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NADAL PULLS OUT OF FRENCH OPEN 2023
11 SPORT

Sidda CM, DKS his deputy

Oath on Sat; many Opp leaders to attend in show of unity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU
The Congress on Thursday finally announced the name of K Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka and State party president DK Shivakumar as his "only" deputy, who along with a few Cabinet members would take oath on Saturday which again is to be orchestrated to exhibit a show of Opposition solidarity.
Siddaramaiah met Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to stake claim to form a government shortly after the eight-time MLA was formally elected the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Karnataka at a meeting of the newly elected party MLAs at Indira Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Thursday night.
Announcing the decision taken by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge after hectic parleys ever since the party emerged victorious last Saturday, AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said the party has chosen Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and DK Shivakumar will be the only Deputy Chief Minister. Shivakumar will also continue



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Karnataka CM-designate Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM-designate DK Shivakumar during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

as the party's Karnataka State president till parliamentary elections are over, he said.
Sources said around 20 Ministers will also be sworn-in along with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, including some from the State legislative council.
Vast experience in running the Government and mass appeal across the State have favoured Siddaramaiah in the tightly contested race for Karnataka Chief Minister.
The Congress leadership threw its weight behind the 75-year-old Siddaramaiah keeping in view the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where his clout among the OBCs, SCs and Muslims would play a key role.
Siddaramaiah also brings to the table the experience of managing the Government and competing interests of a caste and class-dominated Karnataka, having served as Chief Minister from 2013 to 2018.

He also enjoys the support of a majority of Congress MLAs, who had voted for him and pitched him as the Chief Ministerial candidate during the secret ballot after the first Congress Legislature Party meet in the State.
Asked about the much-talked-about power-sharing formula between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Venugopal said the only formula is to share the power with the people of Karnataka.
Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar later left for Bengaluru to participate in the meeting of the legislature party where the party was to formally announce the names of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar as the CM and Deputy CM.
Asked about his relenting to play second fiddle to Siddaramaiah after a spirited fight for the top post, Shivakumar said, "In the larger interest of the party, I have agreed." He said all the new MLAs have accepted whatever the high command decided. He said he is not upset and has a long way to go and will concentrate on strengthening the party for the Lok Sabha polls by delivering the promises made to people.
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Rijiju out as Law Min, Meghwal takes charge

N-E leader moved to Earth Sciences; in a first in recent history, Law Minister not of Cabinet rank

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

In a surprise move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday shifted Kiren Rijiju from the Law Ministry and assigned him a "low-key" Ministry of Earth Sciences with Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, taking over the key Law and Justice Ministry.
Several eyebrows were raised on the unexpected reshuffle as Rijiju was, for long, seen to be a Modi-confidant and also one of the Government's high-profile troubleshooters from the North-East — a priority region for the BJP.
The change has come after Rijiju had instances of several run-ins with the judiciary with by taking a "confrontist approach" and voicing his apparently contrarian view vis-a-vis those held by the higher judiciary.
The major change has



Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Arjun Ram Meghwal during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

come barely 10 months before the Lok Sabha polls and "more expected" in the run up to the general elections, according to sources.
According to a formal press communication by the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Arjun Meghwal, currently the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, will take over the key Law and Justice Ministry.
Meghwal will now have Independent Charge of the Law Ministry. This is the first time in recent history that the Law Minister will not be of Cabinet rank.
Hours after these changes were announced, another statement said SP Singh Baghel, who was Minister of State in the Law Ministry, would be the new junior Health Minister.
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CAPSULE

ED GRILLS RABRI IN LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM
New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi for about five hours and recorded her statement here on Thursday in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-jobs scam, official sources said. P4

CHINA PRAISES INDIA FOR HELP IN FINDING SAILORS
Beijing: Two people from the Chinese fishing vessel which sank in the central Indian Ocean were confirmed dead while China on Thursday appreciated the help from a host of countries in the region, including India, who responded to its call for search and rescue operations for the remaining 37 missing sailors.

DRIVER FACES MUSIC FOR LEAVING WOMEN AT STOP
New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday directed action against a bus driver for deliberately not stopping for women passengers at a bus stop. The action against the bus driver came after a video surfaced on social media showing a cluster bus driver not stopping for women passengers, as they would have availed the free travel provision.

US court OK's extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Rana

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/NEW YORK
In a major breakthrough for India to bring perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks to justice, a US court in California has approved the extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India. He is sought for his involvement in the terrorist incident, in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed.
Reacting to the development, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on Thursday, "We are in very regular touch with the US authorities to ensure that there is speedy and early extradition of Tahawwur Rana. We have all seen the judgment that was given by the local US court there. That conversation of ours with the US side is continuing."
India had filed a complaint on June 10, 2020, seek-



File photo of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman and 2008 Mumbai terror accused Tahawwur Rana. PTI

ing the provisional arrest of Rana with a view towards extradition. The Biden administration had supported and approved the extradition of Rana to India. Nine Pakistani terrorists who were involved in the attack on November 26, 2008 were killed by the Indian security forces. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive.
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SC nixes WB ban on Kerala Story; TMC: Won't take blame for issues

PNS ■ KOLKATA
As Opposition BJP is celebrating the Supreme Court order setting aside the ban imposed by the West Bengal Government on the screening of The Kerala Story, the TMC said if any issue arises due to the showing of the film, the Opposition should not blame the State's ruling party.
The TMC also asserted that the State Government's decision not to allow screening of the controversial film was based on intelligence inputs and the party has nothing to do with it.
The Opposition BJP and the Congress welcomed the Supreme Court's order. The saffron party claimed the verdict exposed the TMC's "communal politics". On the other hand the Congress asserted that the State Government could have handled the matter differently. The CPI(M) claimed the the Mamata Government did it to gain "political mileage".
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Survey 'caste' aside; SC says it needs to vet Bihar's agenda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to stay the Patna High Court's interim order to suspend the caste survey in Bihar.
A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Rajesh Bindal said the HC has recorded prima facie findings and we will have to decide whether it is merely a survey or a census. "We will have to see if in the name of survey it is a census," the top court orally remarked.
Justice Bindal orally remarked during the hearing that a lot of documents show the exercise is census only. "We are making it clear, this is not a case where we can grant you interim relief," said the SC.
The apex court noted that the HC had posted the hearing of the main petition on July 3. "We direct that this petition be listed on July 14. If for any reason, the hearing of the writ petition does not commence before the next date, we



