OPINION 6

PAK'S CIVIL-MILITARY

CONFLICT CONTINUES

WORLD 8

RUSSIA LAUNCHES

AIR ATTACK ON KYIV

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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'Recruitment

made easier

The changes brought in by the BJP Government in

the recruitment system have

"ended the possibility of corruption and nepotism" and

made recruitment process eas-

ier and faster, asserted Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on

Tuesday, while giving away

appointment letters to over

71,000 people at a "Rozgar

the last nine years, his govern-

ment has prioritised the

recruitment process by making

it "faster, transparent and unbiased." "The possibility of cor-

ruption and nepotism in recruitment for government jobs has now ended," Modi

He pointed out that earlier the Staff Selection Board

took roughly 15-18 months to

onboard the new recruits

whereas today it takes only 6-

8 months." The PM underlined

that the tedious process of recruitment which existed ear-

The Prime Minister said in

and faster'

PNS NEW DELHI

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Established 1864

YASHASVI ONE HELL OF TALENT, SAYS ROOT 12 SPORT



Govt ended graft, nepotism in job process in 9 yrs: Modi

Sidda CM, DKS deputy with plum PWD likely

Kharge to announce today after approval from Sonia, Rahul

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Hectic parleys within the top Congress leaders from the Central and State leadership continued for the third consecutive day on Tuesday to name the Chief Minister in Karnataka where Assembly elections were held on May 10 in which the Congress wrested power from the BJP with a thumping majority.

While the stamp of approval has to be given by the party's first family members — Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Privanka Gandhi — to be conveyed to them by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, sources told *The Pioneer* that agreement is understood to have been reached over K Siddaramaiah as the next CM of the Kannigadas with crucial Finance portfolios in his kitty.

The other strong contender for the CM post, DK Shivakumar, will be the Deputy CM with what is considered to be very important portfolios in Karnataka — Water Resources and PWD.

The announcement to this effect is likely to be made by Kharge in Bengaluru on Wednesday at a Press confer-

CAPSULE

DMRC STAFFER KILLS FAMILY, HANGS SELF

New Delhi: A Delhi Metro Bai

Corporation (DMRC) employee

daughter by slitting their throats

before hanging himself over a

financial crisis in East Delhi's

TEN KILLED IN CRACKER

FACTORY BLAST IN BENGAL

Kolkata: At least 10 people were

killed and another about a dozen

injured on Tuesday in a massive

blast at an illegal cracker factory

district bordering Odisha. Locals

explosion that flung bodies over

100 metres away in a pond. P5

at Kajikul village in Egra sub-

claimed 21 people died in the

LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM: CBI RAIDS 9 LOCATIONS

New Delhi/ Patna: The CBI on

Tuesday conducted searches at

the premises of RJD's Sandesh

MLA Kiran Devi and Baiya

Gupta at nine locations in

Sahha member Prem Chand

multiple States in connection

division of East Midnapore

police said

allegedly killed his wife and





Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge interacts with senior party leader Siddaramaiah during a meeting at his residence, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (R) Kharge with Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar at his residence on Tuesday

Siddaramiah, who had been a CM and outgoing Leader of Opposition, had reached Delhi on Monday while Shivakumar under whose leadership as Karnataka Congress chief the party bagged 135 legislators in the 224-member Assembly,

Mirwaiz's killers

held after 33 yrs

Shivakumar was supposed to be in Delhi, along with Siddaramiah, but he expressed his resentment by differing his visit citing ill health when he sensed that the high command had made up its mind to nominate the Lingayat leader with whom he does not go well but during elections they presented a united face and effort.

reached Delhi on Tuesday.

Besides the two Karnataka contenders, Kharge's residence saw convergence of top party leaders, including Sonia, Rahul

and general secretaries.

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Echase, the State investigation agency of J&K Police Tuesday claimed to have arrest-

ed two absconding Hizbul

Mujahideen terrorists involved

in the assassination of Mirwaiz

Maulvi Farooq at his Nageen residence on May 21, 1990.

the arrested terrorists identified

as Zahoor Ahmed Bhat of

Batmaloo had pulled the trig-

ger on Mirwaiz inside his bed-

room. The head priest was

killed by terrorists of Hizbul

Mujahideen which accused

him of being a "peacenik" and

ence at the police control room

(PCR) in Srinagar, Special Director General of Police

(CID) RR Swain said two

accused involved in the killing

of Mirwaiz — Javaid Bhat and

Addressing a press confer-

an "Indian agent".

According to police, one of

K'taka BJP rejig starts with State chief pick

n the first step to overhaul Ithe organisational structure in Karnataka after the May 13 poll setback, the BJP will soon replace the incumbent State party unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel.

Kateel, a three-time Lok Sabha member from Dakshina Kannada, was appointed State unit chief in August 2019 for a three year term.

He was given an extension last year in view of the impending elections.

In the May 10 elections, the Congress ousted the BJP from Continued on Page 2 power by winning135 seats in

Mirwaiz Maulvi Faroog

idents of Srinagar — have been

arrested by the State

Investigating Agency (SIA). The special DG, however,

maintained a discreet silence

about their whereabouts and

from where they were arrested

Special DG said the duo were

evading arrest as they were hid-

ing in Pakistan and Nepal

among other places before sur-

reptitiously returning back to

Kashmir a few years ago.

Continued on Page 2

Briefing the media, the

the 224-member Assembly, while the BJP secured 66 seats and ID(S) 19

Pralhad Joshi, the Lok Sabha member from Dharwad, and Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, said the BJP legis-lature party will decide on who would be the leader of Opposition in the Assembly after a discussion in the presence of a representative from the party's central leadership. Caretaker Chief Minister

Basavraj Bommai is the frontrunner for the post of leader of Opposition in the new Karnataka Assembly.

Online reporter

CBI for trading

The CBI has registered an

FIR against a freelance journalist for allegedly collect-

ing sensitive information relat-

ed to the Defence Research

Development Organisation

(DRDO) and the Army, and

sharing the inputs with intelli-

gence agencies of foreign coun-

es at the premises linked to

Vivek Raghuvanshi, listed as

India correspondent of a US-based portal on defence and

strategic affairs on its website, and people close to him at 12

locations in Jaipur and NCR,

The agency has booked Raghuvanshi under Section 3

(spying) of Official Secrets Act

read with Section 120-B (crim-

inal conspiracy) of the Indian

Continued on Page 2

Penal Code (IPC).

the CBI said in a statement.

The CBI conducted search-

sensitive info

booked by

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continued on Page 2

Varanasi court to hear plea for ASI survey of entire **Gyanvapi complex**

A court here on Tuesday agreed to hear a plea for a survey by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) of the entire Gyanvapi mosque premises located next to the

Accepting the petition filed ankar Iai

The court fixed the next

hearing on May 22. On Friday, the Allahabad High Court ordered determination of the age of the structure claimed to be a shivling in the Gyanvapi mosque using modern technology. It set aside an October 14 order of the Varanasi District Court that rejected a plea for scientific investigation, including carbon dating, of the structure found in May 2022 during a court-mandated survey of the Gyanvapi mosque. The HC directed the Varanasi district

the biggest benefit of this is the My office ransacked, CM house probe files destroyed: Axed babu

Don't take verbal orders from Min, Rajasekhar tells **Assistant Directors**

lier starting from acquiring

the application form to sub-

mitting it via post has now been

simplified by making it online

where a provision for self-

also been introduced.

attestation of documents has

ed with the spirit of 'Sabka

Saath, Sabka Vikas' is working

for a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed

India)," he said, adding that today is also Sikkim's statehood

ber of universities has grown to 1,100 from around 720 in 2014

while there are now 700 med-

ical colleges against 400 earli-

Modi also added that inter-

views for Group C and Group

The Prime Minister said that

D have also been abolished

He also said that the num-

'The journey which start-

RAJESH KUMAR/RAKESH KUMAR SINGH NEW DELHI

Special Secretary (Vigilance) of the Delhi Government YVVJ Rajasekhar in a communication sent to the Union Home Ministry and the Delhi Lieutenant Governor expressed apprehension that sensitive files related to the excise policy and the Chief Minister's residence renovation might be

destroyed or tampered with. The IAS officer has also directed all officers under his command not to provide any vigilance related files on the verbal instructions from the Minister (Vigilance) Saurabh Bhardwaj. "The undersigned is apprehensive that the records will be destroyed or might have been destroyed in due course of time. The undersigned instructed all the



The letter has also been

Terming him as Wankhede of Delhi Vigilance Department, the AAP Government in a statement said he was one of the prime accused in CNG kit scam and CBI had recommended disciplinary action

Continued on Page 2

taken the oath of office nine years ago on May 26, 2014. The foundation stone of new

PM may open new Parl by May end

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the new Parliament building by May end when the BJP Government will be completing its nine years. Modi had

extermination of nepotism from the entire process.

The Prime Minister cited EPFO net payroll figures to say that over 4.5 crore people have

structed as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, was laid by Modi in December got jobs since 2018-19 as for-

Parliament building, con-

He referred to his recent

meetings with CEOs of leading global companies, including Walmart, Apple, Foxconn and Cisco, to assert that there is 'unprecedented positivity' about industry and investment in the country.

mal employment has been growing. FDI and the country's record export have been creating employment opportuni-

ties in every corner of India, he said, noting that the nature of jobs has also been changing with his government constantly supporting the emerging

Continued on Page 2

PTI ■ VARANASI

Kashi Vishwanath temple.

who represents the Hindu side, District Court Judge AK Vishvesh asked the Gyanvapi mosque committee to file its reply to the plea by May 19, District Government Counsel Mahendra Nath Pandey said.

judge to proceed, in accordance with law.

indulge in such kind of insubordination at the instance of the Minister (Vigilance). Officers cannot take verbal instructions from the Minister as we are not in a disaster or emergency situation," Rajasekhar said in his letter to the MHA, the L-G and the Additional Commissioner of Police (Anti-Corruption Branch).

marked to Assistant Director Vigilance (Care Taking) to inform the in-charge Inspector of Delhi Police stationed at Delhi Secretariat.

against him.

'Baseless': India on **UN** Rapporteur's objection to J&K holding G20 meet

PNS NEW DELHI

 Γ aking exception to objection raised by UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues Fernand de Varennes holding a G-20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir, India on Tuesday rejected his statement as "base-

He had alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and India attacked him for acting "irresponsibly to politicise this issue

Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also asserted that India as G-20 president has the prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country. The third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place in the summer Capital Srinagar from

May 22 to 24. Fernand de Varennes alleged that holding a G20 meeting in Jammu & Kashmir while "massive human rights violations are ongoing is lending support to attempts by India to normalise the brutal and repressive denial of rights

of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities". Continued on Page 2

with the land-for-jobs scam, officials said Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, both res-B'desh withdraws 'extra security' to envoys of India, US, UK, Saudi

Not on taxpayers' money, those who want may hire it: Min

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/DHAKA

In a development related to Lesecurity provided to foreign diplomats in Bangladesh Dhaka Govt has withdrawn the "extra security escort" provided to top diplomats of India and three other countries. Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said Dhaka will not provide this service with taxpayers' money.

Policemen equipped with riot gear used to escort in their vans the envoys of India. the United States, the UK, and Saudi Arabia during their



movements in the city and an intensified security vigil for them was enforced following the July 1, 2016 Islamist militant attack in a posh Dhaka restaurant.

The attack killed 20 people 17 foreigners, including an Indian girl. Most of the other foreigners killed in the attack were however Japanese and

Continued on Page 2 | 2,565 micrograms per cubic



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said dustladen winds with speeds up to 50 kmph blew between 3 am and 6 am, lowering visibility to a mere 700 metres at 10 am at the Palam Observatory, close to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, as compared to 4,000 metres at 9 am on Monday.

By 3 pm on Tuesday, the overall air quality index had worsened to 260, from 162 at 4 pm on Monday. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee data showed PM10 levels soaring to 3,826 micrograms per cubic metre at Jahangirpuri and



Blanket of dust overcasts

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

metre at Sri Aurobindo Marg. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, PM10 levels up to 100 micrograms per cubic metre (for a 24-hour period) are considered safe. The DPCC data showed PM10 levels rose to 1,542

Vivek Vihar; 1,296 micrograms per cubic metre at RK Puram; 1,807 micrograms per cubic metre at Patparganj; 1,663 micrograms per cubic metre at Narela; 1,957 micrograms per cubic metre at Alipur; 1,661

micrograms per cubic metre at

micrograms per cubic metre at Dwarka Sector 8; 1,456 micrograms per cubic metre at Mundka; 1,662 micrograms per cubic metre at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium; 1,527 micrograms per cubic metre at Wazirpur; 1,580 micrograms per cubic metre at Ashok Vihar; and 1,881 micrograms per cubic metre at Okhla Phase 2 in the morning hours.
The Commission for Air

Quality Management said it's an "exceptional episodic event" which has led to continual dispersion of dust over the entire Delhi-NCR. It said the PM10 rose from 141 microgram per cubic metre at 4 am to 796 microgram per cubic metre at 7 am. Strong winds are likely to continue on Wednesday. The situation is likely to improve in one to two days with rain expected on May 18. Continued on Page 2

Kerala will lead to the end of the summer season, marked by

Monsoon to defer its tryst with Kerala by 4 days to June 4

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday announced that the arrival of monsoon over Kerala will be delayed by four days and it is expected on June 4.

The normal date for the onset of monsoon over the Kerala coast is June 1. The onset of monsoon is just a marker for the beginning of the rainfall season.

It has no bearing on the amount of rainfall that happens during the season. Monsoon arrived on May 29 in 2022, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.
The onset of monsoon



2023 while a private weather forecaster Skymet Weather

Services said that India will wit-

ness a "below normal" mon-

soon season this year, due to the El Niño effect. The El Niño effect is expected to impact India this year, and come after a three-

year-long La Niña effect. Continued on Page 2

Govt refutes US report on religious freedom

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$ on Tuesday trashed as "motivated" and "biased" a report by the US State Department on religious freedom that criticised the country for alleged attacks on minori-External Affairs Ministry

Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said such reports continue to be based on "misinformation and flawed understanding". The annual report listed alleged attacks on religious minorities in India and expressed concerns over such incidents. "We are aware of the release of the US State Department 2022 Report on International

such reports continue to be based on misinformation and flawed understanding," Bagchi said. "Motivated and biased commentary by some US officials only serves to undermine further the credibility of these reports," he said. Bagchi was responding to media queries on the report. "We value our partnership with the US and will continue to have frank exchanges on issues of concern to us," he said.

The report that documents the status of religious freedom in countries across the world was released on Monday. A senior US official said far too many governments, including

Arabia, continue to freely target faith community mem-

"Far too many govern-

ments continue to freely target faith community members within their borders," Rashad Hussain, Ambassador at Large, Office of International Religious Freedom, told reporters at a news conference in Washington soon after the report was released by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. The report provides a fact-based, comprehensive view of the state of religious freedom in nearly 200 countries and territories around the world, Blinken said

Two injured in firing inside UP court premises

Armed miscreants struck terror when they opened indiscriminate fire inside the district court premises in Jaunpur in which two murder accused, brought to be produced in the court, were seriously injured.

Some advocates later overpowered one of the assailants and brutally assaulted him before the senior officials rushed with a heavy police force and rescued him. He was taken to the police station where senior officials grilled him to extract details about others involved in the incident

and the motive behind opening fire inside the court. They also shifted both the injured to the district hospital where the condition of one of them was stated to be critical.

Reports said that the Jaunpur police took two mur-der accused, Mithilesh alias Dabbu Giri and Surya Prakash Rai, from jail to the civil court to produce them before the designated magistrate.

When they were moving towards the chief judicial magistrate's court on Tuesday after noon, some miscreants suddenly opened indiscriminate fire on both the prisoners in police custody.

Indo-China army-level talks held on Ladakh

In an effort to reduce persisting tension at the border in Ladakh for the last three years, India and China on Tuesday held military level talks at the Daulat Beg Oldie border meeting point at the Line of Actual Control(LAC). The talks were held between division commander level officers of the two armies

Incidentally, their seniors at the level of Corps Commander level held the 18the round of talks on April 23 but these talks did not help in finding ways to hasten up disengagement of troops from both the sides in Eastern Ladakh. More than 50, 000 troops each from both the sides are facing other at the border there leading to tension in the region. Indian and Chinese major generals on Tuesday met in Daulat Beg Oldie sector and held talks on outstanding border issues between the two countries, sources said.

The 18th round of corps commander-level talks on April 23 yielded no outcome, though the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) agreed to maintain security and stability along LAC, stay in close contact and continue dialogue through military and diplomatic channels, and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues. Dialogue below the corps commander level to discuss border issues is a routine affair, sources said. Friction points at the LAC remain at the Depsang Valley and Demchok.

Meerut couple murder shrouded in mystery

PNS LUCKNOW

couple was found brutal-Aly killed inside their house in Shastri Nagar area of Nauchandi in Meerut while the aged parents were also found lying unconscious. The mysterious killing came to the fore when the victim's children called the neighbours and told them that no one was picking up their calls since early morning. Pramod Karnawal's father Narendra and his mother were lying unconscious while Pramod Karnawal and Mamta were lying dead in pools of blood. They both were brutally hacked to death with sharpedged weapons.

Later, the local police along with senior officers and forensic experts reached spot and investigated matter.

Sidda CM, DKS deputy with plum PWD likely

From Page 1

Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah held discussions separately. Supporters of both the leaders are indulging in hectic lobbying in support of their leaders both in Delhi as well as the State. The newly-elected MLAs have already passed a one-line res-

olution authorising party chief to appoint the legislature party leader, who will be the new chief minister.

Amid intense lobbying for the CM post, the powerful All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha urged Kharge to consider a Veerashaiva-Lingayat community leader for the coveted position. The apex body of Veerashaiva-Lingayats also requested Kharge to accommodate or give Cabinet berths proportionate to the number of MLAs of the community elected in the Assembly polls. Congress had given 46 seats to the Veerashaiva — Lingayat community out of 34 registered a win.

Karnataka BJP rejib starts with...

From Page 1

He also suggested that Kateel will be replaced with a new State chief."I would just like to say that his (Kateel's) term of three years is over. In view of the (Assembly) election, our national leaders had given him responsibility.

Our leaders will take further decision," Joshi told reporters in the State capital. He also appealed to the Congress to form the Government at the earliest to fulfill the wishes of people. Joshi said the BJP will go into the causes of party's

reverses and take corrective steps. "We have already said this was the most disappointing result for the BJP. Such developments happen in the election. We have to find out the reason," the Minister said.

Neither he nor the party has taken the defeat lightly Instead, the outcome has been taken as a challenge, he added.
"We are gearing up for the Lok
Sabha elections and we will win," he said. Karnataka sends 28 MPs to

Lok Sabha and in 2019 BJP had won 25 of them.

Govt ended graft...

The country has seen a revolution in the start-up sector and their numbers have risen to nearly a lakh from a few hundred before 2014, the year the BJP came to power at the Centre, he said, adding that they are estimated to have provided a minimum 10 lakh jobs.

Citing development figures in the last one year, he said the length of rural roads has risen to 7.25-lakh km from 4lakh km while the number of airports has gone up from 74 to nearly 150. Construction of over 4 crore pucca houses under a government housing

scheme for the poor has also created a lot of employment opportunities, Modi said.

He also said that the number of universities has grown to 1,100 from around 720 in 2014 while there are now 700 medical colleges against 400 earlier.The Prime Minister also informed about his scheduled meetings with CEOs of the world's leading companies in the next week and said that all of them are full of enthusiasm to invest in India. He underlined that such efforts highlight the new employment opportunities being created in different sectors in India.

'Baseless': India on UN...

Slamming the statement, India's permanent mission in Geneva tweeted, "We @IndiaUNGeneva strongly reject the statement issued by SR on minority issues @fernanddev and the baseless and unwarranted allegations in it. As G20 president, it's India's prerogative to host its meetings

in any part of the country."

"We are aghast that @fernanddev has acted irresponsibly to politicize this issue, misused his position as SR to publicize on social media his presumptive and prejudiced conclusions in a gross violation of the Code of Conduct for SRs," the Indian mission said.

The UN Rapporteur also alleged that the Government is "seeking to normalise what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international 'seal of approval', despite what Volker Turk, the UN high commissioner for human rights, told the UN Human Rights Council a few weeks ago was a worrying human rights situation in the

Mirwaiz's killers held after 33 yrs

They were maintaining a low profile, changing addresses and shifting residences, they avoided the gaze of law enforcement agencies, he added. Now both have been arrested and handed over to the CBI as proclaimed offenders," the police officer said.

"They are now liable to immediately face trial in a designated TADA court in Delhi which has already completed the trial in respect of one of the five accused namely Ayub Dar code Ishfaq, son of Late Abdul Ahad Dar of Rawalpora of Srinagar, who has been convicted and serving a life sentence. Two other absconding in the killing of Mirwaiz, Abdullah Bangroo and Abdul Rehman Shigan, got killed in encounters with the security forces in the 1990s", the Special DG said during the press con-

Sharing further details RR Swain said that on May 21, 1990, a case regarding the killing of Mirwaiz was lodged in police station Nageen under FIR 61/1990. "Then the case was transferred to the CBI. The CBI had presented a chargesheet against the one accused

PUBLIC NOTICE

booth Sector-23 Cartarpuri allies Daulatapu Nasirabad (63) Gurgaon Haryana-122017 i going to purchase entire property bearing in H.No. H535 Palam Vihar Gurgaon Haryana from its owner Sh. Owner Vinod Kuma Chhibba S/o Jagjit Lal Chhibba R/o CC-58f Hari Nagar Delhi 110064 by virtue of the sal deed. Further any body having any sort of interest or lien in the said property or any part thereof can file his or her objections within 15 days of publication. Failing which same shall not be binding upon my client and Ratan Lal Gupta

Advocate & Legal Advisor

THE PIONEER (

· CHANGE OF NAME

I Surendra K Nigam Alias MMI Hospital, Maruti Haritej, Lalpur, Deopuri, Surendra Kumar Nigam for all future purposes.

The special DG CID said that investigations into the case revealed that Hizb commander Abdullah Bangroo had hatched a conspiracy to kill Mirwaiz. According to a written statement issued by the J&k police, "Before killing Mirwaiz, all the five HM terrorists had gone to Pakistan for terrorist training in 1990. Back in Srinagar, Abdullah Bangroo received instructions in April 1990 from his ISI handler in Pakistan to eliminate Mirwaiz.

TADA court after which the

court awarded life imprison-

ment to him," he said.

The police spokesman said, "On May 21, 1990 as per the of Mirwaiz Manzil and met Maqbool Shah, the gate-keeper, and informed him that they wanted to meet Mirwaiz. Maqbool Shah then asked Gulam Qadir Sofi, the gardener, to take them to the personal assistant of Mirwaiz as he himself was going to the mar-

"Accordingly, the gardener Sofi took the three to the personal assistant Saidur Rehman who asked them about their names, and one of them disclosed his fake name as Gulzar Farooq, R/o. Batmaloo. That name was written by the personal assistant on a slip of paper and the said slip was sent inside the room of Mirwaiz through the gardener Sofi.

After sometime, Mirwaiz called the three accused inside the office, on which Zahoor Ahmed alias Bilal entered the room of Mirwaiz and the remaining two accused persons, including Javed Bhat, took position in the PA's room", the police statement quoting excerpts of the Apex court order said.

"On entering the room of Mirwaiz, Zahoor Ahmed alias Bilal fired several rounds on Mirwaiz from his pistol and immediately accused Inayat also fired from his pistol in the air while coming out of PA's room, which hit the outside wall of the office. On hearing Surendra Kumar Nigam, S/o the sound of firing, the gar-Dina Nath Nigam, aged 72 dener came inside the office years, residing at 613 Near and tried to catch hold of Ishfaq, who was trying to escape. "However, all the accused persons escaped giving Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492015 | a push to the gardener Sofi. have changed my name and Another accused Bilal also shall hereafter be known as Surendra Kumar Nigam for caught by Sofi. There was a scuffle between the two, in which Bilal sustained an injury **PD(032)A** | below his right eye.

