.09) Ambala



Mamta (93.64) Fatehabad

Ketan (91.60)

Rewari

Ayushmaan (90.55)

Hisar

Saurabh Chhabra (93.50) Panchkula

Aryan (91.38)

Fatehabad

Nikita (93.49) Hisar

(94.42) Jhajjar

Priyanshu (93.40) Hisar

Suryansh Rohil (93.12) Yamunanagar



























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Fatehabad









(90.53) Faridabad











Harpal Singh (94.52) Sirsa





Shubham (96.42)

Panchkula

(94.80) Faridabad





Tejal Goyal (94.38) Ambala



Naresh (94.21) Gurugram

Gourav (94.06)

Local factors help Cong cross magic mark in K'taka

MANISH ANAND NEW DELH

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | MAY 14, 2023

The Bharatiya Janata Party had launched carpet-bombing with rallies and roadshows of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah in the Karnataka Assembly election. The Congress had allowed the campaign spotlight to stay on former state Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka unit chief D K Shivakumar. In the end, the popular verdict was bagged by local factors, trumping the high-decibel top-heavy campaign of the BJP.

Modi by the end of the campaign had addressed 20 rallies and several roadshows. His roadshow in Bengaluru was staggered over two days. Besides Shah, the BJP chief JP Nadda also held roadshows. "The Central BJP leaders by time curtains came on electioneering had covered not only the districts but even the next big cities within the districts, spanning all the regions of the state. It was truly a carpet-bombing from the BJP's textbook of the election campaign," said a senior BJP leader from Karnataka.

The BJP's strategy was not



unday pioneer

The top brass of the BJP decid-

ed on candidates in line with

the emerging theme in the saf-

fron outfit to promote new

leadership, and thus fielded as

many as 72 new faces, and

denied tickets to veterans such

as Jagdish Shettar and Laxman

Savadi, both Lingayata leaders.

was built around two of the

'The Congress campaign

only centralized for campaign, national secretary and party incharge for Telangana. but even for candidate selection.

In former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and his successor Basavaraj Bommai, the BJP also had local faces but the high voltage campaigns by the Central leaders eclipsed them from the popular spotlight, said another BJP leader from Karnataka, who claimed that "the local leaders had no limited say in candidate selection and strategizing the poll".

most credible faces of the party in Karnataka - Siddaramaiah Besides, the Congress went and D K Shivakumar. Both the hyper-local for the Karnataka leaders enjoy a very strong Assembly election. The credibility among the people in Congress had released vision the state. The people voted on documents for regions of their face value. This was the Karnataka even before the most important factor on cam-Election Commission announced the poll date, and paign strategy, while the the party was quick to national leadership also led the campaigns vigorously," said Nadeem Javed, Congress announce candidates.

PTI 🗖 TEZPUR/GUWAHATI

Centre in 2024.

For the BJP, the Karnataka

verdict appears to be a wakeup call, for the saffron outfit has not lost a state election so convincingly, with the Congress winning more than double of the tally of the saffron outfit. While the BJP had steamrolled the Opposition in Gujarat, the saffron outfit had narrowly lost Himachal Pradesh to the

Congress. "The BJP leadership will need to introspect that Modi cannot win all elections, and the party needs to back local leaders and back them strongly," said another BJP leader from Karnataka.

The BJP's confidence on a centralized campaign was built on successes recently in Tripura where the party changed the chief minister just a few months before the poll and still almost single-handedly won the election. The BJP's confidence was also built on the centralized and top-heavy campaign because of the party retaining power in Goa and Uttarakhand despite lightweight chief ministers. But the Karnataka verdict appears to suggest that the BJP's excessive centralized campaign now has visible challenges in regions where the Opposition parties have mass leaders.

8 turncoats of 2019 'coup', who helped BJP form Govt in Karnataka, lose election announced, Pratapgouda Patil lost to Basangouda Turvihal of Congress by 13,053 votes from Maski constituency and B C PTI BENGALURU

Eight Congress turncoats by joined the BJP and helped it form the govern-ment in 2019, lost in the May Patil (Hirekerur) by 15,020 votes to Ujaneshwar Basavannappa Banakar of the 10 Karnataka Assembly elec-

Congress. Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar (Chikkaballapura) tions, for which the results were announced on Saturday. As many as 13 Congress and three JD(S) MLAs had lost to Congress candidate resigned from the Karnataka Assembly in 2019 thus bringing down the 14-month-old coalition government of the Congress and the JD(S) led by H D Kumaraswamy. Later, 16 of these MLAs,

who were disqualified by the Speaker, joined the BJP and a majority them contested the 2019 Assembly bypolls, won the election and became Ministers in the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP govern-ment. On Saturday when the election results were

Sincere thanks to people for giving BJP chance to serve them for many years: Shah PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday expressed gratitude to the people of Karnataka for allowing the BJP to serve them for many years and said the party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to work for the welfare of the state and its people.

The Congress returned to Pradeep Eshwar by 10,642 power on its own in Karnataka votes, MTB Nagaraj (Hoskote) after 10 years, knocking the BJP lost to Congress candidate off its only southern perch on Sharath Kumar Bachegowda by Saturday as voters decisively 5,150 votes while Shrimant backed the grand old party des-Patil (Kagwad) was defeated by Congress' Balaramgouda Alagouda Kage by 8,827 votes. Mahesh Kumathalli (Athani) was defeated by perately seeking electoral revival ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "My sincere gratitude to

the people of Karnataka for giving the BJP the opportunity to serve them for so many years. The BJP under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi Ji will continue to strive for the welfare and development of the



people of Karnataka," Shah tweeted. The home minister also complimented the BJP workers in Uttar Pradesh for the party's "stupendous performance" in the state's local bodies polls.

"Congratulations to all the party workers, @Bhupendraupbjp ji and the entire team on the stupendous performance of the BJP in the local body elections in Uttar Pradesh.

"This is a stamp of approval on the public welfare works of the government of @myogiadityanath under the guidance of @narendramodi. Heartfelt gratitude to the people for their continuous faith in BJP," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

and distributed sweets.

There was, however, a

scuffle with the police and a

group of Congress workers outside the party headquar-

ters when they tried to break

a barricade to celebrate on the

The situation was soon

The Congress has crossed

which counting of votes took

place on Saturday. Election to

the 224-member Assembly

streets.

Didi: Brute authoritarian politics vanguished

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The BJP's defeat in Karnataka elections is a defeat of brute authoritarian politics and victory of pluralism, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said before congratulating the people of the southern State for heeding her 'no vote to BJP' call.

Clearly not taking cognizance of the Congress' efforts in the elections and apparently defining the saffron outfi't's humiliating loss in terms of negative voting Banerjee said that, "brute authoritarian and majoritarian," politics had been

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra making crisp dosas at an

eatery, Rahul Gandhi riding

pillion on the scooty of a gig worker in Bengaluru and

interacting with passengers

after hopping on to a bus, were

some of the endearing images

from the Congress campaign

that seemed to have captured

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

vanquished in Karnataka.

ple of Karnataka for their decisive mandate in favour of change!! Brute authoritarian and majoritarian politics is vanquished!!" she said adding this was a vote against the BJP's Agency Rai



My salutations to the peo-

southern state before the 2014 general election when BJP came to power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he



Sarma, who had camaigned extensively in Karnataka before the election, said that he had realised that BJP will not perform well in the state but its performance will in no way affect the party cessive term.

"The opposition is taking this win as a straw to hold on to in the ocean, but it will have no impact in the future," he said at the sidelines of a function at Bihaguri in Assam's Sonitpur district. Assam Pradesh Congress

President Bhupen Borah expressing happiness at the Karnataka poll outcome said, 'The people of Assam will also show the BJP the door in the next elections". In a jibe at the BJP, he said, "The prime minister even after getting Gandhi removed from the

from returning to power at Lok Sabha could not stop the Centre for the third suc-Congress from winning the polls in Karnataka".

Laxman Savadi, who had quit

BJP and joined the Congress,

by 76,122 seats, K C Narayana

Gowda (KR Pet) and R Shankar

(Ranibennur) lost the election

as a distant third.

Cong victory will not affect BJP in 2024 LS polls, says Himanta

Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as member of the Lok Sabha in March 2023 after a court convicted and sentenced him to prison for two years on the charge of criminal defamation for comments he made about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surname.

Borah told reporters that the BJP has lost in all constituencies where Sarma had campaigned. On the other hand Congress has won in all the 22 constituencies where party leader Rahul Gandhi

had addressed meetings dur-ing his 'Bharat Jodo' programme.

Members of Assam Association in Bengaluru, whom Sarma had met during his campaign, had called him during the day and told him that they had voted for the Congress, he claimed.

brought under control, a The Assam Congress police official said. president said that he will himself visit Karnataka soon the 113-seat mark in the and meet the Assamese com-Assembly elections, the majority required to form the

munity there. The Congress headquargovernment, in Karnataka for ters in Guwahati erupted in celebration as news of the party's win poured in and party workers burst crackers took place on Wednesday.

Endearing images from K'taka campaign that hit home: Priyanka makes dosas, Rahul rides pillion on scooty He then hopped on to a BMTC bus and interacted with women passengers to

understand their vision for Karnataka. The former Congress president then got down from the bus at Lingarajapuram where he again spoke to women at the bus stop. Both Rahul Gandhi and

Priyanka Gandhi led the camp Karantaka along with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

worker.

Bengaluru. At a close-by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT bus stop, he spoke to

from the Congress' 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' last year when it was passing through the state remain etched in people's memory. Be it Rahul Gandhi addressing people in down-pour in Mysuru or him tying mother Sonia Gandhi's shoe laces in Mandya during the foot march, many images during the yatra's stay in the state in October last year had gone



Gandhi and Privanka Gandhi had during the campaign trail seemed to have struck a chord with the electorate.

Priyanka Gandhi took a break from her busy election campaign in poll-bound Karnataka and learnt some basics of making dosas at a restaurant in Mysuru.

After having idli and dosa, she expressed her desire to restaurant owner and his fame tricks of making dosa. The restaurant owner them. readily agreed and took her to

the kitchen.

While she was successful in pouring batter on the tawa to make a set of dosas and spreading it to the right shape, at least two of them were charred after she apparently failed to flip them on time, leading to bursts of laughter by people around her.

Later, she thanked the ily and took a selfie with

while on the campaign trail was when Rahul Gandhi rode pillion on the scooty of a gig

In the last phase of the campaigning, he also stopped for a cup of coffee at a 'Cafe Coffee Day' outlet on Cunningham Road in

pies imag It was not just these However, candid, lightinstances but also some images hearted interactions Rahul

a bunch of college students Another instance of fun and working women.

Quad nations' top military commanders to review security during US meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With China flexing its muscles in the Indo-Pacific region, the top military commanders of the Quad nations, including India, US, Japan and Australia will review the entire spectrum of security during a meeting in Sunnylands, California, US for three-days starting May 15. Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Anil Chauhan is representing India.

The crucial meet comes days ahead of the Quad summit in Australia on May 24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Anthony Albanese will take part in the high-profile event.

Moreover, the navies of the four countries will take part in the Malabar series of exercises off Sydney in August. Australia has also invited India to participate in its biennial triservice exercise 'Talisman Sabre' from July 21 to August

As regards the military commanders' meet, the other officials include Admiral John C Aquilino, Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, General Yoshihide Yoshida, chief of Staff, joint staff, Japanese self-defence forces and General Angus Campbell, chief of defence force, Australia.

A vice-admiral rank rep-



resentative of the UK chief of defence staff is also likely to attend, given that Australia, the UK and the US have their own grouping, Aukus, whose focus overlaps with that of Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue). China has all along criti-

cised the formation of the Quad claiming it will lead to militarisation of the strategically important Indo-Pacific region. It also alleges the Quad was formed to contain Beijing. While announcing Prime

Minister's state visit to the US in June, White House Press Secretary Jean-Pierre said last week the visit will strengthen the two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific and shared resolve to elevate the strategic technolo-

gy partnership, including in defence, clean energy, and space. The US, India and several other world powers have been

talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resourcerich region.

Anabolic steroids can cause heart failure, depression: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Tf you think that anabolic steroids will help you build muscle mass and boost athletic performance, beware. Researchers say these can cause serious side effects, including heart failure and depression, for years. The study presented at

the European Congress of Endocrinology held recently in Istanbul says that these performance-enhancing drugs can have more negative side effects, such as breast growth, hair loss, decreased testosterone levels, erectile dysfunction, and an increased

risk of heart disease, stroke, and liver or kidney failure in men. In the first study, the

researchers examined 64 healthy men, between the ages of 18 and 50, who did recreational strength training in Denmark.

Of these men, 28 were using anabolic steroids, 22 were former steroid users, and 14 had never used these steroids.

The researchers used a Emission Positron Tomography-Computed Tomography (PET-CT) scan with the radioactive tracer Rubidium-82 to assess how much blood flowed to their heart muscle while resting

and exercising and discovered that both former and current users had poor blood flow to the heart. The findings indicate that

former steroid users are more

Praveen Sood selected as **CBI** Director

PNS NEW DELHI

The man powered ¬he highselection committee for picking up new CBI Director up new led by Prime Ministen Narendra Modi met here on

Saturday and selected Praveen Sood for the post.

The selection panel discussed three candidates -Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Praveen Sood, 1986batch of Karnataka cadre and 1987-batch Punjab cadre officer Dinkar Gupta and Madhya Pradesh cadre officer Sushir Saxena of the same batch, sources said.

The move indicates incumbent CBI Director SK Jaiswal whose tenure is ending on May 24 is not in the reckoning. While Gupta is currently

heading the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Saxena is the Director General of Police of Madhya Pradesh and Sood is helming the Karnataka Police.

Sood was top on the list followed by Dinkar Gupta and Sudhir Saxena

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, who is a member of the high-powered selection panel, expressed his dissent note against Sood and Saxena,

the sources said. Besides Chowdhary, Chief Justice of India DY

Chandrachud is another member of the high powered selection panel.

Bangladesh eliminates lymphatic filariasis

ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

 $B_{\mathrm{fourth}}^{\mathrm{angladesh}\,\mathrm{has}\,\mathrm{become}\,\mathrm{the}}$ South-East Asia Region to eliminate lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem after Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand even as India has accelerated its efforts to eliminate the neglected tropical disease by 2027, three years ahead of the global target.

Lauding Bangladesh's new status on SEARO map, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia, said that the country's achievement is commendable and follows strong political commitment, tireless efforts by health authorities, partners and the communities.

"It is also a result of innovative approaches and meticulous implementation of elimination strategies," she said.

Lymphatic filariasis, also known as elephantiasis, occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquito bites.

The infection is usually acquired in childhood with painful and disfiguring visible manifestations appearing much later in life, often in the form of enlargement of body parts causing pain, severe disability, and associated stigma.

Lymphatic filariasis was a major public health problem in Bangladesh.

In 2001 the country established its national programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis which was endemic in 19



of the 64 districts. Between 2001 and 2015, high coverage mass drug administration campaigns were rolled out in all endemic districts.

Alongside, systematic and high-quality transmission assessment surveys were carried out by well-trained programme personnel between 2011 and 2021.