will hear further submission canvassed by the senior counsel for the petitioner (Bihar)," the bench said.
At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the Bihar Government, submitted that the HC is completely at error and said the current exercise is not a census but only a voluntary survey.
While trying to explain the difference between the two, Divan said survey is of a certain quality which has to be for a span of period.
"For census you have respondent. If you don't you are met with penalty. Not so for survey. Quantifiable data is required for state policies. Supreme Court judgements say so," Divan said.
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Death follows hugs: Boy shoots girl, kills self at GreNo varsity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
A third-year student of Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida shot dead a female classmate, after which he returned to his room at the boy's hostel and allegedly shot himself around 1.30 pm on the university campus in Dadri police station area of Greater Noida, a police spokesperson said.
The police said the youth, identified as Anuj, died on the spot and the girl was declared brought dead at Yatharth hospital. Both were pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and were aged around 21 years and knew each other well. But the cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained, police said.
The youth was a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district, while the girl, identified as Neha Chaurasiya, was from Kanpur.
Eyewitnesses said Anuj and Neha were seen together near the dining hall. They said the duo were engaged in a conversation and even hugged each other. Suddenly, Anuj pulled out a pistol and shot Neha, they said, adding that he then rushed to his hostel room and shot himself dead.
Neha was rushed to hospital but was declared brought dead. DCP (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan said, "We got to know that an incident took place at Shiv Nadar University where a male student shot a female student."
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Jaishankar, Khattar, Vij get assassination threats from Khalistan terror outfit SFJ

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI
US-based neo-Khalistan terror group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has given a call for the assassination of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Home Minister of that State Anil Vij through a pre-recorded video clip.
The SFJ is a banned terror group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The video was recorded on April 5 and released on Thursday. Through a separate Press statement issued on Thursday from New York, the outfit has opposed G20 summits in Jammu & Kashmir.
Besides being sheltered in the US, the SFJ is also backed by Pakistan's ISI and the latest exhortations could be a bid to revive so-called Khalistan movement here in India following the dismantling of the



secessionist network with the arrest of a host of alleged Khalistani leaders like Amritpal Singh and his cohorts, counter-terrorism experts said.
The outfit also gave a call to the Kashmiris to block the Srinagar airport to sensitise the delegates through holding of G20 meeting in Srinagar.
The SFJ is a rootless entity in terms of popular support and its leaders are spearheading the so-called Khalistan movement for earning their livelihood from their masters in the Pakistan Army and the notorious spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), analysts said.
Continued on Page 2

SC to hear today plea against age determination of Gyanvapi shivling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Friday a plea challenging the Allahabad High Court order of conducting a "scientific survey", including carbon dating, to determine the age of a "shivling" which was said to have been found at the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi.
A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala took note of the submissions of senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Gyanvapi mosque management committee, and agreed to list the plea for hearing on Friday. "The Allahabad High Court has passed an order pending the appeal," the senior lawyer said.
The HC, on May 12, ordered determination of the age of the "shivling" in the mosque in Varanasi using modern technology.

Jallikattu fine, SC quotes tradition; verdict raises Goa bullfight hopes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GOA
The decision by the Supreme Court on Thursday upholding the validity of amendment acts of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka which allowed bull-taming sport "Jallikattu", bull-lock-cart races and buffalo racing sport "Kambala", saying they are "valid legislations" has given hope to some for legalising Goa's traditional bull-fighting sport.
Bullfights, locally known as "Dhirio", have been banned in Goa for the violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
In a unanimous verdict, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph noted that The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, 2017 and



In this Jan 21, 2022, file photo, a participant during the Jallikattu competition, in Coimbatore.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Second Amendment) Act, 2017 were enacted by the respective State legislatures and had received Presidential assent.
"Jallikattu", also known as

plough and anchored by one person. They are made to run in parallel muddy tracks in a competition in which the fastest team wins.
The bench said Jallikattu is a type of bovine sports and "we are satisfied on the basis of materials disclosed before us that it has been going on in the State of Tamil Nadu for at least last few centuries."
"Our decision on the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act would also guide the Maharashtra and the Karnataka Amendment acts and we find all the three Amendment Acts to be valid legislations," the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said in its 56-page judgment. The bench dealt with the submissions advanced by the petitioners that animals have fundamental as also legal rights.
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Pick PK Gupta as Delhi Chief Secy, AAP urges Centre

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
After replacing services secretary Ashish More, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has urged the Centre to appoint a 1989 batch IAS officer PK Gupta as the new chief secretary in place of incumbent Naresh Kumar.
The Kejriwal Government also barred the chief secretary and services department secretary from passing any order in regard to the State Government employees.
Sources said that the Kejriwal Government has sent a proposal to the Centre through Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to appoint Gupta as the new chief secretary in place of incumbent Naresh Kumar.
Gupta, a 1989 batch IAS officer of AGMUT Cadre, is currently posted as Delhi additional chief secretary in the general administration.
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Curb populism

The Congress has promises to keep in Karnataka, but these shouldn't derail reforms

Finally, the suspense over Karnataka's new chief minister is over. The Congress managed to convince its state unit chief DK Shivakumar to take up the Deputy Chief Minister's role. But it took more than four days for the grand old party to do that. Political pundits would analyse and speculate what made that possible, since both Shivakumar and his rival Siddaramaiah had dug their heels in. The claims made by both leaders were credible; while Siddaramaiah is popular (the most favoured chief ministerial face across parties, as per an opinion poll before the Karnataka Assembly election was held), Shivakumar is known for his organisational prowess and resourcefulness. There is a theory that former party president Sonia Gandhi's intervention clinched the deal. Income Tax and Enforcement Directorate cases against Shivakumar also, some say, played a role in the decision. The GOP apparently didn't like the prospect of its chief minister getting arrested. The inordinately long parleys that preceded the decision are not new; it has happened with the Bharatiya Janata Party as well. In the case of the Congress, however, the stubborn stance of its two Kannadiga leaders took some of the shine off the party's massive victory in the southern State. In the BJP too, there are ambitious leaders in States staking claim to the top office, but the problem doesn't acquire alarming proportions. In the case of the GOP, however, the high command is often found inept in dealing with dissidence in the States under its control. The Gandhis' fondness for Navjot Singh Sidhu cost Congress Punjab. Their inability to address the concerns of Jyotiraditya Scindia resulted in the fall of their government Madhya Pradesh.

They haven't been able to sort out the problems between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot.