My office ransacked...

The subject heading of the letter reads "Information regarding entering the Room no. 403 (Special Secretary (Vigilance) at Delhi Sectt in the night intervening from May 15, 2023 to 3. 00 am of May 16, 2023 for the purpose of records and searching of room."

This is in continuation of my earlier report, dated 15.05.2023 which was sent to Secretary (Vigilance) and Chief Secretary/ Chief Vigilance Officer, regarding the instructions of Hon'ble Minister (Vigilance) directing the Assistant Directors not to submit the files to the undersigned," the Special Secretary Vigilance said.

When, these instructions of Minister (Bhardwaj) were received at 11.30 am on May files in the Confidential Section of the Special Secretary (Vigilance) and the same were sent to the Secretary (Vigilance) according to the instructions of the Minister (Vigilance) without examining these 76 files, merely recording Bhardwaj's instructions that Rajasekhar should not to examine the files.

The files in the Confidential Sections apprehended to have been tampered, photocopied or misplaced relate to proposal file of CBI for according sanction under section of 17 A of Prevention of Corruption Act in excise matters and policy, tender files and terms and conditions of 6 Flag Staff, Civil Lines (CM's residence), subsequent alterations and additions file of 6 Flag Staff, Civil Lines measurement books regarding payments made by PWD with respect CM's official bungalow and the notice invit-

ing tenders files. Other such files relate to deviation files of 6 Flag Staff, Civil Lines, revised extra item for superior specifications of CM Arvind Kejriwal's official bungalow, photo of individuals who have supervised the construction and a file with title Talk to AK File" (Directorate of Information and Publicity).

Such files also relate to DIP matters regarding Supreme Court judgment in common cause case judgment and illegal payments of bills, certain files relating to departments, where matter was referred to Central investigating agencies under the extant provisions/rules and other various files/documents related to prosecution sanctions of officers of Excise Department among others.

"It is not advisable to trans-

fer or send the files either photocopies or otherwise to the Minister as per "Principles of Arm Length". We need to care fully examine before taking a view with reference to the verbal directions of the Minister," Rajasekhar said in his letter.

According to the letter, Buniyad Singh, Assistant Director (Vigilance) rang up Rajasekhar at around 9.14 PM on May 15 wherein he informed that officials have been summoned to open his office room for the sake of collection of records.

Rajasekhar seriously objected to such a call for taking away the records as per the alleged instructions of Bhardwaj at midnight and strongly objected not to indulge in such acts.

"However, it is understood Manish (Multi-Tasking Staff) has opened the room of the undersigned (Rajasekhar) and allegedly photocopied all the records i.e from May 15, 2023 night to May 16, 2023 till 3:00 am. The undersigned is not sure whether any record/file was taken away or otherwise tempered with it or photocopied, it is a serious lapse in the present scenario," Rajasekhar flagged in his letter.

"These files should be properly inventorised and some of them were already subjudice before the Hon'ble Courts of Law in various forums. I have serious apprehension that our rooms might have been bugged and there is every likelihood of breach of secrecy, tempering of records, fabrication of records etc. I request the Senior Officers for appropriate action at the earliest. The undersigned in the meanwhile strongly instructing the Assistant Director (Care Taking) and Delhi Police In charge Inspector of Delhi Sectt. to ensure that the room of the undersigned and the Confidential Section where systems are in place are not touched or given excess to anyone without the authorisation of the undersigned," the Secretary (Vigilance) added.

Responding to his allegations, the Delhi Government questioned how was he posted in vigilance in the first place by the L-G needs to be probed. He was one of the prime accused in CNG kit scam and CBI had recommended disciplinary action against him. Several complaints have been received against him from several people and several officers that he demands protection money Work was officially withdrawn from him through an order on May 13.

Online reporter booked by CBI for trading sensitive info

From Page 1

The agency recovered a number of sensitive documents during the searches and sent them for legal scrutiny, they said. The agency has launched an exhaustive probe to find Raghuvanshi's accomplices in India and abroad, sources said. He was allegedly collecting

sensitive information and minute details about the progress of various DRDO projects, the CBI alleged in its He was also collecting

details of future procurement plans of the Indian armed forces which could have adversely affected the country's strategic preparedness, it involved in the illegal collection searches on Monday.

of sensitive information including the minute details of the DRDO defence projects and their progress, sensitive details about the future procurement of Indian armed forces which reveal the strategic preparedness of country's classified communications/information relating to national security, details of the strategic and diplomatic talks of India with our friendly countries and sharing such classified information with intelligence agen-

added. The CBI registered the said case on December 9, 2022 against the accused and he was under surveillance for the

cies of foreign countries," it

Monsoon to defer...

El Nino is the warming of waters in the Pacific Ocean, which creates a cascade of weather effects across the world in India, this leads to the monsoon being drier than usual. The La Nina manifests in an exactly opposite phenomenon, leading to heavier rains in

The predicted monsoon onset is within the standard deviation of 7 days. It is unlikely to impact agriculture and overall rainfall over the country, IMD chief M Mohapatra said. "There is no one-to-one relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. Also, the monsoon arriving early or in late in Kerala doesn't mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. The monsoon is charac-

local features," he said. M Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said it is unlikely that the delay is due to Cyclone Mocha. "Had the cyclone occurred around May 20-May 25, it would have really affected the monsoon. The cyclone is already over."

"It could be due to insufficient heating over the Indian subcontinent. The progress of the monsoon also depends on other factors such as the phases of Madden-Julian Oscillation and how the El Nino is evolving," Rajeevan added. According to the IMD, its operational forecasts of the date of monsoon onset over Kerala during the past 18 years (2005-2022) were proved to be correct except in 2015.

The IMD is yet to announce when the onset of

Blanket of dust overcasts Delhi-NCR...

From Page 1

Satellite pictures released by the meteorological office showed a thick layer of dust covering large parts of northwest India. Meteorologists have attributed the dusty conditions to a combination of intense heat in northwest India over the past five days, parched soil due to the absence of rainfall and strong winds that have persisted since midnight. "Strong dust-raising winds prevailed over Delhi in the early hours.

45-50 kmph to 12 kmph by 9 am and came down further during the day, allowing the dust to settle down," Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional forecasting centre, said. "Dust concentration has gone up multiple times.

The PM10 concentration rose from 140 micrograms per cubic metre at 4 am to 775 micrograms per cubic metre at 8 am. It is mainly because of strong gusty winds prevailing over the area. Dust will settle The wind speed dropped from down soon," said V K Soni,

head of IMD's Environment Monitoring and Research Centre. Experts said dust particles, especially fine particulate matter (PM2.5), can penetrate deep into the respiratory system when inhaled. They can irritate the lungs,

trigger respiratory problems, and exacerbate existing conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and allergies. "People suffering from respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, bronchial asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

are at a greater risk due to dust pollution. It may worsen their condition and trigger attacks," said Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the medicine department of the Safdarjung Hospital. Dusty conditions also aggravate rhinitis, allergy and irritation of the eyes, he said. Kishore said such people should try and remain indoors till the air quality improves and cover their nose and mouth with a wet cloth. He said the government can consider banning construction and demolition activities until then.

B'desh withdraws 'extra security'...

"The additional security protocol we were providing to ambassadors and high commissioners of some particular countries has been withdrawn. But the normal security measures for them are in pĺace," a diplomatic security division official of Dhaka Metropolitan

Police said on Tuesday. The official, who preferred anonymity, said the police gunmen will continue to accompany the envoys during their movements and the personnel from the designated police unit guarding the chancery complexes and residences of senior diplomats will also remain as usual.

The Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the existing law and order no longer required additional security

measures for a few envoys and the decision to withdraw the extra protocols was taken as several embassies other than the four were demanding identical security rituals. "We have decided not to

provide additional security escort services to foreign ambassadors of any country," the Minister told the media at the sidelines of an event. "We won't provide this extra (security) escort service with taxpayers' money," United News of Bangladesh quoted Momen

as saying.

He added that if any country felt the need for additional security measures, they might hire the services. Momen said many countries were now asking for a similar protocol "but we will not give it to anyone, because it is discriminatory (and) no one gives such benefits to our ambassadors abroad". Embassies and police were informed of the decision through a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a week ago, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Shortly after Momen's comments, Dhaka Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq told reporters that the shortage of manpower prompted authorities to make the decision to refrain from providing any additional protocol to certain diplo-

A Foreign Ministry official, familiar with the development, said a specialised unit of para-police Ansar Force was made ready to provide VIP protection services in exchange for payments and the foreign

missions could hire them if they wanted. Meanwhile, the Public Diplomacy Section of the US embassy in Dhaka in a statement said: "The safety and security of our diplomatic personnel and facilities are of the utmost importance."

"In accordance with longstanding policy, we do not disclose security details concerning the US Embassy.

As per the Vienna Convention, the host country must uphold its obligations to ensure the protection of all diplomatic missions and personnel," Sean McIntosh, the counsellor in charge of the US Embassy Public Diplomacy Section said. The three other embassies where envoys were getting the extra privilege made no comment on the development so far.

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DMRC debt-ridden staffer slits wife, daughter's throats, hangs self

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Metro ACorporation (DMRC) employee allegedly killed his wife and daughter by slitting their throats before hanging himself over a financial crisis in east Delhi's Jyoti Colony area

on Tuesday, police said.

A PCR call was received at around noon where Sudhir, a Delhi Metro employee, informed that when he reached out to his colleague Sushil Kumar (43), who did not come to the office, he was crying

had killed everybody, a senior police officer said. Police reached Kumar's house and found three bodies there.

While Kumar was found hanging from the ceiling of a room on the second floor of the building, his wife Anuradha (43) was found dead on the floor in the same room with her throat cut open, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Rohit Meena said. Police found the couple's 13-year-old son in an injured condition, lying beside the sister, he said. Both the children had their throats slit, police said.

The teen was immediately rushed to GTB Hospital for treatment. He had placed a bed sheet over the wound on his neck which probably saved him from losing a lot of blood and could be a reason for his survival, sources said. The doctor has informed that the boy has a chance of survival, police said.

When police broke open the door of the second floor,



race, they said. The prelimithey found a dog chained up on the stairs going to the ternary investigation revealed

that Kumar was going through a financial crisis. It is suspected that he took this decision over this issue, police said.

The documents received on the spot showed that Kumar had mortgaged jewellery, taken loans and was under a financial burden. His phone has been sent for examination and further facts will be revealed after his account and forensic analysis, they said. A kitchen knife used by Kumar in the incident was recovered from the room where the couple's dead bodies were found, they

Kumar worked as a maintenance supervisor in the DMRC at East Vinod Nagar depot, police said. Sudhir, who last spoke to Kumar, told PTI that he called him around 11.15 am. "When he did not reach the office in the morning, I called him around 11.15 am. He picked up the phone and started crying. I asked him what happened and he said that 'I killed everyone' and immediately disconnected the call," Sudhir said.

"I called him back, but he

a text mentioning that please call the police. Later, I called the police and informed them about the incident. I also gave them Sushil's address. From the past week, he was not so regular which was unusual," he

Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director, DMRC, said, "It is a police case and we would not like to comment on the incident as such. However, any assistance or information needed by the authorities would be provided by us."

Raj Niwas Secretariat returns files to Govt after SC order

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Raj Niwas Secretariat ▲ has returned the files related to Services matters to the Delhi Government in light of the Supreme Court's order last week on transfers and postings of bureaucrats in the city. According to Raj Niwas officials, "the LG Secretariat, in compliance of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench Judgment dated May 11, has returned files pertaining to Services matters, back to the Government for necessary action"..

These files include proposals for extension of contractual tenure of staff in various Delhi Government Hospitals and acceptance of resignation of a Group 'A' staff of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital. These were sent to the LG for approval.

"These have been returned with the observation that the departments may be advised to take appropriate action/further necessary action, in light of the judgment of CB



(Constitution Bench) in Apex Court on May 11," the official

In a statement, the Delhi government said it expected full cooperation from LG VK Saxena and the Centre but the Chief Secretary and the Services Secretary are still creating hurdles and even the first order for removing Services Secretary has not been implemented yet.

The Delhi government has issued a show-cause notice to IAS officer and Services Department Secretary Ashish More for not complying with its

new officer, threatening disciplinary action against him. More was removed by the Delhi government from his post last week, hours after the Supreme Court gave the Delhi government control over the transfer and posting of officers in the state.

The top court ruled on Thursday the elected government in Delhi has legislative and executive powers over services department matters, barring those related to land, police and public order that still come under the jurisdiction of the lieutenant gover-

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) docu-

ments showed that the con-

struction and demolition waste

collected from New Delhi in the

last financial year witnessed a

decline of over 27 per cent from

the preceding year.

NDMC officials said this

implies fewer construction-

related activities were carried

out last year as compared to the

preceding year. In 2022-23, the

SC asks LG about 'source of power' to nominate 10 MCD aldermen

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked about the "source of power" of the Lieutenant-Governor under the Constitution and the law to nominate 10 aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without the aid and advice of the elected Government. A Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud,

hearing a petition filed by the AAP Government challenging the nominations by the LG to the MCD, asked Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the office of the LG, about the source of power with regard to the nominations. "What is the source of power for you to nominate? Show us the source of power of LG. Does the Constitution recognise the power of LG to appoint aldermen?" the Bench asked. The law officer referred to the reply filed by the office of the LG and the constitutional scheme and said the

concept "aid and advice", in



the context of the administrator's power to nominate members in the MCD, is different from the one which has been portrayed by the Delhi government here.

Jain said the file pertaining to nominations to the MCD directly came to the office of LG as he is the administrator and the concept of aid and advice is not applicable in this case. On being told that the office of the LG has filed its fresh response to the petition, the bench said it hear the plea on Wednesday after perusing the

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the

Construction waste collected from city fell by 27%: NDMC

to the 2018 and recent constitution bench judgements on control over services and said the LG has to act as per the aid and advice of the government and he should have taken back the nominations by now. "There are 12 zones, 12 ward committees and aldermen can

be appointed to any committee..For the first time in last 30 years, the LG has directly appointed members in the MCD and and earlier it was always based on aid and advice (of the government)," he said.

Earlier on May 12, the top court observed the lieutenant governor has to act on the "aid and advice" of the council of ministers of the Delhi government in nominating 10 aldermen to the MCD. five-judge constitution bench held on last Thursday that the Delhi government has legisla tive and executive powers over all but three services - public order, police and land, and substantially clipped the wings of the Centre's point man in running day-to-day administration of the national capital.

Panic grips S Delhi school after hoax bomb threat email

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{anic gripped a school in}}_{\text{South Delhi's Pushp Vihar}}$ after it received a bomb threat via email on Tuesday morning. According to the details, the bomb threat was received at Amrita School in the area, during the early hours on Tuesday morning. Delhi Police and other teams rushed to the school premises as soon as they received information about the bomb threat and conducted a thorough search operation after immediately evacuating the building. However, no suspicious object was found during the search. Recently, there has been a spurt of bomb threat incidents in Delhi schools. This is the third incidents in the past one and a half month.

According to a senior police officer, Amrita School was evacuated immediately after the threat was received and its buildings were checked but nothing suspicious was found. Chandan Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South)

said, "An email was received today (Tuesday) morning at 6.33 am at Amrita School, Saket, regarding a bomb threat. A thorough checking of the school has been done through Bomb Disposal Team but nothing was found." A teacher of the school said all students were safely evacuated and sent home with their parents. "I was conducting the morning assembly in class

Parents rushed to the school after receiving a message on the school WhatsApp group to receive their children as soon as possible. The parent of a UKG student said that she received a message on the WhatsApp

around 8 am when the teachers

were informed to stop all activ-

ities and safely lead the students

out of the school building," she

AAP Govt plans to install Bhagat Singh, Ambedkar's portraits in all MCD schools

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The AAP run Municipal I Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has announced its plans to install portraits of two great Indian leaders — Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and Dr Br Ambedkar — in all MCD schools. Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi has issued directions to "install portraits of the two iconic figures at every student and teacher with their sacrifices, principles, and

The AAP-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi has taken the decision so as to inspire students to learn from the sacrifices of these leaders and the principles they espoused, it

with Delhi Chief Minister

NCRPULSE

BIDHURI QUESTIONS CM CLAIMS ON CEEW SURVEY

Bidhuri has asked Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal how long he and his

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh

constitutional post like Chief Minister, it does not suit him to lie like

Bidhuri demanded the Chief Minister apologize to the people of Delhi.

electricity and these two states have the lowest power cuts. Actually,

New Delhi: Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar accused that AAP in the MCD has decided to abolish the "ownership rebate" given till 2022 to those having 200-metre covered area accommodation, which was

to 100 metres, which will remove a large number of people from the

house tax rebate bracket. He said that earlier, women used to get 30

accommodation, but now even they will get rebate only for 100-metre

covered area houses. He said that Kejriwal had promised to reduce

Humanities stream secured 98 per cent and was the topper. Second

topper Ripriya Dhawan from Humanities stream secured 97 per cent

and third topper Ganya Anand from Humanities stream secured 96.4

per cent. Naman Ladha is Class X topper securing 97.6 per cent with

second topper Prisha Sindhwani bagging 96.80 per cent and third

house tax, instead he has abolished rebate given to the common

STUDENTS OF MANAY STHALI SCHOOL SHINE

New Delhi: Student

School, New Rajendra

flying colours in Class

exams whose results

were declared on May

12.In Class XII Pavni

topper Kritika Chaurasia got 96 per cent

Nagar came out with

of Manay Sthal

X and XII Board

Verma from

this. Bidhuri has challenged Kejriwal's claim about CEEW's Indian

Residential Energy electricity survey. Terming his tweet as false,

He said that this tweet has said that Puniab and Delhi have free

MCD WILL ABOLISH HOUSE TAX REBATE: CONG

started by the Congress Government. He said that the MCD, headed by a woman mayor, has reduced the floor area for such rebate

per cent ownership rebate for 200-metre covered area

the survey that Kejriwal has shown is from 2020

associates will continue to do politics by lying. Being in a



spreading the message of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh among the masses, the Mayor's plans to honour the legacy of these two great Indian leaders at all MCD-run schools.

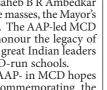
that by commemorating the legacy of these great leaders at all MCD schools, every student and teacher will be inspired to follow in their footsteps and work towards creating a more prosperous and progressive

The decision comes in line



The AAP- in MCD hopes

society, it added.



head and production controller of

India Ahead News Arvind Kumar Singh was arrested for alleged transfer of Rs 17 crore to a company handling the Aam Admi Party's (AAP) publicity campaign during the Goa elections through hawala channels, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested AAP worker Charanpreet Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.
The CBI alleged that

Charanpreet Singh, who is based in Delhi, was collecting money from Angadias (hawala



NDMC reported 19,819.87 met-

operators) and distributing it further expenses incurred during the 2022 Goa Assembly election campaign

arrested a media executive, Arvind Kumar Singh, for allegedly transferring Rs 17 crore to Chariot Media, which handled outdoor advertising for the AAP during the Goa polls. Charanpreet Singh allegedly handled a portion of this Rs 17 crore for distribution, the officials said, adding that he was one of the several persons authorised to collect money from hawala operators and distribute it for campaign pur-



includes waste removed from private properties and buildings to data accessed by PTI, the construction and demolition waste

the waste generated from construction, renovation, repair, and demolition of houses, large building structures, and roads generated and collected in 2021-22 was 27,272.76 metric tonnes.

This means 7,452.89 metric tons (27.3 percent decline) less waste was collected last year than the preceding year. The collection of waste in the last year was also quite less than

2020-21, which was 22,424.39 metric tons. NDMC has awarded the

work for C&D disposal to a private firm that collects the waste from the NDMC area and hands it over to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for disposal. NDMC relies on MCD for the disposal of waste because it does not have a C&D waste processing plant. The officials have attributed the drop to fewer construction activities in

the area. "The drop is nothing to

be concerned about. It depends on the kind of construction and demolition activities. Last year, there were fewer such activities," NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay told PTI.

"We have designated 15 sites/locations for the dumping of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste/ melba in the New Delhi area. We ensure proper disposal of the C&D waste with an aim to dust and dirt-free beautify the New Delhi area," he added.

CBI arrests AAP's Charanpreet in Delhi excise policy case

STAFF REPORTER

Aday arter the day after the

of the party.

Last week, the CBI had

up soon along Yamuna floodplains

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

trekking and adventure Atrack will soon come up amid trees and flower beds along the Yamuna floodplains. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena who is also the chairman of the NGT appointed a high-level committee for the rejuvenation of Yamuna on Tuesday and laid the foundation stone for the construction of the track at Signature Bridge.

The track will run through a green field alignment and will pass through the fields of Garhi Mandu, Shastri Park, Old Railway Bridge, Geeta Colony Bridge and Asita up to ITO To be constructed by the

Eco Battalion of the Territorial



developed amidst trees, grasslands and flower beds along the Yamuna floodplains on the Eastern Bank, will run throughout the 11 km stretch up to Asita at ITO Barrage and provide residents of the city with a much-needed adventure trail, said a Rai Niwas official.

Army, the earthen track to be

The LG while conceptualising the restoration and makeover of the Yamuna flood-

plains, had underlined that the floodplains should be developed such that the people of Delhi come closer to the river and become stakeholders in its

"All efforts in this direction, be it the development of Asita, Baansera, triple grid plantation drive from Garhi Mandu to Shastri Park to Bela Farms, development of Oudsia Ghat or the foundation stone laid today,

rejuvenation.

will bring people from across the city on the banks of the river and ensure that their presence over there instills a sense of ownership of the river and simultaneously deter unauthorised occupation of the river bank and throwing of

garbage into it," said the official. The territorial army battalion which has been partnering with civic agencies in maintaining the cleaned and restored stretches of Yamuna floodplains by preventing garbage dumping, will develop the stretch in association with the DDA. Provisions for temporary and eco-friendly public utilities and resting furniture at regular intervals will be made available on the track, the official said.

Modi may inaugurate new Parliament building by May end

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the new Parliament building by May end when the BJP Government will be completing its nine years. Modi had taken the oath of office nine years ago on May 26, 2014. The foundation stone of the new Parliament building was laid by Modi in December 2020, which has been constructed as part of Central Vista Redevelopment Project.

Sources said that final touches are being given to the new Parliament building and it is likely to be ready by the end of this month. According to them, cleaning of civil structures has begun and there is no word from the Government yet on the inauguration of the new building. "The new par-liament building will be ready before the end of this month.



date yet for its inauguration," sources said.

They spent over an hour at the upcoming complex and inspected various works. The Prime Minister observed the facilities coming up at both Houses of Parliament and interacted with the construction workers and the officials, sources added.

Sources said that Modi went on a surprise visit to the building a month ago with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The new four storey

Parliament building complex is

has been estimated at Rs 971

The cost of the

Parliament

building project

crore can house 1,224 MPs, officials said. It also has a grand Constitution hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, dining areas and ample parking space. The staff in both the Houses will adorn a new uniform - which has been designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology

The new structure has three doors — Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar and separate entries for MPs, VIPs and visitors, officials said. To mark nine years of Narendra Modi-led gov-64,500 square metre and is a ernment, the BJP has planned

part of the a massive month-long "special Central Vista contact campaign" across the contact campaign" across the project worth Rs country, covering all Lok Sabha constituencies.

Tata Projects Ltd is constructing the new Parliament building which will have a grand constitution hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space. The original deadline for completing the project was November last year.

The new building is part of the redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's ower corridor. Revamping the three-km road from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, constructing a common central secretariat, a new office and residence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave are also part of the project being executed by the Cental Public Works Department.



