OPINION 6

A FAIRY TALE THAT IS THE

KERALA STORY

MONEY 10

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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SOUTH KOREA, US TROOPS IRDAI WORKING TO ENSURE HOLD LARGE LIVE-FIRE DRILLS 'INSURANCE FOR ALL BY 2047' NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 26, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



WORLD 9



MI FACE IPL CHAMPS GT IN QUALIFIER 2 12 SPORT

CAPSULE

KEJRIWAL BLAMES OTHERS FOR HIS FAILURE: CONG New Delhi: Congress leader Pawan Khera on Thursday said Arvind Kejriwal is the only Chief Minister of Delhi who is seeking full powers to function and is blaming external factors for his failure to deliver.

SOOD TAKES OVER AS NEW CBI DIRECTOR New Delhi: Senior IPS office

Prayeen Sood took over as the new CBI Director on Thursday and he will be in the post for two vears, officials said. On his last working day, the outgoing director. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal handed Sood the charge of the agency at its headquarters here. they said.

4 SENTENCED TO 7 YRS IN ALWAR LYNCHING

Jainur: A court in Raiasthan's Alwar on Thursday sentenced four people to seven years imprisonment for lynching Rakbar Khan on the suspicion of cow smuggling in 2018. The fifth accused in the case was acquitted due to lack of evidence

IMRAN, WIFE BARRED FROM LEAVING PAK

Islamabad: Pakistan's former nrime minister Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and more than 600 leaders and former Assembly members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party have been barred from leaving the country, media reports said on Thursday.

FISH DEATHS IN DAL LAKE RAISE ALARM

Srinagar: Thousands of fish in Dal Lake here have died over the past few days with authorities blaming a sudden fluctuation ir temperature in the region. Dal Lake dwellers expressed alarm over such large-scale fish deaths even as authorities said the occurrence was an annual affair.

7 more parties ready to attend new Parl launch

Attendees' number increases to 25; BJP urges Opp to show 'big heart' as Cong steps up attack on Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

In a major relief for the BJP-led NDA Government, seven more parties have accepted the invitation to attend the inauguration of the new Parliament building, raising the number of parties scheduled to attend the launch ceremony to 25, even as the Congress-lead Opposition parties have intensified their attack on the Prime Minister and the Union Government. The Congress accused the Prime Minister of being "megalomaniac" and the Government of

being "arrogant.

These seven non-NDA
parties — BSP, Shiromani Akali Dal, Janata Dal (Secular), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), YSR Congress, BJD and TDP account for 50 MPs in the Lok Sabha, and therefore their participation will help the NDA blunt the Opposition's charge that the inauguration of new Parliament building is just a government event.

As the political row over the opening of the building on May 28 escalated, the BJP hit back alleging the Opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration just because it has been built at the initiative of Prime Minister Modi. However, the BJP appealed to the Opposition parties to attend the "historic day" of its inauguration by showing "big heart". Nineteen Opposition parties, including Congress, Left, TMC, SP, AAP, have come together to jointly announce the boycott of the inauguration ceremony, saying they find no value in a new building when the "soul of democracy has been sucked out".

BSP president Mayawati called the Opposition boycott inappropriate and welcomed the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Modi. She also said the Opposition should have thought about "tribal honour" when it fielded a candidate against Murmu and denied her an unopposed election.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Thursday said it will take part in the inauguration of the new Parliament building with party chief N Chandrababu Naidu instructing Rajya Sabha MP Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar to represent the party. The JD(S) supremo and former prime minister Deve Gowda too said he would attend the inauguration.

Čongress lashed out at the ruling BJD and its president, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for "abiding" with Modi on all occasions, includ-



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ing the new Parliament building inauguration. The BJD hit back accusing the Congress of doing politics over a non-issue and raised questions over its role during the presidential election.

They have also protested the decision that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the building, claiming this was an insult to the highest constitutional office of the President of India. Separately, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said if Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla does not inaugurate the new Parliament building, his party would not attend the event.

All 18 NDA members – BJP, Shiv Sena, National People's Party, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Jannayak Janata Party, AIDMK, IMKMK, AJSU, RPI, Mizo National Front, Tamil Maanila Congress, ITFT (Tripura), Bodo People's Party, Pattali Makkal Kacchi, MGP, Apna Dal and AGP — are the other

Plea in SC seeks inauguration of new Parliament by President

New Delhi: A PIL was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking a direction to the Lok Sabha secretariat for inauguration of the new Parliament building by President Droupadi Murmu, who is the "first citizen of India and the head of the institution".

The petition says the respondents — the Lok Sabha secretariat and the Union of India — are "humiliating" the president by not inviting her for the inauguration.

The petition by an apex court lawyer comes amid a massive controversy over the scheduled inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

New feat: MiG-29K performs night landing on INS Vikrant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Indian Navy achieved **L** another milestone by undertaking maiden night landing of its MiG-29K fighter jet on indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on Wednesday, Navy officials said here on Thursday.

Giving details of the landing in pitch dark conditions considered to be demanding, they said this landing was indicative of Navy's impetus towards "aatmanirbharta". This challenging night landing trial also demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and the naval pilots, they added.

The Indian Navy shared the video of the maiden night landing on Twitter. The all-weather fighter is seen landing on the flight deck of INS Vikrant in pitch darkness.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Navy for undertaking a successful night landing and said, "This



MiG-29K aircraft makes a maiden night landing on INS Vikrant

remarkable achievement is a testimony to the skills, perseverance and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and Naval pilots. Kudos to them." Landing fighter jets on a

normal runway is different compared to landing on a flight deck of an aircraft carrier due to the shorter length of the deck. While landing on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, the pilot lowers the tail hook of the jet and aims for an arresting wire, which traps the aircraft and has the strength to bring its speed from 250 km/hr "Night trap" means landing on an aircraft carrier during night-time and is considered even more challenging for naval aviators as the aircraft carrier is moving at a speed of 40-50 km/hr and the pilots have to keep the jets speed rel-

ative to the carrier.
The MiG-29K jet is part of INS Vikrant's fighter fleet. The supersonic fighter jet has a top speed of Mach 2 (two times the speed of sound) and can pull up to 8G (eight times the force of gravity) and can climb to an altitude of over 65,000 feet.

Continued on Page 2



Light rain and strong dust-raising winds hit parts of Delhi-NCR on Thursday, lowering the maximum temperature. Similar conditions are expected to prevail in the national Capital and NCR over the next two to three days and no heatwave is predicted

Shah promises justice for all, appeals for peace in Manipur

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday appealed to the people of Manipur to maintain peace and promised that justice will be ensured to all sections of

Asserting that Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term after the general elections next year, he claimed that the Opposition Congress will not be able to even secure its present tally in the Lok Sabha.

Shah, while laying the foundation stone of the tenth campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Changsari in Assam's Kamrup district, said he will travel to Manipur to

help resolve disputes. 'I will go to Manipur soon and stay there for three days but before that, both groups should remove mistrust and suspicion among themselves and ensure that peace is restored in



foundation ceremony of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Guwahat

the State," he said.

'The Centre will ensure that justice is delivered to all those who suffered in the clashes in the State, but people must hold dialogue to ensure

peace," Shah said. During the last six years, prior to the recent clashes, there was no blockade or bandh in Manipur and "people must ensure the return of such

a situation again".

"Charcha ke saath hi shanti ho sakti hain (Peace can only be restored through dialogue), he said. "The Centre is planning to bring changes in the law to make it compulsory for forensic experts to visit the spot for crimes that attract more than six years of imprisonment," he said.

Continued on Page 2

2 more cheetah cubs die at KNP

PNS BHOPAL

ndia's ambitious cheetah pop-Lulation revival programme faced a setback as two more India-born cheetah cubs have died at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, a forest official said on Thursday.

With this, the number of cheetah cubs that have died at the KNP rose to three, while three of the 20 adult cheetahs translocated from South Africa and Namibia have also died at

the park. A cub's death had been reported in the park on May 23. The two other cubs also died on the same day, on Tuesday afternoon, but their deaths were reported only on Thursday.

The official did not disclose the reason behind not informing about the deaths of these two cubs on the same day. The KNP houses cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa as part of an ambitious project to revive their population in India after the species



became extinct in the country seven decades ago.

As per an official release, after the death of a cheetah cub on May 23, the forest department's monitoring team kept an eye on the movements of female cheetah Jwala and her remaining three cubs.

Iwala, earlier known as Siyaya, gave birth to four cubs in the last week of March after being translocated from Namibia in September last

The monitoring team found on May 23 that the condition of her remaining three cubs was not good and decided to rescue them for treat-

Continued on Page 2

encashment hiked to ₹25L

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the Budget **⊥** announcement, the Finance Ministry on Thursday hiked the tax exemption limit for leave encashment upon retirement for private sector salaried employees to ₹25 lakh. So far, the tax exemption on leave encashment for nongovernment employees was ₹3 lakh which was fixed in 2002, when the highest basic pay in the government was

₹30,000 per month. The CBDT, in a statement, said the aggregate amount exempt from income under section 10(10AA)(ii) shall not exceed the limit of ₹25 lakh, where any such payments are received by a non-government employee from more

I-T waiver for retirees' leave Jain collapses in Tihar, put on oxygen support

Jailed AAP leader and former Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has been put on oxygen support and shifted to the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash (LNJP) Hospital due to breathing problems on Thursday.

He was admitted to Deen Dayal Upadhaya Hospital after he collapsed in a bathroom of the Tihar Jail due to dizziness around 6 am on Thursday

Earlier too Jain had fallen in the bathroom and had a serious spinal injury, the AAP said. Jain, lodged in connection with a money-laundering case in May last year, will undergo all necessary tests as a precautionary measure.

According to AAP sources, Jain has been shifted to an ICU at the LNJP Hospital and he was "critically ill".

The LNJP Hospital is the than one employer.

Detailed report on P10 | largest hospital under the Delhi government. He (Jain) was largest hospital under the Delhi

Vande Bharat in 3 avatars:



brought to the emergency department of the LNJP Hospital earlier in the day and doctors examined him, a senior doctor at the city governmentrun hospital said on the con-

dition of anonymity.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Ärvind Kejriwal hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, hours after his colleague Jain was collapsed in Tihar Jail saying "a dictator is bent on killing that

good person". Continued on Page 2

Dynastic parties reneged on high-speed trains: PM

World looks at India with great hope, Modi says, flags off Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While flagging off the Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that parties which ruled the country for many years and made tall claims of introducing high-speed trains could never get out of the constraints of dynastic politics.

He also said the budget for expansion of the railway infrastructure in Uttarakhand now stands at ₹5,000 crore. Before 2014, it was less than ₹200



modernising its infrastructure.

earlier did not realise this. via video conference. "India of the 21st century can prosper even faster by

Their focus was on indulging in scams and corruption. They could not get out of the constraints of dynastic politics. They also made tall claims about high-speed trains but Parties in power for a long time years went by and nothing

happened," Modi said. He said for the first time, there is a Government in the country which has the intention ("niyat"), policy ("niti") and dedication ("nishtha") required to achieve developReferring to his just-con-cluded tri-nation visit, Modi said the world looks at India with great hope. "The way we have strengthened our econo-my, battled poverty and dealt with the challenge of Covid-19 raised the world's confidence in India People from other coun-India. People from other countries want to come to India and understand it," he said. "And this is a great oppor-

tunity for a beautiful State such as Uttarakhand," the Prime Minister said.

Recalling his remark made in Kedarnath in 2022 in which he had said the decade belongs to Uttarakhand, the prime minister said the Vande Bharat Express train and a plethora of other road, rail and ropeway infrastructure projects are set to drive the state in that direction.

Chair car, metro, sleepers end to end journey to cover a distance of 500-600 km one PNS DEHRADUN /NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing success and popularity with demands across for the new age Vande Bharat Trains, the Centre on Thursday announced for three versions of the semi-high speed trains — Vande Chair Car, Vande Metro and Vande Sleepers — by the end of this fiscal year.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in the next three to four years, railway tracks will be upgraded to support the maximum speed of 160 km/h of Vande Bharat trains. While the Vande Chair cars will be **Continued on Page 2** | put on tracks for the same day

way, the Vande Metro will be used for local rail network services as the name suggest, while the Vande Sleepers will be long distance full air conditioned with all modern specifications on board.

"There are three formats of Vande Bharat —Vande Metro for less than 100 kilometre, Vande Chair Car for 100-550 kilometre and Vande Sleepers for a journey beyond 550 kilometre. These three formats will be ready by February-March (next year)," Vaishnaw said after the launch of Dehradun-Delhi Vande Bharat.

said every State will get a Vande Bharat train by mid-June. The production of these trains is being expedited, the Minister said. The Vande Bharat indigenous semi-high speed trains, which are being prepped to replace Shatabdis,

On the occasion Vaishnaw

speeds of 110 km/h, 130 km/h and 160 km/h. It will be done in the next three to four years.

Rajdĥanis and local trains, are being made at the Integrated Coach Factory in Chennai. "Old tracks were designed to support speeds between 70 and 80 km/h. Around 25,000-35,000 kilometre of tracks are being upgraded to support

2013 JHIRAM VALLEY ATTACK ON CONGRESS CONVOY

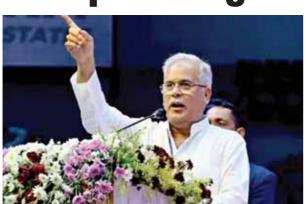
Why top Maoists' names out of NIA's report: Baghel

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday asked the BJP why the names of top Maoist leaders 'Ganpati' and 'Ramanna' were removed from the NIA's final report on the 2013 Jhiram Valley attack in which several Congress leaders were killed.

Paying homage to the victims on the tenth anniversary of the attack, he also said that the Maoists have been pushed on the backfoot in the state. Maoists attacked a convoy of Congress leaders during the party's 'Parivartan Rally' in the Jhiram Valley in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on May 25, 2013, killing 29 people, including then state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, former Leader of Opposition Karma and former Union Minister VC Shukla. Talking with reporters here before leaving for Jagdalpur in Bastar to attend an event to pay respect to the victims of the attack, Baghel also accused the BJP of stalling the investigation into the incident.

"The then UPA government had ordered a National Investigation Agency probe into it, while the then (BJP) state government (of Raman Singh) constituted a one member judicial commission headed by Justice Prashant Mishra to investigate it," Baghel said.

"The NIA in its FIR had named Naxal leaders Ganpati (also spelt as Ganapathi) and Ramanna and their names were in the case till August 2014. However, in September 2014, when initial report was presented by NIA in court the names of two Maoist leaders were missing. In the final report too they have not been named as accused,"



"saved" Ganpati and Ramanna, adding that the name of a criminal is not removed once it is included in an FIR. "The BJP should clarify why their (Ganpati and Ramanna's) names were removed and why they want to save these Naxal leaders," Baghel

The judicial commission headed by Justice Mishra submitted its report to Raj Bhawan (Governor) and not to the chief secretary or the state government in 2021, he noted. "Subsequently, the state government appointed a new chairman and a member in the same commission and expanded its term.

But then Leader of Opposition in the Chhattisgarh Assembly Dharamlal Kaushik secured a SC stay on the probe with help of BJP MP and advocate M Jethmalani," the CM claimed. He said the blame for the attack was put on "Dandakaranya Special Zone Committee" of Maoists soon after the Modi Government took

over and probe was terminated. 'The BJP has been constantly stalling the investigation. We have written to the Union Home minister and the NIA several times but the investigation has not progressed," the CM claimed. Later, speaking at the event in Jagdalpur, the head-

quarters of Bastar district, Baghel said his government has pushed naxals on the backfoot with its three-pronged strategy of 'trust, development and security'.

The event was held at Lalbag Maidan here where Jhiram Memorial has been built. "The supreme sacrifice of martyrs in the fight against Naxalism will not go in vain. The Bastar region will be freed from Naxalism and restored as an island of peace," Baghel said.

"Our leaders who were martyred in that incident had talked about change. They used to say that we have to bring change in the lives of farmers, tribals, youth and women...Our government has worked hard to achieve their vision. With the strategy of development, trust and security, we have contained Naxals to a few limited areas," he said.

His government ensured development of Bastar with its schemes and policies and accelerated its pace by providing education, health and infrastructure facilities while preserving tribal culture, Baghel added.

On the occasion, Baghel and his cabinet colleagues paid floral tribute to those killed in the attack. The CM also administered a pledge to those present to remake Bastar as an island of

> The conviction rate in the country is low at 50 per cent and this is mainly due to lack of evidence or witnesses turning hostile which creates hurdles for the police in submitting

lynching in Alwar tion 302 (murder) only where there is knowledge but there is

> Sharma said. Lynching has been considered in the case, the public prosecutor said. Police had filed a charge sheet against Paramjeet Singh, Naresh Sharma, Vijay Kumar and Dharmendra Yadav in 2019.

no intention to kill, Ashok

Rakbar Khan and his friend Aslam were beaten up severely by a group of people on suspicion of cow smuggling in an area under the Ramgarh police station area in Alwar district on July 20, 2018.

They had allegedly purchased the cows from Ladpura village and were taking them to their village in Haryana through a forested area near Lalawandi village when they were attacked by the accused. Aslam had managed to escape but Khan succumbed to injuries at ahospital.

4 sentenced to 7 yrs' NIA raids 2 places in jail for Rakbar Khan's UP in JMB terror funding case in Bhopal

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said it has conducted searches at two loca-tions in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the Bhopal terror funding case involving the banned terror outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, Bangladesh

The raids were aimed at exposing further links and conspiracies of the 10 already arrested accused and chargesheeted in the case by NIA. Six of the arrested accused are Bangladeshi nationals and are active JMB cadres. They had entered India illegally, without any valid documents, and had acquired false/ forged Indian identity documents with the help of their sympathizers in India, the NIA said in a statement. "Wednesday's searches at the premises of various suspects led to the seizure of several digital devices (mobile phones), SIM cards, Bank Passbooks and Identity documents. The documents, currently under examination, relate to suspect transactions related to transfer of funds by the accused," the agency said.

The agency further said, "NIA investigations have revealed that all the 10 arrested accused were involved in influencing, radicalizing and motivating vulnerable Indian Muslim youth to take up violent Jihad against the democratic system of governance in

They had been circulating incriminating Jihadi literature, inflammatory videos and statements (Bayans,) and endorsing, justifying and glorifying the terrorist acts of the various banned terrorist organisations, including JMB, Al-Qaeda and Centre accords 'Z-Plus' security to Punjab CM



New Delhi: The Centre has accorded 'Z-plus' category armed security cover to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in view of possible threats to him. The 49-year-old CM will be secured from threats emanating from within the country and abroad by the VIP protection squad of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), officials said.

The top-category 'Z-plus' cover will be provided to Mann all across India after the Union Home Ministry recently accorded sanction for his protection, sources said. The CRPF will soon take over the task and a team of 55 armed personnel has been earmarked for it, they

Shah promises justice.

court in Rajasthan's Alwar

A court in Rajastnan's Alwai on Thursday sentenced four people to seven years imprisonment for lynching Rakbar Khan on the suspicion

of cow smuggling in 2018. The

fifth accused in the case was acquitted due to lack of evi-

Hearing the matter, the additional district judge court-

l held Paramjit Singh,

Dharmendra Yadav, Naresh Sharma and Vijay Kumar guilty

under Indian Penal Code sec-

tions 341 (wrongful restraint)

and 304(1) (culpable homicide

not amounting to murder,

Public Prosecutor Ashok

to seven years imprisonment,

he said and added that Naval

Kishor was acquitted due to

lack of sufficient evidence. IPC

section 304 (1) is a part of sec-

The court sentenced them

"Modi has plans to bring about changes in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and the Evidence Act in the spirit of the Constitution to increase the conviction rate which will help in the delivery of criminal justice," he added.