The Regional Director complimented also Bangladesh for its morbidity management and disability prevention programme which has been regularly updating data from the endemic districts.

Using this database, over 31,000 patients have been trained on self-care and provided kits to manage their disease condition and improve quality of life.

Although in India, the National Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis has made significant progress, the country still has over 23 million people suffering with

lifelong disability as a result of LF. This disease also inflicts stigma, mental suffering, and social deprivation.

As of 2020, according to WHO, 4 430 million people in India continue to require annual preventive treatment through the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaigns. In October 2019, India

had pledged to eradicate filariasis by 2021, however with the Covid-19 playing spoil-sports with the plans as well as many challenges like availability of drugs, their resistance and migrant labours have prompted the Government to extend the elimination target to 2027.

Last February, India launched a MDA campaign for the elimination of LF in 10 endemic districts of Odisha. These include Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khurda, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Rayagada.



likely to develop heart disease when compared to those who have never used them, said the

study. "Previous studies have shown that the heart function almost normalises after anabolic steroids are discontinued, but our study suggests that former anabolic steroid users are at an increased risk of heart disease years after stopping as cardiac microcirculation the blood flow through the smallest vessels in the circulatory system — seems per-sistently impaired," said lead

author Dr Yeliz Bulut. Moreover, Dr Bulut and colleagues conducted another study in which they collected questionnaires and blood samples from three groups of men aged 18-50 years: 89 current anabolic steroid users, 61 former steroid users, and 30 men who had never used steroids before.

The study found that former anabolic steroid users report a worse quality of life on their physical and mental health, such as fatigue, social functioning and emotional well-being, despite stopping years earlier.

world 05



cv.

Pak Army rules out possibility of imposing martial law

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P^{akistan^{'}s\,Army\,has\,ruled\,out}_{the\,possibility\,of\,imposing}$ martial law in the country amidst the political turmoil and deteriorating law and order situation following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, saying Army chief General Asim Munir and the entire military leadership

believe in democracy. The remarks of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry came after an almost four-day political turmoil erupted due to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Khan's arrest, in which Army's installations, including the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, were also targeted.

"There is no question of imposing martial law in the impression of division within the army in the wake of attacks country," he told Geo News, on military facilities during adding that Army chief General Asim Munir and the protests following the arrest of Khan. "Despite the internal and external propaganda, the army is united and will remain," entire military leadership along with him believe in democra-The Army remains he said. Pakistan's most powerful insti-Major General Chaudhry tution, having ruled it directly

further said that the army is for close to half its 75-year hisunited despite internal miscreants and external enemies. "The dream of dividing the tory through three coups. Chaudhry stressed that the Pakistan Army will remain a Army's unity is unwavering and

will persist, serving as a pillar dream, the Army is united of stability and security for the under the leadership of Army nation. He also rejected social Chief General Asim Munir media rumours about resignaand will remain united." tions by top Army officers or He called upon the public anyone disobeying the military and media to rely on verified

discipline. information from official No one in the Army has sources rather than giving creresigned and no one has disdence to unfounded speculaobeyed any order," the military tion. The Army has come spokesman said on Friday. under scanner after showing no He also rejected the response when the rioters ran-

sacked the residence of Corps Commander Lahore after Khan was arrested on May 9.

At least 10 people have been killed in the violence that erupted after Khan's dramatic arrest by the paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday. The unrest in the country

has come to a halt for now as the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has provided blanket relief to Khan and barred authorities from arresting the PTI chief till Monday morning.

Khan has been highly critical of the alleged role of the establishment, especially that of former Army chief General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa, in bringing down his government in April 2022.

Before his retirement, Gen Bajwa said that the Pakistan Army will remain apolitical.

198 Indian fishermen released from Pakistan jail

PTI 📕 KARACHI

Pakistani authorities have released 198 Indian fishermen, who were languishing at a jail here after being arrested for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters, and handed them over to India at the Wagah border.

The fishermen were released from the Malir Jail in Karachi on Thursday evening.

Malir Jail superintendent Nazir Tunio said that they had released the first batch of Indian fishermen prisoners and two more batches would be released in June and July.

"We released 198 prisoners on Thursday while 200 and 100 more would be released later on," he said. Tunio said that 200 Indian fishermen

were to be released on Thursday from Malir jail but two of them died due to ill-

The two deceased fishermen included one Muhammad Zulfiqar who passed away on May 6 and Soma Deva who died on May 9 after prolonged illnesses. Their bodies have been kept in the

Edhi Foundation mortuary till they could be flown out to India. Soma and his nephew were among a dozen Indian fishermen who were arrested at sea some four and half years ago and

they were lodged in the Malir jail. Soma was twice sent to the hospital for

treatment. Tunio said Zulfiqar died after a massive heart attack. Faisal Edhi of the Edhi Welfare Trust, which arranged the transportation of the fishermen from Karachi to Lahore via train where they were handed over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border, said some of the Indian fishermen also looked unwell.

'We do our best to make the journey back home of these Indian fishermen comfortable and easy. After all, most of them have been in jail for the last 4 to five years,'

he said. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum General Secretary Saeed Baloch said that under the agreement reached between the two governments, a second batch of 200 Indian fishermen would be released on June 2 and

another 100 on July 3. Baloch said he had a lot of sympathies for the Indian fishermen as the majority of them were just out for a livelihood and did not even realise it when they crossed territorial waters between the two countries

'The sad part is that some of them even end up spending 7 to 8 years in jail before they get a chance to return home," he said. Fishermen Cooperative Society, Sindh administrator Zahid Ibrahim Bhatti said that some 200 Pakistani fishermen were lodged in Indian jails and hopefully they, too, would come home soon after the release of Indian fishermen.

Pakistan and India regularly arrest rival fishermen for violating the maritime boundary, which is poorly marked at some

Imran blames Army chief for WORLD BRIEFS his arrest, returns home

Jemima's tweet wins

Islamabad (PTI): Imran Khan's ex-

wife and film producer Jemima

Goldsmith has expressed her happi-

ness on the release of the former

Pakistan prime minister from the

custody of the country's anti-corrup-

tion watchdog, winning the hearts of

also led to some Pakistanis even

questioning Khan's decision to

divorce her, reported The Express

has prevailed," attaching a screenshot of the news of Khan's release.

barred the authorities from arresting

the former Pakistan prime minister in

any case registered anywhere in the

country until Monday. Three different

benches of the IHC granted relief to

Khan who was escorted to the court

Rangers from the Islamabad High

Court while he was undergoing a bio-

metric process before a court hearing

the "victimisation" of his party by the

government, alleging that "5,000 peo-

ple have been arrested during the last

Khan was arrested by paramilitary

The ex-premier also talked about

Jemima's pro-Imran tweet has

Jemima tweeted, "Finally sense

many Pakistanis.

Tribune newspaper.

amid tight security.

in a corruption case.

one year".

Pakistanis' hearts

PTI ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Tmran Khan has torn into Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir and blamed him for his "abduction" after a court here set the former prime minister free and barred his re-arrest in any case until Monday.

A triumphant Khan returned to his Lahore home on Saturday after having locked himself in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises for hours for fear of re-arrest despite being granted bail on Friday.

Before leaving for Lahore, the 70year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief hit out at the "imported government for kidnapping" him despite the IHC granting him bail in all cases.

'They have kidnapped me and forcibly kept me here. I want to tell the whole nation that it is their bad intention, they want to do something again and the whole nation should ready itself to protest," he said.

After spending nearly 11 hours on the IHC premises, the ex-premier, clad in a sky blue shalwar kameez and a dark blue waistcoat, finally left the federal capital without addressing charged PTI workers who remained on the streets throughout the day.

Earlier, he interacted with media persons during the break time on the premises of the IHC on Friday, the Dawn newspaper reported on Saturday.

When asked about the impression that security agencies were against him whereas the judiciary was favouring him, Khan told a BBC correspondent: "It's not the security agencies. It's one man, the Army chief." "There is no democracy in the Army. The Army is getting maligned with what is happening"

"And he (the Army chief) is worried that if I come to power, I will denotify him...All this is happening is direct orders from him. He is the one who is convinced that if I win, he will be de-notified," alleged Khan.

In a major relief to Khan, the IHC on Friday granted him protective bail for two weeks in a corruption case and

> instructed to remain close to safe rooms and bomb shelters. Hundreds of residents near the border were evacuated to hotels farther north.

bombing of apartments and safe houses continue, the Palestinian resistance will renew its rocket fire ... to emphasise the continuation of the confrontation," the group said.

Mortar shells fired by Palestinian militants crashed into the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, the Israeli

GEETA CONFIRMED AS US AMBASSADOR

AT LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES WASHINGTON: Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department. The department in a tweet on Friday said it is looking forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through US foreign policy. Gupta was confirmed by the US Senate by 51 to 47 votes early this week. According to Gupta, there are many inequities and indignities that women suffer around the world, which hold them back from participating fully in the economy. "They are subject to threats to their safety and have a fear of violence even on a daily basis, and that determines their mobility. "In situations of conflict and emergencies and humanitarian crises they are particularly vulnerable, both in terms of their safety but also in terms of their being able to look after their families and feed their families," she said during her confirmation hearing last year.

KERALA STORY RELEASED IN OVER 200 SCREENS IN US AND CANADA

WASHINGTON: The Kerala Story, a national blockbuster mired in controversies, was released in more than 200 screens in the US and Canada here on Friday with its director Sudipto Sen saying that the movie is a mission which is beyond the creative boundaries of cinema. "The country was in denial of the long existing issue in the state of Kerala. The Kerala Story is a mission which is beyond the creative boundaries of cinema, a movement that should reach the masses all over the world and raise awareness," Sen told a group of Indian American reporters during a virtual news conference. "The film's subject was hidden from the masses and deserved to be told. We made the film in order to initiate deliberation worldwide," said the producer of the film, Vipul Shah. The film tells the story of three girls who were converted to Islam and ended up joining the ISIS.

INDIAN EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE Organises G20 Beach Cleanup

LONDON: The Embassy of India in The Hague, in partnership with the Netherlands government, organised a G20 Beach Cleanup at the city's famous Scheveningen beach and collected 240 kgs of marine litter including 5,410 cigarette butts. "Addressing marine litter" is one of the focus areas under India's G20 Presidency and the beach cleanup drive in The Hague on Friday formed part of the global initiative to bring attention to the problem of marine litter and the need to work together towards sustainable development of oceans. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands Reenat Sandhu highlighted the powerful message behind the theme of India's G20 Presidency – "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

G7 finance leaders pledge | Israel, Gaza militants continue to exchange fire | Cyclone Mocha forces to tackle inflation AP GAZA CITY

AP 📕 NIIGATA

The Group of Seven's top financial leaders united Saturday in their support for Ukraine and their determination to enforce sanctions against Russia for its aggression but stopped short of any overt mention of China.

The finance ministers and central bank chiefs ended three days of talks in Niigata, Japan, with a joint statement pledging to bring inflation under control while aiding those suffering the

laid the groundwork for a sum-L tants unleashed salvos of fire mit of G-7 leaders in for a fifth day on Saturday, with the Islamic Jihad militant group Hiroshima next week that President Joe Biden is expectlaunching dozens more rockets and the Israeli military pound-ing targets inside the Gaza ed to attend despite a crisis over the US debt ceiling that could result in a national default if it

Strip. Missile shrapnel from a is not resolved in the coming Palestinian rocket that weeks. Treasury Secretary Janet slammed into an agricultural community in Israel's southern Yellen has warned that would Negev desert severely woundbring an economic catastrophe, destroying hundreds of ed two Palestinians from Gaza in their 40s who had been thousands of jobs and potentially disrupting financial marworking in Israel. kets across the globe.

Another 36-year-old man moderate

srael and Palestinian mili-



Smoke rises from an explosion caused by an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday

bustible situation in the occu- imminent cease-fire between pied West Bank, the Israeli mil-Israel and the Palestinian itary raided the Balata refuge camp near the northern city of Israeli military Saturday footage of a fiery explosion at bombed an apartment belong-Nablus, sparking a firefight the main passageway into that killed two Palestinians. Israel. ing to Islamic Jihad comman-In a separate incident near der Mohammed Abu Al Atta, among other targets including that Egyptian-led efforts to rocket launchers, it said. broker a cease-fire were still Islamic Jihad militants fired underway but that Israel has assailant who ran toward sola barrage of rockets toward ruled out the conditions presouthern Israel, where tens of sented by Islamic Jihad in the diers wielding a knife. Meanwhile, hopes for an thousands of Israelis were talks.

Islamic Jihad promised a further onslaught.

"As assassinations and the

world's largest.

relocation in B'desh

PTI DHAKA/COX'S BAZAR

dedicated the Bhasan Char to Authorities in Bangladesh on Saturday launched a the Rohingyas though most of them live in the mainland of Cox's Bazar adjacent to massive evacuation campaign to relocate close to half a mil-Myanmar borders. lion people along the southeastern coastlines as a "very danbouring Bangladesh after a gerous" tropical cyclone is military-led crackdown in expected to make landfall in Myanmar in 2017. the country, threatening the tion has turned social, educa-Rohingya refugee camp, the tional, and religious institutions

Cyclone Mocha, one of the most powerful cyclones seen in Bangladesh in nearly two towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on Sunday. "Cyclone 'Mocha' is com-Israeli officials told media ing. We have kept the cyclone centres and taken all types of preparations to tackle it," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said. The evacuation drive was taken as the maritime port of Cox's Bazar has been advised to hoist danger signal no 10 as Cyclone Mocha is likely to intensify further and move in a north-north-westerly direction.

rom surging price

They also committed to collaborating to build more stable, diversified supply chains for developing clean energy sources and to "enhance economic resilience globally against various shocks."

The statement did not include any specific mention of China or assertions regarding "economic coercion" in pursuit of political objectives, such as penalizing the companies of countries whose governments take actions that anger anoth-

er country. Talk this week of "econuclear weapons and uphold nomic coercion" by China had the international order based drawn outraged rebukes from on the rule of law," Kishida said. Beijing. Officials attending the "As G-7 chairman, I will convey my strong will to have an talks in this port city reportedimpact on history." The G-7's devotion to proly had balked at overtly con-

demning China, given the huge stake most countries have in good relations with the rising power and No. 2 economy. The finance leaders' talks

the statement released on Saturday.

was made in the finance lead-

ers' statement. The stakes for the global economy and stability are high, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said as the finance talks drew to a close.

The international community is facing a historic turning point, facing divisions and conflicts such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Sudan," Kishida said in a statement issued late Friday. The G-7 will "resolutely

Israeli medics said. There were no immediate

reports of casualties Saturday from Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, where so far 34 Palestinians have been killed, at least 14 of them civilians, according to Palestinian health officials.

Over 147 have been wounded. In a reminder of the com-

the northern city of Jenin, Israeli police said they shot and killed a suspected Palestinian

Jaishankar arrives in Sweden for Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum

LONDON (PTI): S Jaishankar arrived in Stockholm on Saturday on his first visit reject the threat or use of as the External Affairs Minister to Sweden to participate in the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum (EIPMF).

