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NADAL PULLS OUT OF FRENCH

# NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 19, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

# 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 Governor Thaawarchand 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

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 Siddaramiah 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

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 75year-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 class-dominated Karnataka, having served as Chief Minister from 2013 to

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.

Siddaramaih 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 Siddaramaih and Shivakumar as the CM and Deputy CM.

Asked about his relenting to play second fiddle to Siddaramaih 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

Continued on Page 2

# 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

'n 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 visa-vis those held by the higher

judiciary.

The major change has



Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Arjun Ram Meghwal during a meeting, in Nev Delhi on Thursday

come barely 10 months before the Lok Sabha polls and "more expected" in the run up to the general elections, according to

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. Continued on Page 2

### CAPSULE

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

CHINA PRAISES INDIA FOR HELP IN FINDING SAILORS Beijing: Two people from the

Chinese fishing vessel which sank in the central Indian Ocean ere confirmed dead 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

DRIVER FACES MUSIC FOR LEAVING WOMEN AT STOP

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal 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

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 has approv 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 develop-

ment, 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 con-

tinuing." India had filed a complaint on June 10, 2020, seek-



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

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. Continued on Page 2

### **SC** nixes WB ban on Kerala Story; TMC: Won't take blame for issues

PNS KOLKATA

s Opposition BJP is cele-As Opposition 2,2 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 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".

Continued on Page 2

# Survey 'caste' aside; SC says it needs to vet Bihar's agenda

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 will hear further submission the HC has recorded prima facie findings and we will have to decide whether it is merely a survev or a census. "We will have to see if in the name of survey it is a census," the top court orally remarked.

Iustice 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. Îf for

any reason, the hearing of the

writ petition does not com-

mence before the next date, we

sel for the petitioner (Bihar)," the bench said. At the outset, senior advo-

cate 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 respond. 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.

Continued on Page 2

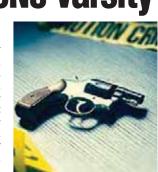
# **Death follows hugs: Boy shoots girl, kills** self at GreNo varsity

third-year student of Shiv Athird-year student Greater Noida shot dead a female classmate, after which he returned to his room at the boy's hostel and allegedly shot lf around 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 death.

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." Continued on Page 2

# Jaishankar, Khattar, Vij get assassination threats from Khalistan terror outfit SFJ

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Us-based neo-Khalistan ter-ror group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has given a call for the assassination of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Harvana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Home Minister of that State Anil Vij through a pre-record-

ed 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 SFI 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



arrest of a host of alleged Khalistani leaders like Amritpal Singh and his cohorts, counterterrorism 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), ana-

Continued on Page 2 | modern technology.

### 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

# 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 bulltaming sport "Jallikattu", bullock-cart races and buffalo racing sport "Kambala", saying they are "valid legislations" has given hope to some for legalising Goa's traditional bullfighting 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



Jallikattu fine, SC quotes tradition;

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Second played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival. Amendment) Act, 2017 were enacted by the respective State legislatures and had received Presidential assent.

"Jallikattu", also known as a pair of buffaloes tied to a

"eruthazhuvuthal", is a sport

The "Kambala" race, held Karnataka between November and March, involves

person. They are made to run in parallel muddy tracks in a competition in which the fastest team wins. The bench said Jallikattu is

plough and anchored by one

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 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

Continued on Page 2

### **Pick PK Gupta** as Delhi Chief Secy, AAP urges Centre

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After replacing services sec-retary 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 of Delhi. Gupta, a 1989 batch IAS officer of AGMUT Cadre, is currently posted as Delhi additional chief secretary in the general administration. Continued on Page 2

# **Modi flags off Odisha's** 1st Vande Bharat train

## PM also inaugurates ₹8,2000 cr projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched railway projects worth Rs 8,200 crore in Odisha and flagged off the state's first Vande Bharat Express that will connect Puri to West Bengal's Howrah. Addressing the function through video-conferencing, Modi said new India is building its own technologies and reaching those to the different corners of the

"The Vande Bharat Express will further strengthen the religious, cultural and spiritual connection between Howrah and Puri," he said. Fifteen Vande Bharat trains are operational in the country at present and those are boosting both connectivity and economy, Modi said. "There was a time when new technologies and facilities used to remain limited to Delhi or the big cities. But now, India has

chosen a new path. This new India is making technologies on

its own and reaching those to different corners of the country," he said, referring to the indigenously developed semi-highspeed train.

The prime minister said that as the country celebrates 'Amrit Kaal' of its Independence, it's time to further strengthen its unity. "The more India's unity is strengthened, the more its collective capacity will increase," he said. He also lauded the state for continuing India's developmental streak amid challenges.

"Amidst even most challenging times, India kept its developmental journey intact. The reason behind this has been participation of all states, and India's spirit of walking ahead collectively," he said. The Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express will be fastest train on route, covering the 500 km dis-

also laid foundation stone for redevelopment of Puri and Cuttack railway stations. He dedicated to the nation 100 per cent electrification of the railway network in Odisha. This will reduce the operating and maintenance cost and reduce reliance on imported crude oil, officials He also inaugurated the

doubling of Sambalpur-Titlagarh rail line, a new broad gauge rail line between Angul and Sukinda, the third line connecting Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga and a new broad-gauge line between Bichhupali and Jhartarbha. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were present at the programme in Puri station.

# Op Dhvast: NIA raids 129 places, arrests three persons

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three persons in connection with the multi-State raids conducted on Wednesday as part of a nationwide operation, codenamed 'Operation Dhvast', in the terrorist-gangster-drug smugglers network cases.

The NIA had raided 129 of the total 324 locations searched in the coordinated crackdown carried out by the agency, along with Punjab Police and Haryana Police. Following its searches at 129 places in eight States, NIA has taken into custody three persons, one each from Moga (Punjab), Bhiwani (Haryana) and North-East District (Delhi), the NIA said

in a statement. "While one of the arrested accused, Parveen Wadhwa from Bhiwani, was found liaising with certain notorious gangsters, including Lawrence Bishnoi, in jail, NIA seized weapons from the house of Irfan from New Seelampur (Delhi), who is also associated with dreaded gangsters. The third, Jassa Singh of Moga, was working at the behest of Canada based 'listed terrorist'

Arsh Dhalla," the agency said in a statement. As per NIA investigations, Parveen alias Prince was in regular touch with Lawrence Bishnoi and his gang members Deepak alias Tinu and Sampat Nehra, along with other associates.

He was working as their special messenger from inside jails.Investigations into the activities of Irfan alias Chenu revealed his involvement in a terror conspiracy involving gangster Kaushal Choudhary and his associates Sunil Balyan aliasTillu Tajpuria, among others. He has been arraigned as an accused following the raids that also led to the recovery of arms, it said.

In the case of Jassa Singh, NIA has established his role in the Khalistan terror conspiracy. He had delivered a pistol at the instance of Arsh Dalla, according to the NIA investigations. Wednesday's raids were a part of the continuing crackdown by NIA on terror networks as well as their funding and support infrastructure, wherein the agency has been investigating three cases since August 2022. The nationwide raids were conducted across eight States/UTs, name-

Úttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh. While NIA had knocked on the doors of 129 premises, Punjab Police had launched searches at 143 places in 17 districts and Haryana Police had raided 52 locations in 10 districts simultaneously as part of the day-long searches.

The cases are connected with conspiracies related to targeted killings, terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits and extortion. Notable among these cases are the sensational killing of Maharashtra builder Sanjay Biyani and international Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambia in Punjab last

NIA investigations have so far revealed that the conspiracies were being hatched in jails of different States and were being executed by an organized network of operatives based abroad. The spotlight on these gangs has become sharper after reports of several Prisons becoming havens of the deadly nexus and hubs of gang wars, which recently resulted in violence and murder inside Goindwal Jail and Tihar Jail.

### JNU forbids talk on Manipur violence; students to continue event as planned

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The JNU administration on Thursday "firmly advised" a group of students against holding a discussion on the recent Manipur violence on the campus even as the organisers said the event will he held as per schedule.

"It has come to the notice of the administration that a group of students has in the name of 'THE COLLECTIVE' released a pamphlet for discussion on happenings in Manipur scheduled to be held at Ganga Dhaba on 18th May 2023 at 9:30 pm," the varsity said. No prior permission for this event was taken from the JNU Administration, it said.

Sourya Majumdar, the joint secretary of 'THE COLLEC-TIVE', said there is no rule against holding a discussion without taking permission. "We will continue with our plan to hold a discussion. It was never mandatory to take permission to hold a discussion. Why they are making it a rule now? This is baseless. How can a discussion disturb the peace of the university," he said.

# Rijiju...

the Law Minister, took on the judiciary on several issues from the appointment of judges and accountability to court vaca-Soon after his shifting to a

'low key" Ministry, he tweeted, 'It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as Union Minister of Law & Justice under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri@narendramodi ji. I thank Honble Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, all Judges of Supreme Court, Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts, Lower Judiciary & entire Law officers for the huge support in ensuring delivering ease of justice and providing legal services for our citizens.

"I look forward to fulfilling the vision of Hon'ble PM Shri@narendramodi ji in the Earth Sciences Ministry with the same zeal and vigour I have imbibed as a humble karyakarta of @BJP4India", he said.

Talking to news persons after his taking over as the Law Minister, Meghwal said there is no question of confrontation with the judiciary. "The executive and judiciary have a cordial relationship, and it will stay cordial and Constitutional. The boundaries are already there," he told newspersons.

# Sidda CM, DKS his deputy

2023 UAD CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD AT INTERNAL STREETS OF GOKULPURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, SIDDHI VINAYAK COLONY, BRAHMAPURI AND OTHER INTERNAL STREETS OF NEELBAD

WARD-26, ZONE 21

From Page 1 JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, JMM leader and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, DMK chief and Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav is understood to have acknowledged to attend the oath ceremony as invited by Congress president Kharge.

While National Conference Chief Farooq Abdullah is yet to

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confirm, CPI general secretary D Raja too confirmed his par-

ticipation at the swearing in.

TMC supremo West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who too has been invited to attend the swearingin ceremony is likely to skip the event however she has confirmed to send a representative. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav too and Delhi CM and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal too have been extended the invitation but their confirmation was not sure. "We are inviting the like-

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

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minded party leaders to be the part of swearing in ceremony," AICC general secretary organisation K C Venugopal said,

Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu too would attend the oath ceremony. Several top Congress leaders from Kharge to Sonia and Rahul were involved in hectic parleys with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar which finally helped to break

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the logjam over the top post in Karnataka.

Ever since the Karnataka Assembly results were declared on May 13, both the leaders started garnering support of MLAs close to them while mustering support for them-selves. With Siddaramaiah emerging as the frontrunner in the race and after the report of observers, the party leader-ship asked him and Shivakumar to arrive in Delhi for further consultations. While Siddaramaih arrived on Monday evening, Shivakumar cancelled the meeting citing health issues. This complicated the situation for the party as it hardened its stand against Shivakumar, who arrived the next day.

The final round of talks started on Wednesday when both the leaders met Kahul at his residence. In the meantime, Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah also spoke to Sonia, who was away in Shimla on a vacation. Sonia also asked Shivakumar to speak to Kharge and Rahul to sort out the matter, sources

The hectic parleys continued from Monday and went on till the wee hours of Thursday to break the deadlock in deciding on the Congress' chief ship issue in Karnataka lingered as Shivakumar had dug his heels in and asserted that he be made the chief minister as the party staged a stunning victory in the southern state under his presidency.

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# US court OK's extradition...

He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012 after a trial. Seen a significant legal victory for India, the ruling comes just over a month before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to the US on his first State visit at the invitation of President Joe Biden. He will be hosted by President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for a State dinner at the White House on June 22.

US Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian of the District Court of the Central District of California issued a 48-page order dated May 16, which was released Wednesday. It said 62-yearold Rana "should be extradited to India" under the extradition treaty between India and the United States.

"The court has reviewed and considered all of the documents submitted in support of and in opposition to the request and has considered the arguments presented at the hearing

"Based on such review and consideration and for the reasons discussed herein, the court makes the findings set forth below, and certifies to the Secretary of State of the United States the extraditability of Rana on the charged offences that are the subject of the request," the court order said.

Rana, who is currently in the federal lockup in downtown Los Angeles, can appeal in the Circuit Court, which will likely affirm the district court order. Under US law, Secretary of State is the authority who decides whether to surrender the fugitive.

The order noted that the court cannot certify Rana's extradition unless there is probable cause to believe he committed the offences for which extradition is sought.

### SC nixes WB ban on Kerala...

From Page 1

The film's distributor in the State said they will wait to see the theatre owners' readiness to screen the movie again. The Kerala Story was released in theatre halls on May 5. Directed by Sudipto Sen, the film claims that women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (ISIS). "The State Government had taken the decision as it apprehended that there could be tension if the film was screened.

Now the Supreme Court has passed an order. The State Government would abide by the court's order. The Opposition should not try to project it as a victory or a defeat of the State Government," senior TMC leader and Minister Shashi Panja said. West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee had on May 8 ordered an immediate ban on the screening of 'The Kerala Story'. Senior TMC leader and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "As the Supreme Court passed an order, the film will be screened again.

Now if there are issues due to the film screening, the Opposition should not blame us." TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, considered the number two in the party, said the top court was notified that the decision to ban the film was based on intelligence reports.

"The movie was banned as it could have jeopardised communal harmony. If the court has decided to stay the ban, the verdict is final," he said. The BJP, expectedly, welcomed the apex court's order claiming that the court has exposed the TMC's "communal politics".

#### Survey 'caste' away... **Death follows hugs:** The senior lawyer stated round started on April 15 and

the servers of the Bihar Government and not on any other cloud. It is a foolproof system. We are open to suggestion by the court," he said.

Divan further submitted that resources have already been mobilised and 80 per cent of the survey work has already been completed.

In an appeal filed before the top court against the May 4 order of the HC, the Bihar Government had said the stay will adversely affect the entire exercise. The state government said the collection of castebased data is a constitutional mandate under Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution. The first round of caste survey in Bihar was conducted between

that one of the concerns of the was supposed to continue till HC was the issue of privacy. May 15. Hearing a clutch of directed the State Government to immediately stop the castebased survey, and ensure that the data already collected are secured and not shared with anybody till final orders are passed.

"Prima facie, we are of the opinion that the State has no power to carry out a castebased survey, in the manner in which it is fashioned now, which would amount to a census, thus impinging upon the legislative power of the Union Parliament," the HC had said.

Expressing concern, the court noted the Government's intention was to share data from the survey with leaders of different parties in the state assembly.

Jallikattu...

# **Boy shoots girl, kills...**

Both the students were good friends but had some disputes of late, Khan said. The relatives of the duo have been informed and police teams have secured the incident spot, police said. "A country-made pistol

was recovered from the spot. The student had died on spot. During preliminary inquiry, it has been found that the students were in a relationship for a long time but recently their relations had turned sour," police said. The Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence said, 'The matter is currently under investigation by the authorities and we are closely monitoring the situation. All other resi-

dents of the campus are safe.

ty and well-being of our students, employees, and entire community." "We are fully cooperating with authorities in their investigation. Our deep and heartfelt condolences go out to affected families and we are supporting them in every way possible at this difficult time," it added.

"The university had gone on summer break from May come to a close and they were was captured in CCTV cam-

17, but both the students had stayed back in their hostels as their convocation was due. The students' sessions had going to graduate from the university," said an official part of investigation. He said incident eras of the dining hall.

### Pick PK Gupta... From Page 1

G20 tourism working group meeting under India's presidency between May 22 and 24.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who is facing several cases on terrorism charges but is living freely in the US without any action from the law enforcement agencies there despite the American Government claiming to fight terrorism worldwide

The US preaches Pakistan and other countries to rein in terror groups but is itself harbouring such groups. American server service provider Cloudflare Inc is known to host the websites of several UN-banned terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Tavvaba and Jaish-e-Mohammad on the one hand and the ISI on the other, the

He has also served as the commissioner of the erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). The present chief secretary of Delhi Kumar of the 1987 batch, serving as the chief secretary of Delhi since April 2022, is due to retire later this year.

According to a former bureaucrat, of AGMUT cadre, the appointment of Delhi's chief secretary is prerogative of the Central Government as Delhi does not have its own cadre of IAS officers. "The IAS officers serving in Delhi Government are drawn from AGMUT cadre which is controlled by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and their posting to Delhi Government is decided by Union Home Ministry.The Central Government is not bound to consider request of Delhi Chief Minister with regard to chief secretary's appointment," he said.

### **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Probable Farnest Money Cost of Bid

Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

#### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amoun (Rs. Lacs)
1	05/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ ET/2023-24	M/o Road (R/o Central Verge, Painting, K.C. Drain, C.C. Footpath 45.00 mtr. wide Road Mahamaya Flyover to Sector-105, 98 & underpass and between Sector-44, Sector-96-44 Road & 30.00 mtr. wide Road near Pearls Gateway Apartment to 45.00 mtr. Road), Noida.	69.09
2	08/DGM/SM(WC-2)/ 2023-24	M/o Road (Repair of Drain laying C.C. for side patries & other misc. work around Tikona Park Sector-18), Noida.	40.05
The	above tenders can be i	inloaded by dated 01,06,2023 upto 5,00 PM, Pre-qu	alification shall be

opened/downloaded on dated 02.06.2023 at 11.00 AM.