Policing can be divided into three parts: law and order situation, crime investigation and ensuring justice by punishing the guilty, the Home Minister said.

"This is not the age of using third-degree measures or force on the accused but there are scientific ways of collecting evidence through psychology, fingerprints and DNA profiling and we need experts for these,"

chargesheets in the court, he

strengthen the forensic infrastructure, upgrade and modernise the laboratories, set up regional forensic laboratories and also district-level mobile forensic laboratories," Shah said. This will require manpower and generate employment opportunities while research and development in this sector will be intensified and implemented at the grass-

The state-of-the-art institute, which will be built over a 50-acre campus, will provide training to the police, judiciary and forensic scientists of

roots level, he said.

neighbouring countries.

Around 3,000 to 5,000 graduates and postgraduates from the institute will emerge in different branches of forensic science, wildlife forensics, cyber security, narcotics, digital forensics, drone forensics, forensic psychology and forensics justice and law, he said. The first phase of the NFSU campus is expected to be completed by 2026 and the second by 2030 while classes will start this year at the temporary campus on the premises of the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH).

Shah also launched an interactive web portal, the 'Seva Setu', of the Assam Police, developed jointly with the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL). It will enable people to lodge FIRs, missing persons reports and complete verification of tenants, paying guests and domestic helps without having to visit the police station.

Later in the day, while addressing a public meeting here after ceremoniously distributing 44,703 appointment letters to successful candidates for Assam government jobs, the senior BJP leader alleged that the Congress has a "negative attitude" and charged it with doing politics by boycotting the scheduled inauguration of the new Parliament

20 new faces in K'taka Cabinet likely: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Congress leaders on Thursday held discussions with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar over expansion of the state Cabinet, sources

Both the leaders met Congress general secretary incharge for Karnataka Randeep Surjewala and the party's general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal. They then held meetings with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge separately at his residence. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar along with Surjewala then held a meeting at the party's Gurudwara Rakabganj Road office and discussed the names that could be included in the expanded Cabinet of the state. Sources said around 20 more ministers are likely to be inducted in the Karnataka

Cabinet. Another round of discussions will be held before the state cabinet is finalised, they added. Shivakumar had landed in the national capital on Wednesday evening while Siddaramaiah arrived later in the night. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were sworn in as Karnataka chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively along with eight cabinet ministers on May 20. However, the ministers

have not yet been allocated their portfolios. The e Congress high command approved the first list of eight ministers against the earlier plan of inducting a much higher number of around 28 legislators into the cabinet. Sources said the names of only

those MLAs were cleared who represented all sections and were senior-most and there were no objections from any side over the choice.

Dynastic parties reneged on high-speed trains: PM

He said these would change Uttarakhand's fortunes in the coming years by boosting tourist influx and creating employment opportunities. Modi mentioned the Rs 1,300crore Kedarnath-Badrinath truction projects, the Rs 2,500-crore ropeway projects for Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib, the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Project for upliftment of ancient temples of Kumaon region, and homestay promotion scheme among others.

Projects involving the development of 16 eco-tourism destinations, expansion of health facilities, the Tehri lake development, development of Rishikesh and Haridwar as centres for adventure tourism and yoga, and the Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail line also found ter's speech. "More than Rs 16,000 crore are being spent on the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail pleted in two-three years," Modi said, adding, "Work on the Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail love for them. link project will also start

The Prime Minister also mentioned the efforts underway to upgrade the facilities for Char Dham pilgrims. "Char Dham Yatra is already breaking records every year. There are few states in the country that draw such a large number of pilgrims every year. It is a blessing and a chal-

lenge too. In order to make tackling this challenge easier, infrastructure projects are launched Uttarakhand," he said. In his address earlier, Railway

said a modern train like the Vande Bharat Express, which is equipped with state-of-the project, which will be completed in two-three years," art facilities, is a big gift to the people of Uttarakhand and reflects the prime minister's

> reduces the journey time between Dehradun and Delhi to four-and-a-half hours from the six hours and 10 minutes it takes on the Shatabdi Express. The Vande Bharat has eight coaches, all of them chair cars with 360-degree swivel seats. The train is equipped with CCTV cameras, Divyangjan-friendly washrooms, seat numbers in braille script, passenger information and infotainment systems in every coach among others. Eighteen such trains are operational in country at present.

2 more cheetah cubs die

From Page 1

The daytime temperature then was around 46-47 degrees Celsius, the release said. The cubs were found severely dehydrated. Despite treatment, the two cubs could not be saved, it said. The condition of the fourth cub

Earlier, Sasha, one of the translocated Namibian cheetahs, died due to a kidneyrelated ailment on March 27, and another cheetah, Uday, from South Africa, died on April 13.

Daksha, a cheetah brought from South Africa, succumbed to the injuries following a violent interaction with a male during a mating attempt on May 9 this year.

The four cubs of Siyaya/Jwala were the first to be born in the wild on Indian soil after the last cheetah was hunted in Korea district of present-day Chhattisgarh in

This fastest land animal species was declared extinct in the country in 1952. Five female and three male cheetahs brought from Namibia were released into enclosures at the KNP at an event attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022

Another 12 cheetahs were brought from South Africa in February 2023 and housed in a quarantine enclosure.

From Page 1 cumstances." In a statement, the ates throughout his lower A senior jail official said "The dictator is hell bent AAP said Jain's condition had limbs, leaving him with a conaround 6 am on Thursday, working day and night to proinjury from a fall in the jail vide good treatment and good washroom last week, which resulted in a spinal injury leavhealth to the public. The dictator has only one principle - he wants to finish everyone, he believes only in his own ego. He cannot see beyond himself,"

The Chief Minister further wrote "God is watching all of this, he will do justice when time comes. I pray to God for Jain's speedy recovery. May God give him the strength to fight against these adverse cir-

Kejriwal tweeted.

ing him in excruciating pain. The gravity of the situation demands an immediate spinal surgery, as recommended by his attending doctors. "A closer examination of Jain's medical condition reveals a troubling array of ailments.

He suffers from acute lumbar pain, causing vertigo and chronic lower back pain due to a slipped disc. The pain radidecreased mobility," it said. The AAP claimed that Jain

Jain collapses in Tihar, put on oxygen support

has become extremely weak and finds it difficult to walk. "Due to his religious beliefs, Jain has been living only on fruits and raw vegetables in jail. Suffering from severe muscular loss. Jain has lost 35 kgs while in prison," the party said. "Suffering from sleep apnea, he sleeps at night with the assistance of a BiPAP machine which continuously pushes air into his lungs," the party added.

slipped in the bathroom of the MI room of the hospital of central jail number-7, where he was kept under observation for general weakness. He was examined by doctors and his vitals were found normal. Jain was referred to the DDU Hospital as he complained of pain in his back, left leg and

shoulder, the official said. On Monday, Jain was taken to the Safdarjung Hospital as he was feeling unwell.

was stable, but it too was under intense treatment, it **SPECIAL BRANCH** POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. SB PHQ/SEC-24/Store/132/2023 Bhopal, Tender ID-2023 MPP-276490 1, Dated-16.05.2023

Dated :- 11-05-2023

// E-TENDER NOTICE //

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G-13510/23

Demonstration from (नमूनों का मिलान)

A.I.G. (G) SB For: Director General of Police, M.P. Bhopal

13/06/2023 at 1200 hrs.

From Page 1
Earlier, the naval version of the indigenously-built light combat aircraft successfully landed on INS Vikrant in February as part of the sea trials. LCA Tejas is the first fixedwing aircraft to land on the flight deck of Vikrant.

The 45,000-tonne aircraft was built at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore and was commissioned in September last year. It will be ready for fighter jet operations in the next few months. INS Vikrant has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters.

At the commissioning ceremony of the vessel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it a "floating city" and that it is a reflection of India becoming self-reliant in defence.

The flight trials on board INS Vikrant involve the Russian-origin MiG-29K fighter iets that use the ski-jump to take-off from aircraft carrier and are recovered by arrestor wires or what is known as STO-BAR (short take-off but arrested recovery).

Why Cong put candidate against 'Dalit' Murmu in Prez poll: Maya

With several opposition parties announcing to remain away from the inauguration of the new Parliament building, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Thursday declared her support to the Bharatiya Janata Party over the said controver-

Almost all major opposition parties are demanding inauguration of the new Parliament House by President Droupadi Murmu instead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and have declared that they will

not attend the function. In a series of tweets on Thursday, the BSP chief claimed that when the Congress was in power at the Centre, the BSP had always supported it irrespective of party politics on issues related to the country and public interest. Similarly now, when the



National Democratic Alliance government is in power, her party continues to support the BJP on issues of public and national interest, Mayawati

She said that her party welcomed the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28. In her second tweet, the former chief minister of UP said that the boycott by the opposition parties, just because President Droupadi Murmu was not inaugurating the new Parliament building, was unfair. "The government has built the new Parliament House so it has the right to inaugurate it," she said, adding that it was

unfair to link this issue with

tribal women's respect. "They should have thought of this while fielding a candidate against her (Murmu) instead of facilitating her victory unopposed," the BSP chief said.

In her third tweet, Mayawati said, "I have received the invitation for the programme dedicated to the country i.e. the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament House, for which I thank and extend my best wishes. But due to my pre-scheduled engagement regarding the continuous review meetings of the party, I will not be able to attend that function."

It may be mentioned here that several opposition parties, including Congress, have launched a campaign to bring all like-minded parties on one platform before the coming parliamentary elections next year to defeat the NDA and stop it from forming government at the Centre for the third consecutive time.

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Cong does politics of convenience: AAP

Dikshit had passed resolution in House against Centre in 2002, Min says, slams Cong for not backing AAP on services

leaders, he pointed out that

Maken, a prominent Congress

leader, had previously acknowl-

edged the powers of the Delhi

Chief Minister to be on par

with those of any other state's

expressed his disappointment

with the current conduct of

Maken, accusing him of mis-

leading the people of Delhi and aligning himself with the BJP.

of the 2002 resolution, he said,

'The legislative assembly takes

cognizance of the fact that

constitutionally the LG is

entrusted with three, and only

three subjects and powers with

respect to Entry 1, 2 and 18 of

the State List. Over here, it once

again becomes very clear that

if the LG has any powers in

Delhi it is only related to land,

public order and police.

Reading out another part

However, Bharadwaj

Chief Minister.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Thursday lashed out at the leadership of Congress' Delhi unit accusing them of doing "politics of convenience" on the issue of the Centre's ordinance on the Delhi services matter.

Addressing a Press conference, Bharadwaj said that while the Delhi Congress is refusing to extend any support to the AAP on the Delhi services issue, former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had passed a resolution in the Delhi Assembly in 2002 against the Central Government ruled by the BJP. Responding to Bharadwaj's claim, senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Ajay Maken said that he never claimed that Sheila Dikshit didn't seek full Statehood or expanded authority.

He asserted that that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wants to gain a "unique privilege previously denied to Chief Ministers like Sheila Dikshit, Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, and Sushma Swaraj".

"Sheila Dikshit had condemned the central government orders earlier and said that it is violation of all democratic traditions. She had passed a similar resolution in the Delhi Assembly in 2002 against the Centre that had said don't recognise Government of NCT of Delhi and that there can be only one government in Delhi," the



AAP Delhi Minister and party leader Saurabh Bharadwaj addresses a Press conference, in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

Delhi minister said.

'What the Delhi Congress is doing is politics of convenience and is working for the BJP. The statements are coming from such leaders who have been sidelined by the party," Bharadwaj said while addressing a press conference.

He explained that this indicates that only during the first tenure of Sheila Dikshit did she have trouble with the BJP Government at the Centre.

But 2004 onwards, once the Manmohan Singh-led Government was sworn in at the Centre in 2004 and till the end of Sheila Dikshit-led Delhi Government's tenure in 2013, she was consulted by the Centre on matters of land, public order and police, as

Drawing attention to the evolving position of Congress

This is said by the Congress party in 2002 in their own resolution. Please note that there is no mention of the services department.

Recently, the Congress leaders have been going around saying that the services was always with the Central Government. This untruth of theirs has also been exposed theirs has also been exposed today," he said.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken responded to Bharadwaj's charges and said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wants to gain a "unique privilege previously denied to Chief Ministers like Sheila Dikshit, Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, and Sushma Swaraj^{*}

"Never claimed that Sheila Dikshit Ji didn't seek full Statehood or expanded authority. My assertion was that Kejriwal wants to gain an unique privilege previously denied to Chief Ministers like Sheila Dikshit, Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, and Sushma Swaraj," Maken said in a Twitter post. Maken further said that the AAP "should retract their demand", if they "comprehend the essence" of National Capital

"Not being given full powers to Delhi. There must be a reason. The reason being that Delhi represents the National Capital and belongs to the entire country. Hence, the principle of cooperative federalism doesn't apply here.

As such, the constitution

refers to Delhi not merely a Delhi, but as the 'National Capital Territory of Delhi'. If AAP followers comprehend the essence of 'National Capital Territory', they should respectfully retract their demands," Maken tweeted. He said that the AAP should focus on improving the city instead of "seeking more authority to

mask inefficiency".
"Patel, Nehru, Shastri, Narasimha Rao, Vajpayee, to Manmohan Singh till 2014, none were granted what AAP is currently demanding from Modi," the Congress leader

Earlier, Maken had strongly opposed extending any support to Kejriwal on the issue saying the Congress should not oppose the proposed legislation to be brought in Parliament on the Delhi services issue, replacing the ordinance promulgated by the Centre last week.

Earlier, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit had also said that AAP's allegations that it is not being allowed to work in Delhi is merely "an excuse" and a reflection of its "uselessness".

Kejriwal has sought the support of various political parties on the issue of the Centre's ordinance on the administration of services in the national capital and on Tuesday, he met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He also sought Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's support during their meeting

TILLU TAJPURIA'S KILLING INSIDE TIHAR

HC slams jail officials for failure to prevent murder

"I am assuring you that if

"They don't have walkie

someone from outside was

involved, action will also be

taken against them," he said.

talkies? Why? What is the

point? So every time an inci-

dent happens, the person from

surveillance goes to the jail

which is 600 metres away," the

jugde asked the government

jail manual to carry weapons

Tyagi said it is against the

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Tihar jail authorities some searching questions about how dreaded gangster Tillu Tajpuria was killed in a knife attack by a rival gang inside the high-security prison while security staff watched the incident, captured on CCTV cameras, live.

It questioned the prison authorities about the delay in responding to the brutal attack.

The high court asked why the security personnel deployed in the jail premises do not have walkié talkies for communication and termed it as unacceptable.

"What bothers me is that it is watched on CCTV cameras. How can the police take so much of time that it cannot be stopped while the incident is happening," Justice Jasmeet Singh said and asked the counsel for the state as to what is the distance between the jail and surveillance area.

"It shakes my judicial con-

science!" the judge said.
"It shakes everybody's conscience, it does shake and we are taking positive steps, responded the counsel.

The high court was hearing a petition filed by Tajpuriya's father and brother seeking a CBI investigation into the "brutal murder" inside the Tihar Jail premises on May 2.
Additional Standing

Counsel Rahul Tyagi, representing the state, said the surveillance area is 600 metres away from the jail and told the court that inmates involved in the incident have been arrested for Tajpuria's murder.

inside and now the authorities

are exploring the possibility of arming them.
"I know this is a brutal inci-

dent but our reaction should not be immediate. Let us take a cool and calculated decision... Hard cases make bad laws. It should not get a knee jerk reaction," the state's counsel submitted.

Unconvinced, the court asked why the authorities have to wait for any such incident to happen to take action and said the reaction has to be commensurate with the offence.

"Why do we have to wait for an incident to happen and then we say that hard cases make bad laws and knee jerk reactions? How is it fair? Think about it from a rational person's point of view. You have a prison which is 600 metres away from your surveillance

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi shifted to Delhi's Mandoli jail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was brought to Delhi's Mandoli Prison from a Gujarat jail in the early hours of Thursday, officials said.

A senior jail official said Bishnoi has been lodged in the Mandoli jail due to security

On May 2, jailed gangster Tillu Tajpuriya was stabbed to death with improvised weapons allegedly by four members of the Gogi gang inside the high-security prison.

Last month, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) got Bishnoi's custody in connection with a case of crossborder smuggling of drugs.
The ATS wanted to ques-

tion the gangster about his possible links in connection with the seizure 40 kg heroin worth more than Rs 200 crore from a Pakistani fishing boat in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast in September last year.

The Delhi Police Special Cell has also arrested an alleged member of the Bishnoi gang here on Monday.

'Court seeks ATR

from police on plea

seeking FIR against

protesting wrestlers'

Acourt here on Thursday sought an action taken

report from the Delhi Police on

a complaint seeking registra-tion of an FIR against the

wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar for allegedly levelling

"false allegations" against WFI

president Brij Bhushan Sharan

Singh, the lawyers said.

Additional

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

2020 DELHI RIOTS —

Court directs Special Cell Commissioner to appear in person

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

court here has issued Anotice and directed the Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) to appear in person before it after noting that the inspector concerned failed to answer the court's query about the status of investigation and filing of supplementary charge sheet in a case of the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat was hearing the case against former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and conspiracy behind the 2020 communal riots. The case is being investigated by the Special Cell of Delhi Police.

"It has been asked from the inspector present about the status of the investigation and filing of supplementary charge sheet... However, no answer is forthcoming," ASJ Rawat said



"In these circumstances, the court is constrained to issue notice to the Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) to appear in person on the next date," the judge added.

The matter has been posted for further proceedings on June 9. The case was registered Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid Safoora Zargar, Asif Iqbal Tanha and Khalid Saifi, by the city police's crime branch under various sections of the Activities (Prevention) Act, Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and Arms

SC quashes conman Sukesh plea to shift him to jail outside Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court has dis-I missed a plea filed by alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar and his wife seeking a direction to authorities to shift them from Mandoli jail to a prison outside Delhi over security concerns, saying the writ petition was "without substance" and there was "no justification to grant indulgence" to the petitioners. Chandrasekhar and his wife Leena Paulose had sought transfer to a prison outside the national capital over alleged threat from jail officials and the

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi noted that all precautionary measures have been taken to ensure their safety and security. Chandrasekhar, the court said, has been lodged in a separate cell with CCTV surveillance in order to segregate



him from other prisoners. "After we have heard counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the affidavit filed by the Superintendent, Mandoli Jail, of which reference has been made by this Court, we do not find any justification to grant indulgence to the petitioners in what has been prayed for in the instant petition.

"Consequently, the writ and is, accordingly, dismissed. In the light of the present order, same procedure shall be followed in case of Petitioner No.2 - Leena Paulose," the bench said. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju submitted that the mechanism which has been adopted by the jail authorities shall remain

the same whether he is confined to Central Jail No. 13 of 11 or shifted to any other jai within Mandoli, which is the normal procedure followed by the jail authorities.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the couple seeking direction from the court to be shifted to a prison outside Delhi, claiming he is being harassed and threatened by jail officials and the city's ruling political dispensation after he made certain allegations against them. Chandrasekhar had accused former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, who is incarcerated in connection with a money laundering case, of tion money" from him. He had also claimed to have contributed about Rs 50 crore to the city's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Chandrasekhar was earlier transferred from Tihar jail to Mandoli Jail after he approached the court claiming threat to his life.