During his three-day visit to Stockholm, the minister will address the EIPMF and also hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit.

He is also scheduled to attend the inaugural session of the India Trilateral Forum involving India, Europe and the US with his Swedish counterpart Tobias Billstrom.

"From Dhaka to Stockholm, but still discussing the Indo-Pacific. Arrived in Sweden for the EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial," Jaishankar tweeted.

"Nice to see FM of Singapore @VivianBala at the EU-Indo-Pacific Ministeria," he said.

'This will be his first visit as EAM and comes at a time when India and Sweden are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said.

Sweden currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European

Union and the minister is expected to discuss India-EU relations during his visit, at the conclusion of which he will depart for Brussels to continue the exchange.

In Brussels, he will attend the first ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council along with Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Piyush Goyal and Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Meteorologists said the storm's path is set to affect Bangladesh's southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar where over a million Rohingya refugees live.

Bangladeshi authorities have set up 55 shelters at Bhasan Char offshore island, where nearly 30,000 of the Rohingya refugees have been relocated from the mainland.

Friday around 8:30 pm local

half a million deputy commissioner or administrative chief of the coastal district Muhammad Shahin Imran told reporters.

as makeshift shelters alongside

576 designated cyclone shelters

in Cox's Bazar to accommodate

Bangladesh exclusively

Most of them fled to neigh-

'The district administra-

Imran said around 8,600 Red Crescent volunteers have joined a campaign asking people to relocate even as the district administration has mobilised transports to carry them to shelters.

Bangladesh's Met Office in its latest special weather bulletin said "Cyclone Mocha" continued to move to the north-northwest packing winds up to 175 kilometres per hour.

"The cyclone could cause tidal surges from 8 to 12 feet beyond the normal tide," an official in the Met Office said.

Prime Minister Hasina warned that the cyclone could disrupt electricity and gas supplies and particularly cause water stagnation in coastal areas.

for migration

Poland detects balloon Germany pledges \$3 bn military aid to Ukraine **Biden praises Spanish PM** in its airspace

AP BERLIN

ermany will provide Ukraine with additional military aid worth more than 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion), including tanks, anti-aircraft systems and ammunition, the government said Saturday.

The announcement came as preparations were underway in Berlin for a possible first visit to Germany by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy since Russia invaded his country last year.

Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said that Berlin wants to show with the latest package of arms "that Germany is serious in its support" for Ukraine.

"Germany will provide all the help it can, as long as it takes," he said.

While Zelenskyy's visit on Sunday has yet to be officially confirmed, it would be a sign that relations between Ukraine

and Germany have improved markedly after a rocky patch. Kyiv has long been suspi-

Ukraine with lethal weapons,

fearing Germany could be drawn into the conflict.

tecting what it calls a "rules-

based international order" got

only a passing mention in

cious of Germany's reliance on Rome (AP): Ukrainian Russian energy and support for the Nord Stream gas President pipelines circumventing Ukraine, defended by then Chancellor Angela Merkel. Her successor, Olaf Scholz, agreed to phase out Russian energy met with Italian officials. imports after the invasion but initially hesitated to provide

With Washington, Warsaw in more than a million Ukrainian refugees. Scholz and London more overtly supeventually visited Kyiv with portive of Ukraine's efforts to defend itself, Berlin got the cold diplomatic shoulder from French President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders in Kyiv. German President Frank-June. Though slow to provide Walter Steinmeier was disinvitmilitary aid. Germany has since ed from Ukraine last year, become one of the biggest supprompting annoyance in pliers of arms to Ukraine, cru-Germany, which pointed out cially giving the green light for that it has given considerable deliveries of modern battle financial aid to Kyiv and taken tanks like its own Leopard 1 and

Pope Francis meets Zelenskyy

Volodymyr Zelenskyy has met with Pope Francis at the Vatican, telling the pontiff it was a "great honour." The meeting on Saturday comes during the Ukrainian's visit to Rome, where he also

The pontiff has previously offered his efforts to try to end the war that Russia began

> aircraft systems needed to fend off drone and missile attacks.

age, first reported by German weekly Der Spiegel, includes 30 Leopard 1 A5 tanks, 20 Marder armoured personnel carriers, more than 100 combat vehicles, 18 self-propelled Howitzers, 200 reconnaissance drones, four IRIS-T SLM anti-aircraft systems and other air defense equipment. Ît comes after Ukrainian

military commanders said their troops recaptured more territory from Russian forces near the eastern city of Bakhmut amid speculation about a possible counteroffensive by Kyiv.

loon. where he was meeting Saturday

Premier Giorgia Meloni.

Berlin police confirmed last week that they are preparing for a possible visit by Zelenskyy and have imposed a convict. have imposed a security cordon throughout much of the capital's government district Sunday.

After meeting Scholz and other senior officials at the chancellery, the two leaders are expected to fly to the western city of Aachen, where Zelenskyy would receive the International Charlemagne Prize awarded to him and the people of Ukraine.

AP WARSAW

Warsaw.

broadcaster TVN24.

time near Bialowieza, which is Poland's Defence Ministry near Poland's border with said Saturday that it has Belarus. Radar monitoring was detected an object in Polish aircarried out, but at around 12:30 am on Saturday, the space that flew in from the direction of Belarus, and that object ceased to be visible, Zlotnicka said in a phone interit's probably an observation balview with the private TV sta-The ministry tweeted that tion.

The development reported Saturday follows two other radar contact with the object was lost near Rypin, a town in central Poland 143 kilometers known incursions into Poland's (89) northwest of the capital, airspace since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of A search was launched in Ukraine, which lies on Poland's the vicinity of Rypin involving eastern border.

In November, two Polish a helicopter, a drone and ground groups from the Territorial Defence Forces, a men were killed when a missile landed in eastern Poland. press officer with the Western officials said they Operational Command of the believed a Ukrainian air defense missile went astray as Armed Forces, Capt. Ewa Zlotnicka, told the television Ukrainian air forces tried to repel a large-scale attack by The object was spotted Russia

collaboration Washington (AP): President Joe Biden commended Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for his country's collaboration with the United States and Canada to establish migration hubs in Latin America where asylum seekers fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries can apply for protection. The two leaders sat down at the White House on Friday for wide-ranging talks on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, climate change and other issues. But efforts by the US and Spain to cooperate on asylum processing loomed large over the discussion as the Biden administration rolls out new immigration measures now that COVID-19

restrictions have ended.



with its invasion of Ukraine a year ago. Neither side immediately gave details of the talks.

2, along with sophisticated anti-

The new military aid pack-

The Ukrainian president would be arriving from Rome,

with Pope Francis and Italian

money 06



Banks should have stronger overview on NBFC borrowers' lending practices: SBI MD

PTI 📕 MUMBAI

Banks need to be given "stronger overview" on the lending prac-tices followed by non-bank lenders who borrow from them, a senior official from SBI has said.

Non-bank finance companies and microfinance institutions should follow the same risk underwriting and credit monitoring principles as followed by the larger banks from whom they borrow money, C S Setty, a managing director at the country's largest lender, said.

It can be noted that banks lend to such non-bank lenders and also have onlending arrangements, wherein the NBFC or MFI will assess a borrower and utilise its distribution and collection expertise to make a loan.

"The banks should have a stronger overview on lending practices of borrowers from the non-banking lenders," Setty said, emphasizing that the nonbank lenders should follow the same risk underwriting and credit monitoring principles as it is followed by larger banks from whom they borrow.

He added that banks need to be "mindful of aggregate risk of the incip-ient stress if any" because a good pro-portion of banks' lending comprises loans to NBFCs and MFIs.

A banker's job is to assess the risk, mitigate it and price it, Setty said, adding that in the last five or six years, NBFCs have taken a lot of loans. He also made it clear that bank lending to such entities should not be seen as one to the financial sector, because ultimately it reaches the real sector of the economy.

"If you take MFIs, what are the governance standards which they are fol-



lowing? And NBFCs, what is the assessment and the quality of standards which they are applying while underwriting. These two have an aggregate risk impact on the banking sector because we are the largest lender to both the NBFCs and the MFI sectors," he said

Setty also said that SBI is not aggressively looking at increasing the 65,000 business correspondent network, but is focusing on enabling them tech-nologically to deliver more banking products.

He also added that the bank is focusing on unbanked rural areas, urban and metros for expanding the network.

Have commenced dispensing CNG and PNG connections to households: IndianOil

Coimbatore, May 13 (PTI) Stateowned IndianOil commenced dispensing of CNG and PNG (piped natural gas) connections to residential units and the company has set a target of providing 1.50 crore connections across the country, a top official has said.

A CNG (compressed natural gas) cylinder testing unit, claimed to be the first-of-its-kind to be set up in Tamil Nadu by AIRVIO Technologies, was inaugurated by IndianOil Corporation Ltd Director-Pipelines S Nanaware near here.

CNG and PNG are almost 30 per cent cheaper than alternate fuels and considered "very safe", he said.

"It does not have any problem as compared with LPG and MS (motor spirit). This is very safe. In particular, households wherever they are using it as a fuel are safe. Because this is lighter than air and (even) if any leakage is there, it will go into the air without causing any harm to anybody and it is also cheaper," he told reporters.

Responding to a query, he said for IndianOil Corporation, the target is to provide 1.50 crore in the country with around nine lakh connections in Coimbatore. "But this (target) is not final. It may reduce or it may increase

also because it all depends on individuals," he said.

The plan was to lay the pipelines across the country except Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast.

"Even in Jammur and Kashmir, a plan is there, but it is difficult to lay pipeline in (such a) terrain. It is entirely in hilly area. But government is trying for that (to lay pipeline) and already have initiated EoI (expression of interect)" he caid of interest)," he said.

Observing that the Centre was trying to increase the sale of gas in their 'fuel basket' from the present 6.5 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030, he said: "Almost 98 per cent of the population of this country is being tar-geted for CNG and PNG connections.

The supply of LPG to serve domestic consumption was met by importing it while whatever LPG and CNG gas required was available within the country itself, he said.

He pointed out that with the Centre's plan of achieving net zero emissions by 2070, use of crude oil would be reduced gradually from 2040 onwards and by 2070 it would be hardly be 10 per cent and natural gas consumption would increase to 15 per cent from the current 6.5 per cent.

Replying to a query about apprehensions raised by a section of farmers over laying pipelines in agricul-tural land, the senior official said: IndianOil is the only company to lay the pipelines and it was taking the farmers on board. Once they (farmers) give their consent, we (will) lay the pipelines...As of now, we have laid almost 3,000 kilometres of pipeline in Tamil Nadu."



Power Minister asks industry to set targets under Green Open Access Rules

PTI NEW DELHI

Union New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Saturday directed the industry to set targets under Green Open Access Rules 2022

In June 2023, the government notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022 to further accelerate India's renewable energy programmes. These rules were notified for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including through waste-to-energy plants.

It also enables a simplified procedure for the open access to green power. Singh chaired a meeting

with Industry and other stakeholders in New Delhi on Green Energy Open Access Rules, an official statement said.

"The minister exhorts industry leaders to set targets for going green. He called

government can take up the issue with the concerned agencies and if required, take penal actions. He assured Industry of all help in adoption of Green Energy Open Access Rules. Over 500 participants attend-

upon the industry leaders to

set targets for going green and take advantage of the provi-

sions of Green Energy Open Access Rules to get green power at reasonable rates,"

the ministry of power said.

Access Rules 2022, Singh said,

are a major step towards India

cutting emissions by 45 per

cent in line with NDC

(nationally determined con-

the industry stakeholders to

inform the government of such cases where the Green

Energy Open Access Rules are

not being followed so that the

The minister also asked

tribution) target for 2030.

The Green Energy Open

ed the meeting.



Affle's profit rises over 18% to ₹62 cr in Q4

PTI NEW DELHI

lobal technology company

solutions to connect marketers with their target audience through mobile advertise-

Himachal Pradesh to cover 1,800 hectares for orange production

PTI SHIMLA

he Himachal Pradesh gov-L ernment has proposed to cover 1,800 hectares of land in the state for orange production, under HP Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition (SHIVA) project, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said.

State Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi-led delegation, which is on a six-day tour to Australia as part of the project, observed the micro-grafting technique in orange cultivation, besides discussing citrus pathology programme and national citrus repository pro-



has been funded by the Asian gramme, a statement issued here on Saturday said. Development Bank. Citrus fruits are grown in The HP SHIVA project

plain areas of the state where the maximum temperature is between 30 and 40 degrees Celsius

This is a key initiative of the state government to gain technical knowledge from Australia and utilise it to guide local horticulturists for improving the sector, the chief minister said, adding that this will help in preparing high quality orange plants in the state. Himachal Pradesh has been

endowed with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which has proved a boon for a large number of fruit crops like apple, citrus fruits, mango, apricot and emphasis is being laid on adopt-

ing new techniques to increase the income of farmers as well as the survival rate of plants, Sukhu said.

The delegation during its visit observed and studied the modern techniques of screening, testing, cleaning and maintenance being adopted in the field of plant health management in Australia.

They also visited the Strawberry Industry Certification Authority and the Elizabeth Agricultural Institute laboratories in Sydney and discussed modern techniques for nursery registration programmes, as per the statement.



D-Mart's Q4 net profit up 7.8% to ₹460.1 cr, revenue up 20.5% to ₹**10,594 cr**

A venue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates

the retail chain D-Mart, on

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Saturday reported an 18.4 per cent rise in its profit after tax to Rs 62.4 crore in the January-March 2023 quarter.

The company, promoted by Singapore-based Affle Holdings, had registered a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 52.7 crore in the fourth quarter of FY22, Affle India said in a release.

Revenue from operations grew 12.9 per cent to Rs 355.8 crore in the reporting quarter as compared to 315.1 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBIT-DA) increased to Rs. 71.6 crore during the fourth quarter of this fiscal, up 22.1 per cent from Rs 58.7 crore in Q4 of FY22.

For the financial year 2022-24, the company's PAT increased by 33.8 per cent to Rs 245.3 crore from Rs 183.4 crore

While its consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,434.0 crore, up 32.6 per cent year-on-year, EBITDA increased 37.2 per cent to Rs. 293.0 crore during FY23.

The consumer intelligencedriven firm, which provides ating cash flows of Rs 260.3 crore, with 106.1 per cent of the profit realized as cash flow from operations in the 12-

month period. Affle's MD and CEO Anuj Khanna Sohum said: "FY2023 was transformational for Affle as we continued to further enhance our platforms,

ecosystem-level partnerships & teams while penetrating deeper across markets. "We continued to further verticalize our capabilities towards high-growth industry verticals to drive greater productivity

and profitability. He said the fast-evolving consumer trends accelerated towards adoption of connected devices and immersive tech-

nologies will help the adtech industry in the long term. "This promises consistent long-term growth in ad-spending globally and our outlook for FY2024 remains optimistic,"

he added. Some of Affle's platforms are Appnext, Jampp, MAAS, mDMP. mediasmart, mTraction Enterprise, RevX and Vizury. Affle's investors include Microsoft, Bennett

Coleman & Company (BCCL), amongst others.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI Realty major DLF Ltd will launch projects worth Rs

19,710 crore for sale by March next year and aims to achieve sale bookings of around Rs 12,000 crore in this fiscal on strong housing demand.