A) Fresh-Tender Work:

B)	B) Re-Tender Work:					
S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amoun (Rs. Lacs)			
3	01/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ ET/2023-24	Request for Proposal for Demolition & Removal of Debries of existing structures on as in where in condition at Barola village, 442, 443, 444 and 445 Khasra, Noida.				
4	02/DGM/SM(WC-2)/ 2023-24	M/o Building (Annual Maintenance work & Operating of Sumpwell Sector-19 for year 2022-23), Noida.	34.31			
5	47/GM/SM(WC-2)/ 2022-23	M/o Road (M/o Underpass & Flyover, construction of RCC Wall in place of Brick work beautification in Underpass at Sector-18 on MP-2 Road), Noida.	55.51			

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 25.05.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be Dy. General Manager (Civil) opened/downloaded on dated 26.05.2023 at 11.00 AM. NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets 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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is' basis on 22.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 8,58,887/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00366134, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 06.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 07.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SATYA PRAKASH

MISHRA, PRAGATI MISHRA, HAKIMUDDIN and SHAKIL SAIFI. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 9,40,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 94,000/-(Rupees Ninety Four Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FLAT NO. D-2, PLOT NO. C-239, 2ND FLOOR, FRONT LHS, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201002 For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the

website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to

Date: 15.05.2023 Place: GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORISED OFFICER** INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

# Jaishankar...

From Page 1
It said while the protection

under Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) has been conferred on person as opposed to a citizen, which is the case in Article 19 (protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech etc) of the Constitution, "we do not think it will be prudent for us to venture into a judicial adventurism to bring bulls within the said protected mechanism".

The bench referred to the apex court's 2014 judgement, which had said bulls cannot be used as performing animals either for 'Jallikattu' events or bullock-cart races and banned their use for these purposes across the country. It said in the 2014 verdict, the question of elevation of statutory rights of animals to the realm of fundamental rights has been left at the advisory level or has been framed as a judicial suggestion. | analysts said.

# From Page 1 The Centre is hosting the

The SFJ is headed by

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

# 8-lane elevated Dwarka e-way to be completed by Apr '24: Gadkari

Dwarka Expressway, India's first elevated 8-lane access-controled urban expressway, bing constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 9,000 crore, as part of the Delhi decongestion plan, will be completed by April 2024. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari announced this after inspecting the ongoing project.

The construction work of the Haryana section (18.9 km) of the 29-km-long Dwarka Expressway from Shivmurti near IGI Airport through Dwarka near the Kherki Daula toll in Gurugram has reached the final stage. Gadkari was accompanied by Union Minister of State General VK Singh, Union Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh, MPs Pravesh Singh Verma, Ramesh Bidhuri and Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena.

Dwarka Expressway starts near Shiv Murti on NH-48 and terminates near Kherki Daula



Toll Plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway. This will be the country's first elevated urban

Interacting with the media i Gadkari said the road network of this expressway is of four levels. He said flyover is being constructed over tunnel, underpass, grade road, elevated road and flyover. A 3-lane service road is being constructed on both sides of the expressway. The Minister said the country's widest 8-lane tunnel of 3.6 km length is being built on this expressway in Delhi. This will improve the connectivity of the people of Haryana and West Delhi to the

Indira Gandhi International

Airport, he added. Gadkari said in Haryana, this expressway will intersect Pataudi Road (SH-26) near Harsaru and Farukhnagar (SH-15A) near Basai, apart from this, it will also cross the Delhi-Rewari rail line near Gurgaon Sector-88 (B) and UER-II at Bharthal. He said the expressway will connect Sector-21 of Gurgaon with Sector-88, 83, 84, 99, 113 and Dwarka to Global City. This entire expressway will have

Intelligent Transport System (ITS) facility ,he added. The expressway has been constructed by dividing it into four parts, in which 10.01 km area has been kept in two areas in the Delhi region and 18.9 km area in Haryana region has also been kept in two areas.

The construction work in

the Haryana region has been completed by up to 99 per cent. The expressway is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,000 crore as part of Delhi's decongestion plan. Dwarka Expressway will have a fully-automated toll ystem and the entire project will be equipped with an intelligent transportation system (ITS). It will provide connectivity to Indira Gandhi International Airport from the Dwarka side through Dwarka Expressway. On removal of Kherki Dhaula toll plaza, Gadkari said the proposed toll collection system using GPS technology will end congestion and ensure commuters pay till only for the

# DTC driver suspended for not stopping for women passengers

he Delhi Government on The Delhi Government on Thursday suspended a bus driver for allegedly not stopping for women at a bus stop after a purported video of the incident surfaced online. In the video, three women can be seen trying to board a bus when it stops at a bus stop for a passenger to de-board. However, the driver immediately drives off without waiting for the women. The bus driver was identified and has been suspended, a Government official said.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday also spoke about how bus drivers do not stop buses for women passengers because of Delhi government's free bus ride scheme which offers free bus rides to women traveling in Delhi's public buses. Taking to Twitter, Rejriwal said, "There are complaints that some drivers do not stop the bus on seeing women as the ride for women is free. This will not be tolerated at all. Strict action is being taken against this bus driver." "I appeal to all male and



bus at the designated stop," he said. A video circulating on social media captured an alarming incident that unfolded on Thursday, where a bus driver in Delhi failed to halt the bus despite the presence of women at a bus stop. The video highlighted concerns that some drivers may overlook women passengers due to the provision of free travel.

Quoting-tweeting the chief minister's tweet, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot appealed to people to make videos of such incidents and share them with the government. Gahlot said that the driver of the bus had been replaced and taken off duty till further orders. Investigation has been started against the driver and other staff."

Gahlot shared details of the incident, stating that on Thursday morning at approximately 11:20 am, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted a video that clearly depicted four to five female passengers attempting to stop the bus by waving their

## SC seeks ED's response on Jain's bail plea

STAFF REPORTER 
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the bail plea of former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case being probed by the agency. A Bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli issued notice to the ED and granted liberty to Jain to move before the vacation Bench for relief.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Jain, said the former Minister has lost 35 kg and virtually became a skeleton. He is also suffering from various ailments Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, said they are on caveat and opposing the plea. The Bench, which did not give any specific date, said Jain can approach the vacation Bench of the top court

On April 6, the Delhi High Court had dismissed the bail plea of Jain in a money laundering case noting the witnesses' claim that he was the conceptualiser, initiator and fund provider in the alleged

# Mayor orders vigilance enquiry against | BJP State exec discusses 9th anniv MCD's Chief Assessor on graft plaint

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi has ordered the removal of MCD's Chief Assessor and Collector Kunal Kashyap facing corruption charges and sought a probe into the allegations. Seeking a vigilance inquiry against him, Oberoi directed the MCD Commissioner to relieve the officer, Kunal Kashyap, of all responsibilities and appoint an officer of "impeccable integrity" in his place, her office said in the statement. According to the complaint, Kashyap, a chief assessor and collector, purportedly provided undue favours to influential people to the tune of Rs four crore in a case of house tax evasion.

Expressing deep concern over the gravity of the situation, the Mayor issued a note to the Commissioner directing prompt action against the officer. . This instance has also raised suspicion on the quantum of loss faced by MCD due Through the note, the

Mayor also emphasised on the denounced the actions of offi-



cers who prioritise personal gain over the greater good. "MCD is struggling to keep afloat financially and has no funds to do public welfare work. On the other hand, such officers are foregoing huge amounts of house tax by taking bribes. Such officers should know that now the regime has changed in MCD," she noted. Alarmed at the scale of eva-

sion in just one case to the tune of Rs 4 crores, the Mayor remarked that MCD must have suffered a huge dent running into thousands of crores due to other such cases, and perhaps would have been in profit had they been dealt honestly under the past governments. Kashyap is now under investigation for faced by the MCD and the handling of the tax evasion case', fueled by allegations of

bribery. Allegations and complaints have been received against him in many other

"Kashyap had deliberately delayed the handling of a case of tax evasion to protect an influential entity. This investigation aims to shed light on any potential misconduct or irregularities that may have occurred during his tenure," she said

Giving more details about the development, the Mayor stated that the AAP Government of MCD is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability in the corporation. "The allegations of house tax evasion and bribery against are deeply troubling," she

# of Modi Govt, political controversies

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday held a one-day state executive meeting in which senior party functionaries discussed range of issues pertaining to the national Capital politics and simultaneously the achievements of the BJP-led Government at the Centre which is preparing to celebrate its ninth anniversary.

In the inaugural address, BJP national organisation general secretary BL Santosh attacked Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal saying that a leader has created a 'common man' image with the help of illusions

Adding to this, the recent political issues — expense on the beautification of CM's residence and the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the rights of the Delhi Government
— were discussed in the meet-

Speaking on the recent SC's decision, Delhi BJP president Virender Sachdeva said, We do not want to comment on the order of the Honorable Government is trying to suppress its various corruption



cases by threatening administrative officials under the guise of this order is condemnable".

Santosh also applauded the Modi government last nine years achievements and called upon the members of the Executive Committee to hold a door-to-door campaign between May 30 and June 30 to publicize them.

Detailing about the 'Jan Sampark Abhiyan', BJP MP Saroj Pandey said that this campaign is a beneficiary public relations programme in

They shared campaign will

first phase will be held on May 25 during which appointments will be made, while the second

phase will run from May 29 to

June 20 and the final phase

from June 20 to 30. Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri moved a political Resolution appreciating Central leadership contribution to the capital and the failures of the AAP led Delhi government which was seconded by Delhi and Manoj Tiwari which was

### NGO's legal notice against me 'fake': **Spl Vigilance Secy** complaint with malafide inten-

Special Secretary (Vigilance) Y Rajasekhar on Thursday alleged that a legal notice sent by an NGO against him was "fabricated" and was circulated with "various vested interests". He has written to Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, the chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI), and the Union Home Secretary over

the matter. It has been claimed that NGO Abhinav Samaj had sent the legal notice to the Delhi Government demanding action against Rajasekhar over charges of "corruption, forgery and harassment". However, the NGO's chairman, GK Gupta, said he has written to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over

the "fake" legal notice.

"The fake notice sent on behalf of our organisation is fic-titious and made with malafide intention. No such notice was issued by Abhinav Samaj. If there is any notice/complaint in name of Abhinav Samaj, kindhow our letterpad and name of Abhinav Samaj is used for false

Tribunal tells insurance Co to pay ₹1.5 cr

tion," he said. Rajasekhar also urged the Union Home Ministry to refer

the matter for either a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

"It is requested that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), GoI (Government of India) may kindly consider for entrusting this matter to CBI/ED and other investigating agencies as the vested interests stakes are unfathomable and requires wider investigation by the specialised agencies that has jurisdiction to deal with intrastate and inter-state conspiracies," Rajasekhar said in his letter to the MHA and Justice Desai.

The 2012-batch IAS officer, who was overseeing various sensitive cases related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, renovation of the chief minister's official residence and razing of a heritage structure for construction of the DJB chief executive officer house. was divested of his duties on Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on

### **Noida Police rounds up** 135 history-sheeters to check crime in dist

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Noida Police on **▲** Thursday rounded up 135 history-sheeters and anti-social elements in a major operation to check criminal activities in the region. According to police, those rounded up were let off in the morning after a detailed verification of their current whereabouts, financial sources, and professions. The raids started around 11 PM on Wednesday and continued overnight despite intense rains and thundering in the early hours of Thursday, the officer said.

History-sheeters are repeat offenders involved in serious crimes such as murder, attempted murder, robbery and kidnapping and are regularly monitored by the police, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Shakti Mohan Avasthy said. "There are a total of 120 history sheeters listed in the

nine police station areas of Noida in Gautam Buddha Nagar district," Avasthy said.

"During the police operation 135 history sheeters and anti-social elements were rounded up for verification. More than two-thirds of these people were found at the addresses mentioned in police records, while some of them are jailed, some absconding, and some have relocated out of the district," the IPS officer

Avasthy said that the verification process also revealed that several history sheeters have given up the world of crime and taken up normal jobs. "The analysis of the data shows that several history sheeters or anti-social elements who faced criminal cases in the past have now taken up regular jobs, like some work in private firms, some are running their own shops or driving cabs," the additional DCP told

# Atishi flags delay in construction of Rohini school; PWD issues notice to engineers

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The PWD has issued show L cause notice to its engineers for delay in construction of a school in Rohini, after Cabinet Minister Atishi flagged negligence in the work on the building. If the engineers fail to provide a satisfactory response within three days, departmental action will be taken against them, a Government statement said.

According to the statement, the Public Works Department Minister during a visit to Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in Rohini's Sector-6 Wednesday morning discovered that the construction work of the new building block was significantly behind schedule.

She found that the tiling, sanitary fittings and other finishing work in the toilet block was incomplete, and the electrical fitting work in classrooms of the new block was also unfinished, the statement



added. Flooring in some rooms was not done properly, the building had paint smudges visible in several places, and the cleaning work was still pending, the minister found, the statement added.

During her visit, she also observed there was a severe shortage of workers at the site. Taking note of all these shortcomings, Atishi reprimanded the engineers and directed officials to take strict action against all those who were lax in their

"The Kejriwal government will not compromise with those who show negligence towards education-related works. We will not tolerate any kind of laxity in the construction of our schools, and anyone found guilty of such actions will not be spared," she said. The department has issued notices to the executive engineers- civil and electrical, seeking their response on the issues flagged and why action should not be taken against them. The PWD Minister has directed the agency to eliminate the discrepancies in

10 days to avoid any stringent The doctor and his friend,



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Motor Accident Claims Arribunal (MACT), has directed the National Insurance Company Limited to pay a compensation of over Rs 1.54 crore to the mother of a doctor who died in a road accident

The Presiding Officer of the MACT, Ekta Gauba Mann, was hearing a petition filed by the parents of Dr Ghufran Alam, who succumbed to injuries suffered in the accident on September 14, 2017.

According to the prosecution, the 31-year-old doctor was riding pillion on a twowheeler, and near Bengali Chowk in the Bawana Industrial area, a truck being driven in a rash and negligent manner suddenly braked, because of which the twowheeler collided with the vehi-

who was driving the two-



wheeler, died because of injuries suffered in the accident, the prosecution said. "...It stands proved that accident in question occurred due to rash and negligent driving of offend-ing vehicle by the respondent no 1 (truck driver Balmiki Yadav) and the victim suffered fatal injuries in the said accident," the judge said.

The "respondent no 3 (National Insurance Company) is directed to pay Rs 1,54,09,000 to petitioner no 2 (the doctor's mother) as compensation in this case, within 30 days", Mann said. The judge said only the deceased doctor's mother was entitled to the compensation as she was dependent on her son's

Underlining that the victim

was appointed as a junior resident on an adhoc basis with the Maharishi Valmiki Hospital here six days prior to the accident, the judge said, "No doubt that deceased was not a permanent employee, but it is admitted fact that deceased was a qualified MBBS doctor and the fact that deceased was a having vast career ahead and would have definitely earned more than the present salary,

cannot be negated." Noting the evidence before the court, the judge rejected the contention of the insurance company that Yadav did not having a valid licence for driving a heavy goods vehicle (HGV). The "insurance company has failed to prove any statutory defence in its favour on record...Hence, it is liable to indemnify the owner or insured and to pay compensation to the petitioners," the judge said. The Bawana police station had registered an FIR in

# CPWD issues notice inviting bids to harvest jamuns from Kartavya Path

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Soon you will not be able to pluck the ripe jamuns for free or by throwing stones at those majestic jamun trees that lined the road from India Gate to Raisina Hill, now

known as Kartvya Path. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued a notice inviting bids from agencies to collect the tropical fruit

that also goes by the name of Java plum or Malabar plum and a complicated botanical name, Syzygium cumini. An official said the move

aims to boost revenues and stop the practice of throwing stones at the fruits, preventing injuries to visitors. The CPWD has invited bids for an open auction that will see the successful bidder collect the fruits from the site till August 31.

The auction will begin with a reserve price of Rs 1.30



lakh. In its auction notice, the and C Hexagon Road. The CPWD has stated that jamun should be collected safely without any harm to tree trunks. "No rope, jhula or swing etc will be allowed to collect the fruits," the notice read. "The materials will be disposed of after fruiting till the end of August, 2023, and the same is not subject to any dispute regarding its quality and quantity," it added.

The trees are located at both sides of Kartavya Path

Kartavya Path, which extends from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, is one of the most visited tourist places in the national capital. There are several jamun trees on both sides of Kartavya Path, with some being nearly 100 years old. The variety here is a smaller and tangier variant of the common jamun, which is large and bland. The tradition of auctioning berries is about

The Central Vista Avenue, stretching from the Vijay Chowk to the India Gate, was recently revamped under the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment plan. The jamun trees of Central Vista are an entire ecosystem on their own, both culturally and ecologically.