Delhi Cong may get new chief; Sandeep Dikshit, Kanhaiya front runners

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Congress' Delhi unit is}}_{\text{likely to get a new chief}}$ ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the names of Sandeep Dikshit, Devender Yadav, Arvinder Singh Lovely and Kanhaiya Kumar are doing the rounds for the post, according to sources.

Incumbent Delhi Pradesh president Anil Chaudhary's tenure of three years ended in March this year. The DPCC was supposed

to get a new president after the December Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) election but the process got delayed, sources in the party said without elaborating. The

municipal election was won by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi.

Of the four, Lovely, a former DPCC president, and Sandeep Dikshit, the son of former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit, are strong contenders for the post of Delhi Congress chief, they claimed.

While Yadav is the Congress' in-charge for mer president of the JNUSU, joined the party in 2021 after quitting the CPI.

"There are four names likely to be considered for the post of president (DPCC) and these are Sandeep Dikshit, Devender Yadav, Arvinder Singh Lovely and Kanhaiya Kumar," a source in the Congress told PTI.

Anamika passed the directions on an application filed on behalf of one Bam Bam Maharaj Nauhatiya, who claimed to be the National Chief of 'Atal Jan Party', against wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, and Sakshi Malik, his advocate A P Singh said. The counsel said the court has directed police to file its report by June 9, when it will further hear the matter.

The complaint claimed that the allegations made by the respondents against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh were false and "connected with direct or indirect way by any

influence and personal gain."
"Therefore it is necessary to lodge a case against the accused persons for making false allegations against President of Wrestling

against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh were wrong and "practically unfeasible because the accused are well-known wrestlers and none of them is too physically weak to oppose

Federation of India (WFI) Singh," it said. It claimed that allegations

the alleged offence."

271 cases of negligence in G'gram hospitals

ases of medical negligence Cin the Gurugram hospitals continue to surface which is a matter of serious concern. District Medical Negligence Board has received 271 complaints of medical negligence against doctors and staff work ing at private and government hospitals from January 2019 to April 15, 2023.

However, the District Medical Negligence Board has also claimed that out of 271 complaints 253 have been resolved and 18 medical neg-



ligence cases are still pending during the same period due to various official reasons.

Of the 271 complaints lodged since January 2019, 74 complaints were lodged in 2019, 46 were registered in 2020, 81 were lodged in 2021, 48 were lodged in 2022 and 22 were lodged from January 1, 2023, to April 15, 2023.

Health officials revealed

that the District Medical Negligence Board is supposed to complete its inquiry in each case and submit a report within 60 days. However, in many cases, the inquiry gets delayed due to backlog or because one of the parties is missing hearings or delaying the submission

of documents. The six-member board includes the chief medical officer or his representative (chairman), the principal medical officer (member secretary), two specialists from the medical field concerned, the president of the Indian Medical Association's (IMA) Gurugram

chapter, and a member of the National Integrated Medical Association.

"There are only 2 to 3 per-

cent cases which prima facie appear to be genuine. There are also some cases where people living life without treatment suddenly got admitted to the hospital and expired. But there are also those cases where people refuse to pay the bill in corporate hospitals after the patient dies. I'm such cases we conduct inquiries but that time taking process," said Dr Deepak Bhatia, member of the medical board and president of IMA,

Students, teachers oppose DU plan to scrap B.El.Ed course

PTI NEW DELHI

section of students and Ateachers of the Delhi University have opposed the process of "replacing" the B.El.Ed course with the Centre's Integrated Teacher Education Programme, claiming that the move would lead to a deep dilution of the standards required to prepare school teachers. The university is planning

slowly scrap the in-house unique Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.El.Ed.) pro-



gramme. The Delhi University was the only varsity to have its own integrated four-year pro-

Three colleges of the Delhi University will adopt the

demic year. A section of teachers and students alike has opposed the scrapping of the course. Student group SFI said scrapping a well-reputed pro-

said in a statement.

gramme such as the BEIEd is not only illegal, but also academically and professionally irrational". "The university should come clear on why it is coercing colleges into replacing

Centre's four-year Integrated

Teacher Education Programme

(ITEP) for the upcoming aca-

the BEIEd with ITEP?" the SFI

Staff member of Delhi hosp held after woman alleges molestation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

said on Thursday.

woman was allegedly molested by a staff Amember at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in northeast Delhi's Tahirpur, police

Information about the incident was received around 12 noon on Wednesday, a senior police officer said here.

As per the victim's statement, the accused inappropriately touched her in the early hours of Wednesday when she was asleep on the fifth floor of the hospital where her husband is undergoing treatment, Deputy Commissioner of

A case was registered at the GTB Enclave police station and 25-year-old Kunal Verma, a resident of Dayalpur, was apprehended, police said, adding further investigation is in progress.



Strong dust-raising winds swept parts of Delhi on Thursday, while the overcast skies kept the maximum temperature in check at 36.9 degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said similar conditions are expected to prevail in the capital over the next two to three days and no heatwave is predicted until

'Under the influence of a western disturbance active over the western Himalayan region, intermittent rains are predicted over northwest India, including the national capital



the next two to three days, Celsius.

according to the IMD. A heatwave scorched parts Delhi on Monday and Tuesday, with many weather stations recording maximum

The heatwave pushed the

Relief from heat as strong winds sweep parts of Delhi

peak power demand in Delhi to 6,916 MW on Tuesday, the highest so far this season, offi-

The city had recorded a peak power demand of 7,695 MW last summer and it might reach 8,100 MW this year, they said.

The threshold for a heatwave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees Celsius in the coastal areas, and 30 degrees Celsius in the hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5

Earlier this month, the weather office had predicted below-normal maximum temperatures and fewer heatwave days in northwest India in

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.

Heatwaves 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 that Delhi is particularly vulnerable to severe heatwave impacts despite its recent state action plan for climate change failing to reflect this fact.

Half of MCD teachers who sought transfer through online system assigned new schools

ore than 50 per cent of MCD teachers who More than 50 per contact Sought transfer through a new online system have been relocated and assigned their new schools, an official said on Thursday.

The Education department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) started inviting applications in September regarding the transfer through the online system. The department received around 3,000

applications and has been able to translocate 1,649 teachers, including 99 principals, of MCD schools, the official informed.

Police (Shahdara) Rohit Meena said.

Used foreign trips for India's good: PM

Global expectations from our country have been rising, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that he used every moment during his six-day visit across three countries for India's good and his tour was not about his 'glory but India's strength' as BIP workers and supporters accorded him a rousing welcome on his return from Japan, Australia and Papua New

Addressing people who had gathered to welcome him outside the Palam airport here, he pointed-out that not only Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and that country's ruling party functionaries but a former prime minister and opposition members were present as well during the Indian community's programme in Sydney where he had spoken.

"This was the atmosphere of democracy that everyone joined in the Indian community's programme," Modi said, lauding this show of "democratic soul and strength".

Everyone accorded respect to the Indian representative, and it was not about Modi's glory but about India's strength, he said.

The Prime Minister's comment came against the backdrop of opposition parties, including the Congress and many of those in power in several states, announcing their boycott of the new Parliament building's inauguration by him on Sunday saying the President of India draupadi Murmu should be invited to open the

Modi said he speaks confidently of India and its people's strengths abroad and the world



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by supporters gathered at the airport upon his arrival following a three-nation visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea

listens because people here

elected a majority government. World leaders know that what

he says is the voice of the 140

crore people of India, the prime

way to a new high as the world

front of a cheering crowd that

his government will succeed in

Global expectations from

meeting these expectations in

the country have been rising,

he said, adding that the world

now wants to know what India is thinking. Modi spoke about

the respect accorded by the people of Pacific island coun-

tries during the visit, and said

they were thankful to India for

the Covid-19 vaccines sent to

them during the pandemic.

India, he said, faces the

minister added.

expects it to.

ics, the Prime Minister said they questioned him for sending the vaccines.

"Remember, it is the land of Buddha, it is the land of Gandhi. We care even for our enemies, we are the people inspired by compassion," he

He also asserted that the world is keen to listen to India's story and said Indians should never suffer from a "slave mentality" while speaking about their great culture and traditions and instead speak with

The Prime Minister added that the world agrees with him when he says any attack on our country's pilgrimage sites is not

Modi had on Wednesday strongly raised with his Australian counterpart Albanese India's concerns over incidents of attacks on temples in Australia.

He lauded the strength of India-Australia relationship. India's reception of G20 delegates in over 150 meetings held across the country have

impressed the world a lot, he

"All the leaders and other people I met have been so mesmerised and appreciative of India holding the G20 presidency so excellently. This is a matter of great pride for all

Punjab cadre) who is retiring next month after two extensions of job of one year each. Sood's name for the top CBI job was cleared in a meeting of a high-powered committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY

PNS NEW DELHI

years' fixed tenure.

Thursday.

Ranjan Chowdhury. Born in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh in 1964, Sood joined the IPS at the age 22 years after completing his civil engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology,

Chandrachud and Leader of

Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir

the country after Research and

He also holds post graduate degrees from the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru and the Maxwell

Despite warnings by FSSAI, Niti Aayog, ICMR, the Govt is risking

health of 80 cr people, says Cong

Congress on Thursday targeted the Narendra Modi Government over rolling out fortified

rice under PDS and accused it of going ahead

with the decision without ascertaining the out-

come of independent research and the ill effects of such rice on the health of 80 crore poor

what was the tearing hurry to implement the scheme of providing fortified rice containing

prescribed micronutrients and "what relation

does the Government have with the foreign con-

glomerate Royal DSM" which has bagged a

major contract to distribute the rice in the coun-

try He also sought to know whether any quid

ration shops in 439 districts and other welfare

schemes so far while asserting that there is

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his

Thereafter, a scheme for the distribution of

enough global evidence of its health benefits.

Independence Day address in 2021 said the gov-

ernment aims to distribute fortified rice via gov-

fortified rice, containing prescribed micronu-

À couple of days ago, the Government said

pro quo was involved.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera asked

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

the investigation of high profile cases involving high networth individuals and cases having inter-state and international ramifications besides investigation and detection of crimes including those relating to cyber crime and information technology. Specifically, he worked for strengthening of CCTNS (Crime and Criminal

judiciary, the CBI said. He has also worked as

women and children.

pushing it further, he said.

Act, has 20 mg of iron.



Analysis Wing chief Samant Kumar Goel (1984-batch, New CBI Director Praveen Sood (L) with outgoing CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal, in New Delhi on Thursday

School of Governance, Syracuse University, New York.

During his 37 years of service, Sood served in various capacities in the Karnataka Police, including Superintendent of Police of

Praveen Sood takes charge

Bellary and Raichur districts, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru City, Commissioner of Police, Mysuru and Bengaluru City, Additional Director General of police, Principal Secretary (Home), DGP (Internal Security) and DGP (CID), the CBI said in a statement.

advisor to the Government of Mauritius. He has supervised

Cong slams Centre for rolling

out fortified rice under PDS

Tracking Network and Systems) and (Interoperable Criminal Justice System) networks in the Karnataka State along with the

After taking over charge, Sood interacted with the offi-

trients -- iron, folic acid, Vitamin B12 -- was

launched on October 2021 in a phased manner

to address the problem of anaemia among

Khera alleged the Modi government rolled out fortified rice under the Food Security Act

despite "failed" pilot projects and multiple warnings by experts, government officials, FSSAI and Niti Aayog advisors.

eral of the Indian Council for Medical Research

(ICMR) who called for the need for consulta-

tion with a wide range of experts on the effect

of fortification of rice on human health before

ernment was pushing into the nationwide pub-

lic distribution system under the Food Security

ill-conceived imposition of PM Modi's fortified

rice? Did the Modi government get enamoured

by a foreign conglomerate or were there vested

interests involved," the Congress spokesperson

cussion".

"Will 80 crore people pay the price of the

This was also mentioned by the director gen-

India's stature has increased further with PM's 3-nation tour, says BJP

challenges of strengthening its roots while also working its PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday said "Challenges are big. But it is in my nature to challenge the **■** Prime Minister's threenation foreign tour was "succhallenges," the Prime Minister cessful" and it has increased said, exuding confidence in

'India's global stature.'
Addressing a press conference here, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad described the Prime Minister's foreign tour as "successful" and said there were many instances which indicated that "India's stature has increased further' with the three-nation tour.

"It is a matter of pride for every Indian and the party especially," he added.

Prasad said India was earning a "new goodwill" in the world under the leadership of Taking a swipe at his crit- Prime Minister Modi.

"An indication of this came when US President Joe Biden, at the G-7 meeting in Hiroshima, said how the requests for participation in the state dinner to be hosted for Prime Minister Modi had out-

numbered the tickets available

for it," he added.

Referring to newspaper reports, the BJP leader said some US congressmen have requested Prime Minister Modi to address a joint session of the American Congress. "Their Speaker will take a

call now," Prasad said, adding "All these are indications that India is emerging as a very formidable power in the world under Prime Minister Modi's

Prasad said India is getting

respect from the top leaders of the world under Modi's leadership as is showcasing its achievements in a range of areas from technology, manufacturing and start-ups to export in the defence

"India, which is the world's fifth (largest) economy, is a powerhouse of talents and technology. India is emerging as a big centre of trading, automobile manufacturing, mobile manufacturing, start-up movement and defence export. India is showing achievements to the world in all these areas," he

Prasad asserted that above all, India under PM Modi's leadership is seen as a country

Under double-threat, India needs advanced military tech: Def Min

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said here India has to have technologically advanced military and needs to focus on extensive research in this sector as it faces "double threat" on its borders. This note of caution was in apparent reference to ongoing tension at the border in Ladakh with China and frosty ties with Pakistan.

to come up with innovative solutions to help India become a 'leader' from an 'imitator' in futuristic technologies and stay prepared to deal with challenges emanating from the current global security scenario.

"Today we are one of the largest armed forces in the world, the bravery and valour of our military is praised all over the world. Countries across the world express their willingness to conduct joint exercises with our armed forces. In such a situation, it becomes imperative to have a technologically advanced military to protect national interest. For a country like India, it becomes very important because we are facing double threat on our borders," he said while inaugurating a two day Defence Research and Development confront them effectively.

Ref. No.: 323 / 11-02(xix)-2/ITCO/URRDA/23

registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent'.

(DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.



(DRDO) Academia conclave.

theme of the conclave "DRDO-Academia Partnership - Opportunities and Challenges," Rajnath said, it is dire need that the DRDO and Academia work in partnership with each other to find solutions to the challenges being faced by us in the 21st century.

'The only way for this advancement is research. It is the need of the hour that both DRDO and academia work in tandem," he said adding "the more this partnership grows, I think India's research sector will also grow in the same proportion. Scientists and experts from both the DRDO and academia are sitting here."

Referring to various challenges facing the country, Singh said collective efforts and partnership are needed to

Dated: 25-05-2023

DGCA asks Go First to submit revival plan within 30 days

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked Go First to submit its "a comprehensive restructuring/revival plan for a sustainable revival of operations" within 30 days. The airline has been asked to furnish the status of availability of operational aircraft fleet, post holders required, pilots and other personnel, maintenance arrangements, funding/working capital, for sustainable revival of operations. stopped flying on May 3 and is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings. In response to show cause notice issued on May 8, the airline has requested that they may be allowed to use the moratorium period to prepare a comprehensive restructuring plan for restarting operations and present the same to DGCA for the requisite regulatory approvals before restarting operations. Accordingly, DGCA has advised the Go First airline to submit a com-



stand parked at the apron of the Mumbai airport

prehensive plan for the revival of its operations, including details about the availability of operational planes and

Sources said that the revival plan, once submitted by Go First, will be reviewed by DGCA for further appropriate action. DGCA will conduct an audit of Go First's preparedness before approving the resumption of flights, the crisis-hit airline's head of operations has told its staff. DGCA had issued the show cause notice under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for its failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable

PCI urges Birla to lift curbs on Parliament coverage by media

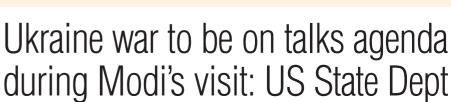
New Delhi: The Press Club of India on Thursday urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to lift the restrictions on media covering Parliamentary proceedings that were imposed during the Covid pandemic.

In a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Press Club of India (PCI) said a large number of journalists were still being denied the opportunity to cover Parliament proceedings despite having permanent press gallery passes.

The PCI said the "superfluous"

restrictions on media have "no logical basis or rationale" as the Covid situation had eased and even the World Health Organization had announced that it was no longer a global health

...We strongly feel that these curbs are part of a wider agenda aimed at controlling media and restricting freedom of press in order to impede free flow of independent news stories and information to the people," the PCI said in



ernment schemes by 2024.

head of Prime Minister A Narendra Modi's state visit to America, a US State Department spokesperson has said it works with India on its

most vital priorities.

Meanwhile, a US expert has said the US administration has decided to play the long game by inviting Prime Minister Modi despite existing challenges in bilateral ties.

"I will say generally that our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relationships. We work with India closely on our most vital priorities," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference late on Wednesday.

He said he expects US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti to be able to deepen the relationship between the two countries and work on matters of shared concern

Responding to questions on Modi's trip, Miller said without giving too much of a trip preview, "certainly, the war in Ukraine will be one of the topics that is under dis-

"It has been one of the topics under discussion in previous meetings with Prime Minister Modi, as it is in just about any conversation we have with a world leader at this time, or has been the case for the past year," Miller said.

Vitamin-D deficiency hits developing neurons in schizophrenia: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Using a new visualisation tool known as false fluorescent neurotransmitters, neuroscientists at The University of Queensland have discovered how vitamin D deficiency affects developing neurons in Schizophrenia, a serious mental health disorder. In a nutshell, the study, which comes a day after World Schizophrenia Day is marked, highlights the importance of vitamin D in brain development and the potential impact of deficiency on the onset of the mental

condition. Schizophrenia is associated with many developmental risk factors, and while the precise neurological causes of the disorder

remain unknown, the mental health disorder is associated with a pronounced change in the way the brain uses dopamine.

Professor Darryl Eyles and his team analysed the functional changes in presynaptic dopamine uptake and release in the presence and absence of vitamin D.

"What we found was that the altered differentiation process in the presence of vitamin D not only makes the cells grow differently but recruits machinery to release dopamine differently," Professor Eyles said. Using the new visualisation tool, the team could then analyse the functional changes in presynaptic dopamine uptake and release in the presence and absence of vitamin D. They showed that dopamine release was enhanced in



cells grown in the presence of the hormone compared to a control.

"This is conclusive evidence that vitamin D affects the structural differentiation of dopaminergic neurons," Professor Eyles concluded.

The team is now exploring whether other environmental risk factors for schizophrenia, such as stress or drug exposure, can also affect the development of dopaminergic neurons.

Founder-director and senior psychiatrist from Manasthali, Dr

Jyoti Kapoor, who is in no way related to the said study stressed on early professional diagnosis and treatment by mental health professionals for managing schizophrenia. "People suffering from the condition are often isolated and stigmatized in society, making it challenging for individuals to feel understood and accepted. When family and community show kindness and compassion towards individuals living with schizophrenia, it creates a supportive environment that can positively influence their well-being."

An official from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment too called for raising awareness and

measures to reduce stigma around this mental illness. "It lifts the lid on the challenges that thousands of people with Schizophrenia from all over the world have to encounter on a day-to-day basis," he said. On its part, the DEPwD observed the World Schizophrenia Day, through the institutions associated with it conducted various events at more than 30 places across India. These included panel discus-

sions by experts, street play, poster making and quiz competitions, webinars on early intervention in the mental disorders with perspectives from a Psychologist and psychiatrist, display of vocational stalls showcasing products made by persons with schizophrenia among a few others.

or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared nonresponsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 28.06.2023 01:00 PM.