In Karnataka, the Congress Government will not have a cakewalk. The populist pledges it made in the run-up to the State election are estimated to cost the State exchequer around Rs 62,000 crore, and it would make the State fiscal deficit shoot up beyond 5 per cent, much about the 2.6 per cent at present and the 4 per cent limit set by the Finance Commission. Deterioration in the fiscal situation will have a baneful effect on the development of the State which is the country's primary IT hub. The ill effects may come with a time lag, but they will come sooner rather than later. Economic reforms and capital expenditure will be big casualties. To be precise, reforms already are, as freebies militate against the spirit of liberalisation. As far as infrastructure funding is concerned, a fiscally strained State cannot benefit much, for the Narendra Modi Government has tied up capex loans with various reforms. Now that Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar will rule Karnataka, they must strike a balance between politics and economics. They must ensure that populism doesn't trump economic policy.

PICTALK



Marine Commandos, the Special Forces unit of the Indian Navy, patrol the Dal Lake, in Srinagar. PTI

To regain trust Congress must fulfill the promises

Congress fought well and won the battle in Karnataka but can it also deliver on the promises it made during the campaign?

As it well that ends well. This is how one can sum up the political drama staged at the national capital during the last three days as part of the selection of the chief minister of Karnataka where the Congress staged a spectacular victory by bagging 135 seats. The race for the chief minister's post was nothing new or unexpected. But the High Command of the party managed to resolve the issue without much heart-burning among the contestants. On Saturday, Siddaramaiah would be sworn in as the chief minister and the process of government formation is likely to commence without delay.

The immediate task awaiting the chief minister and his deputy D K Shivakumar is to regain the trust and confidence of the people in the State who were antagonized and tortured by corruption in big places during the last four years of BJP rule. And the voters are waiting with bated breath and anticipation for the fulfilment of the promises made by the Congress leadership in the run-up to the election. Both

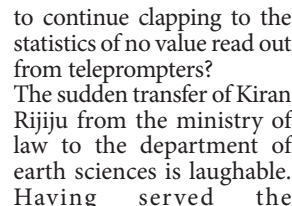


Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are left with no break from the hectic electioneering as they have to get the State ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The victory of the Congress in the Karnataka polls has no doubt, rejuvenated the Grand Old Party across the nation. A sense of indecisiveness and uncertainty are discernible in the BJP camp as the leadership is groping in the dark to understand what went against them. Though some political pundits attribute the Congress win to communalism, they are silent about the asinine communalism which was the platform on which the top leadership of the Hindutva party solicited a

mandate for the second term. There is a sense of relief among the Opposition camp as the Congress won hearts and influenced the voters. If the Congress leadership, especially Sonia Gandhi, could take the regional straps into confidence, there is no reason to doubt about a 2004 model of unity and a UPA victory. It is not the Nobel Prize for Peace or a chair in the security council of the United Nations that the man in the street need. To understand the unhappiness and discontent among the people, all one has to do is compare the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, rice and wheat that prevailed before 2014 and post-2014.

Ten years is a long time in politics and rhetoric has no place. One cannot keep on blaming Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi for what Ambani and Adani are doing now. It is good that the nation is getting a new parliament building in the coming months.

A person, no less than the spouse of the finance minister of the country, has said that the nation's economy is in ruins. The question is are we



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

to continue clapping to the statistics of no value read out from teleprompters? The sudden transfer of Kiran Rijju from the ministry of law to the department of earth sciences is laughable. Having served the Government with sincerity and dedication, Rijju deserved a reasonably good farewell. But that has been the modus operandi of Veeru and Dheeru during the last decade. With India as the current chair of the G20 countries, Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have an exceptional opportunity to discuss the issues faced by the 'Global South' including global health and digitalisation.

There is an acute economic disparity between the two worlds—'Global North' and 'Global South' which has clearly been visible during Covid-19. Also, while the Western world managed to survive the food crisis amidst the war in Ukraine, countries in the 'Global South' faced a shortage of food and fuel.

(The writer is senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

The dilemma of truths & half-truths

Life works in apparent contradictions, but the reality and the desired goals are always crystal clear



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

There is a Sanskrit statement (one of the several pithy truths handed down through the centuries) that reads "Ati Sarvtra Varjeyat," which broadly seeks to convey "excess is to be eschewed everywhere."

It has its echoes in other languages, for example, in Bengali, where there is a statement "Ato Bhalo Bhalo Noy." Translated, it means that "So much good is not good." Other examples can be given.

Put simply, it means the excess of anything is bad. It also applies to being good. There is a counterpoint in actual life where, for gold to be modelled, 24 carats (which is the purest form of gold) would not work. It has to be reduced to 22 carats, and a 2 carat alloy has to be added to it, and then only that gold can be fabricated.

Actual life is a testimony to the fact that 100% consistent truth is the only truth, and truth under all circumstances breaches its own empathy, and disaster can very often roll. People's capacity to see full truth is limited and to accept it, is even less. In the sophisticated language of so-called civil society, the ability to gain acceptability through the proper packaging of truth is termed "tact." It is, as indicated, a socially accepted word for camouflaged truth put across in an acceptable manner. Being tactful is considered a social grace and is advocated by many. The question that raises itself is the value of total integrity, total truthfulness, total consistency, and total reliability. Impeccable evidence is evidence to show that, in its totality, very few people go around proclaiming somebody's biggest assets as "total truthfulness." Few testimonies say that somebody's integrity is so impeccable that he would rather destroy himself than have a whiff of half-truth.

These are difficult propositions and cannot be exhaustively discussed and elaborated in the time or space available in this text. Perhaps in life, there are few elusive qualities that can be found in a 100 per cent form. In



a few cases, a 100% accurate proposition can be raised. Being truthful, as explained, is one such example. Be that as it may, these ideals, often, remain desiderata.

It is rare to find a parent who teaches the child anything other than the virtue of being truthful. No parent teaches a child, "Telling a lie is not a problem. It's acceptable. You can be truthful when you can." The ideal like telling the truth remains an ideal. It is like a bull's eye. When shooting or doing target practice, the bull's eye remains the desired goal. It is the perfect spot to seek. Even when one misses it, its approximation remains the ideal.

This raises the obvious question of "judgements" towards the approximation of the ideal. How far can one go? How far can one push? How hard can one push? When can one stop pushing? Obviously, there are no simple answers, and "judge-



IF HURTING ANYONE WAS TOTALLY RULED OUT, ANY SELF-DEFENCE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. GIVEN NO CHOICE, KILLING THE AGGRESSOR IN SELF-DEFENCE HAS BEEN UPHELD BY ALL SOCIETIES

ment" is the only teacher. Unfortunately, "judgement" cannot be taught.