Every year the NDMC

auctions the fruit off its 500 Black berry trees in the Central Vista area, during the monsoons. Once sold as a

humble fruit tossed with salt, it is now being used for sherbets, jams, syrups and as a well-liked flavouring for sorbets. Many chefs are exploring its citrusy taste in salads. Another supportive myth for the jamun, which is now known as the diabetic fruit because of its healing power in defeating rising sugar levels, is that Lord Krishna is also believed to have four symbols of the Jamun on his right

# **ED** grills Rabri for 5 hrs in land-for-jobs case

Directorate (ED) on Thursday questioned former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi for about five hours and recorded her statement in a money laundering case linked to the land-for-jobs case.
Rabri Devi reached the

ED's office at about 11 AM and left around 6 PM and availed an hour-long lunch break in

The agency recorded the statement of Rabri Devi, wife of RJD chief Lalu Prasad under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Earlier the agency had questioned Rabri Devi's children, including Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, daughters Misa Bharti (RJD MP in Rajya Sabha), Chanda Yadav and Ragini Yadav.

The ED had searched the premises of Chanda Yadav, Ragini Yadav, Hema Yadav, and former RJD MLA Abu Dojana in Patna, Phulwari Sharif, Delhi-NCR, Ranchi and Mumbai in March this year. Following the searches, the agency had said that it had seized "unaccounted cash" of



Rs 1 crore and detected proceeds of crime worth Rs 600 crore during the searches.

The alleged scam relates to the period when Lalu Prasad Yadav was the Railway Minister in the UPA-1 government, and the money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The agencies have alleged that during the period 2004-09, various persons were appointed to Group D positions in various zones of the Indian Railways and such appointees transferred their land to Prasad's family members in

are expected to have outstand-

ing personalities, possess excel-

lent communication skills,

organisational capabilities for

conducting outreach pro-

grammes, creativity, sense of responsibility along with being

inate up to three students to be

considered as NEP Saarthi,

along with a brief write-up jus-tifying the nominations. Based

on the nominations. UGC will

select 300 NEP Saarthis from

among the nominees. They

will be guided to carry out their

roles effectively by the UGC in

work as an ambassador to pro-

mote NEP 2020. Their role will

include creating awareness and

disseminating information regarding NEP 2020, promot-

ing NEP initiatives on social

media, collecting feedback

from students to improve the

implementation of the NEP,

provide guidance to students

and other stakeholders regard-

ing policy initiatives and how

they can benefit from them.

The NEP Saarthis will

"Each university may nom-

a team leader.

lieu of the favour.

In its FIR, the CBI has alleged that no advertisement or public notice was issued for the appointment but some residents of Patna were appointed as substitutes in different zonal railways located at Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hajipur.

As a quid pro quo, the candidates, directly or through their immediate family members, allegedly sold land to the family members of Prasad at highly discounted rates, up to one-fourth to one-fifth of the prevailing market rates, the

# India joins search op in IOR for sunk Chinese fishing vessel crew

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/BEIJING

India has joined a massive search and rescue mission to locate a missing Chinese fishing vessel in the Indian Ocean Region by deploying its P-8 I long range maritime air reconnaissance aircraft approximately 900 nautical miles from

This humanitarian action was initiated on Wednesday after a request from China regarding the sinking of the Chinese Fishing Vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 with 39 crew members onboard on Tuesday. The crew included nationals from China, Indonesia and the Philippines, the Navy said here on Friday. "In a swift humanitarian

action on May 17, the Indian Navy deployed its Air Maritime Reconnaissance assets in the Southern Indian Ocean Region approximately 900 Nm from India, in response to sinking of a Chinese Fishing Vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 with 39 crew onboard. The crew includes nationals from China, Indonesia and Philippines.

P- 8 I aircraft have carried out multiple and extensive



er and located multiple objects possibly belonging to the sunken vessel. As an immediate response, Search and rescue equipment was deployed at the scene by the Indian aircraft on request of PLA(N) ships closing the area. In a display of India's obligations as a credible and responsible partner for ensuring safety at sea, the Indian Navy units also coordinated SAR efforts with other units in the area and guided the PLA(N) warships transiting to the scene of incident.

Indian Navy continues to remain deployed to provide all possible assistance to the ongoing SAR efforts," the Navy

Reports indicated, two bodies were found in the search for the missing crew members, China's state media reported. The ongoing search operation following the capsizing of the Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 "found and salvaged the remains of two victims", Xinhua news agency reported. No details were given on the nationalities of the two bodies found on Thursday.

The boat capsized within Australia's vast search-and-rescue region, Beijing's ambassador to Canberra said on Thursday, noting it was 5,000 kilometres to the west of Perth, the state capital of Western Countries are responsible

for ensuring search and rescue in determined areas of the world's oceans under an international maritime convention. Reports from Beijing said

Australian maritime authorities have identified a large area in the Indian Ocean where they will focus the search for the capsized Chinese fishing vessel, which reportedly sank on

# Indian Def Secy, US Under Secy of Defence review ties in Washington meet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

With defence ties growing between the two countries, India and the US reviewed the progress in furthering defence industrial cooperation and operationalising the India-US Major Defence Partnership during talks in Washington between Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl.

They co-chaired the 17th meeting of India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) on Wednesday, defence ministry officials said here on Thursday.

Important aspects such as military-to-military cooperation, implementation of foundational defence agreements,

exercises and the ongoing and future cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean Region were discussed.

Considerable focus was given on the ways and means to enhance defence industrial cooperation, including technology partnership, long-term research and development and improving supply chain security, officials said.

The meeting also discussed promoting co-development and co-production in India including potential areas and projects where Indian and US defence companies could work together. They agreed to encourage both the private and government stakeholders to utilise the innovation ecosystems and promote defence

# 300 students to be selected across country as NEP Saarthis: UGC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

At least 300 students from universities and Higher Education Institutes from across the country will be selected as "NEP Saarthis" to promote the new National Education Policy and collect feedback to improve its imple-Chairman M

Jagadesh Kumar said students can play a crucial role in this transformative process, as they are a pivotal part of the education system. "In order to enhance students' participation and create awareness around the various reforms in the higher education system as outlined in the NEP 2020, the UGC is launching a new initiative, 'NEP Saarthi - Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India.

"Through NEP Saarthi, the UGC aims to foster an enviengage meaningfully and bring students together as active participants to make effective use of provisions of the NEP 2020,"

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked the vice chancellors, directors, and principals of HEIs to nominate three students from their institutions (enrolled in any course) to be considered as "NEP Saarthis".

The nominated students



Advocating that "Families, schools, institutions and cities should have their own museums", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday while inaugurating the International Museum Expo 2023 here said his Government has "prioritized preserving country's heritage

Modi also opened a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum at the North and South Blocks.

The Prime Minister took a walkthrough of Techno Mela, Conservation Lab and the Exhibitions showcased on the occasion. The International Museum

Expo is being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day (IMD) with the theme of the year 'Museums Sustainability and Well Being's The IMD theme for this year is "museums, sustainability and well-being'

Addressing a gathering International Museum Expo 2023 Modi said his government has prioritised preserving the country's heritage, even as he lamented that enough efforts were not made in this direction post Independence.

The Prime Minister also flagged the issue of trafficking of ancient Indian art and antiques, and said that with India's increasing prestige in the world, various countries have now started returning things

Families, institutions, schools should have own museums, says PM at expo UNVEILING



belonging to Indian heritage. Modi said 10 special museums are being built to immor-

talise the contribution of the tribal community in the country's freedom struggle.

The long period of slavery also resulted in the destruction of the country's written and

unwritten heritage, Modi noted.This is not only India's loss, it is the loss of the whole world, he asserted. "Unfortunately, the efforts that should have been made

post Independence to preserve our heritage, were not made," he said. He also urged people artifacts their nature. "For example every house-

hold must make a family museum in which they preserve things of their ancestors and elders. Schools and institutions should also make their own museums," he said.

Modi also unveiled the mascot of the International Museum Expo, a graphic novel titled "A day at the Museum", a directory of Indian museums, a pocket map of Kartavya Path, and museum cards.

The mascot of the International Museum Expo is a contemporised version of the dancing girl made of wood in the Chennapatnam art style. The graphic novel por-

trays a group of children visit-ing the National Museum where they learn about different career opportunities that are available at a museum.

The pocket map of the Kartavya Path highlights various cultural spaces and institutions and also traces the history of the iconic pathway.

The Museums cards are a facades of iconic museums across the country, and is an innovative way to introduce museums to people of all ages and each card holds brief information of museums.

Union Minister for Culture, G. Kishan Reddy, Union Ministers of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakshi Lekhi, and Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, Manuel Rabaté were among those present on the occasion.

# PM's 3-nation tour begins today with first stop in Japan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commence his three-nation tour including Japan, Papua New Guinea on Friday. Starting with Japan, he will hold bilateral discussions with his counterpart Fumio Kishida in Hiroshima and take part in the Quad summit there. The Quad grouping includes India, Japan, Australia and the US.

Giving details of the Prime Minister's schedule, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on Thursday The Quad Summit will now take place in Hiroshima, Japan, as all four leaders will be there at the same place for the same conference. There's a change only in

venue but not in the main agenda. Leaders will go ahead with the agenda it was the decided for the meeting at Australia was to host the Quad summit on May 24 but cancelled it after US President Joe Biden called off his visit to

Kwatra also said "They will take a good stock of the situation and build further on

A lot of preparation has gone on. We are expecting several deliverables to come out from this meeting."

Prime Minister Modi,

President Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio

Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will take part in the high-profile event. Modi will be leaving for

Japan on May 19. He will travel to Japan first where he will address the Summit meeting of Group of Seven, or G-7. Thereafter he will travel to Papua New Guinea and finally Australia. Although India is not a

member of the G-7, Modi has been invited to speak at the meet by Japanese Prime Japan is currently the G-7

"Quad Summit scheduled for Sydney, is not being held there. It is being tried by all four Leaders, for the Quad Summit to be held in Hiroshima...The agenda on which the Leaders had agreed upon in the last Quad Summit will be discussed in Hiroshima if the Quad Summit can be held here on

### **Modi to dedicate new Parliament** building to the nation on May 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the newly-constructed Parliament building to the Nation on 28

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and invited him to inaugurate the New Parliament Building. Constriction of the New Parliament Building is complete now and the new building symbolises the spirit of a self -reliant India (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)

The present building of the Parliament was completed in 1927, which is now going to be almost 100 years old. The lack of space was being experienced in this building as per the present requirements. In both the Houses, there were also lack of convenient arrangements for the sitting of the MPs which was affecting efficiency of work

Considering the above, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed resolutions urging the government to construct a new building for the Parliament. Consequently, on 10 December 2020, the foundation stone of the new building of Parliament was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The newly constructed Parliament building has been built in record time with quality construction.

# Ischemic stroke deaths expected to rise to 5 million by 2030: Study

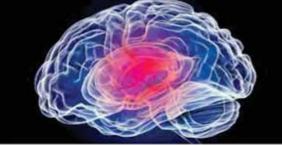
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The number of deaths worldwide from ischemic stroke increased from 2 million in 1990 to more than 3 million in 2019, and is expected to increase to nearly 5 million by 2030, researchers have sounded alarm as they blamed a combination of lifestyle factors like smoking and a diet high in sodium along with other factors such as high blood pressure and high body mass index as major risk factors.

The study which is published in Neurology holds importance in the context of India too where about 1,85,000 stroke cases are reported every year in India with nearly one stroke every 40 seconds and one stroke death every 4 min-

The study focused on ischemic stroke, which is caused by a blockage of blood flow to the brain and is the most common type of stroke.

"This increase in the global death toll of ischemic stroke along with a predicted further increase in the future is concerning, but ischemic stroke is highly preventable," said study author Lize Xiong, MD, of Tongji University in Shanghai,



China. "Our results suggest that a combination of lifestyle factors like smoking and a diet high in sodium along with other factors such as high blood pressure and high body mass index can lead to an increased risk of stroke."

For the study, researchers analyzed data from the Global Health Data Exchange from 1990-2019. As the world population grew, the global number of ischemic stroke deaths increased from 2.04 million in 1990 to 3.29 million in 2019. However, the stroke rate decreased from 66 strokes per 100,000 people in 1990 to 44 strokes per 100,000 people in

'This decrease in the stroke rate likely means that the overall increase in the number of strokes worldwide is mainly due to population growth and aging," Xiong said.

Researchers found that seven major risk factors including smoking, a diet high in sodium, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, idney dysfunction, high blood sugar, and high BMI contributed to the higher number of strokes. Researchers then used the database to predict the number of deaths for 2020-2030. When researchers factored

in the risk factors, they predicted that the overall number of deaths from stroke could reach 6.4 million if these risk factors are not controlled or prevented. According to Global

Burden of Diseases (GBD), India bore most of the burden of stroke with 68.6 per cent of the incidence of stroke, 70.9 per cent of stroke deaths and 77.7 per cent of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) lost.

# A look at the new man in Law Min's hot seat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{
m an}^{
m rom\ weaving\ a}$  yarn to being an efficient administrator and overseeing the making of laws, it has been an eventful journey for Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, who took over as the law minister on Thursday.

Born to a family of weavers in Kishmidesar village in Bikaner, Meghwal, a threeterm Lok Sabha member, has played a key role in the BJP and the Narendra Modi government. He has been the chief whip of the party in Lok Sabha and later, a Minister of State handling portfolios such as finance, corporate affairs, heavy industry and public enterprises, water resources, parliamentary affairs and culture.

In a surprise development, Meghwal was appointed the Minister of State (independent charge) of Law and Justice, succeeding Kiren Rijiju, whose 22month tenure saw frequent run-ins with the judiciary. The appointment of

Meghwal, a prominent

Scheduled Caste face of the BJP,

support base within the com-

munity. Born on December 7, 1954, Meghwal became a law graduate in 1977 and earned his master's degree in Political Science. He obtained an MBA degree from the University of the Philippines.

Meghwal started working as a telephone operator in the post and telegraph department in 1974 while pursuing his studies. He cleared the Rajasthan Administrative Service examination in 1980 and served in various capacities in the state government across different districts. Meghwal was promoted to the Indian Administrative Service in 1999 and he went on to serve in various administrative posts, including as the district magistrate of Churu.

also comes ahead of the assem-Meghwal sought voluntary bly elections in Rajasthan later this year and is being seen as a retirement from the IAS in move to consolidate the party's 2009 and took the political plunge by contesting the Lok Sabha elections the same year. Known for his rendition of

bhajans, he has performed in the 638th fair of Baba Ramdev at Ramdevra, along with the Bhajan Mandali. He was also seen singing devotional songs at the Rajasthan Kabir Yatra 2016. As a politician, Meghwal is known for donning traditional attire - a colourful Rajasthani turban and a dhoti.

The bureaucrat-turnedolitician shot into the limeight as the chief whip of the BJP and was one of the few members who preferred to cycle to Parliament. In 2016, Meghwal reached

swearing-in ceremony as a minister on a bicycle. Meghwal was elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from Bikaner in 2009 and retained his seat in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

the Rashtrapati Bhavan for his

He has been at the forefront of pursuing the alleged illegal land deals of businessman Robert Vadra in Bikaner.

Meghwal has been a strong advocate of getting Rajasthani recognised as an official language under the Eighth chedule of the Constitution, a dream that has remained unfulfilled till now

# **NCDC** to form 1,100 more food producer bodies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The National Cooperatives The National Cooperation
Development Cooperation (NCDC), a top finance statutory institution for development of cooperatives, has been entrusted with the task to form 1,100 additional FPOs under the central scheme 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' launched two years ago with an aims to bring about farmer-centric reforms to usher in development in the agriculture sector.

A Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), formed by a group of farm producers, is a registered body with producers as shareholders of the organisation. It deals with business activities related to farm produce and works for the benefit of member producers.

Supervised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the scheme which has a budgetary provision of Rs 6,865 crore, financial assistance of Rs 33 lakhs is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assistance of Rs 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business



Organizations (CBBO), said an official from the Ministry. He explained that the FPOs help in collectivization of such small, marginal and landless farmers in order to give them the collective strength to deal with such issues. "Members of the FPO will

manage their activities together in the organization to get better access to technology, input, finance and market for faster enhancement of their income," he added. He also informed that

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), which have a member base of around 13 crore farmers and are primarily engaged in short-term credit and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, etc will now be able to undertake other economic activities as well.

# **Army finds remote IEDs in Imphal**

Security forces patrol affected areas; clear NH35 roadblocks

Security personnel have recovered explosives and a "Remote Initiation Mechanism" for improvised explosive devices (IED) in Manipur where soldiers continue patrolling areas affected by ethnic clashes, the Army said on Thursday.