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice- 06/2023-24 (PMGSY-III)

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the

item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Bageshwar,

Chamoli, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri, Rudrprayag, Tehri & Uttarkashi for 104 number of Roads with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 939.90 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors

The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For

submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of

information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of

ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 01-06-2023. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in.

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in Chief Engineer

URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids. however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

and Australia, in New Delhi on Thursday

1 dead, 1 hurt in fresh Manipur riot

One person was killed and another injured in a fresh violence between suspected militants and a group of people in an area bordering Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts in strife-torn Manipur, police said on Thursday.
Toijam Chandramoni, 30,

was shot dead during the vio-lence on Wednesday, and Leichombam Abungnao, aged 22, was injured when suspected militants opened fire at the group of people, mostly comprising those who were displaced during the recent ethnic clashes in Churachandpur and took shelter in a relief camp at Moirang in Bishnupur, the officer said.

There were reports that militants late Tuesday night torched the houses of some villagers at Toronglaobi in Bishnupur district, he said. "The villagers and those living in the Moirang camp were angry over the burning of their houses. As these people came to know that militants could torch a school located in an area near Thamnapokpi in Bishnupur Kanganthei Churachandpur, they went to the locality.

"Once, they reached the spot, militants opened fire at them, leaving two persons injured. One of the two succumbed to his injuries when he was taken to a hospital," the senior police officer said. Following the violence, the authorities clamped curfew for



Closed shops at a market in Imphal on Thursday. Prices of essential commodities such as rice, potato, onion and egg besides LPG cylinders and petrol have skyrocketed after clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in

24 hours in the area and reduced the curfew relaxation hours in several other districts. Meanwhile, the house of Manipur PWD Minister Konthoujam Govindas in Bishnupur district was vandalised on Wednesday by a group of people claiming that the government in the violence-hit state was not doing enough to protect locals from militants belonging to another community, an official said.

The minister who is a BJP leader and his family members, however, were not present at the house when the mob, comprising mostly women, attacked

house in Ningthoukhong area and damaged a portion of a gate, windows, a few furniture and electronic gadgets. This was the first time a minister's house was attacked during the ongoing ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki community people in state that started three weeks ago.

Army and paramilitary forces have been deployed to control the situation in state. Clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in hill districts on May 3 to protest against Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The violence in Manipur was preceded by tension over eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agita-

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in Imphal Valley. Tribals — Nagas and Kukis — constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in hill districts.

The ethnic clashes claimed over 70 lives and some 10,000 army and paramilitary personnel had to be deployed to restore normalcy in northeast-

Congress raps Amit Shah for not visiting

troubled State

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday attacked Home Minister Amit Shah over his Assam visit, saying he goes all the way to Guwahati but does not deem it fit to visit Manipur which has been "burning for 22 days". Shah is on a day-long visit to Assam to attend three events to mark the completion of two years of the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government in

Taking a dig at Shah, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The Union Home Minister goes all the way to Guwahati today, but does not deem it fit to visit Imphal when Manipur has been burning for 22 days."

'This is the same Union Home Minister who held 16 rallies and 15 road shows in Karnataka, but can not find time for the people of Manipur who are suffering a lot due to the ideology and politics of the so-called Double Engine Sarkar," Ramesh said in a tweet.

The Congress Wednesday demanded Prime Minister call a meeting of community leaders of Manipur in an effort to bring peace in state. *PTI*

Pawar backs Kejriwal

DELHI SERVICES-ORDINANCE ROW

in tug of war with BJP

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Aday after the Shiv Sena (UBT) extended its support to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his fight against the Centre's controversial ordinance, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday not only announced his party's support to Kejriwal but he also offered to enlist the support of other non-BJP parties against the Modi government's ordinance on the control of services in the national capital.

Announcing his party's decision to support the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at a news conference he addressed jointly with Kejriwal, Pawar made a strong case for bringing all the non-BJP parties together. "The ordinance brought in by the Modi government is an effort to scuttle Parliamentary democracy in the country. This is not an issue limited to Delhi. We must focus on bringing all non-BJP parties together".

Pawar said that he would talk to the leaders of other non-BIP parties to muster support for Kejriwal in his fight against the ordinance. "There is a serious threat to democracy in the country. The Modi government is making all-out efforts to deprive the rights of governments elected by the people



NCP Chief Sharad Pawar in a meeting with Delhi Chief Minister and AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leaders Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha and Atishi Marlena, in Mumbai, on Thursday

and create hurdles for them. We will support AAP in its fight against the Centre in Parliament". Indicating that he might speak to the Congress leadership for seeking support to Kejriwal, the NCP chief said: "My thinking is that Arvind should get support by talking to non-BJP parties — be it the Congress or BJD. This is not the time for arguments. Democracy has to be saved".

Earlier, Kejriwal - while appealing to Pawar to help him garner support among the non-BJP parties against the ordinance -said: "Sharad Pawar sir is one of the tallest leaders of the country today.

While he himself is supporting us, I request him to Help us garner support from other parties of the country". Slamming the Modi Government for its efforts to destroy the federal structure in the country, Kejriwal said: "Great injustice is being done by the BJP to the people of Delhi.

Even after our 8-year long legal battle in the Supreme Court, the Centre has brought this Ordinance to usurp the state's rights on appointments of officials. The fight has gone beyond Delhi. It's a fight to safeguard the federal structure of the country which the BJP is trying to undermine".

Cong meet to mull MP poll plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ongress has convened a Ctwo-day deliberations starting Friday on its preparedness and poll prospects in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, two of which are held by the party currently.

Party sources said while the Congress units of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will hold separate discussions on May 26 on their preparations and actions to be taken, the party will also hold strategy meets on Chhattisgarh on May

Buoyed by its poll victory in Karnataka, the Congress has started preparing for the next round of Assembly elections in the three states, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge taking the lead. Poll strategist and

Kishor Sunil Kanugolu will be part of the deliberations with the state leaders to strategise the party's preparedness for the next round of Assembly elec-

While Rajasthan and

Chhattisgarh are ruled by the Congress, where it is hoping to offset the anti-incumbency factor and factional fighting by replicating the "Karnataka strategy", the party is also determined to make a comeback in Madhya Pradesh, where it lost power after Jyotiraditya Scindia and some of the MLAs switched loyalties to the Bharatiya Janata Party Assembly elections in five

states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram — are due by the year-end and the Congress is leaving nothing to month has helped motivate the Congress cadre at the grassroots level, who are going all out to stage another victory for the party. The sources said the strategy meetings for Telangana and Mizoram will be held later.

Kharge will hold separate meetings with the party leaders from these states at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters. The chief ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the state unit chiefs or in-charges and senior leaders from the respective states are expected to take

part in the meetings.

The success of the "Bharat
Jodo Yatra", which passed through Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and its effect in these states are also likely to be discussed in these chance this time. The stunning meetings. The Congress faces

of these states, especially due to infighting and factionalism. In Rajasthan, it has to tackle a festering feud between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot. Upping the ante, Pilot has given an ultimatum to the party and threatened to launch a state-wide agitation if his demands are not met by May-

Concluding his five-day "Jan Sangharsh Yatra" in Jaipur, during which he targeted the Gehlot Government on the issue of corruption, Pilot recently placed three demands disbanding the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) and its reorganisation, compensation to the youngsters affected by the government exam paper leak and a high-level inquiry into corruption allegations against the previous Vasundhara Raje-led

Modi will face votebandi in 2024: Abhishek Will jam Delhi with people who were

dues by Centre' SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

not paid MNREGA

¬rinamool Congress' sec-I ond in command Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday said that he would lead lakhs of job-card holders — who had not been paid their MNREGA dues on account of the central government's refusal to release funds — to Delhi so as to make the BJP Government understand the power of the people of

Addressing a Jan Sanyog (reach out) rally at Purulia, Banerjee who is the TMC's national general secretary said,



had worked under the 100days' work scheme still remain unpaid for their work ... today only Purulia has 12 lakh such ʻunpaid" job card holders ... I will request at least six lakhs out of them to write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has stopped funds through remote-control — and ask 2 lakh of them to come with me to Delhi free of cost so as to snatch our rights from the Central Government.

"I will lead the job card

of my two-month long Jan Sanyog Yatra," he said. Launching a scathing

attack on the Prime Minister Banerjee who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "when he came to power he showed us the dreams of Acchey Din (good days) but ended up in giving us inflation, unemployment, social tension and notebandi ... they are again making people to stand in queues for exchanging notes (read Rs 2,000 notes) ... but this time the people will stand in queues not to change notes but to change the government... there will be no notebandi ... now there will be votebandi."

Alleging that the Centre had blocked all the State's dues -from MNREGA to PM housing funds — Banerjee said, "enough is enough we will not take their (BJP's) arro-

now the time has come to pay back." Banerjee who has been under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation for his alleged role in the multicrore recruitment scam apart from coal, cow other scams — said "while the people of the country are starving the Prime Minister is making joy trips to foreign countries. Saying that the BJP's defeat

in Karnataka Assembly elections would be repeated in the general elections in 2024, Banerjee said, "in 2024 the people will resort to votebandi like they did in Karnataka." Banerjee has of late been under tremendous pressure both from the judiciary and the central agencies who are trying to find whether he has connections with the recruitment scam that has literally shook the very foundations of the

Centre to boost Unani system of medicine, gives ₹45 cr push

For the first time, Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has come forward to take steps to boost the Unani system of medicine in the country as it cleared a Rs 45 crore worth proposal envisaging upgradation and establishment of various facilities of the alternate medicine system at major metros Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chennai and Bengaluru and Silchar in Assam.

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has been sanctioned a total amount of Rs. 35.52 crores while National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Bengaluru has been allocated Rs. 9.81 crores for the task to be executed under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

sored scheme (CSS). A centre for fundamental research in Unani Medicine at National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders, Hyderabad will be established at a cost of Rs. 16.05 crores while a Rs. 8.15 crores preclinical laboratory facility has been planned at Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Chennai. Similarly, a Rs. 8.55 crores for a centre of Ilaj bit Tadbeer (regimental therapy) for musculoskeletal disorders at Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Lucknow, and Rs. 2.75 crores for a centre of Ilaj bit Tadbeer (regimental therapy) for skin and lifestyle disorders at Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Silchar have been proposed. NIUM, technicalities finalized.

Crores for establishing a Vishram Girah for patients' attendants and Rs. 4.26 Crores for a skill centre of model Unani cosmetic care, a smallscale Unani pharmacy and Unani crude drug storage.

A senior official said that the proposals were considered by the Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Minority Affairs in its meeting held in March and Rs. 4.86 Crores has already been released to the CCRUM as the first instalment (25%) of total sanctioned cost of its three projects at Chennai, Lucknow and Silchar

The grant of CCRUM project for Hyderabad and the projects of NIUM, Bengaluru would be released once their DPRs are approved and other

India's foodgrain output to touch record high for FY 2022-23: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Agriculture I in its third advance estimates, released on Thursday pegged India's overall foodgrains output at a record 330.53 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year, as against the actual output of 315.61 million tonnes

in the previous crop year.

The wheat production is also estimated to set a record at 112.74 million tonnes in the ongoing 2022-23 crop year (July-June), higher by five million tonnes from the previous year on increased acreage and yield despite unseasonal rains.

Besides wheat, a record output has been estimated in rice, maize, oilseeds, and sug-

The foodgrain basket comprises wheat, rice, nutri-coarse

Office: Sector-94, Noida

cereals and pulses. "The production of wheat in the country is estimated at 112.74 million tonne, which is higher by 5 million tonne as compared to previous year's production," the agriculture ministry said.

Wheat production had declined to 107.74 million tonnes due to heat wave in key growing states in 2021-22 crop year. The previous record of 109.59 million tonnes in wheat output was achieved during the

2020-21 crop year. Sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, had begun from October onwards, while harvesting is expected to get over by June 15 this year. Rice output is pegged at a record 135.54 million tonnes for 2022-23 crop year, as against 129.47 million tonnes in the previous year. Maize production is also estimated to be at a record of

35.91 million tonnes, as against 33.73 million tonnes in the said period. Total production of nutri-coarse cereals including maize has increased to 54.74 million tonnes in 2022-23 as against 51.10 million tonnes in the previous year.

In case of pulses, production is estimated to be marginally higher at 27.50 million tonnes in 2022-23 when compared with 27.30 million tonnes in the previous year. Except for gram and moong, production of tur and urad is estimated to be

lower in the 2022-23. Tur production is pegged lower at 3.43 million tonnes as against 4.22 million tonnes, urad output to be down at 2.61 million tonnes as against 2.77 million tonnes, while gram production is estimated to remain flat at 13.54 million tonnes in



छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

// सर्वसंबंधितों को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा सेंशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को स्चित किया जाता है कि (1) मेसर्स कृष्णा मिनरल्स (पार्टनर - श्री आनंद डालिमया एवं श्री कृष्णा अग्रवाल, किरारी लाईम स्टोन), खसरा क्रमांक - 793/15, 793/18, . 792/1, 791, 792/2, 792/3, एवं 792/4, रकबा 1.62 हेक्टेयर, उत्खनन क्षमता 43.420.94 टन प्रतिवर्ष (2) मेसर्स मॉ नारायणी क्रशर उद्योग, (पार्टनर - श्री संकेत मित्तल एवं श्री विनोद केंडिया, किरारी लाईम स्टोन माईन), खसरा क्रमांक-837/ 20, 948/4क, 837/1च, 948 /7, 837/1ह एवं 948/26, रकबा - 3.33 हेक्टेयर, उत्खनन क्षमता- 1,48,656 टन प्रतिवर्ष (3) मेसर्स श्री पारसनाथ मिनरल्स (पार्टनर - श्री रूपेश कुमार जैन, किरारी लाईम स्टोन माईन) खसरा क्रमांक-793/1, 793/4, 793/9 एवं 793/ 16, रकबा - 2.87 हेक्टेयर, उत्खनन क्षमता - 1.48.093.13 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-किरारी, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) (४) मेसर्स श्रीमती नीलकमल सिंह (तरौद लाईम स्टोन माईन), खसरा क्रमांक-885/1, 885/2 एवं 886/1घ, रकबा - 1.311 हेक्टेयर, उत्खनन क्षमता - 30,542.5 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-तरौद,तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) में स्थित कुल 04 चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतू संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति। सुझाव। टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के भीतर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 28/06/2023 को समय 11:00 बजे, स्थान- योगेश रमृति सामुदायिक भवन नगर पालिका अकलतरा, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के आफिस मेमोरेंडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA,III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेत् शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशो का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालकसार की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेत् कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, कार्यालय जिला पंचायत, जांजगीर, जिला- जांजगीर-ँचांपा, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) अकलतरा, जिला- जांजगीर- चांपा, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र चांपा, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी. छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल. व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी,कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, अकलतरा/जोंजगीर- नैला, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) सरपंच / सचिव, कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत- किरारी, लगरा, पंकरिया, तरौद, नरियरा, बनाहिल, पौना,तिलई, नवागवन, झिलमिला, धाराशिव, अरसमेटा, अर्जुनी, मुरलीडीह, रसेदा, दर्री, लटिया, अमोरा, मुड़पार, कापन, उपकाचुआ (देवरी), तहसील - अकलतरा जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड़, नई दिल्ली, मुख्य वन संरक्षक, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालयं, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नौर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19,नवा

रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है। सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Octogenarian Howrah Bridge to undergo health check!

IIT-Madras team to be engaged

PTI KOLKATA

The 80-vear-old iconic Howrah Bridge, which connects the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata over the Hooghly river, will undergo a detailed health checkup after a gap of 11 years, said a top official of Kolkata port that maintains the structure. The comprehensive health checkup of the cantilever bridge will be done in consultation with IIT Madras,



Kolkata port chairman Rathendra Raman said. The proposed exercise will be taken up in addition to the routine maintenance of the bridge, he said. "We have decided to conduct an in-depth study on the health of the Howrah Bridge, which hasn't been done for over a decade. This study will provide us with valuable insights on how to improve the bridge's

lifespan," Raman said on Wednesday. A comprehensive health checkup of the bridge was previously conducted 11 years ago, with the expertise of RITES, another official said.

The Howrah Bridge, also known as Rabindra Setu, with 405 metres in length and 21.6 metres in width, is considered a symbol of Kolkata since its inauguration in 1943. The bridge was taken up for construction after a commission under chairmanship of Sir R N Mukherjee in 1926 recommended a suspension bridge of a particular type to be built across the Hooghly river.



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Sr. No.	Job Number	Name of Work	Amount (Rs.)	Publishing
(1)	20/SPE/PE(PH-I)/ E-T/2022-23	Supply of Insecticides (Fogging) used for Vector Control in Noida (Part-I)	71.25 Lakh	3 rd Time
The above tenders can be unleaded from dated 25.05.2023 to 31.05.2023 upto 5.00 PM				

Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 01.06.2023 at 11.00 AM.

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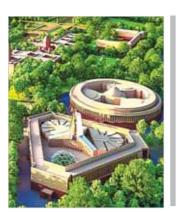
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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Unedifying

Neither the Oppn nor the Govt has covered itself in glory over the inauguration of new Parliament

y boycotting the inauguration of the new Parliament building, the 20 Opposition parties have not covered themselves in glory, notwithstanding their loud rhetoric. In a joint statement, 19 Opposition parties said that 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. "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." While their argument is not without merit, the accompanying bombast—"undignified act," violation "of the Constitution," undermining of "the spirit of inclusion"—is unwarranted and unnecessary. The Opposition's conduct would have been dignified and praiseworthy had it slammed the Government without boycotting the inauguration. After all,



the event is about Parliament and Indian democracy, not about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in it. One has to be viscerally anti-Modi to believe that his Government has disrespected President Droupadi Murmu. We should not forget that she became President during Modi's tenure as Prime Minister. The Opposition is making a mountain out of a molehill. In general, the Opposition—indeed the entire political class—must acknowledge the fact that there are ways of expressing one's displeasure over something other than boycotts and bans.

If the Opposition has not reacted appropriately to the inauguration of the new Parliament building, the Government too has not shown great sagacity in han-

dling the issue. And this is not just about propriety and this particular instance. Its continuously aggressive stance towards the Opposition has generated a great deal of divisivesness in our polity. Till a few years ago, many foreign observers were impressed by the fact that politicians in rival parties had good interpersonal relationships; they would fight fiercely each other in Parliament and in public debates, but remained friends otherwise. Healthy dialogue and good relations are also needed because politicians have to interact and work together all the time. For example, there is considerable interaction between the Centre and States, and often both are run by different parties. Unfortunately, the interparty bonhomie is diminishing rapidly. This has also had an effect on public discourse and political debate, which are increasingly becoming bitterer and dirtier. From the Bharatiya Janata Party's perspective, its recent rise in political strength and the concomitant rise in assertiveness seem to be bringing various Opposition parties together. Fear is a very strong sentiment; it can work as an effective glue in politics. It has united 20 parties over the Parliament inauguration issue; it can do more in the foreseeable future.