NOTICE INVITING TENDER Online Open Tenders are invited under single stage-Two Bid system from

experienced and financially sound Indian Manufacturer or its Authorized Dealer OR Distributor OR Service Provider/Centre of Open Gym Equipments for AMC of Open Gyms of MCD as per Tender No. 2023_MCD_154272_1 issued vide No. DDH/(HQ)II/MCD/2023-24/ D-192/NIT No.4, Dated 16.05.2023. Estimated Amt.: Rs. 496 Lacs, Tender Cost: Rs. 2360/-, EMD: Rs. 9.92 Lac, Contract Period: 12 Months. Pre Bid Meeting: 26.05.2023, Last date of Bid Submission is 06.06.2023 upto 3.00 PM. Opening of Technical Bids 07.06.2023 at 3.30 PM. For e-tendering Bidding Documents with detailed terms & Conditions can be downloaded from the website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app OR MCD website www.mcdonline.nic.in. For online tender the helpdesk Nos. are 011-23227413 & 011-23227414 or mail to: mcd-ithelpdesk@mcd.nic.in. All details of Revisions, Clarifications, Corrigendum, Addendum, Time Extension etc., if any, in respect of this tender will be uploaded on MCD website only & will not be published in newspaper(s) separately. Interested Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated for the tender

Dy. Director (Hort.)/HQ-II

RO No. 10/DPI/MCD/2023-24

Phone: 011-23226613

specialists lateral entry

DoPT asks UPSC to hire Joint Secy's, Directors for 12 depts, Mins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to I recruit private sector specialists as Joint Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Secretaries on contract basis in its different departments, an official said on Tuesday.

The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has asked the Union Public Service Commission to recruit such specialists through "lateral entry" mode in 12 Government departments/Ministries, he

Lateral entry refers to appointment of private sector specialists in Government

Usually the post of Joint Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Secretaries are manned by officers of all-India and Group A services, among oth-

The proposed recruitment will be done for the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals under Ministry of Chemicals &



Fertilizers, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Department of Food & Public Distribution in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Select posts in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Legal Affairs under the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Pharmaceutical, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education will also be filled through this lateral recruitment, the official said.

operates five daily flights had

to cancel all its flights to the

Flightradar24, a Swedish internet-based service that

shows real-time aircraft flight

tracking information, also said all flight arrivals into the

airport have been cancelled.

celled for today and airlines

will be informed if the runway

could be operational as per

schedule tomorrow," an air-

May 2020.

"All flights have been can-

"A detailed advertisement and instructions to candidates will be uploaded on the UPSC's website on May 20," he said, adding that interested candidates can apply from May 20 to June 19. "Candidates will be short-listed for interview on the basis of the information provided by them in their online application," the official said sharing an official communique in this regard.

He said the number of vacancies, to be filled through this lateral recruitment, will be advertised on May 20.

The Personnel Ministry had in June 2018 invited applications against 10 joint secretary-rank posts through lateral entry mode for the first time. The recruitment for these posts was done by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Centre to give pvt sector Defence 'Atmanirbharta' gets major boost Digitisation, automation, data analytics should



164 Positive Indigenisation List items met targets within timeline: Officials

PNS NEW DELHI

Tn another boost to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, 164 Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) items, with an import substitution value of Rs 814 crore, that were to be indigenised by December 2022, have met the target within the timelines.

These timelines were notified by the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD). Giving details here on

Tuesday, officials said the indigenisation of these items was achieved by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) either through industry partners, including MSMEs, or inhouse. The DDP has notified four PILs consisting of 4,666 items, including Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Spares & Components for DPSUs (1st PIL – 2,851; 2nd PIL – 107; 3rd PIL - 780; 4th PIL - 928).

It had, earlier, notified successful indigenisation of 2,572 items, with an import substitution value of Rs 1,756 crore. Now, with the notification of these 164 additional items, the total number of indigenised items till December 2022 stands at 2,736, worth an import substitution value of Rs 2,570 crore. These indigenised items will now be procured from the Indian industry only.

Given the importance of maintaining logistical supply chain for operational readiness despite events like the Covid pandemic, Ukraine war and tariff wars, IAF chief VR

Chaudhari on Tuesday said here digitisation, automation and data analytics should be exploited to enhance IAF logis tics capabilities. He made these remarks at the National Logistics Management Seminar, LOGISEM - 23, on the theme

Leverage Emerging Global

Supply Chain to Enhance

Logistics Capabilities While Absorbing Disruptions.' In his address, IAF Chief said "Global supply chains have become increasingly complex and interconnected, driven by the manuscripts of international trade and advances in technology. The defence sector is not an exception to this

The IAF relies heavily on global supply chains for delivery of critical components, equipment and services to maintain its combat potential at optimum level. In recent

trend.

multiple and varied disruptions like COVID-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict, trade barriers, tariff wars, environmental compliance policies. Such events have highlighted the vulnerability of supply chains to disruptions. He said "to mitigate such disruptions leveraging emerg-

be exploited to enhance logistics: IAF chief

ing trends such as digitisation, automation and data analytics should be exploited to enhance IAF logistics capabilities."

During the seminar, prominent Speakers, over three sessions, deliberated and discussed issues related to the theme of the Seminar. The discussions ranged from future prospects of domestic aviation industry, modern trends in supply chain management and warehousing, and public procurement initiatives through

The seminar provided an ideal platform for the exchange of ideas between civil and military logisticians and is expected to assist IAF to tailor its supply-chain needs based on modern technologies and global trends. The Seminar was also live streamed pan-IAF.

Leh airport closed as glitch-hit C-17 blocks runway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Leh airport was closed I on Tuesday after its runway was reportedly blocked by a C-17 Globemaster heavy lift transport aircraft which was facing technical issues. It led to flight diversions

and cancellations. Domestic airlines such as IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and Vistara operate 11 flights to Leh every day. The IAF operates 11 US made C-17s. Sources said the technical glitch is not serious and the runway is likely to be operational by Wednesday. The C-17 was on a routine air maintenance sortie when it landed at Leh on Tuesday morning.

In a post on Twitter, Vistara said its flight UK601 from Delhi to Leh (DEL-IXL) was returning to Delhi airport Leh and is expected to arrive in Delhi at 10am.

The C-17s, along with IL-76s, C-130Js and AN-32s, Air India, which operates play a critical role in suptwo daily flights to Leh, porting the army's forward diverted one of them to deployments in the Ladakh Srinagar and cancelled the sector. The C-17s played a second flight after a notice to major role in transporting soldiers and military equipairmen (NOTAM) was issued due to the breakdown of the ment to Eastern Ladakh after

While SpiceJet cancelled two of its three daily flights to/from Leh, IndiGo which

Not issued order to ban 'The Kerala Story', TN Govt tells SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Tamil Nadu Government has told the Supreme Court it has not issued any order imposing a "shadow or implicit ban" on The Kerala Story', a multilingual film that has triggered a massive controversy over religious conversion. The State Government claimed that despite the state providing necessary security to theatres and multiplexes, their owners decided to stop exhibiting the film from May 7 because of lack of enthusiastic response



The State Government, in its reply to the petition filed by the makers of the film alleging a de-facto ban in the state, said amidst objections and protests

the movie was released in 19 multiplexes throughout Tamil Nadu on May 5. "The film was heavily criticized after its release, with some Muslim organizations alleging that the

and "Îslamophobia" among the common public and has been produced solely with the intent to polarize other religions against Muslim," it said. Questioning the maintain-

film spreads "anti-Muslim hate"

ability of the plea filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the State Government said, "It is submitted that the government of Tamil Nadu has not issued any order banning the public exhibition of the film, nor is there a de-facto ban on the film in the state". Tamil Nadu Government said adequate police protection provided by the state facilitated the

theatre owners to screen the film throughout Tamil Nadu on May 5 and 6 despite backlash from certain Muslim organisations.

"However, due to the lack of reception from the general public, theatre and multiplex owners of the State decided to stop exhibiting the film from May 7," it said, adding the content of the petition alleging that the State has imposed a "shadow or implicit ban" on the film is false and baseless, and is vehemently denied.

The affidavit filed by additional director general of police (law and order) of the State said

Nadu had issued instructions to all commissioners of police and district superintendents of police to provide adequate security and protection to every cinema hall that screened the film. While West Bengal banned the movie after three days of screening in theatres, Tamil Nadu has not banned the film but the exhibitors have withdrawn from cinema halls owing to security concerns. The top court had asked the Tamil Nadu Government to specify measures taken to provide adequate security to theatres screening the film.

on May 5, the DGP of Tamil

CBI searches 9 locations in land-for-jobs scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at the}}$ premises of RJD MLA Kiran ber Prem Ćhand Gupta at nine locations in multiple States in connection with the land-for-jobs scam.

The agency searched properties linked to Kiran Devi and her husband Arun Singh in Bihar's Arrah and Patna, and those of Gupta in trouble erupted at the Line of Gurugram and Rewari in Actual Control(LAC)there in Haryana, Noida in Uttar Pradesh besides the national During the recent evacucapital, officials said. ation of Indian nationals from

The CBI also searched the MLA's official residence at Hardinge Road in Patna in the morning and collected some documents, they added.

The agency also searched properties linked to her in her constituency, Sandesh in



Arrah, they further said. It is alleged that during RJD supremo Lalu Prasad

Yadav's tenure as Railway Minister from 2004-2009, appointments were made in Central Railways in violation of norms and procedures of recruitment. No advertisement or pub-

lic notice was issued for the appointments but some residents of Patna were appointed as substitutes in different zonal railways located at Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hajipur, the FIR has alleged.

Collegium names Andhra HC judge, Sr advocate for SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Tuesday recommended to the Centre the names of Andhra Pradesh High Court (HC) Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and senior advocate KV Viswanathan as judges of the apex court. If the recommendation of the Collegium accepted by the Government, Viswanathan, upon the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030, will become the Chief Justice of India and remain in the post till May 25, 2031.

The Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges and is currently functioning with 32. Two Supreme



Court judges-Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and MR Shahhave retired in the last two days. The Collegium, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, KM Joseph, Ajay Rastogi and Sanjiv Khanna, noted in its resolution that four more vacancies are going to arise by the second week of July and the working strength of judges will come down to 28. Justice KM Joseph is set to retire on June 16, 2023, Justice Ajay Rastogi on June Iustice

Ramasubramanian on June 29 and Justice Krishna Murari on July 8 this year.

India, Belgium review ties at EAM, PM Croo meet

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI /

India and Belgium have reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties during Jaishankar's interaction with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander Croo in Brussels. The two leaders also discussed issues of contemporary strategic concerns.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Brussels late Monday evening for the last leg of his threetour nation covering Bangladesh, Sweden and Belgium, also discussed issues related to trade and technology with the Belgian Prime Minister.

The meeting was also attended by Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goval and Minister of State for Skill Development and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar. The three

Indian ministers are in Brussels for the first meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council scheduled for Tuesday.

The Indian ministerial delegation also met Ursula von der Leyen, President of the EU

The first ministerial-level meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) will take place late Tuesday in

The TTC was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission during the latter's visit to India in April last year. Subsequently, both sides established three working groups

under the TTC. The first working group is on strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity. The second one is on

green and clean energy technologies and the third one is on trade, investment and resilient value chains.

FORM NO. 5 **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** 600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow Summons For Filing Reply & Appearance By Publication

Date 01.05.2023 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application No. 156 of 2023 ICICI Bank Ltd.

Deepti Pradhan & Others 1. Deepti Pradhan

D/o. Sri. Anil Kumar Pradhan R/o. BH-1004, Amrapali Village, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad- 201010

2. Anil Kumar Pradhan R/o. BH-1004, Amrapali Village Indirapuram, Ghaziabad- 201010 ...Defendant No. 2

3. M/s. Supertech Limited Office- Supertech House, B- 28, 29, Sector- 58, Noida (U.P.)- 201307

Through its Authorized Signatory ...Defendant No. 3 In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons Tribunal on 10/11/2023 at 10:30

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal,

shall be heard and decided in your

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow

strife torn Sudan a few weeks

ago, a C-17 carried out an

impressive rescue of 192 peo-

ple from there with the full

mission lasting almost 24 hours with a refuelling stop at

Ieddah in Saudi Arabia.

Dated: 27.04.2023 Summons to defendants under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Original Application No. 132 of 2023

ICICI BANK LTD. Sarthak Samantaray & Others

1. M/s Palm Developers Pvt.

Having its office at-6th Floor, Matrix Tower B-4, Sector-132, Expressway, Noida-201301 (U.P) Defendant No. 3.

In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agen after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 08/11/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal



छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल <u>पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर,</u> अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायू परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांव 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि **मेर्सर्स महावी**र कोल वॉशरीज प्राईवेट लिमिटेंड, ग्राम- खरगहनी - पथर्रा, तहसील- कोटा, जिला - बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा कुल क्षेत्रफल - 11.62 हेक्टेयर (28.72 एकड़) में कोल वॉशरी क्षमता- 0.96 मिलियन टन / वर्ष से बढाकर 2.48 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष वेट टाईप के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 17/05/2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे, ग्राम-पथर्रा के ग्राम पंचायत भवन के

पा**स स्थित मैदान तहसील - कोटा, जिला - बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)** में नियत की गई है। अतिरिक्त कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर (स.वि.लि. शाँखा), जिला-बिलासपुर द्वारा जारी ज्ञापन पत्र क्रमांक 1371/स.व.लि../लो.स्./2023 बिलासपूर दिनांक 15/05/2023 में किये गये उल्लेखानसार पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेत नियत उक्ते लोक सनवाई को उद्योग से प्राप्त आवेदन वे परिपेक्ष्य में आगामी तिथि तक रूथगित किया जाता है। उक्त लोक सुनवाई आयोजन हेतु आगार्म तिथि की सूचना पृथक से दी जायेगी।

नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.



Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that RAJIV BANSAL/ RAJIV BANSAL HUF/ DIPA BANSAL (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR00004945802 located at situated Flat No-3103, 31st Floor, M3M Heights Tower-5, Sector 65, Gurgaon 122001. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated

May 12, 2023, informing that M/S MANGLAM MULTIPLEX PVT LIMITED has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the

said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any For ICICI Bank Limited

Dated: May 17, 2023

Ahead of Modi visit, Biden admin calls India 'consequential partner'

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

head of Prime Minister A Narendra Modi's visit to the US in June, the Biden administration has described India as one of its most consequential partners and the visit is an opportunity to enhance partnership on several vital priorities. They include ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, and strengthen trade and security partnership.
Prime Minister Modi will

embark on his first state visit to the US next month on an invitation by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The US President and the First Lady will also host Modi at a state dinner on June 22.

"Our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relationships and we work closely with India on a number of vital priorities," state department's Deputy Press Secretary Vedant Patel told reporters at his daily news



Monday. The state visit is an oppor-

tunity to deepen some of these partnerships, whether it be ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific and ensuring that it is a region that is more connected, more prosperous, more secure and more resilient, Patel told reporters. Patel's reference to the

Indo-Pacific came amidst China's aggressive behaviour in the region where it is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China claims sovereignty

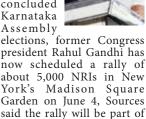
over all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. Beijing has also built up

and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade. The US, Japan, India and

Australia had in 2017 given shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific

Rahul to address 5,000 NRIs in NY's Madison Square Garden PNS NEW DELHI

success of his party in just concluded



his 10-days visit to the United

States scheduled to begin on

May 31, which is also ahead

of the State visit to USA by

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in the later part of

Sources said Rahul is also expected to go to Washington

and California for a panel discussion and speech at Stanford University. He will also meet politicians and entrepreneurs during his visit.

10 killed, dozen hurt in Bengal blast

OPP DEMANDS NIA PROBE AFTER CRACKER FACTORY EXPLOSION

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Politics heated up in Bengal with the Opposition BJP and Left demanding an investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) after at least 10 people were killed and about a dozen injured on Tuesday in a massive blast at an illegal cracker factory at Kajikul village in Egra sub-division of East Midnapore district bordering Odisha.

Locals claimed at least 21 people including several women had died in the explosion which flung dead bodies more than 100 metres away in a pond.

The whole house caved in under the impact of the explosion — which was heard from a distance of five km, sources said adding the wave created by the blast not only shook houses at a distance but shattered glass panes of those situated about hundred metres away. The illegal cracker factory was owned by a local Trinamool Congress leader Krishnapada Bagh, villagers said, alleging despite repeated complaints to the police nothing was done to stop it from conducting its business. The police had cor-



Locals outside an illegal firecracker unit after a massive explosion, in West Bengal's East Midnapore district, on Tuesday

doned off the area and searches were on for the bodies that lay strewn on the approach road and in the paddy field as also nearby ponds, sources said adding the collapsed house resembled a "bombarded Ukrainian structure."

'There was a blast at Egra which unfortunately killed some people I have been told ... I have immediately ordered a CID investigation into the case and sent the ADG CID there," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters at State secretariat Nabanna adding, the man who owned the illegal factory was a habitual offender

and had been arrested in December 2022 post which he secured bail. "After getting bail he has again started it ... If someone gets bail what the overnment will do ... but still have taken a strong note of the incident ... the local inspector in-charge will be asked to explain his conduct," Banerjee said adding as well that "the local village panchayat had last

through a no-confidence vote. "It is BJP's panchayat and the TMC has little activity in the area ... so much so that the villagers are not even allowing our local MLA to enter the village

year been taken over by the BJP"

today ... there should not be any politicization of such incidents where so many people have been killed," Banerjee said announcing Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh each for the treatment of those injured. The owner of the house might have fled to bordering Odisha where he used to export his crackers, she

The Chief Minister's assurance of an "impartial and thorough investigation" notwithstanding, the Opposition raised a demand for an investigation by the National Investigation Agency. This, even as Bengal BJP president Sukanata Majumdar wrote a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking NIA probe into the

"The TMC Government is letting it pass as a mere accident in an illegal cracker factory but we have information that behind veneer of the cracker factory something else was being manufactured ... a blast in a cracker factory could not be so intense ... so considering the gravity of the situation after the explosion which has killed so many people — and the numdemanded an NIA probe, Majumdar said. "Huge explo sion in Sahara village in Egra, Purba Medinipur, at the local TMC leader Krishnapada Bag's (alias Bhanu) house. I am receiving news from the ground that the number of casualties is

Immediately, central forces should be deployed as dead bodies are being shifted illegal ly by Mamata Police," Adhikari alleged in a tweet urging Shah and Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose to initiate NIA investigation as early as possible," as "Bengal has become the stockpile of explosives "His party colleague Rahul Sinha too demanded an NIA investi-

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said, "After driving away industry from Bengal Mamata Banerjee has converted the State into á bomb-making hub ... bomb is the main industry here .. and this has to be probed by the NIA though I am not sure whether the Chief Minister will use her clout with the BJP government to dilute this case also as she has always done."

Speaker: Sena name, symbol to Shinde a prospective decision, not retrospective

'Decision on axing 16 MLAs will start from point of which faction was representing real Sena in July 2022'

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Tuesday said the Election Commission's decision to allot the 'Shiv Sena' name and its symbol to the faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is a "prospective" decision and not restropective.

Speaking to reporters here after a meeting with some officials in the Vidhan Bhavan, Narwekar also said the decision on disqualification of 16 MLAs including Chief Minister Shinde will start from the point of which faction was representing the actual Shiv Sena in July 2022. The Speaker on Monday also said that after the Supreme Court's May 11 verdict, he will have to first recog-



of the Shiv Sena is the political party before going ahead with any other decision. In its ver-dict on the Shiv Sena-centric tussle that led to the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra last year, the Supreme Court said it can't reinstate the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray as he choses to resign without facing the floor

Refusing to disqualify the 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, including CM Eknath Shinde, the Supreme Court said it cannot ordinarily adjudicate disqualification petitions under the anti-defection law and directed Speaker Narwekar to take a decision on the pending matter within a "reasonable period". Shinde was earlier a cabinet minister in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Government. In June 2022,

Shinde and 39 other MLAs revolted against their party leadership, leading to a split in the Shiv Sena. Shinde later became the Chief Minister with the Bharatiya Janata Party's support (BJP).

While the two Sena groups, one led by Shinde and the other by Uddhav Thackeray, have contested elections as different entities, they are not separately recognised in the Assembly. The Election Commission in February this year allotted the name 'Shiv Sena' and its poll symbol 'bow and arrow' to the group led by Chief Minister

Narwekar on Tuesday said, 'As per the SC verdict, the starting point of the pleas would be deciding on which faction was representing the Shiv Sena in July 2022. Although the Election Commission of India has allotted the name Shiv Sena and its symbol to the Shinde faction, the decision is not retrospective. It is a prospective decision." "The Supreme Court has noted that the decision on which faction was representing Shiv Sena has to be decided by the Speaker," he added.



NITI Aayog for private investment in setting up nuclear reactors

New Delhi: NITI Aayog has pitched for establishing attractive financing frameworks such as blending finances and green bonds to attract private sector investment in setting up small modular reactors (SMR) to decarbonise India's energy

The Aayog in a report titled 'The Role of Small Modular Reactors in Energy Transition' further suggested that availability of low-cost finance, green finance and incorporation of nuclear into the economics of SMR pro-

"De-risking SMR projects and establishing attractive financing frameworks such as blending finance, green bonds, etc. Is pivotal for incentivising private investors," it said. According to the report, it has been observed that venture capital is a poor fit for the "hard" SMR sector.

As per the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors with a power generation capacity ranging from less than 30 MWe to 300+ MWe. "Hence, the public and private sectors must work together to identify alternative sources of earlystage finance," it said.

Noting that successful deployment of SMR technology must leverage private sector investment, the report said a robust and technology-neutral policy framework is required for securing private

investment including factors currently having growing influence on investment flows such as taxonomies and environmental, social and governance factors.

The report also pointed out that early realisation of a few demonstration plants for SMR designs can reduce the intensity of risk perception, which can give impetus to supply chain formation and bring investment and stability to the industry. Adaption and streamlining of licensing and ing key SMR attributes into account are also important to develop a global SMR market, it added.

While noting that the existing nuclear safety regulations are mostly designed for land-based plants and unit concept of large reactors, the report recommended that for the concept of multi-module and flexible operation of SMRs, these regulations and guidelines need to be modi-

"The nuclear regulatory framework should be comprehensive to allow various kinds of SMR technologies and designs," it said. According to the report, a pre-licensing vendor design review can facilitate early identification and resolution of potential technical or regulatory issues in design process.

The report noted that SMRs have emerged as preferred nuclear energy options compared to large reactors.

Mamata has drawn 'no-go zone' for Cong: Taunts BJP

enter into States like WB, Telangana or UP where it is perceived to be weak: Shehzad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ BJP}$ on Tuesday said TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has drawn "a no-go zone" for the Congress in West Bengal and other states by saying she will support the grand old party wherever it is strong provided it reciprocates.

BIP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said Banerjee's statement on Monday would set a template that the Congress should not enter into states like West Bengal, Telangana or Uttar Pradesh where it is perceived to be weak.

He also said there is "no mission and vision" in the efforts being made to forge 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The West Bengal Chief Minister said on Monday that in the seat-sharing formula for the 2024 polls, strong regional parties must be given priority where they are strong.
Poonawalla noted

Banerjee has said she is ready to support the Congress wherever it is strong, provided it reciprocates in West Bengal and does not interfere in the state.

"It is not Mamata Banerjee's statement of support but a statement of no-confidence (in the Congress)," BJP national spokesperson Shahzad Poonawala told PTI when asked for a comment.

"It is an assault and attack on what the Congress had started dreaming about which is its expansion across the national spectrum in 2024... A break has been put by Mamata Banerjee," he added. "She is drawing a no-go zone for the Congress party and setting a template that the Congress

Congress should not Akhilesh agrees with Didi's 'support to Cong where it's strong' quip

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday supported West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's assertion that her party will support the Congress where it is strong in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Supporting Banerjee's statement for Opposition unity at the national level, Yadav said the party which is strong in a State should contest elections

He said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and other parties also hold the same opinion, according to a party Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav here. He had also participated in a function of the TRS in Telangana early

Ón Monday, Banerjee cleared the air on TMC's stand on a possible strategy for opposition unity. She said her party

should enter into a no-go zone agreement with these parties and should not enter, say in Bengal, Telangana or in Úttar Pradesh where the Congress is not strong," he said.