The Assam Riffles have also cleared roadblocks set up by various organisations on National Highway 37 and escorted truck columns carry ing essential supplies to Imphal

Valley.
"Indian Army Patrol operating along foothills of Imphal East district recovered explosives and Remote Initiation Mechanism for IEDs in Village Khullen on Wednesday. Three kilograms of TNT, 15 electric detonators, four circuits and remote firing devices have also been found, the Spear Corps of the Army said. A major threat was averted by prompt action, the force said. "Area Domination and offering solace and medical assistance to people are being undertaken by multiple long duration patrols day and night by the Army and Assam Rifles columns. These patrols aptly serve as a conduit for communicating problems faced and ensuring early redressal," the



Spear Corps said.Meanwhile, the movement of trucks carrying essential commodities such as rice, sugar and pulses to Imphal Valley has resumed.

The movement stopped due to roadblocks and fear among transporters after clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Following this, the stock of essential supplies in the state started dwindling and was beginning to reach critical levels. Army and Assam Rifles stepped in to assure protection to vehicles carrying essential goods from/to Imphal, a Defence spokesperson said.

On May 15, a convoy of 28 vehicles including trucks, fuel tankers, and earthmovers moved under the escort of CRPF and Manipur Police

from Noney to Imphal. Prophylactic domination of the area was provided by Assam Rifles to ensure safe passage to the convoy which reached Imphal safely by afternoon. In addition, monitoring was also ensured through Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Around 100 vehicles were moved on May 16 and 17. Security Forces are committed to restore normalcy and the commencement of movement of the vehicles on NH 37 is another step towards normalcy in Manipur, the Defence Spokesperson said.

8 tribal MLAs, civil society groups shun talks with Biren Govt

t least eight tribal MLAs A from Manipur and various civil society organisations decided not to engage in any dialogue with the N Biren Singh Government running the northeastern State which was recently rocked by ethnic violence, according to a statement issued by them.

Several civil society entities belonging to Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi-Hmar ethnic groups in Manipur and the tribal legislators from there, including BJP MLAs, held a meeting in Mizoram's capital Aizawl on Wednesday to discuss the tension in the neighbouring State. "The meeting resolved (the community would) stand unitedly to face the present crisis and not to engage in any dialogue or talk with the present Manipur government," the statement said.

decided to hold consultations on a wider scale so as to arrive at a common political agenda with other groups, it said. A separate administration in the form of a Union Territory for the Kuki-dominated districts or other political safeguard was widely deliberated during the meeting, a leader of a tribal group, who participated in the discussion, told PTI.

Ten Kuki MLAs, including seven from the BJP, had on May 12 urged the Centre to create a separate administration for the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi-Hmar community in the wake of the violent clashes between the majority Meiteis and the tribals in Manipur. However, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had rejected the demand, while asserting that the territorial integrity of the state will be "protected at all

The Meitei community weed out "illegal immigrants",

The SoO was signed by the

# BJP elated at SC rejection of Bengal ban on Kerala Story

Opposition BJP was celebrating the Supreme Court order setting aside the ban imposed by the Bengal Government on the screening of The Kerala Story that many a critic in the State called, a fictional art based on "exaggerated facts." Wondering as to why the film could not be screened in Bengal when it was being screened in the rest of the country, the division bench of Chief Justice YV Chandrachud on Thursday asked "is it about artistic freedom?" Saying that the owers of the State under Section 6(1) of the West Bengal Cinema (Regulation) Act could not be used to put a premium on public intolerance the Court observed that such should be proportional to the threat per-

gested that instead of imposing a state-wide ban its screening could be controlled in areas where there was a likelihood of disturbance. "Exercise of fundamental rights cannot be dependent on public emotion. Public display of emotion has to be controlled," the court said, making an oral observation that the figure of 32,000 (forced post marital conversion — as depicted) seemed to be a "distortion of fact." Incidentally the director of the film Sudipta Sen had earlier gone on record saying that content and not the figure mattered more in the film. "I will request the Chief Minister (Mamata Banerjee) to watch the film ... after watching she will surely lift the ban," Sen said. Celebrating the lifting of the ban, Bengal BJP leader Rahul Sinha said, "I thank

based judgment ... why should the people of Bengal be deprived of good artistic works." Saying that the film was a "bundle of lies adulterated with communal mindset ... with narrow electoral purpose in view," CPI(M) leader Tanmoy Bhattacharya said that "as Marxists we are against any kind of ban on artistic works ... though they wanted to malign the Kerala government ... the people of that state have rejected it."

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh however said that the government had stopped the screening of the film with no bad intention. "The way the BJP had been creating communal disturbance in Bengal for electoral reasons ... the government had thought it in the fitness of things

# Huge challenges ahead for K'taka CM-designate Sidda

Bengaluru: Multiple challenges, particularly with regard to Cabinet formation, stare at Siddaramaiah as he takes over as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka, nudging out party colleague and state Congress president DK Shivakumar who will now be his deputy.

The first challenge that Siddaramaiah faces on being sworn in is putting in place a Cabinet with the right combinations, balancing between representing all communities, regions, factions, and old and new generations of legislators. With the sanctioned strength of the Karnataka cabinet being 34, Siddaramaiah will have a tough task at hand, with too many aspirants for ministerial berths.

According to party sources, with all major communities largely backing the party in the May 10 Assembly elections, there will naturally be aspirations from every one, and Siddaramaiah will have to manage this along with his deputy Shivakumar. There were multiple aspirants for the

post of deputy chief minister. However the Congress central leadership has made it clear that Shivakumar will be the only DCM. This has upset several senior leaders in the party. Senior Congress leader G Parameshwara on Thursday cautioned the party's central leadership saying if a DCM post is not given to a Dalit, there will be adverse reactions and it would spell trouble for

He said he was an aspirant for both the posts of CM and DCM. Parameshwara, who was DCM in the Congress-JD(S) coalition government, sought the post again, as well as a good number of cabinet berths for Post-lunch, the NCSC del Dalits, highlighting that the community has backed the party in a big way.

### NCSC chief visits Bihar to take stock of atrocities faced by Dalits

Ateam of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) headed by its chairman Vijay Sampla on Thursday visited Bihar to take stock of discrimination and atrocities faced by Dalits and measures taken for their wel-

On the first of the two-day visit, Sampla met MPs and MLAs belonging to the Scheduled Castes, besides state government officials and representatives from social organ-

According to an official release, instances of "atrocities and institutional discrimination and social exclusion" faced by the "SC community in the state" were flagged by political leaders and social activists.

egation held a meeting with government officials, led by Chief Secretary Amir Subhani.

#### Meiteis fear ethnic cleansing like that of Kashmiri Pandits PTI NEW DELHI like this may happen... We are for at least five minutes Kukis — constitute another 40 per cent of the population and

As tension continues to simmer in Manipur, members of the majority Meitei group on Thursday said they are at the risk of "ethnic cleansing" in their own state while comparing their precarious situation with that of Kashmiri Pandits. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, members of the World Meetei Council also came down heavily on the state and the central government, and rued that they have been unable to meet Union Home Clashes broke out in

Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The violence was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations.

"The incidents that happened in Manipur were preplanned. We kept warning the government that something today in a situation similar to what the Kashmiri Pandits faced," Nabashyam Heigrujam, president of civil society group World Meitei Council, said.

"We are at the risk of ethnic cleansing in our own state," he claimed. Heigrujam also said that they have been trying to fix a meeting with Shah for over a year now, but have not been given an appointment yet. "Meiteis and Nagas are the original people of Manipur... We wanted to submit our viewpoint to the home minister. We tried our best to speak to him We have submitted our

application, but even in this time of crisis, we are very much hurt that the home minister has no time to meet us," he added. Nabakishore Singha Yumnam, spokesperson of the World Meetei Council, said urgent action is needed on behalf of the government by providing Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis at par with the Nagas and Kukis. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals - Nagas and

reside in the hill districts.

also demanded implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur to and cancelation of the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement signed with various Kuki militant groups.

Centre, Manipur government and two conglomerates of Kuki militant outfits - Kuki National Organisations and United

# TMC links lack of MNREGA funds to cracker unit blast

wo days after the blast in the ■ illegal cracker factory – allegedly owned by a former Trinamool Congress panchayat member — at Egra in East Midnapore killed 9 people and injured at least 21 others, the ruling TMC on Thursday linked the incident to the Centre's non-payment of MNREGA funds to the "unfortunate deaths?

Proffering an apology for the blasts and the deaths in its trail, senior Bengal minister Dr Shashi Pania said, as the Central Government had blocked the funds meant for the payment of 100-days' work, hundreds were going to illegal cracker factories risking their lives. "The Centre has stopped the grants meant for the 100-days' work scheme...

Sarus crane

**Zoo: Officials** 

PTI ■ KANPUR (UP)

adapting to ways

of wild at Kanpur

In Kanpur zoo, the sarus crane, taken away from an Amethi

farmer, is slowly adapting to the

ways of the wild, gradually shift-

ing from cooked food to the

more suitable diet of raw food,

jobs in these illegal cracker factories ... leading to their deaths... had their dues been cleared they would not have to die like this today," Dr Panja said. The TMC's statement came at a time when a petition was being heard at the Calcutta High Court seeking NIA investigation into the case.

Reacting to the TMC minister's statement, BJP leader Dilip Ghosh wondered whether all the unemployed people crowded the illegal cracker fac-tories for jobs. "The illegality of the factory which has been running for decades proves administrative complacency, he said adding blast also proved gravity of problem of employment in Bengal. At Kajikul village, the site of blast locals denied reports of jobless workers going to the factory for work.

# **Integrative health policy soon** to come out in India, says Min New Delhi: India will soon Sonowal. While presiding over quality of Ayush healthcare ser-

and Ayush systems together to provide inclusive, affordable, and evidence-based comprehensive healthcare to an individual and the community.

The integration of Ayush into mainstream public healthcare delivery is important as it can offer a more holistic approach to patient care, combining the strengths of both conventional medicine and AYUSH system of healthcare, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday, adding that Ministry of Ayush and his Ministry will soon come out with an "Integrative Health" policy.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the two days National Ayush Mission Conclave on Thursday. The event was inaugurated by Union Avush Minister Sarbananda

As both the Ministries are working incessantly, so our resolve and strength has grown manifold. Recognising the strength of Indian Traditional Medicines Systems, WHO has bestowed India with the placement of WHO-GCTM centre in Jamnagar." National Ayush Mission (NAM) is the flagship program of the Ministry of Ayush. It aims to enhance the availability, accessibility, and

have an 'Integrative Health' the function Sonowal said, vices across the country through policy aiming to bring best 'India will have to lead the Ayush Health Wellness centers Government's Ayushman Bharat scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved the operationalization of 12,500 Ayush HWCs by upgrading existing Ayush Dispensaries/Health Sub-centhrough State/UT Governments in centrally sponsored scheme mode and under the broad umbrella of National Ayush Mission (NAM) in a phased manner.

#### APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets 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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 22.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 18,54,741/-(Runees Eighteen Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00470930, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 08.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 09.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from RITIKA PANDEY and RADHA RAMAN PANDEY.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 19,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,90,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEARING NUMBER T-F-4/THIRD FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS) (FRONT L.H.S) HAVING COVERED AREA OF 60 SQUARE METER BUILT ON FREEHOLD PLOT BEARING NUMBER D-423, BLOCK-D SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY INDRAPRASTHA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD-201010, UTTAR PRADESH.

THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: PLOT NUMBER 436, 437 AND 438,

WEST: ROAD 24 METER WIDE

NORTH: PLOT NUMBER 424, SOUTH: PLOT NUMBER 422

THE FLAT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:

EAST: COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NUMBER T-F- 2 AND 3. WEST: ROAD 24 METER WIDE GROUND FLOOR

NORTH: PLOT NUMBER 424, SOUTH: COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NUMBER T-F-5

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to

www.auctionfocus.in Date: 15.05.2023 **AUTHORISED OFFICER** 

PUBLIC NOTICE Indoor Medical Records of the Patients admitted during period of 01/04/2019/ to 31/03/2020 Financial years (2019-2020) are scheduled to be disposed of as per

hospital policy. Any patient requiring his/her Medical Records may approach the undersigned within 7days failing without further notice.

> Medical Record officer Kailash Hospital plot No-203, Wazidpur G.T. Road NH-91 Khurja.

cards has been issued by Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. having ID card no. MUM15120 and Name of executive is Ayan Mittal has been found missing and/or lost on 10th May 2023 at 12:15 PM. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. 7th Floor, Plot 7, Sector- 125, Noida- 201313 Therefore, all the customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no Please take further notice that anybody making payment

person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and Kotak Mahindra Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date: 19th May 2023

For Kotak Mahindra bank

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

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. Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession Branch Ramesh Shoe Co./ Suman R/o Third Floor MPL No- 11814/6 Plot No 107 June 24, 2022 Delhi, Parmar/ Ramesh Parmar/
'191405000311/ '191455000001 Rameshwwari Nehru Nagar Sat Nagar Karol RS.
Bagh Delhi New Delhi 110005/ May 16, 2023 65,14,627.61/

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. Place : Delhi/ NCR ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

### Branch 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 and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (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 borrower, 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 belowmentioned 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/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manoj Kumar Arora/ Sapna/ QZZRH00005008997	1/9994, Upper Ground Floor, Left Hand Side Without Roof Gali No.03, Kh No.425/303/302 at Vill Babarpur, West Gorakh Park, Shahdara, Delhi-1 10032 (Admeasuring an Areaof 75 Sq. Yards)/ 15 May, 2023	Rs.	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mukim Veg/ Anjali Sharma/ QZPTU00005025710	Built Up Property Plot NoRZ-22, Third Floor With Roof Rights, Gali No.2, Khasra No.211 & 212, Village-Nasir Pur, West Sagarpur, Delhi, New Delhi) (Admeasuring an area of 62 Sq. Yards.) Boun on North- Road 15 Feet Wide, South- Other's Property, East- Plot No. RZ-J-24, West- Part of Plot/ 15 May. 2023	July 08, 2021 Rs. 15,24,412/-	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.

Date: May 19, 2023 **Authorized Officer** Place : Delhi **ICICI Bank Limited** 

officials said. They said the bird is under observation round the clock. "The sarus crane is being rehabilitated for the wild by slowly changing its habit of eat-ing cooked food like maggi, daal rice and khichdi to eating a raw diet that is more suitable for wild birds like cranes," Zoo Director Krishna Kumar Singh told PTI on Thursday

Arif Khan Gurjar (35), a farmer in Mandkha village in Amethi district, had found the bird injured with a wounded limb in a forest. He took care of the bird for a year and nursed it back to health.

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets 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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 22.06.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 12,52,932/-(Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Two only) pending ards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00391858, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 06.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 07.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANNI

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY** 

FLAT NO. SF-403 (LIG) HAVING COVERED AREA 29.72 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT TO 320 SQUARE FEET ON 2ND FLOOR REAR LHS (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS DLF ANKUR VIHAR CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. A-7/2 SITUATED IN PARGANA LONI, GHAZIABAD-201102, UTTAR

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 15.05.2023 Place: GHAZIABAD INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

**AUTHORISED OFFICER** Place: GHAZIABAD

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Curb populism**

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

inally, 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 creditable; 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 par-



leys 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.



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

The dilemma of truths & half-truths



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

here 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 it 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

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 carrots (which is the purest form of gold) would not work. It has to be reduced to 22 carrots, and a 2 carrot 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 exhaustivediscussed and elaborated in the time or space available in this text. Perhaps in life, there are few elusive qualities that can be Obviously, there are no simfound in a 100 per cent form. In ple answers, and "judge-



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

This raises the obvious question of "judgements" towards the approximation of the ideal. How far can one os How far can one push How hard can one push? When can one stop pushing?

ment" is the only teacher. Unfortunately, "judgement" cannot be taught. Learning through the interpretation of internalised experiences is a way for-

ward. Experience can be an answer when all else fails. It can be much-personalised phenomena. Life is full of examples of this variable. IF HURTING Interestingly one can always **ANYONE WAS** get an example or an illustra-TOTALLY RULED tion of what was set out to prove. So one can even indi-**OUT, ANY SELF**cate an example to prove anything one wants. **DEFENCE WOULD** Notwithstanding the very delicate and important con-BE IMPOSSIBLE. GIVEN NO CHOICE,

cerns 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-rajya" 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 selfdefence 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

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

make it worthwhile.

# 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?

ll is 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

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

Siddaramaiah 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 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 satraps 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 discontentment 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 run-up to the election. Both Hindutwa party solicited a ruins. The question is are we

to continue clapping to the statistics of no value read out from teleprompters? The sudden transfer of Kiran Rijiju from the ministry of law to the department of earth sciences is laughable. Having served the Government with sincerity and dedication, Rijiju 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 digitalisa-

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 write is senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

#### 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 allay and heal wounds and not make citi-

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

KILLING THE

AGGRESSOR IN

**SELF-DEFENCE** 

HAS BEEN UPHELD

BY ALL SOCIETIES

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 I Mumbai

Moitra, who worked on Wall Street before venturing into politics. Moitra Madam's questioning of SEBI's lenient attitude is also ustified 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 portfolio investors in the Adani group. 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

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

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# **FIRST COLUMN**

# **DO'S AND DON'TS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS**

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



esides a flood of overwhelming emotions, pregnancy brings a lot of challenges for the mother during and after childhearing. der breasts, nausea, and fatigue are some of the issues an expecting 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  $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 brin-

#### jal, 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



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



a ceasefire, the removal of heavy

weaponry, the restoration of

he 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

G7 & ChinaIn 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 Uninese 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 bludgeoning 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

### 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



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** 

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 warry in proximity. A peaceful resolution to the Ukraine Crisis may be an idle plan for the G7but 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—YoonSuk 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

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 partner-ship' with India and both find com-mon 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

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

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 implica-tions 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

#### 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-

# Challenges of manufacturing eye care medicines in India

(The write works with

Asia Society Policy

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

n 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 visionrelated disorders, which can cause blindness or moderateto-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



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 sup-

## **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 investment in the pharma-

the third-largest pharmaceutical producer globally, and it ranks 14th by value. With its current status as the largest supplier of generics and vac-cines 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

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 long run.