An employee checks Rs 2000 currency notes given by customers at a petrol pump in Gurugram

A fairy tale that is The Kerala Story



The Kerala Story has been making waves ever since it opened in theatres but its content is far from reality, it is a fantasy at best

he central theme of the film revolves around three girls who fell victim to "manipulative conversion" to Islam that practically destroyed their lives. The main protagonist is Shalini Unnikrishnan, a convert to Islam. She narrates her ordeal from her prison in Afghanistan, of how she once wanted to become a nurse but was brainwashed and manipulated by religious vanguards, turned into an ISIS terrorist and sent on her way to Syria.

It is loosely based on the accounts of three women from Kerala who converted to Islam and travelled with their husbands to join ISIS in Afghanistan between 2016 and 2018, along with two other women and their husbands. Their husbands were killed in the fighting and these women remain in an Afghan prison. Incidentally, only one of these women, Nimisha Nair alias Fathima Isa, was Hindu and married to a Christian, who subsequently converted to Islam as well. The other two women were Christians before their conversion. The Government of India has refused to repatriate them as they remain hardcore adherents of ISIS philosophy, unlike what has been depicted in the

While it has been alleged there are many more such people in prison in Afghanistan, official records only point to four. The film-makers have also suggested that there are 'many girls" who have been manipulated into converting to Islam and in support quote then Chief Minister of Kerala, V S Achuthanandan, who, in 2010, said that fundamentalist Muslim organisations were using "money and marriages to make Kerala a Muslim majority state".

In that context, the issue of 'manipulative conversion', commonly termed "love jihad", is concerning and cannot be wished away. Not because of the conversion itself, our that resonates greatly with Constitution allows us the free- the Hindutva lobby, as we dom to practice as we wish, but saw from the Prime

because of the motive and the manner such conversions are undertaken. It must be added that such allegations of fraudulent conversions have been made against some Christian denominations as well. Such actions damage the secular fabric of our society, which is why we have stringent laws against it. One estimate suggests about 7000 girls from the State converted to other religions over the last decade and the total number of Indians who joined ISIS was not more than 250, with about 20% from Kerala.

Critics agree that the movie is watchable as a work of fiction, but what detracts and gives weight to allegations that it is nothing more than a propaganda film, is its adverse depiction of all Muslims in general and repeated assertions that there are over 32000 such cases. This is untrue and a Bench of the Supreme Court has reproached the producers of the film for distortion of facts, directing them to add a disclaimer to that effect.



SEEM TRULY SCARY, BUT THE TRUTH IS IT HAS NO BASIS IN FACT AND IS AIMED AT SPREADING FEAR CONSOLIDATING VOTES

Minister's exhortations to the public to see the movie, during his election rallies in Karnataka. Recently, Mr Amit Malviya, head of the BJP IT Cell, wrote on Twitter that "love Jihad is real and dangerous. Our girls are being lured away and used as cannon fodder for radical terror organisations. We can bury our heads in the sand, like an ostrich, at our own peril. It will engulf the rest of us sooner than we think. The Kerala Story is a grim reminder of what lies ahead if we don't act now".

Taken at face value this

may seem truly scary, but the truth is it has no basis in fact and is aimed at spreading fear and consolidating votes. Comparison of census data from 2001 and 2011 shows that the Hindu population in Kerala, for example, declined from 56.16% to 54.73%, or 1.43%, while the population increased from 24.70% to 26.56% or 1.86%. A simple interpolation, at existing growth rates, suggests that the Muslim population would equal that of the Hindu population only by the last decade of this cenrates overall are on the decline. If anything, in the coming years Kerala's problems will not be about religion, but managing migrants from other states that keep its economy ticking! Mamata

Similarly,

Banerjee's ban on the film presently stayed by the Supreme Court, and its "voluntary" non-screening in Tamil Nadu by movie theatres, is over the top and only feeds the long-standing narrative of minority appeasement. We must acknowledge that to be truly secular, breaking the stranglehold of those who benefit by dividing us through religion is inescapable. An essential step in this direction can be the introduction of the long overdue Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which would codify and apply a set of uniform laws related to personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance to all citizens, regardless of their religion.

(The author, a military veteran is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Terrorists are using newer ways of executing their acts

The world is reeling under the shadow of terrorism. Middle East and North Africa were worst hit in 2022, write SUNIL GOYAL & DIMPLE KHOKHAR

ince the turn of the millennium, few topics have Shaped the global discourse as much as terrorism. Following the 9/11 attacks in New York, on September 20, 2001, the U.S. president at the time, George W. Bush, declared a "War on Terror" and sent America to war with Al-Qaeda. The USA first invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to evict the Taliban regime and to chase Osama Bin Laden. Then, two years later, the country invaded Iraq due to highly disputed claims about the regime of Saddam Hussein positing weapons of mass destruc-

Many commentators argue that, rather than solve the problem, the War on Terror served only to validate the use of terrorist tactics, and that it threw these countries into further chaos. The Global Terrorism Index is an annual ranking produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace. As even the definition of terrorism is hotly debated, it is essential to highlight that the methodologies used to measure terrorism are also contested. The Global Terrorism Index ranks 163



countries on four indicators weighted over five years. These four factors are the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of fatalities caused by terrorists per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and the total property damage caused by terrorism per

The global terrorism index systematically ranks countries of the world according to their terrorist activity.

As per the data released by Statistica, in 2022, Afghanistan ranked first on the global terrorism index with a score of 8.82 points, making it the country most affected by terrorism on Earth. The ranking also shows that Afghanistan suffered as the biggest threat to their

terrorist attacks and the highest number of fatalities from terrorist attacks. Although terrorism is a worldwide problem, its victims are highly concentrated in certain areas of the world. The area that saw the highest number of terrorist attacks in 2022 was the Middle East and North Africa. According to Institute for Economics and Peace, the terrorism Index in India decreased to 7.43 in 2021 from 7.67 in 2020. Terrorism Index in India averaged 7.65 Points from 2002 until 2021, reaching an all-time high of 8.12 Points in 2011 and a record low of 7.22 Points in

from the highest number of

India Terrorism Index - values, historical data and charts was last updated in May of 2023. A report based on the Global Terrorism Index noted India has a number of lowlevel conflicts in some of the border areas but the vast majority of the country's population lives outside of these India was among the 25 worst terror-hit countries but also among 56 of the 120 nations surveyed with no respondents selecting war and terror

daily safety, according to the 10th edition of the Globa Terrorism Index (GTI).The international community holds a collective view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned. There cannot be any exception or any justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of the motivations behind such acts. We also recognize that the menace of terrorism cannot be and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

However, in spite of the progress we have made to tighten the legal, security, financing and other frameworks to combat terrorism, terrorists are constantly finding newer ways of motivating, resourcing and executing acts of terror. Unfortunately, there are also some countries that seek to undermine or subvert our collective resolve to fight terrorism. That cannot be allowed to pass.

(Prof. Sunil is Dean and Chairman of - the Board of Studies at Dr BR Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Ambedkar Nagar and Dimple Khokhar is a research scholar)

MANIPUR UNREST CONTINUES

Sir — As per report the house of Manipur PWD Minister Konthoujam Govindas in Bishnupur district was vandalized by an irate mob on Wednesday, claiming that the state government has not taken any sufficient and appropriate steps to protect locals from armed militants belonging to another community. Govindas, who also holds the Youth Affairs and Sports portfolio, is a senior BJP member. The minister and his family members house was attacked by 100 agitated people, mostly women, ransacked the house in Ningthoukhong Bazar area of Bishnupur district and damaged the gate, windows, a furniture, electronic gadgets and vehicles parked at his residence. This is for the first time a minister and a senior BJP leader's house was vandalized after the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki community people broke out in Manipur on May 3, claiming the lives of at least 71 people and injuring over 300. With this all is not well for the BJP government in Manipur and have to face the anger of the

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING IS READY

Sir — The day has finally come when Independent India will have its own, first of a kind Parliament without any colonial influence. May 28th of the year 2023, will be written as a golden day in India's political history as we gave our nation our new Parliament building with more advanced technology, space and improved system. Now that we are almost ready to enter to new building which will be the house of making legislation, relating this to our special history is also very important. The Sengol and all other related aesthetics with are the part and parcel of India's glorified history and rich culture will be put in place

on this special occasion. It is a big day for every Indian, in our 75th year of Independence, we are proudly moving ahead with the spirit of self-reliance and Aatmanirbharta. We are no more in the mortar and brick estab- women- Hats off to Ishita Kishore,

Kazi Nazrul: The rebel poet In the current communally-vitiated environ-

tury. Unlikely, as growth



part from his literary works on religious har-Amony with humanitarian lines like "Are they Hindus? Are they Muslims? Who asks questions so asinine/ O Captain! Pray tell them 'tis your brothers dying, children of your Mother !" ; the pen of Kazi Nazrul Islam also used to act as a sword while protesting against atrocities by the British, thereby earning him the epithet of "rebel poet" and also finding himself landed in prison for urging the youth(through his mighty poems) to engage in a revolution against the imperialist force.

lishment of Britishers. Lutyens and Baker's Parliament is now replaced with domestically made new Central Vista, which reflects the democratic and aspirational spirit of state of the art architecture design. India had come so far and now we are ready to get rid of colonial establishments where laws for modern India are drafted.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

WOMEN TOPPERS IN UPSC

- Four women Civil Services Examination-2022 aspirants occupying the top four positions, actually underlines the palpable change taking place in the otherwise male dominant scenario in most of the walks of life in the country now, thanks to the Union Public Service Commission's(UPSC) adamant stance keeping the political duress at bay. The icing on the cake, a record over one-third of the successful candidates comprise

ment in the society, it would not be out of context if we take a look on Nazrul's opinion on religion as practiced in the society :--"No prophet has said, 'I have come for Hindus/

I have come for Muslims/ I have come for Christians.' They have said, 'I have come for the humanity for everyone, like light'. But the devotees of Krishna say, 'Krishna is for Hindus.' The followers of Muhammad says, 'Muhammad is for the Muslims.' The Disciple of Christ says, 'Christ is for Christians'. Krishna-Muhammad-Christ have become national property. This property is the root of all trouble. The matter which deserves to be noticed is that Nazrul's comments were highly relevant then, extremely relevant now and probable to remain relevant after centuries. It is high time we learn to jump into the waters and save the drowning person by seeing the human being in him/her instead of contemplating whether he/she is a Hindu or a Muslim. After all, at the end of the day, we are all children of that Ultimate Divine! Kajal Chatterjee I Kolkata

Garima Lohia, Uma Harathi and Smiriti Mishra quad for their perseverance, dedication, grit and indefatigability winning them the laurels on the first four slots respectively. Interestingly, a Delhi Police head constable with 667th rank is also on the UPSC list. I squarely acquiesce with the editorial view that the Union Public Service Commission, a Constitution Body, has been doing its jobs professionally in a country where many an institution has been intruded upon by some political powers that be, adversely affecting the institution' public image of stern rectitude. Thankfully, most of the bureaucrats are impartial bearing no political leanings and keeping this prestigious institution clear of any gender bias as is evident from the record in the last couple of years.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

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FIRST COLUMN

WORLD IS UNDERGOING TRANSFORMATION

That day is not far wherein every being would be divine and have a purity of character



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

hat day is not far when we would see a world of purity of character and values, where every being would be divine and would coexist in harmony with nature.

Most of the religious scriptures are known to have described heaven, and paradise in detail as a period of peace, prosperity and happiness which is said to have existed thousands of years ago. That is why the whole concept of paradise has fascinated humans for centuries. However, in reality, paradise or heaven is not a different world but rather a period when everything in this world was perfect and harmonious. In the cycle of time, heaven, which is also called the Golden Age, occurs in the very beginning.

It is followed by the Silver Age, which is characterised by a lesser degree of perfection but is still free of negativity. By the time the Silver Age ends, the human souls lose some of their spiritual energy, and as the Copper Age starts, they are no longer soul-conscious and begin to come under the influence of vices. These vices bring sorrow as well as fear, repentance and a longing for a world without suffering, which the souls remember existed in the past.

Hence, in the hope of regaining that lost world of unalloyed joy, humans start remembering or praying to a Supreme entity who they believe can remove all their sorrows. Now, what needs to be understood practically is that – the same souls, who were divine humans, at the start of the cycle of time, end up becoming vicious and with devilish tendencies. It is at this point when one cycle of time is near its end and a new one is about to begin, that Supreme Power descends on earth to uplift mankind and rejuvenate the whole world, including the elements of nature. God explains to the souls about the cycle of time and the law of karma, whereby they realise that vices are at the root of all the suffering and that one can accumulate a fortune by performing elevated actions.



Not many are aware that the much-awaited greatest event of human history has already occurred. But a majority of humans are still in a deep slumber of ignorance and are still looking for God. In Bhagavad-Gita, Almighty Supreme clearly says that humans cannot reach God by prayer, penance, reading scriptures or doing charitable deeds. HE gives HIS introduction to everyone when God comes to this world at the end of the Iron Age when unrighteousness has reached extreme proportions and humanity is experiencing great sorrow.

He also reminds us of our true identity, that we all are eternal souls and not bodies and finally HE teaches us the unique art of Rai Yoga. by which the souls can cleanse themselves of all their sins and become worthy of taking birth in the Golden Age where there is complete peace, purity and happiness.

That day is not far when we would see a world of purity of character and values, where every being would be divine and would coexist in harmony with nature. There will be no form of violence, be it physical, mental or emotional. Every person will be an embodiment of truth and divine virtues. Pure love and respect will form the basis of relationships. They will be completely free from and ignorant of evil, vices and suffering. Materially, they will be living in opulence and abundance. Science will be used for creating perfect technology and comforts that are foolproof, eco-friendly and safe. People will enjoy perfect health, natural beauty, and a long lifespan and there will be no sign of sickness or untimely death. Everybody will be happy and content. There will be lightness, innocence, purity and joy in every action. This process of world transformation is underway right now.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)

Who will end the free-run of freebies?



Political parties don't want freebies to go. It is their much-cherished tool to harness votes. And they know it works like a charm



n the just concluded assembly elections in Karnataka, the grand old party (GOP) Congress had promised five guarantees viz. Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi, Sakhi programme, Yuva Nidhi, and Anna Bhagyain in its manifesto.

Having got a decisive mandate to form the government, Congress pledged to approve all the five guarantees in the very first meeting of the Cabinet. The big question is: is it worth spending so much of taxpayers money?

The guarantees are intended to be a welfare scheme. Under it, the government should ensure that (i) the assistance goes to a person who is desperately in need (one who is poor or very poor); (ii) it should be given for a 'limited period' after which she should stand on her own and (iii) the scheme should be funded in a manner such that it doesn't destabilize the budgetary position.

Under Gruha Jyoti, the GOP promises to provide 200 units of free electricity a month for every single household (HH) in the state. The very idea is abhorrent. It resumes that every HH is so poor that it can't afford to pay even Rs 1000 a month being the cost of 200 units of electricity @ Rs 5 per unit.

Further, in the absence of any mention of 'for how long', it is assumed that free supply will continue for the full term of this government i.e. 5 years. The scheme will impose a 'needless' burden on the state exchequer for that long.

It will also strain the finances of power distribution companies which will have to supply zero tariff power to all HHs on behalf of the state government and won't get paid by the latter in time or paid less or not paid at all as is the case in many states who are already supplying power free or at concessional tariff.

Under Gruha Lakshmi, Every Woman head of a house will get two thousand rupees a month. This again is bizarre! Going by the manifesto, even a billionaire woman is eligible. Distributing money in this manner is a sheer waste of scarce resources. The GOP says "We are keeping the money in the hands of women to

ensure that they're in control and in charge of their own life". The idea of empowering the

woman is fine. But, we must not forget the context. For schemes like PM Awas Yojna where houses are built for the poor and the ownership is vested with the woman head, this makes eminent sense. But, to give money to all and sundry and then trumpet about women's empowerment looks ridiculous. The Sakhi programme under which free bus tickets for all women to travel in Karnataka are provided too suffers from the same absurdity.

EMBOLDENED

BY ITS VICTORY

IN KARNATAKA,

THE GOP WILL

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EVEN MORE

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(The writer is a policy

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Under Yuva Nidhi, the government will provide support to the Youth of Karnataka for two years by paying Rs 3,000 to unember 1,000 to 1,000 ployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders every month. Prima facie, this may be in sync with the principle of extending support to a person who needs it. But, it can't be divorced from the economic status of the family she belongs to. If an unemployed youth belongs to a rich family which can take care of her during the difficult period i.e. when she remains without a job, there is no need for state support.

State support should be given only if the unemployed youth is from a poor HH. That apart, while choosing the beneficiary, the government must ensure that she is not self-employed. The manifesto doesn't talk of any of these riders. Finally, under Anna Bhagyain, the GOP has promised to give 10 kgs of rice per person per month to BPL families. Such families are already getting 7 kg of food per person per month under the National Food Security Act or NFSA (2013).

Redeeming these guarantees will cost around Rs 62,000 crore a year which is even higher than the

of expenditure over receipts) of Rs 60,500 crore during 2022-23. Unless there is a cut in expenditure under some head or an increase in receipt for an equivalent amount, the FD would be Rs 122,500 crore. Expressed as a share of the state gross domestic product (SGDP) this would go beyond 5 percent against the 3 percent ceiling fixed under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

The guarantees don't follow the cardinal principles of a welfare scheme. These are neither directed to the needy nor have any terminal date and will have a destabilizing effect on the budget. These benefits distributed by Congress using public money for garnering votes are known in common parlance as 'freebies'. The menace has gripped most of the political parties that use freebies as the key to winning elections.

Emboldened by its victory in Karnataka, the GOP will use freebies even more brazeniy in state elections slated towards the end of 2023 as also during general elections in 2024. This will force others including the ruling BJP to offer similar or even more tempting allurements (already, BJP top brass has started galvanizing its thought process in that direction). This rat race will have devastating implications for the finances of both states and the Centre.

Is there any way this menace could be reined in?

To get an answer, let us look at a judgment of the Supreme Court (ŚC) in S Subramaniam Balaji vs the Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors delivered way back in July 2013. It has been observed that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people. "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree." This would have led any logical person to believe that the SC would give a strict direction to stem the rot. But, what followed was a lameduck order.

The SC had held that promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as "corrupt practice" under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the state Assembly.

In the same order, it directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) "to frame guidelines that could govern the contents of the election manifesto of all the recognized political parties as when it had acted while framing guidelines for general conduct of the candidates, meetings, processions, polling day, etc". Further "this can also be included in the model code of conduct - under a separate head for guidelines for election manifesto - for guidance of political parties and candidates".

The ECI never came out with any such guidelines.

After a long hiatus, hearing a PIL seeking directions against 'freebies' on January 25, 2022, the SC observed "this is no doubt a serious issue. Budget for freebies is going above the regular Budget. This disturbs the level playing field". Its concern this time was more intense than it was in 2013. But, what about the action?

On August 3, 2022, the SC asked the parliamentarians to enact a law on curbing freebies but only after a committee set up by it examines all pros and cons. But, the majority of political parties don't want freebies to go away. It seems, India will have to live with

India to be a major player in the multipolar world

A multilateral world would be to India's advantage. It would also be welcome by the Global South which looks up to India for direction and leadership

¬here is a shift underway in the international sys-L tem. The ongoing Ukraine conflict, the emergence of the Indo-Pacific as a centre for global politics, and the relentless rise of China have all resulted in a move away from a unipolar or bipolar world order to a multipolar one. This move is also one which suits India very well. As India positions itself globally as the leader of the Global South and a rising power, multipolarity assures India a position as one of the centres of power. This thought was very evident in the address made by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at the recently held EU-India Pacific Ministerial Forum in Sweden where he pointed out that,



(The author, a Delhi-based

journalist and foreign affairs

analyst, holds a Masters in

International Relations from

the US University)

"The more European Union and Indo-Pacific deal with each other, the stronger will be their respective appreciation of multi-polarity. A multipolar world is feasible only by a multipolar Asia."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rather busy calendar is another indication in this direction. The G7 Summit in Tokyo which also saw a Quad Summit on the sidelines, a visit to Papua New Guinea and then Australia all tie in to this thought. The PM's muchanticipated visit to the United States next month, which is only the third State visit by a foreign leader in US President Joe Biden's tenure, will further cement not only India's growing stature on the world stage but also be a timely pointer towards multipolarity. It is a

shift India well understands and is cautiously working towards.