Learning through the interpretation of internalised experiences is a way forward. Experience can be an answer when all else fails. It can be much-personalised phenomena. Life is full of examples of this variable. Interestingly one can always get an example or an illustration of what was set out to prove. So one can even indicate an example to prove anything one wants.

Notwithstanding the very delicate and important concerns raised above, all societies have an apparent and common conception of "the ideal." In no part of the world is lying considered a virtue. In no part of the world is it eulogised? Indeed, social networks are held together by deals and constructs of an aspired state of existence. The concept of "Ram-raja" is a good illustration. Further examples can be given.

Societies have been held together by the simple truth like, "Thou shalt not kill." (from the Ten commandments). This does not mean that you shall allow someone to actually hurt you. If that were so, absolute self-defence would be impossible.

If hurting anyone was totally ruled out, any self-defence would be impossible. Given no choice, killing the aggressor in self-defence has been upheld by all societies. Thus it is that life works in apparent contradictions, but the reality and the desired goals are always etched in the glass. Truthfulness remains the ideal, just as 'Thou shalt not kill' remains a commandment. Exceptions are built in by experiences. The ebb and flow of life is the act of living, and sound judgements make it worthwhile.

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE KERALA STORY - HATE SPEECH OR LOVE SPEECH?

Sir — The films like Kashmiri Files and Kerala Story's main intention was to show Muslims as villains and dreaded terrorists. In Kashmiri files history was twisted and only half truth is told. The Kashmiri Files has treated the subject of unfortunate events and made it a propaganda film. It is a fact that the makers of the film had reduced the chilling tragedy to a mockery. The Kerala Story makers of the film claimed to unearth the story of 32000 Muslim women who are missing in Kerala and are purportedly forced or lured into conversions and later joined the Islamic State. When people questioned their ridiculously exaggerated numbers they cooled down the number from 32000 to a mere three. That itself shows the hollowness of the producers of the film The Kerala Story. Now these right-wing groups are producing more films to show the Muslim community as dreaded villains. The story of "Tippu Sultan" The Bengal files, and The Razzakkar files are in production these films are on the lines of the Kashmiri files and the Kerala Story and the main intention of these films is to demonize a particular community. Now we need films that ally and heal wounds and not make citizens intolerant.

Zeeshan | Kazipet

MAHUA MOITRA ACCUSES SEBI

Sir — TMC MP Ms Mahua Moitra has accused the Securities and Exchange Board of India of working dedicatedly for and protecting the Adani Group. The apex court or the central government should act immediately without any further delay, otherwise, Mahua madam should be arrested in connection with making false allegations. If even now the government remains silent, it means that there is something black in the lentils. Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of serious financial irregularities a few months back. Mahua Moitra even raised specific questions in July 2021 regarding foreign portfolio investors in the Adani group.

SIDDARAMAIAH TO LEAD K'TAKA



welcome the decision of the Congress Party that Siddaramaiah will be the next chief minister of Karnataka with DK Shivakumar as his deputy, ending days of uncertainty. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge break the political deadlock over the next CM in Karnataka and arrived at a consensus for government formation. The oath-taking ceremony will be held in Bengaluru on 20th May before calling a Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting in Bengaluru. Central Observers from the All India Congress Committee (AICC) have been asked to reach Bengaluru to conduct the CLP Meeting. With this political crisis, the leadership in Karnataka has ended.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Moitra, who worked on Wall Street before venturing into politics. Moitra Madam's questioning of SEBI's lenient attitude is also justified because the three months given by the Supreme Court has also fallen short and asking for six months, puts SEBI in the circle of doubt.

Even though the court has given only three months instead of six. But even this should not have been given. Because if the investigation is done properly then SEBI itself will come under wraps. Because the Adani group has not answered even one of the 80 questions asked by Hindenburg. The intensity with which Adani Group had talked about taking legal action against Hindenburg, why has it not happened till now? The questions are many but the answer is simple.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

GENDER NEUTRAL RECRUITMENT

Sir — From time to time supreme court issue advisory whenever there are violations of fundamental rights. In the recent past supreme court had suggested that let disabled be appointed to office work in Army on an experimental basis. And now Government has informed the Supreme Court that from now onwards gender neu-

tral recruitment will be made in Army Dental Corps and no separate quotas for males and females type of decision were made after the court expressed disapproval over the recruitment process, which had only reserved 10 per cent of vacancies for.

The Government's new gender-neutral policy will apply to all future recruitment. The court has disposed of the plea filed by women dental doctors challenging the recruitment process. Three female candidates have been appointed based on their merit and the remaining seats will be filled by both male and female candidates. The court's decision is in line with its 2020 judgement granting permanent commissions to women in defence forces.

It is a well known fact that the government and the military leadership have taken many steps to address the issue of gender bias in the armed forces and it is well-known that the decision to allow women to serve in combat roles and the granting of permanent commissions to women officers are significant steps in this direction

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Meditation, yoga, and a balanced diet are crucial for expectant mothers



DR SHEETAL DESHPANDE

Besides a flood of overwhelming emotions, pregnancy brings a lot of challenges for the mother during and after childbearing. While tender breasts, nausea, and fatigue are some of the issues an expectant mother faces, a set of dietary restrictions is required to accommodate the new life inside them. In the postpartum period, a new set of food items are suggested to fasten the pregnancy labour recovery and breastfeeding. C-section and normal delivery follow different routines as the former takes more time to recover from the surgery.

A woman's diet during and after pregnancy plays a vital role in her and the baby's overall well-being. Proper nutrition through seasonal fruits and vegetables, dairy products, whole grains, nuts and seeds is a must along with good mental health. It goes hand in hand.

Foods that come with essential vitamins

Carrots, pumpkin, leafy veggies, sweet potato and a green palate (leafy vegetables) would suffice your routine vitamin intake. Vitamin A and potassium should be a part of daily meals. Bananas, Oranges, and Mangoes can help to fill the Vitamin C void and dairy products like buttermilk, yoghurt, and milk are great sources of Vitamin D. However, in terms of milk consumption only pasteurised milk should be preferred as the one that's raw and yoghurt at times might contain harmful pathogens. Protein intake is another important requirement during pregnancy. Beans, lentils and other items suggested by the expert are perfect.