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 man-ufacturers 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

#### **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

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

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

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 significant investment in eye diseases.

(The writer is CEO, of Entod Pharmaceuticals)

# Biden consults Kishida ahead of G7 summit

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden arrived}}_{\text{in Japan on Thursday and}}$ greeted Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida by saying, "When our countries stand together, we stand stronger" — a sign of how the economic and national securitv alliance between the two countries has grown.

The US president began his remarks by noting that Kishida said during a January Washington visit that the world faced one of the "most complex" security environments in recent history. "I couldn't agree with you more," Biden

said.
"We very much welcome that the cooperation has evolved in leaps and bounds," Kishida told Biden about Japan's relationship with the US in their meeting ahead of the Group of Seven summit that begins Friday.

city of Hiroshima will host the gathering of major industrialised nations known at the G-7. The setting of Hiroshima, where the US dropped the first nuclear bomb in 1945 during World War II, carries newfound resonance.

The US, Japan and their allies are strategising on how to deal with Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine as well as concerns about the increased cadence of North Korea's ballistic missile tests and Iran's nuclear pro-Biden is appearing on the

world stage while trying to manage a divide back in the US on how to raise the debt limit. He opted to cut short what was supposed to be an eight-day trip to Asia, so he can return to shington to try to avoid a potentially catastrophic default in June that could ripple across the global economy. Ît's a drama that reveals how internal US



President Joe Biden, left, shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ahead of a bilateral meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, Thursday ahead of the start of the

politics can spillover into glob-

While aboard Air Force One, Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser, told reporters that the Russian invasion looms large as

a G-7 topic. He added leaders would discuss the state of play on the battlefield and sealing loopholes to strengthen sanctions that have been levied

against Moscow. Sullivan said

ship that's progressed over the course of the last two years with the two sides tightening coordination on military, economic and climate matters.

Last year, Biden came to Tokyo to discuss Indo-Pacific strategy and launch a new trade framework for the region, with the US president and Kishida engaging in an 85-minute tea ceremony and seafood dinner.

The president's first stop in Japan on Thursday was to greet US troops at the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, before he headed to Hiroshima for talks with the Japanese prime minister. Kishida was quick to call

out the risks of nuclear-power Russia invading Ukraine in 2022, saying then, "Ukraine today could be East Asia tomorrow." China has declared a limitless friendship with Russia, increasing trade in ways

cial sanctions to constrain the

But the US and its allies say China has yet to ship military equipment to Russia, a sign that the friendship might have some boundaries.

Biden and Kishida also discussed economic matters. They addressed efforts to bolster supply chains for critical minerals, new partnerships between US and Japanese companies and universities and how to promote renewable energy, according to a White House readout of the meeting.

Kishida had planned to discuss further strengthening of deterrence and response capability with Biden in the face of China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as confirming the importance of the Taiwan Strait for global peace and stability.

China has asserted that self-governing Taiwan should

cials have been briefed on the possible economic damage caused by a war over Taiwan, which would disrupt the supply of advanced computer The US and Japanese lead-

ers also talked about ways to reinforce their three-way partnership with South Korea, which signed an agreement in April with the US to strengthen their tools for deterring a nuclear attack by North Korea.

Kishida and Biden will hold a trilateral summit with South Korea's Yoon Suk Yeol on the sidelines of the G-7 sum-

.. But Kishida is in a complicated position by discussing efforts to respond to nuclear threats by North Korea with Japan's history of also calling for a world free from nuclear arms, said Kan Kimura, a Kobe University professor and an

### Biden's campaign sees 'viable pathways' to 2024 polls win

Washington: President Joe Biden 's reelection campaign is vowing to hold the states that won him the White House in 2020 but also compete in places it lost like North Carolina and increasingly Republican-dominated Florida, providing what it says are "a number of viable pathways to the 270 electoral votes" needed to clinch four more years. Offering her first extensive comments on strategy since she was named manager of Biden's campaign last month, Julie Chavez Rodriguez wrote in a memo to "interested parties" that the 2024 race presents "significant opportunities to grow Democratic support."

It was released while Biden was travelling in Japan, but he is skipping previously planned, subsequent stops in Australia and Papua New Guinea to focus on debt limit talks in Washington.

Rodriguez said the reelecion campaign is planning early investments to try to retain battleground states Biden won in 2020 including Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Nevada and New Hampshire, and to hold Georgia and Arizona, which hadn't voted Democratic in a presidential race in decades prior to three years ago.

But the campaign will also "look to expand the map even further in states like North Carolina and Florida" and Rodriguez said both would be included in a "7-figure" advertising but that encompassed invest. ing buy that encompassed investments in a string of swing states. Biden's reelection campaign is built around asking Americans to allow him to "finish the job" he started, and has sought to paint "extreme" Republicans like former President Donald Trump and supporters of his "Make America Great Again" movement as threats to core American political values. Trump is now seeking the White House for a third time, and while Rodriguez's memo did not mention him by name, it did predict Biden would "prevail over the MAGA extremist agenda once again."

# Sunak clinches 'historic' Hiroshima Accord

 $\begin{array}{c} B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}} \\ \text{Sunak and his wife Akshata} \\ \text{Murty arrived in Japan on} \end{array}$ Thursday for the G7 Summit, on the sidelines of which he clinched a new so-called "Hiroshima Accord" for greater UK-Japan economic, security

and technology collaboration.
This new UK-Japan global strategic partnership is being seen as a counterbalance to Chinese dominance in the region and also includes a Semiconductors Partnership to pursue "ambitious" R&D cooperation and skills exchange to bolster supply chain resilience in the key sector. The UK also confirmed

that its Carrier Strike Group (CSG) warship will return to the Indo-Pacific in 2025, following a maiden voyage to the region including India in 2021, as Sunak became the first British Prime Minister to visit Hiroshima - the site of the Second World War atomic bombing."It is a privilege to be visiting Tokyo and Hiroshima



at this historic moment in the United Kingdom's relationship with Japan," the British-Indian leader said. "Prime Minister [Fumio] Kishida and I are closely aligned on the importance of protecting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and defending our values, including free and fair trade. The Hiroshima Accord will see us step up cooperation

between our armed forces, grow our economies together and develop our world-leading science and technology expertise. It marks an exciting next phase in the UK and Japan's flourishing partnership," he

The Hiroshima Accord will cover agreements on defence, trade and investment, science and technology collaboration, and joint work on tackling global issues like climate

Downing Street said Japan's "pivotal role" in the Indo-Pacific makes strong relations with the nation central to the UK's security and prosperity.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak right, and his wife Akshata Murty arrive by plane in Hiroshima, western Japan after their visit to Tokyo, ahead of the G-7 Summit on Thursday.

In Tokyo, Sunak visited a naval base to confirm new UK-Japan defence cooperation which includes doubling UK troop numbers in upcoming joint exercises and agreeing

on a formal Consult Clause, whereby the UK and Japan commit to consult each other on important regional and global security issues and consider measures in response.

The CSG fleet, consisting of an aircraft carrier, escorts and aircraft, to be deployed in 2025 will work alongside the Japanese Self-Defence Forces and other regional partners to help defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, Downing Street said. Meanwhile, it was also

announced that leading Japanese businesses have committed to invest almost GBP 18 billion in businesses and proects across the UK.

"These new investments are a massive vote of confidence in the UK's dynamic economy, from some of Japan's Working with the govern-

ment and British industry they will create the kind of highquality, reliable jobs and transformative local investment we are delivering around the country," said Sunak.

# Biden confident of budget deal with GOP lawmakers

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

An optimistic President Joe Biden declared on Wednesday he is confident the US will avoid an unprecedented and potentially cata-strophic debt default, saying talks with congressional Republicans have been productive. He left for a G-7 summit in Japan but planned to return by the weekend in hopes of approving a solid agreement.

Biden's upbeat remarks came as a select group of negotiators began meeting to try and hammer out the final contours of a budget spending deal to unlock a path for raising the debt limit as soon as June 1. That is when the Treasury Department says the US could begin defaulting on its obligations and trigger financial chaos.

"I am confident that we will get the agreement on the budget and America will not



Roosevelt Room of the White House. Later Wednesday evening, negotiations resumed behind closed doors at the

Democrat Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have traded blame for a debt-ceiling impasse for weeks. But Biden said of the latest White House session with congressional leaders that "everyone came to the meeting, I think, in good

McCarthy was upbeat, too, though contending Biden had given ground. The president said the budget talks were still separate from the debt limit issue, but the speaker said Biden had "finally backed off" his refusal to negotiate.

"Keep working — we will work again tonight;" McCarthy told reporters later. "We're going to work until we can get it done."

Biden said that every leader at Tuesday's Oval Office meeting — Vice President Kamala Harris, McCarthy, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-NY, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky — agreed the US must not default on its obligations. "It would be catastrophic for the American economy and the American people if we did not pay our bills," Biden said.

# Israel deploys heavy police ahead of contentious Jerusalem march

 $I_{
m police}^{
m srael}$  deployed over 2,000 police on Thursday for a march by flag-waving Jewish nationalists through the main Jerusalem's Old City, a contentious event that comes as tensions are already running high.

Authorities say the beefed up security is a determined effort to ensure the march passes without violence.

Police have decided to allow the thousands of marchers to take the traditional route through the Old City's Damascus Gate despite an uptick in Israeli-Palestinian violence over the past year and heavy fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza last week.

Early on Thursday, hundreds of Jews came to a sensitive Jerusalem site holy to both Jews and Muslims as part of the day's activities, visits the Palestinians view as



provocative.

Among them was at least one Israeli Cabinet minister from the country's right-wing government, according to Jewish activists leading the

While Israeli officials parade, it has been marred by anti-Arab racist chants and violence toward local Palestinians by some of the

marchers. Two years ago, it helped spark an 11-day war between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza, and the Hamas militant group has urged Palestinians to con-

front the parade this year. Chief Supt. Yoram Segal, describe the march as a festive a senior Jerusalem police official, told reporters Wednesday that authorities were determined to prevent violence this time around.

# South Carolina House approves abortion ban from about six weeks

Wednesday with legislation that if enacted would leave Virginia an outlier in the South as a place where women have unrestricted access to abortions amid a rapid rise in restrictions in the year since Roe v. Wade was overturned.

South Carolina is among the last bastions in the region for those seeking legal abortions, but that status could end soon. Access would be almost entirely banned after about six weeks of pregnancy — often before women know they're pregnant — under the bill that now must pass the state Senate, which previously rejected a proposal to nearly outlaw abortions but could give final passage next week. And most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy will be banned in North Carolina begin-

ning July 1 after the state's Legislature successfully over-South Carolina became the lat-est state to move towards a veto late Tuesday. Abortion is much of the South, including bans throughout pregnancy in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. In Georgia, it's allowed only in the first six weeks. Such restrictions are possible because the U.S. Supreme Court last year struck down the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which established a nationwide right to abortion.

"It would be just devastating for abortion access in the South, Jamie Lockhart, executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, said of the proposed six-week ban in South, the 12-week ban in N Carolina, and a 6-week ban in Florida will take effect only if the state's current 15-week ban is upheld by the state SC.

# Kilicdaroglu hardens stance before runoff against Erdogan

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main challenger in Turkey's presidential race more nationalist and hard-line stance on Thursday, vowing to send back millions of refugees if he is elected and rejecting any possibility of negotiating for peace with Kurdish militants. Voters in Turkey will head back to the polls on May 28 for a runoff election after neither Erdogan nor his rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, won more than 50 per cent of the votes in Sunday's

first round. The election will decide whether the country remains under the increasingly authoritarian president for a third decade, or can embark on a more democratic course that the opposition has promised to deliver. Erdogan had faced electoral headwinds because of the cost-of-living crisis and criticism over the government's



response to a devastating earth-

quake in February. But with his alliance retain-

ing its hold on the parliament, Erdogan is now in a good position to win in the second

Kilicdaroglu, the soft-mannered joint candidate of a sixparty opposition alliance, had led a highly positive and uniting campaign, mostly on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding. He had also campaigned on a pledge to repair

an economy battered by high inflation and currency devalu-

Many of the rallies of his pro-secular main opposition party, Republican People's Party, or CHP, had ended with Kilicdaroglu making a heart shape with his hands.

This week, however, the

74-year-old politician hardened his rhetoric in an apparent effort to appeal to nationalist voters, including those who voted for a third candidate, nationalist politician Sinan Ogan.

# 'Indian students in UK bring positive impact'

PTI ■ LONDON

International students, includ-Ling Indians who make up one of the largest cohorts at British universities, bring a net positive economic impact for the UK economy even once other costs are factored in, a new report has found.

The analysis for leading UK higher education institutions released in London on Tuesday comes at a time when there are growing fears of a crackdown on international student visas as part of UK government efforts to cut down immigration figures.

Focussing on the 2020-21 statistics, the report claims a 96,000 pounds per non European Union (EU) student benefit to the economy - which covers students from countries like India.

"International students put nearly 10 times more into the economy than they take out boosting both local and national economic wellbeing," said Dr

### **CRACKDOWN FEARS**



London Economics, which had been commissioned to conduct the analysis.

'However, international students also allow universities to undertake world class teaching and research that would not otherwise be possible. As one of the UK's most significant export industries, the success of universities in attracting international students should be applauded," he said. The Higher Education

Policy Institute (HEPI), Universities UK International (UUKi), and Kaplan International Pathways had commissioned the organisation to conduct the analysis amid ongoing political debate relating to potential visa restrictions for international students'

dependants and potential reductions in their post-study work visa rights.

According to UK media reports, Home Secretary Suella Braverman is looking to clampdown on overseas students bringing in dependants as it is seen as adding to soaring migration figures.

The number of international students has been rising fast, reflecting the attractiveness of the UK to those who want to better themselves through education, and in spite of mixed messages from policymakers," said Nick Hillman, Director of HEPI - an independent body.

"If there were to be further changes to the rules on international students, then it is vital that these are based on evidence rather than whim. So, this report is designed to strengthen the existing evidence base. We hope it will be read by every candidate for every major political party in every constituency in the run up to the next election," he said.

# 'Myanmar military imported weapons worth USD 1 billion since 2021 coup'

Myanmar's military has imported at least USD 1 billion worth of weapons and related material from Russia, China and other countries since its February 2021 coup, some of which it has used to carry out atrocities against civilians, according to a UN report released on Wednesday. The weapons continue to flow to the military despite overwhelming evidence of its responsibility for the atrocities, including some that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, said Tom Andrews, the UN independent investigator on human rights in Myanmar.

As an example of what he called the junta's brutality, Andrews pointed to its April 11 airstrike using a Russian Yak-130 fighter jet on a ceremony attended by some 300 opponents of army rule, which was quickly followed by an attack by Russian Mi-35 helicopters on those who

came to help. He said at least 160 people were killed, including many children. In addition, the machine guns and bombs used in the attacks included parts and materials from companies located in Singapore, China and Thailand, he said.

Myanmar is mired in strife because of a political crisis unleashed when the military took power. Its takeover prompted widespread peaceful protests that security forces suppressed with deadly force, triggering armed resistance throughout the country that the army has been unable to quell. Andrews said at least 22,000 political prisoners have been detained since the coup, at least 3.500 civilians have been killed and 1.5 million people have been forcibly displaced. The report documents over 12,500 purchases that were shipped directly to the Myanmar military or known Myanmar arms dealers working for the mil-

itary from Feb. 1, 2021, when the

ernment of Aung San Suu Kyi, until December 2022, Andrews said at a news conference. He said the volume and diversity of equipment the military received was "staggering," ranging from fighter jets and attack helicopters and drones to advanced missile systems, tank upgrades, sophisticated communications equipment, radar complexes and components for naval ships. Andrews, a former Democratic congressman from Maine, said he had received "highly credible and detailed information from confidential sources" identifying the major networks and companies involved in the arms trade with Myanmar. The report to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council identifies USD 406 million in weapons and material that went to the Myanmar military from Russia, USD 267 million,

China, \$254 mn from Singapore,

USD 51 million from India and

\$28 mn from Thailand.

military ousted the elected gov-

### UK telecom company BT plans to shed up to 55k jobs

London (AP): UK telecom company BT Group said on Thursday that it plans to shed up to 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade as part of an overhaul aimed at slimming down its workforce to slash costs.