On Friday, DLF reported that its sale bookings jumped more than two-fold to a record Rs 15,058 crore last fiscal from Rs 7,273 crore in the previous year.

The company clocked Rs 8,000 crore from a single lux-ury housing project "The Arbour" which was launched in Gurugram during the March quarter.

"A normalized sale for 2022-23 should really have been in the range of Rs 10,000-11,000 crore. We will still keep our head guided. And we will say that in FY24 we should still be looking at sales guidance of Rs 11,000-12,000 crore," DLF CEO Ashok Tyagi told investors on Saturday in a conference call.

Buoyed by record sale bookings last fiscal, DLF has chalked out an aggressive launch pipeline for 2023-24 at

DLF to launch projects worth nearly ₹20K cr this fiscal; targets sale bookings of ₹12K cr

11.2 million square feet area with an estimated sales revenue potential of Rs 19,710 crore.

The bulk of the projects to be launched this fiscal would be in the housing segment in Delhi-NCR and Chennai.

Last fiscal, the company launched 10 million square feet worth Rs 14,600 crore.

On Friday, DLF reported a 40 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 569.60 crore for the quarter ended March as against Rs 405.54 crore in the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

Total income fell to Rs 1,575.70 crore in March quarter of this fiscal year from Rs 1,652.13 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year

DLF's net profit increased 36 per cent to Rs 2,033.95 crore in the last fiscal from Rs 1,500.32 crore in 2021-22.

Total income declined to Rs 6,012.14 crore in 2022-23



from Rs 6,137.85 crore in the growth in our business." The residential upcycle previous year.

On record sale bookings, DLF said, "Our offerings across multiple geographies continue to be the preferred choice of customers enabling healthy

along with rising demand for luxury segment enthuses it to remain committed towards scaling up new offerings, the company added. commercial segment.

Saturday reported an increase of 7.81 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 460.10 crore for the fourth quarter DLF said it would continended March 31, 2023 ue to follow a calibrated The company had posted approach to bring new proda net profit of Rs 426.75 crore ucts across multiple markets in the January-March quarter while simultaneously ensura year ago, said Avenue ing timely execution of its

Supermarts in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations was up 20.57 per cent to Rs 10,594.11 crore during the

ty firm in terms of market capitalisation. It has developed quarter under review as more than 153 real estate proagainst Rs 8,786.45 crore in jects and developed an area in excess of 330 million square the corresponding quarter last fiscal.

Avenue Supermarts' total expenses were at Rs 10,002.21 crore, up 21.82 per cent in Q4/FY 23, as against Rs 8,210.13 crore in the corresponding quarter.

Total income of Avenue Supermarts in the March quarter was at Rs 10,627.18

For the fiscal year ended March 2023, Supermarts's net profit was up 59.36 per cent at Rs 2,378.34 crore. It had reported a net profit of Rs 1,492.40 crore in the previous fiscal.

Îts consolidated revenue from operations was at Rs 42,839.56 crore in FY23, 38.3 per cent higher than the pre-

vious fiscal year. The total number of D-Mart stores as of March 31,

2023, stood at 324. Promoted Radhakishan Damani and his family, DMart retails basic home and personal products across markets which include - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, NCR, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Headquartered Mumbai, ASL also operates an online sales channel DMart Ready, which delivers goods to doorsteps in selected cities.

lani to raise ₹21,000 cr from share sale in two group cos

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group will raise Rs 21,000 crore (over USD 2.5 billion) through share sale in two group companies in the boldest comeback strategy after the ports-toenergy conglomerate was rocked by allegations of fraud levelled by a US short-seller.

Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship firm, plans to raise Rs 12,500 crore while electricity transmission company Adani Transmission another Rs 8,500 crore, the companies said in stock exchange filings.

The board of renewable energy arm, Adani Green

Energy Ltd too was scheduled to meet on Saturday for a fundraise but the meeting was

postponed to May 24. The fundraise will be through issue of shares to qualified institutional buyers. Sources aware of the matter said investors in Europe and the Middle East have evinced strong interest.

In a stock exchange filing, Adani Enterprises said its board on Saturday approved amount not exceeding Rs "raising of funds by way of issuance of ... Equity shares hav-12,500 crore or an equivalent ing face value of Rs 1 each of amount thereof by way of qualthe company and / or other eliified institutional placement gible securities or any combi-(QIP) or other permissible nation thereof, for an aggregate mode in accordance with the



applicable laws."

Adani Transmission in a separate filing said its board has approved "raising of funds by way of issuance of such number of equity shares having face

value of Rs 10 each of the company and / or other eligible securities or any combination thereof, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 8,500 crore or an equivalent amount thereof by way of QIP or other permissible mode in accordance with the applicable laws." This comes three months

after Adani Enterprises was forced to abort a Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offering (FPO) in the wake of the Hindenburg report.

The offer was fully subscribed but the company returned the money to subscribers. The sources said the company stock which was

offered in the price range of Rs 3,112 to Rs 3,276 in the FPO is now available at Rs 1,964 (at Friday's closing price).

short-seller ÚS Hindenburg Research in January released a damning report alleging accounting fraud and stock price manipulation at Adani Group, triggering a stock market rout that had erased about USD 145 billion in the conglomerate's market value at its lowest point.

Adani Group has denied all allegations by Hindenburg and is plotting a comeback strategy. The group has recast its ambitions as well as prepaid some loans to assuage investors.

Promoters in March sold stakes worth Rs 15,446 crore in four group companies to leading US-based global equity investment boutique GQG Partners

launched products.

feet

DLF is India's largest real-

DLF is primarily engaged

in the business of development

and sale of residential proper-

ties (the Development

Business) and the develop-

ment and leasing of commer-

cial and retail properties (the

The group has an annuity

annuity business).

square feet.

The group has been trying to win back market confidence with a series of investor roadshows, early debt repayments and plans to scale back its pace

of spending on new projects. The funds that Adani Group is looking to raise will be the conglomerate's biggest borrowing since the January 24 Hindenburg report. The money raised is intended to be used for funding the group's expansion projects.

crore, up 20.5 per cent. Avenue

portfolio of over 40 million The company has 215 million square feet of development potential across residential and sunday pioneer

Man Utd's top-4 bid back on track

nthony Martial put A Manchester United's bid for a top four finish back on track as the French forward ended his goal drought in Saturday's crucial 2-0 victory against Wolves. Martial had gone eight

games without scoring before he netted in the first half at Old Trafford.

United's first win in three matches was wrapped up by Alejandro Garnacho's stoppage-time goal.

After successive defeats at Brighton and West Ham threatened to ruin their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League, Erik ten Hag's side restored order at Old Trafford.

Fourth-placed United, who sit behind Newcastle on goal difference, moved four points clear of Liverpool, who are fifth and play at struggling Leicester on Monday.

After that fixture, United will still have three matches left while Liverpool will have only two to play, leaving Ten Hag's men in control of their top four destiny.

Former manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was back at Old Trafford for the first time since being sacked in November 2021.

Solskjaer was all smiles as he took photos with fans before kick-off, but even the Norwegian's most ardent fan had to acknowledge the impressive progress made under Ten Hag this season

AP BARCELONA

the top four.

the break.

 $G_{a\ 2-2}$ draw on Saturday in

La Liga, giving Villarreal a sliv-

er of hope that they can finish in

fourth, took a commanding two-goal lead through a Mikel

Oyarzabal penalty and veteran

midfielder, 37, signed a contract

extension with Real Sociedad

earlier this week, until June

2024. However the Catalan vis-

itors fought back to leave the

game level, with Yan Couto and

Cristhian Stuani scoring before

Girona's Oriol Romeu was

sent off for a second booking in

playmaker David Silva.

Imanol Alguacil's side,

The former Manchester City

underlined the failings of his

Girona hold Real Sociedad

to open door for Villarreal

late winner.

Villarreal, fifth.

Real Sociedad's draw leaves

Real Madrid, second, wel-

them eight points ahead of

come Getafe ahead of their

Champions League semi-final

own troubled reign. while Wout Weghorst and Ten Hag made three Tyrell Malacia dropped to the changes as Marcus Rashford bench, with Martial, Jadon was sidelined by a leg injury, Sancho and Raphael Varane

coming in.

United had scored only six times in their previous nine games, offering Liverpool

renewed hope after six succes-sive wins for Jurgen Klopp's team. Wolves went close to

snatching a shock lead when Craig Dawson fired just wide after Pedro Neto pulled the ball back to the defender inside the United area.

But Bruno Fernandes' freekick forced a save from Wolves' rookie keeper Daniel Bentley as United's pressure gradually mounted.

The chances kept coming for United as Christian Eriksen whistled his strike just wide from long-range before Antony headed wastefully over from six yards.

Martial finally delivered in the 32nd minute as the French striker scored only his second league goal in 2023. Fernandes' pass triggered

Antony's incisive raid and when Bentley rashly came off his line the Brazilian unselfishly cut back to Martial, who finished with ease.

Martial could have doubled United's lead before halftime but he shot straight at Bentley from Antony's pass.

Wolves missed a good chance when Max Kilman headed a corner down to Hwang Hee-chan and the substitute screwed his shot wide from an acute angle. Fernandes was unable to

beat Bentley from close-range and the Wolves keeper made another good save to keep out Sancho's effort. Weghorst, still waiting for

his first Premier League goal for United, headed over from six yards

Garnacho sprinted onto Fernandes' pass and finished with aplomb.

ed from the Premier League after Saturday's 2-0 defeat against Fulham capped a nightmare season for a club rooted to the bottom of the table.

Second-half goals from Carlos Vinicius and Aleksandar Mitrovic condemned Southampton to the drop in front of their own fans

at St Mary's. Ruben Selles' side are without a win in their last 11 games and their plunge into the Championship was confirmed with two matches still to play.

The Saints will return to the second tier for the first time in 11 years.

Southampton spent most of the season in the bottom three and Selles was unable to save them from the drop after replacing the sacked Nathan Jones in February.

Jones had lasted just 14 games as successor to Ralph Hasenhuttl, who was dismissed in November after four years

in charge. The warning signs were there for a while for Southampton, who finished a lowly 15th in the previous two seasons and suffered a 9-0 thrashing at Manchester United in February 2021.

Southampton are the first team to be relegated from the Premier League this season.

top four spots.

to

They are four points ahead of fifth-placed Milan, who travel to Spezia on Saturday. Inter Milan will move level on 66 points with second-placed Juve if they beat Sassuolo.

"We need to keep our heads up, we don't have time to get down because we know where we are. We're there (in the top four) and we have three matches left. It's down to us," added Milinkovic-Savic.

His equaliser was a big blow for 16th-placed Lecce, as with three matches left in their season they are five points above Spezia who sit just inside the drop zone.

"It was an angry celebration because it was the equaliser. If it had been the winner it would have been better," said Milinkovic-Savic. From appearing certain to qualify for the

Marco Baroni's side host Spezia on Sunday week in a match which could either secure their safety or drag them further into the relegation dogfight, depending on how their rivals at the bottom of the table do this weekend.

Bayern on title course after putting six past Schalke

AP MUNICH

 $B_{\mbox{four points clear atop}}^{\mbox{ayern Munich have gone}}$ Bundesliga table ahead of Borussia Dortmund's late match with a dominant 6-0 win at home over struggling Schalke on Saturday.

Dortmund host Borussia Moenchengladbach in Saturday's late game and with a win can cut Bayern's lead to one point with two games remaining this season.

Veteran Bayern captain Thomas Mueller, given a starting berth after being named on the bench in his side's last two matches, settled the home side's nerves early, slotting in after 21 minutes, his first goal in eight matches.

Joshua Kimmich doubled

his footing after Jamal Musiala copped an arm in the box.

Any slim hopes Schalke had of a comeback were snuffed out early in the second stanza, Gnabry collecting a pass from Joao Cancelo and hammering in at the near post scored for the third consecutive match.

Gnabry added another midway through the second half, French teenager Mathys Tel made it five and Noussair Mazraoui scored his first goal in Bayern colours to put the home side on course for an 11th straight Bundesliga title.

The loss leaves Schalke, who had climbed out of the relegation places for the first time since September with last week's win at Mainz, in the relegation playoff spot with three games

remaining.



Champions League appearance, 0 at home, thanks to goals from leapfrogging RB Leipzig into third and going three clear of fifth placed Freiburg with a 4-2 home win.

Union set up the victory with a first-half blitz, Sheraldo Becker scoring twice in two minutes after Kevin Behrens opened the scoring with five minutes gone.

Freiburg's Manuel Gulde pulled one back ten minutes into the second half and a comeback looked on when Vincenzo Grifo chipped panenka in from the spot with 20 minutes remaining.

Becker however snuffed out the visitors' hopes, collecting the ball on the break and finding an unmarked Aissa Laidouni who knocked in Union's fourth.

Eintracht Frankfurt won their first game in 11 matches

Daichi Kamada, Aurelio Buta and Randal Kolo Muani. Frankfurt, who midweek decided to part ways with Glasner at season's end despite the Europa League holders

reaching the German Cup final, responded in emphatic fashion to leapfrog their derby rivals. Bochum took advantage of

Schalke's poor result in Munich, beating Augsburg 3-2 at home to lift themselves past the Royal Blues out of the relegation places by a single point.

Elsewhere, Wolfsburg responded from Sunday's 6-0 thrashing by Dortmund to beat Hoffenheim 2-1 at home, moving into sixth place, the Europa Conference League spot.

The loss leaves Hoffenheim just two points clear of the rel-





Sergej Milinkovic-Savic snatched a last-gasp point

for Lazio with his stoppage-

time leveller in Friday's 2-2

draw with Serie A strugglers

Trailing from early in the second half to two goals

from Remi Oudin, Lazio

grabbed a point in the 94th

Milinkovic-Savic's header,

which trickled into the

third in Italy's top flight after winning just one of their last

five matches, conceding sec-

Champions League, Lazio

are now looking over their

shoulders in the race for the

ond spot to Juventus.

Maurizio Sarri's side are

minute thanks



Lecce.

Lecce net.

sport 07

could not capitalise and find a Manchester City.

with

verting a penalty despite losing solidified their hopes of a first

stadium ban, thrashing Mainz 3- remaining.

new Barca era is starting after Busquets: Xavi

AP BARCELONA

 $B^{\mbox{arcelona}}$ coach Xavi Hernandez believes a new era is starting at the club after Sergio Busquets said this week he will leave in the summer at the end of his contract.

The defensive midfielder was a key part of the club's glorious era of success, winning three Champions Leagues, and he can clinch his ninth La Liga title if Barcelona beat Espanyol on Sunday.

Busquets played as pivot behind Andres Îniesta and Xavi in an iconic midfield trio, and the three of them also won the World Cup with Spain in 2010.



anything he, Iniesta and Busquets achieved at Barcelona.

"We are working on forming a new (era)," Xavi told a news conference on Saturday.

"I hope players like Gavi, and Pedri, can even go beyond us, that is life, that is sport.

"I hope they can surpass us, I hope. There's a very good batch, home-grown players and midfielders especially.

