OPINION 6

RAGA'S CONGRESS TAKES

A LEFT TURN

WORLD 9

WE'VE LOST OVER 20K TROOPS IN

BAKHMUT BATTLE: WAGNER BOSS

MONEY 10

SHUN PREDATORY PRACTICES, FOLLOW

SELF-RESTRAINT: CEA TO FIN INDUSTRY

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WARNER TO PLAY BIG ROLE FOR OZ IN ASHES: COACH

the pioneer

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

Sengol, freedom sceptre, to grace new Parliament

It also marks north-south connection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he installation of "historical and sacred sengol (sceptre)" received by first Prime}$ Minister Jawaharlal Nehru symbolising the transfer of power from the British to India in the new Parliament House on May 28 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "historic moment". It is a emotional and spiritual integration of India from north to south, for sengol harks back to Tamil history from the Sangam age over 2,000 years ago.

Addressing a press conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "The ruler would be vested with the 'Sengol' with the order ('aanai' in Tamil) to rule with 'dharma', meaning justly and fairly."

The use of a "sengol" has been popular since the Sangam age. he said, adding, "The age, he said, adding, Tamil classic Thirukkural hails the importance of the sengol There is a whole chapter on the sceptre (titled sengonmai)."

Shah said all political parties have been invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament and they will take a "call as per their wisdom".

"Sengol can't be associated with politics. 'Sengol' conveys the message that the government should run with justice and fairness and it should be rule-based. This message will



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy address the media on significant historical event celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, in New Delhi

go to the people and people's

representatives when it is installed in the new Parliament

honour 60,000 workers (shram

yogis) at the inauguration. He

said the new Parliament build-

ing is a testament of the Prime

Minister's vision of creating a

new India, which combines

modernity with the country's

heritage and traditions.

The historical sceptre is made of silver with gold coat-

ed and the sacred Nandi, with

its unyielding gaze. The Nandi

on top of the "Sengol" is symbolic of "Nyaya" (Justice).

practice for Samayacharyas

(spiritual leaders) to lead the

coronation of kings and sanc-

tify the transfer of power,

which is also considered a

kind of recognition for the ruler, says Prof S Rajavelu, for-

merly with the Department of

It was a traditional Chola

Shah said the PM will also

building," he said.

"Tamil kings had this sen-gol (a Tamil word for sceptre) which is a symbol of justice and good governance. The two great epics Silapathikaram and Manimekalai records the significance of a sengol," said Prof S Rajavelu.

He noted a solemn and sacred Tamil tradition of 'Sengol Vesting Ceremony accompanied by a recital of 11 verses from the Theveram text, invoking the blessings of Shiva, for the ruler took place just before Nehru hoisted the national flag and made his "Tryst with Destiny" address,

symbolising the transfer of

19 Opp parties to boycott inauguration; NDA accuses Congress of hypocrisy

n a show of unity, 19 LOpposition parties, including the Congress, the Left and the announced their decision to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying they find no value in a new building when the soul of democracy has been sucked out.

The decision to boycott came amid a war of words on the matter between the Government and the Opposition, which has been demanding that the President should inaugurate the new Parliament building, and not

Poonawalla, reminding the Congress that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had inaugurated the Parliament House Annexe and her successor Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, however, urged the protesting Opposition parties to reconsider their decision to boycott the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building. It was unfortunate that the Opposition parties were mak-



had boycotted the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the building by Modi in December 2020, citing concerns about its timing amid farmer protests, the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic distress due to a lockdown.

Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Janata Dal (United), AAP, CPI-M, CPI, SP, NCP, SS (UBT), RJD, IUML, JMM, NC, KC (M), RSP, VCK, MDMK, RLD are the signatories of the joint statement. In Opposition parties said the new Parliament building has been built at "great expense" during a once-in-a-century pandemic with no consultation with the people of India or MPs, for whom it is apparent-

Noting that the inaugura-tion of the Parliament building is a momentous occasion, the Opposition parties in a joint statement said, "Despite our belief that the Government is threatening democracy, and our disapproval of the autocratic manner in which the new Parliament was built, we were

Temple attacks, separatists' acts in Aus won't be tolerated: Modi

PM asserts such actions hurt friendly ties, thanks **OZ PM** for assuring to take actions in matter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES NEW DELHI/

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday termed the recent incidents of alleged pro-Khalistan supporters vandalising temples in Australia as "not acceptable" during his talks with his counterpart Anthony Albanese. He assured that Australia is a "multicultural country" and it respects "people's faith," and stressed that such attacks will not be tolerated at all.

The strong remarks from both leaders in Sydney came against the backdrop of a spate of attacks on temples in Australia in the past few months. In March, the Laxmi Narayan temple in Brisbane was attacked by Khalistani extremists, with the boundary of the temple vandalised with hateful graffiti.

On January 23, the walls of the ISCKON temple in Melbourne were vandalised with graffiti that read "Hindustan murdabad". On January 16, the Shri Shiva Vishnu temple in Victoria was targeted while Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was defaced on January 12 with anti-India graffiti.

Besides this issue, the two leaders held wide-ranging talks and announced the finalisation of the Australia-India Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement,



icance of India-Australia coop-

eration, said it is crucial for

which is aimed at promoting two-way mobility of students, academic researchers and business people.

Modi and Albanese also reiterated their shared ambition for an early conclusion of the ambitious Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) that is expected to significantly expand bilateral trade ties.

The two leaders welcomed progress towards establishing an India-Australia green hydrogen task force.

The terms of reference for the task force were agreed upon during the talks.

After the talks, Albanese also announced the establishment of a new Australian Consulate-General Bengaluru primarily to connect Australian businesses to India's booming digital economy and

innovation ecosystem. In his media statement, Modi, highlighting the signif-

regional peace, stability and separatist elements. We disglobal welfare. cussed the matter today as "Prime Minister Albanese well," Modi said. and I have in the past discussed

Continued on Page 2

the issue of attacks on temples

in Australia and activities of

Modi invites Australian companies to enjoy ease of doing business in India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, NSA Aii Doval and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia Penny Wong during a group photograph at a roundtable with business leaders, in Sydney on Wednesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ **AGENCIES** NEW DELHI/

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged captains of industry and business of Australia to invest in India given numerous economic reforms and initiatives launched by the Government for ease of doing business and

boosting economic growth. He gave this invitation during a business roundtable with the CEOs of top Australian companies in

The participating CEOs represented leading companies operating across a diverse range of sectors, including steel, banking, energy, mining and IT, among others. Vice Chancellors from some of the leading universities of Australia also participated in the round-

Prime Minister Modi highlighted numerous economic reforms and initiatives launched by the Government for ease of doing business and boosting economic growth.

These include Mission Gati Shakti for integrated approach towards infrastructure con-Aadhar-Mobile National Education Policy Hydrogen Mission 2050, PLI scheme, opening of private investment in domain of space and geospatial sector, new policy of medical devices manufacturing, and Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme besides others, the Ministry of External Affairs

said in a statement. Modi invited the CEOs to take advantage of investment opportunities offered by India in domains of infrastructure, including digital infrastructure, IT, fintech, telecom, semiconductors, space, renewable energy, including green hydrogen, education, pharma, healthcare including medical devices manufacturing, mining including critical minerals, tex-

Continued on Page 2

Economics at John Hopkins University. Hanke's index pro-

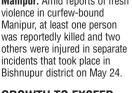
vided rankings for a total of 157

countries. The index is the

sum of the year-end unemployment, inflation, and bank-

lending rates, minus the annu-

Maritime History and Marine Archaeology of Tamil **Court posts** <u>CAPSULE</u> MANIPUR ERUPTS AGAIN: Manipur: Amid reports of fresh



GROWTH TO EXCEED 7% IN FY23: RBI GUV

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the growth for 2022-23 is expected to be more than the advance estimate of 7 per cent on the back of economic momentum maintained in the third and fourth quarters of the last fiscal

7 DIE IN KISHTWAR AS VEHICLE ROLLS DOWN HILL

Jammu: Seven persons including two from Jharkhand were killed and three others critically injured after a vehicle ferrying workers of a power project rolled down a hill in Kishtwar district of J&K on Wednesday, said police.

Rahul's fresh passport plea for tomorrow



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

court here on Wednesday Aposted the hearing on a plea for a fresh passport by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, an accused in the National Herald case, for May 26.

Rahul had moved the court Tuesday seeking a 'no objection certificate' to secure a fresh "ordinary passport" after having surrendered his diplomatic travel document upon his disqualification as an MP.

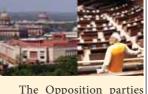
Continued on Page 2

the Prime Minister.
The BIP-led acc Congress of hypocrisy and questioned the "locus standi" of Sonia Gandhi, saying that then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and Sonia had inaugu-

rated legislative buildings in Manipur and Tamil Nadu. Congress' hypocrisy knows no limits," said BJP national spokesperson Shehzad

Parliament Library building in

ing an issue out of a non-issue, he said.



ly being built.

open to sinking our differences and marking this occasion".

However, Prime Minister Modi's decision to inaugurate the new Parliament building by himself, "completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response".

Continued on Page 2

of hate speech that cost him disqualification



hate speech case

An MP-MLA magistrate court had on October 27, 2022 sentenced Khan, the then SP MLA from the Rampur Sadar seat, in the case. Following this, Khan was disqualified as an

Continued on Page 2

Azam acquitted | ED raids aides of AAP's Sanjay Singh in liquor policy probe

PTI RAMPUR

n a relief to Samajwadi Party **⊥**leader Azam Khan, an MP-MLA sessions court here on Wednesday overturned the three-year sentence awarded to him by a lower court in a 2019

Zimbabwe 'most miserable' country, Switzerland 'least'

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted fresh searches, including at the premises of some persons inked to AAP MP Sanjay Singh here, in connection with its ongoing probe in the money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi liquor policy.

The Aam Aadmi Party AAP) leader also issued a Twitter video message, saying two of his associates — Ajit Tyagi and Sarvesh Mishra are also being raided by the ED.

Sources said about half a dozen entities are being covered under the searches being undertaken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Detailed report on Page 4

tile, agriculture, and food pro-cessing. Modi also encouraged the CEOs to forge mutually beneficial partnerships with their Indian counterparts.

Bank musclemen can't seize Ioan-default vehicles: HC

PTI PATNA

The Patna High Court has held that forcibly taking away vehicles from owners by musclemen engaged by financial institutions and banks for defaulting on loans is violation of the fundamental right to life and livelihood.

Banks and finance companies "cannot act in conflict with the fundamental principles and policy of India which means that no person may be deprived of his livelihood and the right to live with dignity without following the established procedure of law," said Justice Rajeev Ranjan Prasad.

A Supreme Court order "completely bans taking such possession by engaging gangsters, goons and musclemen as



bench said in its order. The high court said that vehicle loans should be recov-

ered following provisions of securitisation that empower banks and financial institutions to recover bad debts by acquiring physical possession of the mortgaged properties of defaulting borrowers with the aid of the district administration and getting them auctioned in order to enforce their security interest.

Continued on Page 2 | relative level of misery.



 $S^{\mathrm{witzerland}}$ emerged as the "least miserable country"

while Zimbabwe, followed by Venezuela, Syria and Lebanon have been ranked "most miserable country" in the Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI) Besides, Sudan, Argentina,

Yemen, Ukraine, Cuba, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Angola, Tonga, and Ghana emerged as the 15 most miserable countries worldwide. India is placed at the 103rd spot, with unemployment iden-

tified as the primary con-

Zimbabwe and Venezuela experienced a skyrocketing inflation rate of 243.8 per cent and 266.9 per cent respectively in the previous year. The tributing factor to the country's annual misery report 2022 said among the 157 countries

According to the index,

analysed, Switzerland emerged as the least miserable, occupying the top position (157) on the list.

"One reason for that is the Swiss debt break. The debt brake has worked like a charm. Unlike most countries, debt stood at 29.7 per cent of

Switzerland's debt-to-GDP ratio has been on a downward trend in the last two decades, since it enshrined its debt brake into its constitution in a 2002 national referendum. In 2002. Central Government

reduced to 18.7 per cent. It's hard to beat a democracy in which most major decisions can, if enough of the electorate insists, be put to a popular vote," it said.

GDP, and by 2018 had been

The US is ranked 134 in the list with unemployment a leading factor of unhappiness. Other countries with the least misery levels include Kuwait (156), Ireland (155), Japan (154), Malaysia (153), Taiwan (152), Niger (151), Thailand (150), Togo (149), and Malta (148)

Pakistan, which is currently grappling with a eco-nomic and political crisis, ranked at number 35 in the world's most miserable countries list, with inflation as the most contributing factor. The annual misery index

was compiled by Steve Hanke, who is a professor of Applied

al percentage change in real GDP per capita. Hanke shared the list of the top 15 countries on Twitter, expressing his observations.
"Thanks to stunning inflation, high unemployment, high lending rates, and anemic real GDP growth, Zimbabwe clocks in as the WORLD'S MOST MISERABLE COUNTRY in the Hanke 2022 Annual Misery

Interestingly, World's hap-piest country Finland ranked at 109 in the world's most miserable countries list, again with unemployment as the most contributing factor.

Index. Need I say more?" he

tweeted.

Cabinet expansion: Sidda, **DKS** in Delhi for talks

rarnataka Chief Minister Karnataka Chici Miniote Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar arrived here on Wednesday, and are likely to meet the top Congress leadership to discuss Cabinet expansion in the State.

Shivakumar landed in the national capital in the evenning, while Siddaramaiah arrived later.

After landing here, Shivakumar told reporters that it was a "normal routine visit" and that he will meet senior party leaders to discuss issues concerning the state. "We have to finish our cabinet (expansion) as early as possible. That is in process. My

chief minister is also coming, he said. He said they will meet the top leadership including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Rejecting rumours of a rift within the party, Shivakumar said, "As the party president (Karnataka), I am telling you that nothing is there, no internal issues are there. 'On being asked about supporters of Congress MLA D Sudhakar staging a protest outside Siddaramaiah's house, Shivakumar said, "(It's) quite

All of the workers (of the party) want to become minis-Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were sworn in as chief minister and deputy

chief minister respectively, along with eight ministers on May 20. Portfolios have not been allocated to the ministers yet. The party high command approved the first list of eight ministers against the earlier plan of inducting a much higher number of legislators into the cabinet.

According to Congress sources, this was done as differences emerged between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar over some names during discussions held last week in Delhi ahead of the swearingin ceremony. Karnataka can have a maximum of 34 ministers, and the Congress will find it difficult to accommodate all

Brick kiln worker killed for asking for wages in UP

In a sensational murder, a brick kiln worker was brutally killed for demanding wages Pradesh's Uttar Muzaffarnagar district. According to reports, Muzaffarnagar — a brick kiln worker was allegedly killed, doused with acid and dumped in a sugarcane field for demanding his wages from a labour contractor in Ghadi village, police said on Wednesday. Brick kiln contractor Nitin Prajapati has been booked for murder along with his two associates, Manohar and Abid, on the complaint of his wife, Jansath Station House Officer (SHO) Dinesh Kumar said. According to the complaint filed by the

band, Javed, 30, who was missing since Sunday, was found dead in a sugarcane field on Tuesday evening. She alleged her husband's employers cut his throat and dumped his body in a sugarcane field when he demanded wages.

Dinesh Kumar said a case is

registered and the police is investigating the case after sending the body for autopsy. Meanwhile in another murder in Pratapgarh, a 20-year-old girl was shot dead by her lover on the suspicion that she was having an affair with some other youth also. The marriage of both victim and the accused was fixed and scheduled for June 25 next month. The murder took place in Kathar village

trict on Tuesday night and the body was recovered early Wednesday morning.

The accused also tried to commit suicide after killing the girl. According to reports, 20year-old Karishma, daughter of Chandrabhan Singh alias Kallu of Kathar village in Patti Kotwali area, was having an affair with one Rinku Singh alias Rakesh Singh of Indra Kumar Katra Mohanganj.

The family members were not happy with the affair but as Karishma was adamant they fixed her marriage with Rinku and it was to be solemnised on June 25. Reports said that Rinku was suspicious that Karishma was having an affair with some

Kataria Chowk flyover to remain shut till May 31

district administration issued an advisory on Wednesday that the Atul Kataria Chowk flyover on old Delhi-Gurugram Road will remain closed for one week from May 25 to May 31.

The flyover is being closed for load test and checking of safety features, however, the underpass at the Atul Kataria Chowk will remain open for vehicles during this time.

The flyover and underpass built at Atul Kataria Chowk are made of about Rs 47.40 crore, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in January 2023. Different dates have been fixed for the closure of the lanes on both sides of the flyover to check the safety features and load test, in which the

Kapashera towards Ğurugram bus stand will be closed from May 25 to May 27, while the carriageway will remain closed from May 28 to May 31 from Gurugram bus stand towards Kapashera. The work of regular test-

ing and observation of safety standards is to be done at Lt. Atul Kataria Chowk flyover. However, traffic plying on the road below the flyover will not be affected during this testing and traffic will run smoothly, Deputy Commissioner Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav said.

He said that during this period other tests including load test on the flyover would be carried out under the supervision of PWD-B&R officials.

7 die, 3 hurt as vehicle ferrying workers rolls down in J&K

Seven persons including two from Jharkhand were killed and three others critically injured after a vehicle ferrying workers of a power project rolled down a hill in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha,

Union minister Jitendra Singh, and leaders from almost all political parties expressed their grief over the accident which occurred near Dangduru power project site in remote Dacchan area around 8.35 am.

Since the accident, the officials said, hundreds of workers have been staging a protest at the work site demanding the company to compensate the families of the victims and pay for the treatment of the injured.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said the accident took place amid heavy rains in the area.
"Seven persons are con-

firmed dead and three others critically injured in the accident," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal told PTI.He said the injured were rushed to a hospital by the rescuers who were helped in the operation by

According to the officials, the driver of the vehicle lost control while negotiating a blind curve and drove down the hill. The vehicle turned into an iron mangle after falling down several hundred feet

before coming to halt, they said, adding six persons were found dead on-the-spot, while one more succumbed while on way to hospital.

> Victims were identified as Itwa Singh and Rahul Kumar of Jharkhand, Sudesh Singh of Kastigarh, Akhter Hussain of Dangduru, Abdul Rashid of Banjwar, Mubashir Ahmad of Doda, and Karan Kumar of

> The injured - Ravi Giri of Bihar, Mohd Gareeb of Ramban, and Varun Sharma of Kishtwar – were admitted in Kishtwar district hospital, the officials said. Expressing grief over the loss of lives in the tragic accident, the Lt Governor said, "I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of

the bereaved families and wish those injured a speedy recovery." "I have instructed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons," Sinha said. Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh termed the accident "unfortunate" as he assured all possible help to the affected families.

"Just now spoke to DC #Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav about unfortunate road accident at Dangduru Dam site...Injured being shifted to district hospital Kishtwar or GMC #Doda as per requirement. All possible help, as required, will be provided," Singh wrote on twitter. Former chief ministers Ghulam Nabi Democratic

Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples Democratic Party, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, the National Conference and the People's Conference also expressed grief over the accident.

Senior DPAP leader and former minister G M Saroori visited the injured in the hospital and demanded sterner road safety measures.

"I once again expect that authorities will ensure enough safety measures as occurrence of such accidents are witnessed every alternate day. Smooth traffic movement on such hilly terrain needs immediate atten-

32 questions 'repeated' from previous year, Cong demands HCS exam cancellation

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

ongress general secretary Randeep Surjewala on Wednesday attacked the Harvana Public Service Commission for "repeating" 32 questions from the previous year in the second paper of the

HCS preliminary examination.
The prelims for Haryana Civil Services was held on May 21 with more than 93,000 candidates appearing for it. Surjewala, the Rajya Sabha MP, in a statement here, further alleged that the Commission, "has not only proved its ineptitude by repeating last year's questions but has also done the heinous act of leaking its own

paper". Targeting the Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP government, Surjewala while demanding immédiate cancellation of the HCS paper, said, "If there is any shame left in the Khattar government, then Khattar sahab should immediately apologise to those 93,000 youths who had filled the examination form believing his false slogans of transparency".

This examination should be cancelled immediately and re-paper should be conducted," he said. The Congress leader also demanded disbanding of the commission. Surjewala said there are two papers in the preliminary examination of HCS. Out of these one paper is

General Knowledge and the other paper is Civil Service Aptitude Test which is called CSAT'. To pass the 'CSAT' exam, it is mandatory for every candidate to score 33 per cent marks, only then his general knowledge paper is checked, on the basis of which merit is made. If the candidate does not get 33 per cent marks in this CSAT' paper, then he automatically gets out of the merit, he

The paper which requires 33 per cent marks to qualify and its 32 questions are already in the public domain with answer key. Chief Minister Khattar should answer what is the sanctity of that exam, he said.

vercast sky, wind cool down Delhi-NC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an active western dis-turbance over the western Himalayan region, overcast skies and gusty winds on Wednesday brought relief from the punishing heat in Delhi and its NCR.

The temperatures are predicted to drop further due to intermittent rain over the next two to three days. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, recorded a minimum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal.

The maximum temperature settled at 34.7 degrees degrees. Under the influence of a western disturbance active over the western Himalayan region, thunderstorms and



summer day, in Gurugram, on Tuesday

intermittent rain are predicted in northwest India, including

next two to three days. This will bring the maximum temperathe national capital and its ture down to 33 degrees Celsius surrounding areas, over the on Thursday. Below-normal

predicted until May 30. A heat wave scorched parts of Delhi on Tuesday with seven of the 22 weather stations in the national capital recording maximum temperatures above the 45degree-Celsius mark, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said. The heat wave sent the peak power demand in Delhi up to 6,916 MW on Tuesday, the highest so far this season, officials said.

maximum temperatures are

The city recorded a peak power demand of 7,695 MW last summer and it might reach 8,100 MW this year, they said. The maximum temperature at a few places, including Celsius), breached the 46degree mark for the second consecutive day on Tuesday. Earlier this month, the weather office had predicted below-normal maximum temperatures and fewer heatwave days in northwest India in May. With the IMD anticipating a slight delay in the arrival of the southwest monsoon, the maximum temperatures are likely to remain above normal for a longer-than-usual period. Heat waves in India are

becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, with over 90 per cent of the country in the "extremely cautious" category or "danger zone" of their impacts, according to a study conducted at the

University of Cambridge. The study also revealed nerable to severe heatwave impacts despite its recent state action plan for climate change failing to reflect this fact.