Prenatal vitamin supplements

Supplements with multivitamins and components like zinc are best for a prenatal vitamin source, especially those combined with folic acid. Supplements ensure that the mother meets the intake of essential minerals and vitamins. But this does not mean you are not supposed to take vitamins. Ayurveda suggests that rice, milk, wheat, amla, mango, grapes, raisins, butter and ghee are healthy during all trimesters of pregnancy.

Increased calorie intake

From getting in touch with a dietician to consuming nutritious meals, pregnant women adopting a healthy routine is a must. For proper sustenance of mom and the baby, there has to be an additional 350 calorie intake on a daily basis. A balanced diet of organic food items, with moderate sugary or fatty foods, should be consumed considering the height, weight and age. Also, if there are any underlying conditions, let your healthcare provider know so the diet can be recommended accordingly.

Fluids, fluids and fluids!

Water is not all that's sufficient in pregnancy. You need to consume fluids from other sources to complete the quota. Approximately 2.3 litres (or 10 cups) of fluids are enough every day for proper blood production in those months. Caffeinated beverages like tea or coffee are to be limited and if possible can be completely eradicated from the diet.

What to avoid?

While caffeine and unpasteurised milk should be on your don'ts at the top, be very careful about your intake of meat and eggs, they must be cooked at a high temperature. Fishes with high methylmercury levels like the king mackerel and swordfish among others not be consumed at all. To keep uterus contractions at bay, consume tropical fruits and vegetables like brinjal, pineapple, and papaya at moderate levels.

Yoga and Meditation helps

Incorporating meditation, yoga, and a balanced diet is crucial for the well-being of expectant mothers. Meditation helps reduce stress and promotes relaxation, enhancing emotional stability. Yoga exercises improve flexibility, strength, and posture while relieving common pregnancy discomforts. A nutritious diet ensures proper nourishment for both the mother and the developing baby, supporting optimal growth and development. Together, these practices create a holistic approach to promoting a healthy pregnancy and preparing the mother for childbirth.

(The writer is the director & Co-Founder, 'Activist')

G-7 summit to focus on countering China



DR RISHI GUPTA

G7 Summit in Hiroshima will have to deal with a number of pressing issues many of which do not have simple solutions



The leaders of the G7 countries—France, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada will gather for the annual summit at the historic city of Hiroshima in Japan from 19-21 May. While they discuss issues concerning global security including a nuclear weapon-free world amidst the Russia-Ukraine War, global economic growth, international trade, and climate change, Japan—as the current chair of the G7—will be playing a crucial role in facilitating dialogue between G7 countries and the 'Global South' on various issues including global health, China, and Ukraine among others.

G7 & China In addition to the economic cooperation and policy coordination among the G7 countries, discussions on China's economic and strategic coercion are likely to take centre stage. Going by the discussions surrounding the Summit, the G7 is likely to issue a separate statement on economic security stressing the counter-measures to Chinese economic coercion by ensuring supply chain resilience, fair trade, and avoiding reliance on China for semiconductors, rare earth minerals, etc. Amidst these speculations, Beijing has issued its counter saying "No one is more qualified than the US to be called out for economic coercion. Japan surely knows this best from its experience with the Plaza Accord of the 1980s (and)...if G7 members truly care about economic security, they should ask the US to stop budgeoning and curbing other countries in the name of national security, stop bullying others, and coercing allies to form exclusive blocs." China is all up in arms and closely watching how G7 unfolds.

THE UKRAINE WAR

Other than China, the Russian aggression against Ukraine will see some serious debate. The G7 countries have been clear on the Ukraine issue—that is to resolve through peaceful means and following the Minsk agreements, which seek to secure



THE G7 ANNUAL SUMMIT IN HIROSHIMA WILL BE A HISTORIC EVENT WHERE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL BE DISCUSSING ECONOMIC SECURITY AND QUAD MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE DISCUSSING WAYS TO COUNTER CHINA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

(The write works with Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi)

a ceasefire, the removal of heavy weaponry, the restoration of Ukraine's authority over its borders, and the execution of political reforms. Leaders of all G7 countries have visited Ukraine and shown solidarity and supported sanctions against Russia. At the same time, it is crucial to remember that the G7 nations' attitudes and strategies regarding Ukraine may differ from one another as their relations with Russia vary in proximity. A peaceful resolution to the Ukraine Crisis may be an idle plan for the G7 but considering President Putin's no back-tracking and a potentially nuclear war-like situation, what can the world's best economies and military powers offer to the situation, will be an important outcome to look for. It is also crucial for G7 countries to be on the same page to deal with the Russia-China bonhomie that presents a two-front challenge in the Eurasian region. Apart from G7 countries, Japan has invited non-member states including India, South Korea, Brazil, and Australia. For Japan, the G7 summit is an important opportunity to solidify its relations with the member and non-member countries and discuss common issues like global health and bridging the gap between the 'Global North' and 'Global South'.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Among the non-member invitees include the President of South Korea—Yoon Suk Yeol. The historical thaw between the two countries dates back to Japanese colonial rule over Korea from 1910 to 1945. While history continues to remind the Koreans of the brutalities of the Japanese colonial rule, events of this century too have dented the ties. In 2018, the relationship was strained due to matters of trade and naval

engagement. However, during a recent visit to South Korea, Prime Minister Kishida conveyed that his 'heart hurts' thinking of the suffering of Koreans during its 25 years long colonization of Korea. Acceptance of Kishida's 'sincere apology' by Korea holds strategic importance as they along with the US face threats from North Korea. To build effective countermeasures to North Korean missiles, Kishida will be holding a trilateral dialogue with the US and South Korea on the sidelines of the summit. The outcomes of the trilateral dialogue will be critical in addressing a predominant threat from North Korea which doubles with the Chinese advance-military aggressions in the South and the East China Sea targeting Taiwan. In the current scenario, regional threats in Korean Peninsula need global solutions.

GLOBAL SOUTH

At the G7 where China will be a major focus, India's presence as a guest will be interesting to watch. Prime Minister Kishida invited his Indian counterpart—Narendra Modi to participate in the G7 Summit during his visit to India for the annual India-Japan Summit in March this year. Japan shares a 'special strategic and global partnership' with India and both find common ground on the Indo-Pacific Strategy and are members of the Quadrilateral dialogue. What is more interesting is the shared intent between Japan and India on addressing the issues faced by the 'Global South', thanks to the Covid-19 and Ukraine war that has acutely affected the 'Global South' and mandated the need for global cooperation on the same. With India as the current chair of the G20 countries, Prime Minister

Kishida and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have an exceptional opportunity to discuss the issues faced by the 'Global South' including global health and digitalisation.