"I hope they follow in Busquets' footsteps and can achieve as much success as he has, a new era is begin-

ning." Busquets, 34, has played over 700 However the coach said he hoped times for Barcelona and lifted 31 tro-



phies. However his highest ever finish in the voting to win the Ballon d'Or was 20th, in 2012

"He's the best defensive midfielder I've ever seen," continued Xavi.

'Not being nominated for the Ballon d'Or, for me it was an injustice."

Busquets has said previously he prefers to concentrate on silverware rather than individual accolades and Sunday offers Barcelona the chance to win La Liga for the first time since 2019.

"We're at 200 per cent," said Xavi ahead of the clash with Catalan derby rivals Espanyol in Cornella.

"I'm seeing them train at full pelt with hope, desire and intensity, to win La Liga.

Alcaraz returns to world No. 1

club should know that we are a big club. We aim to improve

Creturn to the world number one spot on Saturday when he took to court to play fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the second round of the Italian Open.

The 20-year-old will over-ATP rankings and is now the French Open later this month.

Djokovic arrived in Rome with a five-point lead over Alcaraz, but as the defending champion the Serb will drop points during the tournament. Alcaraz is not defending

any points, and earns ten by

youngest ever world number one thanks to his US Open tri-



umph last September, with Djokovic denied entry to the United States because of his Covid vaccination status.

Alcaraz will begin his 23rd week at world number one on May 22 and has a chance to leave Rome with a sizable lead.

The second seed arrived in the Italian capital on a fine run after back-to-back clay court titles in Barcelona and Madrid.

New-look India eye elusive medal at Sudirman Cup

17 times in 22 meetings so

Sindhu had defeated the

world number 3 was on way

to her world championships

World number

Prannoy too will face a tough

battle as he is likely to be pit-

ted against world number 5

Chou Tien Chen, considered

one of the most consistent

player in the men's singles

ning five times. However,

Prannoy had success against

the Taipei player, having

beaten him twice in last

three meetings, all in 2022.

India will also look up to

In fact, the last time

far

title in 2019.

competition.

PTI SUZHOU

Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy will look to hit top gear as the Indian badminton team begins its campaign at the BWF Sudirman Cup with a blockbuster clash against a formidable Chinese Taipei here on Sunday.

India have always depended on their singles stars to deliver at the team championships and a lot will again ride on them as the country aim to clinch a firstever medal in the World mixed team championships.

Bolstered by the epic Thomas Cup win, India will now hope to display their might in the mixed team event with men's pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, and women's combination of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand set to play pivotal roles in the campaign.

India have been placed along with Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia in Group C with the two top teams qualifying for the knockout stage.

The Indian team, which qualified for the prestigious event after claiming bronze at the Asian Badminton The two has played eight times so far with Chou win-Championships in Dubai last month, will have their task cut out when they face a strong Chinese Taipei team, led by Olympic silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying.

A lot will depend on Satwik and Chirag to give Sindhu as she is expected to them a valuable point, face former world No. 1 Tai though it is easier said than Tzu, who has proved to be a done as they face Taipei's first nemesis for her, having lost Olympic gold medallist in

badminton, world number 12 Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin.

The two pairs faced off recently at the Asia Championships but the clash ended with the Taipei pair retiring midway due to an injury.

In women's doubles, world number 17 Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will hope to get across the world number 24 pairing of Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun if they cross swords.

For India, mixed doubles is likely to be the weakest link as Ashwini Ponnappa and K Sai Prateek would be looking to punch above their weight if they come across world number 23 Ye Hong

Wei and Lee Chia Hsin. On Monday, India will clash against Malaysia and it will be a fascinating battle with the likes of world number 8 Lee Zii Jia, Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik, Pearly Tan/Thinaah Muralitharan, Goh Soon Huat/Shevon Jemie Lai and Tan Kian

Meng/Lai Pei Jing standing on the way. While Prannoy and Treesa/Gayatri will take inspiration from their recent wins over Lee Zii Jia and

Pearly/Thinnah en route India's 4-1 win over Malaysia at ABC, Satwik and Chirag will be itching to overturn a dismal 0-7 record against Aaron and Soh.

Sindhu too will hope to keep her stranglehold over Goh Jin Wei.

India's final tie of the group will be on Wednesday against Australia.

l-Hilal president Fahd Bin rumours.

ANafel refused to comment on the possibility of signing Lionel Messi, insisting his Saudi Arabian side is "more important than just one player", as fans clamour for the World Cup winner.

AP RIYADH

"Don't ask me about Messi," Bin Nafel told reporters when asked after Al-Hilal's

victory in the King's Cup final in Jeddah on Friday about the Argentine superstar's transfer "I will not tell you any

AL-HILAL BOSS TIGHT-LIPPED AS

FANS CLAMOUR FOR MESSI MOVE

news. If anything comes out on Tuesday in Riyadh. from our media centre, you will get it." In another interview on the pitch, as the crowd shouted "Messi, Messi", Bin Nafel said: "The group is more important to me than a player. Any star who comes to our



(the team)... If you focus on one person, you lose the group Âl-Hilal have been coached by former

Argentinian international striker Ramon Diaz since February 2022, after a first stint at the Riyadh-based team between Óctober 2016 and February 2018.

After two unexceptional years at Paris Saint-Germain, the rich oil kingdom of the Gulf offers an "enormous" financial opportunity for the 35-year-old Messi, a source close to the negotiations said

The deal would mean the record seven-time Ballon d'Or winner potentially joins his arch-rival Cristiano Ronaldo in the Saudi league as the Gulf state lavishes its oil wealth on sport

AP ROME ¬arlos Alcaraz guaranteed a

take Novak Djokovic in the assured of the top seeding at

beginning his opening match in the Italian capital, enough to put him on top of the rankings.

The Spaniard became the





Pooran, Krunal keep LSG in play-off hunt

PTI HYDERABAD

▼icholas Pooran justified his Rs 16 crore billing, pulling off what looked like a difficult chase on a tacky track as Lucknow Super Giants were back in play-off hunt with a seven-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League

match here on Saturday. A target of 183 was certainly not an easy proposition on a track that got slower as the match progressed.

However, Pooran (44 not out ff 13 balls), with assistance from domestic bulwark Prerak Mankad (64 not out, 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (40 off 25 balls), helped LSG get past the target with four balls to spare.

LSG now have 13 points from 12 games and are now in fourth spot behind Gujarat Titans (16 points), CSK (15 points) and Mumbai Indians (14 points). However, they will have to win their next two games to have an assured berth in the last four stage. As far as SRH are con-

cerned, another tournament of non-performance is coming to an end with a below-par show. Till the 15th over, SRH

controlled the proceedings as LSG crawled to 114 for 2, needing 68 more from five overs However, Aiden



Markram's decision to give an sixes in the 16th over, proved extra over to part-time left-arm costly.

spinner Abhishek Sharma, Stoinis thumped him for who was walloped for five two maximums before being Śtoinis thumped him for

holed out at deep extra cover boundary. But Pooran came in and hit two 100m-plus sixes and one straight to complete-

ly change the equation

Credit should be given to Saurashtra's Mankad, who struggled to get going during the middle overs. But a peptalk from mentor Gautam Gambhir during strategic timeout saw a sea-change in his approach as he showed more intent, hitting a straight six off T Natarajan. Earlier, Krunal Pandya

produced a couple of back-to-back high quality deliveries before Heinrich Klaasen and Abdul Samad took Sunrisers Hyderabad to a competitive 182 for 6 after opting to bat first. Not known as a big turn-

er of the ball, LSG skipper Krunal (2/24 in 4 overs) bowled two identical classical left-arm orthodox deliveries, which had drift as well as enough turn to hoodwink Sunrisers skipper Aiden Markram (28 off 20 balls) and Glenn Phillips (0).

In case of Markram, Krunal drew him forward before the ball beat his outside edge to get stumped. And the same delivery,

pitched on same length found Phillips going on back-foot to see it deviate past his bat and peg the off-stump back. That the ball gripped a bit on both occasions also helped the bowler's cause.

However, Klaasen (47 off

Unruly behaviour by Hyderabad crowd after umpiring howler halts proceedings PTI HYDERABAD

Kohli earlier this month.

Once the match started, $T^{\rm he \ unruly \ behaviour \ of}_{\rm Sunrisers \ Hyderabad \ sup-}$ Klaasen was immediately holed out at long-on, having porters halted proceedings of lost his concentration due to the unwanted stoppage. He didn't hold back his

their IPL match against Lucknow Super Giants after on-field umpires Akshay anger while speaking to broad-casters during the mid-innings Totre, J Madangopal and TV umpire Yeshwant Barde

snap interview. "Disappointed with the crowd to be honest, that's not earned the fans' wrath for a poor 'no-ball' DRS call in the penultimate over here on what you want. That also broke the momentum, not great umpiring either," Klaasen said

Klaasen who top-scored with 47, also felt nature of track changed quickly.

horror, Barde also ruled it in "The wicket changed quickly in the middle. There favour of the bowling team. An angry Klaasen spoke was some spin and decent to on-field umpires and sudamount of bounce, there were a few rippers (by Krunal - Markram and Phillips' wicket.) denly one saw LSG head coach Andy Flower and mentor Gautam Gambhir along with That broke the momentum.

others in dug-out, standing inside the boundary rope, "It was difficult to play the harder length balls. Need to pointing at the stands which is bowl length and slower ones into the wicket, can't be too exactly behind their team area. It seemed as if someone full. It's not a bad wicket, but from the crowd had thrown it's a bit slow. Can use the natsomething and there were colural variations. I reckon if the spinners can bowl quickly lective chants of "Kohli Kohli" in their bid to rile Gambhir up into the wicket, the natural in reference to his bust up with former India captain Virat variations can take over," he added.

ter, was in his natural attacking self as his three fours and an equal number of sixes took his team to a respectable total. The difference between

Krunal and leg-spinners Amit Mishra (1/40 in 4 overs) and Ravi Bishnoi (0/23 in 2 overs) was the optimum pace in his deliveries.

In case of Bishnoi, he ended up bowling half-trackers while trying to bowl fast. When Mishra bowled, it didn't help as he is much slower through the air compared to his younger days. Hence, the batters got enough time to plan their shots.

Once Krunal's wickets reduced SRH to 115 for 5, Klaasen took it upon himself and got support from Abdul Samad (37 not out off 25 balls) as the duo added 58 in 6.4 overs to take the score past 175-run mark.

Towards the end of the SRH innings, the match was briefly stopped when third umpire withheld the on-field umpire's decision of ruling an Avesh Khan full-toss as a fair delivery when it looked a no-ball. That agitated the crowd which must have disturbed the LSG dug-out to briefly halt proceedings and Klaasen lost his concentration to miss out on a well-deserved half-ton

Punjab Kings knock Delhi Capitals out of IPL 2023

PTI NEW DELHI

Prabhsimran Singh's magnificent maiden IPL hundred was well complemented by Harpreet Brar's four wicket haul as Punjab Kings on Saturday kept their slim play-off hopes alive with a comprehensive 31-run win over Delhi Capitals, who were knocked out of contention in the process.

If Prabhsimran showed tremendous resolve during his 65-ball 103 to single-handedly power PBKS to 167 for 7, Brar (4/30) and Rahul Chahar (2/16) then spun a web to strangle Delhi's chase as the home side managed just 135 for 8, despite a sizzling 27-

ball 54 by skipper David Warner. The win took Punjab to 12 points from 12 games, just outside the top four but they will need to win the next two matches as well to keep hopes of a playoff, while it was the end of the road for Delhi. Earlier, while none of his bat-

ting colleagues could cross 20 sluggish

off as he lifted Punjab from 46 for 3 to a competitive total.

Warner and Phil Salt provided a flying start to Delhi's chase but the spin duo of Brar and Chahar triggered a collapse with the hosts inexplicably losing six wickets for just 19 runs to slip from 69 for no loss to 88 for 6 in 10.1 overs.

Brar and Chahar were rewarded for bowling full and straight as wickets tumbled like nine pines at the Arun Jaitley stadium.

If Brar saw the back of Warner, Phil Salt (21), Rilee Rossouw (5), Manish Pandey (0), Chahar picked up wickets of Mitchell Marsh (3) and Axar Patel (1) in their quota of four overs.

With 66 needed off 36 balls. Aman Khan (16) and Praveen Dubey (16) tried their hands before becoming the victims of Nathan Ellis (2/21) as DC slumped to their eighth loss in 12 games to stay at the bottom with eight points.

Earlier, Prabhsimran looked

crossed over it during his 65-ball 103, only his second T20 hundred

and first in IPL. The 22-year-old paced his innings well, scoring 27 from his first 30 balls before exploding to amass his next 76 runs from 35 balls.

An aggressive approach on a slow track backfired for Punjab with the team losing three early wickets for 46 in the first six overs after DC skipper David Warner asked them to bat first.

Prabhsimran and Sam Curran (20) then steadied the ship with a 72-run partnership off 54 balls. Ishant Sharma was at the fore-

front as he recovered from a firstball six to remove Shikhar Dhawan (7) in the next ball with Rilee Rossouw taking the catch at deep backward square leg.

Following two nine-run overs, Ishant returned to destroy the stumps of Liam Livingstone (4), who paid the price for dancing down the pitch after being away Prabhsimran producing three century.

boundaries.

Saturday.

Avesh Khan bowled what

looked like a beamer to Abdul

Samad and Totre didn't

adjudge it a no-ball. SRH

called for a DRS but to their

Prabhsimran looked in good touch as he sent Axar Patel for a six with a reverse hit but two balls later the left-arm spinner cleaned up Jitesh Sharma (5) who looked to play an inside out shot.

Kuldeep Yadav (1/32) and Praveen Dubey (1/19) kept it tight but Prabhsimran picked up the odd boundaries and rotated the strike to keep things moving for his team. The momentum shifted drastically after the 11th over when Prabhsimran blasted two successive sixes and then a four off Mitchell Marsh, milking him for 21 runs.

He completed his fifty off 42 balls in the 13th over before slamming Kuldeep Yadav and Dubey into the stands for two maximums. Curran tried to join the party

but he couldn't clear the ropes as Dubey picked up a wicket.

However, there was no stopping Prabhsimran as he smoked Kuldeep for a six over deep square our to inch close



Rajasthan face RCB in Royal battle

PTI JAIPUR

t promises to be a showdown between this edition's two most impactful batters in young Yashasvi Jaiswal and top of the order for the Royals. Faf du Rajasthan Royals take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, who are looking to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, in an IPL match here on Sunday.

run target. While Jos Buttler failed against KKR, he remains a big threat alongside Jaiswal at the middle-or looks pretty strong in the presence of Joe Root, Druv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer.

while chasing a modest 150-



Prabhsimran's perseverance paid reached the ropes, while six



KKR face CSK in must-win game

PTI CHENNA

Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will clash with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday aiming for a win and strengthen their chances of sealing a play-offs berth. The Super Kings with 15

points (12 matches) are better placed to go through to the next stage, while KKR (10 points) need to win their two remaining games and hope other results go their way

MS Dhoni's team comes into the match with two wins on the bounce and, like always, will be tough to beat at their 'den'.