Court posts...

From Page1 Chief

Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta posted the matter on Friday for the filling of written submissions and the arguments of BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. During the proceedings, Rahul Gandhi's advocate sought the grant of NOC, saying there are no criminal cases pending against him. ACMM Mehta, however, said Swamy had the right to file a reply on the application.

The applicant ceased to be a Member of Parliament in March 2023 and as such he surrendered his diplomatic passport and is applying for a fresh ordinary passport. By way of the preseeking permission and no objection from this Court for issuance of fresh ordinary passport to him," the application said.

Azam acquitted...

From Page1

A government counsel in the case said the special court accepted the appeal filed against Khan's sentence. Khan's counsel Vinod Sharma said, "We have been acquitted in the hate speech case. We are happy that we have got justice.""Our con-

tention that we had been framed in the case has been upheld by the court, and the judgement is in our favour," Sharma added. After Khan's membership to the assembly was disqualified, a by-election was held in the Rampur Sadar seat. BJP candidate Akash Saxena defeated the SP's Asim Raja, a close aide of Khan, in the polls.

Bank musclemen can't...

The bench directed all police superintendents in Bihar to ensure that no vehicle is seized forcefully by any recovery agent and fined erring banks and finance companies Rs 50,000 each.

these banks and financial institutions if pitted against the constitutional right of life of a person/petitioner to live with dig-

nity and not to be deprived of without following the established procedure of law, the constitutional rights of the person/petitioners shall prevail," it

In the garb of the power acquired by the financier under the vehicle, they cannot be allowed to take the law into their hands, the high court said in its May 19 order.

Modi invites Australian...

On May 23, the Prime Minister met business leaders of top Australian companies and called for enhancing cooperation with the Indian industry in areas such as technology, skilling and clean energy.Modi arrived in Sydney on Monday for the third and final leg of his three-nation tour. He is visiting Australia as a guest of the Australian Government.

Modi held bilateral meetings with Hancock Prospecting Executive Chairman Gina Rinehart,

Fortescue Future Industry Executive Chairman Andrew Forrest and AustraliaSuper CEO Paul During April 2000 and December 2022, India received USD 1.07 billion in investments from

Australia, according to government data. Both countries have already implemented an interim free trade agreement on December 29 last year. The two nations are now engaged in widening the scope of that agreement into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) Australia was the 13th largest trading partner of India in 2022-23. While exports stood at USD 6.95 billion, imports from that country aggregated at USD 19 billion.

India is Australia's largest export market for gold and chickpeas, the second-largest market for coal and copper ores and the third-largest market for lead and wool. Key imports from Australia include coal, copper ores and concentrates and petroleum.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	- //		Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1.	Needhi Samir Majithia/	Flat No.1938, 19th Floor, Osimo "Mahagun Moderne", Plot No. GH-02, Sector 78, Noida- 201301 (Admeasuring an area of 2250 Sq.ft (Builtup Area 1835 Sq.ft. With Impartible and Undivided Proportionate Share Under This Block)	11, 2023 Rs. 57,22,075/-	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 25, 2023

Authorized Officer Place : Delhi/NCR **ICICI Bank Limited**

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From Page1 visit to Australia has strengthened the close and strong "It is not acceptable to us relationship that Australia enjoys with India," Albanese

Temple attacks...

that anyone hurt the friendly and cordial ties between India and Australia by their actions or ideology," he said in the presence of Albanese. Modi thanked Albanese for taking action against those involved in such incidents. "Prime Minister Albanese assured me once again today that he will take strict actions against such elements in the future also," Modi said.

Referring to the frequency of his meetings with the Australian counterpart, Modi said it reflected the depth of the India-Australia relationship.
"This is our sixth meeting
"Year This

in the past one year. This reflects the depth of our comprehensive relations and the maturity of our ties. In the language of cricket, our ties have entered the T20 mode," Modi said.

Modi said the two sides also held constructive discussions on strategic cooperation in areas of mining and critical minerals. The Prime Minister described the vibrant Indian

community in Australia as a "living bridge" between the

two countries. The two Prime

Ministers also reiterated their

commitment to an open, pros-

perous and secure Indo-

Pacific. Prime Minister Modi's

said in his comments. "This is a relationship we need to invest in. Our strong partnership with India will deliver benefits for Australia in trade. investment and business, and in regional security and stability," he said.

The Australian Prime

Minister also spoke about the rapid upswing in the ties between the two countries. "In my first year as Prime Minister, I have met with Prime Minister Modi six times, which underscores the value we place on deepening ties between our nations," he

"Australia is a better place because of the contributions of the Indian-Australian community, and we want to see more connections between our countries," he said. Albanese and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced that the new Centre for Australia-India Relations will be headquartered in Parramatta.

The Centre began operations this month and will drive deeper engagement with India through business, policy and cultural activities and work with Indian diaspora communities. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi on

Wednesday appreciated Australia's Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton for ensuring strong bipartisan support for the strategic bilateral relations. Modi met Dutton here during the third and final leg of his three-nation tour. Dutton called the meeting between the two of them "productive". The two leaders discussed

various aspects of the bilater-

al ties as well as regional developments. "It was a pleasure to meet you again. Appreciate that you are ensuring bipartisan support to Australia India-Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi tweeted. Dutton is a member of Australia's Liberal Party. In 2020, the relations between the two countries touched a new level with both countries elevating their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership", signing key agreements including a landmark pact for reciprocal access to military bases against the backdrop of their frosty relations with

After the meeting, Dutton tweeted, "Wonderful to catch up again with a great friend of Australia, @narendramodi. Proud of the special and growing relationship Australia has with India and may it go from strength to strength in the years ahead." Dutton was also

China.

present at the community event held on Tuesday at the Qudos Bank Arena. "An electric atmosphere in Sydney tonight to welcome a great friend of Australia,@narendramodi, to our country," he tweeted on Tuesday.

"A relationship enjoying support across the political spectrum. PM @narendramodi had a productive meeting with Leader of Opposition @PeterDutton_MP in Sydney," the Ministry of External Affairs tweeted. "PM Modi conveyed his appreciation for the strong bipartisan support that our partnership enjoys. Also discussed various aspects of bilateral ties, including people-to-people linkages, as well as regional developments," the tweet read.

Prime Minister Modi also met Governor General of Australia David Hurley and both the leaders discussed the people-to-people connection between the two countries and the strengthening of longstanding bilateral partnership. "A warm conversation

between PM @narendramodi and Governor General @HurleyGeneral of Australia in Sydney. Discussed peopleto-people connect between India and Australia and strengthening of long- standing bilateral partnership," the Ministry of External Affairs tweeted.

19 Opp...

From Page1

The Opposition parties said the president is not only the Head of State in India, but also an integral part of Parliament as she summons, prorogues, and addresses it.

"In short, Parliament cannot function without the President. Yet, the Prime Minister has decided to inaugurate the new Parliament building without her. This undignified act insults the high office of the president, and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution. It undermines the spirit of inclusion which saw the nation celebrate its first woman Adivasi President," the parties said.

The Congress said the Prime Minister's decision to inaugurate the new Parliament building is a "direct attack" on democracy. Asserting that Parliament is not built by "bricks of ego" but through constitutional values, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said not letting President Droupadi Murmu inaugurate the new Parliament building as well as not inviting her to the ceremony is an "insult" to the country's highest constitutional post.

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor also attacked Union minister Hardeep Puri for his remarks that Indira Gandhi inaugurated the Parliament Annexe building in 1975 and Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation of the parliament library in 1987.

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Delhi plea in SC against NGT decision | Centre for Independence and to appoint LG as Yamuna panel head

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has filed a peti-I tion in the Supreme Court challenging the National Green Tribunal's decision to appoint the Lieutenant Governor (LG) as the Chairman of the High-Level Committee on Yamuna. The Delhi Government has urged the top court that the NGT order violates the Constitutional scheme of governance in Delhi as well as the 2018 and 2023 orders of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

Through its order dated 9.01.2023, the NGT had established this committee, comprising various authorities in Delhi, to address the issue of Yamuna River pollution, with the LG, a mere figurehead of the state, as its Chairman.

"In its petition, the Delhi Government has recognised the need for interdepartmental coordination to address Yamuna's pollution and implement remedial measures, but it has strongly objected to the executive powers granted to the LG through the NGT's order. These powers encroach upon areas exclusively under the competence of the elected government of Delhi," " the AAP government said in a

In its appeal, the Delhi Government contended that according to the administrative structure in Delhi and the provisions of Article 239AA of the Constitution, the LG serves as a nominal figurehead, except in matters pertaining to land, public order, and police, where the LG exercises powers delegated by the Constitution. The Delhi government acknowledged the



importance of a coordinated approach, but it asserted that the language used in the NGT order sidelines the elected government. The plea explains that granting executive powers to an authority that lacks the constitutional mandate to possess them undermines the elected government's rightful jurisdiction.

'The Delhi Government further contended that the NGT's proposed remedial measures, such as utilising treated water for agriculture, horticulture, or industrial purposes, preventing waste discharge and dumping, protecting floodplain zones, maintaining dredging flow, implementing plantations, and desilting drains, require budgetary allocations that are approved by the legislative assembly," it

Consequently, the role of the elected government becomes crucial in overseeing these measures. The appeal points out that the elected government is committed to addressing the issue of making Yamuna

a clean river free from pollutants and allocating the necessary funds. However, the current scheme outlined in the NGT order establishes a committee led by an unelected figurehead, sidelining the elected and accountable government of NCTD. While an inter-agency committee is desirable for coordination purposes, it should be overseen by the elected head of government, the Chief Minister in this case,

The committee includes the Chief Secretary of Delhi, Secretaries of the Irrigation, Forest and Environment, Agriculture, and Finance Departments of the Delhi Government, the Chief Executive Officer of Delhi Jal Board, the Vice Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority, a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, the Director-General of Forests or his nominee from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), a representative from the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) or MoEF & CC, the Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and the Chairman of the Čentral Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The Delhi Government also highlighted that a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in its judgement in the case of State (NCT of Delhi) v. Union of India (2018) 8 SCC 501, established that the elected government of NCT of Delhi possesses exclusive executive powers over all subjects in the State and Concurrent List, with the exception of "public order," "police," and "land."

Partition Studies in DU soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping in view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eight-point concept note in 2021 that stressed on "revisiting and remembering the horrors associated with the partition of India", the Delhi University will set up a 'Centre for Independence and Partition Studies' to facilitate research on the "high voltage politics" accompanying Partition. It will also delve how the then central leadership failed to contain the "germs of separatism", documents show.

It will also focus on the "non-insistence of central leadership on having the Frontier Province with India" and the way the "Congress Working Committee consented to Partition without consulting (Mahatma) Gandhi", according to the documents. These "priorities" for research subjects were part of a draft concept note for setting up the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies.

It noted that different departments in Social Sciences and Humanities at the university briefly touch upon the history, politics, and literary around narratives Independence and Partition



but that is hardly based on field research, dedicated archival sources or the studies of affect-

The concept note prepared by an eight-member committee will be placed before the statutory bodies -- the Academic Council and the Executive Council -- of Delhi University. As per the agenda of the upcoming academic council meeting on May 26, the members will consider the recommendations of the committee. Delhi University South Campus Director Prakash Singh, who heads the committee, said the concept note contains suggestions but researchers can explore other subjects also. "There is a lot that

needs to be studied and the Delhi University felt the need to provide a platform which can be used to study the cause and effect of Partition," said

The proposed centre should focus on different facets of the struggle for freedom and the reasons and impact of Partition. It should emerge in due course of time as a specialised resource and research centre to facilitate such studies, the committee stated in the

It also listed the priorities for the research which include studies about unsung heroes of the freedom struggle and the role played by Cyril Radcliffe in

"The Centre shall broadly focus on the intricacies surrounding Partition. Within this context many questions need further research. For instance, the role played by Radcliffe (who was hardly familiar with Indian culture, geography and demographic pattern) in Partition; the game plan and the strategies of the imperial government; the high voltage politics accompanying Partition; the germs of separatism that the central leadership failed to contain; the way Congress Working Committee consented to Partition without consulting Gandhi," the note

read.
"The reason for the noninsistence of central leadership on having the Frontier Province with India; the uncertainty of the fate of the princely states; the steps taken by the government to contain violence and death of innocent people; the strategies adopted for rehabilitation of the Partition victims," it added.

The committee mentioned in the note that it would be "quite befitting to set up a centre" to carry out studies and research on Independence and Partition. The centre will be a constituent of the Faculty of Social Science, it added.

BJP's outreach prog on Centre's role in development soon **EAM Jaishankar, former Gujarat CM Rupani to supervise month-long campaign**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP will conduct a **⊥** month-long outreach programme in Delhi, highlighting Narendra Government's contribution to the growth of infrastructure in transport, health and the social sector in the national Capital. The outreach programme will be supervised by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and former Gujarat chief min-

ister Vijay Rupani.

The Modi government has developed Delhi in every field, including education, health, transport, road infrastructure, pollution control and public welfare, among others, at the cost of lakhs of crores of rupees, the BJP's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said at a joint press conference. "When we pass through the Kartavya Path of New Delhi, we realise our duties towards the country, Sachdeva said, listing various works done by the BJP-led

Highlighting the Modi government's achievements, Delhi BJP president said in the last 9 years, the Modi government has approved about 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas for Delhi, apart from the special hospitals built during the Covid period has expanded hospitals like AIIMS, Safdarjung, R.M. Lohia, FAME scheme electric buses plying on the roads of Delhi, expansion of the fourth phase of Metro, cleaning of mountains of garbage to reducing Delhi's air pollution, construction of Third Ring Road in Delhi, Pragati Maidan Tunnel, Dhaulakuan, Mahipalpur, Meerut Expressway, Eastern-Western Peripheral Road are rejuve-nating not only Della land nating not only Delhi but the entire NCR.

awareness about what the Modi



government has done for the people of Delhi in its nine years will commence on May 30. Rupani and Jaishankar will supervise the campaign in the city's seven Lok Sabha constituencies, party leaders said. Leader of Opposition in

Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said he has not witnessed any other central government undertake so many works in Delhi as done by the The campaign to raise Modi government in its nine

Bidhuri claimed that in the current financial year alone, the Modi government has spent ₹60,000 crore for the development of highways in and around Delhi, ₹8,000 crore on hospitals, ₹10,355 crore on the Delhi Police, ₹7,643 crore on the Delhi Development Authority. ₹4,743 crore on the New Delhi Municipal Council, ₹13,000 crore on the expansion of the Delhi Metro and ₹3,000 crores on other heads. All these projects combined totalled a

whopping ₹1.5 lakh crore. He said that along with the regu-larization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi, the Modi government brought happiness in the lives of common citizens by starting the registry registration process of houses in these colonies.

Bidhuri, while keeping the 29 point list of development work point said he feel proud and he believe that today every citizen of Delhi is proud of his or her decision to elect Modi government in 2014 and 2019. The BJP leaders cited various completed and upcoming projects, including the eastern and western peripheral expressways, the Pragati Maidan tunnel, ring road and highway projects, the Regional Rapid Transport System, the National War Memorial, Bharat Vandana Park and the India International Convention and Expo Centre, among others, as achievements of the Modi government.

'Centre can also bring ordinance on control of services in K'taka'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

raking a dig at the Congress, I senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday said that the Central Government can also bring the ordinance on control of services in Karnataka and other states in the future. Bharadwaj's statement comes a day after Congress' Ajay Maken strongly opposed extending any support to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the issue.

Speaking to the reporters, Bharadwaj said, "Ajay Maken has been rejoicing over their Karnataka victory but he should remember that the Centre can bring similar ordinance in Karnataka tomorrow and take away the powers of police there. What will they do then? The Congress has become alive after we raised this issue of ordinance, else



Reacting to the AAP leader's statement, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit said the Centre cannot bring similar ordinance in other states and that state government laws and powers have been "clearly defined by the Constitution." 'This ordinance relates to the area where there is a difference in opinion. Delhi is an Union Territory and its powers can be granted or taken away by the Parliament. He (Saurabh Bhardwaj) is talking about our state government, he should know that state government laws and powers are clearly

defined by the Constitution. "If Saurabh Bhardwaj does not understand this basic difference, I would like to say that I don't want to indulge in debates by such people," Dikshit said.

Bhardwaj further stated that the Congress is a national party and they will take a decision about the ordinance matter considering their gains and losses, adding that not letting the bill pass in the Parliament is one option for the AAP and the other is to take it to the Supreme Court.

Kejriwal has sought the support of various political parties on the Delhi services issue and on Tuesday, he met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He also sought Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's support during their meeting earlier this week. He is appealing to other parties too for support on the issue.

LG calls meet to review CETPs' role in mitigating pollution in Yamuna



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

oncerned with the untreat-Ced industrial effluent flowing into the Yamuna, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, in a first, recently chaired a meeting to review the status of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants' (CETPs) functioning in the industrial areas of the capital.

The meeting sought to assess the role of CETPs in mitigating pollution in the Yamuna ascertain the existing gaps and decide upon the future of course action. Representatives of all the thirteen CETPs were present in the meeting, apart from the Chief Secretary and other senior officers of Departments/Agencies concerned.

During the meeting it was brought to the notice of LG that CETPs were running at only 68-70 per cent of their capacity and many plants required up-gradation. It was also informed that for the last 10 years no audit of the plants had been undertaken.

Of the 40,805 industrial units and other such establishments in the City, only 64 per cent, i.e. 26,077 were connected to CETPs for treatment of effluent generated by them, as a result of which 23,149 i.e. 36 per cent units were discharging industrial effluent directly into the Yamuna. The LG described this as criminal negligence on part of the Industry Associations and the govern-

The LG expressed deep concern over the fact that there are still 36 per cent of industrial units who were not connected to CETPs and even amongst those who were members, 33 per cent were not paying membership charges, resulting in unmitigated pollution into the

It was observed by the LG that a thorough assessment of these plants, especially with regards to their installed capacity for treating industrial effluent and the actual output being achieved, was required.

The LG set a deadline of 30 days to complete the assessment and directed officials present in the meeting to constitute a team comprising officers and representatives of the CETPs to get this task done.

It also came out that due to lack of any other alternative, where the treated water from CETPs could be discharged, CETPs that were treating their effluent were discharging the same in the Najafgarh drain.

Survival rate of transplanted trees comes down after 1 yr

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The survival rate of transplanted trees in Delhi drastically comes down after the first year due to multiple reasons, including limitations of the tree transplantation policy, the city Government's Forest department found during an in-house audit conducted

The tree survival rate after one year of transplantation is up to 90 per cent. It drasticaldrops to 38 per cent after three years, a senior Forest department official, requesting anonymity, told PTI.

Data collected after a preliminary audit and submitted to Delhi High Court in May last year showed that only 33.33 per cent of the 16,461 trees transplanted in the national capital over the preceding three years



The Delhi government's tree transplantation policy states that agencies concerned must transplant a minimum 80 per cent of the trees affected by its development works. The benchmark tree survival rate at the end of one year of transplantation is 80 per cent.

A three-member committee set up to identify the reasons for the poor survival rate conducted a site-specific detailed inspection from October to February, another official said.

"The survey, which includ-

found that the tree survival rate comes down from up to 90 percent in the first year to 38 per cent after three years. This is because the maintenance responsibility of the technical agency in charge of transplantation is limited to one year of the completion of tree transplantation. Lack of proper maintenance results in the death of the trees," the official quoted above said.

"In our report submitted to the government, we have recommended tweaking the tree transplantation policy to make it mandatory for the technical agencies to maintain the trees for at least three years," he said.

The three-member committee also found that some project proponents had transplanted the same trees twice, adversely impacting their sur-

Sisodia withdraws bail application from HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday withdrew his interim bail application from the Delhi High Court in cases related to alleged irregularities in formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, saying the medical condition of his wife was stable.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma allowed Sisodia to withdraw the interim bail applications.

The senior AAP leader is being probed by CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over alleged corruption and money laundering.

Sisodia is lodged in Tihar jail in judicial custody. He had filed both regular and interim bail pleas on various grounds including his wife's poor health.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, representing Sisodia, said since the order on the main bail plea in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case is already reserved and the condition of the AAP leader's wife is now stable, he does not wish to press for interim bail.

However, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, rep-resenting the CBI and ED, said it was not a simple case of withdrawal of bail applications.

Raju said the move has come after he accused Sisodia of deliberate suppression of facts by not mentioning in court about the discharge of his

wife from hospital.
The High Court took note of the law officer's submission regarding suppression of facts and said without going into any such contention, the application is dismissed as withdrawn.

EV policy achieves 86% target

Delhi Govt's



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Electric Vehicle policy which will complete three years in August has so far achieved around 86 per cent of its measures and targets.

Delhi transport depart-ment and Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) cell on Wednesday kicked off the process of drafting a revised 'Delhi EV Policy 2.0'

with a stakeholder consultation. More than 220 original equipment manufacturers (ÕEMs), businesses, industry players, think tanks and government departments participated in the meeting and shared their insights and recommendations on strengthening policy measures for greater e-mobility penetration

in the city. "Delhi's EV Policy completes 3 years in August 2023, and has so far achieved around 86 per cent of its measures and targets according to the state transport department. By 2024, it aims to ensure that 25 per cent of all new registered vehicles in the city are electric," the organisers of the consultation

said in a statement. In his address, Delhi transport minister Kailash Gahlot highlighted the success of the Delhi EV policy since its launch on August 7th, 2020, and revealed an impressive milestone: more than 1.20 lakh electric vehicles have been sold during the policy period.

Police arrest 3 for duping people of lakhs on pretext of investing in cryptocurrency

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

elhi police have arrested three persons for Delhi police have arrested three persons for allegedly duping people of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of investing in cryptocurrency. Police said the accused were identified as Pushkar Jat (22), Vishal Tank (21) and Nitesh Mali (20).

The matter came to light in April after a complaint was filed by a resident of Mayur Vihar who alleged that she was cheated on the pretext of invest-

ing money in cryptocurrency.
She was, instead, duped of ₹7.80 lakh by a group of cheaters active on the Telegram application. Initially, she received a message on WhatsApp regarding work from home and was given task to post reviews on Google for different hotels and was paid some money to gain her trust.