The Ukraine crisis has hastened this change. While the US and its Western allies have and continue to routinely condemn Russia over its actions, India has stuck to its guns and played it according to her interests. There was much pressure on India during the first few weeks of the conflict to censure Russian actions but the fact that India did not do so and eventually it also brought about a change in Western attitudes has been a fine diplomatic victory for India. In March last year Biden had termed India's response to the Ukraine conflict as 'somewhat shaky'. But with time the messaging out of Washington changed with a gradual accep-



tance of India's position.

India has consistently abstained from the United Nations at resolutions brought in by the Western world against Russia. This has helped India retain an old friend. About half of India's military supplies come from Russia. Courtesy of the Ukraine conflict, India's trade tics. It is also essentially a

with Russia is at a record high. Despite the never-ending critique, India continues to buy oil from Russia. It is also worth remembering here that Russia used its veto power in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) many times when resolutions on Kashmir were tabled. The fact that India has done this fine balancing act, of maintaining and strengthening ties with both the US and Russia, makes it a unique power centre in itself.

Another point in the study is, of course, the Quad (a grouping of the US, India, Japan and Australia). It would not be an overstatement to say that the Quad today is one of the most influential groupings in the world of geopoli-

forum to check China. As the politics of the Indo-Pacific take centre stage in the world, India becomes an even more valuable ally not just to the US, but to the entire Western world. For India, China remains

the biggest worry. China's aggressive behaviour at the border and its expansionist agenda in the South China Sea have almost every world leader worried. The Ukraine conflict has also seen another related development and that is the tightening of embrace between China and Russia. And that is unlikely to make India comfortable. That somewhere again takes us back to the argument that for India, censuring Russia over the Ukraine conflict would only result in a closer China-

and China are wary of the West and critical of a world they feel is dominated by Western ideals and nations. The US-China trade wars and the sanctions against Russia by the Western powers have helped consolidate that feeling and what one sees is the beginning of an anti-West Block. A multilateral world

Russia nexus. Both Russia

would be to India's advantage and would also be welcome by the Global South. One of the end games of course would be a much-needed change in the structure of the UNSC and a permanent seat for India. That would also be more representative of the present world. The beginnings have been made but it's still quite a long road ahead.

'Imran, wife can't leave Pak'

 $F^{
m ormer}$ prime minister Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and more than 600 leaders and former assembly members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party have been barred from leaving the country, media reports said on Thursday. Khan and several top leaders of his party are facing cases following the violence after he was arrested on May 9 in a corruption case. Citing sources within the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), the Geo News reported that the names of the PTI leaders and its party chief have been added for their involvement in the May 9 violence and desecration of martyrs' monuments.

However, there was no official confirmation on the development from Khan's party. The names have been added to the FIA's Provincial National Identification List (PNIL) to prevent them from going abroad, the sources said



The sources claimed that some of the PTI leaders and office bearers tried leaving the country in the last three days, however, they were stopped at the airports.

The list includes Murad Saeed, Maleeka Bokhari, Fawad Chaudhry, Hammad Azhar, Qasim Suri, Asad Qaiser, Yasmin Rashid and Mian Aslam

Fawad Chaudhry has already quit the party but his name has been listed among those who cannot fly out of

PTI's Secretary General resigns

Islamabad (PTI): Ousted Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan suffered another jolt as the head of his economic team and one of his close aides Asad Umar resigned from all party positions, amid the government's crackdown on the opposition over the May 9 vio-

Umar, who was Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's Secretary General, announced stepping down from all party positions shortly after he was released from Adiala Jail on Wednesday. Not possible for me to lead the party under these circumstances. I am resigning as Secretary General and core committee member of PTI," he said at a press conference.

nel reported that the federal government has decided to add the names of 80 people, including Khan and his wife, to the no-fly

The names of all the PTI leaders were put in the list on the recommendation of the "institutions concerned", the news channel reported.

It said that the police department, National Accountability Bureau and the anti-corruption department had requested the Ministry of Interior to include these names to the no fly list. The no-fly list is maintained by the Ministry of Interior and officials deployed at airports or other land exit routes are provided the names of individuals who cannot go out. Pakistan authorities maintain different categories of people who are banned from leaving the country for various reasons, including those who face corruption

Dar hints at end of IMF loan programme

Islamabad (PTI): Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has hinted that the IMF loan programme to Pakistan may expire on June 30 due to the "restricted time" for its revival but asserted that the cash-strapped country would not default, a media report said on Thursday.

Pakistan is in acute need of the USD 6.5 billion loan facility by the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilise its economy.

While speaking to a delegation of a regional business body on Wednesday, Dar said, "Our efforts are aimed at completing the second IMF programme in the country's history, although time has been restricted and the programme is ending on June 30," The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

He stressed that the delay was "unfortunate" and the review should have been completed earlier. Since 1958, Pakistan has signed 22 IMF programmes but failed to complete all, barring the 2013-16 facility, thanks to nearly 18 waivers from the global

Islamabad signed the current 36-month USD 6 billion Extended Fund Facility in July 2019, which, on request of the then-finance minister, Miftah Ismail, was extended by the IMF by nine months to June 30, 2023, and its size increased to USD 6.5 billion. Over the past almost four years, the programme has been derailed at least four times, including on two occasions during the tenure of the current coalition government, and the failure to complete it will further widen the trust deficit between the country and the financial world, the report said. The government has not yet come up with a credible alternative plan, which has created panic in markets as the Pakistani Rupee is trading in the range of PKR 308 to PKR 313 to a dollar in the open market.

South Korea, US troops hold large live-fire drills

The South Korean and US militaries conducted large live-fire drills near the border with North Korea on Thursday, despite the North's warning that it won't tolerate what it calls an invasion rehearsal on its doorstep. The drills, the first of five rounds of live-fire exercises through mid-June, mark 70 years since the establishment of the military alliance between Seoul and Washington. North Korea typically reacts to such major South Korean-US exercises with missile and other weapons tests.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-launched more than 100 missiles, but none since it fired a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile in mid-April. It says the tests are a response to expanded military drills between the US and South Korea, but observers say North Korea aims to advance its weapons development and then wrest greater concessions from its rivals in eventual diplomacy.

The US-South Korean firing exercises, called "Combined annihilation firepower drills, are the biggest of their kind. The drills have been held 11 times since they began in 1977, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

The drills involved 2,500 troops and 610 weapons systems such as fighter jets, attack helicopters, drones, tanks and artillery from South Korea and the United States, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry. The most recent exercises in 2017 drew about 2,000 soldiers and 250 weapons assets from both countries.

The drills simulated artillery and aerial strikes on front-line North Korean military facilities in response to an attack. The troops later practiced precision-guided attacks on simulated targets in the rear areas to "completely annihilate" North Korean military threats, according to a ministry



at Seungjin Fire Training Field in Pocheon, South Korea on Thursday

It said South Korea will seek to establish "peace through overwhelming strengthen" to counter North Korean threats.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to the start of the drills. Last Friday, its state media called the drills "a typical North Korea-targeted war rehearsal," saying it "cannot but take a more serious note of the fact" that the exercises are a few kilometres from its fron-

The North's Korean Central News Agency said the US and South Korea would face unspecified "corresponding responses" to the drills.

Earlier this year, the South Korean and US militaries conducted their biggest field exercises in five years. The US also sent the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and nuclear-capable bombers for joint exercises with South Korea.

Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said North Korea could use the South Korea-US drills as a pretext to resume testing activities. He said domestic issues such as North Korea's push to increase agricultural production during the rice-planting season could still affect its decision on weapons tests.

"North Korea can't help feel some burdens over the South Korea-US joint firepower drills being held for the first time in six years and in the strongest manner," Moon said.

In a meeting last month, US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol announced steps to reinforce their deterrence capabilities such as the periodic docking of US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea, strengthened joint training exercises and establishment of a new nuclear consultative group. Biden also issued a blunt warning that any North Korean nuclear attack on the US or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said the Biden Yoon agreement revealed the two countries' "most hostile and aggressive will of action" against the North.

She threatened to further strengthen her country's nuclear doctrine, saying, "The pipe dream of the US and South Korea will henceforth be faced with the entity of more powerful strength."

Worries about North Korea's nuclear program grew after the North last year passed a law authorising preemptive use of nuclear weapons. Many foreign experts say North Korea does not yet possess functioning nuclear-armed missiles.

'Undeclared martial law in Pakistan'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's beleaguered former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the deployment of the army to aid the civilian administration in some provinces, terming it as "undeclared martial law" in the coup-prone country.

Khan moved the Supreme Court of Pakistan against Shehbaz Sharif's government that invoked Article 245 in several provinces including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad - the Federal Capital Territory.

Under Article 245 of Pakistan's Constitution, the army can be called in to aid the civil administration to defend the country. In his petition, the 70year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief urged the court to take notice of the martial lawlike situation in parts of the country and the ongoing aggressive crackdown on his party. Khan said that the arrests, investigations and trials of citizens under the Army Act 1952 were "unconstitutional and void and of no legal effect and amounts to negation of the Constitution, the rule of law and independence of the judiciary."

"The dictated exercise of this power by the federal cabinet in the absence of objective conditions for the exercise of that power is clearly violative of the fundamental rights," the petition

3 dead in central Japan attack

Three people including two I police officers were killed in Nagano in central Japan on Thursday and a suspect with a rifle and knife was holed up inside a building, according to police and media reports. A witness told NHK public

television that a woman fell while being chased by the suspect, who then stabbed her with a knife and shot at two police officers as they arrived at the scene in a patrol car in Nakano city in Nagano prefecture. The witness said he asked the suspect why he attacked her, and he replied that he wanted to kill her, NHK said.

The three victims were taken to a nearby hospital, where the woman was later pronounced dead, police said. The two police officers also died, according to NHK. A fourth person who was injured could not be rescued because he was near the suspect, Kyodo News agency reported. Video on NHK



Police officers stand guard on a street leading to a building where a man is holed up in Nakano, central Japan on Thursday.

showed police wearing bulletproof vests and carrying shields, with an ambulance nearby. The area is in a quiet farming neigh-

Police described the suspect as a man wearing a camouflage outfit, a hat, a mask and sunglasses, Kyodo News said. City officials urged those in the area to stay home. No other details, including about the suspect and

the motive, were immediately

Violent crimes are rare in Japan. It has strict gun control laws and only a handful of gunrelated crimes annually. But in recent years, there have been some high-profile cases involving random knifings on subways and arson attacks, and there is growing concern about homemade guns and explosives.

S Korea launches first commercial-grade satellite

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w.e.f. May 25, 2023 to June 25, 2023

Couth Korea successfully Slaunched a commercialgrade satellite for the first time Thursday as part of its growing space development program, as rival North Korea is pushing to place its first military spy satellite into orbit. The two Koreas, technically in a state of war, have no military reconnais-

REGISTRAR

both are eager to possess them. The South Korean launch on Thursday will likely assist its

efforts to develop a spacebased surveillance system. The domestically built three-stage Nuri rocket lifted off from a launch facility on a southern island with a payload of eight satellites, including a main commercial-grade satel-

radar imaging technology and observe cosmic radiation in a near-Earth orbit.

Science Minister Lee Jong Ho later told a televised news conference that the launch was successful, saying it proved the rocket's reliability and South Korea's potential to operate various satellites and explore

satellites including the main one were successfully released from the rocket. He said more time is required to confirm the release of the eighth satellite.

"Today, we confirmed that dreams can come true," South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol wrote on Facebook.

"I hope our future generations have a great dream and Nuri rocket soaring into space." The launch boosted South Korea's hopes of catching up

with Asian neighbors such as China, Japan and India in a regional space race.
Lee, the science minister, said South Korea plans to con-

duct three more Nuri rocket launches by 2027 and will seek to develop more advanced

Chinese minister to hold talks amid disputes over tariffs

hina's commerce minister will hold talks with officials in the US this week amid develop advanced chips for and technology, his ministry said on Thursday. Wang Wentao will meet with Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Trade Representative Katherine Tai while in the US to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum trade minister meetings on Thursday and Friday in Detroit, Michigan.

In announcing Wang's visit, Commerce Ministry spokesperson Shu Jueting denounced a decision by Japan, a fellow APEC member, to join the US and Holland in barring Chinese access to leadingedge computer chip technology. "This is the abuse of export measures and the departure from free trade and international economic and trade rules," Shu said.

"This will severely damage the interests of Chinese and Japanese enterprises and the trade cooperation between China and Japan."

China has long been reliant on Japanese technology, but now needs machines available only from a single Dutch company, ASML Holding NV, that etch microscopic circuits on

had set off for Suez from the

Saudi Red Sea port of Duba.

gence and other applications

Without that, the ruling

Communist Party's efforts to

next-generation chips.

are stalled. In what was seen as retaliation, China's cybersecurity watchdog on Sunday announced a ban on products from US memory chipmaker Micron Technology Inc. in

some computer systems. Cyberspace Administration of China said Micron products have unspecified security risks but gave no

details. The trade disputes have brought supply disruptions and caused billions of dollars in lost sales but are seen as necessary

by the West to prevent Beijing from accessing technology with military applications.

China has stepped up its threats to invade self-governing Taiwan, increased its military presence in the South China Sea to back its claims to the strategic waterway, and provided diplomatic and economic backing to Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Their political differences, trade between China and the US topped USD 690 billion last year, while an estimated 295,000 Chinese students are enrolled in American

colleges and universities.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR

Tender Notice Reference No. GNDU/Gen/07/2023 & GNDU/Gen/08/2023

The Department of G.N.D.U. Amitsar invites online bids for the following Sr. Quantity Printing of 40 Pages OMR Answer Books 10 Lac Imaging of Part -C& Part-D of OMR front 10 Lac for two cover. Scanning of OMR Front cover Having Part-C and Part-D with Scan No. and semesters (5 Lacs Per Semester) processing of Data in the form of marks lis

Closing date & time: 15.06.2023 at 5:00 p.m For details log onto www.eproc.puniab.gov.in Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on th

NA/12/16603/2023/24325 Dated CHD :- 5/25/2023



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

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास/अनुरक्षण कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / परिषदों / नगर निकायों 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.	Upgradation of street light network along with AMC for Three years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at I.A. TDS City, Ghaziabad.	663.30
	Upgradation of street light network along with AMC for Three years under at I.A. Suraipur site-B & C. Housing Kasna site- 4 & 5 and EPIP (G.B. Nagar)	603.77

निविदा दिनांक 26.05,2023 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 02.06,2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 05.06.2023 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट:– 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विमाग" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ में 'क' श्रेणी अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स एवं Eligibilit Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा , अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।

निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थापित लिंव युपीएलसी की website:https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु.) विद्युत उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा., कानपर

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my client Sh. Sham Sunder

Grover S/o Late Shri Tulsi Das Grover and Smt. Swarn Grover W/o Sh. Sham Sunder Grover R/o, 152 UGF & 327 First Floor, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar New Delhi-110060, have disowned/debarred their son Shri Ranjan Grover and his wife Radhika Grover from their moveable and immovable properties with immediate effect, due to their bad habits and misbehaviour and have severed all their relations from them. My client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for their deeds and acts henceforth

Adv. Vikrant Gautam

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

NOTICE Director, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi invites applications for the following posts on tenure basis for a period of three years. Details of vacant posts are as under:

a) Clinical Psychology Tutor - 02 (Un-reserved)

b) Psychiatric Social Work Tutor - 01 (Un-reserved)

Date of walk-in-interview is 14.06.2023. Desirous candidates may send their application by post on or before 10.06.2023 or submit it by themselves at the institute in the prescribed format giving full details of academic records and experience along with photocopy of the relevant documents with recent photograph. Details can be seen on the Institute website www.cipranchi.nic.in. Sd/-Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

NOTICE

Director, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi invites the applications for the posts of Senior Residents on tenure basis. Selection will be made through written examination and department assessment. Details of vacant posts are as under. 1. Senior Resident-19 Posts.

- 12 (Un-reserved-05) [Reserved

(Vertical) ST-01, SC-02, OBC-03, EWS-01 & (Horizontal) PH-1].

i) Psychiatry

ii) Neurology 03 [Reserved (Vertical) OBC-01, SC-01) iii) Anesthesiology -01(Un-reserved) iv)Neuro-surgery - 02 (Un-reserved)

v) Radio-diagnosis- 01 (Un-reserved)

Desirous candidates may send their application by post on or before 15.06.2023 or submit it by themselves at the institute in the prescribed format giving full details of academic records and experience along with photocopy of the relevant documents with recent photograph. Written examination (MCQ based) will be held on 19.06.2023 from 11:30 A.M onwards. Details can be seen on the Institute's website www.cipranchi.nic.in. Sd/-Director

Taliban may allow women to resume agency work

The head of a major aid organisation said Thursday that the Taliban have agreed to consider allowing Afghan women to resume work at the agency in the southern province of Kandahar, the religious and political centre for the country's rulers.

The Taliban last December barred Afghan women from working at nongovernmental organisations, or NGOs, allegedly because they were not wearing the hijab — the Islamic headscarf — correctly or observing gender segregation rules.

In April, they said the ban extended to UN offices and agencies in Afghanistan. There are exemptions in some sectors, like health care and education.

Jan Egeland, the secretarygeneral of the Norwegian Refugee Council, met officials

Suez Canal on Thursday morn-

ing, authorities said, the latest

such incident in the busy

Authority a few hours later, the

company said, and normal

Suez Canal Authority said the

However, Egypt's state-run

traffic was restored.

AP ■ CAIRO



in the capital Kabul and Kandahar to persuade them to reverse the ban on the organization's female staff.

"We have an agreement to start immediate talks on a temporary arrangement that will enable our female colleagues to work with and for women and others in Kandahar," Egeland told The Associated Press. "If we get a provincial exemption in Kandahar, we should be able to replicate it elsewhere."

HK-flagged vessel blocks Suez Canal ing about 190 metres (625 Egyptian city of Qantara. In feet) by 32 metres (105 feet), March a Liberia-flagged ship A Hong Kong-flagged ship briefly blocked Egypt's vital

waterway. According to Leth Agencies, a canal services company that oversees the waterway, the Xin Hai Tong 23 ran vessel had broken down during aground before dawn at the southern entrance to the canal, its transit through the canal due blocking four vessels. The ship to engine failure. It said the ship was refloated by the Suez Canal

was towed away from the area by three tug boats. The two conflicting accounts as to how the incident unfolded could not be recon-

ciled. The bulk carrier, measur-

Later in the day on Thursday, it was at sea about 3.2 kilometres (2 miles) south of the canal, according to Marine Traffic, a vessel tracking firm. Thursday's incident is the latest in a flurry of ships running aground in the Suez Canal

or getting stuck in the crucial waterway over the past few In January, a vessel owned by Greek firm Primera Shipping Inc. broke down at

the 38 kilometre (24-mile)

mark of the canal, near the

ran aground in the two-lane part of the waterway. Both vessels were refloated hours The most prominent case was that of the skyscraper-

sized container ship, the Panama-flagged Ever Given, which ran aground in a singlelane stretch of the canal in March 2021, blocking the waterway. A massive salvage effort by

a flotilla of tugboats, helped by the tides, freed it six days later, ending the crisis and allowing hundreds of waiting ships to pass through the canal.