"The template being set by the TMC is actually a vote of no-confidence," he said, adding, "A sharp retort and message is being sent to the Congress that there are certain no-go zones clearly defined, notwithstanding the results that have come out in Karnataka.

The BJP spokesperson said the hopes of those who are very enthusiastic in drawing "a national template" from the



will support the Congress where it is strong in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Samajwadi Party is the main opposition in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, which sends the maximum 80 members to Lok Sabha.

The SP in the recent past forged alliance with both Congress and BSP but separated later. Last year, the party Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) along with Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) and others.

Congratulating the people of Karnataka for defeating the BJP, Yadav said the people have rejected those who spread hatred. "BJP works to make the society fight," he said. PTI

Karnataka assembly poll results have been "dashed and crashed by their own ideological cousin like the TMC". On opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he said, "It is only a mission for position division, commission, corruption. It is only an alliance of negativity, directed at stopping the BIP.

"It has an obsession with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For them, it is important who will get more share in the pie. This usually happens when there is not any mission or vision for the country in such kinds of of prospective alliances," Poonawalla told.

Reduce Haj pilgrims' embarkation point fee at Aurangabad, Nagpur airports: NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday asked Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Z Irani to bring the charges payable by Haj pilgrims at the Embarkation Points (EPs) of Aurangabad and Nagpur at par with the charges prescribed at Mumbai EP.

Flagging the issue of discrepancies in the charges payable at the Embarkation Points for Haj pilgrims at different locations in Maharashtra, Pawar stat4ed in a letter written to the Union Minister that



Nagpur figured among the 22 airports identified across the country as EPs for Haj pilgrims for the 2023 season. However, there were a lot of discrepancies in the EP charges payable at Aurangabad "which is around Rs 88,000 higher than what is payable in Mumbai". "It puts a heavy burden on the Haj pil-

grims especially from the underdeveloped regions of Marathwada and other rural areas of Maharashtra," Pawar said."The Haj pilgrims from the entire Marathwada region have raised their voice against these indiscriminate charges and urged the Centre to bring it at par with Mumbai EP charges," he said, as he enclosed representations received from his party's leaders from Marathwada region. "I shall be happy if the charges payable at Aurangabad EP and Nagpur EP are brought at par with the charges applied at Mumbai EP," the NCP chief added.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
	1.	Mohit Khanna/ Rohit Khanna/ LBDEL00002071616/ LBDEL00002077700	Flat No- C-1001, 10th Floor, Tower-C, Pristine Avenue, Plot No- 3 F, Gh-03, Gaur City-2, Sector- 16C, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar (Admeasuring an area of 1360 Square Feet/ 12 May, 2023		Delhi/ NCR
	2.	Nidhi Arora/ Rishabh H Arora/ LBNOD00002880906	Flat No.1012, 10th Floor, Plot No. Gh 01B, Sector 10, Building Om Mahagun Mantra 1, Noida (Admeasuring an area of 1025 sq ft/ 12 May, 2023	September 27, 2021 Rs.34,26,264/-	Delhi/ NCR
	3.	Sangeeta Rawat/ Sunaina Devi/ LBGUR00004838188	Flat No.2101, 21th Floor 'Aspen' Sports Home Situated at Sports City, Sector-Adjoining Tech Zone- 4, Plot No. Gh-02, Uttar Pradesh, Noida (Admeasuring an Area of 1680 Sq. Feet/ 12 May, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs.36,30,328/-	Delhi/ NCR
	4.	Gandhi/ Sumit Gandhi/	Plot No.235, Ground Floor, Block A-5, Paschim Vihar Delhi (Admeasuring an area of 151.40 Square Feet/ 12 May, 2023	December 01, 2022 Rs.25,02,062/-	Delhi/ NCR
	5.	Satyendra Kumar/ Lalan Mandal/ LBDEL00003603581	Flat No.1606, 15th Floor, Lotus Zing, Tower-1, Plot No. Gh01/A, Sector- 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh/ 12 May, 2023	June 25, 2021 Rs.58,83,474/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

This E-auction Sale notice for sale of Immovable asset is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the

below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Price Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh (Borrower) Ms. Kanchan Devi (Co-Borrower) QZJNK00005025598	Flat No. D-2/ 209, 2nd Floor LHS Portion, Khasra No. 773, Hoovers Apartment, Extended Lal Dora Abadi, Village Burari, Delhi. Area: 50.73Sq Mtrs	Rs. 25,19,867/- as on (May 10, 2023)	Rs. 17,10, 000/- Rs. 1,71, 000/-	May 26, 2023 from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	June 13, 2023 from 11:00 AM onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com). The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till June 12, 2023 before 5 PM failing which, this secured asset will be sold as per schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) to ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before

June 12, 2023 before 5 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before June 12, 2023 before 5 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before June 12, 2023 before 5: PM, Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the E-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8928935040/8584874809

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Private Limited have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: May 17, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

Maha orders SIT probe into sacrilege attempt at Shiva Temple in Nashik

Government on Tuesday ordered an enquiry by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into an attempt by members of a minority community to enter the ancient Trimbakeshwar Shiva temple in Nashik district of north Maharashtra on Saturday.

Announcing an SIT probe into what is being seen an attempt of sacrilege at the ancient Shiva temple at Trimbak where one of the twelve jyotirlingas is kept, Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis ordered "strict action" and registering of an FIR "on the incident of a miscreants gathering at the entrance and trying to enter the Trimbakeshwar

official handle, Fadnavis announced that an officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police (ADIG) would head the SIT that would investigate the incident. The SIT will not only

probe this year's incident, but also last year's incident when a certain mob had allegedly inside' the 'entered Trimbakeshwar temple premises through the main entrance,"

the DCM said. Early on Saturday, a group of people purportedly belonging to a minority community forcibly attempted to enter the Shiva temple through the main entrance on Saturday as part of their plan to place chadar on the sacred Shivling there. The inci-

the temple of Trimbak, located 28 km from Nashik. Later, the incident also sparked violent clashes between the members of two communities. The situation in the temple

town returned to normal on Tuesday, after rhe local police detained at least 25 persons belonging to both the commu-The police also held recon-

ciliation meetings between the leaders of two communities to bring about peace, calm and harmony in the town. On its part, the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders came down heavily on the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena- BJP alliance government for "breakdown of law and order in state.

Maha women's body seeks setting up of panel to find missing women Mumbai: Maharashtra State prevention) Deepak Pandey,

Commission for Woman (MSCW) chairperson Rupali Chakankar has asked the state home department to set up a panel to find out women missing from the state and submit a report every fortnight on its progress. Between January 1 and

March 31 this year, 3,594 women went missing and some of them were traced. It is a serious matter that women and girls were going missing from the state, Chakankar said on Monday. She was speaking to

reporters after a meeting with

Special Inspector General of

Police (women and child crime

state home department's assistant secretary Rahul Kulkarni, MSCW deputy chairperson Deepa Thakur and legal expert Virendra Neve. A statement issued by the MSCW said Chakankar has instructed the home department to set up a search committee for the missing women and the department should submit its report every fortnight about the panel's progress. She said no police officials

are part of the existing search committees for missing women. "Between January 1 and March 31 this year, 3,594 women went missing and some of them were traced.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A growing menace

Navy, NCB seize a 2,500-kg consignment, worth Rs 1,200 crore, along the Kerala coast

•he seizure of a massive drug consignment, nearly 2,500 kilograms of methamphetamine, in Indian waters along the Kerala coast highlights the enormity of the problem. The joint operation by the Navy and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is a testimony to the cooperation between different agencies. The Department of Revenue Intelligence and the police forces of coast states were also involved. The drug bust, estimated to be worth around Rs 12,000 crore, is the largest seizure of methamphetamine, a synthetic narcotic substance, in the country. NCB Deputy Director General (Ops) Sanjay Kumar Singh informed the media that the operation was part of Operation Samudragupt targeting maritime trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan. This is also said to be the first time that such a massive meth haul from Afghanistan has been made. Which means a greater headache for the NCB—indeed the entire country. For Afghanistan is already infamous for opium cultivation. When the Taliban were



in power in the 1990s, a BBC report said in April, they all but stamped out poppy cultivation. But the drug trade became a major source of income for them throughout their 20-year insurgency. "Now the Taliban say they have ordered an end to the poppy trade and are trying to enforce this policy. But according to the UN, cultivation increased by 32 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021." This is because a country or group can't switch on and off the drugs trade as per their convenience. It's an evil that spreads indiscriminately. Afghanistan is said to be the drug addiction capital of the world, with about 3.5 million people out of a total population of 40 million being junkies. Besides, the relation between drugs and terror-

ism is well known. Not only are terrorist outfits like the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen neck-deep in the narcotic trade, many of their handlers in the Pakistan Army's ISI too are. Quite apart from an extremely lucrative business, drugs also severely damage the addicted youth's cognitive and cogitative faculties, often making them lose the moral compass as well. They become putty in the hands of terrorists and drug lords, who can use the new recruits for criminal activities and radicalisation. Unsurprisingly, Pakistan deliberately uses nacroterrorism to foment trouble in the bordering states in India. And now it is also using the sea to boost the drug trade. For the NCB, this is the third drug bust of maritime trafficking through the southern route in the last 18 months. In total, it has seized about 3,200 kg of methamphetamine, 500 kg of heroin and 529 kg of hashish. The NCB also revealed the existence of a 'mother ship,' a large vessel carrying various quantities for distribution along the route. The cooperation between our various agencies seems to be improving; it has to improve further. For safety is predicated on



A still from Feroz Abbas Khan's 'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical', which will be staged in the US cities shortly

Pak's civil-military conflict continues



An unstable neighbour is anathema but it would be wrong on our part to assume that a disturbed and divided Pakistan is better than a stable one

akistan's poly-crises political, economic and civil-military relations – continue unabated though it is nothing new - and an only spike in scale and intensity of multiple crises. For the single-most critical factor of national stability and cohesion - the Army it possibly is more significant than the military defeat in 1971 when on his return home, Lt Gen AAK Niazi was made to sit on a donkey and paraded through his village. Or the taking out of Osama bin Laden in 2011 from under the very nose of the Army. For over two years now, the Army has been saying that it has no political role although historically it is deeply involved in propping up prime ministers - Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan to name two.

The Deep State is a grand trinity of Army, ISI and jihadi Tanzeems. Current COAS, Gen Asif Munir is former DG ISI appointed by outgoing COAS, Gen Bajwa over PM Imran Khan's choice of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. Khan has called out Bajwa and Maj Gen Faisal Naseer as his would-be assassins. Given that the Army has managed to call the shots without direct rule, it is unlikely to declare martial law. Last Saturday DG ISPR Maj Gen Ahmad Choudhary announced: "There is no question of imposing martial law". After which Khan, rescued by courts, tore into COAS and DG ISPR. More on this later.

The likely internal divisions in the Army among nine Corps Commanders have to be fixed and any popular unrest over the future arrest of Khan has to be brought under control with a soft hand. The Army is the ultimate custodian of Pak's core values and 'atomi taakat', its nuclear crown jewels. At present the People's Movement for Democracy – all political parties led by PML Nawaz, brother Shahbaz Sharif along with the Establishment are opposed by Knans PII and a divided Supreme Court. National elections are to be held in October.

Khan wants them held soonest as his party is expected to Pakistan's worst economic

sweep them. The establishment wants elections minus Khan (in jail) to fix the outcome. For Khan to be put back in jail the process has to be transparent and legal as the courts indicated last week when they provided Khan with a reprieve till 15 May and bail for two weeks. This bit is not clear as reports suggest that Islamabad High Court gave him blanket relief in 145 cases against him.

Khan returned home in Zaman Park Lahore and a national broadcast blamed Gen Munir for his 'abduction' and tore into DGISPR. He asked his supporters to stage freedom protests on the weekend near their towns and villages. Hundreds of corruption cases have been levelled against him and the ball now is in the government's court -how to react to wholesale relief against 145 cases. The prolonged crisis had led to people storming military installations including Mianwali Air Base, destroying the Chagai monument, the symbol of Pakistan's nuclear power and Lahore Corps Commander's residence. Some reports indi cate Corps Commander has been removed.

These crises come atop

INDECENT BEHAVIOUR IN THE AIR



INDIA CANNOT WISH AWAY AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED UN-REGISTERED **DISPUTE OVER** KASHMIR OVER WHICH THERE ARE ALSO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AT SIMLA AND LAHORE

situation when the IMF's 25th loan – this time of USD 5bn -- is on hold prompted by the US. Despite friends with deep pockets in Saudi Arabia, UAE and China, there is a near atta famine across Pakistan, inflation shooting to 47 per cent and the dollar at an all-time high of Rs 300. That's why no one wants Pakistan to become a nuclear Somalia. Some five years ago, when I was in Tel Aviv for a counter-terrorism conference, we were taken deep into the desert to witness Iron Dome air defence firings. A senior IDF officer connected with Mossad confided that US and Israeli Special Forces have rehearsed contingency plans in these deserts to secure Pakistan's nuclear arse-

Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar's recent leaked pivot to China paper has only confirmed Pakistan-China iron-clad relations. Beijing is silent over Khan's arrest as it regards the military as the touchstone for internal stability. How the brutal assaults by Khan supporters on its institutional symbols will affect Beijing's confidence in the military, one will not know. As for India Pakistan has remained a troubling neighbour with

the 2003 cease-fire renewed in February 2022. The revocation of Article 370 by India will never be accepted by Pakistan as Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's recent interview to an Indian TV channel during his SCO visit reveals. Two deadly terrorist attacks in Jammu over three weeks and probably more in store during the G20 tourism ministers' meet in Srinagar later this month have revived

Pakistan's military has scores to settle with India over 1971 and Balakot. It has one confirmed ally, China, in this mission. India cannot wish away an internationally recognized UN-registered dispute over Kashmir over which there are also bilateral agreements at Simla and Lahore. It's time for India to wake up and smell the coffee. Meanwhile, it will be wrong on the part of many Indians to assume that a disturbed/divided/disintegrated Pakistan is better than a stable Pakistan.

hostility in bilateral relations.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and tounder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Skilled artisans of J&K remain underpaid

Cheap labour, machine-made products, lack of marketing and pandemic have made them even more vulnerable

froza Begum, 35, and husband 🗸 💄 Mohammad Amin, 38, from Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir have been weaving carpets for the last 10 years. Despite being skilled artisans, the duo earns Rs 300-400 per day after working ten hours a day, which is insufficient to make ends meet. With two children in Class 6th and 3rd, they find it hard to manage their expenditures. Besides, the long hours of weaving carpets have a serious impact on their physical and mental health.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, a 35-year-old carpet weaver with over 15 years of experience, laments his decision to follow in his ancestors' footsteps as he struggles to provide for his family of five, including two children, a wife, and a mother in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

"I earn Rs 200 per day after working over 10 hours in a day, even after weaving carpets for the last 15-years. We receive a meagre wage that fails to reflect the artisanal skill required to produce these prized carpets. While top businessmen and politi-



enjoy these carpets, the artisans themselves do not earn even the wages of an unskilled labourer. With increasing demand for Kashmiri handicrafts, artisans remain hopeful for a better future, but they face multiple challenges," he

Cheap labour, recent competition from machinemade products, inadequate marketing, and the adverse impact of COVID-19 are some of the challenges. Moreover, some products from other parts of the world are falsely marketed as Kashmiri handicraft items, compounding the artisans'

difficulties. At least 3 lakh people are associated with handicrafts including carpets, papiermache, shawls, and wood carving, who over the years have been finding it difficult

However, they expect better days ahead given the increasing demand for handicrafts in several countries.

Between 2019 and 2021, thousands of Kashmiri artisans, including 45-year-old shawl maker Bashir Ahmad from Srinagar, faced tough times. First, Kashmir was shut down for weeks following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and then the Covid-19 pandemic crippled the global econo-

According to Bashir, the situation had been really bad for artisans as they were struggling to feed their families. "The situation worsened post August 5, 2019 and then Covid 19. My son was sitting idle for months as there was no demand for Kashmiri handicrafts. But during 2022, we received several orders and made good earnings," he said.

However, not all the artisans were as fortunate as Ahmad. While the artisans who produce these carpets are struggling financially, the export of Kashmiri carpets has increased considerably. Official figures reveal cians are among those who to feed their families. that goods worth Rs 728.99

crore were exported in the three quarters of the fiscal 2022-2023 of which export of Kashmiri carpets were over Rs 300 crore to various countries. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently mentioned that the administration has taken several important steps to boost the handicraft and handloom sector. More than three lakh artisans are registered with the department.

To protect the industry from counterfeits, the government has implemented GI tags on various handicraft items. These tags are QR code-based and serve as indications of the product's origin and associated quality, reputation, or characteristics of the

Shah noted that while the figures for only three quarters have been finalized so far, he believes that the export figures of Kashmiri handicrafts would have exceeded Rs 1000 crore during 2022-2023. However, it may take some time to get the final figures.

(The author is an independent writer from Jammu and Kashmir. Charkha Features)

MUDASSIR KULOO

Sir — In a shocking incident as per report the male passenger was arrested for allegedly molesting a female flight attendant on board an IndiGo Dubai-Amritsar flight in an inebriated state, police said on Monday. Rajinder Singh, who hails from Kotli village of Jalandhar in Punjab, got into a heated argument with the air hostess and allegedly molested her on Saturday, police said."The air hostess brought the incident to the crew's notice. The accused was allegedly in a drunken state," police said. The IndiGo crew members then notified the Amritsar control room about the matter and the assistant security manager of the airline lodged a police complaint. The accused was arrested upon his arrival at the Shri Guru Ramdas ji International Airport here, they said. Singh was booked under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and Section 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code, police said. In the First Information Report (FIR), the airline said Singh started drinking alcohol immediately after boarding the flight it said he began harassing the woman crew member and even got into an argument with her, raising his voice, and

causing a commotion. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

YATRA MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Sir — The journey, arranged by a wellknown political party, turned out to be a game-changer and played a crucial part in their electoral triumph. This was an effective grassroots platform for connecting with voters. It allowed leaders to engage, understand concerns, and share their vision for Karnataka's development. The Yatra built trust, strengthened voter bonds, and fostered direct interaction. It unified communities, transcended politics, and symbolized solidarity, promoting a united Karnataka. The Yatra con-

K'taka win is a tonic for Congress



refers to " Satraps matter ". This victory is critical from the perspective of the health of democracy as a strong opposition is a must for vibrant democracy. Karnataka's win must act as a tonic to the Congress and rejuvenate its leaders and grass root workers. For

BJP, it must learn that despite the Prime Minister being the tallest leader in the country, he can not win every state election for BJP. BJP has to nurture strong regional leaders which are in short supply at present. Prime Minister Modi's charisma has its limitations too. BJP has seen in the last two defeats in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. A combination of strong regional leaders coupled with massive rallies by the Prime Minister can still do the trick for the B.IP. And all state elections. are won on local issues and there is no point bringing national agenda in state elections as it will boomerang. And Congress must play humble when it comes to opposition unity for the 2024 general elections as they should not assume that now they rule three states, they can dictate terms over opposition parties

Bal Govind | Noida

ernance and addressing citizens' needs. It showcased party achievements and plans. Through addresses, rallies, and events, leaders effectively communicated policies, informing voters. The yatra gained media coverage, expanding the party's message and reach. This visibility shaped public opinion and built momentum for the party's success. In conclusion, the Bharat Jodo Yatra was a key factor in the political party's victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections. Its ability to connect, unite, and effectively communicate its agenda played a pivotal role in securing the voters' man-

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

NEW CBI CHIEF Sir — Karnataka DGP Mr Praveen Sood who has been appointed as the Director of the country's premier investigation Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) is a 1986 batch IPS officer of Karnataka cadre, who is known as one of the most outstanding nected with voters seeking inclusive gov- IPS officers of the country.

During his distinguished career spanning over three decades, he has held several important assignments in India and abroad, where he served with full honesty, sincerity, and dedication of the highest order and provided the state with outstanding leadership he has held increasingly responsible positions like D.G.P(CID), Commissioner of Police Bangalore a security advisor to the Mauritius government Praveen Sood is a notable alumnus of the IIT Delhi, IIM-Bangalore and Syracuse University in New York.

He is known as a highly Tech savvy officer, who incorporated technology in old school policing to make it more effective in handling the new age crimes, law and order challenges and rendering easy access to police services for the common man. his contribution to using technology to ease Bengaluru's infamous traffic snarls is well known, Ramesh G jethani | Bangalore

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FIRST COLUMN

THINK LESS TO **LIVE LONGER**

Thoughts in your mind will decide the happiness and satisfaction in your life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

The human mind has the most extraordinary capacities to create, remember and evoke and to travel into the past and future of free will. Not many of us know that everything visible to us through our physical eyes today, every particle of matter that we can touch and feel now first had its blueprint in the human mind. In other words, everything outside is a physical manifestation of what is inside. Therefore, everything in the universe was first born as a thought or a tiny sentient point or dot. A dot has no length, breadth or width, but it has immense power and contains a lot.

It's estimated that an average person has around 70,000 thoughts per day. So, how many of us focus on observing our thoughts? Maybe very few... Do we ever think of putting a brake on or a full stop to our thoughts? Neuroscientists estimate that the human brain contains 100 billion neurons. Each neuron has about 1,000 connections. Each connection fires, on an average, 200 times per second resulting in 20,000 trillion calculations per second! And all this consumes loads of life ener-

Hence, if we can reduce the number of thoughts even by a small percentage, then it can have a huge bearing on our life. That is why it has been proven scientifically that practising silence for a few minutes every day gives you the power of that conserved energy. Because, once we succeed in reducing the number of thoughts, we will start observing a remarkable improvement in the quality of our thoughts. How?

It's simple! When we reduce the number of thoughts, then the thought congestion comes down and we will be able to hold every thought a lit-



tle longer. The longer we can hold on to a thought, the more potent the thought becomes. We should understand the fact that every thought has creative power, hence the longer we hold a thought, the more powerful it becomes. With every thought, we send out the essence of ourselves. which mixes with other essences and creates and re-creates our physical environment. So, again- practicing silence or in simple language Meditating for a few minutes every day gives you the power to create your chosen environment.

Thinking too much is like eating too much. The heaviness of our mind makes it impossible to remain light and flexible. Today we all are experiencing how the present era dominated by vices and wickedness is promoting devilish tendencies. Hence, the speed and intensity of negative thoughts are much greater than the positive ones which are very few. The major part of these positive thoughts fritters away before implementation due to a greater momentum of internal weak thoughts and the force of the external environment presently conducive for unrighteousness. Under such circumstances, the practice of meditation lends power to our thoughts. It helps us to realize our positive and pure intentions by reinforcing and re-programming them into our minds. By wiping the film of body consciousness or human weaknesses, it emerges our original, eternal spiritual qualities of knowledge, peace, power, love and purity. It unleashes the vast positive capacity of our thoughts - the infinite power to visualize the most beautiful and realize it in the real world. It helps us to create an internal positive environment that is independent of the external vicious world. That's the significance of sitting in the seat of meditation. By sitting in a state of non-doing, either in a space of high vibrations or in the presence of a person of high vibrations, those vibrations will be transferred to us. The power of non-doing is such that it enables you to tune in and inherit the higher vibrations, and in the presence of higher vibrations, all things become easy and possible. So, pause to check what kind of thoughts are being created in your mind for these will decide the degree of happiness and satisfaction.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications

across India, Nepal & UK)

Modicare: Because health is non-negotiable



India has shown how an inclusive architecture for the overall well-being and healthcare of the people can be achieved



he G7 Summit will brainstorm global issues faced by humanity. Ahead of the summit, health ministers of G7 along with outreach countries - India, Indonesia and Thailand along with multilateral agencies brainstormed over the issues faced by humanity. The G7 being a group of the most industrialized nations in the world also has the most of the global wealth with them. Needless to say, G7 has an accomg auty and responsibility to take the lead in addressing global challenges, including the health issues of the world

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Manadaviya attended the meeting of the health ministers of G7 along with outreach nations. India for the past few years has been at the centre stage of the deliberations of G7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has regularly been attending the G7 meetings. Also, India with the presidency of G20 is currently at the centre stage of a solution-based actionable agenda for the global challenges. The success of the G7 agenda cannot be achieved unless aligned with the aims and objectives cogently brought forth by India with the G20 presidency.