Delhi Head Constable cracks UPSC in 8th attempt, ranked 667

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{phone has been ringing non-stop since the results}}^{\text{elhi Police Head Constable Ram Bhajan Kumar's}}$ of the the prestigious Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination were announced on Tuesday. Kumar, 34, is the first in his family to have a graduate degree and he cleared the civil services exam in his eighth attempt, with a rank of 667. For the son of a labourer from Rajasthan, who saw

his family struggle every day to educate him, clearing the UPSC civil services exam was a dream come true for Kumar. "I was surprised when I saw the results. This was my second-last attempt. I have never been happier. My phone keeps ringing and everyone is congratulating me. My father cried. I think I did too," said Kumar, who is posted at a cyber cell police station in the South district.

Member of Bishnoi gang on run for 3 yrs held after encounter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 ${
m T}$ he Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested an alleged member of Lawrence Bishnoi gang after a brief encounter, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Yogesh alias Himanshu, was absconding for three years after jumping interim bail in a murder attempt case in Delhi, they

A trap was laid based on a tip-off about Yogesh meeting his associate near the Britannia Chowk flyover here on Monday around 3 pm, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Alok Kumar said. When the police surrounded the accused and asked him to surrender, he opened fire at the personnel but the police retaliated and overpowered him,

Modi likely to address joint session of US Congress

India Caucus urges House Speaker to invite PM to address ioint session

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

 $P_{\text{Modi is likely to address a}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ joint session of the US Congress during his upcoming state visit to Washington next month. It will be his second address to the joint session. Moreover, President Joe Biden is receiving a large number of requests to the state dinner he is hosting for the Prime Minister during the visit.

influential Congressional India Caucus co-chairs late Tuesday urged House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address a joint session of the US

Congress.

"We respectfully request your consideration in inviting Prime Minister Modi for a joint address to Congress, thus highlighting the significance of the US-India strategic part-



nership and the shared values upon which it is built.

"On June 22, President Biden will host Modi for an official state visit and a state dinner," Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna from the Democratic Party and Congressman Michael Waltz from the Republican Party wrote to McCarthy.

The two lawmakers laid out the importance of strengthening the bilateral relationship between the United States and India, and the importance of highlighting the partnership by granting a joint address to the Congress.

"As state dinners have come to signify the President's utmost respect for visiting heads of state, granting a joint address to the Congress is a commensurate honour for the leader of the world's largest bilateral meetings between

democracy and perhaps the most critical partner to countering China in the 21st century," the lawmakers wrote.

Earlier this month, Khanna and Waltz had hosted a historic US-India Summit on the Hill featuring panels and remarks from government leaders, experts and Indian-American leaders from across the country. Observing that the foundation of India-US partnership lies in the shared commitment to democracy and the upholding of a rules-based international system, they wrote with mutual interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity, the United States and India have forged a deep

bond.
"The recent in-person

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have reaffirmed our dedication to a resilient international order that safeguards sovereignty, upholds democratic values, and promotes peace and prosperity for all," they said. they said.
"Furthermore, the Security

Quadrilateral

Dialogue, involving the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, has provided a platform for our countries to engage in meaningful discussions on shared regional and global security interests. The United States recognises and supports India's emergence as a leading global power and a vital partner in safeguarding the Indo-Pacific region as a place of peace, stability, and growing prosperity," Khanna and Waltz said.

If invited by McCarthy, this would be the second address by Modi to the joint session of the Congress, making him one of the few world leaders who had the opportunity to address American lawmakers twice. Meanwhile, President

Biden is receiving a large number of requests to the state dinner he is hosting for Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows the excitement level, the White House has said.

FEMA PROBE AGAINST ONLINE GAMING FIRMS

ED raids 25 spots across India

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has car-Enforcement ried out search and seizure operations under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) at 25 premises in various States including Delhi (11), Gujarat (7), Maharashtra (4), Madhya Pradesh (2) and Andhra Pradesh (1) in connection with investigation against foreign-registered Gaming Online

companies/websites operating in India and illegal outward remittances to the tune of ₹4,000 crore.

The searches were carried out on Monday and Tuesday.

These online gaming companies/websites are registered in small island countries like Curacao, Malta and Cyprus. However, all of these are linked to Indian bank accounts opened in the name of proxy persons who have no links with online gaming activity, the ED said in a statement.

"The amount collected from the general public through gaming websites is then routed through multiple bank accounts and finally remitted out of India by misdeclaring the purpose of remittances against import of services/ goods. Remittances out of the income from racing/riding etc., or any other hobby are



not allowed under the provisions of FEMA, 1999," the agency said.

In this connection, searches were conducted at premises linked to several Hawala oper ators including that of Ashish Kakkar, Neeraj Bedi, Arjun Ashwinbhai Adhikari, Abhijeet Khot and the persons/entities associated with them. Searches have resulted in seizure of several incriminating documents/ electronic evidence related to

Hundreds of companies were opened by the key persons in the name of their employees for layering and sending remittances to the tune of ₹4,000 crore in the guise of payments for import of goods and services, the agency said.

Key persons were found using international virtual mobile numbers for instant messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal among others. and using pseudonames such as Pablo, John and Watson among others for masking their actual identity.

Delhi excise case: Fresh raids on houses of AAP leader Sanjay Singh's aides

Centre misusing agencies: Sanjay

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on conducted fresh Enforcement Wednesday conducted fresh searches, including at the premises of some persons linked to AAP MP Sanjay Singh here, in connection with its ongoing probe in the money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi liquor policy.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader also issued a Twitter video message, saying two of his associates - Ajit Tyagi and Sarvesh Mishra are also being raided by the ED, and accused the Centre of misusing its power.

Sources said about half a dozen entities are being covered under the searches being undertaken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

India on growth trajectory,

will become global leader

by 2047, says Vice-Prez

The move come after some fresh inputs were obtained during the questioning of few accused involved in the case. Some of the persons who are being searched are linked to Singh, the sources said.

Earlier, the Rajya Sabha MP had written to the Union Finance secretary seeking sanction to prosecute the ED director, an assistant director and investigating officer of the liquor policy case for alleged-ly making "false and derogato-ry claims" against him in connection with this probe.

ED sources had then said that the agency had filed an application, on April 20, in a court seeking to correct a "typographical/clerical" error related to the name of Sanjay Singh in its charge sheet.

It is alleged by the ED and the CBI that the Delhi Government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who had allegedly paid

BJP team welcomes Govt's move to install 'Sengol' in new Parl building

Union Ministers and BJP leaders on Wednesday hailed the Government decision on the Installation of the sceptre 'Sengol' in the new Parliament building saying it will be a "historic and spiritual moment" for India as it will serve as a reminder of the responsibility to uphold righteous governance for the nation.

The sceptre was received by first prime minister Iawaharlal Nehru to represent transfer of power from the British and was kept till now in a museum in Allahabad.

"A historic moment for India! Witness the history as the sacred Sengol takes (installed at) its place in the new Parliament building by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reminding us righteous governance for the nation," Union Minister for Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a tweet.

BJP president J P Nadda said installing of the sacred Sengol in the new parliament building is a historical and spiritual moment.

A solemn and sacred Tamil tradition of sengol vesting ceremony accompanied by a recital of 11 verses from the Theveram text, invoking the blessings of Shiva, for the ruler took place just before Pandit Nehru hoisted the national flag and made his 'Tryst with Destiny' address, symbolizing the transfer of power from British Viceroy Lord Mountbatten to Indian Prime Minster Jawaharlal Nehru. The Sengol represents the highest

moral authority' I thank the Prime Minister for bringing back to life this very important aspect of our history – that the transfer to of power to the people of India from a foreign ruler was not direct but through a spiritual process, as known to ancient India", said Nadda in

Union home minister Amit Shah earlier in the day said a golden sceptre called 'Sengol would be installed at a prominent spot in the new



Parliament building, which is to be inaugurated by prime minister Narendra Modi despite a stiff protest by the opposition which has demanded President Droupadi Murmu do the honours - on Sunday.

Union minister Smriti Irani said the presence of the Sengol in Parliament will inspire to realise the hopes and aspirations of the countrymen in a fair and just manner.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju described Sengol as a symbol of India's "cherished past and values" and said its presence in the new Parliament building will guide the nation towards a



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar during the BSF Investiture Ceremony 2023, at Vigyan Bhawan in New

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said India is moving on an unprecedented growth trajectory, and the country will become a "global" leader by 2047, when the centenary celebration of Independence will be held. The economic progress of the country was linked to its security, and defence forces such as the Border Security Force (BSF) were guardians of the "holistic growth" of India, Dhankar said.

He was speaking at the annual Rustamji memorial lecture' of the BSF

The lecture is organised in memory of the BSF's first chief and founding father K F Rustamji, who was the Director General of Force during BSF was raised in 1965 and is primarily tasked with securing the Indian frontier with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

National security was the "cornerstone" of the country's progressive prosperity, and the developments that should have come earlier, are taking place now, the VP said.

"You see the kind of road infra-

structure we have, the kind of technological involvement that is taking place, the kind of arms that are being made available and the kind of facilities that are being created for the human resource...This is not an obligation, this is our duty (towards the security forces like the BSF)," he said.

Dhankhar said he was "satisfied" and "gratified" to find that attention was being paid to these issues. India was on a rise like "never before" and this rise was unstoppable and the incremental growth trajectory will go high from here and by 2047, 'Bharat' will be a global leader, he said.

'Just a decade ago, we were the 11th largest economy but in September 2022, we had the distinction of being the fifth-largest economy by overtaking our erstwhile colonial ruler, and by third-largest (economy)," he further

The country took strides when it came to the digital economy, and in 2022, India's "digital transfers" were four times more than that of the US, the UK, France and Germany."All this is possible because our borders are

India, Australia to work together for global good: Modi

New Delhi to open embassy in Brisbane on diaspora's behest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

Winding up his three-nation tour in Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for India on Wednesday and said India and Australia will keep working towards a vibrant bilateral friendship which is also in the interest of global good as he concluded his threeday visit to this country.
"From productive talks with PM

@AlboMP to a historic community programme, from meeting business leaders to eminent Australians from different walks of life, it's been an important visit which will boost the friendship between India and Australia," Modi tweeted.

He left for home after holding wide-ranging talks with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese and attending a special community event here. He also visited Japan to attend the G7 Summit and travelled to Papua New Guinea before arriving in

"A successful three nation tour concludes! PM @narendramodi emplanes for Delhi following a

New Guinea and Australia, fostering stronger linkages with partner countries," Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Modi thanked the people of Australia, the Australian government and Albanese for their hospitality. "We will keep working towards a vibrant India-Australia friendship, which is also in the interest of global good," he said.

During their meeting on Wednesday, Albanese and Modi announced the finalisation of the Australia-India Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement, which is aimed at promoting two-way mobility of students, academic researchers and business people.
They also reiterated their shared

ambition for an early conclusion of the ambitious Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) that is expected to significantly expand bilateral trade ties.

The two leaders welcomed the progress towards establishing an India-Australia green hydrogen task force. The terms of reference for the task force were agreed upon during

After the talks, Albanese also announced the establishment of a new Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru primarily to connect Australian businesses to India's booming digital economy and inno-

vation ecosystem.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi emplanes for Delhi following a three nation visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia on

cricket analogy to describe the fastexpanding India-Australia ties, saying the relations have entered the T-20 mode".

"The India-Australia friend-ship is a special one!" Modi tweeted. Prime Minister Modi also met Governor General of Australia David Hurley and Leader of the

Opposition Peter Dutton. Wonderful to catch up again with a great friend of Australia, @narendramodi. Proud of the special and growing relationship Australia has with India and may it go from strength to strength in the

years ahead," Dutton tweeted. On Tuesday, Modi along with Albanese addressed the Indian community in Australia at the special

event at Qudos Bank Arena. ion ecosystem. Modi said the strongest and Prime Minister Modi used a biggest foundations of Indiaand respect. They renamed a suburb in Sydney as 'Little India', reflecting the strong bond between the two strategic partners.

Modi announced that India will open a consulate in Brisbane to fulfil the long-pending demand by the diaspora. He also interacted with promi-

nent Australian public figures working in diverse fields like science, artificial intelligence, social work and art and music and encouraged them to contribute to strengthening the India-Australia relationship.
In Papua New Guinea, he co-

hosted with his counterpart James Marape the first Forum for Índia-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit and met leaders from the Pacific Island nations to boost bilateral ties

During the summit, Prime Minister Modi conveyed to the Pacific island nations that they can see India as a reliable development partner as it respects their priorities and its approach to cooperation is based on human values. The two

leaders also held bilateral talks. In Japan, Modi attended the summit of the G7 advanced economies during which he also met several world leaders, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and

India, Lanka review maritime ties, ensure regional peace, security

Sri Lankan Navy's Vice-Admiral Perera is on a five-day visit to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

∎ndia and Sri Lanka on Wednesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their maritime ties during a meeting here between Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Commander of Sri Lanka Navy Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera. He is on a five-day official visit to India from Tuesday.

During the visit, he will preside over the Passing Out Parade of the Spring Term 23 at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, navy officials

The visiting Commander called on the Indian Navy chief and held dis-cussions on collaborative mechanisms towards ensuring peace and security in the region. He was received with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block Lawns. Earlier in the day he paid homage to the brave hearts at the National War Memorial.

India and Sri Lanka share a close and historically significant relationship, and both the countries have engaged closely towards reinforcing the existing relations. India and Sri Lanka have enhanced their interactions in the maritime domain substantially in accordance with India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the maritime outlook of 'Security and Growth for All in



presents a memento to Commander of the Sri . Lanka Navy VAdm Priyantha Perera, in New Delhi on Wednesday

Indian Navy cooperates with the Sri Lanka Navy through various initiatives, which include operational interactions such as the bilateral naval exercise SLINEX, hydrography, training, and other maritime avenues. In addition, warships from both the Navies regularly make port calls at each other's ports.

The extant visit by the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy is symbolic of increasing naval cooperation between the two navies and renewed the sense of commitment of two friendly maritime neighbours to enhance the security and tackle the maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

INSV Tarini returns from 188-day inter-continental voyage Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Dornier and MiG 29K aircraft. dition of the Tarini crew, more so

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

In yet another historic event in the maritime calendar of India, INSV Tarini touched the Indian shores as it entered Goa harbour on Tuesday and secured alongside the INS Mandovi jetty on successful completion of a 17,000 nautical miles trans-ocean inter-continental voyage, after 188 days. The crew members included two women officers,

the Navy said here on Wednesday. The six-member crew was received at the jetty by Goa Chief Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani and Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar amongst others. Rani Rampal, former Captain of the Indian women's hockey team, and a host of senior naval officers, enthusiastic members of the naval community and civilian dignitaries were also pre-The 'Flag In' ceremony com-

of yachting skills by young and

promising yachtsman of the Navy

Boys Sports Company. This was fol-

menced with a magnificent display lowed by a fly past by versatile naval

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and others welcome INSV Tarini at Goa harbour on Tuesday

aviation platforms such as the

Chetak, Kamov 31, Hawks, IL 38,

lighted the Indian Navy's role as a pioneer in the country in ocean sailing, as exemplified by the international accolades received by Captain Dilip Donde (Retired), Commander Abhilash Tomy (Retired) and the Navika Sagar Parikrama team of six women naval officers, a true display of Nari

Speaking on the occasion,

Sawant complimented the exem-

plary display of valour, courage and

perseverance by the crew and high-

Appreciating the arduous expe-

by two women officers, Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A who were part of the entire 188 days and 17,000 nautical miles of sailing, Smriti Irani stated that such achievements should be shared with the entire nation to encourage and motivate young boys and girls to serve the nation by joining armed forces. Admiral R Hari Kumar con-

gratulated the crew on its successful completion of a challenging

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar

Manipur erupts again; 1 dead, 2 hurt

Authorities cancel curfew relaxation in Bishnupur, Imphal East and West

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

mid reports of fresh vio-Alence in curfew-bound Manipur, at least one person was reportedly killed and two others were injured in separate incidents that took place in Bishnupur district on May 24.

Official reports said that some miscreants belonging to a particular community torched three houses at Phoubakchao in Bishnupur district on May 23.

In retaliation, some youths of another community burned down four houses. In view of the violent incidents, district authorities have cancelled the curfew relaxation in Bishnupur, Imphal East and Imphal West

Earlier, the curfew was relaxed from 5 a.m. to 4 pm. Reports said that armed youths had raided some villages in Moirang, Bishnupur district early on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Congress on Wednesday accused the BJP for the present situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur, and



Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to speak to the warring communities in the hill State to bring normalcy

Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters in New Delĥi, Congress leader Ajoy Kumar, who was also a member of the party's factfinding committee that visited Manipur on May 18, said, "The present condition in Manipur is the creation of BJP. The saffron party has nothing to do with the country, all it wants is to grab power." Citing the Manipur." "Politicians are

extent of damages caused by the clashes in the northeastern state, the former Lok Sabha MP said, "54,000 people have been displaced, 20 police stations have been torched and 2,000 buildings have been gutted in Manipur including 200 churches." Kumar, a former IPS officer, said, "At the Imphal Government hospital, 70 bodies are kept at the mortuary, while 18 bodies are kept at the

Churachandpur hospital mor-

tuary since May 5, which are

yet to be claimed.

speaking in the language of extremists," he claimed. "We demand immediate rehabilitation of the displaced people and a compensation of Rs 20 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, and Rs 5 lakh for the injured," the Congress leader

He also said that during their visit to the northeastern state, the three-member factfinding committee of the Congress came to know that earlier there was no fight between the Meitei and the Kuki communities who lived there peacefully for decades. The Congress leader point-

unrest in Manipur, which is a border State. "The crisis is now not only limited to Manipur. Thousands of displaced people have crossed over to Mizoram. Besides, social unrest in a border state can be exploited by our neighbours. There is

no security in the border areas

where arson erupted again on

Tuesday," Kumar said.

ed out that the Centre must

take note of the huge social

Prices of essential items go sky-high in Manipur

Imphal: Prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed in Manipur since ethnic violence started some three weeks ago, as import of products from outside the state has been affected, with several items being sold at double the normal price. In most parts of the landlocked northeastern state, items such as rice, potato, onion and egg besides LPG cylinders and petrol are selling at rates much above the ones fixed by the

"Earlier, one 50 kg bag of superfine rice costs Rs 900 but now it has gone up to Rs 1,800. Prices of potatoes and onions also increased by Rs 20 to Rs 30. In general, prices for all the essential commodities brought from outside have gone up," said Manglembi Chanam, a government school teacher in Imphal West district.

Assam, Meghalaya CMs in talks to end border dispute

ASSAM-MEGHALAYA

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K Sangma on Wednesday held discussions for resolving an interstate dis-pute in the remaining six of the 12 locations.

After the meeting in Guwahati, Sarma announced at a press conference that he along with Sangma will visit the disputed areas in Assam's Karbi Anglong and Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills, where the problem is a "little bit complicated", next

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as a separate state in 1972 but the new state had chal-Reorganisation Act, 1971, leading to disputes in 12 border

The two Northeastern states signed an MoU in March 2022 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to end the dispute in six areas along the 884.9 km bor-PTI der between the two neigh-

18.51 sq km and Meghalaya is a way, the Meghalaya chief over 18.28 sq km of land. "It will minister said. Sangma said the be a confidence-building measurvey and other allied work in sure so that people on both sides the six areas, for which an are assured that we are resolvagreement was signed between ing the differences. the two states in the first phase

last year, is underway. When asked if any deadline was set for finding solution to the remaining six areas, Sarma said, "These six areas are a little bit complicated, putting a time frame is not a proper idea but we will meet in July to review the progress of work.

Assam Stat bours. According to the agree-"complicated", these too can be ment, 36.79 sq km of the disresolved with a spirit of trust and friendship. Things are "complicated" but we believe puted area was taken up for settlement in the first phase, with Assam getting full control of that where there is a will, there

Deshmukh: BJP gave me offer to dethrone MVA Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBA

Maharashtra's former Home Minister and senior NCP leader Anil Deshmukh has claimed that the then Opposition BJP had given him an "offer" to help topple the previous MVA government. Making this claim an inter-

view of him aired by a leading Marathi, Deshmukh said: "Had I accepted that offer, the MVA government would have fallen long before it did. I rejected the BJP's offer and had to face action by various central agencies". Deshmukh said that the

purported "offer" was made to him more than two years ago, and also when he was jailed for alleged corruption charges. This is the second time in four months when Deshmukh has his claim. Deshmukh had made a similar claim in February this Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Śanjay Raut, whose part is one



of the constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) said that he was aware of the developments involving the claim made by Deshmukh/ "Similar offered were made to other MVA leaders too," he said.

Dismissing Deshmukh's claim, Maharashtra BJP President Chandrashekhar said "He Bawankule (Deshmukh) has been granted bail on health grounds by the court. The hearings are still

on and his utterances tantamount to a contempt of the court. If he continues making such statements, we shall complain to the court". On November 2, 2021, the ED had arrested Deshmukh under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office.

It may be recalled that Deshmukh resigned from his post as the State Home over the allegations of corruption made by Param Bir Singh

Minister on April 5 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a 'Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. He is being investigated by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Deshmukh was granted bail on December 28, 2022.

Uddhav backs Kejriwal over ordinance tussle with Centre

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBA

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray threw his weight behind Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal in his fight against the Centre's ordinance on the control of services in the national capital.

Interacting with the meeting along with Kejriwal, Uddhav announced his party's decision to oppose the Centre's ordinance on control of services in Delhi and said: "We all have come together to save the country and democracy. I think we should not be called 'opposition' parties, in fact they (BJP) should be called 'opposition' since it is against democracy and Constitution". Coming down heavily on the

Narendra Modi government for coming with an ordinance that "is a threat to federalism" Kejriwal said: "The decision to



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann being welcomed by Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray at his residence

promulgate the ordinance on control of services in Delhi stems from the arrogance of one man. The country cannot be run by one selfish man man. Uddhav Thackeray is with our fight

against the Narendra Modi Government" A day West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee extended her support to the AAP in its fight against the Centre, Kejriwal – accompanied

by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann - met Uddhav at the latter's Bandra residence "Matoshri and sought the Sena's support to its crusade against the Centre's ordinance on the control of services in Delhi. "We thank them for according a warm welcome to us. We should see it as a semi-final. If the Centre's ordinance is defeated in Rajya Sabha, it will be a sure indication that the Modi government will not return to power in 2024 polls. The BJP has been systematically undermining our powers," Kejriwal said.

"I believe that through dis-

cussions, mutual trust and con-

fidence, we will be able to

resolve the other six areas of dis-

putes much earlier than expect-

ed," the Assam chief minister

said at the press conference.