Even a couple of sixes from Dhoni's bat are enough to send the Chepauk crowd into a tizzy and he did that in the previous match against Delhi Capitals, which proved vital.

For the home team, the opening batters Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad have been providing solid starts. Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube have been benefitting from the clarity of roles they have been

assigned and been vital cogs in

the CSK batting line-up. On a slow pitch, which saw the batters struggle, Dube managed a few big hits and he would be eyeing an encore on Sunday. Though Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Ambati Rayudu have not had the desired impact, the Super Kings have

managed well. The bowlers, Matheesha Pathirana in particular, have done the job for the skipper. Tushar Deshpande, albeit expensive, has managed to pick up wickets. The spinners -- Jadeja, Moeen and Maheesh Theekshana -- have been effective in putting the squeeze on opposition batters as the Delhi

team found out on Wednesday. KKR will also fancy their chances based on the presence of spinners, who have made an impact. How Varun Chakravarthy and leg-spinner

Suyash Sharma bowl on Sunday could well decide the outcome of the match. The experienced Sunil Narine has been off-colour for a major part of the IPL season and will look to make

amends.

BRADBURN APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD COACH OF PAKISTAN approach, recently-appointed

PTI 📕 LAHORE

he Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday confirmed Grant Bradburn's appointment as the men's national team's head coach for two years.

board also The announced that former South Africa cricketer Andrew Puttick has also signed a twoyear-long contract as the batting coach of the men's side while strength and condition-ing coach Drikus Saaiman and physiotherapist Cliffe Deacon will continue to work in their roles.

Kiwi Bradburn served as the head coach of the side during the recently-conclud-

ed home series against New Zealand on consultancy basis. He is well-versed about the strengths and challenges of the national side having previously served as the fielding coach

Cup.

from 2018 till 2020 before he moved to the National Cricket Academy to work on development of coaches.

Prior to his roles in Pakistan, Bradburn, a former New Zealand cricketer, worked as the head coach of Scotland men's side.

"It is a great honour for me to work with the highly talented and skilful side like Pakistan as a head coach. We have been working hard on raising our game and are eager to showcase our growing skills," Bradburn said in a PCB release.

The Pakistan team management has also unveiled a playing style with which it will approach the 2023 ODI World

'The style branded as 'The Pakistan Way' will see the team approach the One-Day Internationals in the build-up and during the mega-event



with positive and bold tactics and attacking strategies," the release said

Elaborating on the added.

Both Jaiswal and du Plessis are in scintillating form and are the top-two run-getters in the tournament so far.

While du Plessis is leading the scoring charts with 576 runs from 11 innings, including six half centuries and a best of 84, Jaiswal is a close second with 575 runs from 12 knocks that includes four fifties and a 124-run knock.

It remains to be seen who gets the better of the other in Sunday's high-profile clash. If both fire on Sunday, it

"So how do we achieve will be a run feat for the spectators

RCB will also look to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, having suffered losses against Mumbai Indians and laggards Delhi Capitals in their last two games.

"Pakistan as a nation is The Royals, on the other proud of its identity, culture hand, returned to winning and style. I love Pakistan and ways with a comprehensive Pakistan cricket; I want to nine-wicket victory over leave behind a legacy as a Kolkata Knight Riders on director where the rest of the Thursday after three consecuworld says we want to play tive defeats, courtesy Jaiswal's The Pakistan Way," Arthur 47-ball 98 and skipper Sanju Samson's 48 off 29 deliveries

On the bowling front, legpinner Yuzvendra Chahal shone bright against KKR with brilliant figures of 4/25, New Zealand quick Trent Boult has been steady upfront and returned with two wickets in

their last match. RCB, on the other hand, lost their last two games against Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians and would be desperate to turn the tables around with a comprehensive

win. While du Plessis has been

consistent with the bat throughout the tournament so far, Virat Kohli has sparkled in patches and RCB need both the batters to fire at the top to pro-

vide them a good start. Mohammed Siraj has been the spearhead for RCB in the bowling department and has emerged as the most success-

ful bowler for the team with 15 wickets from 11 games. But Siraj needs support from the likes of Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga, Harshal Patel and Vijaykumar Vyshak to contain

Neser, Abbott set to join Oz's pre-Ashes camp

AP SYDNEY

ustralia has called up fast bowlers A Michael Neser and Sean Abbott to their pre-Ashes training camp, a report said on Saturday, as coach Andrew McDonald remains confident pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood will be fit.

Hazlewood has not played any red-ball cricket since injuring his Achilles in the Sydney Test against South Africa in January and only recently made his comeback in the Indian Premier League.

McDonald told the Sydney Daily Telegraph Hazlewood was "building nicefor the World Test Championship ly" against India at the Oval from June 7-11 ahead of the five-Test Ashes series.

But the in-form Neser and Abbott, playing county cricket with Glamorgan and



Surrey respectively, would nevertheless join the squad's training camp.

"So far so good. He's pulling up well from each encounter he has in the IPL," McDonald said of Hazlewood.

"We're hopeful all four of those quicks in that squad (Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Scott Boland) are up and available through the whole six Test matches.

RR

"If not, then clearly we've got some really handy back-up (Neser and Abbott)

that we're including in the camp." Neser was controversially omitted from Australia's 17-man squad for the World Test Championship final and first two Ashes Tests, but selectors left the door open for the final three matches.

He has been in irresistible form for Glamorgan, taking a career-best 7-32, including a hat-trick, last week against Yorkshire

He followed up by grabbing 4-40 and smacking 86 against Worcestershire this week

1-0 lead in the series after two

matches

A delayed start due to rain

Najmul's 117 laid the foundation in Bangladesh's reply, and when four runs were need-

AP CHELMSFORD Mushfiqur Rahim finished the chase that Najmul

Hossain Shanto started for Bangladesh to win a thrilling ODI against Ireland in the last over.

on Friday reduced the match to 45 overs each, and Ireland amassed 319-6 thanks to a team-record 140 by Harry ed from the last four balls, the wicketkeeper Mushfiqur hit a Tector. boundary to give Bangladesh a

Bangladesh beat Ireland in 2nd ODI





Deadly heatwaves threaten to reverse India's progress on poverty and inequality, suggests new research by RAMIT DEBNATH and RONITA BARDHAN

ATWAVE

ecord-breaking heatwaves in April 2022 put 90% of people in India at increased risk of going hungry, losing income or premature death, according to our new study.

After 2022 was designated the hottest in 122 years, extreme heat has appeared early again this year with over 60% of India recording above-normal maximum temperatures for April, according to the country's Meteorological Department. El Niño, a natural climate event that can increase global temperatures, is also expected to occur this year.

The increasing frequency of such deadly heatwaves could halt or even reverse India's progress in reducing poverty, food and income security and gender equality, harming the quality of life for over 1.4 billion Indians.

As a natural phenomenon, extreme heat is projected to occur once every 30 years or so in the Indian subcontinent. This is no longer the case thanks to man-made climate change. India has suffered over 24,000 heatwave-related deaths since 1992 alone, with the May 1998 heatwave being one of the most devastating as it claimed over 3,058 lives.

Severe weather events that seemed previously impossible are happening now. Our experts break down the facts. Help us continue boost their voices

During the May 2010 heatwaves, temperatures in the western city of Ahmedabad reached 47.8°C and raised heat-related hospital admissions of newborns by 43%, prompting the city to become one of the country's first to implement a heat action plan meant to guide preparations and emergency responses to heatwaves which has since saved thousands of lives. The 2015 heatwave killed over 2,330 people and prompted the government ministry for disaster management to set guidelines for preventing deaths during heatwaves and push Indian states to develop their own plans.

Failure to implement these strategies may stymie India's economic progress. If proper heat action plans are not developed, excessive heat could cost India 2.8% and 8.7% of its GDP by 2050 and

lobal temperatures and the fre-Guency and intensity of heatwaves will rise in the 21st century as a result of climate change. High air temperatures can affect human health and lead to additional deaths. Extended periods of high day and nighttime temperatures create cumulative physiological stress on the human body which exacerbates the top causes of death globally, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and renal disease. Heatwaves can acutely impact large populations for short periods of time, often trigger public health emergencies, and result in excess mortality, and cascading socioeconomic impacts (e.g. lost work capacity and labour productivity). They can also cause loss of health service delivery capacity, where power-shortages which often accompany heatwaves disrupt health facilities, transport, and water infrastructure.

In India, heatwaves typically occur from March to June, and in some rare cases, even extend till July. On an average, five-six heat wave events occur every year over the northern parts of the country. Single events can last weeks, occur consecutively, and can impact large population. What is criterion for declaring heat-

wave in India?

2100, respectively. This is a worrying trend, especially given India's goal of becoming a 10-trillion-dollar economy by 2030.

A 'REAL-FEEL' MEASURE

Heat action plans are only useful if they can represent the consequences of heatwaves over the entire population. For Indian authorities to recognise when deadly heat is present (and emergency action is needed), the government has to know how conditions feel for the public.



Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions. a) Based on Departure from Normal Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.50°C to 6.40°C Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is

during last year's heatwave.

It's important to accurately measure

India's vulnerability to lethal tempera-

tures. The metric used by the Indian

government, known as the climate vul-

>6.40degree C Based on Actual Maximum Temperature Heat Wave: When

actual maximum temperature = 45°C Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature = 47 If above criteria met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological sub-divi-

We used an environmental health nerability index, does not account for measure popular in the US called the the physical dangers of heat to human heat index to determine how hot the health. Our research showed that comhuman body is likely to feel in relation bining air temperature and relative to air temperature and humidity levels. humidity levels gave our heat index a This helped us to map how sensitive "real-feel" measure for extreme heat. In people were to heatwaves across India other words, how extreme heat felt for and discover that 90% of the country people experiencing it. was in danger of severe repercussions

STOP UNDERESTIMATING HEATWAVES

Underestimating the effects of extreme heat in India could reduce or even reverse its progress on a range of sion for at least two consecutive days and it declared on the second day.

What is a criterion for describing heatwave for coastal stations in India?

When maximum temperature departure is 4.50°C or more from normal, Heat Wave may be described provided actual maximum temperature is 370°C or more. The peak month of the heat wave over India is May.

HEATWAVES AND HEALTH

The scale and nature of the health impacts of heat depend on the timing, intensity and duration of a temperature event, the level of acclimatisation, and the adaptability of the local population, infrastructure and institutions to the prevailing climate. The precise threshold at which temperature represents a hazardous condition varies by region, other factors such as humidity and wind, local levels of human acclimatization and preparedness for heat conditions. The negative health impacts of heat are predictable and largely preventable with specific public health actions. Exposure to excessive heat has wide ranging physiological impacts for all humans, often amplifying existing conditions and resulting in premature death and disability.

(WHO)

goals for sustainable development. These include those related to poverty, hunger, health and wellbeing, equality, economic growth and industrial innovation and biodiversity. This is especially concerning given that India's progress towards achieving these goals has slowed over the last 20 years while the number of extreme weather events has increased.

Extreme heat, for example, can exacerbate drought by drying up the soil and disrupting rainfall patterns, ultimately blighting crop production and

food security, which endangers the health and wellbeing of a large portion of Indian society. Being a primarily agricultural economy, productivity losses in this sector threaten the jobs and health of millions of marginal and small landholding farmers, as well as their ability to adapt and take up new livelihoods. Another worrying tendency with heatwaves is increasing water-borne and insect-borne diseases, which could further strain India's already beleaguered public health system.

Every year, millions of people from rural areas migrate to India's cities in search of a better quality of life. But heatwaves have a disastrous effect on the country's urban population too. Practically the entire city of Delhi and its 32 million inhabitants were threatened by the 2022 heatwaves. Most migrants are forced to settle in the city's poorest quarters, where the effects of heatwaves are particularly catastrophic. Sadly, these communities also lack the means to buy air conditioners that might ease their misery.

Present procedures for assessing the sensitivity of India to climate change will not help people resist the exceptional heat seen in recent years and must be upgraded immediately.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that heat-waves in South Asia will grow more powerful and frequent this century. Heat action plans will be crucial in speeding up efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects, but they must represent the complexity of India's vulnerabilities to climate change. The emphasis on making Indian cities resilient to extreme heat is critical, since cities will see a population explosion in the next ten years, with 70% of Indian building stock yet to be created. There is a chance to incorporate methods for adapting to extreme heat by designing new homes that are easier to keep cool.

With many more people in India expected to be hit by even greater heat extremes in the future, finance, urban design and education are necessary to help people adapt.

(The Conversation)



AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY - JILLIAN MICHAELS

health 10 New Delhi, May 14, 2023

ALL ABOUT GALL In an interaction with ARCHANA JYOTI, a team of doctors from AIIMS Delhi's Department of Surgical Disciplines led by HoD Dr (Prof.) SUNIL CHUMBER gives a comprehensive medical reference information including symptoms, diagnoses, treatments, and follow-up of gallstones disease that impacts up to

10% of the population in the country. Unchecked dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, and the rising prevalence of obesity and metabolic syndrome are confirmed risk factors. Here we present the first part of the article.

allbladder stones, also known as gallstones, are hardened deposits of digestive fluid that form in your gallbladder, a small organ located under the liver that stores bile, a digestive fluid produced by the liver.

These stones are typically made of cholesterol, bilirubin, and calcium salts and can range in size from tiny grains to several centimetres in diameter.

The gallstones disease (GD) can manifest in various forms, from asymptomatic gallstones to acute cholecystitis, a severe inflammation of the gallbladder.



DR PIYUSH RANJAN

"The incidence of GD in India is on rise, with estimates suggesting that it affects up to 10% of the Indian population. Poor dietary habits, increased sedentary lifestyles, and the rising prevalence of obesity and metabolic syndrome are to be blamed," says Dr Piyush Ranjan

'There is disproportionately higher incidence in north India compared to the south. Gallstone disease is more common in women than in men, with a female-to-male ratio of 2:1. It also tends to affect people over the age of 40, although it can occur in younger individuals as well.



DR PRASANNA RAMANA

If left untreated, GD can have



ultrasound incidentally for other abdominal conditions.

"Classically, pain due to gall-stones is felt in the right upper quadrant or epigastrium, and may radiate to the back or the right shoulder. Atypical presentations include dyspepsia, postprandial discomfort, constipation, bloating, nausea and vomiting. Overall, up to 20% of adults develop gallstones and >20% of those develop symptoms or complications and about 80% of gall stone cases are

Thankfully, gallstones can be detected easily due to easy avail-

ability and use of diagnostic ultra-

sound for a wide range of abdom-

inal complaints as well as routine

check-ups, he says.

SYMPTOMS OF GALLSTONE DISEASE

Symptoms can vary, depending on the type and severity of the condition, say Dr Sunil Chumber and Dr Ajay Mohan





right upper and central abdomen, radiating to back or right shoulder and is usually associated with nausea, vomiting or fever. There is tenderness in the right upper abdomen and severe symptoms may require hospital admission, intravenous antibiotics and in some cases, surgery

Bile duct stones (choledocholithiasis): This condition occurs when the gallstone slips into the bile duct which carries bile from the liver to the small intestine. This can result in jaundice (yellowing of eyes), abdominal pain and fever, a condition known as cholangitis (infection of bile duct).