The world is still learning its way out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The once-ina-century pandemic has made humanity aware of the health risk of an interconnected world. The outbreak of communicable diseases poses a serious chal-



WIDER ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE **THROUGH** E-SANJEEVANI BY WHICH PEOPLE CAN **ACCESS DOCTORS THROUGH** TELEMEDICINE

(Author is the national general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party)

lenge to the well-being of the global population. Also, a health issue is directly connected with the global economy. Indian G20 presidency by lending its voice to the Global South has brought forth the concerns of the developing and poor countries of deepening debt, which became acute in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's in this context that the agenda of G7 and

G20 must be aligned.

The G7 must take lessons from the Indian way of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, as it can lead the wealthiest nations to contribute constructively by learning from the leadership of PM Modi. The Indian Covid-19 response was based on the principle that none should be left behind in the vaccination drive. All must be vaccinated and India demonstrated that the people living in the remotest parts of the country were also provided with not only access to the vaccines but also psychological and emotional support so that they willingly took the jabs.

Malana is one of the villages in Himachal Pradesh. Tradition claims that the descendants of the army of Alexander had settled in this remote village. The villagers are particular about protecting their unique culture, and they

maintain a distance from others. It was a tough task for the health personnel to vaccinate the people of the village. But PM Modi during his several video conferences with the heads of the district administrations had made it clear that none should be left behind in the vaccination drive. The district administration launched a special campaign to convince the people of the village to take the Covid-19 accines. Severai far-flung villages in the country were covered under the vaccination drive. The administrations even used drones. The frontline workers even went to villages where only one or a very few

people lived. India also lived by its philosophy of 'Vasudhev Kutumbkam' that the world is one village and provided indigenous vaccines to countries in all parts of the world, from Brazil to Caribbean nations, from Africa to South Asia. This has to be the guiding principle for G7 when the Summit addresses the issue of equitable access to vaccines against global communicable diseases.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has also shown an inclusive architecture for the overall well-being and health care of the people. Ayushman Bharat is worth mentioning here. actionable plan for the wellbeing India issued additional 22 crore of the global population.

Ayushman health cards in 2022 against 13.22 crore cards issued in 2021. Also, the government last year gave coverage of over Rs 50277.4 crores under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Over 26,000 hospitals have come under the coverage of Ayushman Bharat. India also gave wider access to healthcare through e-Sanjeevani by which people can access doctors through telemed-

India rolled out the first in Asia container-based hospitals to help people access healthcare in remote parts of the country. Critical care has also been provided in hospitals in 602 districts of the country. From 387 medical colleges in the country in 2013-14, India now has 648 medical colleges. The Modi government's emphasis on health care for all has also been attracting foreign direct investments in record numbers. The FDI in the pharmaceutical sector has jumped from Rs 3650 crores in 2019-20 to Rs 14,677 crores in 2022-23. The G7 Summit can look at

the Indian expertise in vaccine development and manufacturing, as well as the knowledge gained during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic to make an

Can an Indian origin American make it to the US top job?

Just a few years back no one would have imagined that Indian Americans could bid for the Oval Office but now Indian diaspora is a force to reckon with

ould the United States also favour an Indian American for the top job in the 2024 polls? It is a million-dollar question. But it does not stop the American Indians from dreaming about it. The United Kingdom has chosen an Indian-origin Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, last

As for the Indian Americans, it is a long road to becoming the tenant of the White House. Over the years, they have become affluent and also ambitious. Their success is a unique coming-of-age

Today Indian American diaspora is 4 million plus, of which at least 2 million are voters. It is the second-largest immigrant group in the United States. Affluent Indian



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior

journalist)

Americans also donate money to the two major parties. The number of Indian Americans appointed to high-profile positions has multiplied in recent years. The most significant example was Kamala Harris.

No one would have imagined that Indian Americans would bid for the Oval Office a few years ago. Then Louisiana Governor Piyush Bobby Jindal in 2016 and Kamala Harris in 2020 joined the presidential race only to be disappointed. Their number is gradually growing in the U.S. Congress and the state Assembly. The 2024 Presidential polls will be interesting for Indian Americans. Vice President Kamala Harris has been announced as the running mate of President Biden, who is seeking election.

At least two Indian-origin Americans intend to run for president in 2024. They are former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Hailey and millionaire entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. His parents are the first generation immigrant from Kerala who immigrated to the U.S. Ramaswamy focuses on "getting rid of 'affirmative action" and allowing more highly skilled immigrants into the U.S. While they all represent "America first," they knew that road to the White House was long. The primary contenders would be President Biden and his predecessor Trump. The latter will be the same age as Biden. He was 78 when he became the president in 2020. Will either of them have a chance to win in 2024?

Harris, the first woman

Vice President was at a knocking distance from the Oval Office. She had sought the Democratic Party nomination for the 2020 election before dropping out in the campaign's initial stages. Kamala accepted to run as Biden's running mate in 2020 when every one thought Biden wouldn't seek a second term. She also became the U.S.'s first 'woman acting president' for 55 minutes on November 19, 2021, when Biden underwent a colonoscopy. A sitting President has never been defeated historically. Kamala Harris, who is only 58, is Biden's running mate again.

The two-time former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, daughter of Indian-origin immigrants, made history as South join the race for the White

Carolina's first female governor. At 39, Nikki was the youngest governor in the U.S. in January 2011. Nikki was also the state's first Indian-American governor. She is projecting herself as a changemaker who can reinvigorate a party. Her biggest challenge comes from her former boss, Trump. He advised her to follow her heart when she informed Donald Trump about her intention to contest.

Nikki and Kamala have the advantage of name recognition, but Vivek is less wellknown. The 37-year-old studied at Harvard and Yale earned millions as a biotechnology entrepreneur and founded an asset management firm. It would be difficult for Vivek, with no political experience, to

House. But former President Trump said some encouraging words: "I am pleased to see that Vivek Ramaswamy is doing so well in the most recent Republican Primary Poll, CBS YouGov." The Indian-origin candidates face many hurdles to cross, even to get their respective party's nomination in the primary in which the Whites dominate. In the Republican Party, after Trump (52 per cent) and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (24 per cent), Nikki has only 18 per cent support. It indicates she has a long way to go before being considered a serious candidate. The second would be to catch the imagination of the Americans. They know that their ethnic background alone cannot win them

Thirdly, it is a question mark whether they would vote for a woman and that too of ethnic origin. Even Hillary Clinton, a white American, was rejected earlier as she could not mobilize the women voters in her favour. Apart from these, others like Asa Hutchinson, Robert Kennedy Jr, Marianne Williamson, Tim Scott, Larry Elder, Ron DeSantis, and Mike Pence are likely presidential candidates. DeSantis is yet to announce his candidacy. He is considered Trump's top challenger for the 2024 nomination. Biden is surging and leads both Trump and DeSantis in the polls. He has the momentum and financial muscle to embark on another successful presidential campaign. But it is too early to

Lawmakers in

Russia vote to

Russia launches air attack on Kyiv

Europe, China look 'Putin, Zelenskyy agree to exert influence

Ukrainian air defences thwarted an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv early Tuesday, shooting down all 18 missiles aimed at the capital, officials said.

Loud explosions boomed over Kyiv as the nighttime attack combined Russian missiles launched from the air, sea and land in an apparent attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's air defences. No casualties were reported as Western-supplied weapons helped fend off the assault.

The barrage came as European leaders sought new ways to punish Russia for the war and a Chinese envoy sought traction for Beijing's peace proposal.

Russia's latest attack on Kyiv was "exceptional in its density — the maximum number of attacking missiles in the

A special prosecutor found that the FBI rushed into its

investigation of ties between

Russia and Donald Trump's

2016 campaign and relied too

much on raw and unconfirmed

intelligence as he concluded a

four-year probe that fell far

short of the former president's prediction that the "crime of the century" would be uncov-

ered.

The report on Monday from special counsel John

Durham represents the long-

awaited culmination of an

investigation that Trump and allies had claimed would

expose massive wrongdoing

gation delivered underwhelm-

ing results, with prosecutors

securing a guilty plea from a lit-

tle-known FBI employee but

losing the only two criminal

The roughly 300-page report catalogs what Durham

says were a series of missteps by

the FBI and Justice Department

as investigators undertook a

politically explosive probe in

the heat of the 2016 election

into whether the Trump cam-

paign was colluding with

opening a full-fledged investi-

It criticised the FBI for

Russia to tip the outcome.

cases they took to trial.

Instead, Durham's investi-

ligence officials.

'FBI rushed into

ties investigation'

Trump-Russia

shortest period of time," said Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration.

Valentyna Myronets, a 64vear-old Kyiv resident, said she felt "pain, fear, nervous-ness, restlessness" amid the assaults. "God, we are waiting for victory and when all this is over," she said.

UK Ambassador Melinda Simmons tweeted that the barrage was "pretty intense."
"Bangs and shaking walls

are not an easy night," she wrote. It was the eighth time this month that Russian air raids had targeted the capital, a clear escalation after weeks of lull and ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffen-

It also came as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy concluded a whirlwind European tour to greet Ukraine's key wartime allies, which spurred an additional tranche of

gation based on

unanalysed and uncorroborat-

ed intelligence", saying the speed at which it did so was a

repeatedly relied on "confirma-

tion bias", ignoring or rational-

ising away evidence that under-

cut their premise of a Trump-

Russia conspiracy as they pushed the probe forward.

"Based on the review of Crossfire Hurricane and relat-

ed intelligence activities, we conclude that the Department

and the FBI failed to uphold

their important mission of

strict fidelity to the law in

connection with certain events

and activities described in this

report, though harshly critical

of the FBI, is likely blunted by Durham's spotty prosecution record and by the fact that

many of the episodes it cites

were already examined in depth by the Justice Department's inspector

announced dozens of correc-

tive actions. The bureau out-

lined those changes in a letter

to Durham on Monday, includ-

ing steps meant to ensure the

accuracy of secretive surveil-

lance applications to eaves-

drop on suspected terrorists

The FBI has also long since

The impact of Durham's

And it said investigators

departure from the norm.

to meet African leaders'

African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Tuesday that his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts have agreed to separate meetings with a delegation of African heads of state to discuss a possible plan to end the war in Ukraine. Ramaphosa spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian Volodymyr President Zelenskyy by phone over the weekend and they each agreed to host "an African leaders" peace mission" in Moscow and Kyiv, respectively, a statement

pledged military aid. Six "Kinzhal" aero-ballistic missiles were launched from MiG-31K aircraft, nine cruise missiles from ships in the Black Sea and three landbased S-400 cruise missiles

from the South African leader's

office said. The leaders of

Zambia, Senegal, Congo,

Uganda and Egypt plan to join Ramaphosa on the mission, the president said. He said Putin and Zelenskyy gave him the go-ahead to "commence the preparations.

No details were provided on the possible parameters of the talks. Zelenskyy has previously said he would not consider a peace deal to end the 15month war until Russian forces withdraw completely from Ukrainian territory.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres also was briefed on the African delegation's planned meetings and "welcomed the initiative," Ramaphosa said.

spokesman Yurii Ihnat said in statement on Telegram.

After the first onslaught, Russia also launched Iranianmade Shahed attack drones and conducted aerial reconnaissance, Ihnat said.

fires, but no losses were reported, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko

Sophisticated air defence systems provided by Ukraine's Western allies, including American-made Patriot missiles, have helped spare Kyiv from the kind of destruction witnessed elsewhere in the country as Russian forces press on with their tactic of longrange bombardment.

A Russian defence official said that Tuesday's attack destroyed a Patriot missile battery in Kyiv. Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the system was destroyed by a "Kinzhal."

He didn't provide evidence, and the statement couldn't be independently verified. The bolstered air defences have deterred Russian aircraft from going deep into Ukraine and helped shape the course of the war, military experts say. Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov cheered the display of defensive prowess, calling it in a tweet "another unbelievable

Zelenskyy's European tour aimed to replenish Ukraine's arsenal

Volodymyr Zelenskyy set off across Europe with a long shopping list. Ukraine's president will head home with much of what he wanted -though not the Western fighter jets he seeks to defend against Russian air attacks.

European leaders promised Zelenskyy an arsenal of missiles, tanks and drones during a whirlwind three-day visit to Italy, the Vatican, Germany, France and the U.K. that sought to replenish Ukraine's depleted weapons supplies ahead of a long-anticipated spring offensive aimed at turning the tide of the war.

The trip was also about shoring up European political and military support for the longer term, to ensure Ukraine can hold any ground it takes back and press for a favorable peace. "They've got to show ... they're in this conflict for the long term and that they're able to keep sustaining this effort," said Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who heads security consultancy Sibylline. "It's not going to be one shot and done."

Zelenskyy's energetic international diplomacy over 15 months of war has persuaded Ukraine's Western allies to send ever more powerful weapons, from German Leopard tanks to U.S. Patriot missile systems and Storm Shadow cruise missiles from

Pressing his case to European leaders in person shows Zelenskyy's growing confidence about traveling abroad. It's also an attempt to get his "ducks in a row" as Ukraine prepares a push to reclaim territory seized by Russia, said Patrick Bury, senior lecturer in security at the University of Bath.

Bury said that if Ukraine launches an offensive "and it doesn't go well, there might be a drop off in support and more pressure to negotiate. I think he's just trying to bind in for as long as he possibly can as much support as he can from the West." On Monday, the UKpledged hundreds more air defense missiles, as well as attack drones with a range of more than 200 kilometers (120

miles). France, where Ukraine's leader met President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday, said it would supply Ukraine with dozens of light tanks and armored vehicles, along with unspecified air defense sys-

Zelenskyy also visited Germany for talks with Chancellor Olaf Scholz, whose initial reluctance to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons was a source of frustration in Kyiv. Now, Germany has become one of the biggest arms suppliers to Ukraine, including battle tanks and the sophisticated IRIS-T SLM airdefense system.

During Zelenskyy's visit Germany announced another 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion) worth of equipment, including tanks, anti-aircraft systems and ammunition.

But Zelensky's aim of forming an international 'fighter jet coalition" to supply Ukraine with planes has run up against NATO concern about escalating the alliance's role in the war. Ukraine wants US-made F-16s to supplement its Soviet-era jets, but Washington has resisted calls to send them.

"We want to create a jet coalition and I am very positive about it," Zelenskyy said Monday after meeting British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. But, he added: "We have to work a little bit more on it."

Sunak said Britain wants to help Ukraine acquire jets, but "it's not a straightforward thing." The UK does not have any F-16s, but says it will give Ukrainian pilots basic training on Western-standard jets starting this summer.

Germany's Scholz was evasive when asked about planes, sion Tuesday. referring instead to the antiaircraft system it has provided to Kyiv. "That's what we as Germany are now concentrating on," he said. The flurry of announcements from Europe's capitals is part diplomatic theater. Ukraine gets a steady flow of equipment from the West, and some of the weapons announced this week may already have been on the way. European member states. Zelenskyy's trip was about Ryabkov told lawmakers securing supplies for the long term, as well as the imminent

scrap Cold War armed forces deal AP MOSCOW

Russian lawmakers on Tuesday voted unanimously to formally pull out of a key Cold War-era security deal, more than eight years after Moscow halted its participation.

The vote came less than a week after President Vladimir Putin introduced a draft bill on May 10 "denouncing" the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which aimed to prevent Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual bor-

The deal was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later.

Russia first announced its intention to completely withdraw from the treaty in

. Śince last February, Moscow's military operation in Ukraine has seen hundreds of thousands of Russian troops pour into the country, which shares a border with NATO members Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary

On Tuesday, Putin's designated envoy told the State Duma that NATO countries had "made it impossible" for Russia to remain in the treaty by allowing for the alliance's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov also described the treaty as "contrary to Russia's security interests" in an interview published Monday in Parliamentskaya Gazeta, a weekly published by the State

Ryabkov's remarks were echoed by key deputies during the parliamentary ses-

State Duma speaker Leonid Slutsky charged that the treaty had "long existed only on paper," while Andrey Kartapolov, the chairman of Russia's parliamentary committee, said that it had been rendered obsolete by NATO's placing of military infrastructure in Central and Eastern

that completing the with-drawal process would take

Debris fell across several targeted the capital, air force **S** Korea's president vows to expand non-lethal aid to Kyiv

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol vowed to expand the country's non-lethal aid to Kyiv when he met with Ukraine's first lady Tuesday in Seoul. Olena Zelenska visited South Korea as a special envoy of President Volodymyr Zelensky. During her meeting with Yoon, Zelenska requested South Korea expand its support of non-lethal military supplies, including equipment for detecting and removing mines and ambulance vehicles, according to Yoon's office. Yoon replied that his gov

ernment would closely coordinate with NATO and other international partners to "actively support the Ukrainian people," his spokesperson Lee Do Woon said during a briefing. Yoon also condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, saying the "horrific losses of innocent lives, especially women and children, are unacceptable under any circumstances," according to remarks



Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday

shared by his office. Lee said Zelenska made no request for South Korean weapons supplies during her conversation with Yoon. South Korea, a growing arms exporter with a wellequipped military backed by the United States, has provided humanitarian aid and other support to Ukraine while joining US-led economic sanctions against Moscow. But it has not directly provided arms to Ukraine, citing a long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively

engaged in conflict. During a visit to South Korea in January, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called for South Korea to provide direct military support to Ukraine, saying Kyiv is in urgent need of weapons to fight off the prolonged Russian invasion.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, South Korea has reached billions of dollars worth of deals to provide tanks, howitzers, fighter jets and other weapons systems to Poland, a NATO member.

to discuss trade

Seoul (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for a meeting with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol at which they are expected to discuss expansion of trade and challenges posed by North

Trudeau, the first Canadian leader to visit South Korea in nine years, will meet with Yoon on Wednesday, hours after he delivers a speech at the National Assembly in Seoul.

Yoon's office said they will discuss North Korea's dismal human rights record and cooperation over security and "critical minerals."

On Tuesday, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin and Minister for Trade Ahn Duk-geun met with Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly and Minster of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne to discuss economic security, Park's ministry said.

Trudeau in S Korea | New Mexico gunman | Canada's 2nd biggest kills three, injures six

AP FARMINGTON

n 18-year-old man armed with at A least three guns roamed through a northwestern New Mexico community firing randomly at cars and houses on Monday, killing three people and injuring six others including two police officers before he was killed, authorities said. The shootings occurred around 11 am in Farmington, a city of about 50,000 people near the Four Corners - where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet that is a supply line and bedroom community to the region's oil and natural gas industry.

Officers responding to reports of shots being fired encountered the attacker within minutes and killed him with at least one shot, Farmington Police Chief Steve Hebbe said in a video released on Monday night. He said the gunman fired at least three weapons, including an "AR-style rifle".

the most horrific and difficult days that Farmington has ever had as a community", he said. The identities of the gunman and the victims weren't immedi-



ately released. Investigators were still struggling to determine a motive for the attack, including talking to the shooter's family. "But at this point it appears to be purely random, that there was no schools, no churches and no individuals targeted," Hebbe said. "During the course of the event, the suspect roamed throughout the neighbourhood up to a quarter of a mile. At least six houses and three cars were shot in the course of the event, as the suspect randomly fired at whatever entered his head to shoot at." Gov Michelle Lujan Grisham said

in a statement that she was praying for the families of the victims and that the incident "serves at yet another reminder of how gun violence destroys lives in our state and our country every

airline pilots issue 72-hour strike notice

Calgary (Canada): The union for Canada's second-biggest airline have issued a 72-hour strike notice to WestJet, and they warn the airline could be shut down before the weekend.

The Air Line Pilots Association said in a statement late Monday that pilots plan to begin lawful job action early Friday, which "could include grounding all aircraft and effectively shutting down opera-tions." The Calgary, Albertabased airline flies to more than 110 destinations including the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. It has a fleet of more than 180 aircraft. The WestJet Group responded with a lockout notice, saying a work stoppage could occur as early as Friday at 3 a.m. MDT (0900 GMT). "The decision to issue a lockout notice, in response to the actions taken by the union today, was not one that was made lightly, and we sincerely regret the inconvenience and uncertainty this continues to cause for our guests," WestJet Group CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech said in a statement. The statement noted the lockout notice doesn't mean a work stoppage will occur, and that both parties remain at the bargaining table. But it said the company would "begin preparations to operate a reduced schedule" and warned it would be "a significant reduc-tion from WestJet and Swoop's current networks.

WestJet said that travellers impacted by flight delays or cancellations will be refunded or reaccommodated as applicable. The union represents about 1,600 flight crew at WestJet and subsidiary Swoop, and had warned Friday that a walkout could come as early as this week as talks dragged on.

medics and treated for a sprained

ankle. The Loafers Lodge offered

basic, affordable rooms with shared

lounges, kitchens and laundry facil-

ities to people of a wide range of

ages. Some were placed there by

government agencies and were

considered vulnerable because they

had little in the way of resources or support networks. The hostel has 92

rooms and features billboards on one side. Dark smoke stains extend-

ed up the exterior walls on the top

KEY CORP LIMITED

CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547 Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001

and spies.

Email: keycorpltd@gmail.com; Phone: 0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416 STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

		Current	Corres-	Year to date	Previous
SI.	Particulars	Quarter ended	ponding Quarter ended	figures for current period ended	year ended
IVU		31.03.2023 (Audited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)
1.	Total income from operations (net)	1594.66	1753.26	1618.01	1788.21
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	1576.64	1731.38	1536.35	1718.56
3.	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	1576.64	1731.38	1536.35	1718.56
4.		600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
5.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	0.00	0.00	4103.36	4273.17
6.	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items)(of Rs10/- each)				
	Basic :	26.28	28.85	25.61	28.64
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)				
	Basic :	26.28	28.85	25.61	28.64
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, of BSE and also on company's website at :www.keycorpltd.com

2. Above results have been approved by the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on 16.05.2023 By Order of the Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Dhirender who is purchasing the House No.5-E/67, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., situated at N.I.T-5, Faridabad Tehsil Badkhal Dist. Faridabad, Haryana; from (1) Mr. Manmeet Singh Sondh & (2) Mrs. Amanpreet Singh Sondh, who are owner of the aforesaid property vide Transfer Deed (in blood Relation) dated 31.03.2023, which is duly registered vide Document No.9283, at Sub-Registrar, Badkhai; and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited. That the Original Sale Deed dated 21.10.1991 executed by Mr. Jeevan Singh in favour of Mr. Narottam Singh, which was registered in favour of Mr. Narottam Singh, which was registered vide Document No.6644, at Sub-Registrar, Faridabad vide Document No-boat, at Sub-registrar, Fandabad, is LostMisplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim injuhtitile/interesi/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days. from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances

Lucem Legal LLPPlot no.136,(Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact# 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE blic at large are hereby informed tha Devendra Kumar Arora is taking loan from New bliat Housing Finance and Developmen nited. The property Papers regarding this propert mitted to NHHFDL loan against property i.e. LU. use No. J-83, admeasuring 55 sq. meter, Siluated andav Nagar residential Scheme Meerut, Tehsil & submitted to NiHFrDi Loan against property ie. LIG house No. J-83, admeasuring 55 st, meter Situated at Pandav Nagar residential Scheme Meerut, Tehsi & Dist. Meerut U.P., a same is owned by Mr. Davendra Cumar Arora Vide Registered Sale Deed dated 22. 10. 2005 executed by Mr. Davendra Cumar Arora Vide Registered Sale Deed dated 22. 10. 2005 executed by Mr. Davendra Kumar Arora Sio Mr. Deenanath Arora. Duly registered in the Office of the Sub Registera-Meerut, Vide Doc. No. 5506, Book No.1, Vol No. 4594, Page No. 11/34 Registered on dated 22. 10. 2005. The said original Allotment Letter & Possession Letter/Certificate, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost somewhere and it is not traceable, if any person found the same kindly return it at address mentioned below. & other docs pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost somewhere has been registered on 13.05. 2023 with Lalkurti Station Meerut Police. The General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of that the said property or any kind of that the said property is entitle in which years with the below mentioned address within 07 days from the date of publication, falling which it shall be presumed that the said property is entitle in service of the said property or any kind of that the said property is entitle in service in all such claims, interest, charges, encumbrances etc.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm), FF18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Valbav Khand, Indirapuran Ghaziabad 201014.E-mail: sgassociates pl@gmail.com

The shooting was "honestly one of

AP WELLINGTON Afire ripped through a hostel in New Zealand's capital overnight, killing at least six people and forcing others to flee the four-story building in their pajamas in what a fire chief on Tuesday called his "worst nightmare."