Sangma said though the differ-

ences in these six areas are

'We challenged the Centre in the Supreme Court. The verdict was in the Government's favour. So, BJP brought an ordinance within eight days... The ordinance is clear indication of the fact that the Centre does not "We find no merit in the want to accept the SC verdict. The battle is not restricted to the Delhi government. It is a threat to federalism. They are undermining elected governments,"

HC junks plea against dismissal of IPS officer who probed Ishrat encounter case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected a plea by former IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma, who assisted the CBI in its probe in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case, against the Centre's order dismissing him a month before his scheduled retirement.

Verma was dismissed from service on August 30 last year, a month ahead of his scheduled retirement on September 30, 2022, after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of various charges, including "interacting with public media".

Verma had approached the High Court following the Supreme Court's order allowing him to file a plea here.

we find no filert in the writ petition. Writ petition is dismissed," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva

Niti Aayog meet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{Mamata Banerjee is}}^{\text{engal Chief Minister}}$ unlikely to join the May 27 Niti Aayog meeting in New Delhi, some TMC leaders and officials at State secretariat Nabanna have said. Though it has not been

communicated officially the Chief Minister has made up her mind to avoid the meeting in Delhi which is likely to take place a day before the inauguration of the new Parliament building which, too, will be skipped by the Trinamool Congress chief. Banerjee's decision comes

days after she had expressed her willingness to join the Aayog meeting where she had plans to raise her State's demands.

Banerjee had also planned to renew her demands for release of the withheld funds pertaining to the hundred days' work and Prime Minister housing scheme. Earlier this month she had said that during her visit to Delhi for Niti Aayog meeting she would raise the issue of Centre's blocking the

State's legitimate funds towards the payment of MNREGA wages. "Thousands of crores are due towards the payment of wages of 100-days' work ... there may be political differences between the two governments but the people should not be deprived like this ... they are starving ... their dues should be cleared," Banerjee had earlier On her sudden change of

Delhi plans a senior official on Wednesday said that the "Chief Minister may not be attending the Niti Aayog meeting in Delhi on account of her business here," adding



a senior politician had already said that she would also not be joining the inauguration of the new Parliament building. Earlier, senior Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien had said that his party would not attend the function as the programme was a show of arrogance.

Saying that "Parliament is not just a new building; it is an establishment with old traditions, values, precedents and rules - it is the foundation of Indian democracy," O'Brien said "PM Modi doesn't get that" and to the Prime Minister it was all about "I,

and myself." When reminded that inauguration of the new Parliament and joining the Niti Aayog meeting which was related to the development of her State were two different issues, a senior Bengal minister said, "it is all about the same thing ... conceit ... the Centre (read the BJP) treats the non-BJP parties like their servants and acts accordingly ... India being a federation and a multi-party democracy all stand on the same footing ... you cannot insult or ignore anyone ... but here they treat us as though we are their servants ... today you are in power ... tomorrow you may not be there."

The minister said that "Mamata Banerjee is a very senior leader who has a history of long struggle which must be honoured."

Mamata may skip | Cops raid 8 ultras' homes in J&K

Kishtwar, Ramban searches made to foil attempts by terrorists to revive militancy in 'Chenab valley region'

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Special Investigation Unit (SIU) on Wednesday conducted raids on houses of eight Pakistan-based terrorists at multiple locations in Kishtwar and Ramban districts, senior officials said.

The raids were carried out in Padder, Keshwan and Thakrai in Kishtwar and Khari and Banihal in Ramban to scuttle attempts by these terrorists to revive militancy in the



Chenab valley region, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal said the searches at the houses of Azad Hussain, Gaziud-Din, Bashir Ahmed Mughal and Sattar Din, alias Rajab, were conducted after search warrants were obtained from a special NIA court in Jammu in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "The searches are aimed at eliminating the militant ecosystem in the district by identifying various over-ground workers and supporters of militancy," the officer said. Earlier on

May 18, teams of the SIU raided houses of five terrorists, who are currently operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, besides three suspected individuals in the district.

The evidence collected shall be investigated so as to subject the accused persons to judicial determination for their involvement in anti-national activities and perpetuation of terrorism," Poswal said. The SSP said the terrorist associates whose involvement surfaces during the investigations would

also be prosecuted. The special NIA court in Jammu had on April 26 issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists from Kishtwar operating from across the border. Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 terrorists in the district. The 36 individuals from Kishtwar went

to Pakistan after joining the terror ranks over a period of time. Two FIRs were registered against them after their involvement in terror activities surfaced during investigations, the SSP said.

Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma said the SIU teams carried out raids on the houses of Qari Abdul Latief, Reyaz Ahmad Bohru, Fayaz Ahmad and Mushtaq

"The (four) militants settled in PoK are continuously trying to revive militancy in the Chenab Valley," she said, adding that during the course of the searches, a lot of incriminating digital and non-digital evidence were collected for detailed analyses. "The support system which is assisting the inimical elements in reviving militancy would be destroyed at any cost," the SP said.

Maha Cong suspends former MLA for 6 years against anti-party jibe

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Kejriwal added.

The Maharashtra Congress ■ on Wednesday expelled former MLA Asish Deshmukh who incidentally is the son of former state Congress chief Ranjit Deshmukh. – for a period of six years for his anti-party remarks.

In his order expelling Jr Deshmukh, former chief minister and chairperson of the State Congress disciplinary committee Prithviraj Chavan said that the reply given by Deshmukh to the showcause notice issued to the latter on April 9 was "unsatisfactory". We found the reply regarding your public utterances against the party unsatisfactory. You are

expelled from the primary membership of the party for six years with immediate effect,' the

Among other things, Deshmukh had said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the Other Backward Class (OBC) community over his "Modi surname" remarks.

expulsion order said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the Other Backward Class (OBC) community over his "Modi surname" remarks. Deshmukh, a former BJP MLA from Katol in Nagpur, had said that MPCC president Nana Patole received money from Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde

'Anupamaa' fame **Nitesh Pandey dies** of heart attack at 51

who essayed the role of Dheeraj Kumar in the top rated television show 'Anupamaa', passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 51.

Reports claim that the actor suffered a massive cardiac arrest late on Tuesday night in Igatpuri near Nashik. He succumbed to the same instantly. Nitesh started his journey

with theatre in 1990. In 1995, with theatre in 1990. In 1995, he bagged the role of a detective in 'Tejas'. He went on to work in serials like 'Manzilein Apani Apani, 'Astiva...Ek Prem Kahani, 'Saaya' and 'Durgesh Nandini'. Apart from television, he also worked in films. His work in the National Award winning film 'Khosla Ka Ghosla' received widespread



sion show 'Pyar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara' and also ran an independent production house named Dream Castle Productions.



Last seen in 'Anupamaa' and 'Pyar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara, Nitesh, who has been a popular face in the television industry for over two decades, was from Almora

Kumaon in Uttarakhand. PTI

Hyd man kills live-in partner, keeps body parts in fridge

Hyderabad: In a macabre act, a man in Hyderabad murdered his live-in partner and cut her body into pieces with a stone cutting machine to dispose of them at different places.

The accused had preserved the legs and hands of the victim in a refrigerator in his house and was spraying disinfectants and perfumes to avoid foul smell in the vicinity.

The shocking crime came to light on Thursday after Hyderabad police solved the mystery behind a severed head found near the Musi river in the city on May 17. The case has similarities with Shradda Walker and Nikki Yadav mur-der cases of Delhi in which accused had stored body parts of the victims in refrigerators to dispose of them.



Delegates, participating in the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting, shop at a market, at Polo View in Srinagar, on

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Inclusive system

The top four positions in Civil Services Examination, 2022, have been by women

The final result of Civil Services Examination, 2022, came as a pleasant bit of news, as the top four ranks went to women aspirants. We don't call it a pleasant surprise, because there is not much surprise in the result; women have been doing well in entering the workforce in various fields and at different levels. This is not the first time that women have done well in the civil services competition, which is one of the toughest in the country. This time, Ishita Kishore has topped the list, with Garima Lohia at the second position, Uma Harathi at the third, and Smriti Mishra fourth. In the previous year too, the top three positions were occupied by women. These results underline the fact that, despite a number of negatives plaguing the country, there is considerable vibrancy and vitality in society, which propels the rise of people, both men and women, by sheer intelligence, diligence and determination. Kishore, for instance, failed to clear the preliminary examination twice; in the third



attempt, she topped the list. Then there is a head constable of Delhi Police who succeeded in joining the coveted civil services at the 667th rank. The stories of many successful candidates are inspirational and aspirational. They tell us that it is increasingly becoming possible for individuals from all sections of society to break the barriers of caste, class, community, region and gender. Of the successful civil services candidates, more than one-third, 34.2 per cent, are women—the highest ever percentage.

Apart from underlining the reality of women emancipation, the result also shows that the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), a Constitutional body, has been doing its jobs professionally. In a

country where most institutions have been undermined by politicians, bureaucrats, and others, the UPSC retains its reputation for objectivity and propriety. In the 1990s, a few cases of paper leak did surface, but on the whole the organization has not been smeared with any serious charges of corruption or misdemeanour. Credit for this should also go to the system, comprising policy and decision makers, which somehow never itched to mould the UPSC as per expedience. Not that the thought didn't cross anyone's mind; during the heyday of Indira Gandhi there was a lot of talk about 'committed bureaucracy' (as also of 'committed judiciary'), but thankfully it did not translate into action. This act of omission on the part of the executive has paid rich dividends to the nation. For decades, the youngsters who became bureaucrats were apolitical, though many of them got infected with the ailments that afflict the system. Also, as we mentioned earlier, aspirants from all sections of society became part of the system, making it more inclusive. In terms of gender inclusion, the process has been quite brisk, as evident from the large number of women joining civil services in the last few years.



G20 Delegates dressed in traditional attires pose for a photo at Nishat Bagh, in Srinaga

RaGa's Congress takes a left turn



Rahul Gandhi is all ears to former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan who favours leftist push to the economy

he Congress has taken a certain left turn in its bid to outsmart the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state elections From being a centrist party with a shade of leftism in policy formulation, Congress is moving more to the left in giving centre stage to the policy formulation that the people in the country need to be cared for by giving money in their hands. This is in contrast to the economists who argue that the people should be enabled to earn their own livelihoods than support them with cash handouts.

More than a decade ago, in 2011, the then ruling UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi had launched Aajivika Mission in Banswara, Rajasthan after the right-thinking economists with heft within the Congress had concluded that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was coming out with full of leakages and least asset development.

Dr Manmohan Singh, the then prime minister, along with Sonia Gandhi had taken part in the launch of the Aajivika Mission, which was hailed by the Congress at that time as a game changer as the scheme would make the people in the rural areas self-employed and earn their own livelihoods. Aajivika was the name given to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The UPA government wanted the focus to shift from the MGN-REGS to Aaiivika.

It's a coincidence that Jairam Ramesh was the Union Minister for Rural Development in the latter years of the UPA-II government. Ramesh is now an integral oart of the Team Rahul Gandhi. Ramesh was working to find market linkages for the rural artisans in states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and others to give a meaningful direction to the Aajivika scheme.

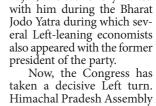
But the UPA after two terms in office was voted out of power. Ramesh became busy writing books. The Congress went into the wilderness. The BJP seemed set to wipe out the Congress. Worse, even a section of the Congress leaders began thinking to pump consumption to push that the party has no future. The the economy to higher growth.

scale of defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections only grew in the 2018 general elections.

The Congress leaders from the dissidence camp, who sought non-Gandhi leadership at the helm, gained more attention than the Gandhi family. The story of the Gandhi family was suggested in some quarters to be over. Rahul Gandhi was dubbed a nonserious politician.

But the team Rahul Gandhi regrouped. Ramesh joined as a key member of the team and also became the head of the communication department of the Congress. The party began experimenting with pre-poll adjustments with the Left parties in West Bengal. The Congress repeated the experiment in Tripura. The Left parties began influencing the economic worldviews of Congress.

Rahul Gandhi boarded the Left-at-the-steering bus with enthusiasm. Even before Rahul Gandhi set out on the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he was all ears to the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Raghuram Rajan, who is a votary of putting cash in the hands of the people as a way



A SECTION OF **ECONOMISTS CLAIM THAT THE** CONGRESS' FIVE **GUARANTEES WOULD COST KARNATAKA ALMOST RS** 62,000 CRORES

ANNUALLY

Rahul Gandhi would most often hold interactions with Rajan, who even briefly walked with him during the Bharat Jodo Yatra during which several Left-leaning economists also appeared with the former president of the party.

taken a decisive Left turn. Himachal Pradesh Assembly election could have been taken as an exception because the hilly state largely has government employees as its core vote base and the party may have made a one-time exception to ride the populism of promising to restore the Old Pension Scheme, and several other cash dole-outs to the people.

But the Congress went

steps ahead in Karnataka, which is in the league of very few states with high per capita income and where the unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country, roughly stated to be 4.2 per cent, while the state Budget has a size of Rs 3 lakh crore, besides being the source of the second highest monthly collections since October last year.

A section of economists claims that the Congress' five guarantees would cost

Karnataka almost Rs 62,000 crores annually. This will amount to almost one-fifth of the total Budget of Karnataka. The Congress has not yet explained how the economy of Karnataka would gain from such excessive cash dole-outs. Only this week, a young girl died in Bengaluru, drowned in a car after a sudden downpour in a city, which claims to host all the top international corporate names, besides hundreds of research and development

The amounts to be given to the unemployed graduates (Rs 3000 monthly) and diploma holders (1500 monthly) could have easily been spent on skilling them for their employability, and even linkages found with countries such as Japan, Australia, Germany, Nordic countries, etc., who are facing acute shortage of the trained manpower. But the Congress' left turn appears to be a template for the revival of the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and economics, for the party leaders, can't wan for better days to get the due

(The writer is contribut*ing editor of The Pioneer)*

K'taka Govt: Taking challenges head on



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

While the new Karnataka government is getting all the praise for getting its act together, the BJP is yet to set its house in order

rith the swearing-in of Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar and others on Saturday, a new chapter has begun in Karnataka's political history. The oath-taking ceremony got national attention because of the participation of the satraps of opposition parties including the secessionists PDP, NC and DMK. This is the first time in Karnataka a swearing-in ceremony was attended by all major national and regional parties from all over the country. The new government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah got into business within minutes of assuming office and gave a green signal to five of the poll promises the Congress had given to the electorate.

It is expected that the new government would soon rescind the decision of the BJP government which had banned the hijab from all educational institutions and set free hundreds of Islamic youth who have been languishing in prisons on charges ranging from extremism and terrorism. But there are some unanswered questions that both the Congress and the losers BJP owe the people.

Islamist leaders had told the media that there was an understanding between them and the Congress that there would be a deputy chief minister and five ministers from the Muslim community in the government to be formed by the GOP. The community members would be given plum portfolios like revenue, home, PWD and higher education. The Congress leaders have not denied this statement made by the Muslim community leaders. Similarly, it was reported that the tenure of Siddaramaiah would be for 30 months after which Sivakumar would be elevated as chief minister. Though party strongman K C Venugopal who masterminded the election campaign as well as the picking of candi-

dates ruled out any such

arrangement. Days before the

the Central Government appointed Praveen Sood, a Himachal Pradesh-born IPS officer as the director of CBI, India's premier investigation agency. Sood the chief of Karnataka Police was probing the corruption charges against Shivakumar. What will happen to those cases (last heard, there were 12 cases!) is any-body's guess. Shivakumar had assured the electorate that he would send Sood to prison after the assembly election

Venugopal has also made it clear that Shiva would continue leading Karnataka Congress as its State chief till the Lok Sabha election which is likely to take place in March-April 2024. The Muslims voted en masse to the Congress on the assurance given by the latter about the induction of community members as deputy chief ministers and five ministers with important portfolios.

The run-up to the election saw a massive outflow of leaders (including a former chief minister and deputy chief minister) from the BJP to the Congress. Jagadish Shettar, the former CM, said new government took over, he was insulted and disgraced

by RSS leader B L Santhosh, the de facto BJP chief of South India. According to BJP leaders in the State as well as in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, B L Santhosh, addressed as Anna by his sidekicks, had set his eyes on the post of Chief Minister. It was to smoothen his highspeed journey to the national capital that he cut to-size leaders like Yeddyurappa, Shettar and Shobha Karandlaje. Santhosh, described as the head of the Brahmin Mafia, calls the shots in BJP. The contrast between the leadership of Congress and BJP is that while the former has leaders with direct contacts with grass root level workers, self-appointed RSS chieftains like Santhosh have no knowledge about ground realities. For them, voters too are Swayamsevaks, those destined to work selflessly and suffer silently. The Karnataka BJP reminds one of the novel Oliver Twist immortalized by the main protagonist and the villain Fagin. Well, politics and political parties should always get fresh air and ideas. The writer is special

correspondent with The Pioneer)

DHONI SHOWED GUTS AND GUMPTION

Sir — The writing is on the wall and IPL 16 is at the fag end with play-off matches going on. Mahendra Singh Dhoni's CSK side entered the final of the IPL for the 10th time and it is a unique record. Dhoni as a skipper showed the ability to decide what is the best thing to do in a particular situation and to do it with energy and determination. Even though he could score 104 runs in this IPL overall,

but led the side from the front. His keeping from behind the side provided a broad platform to give the side the much-needed impetus to perform at the highest level. Even a seasoned player like Jadeja needed his guidance to deliver at the right moment. Winning is a habit and Dhoni achieves facile wins under his leadership. Last season, the team under Jadeja could not achieve the same momentum and bowed out without a semblance of a fight. MSD makes things move in his direction with whistle podu performances.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

NADALTO MISS FRENCH OPEN

Sir — Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal, the king of the French Open and the winner of this tournament 14 times, is currently suffering from an injury and has withdrawn from the French Open tournament. This has disappointed Nadal's fans and the organizers. Rafael Nadal, who won the French Open tournament for the first time in 2005 and maintained his dominance, is the first time.

June 3rd is Rafael Nadal's birthday during the French Open which is held from May 18 to June 16. So the organizers celebrate this day as a memorial but now Rafael Nadal was injured in the Australian Open tournament held in January. Before that, Rafael Nadal won the Australian Open tournament despite suffering from a leg injury. He has won 122 matches in the French tournament and lost only three matches. Nadal Rafael clarified that 2024 may be the last season of his career and

Girls do well in UPSC

Engineering from IIT, Hyderabad) and Smriti Mishra (Miranda House College of Delhi)) have



he Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Exam 2023 results (examination held in September 2022) were announced on Tuesday. In a country male-dominated, like last year not only the top three posts but this year all the top four spots (Ishita Kishore (Shri Ram College of Commerce of Delhi) is first on the third attempt, followed by Garima Lohia (Kirorimal College of Delhi), Uma Harathi N (Civil

been bagged by women. Though the top 25 candidates comprise 14 women and 11 men, overall, among the 933 candidates - 613 (65%) men and 320 (35%) women -- have qualified for the civil services examination 2022. What's a pity when everywhere we have seen the success of women beating the opposite sex even though our females have not yet got the 33% reservation of women in the Parliament. It's the tragedy of the country. I heartily congratulate and sincerely appreciate the efforts rendered by the UPSC Topper and particularly those 41 Persons with Benchmark Disability (14 Orthopedically Handicapped, seven Visually Challenged, 12 Hearing Impaired & 8 Multiple Disabilities) 2023 all over the nation.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee I Faridabad

year. To make the upcoming tennis season more memorable, the king of tennis has decided to rest for some time. Best wishes to the king of tennis who is on the

way to retirement Good luck!

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

HUMBLE GESTURE

Sir — The humble gesture of Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, when he touches the feet of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is applauded globally. How humble he is when he respects the elderly Head of the State by touching his

Also, it is the maiden visit of any Highest order delegate from India to the littoral country of the Pacific. Papua New Guinea and India had beautifully ended their first-ever bilateral ties. From the launching of the Tamil classic, 'Thirukkural' in the Tok Pisin language of Papua New Guinea.

The warm welcome of our PM by the Papua people decodes the strongest ties and synergies between the two nations. hinted that 2024 will be his retirement Although we had formal relations with the

island country since 1975, still India we had our restrictions concerning bilateral connections with such littoral nations. Now that India is moving ahead with panoramic as well as inclusive diplomatic approach vis-a-vis geopolitics, India is trying her best to have more friends from every walk of the planet. From developed and big countries to littoral nations, today India aims to associate with every country for inclusive development of each other. After all, we are the propellor of Vasudev Kutumbhkam, One Earth-One Family, This year's G7 summit, had a 49th edition indeed, despite India being an invitee among 8 others, the confluence of India towards all G-7 nations will strengthen our bilateral ties with larger consequences. Hopefully, India will leverage all these benefits coming to her due to her strong governance, and economic, political and social outreach in the entire world

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

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FIRST COLUMN

ART OF EVALUATING PROPERTY'S VALUE

Location is one of the most important factors to consider when evaluating a property



he address is often the first-factor people take into account when considering a particular property. If a home has an impressive street address, it might be more appealing to buyers than other properties on that particular street. Prospective buyers may be willing to pay more for an address that is associated with luxury and prestige.

Location Is King: For buyers and investors alike, location is one of the most important factors when considering a property's value. A desirable address can mean a higher market value, higher resale value, and greater likelihood of quick turnaround.

- Local amenities: Is the property near any local attractions, schools, hospitals or other amenities? Being near such popular places can enhance
- Neighborhood: What kind of neighborhood is it in? Generally speaking, upscale neighbourhoods tend to bring higher prices than lower-
- Accessibility: Is the property easily accessible? Is it close to highways or major roads? Easy access can mean higher desirability and increased

Floor Position and Layout: Higher Floors Command Higher Prices: Location is one of the most essential factors when it comes to evaluating a property's value. This is especially true for the floor a project is situated on and the property's layout. Generally, properties located on higher floors tend to command higher prices, as they offer better living conditions like more sunlight, better views and less background noise. For commercial properties, those located at ground level are more desirable than those on higher floors.



Orientation and Vastu: South-Facing Homes Are Most Sought After Orientation plays a crucial role in determining the market value of a

property, both from the perspective of resale value and also rental yield or capital appreciation. Some tips for evaluating a property's orientation include: · Consider how much natural light is coming into the house

- Check for any obstructions that may limit access to sunlight.
- How does the view look? Will it increase in price over time? Does it follow Vastu guidelines for better health and prosperity?
- The orientation of a residential property can have a major impact on
- its market value.