Acute biliary pancreatitis: This refers to inflammation of the pancreas, which occurs due to the blockage of the pancreatic duct by gallstone, preventing digestive enzymes from flowing into the small intestine. Symptoms may include severe upper abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. The symptoms may worsen and the patient may require ICU admission. Gallbladder cancer: In rare

cases, gallstones may lead to gallbladder cancer which is one of the most aggressive cancers of the body.

INDICATION OF SURGERY IN GALLSTONES

Surgery is the most common treatment for gallstone disease when symptoms are present. The primary indication for gallbladder surgery (cholecystectomy) is the presence of gallstones. symptomatic Symptomatic gallstones can cause significant pain, inflammation, infection, and other complications. These complications may include acute cholecystitis (inflammation of the gallbladder), cholangitis (infection of the bile duct), and pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas).





ditions or situations in which surgery is not recommended or is considered unsafe. For instance in some conditions like unstable medical conditions (uncontrolled high blood pressure, heart disease, or a bleeding disorder), pregnan-cy especially during the first and third trimesters, advanced age, severe lung or kidney disease, recent surgery or trauma, and other medical complications.

These contraindications may increase the risk of complications during or after surgery and may require alternative treatments to be pursued instead of surgery.

"It is important to note that these are general contraindications, and the decision to undergo surgery should be made on an individual basis after a thorough evaluation of the person's medical history, condition, and other factors. In some cases, alternative treatments such as medication or endoscopic procedures may be recommended instead of surgery," Dr Kataria further explains.

DIFFICULTIES IN OPERATION

Dr Chumber says that surgery is a common treatment for gallstones, but it can present some difficulties and risks. The most common surgical procedure for gallstones is called a cholecystectomy, which involves the removal of the gallbladder, either by opening the

DR KAMAL KATARIA

ences, such as acute cholecystitis, obstructive jaundice, and pancreatitis which cause recurrent episodes of pain in the abdomen and may be severe enough requiring hospitalisation, adds Dr Prasanna Ramana



DR YASHWANT SINGH RATHORE

Hence, early diagnosis and management are crucial to prevent complications and improve outcomes. A simple Ultrasound scan of the abdomen is more than sufficient to diagnose gallstone disease, Mostly gallstones are asymptomatic or incidental gallstones, informs Dr Yshwant Singh Rathore.

"Asymptomatic Gallstones are stones in gallbladder which cause no symptoms or complications and are diagnosed during routine Dr Ravi Chandra.



DR RAVI CHANDRA

"Patient with cholelithiasis may develop complications like acute cholecystitis (which may evolve into empyema, progress to gallbladder perforation or even gangrene of the gallbladder, cholangitis (due to common bile duct calculi) and pancreatitis. It has been observed that in most cases of gall bladder cancers, gallstones are associated. In India, gallbladder cancer is the commonest GI cancer in women, points out



DR SUNIL CHUMBER

Biliary colic is a common symptom of gallstones, and it is characterized by sudden and intense pain in the upper right part of the tummy, which may spread to the shoulder or back. The pain can last for several hours, and it may be triggered by eating fatty foods.

Acute cholecystitis occurs when a gallstone blocks the duct that carries the digestive fluid (bile) out of the gallbladder, causing inflammation and swelling of the organ. The symptoms of acute cholecystitis may include severe pain in the upper right part of the tummy, nausea, vomiting, fever, and chills.

Chronic cholecystitis is a longterm condition that occurs when the gallbladder becomes inflamed and damaged due to the presence of gallstones. Recurrent episodes of pain in the upper right part of the tummy, nausea, bloating, and indigestion are common symptoms. CBD stones, or common bile

duct stones, occur when gall-

DR AJAY MOHAN

stones move out of the gallbladder and into the tube or duct that carries the digestive fluid (bile) from the liver to the small intestine. The symptoms of CBD stones may include pain in the upper right part of the tummy, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), and fever.





DR JYOTI SHARMA

Complications

Gallstones: Around 20% of people with gallstones may develop one or more complications in their lifetime. These may have a wide array of symptoms, ranging from moderate abdominal pain to symptoms requiring surgery.

of

Dr Devender Singh and Dr Jyoti Sharma enlists these complications:

Biliary colic: This may present as a severe pain in the right upper or central abdomen that may last from 30 minutes to several hours. The pain may radiate to the back or tip of the right shoulder. It may occur after a fatty meal and may be associated with nausea.

Cholecystitis: This refers to the inflammation of gallbladder which may present as severe pain in the

indications for su may include the presence of large gallstones, stones in the bile duct, or gallbladder polyps. Patients with a high risk of developing gallbladder cancer may also require surgery, Dr Kamal Kataria says.



Additionally, patients with asymptomatic gallstones may require surgery if they have certain risk factors such as age over 60, Diabetes Mellitus (poor follow-up capacity, poorly controlled, high risk of empyema), Sickle cell disease, TPN, Chronic immunosuppression, or other medical conditions that increase the risk of complications, chips in Dr Gagan Soni.

He cautions that there are some contraindications of surgery in gallstones.

mmy or through key-hole surgery (laparoscopy).

One of the main difficulties in gallstone surgery is identifying and removing all of the stones. Gallstones can be small and difficult to detect, and some may be located outside of the gallbladder in the bile ducts, making them harder to reach and remove, says Dr Chumber.

Another difficulty is the risk of injury to nearby organs or structures during surgery. The gallbladder is located in a delicate area, close to the liver, bile ducts, and several blood vessels. Surgeons needs to be careful to avoid damaging these structures during the operation.

Additionally, some patients may be at a higher risk of complications during surgery, such as those with pre-existing medical conditions or a history of previous surgery in the tummy.

Overall, while gallstone surgery done via keyhole (laparoscopy) is generally safe and effective, it is important to discuss any potential risks and difficulties with a healthcare provider before undergoing the procedure, adds Dr Mohan.

... To be continued

5

AIIA AND CCRAS HOLD INTERACTIVE MEET ON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN AYUSH

NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) recently jointly organised an Interactive meet a firstof-its-kind for research and education in Ayush with focus on capacity building as well as set goals to capitalize on the expertise and experience of the Chairs in academic and research avenues

The participants discussed the research education ecosystem in Ayush Colleges, in both graduation and postgraduation levels. Rajesh Kotecha, Union Ayush

Secretary said, "Pandemic was the opportunity for Ayush to develop their science. We need to discuss how we can utilize Ayush science for our Young researchers which can help the country and the world to benefit from the sector. Pramod Kumar Pathak, Special Secretary, Ayush Ministry informed that the efforts are on to promote

Ayush's patents and research. Prof. (Dr) Tanuja Nesari, Director AIIA termed the occasion as a historic movement when administrators, policy makers, education experts, researchers and distinguished

scientists came together under one platform for the first time. This will help showcase each other's success stories and learn by fulfilling our gaps. "This platform gives us an opportunity to evidence-based create Ayurveda, creating a disciplinary model and integration," she added.

Prof. Vd Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General CCRAS, said "When we compare Ayush with the Chinese alternative method of treatment, it has much more potential to go high. During Covid time Ayush system has registered more clinical studies, in

comparison to the Chinese system of medicines. It is the reason we are here today, to generate pathways to expand the horizon of Ayush. It is high time to give much priority to research."

To carry forward the work the Ministry of Ayush has appointed five Ayush Distinguished Scientist Chairs in the domains of interdisciplinary clinical research, public health and epidemiology, ayurveda biology and basic sciences, pharmaceutical drug development and consciousness and cognitive sciences

team of doctors at AIIMS, A Delhi recently carried out a marathon metal-free spine fixation surgery upon a six-monthold boy, making him India's youngest infant to undergo such a surgery. Prof Deepak Gupta from the Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS said that the baby was brought to them from another hospital last June with spinal cord and brachial plexus injury during normal vaginal delivery with a

birth weight of 4.5 kg. The baby was born with injury to the spinal cord and cervical spine dislocation (cervical spondyloptosis). A bone graft was taken from the mother's body and was used to fix the spine of the baby at Jai Prakash Narayan Prakash Trauma Center in June 2022.

AIIMS DOCS FIX SPINE OF SIX-MONTH-OLD BABY



DR DEEPAK GUPTA

After the surgery, the child was kept on a ventilator for eleven months at the centre and was discharged on May 10, 2023.

The child interacts well with his parents, is feeding well and has shown partial neurological recovery in his limb movements after surgery. "To the

best of my knowledge, spine fixation surgery in such young infants has never been reported or seen in India," Prof Gupta said.



opinion 11 New Delhi, May 14, 2023

How to tap women's entrepreneurial potential

In India and throughout the world, women typically face more significant challenges in their work life than their male counterparts when attempting to accomplish similar goals. For women, ever so often, more barriers must be surmounted to arrive at the same destination.

Entrepreneurship among women not only stimulates the economy by creating jobs but also has transformative socio-cultural outcomes.

The number of womenowned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the nation is estimated at over 1 crore units which is barely 20 per cent of the nation's proprietary businesses, according to the 73rd survey round of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

To make India a \$5 trillion economic superpower by 2025, the country's 49 per cent population - women - must be empowered.

The pandemic's disproportionate impact on women entrepreneurs in India

According to data from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, there were 90 lakh women employees before the Covid-19 lockdown (prior to March 25, 2020), which fell to 83.3 lakh as on July 1, 2020. In addition to losing an average of nearly two-thirds of their salaries during the lockdown, women were much more likely than men to report an increase in their unpaid workload.

Added domestic responsibilities made it more challenging for them to return to the market, with long-lasting economic repercussions. Consequently, vulnerable sections of women, including Muslim, migrant, single, separated, widowed, or divorced women, have suffered more from the crisis.

Thus, the data is unambiguous. By identifying and quantifying these impediments, we can create intelligent solu-



tions to eradicate them.

Ingredients for enabling a women-led economic

revival and growth businesses. Empowering aspiring and Getting business loans is still challenging for women. existing women entrepreneurs According to a poll we conto establish, manage, and ducted in 2022, about 85 per expand their businesses should cent women are still unable to be the main objective to foster inclusive, resilient, and susobtain small loans of a few lakh tainable economies. Here's how rupees, necessary to start a profitable enterprise. we can make that happen: The Central Government

Business knowledge to may need to improve the appeal of programmes like help foster entrepreneurship in Mudra by increasing loan size women: The majority of from an average of ₹27,000 women business owners today for "Shishu" loans to encounter difficulties while

around ₹2-3 lakhs as well as trying to avail loans from invest more resources in the nationalised banks. By active-Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana ly promoting financial literacy, to ensure scalability of women's we can inculcate positive financial behaviour and educate women entrepreneurs on how to manage their money in all respects — register their firms for GST, income tax and other statutory compliances, generate invoices and collect receivables, save and reinvest profits, manage their employees' productivity, and so on.

One such success story is a woman from Chennai who, armed with a bank loan and advice from an experienced mentor, managed to scale her

organic peanut butter manufacturing firm.

□ Provide hands-on ecosystem support: In India, several women entrepreneurship development programmes strive to boost the capacity of women-owned businesses. To strengthen both the entrepreneurs and their businesses and connect them to customers and the market, these programmes combine capacitybuilding workshops with hand-

holding/mentoring support. For instance, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of Niti Aayog has served as a onestop shop for women entrepreneurs to obtain information, financing, assistance, and mentorship online.

In our survey we found that 97 per cent of womenowned businesses had repaid their loans on time. No wonder, banks are more confident lending to women entrepreneurs because they believe women are more likely to save money and repay loans.

□ Help women in the adoption of digital technologies early on: We must help create a robust tech-based marketplace for women and encour-

age them to adopt an entrepreneurial mentality early on. There would be a noticeable ripple effect in the country if one woman employed ten more women under her leadership.

Create a robust ecosystem: Various nations, some at comparable developmental stages to India, and states within India, have encouraged and expedited the growth and sustainability of women-owned businesses. These include affluent nations like the US and Canada, where about 40 per cent businesses are owned by women, and developing nations like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Russia, where over 30 per cent businesses are held by women. Notably, several Indian States, including West Bengal (23.42 per cent), Tamil Nadu (10.37 per cent), and Telangana (7.85 per cent), take the lead in terms of proportion of women running MSME businesses. By 2030, an all-State initiative aimed at assisting women entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses may result in an increase in direct employment of 50-60 million individuals and a rise in indirect and induced employment of another 100-110 million.

Empowering aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs to establish. manage, and expand their businesses is the key to India's economic growth

One such example is a woman entrepreneur from Rayagada, Odisha, who was homebound, came from a lowincome household and was married off soon after her graduation. She decided to launch her own homemade snacks business and received help obtaining a bank loan, as well as coaching from an experienced mentor to scale her business

She now employs seven direct employees and over 30 indirectly, making and distributing high-quality snacks and sweets in about 25 villages, with yearly sales of more than rupees fifteen lakhs.

(The writer is founding and managing trustee, Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust)



LAKSHMI VENKATARAMAN VENKATESAN

PERSPECTIVE

Curate your social media to serve you better

You shouldn't let tech giants' bottomline dictate how you engage with social media. By being aware of how algorithms work, what they're capable of and what their purpose is, you can make the shift from being a sitting duck for advertisers to an active curator of your own feeds

Whether it's Facebook's News Feed or TikTok's For You page, social media algorithms are constantly making behind-thescenes decisions to boost certain content - giving rise to the "curated" feeds we've all become accustomed to. But does anyone actually know how these algorithms work? And, more importantly, is there a way to "game" them to see more of the content you want?

Optimising for engagement

In broader computing terms, an algorithm is simply a set of rules that specifies a particular computational procedure.

In a social media context, algorithms (specifically "recommender algorithms") determine everything from what you're likely to read, to whom you're likely to follow, to whether a specific post appears in front of you.

Their main goal is to sustain your attention for as long as possible, in a process called "optimising for engagement". The more you engage with content on a platform, the more effectively that platform can commodify your attention and target you with ads: its main revenue source

feed algorithms came from Facebook in the mid-2000s. It can be summarised in one sentence:

"Sort all of the user's friend updates - including photos, statuses and more — in reverse chronological order (newer posts first)."

Since then, algorithms have become much more powerful and nuanced. They now take myriad factors into consideration to determine how content is promoted. For instance, Twitter's "For You" recommendation algorithm is based on a neural network that uses about 48 million parameters!

A black box

Imagine a hypothetical user named Basil who follows users and pages that primarily discuss space, dog memes and cooking. Social media algorithms might give Basil recommendations for T-shirts featuring puppies dressed as astronauts.

Although this might seem simple, algorithms are typically "black boxes" that have their inner workings hidden. It's in the interests of tech companies to keep the recipe for their "secret sauce", well, a secret

Trying to "game" an algorithm is like trying to solve a 3D box puzzle without any instructions and without being able to peer inside. You can only use trial-and-error manipulating the pieces you see on the outside, and gauging the effects on the overall state of the box.

Even when an algorithm's code One of the earliest social media is revealed to the public — such as when Twitter released the source code for its recommender algorithm in March — it's not enough to bend them to one's will.