'Republicans pushing debt ceiling talks to the brink'

House Republicans are pushing debt ceiling talks to the brink, displaying risky political bravado as they prepare to leave town on Thursday for the holiday weekend just days before the US could face an unprecedent-ed default that could hurl the global economy into chaos. Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he's directed his negotiating team "to work 24/7 to solve this problem."

Arriving at the Capitol, McCarthy, R-Calif., said that "every hour matters" in talks with President Ioe Biden's team as they work toward a budget deal. Republican are demanding spending cuts the Democrats oppose, and McCarthy said a deal could come together "at any time."

But it's clear the Republican speaker — who leads a Trump-aligned party whose hard-right flank lifted him to power — is now staring down a potential crisis.

Lawmakers are tentatively not expected back at work

from June 1, when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the US could start running out of cash to pay its bills and face a federal default.

Fitch Ratings agency placed the United States' AAA placed the United States AAA credit on "ratings watch negative," warning of a possible downgrade because of what it called the brinkmanship and political partisanship surrounding the debate over lifting the debt ceiling. "This is a battle between extremism and common sense" said common sense," said Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts, the minority whip.
The Republicans, she said,

want the American people to make an impossible choice: devastating cuts or devastating

Weeks of negotiations between Republicans and the White House have failed to produce a deal — in part because the Biden administration never expected to be having to negotiate with McCarthy over the debt limit, arguing it should not be used



Speaker Kevin McCarthy addressing mediapersons

as leverage to extract other partisan priorities. McCarthy s holding out for steep spending cuts that Republicans are demanding in exchange for their vote to raise the nation's borrowing limit. The White House has offered to freeze next year's 2024 spending at current levels and restrict 2025 spending, but the Republican

leader says that's not enough. We have to spend less than we spent last year. That is the starting point," said McCarthy,

Failure to raise the nation's debt ceiling, now at USD 31 trillion, would risk a potentially chaotic federal default, almost certain to inflict economic turmoil at home and abroad. Anxious retirees and social service groups are among those already making default contingency plans.

Even if negotiators strike deal in coming days, McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting - now likely Tuesday or even

Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has vowed to move quickly, would also have to pass the package before it could go to Biden's desk to be signed into law, right before next Thursday's possible deadline. Pushing a debt ceiling increase to the last minute is not uncommon for Congress, which has been here before. But it leaves little room for error in a volatile political environment. Both Democrats environment. Both Democrats and Republicans will be need-ed to pass the final package in the split Congress.

The contours of a deal have been within reach for days, but Republicans are

unsatisfied as they press the White House team for more.

In one potential development, Republicans may be easing their demand to boost defense spending, instead offering to keep it at levels the Biden administration proposed, according to one person familiar with the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them. The Republicans may achieve their goal of of rolling the Internal Revenue Service if they agree to instead allow the White House to push that money into other domestic

accounts, the person said.
At the White House, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre blamed Republicans for risking a devastating default that would hit "every single part of the country" as they demand "extreme" spending cuts that would hurt millions of Americans. She decried what the administration called a "manufactured crisis" set in motion by the GOP.

The White House has

continued to argue that deficits can be reduced by ending tax breaks for wealthier households and some corporations, but McCarthy said he told the president as early as their February meeting that raising revenue from tax hikes was off the table. Donald Trump, the former president who is again running for office, has encouraged Republicans to "do a default" if they don't get the deal they want from the White

US Prez picks AF fighter pilot as next Joint Chiefs chairman

Washington: President Joe Biden will announce Thursday that he is tapping Air Force Gen C Q Brown Jr, a history-making fighter pilot with deep knowledge of China, to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Brown's confirmation would mean that, for the first time, both the Pentagon's top military and civilian posi-tions would be held by African Americans. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the first Black Pentagon chief, has been in the job since the beginning of the administration. The only other Black person to serve as Joint Chiefs chairman was Army Gen. Colin Powell.

The nomination has been long expected. If confirmed by the Senate, Brown would replace Army Gen. Mark Milley, whose term ends in October, as the nation's next top military officer. The president plans to unveil Brown as his pick during a Rose Garden event Thursday afternoon.

Biden saw Brown as the

right person for the job because of his work modernizing the US fleet of aircraft and its nuclear arsenal and his years of experience in shaping US defenses to meet China's rise, a senior administration official said. He's also been deeply involved in the Pentagon's efforts to equip Ukraine with billions of dol-lars in US weaponry as Kyiv tries to fend off Russia's 15-month old invasion month old invasion.

Brown, 60, has commanded at every possible level in the Air Force and in joint commands, including in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He also helped build and lead the US air campaign against the Islamic State militant group. Brown is a career F-16 fighter pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours and command experience at all

31.03.2023 31.12.2022 31.03.2022 31.03.2023 31.03.2022

Russia signs deal to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus

AP TALLINN (ESTONIA)

 $R \begin{tabular}{ll} ussia and Belarus signed a \\ deal on Thursday formalising the procedure for deploy- \\ \end{tabular}$ ing Russian nuclear weapons on Belarusian territory. Control of the weapons will remain with Moscow.

The move formalised the deal agreed on earlier by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

previously announced in March that his country planned to deploy tactical, comparatively short-range and small-yield nuclear weapons in Belarus. The inking of the deal comes as Russia braces for Ukraine's muchanticipated counteroffensive. Both Russian and Belarusian officials framed the step as driven by hostility from the West.

"Deployment of nonstrategic nuclear weapons is an effective response to the aggressive policy of countries unfriendly to us," Belarusian Defence

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, and Belarusian Defense Ministe Viktor Khrenin exchange documents on Thursday

Minister Viktor Khrenin said in Minsk during a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergei

Shoigu.
"In the context of an extremely sharp escalation of threats on the western borders of Russia and Belarus, a decision was made to take countermeasures in the militarynuclear sphere," Shoigu added.

Belarus's Ministry of Defence said the agreement refers to a "special storage

"Germany has experienced a

technical recession and has been

by far the worst performer

among major eurozone

economies over the past two

quarters," Palmas said, predict-

German government, which last

month boldly doubled its growth

forecast for this year after a feared

winter energy crunch failed to

materialise. It said the economy

would grow by 0.4 per cent — up

from a 0.2 per cent expansion

predicted in late January — a

forecast that may now need to be

revised downward. Economists

said high inflation hit consumer

spending, with prices in April 7.2

per cent higher than a year ago. GDP reflects the total value of

goods and services produced in

a country. Some experts question

whether the figure alone is a use-

ful indicator of economic pros-

perity given that it doesn't

distinguish between types of

The figures are a blow to the

ing further weakness ahead.

facility on the territory of the Republic of Belarus?

No detail was announced regarding when the weapons would be deployed in Belarus, but Putin previously said that the construction of storage facilities for tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus would be completed by July 1.

Exiled Belarusian opposileader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya condemned

Our forces handing control of Bakhmut to Moscow: Wagner

The head of the Russian private military contractor Wagner claimed Thursday that his forces have started pulling out of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine and handing over control to the Russian military, days after he said Wagner troops had captured the ruined city.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, Wagner's millionaire owner with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said in a video published on Telegram that the handover would be completed by June 1. There was no immediate comment from the Russian defense ministry.

It was not possible to independently verify whether Wagner's pullout from the bombedout city has begun after a nine-month battle that killed tens of thousands of people.

Ukraine's deputy defense minister said Thursday that Wagner units have been replaced with regular troops in the suburbs but Wagner fighters remain inside the city. Ukrainian forces still have a foothold in the southwestern outskirts, Deputy Minister of Defence Hanna

Prigozhin's Bakhmut triumph delivered a badly needed victory for Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has lost momentum and now faces the possibility of a Ukrainian counteroffensive using advanced weapons supplied by Kyiv's Western allies.

Turkish voters weigh final decision on next prez

AP ANKARA

wo opposing visions for Turkey's Two opposing visions to:

future are on the ballot when voters return to the polls on Sunday for a runoff presidential election that will decide between an increasingly authoritarian incumbent and a challenger who has pledged to restore democracy. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a populist and polarising leader who has ruled Turkey for 20 years, is well positioned to win after falling just short of victory in the first round of balloting on

He was the top finisher even as the country reels from sky-high inflation and the effects of a devastating earthquake in February. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of Turkey's pro-secular main opposition party and a six-party alliance, has campaigned on a promise to undo Erdogan's authoritarian tilt. The 74-year-old former bureaucrat

has described the runoff as a referendum on the direction of the strategically located NATO country, which is at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and has a key say over the alliance's expansion.

"This is an existential struggle. Turkey will either be dragged into darkness or light," Kilicdaroglu said. This is more than an election. It has turned into a referendum." In a bid to sway nationalist voters ahead of Sunday's runoff, the normally soft-mannered Kilicdaroglu (pronounced KEH-lich-DAHR-OH-loo) shifted gear and hardened his stance, vowing to send back millions of refugees if he is elected and rejecting any possibility of peace negotiations with Kurdish militants.

(a) Revenue from Operation (i) Interest Income

(ii) Dividend Income
 (iii) Net gain on fair value changes

(iv) Trading in Shares/Securities (Net) (v) Other Operating Income

Total Income from (a+b)

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR

CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252 Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi 110001

Germany eco shrinks, signalling recession

The German economy shrank **L** unexpectedly in the first three months of this year, marking the second quarter of contraction that is one definition of recession. Data released Thursday by the Federal Statistical Office shows Germany's gross domestic product, or GDP, declined by 0.3 per cent in the period from January to March. This follows a drop of 0.5 per cent in Europe's biggest economy during the last quarter of 2022. Two consecutive quarters of

contraction is a common definition of recession, though economists on the euro area business cycle dating committee use a broader set of data, including employment figures. Germany is one of the 20 countries that use the euro currency. Employment in the country rose in the first quarter and inflation has eased, but higher interest rates will keeping weighing on spending and investment, said Franziska

US economy growth revised up to 1.3% annual rate mist for Capital Economics.

Washington (AP): The US economy grew at a lackluster 1.3 per cent annual rate from January through March as businesses wary of an economic slowdown trimmed their inventories, the government said on Thursday, a slight upgrade from its initial estimate.

The government had previously estimated that the economy grew at a 1.1 per cent annual rate last quarter.

The Commerce Department's revised measure on Thursday of growth in the nation's gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — marked a deceleration from the second half of 2022.

Despite the first-quarter slowdown, consumer spending, which accounts for around 70 per cent of America's economic output, rose at a healthy pace.

The steady weakening of economic growth is a consequence of the Federal Reserve's aggressive drive to tame inflation, with 10 interest rate hikes over the past 14 months. Across the economy, the Fed's rate increase have elevated the costs of auto loans, credit card borrowing and business loans. With mortgage rates having doubled over the past year, the real estate market has already taken a beating: Investment in housing fell from January through March. In April, sales of existing homes were 23 per cent below their level a year earlier.

SVB announces layoffs at failed institution; no impact on team based in India

Raleigh (US): The bank that acquired the remnants of Silicon Valley Bank after it failed amid a March bank run announced layoffs Wednesday.

First Citizens Bank of Raleigh, North Carolina, said it was cutting about 500 jobs, or about 3% of its workforce.

CEO Frank Holding said the move would only affect "select" corporate Silicon Valley Bank positions, adding that neither employees in customer-facing jobs, nor members of a team based in India, would be impacted. Silicon Valley Bank was caught unprepared when the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates earlier this year, a move that reduced the value of its reserves of Treasury bonds. It was walloped again when the tech clientele it had courted rushed to withdraw their funds.

Kiratpur, Bijnor, UP-246731 Presently Residing at 2/63, 3rd Floor, Jungpura Extn., New Delhi

have declare that my name has been wrongfully mentioned in my Bank record as **Rafat Ullah** instead of Rafat Ullah Khan. My date of birth wrongly mentioned in bank account as 14.04.1953 by mistake My actual date of birth is 12.02.1968.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rafat Ullah Khan S/o. Liyakat

Jllah Khan, R/o. Mohalla Bhuddi

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, HARINDER KUMAR S/o Late Shri Krishan Narain Peshoria, Cont. 9810643456, Email: - harinderkumar905@gmail.com, R/o. Plot -14, Eastern Avenue, (Old No. B-36) Maharani Bagh, Deed, Original Completition Letter And Other Papers issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 23/05/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (CS) C-block , 2nd Floor Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Prem Lata W/c

Mr. Tulsi Ram who is purchasing the Freehold

Residential House no. 575-F72 area measuring 28.66

Sq. Yds., falling under Khasra no. 1206-1197 situated al /aka Siwana Mauia Abadi Madanpuri Gurgaon; fro frs. Vandana W/o Mr. Deepak Gosai, who is owner e aforesaid property vide Sale Deed dated 01.08.2014 hich is duly registered vide Document No.10662, a Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon; and intend to mortgage agains the financial assistance from India Shelter Financi Corporation Limited. That the Original Sale Deed dated 10.06.2013 executed by Mrs. Santosh Kumari W/o. Mr mar Singh in favour of Mrs. Asha Kumari W/o. M Suresh Kumar, which is registered vide Documer Vo.6611, at Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon; is Lost/Misplacec Not available, an online Lost Property Report vid Application No.132270462300355 has been lodged i is regard. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC we give this public notice that if any Person having at type of claim "right/tille/interest oreating mortgage ov the said property, may inform in writing, at the addre mentioned below, about his objections, within days from today, failing which it shall be presume that the said property is free from all type Encumbrances, lien etc.

ncumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot no.136,(Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact# 011-40046316 PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE** 1) PRO 2110 VOLVO EICHER REG. NO. HR38AB1942-YOM -2021

2) SWARAJ MAZDA- SAMRAT REG. NO. UP14LT2642-YOM-2022 3) TATA LPT 1109 FULLY BUILT REG. NO. UP16HT7467-YOM-2021 4) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED -AL ECOMET 1215 FBT- REG. NO. HR55AM8881-YOM 2022 5) TATA MOTORS LPT1212

REG.NO.HR55AM0442-YOM-2022 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS

"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: ABHINAV LAL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 7798988481

EMAIL - abhinav.lal@kotak.com

Finance costs Depreciation and amortisation expensi 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.01 6.46 0.69 (1.63) Other expenses 10.95 Total Expenses 2.02 (0.08)12.68 Profit / (Loss) before exceptional items and (1.48)(2.02)20.45 (11.92)8.97 tax (1 -2) 8.97 Profit / (Loss) before tax (3 + 4) (1.48) (2.02) 20.45 (11.92) Tax (expenses)/credit(net a) Current Tax (0.53)(2.00)(c) Tax Adjustment of earlier years (net) **Total Tax Expens** (0.34)(13.42)(10.50) Profit / (Loss) for the Period(5 - 6) Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)
(i) Items that will not be reclassifies to profit or loss Gain/(Loss) arising on Defined Employee Gain/(Loss) arising on Fair Valuation of 13.45 Income tax (expenses)/credit on the above items that will be reclassified to profit or loss Total Other Comprehensive Incom 9.95 (7.40)0.27 15.46 20.64 Total Comprehensive Income for the perio 7+8)(Comprising Profit/(Loss) and Other omprehensive Income for the period) 8.83 34.14 (9.08)5.36 Paid-up equity share capital (face value of the share shall be indicated) (Rs. 10) 300.89 300.89 300.89 Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve as per balance sheet of previous accounting year Earnings per share(EPS) sic EPS (in Rs.) (*) (Not Annualised) b) Diluted EPS (in Rs.)(*) (Not Annualised) (0.34)

NOTE: Previous figures have been regrouped /reclassified wherever necessary to facilitate comparison.

The financial results of the company for the quarter ended 31st March.2023, which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Board and have been approved the Board and have been approved and taken on record by the Board of

The statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review of the unaudited financial results of the company. The Company has only single reportable business segment in terms of the requirement of Ind AS 108.

Statement of Standalone Audited Assets and Liabilities			
ticulars	As at 31.03.2023	As	
liculars	Audited		

	Statement of Standardine Addited Assets and Elabilities (Rs. III Lacs)				
SI.	Particulars	As at 31.03.2023	As at 31.03.2022		
No.	r ai ticulai s	Audited	Audited		
ı	ASSETS				
1	Financial Assets				
	(a) Cash and cash equivalents	0.13	0.47		
	(b) Investments	829.17	786.80		
	(c) Other financial assets	-	-		
2	Non Financial Assets				
	(a) Inventories	-	-		
	(b) Current Tax Assets (Net)	0.33	0.14		
	(c) Deferred Tax Assets (Net)	-	5.72		
	(d) Property, Plat & Equipment	0.06	0.07		
	(e) Other Non Financial Assets	2.08	2.08		
	Total Assets	831.77	795.27		
Ш	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
	LIABILITIES				
1	Financial liabilities	-	-		
2	Non - Financial Liabilities				
	(a) Current Tax Liabilities	-	1.41		
	(b) Provisions	2.23	2.12		
	(c) Other financial liabilities	14.08	0.85		
	(d) Deferred Tax Liability (Net)	19.19	•		
	Total Liabilities	35.50	4.37		
	Equity				
	(a) Equity Share Capital	300.89	300.89		
	(b) Other Equity	495.37	490.02		
	Total Equity	796.26	790.91		
	Total Equity and liabilities	831.77	795.27		
	F (fd-1) C (fddddddddddddd				

SO/-(SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL) Date : 25.05.2023 Place : New Delhi Managing Director DIN:00130589

Kohinoor display gets 'transparent' makeover earlier Mughal cut. It was re-cut in

The Kohinoor diamond, claimed ■ by India, will go on display with a new exhibition at the Tower of London on Friday within a "symbol of conquest" setting to try and contextualise its turbulent colonial history in a "transparent, balanced and inclusive" way.

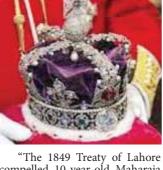
Kohinoor, also referred to as Koh-i-Noor, forms part of the new Jewel House exhibition at the tourist attraction and is accompanied by a video which charts the diamond's journey around the globe. The attached labels for specific royal ornaments the Kohinoor has adorned over the years further explain the history of the diamond, which means mountain of light.

"The new exhibition explores the origins of a number of items in the collection, including the Kohi-Noor," said a spokesperson for the Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), the charity that manages Britain's

tory as a symbol of conquest, which has passed through the hands of Mughal Emperors, Shahs of Iran, Emirs of Afghanistan, and Sikh Maharajas. We conducted extensive audience research before putting together this display, as well as consulting local community groups and specialist academics, which has informed our approach throughout and shaped our presentation of the Koh-i-Noor's story," the spokesperson said. Our aim throughout has been

to present the history in a transparent, balanced and inclusive way, always informed by rigorous research," they added. Among the labelling to be

used, the diamond will be described as a "Symbol of Conquest", to note that it has had many previous owners, including Mughal Emperors, Shahs of Iran, Emirs of Afghanistan, and Sikh



compelled 10-year-old Maharaja Duleep Singh to surrender it to Queen Victoria, along with control of the Punjab. Koh-i-Noor means 'Mountain of Light' in Persian," reads the label.