Accessibility and Connectivity: Proximity to Transit and Roads: Accessibility and connectivity are critical factors in determining the market value of a property. Prospective buyers are always on the lookout for properties that are close to transport hubs, such as airports, railway stations, and bus stops, as well as major roads. This is especially important for those looking to live in or near a city. Proximity to major developments such as malls, commercial buildings or highways can also be beneficial. **Neighbourhood Amenities:** No matter how perfect a home may appear, its appeal can be easily diminished by the presence of undesirable elements nearby. To ensure that your next property is of value, take a closer look at its surrounding environment - what kind of parks and schools are available for leisure and education? How about hospitals and medical care centers? The nearest parks, schools and medical institutions can be invaluable assets to potential buyers. When evaluating a property, consider these neighbourhood amenities for the maximum possible market value:

Location is one of the most important factors in determining a property's value. The address of a property can have a major impact on its market value, as a location can provide benefits ranging from easy access to transportation and amenities to aesthetic advantages. By taking these factors into account, you can be better equipped to make informed decisions about investing in real estate and make the most from your invest-

(The writer is the founder and Director – InfraMantra)

Don't meddle with university autonomy



Bitter feuds have been witnessed in the appointments of VCs. Chief ministers want to control the appointment of VCs as well as the university itself



t is well-established that universities and institutions of higher learning grow in credibility and acceptability when they enjoy real and effective autonomy in performing their wellarticulated task of preparing young persons with a fulsome personality for the future and simultaneously creating the future of the nation. Towards these avowed objectives, the academics there need to put their intellectual prowess in full concentration in the deep study of existing knowledge and wisdom, critical analysis of existing practices in pedagogy and possible improvements that could ensure better pedagogy of the transfer of knowledge to young learners, generation of new knowledge and skills, innovations and exploration of ways and mean to utilize it all in the welfare of mankind. The key word is autonomy, availability of adequate resources, and non-interference from external sources that invariably intrude simply because of their positions of power and authority in varied The system of state governance and

civil society have a responsibility to ensure the smooth functioning of these academ ic and intellectual pursuits in present times, defined by the march of humanity towards a knowledge society and knowledge economy. It is worthwhile to recall that this is no new proposition. It was the basis of the traditional Indian system of learning and gaining knowledge; in the Gurukula system. The Gurukulas were places of great societal reverence, even kings and emperors entered these premises only after seeking due permission of the Chief Acharya; the Kulapati or Kul Guru; and considered themselves fortunate to take dust from their feet. The state and community ensured the availability of necessary support of varied kinds. In the context of the current times, one could think of some major internationally recognised universities, and it would invariably emerge that it was autonomy that paved the path for their progress and growth and for the outstanding contributions of their products in the field of knowledge.

Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, MIT,

Stanford, University of California, Berkeley, and a few more are globally acknowledged



THE CREDIBILITY AND QUALITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF A UNIVERSITY ARE PRIMARILY LINKED TO THE VISION AND FORESIGHT OF ITS LEADER; THE CHANCELLOR

(The works in education, social cohesion and for their seminal contributions. There is no role of the State in their functioning or appointments.

India had experienced it in Nalanda, Taxila, Vikramshila, Vallabhi, and others. It has recent examples of the initial years of growth and excellence witnessed in BHU, Kolkata University, Allahabad University, Delhi University; and a couple more. These acquired credibility, acceptance and a unique culture of work specific to each one of these. These were fortunate to have Vice-Chancellors of the stature of Dr Radhakrishnan, Sir Ashutosh Mukherji, Pundit Ganga Nath Jha, and other luminaries of outstanding stature. It was the stature of the VC that doubly assured non-interference in the university's autonomy. It made all the difference. Now, India could boost more than 1100 PROFESSIONAL universities. The growth in numbers, necessary and inevitable, has certain unwanted imperatives as well. The challenge is the quality of

the learning imparted.

Things are very different times in the context of the autonomy of universities as also in the level and credibility of the academic leadership in most of the universities. Dr Radhakrishnan was convinced that: "Education is a universal right and not a class privilege." Simultaneously he also had very clearly stated how significant it was to value talent and merit in universities. The following words of Dr Radhakrishnan present one of the finest articulations that could comprehensively guide the functioning of India's institutions of higher learning: "Intellectual work is not for all, it is only for the intellectually competent. If our universities, which showed so much promise on the eve of Independence, now appear to be in a state of disarray, it is because they have been increasingly invaded by masses of people who have no regard for intellectual competence

or aptitude for academic work.

We have made short work of tests of intellectual competence to make peace with every kind of social and political pressure." It was Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru who spoke on how necessary it was to ensure proper academic functioning of the universities: "A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives. If the universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the nation and the people." And both of these stalwarts were expressing themselves some seven to eight -decades ago! It was a different age of value-internalization

The pursuit of excellence suffers on several counts both at the school level and also at the university stage. The common factor is the dearth of appropriate and committed academic leadership that could command respect because of competence, commitment and performance. There are severe issues of vacant positions and commercialization which just cannot be ignored. Several instances are being reported on the disturbing state of affairs in the universities funded by state governments. The credibility and quality of professional contributions of a university are primarily linked to the vision and foresight its leader; the Vice-Chancellor!

States normally have the Governor as the Chancellor of state-funded universities, and private universities select their own Chancellor. Usually, the office of the Chancellor of state-funded universities initiates the process of the selection of VCs. The first step is the appointment of a search-cum selection committee for the same. The Chancellor's nominee on the committee is also designated as the con-

government, a nominee of the UGC, and a nominee of the Executive Council of the concerned universities. There could be minor variations in the composition of the committee depending upon the relevant State Act. The proviso of the Governor ex-officio becoming the Chancellor intends to wean the selection process away from political influences, as also from any other external pressures. It worked well during the first four-five decades after independence, but not

During the last couple of years, some bitter feuds have been witnessed in the appointments of VCs in a couple of states where the elected chief ministers wish to control the appointment of VCs. Obviously; quality is not the concern in such instances. A pliant VC with desirable political moorings could be a great asset in so many ways that are by now well-known to all. In Kerala. the Chief Minister not only reappointed one retiring vC, but ne aiso went ahead to appoint several more.
The High Court cancelled all of
these. The state of West Bengal has come up with legislation that would startle everyone concerned with education and universities. The state government of West Bengal would like to have search-cumselection committee with a nominee of the chief minister, a nominee of the state government and also a nominee of the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education in a committee of five members that would include a nominee of the Chancellor and also the UGC! This is a candid and clear political statement intended to reduce the authority of the Chancellor in appointing a reputed academician to lead the university.

It is beyond common sense why there should be three nominees of the state Govt. Such trends deserve

Indian science through the lens of ChatGPT

Human observation can be biased but the observations made by AI may be impartial unless there is human interference

espite tremendous growth made in the field of science and technology, Indian science is beset with a lot of issues at the ground level. Only if there is a pinch of passion will landmark discoveries come from our institutions. Unfortunately most of our researchers lack that passion. Research is considered a stop-gap arrangement between marriage and employment. One main issue affecting Indian science is the plight of Indian research scholars. Scholars have been deemed equivalent to class four employees in many institutions. They are made to work like a horse in a lab, with no free time, no holidays and a meagre salary if one is not fortunate enough to get

through some fellowships.



(The writer is a science com-

municator and columnist)

Even in many labs, passionate scholars are not given respect by their supervisors and some-times go to the extent of torturing them. In this era of artificial intelligence, where AI dominates every field of human life, I was curious to find out how AI will perceive Indian science. With this objective, I asked the most popular Chat bot, ChatGPT its perception of the issues affecting Indian science, and the bot gave the following,

Funding: One of the major issues affecting Indian science is the lack of funding. While the Indian government has increased funding for science in recent years, it is still much lower than that of other countries. This lack of funding makes it difficult for researchers to conduct high-quality research and to attract and retain talented scientists

Infrastructure: The lack of proper infrastructure and facilities is another major issue. Many universities and research institutions in India lack basic equipment, and researchers often rely on outdated technology.

Brain Drain: There is a significant brain drain in India, as many of the best and brightest scientists and researchers leave the country for better opportunities abroad.

Education: The quality of education in India needs improvement, especially in science and technology. This is necessary to produce more competent and

skilled scientists and researchers.

Bureaucracy: The bureaucracy in India can be a significant hurdle for scientists and researchers, causing delays in obtaining funding and approvals for research projects.

Political interference: There have been instances where political interference has affected scientific research in India. This can hinder the development of science and technology in the country.

Collaboration: There is a lack of collaboration between researchers and institutions in India. This makes it difficult to share resources, knowledge, and expertise, which could hinder scientific progress.

If we analyze critically, the answers provided by the bot are highly relevant. Among the various factors affecting the quality of Indian science, the poor quality of science education cited by the bot needs serious attention. One major issue in science education includes outdated syllabi, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of qualified teachers. Teachers in India often lack adequate training in science subjects.

The bot observes a significant gender disparity in science education in India, with fewer girls pursuing science subjects than boys. This gender disparity is due to societal stereotypes and a lack of female role models. Bot's response regarding the attitude of supervisors in India towards their research scholars is quite

interesting. It has rightly pointed out the correct picture of our supervisors in an impartial manner.

According to the bot, the attitude of supervisors towards their research scholars can vary depending on various factors such as the supervisor's personality, work culture, institutional policies, etc. In general, supervisors in India tend to be highly respected and hold considerable authority over their research scholars. They are expected to guide and support their scholars in all aspects of their research work, including conceptualizing and designing experiments, analyzing data, and writing publications. Some supervisors may take a more hands-off approach, expecting their scholars to work indepen-

dently and only providing guidance when requested. However, there have also been reports of supervisors in India exhibiting a lack of professionalism, such as being dismissive of their scholars' ideas or concerns, being inaccessible or unresponsive, and even engaging in unethical behaviour, such as taking credit for their scholars' work. Such behaviour can be detrimental to the scholars' academic progress and well-being. Human observation can

be biased, as it is an innate human quality. However, observations made by AI may be impartial unless there is human interference. Our policymakers must address these issues to build a robust scientific workforce dedicated to the nation's development.

Russia extends

Moscow (AP): A Russian court on Tuesday extended the arrest

of Wall Street Journal reporter

Evan Gershkovich by three

months in a closed-door hearing emblematic of the secrecy that

has marked the case against the

first US correspondent since the

Cold War to be detained in

Russia on spying charges.
Gershkovich, a 31-year-old
American citizen, was ordered
held until August 30. He had
been arrested in March on espi-

onage charges on a reporting trip

in Russia. He, his employer and

the US government have denied

the charges. Tuesday's pre-trial

hearing wasn't announced in

advance, and the entire case has

detailed what — if any — evi-

Russian authorities haven't

been wrapped in secrecy.

arrest of US

journalist

We've lost over 20K troops in Japan to give 100 military Bakhmut battle: Wagner boss vehicles help to Ukraine

The head of the Russian private army Wagner says his force lost more than 20,000 fighters in the drawn-out battle for Bakhmut, with about 20 per cent of the 50,000 Russian convicts he recruited to fight in the 15-month war dying in the eastern Ukrainian city.

The figure was in stark contrast with claims from Moscow that it lost just over 6,000 troops in the war, and is higher than the official estimate of the Soviet losses in the Afghanistan war of 15,000 troops between 1979-89.

Ukraine hasn't said how many of its soldiers have died since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Analysts believe the ninemonth fight for Bakhmut alone have cost the lives of tens of thousands of soldiers, among them convicts who reportedly received little training before being sent to the front.

Russia's invasion goal of "demilitarising" Ukraine has backfired because Kyiv's military has become stronger with the supply of weapons and training by its Western allies, Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin said in an interview published late Tuesday with Konstantin Dolgov, a pro-Kremlin political strategist.
Prigozhin also said the

Kremlin's forces have killed civilians during the war, something Moscow has repeatedly and vehemently denied.

Prigozhin, a wealthy businessman with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, is known for his bluster often spiced with obscenities - and has previously made unverifiable claims, some of which he later backtracked on.

Earlier this month, his spokespeople published a video of him shouting, swearing and pointing at about 30 uniformed bodies lying on the ground, saying they were Wagner fighters

Pressure from West is strengthening ties with China: Russian PM

Pressure from the West is strengthening Russia's ties with China, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing Wednesday. Mishustin's visit comes as Russia is increasingly turning to China for diplomatic and economic support amid growing isolation over its invasion of Ukraine.

In opening remarks at his meeting Wednesday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Mishustin did not mention the 15-month-old war that China, in deference to Moscow, has refused to criticise, focusing instead on economic cooperation between the neighbours that have partnered in challenging the US lead in global affairs. Relations between the two countries are "at an unprecedented high level," influenced by the "increased turbulence in the international arena and the pattern of sensational pressure from the collective West," Mishustin said.

China says it is a neutral

who died in a single day. He claimed the Russian Defence Ministry had starved his men of ammunition and threatened to give up the fight for Bakhmut.

He also said in Tuesday's interview it was possible that Kyiv's anticipated counteroffensive in coming weeks, given continued Western support, might push Russian forces out southern and eastern Ukraine as well as annexed Crimea. "A pessimistic scenario: the Ukrainians are given mis-



it has blamed the West for pro-

voking Moscow and has main-

sition to sanctions against it.

China's special envoy met with

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other government officials dur-

ing talks in Kyiv this month.

call last month between the

Ukrainian leader and his

Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that Zelenskyy described as "long and meaningful" and

which marked the first known

contact between the two since

siles, they prepare troops, of course they will continue their

offensive, try to counterattack," he said. "They will attack

Crimea, they will try to blow up

the Crimean bridge (to the

Russian mainland), cut off (our)

supply lines. Therefore, we

need to prepare for a hard

Staff said Wednesday that

'heavy fighting" is continuing

inside Bakhmut, days after

Russia said that it completely

captured the devastated city.

The Ukrainian General

the Russian invasion began.

The visit followed a phone

Ukrainian

President

Svrskyi, said that Kyiv's forces "are continuing their defensive operation" in Bakhmut, and have attained unspecified "suc-

Bakhmut lies in Donetsk

province, one of four provinces

cesses" on the city's outskirts.
He gave no further details.
Ukrainian officials have insisted the battle for Bakhmut isn't over. A Ukrainian commander in Bakhmut told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Ukrainians have a plan to push the Russians out of all occupied territory.

But now we don't need to Ukraine and wants to help brofight in Bakhmut, we need to ker an end to the conflict. But surround it from flanks and block it," Yevhen Mezhevikin said. "Then we should sweep' it. tained strong diplomatic and trade ties with Russia in oppo-This is more appropriate, and that's what we are doing now."

Elsewhere, Russian forces shot down "a large number" of drones in Russia's southern Belgorod region, a local official said Wednesday, a day after Moscow announced that its forces crushed a cross-border raid in the area from Ukraine.

The drones were intercepted overnight over the province, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said in a Telegram post. He said that no one had been hurt, but unspecified administrative buildings, residential buildings and cars were damaged. Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment. Russia said the previous day that it beat back one of war's most serious cross-border attacks, with the Defence Ministry saying that more than 70 attackers were killed in a battle in the Belgorod region that lasted around 24 hours. It made no mention of any Russian casualties. Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said that local troops, airstrikes and artillery

Tapan held a ceremony on Wednesday marking its planned donation of about 100 military vehicles to Ukraine, as Tokyo seeks to provide equipment that can be of broader military use than its earlier ship-ments of helmets and hazmat

In a ceremony at the Defence Ministry at which two half-ton trucks were on display, Japanese Vice Defence Minister Toshiro Ino handed a document to Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky listing the three types of vehicles included in the donation."We hope the invasion ends as soon as possible and peaceful daily lives return," Ino said. "We will provide as much support as we can."The donation, which also includes 30,000 food rations, comes as Japan's government is

Kyiv (AP): Russian forces shot

down "a large number" of drones

in Russia's southern Belgorod

region, a local official said on

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Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav

Gladkov said in a Telegram

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administrative buildings, resi-

dential buildings and cars were

immediate comment.

The drones were intercept-

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Russia said the previous day

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serious cross-border attacks,

with the Defence Ministry say-

ing that more than 70 attackers

the area from Ukraine.



seeking to ease its military equipment transfer policy under a new national security policy that allows its military a greater offensive role, in a major break from its post-World War II self-defense-only principle. While other countries have provided Ukraine with tanks, missiles and fighter jets, Japan has

after raid from Ukraine territory

that lasted around 24 hours. It

made no mention of any Russian

spokesman Igor Konashenkov said that local troops, airstrikes and artillery routed the attack-

wounded in the attack, officials

said, and an older woman died

rural region, lying about 80

kilometres (45 miles) north of

the city of Kharkiv in eastern

Ukraine and far from the front

lines of the almost 15-month

sion that began Monday on

Ukrainian military saboteurs.

Kyiv described it as an uprising

against the Kremlin by Russian

Moscow blamed the incur-

during an evacuation.

Russian Defence Ministry

Twelve local civilians were

Details of the incident in the

limited its donations to nonlethal equipment because the transfer policy prohibits the provision of lethal weapons to countries at war. Japan has provided Ukraine with bulletproof vests, helmets, gas masks, hazmat suits, small drones and food rations since Russia's invasion

It was impossible to recon-

cile the two versions, to say with

certainty who was behind the

attack or to ascertain its aims.

The region is a Russian military hub holding fuel and

ammunition depots. Moscow

officials declined to say how

many attackers were involved in

the assault or comment on why

efforts to put down the attackers

took so long. The Belgorod

region, like the neighbouring

Bryansk region and other border

areas, has witnessed sporadic

spillover from the war, which

Russia started by invading

General Staff said Wednesday

that "heavy fighting" is contin-

uing inside Bakhmut, days after

Russia said that it completely

captured the devastated city.

Elsewhere, the Ukrainian

Ukraine in February 2022.

dence they have gathered to support the espionage charges. Various legal proceedings Russia says it shot down drones

have been closed to the media. No details immediately emerged about whether Gershkovich attended Tuesday \\'s hearing or what was said. Tass said the session was closed because the reporter was accused of possession of "secret materials

One Russian news agency Interfax, quoted a court official as saying Gershkovich's parents - themselves Soviet emigres

living in New Jersey — were visiting Moscow and had been admitted to the court building but not into Tuesday's hearing. The US State Department said at least one US Embassy official attended the hearing.

Gershkovich's arrest has rattled journalists in the country and drawn outrage in the West. The US government has declared Gershkovich to be "wrongfully detained" and demanded his immediate release. He's being held in Moscow's Lefortovo

US Embassy officials were allowed to visit Gershkovich once in prison since his arrest in Yekaterinburg on March 29, but Russian authorities have denied two more recent requests to see

UK inflation falls

to lowest level

but food prices

remain elevated

AP ■ LONDON

Public Notice This is to inform the General Public that I Mrs. Aditi Walia (Aadhar Card No 387194704351 & Passport No K7698364) W/o Mr. Dinkar Walia R/o, Fla NO. A5, New Adarsh Apartment. RSVP School, Sector 10, Plot 22, Dwarka Sector 10, Dolhi, 110075 wish to change my present surname 'Walia' to my maiden surname Bindal'.

For all purposes Mrs. Aditi Walia including wherever mentioned in records, henceforth shall be known as Mrs. Aditi Bindal. The above statement made by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532

Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots.'

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA (RAILWAY BOARD)

CORRIGENDUM NO. 8 to the Tender No. WTA-532

Sub :- E-Tender No. WTA-532 due on 30.05.2023 for "Manufacturing cum

Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat

Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the

The due date of the subject tender is postponed from 30.05.2023 to 30.06.2023

(Friday). Some of the terms and conditions of the tender have been modified. The

prospective Bidders are requested to visit website-https://ireps.gov.in for mor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD

NEW DELHI-110 001

It is informed to the general public that my client Rupa D/o Rajeram R/o 10/336, Dakshipuri, Extn. Pushpa Bhawan, South Delhi, Delhi 110062,has disowned his daughter Anuradha Cecel W/o Olivar Cecel and Grandson Vipul Cecel S/o Olivar Cecel and Granddaughter Vinita Cecel D/o Olivar Cecel from all his movable/ immovable properties and severed all relations both legal & social due to their disrespectful behavior and anti-social acts. Any person dealing them they shall be doing so at

Sanjeev Dwivedi (Advocate) Tis Hazari Courts, ND-54

US aircraft carrier arrives in Norway, to take part in drills

AP COPENHAGEN

AUS aircraft carrier arrived Wednesday in Oslo with the Norwegian armed forces saying it gives them "a unique opportunity to further develop cooperation and work more tant ally, the United States."

The nuclear-powered ship USS Gerald R. Ford entered the Oslo fjord escorted by a rapid dinghy-type boat with armed personnel on board. The Norwegian armed forces has said any boats must stay a half-kilometer away from the aircraft carrier and a no-fly zone was created over the area where the aircraft carrier was.

Described as the largest aircraft carrier in the world, the vessel will stay in the Norwegian capital until



The American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford on its way into the Oslo Fjord, at JelÃ, ya, Moss, Norway, on Wednesday.

Tuesday. It is then expected to take part in drills with the Norwegian armed forces.

The ship's first foreign call was broadcast live on Norwegian public television. Onlookers, some using binoculars, were seen on land watching as the large aircraft carrier glided deeper and

deeper into the fjord and eventually reach the city of Oslo. Laiĺa Wilhelmsen, who stood along the route in Droebak, said that she grew up in the small town about halfway through the fjord during the Cold War in the 1950s and "there were warships here all the time.

Trump lawyers seek meeting with AG

AP WASHINGTON

▼ awyers for Donald Trump Lon Tuesday asked for a meeting with Attorney General Merrick Garland as a Justice Department investigation into the former president's handling of classified winding down.

In the letter, which Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, attorneys John Rowley and James Trusty asserted that Trump is "being treated unfairly" and asked for a meeting to discuss "the ongoing injustice that is being perpetrated by your Special Counsel and his prosecutors."

The language echoed some of Trump's own complaints in recent months about the investigations being led by special counsel Jack Smith. It was not immediately clear

what specifically prompted the letter, but the yearlong doc-uments probe appears to be nearing an end.