Six bodies were found but not all areas of the building had been searched vet because the roof on the top floor had collapsed, bringing down debris and making the area unsafe, said Bruce Stubbs, the incident controller for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Officials said 52 people had made it out of the building alive but they were still trying to account for

Loafers Lodge resident Tala Sili told news outlet RNZ that he saw smoke pouring through under his



Fire at New Zealand hostel kills at least 6

floors below. "I was on the top floor and I couldn't go through the hallway scary, but I knew I had to jump out because there was just too much the window or just burn inside the smoke, so I jumped out the winbuilding," Sili told RNZ. He said he

story of the building in an industrial area near Wellington Regional Hospital

Firefighters were called to the hostel at about 12:30 a.m. Emergency officials said the building had no fire sprinklers, which Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said was not required in New Zealand's building code for older buildings that would have to be retrofitted.

door and opened it to find the hallway was pitch-black.

dow," Sili said.

He said he fell onto a roof two "It was just scary, it was really

was rescued from the roof by para-

Date: 16.05.2023

Place: Kanpur

(G.D. Maheshwari) **Executive Director** DIN 00235209

HC extends Imran Khan's bail till June 8 Military vows to try 'spoilers'

Pakistan high court on A Pakistan night court on Tuesday extended bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in two cases pertaining to inciting violence and sedition until June 8. A single bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard the pleas in cases pertaining to allegations against top officers of state institutions and the manhandling of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Ranjha by

Khan's supporters.
Chief Justice Aamer Farooq after hearing the arguments by the lawyers extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's bail till June 8. The extension was given after the court also granted the former prime minister exemption from court appearance for the

Justice Farooq also inquired about the registration of a first information report related to Khan's arrest made from the court's premises. The attorney general responded that a Supreme Court verdict is pending in the case.

Last week, the IHC had granted 70-year-old Khan bail, barring the authorities from arresting him in all the cases registered beyond May 9 and asked him to approach the Lahore High Court for further relief on May 15.

Khan has been implicated in scores of cases since his ouster from power in April last year. He alleged that all the cases were politically motivated. Meanwhile, the Lahore

to former Pakistan PM

Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, who was criticised by the ruling alliance for greeting former prime minister Imran Khan in the Supreme Court with the words "good to see you", clarified on Tuesday that it was part of court etiquette and carried no political connotation.

Chief Justice Bandial made these remarks during Khan's appearance before the Supreme Court after his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case sparked violent protests by his

A federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the way Bandial greeted Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

High Court (LHC) on Tuesday reserved the verdict on Khan's petition seeking bail in all cases registered against him in Punjab province following his arrest in the Al Qadir Trust case last week that sparked violent protests by his supporters.

În the Al Qadir Trust case, in which the National Accountability Bureau arrested the former cricketerturned-politician on May 9, the IHC granted him pre-arrest bail for two weeks.

The Supreme Court had declared Khan's arrest from the IHC premises illegal and referred the matter to the IHC. Meanwhile, Khan on Tuesday

Islamabad: Chief Justice of Insaf (PTI) party, was a blot on the face of the country's judiciary.Clarifying on his demeanour, Chief Justice Bandial said: "I am being criticised for greeting

> however, I use this phrase often". "I hold everyone in high esteem as respect and courteousness are important for everybody," Geo TV quoted him as saying."Everyone is deserving of basic respect and good manners," The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Khan in the same manner;

Khan's dramatic arrest led to miscreants torching and damaging over 80 vehicles of law enforcement agencies besides damaging 14 state buildings/installations in Punjab

alleged that people who had committed arson during the May 9 protests against his arrest were "planted amongst the demonstrators".

The former premier stated that he "consistently" told his party workers "that whatever the provocation they must only do peaceful protests".

Khan was ousted from ower in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

'Good to see you': CJ US supports freedom of expression sans violence

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Amidst a domestic turmoil in Pakistan, the United States on Monday voiced support to freedom of expression without any violence and reiterated that a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan is crucial to its ties with the

"Our belief is that individuals should have the freedom to express themselves, but do so without participating in any violence, violence that would put government employees in government buildings in harm's way. And specifically on the arrest, I spoke a little bit to this last week," state department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at his daily news conference, referring to former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest last week by the Pakistani Rangers.

"The US does not have a position on one political party or one candidate or other.

Our view is a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan is crucial to US-Pakistan relations and that for any arrest that such an individual is affronted basic human rights in accordance to their laws," he said, responding to a question on the ongoing developments

Asked about the freedom of press in Pakistan, Patel said he is not going to be prescriptive about the current situation.

"I do not have an assessment to offer from here. But broadly, we are very clear about the need for access for media and the access for information and the free flow of information between the government and journalists," he

Khan's arrest from the Islamabad High Court premises last Tuesday triggered unrest in Pakistan that continued till Friday and led to several deaths and dozens of military and state installations being destroyed by the protesters. For the first time in

Pakistan's history, the protesters stormed the army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and also torched the corps commander's house in Lahore.

Police put the death toll in violent clashes to 10 while Khan's party claims 40 of its workers lost their lives in the firing by security personnel.

On Monday, Khan appeared before the Lahore High Court, which fixed his bail hearing on Tuesday in the terrorism cases registered against him following his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case that sparked violent protests by his supporters.

under stringent Army Act

The Pakistan Army's top brass has vowed to bring to justice the "spoilers" involved in the recent attacks on military installations, including the storming of its General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, through trials, including stringent the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act.

Former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest by the Rangers at the Islamabad High Court premises last Tuesday triggered unrest in Pakistan that continued till Friday and led to several deaths and dozens of military and state installations being destroyed by the protesters.

For the first time in the country's history, Khan's supporters stormed the Army neadquarters in Rawalpindi and torched the historic Corps Commander's House in Lahore in retaliation to his dramatic

The Pakistan Army's move to include the tough Army Act and the Official Secrets Act is a serious provision in which Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters could be slapped with charges that can lead to either a death sentence or life imprisonment.

Special Commanders Conference, chaired by Army chief General Asim Munir at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, also resolved that restraint will no longer be exercised against

perpetrators who attack military installations, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Act," it added. Services Public Relations (ISPR) — the media wing of

the Pakistan Army on Monday. The participants of the Special Corps Commanders Conference condemned the politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations and public and private properties, the statement

"Based on the irrefutable evidence collected so far, Armed Forces are well aware of the planners, instigators, abettors, and perpetrators of these attacks, and attempts to create distortions in this regard are absolutely futile," the statement said.

The "forum expressed the firm resolve that those involved in these heinous crimes against the military installations and personal/equipment will be brought to justice through trials under relevant laws of

Pakistan including Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret

The meeting decided that "restraint will no longer be exercised against perpetrators, spoilers, and violators who attack military installations and setups under any circum-

The meeting emphasised the need for national consensus amongst all stakeholders to address ongoing political instability as a priority to restore public confidence, reinvigorate economic activity and strengthen the democratic process. The military commanders also resolved to support all such efforts to reach this much-needed consensus.

Meanwhile, in response to the Pakistan Army's statement, PTI tweeted that as a "responsible & the largest political institution in the federation of Pakistan, PTI has an unwavering commitment to the constitution & democracy."

China ready to 'smash' Taiwan self-rules

pared to "resolutely smash any form of Taiwan independence," its military said Tuesday, as the US reportedly prepares to accelerate the sale of defensive weapons and other military assistance to the self-governing island democracy.

A recent increase in exchanges between the US and Taiwanese militaries is an "extremely wrong and danger-ous move," Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Tan Kefei said in a statement and video posted online.

People's China's Liberation Army "continues to strengthen military training and preparations and will resolutely smash any form of Taiwanese independence at outside interference, and lenge.

Chinese leaders face pressure to shore up a slowing eco-

nomic recovery and generate

jobs after consumer spending

and other activity in April

were weaker than expected

and a survey found 1 in 5

young workers in cities was

Retail sales accelerated fol-lowing the end of anti-virus

restrictions in December but

were below forecasts, official

data showed Tuesday. Factory

output edged down compared

has improved while the US and

European economies are cool-

ing after interest rate hikes to

extinguish inflation. But con-

sumers, uneasy about possible

job losses, are returning to

Chinese economic activity

AP ■ BEIJING

unemployed.

with March.

will resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Tan said, in a reference to Taiwan's closest ally, the United States.

China claims the island of 23 million people as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if neces-

With the world's largest navy, latest-generation fighter jets and a huge arsenal of ballistic missiles, China has been upping its threats by sending planes and warships into waters and airspace around Taiwan. With more than 2 million members, the PLA also ranks as the world's largest standing military, although transporting even a portion of the force in the event of an invasion is consid-

China recovery faces pressure after

weak activity, unemployment rises

quickly than expected.

Macquarie in a report.

shops and restaurants less

slowed sharply," said Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang of

erated to 18.4% over last year's

depressed level in April, but

that was below private sector

over a year ago but was off 0.5

percentage points from March.

Investment in factories, real

estate and other fixed assets

rose 4.7% in the first four

months of 2023 but slowed

from the first quarter's 5.4%

'The recovery of demand

Bureau

still insufficient," said Fu

Linghui, spokesperson for the

growth rate.

National

Factory output rose 5.6%

expectations of up to 35%.

The pace of recovery has

Growth in retail sales accel-

'China's sentencing of US citizen exposes national security threats'

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leader on Tuesday said the sentencing on spying charges of a US citizen in China, who was also a permanent resident of the semi-autonomous city, illustrated that the territory should "stay vigilant to national security risks hidden in society." The government said mainland Chinese authorities had informed Hong Kong of the arrest of John Shing-Wan Leung in 2021. He was sentenced Monday to life in prison. Hong Kong's government was prepared to provide assistance to anyone arrested by mainland authorities upon request but had not yet received any in Leung's case, authorities said.

Statistics."External demand has

weakened" and exporters face

a "complex and severe" envi-

ronment, Li said at a news con-

ference. Surveys found 20.4% of

potential urban workers aged

16 to 24 are unemployed and

the figure was rising, according

to Li. That was a record, accord-

ing to private sector econo-

employment of young people

will require continued hard

ated to 4.5% over a year earli-

er in the three months ending

in March from the previous

quarter's 2.9%. Growth will

have to accelerate in coming

quarters to hit the ruling

Communist Party's annual tar-

"Stabilizing and expanding

Economic growth acceler-

court in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou that tried Leung, 78, have released details of his alleged crime. Since taking office last

year, Lee has taken a hard line toward any signs of dissent, backed up by the uncompromising attitude adopted by Chinese leaders from authoritarian Communist Party head Xi Jinping on down. 'This incident showed us

that national security risks could be hidden in society. That's why we repeatedly stressed that, although Hong Kong's situation appears to be largely stabilized, we can't let down our guard over nation-al security risks;" said Lee, a former police officer and head of security in the city. A longtime Beijing loyal-

ist, he was effectively appoint-

Tokyo (AP): The Japanese and

Chinese defense ministers

inaugurated their long-await-

ed hotline on Tuesday as a step

to build trust and improve

communication at a time when

Japan and other neighbours are

concerned about Beijing's

increasingly assertive military

Yasukazu Hamada and his

Chinese counterpart, Li

Shangfu, talked for about 20

minutes through the hotline

for the first time since it was

established on March 31, the

Japanese Defence Ministry

said. The two ministers wel-

comed the start of the opera-

tional use of the hotline and

affirmed the importance of

Japan's Defence Minister

activities

Defense ministers

from Japan, China

inaugurate hotline

election choreographed by Beijing last year. In an echo of party propaganda, Lee democracy protests that triggered a crackdown as "black violence" and Hong Kong's version of "color revolution," a phrase used by China and Russia to describe political movements seeking to overturn authoritarian regimes. Lee said the protest movement was an alarm bell that reminds the city to keep monitoring such risks.

Leung's sentencing threatens to further exacerbate already strained ties between Beijing and Washington.

Leung was detained April 15, 2021, by the local bureau of China's counterintelligence agency in Suzhou, according to a statement posted by the

"the maritime and aerial com-

munication mechanism,

which includes the hotline, in

building trust between the two sides while avoiding contin-

gencies. Tokyo and Beijing are

embroiled in a dispute over

tiny Japanese-controlled

islands in the East China Sea,

known as the Senkaku in Japan

coast guard vessels and planes

into waters and airspace sur-

rounding the islands to harass

Japanese vessels and forcing

Japan's military to scramble jets

in response. China's naval fleet

also regularly circles around

Japanese coasts, sometimes in

joint military exercises with

Russia, irking Tokyo.

China routinely sends

and Diaoyu in China.

GURU ANGAD DEV VETERINARY AND ANIMAL **SCIENCES UNIVERSITY LUDHIANA**

Advertisement No. 01/2023

Sciences University on prescribed form available on University website. Details of posts and location, minimum eligibility criteria, job responsibilities, pay scales etc. and application forms are available at www.gadvasu.in. Last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is 02.06.2023 till 5.00 p.m. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be issued on the University website only

NA/12/16346/2023/23934 Dated CHD :- 5/16/2023

SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-13-14 Website: www.verka.coop

(in Dainik Bhaskar & Punjabi Jagran), on 22/04/2023 (in Pioneer) for recruitment to the post of Trainee against the post of Assistant Manager (Finance & Accounts)/(Material Management)/(Purchase) having qualification CA / ICWA / ICFA from a recognized university/institute. The last date of receiving application was 16.05.2023, which is now extended up to 06.06.2023.

For further detailed information & updates, may please visit our website https://www.verka.coop/career/.

Dv. General Manager (HR) NA/12/16353/2023/23943 Dated CHD :- 5/16/2023

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) on DBFOOT basis under RDSS (South Zone). For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 15.05.2023 from 06:00 PM

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at

76155/12/1662/2023/23958

Seven Elements Pvt. Ltd.

1. The above-mentioned project was registered with the Interim RERA Panchkula vide registration no. 281 of 2017 dated 09-Oct-2017 and the registration was valid up to 30th September 2021 (including 6

authority that instead of revoking the registration on its expiry, the authority may permit it to remain in force subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose in the interest of the allottees, and any such terms and conditions so imposed shall be

the continuation of the registration certificate under section 7(3) of the Act for this project to remain in force and hereby invite objections from the allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general in this regard.

for considering the objections received, failing with the Authority will consider present application for continuation of the registration under section 7(3) of the Act.

Authority, Gurugram

CIN: L18101HR1993PLC032010 egd. Office: No.3 & 4, Mustil No.19, Killa No.-Opposite Tata Consultancy N.H-8, Village Narsinghpur, Gurugram- 122004 Haryana, India NOTICE

Regulations, 2015 that meeting of Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited to be held on Vednesday, 24th May 2023 at 04:15 PMin person at 905, Vatika City Point, M.G. Road, Gurgaon -122002 and through video conferencing, inter-alia to onsider and approve, the Audited Financial Results or the quarter/ Year ended March 31, 2023 and amongst other items. This notice is also vailable on the website of the company tps://www.meyerapparel.com and on the website of BSE Ltd https://www.bseindia.com, where the ompany's shares are listed.

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Crackdown on LGBTQ grows in China

get of "around 5%

work," Li said.

n advocacy group that Aalso served as a safe space for the LGBTQ community in Beijing became the latest organisation to close under a crackdown by Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government."We very regretfully announce, due to forces beyond our control, the Beijing LGBT Centre will stop operating today," read a notice posted on the centre's official WeChat account Monday night. Beijing LGBT Centre did not respond to an email request for comment. The Ministry of Civil Affairs,

in China, also did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment. The group's shuttering marks a critical blow for advocacy groups that once had been able to be public about their work for LGBTQ+ rights. 'They are not the first

which oversees nonprofits

group, nor are they the largest, but because Beijing LGBT Centre was in Beijing, it represented China's LGBT movement," said one Chinese activist who requested anonymity out of fear for his safety. "In our political, economic and

cultural centre, to have was a symbol of the LGBT movement's presence."

this type of organisation. It The Beijing LGBT Centre described its mis-"improve the living condi-

sion as evolving; it started as a safe space for the community to host events. Then it became an advocacy group aiming to offered low-cost mental health counselling and published lists of of LGBTQ-friendly health professionals. Throughout its evolv-

tions for the sexually

diverse community." They

ing mission, the centre hosted public speakers, film screenings and other events.Mr C, who keeps his real name secret to protect his parents' privacy, was one of the centre's featured transgender speakers. Mr C sued his former employers for letting him go after a 8-day trial period.

Applications are invited for officers, teaching and non-teaching posts for various constituent colleges and outstations of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Anima

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE VELKS MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LTD.

Milkfed Punjab has published recruitment notice on Newspaper on 21.04.2023

RFP/Tender Enquiry No.: MQP-214/2023-24/PO(M) Dated: 15.05.2023

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Dated CHD :- 5/16/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

For kind attention of allottees of the real estate project 'Seven Elements (Phase-I)" being developed by M/s Vatika

The promoter has made an application with the request to the

binding upon the promoter. The Authority is considering an application of the promoter to permit

Those objections shall be filed in the registry of the Authority before 05.06.2023 and appear in the Authority on 05.06.2023 at 3.00 PM

Secretary Dated: 17.05.2023 For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory

Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs,

portal<u>https://eproc.punjab.gov.in</u> from 16thMay 2023 onwards. Proposal Due Date: 12thJune 2023 upto 1500 hours The interested applicants shall have to get themselves registered at the website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in and obtain the mandatory Digital Signature as per the requirement for e-tendering. For clarifications on e-tendering, please contact the E-procurement help-desko

any time, without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof. Managing Director, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd. Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB), Chandigarh - 160 022 Marg, Gurgaon – 122002 Phone: +91 172 4381111 - 237, 273

Phone No.: +91 124 4659892 Mobile No.: +91 8527839250

Place : Gurugram

PUNJAB ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) BASIS Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB) on behalf of the Department of Tourism Cultural Affairs, Punjab, Govt. of Punjab invites Expression of Interest from eligible applicants for the Development& Operations of 'Pinkcassia Tourist Complex' at Rupnagar on Public Private EOI Availability: Expression of Interest (EOI) can be downloaded from the e-proc

For any subsequent corrigendum, addendums and clarifications, please refer to the websites https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/www.pidb.org. PIDB reserves the right to accept or reject any application and to annul the selection process a

6th & 7th Floor, DLF Square,Jacarar mail: mdpidb@gmail.com, pidblegal@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE . Corrigendum-1 for e-Tender fo Facility Management Services has been published on IIM Ranchi website e-Tender for (a) Providing Security Services, and (b) Installation of Pole Tower and In-Building Solution (IBS), has been published on IIM Ranchi Any further information and tender

details will be available at www.iimranchi.ac.in

possession of the Plot No. 170 measuring area 151.25 square yards out of Khasra 1402 situated in the area of Village Tihar. Delhi State, Colony known as Pratap Nagar-Hari Nagar New Delhi 110064. That Mr Krishan Kumar, S/o Jate Chetram, owner of Ms Manni Construction Co., WZ-254/113, Lajwanti Garden, New Delhi 110046, has approached & agreed to build our building on the Plot No. 170 by the Agreement of collaboration dated 15. 10.2021. But unfortunately, he left the work and violated the terms of Agreement. Compelling, under legal notice dated 9th April 2023, we cancelled ferminated the agreement. We have also sent notices and reminders to Mr Krishan Kumar, but he has not taken the cognizance. We further inform and caution to the public at large not to deal for purchase of any part of the property or enter into any agreement of any kind

public at large not to earl or purchase or any part or the property or enter into any agreement of any kinc with the aforesaid Mr Krishan Kumar and the same shall not be binding on us and we shall be at Liberty and may proceed to deal with the said building in ou own discretion.

RAJ KUMAR TILL (Advocate RAJ KUMAR TULI (Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

and Mr. Mahesh Kumar R/o DU 197, Ward No. 21, Nea Geeta Bhawar, Kalra Colony, Palwal are availing loar from Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. (STSL+) in respect of Pio f hand ries 204 sq. yds., Palwal (Kaira Colony, in the abadi of Lal Dora), situated in Nagar Parishand, Telbai and District Palwal, Harynan, Said property, Mr. Rajest Chugh and Mr. Mahesh Kumar are the owners of saic property by ritue of (i) Sale Deed dated 19.11. 2007 vide Doc No. 7174, Book No. 1. Vol No. 2738/2873, Pages 191/45-46, SNC Palwal executed by Mrs. Dayawanti ir favour of Mr. Rajesh Chugh in respect of said property wherein Mr. Rajesh Chugh translerred undivided hal share which finally was transferred to Mr. Mahesh Kumar and (ii) 'Transfer Deed dated 09.07.2015 vide Doc. No. 3109, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 4f60, Pages 136/67 68, SNC Palwal executed by Mr. Shir Kumar Chugh ir favour of Mr. Mahesh Kumar in religion of Mr. Shir Kumar Chugh ir favour of Mr. Mahesh Kumar in religion of Mr. Shir Kumar Chugh ir favour of Mr. Mahesh Kumar in registere/diaquilation of Mr. Mahesh Kumar in registere/diaquilation or geep over the said property. In case if any order the said property. TSL+) is intending to create a registered/equitably ortugage over the said property. In case if an rson/Financial institute/Bank/Authority/Board or an ere entity have any objection/contingent or veste rests over the said property, they may contact th dersigned within 7 days of this publication. It man further noted that after lapse of aforesaid period in in any manner shall be entertained and same we receitioned any anylor or abortioned.

idered aswaived or abandoned. Suparna Sinha, Advocate, D/3825/20 Office: Gadi & Associates, D-148, LG ket, New Delhi-110017,+91-98736631

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all concern that Sh. Tilak Ra Sondhi S/O Late Sh. Hari Chand Sondhi R/o B-67 Sector-55 Noida was the owner of plot No. B-67 Sector-55 Noida. Sh. Tilak Ra Sondhi has executed a Registered WILL of said above plot in favour of Smt. Anjana

Sondhi W/O Sh. Tilak Raj Sondhi R/O B-67 Sector-55 Noida dated 18/04/2019 in Book No.-3 volume No.-1163 on page no.-311 to 324 and S. No. 959 at Sub. Registrar (III Noida. Sh. Tilak Raj Sondhi was Expired on Now Smt. Anjana Sondhi applied to transfer the said above plot in Noida Authority

through registered WILL in her favour. I anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of NOIDA Authority, Sector - 6 Noida within the 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, claims if any shall be eemed to have been waived. Anjana Sondhi

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED

otice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements)

For Meyer Apparel Limited

Charu Sharma

-NEW LOAN PROVISIONING SYSTEM-

Banks request RBI for more time

Banks have requested the RBI for one more year's time to implement the system of Expected Credit Loss (ECL) for provisioning of loans.

At present, banks set aside money after an asset turns bad, and once the new system is put in place, it is widely expected to have an one-time

AXIS BANK LTD.