BT, which has 130,000 workers including both staff and contractors, said in its latest earnings report that its number of employees would be reduced to between 75,000 and 90,000 by 2030. "By the end of the 2020s BT

Group will rely on a much smaller workforce and a significantly reduced cost base," CEO Philip Jansen said. "New BT Group will be a leaner business with a brighter future." Tech and telecom companies have been cutting jobs as the industry undergoes a painful shakeup amid flagging economic growth and surging inflation.

# **30 missiles fired at Ukrainian targets**

 $R^{ ext{ussia}}$  fired 30 cruise missiles against different parts of Ukraine early Thursday in the latest nighttime test of Ukrainian air defences, which shot down 29 of them, officials said. One person died and two were wounded by a Russian missile that got through and struck an industrial building in the southern region of Odesa, according to Serhiy Bratchuk, a spokesperson for the region's military administration.

Loud explosions were heard in Kyiv as the Kremlin's forces targeted the capital for the ninth time this month in a clear escalation after weeks of lull and ahead of a muchanticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive using newly supplied advanced Western

Debris fell on two Kyiv districts, starting a fire at a garage complex. There was no immediate word about any victims, Serhiy Popko, head of the Kyiv Military Administration, said in a Telegram post.

Ukraine also shot down two Russian exploding drones and two reconnaissance drones, according to authorities.

The bombardment across Ukraine included six Russian Kinzhal aero-ballistic hyper-



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Police Press Office, fragments of a Russian rocket which was shot down by Ukraine's air defense system are seen after the night rocket attack in the Kyiv region, Ukraine, on Thursday

sonic missiles — the most fired in a single attack in the war so far, according to Ukrainian air force spokesman Yurii Ihnat.

The missiles were launched from Russian sea, air and ground bases, General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the Ukrainian commander in chief, wrote on

Several waves of missiles were aimed at areas of Ukraine between 9 pm on Wednesday and 5.30 am on Thursday, he said. Russian forces used strategic bombers from the Caspian

region and apparently fired Xdeveloped during Soviet times, Kyiv authorities said. Russia then deployed reconnaissance drones over the capital.

In the last major air attack on Kyiv, on Tuesday, Ukrainian air defences bolstered by sophisticated Western-supplied systems shot down all the incoming missiles, officials

That attack used hypersonic missiles, which repeatedly have been touted by Russian President Vladimir Putin as providing a key strategic advan-

The missiles, which are among the most advanced weapons in Russia's arsenal, are difficult to detect and intercept because of their hypersonic speed and maneuverability.

But sophisticated Western air defence systems, including American-made Patriot missiles, have helped spare Kyiv from the kind of destruction witnessed along the main front line in the country's east and

While the ground fighting is largely deadlocked along that front line, both sides are targeting each other's territory

with long-range weapons.

Meanwhile, Kremlininstalled authorities in occupied Crimea reported the

derailment of eight train cars Thursday due to an explosion. Russian state media reported the train was carrying grain.

A source within the emergency services, state news agency RIA Novosti said that the incident occurred not far from the city of Simferopol.

The Crimean Railway reported that the derailment was caused by "the interference of unauthorised persons" and that there were no casualties.

The Russia-installed head Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said that train services on the affected section of the line were suspended.

Also, two people were wounded in a drone attack in Russia's southern Kursk region, which borders Ukraine, the regional governor reported on Thursday. In a Telegram post, Roman Starovoit claimed Ukrainian forces dropped an explosive device from a drone on a sports and recreation

#### with heavy machinery have taken positions near Zaman Park. Police have also blocked all roads leading to Khan's residence by erecting barriers. Jammers have been placed in

Citing sources, Geo News reported that the inspector general of Punjab police and the capital city police officer have asked the police to

expired.

dence is expected any time

soon as the Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) chief has failed

to meet the deadline to hand

Hasan Bhatti on Thursday

claimed that they arrested

eight people from Zaman Park

area who are suspected to be

involved in the attacks on the

army installations on May 9.

claim, saying the police

brought a bunch of arrested

individuals to Zaman Park to

prove that they had been

taken into custody outside

The policemen armed

their leader's residence.

Khan's party disputed the

Senior police officer

over the terrorists.

remain "vigilant". On Wednesday, Punjab's caretaker Information minister Amir Mir claimed that some '30 to 40' terrorists were hiding inside Khan's Zaman Park residence and gave an ultimatum of 24 hours to the chief to hand them over or face stern action.

The minister said on Thursday that as the deadline expired the police may raid Zaman Park to arrest the terrorists including Khan's nephew Hassan Niazi who is



## Pakistan heading towards imminent disaster: Imran

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

Pakistan is heading towards an imminent disaster and it may face disintegration, former prime minister Imran Khan has warned as he accused the ruling coalition of hatching a conspiracy to pit the army against his party.

Police op likely against 'terrorists'

In a video-link address from his Zaman Park residence here on Wednesday, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chief said the only solution to end political instability was to hold elec-

"The PDM leaders and Nawaz Sharif, who is absconding in London, are least concerned whether the country's constitution is desecrated, state institutions are destroyed or even Pakistan Army earns a bad name. They are looking for their vested interests of saving the looted wealth alone," he said.

reportedly hiding there.

Khan, meanwhile, asked the government to send the police team with search warrants as it would not object

He has claimed that the decision to arrest him has

"I am seeing a frightening dream that the country is heading towards an imminent disaster. I appeal to the powers that be to let the elections take place and save the country," Khan said as police have surrounded his home.

Speaking about the unrest that followed his arrest from the Islamabad High Court premises on May 9, Khan asserted that it was a "pure conspiracy" hatched and executed allegedly on behalf of the ruling coalition and the Punjab caretaker government.

This is high time that the powers that be should sensibly rethink otherwise the country might face an East Pakistan-like situation," he was quoted as saying by Dawn

Defending his criticism of the country's army, Khan said: "When I reprimand the army, it is like I am criticising my

been taken and he will be tried under the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secrets Act in connection with attacks on military installations. He said he would be kept in jail for 10 years under sedition

### **Syrian president** heads to Saudi for summit

**AP** ■ JEDDAH

Syrian President Bashar Assad headed to Saudi Arabia on Thursday to attend a regional summit, his first visit to the oilrich kingdom since Syria's conflict began in 2011, the president's office said.

Assad's attendance at the Arab League summit, which starts on Friday, is expected to seal Syria's return to the Arab fold following a 12-year suspension and open a new chapter of relations after more than a decade of tensions.

The 22-member league, which is convening in the Saudi city of Jeddah, recently reinstated Syria and is now poised to welcome Assad, a long-time regional pariah, back into the fold. The Syrian president was officially invited to attend the summit last week.

During Syria's civil war, Saudi Arabia had been a key backer of armed opposition groups attempting to overthrow Assad. However, in recent months, Rivadh has called for dialogue to end the conflict that has killed half a million peopre-war population. Assad's troops have taken control of much of Syria thanks to his main allies Russia and Iran that helped tip the balance of power in his favour. Relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia had been turbulent since Assad took office in 2000, following the death of his late father and former president, Hafaz Assad. The two countries cut relations in 2012, at the height of Syria's conflict. Last week they agreed on reopening their embassies.

In April, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad visited Rivadh and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, visited Damascus and met with Assad. Mekdad also took part in Arab foreign ministers meeting in Jeddah on Wednesday ahead of the summit.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been pushing for peace in the region and over the past months, Riyadh has improved its relations with Iran, restored ties with Syria and is ending the kingdom's yearslong war in Yemen.

### China says Ukraine envoy met with Zelenskyy during talks in Kyiv According to the statestatus as one of five permanent

¬hina said on Thursday its Uspecial envoy met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during talks in Kyiv earlier this week. Ministry

spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the meeting came amid discussions between envoy Li Hui and Ukraine's foreign minister and other government

'There is no remedy to resolve the crisis," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing. "All parties should create favorable conditions and accumulate integrity of Ukraine."

 $F^{\text{oreign embassies in Beijing}}_{\text{were asked by the Chinese}}$ 

government to avoid displaying

apparent response to shows of

government says it is neutral in

Moscow's 15-month-old inva-

sion of Ukraine but has repeat-

ed Russian justifications, accus-

ing Washington and the US-

European military alliance

Ukraine this week and was due

to go to Russia to discuss a pos-

sible "political settlement," but lit-

Ministry asked diplomatic mis-

sions last week not to use their

exterior walls to display "politi-

cal propaganda," according to a

European Union spokesperson

and a diplomat from a European

government. The May 8 request

cites a need to "avoid causing dis-

putes between countries," but

doesn't define propaganda or give other details, EU spokesper-

son Nabila Massrali wrote in a

statement. Massrali said the EU

Delegation in Beijing "has not

changed any items displayed at

its front wall." The request did-

tle progress is expected.

A Chinese envoy visited

The Chinese Foreign

NATO of provoking Moscow.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's

vhat it calls propagar

support for Ukraine

mutual trust for the political settlement."

The visit followed an earlier phone call between Zelenskyy and Chinese leader Over two days, Li and

Ukraine Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba discussed ways to stop Russian aggression," the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Kuleba briefed Li, a former Chinese ambassador to Moscow, "about the principles of restoring a stable and just peace based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial

n't mention Ukraine, according

to the diplomats. But flags and

placards set up by embassies of

Canada, France, Germany and

other governments are the only

missions, other than tourism

advertisements. The European

diplomat, who asked not to be

identified further due to the sen-

sitivity of the issue, said his gov-

ernment doesn't "see any reason

A 2-meter (6.5-foot) -tall

A billboard hung on

lacard at the front gate of the

Finnish Embassy has the flags of

Finland and Ukraine and says

Sweden's Embassy has the same

phrase and flags of the two

countries. Those displays have

been up for months. It wasn't

clear why China made the

removal request now. Some

embassies also raised rainbow

flags for Diversity Week and

Wednesday's International Day

Against Homophobia and

Transphobia. Such issues are

considered politically sensitive by

China's ruling Communist Party.

details, foreign ministry

spokesperson Wang Wenbin

said embassies were obliged to

"respect Chinese laws and reg-

ulations," but gave no details.

Asked for confirmation and

#WeStandWithUkraine."

to change" its display.

China asks embassies

to avoid 'propaganda'

ment, Kuleba repeated his government's position that Ukraine wouldn't accept any proposal involving the loss of its territories or the "freezing of the con-

Xi's government says it's neutral and wants to serve as mediator in the 15-monthlong conflict, but has supported Moscow politically and eco-China sees Moscow as a

diplomatic and military partner in opposing United States domination of global affairs.

Beijing has refused to criticise the invasion and used its

**IMF** board nod

economic crisis

International Monetary Fund's

executive board has approved

bailout for Ghana in hopes of

combating the country's eco-

for the immediate release of

USD 600 million, with the

remaining funds to be made

available over the course of the

next three years, the IMF said

high debt and a weakening cur-

rency, Ghana's government

began negotiations with the

IMF last July for a bailout

package. In December, the

IMF agreed after a two-week

visit to the West African coun-

try. The IMF funds should

help Ghana emerge from a

financial crisis exacerbated by

the COVID-19 pandemic but

will require changes to the

country's tax system and public spending. "The combination

of large external shocks and

preexisting fiscal and debt vul-

nerabilities precipitated a deep

but she was committed to

said in a statement.

Facing soaring inflation,

in a statement Wednesday.

The arrangement will allow

(AP):

to bailout for

**Ghana amid** 

London

nomic crisis.

United Nations Security Council members to deflect diplomatic attacks on Russia.

Beijing released a proposed peace plan in February, but Ukraine's allies largely dismissed it, insisting that Russian President Vladimir Putin must withdraw his forces. Zelenskyy's own 10-point peace plan also includes a tribunal to prosecute war crimes committed by Russia.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has said Li also will visit Poland, France and Germany, but didn't give details of his schedule.

# 'Many countries helping in search for crew of sunken Chinese vessel'

hina on Thursday said operation has drawn close India, Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and the Philippines have extended emergency help to it in the search and rescue of a Chinese fishing vessel with 39 crew members onboard that sank in the Indian Ocean.

A spokesperson for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) told the Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency on Thursday that based on drift modelling, a remote 12,000 square km zone has been identified to search for the vessel.

A Chinese deep-sea fishing vessel Lupeng Yuanyu 028 capsized on Tuesday in the central Indian Ocean, which has so far left 39 people on board missing, including 17 Chinese mariners, Indonesian mariners and five Philippine mariners. None of the crew has yet been found.

Chinese Foreign Ministry economic and financial crisis in Ghana," IMF Managing spokesman Wang Wenbin told Director Kristalina Georgieva the media here on Thursday that "as we speak, the search

and rescue operation is still underway". He said the rescue

"Countries such as Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and the Philippines have extended emergency assistance and sent sympathies for the Chinese boat and crew", he said, providing an update about the search operations.

"The operation has been commended from various quarters in China and abroad.

The Chinese government sincerely appreciates the help from those countries," he said. In New Delhi, the Indian

Navy said it deployed a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to help in the search and rescue of a Chinese fishing vessel.

"In a display of India's obligations as a credible and responsible partner for ensuring safety at sea, the Indian Navy units also coordinated search and rescue efforts with other units in the area and guided the PLA Navy warships transiting to the scene of the incident," the Indian Navy

## Hong Kong leader defends removal of politically sensitive books in libraries

**Hong Kong (AP):** Hong following massive pro-democra-Kong's leader said on cy protests in 2019. Critics said the Thursday the city's public book pulling would further libraries would not recom- undermine Hong Kong's reputamend books featuring "bad tion for having free access to inforideologies" to residents after mation and freedom of expresthey pulled titles related to sion. the 1989 Tiananmen Square ical figures, further shrinking the city's freedoms.

Chief Executive John Lee was addressing a lawmaker's were taken down without a illegal and violate copyrights. clear explanation.

Those include publications about the bloody crackdown and others written by pro-democracy politicians and political commentators.

Hong Kong is a former British colony that returned to China's rule in 1997, promising to retain its Western-style freedoms.

But the city's cultural and creative sectors said the city's freedoms have shrunk since Beijing imposed a tough national security law

But Lee defended the sweep-

Hong Kong's freedoms are protected by the city's constitution.

"The books we offer for residents to borrow are those that we question about dozens of recommend," he said. "We would books in public libraries that never recommend books that are

> PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.: TD/DTM/0PN/PLOT/150/22-23/1030

> Date: 16.05.2023
>
> Name of the Work: "Allotment of vacant halls (02 nos)-at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of newly con-structed building near Gate-3 inside Port Prohibited area on Annual Premium Ba sis", Annual Premium: Rs. 43,63,288/-, Period of allotment: 5 years, Last date & time of submission of bid: 05.06.2023 up to 17:00 hrs, Date & time of opening (technical bid): 06.06.2023 at 16:00 hrs. Refer our Website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/ eprocure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in/.

Sd/-Traffic Manager Paradip Port Authority

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

NOTICE

In pursuance of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi letter No. A. 11019/02/2021-ME dated 17.05.2023, this is to inform that the notifications issued by this office regarding recruitment on the post of Ward Attendant in the Employment News on 20.08.2022 and in other newspapers on 21.08.2022 is hereby withdrawn and all the on-going recruitment process on the post of Ward Attendant has been scrapped with

**MODI RUBBER LIMITED** CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.) Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com

Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398 NOTICE Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a

301st Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday on 26th day of May, 2023 at 11.30 AM at Corporate Office 4-7/C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 to inter-alia approve the following: (1) Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements alongwith

the Auditor Reports thereon of the Company for the year ended on March 31, 2023. (2) To take note of disclosures/declarations under the companies Act, 2013

and SEBI LODR from the Directors / KMPs. (3) Review Financial Statements of Subsidiary Companies/Joint Venture

Companies/Associates. Etc. For Modi Rubber Limited

(S K Bajpai) Place: New Delhi Head - Legal & Co. Secretary Date : 18.05.2023

#### Indian climber with pacemaker dies at Mt Everest base camp further ascending the moun-**PTI** ■ KATHMANDUc Everest after failing to maintain. Sherpa also wrote a let-

59-year-old Indian Aclimber, aiming to set a new world record of becoming Asia's first woman on a pacemaker to scale Mt Everest, died on Thursday after falling sick at the base camp of the world's highest peak in Nepal.