There is an acute economic disparity between the two worlds—'Global North' and 'Global South' which has clearly been visible during Covid-19. Also, while the Western world managed to survive the food crisis amidst the war in Ukraine, countries in the 'Global South' faced a shortage of food and fuel. While the 'Global South' expects G7 to acknowledge their challenges and help them, G7 would want support from 100 plus countries falling in the 'Global South' category on Ukraine and China. Despite the acute implications of the Ukraine crisis on the 'Global South', the vast majority of the Global South's nations have not sided with the West in imposing sanctions on Russia. Because they cherish their independence, many countries including India, have abstained from taking sides in the developing dispute between the United States and China. How effectively G7 countries address the concerns of the 'Global South' including shortage of food and soaring fuel prices will also determine the latter's approach towards leading a collective defence against China and Russia.

WAY FORWARD

Overall, the G7 Annual Summit in Hiroshima will be a historic event where it will not just be the developed rich industrial economies discussing economic security, the presence of Quad member countries will help define the next steps for the forum seeking to counter China in the Indo-Pacific.

Challenges of manufacturing eye care medicines in India

Despite the lack of adequate infrastructure, India can become a global leader in the manufacturing of eye care medicines

In 2019, the world's population aged 65 and over was estimated at 703 million, accounting for approximately 9.1% of the global population. With an acceleration in the ageing of the world populace, this number is expected to rise to 1.5 billion (15.3%) by 2050. As populations age, there is a growing burden of vision-related disorders, which can cause blindness or moderate-to-severe visual impairment. Cataracts, under-corrected refractive error, glaucoma, myopia and diabetic retinopathy are among the most common causes of vision loss that could be prevented or treated through early detection and intervention. Offering such treatment to restore vision would



NIKKHIL K MASURKAR

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be a noble act of immense value. Many nations around the world are making significant efforts to offer vision restoration services with dedication and commitment. However, providing such services in India, with its massive population of 1.4 billion people, is undoubtedly a gargantuan task. Nonetheless, it is achievable with the right policies and adequate support.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

In 2021, the domestic pharmaceutical market in India was valued at US\$ 42 billion and is projected to reach US\$ 65 billion by 2024 and US\$ 120-130 billion by 2030, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12%. By volume, India is

the third-largest pharmaceutical producer globally, and it ranks 14th by value. With its current status as the largest supplier of generics and vaccines globally, India's position in the pharmaceutical industry is expected to continue to grow over the next decade.

India's government implemented significant economic reforms in 1991, which led to market liberalization and the integration of the Indian pharmaceutical industry with the global economy. The end of the "License-Raj" policy allowed for more freedom in the market and increased competition, which resulted in better product quality from domestic players.

To attract and sustain investment in the pharma-

ceutical sector, the Indian government has launched several policies to improve the ease of doing business.

Examples of these policies include the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Bulk Drugs, the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals, and the Bulk Drug Parks Scheme. Amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have also been made to promote indigenous manufacturing of over 35 Active Pharma Ingredients (APIs) that were previously imported.

In the Union Budget 2023-24, the government announced a scheme to promote bulk drug parks, with INR 3,000 crore approved for

setting up three mega Bulk Drug Parks in the country. Grants-in-Aid will be provided to states, with a maximum limit of INR 1,000 crore per Bulk Drug Park.

OPPORTUNITIES

The process of pharmaceutical production is intricate and demands a significant level of expertise. The manufacturers in the pharmaceutical industry are facing the daunting challenge of maintaining quality standards and productivity amidst the industry's rapid expansion and heightened regulatory oversight. Despite the growth in the sector, various hurdles persist, leading some labs to question whether the current model is sustainable in the long run.

CHALLENGES

Shortage of Skilled Labour: The Indian pharmaceutical industry faces a shortage of skilled labour, which hampers the manufacturing process. To overcome this challenge, the industry needs to invest in training and development programs to upskill the existing workforce and attract new talent to the industry.

Lack of Adequate Infrastructure: Though initiatives and efforts by the government are driving the growth of the sector, the Indian pharmaceutical industry still lacks adequate infrastructure, which makes it difficult to manufacture high-quality eye care medicines. The industry needs significant investment in

research and development, manufacturing facilities, and supply chain infrastructure to meet the growing demand for eye care medicines.

Despite the challenges, there are several opportunities for the Indian pharmaceutical industry to expand its manufacturing capabilities for eye care medicines. Some of these opportunities include:

Growing Demand for Eye Care Medicines: The demand for eye care medicines is growing, not just in India, but also globally. The Indian pharmaceutical industry can leverage this demand by investing in research and development to develop new and innovative medicines for eye diseases.



Kohli's ton helps RCB climb 4th spot

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Virat Kohli conjured up a magical hundred to steal the thunder from Heinrich Klaassen's maiden IPL ton as Royal Challengers Bangalore stayed in contention for a play-off berth with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Thursday.

Klaassen displayed his big-hitting prowess, slamming six sixes and eight fours during his scintillating 51-ball 104-run knock to lift SRH to 186 for five from 28 for 2 in the fifth over.

But Kohli (100) had other plans as he and du Plessis (71) helped RCB chase down the target with their magnificent ball-striking on way to a 172-run opening stand, the highest partnership of the season, as they romped home with four balls to spare.



with Harry Brook (27 not out) to take SRH to a competitive total.

Already out of playoff race, SRH once again had a poor start with Rahul Tripathi (15) and Abhishek Sharma (11) frittering away good starts.

It was off-spinner Michael Bracewell who struck twice, removing both the openers in his first three balls. While Abhishek hit straight to Lomror at cover, Tripathi found the fine leg fielder off his slog paddle sweep.

Klaassen hammered three fours off Shabbaz Ahmed to power the Sunrisers to 49 for 2 in the powerplay.

Klaassen rocked back and pulled every time the ball was short as Bracewell and Harshal Patel was sent across the ropes, while Karn Sharma was dispatched for a 74-metre six.

Karn Sharma was then punished for bowling over-pitched with Klaassen depositing him into the stands. The South African completed his fifty in 24 balls. While Klaassen was in full flow, Markram managed just run-a-ball 18 before his off stump was pegged back by Shabbaz while he looked for a reverse hit. Brook then picked up a four and six off Karn Sharma, who bled 21 runs, with Klaassen too lifting him over cover.

Du Plessis' decision to make Shabbaz bowl the 17th over backfired as Klaassen clobbered the first two balls over the bowler's head, while Brook sent one fine. Parnell nailed the yorkers to concede just seven runs in the next over but Klaassen then plundered Harshal over his head to bring up his hundred. He was dismissed one ball later while looking for another big shot.