JUNAID ALAM

SUNIL KUMAR

ANKUR BAJAJ

MOHD RASHID

RANVEER KUMAR

UPENDRA SINGH

SAHIL CHAUDHARY

MANVI GUPTA

ANUJ KUMAR

AMIT GAUTAM

GOVIND KUMAR

NEERA KAUSHAI

PAWAN KUMAR

AJAY KUMAR SHARMA

AJEET KUMAR

23. MOHD SHAZID KHAN

RAJINDER SINGH

24. GITA DEVI

GUDIA DEVI

GEETANJALI SINGH

27. PUNEET CHOUDHARY

RENU GUPTA

30. AMIT KUMAR TIWARI

DINESH KUMAR

GULAB

SHAHNAJ

SACHIN GUPTA

36. NANCY JAIN

40. ANKUR GUPTA

42. SACHIN KUMAR

43. SACHIN KUMAR

PRANOV JINDAI

49. MANAS KUMAR PARIDA

50. SAURABH TYAGI

SAURABH TYAGI

SANU RAI

56. LOKESH

JITENDER AGGARWAI

PARMANAND SINGH

JITENDER KUMAR

58. SATVINDER BHADANA

64. MANOJ KUMAR JAISWA

MONICA SHARMA

SUKHVINDER SINGH

PRASHANT KUMAR

GIRRAJ SHARMA

PREM KUMAR OJHA

VIVEK KUMAR MISHRA

59. SANJAY SANJAY

RINKI DEV

62. ANKIT YADAV

66. SUNITA KOHLI

AJAY JAISWAL

73. KAMINI

RAGHU RAJ SINGH

ATIN MODI

78. DURGESH KUMAR

AMIT KUMAR

83. MITTHAN YADAV

HAMMAD

88. VINAR YADAV

TRILOK NATH JHA

PLACE: NEW DELHI & NCR, DATE: 17.05.2023

84. RAZAUDIN

KAMAYANI KUMARI

PRASHANT KUMAR VAISH

79. HAKIKAT ALI

63. USHA DEVI

65. SANJAY

60. ARTI ARTI

PRIYA KUMARI

47. MUJAMIL

48. MUJAMIL

44. RAJESH KUMAR KUNDNANI

38. SHIV SHANKAR TIWARI

SUSHIL KUMAR

KAVITA

29. SANJAY KUMAR

DEV KUMAR GUPTA

KAVITA GUPTA

ANAMIKA DEVI

'We have requested the regulator to allow us little more time to prepare ourselves for this," industry lobby grouping IBA's chief executive Sunil Mehta told reporters on the sidelines of a Fintech event here on Tuesday. Answering a specific ques-

tion on the time sought, Mehta said, "we have requested them

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD

ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE

BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 29.05.2023 AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS".

DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

BRANCH NAME: ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

**********7014 ₹ 5,16,285.42

******5038 ₹ 44,013.00

BRANCH NAME: BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME : DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]

*********8135 ₹ 36,035.00

*******8288 ₹ 34,605.00

BRANCH NAME: JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME: JYOTI NAGAR DEL D

*******4891 ₹ 92,000.00

BRANCH NAME: KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]

***********0323 ₹ 68,945.00

BRANCH NAME: KISHANGANJ OD D

*********6135 ₹ 1,30,473.00

********4400 ₹ 72,843.00

BRANCH NAME: LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME: LAJWANTI GARDEN, JANAKPURI, NEW

BRANCH NAME: MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME: MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME: MEERA BAGH, NEW DELHI [DL]

*********7643 ₹ 43,922.03

BRANCH NAME: NAZAFGARH, NEW DELHI [DL]

************0039 ₹ 9,11,940.00

BRANCH NAME: NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI

*********6135 ₹ 61.182.24

BRANCH NAME: PALAM, DELHI [DL]

*********5644 ₹ 39,752.00

BRANCH NAME: ROHINI, DELHI [DL]

**********3085 ₹ 1,59,171.00

BRANCH NAME: SECTOR-24, ROHINI, NEW DELHI [DL]

BRANCH NAME : SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL]

*********5007 ₹ 1,11,498.52

BRANCH NAME: SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

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BRANCH NAME: UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

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BRANCH NAME : VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]

**********7602 ₹ 4.35,335,00

BRANCH NAME : FARIDABAD [HR]

*********9641 ₹ 2.30.608.00

*******9986 ₹ 2,98,521.91

BRANCH NAME: PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON [HR]

BRANCH NAME: SECTOR 10A, GURGAON [HR]

*******9767 ₹ 1,15,103.00

BRANCH NAME: SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR]

**********6664 ₹ 2,37,432.00

*******9947 ₹ 45,790.00

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********2142

*******2709

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*********4371 ₹ 1,44,177.00

BRANCH NAME: SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR]

********9664 ₹ 1,98,872.00

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BRANCH NAME: GHAZIABAD [UP]

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BRANCH NAME: NOIDA [UP]

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BRANCH NAME: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]

**********8411 ₹ 27,151.00

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*********8087 ₹ 6,28,652.62

***0620 ₹ 1,59,139.00

₹ 32,948.00

₹ 2,04,332.92

₹ 2,97,157.00

₹ 52,199.00

₹ 34,406,81

₹ 36,429,03

₹ 32,199.00

₹ 4,45,153.00

₹ 1,52,875.16

₹ 1,18,205.00

₹ 3,42,744.58

₹ 38,223.00

₹ 1,83,803.02

₹ 68,199.00

₹ 2.46,506.00

₹ 36,762.00

₹ 8,18,955,40

******3620 ₹ 57,673.90 28-02-2023

******7965 ₹ 65,559.93 08-02-2023 22.400

**********1131 \(\mathbb{Z}\) 2,26,695.00 \(\mathbb{Z}\) 22-07-2022 \(\mathbb{7}\) 74.400 \(\mathbb{7}\) 72.500

₹ 1,00,619.00

*********7009 ₹ 2,19,735.00 08-02-2023

*********3764

*********0285 ₹ 28,050.00

*******2612 ₹ 32,105.00

**********3798 ₹ 57,764.00 28-02-2023

*********4370 ₹ 10,86,968.98

**********3474 ₹ 2,85,991.00

******5322

*********7661

**********3441

********8071

LOAN A/C NO. AMOUNT DATE OF RECALL NOTICE

₹ 33.425.84

₹ 1,65,887,20

***********3835 ₹ 92,628.45 03-09-2022

₹ 3,02,935.00

₹ 3.24.885.00

***7973 **₹ 1,07,548.56**

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BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS

"worst case scenario", the banking system is gearing up for the switch to the new system.

"... The banking sector is already geared up, few of the banks have already developed their systems (and) have got their data in place on which they can design their ECL-based risk models," he said.

08-02-2023 60,300

21-02-2023

03-09-2022

18-06-2022

08-02-2023

20-04-2023

08-02-2023

28-02-2023

08-03-2023

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*******6285 ₹ 12,74,772.00 18-07-2022 794.500 586.460

18-07-2022

21-02-2023

28-02-2023

18-07-2022

*******2458 ₹ 1,17,059.98 18-06-2022 46.300 38.600

*******9640 ₹1,08,586.00 26-07-2022 35.600 34.350

*******5442 ₹81,007.40 22-07-2022 22.100 20.500

21-02-2023

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20-06-2022

28-02-2023

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*****8879 ₹1,26,042.55 25-08-2022 39.400 36.400

06-06-2022 390.500 346.700

08-02-2023 9.500 9.200

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197.600 189.000

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162.050

9.300

31.290

131.000

43.200

67.200

35.500

107.700

11.900

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73.300

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259.400

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19.800

21.600

21-02-2023 159.700 146.100

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27.700

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78.500

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SD/-, AUTHORIZED OFFICER, AXIS BANK LTD.

03-09-2022 57.500

09-01-2023 142.300

28-02-2023 15.300

26-07-2022 13.900

03-09-2022 19.000

08-02-2023 49.300

28-07-2022 33.400

18-06-2022 22.800

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117.200

375.200

50.200



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already come up with its proposed guidelines on the switch to ECL but a definite timeline is yet to be decided.

Meanwhile, Mehta said that Russian investors have started investing in Indian government securities after getting a nod from the RBI for the

He said the investment activity has come about because of the excess rupee liquidity which the Russians are saddled with due to the trade deficit with India, which is among the few countries buyThey have surplus of

money. They have invested (in local bonds). They are Russian banks, they are all our members, we know. RBI has opened the window that whatever trade surplus they have, you can invest in government bonds," Mehta said. The Russian invest-ments are for shorter duration because how long the war and the sanctions on Russia will last is still unclear, Mehta said and added that the bets are for less than one year. When asked about the banks' tie-ups with fintechs and the troubles with the latter, he said whenever fintechs have partnered with banking system, they don't get into a problem.

Banks provide them with resources and big customer base, he added.

According to him, the problems with fintechs emanate because of poor governance and non-compliance with regulatory mandates.

Markets fall after 2-day rally; HDFC twins, Reliance drag Sensex over 413 points lower

PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Tuesday after two days of rally, dragged down by index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 413.24 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 61,932.47 even after beginning the trade on a firm note. During the day, it fell 498.3 points or 0.79 per cent to 61,847.41.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 112.35 points or 0.61 per cent to end at 18,286.50. "Markets took a breather as

profit-taking emerged as the key factor which dragged the Sensex below the psychological 62,000 mark. While strong FII buying and upbeat domestic economic readings had been aiding the rally over the past few weeks, global uncertainty over interest rate movement and slackening demand would prompt investors to book profit at regular intervals," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and Maruti were the biggest laggards.

Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Wipro, Asian Paints and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 0.18 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.12 per cent.

Among the indices, auto declined 0.97 per cent, financial services fell by 0.53 per cent, consumer discretionary (0.38 per cent), bankex (0.36 per cent) and commodities (0.34 per cent).

'SGX Nifty to be known as GIFT Nifty from July 3'

PTI NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday said that SGX Nifty will be known as GIFT Nifty from July 3 as all orders of Singapore Exchange will be completely transferred to NSE IFSC bourse for matching.

The exchange said that regulatory approvals have already been obtained from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

"From July 3 onwards, all SGX orders will be 100 per cent transferred to GIFT City, NSE IFSC exchange for matching...SGX Nifty will be called GIFT Nifty from July 3," an NSE spokesperson said.

NSE IFSC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NSÉ, is an exchange at International Financial Service Center (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat.

HDFC Mutual Fund launches India's first defence fund

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

HCompany Ltd on Tuesday announced the launch of the country's first mutual fund focussed on defence sector, a move that will provide investors an opportunity to participate in growth potential The new fund offering (NFO) of HDFC Defence

Fund, an open-ended equity scheme, would open on May 19 and close on June 2, HDFC AMC said in a statement. The fund will invest at least 80 per cent of its net assets in defence and allied sector

companies. Defence and allied

sector stocks include stocks

forming part of aerospace and

defence; explosives, shipbuild-

ing and allied services. "In a multipolar world, defence expenditure globally is set to increase as countries

enhance their defence capabilities. Self-reliance in defence led by strong R&D (Research and Development) focus and enhancement of manufacturing capabilities creates opportunity for Indian companies to serve domestic market as well as tap large export potential. This could offer a multidecadal investment opportunity," said Abhishek Poddar Fund Manager - Equity and Senior Equity Analyst, Dealing and Investments at HDFC

The asset management firm said that the scheme will invest in companies with good quality management with demonstrated track record and aims to achieve diversification by following a multi-cap strategy. The fund's focus would be on growth and quality at reasonable valuations by investing across large, mid and small cap

AICLWA alleges favouritism in re-allotment of stalls at railway platforms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The All Indian Caterers Welfare Association (AICLWA) has alleged there has been a complete 'favouritism' by the Northern Railways in re-allotment of the stalls on the platforms which are to be demolished for makeover as per the redevelopment plan of the New Delhi Railway station.

The association in letter to the Minister of State for Railways Rao Saheb Danve said few selected stalls of big contractors, companies are being planned to be shifted to prime locations at Anand-Vihar terminal and Sarai-Rohilla station etc.

"Such shifting plans of existing stalls are neither logical nor justified. It will lead to favoritism, nepotism & criticism," the association said.

Bharti Airtel net profit soars 49.2% to ₹3,006 cr in Jan-Mar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Tuesday posted a 49.2 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,005.6 crore for the January-March quarter of 2022-23 on the back of new 4G customers and strong growth in average revenue per user (ARPU).

The company had recorded a net profit of ₹2,007.8 crore in the same period a year ago. Bharti Airtel's consolidated revenue from operations grew by 14.31 per cent to ₹36,009 crore during the reported quarter from ₹31,500.3 crore in the March 2022 quarter. "This has been another strong quarter as we end the fiscal year having further strengthened our portfolio. Our focus on acquiring quality customers has resulted in 7.4 million new 4G cuswith an industry leading ARPU of ₹193. A simple strategy and our relentless focus on execution have ensured that we close the year with market share gains across all businesses," Bharti Airtel Managing Director Gopal Vittal said in a

Bharti Airtel India business during the reported quarter grew by about 12.2 per cent to ₹25,250 crore and by 19 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal to ₹82,487.7 crore. The company exited the fourth quarter and fiscal year with the highest industry average revenue per user (ARPU) of ₹193 compared to ₹178 that it recorded in March 2022 quarter.

Rupee rises 10 paise to 82.21 against dollar on FII inflows

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to 82.21 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels.

Forex traders said significant foreign fund inflows and easing crude oil prices also supported the local unit. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.22 against the US currency and moved between a high of 82.16 and a low of 82.29 in the day trade. The local units settled at

82.21 (provisional), registering a gain of 10 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee closed at 82.31 against the US currency.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six curren-

cies, fell 0.14 per cent to 102.28. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.29 per cent to USD 75.01 per barrel.

A weaker greenback, strong foreign fund inflows and lower crude oil prices pushed the rupee higher after falling in the last three days, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The local unit outperforms Asian currencies as the trade deficit narrows to a 21-month low. Though the rupee outperformed among Asian currencies, the range remained narrow ahead of US debt ceiling talks. It is widely expected to see no compromise created and a continuation of the current uncertainty, making haven assets volatile.

In the near term, spot USDINR has resistance at 82.50 and support at 82.05.



₹160; silver declines ₹175

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

old prices fell by ₹160 to G₹61,120 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a fall in international prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had

closed at ₹61,280 per 10 grams. Silver prices also eased by ₹175 to ₹74,075 per kg.

'Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹61,120 per 10 grams, down ₹160 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the overseas market, gold and silver were quoting lower at \$2,014 per ounce and \$24.04 per ounce, respectively.

NCLAT closes Insolvency proceedings against Marvel Realtors & Developers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has closed the Insolvency Corporate Resolution Process (CIRP) against Marvel Realtors & Developers Ltd after taking on record settlement with its financial creditor.

A two-member bench of NCLAT headed Chairperson Ashok Bhushan said that the realtor has submitted a settlement letter dated 08th May 2023 with its financial creditor IDFC First Bank.

"We take the settlement let-

record, close the CİRP against the Corporate Debtor setting aside the Order dated December 23, 2022," said NCLAT order. Moreover, it also rejected the plea of Catalyst Trusteeship, which had filed an intervention application opposing the withdrawal of CIRP against Marvel Realtors & Developers.

ter dated 8th May 2023 on

"Intervener is at liberty to take its own proceeding in accordance with the law to protect it," it said. The appellate tribunal observed that in the present case, a Committee of Creditors has not been constituted.

Sebi slaps ₹25 lakh penalty on 5 entities for non-genuine trades

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday slapped penalties totalling ₹25 lakh on five entities for indulging in non-genuine trades in the illiquid stock options segment on BSE. The regulator imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh each on Chitrabai Vasantrao Nikam, Damayanti Jhunjhunwala, Nemichand Kasturchand Jain,

Naresh Kumar Agarwal and Chandra Lakshmi Safety Glass Ltd (CLSG).

Sebi had observed large scale reversal trades in illiquid stock options segment on BSE, leading to artificial volumes on the exchange. The regulator conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities engaged in the segment from April 2014 to September

BUSINESS BRIEF

NARUVI HOSPITALS CELEBRATE INT'L NURSES WEEK

Vellore: Chairman Dr GV Sampath pays tribute to the nursing fraternity and applauds the Naruvi nurses. The week-long celebration to commemorate the birth of the mother of the nursing profession, Florence Nightingale, concluded yesterday.May 12th is marked as the International Nurses Day to honour Florence Nightingale.



'41% BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS PERFORM TECH TASKS' New Delhi: A survey by WorkIndia, a tech platform for blue-collar

recruitment, has revealed that 41 per cent of blue-collar workers are now involved in technical tasks, demonstrating a growing demand for skilled workers in industries embracing automation and digitalization. This shift underscores the need for blue-collar workers to acquire new skills and adapt to changing job requirements. The survey was conducted in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, and

Bank of Baroda Q4 net profit zooms 168%; sets aside ₹500 crore for Go First exposure

PTI MUMBAI

C tate-owned Bank of Baroda On Tuesday reported a 168 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit at ₹4,775 crore, helped by decline in money set aside for loan loss-

The lender's net profit for the full financial year 2022-23 also nearly doubled to ₹14,110

In the reporting quarter, it's core net interest income grew 33.8 per cent to ₹11,525 crore, aided by a growth in advances of nearly 19 per cent and an expansion in the net interest margin (NIM) to 3.53 per cent as against 3.07 per cent in the year-ago period.

The bank's fee income stood at ₹1,714 crore, up 4.6



Chadha during a press conference to announce the 4th quarter financial results of the bank, in Mumbai on

per cent from the year-ago period's ₹1,638 crore. Its managing director and

chief executive Sanjiv Chadha told reporters that he was himself surprised with the higher NIMs, and will aim to protect the 3.5 per cent level in

The bank is aiming for a loan growth of 13-14 per cent in FY24, which will include 11-13 per cent growth in the corporate advances, officials said. In the fourth quarter of FY23, the bank's overall provisions for bad debts decreased

by 94 per cent to ₹320 crore as against ₹5,200 crore in the year-ago period. Chadha said the credit cost for FY23 came at 0.5 per cent, much below the 1 per cent expectation, and the bank will strive to keep it under 1 per cent in the long term as

well. The gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 3.79 per cent as of March 31, as against 6.61 per cent in the year-ago period and 4.53 per

FIRST TARGET IS INDIA TO BE NO. 1 IN ASIA, SAYS NEW HOCKEY COACH

Barely two weeks into his new role as head coach of Indian men's hockey team, South African Craig Fulton is pretty clear about his goals -- to make the side number one in Asia and qualify for next year's Olympics in Paris.

Fulton, who witnessed the rise of Belgium hockey since 2018, wants India to first dominate Asian hockey and then gradually translating it into the world stage

"What I have in my head is to be the no.1 team in Asia. Definitely, it is one of the goals which we want to achieve and be there consistently and then push because if we are sitting on world ranking 4 and 5, you need to consistently try to reach the podium," Fulton said in his first media interaction, held virtually. "When you have built enough experience and have a game plan which suits all the individuals then you can definitely push on to get into the finals and win

"The priority is to qualify for Paris Olympics through the Asian Games. This is our no.1 priority. By using the FIH Pro League, the four-nation in Spain and then the Asian Champions Trophy we want to really set us up to be strong and be in a posi-



Fulton has achieved exemplary success in his previous stints as coach. His rise to fame began with a stint as Irish men's team head coach between 2014 to 2018 when the team qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

That was the Írish team's first Olympic qualification in 100 years. The historic feat also won him the FIH Coach of the Year award in 2015.

Fulton also worked as assistant coach with the reigning Olympic champions Belgium en

route to the gold medal in Tokyo. He was also part of the Belgian coaching staff during their 2018 World Cup win in Bhubaneswar.

The South African was candid about his assessment of the current Indian team, saying there is a gap between it and the top two or three teams in the

"We are not the best team but we are a good team. We have some work to do but at the same time we are very difficult opponent to play, not many teams like

"But realistically the place we are right now, there is a gap between us and world no.1 and 2 teams and we need to work (to

playing us," Fulton said.

bridge the gap)."
Fulton's first assignment as
India head coach will be the European leg of the FIH Pro League, beginning May 26.

India will hope to continue their winning momentum as they take on formidable Belgium and Great Britain in London, followed by matches against the Netherlands and Argentina in

World C'ship medallist Hussamuddin eyes

In their previous Pro League you need to do both.

outing at home, India remained unbeaten against reigning world champions Germany and Australia which helped them top the points table.

"The bottom line is that we have found a bit of confidence (from FIH Pro League matches in India). The group did well, some tactics changed after the World Cup which I can't comment because I wasn't there. Hats off to them to get Indian hockey up in the rankings and get a bronze in Tokyo. Unfortunately, it didn't work out in the World Cup for whatever reasons," Fulton said.

"By using the Pro League, the four-nation tournament in Spain and then the Asian Champions Trophy, we want to really set us up to be strong and be in a position to qualify straightway (for 2024 Paris Olympics).

Fulton isn't interested in tweaking India's structure of play much but wants the team to give more emphasis on defence while maintaining its attacking game.

"Personality wise I like to have my defensive structure in place because that is the first step of attacking. If you want to play counter-attacking style that doesn't help you. But at the same time you can't sit in your own half, you have to press the oppo-

"I am a very forward attacking coach, I like to score goals but I also like a solid defence," he said.

He is well aware of the high pressure associated with his new job but he is taking it in a positive stride.

"It goes without saying that Indian men's team job is one of the hardest in world hockey in the sense of expectations. But the way I look at it is I expect and want to do well. I am not coming here half hearted. I am really positive to be in this position and I liked what I have seen in

"I am looking forward to the year ahead, specifically the build up to the Asian Games to make that final and qualify.

Fulton also revealed that he was in talks with Hockey India to avail the services of a psychologist, a demand which India captain Harmanpreet Singh also vouched for.

"I am aware of that and is in talks with Hockey India to get services of a specialist in that field. In Belgium, it's slightly dif-ferent, they don't have mental conditioning coach, it's more of personality testing they do. But

this is a priority for us," he said. Harmanpreet said: "It would be great to get the services of a mental conditioning coach as the coach (Fulton) said, but it all



Djokovic reaches Italian Open quarter-finals for 17th straight year

Novak Djokovic was in command from the start and never really let up in a 6-3, 6-4 win over 13th-seeded Cameron Norrie on Tuesday to reach the Italian Open quarterfinals for the 17th straight year.

Ăiming for his seventh title on the red clay of the Foro Italico, Djokovic had his entire game clicking after struggling at times in the previous rounds.

On an overcast day after it had rained all morning, Djokovic appeared focused from the start.

"I actually finished my warmup 10 minutes before I went on the court. So I was rushing a bit with everything but we couldn't (warm up) earlier because of the rain," Djokovic said. "So I'm just glad to overcome today's challenge in straight sets and move on."

Also, Djokovic was seen in the trainer's room before the match. He recently took three weeks off because of a lingering issue with his surgically repaired right elbow.

"Every day is something," the 35-year-old Djokovic said, without specifying what was bothering him. "But thankfully I was able to play and finish the match, so hopefully tomorrow it will feel a bit bet-

Early in the second set after the players traded breaks to make it 2-2, Djokovic appeared furious with Norrie. Djokovic had already

turned with his back to the net in the center of the court to concede a break point when Norrie's overhead smash hit him in the body. Djokovic then turned around and glared at Norrie, who had already raised his hand to apologize.

Then after Djokovic broke

for a 5-4 lead in the second and was preparing to serve out the match, Norrie asked for a medical timeout and had his side treated on court by a train-

Djokovic committed less half as many unforced errors as Norrie, 14-29; and had two more winners, 21-19. Norrie won a title on clay

in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, beating Carlos Alcaraz in the final. Djokovic will lose the No.

ranking to Alcaraz after this tournament - even though Alcaraz was beaten by 135thranked Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan in the third round on Monday.

Alcaraz will therefore be seeded No. 1 and Djokovic will be No. 2 at the French Open, which starts in 12 days.

Djokovic will next face either seventh-seeded Holger Rune or Australian qualifier Alexei Popyrin, who were playing on the Grandstand. Later, local hope Jannik

Sinner was to play Francisco Cerundolo in the same half of the draw as Djokovic In women's action later on

Campo Centrale, two-time defending Rome champion Iga Swiatek was scheduled to play Donna Vekic.

tion to qualify straightway," he

Jyothi slips to sixth place; Koreans back to dominate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premier Indian compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who shot a world record-equalling qualifying score last month in Antalya failed to replicate her success to slump to sixth place in the standings of the World Cup Stage 2, here on Tuesday.