Suzanne Leopoldina Jesus was admitted to a hospital in Lukla town of Solukhumbu district after facing difficulties during the acclimatisation exercises at the Mt Everest base camp, and died on Thursday, Yuvaraj Khatiwada, Director at the Tourism Department of Nepal,

Suzanne, fitted with a pacemaker, was asked to abandon the attempt to summit Mt

tain a normal speed during the acclimatisation exercise on the base camp and showing difficulty climbing, Khatiwada

refused the advice, asserting that she had to climb the she had already paid the fee for acquiring permission to climb the mountain. Suissane, who had climbed

up to 5,800 metres, a little above the Mt Everest base camp, was forcibly airlifted on Wednesday evening to Lukla town and was admitted to a hospital for treatment, said Dendi Sherpa, Chairman of Glacier Himalayan Trek, the

We had to take her back

Suzanne adamantly

8,848.86 metres-high peak as

expedition organiser.

to Lukla forcibly," Sherpa said, adding that they hired a helicopter to evacuate her.

ascending Everest," he said, adding that it was found dur-"We had told her to abaning the acclimatisation that don the climb five days ago, Suzanne was not qualified for

ter to the Department of Tourism mentioning that Suzanne was not in a position to climb Mt. Everest as it took her more than 5 hours to reach Crompton Point, above the base camp, which is just 250 metres long. Climbers can usually cross the distance in 15 to 20 min-

utes, but it took Suzanne five hours on the first attempt, six hours on the second attempt and 12 hours on the third attempt to reach the point during the acclimatisation exercise, Sherpa said. "However, she wanted to

a new world record by becoming the first Asian woman to summit Everest with a pacemaker," he said,

ficulties in her throat and could not even swallow food easily. Śuzanne's body was flown

adding that she was having dif-

to Kathmandu on Thursday afternoon and taken to Hospital at Maharajgunj municipality for postmortem, Sherpa said. Her family members were

to arrive in Kathmandu by Friday evening. A Chinese climber also

this season to eight. Earlier, four Sherpa climbers, an American doctor and a Moldovan climber died

died while ascending Mt Everest Thursday morning, taking the death toll on Everest

informed and were expected

Tribhuvan University Teaching

# FinMin operationalises amnesty scheme for traders failing to meet export obligation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

→he finance ministry has operationalised the amnesty scheme for traders who defaulted in export obligation under the Advance and EPCG authorisation

As per the amnesty scheme, which was announced in the Foreign Trade Policy on March 31, EXIM traders who failed to meet the export obligation under the Advance and EPCG (export promotion for capital goods) authorisation scheme can come clean by paying customs duty and interest, subject to a ceiling of 100

The Central Board of



(CBIC) asked principal commissioners/commissioners to ensure that the exporters approaching for paying the duty, etc. Are registered with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

These cases under the scheme be monitored and tracked so that there is efficient handling and expeditious closure of these old cases of bona fide default in a seamless manner," the CBIC said in a circulate dated May 17.

The authorisation holder choosing to avail this scheme will have to complete the customs duty payment by September 30, 2023.

Indirect Taxes and Customs Indirect Taxes, Abhishek Jain said the circular further emphasises the government's intention to settle old disputes with ground officers also being reiterated a similar message with specific focus on expedited closure of disputes.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said this scheme is aimed at reducing the financial burden on the exporters by helping them resolve their default export obligations.

"It is an initiative towards supporting exporters by providing them with pathway/chance to rectify their non-compliance, which may have happened due to several reasons," Mohan said.

Among the Sensex firms, ITC, SBI, Titan, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards. Shares of ITC fell 2 per cent

128.90 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,431.74. During

the day, it hit a high of

61,955.90 and a low of

points or 0.28 per cent to end

third consecutive day on

Thursday, going against the positive global trends after giv-

ing up the opening gains," said

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail

Research, HDFC Securities.

The NSE Nifty fell 51.80

"Nifty closed lower for the

61,349.34.

at 18,129.95.

even as the company reported a 22.66 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹5,225.02 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

SBI declined 1.77 per cent despite the country's largest bank reporting an 83 per cent jump in net profit at ₹16,694.51 crore for the fourth quarter of 2022-23 fiscal on higher interest income and low provision-

Bajaj Finance, Kotak



Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, HDFC and HDFC Bank were among the biggest gainers.

'Markets traded volatile on the weekly expiry day and ended marginally lower. Firm global cues triggered a gap up start, however profit-taking in the select index majors trimmed the gains as the day progressed. It is a healthy consolidation so far, however, volatility across sectors is keeping traders on their toes," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.67 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.26 per cent.

Among the indices, realty declined 2.29 per cent, services fell 1.60 per cent, power (1.43 per cent), utilities (1.39 per cent), FMCG (1.06 per cent), capital goods (1.01 per cent) and commodities (0.86 per

Financial Services and bankex were the gainers.

In Asia, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong markets ended in the green.

Former Russian

supplies to India

A former unit of Russian energy giant Gazprom has

resumed supplying LNG to

Indian state gas utility GAIL a year after it halted supplies due

to the Ukraine war, GAIL

chairman Sandeep Kumar

unit resumes

regular LNG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

# 'India's exports to EU worth \$1.3 bn to be impacted by EU's deforestation regulation

PTI NEW DELHI

India's exports of products like coffee, leather hides and paperboard worth \$1.3 billion annually to the European Union will get impacted due to the deforestation regulation adopted by the EU earlier this week, a report by economic think tank GTRI said on

Within three weeks of introducing the carbon border tax, the European Union Council on May 16 adopted the European Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EU-DR).

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that the EU-DR appears to prioritise protecting its own agricultural sector and promoting exports, making imports more difficult as it is a trade barrier disguised as a green measure.

The regulation covers cattle, buffalo, the meat of bovine animals, preparations, Oil cake, soya beans, palm oil, cocoa bean, powder, chocolate, coffee, leather hide, skin, paper, paperboard, wood, wood articles, wood pulp, boards and wood

Gold declines

₹480; silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Securities.

plunges ₹530

Gold prices softened by ₹480 to ₹60,070 per 10 grams in

the national capital on

Thursday amid a decline in

international precious metal

prices, according to HDFC

ished at ₹ 60,550 per 10 grams

to ₹72,750 per kilogramme.

Delhi markets traded at

₹60,070 per 10 grams, down

₹480 per 10 grams," Saumil

Commodities at HDFC

ket, both gold and silver were

quoting lower at \$1,975 per

ounce and \$23.60 per ounce,

In the international mar-

Gandhi, Senior Analyst

in the previous trade.

The yellow metal had fin-

Silver also plunged by ₹530

"Spot gold prices in the

The exporters now have to ensure that these products have been grown on land, which has not been deforested after December 31, 2020. The new rules will apply to large firms after 18 months and small firms after 24 months. Thus, the timeline for large firms is December 2024 and for small firms is June 2025.

"EU DR will adversely affect India's exports to the EÚ of the value of US 1.3 billion (2022 data). The significant products affected and their export value to the EU are Coffee (USD 435.4 million), Leather hides, skin, preparations (USD 83.5 million), Oil cake (USD 174.5 million), Paper, paperboard (USD 250.2 million) and Wood furniture (USD 334.6 million)," the

report said.

PTI MUMBAI

RuPay network.

Payments and financial services comme

Thursday announced that it has

partnered with SBI Card to

launch Paytm SBI Card on the

partnership, which began in

2020, is now expanding with the addition of National

Payments Corporation of

India's RuPay, as all three

home-grown brands join forces

to further drive the growth of

inclusive, digital-first financial

services in the country.
Paytm founder and CEO
Vijay Shekhar Sharma told

reporters that India is at the

cusp of the next payments rev-

olution where credit will

become the mainstream pay-

Paytm RuPay credit card will be

"Together with SBI Card,

ment choice.

The Paytm and SBI Card

vices company Paytm on

#### India's coal production grows 8.5% to 73 MT in Apr; despatch rise 11.66% to 80.35 MT: Coal Ministry at 10 MT, against 8.41 MT in India is among the top five 2023, the data showed. Coal

**▼**India's coal production rose by 8.5 per cent to 73.14 million tonnes (MT) during April 2023, according to the ministry of coal. In April 2022, the country's overall coal production was at 67.20 MT, as per the

India along with its subsidiaries produced 57.57 MT coal, up 7.67 per cent over 53.47 MT in April 2022. The coal production of

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) rose by 4.77 per cent to 5.57 MT, from 5.32 MT

April 2022, registering a rise of 18.93 per cent.

Against the 82.26 MT target for April 2023, India's coal despatch was at 80.35 MT, up 11.66 per cent from 71.96 MT during April 2022. The despatch to power utilities rose by 6.66 per cent to 65.41 MT

the world. However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel. For coking coal, the coun-

coal-producing countries in

try remains heavily dependent on imports as the key steel making raw material is not available in the country.

### SBI shares fall over 2 % after Q4 earnings; mcap falls to ₹11,021 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{\text{an 83 per cent jump in}}^{\text{hares of SBI, which posted}}$ quarterly profit, fell more than 2 per cent on Thursday amid profit booking by investors.

The stock declined 2.11 per cent to settle at ₹574.15 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it went lower by 2.57 per cent to ₹571.40. It was the biggest laggard among the 30-share BSE Sensex firms.

On the NSE, it fell 1.69 per cent to finish at ₹576.35. The company's market val-

uation tumbled ₹11,021.89 crore to ₹5,12,406.59 crore. In volume terms, 17.83

lakh shares of the company

over 4.56 crore shares on the NSE during the day. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 128.90 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,431.74.

"Indian markets were dragged as profit-booking emerged in SBI and ITC despite posting strong results. These stocks had already seen up move in anticipation of better numbers," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Gupta said Thursday. On Thursday, country's largest bank SBI reported an 83 The resumption of supplies, which came to a halt in June last year, has shored up gas per cent jump in net profit at ₹16,694.51 crore for the fourth availability in the country. quarter of 2022-23 fiscal on higher interest income and

Separately, six US companies have offered GAIL a stake in their liquefied natural gas export facility. Sefe Marketing and

Trading Singapore Pte Ltd Marketing and Trading Singapore Pte Ltd supplied two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes each in March and April and has committed 4 shiploads each in May and

June, Gupta said. "Hopefully, similar volumes will renominated for

future months also," he said. Sefe will decide on volumes

on a month-to-month basis. GAIL had in 2012 signed a 20-year deal with Gazprom Marketing and Singapore (GMTS) to buy 2.85 million tonnes per annum of LNG.

Supplies started in 2018 and the full volume was to reach in 2023. GMTS had signed the deal on behalf of Gazprom. GMTS was moved to Gazprom Germania, now called Sefe. But in early April last year,

Gazprom gave up the ownership of the German unit without giving a reason and placed parts of it under Russian sanctions. This followed the West slapping sanctions on Russia for its February 24 invasion of

#### ministry data. India achieved in the same month a year ago. last month, as compared to 61.33 MT in April last year. 94.89 per cent of the 77.08 MT While the production from other captive mines was production target for April ITC shares fall 2% post earnings

announcement; mcap tumbles ₹9,942 cr PTI MUMBAI

Chares of ITC Ltd on Thursday declined 2 per cent even as the company reported a 22.66 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

The stock dipped 1.87 per cent to settle at ₹419.65 on the BSE. During the day, it fell 2.23 per cent to ₹418.10. At the NSE, it went lower

by 2.04 per cent to finish at ₹418.85. The company's market valuation eroded by ₹9,942.41 crore to ₹5,21,541.76 In traded volume terms,

8.39 lakh shares of the compa-

a great choice for consumers.

Our users are already savvy on

QR code-based payments and

with RuPay credit cards work-

ing on UPÍ QR codes, transac-

tions through mobile phones

will get a further boost, mark-

ing a new era in digital pay-

ant will be entitled to 2 per cent

cashback on all Paytm ecosys-

tem spends and 1 per cent

cashback on all other purchas-

es except wallet reloads and fuel

added benefit of a 1 per cent

fuel surcharge waiver and

₹1,00,000 cyber fraud insur-

ance coverage in the case of

tomers can enjoy exclusive

privileges worth up to ₹75,000

with a complimentary Paytm

As a welcome benefit, cus-

'Platinum' cardholders.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

They will also receive the

Cardholders of either vari-

ments," he added.

expenditures.

Paytm partners with SBI Card,

co-branded RuPay credit cards

NPCI to launch next-gen

ny were traded at the BSE and over 2.39 crore shares at the NSE during the day. "Indian markets were

dragged as profit-booking emerged in SBI and ITC despite posting strong results. These stocks had already seen up move in anticipation of better numbers," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head -Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. In the equity market, the

30-share BSE Sensex fell 128.90 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,431.74. Diversified entity ITC Ltd

on Thursday reported a 22.66 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹5,225.02 crore in the

IndiGo back in black on 1

fourth quarter ended March 2023, led by a strong growth momentum across operating segments.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹4,259.68 crore a year ago, ITC Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations increased 7 per cent to ₹18,799.18 crore in the period under review against ₹17,754.02 crore in the yearago period.

ITC's total expenses increased 2.18 per cent to 12,907.84 crores during the fourth quarter. It was ₹12,632.29 crore in Q4 FY22.

The total income of ITC in the March quarter grew 7.75 per cent to ₹19,667.94 crore.

### were traded on the BSE and low provisioning. Rupee falls 22 paise to

close at 82.59 against \$

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

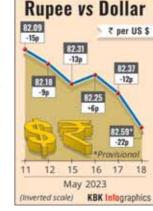
The rupee fell 22 paise to L close at 82.59 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday, weighed down by a strong greenback in the overseas market and a negative trend in domestic equities.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.36 against the dollar, and finally settled at 82.59 (provisional), down 22 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee touched a high of 82.35 and a low of 82.66 against the green-

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 82.37 against the The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.21 per cent to



Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark. advanced 0.66 per cent to USD 76.45 per barrel.

Anuj Choudhary Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas said the rupee depreciated as the US Dollar rose to a seven-week high amid

optimism over debt ceiling Overnight gains in crude oil prices also weighed on the

domestic currency. The US Dollar gained on optimism as US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are working to reach a deal to avoid a default. Upbeat housing starts data from the US also sup-

ported the American currency,

Choudhary said.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on underlying strength in the US Dollar. However, improved global risk sentiments on optimism that debt ceiling talks will get resolved may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary added. On the domestic equity

market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 128.90 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 61,431.

### Airtel Payments Bank's FY23 profit rises over two-fold to ₹21.7 cr, revenue up at ₹1,291 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Securities, said.

Airtel Payments Bank on Thursday said that its profit has more than doubled to ₹21.7 crore in the financial year

The company had posted a profit of ₹9.2 crore in 2021-22. The revenue of Airtel Payments Bank grew 37 per cent to ₹1,291 crore in the fis-

cal year 2022-23 from ₹941

crore in the FY22.

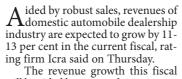
"This year has been a stellar year in our growth journey. Our trusted brand and innovative products, backed by unmatched distribution reach and technology, position us well to accelerate our growth further. Our strong performance is a validation of the



role in serving the digital and financial inclusion needs of the country," Airtel Payments Bank MD and CEO Anubrata Biswas said in a statement.



Airtel Payments Bank said that it registered a 19 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) growth in the January-March 2023 period with revenues of



will be aided by expected 6-9 per cent volume growth and an increase in vehicle prices during the current financial year, it added. Factors like improving consumer

sentiments, as seen through a continued preference for personal mobility and rising disposable income, easing supply-side constraints, better features in the new product models, change in product-mix with increasing skew towards high-priced vehicles, etc., are expected to favourably support the sales growth in the consumer segment, Icra said.

In the commercial segment, mance are key monitorables, it said.

robust market demand: posts ₹919.2 crore profit in March quarter PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fuelled by robust market demand and higher revenues, InterGlobe Aviation on Thursday flew into the profitability zone, raking in a net profit of ₹919.2 crore in the March quarter.

The parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, which had faced turbulence last year, had a net loss of ₹1,681.8 crore in the three months ended March 2022.

Reflecting the bullishness in the aviation market, the carrier has forecast a 5-7 per cent rise in Available Sea Kilometres (ASK), an indicator of seat capacity, in the June

The airline has reported its "best-ever fourth-quarter net profit of ₹9,192 million for the quarter ended March 2023"

ing firm noted.

improving economic activities, rising

spends in infrastructure and mining

activities, a stable financing envi-

ronment shall support the growth, it

from adverse monsoons or the occur-

rence of the El Nino and its impact

on rural demand, supply-related

issues, general inflation, and further

hardening in financing rates, the rat-

mercial vehicles is expected to be sup-

ported by replacement demand, pick-

up in mining, infrastructure con-

struction activities, and overall

healthy fleet utilisation levels, Icra

said. In the passenger vehicle seg-

ment, underlying demand trends

remain stable, although supply-chain

related factors, increase in the cost of

ownership, and monsoon perfor-

Segment-wise, demand for com-

Potential headwinds could arise

**Automobile dealership industry revenues** 

to grow by 11-13% in FY24, says Icra

## HC grants Delhi Marketing 'Sugarlite' brand name

PNS NEW DELHI

A old prices softened by ₹480 to ₹60,070 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid a decline in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

A division bench of Delhi High Court has granted rights to use the brand name 'Sugarlite' to a Delhi-based 'Make in India' dairy products firm called Delhi Marketing.

As a consequence of this order in a trademark dispute, Zydus Wellness Limited, which sells a stevia-based sugar sweetener called 'SugarLite', will not be able to do so. Delhi Marketing, which sells

a suit filed in Patiala House Court against Zydus Wellness Ltd, alleging that Zydus is using a deceptively similar mark to confuse the customers.

However, Patiala House Court held that the visual appearance of the two marks was different and they also related to different class of products.