Following the victory, RCB climbed to the fourth spot due to their better net run rate although they are tied with Mumbai Indians on 14 points. They will, however, have to win their next match to stay in the mix as Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants are at 15 points with one match to go.

Kohli was all class as he hit four maximums and 12 fours in his 63-ball knock, while du Plessis cracked seven fours and two sixes in his 47-ball knock as the two dished out a chasing masterclass.

Often criticised for slowing down post the powerplay, Kohli settled the debate with some extraordinary shots as he kept dealing in boundaries in the middle overs to never let the tempo slip.

Needing a win to stay in play-off contention, Kohli and du Plessis gave RCB a flying start to their chase. The in-form opening duo played some gorgeous shots, piling up 64 in the first six overs. Kohli started the proceedings with two hits across the ropes off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, before slamming spinner Abhishek Sharma for two more boundaries. The skipper then joined the party, punishing Kartik Tyagi for bowling short with three fours though he was dropped by Glenn Phillips in between at the boundary line.

Kohli then played an exquisite shot at deep extra cover for another four as

18 runs came off the fourth over.

Du Plessis next deposited Bhuvneshwar over deep square leg and followed it up with another four with RCB accumulating 14 runs off the over.

Knowing well that net run rate might come into play to decide the top four, Kohli and du Plessis kept their foot on the pedal with the former pulling debutant Nitish Reddy over deep mid.

Mayank Dagar pulled off an unbelievable catch at the boundary line but du Plessis survived after umpire called it a no-ball as Nitish was guilty of bowling a second bouncer.

After two quiet overs, du Plessis blasted Abhishek for a six and a four, before Bhuvneshwar came in the firing line, conceding four boundaries as the 15th over yielded 18 runs.

Kohli completed his hundred with another six off Bhuvneshwar before holding out in the next ball. Du Plessis followed suit with T Natarajan's slower delivery doing the trick.

Glenn Maxwell and Michael Bracewell then completed the job.

Earlier, Klaassen forged a 76-run partnership with Aiden Markram (18) before adding another 74 off 36 balls

RR, PBKS face off in do-or-die game

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Punjab Kings would need to review their bowling plans while Rajasthan Royals will have to live up to their high potential when both inconsistent teams make a last ditch effort to keep their slim playoff hopes alive in the IPL here on Friday.

Considering their superior net run rate, Royals are better placed than Punjab Kings ahead of their final league game but both will have to rely on other results after an up and down season.

The season has told a familiar story for perennial under-performers Punjab Kings, who once again could not seize the crucial moments in the business end of the tournament.

The pace department has been guilty of leaking too many runs in both the powerplay and death overs. With the likes of Kagiso Rabada, Sam Curran and Arshdeep Singh conceding close to 10 runs per over, the England batter will be itching to perform in the do-or-die game.

While Rabada has not been at his best, not using Arshdeep both in powerplay and death overs here on Wednesday night was expectedly questioned. The pacer has made his name nailing yorkers in the death overs and of late has troubled the opening batters with his swing.

After being consistent in the first half of the tournament, the lanky left-arm pacer has gone off the boil and will look to lift his game in the must win contest.

Shikhar Dhawan used left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar in the 20th over against Delhi Capitals and it backfired massively, effectively making the difference in the game.

On the batting front, Dhawan too has not been able to get going in the last two games and would want to lead from the front.

Rajasthan Royals, who looked the team to beat in the first half of IPL with four wins from their first five games, only have themselves for their troubles.

Despite exemplary performances from the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Yuzvendra Chahal, the star studded outfit has flattered to deceive.

Jos Buttler too has played some sensational knocks but has not been consistent enough. Having being dismissed without scoring in the previous two games, the England batter will be itching to perform in the do-or-die game.

Skipper Sanju Samson backs himself to take on the bowlers in any situation and he will continue to play the high risk game.

Considering the depth of their squad, Rajasthan were among the pre-tournament favourites who went too hot and cold for their own liking.

Gurbaz keen to 'settle scores' against Naveen-ul-Haq

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders opener Ker Rahmanullah Gurbaz is looking forward to 'settle scores' with his Afghan teammate Naveen-ul-Haq in their final IPL league match against Lucknow Super Giants, here on Saturday.

The mercurial Afghan pacer always "teases" Gurbaz for dismissing him during their practice matches and this time the wicketkeeper-batter wants to give him back.

"In practice matches he (Naveen) got me out every time, and he always keeps telling me that 'I got you out, I got you out'... But once the real time comes, I'm gonna hit him," Gurbaz said in a lighter vein in an interaction posted in KKR Knight Club.

Gurbaz further said he hopes to smash Naveen for sixes this time.

"I met him once in a T10 match and hit him for some boundaries. But this time, I



We are entering KKR's game as season's last one: Sandeep

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Rajasthan Royals are still mathematically alive in the race for a play-off berth but seamer Sandeep Sharma on Thursday said they will enter their final league game against Punjab Kings thinking it's their last outing of this IPL season.

Considering their superior net run rate, Rajasthan Royals are better placed than Punjab

Kings ahead of Friday's game but both will have to rely on other results after an up and down season.

"This kind of game is the easiest to play in, you don't have to think much, just go out there and express yourself. As of now we are entering tomorrow's game as the season's last one and will look to end it on a positive note," Sandeep said on the eve of the match.

"Obviously it is a bit stressful, every team wants to qualify for the playoffs, and we found it difficult this year. But, at the same time, as a professional player we have to perform and try to win the game for our team." Rajasthan Royals, who looked the team to beat in the first half of IPL with four wins from their first five games, only have themselves to blame for their troubles.

hope I hit him for some sixes," said Gurbaz, who has 217 runs from 10 matches this season.

Naveen, who made headlines for his bust-up with star premier Indian batter Virat Kohli earlier this season, has

played six matches this season and bagged seven wickets.

He made a comeback in their last match against Mumbai Indians but only to return wicketless with figures of 0/37 from his full quota.

Gurbaz, however, rated his 23-year-old teammate highly.

"He's one of the best bowlers in the T20 circuit. He's very smart and very skillful bowler," Gurbaz said.

I don't want to imitate anyone: Krunal on captaincy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Relishing the role of leading Lucknow Super Giants in this IPL, Krunal Pandya on Thursday said as captain he looks to learn good things from everyone but without "imitating anyone".