Fresh from her record-World Cup Stage 1, Jyothi managed 693 points to finish outside top-five in the women's compound qualifiers.

Koreans, who had pulled out of the Antalya meet, were back to dominate the proceedings as they grabbed the top seedings both in men's and women's sections. Veteran Oh Yoohyun and

2017 World champion Song Yun Soo took the top-two spots, shooting 700 and 698 points respectively. Jyothi, who had a dream run

in the Antalya Stage en route to securing her maiden individual World Cup gold medal, got a first-round bye and in a collision course with the Mexico World champion in the semi-final. Aditi Swami (12th, 689

points) and Avneet Kaur (16th, 687) were the next best Indians. In team event, the women's trio got third seeding behind Korean

Then seasoned boxer When seasoned by M o h a m m a d Hussamuddin was selected for the 2023 World Championships, many were surprised that it was going to be his maiden

been boxing in international tournaments for over a decade, missed out on the marqueeevent a few times in the past. But he seized his opportunity and returned with a bronze medal from Tashkent.

could have changed had a knee injury not forced him to withdraw a little over an hour before his semifinal bout.

Hussamuddin has won a hattrick of bronze medals in inter-

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

appearance at the global event. The 29-year-old, who has Championships — while also clinching the 57kg national title.

The shade of his medal

In the past 10 months,

more success, says daughter 'brings me luck' Commonwealth Games, Asian Championships and World

> The Nizamabad pugilist has egged down his successful run to the birth of his daughter.

"My daughter was born just before the Commonwealth Games when we were training in Belfast. At that time only I knew she will bring me luck," Hussammudin told PTI on Tuesday. At the Worlds, Hussamuddin won his first three bouts by a unanimous verdict before eking out a 4-3 split decision victory in the quarter-

"I was happy to finally be



selected for the tournament but I also felt that I had to win a medal. I had to prove myself because I had missed 2-3 Worlds

He was in scintillating form as he dug into his reservoir of experience to outbox his opponents. He also reaped the benefits of listening to the new for-eign coach Dmitry Dmitruk and High Performance Director Bernard Dunne.

"I was up against some of the boxers who I had already fought before so I knew there game. "The coaches and I sat and made plans. The coaches asked me to work on 1-2 punches and that really helped me. Left feinting was one of them. I feint and then punch from my left."

A feint is a deceptive movement or punch during a fight. By

his/her opponent confused and guessing what the next move will be. Hussamuddin was confident that had the injury not cut short his campaign he would have gone the distance. My bout was going well but

using feints, a boxer can leave

in the last 10 seconds I lost my balance when he pushed me. I knew it that time that something was wrong.

"The physio and doctor checked me. Next day when I was trying to hit a punch during training, I was not able to stand, was not able to side step or go back. But then also we decided to wait till the day of the

Justin looking to find results as he defends PGA Championship title AP PITTSFORD

ustin Thomas won the PGA Championship when he least expected it, matching a tournament record last year at Southern Hills when he rallied from seven shots behind in the final round and won in a play-

Now he's not sure what to

expect.
That was his only win in the last two years, dating to The Players Championship in 2021. He has fallen out of the top 10 in the world for the first time in nearly six years.

It's not as though he has vanished from the elite in golf. Thomas, who turned 30 last month, is still at No. 13 and still very much a threat to win wherever he plays. It's just he hasn't felt like that very often over the last year, and he went through some stretches where he showed up at a tournament and wasn't sure he could win.

"How I described it for a couple months is I've never felt so far and so close at the same time," he said Monday at Oak Hill after playing 18 holes on a pleasant spring day. "That's a very hard thing to explain, and it's also a very hard way to try to compete and win a golf tourna-

when you need to, and then your confidence builds back up, and next thing you know, you don't even remember what you were

thinking in those times."
Oak Hill looks certain to present as strong a test as Southern Hills was a year ago. Both classic courses had gone through restorations since previously hosting a PGA Championship, and so in some respects, it's new for all 156 players in the field.

Sunil — from being 'backbencher, prankster' to leading by example

Sunil Chhetri was a 'back-bencher and prankster' who made fun of senior players during the early days of his international career, but all that changed after he was made captain in 2011 as he realised that he needed to set examples for the team. The legendary Bhaichung

Bhutia retired after the Asian Cup in 2011 and then coach Bob Houghton elevated Chhetri to captaincy to lead a young side in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Malaysia in March that year.
"The day I was given the

armband, it was in Malaysia by Bob Houghton, there was an instant pressure because of what I was -- a backbencher," Chhetri said on an episode of 'Let There Be Sports' streaming on Disney



"Myself, Steven (Dias) and (NP) Pradeep made fun of the senior players, that was me. Everything was a prank and I was mischievous.

"But when I wore the armband, for the initial three-four games I started sitting ahead," added the 38-year-old, whose last major tournament for India could be the Asian Cup 2024 in

"That was me taking the pressure that I have become captain now. It's not these things but doing the right stuff that you were doing before and being a little more thoughtful. It's not only you, it's the team now," he added

Senior players like Renedy Singh, Climax Lawrence and Mahesh Gawli, who did not feature in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Malaysia, played their last India matches in the latter part of 2011.

Chhetri made his international debut for India in 2005 in a friendly match against Pakistan in Quetta. He scored on his debut in a 1-1 draw. Sukhwinder Singh was the Indian team coach then. Chhetri said he changed his approach to the game after taking charge as captain as he needed to lead the team by example.

US can pick Balogun as FIFA approves eligibility change from England

¬he United States can select Folarin Balogun ▲ after the England Under-21 forward who has starred in the French league opted to represent the 2026 World Cup co-host.

FIFA said on Tuesday it approved a request by the U.S. Soccer Federation to change Balogun's national eligibility from England. The 21-year-old New York-born player also was eligible for Nigeria. Balogun has been in demand after a breakout season in France on loan to Reims from Arsenal. He has 19 goals and dueled with Kylian Mbappé for part of the season to be the league top scorer. Mbappé now leads with 26 for Paris Saint-Germain.

Balogun was born in Brooklyn though his Nigerian parents had been living in London.

"My parents were on holiday there for a few months because we have family in New York, Balogun said in an interview with the French league website this season. "But very soon after I was born, we all moved back to London." Balogun also acknowledged "London is my

city, it's where I grew up, where my friends are,



and if people ask me where I'm from, I say I'm English. But, yes, I am a mixture of all these cul-

He played for England and the U.S. At youth level before establishing himself in the England

His decision to represent the United States comes five weeks before England plays in the Under-21 European Championship being hosted by Romania and Georgia. The English Football Association also had to consent to the change of

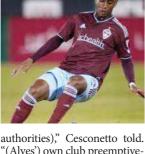
Brazil's soccer match-fixing scandal has international reach, says investigator

AP SAO PAULO

The lead investigator of Brazil's sprawling match-fixing scandal said he has uncovered potential evidence of wrongdoing by players in other countries, and he hopes foreign authorities will use his team's findings to start probes of their

Goias state District Attorney Fernando Cesconetto said in interviews with The Associated Press between Saturday and Monday that the case of Colorado Rapids midfielder Max Alves, who was reportedly named in the probe, could be prosecuted in the United States.

"There are some conversations regarding contacts of bettors from here with athletes abroad. And in its due moment that will be shared (with foreign



"(Alves') own club preemptively suspended the athlete after news reports from here. Sharing our investigation so it can be investigated there is the natural

O Globo reported last week that Alves, who is Brazilian, had been named in the probe. The Rapids of Major League Soccer confirmed in a statement that a

their squad, but did not identify him. Alves has not comment-The investigation began in

November, focusing on three matches, and has widened to 11 games, though some were in lower leagues. The matches spanned the second half of 2022 and the first three months of this vear, the district attorney said.

Investigators said players were offered between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to perform specific actions, like receiving yellow cards and giving out penalty kicks. Alleged criminals would profit on betting sites.

Local media reported that suspected criminals mentioned having contacts in Greece and Lithuania, which Cesconetto

Liverpool keeps alive top-four hopes, pushes Leicester toward relegation with 3-0 win league, and at home to West

AP LEICESTER

Liverpool plunged Leicester closer to relegation and kept alive its own chances of finishing in the top four of the English Premier League with a 3-0 win. Curtis Jones was the unlike-

y scorer of the first two goals on before Monday Alexander-Arnold whipped an indirect free kick into the top corner to wrap up a mismatch at King Power Stadium between teams heading in opposite directions. For Liverpool, a seventh straight victory in an impressive end-of-season rally secured at least a spot in the Europa League and moved the fifth-placed team a point behind both Newcastle and Manchester United in the race for the final two Champions League qualification positions,

behind Manchester City and



Liverpool has two games left against Aston Villa at home already-relegated Southampton away - while Newcastle and Man United have three to play.
"I don't think it's likely but

if they slip, we have to be there," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "Will they slip? I don't know. Will we win both games? I don't know."

hardly be lower with its topflight status seriously under threat just seven years after winning the league in one of the great underdog stories in the his-

ry of sports. The Foxes are in next-to-last place and two points from safety with two games remaining. They are at third-placed Newcastle, for one of the most

Ham. Leicester has won just one of its last 14 league games and has conceded eight goals in its last two, after the 5-3 loss at Fulham last week Jones is an academy product enjoying a fine end to an injury-hit season. The 22-year-

old midfielder had scored only once this season before running onto Mohamed Salah's rightwing cross to the far post and neatly side-footing home a finish in the 33rd. The groans from the home fans inside the stadium were already audible and they

increased three minutes later when Salah again picked out Jones, who controlled the ball in a central position at the edge of the area, spun and smashed a dipping effort into the far cor-

"That's how you get out of it, just playing your way out of it and hitting the shots when you want to and making those putts

LSG BEAT MI BY 5 RUNS

Stoinis smashes 89 off 47 balls to fire LSG to 177/3

ucknow Super Giants beat Mumbai Indians by five to inch closer to the playoffs here on Tuesday. Asked to bat first, Marcus Stoinis hit a whirl-wind 89 off 47 balls to power Lucknow Super Giants to a challenging 177 for 3.

In reply, Ishan Kishan made a 39-ball 59 and added 90 with Rohit Sharma (37) but once they departed, MI could only manage 172 for 5 in the end. Earlier, LSG were 35 for 3 in 6.1 overs but Stoinis and Krunal Pandya (49) lifted the team to 117 for 3 with a 82-run fourth wicket stand, which remained unfinished after the skipper retired hurt after hobbling to a single.

Jason Behrendorff (2/30) and Piyush Chawla (1/26) were among the wickets. For LSG, Ravi Bishnoi (2/26) and Yash Thakur (2/40) took two wickets each. Stoinis 89 helped Lucknow Super Giants recovered from a poor start to post 177 for three against Mumbai Indians on a challenging pitch here on Tuesday.

Stoinis smashed seven sixes in his belligerent 47-ball effort through the season, batters



with stand in skipper Krunal Pandya (49 retired hurt) after LSG found themselves reeling at 35 for three in the seventh over. As it has been the case

and shared an 82 run stand had a tough time on a two paced surface.

> LSG made a questionable call to leave out their leading run getter of the season, Kyle Myers, and the move did not work. Replacing him at the top,

Deepak Hooda (5) was undone by a slower ball from Jason Behrendorff

The next ball from the left-arm pacer was angled away and Prerak Mankad got a faint touch on way to the wicket-

keeper while trying to run towards the third man.

The situation got worse for LSG when Quinton de Kock (16 off 15) fell in the seventh over to leave the home team reeling in the seventh over.

De Kock went for the drive off a googly from the wily Piyush Chawla but ended up getting caught behind.

The onus was on the bighitting Stoinis and Krunal to resurrect the innings and they did that with a gritty stand before the latter got retired hurt after being seen in a bit of discomfort in the 16th over.

After that it was all Stoinis, who began his innings with massive sixes off spinners Hrithik Shokeen and Chawla in successive overs. Stroke making was tough in the prevailing conditions but Stoinis used his brute force to get the much needed boundaries and sixes.

The 18th over bowled by Jordan yielded 24 runs with the England pacer spraying it all over the place. He failed to nail his yorker and Stoinis was quick to dispatch his two balls for massive sixes down the ground besides collecting three fours off the short balls.

Brief Scores:

Lucknow Super Giants: 177 for 3 in 20 overs (Marcus Stoinis 89 not out; Jason Behrendorff 2/30)

Mumbai Indians: 172 for 5 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 59; Ravi Bishnoi 2/26).

their batters were not able to

Rahul Tripathi and Abhishek

Sharma in batting, but the duo

last season, made 258 runs from

runs in 2022, scored 215 from 10 matches. "The likes of Rahul

Tripathi or Abhishek Sharma,

who scored runs last year in

excess of 400 (each) find them-

selves struggling a bit this year.

players, it's not just the Indian

players. I feel that, as a unit, we

were unable to match up to what

we just weren't able to come to

the party enough times,'

added Lara. The franchise

was expected.

"But it's not just one or two

"If you look on paper I

came a cropper this season.

12 matches this time.

SRH had relied heavily on

Tripathi, who scored 413

Sharma, who scored 426

Skipper David Warner, wicketkeeper-batter Phil Salt Punjab Kings will be eager to register a big and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have given the team win to keep their IPL some momentum with the play-off hopes alive against willow. But once they are wooden spooners Delhi Capitals, who will play for gone, the middle order just

pride when the two teams face off here on Wednesday. It has been a roller-coaster ride for PBKS, with six losses and as many wins. They are wickets for 67 runs. placed at eighth spot with 12 The Indian bowlers in the

tention to make the qualifiers. However, they need to improve their net run rate (NRR), which stands at -

Punjab Kings eye big

hopes alive against DC

win to keep play-off

PTI DHARAMSALA

points and are still in con-

ter, and to an extent

Prabhsimran Singh, very few

PBKS batters have contributed

enough to their overall totals.

to pull up their socks.

Boasting of a sound bowling

attack with Nathan Ellis, Sam

Curran and Arshdeep Singh,

PBKS have often failed to

Their bowlers also need

A 31-run win against the Capitals last week boosted their NRR and morale and the Shikhar Dhawan-led side will hope for an encore and then

hope that other results go their Punjab will have to put up a much improved effort with the bat. Against Delhi, opener Prabhsimran Singh waged a lone battle. Barring Dhawan, The spin duo of Kuldeep who has been their best bat-

bowled economically.

THE SQUADS

(c), Shahrukh Khan, Matthew Short, Prabhsimran Singh, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Jitesh Sharma, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Rishi Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Arshdeep Singh, Baltei Singh, Nathan Ellis, Kagiso Rabada, Rahul Chahar, Harpreet Brar, Sam Curran, Sikandar Baza, Harpreet Bhatia, Vidwath

defend runs. On the other hand, Delhi Capitals have had a nightmare of a season and have already been knocked out of the playoff contention. The batting unit has dis-

appointed all season. Delhi's Indian batters, barring Axar Patel, have flattered to deceive, putting up a dismal show.

Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan has contributed significantly to Delhi Capitals' travails this season, forcing the think-tank to pack all their overseas players at

In their previous game against Punjab, the Capitals looked on course for a comfortable win but then lost eight

side are not faring as badly as the batters. Three of DC's four wins have come on the back of dominant bowling dis-

Old warhorse Ishant Sharma has done his job while the return of Khaleel Ahmed has also helped.

Anrich Nortje, who had returned home for personal reasons, is back but it is to be seen if Delhi continue with the four overseas batters at the top or bring the South African pacer to tighten their bowling

Yadav and Axar Patel have

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan

Kaverappa, Mohit Rathee, Shivam

Delhi Capitals: David Warner (c), Prithvi Shaw, Mitchell Marsh, Sarfaraz Khan, Aman Hakim Khan, Abhishek Porel (wk). Axar Patel. Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Anrich Nortje, Mustafizur Rahaman, Chetan Sakariya, Mukesh Kumar, Phil Salt, Lungi Ngidi, Praveen Dubey, Lalit Yadav, Ripal Patel, Vicky Ostwal, Ishant Sharma, Manish Pandey, Kamlesh

Yashasvi one hell of talent, says Root

 $E_{\text{Royals batter Joe Root feels}}^{\text{ngland}}$ young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is one "hell of a talent" and it is a matter of time before he goes on to play for India. With 575 runs in 13

matches at 47.91 including four fifties and one century, the 21-year-old has set the IPL stage on fire, resulting in a clamour for his selection in the national team. '... You could see it (India

debut) tomorrow. One thing that is quite impressive with him is he is clearly very hungry and he has got great desire and belief in his ability.

"He is making sure that he continues to keep looking to get better, keep learning which ot a great tem perament in that respect and he has got a brilliant work ethic. He is always asking and trying to learn from other players and from people around him," Root told PTI in an exclusive interview.

England's batting mainstay in the five-day format, Root can't see a weakness in Jaiswal's game.

"So I think he has got all the elements, there is no area of real weakness at this minute which you can see. He has dominated spin and seam throughout this tournament and you can see him with the confidence he is playing with now is amazing.
"I do not think it is a ques-

tion of 'if he can do it'; it is more (of) 'when' and how he fits into that Indian team. But clearly he is a hell of a talent with an amazing future ahead of him and hopefully he continues to go as it is, all falls into place and the only team he does not score runs against is England (laughs)," Root added.

IPL EXPERIENCE WILL HELP IN ODI WORLD

The former England skipper and batting mainstay said the IPL experience would certainly help in gaining knowl-

really hard and have very low



edge about conditions in India, with the 50-over World Cup slated to be played in the Octobercountry in November.

"It is hard to try and not to take information from the experience that you have had here. Even just being in these conditions for a long period of time, get the opportunity to see how the bowlers react, both pace and spin...

"...Playing on slightly more used wickets, different soils - obviously the dark soil and the red soil, see how they react slightly differently, just try to give yourself as much information and store that for when we come back here at the end of the year, will be important.

'Now as well, even things like how at different venues, how the ball reacts, how you sum up faster score than others, how you approach different scenarios at those grounds - it is all valuable information when you head into a major tournament like that even if it is a different format."

Root, 32, who is playing his first IPL, said the impact player rule will need to have a run of two to three years before a clear understanding is

Lara admits to not getting to grips with hectic IPL season

PTI AHMEDABAD

egendary West Indian Brian Lara has conceded that he was not able to come to "grips" with the rigours and emotions of the tournament in his first year as Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach as the franchise once again made an early exit from the IPL.

Defending champions Gujarat Titans became the first team to make the playoffs following heir their 34-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday. The result also knocked out the Lara-coached side who still have two more matches left.

"First of all, it's my first year (as head coach of an IPL side)...; Lara said in the post-match

Lara indicated understanding the nitty-gritty in his first year of being the chief coach of a T20 side was difficult.

After an unsuccessful 2022 where they finished eighth, SRH parted ways with their most suc-



cessful coach Tom Moody who had guided them to the playoffs five times and win the IPL 2016. Formerly a strategic adviser and batting coach, this was the West Indian great's first assignment as a head coach of a T20 team.

"Not getting to grips with an IPL season, especially when we were back to travelling to different venues and finding out different surfaces," the 54-year-

"Our last year was based on 3-4 venues (due to Covid-19 and bio-bubble environment), so there is a huge difference in that," he added.

"As a coach, an appreciation of how much you have to pay attention to what's going on is a meticulous task to get things right continuously," Lara said, hoping that the players correct would think that this is a and emerge "much better crick-

BATTING DIDN'T COME

Lara further said they had a "respectable batting unit" but

also has drawn flak for not giving enough opportunity to their tearaway pacer Umran

since breaking his left leg and ankle when slipping during a round of golf.

Wicketekeeper Ben Foakes was dropped to make room for Bairstow, who will play as a wicketkeeper-batter and starred for England with some explosive performances with the bat in the middle order last

"It was a seriously tough decision to leave squad," Key said.

Ben Foakes out of the "He has been excel-

lent for England in the last year, but Jonny

Bairstow is one of the best players in the world whose performances last summer epitomised what we are about."

With Chris Woakes back in the test squad for the first time since March 2022, Mark Wood returning after taking a break from the New Zealand tour and James Anderson shrugging off a minor groin injury, England has a deep stock pace bowlers from which to choose. Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson and Matthew Potts are other fast bowlers in the

Dhoni signing shirt 'emotional moment' for me, says Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Nagarkoti, Yash Dhull.

Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar reveals experiencing an "emotional moment" when he got MS Dhoni's autograph on his shirt after Chennai Super Kings' last league round match at the Chepauk against Kolkata Knight Riders in this

Gavaskar, who was on the field with the broadcast unit after the game on Sunday night, requested Dhoni to sign his shirt as CSK players were doing a lap of honour around the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

"When I got to know about Chennai Super Kings and MS Dhoni are going to take a lap of honour at Chepauk, I decided to create

a special memory.
"That's why I ran towards
MSD to take his autograph. It was his last home game at Chepauk," Gavaskar was quoted as saying on Star

"So, I went to Mahi and requested him to sign an autograph on the shirt that I was wearing. It was so nice of him to acknowledge it. It was a very emotional moment for me because this fellow has made immense contributions to Indian cricket," he said in a release.

Archer out of Ashes series for England after recurrence of elbow injury

AP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler
Jofra Archer was ruled out of the upcoming Ashes series against Australia on Tuesday because of ongoing prob-lems with his right elbow that have limited his playing time since 2021.

Archer will miss the entire summer of international cricket, England said, after scans revealed he has sustained a recurrence of a stress fracture to his elbow.

The 28-year-old Barbados-born pacer best of luck with his underwent two opera-

tions on his elbow in 2021 and was forced to cut short his time in this season's Indian Premier League after experiencing discomfort in the same

"It has been a frustrating and upsetting period for Jofra Archer, England managing director Robert Key said.

"He was making good progress until a recurrence of the elbow injury, which kept him out for an extended period previously. We wish him the

recovery. I'm sure we will

see Jofra back to his best and winning games for England, whatever the

format. Hopefully, sooner rather than later." The Ashes starts on June 16 with the first of five tests. England will

warm up for the series

with a one-off test against Ireland at Lord's from England selected a

15-man squad for the Ireland match and included Jonny Bairstow, who is set to play for his

> batting on England pitches was a gamble, and that one needs to grab the opportuni-

ties if they present themselves. "If I've learned anything, it's work hard, train hard, (and) if you're going to England, go with low expectations, and then just work on every game one at a time, because you are going to fail as a batsman. But when you do score, you try to cash in as roll over... Other times you're much as you can," said the bat-

ting stalwart.

ever, axed before the end of both series.

Though the veteran crick-eter feels he is a much improved player than he was a decade ago, he believes there is no surety when facing England bowling stalwarts James Anderson and Stuart Broad. "I feel like I'm a better

I have more experience than I did back then. But... There's no guarantees - Anderson, Broad, they're unbelievable bowlers, they're tough work at

England toughest place in world to bat for top-three batters: Khawaja **PTI** ■ BRISBANE Test side in January last year. The 36-year-old is expected to be in the thick of things

Australia opener Usman Khawaja believes during the World Test Championship final against India and the subsequent five-England's pitches are the ultimate Test for top-three batters and the only way to train for the conditions there is to work Test Ashes series in England. Australia will play India in

expectations. Khawaja has struggled in the Ashes commence on June 16 in Birmingham. The English conditions, averaging just 19.66 from six Tests, Australians under skipper Pat which is a below-average Cummins will look to clinch showing from him given that their maiden series triumph in he has scored an amazing e UK since 2001. 1,608 runs at 69.91 in 16 Tests

"England is, in my opinsince he was recalled to the ion, the toughest place in the

the WTC final at The Oval in

London from June 7, before

world to bat for a top three batsman, plain and simple," Khawaja was quoted as saying

but then you get some (weather) conditions, and it's a bit of

out there and it's nice and sunny."
He indicated that with the

changing weather conditions,

Khawaja had played three Ashes Tests each on the 2013 and 2019 tours. He was, how-

player than I was 10 years ago.

luck involved in it, too; someby cricket.Com.Au here. times you get the other team "New ball is tough work, out, then suddenly the clouds