Between the sheer complexity of the code, constant tweaks by developers, and the presence of arbitrary design choices (such as explicitly



tracking Elon Musk's tweets), any claims of being able to perfectly "game" an algorithm should be taken with a pinch of salt.

TikTok's algorithm, in particular, is notoriously powerful yet opaque. A Wall Street Journal investigation found it uses "subtle cues, such as how long you linger on a video" to predict what you're likely to engage with.

So what can you do?

That said, there are some ways you can try to curate your social media to serve you better.

Since algorithms are powered by

your data and social media habits, a good first step is to change these habits and data - or at least understand how they may be shaping your online experience.

1. Engage with content you trust and want more of

Regardless of the kind of feed you want to create, it's important to follow reliable sources. Basil, who is fascinated by space, knows they would do well to follow NASA and steer clear of users who believe the Moon is made of cheese.

Think critically about the accounts and pages you follow, ask-



ing questions such as Who is the author of this content? Do they have authority in this topic? Might they have a bias, or an agenda?

The higher the quality of the content you engage with, the more likely it is that you'll be recommended similarly valuable content (rather than fake news or nonsense).

Also, you can play to the ethos of "optimising for engagement" by engaging more (and for longer) with the kind of content you want to be recommended. That means liking and sharing it, and actively seeking out similar posts.

2. Be stingy with your information

Secondly, you can be parsimonious in providing your data to platforms. Social media companies know more about you than you think - from your location, to your perceived interests, to your activi-

ties outside the app, and even the activities and interests of your social circle!

If you limit the information you provide about yourself, you limit the extent to which the algorithm can target you. It helps to keep your different social media accounts unlinked, and to avoid using the "Login with Facebook" or "Login with Google" options when signing up for a new account.

3. Use your settings

Adjusting your privacy and personalisation settings will further help you avoid being microtargeted through your feed.

The "Off-Facebook Activity" setting allows you to break the link between your Facebook account and vour activities outside of Facebook. Similar options exist for TikTok and Twitter

Ad blockers and privacy-

enhancing browser add-ons can also help. These tools, such as the open-source uBlock Origin and Privacy Badger, help prevent cookies and marketing pixels from "following" your browsing habits as you move between social media and other websites.

4. Get (dis)engaged

A final piece of advice is to simply disengage with content you don't want in your feed. This means:

Ignoring any posts you aren't a fan of, or "hiding" them if possible taking mindful breaks to avoid "doomscrolling" regularly revising who you follow, and making sure this list coincides with what you want from your feed.

So, hypothetically, could Basil unfollow all users and pages unrelated to space, dog memes and cooking to ultimately starve the recommender algorithm of potential ways to distract them?

Well, not exactly. Even if they do this, the algorithm won't necessarily "forget" all their data: it might still exist in caches or backups. Because of how complex and pervasive algorithms are, you can't guarantee control over them.

Nonetheless, you shouldn't let tech giants' bottomline dictate how you engage with social media. By being aware of how algorithms work, what they're capable of and what their purpose is, you can make the shift from being a sitting duck for advertisers to an active curator of your own feeds.

(The Conversation)



GREAT MEN ARE THEY WHO SEE THAT SPIRITUAL IS STRONGER THAN ANY MATERIAL FORCE - THAT THOUGHTS RULE THE WORLD — RALPH WALDO EMERSON

tarot 12 New Delhi, May 14, 2023

MAHUKOTY



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week will be good for your health. You will have an abundance of energy and creativity. A female influence, such as your mother or spouse, will help to meet your health's needs while also motivating you to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career because you are constantly scrutinised by competitors and rivals. You will feel constrained in your life. Your addiction, such as alcohol, overspending, or an unhealthy relationship, may become a roadblock to your success. Protect yourself from all these negative influences. Accepting and surrendering to your current circumstances are required in love. It is best to forego immediate gratification in favour of a higher cause. Singles should take their time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week will be filled with anxiety and tension. You are concerned about the future. This will make you anxious and cause you to sleep poorly. You may experience headaches, insomnia, or high blood pressure. Negative emotions such as fear, frustration, and uncertainty should not paralyse you. Concentrate on the present moment. Avoid flatterers in your career because you may be misled by inaccurate information. You may experience frequent mood swings and feelings of insecurity. Hidden forces at work may jeopardise your success. And the best part is that you are upbeat and confident in your ability to control the situation and emerge victorious. You will feel strong and established in your love life. You are balanced and considerate of your partner. Love relationships can lead to marriage.



Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

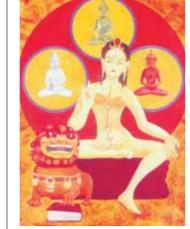
This week will bring you good health, vigour, and stamina. You will be able to care for not only yourself but also your family. You will make a firm commitment to raising a healthy family and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the professional front, you should take a practical approach and make some important career/business decisions. There is a good chance that you will be emotionally blackmailed at work. A female counterpart could be beneficial to your career. You will witness a one-sided love, so you will need a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental equilibrium. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of performing some important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You must seek out a positive environment to unwind. You are likely to experience mental conflict and nervousness, which may contribute to the BP problem. Concentrate on taming your wild energy. A disciplined lifestyle, a well-balanced diet, regular



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You have a lot of energy, creativity, and positive energy this week. Your health and vitality will be excellent. You must channel your energy into constructive endeavours. Maintain your equilibrium within yourself. On the professional front, you will demonstrate that you are a genuine leader, and people will listen to you. With your kind and honest nature, you will win hearts. This week, you will most likely be an effective participant in meetings, collaborations, and contacts. Support from someone of the opposite sex will help you achieve your goals. Those who are taking interviews or competitive exams this week will be successful. In matters of love, you must exercise caution. You should respect and comprehend your partner's emotions. You can achieve relationship success by being generous. Giving your partner a gift can work wonders and strengthen your bond.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Friday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

To stay healthy, you must draw positive energy from the five elements: earth, water, air, fire, and sky. You are likely to be extremely energised and require a balanced approach to life. Any changes in your diet or lifestyle will have a negative impact on you. As a result, keep your cravings under and your anger under control. You are meticulous and hardworking at work. You are eager to pick up new skills and techniques. Your dedication and focus will benefit you. Financially, there is a need to change your lifestyle to increase overall gratification; the best part is that you are committed to making those changes. This week will bring you good fortune in love and a high level of emotional contentment. You will be surrounded by perfection and will be in an emotionally fulfilling situation. You can experience joy and happiness.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Pastel Green Lucky day Friday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The change is for the better in terms of health. The positive outlook will lead to even more progress. The mental tension and fatigue caused by a fast-paced lifestyle will disappear, and you will feel very relaxed and energised. Physical activity and spending time in nature will be beneficial to you. You are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects later in your career. Those who have taken competitive exams will certainly succeed, and they will certainly be called for an interview. The good news is that a promotion or salary increase is on the way. Your hard work and goal-oriented attitude will pay off handsomely. Friendship with juniors will benefit you. Your orthodox nature will lead to separation and disappointment in your love life. You must abandon old-school thinking and develop a modern perspective on your partner.

Lucky number 29 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Tuesday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You have a lot of positive energy this week. It is suggested that you recover from your illness and live a healthy lifestyle. An emotional issue involving someone close's care or treatment will be discussed. To avoid gaining weight, avoid overeating. To



This week you will be moody and frequently irritated. This may also raise concerns about your physical health. You may experience health issues such as headaches, nausea, and high blood pressure. You must master the wild side of your mind and trust your instincts. Stay focused as you walk the path of enlightenment. When it comes to your career, you must take steps to advance your greater good. You will be able to address any outstanding issues in your life and clear up any misunderstandings. Extra effort is required before you can see results. Your career will face numerous challenges this week. Give your all, and the rewards will be yours. A relationship contains an abundance of happiness for you. The card depicts love's stability and balance. People who are not married may receive marriage proposals. You will be soulful, passionate, and romantic, and you will go to great lengths to make vour partner happy. Lucky number 39

Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you will exercise extreme caution in all health-related matters. You will go to any length to improve your health. You must choose between following your mind and following your heart. The first approach would be to examine your deepest desires and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill, and you may feel stuck. This is the time to maintain cordial relations with your superiors. Your optimistic outlook on life will keep you motivated and open the door to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the outcome will be disappointing. Your hard-earned money will be spent on expenses, leaving you with nothing. In terms of relationships, you are trustworthy and dependable. Singles will receive a positive message about love. Romance with your ideal partner is on the agenda. Your dedication and loyalty will strengthen your bond.

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will have good health as well as a lot of vitality and vigour. You are disciplined and health-conscious this week. Yoga, exercise, and a nutritious diet will be extremely beneficial to you. It is best to begin the week with the intention of living a healthy and enjoyable life. You can establish a routine and discipline your senses. This week, your career is looking up, and you will receive an unexpected financial boost. The change is positive; the company will expand, and employees can expect promotions, raises, or the desired transfer. Some of you may be required to travel abroad for project work. Some of you may receive a love message or a marriage proposal in your relationships. Singles, your chances of meeting someone special are favourable. Married couples can go on a pleasure trip and strengthen their bond.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Friday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20 This week, it is critical that you take ca

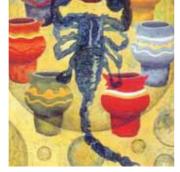
This week, it is critical that you take care of your health. You have been avoiding this critical issue for a long time, so a trip to the doctor is in order. Be open and discuss all issues because appropriate medical advice and treatment are critical.





medical examinations, and exercise are unavoidable. Avoid arguing and being aggressive. You will establish your credibility in your career. It is likely that you have genuine affection for someone at work, which may be a factor in your success. Those who have their own businesses will benefit financially. Those in positions of authority will benefit from the favour of their superiors. Your amicable behaviour and communication skills will benefit you. You may experience feelings of love and emotions. People will like you because you are affectionate and romantic. You will be concerned about the emotions of those around you.

Lucky number 2 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Saturday



stay fit and healthy, stick to a healthy routine that includes physical exercise and a well-balanced diet. This is a good week for your career. You will be given the opportunity to change your fate. You must be upbeat and spontaneous. You will gain the trust of your superiors and may rise to the top of the boss's priority list. Promotion is possible. A new beginning, such as a new job or a new residence, could occur. A manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment is on the horizon in terms of love life. Some of you may be planning a date or a romantic trip. Marriages may have mutual understanding.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Tuesday that includes is is a good week unity to change pous. You will gain ie top of the boss's ginning, such as a nanifestation of the horizon in ing a date or a iderstanding.

Vacuation of the second second

Your spiritualism and faith in God are positive traits that will contribute to your peaceful personality. On the professional front, you have some exciting news to share. This could be a promotion or a pay raise. You may be transferred to the desired location due to a sudden change. Your perseverance and hard work will be rewarded generously. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You must make a sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the time to start a new relationship or to have high expectations from an existing one.

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Thursday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



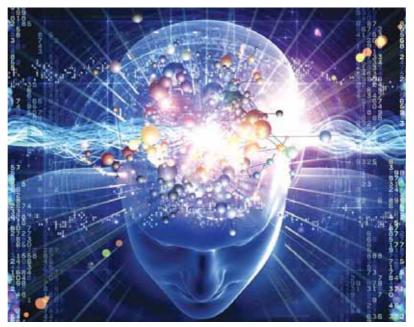
ind, even though has a dependant status, but at the same time, it does also enjoy a certain level of operational independence. For, it enjoys the freedom to guide our actions by choice and discrimination. But whenever there is a choice option in hand, it carries equal probability of use and misuse. That makes the mind vulnerable to act as a double-edged weapon - susceptible to act either way. Mind could lead us conduct rightfully and turn life into a pleasant experience. It could act a trickster as well, which may delude us, and lay down the ground for self-invited pains and sufferings. Owing to this indwelling sense of duality, mind often gets trapped into self-excited conflicting thoughts. This human vulnerability makes a being a mystery by oneself. No wonder, both creative as well devilish tendencies are in evidence all around. This riddle needs to be resolved for a smooth run of life, individually and collectively. That calls for exploring the making of mind and all its functional dimensions. Knowing which, it would be possible for the mind to steer our lives towards the right course due.

Let us now have a look into the construct of human mind. Following Vedantic perception, as detailed in the concept laid down by Kashmir Shaivism, a school of non-dualism, there are three functional dimensions of Mind –*Buddhi, Ahamakara,* and *Manasa.* All three are empowered by a fourth factor, Chiti (fundamental element of consciousness).

Chiti is 'the immanent consciousness (the kinetic side of the fundamental element of consciousness)' available to a dynamic existence. It is the indwelling powerhouse of a being, which animates all human functionalities. It grants us with the 'Power of Knowing', whereby one gains cognitive, perceptive, and comprehensive abilities, vital to all our dynamic functionalities.

Inherent in *Chiti* is *Buddhi* – the faculty of discriminate intelligence, which is armed with a sense of dispassion. It grants us with the sense of reasons applying which, one could analyse, evaluate, dispassionately arrive at the right judgment, and direct Manasa to accordingly act upon. And the fact that Buddhi carries no bias, more often it would pick up the most appropriate lead.

Mind and its functional dimensions



Inherent in *Buddhi* is *Ahamakara*. In common parlance, we also term it as ego-consciousness. This faculty brings in the sense of 'I' in a being, which wilfully makes choices, commits to the tasks undertaken, and own up all actions on our part. The way Ahamakara wills is how ordinarily mind works. It is again this very sense of 'I', which makes us identify ourselves with our gross body and mind organism, differentiated from others. That makes us get into comparison, discrimination, differentiation, and comparative rating based on self-assumed standards. Our thought process, thus, gets corrupted by breeding in a strong sense of divide.

Inherent in Ahamakara is Manasa sense aided functionalities of mind - as one's operational tool working from the front. Manasa is duly aided by the 5 sensory organs of perception, each assigned with their respective functionalities of seeing, hearing, touch sense, taste, and smelling. Manasa is normally supposed to gather outer-field data through its aids; relay it to Buddhi for due diligence; and then react and respond as directed by the latter. Second, it puts into action desires projected by mind as are guided by indwelling Karmic carryover from the past, or under external influences. And if ever unmindfully, Ahamakara wills to take things on face value, ignoring the necessity to invoke Buddhi, Manasa could also form its own perception on instinctive judgment and accordingly respond to external stimulus.

The three operative tools of mind are supposed to work in perfect coordi-

nation with each other, as an inseparable unitary mechanism. If allowed a free run as mandated, mind comes out with its optimum best. And together they empower us with the capacity to sense, cognize, think, feel, analyse, dispassionately evaluate, reason out and arrive at right judgment. And rightfully guide one's actions by choice and discrimination. For, it will look at the issues in hand in the right perspective due. It, therefore, will pick up most appropriate lead. Second, one would be able to intelligently react and respond to external stimuli. Third, one would be able to intelligently deal with the challenges coming one's way. Fourth, one could explore even unchartered territories and comprehend beyond the known, covering even invisible realities. And accordingly improve our skill sets to strike beyond the known. Living in this very mode, we have progressively evolved all through civilisation's run, from our primitive stage down to the developed world as on date.

> The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com