Elder brother of Indian T20 team skipper Hardik Pandya, Krunal took over LSG captaincy after KL Rahul pulled out because of an injury with five matches remaining in the league phase. "KL is a big loss for us, it's really sad. But I've taken this challenge and looking forward to it and make it bigger," Krunal said during a media interaction here.

"Obviously, I've been aware that I'm the vice-captain for the team, and again I've never changed. I always played cricket how I wanted to play cricket.

I've taken the captaincy the same way as well.

"I don't want to imitate anyone. Yes, I want to learn good things from everyone but at the same time, I want to be myself," he said about his captaincy. He will be leading the team in a must-win game against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Saturday.

"If I be myself, and if I do it my way then the chances of doing well for the team is high. I've played cricket hard and in a certain way, and the same thing I apply while captaining this team as well."

A former Baroda skipper, Krunal captained LSG in their home match against Chennai Super Kings, which was washed out on May 3. With this, Krunal and Hardik became the first siblings to captain two IPL franchises.

Since then, Krunal oversaw



LSG to wear Mohun Bagan colours against KKR

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Lucknow Super Giants, owned by city-based conglomerate RP Sanjiv Goenka Group, will don Mohun Bagan's fabled green and maroon-coloured jersey in their IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Saturday.

The RPSG Group, which bought the Lucknow franchise following IPL's expansion to 10 teams in 2022, are also the principal owners of the Indian

Super League team Mohun Bagan, having acquired a majority stake before the ISL 2020-21 season.

"It is (Mohun Bagan) not an institution, it's actually an emotion. It's legacy represents the city of Kolkata," LSG team owner Shashwat Goenka said.

"It is with this in mind, that we have decided that LSG will don the iconic colours of maroon and green in Saturday's match against KKR at Eden Gardens.

"It is our way of paying respect to the legacy of Mohun Bagan and to the legacy of our city."

With this LSG hopes to find themselves at home come Saturday, in a must-win battle for both teams' playoff prospects.

"Not just Mohun Bagan fans, but hope all the residents of Kolkata will support us. For us, Kolkata is our home right. So, as much support as we can get, that's what we would ask for," Goenka added.

their respective teams.

"We discuss cricket a lot, we discuss everything. We have played cricket in a certain way, whether we were leaders or not we have always taken responsibilities, and we have seen this game as a leader. "So when you become captain, it's slightly easier because you have always seen the game how you can contribute and how you can win games," Krunal said.

Asked whether former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has played any role in his captaincy, Krunal said: "MS has been the biggest captain in Indian history."

"By just observing you learn a lot of things, I've learnt a lot of things, from MS as well. I want to take good things from everyone but I want to be myself, that's the way I can get the best out of myself," Krunal added.

LSG's two wins and a loss that came against defending champions Gujarat Titans, who are being led by his brother Hardik. Krunal's captaincy style and reading of the game has drawn

praise from none other than the legendary Sunil Gavaskar.

Gavaskar was particularly impressed with the way the LSG skipper defended 177 against Mumbai Indians en

route to sealing a thrilling five-run win.

Krunal said he and Hardik have always seen the game from leaders' perspective, which has helped them while captaining

Zaheer puzzled over repetitive injuries to Indian bowlers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India pacer Zaheer Khan on Thursday said he was "puzzled" over the fact that a string of fast bowlers are spending time away from the field nursing repetitive injuries, adding that something is going wrong somewhere for them to suffer such "big injuries".

Apart from Jasprit Bumrah, who has been out of action for several months, right-arm pacers Deepak Chahar and Prasad Krishna have also missed cricket for a long period.

Chahar did make a comeback in the ongoing IPL, but missed a few games in between for Chennai Super Kings due to a hamstring injury while Prasad had back-related troubles resulting in a stress fracture.

"I am equally puzzled as you on this. You have mentioned the

bowlers but there also are some batters who are having some serious injuries. That is something which is beyond my understanding and it has to do with the combination for sure," Zaheer told the media during an interaction organised by Jio Cinema.

"Some things need to be looked at carefully in terms of how they are approaching the whole season, their training and their rest-to-recovery ratios and a whole lot of other things.

"It is very difficult to pinpoint at just one word (to describe) exactly what is going on but I would say, yes, there is something going wrong somewhere for all these guys to get such big injuries," he added.

But Zaheer was pleased with the way the other two key Indian pacers — Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj —



have operated in this IPL.

"It has been a treat to watch them operate. They have kept things simple, something which is required. I would say it is the right way of approaching the powerplay and it is great to see

bowlers (like them) are setting that kind of example, simplifying things and not getting caught up in the format," Zaheer said.

Zaheer said a heavy IPL for both Shami and Siraj should not affect their workload much, cit

ing the amount of bowling required in Test cricket as India players also have an eye on their World Test Championship final versus Australia from June 7.

"As a bowler, the more you bowl the better it is for you —

that is the way I have always looked at it. When you are looking at the workload, I have always believed, talking about IPL as a tournament and T20 as a format, your high-intensity overs are like 64 or 70 — that is the kind of overs you are looking at," Zaheer explained.

"It is not a very high workload (scenario). Knowing the match overs, you can always manage yourself but when you are looking at Test match finals, you are talking about upping this workload. In a Test match, you will be bowling 18-20 overs in a day, which is going to be at high intensity," he added.

"From the workload management point of view, for a bowler it is about getting yourself ready to spend a day on the field for 90 overs and coming back again the next day and doing it, if required. That is the

kind of preparation, in terms of workload it should be upped right now rather than decreased," said the 2011 World Cup winner.

The former speedster expressed dissatisfaction with the way Sunrisers Hyderabad handled and used Umran Malik this IPL, whose express pace has impressed one and all.

"I think Umran Malik has not been handled well by the franchise with the way his services should have been utilised by SRH and that has been evident," Zaheer said.

He added, "When you are talking about a young seamer, you are also looking at creating that environment and support. That (kind of) guidance is required. Unfortunately that was not seen from SRH and that is why he has had the season the way he had."

Shedge replaces injured Unadkat at LSG

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Young Mumbai all-rounder Suryansh Shedge has been picked as a replacement for injured seamer Jaydev Unadkat in Lucknow Super Giants, the IPL franchise said on Thursday.

The replacement comes more than two weeks after Unadkat was ruled out of the remainder of the IPL because of a left-shoulder injury, which he sustained while training in the nets.

"Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Thursday brought Suryansh Shedge on board as a replacement for the injured Jaydev Unadkat for the remainder of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023," the LSG said in a statement.