Agents and prosecutors have interviewed a broad cross-section of witnesses, including attorneys for Trump former White House officials and other close aides.

ing to determine whether Trump illegally retained hundreds of classified documents taken with him from the White House to his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago, after the end of his tenure and whether he sought to obstruct government efforts to get the records back. It is not uncommon for defense lawyers to seek meetings with senior Justice Department officials to argue against potential indictments of their clients, though it is unusual for such meetings to include

the attorney general.

breach. Braverman was

caught speeding in June 2022,

while she was attorney gener-

al, and given the option of

three penalty points or a

which caused energy and food The Office for National Statistics said Wednesday that the consumer price index dropped to 8.7 per cent in the

Official figures show that inflation in the UK has fallen to its lowest level since

the immediate aftermath of

year to April from 10.1 per cent in March, largely because last year's energy spike in the wake of the invasion dropped out of the annual comparison.

The fall took inflation to its lowest level since March 2022, a month after the war began.

Though welcome, the fall wasn't as big as anticipated. The consensus in financial markets was that it would ease back further to 8.3 per cent.

The main reason why inflation is consistently run-

ning higher than anticipated is that food prices remain elevat-"The rate of inflation fell notably as the large energy

price rises seen last year were not repeated this April, but was offset partially by increases in the cost of second-hand cars and cigarettes," the statistics agency's chief economist Grant Fitzner said.

"However, prices in gener al remain substantially higher than they were this time last year, with annual food price inflation near historic highs,"

Salman Rushdie collects royal honour award

Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie has collected his royal Companion of Honour award at an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle in south-east England, nearly a year after it was conferred to him by the late Queen Elizabeth İI in June last year.

Mumbai-born Rushdie received the honour from Anne, the Princess Royal – the



public appearance in New York since being stabbed and severely wounded in a knife

New York last year. Rushdie, 75, received the PEN Centenary Courage Award at the 2023 Literary Gala at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan on Thursday.

"lifetime" of work and described Princess Anne as

very generous". Asked about his next

critical condition. 'Oh, I'll let you know," he told the BBC, when asked about the timeline of when he expected to complete his next book.

spent six weeks in hospital in

The author of 'Midnight's Children' was named a Companion of Honour, an exclusive club with membership limited to just 65 people at any given time, for services to literature in a list released as part of the Jubilee Honours in June 2022 to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen's 70-year reign.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMIL BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED (CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900 E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinvestments.in

1576/2023

Regd. Office: 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended		
Particulars	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	
	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	
Total Income from operations	18.29	15.37	9.75	58.09	49.37	
Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.09	5.34	0.87	17.23	13.08	
Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.09	5.34	0.87	17.23	13.08	
Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.40	1.85	-0.52	11.61	9.78	
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-13.83	59.28	-10.02	59.88	131.95	
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						
-Basic	0.13	0.05	-0.02	0.34	0.29	
- Diluted	0.13	0.05	-0.02	0.34	0.29	

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2023 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2023 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in)

2. The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the $Companies Act, 2013\,read\,with\,relevant\,rule\,made\,there under\,and\,other\,accounting\,principles\,to\,the\,extent\,applicable$ 3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 24.05.2023.

4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary. 5. The Hon'ble Executive Director ("ED") of Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") passed an order on 12th May.

2023 in the matter of National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) cancelling Certificate of SEBI Registration (bearing No. INZ000087136) of the Company. As per the order, Company has attracted disqualification under Schedule II of Intermediary's Regulations for the reason of executing paired contracts on NSEL. The Board of Directors of the Company have accorded their consent to explore the legal options and take necessary steps thereon 6. The figures of the last guarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited

figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial

Indian-origin teen accused of ramming truck into barriers wanted to kill Biden

Washington (PTI): A 19-year-old Indian-origin man accused of deliberately crashing a rented truck into a White House barrier has praised Adolf Hitler to investigators and said that he aimed to "kill" President Joe Biden if necessary to seize power, media reports said on Wednesday.

Sai Varshith Kandula, of Chesterfield, Missouri, rented the U-Haul truck on Monday night immediately after flying from St. Louis to Dulles International Airport on a one-way ticket, a Secret Service agent said in a statement of facts filed in federal district court in Washington D.C., NBC News reported. US Park Police arrested Kandula after he

crashed the rented truck into the security barriers on the north side of Lafayette Park shortly before 10 pm on Monday, sending multiple pedestrians running from the scene. The crash was a good distance from the

White House gates, but the incident prompted road and sidewalk closures, and the nearby Hay-Adams hotel had to be evacuated. No one was injured in the crash. He drove the vehicle onto a sidewalk out-

side the White House and into a metal barrier just north of the White House, according to the document. Kandula put the truck in reverse and

UK PM Sunak gives Braverman clean chit on driving fine row ethics, Sir Laurie Magnus, to determine if there had been a Braverman appealed to civil

servants to try and avert the

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Sunak on Sunak Wednesday said that his Home Secretary Suella Braverman's handling of a speeding offence in 2022 did not breach ministerial rules and will not face an investiga-After days of speculation

around 'The Sunday Times'

normal course of action after being caught speeding, Sunak wrote to his minister to say that he did not believe the actions amounted to a breach of the ministerial code of The Opposition parties

had been demanding Sunak refer the 43-year-old Indianorigin minister to his newspaper claims that Independent Adviser on

group speed awareness course. "I have consulted with my Independent Adviser. He has advised that on this occasion further investigation is not necessary and I have accepted that advice.

PTI LONDON



attack at a literary event in

The author, who now wears a patch on his right eye which suffere d the knife injury, said it was a "great honour" to be recognised for a

book, Rushdie confirmed that has started writing again and

crashed into the barrier a second time before sister of King Charles III, on Vijay Bhushan Director DIN: 00002421 United States Park Police officers took him into Tuesday, days after he was Place: New Delh custody, according to the document. honoured at his first in-person

Khan urges SC judges to save democracy in Pak Imran's close aide

 $F^{
m ormer}$ prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday appealed to the Supreme Court judges to save the democracy in Pakistan, saying "you are our last hope," amidst a possible ban on his political party fol-lowing the attacks by his supporters on military installa-

In an address to the nation via social media, 70-year-old Khan also said that a massive crackdown on his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is ongoing and the regime has "jailed the entire leadership and even those who are not even a part of the party."

"You are our last hope," Khan said, referring to the top

"Supreme Court judges, the nation is looking at you and your unity is very important for the public. It is up to you now to save this country and take a stand for it because Pakistan is becoming a banana republic," Khan urged, amidst reports that the internet connection of his Zaman Park residence has been shut down.

Khan, who is facing the



heat following widespread violence by his supporters earlier this month, also offered to hold a dialogue and said he is ready to constitute a committee for talks with "anyone who is in power today".

"I am making this committee and I say two things: If they tell the committee that they have a solution and the country can function better without me. Or they tell the committee what benefit will Pakistan gain from holding elections in October. Convince us on these two things," he said, adding that he will announce the

On May 9, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander house, Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters in Rawalpindi was also attacked by the mob for the first time. Police put the death toll in violent clashes to 10."They have benefitted from the arson at the Lahore Corps Commander's house and used it to crack down on the PTI ... a crackdown which was never seen in the history of the country," Khan said.

He claimed that the authorities have jailed the entire leadership of his party and even those who are not even a part of the party. "There is only one way out, that they utter the magic words of 'I am leaving PTI' ... is this a joke?' Khan asked.

Feeling the heat of legal rocesses, several PTI leaders have quit the party, including liberal-minded former human rights minister Shireen Mazari

ister Fawad Chaudhry.

Khan said Mazari's departure from politics was not just a loss for his party but for the entire country and its democ-"At present, over 10,000 of

our workers are in jail," Khan said, adding that they are being treated as if they are foreign enemies of the country, but even then, prisoners of war have rights.Khan said his supporters are now scared of coming on the media, fearing that they will be caught and thrown into jails.
"I have told my people to

go into hiding. I am telling my workers and office-bearers that there is no need for you to come out. Don't stay at your homes, hide," Khan said. Khan said that this oppres-

sion will not eliminate his party but will in fact increase its popularity. "The way they are gripping necks and forcing them to leave PTI. You were not born for this ... when the nation bows its head in front of fear, those nations die," he said."I am sitting prepared for them, whenever they will come

His remarks came hours after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the government is mulling a possible ban on Khan's party following the attacks by his supporters on military installations.

"A decision (to ban PTI) has not been taken yet, but a review is surely underway," Asif told reporters.

He, however, said that the matter will be referred to the Parliament for approval if the government finally decides to ban the former ruling party. He also criticized Khan for

not condemning the attacks on the military facilities.

"Till now, he (Imran) has not condemned [the violence] in clear words. He says that he did not know, he was [in custody]. He had his phone [...] he repeated that this reaction was expected and will happen again if he is arrested," said

Asif claimed that the vandalism of military installations across the country on May 9 was "coordinated attacks" planned by Khan.

and their people are telling themselves that they were briefed about this beforehand," he said. "I feel that his struggle of a year ... all his plans failed and this was his last move against the armed forces."However, PTI leader Barrister Ali Zafar said that the party would challenge the ban in the court as a political party cannot be banned. He told the media that when a ban was imposed on the Jamaat-i-Islami in the 1960s, it was set

Alvin Robert Cornelius. "Efforts were made to put a ban on Jamaat-i-Islami long ago. The SC had said that you cannot ban a political party and it is everyone's right to form a political party," Zafar

aside by then-chief justice

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

Fawad Chaudhry quits PTI party

In another blow to ousted Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, his close aide and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday resigned from his party which is under pressure from the government over the May 9 violence. Chaudhry's resignation came a day after former minister for human rights Shireen Mazari quit 70year-old Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and condemned the actions of the former prime minister's supporters who attacked and torched sensitive defence installations across Pakistan on May 9."My earlier statement where I unequivocally condemned 9th May incidents, I have decided to take a break from politics, therefore, I have resigned from party position and parting ways from Imran Khan," he tweeted. Chaudhary

served as the Federal Minister

Information and Broadcasting and the minister for science and technology during his government. He was the PTI's senior vice pres-

ident and the party spokesman. Mazari, 72, announced her resignation and retirement resignation and retirement from active politics after she was released following her arrest for the fourth time since May 12 when she was picked from her residence by police and sent to jail in connection with the violence on May 9.

She served as the minister for human rights from 2018 to 2022, under Khan's regime.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

95-year-old woman dies after police shoot her with stun gun

Australian woman died Wednesday, a week after a police officer shot her with a stun gun in a nursing home as she moved toward him using a walker and carrying a steak knife, in a tragedy that has outraged many Australians.

Clare Nowland, who had dementia, had been hospitalised in Cooma in New South Wales state since her skull was fractured when she fell on May 17 after Constable Kristian White shocked her with a stun gun. announced

Nowland's death hours after reporting that White has been ordered to appear in court on July 5 on charges of recklessly causing grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and common assault. The charges are likely to be upgraded following her death.

White and another police officer had gone to Yallambee Lodge, a nursing home in Cooma that specialises in residents with higher care needs including dementia, after staff reported that Nowland had taken a serrated steak knife from the kitchen.

The violence against an elderly and incapacitated woman has sparked a national debate about the police use of stun guns in such circumstances and the competence of aged care staff. Police are allowed to use stun guns when lives are in danger.

A coroner will determine the cause of death. Police say her injuries resulted from falling to the floor, not from the electric charge from the Taser-brand stun gun.

Netanyahu, allies pass new budget with sweeping grants for settlements

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Wednesday passed a new two-year budget, a step that could bring some stability to his coalition and clear the way for it to press ahead with its religious, pro-settlement agenda. While the budget could

buy Netanyahu some quiet inside his coalition of ultra-Orthodox and ultranationalist parties, Israel's most hard-line ever, it also was expected to deepen the divisions in Israel. Critics have accused

Netanyahu of increasing spending on his ultra-Orthodox allies for religious programs that have little benefit for the economy and broad-

The vote dragged on overnight, with the budgets for 2023 and 2024 finally passing with a 64-56 vote in parliament after daybreak. It followed



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a statement in the Knesset Israel's parliament in Jerusalem, Tuesday

weeks of tense negotiations between Netanyahu and the parties in his coalition. "We have received the

tools, we're rolling up our sleeves and going to work," Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said after the vote." The new budget has been

criticized for allocating nearly \$4 billion in discretionary funds, much of it for ultra-Orthodox and pro-settler par-

That will include increases in controversial stipends for ultra-Orthodox men to study full time in religious seminaries instead of working or serving in the military, which is compulsory for most secular

It also includes more money for ultra-Orthodox schools, which are widely criticized for not teaching students skills like math and English needed in the modern work-The funds also include

tens of millions of dollars for hard-line pro-settler parties to promote pet projects through the ministries they control.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a settler leader, has said he hopes to double the population of West Bank settlers in the coming years.

The government's composition and agenda have deeply divided the country. Ôn Tuesday, several thousand flagwaving Israelis protested outside the parliament building against the budget.

That smaller demonstration over the budget followed months of sustained mass protest against a series of proposals by Netanyahu's government to overhaul the country's iudicial system while he is on trial for corruption.

Pak ex-Army chief's granddaughter held for May 9 attack minister Salman Shah, was

Lahore (PTI): The grand-daughter of Pakistan's former Army Chief Asif Nawaz Jangua was arrested as a "key instigator" in the attack on the Corps Commander House here following former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest on May 9, police said on Wednesday.

Khadija Shah, a fashion designer by profession, is among the several women arrested for their alleged involvement in attacks on military installations on May 9 that erupted in the wake of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief's arrest in a corruption case. Khan, 70, was later freed on bail.

Lahore police said in a statement that Shah, the daughter of former finance

one of the key instigators of the May 9 attack on the Lahore Corps Commander House, also known as Jinnah House. She has been arrested under terrorism charges and might be tried under the Army Act, police said. Shah, an active PTI sup-

since police started carrying out raids for her arrest. "Ms Shah was produced before the anti-terrorism court

porter, had gone into hiding

Lahore which was sent to jail for an identification parade," police said. The government declared

that the identification of more than 500 women, wanted for the May 9 incidents, has been completed and 138 cases have been registered against them.

Turkish anti-migrant party backs Erdogan's rival

AP ANKARA

hard-line anti-migrant Aparty on Wednesday threw its weight behind the opposition candidate who is running against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in this weekend's runoff presidential

Umit Ozdag, the leader of the far-right Victory Party, announced his support for main opposition party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who will be facing off against Erdogan on Sunday.

He said he decided to back Kilicdaroglu over his promises to repatriate millions of migrants.

Ozdag's announcement came just days after Sinan Ogan, the third-placed contender in the first round of the presidential election on May 14, endorsed Erdogan in the upcoming runoff. Ogan was the joint candidate of an



parties, led by Ozdag's Victory

Érdogan received 49.5 per cent of the votes in the first round of the presidential race just short of the majority needed for an outright victocompared to Kilicdaroglu's 44.9 per cent.

Erdogan's ruling party and its nationalist and Islamist allies also retained a majority in the 600-seat parliament a development that increases Erdogan's chances of reelection because voters are likely to vote for him to avoid a splintered government, ana-

S Korea to conduct satellite launch

lysts say. In an apparent attempt to woo nationalist voters in the runoff, Kilicdaroglu hardened his tone last week, vowing to send back refugees and ruling out any peace negotiations with Kurdish militants if he is elected. Kilicdaroglu, 74, is the

joint candidate of a six-party opposition alliance, which has pledged to reverse Turkiye's authoritarian drift under Erdogan and return the country to a parliamentary democracy with increased checks and balances.

Turkiye is home to the world's largest refugee community, including 3.7 million Syrians.

Anti-migrant sentiment is running high in the country amid economic turmoil, including high inflation, and the issue of the repatriation of migrants has become a main campaign issue.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.: CE/HW-II-W-23/22/117 Date: 22.05.2023 Name of the Work: Repair and renovation of drain and retaining wall inside the harbour area. Estimated cost: **Rs. 1,25,57,640.26**. Last Date & time of submission: 12 06 2023 unto

PPA/PR/15/2023-24 **GUJARAT WATER SUPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD** TENDER NOTICE NO: SK/RC / 01 of 2023-24

Sr. No.	Item	Tender ID
1.	Supply of various items like capacitor, relay, contactor, mcb, mccb, etc for cubical control panel 3 HP upto 30 HP for fix quantity tender. (From Indian Manufacturers only) As & When Basis (GWSSB approved vendors/ GETCO approved vendors)	594770

01/06/2023 at 18.00 Hrs

Store Division, "A" Block, Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, 2nd Floor Near GH-4, Sector-16, Gandhinagar-382 016, Gujarat State Tel/fax. No. (079) 23222844, 9978493321

The detailed tender notice and tender documents are

For Village Level Drinking Water Complaint Please Contact

our Toll Free No :- 1916 No/INF/VPN/2020/G/412



प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक, (आर) उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत हास(अनुरक्षण कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विमागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नग हार्यों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/ठेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ई–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जिनका विवरण

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख में)
1.	Providing street lights network along with AMC of three years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at I.A. Babrala (Sambhal).	112.99
2.	Upgradation of street light network of approach road from Pakwada to SEZ Moradabad along with AMC for Three Years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at I.A. SEZ Moradabad.	160.44
3.	Upgradation of street light network along with AMC for three years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at I.A. Sikandrabad (Bulandshahr).	287.86

निविदा दिनांक 25.05.2023 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 01.06.2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपलोड की ज कती है, जिसे दिनांक 02.06.2023 को 11:30 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं हार पथ्य पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप रें कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। नोट— 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी. सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग रे

कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ में 'क' श्रेणी, अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स एवं Eligibilit Criteria के नुसार समस्त प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा नेविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तत जानकारी website:www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थापित लिंक यपीएलर्स website: https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा.,कानपुर

Ashnoor Textile Mills Ltd. Regd. Office : Behrampur Road, Village Khandsa, District Gurugram, Haryana-12200

E-mail: atml_delhi@vahoo.com Phone: 91 0124 4809756

NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given, purs 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held or Tuesday, May 30, 2023, inter-alia, to conside read with Ri and approve Audited Financial Results of the any for the Fourth Quarter & Financia Year ended March 31, 2023. This information is also available on Company

website at www.ashnoortex.com and also or the website of BSE, i.e. www.bseindia.com. By the order of Boar Suneel Gunta

Managing Director DIN-00052084 Gurugram, Haryana

General public is hereby inform that my client Ankit Chauhan intended to purchase built up property address F-64, C/7, H.No. 153, Sector-40, Noida Uttar Pradesh from its owner Bhagwati Devi through her General Power of Attorney, If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest dispute for the intended sale transaction, he/she may contact the undersigned with documents proof sustaining his/her objections in the office of Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of this publication of this notice.

Name of Transferee: Ankit Chauhan S/o Kumar Pal Singh Chauhan R/o House No. 152, F-64, C/7, Sector-40, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.)

This is to inform public at large that ollowing shares certificate of **Eicher** Motors Limited having its registered office at:3rd Floor, Select City Walk, A-3 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi 110017 registered in the name of following share belder between the proof to the proof.

holders have been lost/mis-placed: SN.1 - NAME OF THE SHARE HOLDER -V. B. AGARWALA **CERTIFICATE NO'S:- 43200** DISTINCTIVE NO'S: - 4318601 TO 4318700 NO. OF SHARES :- 100 FACE VALUE OF RS10/-

Any person who has any claim in espect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate/s. Date: 25th May 2023

VB Agarwala

PUBLIC NOTICE GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY,

> **AMRITSAR** NOTICE

Applications forms for allotment of Campus Canteen for session 2022-23 upto 30.06.2023 (Extendable upto 30.06.2024) at Regional Campus, Jalandhai are invited till 05.06.2023. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link:

tenders-notice.aspx Dean Students' Welfare NA/12/16572/2023/24286 Dated CHD :- 5/24/2023

Managing Director

https://online.gndu.ac.in/

Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd. Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital) Uttarakhand Ref No. : C-810/य.सी.डी.एफ. / निविदा / 2023-24 Tender Notice no- 04(1-6)/UCDF/2023-24, Date- 24.05.2023 Following tenders are invited by the undersigned, from experienced, reputed an icially sound Authorized Contractors(civil work)/Manufacturers/Dealers for the wing works so as to reach this office on or before 07.06.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Thers will be opened on 08.06.2023 at 11.00 AM. Name of work

1. Construction of Central Dairy Lab Building at Haldwani 2. SIT&C of D.G.Set - 20 KVA Online 3. Supply of corrugated boxes 4. Supply of 3-layered laminated printed poly film Online 5. Supply of Pharma Grade Sugar 6. Transportation of Milk powder to various milk unions in Uttarakhand Offline Offline tender - All tender related details can be seen on UCDF website www.ucdfaanchal.org
Online tender - All tender related details can be seen on E-tender porta

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED

vww.uktenders.gov.in Administrator

CIN: L18101HR1993PLC032010 opposite Tata Consultancy N.H.-8, Village Narsinghpur, Gurugram-122004 (Haryana) India TEL: 91-9953696941, EMAIL: info@meverapparel.com, WEBSITE: www.meverapparel.com EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 3157 MARCH 2023

- 1		Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
SI. No.	Particulars	March 31, 2023 Audited	December 31, 2022 Un-audited	March 31, 2022 Audited	March 31, 2023 Audited	March 31, 2022 Audited
1	Total income from operations	204.25	245.57	107.12	673.04	503.56
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(69.29)	(42.77)	(56.31)	(168.38)	(106.88)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(69.29)	(42.77)	(56.31)	(168.38)	(106.88
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(69.29)	(42.77)	(56.31)	(168.38)	(106.88
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other Comprehensive income (after Tax)]	(69.35)	(42.89)	(55.29)	(168.82)	(106.35
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 3/- each)	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.6
7	Other Equity				- 1	(5,246.45
8	Earnings Per Share (Rs. 3/- each)					
	Basic	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.21)	(0.13
	Diluted	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.21)	(0.13

These financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of The second Pacient Results have been prepared in accordance with initial According Statistics (in Agraed with relevant rules issued there executed as a continuing principles generally accepted in India. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2023 has been reviewed by the Audit committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 24th May, 2023

The above is an extract of the detailed format of audited quarterly and yearly financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of audited quarterly and yearly financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 13 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of audited quarterly

and yearly Financial Result is available on the Stock Exchange's website: www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website For and on behalf of the Board

(Gajender Kumar Sharma

satellite will be launched by a domestically made rocket under the country's space development program. Seoul officials say its launch has no mil-

Ministry

itary purpose, but many experts say it will eventually help South Korea acquire technologies and knowhow required to operate military surveillance satellites and build more powerful missiles. The Nuri space launch vehicle was scheduled to lift off early Wednesday evening from a launch facility on a southern South Korean island, if no unexpected weather or other problems occur at the last minute, according to the Science

South Korea was set to launch its first commercial-grade satellite Wednesday as rival North

Korea pushed plans forward to place its first mil-

itary spy satellite into orbit. The South Korean

Aboard the rocket are the main satellite, called "Next Generation Small Satellite 2," and seven other smaller, cube-shaped satellites. The main one is tasked with verifying imaging radar technology and observing cosmic radiation in near-Earth orbit, a ministry statement said. Wednesday's launch is the third of its kind involving Nuri, South Korea's first homegrown rock-

In its first launch in 2021, the rocket's dummy payload reached the desired altitude but failed to enter orbit. In its second attempt last year, South Korea successfully put what it called a "performance verification satellite" into orbit in a launch mainly designed to examine the Nuri rocket. South Korea became the world's 10th nation to send a satellite into space with its own technology. The latest launch comes amid heightened military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-launched more than 100 missiles - some of them nuclear-capable weapons designed to strike South Korea and the U.S. — in what it called efforts to respond to the expansion of military drills between the United States and South Korea. Analysts say the North's testing spree was likely meant to pressure its rivals to scale back their military training and relax economic sanc-

tions on the North. On May 16, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reviewed a finished military spy satellite at the country's aerospace center and approved an unspecified future action plan on its launch.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Date: 22.05.2023 Name of the Work: Providing peripheral drain cum retaining wall alongside of Net Barrier & P. Way track near Gate No.2 inside prohibited area. Estimated cost: Rs. 3,94,43,004.57. Last Date & time of submission: 12.06.2023 upto 17:15

Refer our Website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Sd/-Executive Engineer Harbour Works Division No.-II

17:15 Hrs. Refer our Website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Sd/-Executive Engineer Harbour Works Division No.-II Paradip Port Authority

Paradip Port Authority dtd.24.05.20223

Last Date of Online and Physical Submission of Tender:

Bid Opening Date:- 02/06/2023 at 15.00 Hrs

Contact Office: - Executive Engineer, Public Health Mechanical

GWSSB has all the right to cancel a tender without reason. available on www.nprocure.com

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

Growth expected to exceed 7% in FY23: RBI Governor

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the growth for 2022-23 is expected to be more than the advance estimate of 7 per cent on the back of economic momentum maintained in the third and fourth quarters of the last fiscal.