The court further held that considering the manner in which the parties were trading, there would be no likelihood of confusion.

The court furthermore held that Delhi Marketing never gave any sales or expenditure figures qua promotion of the trademark 'Sugarlite' and that the tradeproducts such as curd under the mark 'Sugarlite' was not a wellbrand name 'Sugarlite' initiated known trademark as per the act.

# BUSINESS BRIEF



### **BEST BRAND AWARD 2023** New Delhi: Competing against many national and

global brands, Delhi-based AIMIL Ayouthveda has won the prestigious "Best D2C Brand Of The Year Award-2023" for its skin care products under the 'omnichannel strategy'. The award was announced at D2C India, India's new commerce conference, organised by IndianRetailer.com (IReC) in Bengaluru recently. On behalf of AIMIL Avouthveda, its founder and director Dr Sanchit Sharma received the coveted

# ONE STEP CLOSER Guardiola salutes

### Guardiola's masterpiece puts Man City on brink of ending Champions League wait

anchester City's time to conquer Europe may have finally come after Real Madrid were slayed by the English champions on Wednesday to reach their second Champions League final.

City thrashed the Spanish giants 4-0 at the Etihad for a 5-1 aggregate victory that exacted revenge for a dramatic semi-final exit to Madrid 12 months ago.

Pep Guardiola's men are not just closing in on the tro-phy the club's owners have desired since an Abu-Dhabi backed takeover in 2008 began pouring billions of pounds of investment into the club.

Victory against Inter Milan in Istanbul next month could complete a treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League, matching local rivals Manchester United's historic achievement in 1998/99.

A fifth league title in six seasons appears a foregone conclusion with City needing a maximum of three points from their final three games.
United will have their

chance to protect their record as the only English club to do the treble in the first ever Manchester derby FA Cup final on June 3.

But City appear to have cleared the biggest hurdle standing between them and immortality by killing off the Champions League monster that is Madrid.

Carlo Ancelotti's men



**VICTORY AGAINST** INTER MILAN IN ISTANBUL NEXT MONTH COULD COMPLETE A TREBLE OF PREMIER LEAGUE, FA CUP AND CHAMPIONS **LEAGUE** 

produced a series of thrilling escape acts to win the competition for the 14th time last

This time City made sure to twist the knife when they had the defending champions on the floor.

## COURTOIS DENIES HAALAND

The collective brilliance of Guardiola's side shone through on a night when stars Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne were kept scoreless.

Only a hat-trick of stunning saves by Madrid goal-keeper Thibaut Courtois to deny Haaland his 53rd goal of the season saved the visitors

from a historic humbling.

Bernardo Silva's first-half double was the least City deserved from a near flawless first-half.

Even when they took their foot off the gas after the break, Manuel Akanji's deflected goal and Julian Alvarez's cool finish in stoppage time gave the scoreline a fair reflection.

Guardiola said on the eve of the game that his legacy in Manchester was "already

Champions League at City has always been a stick to beat the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss.

Guardiola's last lifted the European Cup 11 years ago, with a 3-1 win over Manchester United at Wembley the high point of his glorious four-year spell in charge of Barca.

Seven years into his reign at the Etihad, City got their equivalent as the might of Madrid were made to look mediocre.

"One of the highest," said Guardiola on where the performance ranked in his managerial career.

The style, as much of as the success, of that Barcelona team was why City built an entire sporting structure to lure Guardiola to the Etihad.

His former colleagues at the Catalan giants Ferran Soriano and Txiki Begiristain were installed as the club's CEO and sporting director to entice Guardiola to England.

The marriage of seemingly infinite resources from the Gulf and one of the greatest managers the game has

ever seen is bearing fruit.

"You cannot always win, but you can try," said Guardiola. "We have elevated this club to be there every vear. This is what makes a big team, that come May or June you are always there fighting for titles.

Already the dominant force in English football, City stand just one match away from finally scratching their Champions League itch.

# 'special' Man City

**AP** MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola said his P"special" Manchester City stars had proved a point after their 4-0 rout of Real Madrid booked a Champions League final

showdown with Inter Milan. The City boss believes this ruthless demolition of holders Real should silence any remaining doubters.

"I had the feeling we had one year of pain in our stomach. What happened last season, today went out," he said.

"It was so painful last season, when people said these players lacked character and in one year we've shown again how special this group of players is.

say congratulations to all our organisation, our chairman, our owner, until the last person because they work with a real purpose and we are there!'

Manchester City's 5-1 aggregate victory kept the Premier League leaders on course for a remarkable sea-

They can win the title with a victory against Chelsea on Sunday, face Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3 and head to Istanbul to play Inter as they bid to lift the Champions League for the first time.

"When you reach the Champions League final, you have to celebrate but unfortunately we won't have time because on Sunday we have the chance to win the Premier League," Guardiola

"A final against an Italian team is not the best gift, honestly. They are competitive. This victory will get a lot of compliments but we have time to prepare men-

Asked if City's display was one of their best during his seven-year reign, Guardiola added: "Yes definitely. We just had to win

one game, be ourselves. Madrid, what a team, but we wanted to win. What happened last season happened. We didn't have the

"But today we had the feeling that the people were ready. The players made a lot of jokes, I didn't feel tension and I had the feeling we were ready to give this performance.

Silva said he was motivated to make amends for an underwhelming display in the 1-1 draw against Real in

the first leg.

He fooled Real keeper Thibaut Courtois with a sublime near-post finish to put City ahead in the 23rd minute and netted their second with a header eight

minutes before half-time.
"My performance in the first game in Madrid was not the one I wanted and I wanted to compensate that," he said. 'Today I had to do bet-

ter for my team-mates and the fans and that is what I tried to do. I am small but good with my head! It is a beautiful night for us."

# Kyrgios out of French Open because of foot hurt in robbery: Agent



**AP** SYDNEY

Nick Kyrgios's withdrawal from the French Open was because of a cut foot sustained when a man allegedly stole his car at gunpoint, his agent says, rather than knee surgery.

The French Tennis Federation said this week the Australian would miss Roland Garros due to surgery in January to repair a torn left meniscus.

But his agent told The Canberra Times the knee was "fine" and a nasty cut to the foot was why he would not be in Paris next week.

"The knee surgery went as well as it possibly could and his rehabilitation was fantastic and we were at the point where we were doing on-court loading and management," Daniel Horsfall told the newspaper.

"We needed to be at a play five sets. Right when we were getting stuck into the loading period, the (alleged) armed robbery happened at his

his foot quite badly. It's not healing correctly and he can't put in the work on court, so he's been off court for almost two weeks now."

Court documents cited by national broadcaster ABC earlier this month alleged that a man pointed a gun at Kyrgios's mother before stealing his limegreen Tesla near his home in Canberra.

cut his foot.

months off, meaning he will also def-initely miss Wimbledon and most likely the US Open, before starting to

And he said next year would that has so far produced 22 Grand Slam singles titles. "It's probably going to be my last year on the professional tour, I can't

"During the ordeal he cut

The 28-year-old Kyrgios, who was nearby, called police and using an app on his phone helped them track his car's location. It is not clear how he

Nadal pulls out of French Open due to injury inside six weeks, comfortably in time for the claycourt season and to  $R^{
m afael\ Nadal\ on\ Thursday\ withdrew\ from\ the\ French\ Open}$ launch an assault on a record-extending 15th title at Roland Garros.

because his hip injury has not healed However, with his 37th birthday and said he expects 2024 to be his little over two weeks away and havfinal year in professional tennis. ing skipped Masters events in Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo, Madrid "Ít's not a decision I'm taking, it's a decision my body is taking," said the 36-year-old Spanish player, who and Rome, Nadal appears to be facing a final battle he cannot win. has played at the claycourt major every year since 2005 and won it 14 After a career plagued by knee,

Nadal said he was taking a few

say this 100 percent because you

never know what's going to happen,"

The injury I suffered in Australia

Roland Garros became impos-

The former world number one

has not played since the Australian

Open in January where he picked up

a hip injury in a shock second round

loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the

sible. I will not be there after many

he told a news conference.

has not healed as we hoped.

ment) means to me.

United States.

wrist and foot injuries in particular, the alarm bells have been ringing ever louder over the last year. Nadal's undefeated start to 2022,

which saw him pick up a second Australian Open title, ended with a chest injury at Indian Wells.

"It feels like a needle all the time

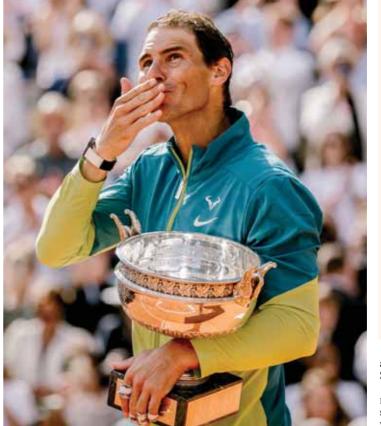
He swept to a 14th French Open in June but only after revealing he had required daily pain-killing injections in his foot, a consequence of suffering from Mueller-Weiss Syndrome, a rare degenerative con-

"I played with no feeling in the foot, with a pain-killing injection in the nerve. The foot was asleep, and that's why I was able to play," he said at the time in Paris.

years, with everything that (tourna-He added that he would under-Nadal said he will not set a date go a treatment which would involve for his return, but said the Davis Cup burning the nerves in his foot to perin November could be a potential tarmanently dull the pain.

Weeks later, his dream of a third Wimbledon title ended in a semifinal withdrawal due to an abdominal strain.

Nadal's lengthy absence this year He was expected to recover has also seen him drop out of the



world's top 10 for the first time in 18

His record at the French Open is unlikely ever to be broken. Since his 2005 championship

winning debut, he has racked up 112 wins and only been defeated three

Two of those losses came against great rival Novak Djokovic in 2015

### Swiatek's title defence on knife edge

French Open champion Iga Swiatek says she will know in the coming days how serious her thigh injury is and whether she can defend her title at Roland Garros which gets underway on Sunday week.

The 21-year-old world number one retired from Wednesday's Italian Open quarter-final with Wimbledon champ on Elena Rybakina.

"We're checking it (the injury)," tweeted the Polish star, who also won the French Open in 2020.

"During the second set I got a thigh injury. The diagnostic is in

progress.
"More info in the following days. Will keep you updated."

and 2021. The other was to Robin

Soderling in 2009. Djokovic, who shares the men's

record of 22 Slams with Nadal, will start as French Open favourite this year alongside world number one Carlos Alcaraz who is desperate not to see his Spanish compatriot throw in the towel.

"Let's hope he continues to play for a long time and that we can enjoy his tennis," said Alcaraz, the 20-yearold heir apparent to Nadal's throne.

# Milner, Firmino to leave Liverpool

**AP** LIVERPOOL

Tames Milner will leave Liverpool when his contract expires at the end of the season, the Premier League giants announced Wednesday as they confirmed several departures from Anfield.

Milner will bow out alongside Roberto Firmino, whose exit has long been forecast, as well as Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

All the quartet will be out of contract after the end of the current campaign.

"We can confirm Roberto Firmino, Naby Keita, James Milner and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain will leave the club upon the expiry of their contracts this summer," said a Liverpool statement.

"Special acknowledgements will be paid to the quartet at Anfield, with further tributes to follow at the end of the season.

Veteran former England



been linked with a move to either high-flyers Brighton or hometown club Leeds following an eight-year stint at Anfield.

He made his Premier League debut for Leeds aged 16 in 2002 and had spells at Newcastle, Aston Villa and Manchester City before joinHis total of 617 appear-

ances leaves Milner behind only Gareth Barry (652) and Ryan Giggs (632) in the Premier League list, although the trio are still shy of England goalkeeping great Peter Shilton's tally of 848 games, a record set in the old First

## **India lose 2-4 to Aus**

**PTI** ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian women's hockey I team started its tour of Australia on a disappointing note, losing 2-4 against the hosts in the first Test of the three-match series at the Mate Stadium here on Thursday.

in first Test

After a barren first quarter, world No. 3 Australia scored a couple of goals within a span of six minutes through strikes from debutant Aisling Utri (21st minute) and Maddy Fitzpatrick (27th). The Hockeyroos scored two more quick goals in the third quarter which came from the sticks of Alice Arnott (32nd) and Courtney Schonell (35th).
World No. 8 India's goal

scorers were Sangita Kumari (29th) and Sharmila Devi (40th).

The second match of the series will be played at the same venue on Saturday. India will also play two matches against

### **AP** ■ ROME

Ceventh-ranked Holger Rune Obeat a frustrated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in a raininterrupted quarter-final at the Italian Open, where women's top seed Iga Swiatek retired injured on Wednesday.

Serbian star Djokovic, who will drop to second in the world on Monday behind Carlos Alcaraz, admitted that he was outplayed in heavy, wet conditions after a week of rain in normally sunny Rome. "This is probably the cold-

est, wettest tournament I've ever played here in Rome," the 22-time Grand Slam winner "I don't recall so many days in a row (of) raining. In these conditions, it's very difficult to

get the ball past him. "He's a very talented, dynamic player - he was too good for me for most of the match," Djokovic added of

Rune.
With her French Open title defence looming this month, Swiatek retired in the third set of her quarter-final against Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina. Poland's Swiatek had

# Djokovic, Swiatek fall in Italian Open quarters



roared through the first set but injury to hand Wimbledon after receiving treatment she called a halt with a right leg

champion Rybakina a 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 2-2 win and a semi-final

Victory in drizzle and

evening chill came in just under two and a half hours as Swiatek's 14-match Rome win streak was ended. Rybakina ended with 32

in a match Swiatek led by a set "It's never good to win like this," Rybakina said. "I hope it's nothing serious for Iga.

winners and 26 unforced errors,

"I'm glad to win, every match I play on clay gives me more confidence," she added. "I didn't start well but in the second set I found my rhythm."

Rybakina will now take on former Roland Garros champion Jelena Ostapenko, who defeated Spain's Paula Badosa 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Denmark's Rune will line up against Casper Ruud in the semi-finals after the Norwegian fourth seed defeated Francisco Cerundolo 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.



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

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 sea-

The season has told a familiar story for perennial underperformers 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 team is bound to feel the pres-

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 leftarm 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

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-ordie 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.



**⊤**irat Kohli conjured up a magical hundred to steal the thunder from Heinrich Klaasen'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.

Klaasen 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.

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 mas-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

at deep extra cover for another four as

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

was dropped by Glenn Phillips in between at the boundary line. Kohli then played an exquisite shot

with two hits across the ropes off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, before slamming spin-

ner Abhishek Sharma for two more

boundaries. The skipper then joined the

party, punishing Kartik Tyagi for bowling short with three fours though he

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 holing 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, Klaasen forged a 76-run

partnership with Aiden Markram (18) before adding another 74 off 36 balls 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.

Klaasen hammered three fours off Shahbaz Ahmed to power the Sunrisers to 49 for 2 in the powerplay.

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

Du Plessis' decision to make Shahbaz bowl the 17th over backfired as Klaasen 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 Klaasen then plundered Harshal over his head to bring up his hundred. He was dismissed one ball latter while looking for another big shot.

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

PTI KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders open-er 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 "Obviously it is a bit stress-Kings ahead of Friday's game

PTI DHARAMSALA

R ajasthan 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

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 other results after an up and down season. "This kind of game is the

but both will have to rely on

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.

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.

ful, every team wants to quali-

fy for the playoffs, and we

found it difficult this year. But,

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 high-

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

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

 $R^{\text{elishing the role of leading}}_{\text{Lucknow Super Giants in}}$ the crucial business end of 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 any-

one. 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 fran-Since then, Krunal oversaw



# LSG to wear Mohun Bagan colours against KKR

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Lucknow Super Giants, cowned by city-based conglomerate RP Sanjiv Goenka Group, will don Mohun Bagan's fabled green and marooncoloured 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

LSG's two wins and a loss that

came against defending cham-

pions Gujarat Titans, who are being led by his brother Hardik.

reading of the game has drawn

Krunal's captaincy style and

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.

LSG skipper defended 177

against Mumbai Indians en

that is the way I have always

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.

respect to the legacy of Mohun

Bagan and to the legacy of our

themselves at home come Satur-

day, in a must-win battle for

both teams' playoff prospects.

fans, but hope all the residents

With this LSG hopes to find

"Not just Mohun Bagan

praise from none other than the egendary Sunil Gavaskar. run win. Gavaskar was particularly impressed with the way the

route to sealing a thrilling five-

Krunal said he and Hardik have always seen the game from

leaders' perspective, which has

helped them while captaining

"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 every-one but I want to be myself, that's the way I can get the best out of myself," Krunal added.

# Zaheer puzzled over repetitive injuries to Indian bowlers

PTI MUMBAI

 $F^{\text{ormer India pacer Zaheer}}_{\text{Khan on Thursday said he}}$ 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 Prasidh Krishna have also missed crick-

et 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 Prasidh has 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.

point 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.

with the way the other two key Indian pacers — Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj —

"It is very difficult to pin-

But Zaheer was pleased



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 —

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 work-

load (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

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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 "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.