As per the second advance estimate released by the National Statistical Óffice (NSO) in February, the economy is estimated to grow at 7 per cent in 2022-23 against 8.7 per cent in the preceding fiscal.

"There is a possibility that it could be even more...It will not be a surprise if the GDP growth of last year comes slightly above 7 per cent," he said at a CII event here.

Provisional Annual Estimates for the year 2022-23 will be released on May 31,

"It initially appeared in the third quarter that there was a pent-up demand which was supporting the economic activ-



ity, but all the economic indicators in the fourth quarter of last financial year show that economic activities sustained momentum.

"In fact, all the high-frequency indicators, around 70 of them, which we monitored in the Reserve Bank of India, almost in all of these high-frequency indicators, the momentum was maintained in the fourth quarter. So therefore, we should not be surprised if the growth is slightly more than 7 per cent," he said.

For the current financial year, he said the RBI has projected a growth rate of 6.5 per

About the global scenario, he said the coexistence of high inflation and banking stress is complicating the responses of trade-off between the risk of either straining financial markets or having to tolerate a longer period of high inflation.

"Amidst these global uncertainties, the Indian banking system remains stable and resilient with strong capital and liquidity positions, improving asset quality better provisioning coverage and improved profitability," he said.

Das said the decision to tweak policy rates was not in his hand as he himself is driven y the situation on the ground.

In April, the Reserve Bank in a surprise move hit the pause button and decided to teep the key benchmark policy rate at 6.5 per cent.

Prior to it, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was on a rate hiking spree, raising the repo rate by 250 basis points since May 2022.

Speaking at an event organised by the industry chamber CII, Das said there is a suggestion that RBI will take a pause in the coming mone-

"Ît's not in my hands. It all depends on the situation on the ground. I am driven by what's happening on the ground What is the outlook on the ground? What are the trends? How is the inflation buildup or the inflation softening? So, it's all there.

"So, it's not a decision which is entirely in my hands, because I am driven by what's happening at the ground level. So, to that extent, you know, l think, I will leave it at that," the governor said.

The last decision to hold rates should be seen as a pause and not as a pivot, he said.

Citing an example, Das said Canada, after pausing, increased rates to deal with On global growth, he said

the global economy is mired by geopolitical uncertainty, elevated inflation, volatile financial markets — including banking sector stress -food insecurity and debt distress, among

FDI declines 16% in 2022-23, first y-o-y contraction in decade

Foreign Direct Investment

FDI

billion in 2022-23 as com-

pared with USD 38.6 billion a

year ago, mainly due to mod-

eration in gross foreign direct

investment inflows and an

Manufacturing, computer

The major contributors

, Switzerland, and Mauritius.

The bulletin quoted 'fDi

increase in repatriation, it

services and communication

services recorded the highest

decline in FDI inflows com-

pared with the preceding year.

towards the fall in inflows dur-

ing the same period were the

Intelligence, to say India was

the second largest recipient of

FDI (USD 26.2 billion) in the

semiconductor industry for

the year 2022, second only to

the US (USD 33.8 billion).

Gross foreign direct invest-ment (FDI) flows, for the first time in a decade, declined on an annual basis in 2022-23 to USD 71 billion mainly due to a slowdown in the global economy, according to the RBI

The annual decline works out to be 16.3 per cent in 2022-23 compared to inflows in 2021-22.

The gross FDI inflows in 2021-22 were USD 81.97 billion, up 10 per cent over fiscal 2019-20.

The previous year-on-year contraction in FDI was in 2012-13 when the inflows declined by 26 per cent to USD 34.298 billion.

"Gross inward FDI flows stood at USD 71 billion in 2022-23, registering a decline of 16.3 per cent on a y-o-y basis," as per an article published in the RBI's latest monthly bul-

Net FDI too declined by nearly 27 per cent to USD 28

INBRIEF

NTPC WINS PRESTIGIOUS ATD BEST AWARD



Award, Director (HR) DK Patel received the honour at a ceremony held at San Diego, CA, USA. The ATD BEST Award instituted by Association for Talent Development, USA (previously referred as American Society for Training) is considered as one of the most coveted and the highest level of award in the field of Learning and

OXFORD BOOKSTORE ART BOOK PRIZE

New Delhi: The first edition of Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize has gone to "Scenography: An Indian Perspective", written by director of contemporary Indian theatre Satyabrata Rout, published by Niyogi Books. Rout and Niyogi Books were felicitated with the trophy, certificate and ₹1 lakh cash prize by the Chair of Jury Alka Pande and Martine Aamdal Bottheim, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission at Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi

PAYTAIL TURNS PROFITABLE

New Delhi: Paytail, a tech platform to enable consumer access EMIs in offline stores, has experienced quarterly growth of over 70 per cent and annual growth of 9X. In FY 23, the total disbursals by Paytail stood at ₹1200 crores as against ₹142 crores in FY 22. We're building a platform that will continue to deliver value to our customers, merchants, corporate and lending partners for years to come, said Vikas Garg, founder & CEO, Paytail.

Stock markets halt three-day gaining streak on profit-taking in financials metal shares

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday, snapping their three-day gaining streak following profit-taking in financials, metal and oil shares amid a bearish trend in the global

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 208.01 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 61,773.78 in volatile trade. The index opened lower but bounced back in late-morning deals to hit a high of 62,154.14. The barometer later gave up gains to hit a low of 61,708.10 in line with weak European markets.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 62.60 points or 0.34 per cent to end at 18,285.40 after losses in Adani Entertainment, Adani Ports and Tata Motors.

Among the Sensex firms. Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finsery, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen &



Toubro, Asian Paints and Tata Steel were the major laggards.

Sun Pharma, Titan, ITC, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were among

"The domestic market experienced a short-lived rally that was overshadowed by subdued global market sentiment. US Treasury yields rose due to concerns over stalled US debt ceiling talks and hawkish comments from US Fed officials, which reduced the chances of a rate pause," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Market participants are waiting for the release of the FOMC meeting minutes, scheduled for

Shun predatory practices, follow self-restraint: CEA to fin industry

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday asked the finance industry to observe selfrestraint and stop predatory practices, misselling of prodacts and data misuse. The academic-turned-

advisor said regulations can only work to an extent to stop robberies, but crime can be curtailed only when the robber chooses to reform. "Misuse of data, misselling,

predatory practices etc have to

be guarded against. Self-polic-

ing is the best policing," Nageswaran said while speaking at the Samvaad event here. "We've also seen even among established financial institutions concerns about the collection practices to those

who borrow, and also those who are near to them," he added. It can be noted that in the recent past, entities like Mahindra Finance have faced severe reprimand for their loan collection strategies after a



tractor being taken away by recovery agents, while digital lending companies continue to be a big source of concern.

Nageswaran said that he met the Sebi brass on Tuesday, and was told about offers made to grow money quickly on a small base through trading in the markets.

Offers are made to turn Rs 5,000 into Rs 6,000 or even Rs 12,000 sometimes within a day, Nageswaran said, maintaining that such promises and expectations are unsustainable.

Given the access financial institutions have to so much data about an individual's habits, it is very important for companies to exercise "selfrestraint", the CEA said, adding woman was crushed under a

that the mindset needs to be stronger for longer, rather than quick and easy profits.

He hoped that given the

access to data, and the low credit penetration where only a fifth of the population has a history of borrowing, financial institutions evolve a judgement to provide credit. This is essential because

India is now waiting for another round of credit expansion, where the doubling or tripling of overall credit's share to GDP will be faster than the previous cycles, Nageswaran said.

Speaking to the event on account aggregators, the CEA said the newly launched platform will help expand the credit reach but underlined to deepen penetration in a manner where the entire operation is "sustainable, feasible and

"If India has to achieve a sustained growth rate of more than 6 per cent per annum, we need a financial cycle that doesn't end within half a decade," he said, listing out challenges faced on this front in the recent past.

Bank branches run out of cash for **₹2K note swap**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some bank branches ran out of cash and temporarily halted the exchange of withdrawn Rs 2000 currency notes as they awaited replenishment of supply from the currency chest on the second day of note swap on Wednesday.

More than anticipated demand during the first half in some of the branches led to the shortage of Rs 500 and below denomination currency temporarily at some places, sources said. Customers had to wait for

sources added. However, senior officials of various banks said there were no major complaints of currency shortage for

some time till replenishment

came from the currency chest,

exchange.

"We are maintaining a continuous supply of Rs 500, 200 and 100 denominations notes at all our all branches across Delhi circle to ensure of that provided in 2016.



2,000 rupee notes," Canara Bank Chief General Manager (CGM) Bhavendra Kumar Reserve Bank on May 19

announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes and permitted exchange of such notes up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time till September 30.

Unlike November 2016, when old 500 and 1000 rupee notes - constituting some 86 per cent of the currency in circulation - were banned overnight, Rs 2000 currency notes continue to be legal tender for now, and the exchange window is more than double

Comm min addressing

issues of exports

Gold climbs ₹250; silver advances ₹540



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

old price climbed Rs 250 to Rs 60,600 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid a rise in the yellow metal's prices overseas, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 60,350 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver also zoomed Rs 540

to Rs 73,140 per kg.
"Spot gold in the Delhi
markets traded at Rs 60,600 per
10 gram, up Rs 250 per 10
gram," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international market, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,974 per ounce and USD 23.35 per ounce, respectively.

Rupee rises 15 paise to close at 82.70 against US dollar

Wednesday.

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 15 paise to 82.70 against the US dollar on Wednesday, supported by foreign capital A strong dollar against major rivals overseas and weak

domestic equities weighed on the local unit and capped the appreciating bias, forex traders At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.83 against the US

dollar and settled at 82.70, higher by 15 paise over its pre-During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day

high of 82.64 and a low of 82.84

On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 82.85 against the US



The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 1.81 per cent to USD 78.23 per

The rupee gained on the soft dollar and FII inflows, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

The US Dollar gained on Wednesday's safe-haven appeal as the debt ceiling impasse continues, keeping the markets nervous. Mixed to positive economic data from the US also supported the greenback, Choudhary said.

We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and a surge in crude oil prices. Deadlock over the debt ceiling talks has deteriorated global risk sentiments.

"However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may remain cautious ahead of FOMC minutes for cues on Fed's policy meeting in June. We expect the USD/INR spot to trade between 82.30 to 83.30 in the near term," Choudhary added.

Govt making efforts to set up modern chemical parks to meet domestic demand: Mandaviya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chemicals and Fertilisers Cminister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday stressed on the need to bring innovations in the chemicals sector and said the government is making efforts to set up chemical parks to meet a rising domestic demand.

The minister was virtually addressing an international conference on Chemicals & Petrochemicals, organised by industry body CII in association with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

"To meet the rising domestic demand, the government of India is striving towards establishing the global state-of-art chemicals parks with all nec-



essary plug and play facilities by providing a sustainable ecosystem to the industries," Mandaviva said.

The chemical industry is a critical and integral part of growing Indian economy, he said, adding that there is an immense growth potential of

Mandaviya highlighted the need to bring innovation across all the segments of the chemical and petrochemical industry to design and develop new chemicals and production He assured the industry of

full support in building a conducive ecosystem for the sustainable chemicals industry. The minister said the Modi

government is addressing the basic issues concerning the sector in a mission mode. According to a CII statement, Mandaviya further mentioned that to meet the skilling

requirement of the industry, the ministry is committed to skill 1.2 lakh person per annum in this sector. He pointed out the four priority areas that will prove

transformative for the industry

energy transitions and envi-

ronment & climate sustain-

digital economy, education,

through ecommerce PTI ■ NEW DELHI

> The commerce ministry is I trying to address issues pertaining to the promotion of exports through ecommerce medium, a senior government official has said.

Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi also said that while the USD 2 trillion export target by 2030 is ambitious as it entails an annual growth of 14.5 per cent (CAGR), it is not

impossible.
"We trying to address issues on seamless e-commerce for export promotion. We are in touch of the Department of Revenue, RBI, Icegate, and the Department of Post on the issues which entails remission of duties and incentives, ensurIcegate, building a regulatory system which addresses return back, etc, he was quoted by TPCI in a release.

The DGFT was addressing the TPCI's inaugural edition of India Business and Trade Annual Conclave 2023 here on

The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), government, industry and academic deep dive to explore ways to reach USD 2 trillion in

"Research reveals a posi-tive correlation between higher exports and higher per capita income. For achieving the \$2 trillion target, India is focusing on both demand and supply side aspects with respective policies," he added.

Adani Enterprises falls nearly 6%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

in the day trade.

Seven of the ten Adani Group stocks ended the day in the negative territory, with Adani Enterprises falling nearly 6 per cent, after rallying for the past three days as a Supreme Courtappointed panel found no evidence of stock price manipu-

lation in the group companies.

Adani Enterprises stock tumbled 5.90 per cent on the BSE. In the past three days, the stock had jumped 39.41 per

Shares of Adani Wilmar fell by 4.99 per cent, ACC dropped 2.15 per cent, Adani Ports declined 2.13 per cent, Adani Power dipped 1.63 per cent, Ambuja Čements (1.25 per cent) and Adani Green Energy (0.52 per cent).

However, Adani Transmission jumped 5 per



per cent and NDTV climbed 4.98 per cent. All the three firms hit their upper circuit

In the equity market, the BSE benchmark fell 208.01 points or 0.34 per cent to set-

All Adani Group stocks were rallying since Friday. In the past three days, the

combined market valuation of all the group firms had jumped

Sebi mulls prohibiting differential rights to alternative investment fund investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday Wednesday proposed that AIF (alternative investment fund) investors should not be given any differential treatment, which affects the economic rights of other investors.

In addition, the regulator is looking to provide clarity on the pro-rata rights of investors in an AIF scheme.

AIF is a privately pooled investment vehicle, which collects funds from investors, for investing under a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors. In its consultation paper,

Sebi suggested that no differ-

ential rights should be pro-

vided to investors of the AIF/scheme, which would affect the economic rights of other investors. However, this should not apply in case of differential rights provided

on terms with respect to the

hurdle rate of return, performance-linked fee/additional return and management fee.

With respect to the prorata rights of investors, the regulator recommended that the rights of each investor should be maintained at prorata to their commitment to the scheme, in each investment of the scheme, while making an investment. Besides, the rights of each investor should be maintained at pro-rata to the investment made in the investee company, while distributing the proceeds of the investment.

Further, the manager can charge a performance-linked fee as per the terms of the contribution agreement with

lower than 4.7%: Shaktikanta Das PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said inflation has moderated, and the next print is expected to be lower than 4.7 per cent though there is no room for complacency

continue. Retail inflation fell to an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent in April, mainly due to cooling food prices.
"Inflation has moderated

and the war on inflation will

(and) the last print is 4.7 per cent. Perhaps the next print could be lower," he said while addressing CII members here.

The governor, however, emphasised that although inflation has moderated, there

He said that inflation was

Next print of inflation likely to be

looking benign, but the sudden outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war changed the situation, resulting in a disruption in the global supply chain and firming up global commodity prices. He assured that the war against inflation is not over

and the RBI will remain alert to evolving situations. Drawing confidence from

macroeconomic stability, Das said there is a platform for supporting domestic growth. Talking about macroeco-

nomic stability, he said inflation has moderated, there is sustained GDP growth, and Current Account Deficit is

cal deficit is on a consolidation path.
"So, on the back of macroeconomic stability and

a robust financial sector... The percentage of gross non-performing assets of the banking sector at the systemic

level was 4.4 per cent at the end of December 2022," he noted. So, he said, the non-performing asset, which was a huge challenge for the Indian banking sector, has come

down, and it is showing very good signs of resilience. Besides, he said, credit offtake in banks also is remaining quite resilient, and

it is 15.5 per cent as per the



There is no role for anchor in T20 cricket: Rohit

Survakumar Yadav is reaping

the benefits of the hard work

he has put in over the last sev-

hitting it big. He can also hit 100 metres but his thinking

is also the same. Everyone has

been watching Surya for the

last one or one-and-a-half

cricketer, he has been playing

since 2008. If I am not wrong,

he made his debut in 2010-

years, he is playing the Ranji

white to red - he hits that

many balls. I have seen him

from age-group cricket; he

has done his hard yards from

local cricket to Ranji Trophy,"

ning captain Rohit admitted

Mumbai Indians are a team

of superstars but said the

franchise has a system to

create superstars from play-

ers they bring in through

their impressive scouting

process. "Yes, it is a superstar

team, but it is because the franchise has worked for it.

All these players are part of

the big auction pool — we

worked day and night to get

Jasprit Bumrah and Akshar

Hardik (Pandya) and Krunal

(Pandya) were spotted in

2015 and we got them here.

We have worked hard for it.

It was a five-year journey

players Tilak Varma and

Nehal Wadhera will be 'huge

stars' not only for Mumbai Indians but also for India.

"It is going to be the same story with what has

happened with Bumrah,

Hardik and all these guys.

Tilak Varma and Nehal

Wadhera... you watch the

next two years. But then peo-

ple will say 'it is a superstar

team'. Yes it is, we are making them here. These two

guys are going to be huge stars for us (MI) and for

India," he said.

Rohit claimed young

from 2015-2020," he said.

"Our team of scouts had

have bought them.

The five-time IPL win-

Rohit said.

So from the last 10-12

"His bats have gone from

"But he is a seasoned

"Look at Surya; he is not

eral years.

India captain Rohit Sharma believes T20 cricket has changed and there is no role for anchors left in the format, adding that he has been exploring what he can achieve more as a batter even though his change in approach has brought about failures.

The Indian captain across formats, Rohit says as a batter he wants to do things 'differently' now without worrying too much about the outcomes, and that power-hitting could never be his forte.

"As I see it, there is no role for an anchor now. It is just how T20 cricket is played these days, unless you are 20/3 or 4, which is not going to happen every day," Rohit told Jio Cinema.

"Once in a while, you will be in that position and then someone needs to anchor the innings and finish off to a good score. There is no role for an anchor anymore, guys are playing differently."

Rohit feels a change in

mindset is mandatory.

"If you do not change your mindset, you are going to get smashed. People on the other side are thinking about the game differently and taking it to the next level.

"All seven batters need to play their role, I believe that good, but even if you get a good 30-40 off just 10-15 or 20 balls, it is (just) as good because you are doing the role for the team. The game has changed," he added.

The Mumbai Indians and India captain said he has played T20 cricket long enough for him to stick to a particular approach to batting. "I just want to play that way and see what I can do. I have played this format for a long time and in a certain manner. But I want to do different things now. While doing that, (if) I get out, (it) does not really bother me," he said.

The 36-year-old said he cannot switch to power-hitting because others are doing so and would prefer to get the runs the way he can.

"I know (that) I cannot match the power of guys like Tim David, Kieron Pollard and Cameron Green. They are powerful hitters; they can hit 100 metres easily," he

Rohit said batting star

ittle known Uttarakhand engineer Akash Madhwal bowled a dream ✓spell as his five-wicket haul took five-time champions Mumbai Indians one step closer to summit clash after thrashing Lucknow Super Giants by 81 runs in IPL Eliminator, here on

Wednesday

Mumbai Indians scored 182 for 8 in 20 overs and it seemed 15 short given explosive batting firepower of Lucknow but Madhwal's incredible figures of 3.3-0-5-5 and some terrific ground fielding led by skipper Rohit Sharma saw Gautam Gambhir mentored side crumble for a paltry 101 in 16.3 overs.

There were three run-outs in what turned out to be a forgettable evening for the Sanjiv Goenka owned franchise.

MI will now take on Gujarat Titans on Friday in the second Qualifier in Ahmedabad to decide on Chennai Super Kings' opposition for the big final

If the first part of the evening belonged to a fiery Naveen ul Haq, whose 4 for 37 made everyone feel wary about MI's final score, Madhwal reassured the faith that his skipper showed in him.

The delivery that clinched the final was one bowled to dangerous Nicholas Pooran (0) from round the wicket. He delivered it from slightly wide off the crease and it shaped inward before nipping away with a touch extra bounce forcing the southpaw to edge it to Ishan Kishan behind the stumps.
That literally broke LSG's back and



Akash takes MI to 2nd qualifier

on either side of that wicket, Madhawal took four more to enhance his reputation having been a tennis ball cricketer

till the age of 23. Skipper Rohit, who has been pillo-

ried for his fitness threw himself around and the relay throw to run Krishnappa Gowtham out was a fabu-

Earlier, flamboyant Afghanistan

seamer Naveen ul Haq picked up four wickets as Lucknow Super Giants managed to keep Mumbai Indians undercheck at 182 for 8 in 20 overs.

Naveen, who has been under spot-

Virat Kohli during a league game against RCB, was constantly booed by the Chepauk crowd but he did well enough to dismiss MI skipper Rohit (11 off 10 balls), batting mainstay Suryakumar Yadav (33 off 20 balls), last match's hero Cameron Green (41 off 23 balls) and the ever dangerous Tilak Verma (26 off 22 balls).

Naveen getting Surya and Green in one over could well prove to be decisive as MI were atleast 15 short of parscore. MI also needed to replace Surya with Impact Player Nehal Wadhera, whose 23 off 12 balls took them past 180-run mark.

Wadhera smacked a six and hit two fours in the final over bowled by Yash Thakur (3 for 34) to boost MI's score. The impressive Moshin Khan (1-24) conceded only 6 runs in the penultimate over before Wadhera stepped up the pace in Thakur's next, the final over of the innings. Skipper Rohit (11, 10 balls, 1x4,

1x6), who began slowly, fell trying to up the pace, jumping out to hit Naveen only to find Ayush Badoni in the way in the fourth over.

Yash Thakur struck in the next over, getting Ishan Kishan (15, 12 balls, 3x4) to nick one to the keeper. Suryakumar and Green gave some momentum to the innings with a 66run third wicket partnership in a little over six overs. Green, who hammered a ton in the

final league match against SRH, slammed six boundaries and 1 six while Yadav hit two maximums and an equal number of fours in his 20-ball knock.

Shastri wants both Ashwin & Jadeja in Indian playing XI for WTC Final

PTI DUBAI

Tormer head coach Ravi **Г** Shastri feels that Indian team should play to its strength and include both Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the playing eleven against Australia in the upcoming World Test Championship final at the Oval, next month.

Under Shastri's coaching, Indian team won a Test match at the Oval in 2021 but it was largely due to performance of India's pace attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Shardul Thakur apart from a classy hundred by the then vice-captain Rohit Sharma.

Picking his XI for the marquee WTC Final, Shastri felt the void left by Bumrah will hurt India's chances and they should counter it by picking another spinner to accommodate for

"India did very well in England last time round because you had Bumrah, you had Shami, you had Shardul Thakur, and you had Mohammed Siraj," Shastri said in ICC Review.

"So you had four fast bowlers. One being an all-



rounder there, Shardul.

For Shastri, it is important to pick players as per conditions and current form. Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav are a couple of years older and might be a few yards slower compared

"You have got horses for courses, you've got all bases covered. But then if the quality is not good in your fast-bowling attack. If you think the guys are older, they are not as quick as they used to be, and the form is a little doubtful, then you play that second spinner because Ashwin is quality, as is Jadeja."

Shastri thinks the option is there for India to select Ashwin as the only specialist spinner and use Jadeja to bat at No 6 should the pitch at The Oval look like

"If the track is hard and dry, you would want two spinners to play for sure," Shastri said.

"I think it goes a lot with the weather in England. I believe it's sunny now at the moment, but you know, English weather, how

it can change in the month of

June.
"So there's a very good chance India will go with two spinners, two fast bowlers and an all-rounder. That will be the combination. And then there'll be five batsmen and the wicketkeeper, so six batsmen.

So if all conditions stay normal at The Oval, then this would be my combination, but you've got to have the quality to be able to put those guys out in the park." As for batting, Shubman Gill will become an automatic choice to partner skipper Rohit Sharma at top in absence of the injured KL Rahul.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli will walk out at No 3 and No 4 respectively, while the door has opened for Ajinkya Rahane to make a return to a No 5 spot. In his choice of playing XI, Shastri has picked keeperbatter Kona Bharat ahead of bat-

As for Australia, it's a nobrainer Shastri felt.

"They'll go with one spinner (Nathan Lyon), Cameron Green the all-rounder, (and) three fast bowlers (Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood),"

I have 8-9 months to decide: **Dhoni on his future in IPL**

PTI CHENNAI

Describing himself as an "annoying skipper," Mahendra Singh Dhoni said months of intense preparation for the IPL has taken a "heavy toll" on him and that he would take a call on his retirement in eight to nine months.

There have been speculations that 2023 could be a swansong season for Dhoni, who has led Chennai Super Kings to their 10th IPL final with a 15-run win over Gujarat Titans in the Qualifier 1 here on Tuesday.

"Frankly, it takes a heavy toll. I have been out of home for literally four months," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation after winning the last game of the season at Chepauk.
"I will always come to

CSK. I have been out of home from January, been practicing added. "January 31 was when I got out of the house, finished my work, and started practicing from 2nd or 3rd of March. It takes a lot, but I have ample time to decide." "I don't know... I have 8-9

months to decide. Why take

that headache now. I have

ample time to decide. The auction is in December," the 41vear-old said. Personally, Dhoni has had

a quiet season with the bat, managing just 104 runs from 15 matches at an average of 34.67, and was also seen struggling with his knee especially while running between the

The World Cup-winning missed a match this season. After CSK's final league game, he was also seen wearing a brace. "I will always be there for CSK, whether that is in the playing form or sitting somewhere outside...I don't really

key to our success: Gaikwad Pre-season camp

Opening batter Ruturaj Gaikwad has attributed Chennai Super Kings' success in the ongoing IPL to their pre-sea-son camp and praised the team management for making the players feel secured and clearly stating their roles.

Rohit, who will lead Four-time champions CSK India in the final of the put themselves in line for a fifth World Test Championship IPL title triumph after they and the 50-over World Cup stormed into the final with a 15later this year, revealed he did run victory over holders Gujarat not watch most of the 2011 Titans in the Qualifier 1 here on World Cup due to disap-Tuesday. "The camp was very pointment of not being vital because a new surface was being laid over in Chennai,"

Gaikwad said at the post-match press conference.

"Everyone was not sure how the wicket is going to be or how the wicket is going to play. But sometimes when you play on flat tracks, vou need not have to think much on your shots and not much about the opposition bowling.

"Sometimes batsmen play good shots and hats off to him. Even while you're batting, it's about getting into the zone.

Gaikwad was making his assessment after CSK beat Gujarat Titans on a tricky Chepauk pitch to make their 10th IPL final.



Several CSK players, including Gaikwad himself, had never played an IPL game in Chennai before this season. The camp had begun on March 3, with captain Dhoni, Ajinkya Rahane and Ambati Rayudu among the first batch of players to arrive in

"A lot of effort goes into our success," Gaikwad said.

"It started from last year when we didn't qualify for playoffs. Obviously, the management got something to work on and there were things which we needed to improve and put an effort on, or add someone.

"This year, right from the

first game, I think we were clinical and sure about who is going to play and who is not going to play and what will be our probable 12 or 13 or 15.

"I think right from the first game everyone knew about their roles. When the Sri Lankans came late -Theekshana and Matheesha Pathirana -- I think they were up to the mark even from the first game.
"So, I think we were pretty

much playing with the same team and just continued the momentum. And hats off to everyone -- the support staff and the management as well."

McDonald backs Warner to play 'significant part' in Ashes | India maul Chinese Taipei 18-0 have kept their options open beyond that.

ustralia's head coach Andrew AMcDonald on Wednesday backed under-pressure David Warner to play "a really significant part" in the Ashes starting next month in England.

The 36-year-old opening batsman has been a mainstay of the Australian team since making his debut against New Zealand in 2011. But the left-hander approaches the

Ashes and World Test Championship final against India at The Oval with one century in his past 32 innings and a mediocre record in England. "We're optimistic with what Dave's

got left," McDonald told SEN radio on Wednesday, addressing doubts about Warner's immediate future on the side. "We've picked him in the squad



and that's why he's on the plane. and we feel that he's going to play a really significant part in the Ashes and "We think he's got some good games the World Test Championship final,

While Warner made Australia's 17man squad for the first two Ashes Tests and the preceding WTC final, selectors

McDonald said that Warner was in "a good head space". "He's an important part of that

squad," McDonald said. "If he wasn't, then we would have had a clear checkpoint after the first Test

match or the World Test Championship going into the Ashes, but that's not the "He's clearly in our plans and he's ready to go, and we're in constant con-

tact with him," he added. Former vice-captain Warner missed much of this year's blockbuster tour of India with a fractured elbow, which came

with the bat. Warner has previously hinted at retirement from Test cricket this year to focus on the game's shorter formats.

on the back of an extended lean spell

The WTC final starts on June 7 and the first Ashes Test is from June 16 at

PTI SALALAH

Defending champions India started their Men's Junior Asia Cup hockey campaign on a rousing note with a thumping 18-0 win over minnows Chinese Taipei at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex, here on Wednesday.

The Indians toyed with the Chinese Taipei defence, scoring goals at will.

Araijeet Singh Hundal (19th, 19th, 30th, 59th minutes) and Amandeep (38th, 39th, 41st) scored a hat-trick each, while Boby Singh Dhami (10th, 46th) and Aditya Arjun Lalage (37th, 37th) and skipper Uttam Singh (10th, 59th) found the

back of the net twice. Sharda Nand Tiwari (11th), Angad Bir Singh (37th),



Poovanna Chandura (54th) and Yogember Rawat (60th) were the other goal-getters for India in the lop-sided Pool A contest.

India will next play Japan on Thursday before taking on arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday and Thailand on Sunday.

India will aim to qualify for this year's Junior World Cup by winning the tournament here.

The tournament, while being a platform for young players in the continent to showcase their skills, is also important as the top-three finishers will qualify for the Junior World Cup, scheduled to be held in Malaysia in December



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2023 CHINA TOURISM DAY

Yunnan offers an encounter with happiness and beauty

"Tengchong, located in China's southwest border area, was referred to as the first frontier city by Xu Xiake, a great traveler living in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Today, thanks to modern stage technology and holographic projection technology, the traditional shadow puppetry can be performed on a retractable stage, achieving smart transitions from scene to scene and bringing the history of this city to life," said Liu Chaokan, a successor of Tengchong's shadow puppetry which is inscribed on the national intangible cultural heritage list. On May 19, the launching ceremony and the main venue activity of the 13th China Tourism Day were staged in Heshun Town, Tengchong City, Yunnan Province. At the intangible cultural heritage exhibition held on the same day, the 4D shadow puppetry show Tengchong Reverie deeply

impressed the audience. This year's China Tourism Day was themed on "Beautiful China, Happy Journey". Over the past few days, a



The picture shows the event held in Tengchong, Yunnan on May 19th. (Photo provided by the organizer)

series of relevant people-benefiting activities were held both online and offline across China In Yunnan where the event's main venue was located, scenic spots, hotels, restaurants, and other players of the culture and tourism industry all became "tourism ambassadors" and tried their best to attract domestic and foreign tourists through promotions, short videos, live

"Pu'er is not only a city but also represents a lifestyle. Whether you are a lover of coffee or tea, Pu'er is always worthy of your love," said Guo Dongmei, an official of the Publicity and Education Department of Pu'er Bureau of Culture and Tourism in south Yunnan. Since the start

of May, apart from issuing a

large number of culture and

broadcasts, and more efforts.

tourism consumption vouchers online and offline, Pu'er has organized an array of cultural activities for the public, such as non-profit cultural shows and free admission to public cultural facilities. Pu'er also joined hands with the Lancang Jingmai Airport in launching a number of air travel promotion activities, in a bid to attract tourists to Lancang Lahu Autonomous County, where tourists can enjoy folk songs in Laodabao Village, admire the tea plantations on the Jingmai Mountain, and visit those millennium-old ethnic settle-

"The Gejiu-Bisezhai-Shiping narrow-gauge milway has exited the historical stage, but it still lives in the hearts of local people. It demonstrated the early Chinese railway builders' patriotic sentiment, witnessed

the industrial development of cities along the line, and enhanced our identity with our hometown," said Cai Lisheng, Director of the Display and Exhibition Department of the Shiping County Railway Museum in southeast Yunnan's Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture. It was the first time that some tourists had got to learn about the narrow-gauge railway and the stories behind it.

Years on, Yunnan has been striving to promote the culture and tourism industry. In 2022, the province received 840 million tourist visits and achieved a total tourism revenue of 944.90 billion yuan (USS 134.36 billion), an increase of 27.3 percent and 21.2 percent, respectively. During this year's May Day holiday, which lasted from April 29 to May 3, the province received 35.013 million tourist visits and achieved a tourism revenue of 34.96 billion yuan (US\$ 4.97 billion), both up more than 30 percent over the same period in 2019, demonstrating the province's strong vitality for developing tourism.

(Staff correspondents)

Travel Colorful Yunnan on the Cloud

Since the start of May, many places in Yunnan Province have launched exciting themed live broadcasts. Popular local tour guides conducted live webcasts in various scenic spots, enabling tourists all over the country to travel this province of cultural and ethnic diversity on the cloud.

"This delicacy is typical of Lijiang. It's multi-layered, crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. Take a bite and you'll never forget it!" On Lijiang's Yuhe Square, a tour guide was vividly describing the taste and texture of the Lijiang-style pancake, a time-honored local snack, while eating one with relish.

On May 19, the China Tourism Day, northwestern Yunnan's Lijiang City organized a number of highly popular tour guides to showcase local landscapes and customs through live webcasting so that netizens could experience the ethnic and folk songs, dances, and music that Lijiang has to

"Now we're in the Puzhehei Scenic Area in Qiubei County of Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefeeture." The live webcast by a culture and tourism streamer named Li Yongcun on the Douyin social media platform also attracted a large number of viewers. Following Li, the

viewers were able to feast their eyes on the peak forest, painted boats, and lucid water. "This is really a fairyland on earth," a tourist commented.

In Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, tour guides also put local scenic spots online through live webcasts, such as the Primitive Forest Park, the Wild Elephant Valley, the Jinuo Stockaded Village, the Tropical Botanical Garden, and the Mengjinglai Scenic Area. At 10 a.m., the Dai Ethnic Garden's tour guide Yuwangdou started his daily livestreaming as usual. The 90-minute live webcast covered natural beauty, delicacies, history, and culture, introducing the unique tropical charm and fun to netizens all over the country and the world.

On the China Tourism Day, the Bureaus of Culture and Tourism in Xishuangbanna's Jinghong City, Menghai County, and Mengla County also promoted their respective culture and tourism resources in consideration of local conditions through various activities such as celebrity endorsement. All the publicity efforts, including the live webcasts by popular tour guides and wellknown travel streamers, raised the awareness of the China Tourism Day from multiple

(Yunnan Daily)

On the 13th China Tourism Day, Baoshan City, where the event was held, staged a feast of intangible cultural heritages. (Photo provided by the organizer)

Baoshan enlivens tourism with

Lion dances epitomizing folk culture

During the 2023 China Tourism Day, the Sanguan Square in Shidian County, Baoshan City, Yunnan Province were swarming with people. Amidst the thunderous drum music, lion dance teams from all over the county gathered in the county town to showcase the charm of lion dancing as an intangible cultural heritage item and a symbol of folk culture.

The lion dances began at two o'clock in the afternoon. To the stormy drum beats, the lion dancers put on amazing performances, which integrated martial arts, dances, acrobatics, and other forms of art. The lion dancers worked together and used their bodies

to imitate various movements of the lions, winning waves of applause from the audience. As the lion dancers jumped, rolled, shook, and did all sorts of stants, the lions' joy, anger, and sorrow were vividly presented before the audience, who could not help admiring these skillful folk artists. Lion dancing dates back

to the Ming(1368-1644) and Qing(1644-1912) dynastics in Shidian County. When there are festivals or the crops are sowed or harvested, the lion dancers in different villages would gather together to put on performances as a way of praying for favorable weather or celebrate good harvests.

(Yunnan Daily)

intangible cultural heritages On the China Tourism Day, an exhibition inte-

grating intangible cultural heritages and tourism was opened to the public in an alley in Heshun Town, Baoshan City. Baoshan's five counties (cities, or districts) all launched their distinctive intangible cultural heritage products, many of which were sold through live webcasts, greatly enriching the day.

In the alley where the exhibition was held, the intangible cultural heritage products exhibited at the booths of Longyang District attracted a large group of tourists. In the dynamic exhibition area, Yang Zhihong, a provincial-level intangible cultural heritage successor, showed the tourists how to make silver-inlaid black copper

objects. Some tourists were even able to try their hands at making their own copper spoons. Yang Shuxing, a successor of another intangible cultural heritage item known as "golden rooster pottery", not only demonstrated her pottery carving skills but also patiently taught some tourists to throw greenware so that they could experience the fun of pottery making.

Baoshan is known for its "three treasures", namely small-grain coffee, red agates, and Yongchang go pieces. In Longyang District's static exhibition area, Li Guowei, a national-level intangible cultural heritage successor, impressed the tourists with his skills of making Yongchang go pieces. Just opposite Li's booth, Baoshan's aromatic small-grain coffee also attracted a constant flow of

"Longyang District selected six representative intangible cultural heritage items to be exhibited in the dynamic exhibition area and the culture and tourism promotion area." According to an official of the district's Bureau of Culture and Tourism, these products have enabled tourists all over the country to understand and experience the profound ethnic culture of Longyang District.

On the China Tourism Day, the successors of Tengchong shadow puppetry showed the tourists how to paint the puppets and sang to the Yu-drum beats as well. Tourists said that while walking the streets lined with libraries, stores and other businesses, they were also able to learn

about Tengchong's unique intangible cultural heritage items, such as the shadow puppetry, Yu-drum music and Jiama woodblock

Strolling in the intangible cultural heritage exhibition area in Heshun, Baoshan, tourists could be introduced to nearly 100 intangible cultural heritage products. They could also communicate with the successors and learn from them, truly experiencing the charm and vitality of Baoshan's profound cul-

To date, Baoshan has registered 407 intangible cultural heritage items at and above the county level. including 5 at the national level, 41 at the provincial level, and161 at the prefectural city level.

(Yunnan Daily)

China's tourist market in 2023: Four new trends to watch out for!

What's new in 2023 China tourist market? Let's explore some of the travel trends that were reflected in the latest developments.

Whirlwind tours are on the rise

The "special forces" tourist, or whirlwind traveler, must be one of the hottest buzzword words in China this year, meaning that young people try to visit more places in a short period and with less money.

Nan Duoduo, a young man born in the 1990s, climbed The Five Great Mountains in China's five provinces during the 5-day May Day holiday. His feat almost shocked everyone on the internet. Net users jokingly referred to him as the "strongest tourist special force."

Nan Duoduo is not alone. According to data from Tongcheng Travel, 62% of tourists in their 20s chose to depart at dusk and arrive at their destination at dawn to spare accommodation fees. Additionally, 30% of them visited more than four scenic spots in a day. The most popular destinations are cities with dense attractions and convenient public transportation, such as Beijing, Chongqing, Changsha, Shanghai, and Nanjing.

There are several reasons why the special forces-style travel has won popularity. On one hand, after three years of the pandemic, many people have realized the importance of seizing every possible chance to see the world and enjoy the present. On the other hand, social media played a significant role in promoting this travel trend.

Slow-paced camps go through reshuffling

Contrary to the whirlwind travel style, a group of people prefers a slower travel pace, with camping being a most representative choice.

At the start of Covid-19, lock downs and social distancing measures pushed Chinese youngsters to seek idyllic campsites for pleasure from outdoor life. This trend continued into 2021 and 2022, but campground owners have reported a decrease in visitors, indicating that the camping trend may be

According to iiMedia Research, the camping market experienced rapid growth in 2021, with a growth rate of 78%, but this decreased to 18.6% in 2022. Business insiders analyzed that camping was particularly popular in the past two years due to limited options available. Camping provided a sense of peace, relaxation and freedom, allowing us to escape from the reality full of anxiety and uncertainty for a moment.

As there are more possibilities for leisure activities in the post-pandemic era, camping sites need to upgrade service quality for survival. Therefore, the camping industry is currently undergoing a period of reshuffling. Themed camping, such as forest camps, stargazing camps, and parent-child camps, are gradually gaining popularity.

Lesser destinations grow to be "new favorites"

Believe it or not, you can stay in a luxurious five-star hotel room in Hegang for only 300 RMB per night!" A Chinese tourist recently shared his travel experience on social media. As a result, Hegang a relatively unknown city in northeast China's Heilongjiang province, made a hit in the cyberspace.

Besides, other lesser-known Chinese destinations have become the "new favorites" in this year's tourism market. On the Dianping website, "niche activities" and

"less-crowded places" have become hot search terms.

What made reverse tourism popular? The main reason is that famous scenic areas and attractions are always overcrowded and overpriced during holidays, making it difficult for people to enjoy them. "Today's young people desire a relaxing travel experience that is enjoyable, stress-free and inexpensive, and those less-explored destinations meet their needs perfectly,"

said an industry insider.

Exchange travel offers zero-cost homestay

Recently, a new type of travel has emerged on social media, that is, exchange travel. Specifically, two strangers travel to each other's cities and stay in each other's homes at "zero cost."

Net users listed their requirements on the house and the house owner and posted the information on social media, such as Xiaohongshu. In this way, the two sides may reach an agreement about the travel schedule through online communication.

While some individuals found

hotel prices expensive, exchange travel allowed them to save money and experience a distinctive and individualized trip by living like a local. However, others held a conservative view and were skeptical about allowing strangers to stay in their homes due to safety concerns, especially regarding property security and personal privacy. "Third-party regulations should be introduced to ensure the benefits and security of both parties involved in the exchange,"

Live streaming invigorates China Tourism Day

some suggested.

On May 19, the launching ceremony and the main venue activity of the 2023 China Tourism Day were staged in Heshun Town, Tengchong City. At the main venue, ten distinctive live streaming rooms attracted tourists from all over the country.

"Apart from the special live streaming, which will be on for three days, we've also launched a themed online marketing area. We'll join hands with seventeen provinces (municipalities) in promoting the China Tourism Day, integrating high quality online culture and tourism resources around the country to provide

our users with one-stop travel service experience," said an executive of the leading online Chinese travel agency Ctrip's live streaming room.

According to statistics, the posts with the hashtag "#China Tourism Day" recorded 95,958,000 reads from 19:00 May 18 to 19:00 May and 1.6 billion reads and 1.135 million comments cumulatively on Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter. So far, the videos carrying the same hashtag have registered 820 million plays on Douyin, a Chinese social media platform

(Yunnan Daily)