An Armlet dating back to 1830

tral stone shows the Koh-i-Noor's

has the label: "Queen Victoria received the Koh-i-Noor diamond in 1850, set in this enamelled armlet. Now set with replicas, the cen-

1852 to improve its sparkle and conform to European tastes.' With Queen Alexandra's

Crown of 1902, the label reads: The Koh-i-Noor, sometimes considered lucky, developed a reputation for bringing bad luck to men who wore it. From 1902 it was set in the crowns of several Queens Consort, beginning with Queen Alexandra's Crown, now set with replicas. The Koh-i-Noor is currently set in Queen Elizabeth The Oueen Mother's Crown, 1937."

The exhibition, which runs until November, has been conceived as a special display of all the jewels that have returned to the Tower of London after their use during the historic Coronation ceremony of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. In a diplomatic move, Camilla had conspicuously chosen not to be crowned queen using the Kohinoor as per royal

encashment raised to ₹25L

In line with the Budget announcement, the finance ministry on Thursday hiked the tax exemption limit for leave encashment upon retirement for private sector salaried employees to Rs 25

So far, the tax exemption on leave encashment for nongovernment employees was Rs 3 lakh which was fixed in 2002, when the highest basic pay in the government was Rs 30,000 per month.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), in a statement, said the aggregate amount exempt from income 10(10AA)(ii) shall not exceed the limit of Rs 25 lakh, where any such payments are received by a non-government employee from more than one employer.



The increased limit for tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement or otherwise of non-government salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh with effect from April 1,

"In pursuance to the proposal in the Budget speech,

The central government has notified the increased limit for tax exemption on

leave encashment on retire ment or otherwise of nongovernment salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh w.E.F 01.04.2023," the CBDT said.

In 2023-24 Budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had increased the encashment on retirement of non-government salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh, from

I-T waiver for retirees' leave | IRDAI working to ensure 'insurance for all by 2047'

IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda on Thursday said the regulator is working on three-pronged approach — availability, accessibility and affordability — to ensure 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

India will attain 100 years of independence by 2047 and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken several steps in the last 10-12 months to enhance penetra-tion and density of life cover plans.
"We are also working with

the councils of both life and general insurance to have a UPI-like moment for the insurance sector. A conceptual framework has been contemplated," he said, adding that this is being proposed through the Bhima trinity -Bhima Sugam, Bhima Vistar, and the woman-centric Bhima Vahak.

Speaking at an CII event 1,000-odd circulars have been here, Panda said IRDAI is moving from a rule-based nalised 79 returns, he said.

tated the ease of doing business, promoted healthy competition and encouraged the use of technology, he said. Further, he said, to meet

the distribution challenge, the authority has increased the number of tie-ups that insurance companies can undertake with banks. Observing that Indian

economy today is at an inflection point, he said, the country is among the fastest-growing economies in the world, with strong demographics, large domestic market size and a robust stock market, among others.

"Hence, there is optimism about India, which is drawing investors who are keen to establish a footprint in the sector. India has the largest market as it has 1/5th of the world population. Hence in a orld starved of opportunity, India is a beacon of hope and this is rightly termed as the India Century," he said.

Technology adoption is changing the insurance land-

scape in the country, he said, adding, the use of big data, AI, ML are impacting the sector in more ways than

The regulator is encouraging insurtech, regtech, and fintech to provide ease of

insurance, he said. Further, to reach the last mile, a state-level insurance plan is being proposed, limits on subordinate debt have doubled and exposure to the BSFI sector has increased, which would help in achieving insurance for all by 2047.

To enhance penetration, he said, we are also trying to do is to reach the last mile through state level insurance plans in line with State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) on the banking side.

It will identify the need for the state and accordingly develop plans.

"Depending on the potential and the protection gap, we are trying to create a state insurance plan which will further breakdown into district insurance plans and also ernment in a similar manner what happens in the banking sector, state level insurance committee," he said.

So, he said, once the state governments become equal partners in this effort towards

reaching out to all, it will help

reaching the objective of achieving Insurance for All by In addition, he said, the government is considering amendment of the Insurance Act and that will enable entry of new players in the form of micro, regional, captive and

specialised insurance companies and even composite icences can be granted. By doing this, he said, "we will be able to cater to the different geographies and different strata of the population. So, if you look at the banking side, typically they have dif-

banks also. So that they are focused in trying to address the needs of that particular geography

ferentiating different types of

Strong performance of Indian banks to continue: S&P Global

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said Indian bank-ing sector profitability will stabilise at a healthy level, and asset quality will continue to improve.
"Indian banks' earnings

will likely remain healthy. The sector has improved substantially in the past seven years, from a period when many public-sector lenders were grappling with bad loans," S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria said.

A strong recovery is underway in the Indian banking sector, and lenders have just reported their best results in a decade, S&P Global Ratings said. It expects the sector profitability to stabilise at a healthy level, and that banks' asset quality will continue to improve.

Indian banking profitability is benefiting from higher net



interest margins and lower

We estimate a system-wide return on average assets (ROAA) at 1.2 per cent for fiscal 2023 (year ending March 31, 2023). System-wide ROAA will likely hover around 1.1 per cent in fiscal 2024.

The formation of new non-performing loans will remain at cyclical low levels, despite pressure from higher interest rates," S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Geeta Chugh said.

Ă recovery in written-off accounts is also boosting the profitability of banks," she

CBDT notifies 21 nations from where investment in startups exempt from angel tax

The Finance Ministry has notified 21 countries, including the US, UK and France, from where non-resident investment in unlisted Indian startups will not attract The list, however, excludes

investment from countries like Singapore, Netherlands and Mauritius. The government had in the Budget brought overseas investment in unlisted closely held companies, except DPIIT recognised startups, under the Angel Tax net. Following that, the startup

sought exemption for certain overseas investor classes. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on May 24 notified classes of investors

and venture capital industry

who would not come under the Angel Tax provision. Excluded entities include those registered with Sebi as

Category-I FPI, Endowment

Funds, Pension Funds and

broad-based pooled investment vehicles, which are resi-

dents of 21 specified nations, including the US, UK, Australia, Germany and Spain, as per the notification. The other nations mentioned in the notification are Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Italy, Iceland,

Japan, Korea, Russia, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden. The CBDT notification comes into effect on April 1.

Nangia Andersen India Chairman Rakesh Nangia said by explicitly mentioning this list of countries, the government aims to attract more foreign investment (FDI) into India from countries that have robust regulatory frameworks.

approach to a principal-based approach, that the opportu-

nity to invest in the insurance

sector is immense given the

size of the market, and low

one year, Panda said the

authority introduced use and

file system, stopped micro mangement of expenses, a

lot of prior approvals done away with and reduction in

lations have been repealed,

done away with and ratio-

As many as 70-odd regu-

insurance penetration. Sharing some of the reforms undertaken in the last

"Surprisingly, countries such as Singapore, Ireland, Netherlands, Mauritius etc from where the majority of inbound FDI is channelised into India, do not find a mention in this notification,' Nangia said. Štakeholders may still have

to hold their horses on a formal notification on the valuation guidelines as rules on the same are proposed to be released after a stakeholder consultation process, he added.

Markets bounce back from intra-day lows

Equity benchmark indices bounced back from intraday lows to settle in the posi-

tive territory on Thursday helped by fag-end buying.

In a volatile trade amid the monthly derivaives expiry, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 98.84 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 61,872.62. During the day, it hit a high of 61,934.01 and a low of 61,484.66.

The NSE Nifty gained 35.75 points or 0.20 per cent to end at 18,321.15 after beginning the trade on a weak note. "Markets oscillated in a

narrow range on the monthly expiry day and settled marginally higher. After the flat start, the Nifty slipped gradually lower however support around the 18,200 zone triggered a steady rebound in the final hours," Ájit Mishra, VP -Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Nestle, Asian Paints and Mahindra &



Wipro, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India and Tata Steel were the major laggards.

"On the day of monthly expiry, the Indian stocks traded with high volatility," said Deven Mehata, Equity Research Analyst, Choice

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.36 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.27 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication rallied 1.67 per cent, realty jumped 1.10 per cent, FMCG (0.69 per cent), teck (0.58 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.57 per cent), industrials (0.57 per cent) and Metal, commodities, ener-

y and financial services were the laggards.

"On the last day of monthly F&O series day, the benchmark indices witnessed a volatile trading session," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo ended Equity markets in Europe

were trading on a mixed note. The US market ended lower on

"Global markets maintained their influence, exerting downward pressure on the domestic market in response to weaker cues from the US market and the recession in

Germany. However, as US futures rose, propelled by a sharp increase in sales projections from chipmaker Nvidia, the domestic market was able to efficiently recoup its earlier losses," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 82.75 against US dollar

PTI MUMBA

he rupee fell 7 paise to close at 82.75 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency in the overseas mar-

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.76 against the dollar, and finally settled at 82.75 (provisional), down 7 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee touched a high of 82.70 and a low of 82.78 against the greenback.

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 82.68 against the dollar. The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 104.02.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined



According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee depreciated on weak domestic equities and a strong US Dollar. The US Dollar has surged

to a 10-week high and breached 104 levels on safe-haven demand as the debt ceiling impasse has deteriorated market sentiments. Hawkish fedspeak also supported the green-

'We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and a strong US Dollar. The | PTI ■ NEW DELHI rying the markets as the June I deadline is nearing. Recovery in crude oil prices over the past few days may also weigh on the Choudhary said.

However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower

Traders may remain cautious ahead of US GDP, weekly unemployment claims and pending home sales data. Investors may also watch out for progress on the debt ceiling negotiations. "We expect the USD/INR spot to trade between 82.30 to 83.30 in the near term," he added.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 98.84 points or 0.16 per cent higher at 61,872.62 points. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 35.75 points or 0.2 per cent to 18,321.15 points.

Potent mix of retail, telecom, digital media to put Reliance at top

 $B^{\text{illionaire Mukesh Ambani's}}_{\text{Reliance is the best-posi-}}$ tioned player in the USD 150billion Indian e-commerce market ahead of Amazon and Walmart due to it owning the potent combination of largest retail store network, dominant telecom operations and strong digital media, an analyst said.

In a new report, Bernstein Research said India is evolving into a three-player market with Walmart and Amazon, Reliance.

The conventional retail business model starts out either offline (Walmart) or online (Amazon). "Given distribution chal-

lenges and India's propensity to 'skip a generation' in most technologies, we believe the Indian e-commerce market will be different. An integrated model (offline plus online plus prime), strong distribution



capability and superior cost advantage (against online players) are required from the start," it said.

Reliance Industries is building the largest digital ecosystem in India. Its telecom arm Jio has 430 million mobile subscribers, its retail arm has 18,300 retail stores in India (USD 30 billion in sales), and its digital mix is scaling up 17-18 per cent (USD 6 billion, ecommerce).

"It's a disruptive playbook -- integrate offline + online + prime makes it the strongest competitor Amazon/Walmart," Bernstein

Reliance has 400,000-plus people in its retail business. It has, since January this year, hired about 69,000 new employees to replenish turnaround (about 66,500 employees exited the company). The turnaround in the company is lower than the 30-40 per cent annual churn seen in organised retail in the country

It has also laid off some ourely on performance-related issues. Close to 570 have been handed pink slips after failing to improve performance and serving notice period post-April 2023.

Govt crackdown soon on developers of delayed power projects: RK Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will crack-I down on developers of power projects, who miss the scheduled commercial date of operation or deadline to complete the project, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh said on Thursday.

Addressing a CII conference, Singh said the electricity generation capacity addition is a big challenge, as people are sitting on several projects won under the bidding process.
Singh said that all these

projects (power) are won under the bidding process and if they miss the SCOD (scheduled commercial date of operation or deadline to complete the project), then the developer will be banned from participating in project bidding for one year.

SBI penalised for sending bills to



banned for five years, Singh said, adding that he is going to put this (rule) in (policy). Power project developers are waiting for demand to grow but this will not happen,

Singh also said that until battery energy storage becomes viable, India would have to add

thermal power capacity to meet the demand. At present the battery storage is Rs 10 per unit and the

energy rate is Rs 2.30, he

INBRIEF

IIFL FINANCE BACK WITH GOLD LOAN MELA

New Delhi: IIFL Finance is one of India's largest nonbanking financial companies with over 2,600 dedicated gold loan branches across India. IIFL Finance is back with its flagship campaign



be held between May 15, 2023 until June 30, 2023. Lucky customers can win mega prizes like a car, electric scooters, 32 inch LED TVs, refrigerators, smartphones and many more by availing a gold loan

INNOVATIVE INDIA SUMMIT-2023 New Delhi: In keeping with its commitment to take ahead the

honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India an

economic super power Summit India has organised the first edition of 'Innovative India Summit – 2023' with an aim to bring country's top thought leaders on one platform and recognise their contribution towards India's growth story. The Summit was held in New Delhi on May 16, 2023.

CBIC extends deadline for filing April GST return for Manipur-based biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBIC has extended the **⊥** deadline till May 31 for Manipur-based businesses to file monthly GST returns, as the north eastern state continues to witness violence due to ethnic clashes.

The Central Board of

Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued three Central Tax notifications which said that the due date for filing returns GSTR-1, GSTR-3B and GSTR-7 for the month of April by registered persons whose principal place of business is in Manipur has been extended till May 31. Manipur-registered businesses were to file GSTR-1, which is the statement of outward supplies, for April by

April GSTR-3B, which is from reserve forest land, which the monthly tax payment form, had led to a series of smaller



GSTR-7, which was to be filed by businesses who deduct tax at source, for April was filed by May 10.

Clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The violence in Manipur was preceded by tension over

the eviction of Kuki villagers

per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

The ethnic clashes claimed over 70 lives and some 10,000 army and paramilitary personnel had to be deployed in the north eastern state. However, the violence has been continuing as one person was killed and another injured on

man despite credit card's expiry PTI ■ NEW DELHI the rejection of his applications for credit cards from

Delhi consumer forum Ahas directed the SBI Cards & Payments Services Pvt. Ltd. To pay Rs 2 lakh to a person here for sending him bill even after his card's expiry and blacklisting him for non-payment of the

The New Delhi District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum comprising its president Monika A Srivastava and members Kiran Kausal and Umesh Kumar Tyagi directed the company to pay the amount to M J Anthony, a former journalist, for "defi-

ciency in providing services". The forum noted that the company had blacklisted him in the CIBIL system of the wilful defaulters maintained by the RBI, which resulted in

another bank where he had maintained regular account for nearly two decades. 'This Commission is of

the view that the SBI Cards &

Payments Services Pvt. Ltd. Has been deficient in providing services to the complainant and though the damage/loss occasioned to the complainant in terms of credit rating cannot be measured in terms of money yet punitive damage ought to be awarded against OP (opposite party) therefore, OP is directed to compensate the complainant by paying a sum of Rs 2 lakh as compensation within two months from the date of this order failing which the sum payable would be Rs 3 lakh," the forum said.

The forum passed the

Anthony's complaint seeking compensation, claiming that he had requested the company to cancel his card in April 2016 much before its expiry and not to renew it.

order on May 20 on

He did not use the card for any transaction after April 9, 2016 and had destroyed the card according to rules, he said, adding that no payment was due at that time on the card. In September, the complainant received a letter from the company about the cancellation of his card, however, the company continued to send bills relating to the card ignoring his protest e-mails, he said. The bills were to the tune

of Rs 2,946 by May 18, 2017 inclusive of late payment charges and penalty, he said.

Dortmund or Bayern? Bundesliga up for grabs on final day

The closest Bundesliga title race for years ends on the final day of the season on Saturday when Borussia Dortmund or Bayern Munich will be crowned champion. Dortmund leads by two points and needs to beat Mainz at home to be sure of ending Bayern's 10-year reign, while Bayern will be hoping for a Dortmund slip-up as it visits Cologne at the same time.

Bayern's goal difference is better than Dortmund's so a draw won't be enough for Dortmund if Bayern beats Cologne.

"We have to win once more. That's all that counts," Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl said.

It would be Dortmund's first German league title since Jürgen Klopp led the "black and yellows" to back-to-back triumphs in 2011 and 2012. Bayern has won every season since. The fact that the Bavarian powerhouse doesn't have the title already wrapped up means the season will be considered a failure — even if Mainz does Bayern a favor and causes an upset on Saturday.

Bayern's total of 68 points is the lowest it's had at this stage of the season since 2011, when interim coach Andries Jonker led the team to third place after Louis van Gaal was fired. Bavern also fired its coach this season, when Julian Nagelsmann made way in March because the club felt its targets in the Champions League, German Cup and Bundesliga were in danger. Bayern was subsequently knocked out of the first two under new coach Thomas Tuchel, but he may yet salvage some lost pride if his former team Dortmund fails to beat Mainz — where he started his senior coaching career.

Dortmund's 70 points are just one more than it managed last season, when it finished 10 behind Bayern. The story



of the Bundesliga this season is one of Bayern's decline, rather than any huge leap made by Dortmund - though the team has developed a new resilience under coach Edin Terzic. "We're ready to take the last step together - as a team, as a club, as a city," Terzic said on Thursday.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Leipzig is assured of third place regardless of its result at home to Schalke, but fourth — the last qualification spot for Europe's premier competition — is still in contention between Union Berlin and

Both teams are level on points, with Union ahead by four goals difference. Union can book its Champions League place with a win at home over Werder Bremen, or by matching Freiburg's result at Eintracht Frankfurt - provided Freiburg doesn't score four goals more than

It's already a remarkable achievement for Union and Freiburg - both clubs of modest resources - to be in this position going into the final round.

EUROPA LEAGUE/EUROPA CON-FERENCE LEAGUE

One of Union or Freiburg will finish fifth

and qualify for the Europa League.
Sixth-placed Bayer Leverkusen and seventh-placed Wolfsburg hope to join, depending on what happens in the German Cup final on June 3 between Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Because the cup winner gets a European qualification spot, Leverkusen and Wolfsburg will be cheering for Leipzig in the final. If Leipzig successfuldefends its title, it will free another Europa League qualification spot (sixth

qualified for the Champions League. If Frankfurt wins, then the sixth-placed finisher goes to the Europa Conference League. Leverkusen visits Bochum on the final day. Wolfsburg is just a point behind Leverkusen and can be confident of taking three more against already-relegated Hertha Berlin. Frankfurt, three points behind Leverkusen, has only a slim chance of finishing sixth.

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

Augsburg, Stuttgart, Bochum and Schalke are all still playing for survival on the final day. The bottom two are relegated and the team that finishes above them goes into a two-leg relegation-promotion playoff against the second division's third-placed finisher to see which plays in the Bundesliga next season.

All of the final round's matches are played at the same time on Saturday.

India face FC Augsburg in U-17 Asian Cup build-up



▼ndia will take on Bundesliga team here on Friday as part of their preparation for the AFC Under-17 Asian Cup slated next month. The game will be the Blue Colts' third training match during their preparatory camp in Germany.

Earlier this month, India played two more games against a mix of U-16 and U-19 academy boys from VFB Stuttgart (1-3) and a German regional league side SSV Reutlingen's U-16 academy outfit (6-1).

"We have had a few days to train after our last game, and we're ready for our last two matches here in Germany," said India head coach Bibiano Fernandes.

The India U-17s have been on an extensive preparatory path for the AFC U-17 Asian Cup to be held next month in Thailand, as they camped in Spain for a month before shifting base to Stuttgart on May 16. Having played two match-

Aditi falters in opening tie of match play in Las Vegas

es in Stuttgart, and after attending a number of Bundesliga games, the Blue Colts have arrived in Augsburg for the last week of their training in

"We have had a fruitful time in Germany. The facilities have been fantastic, and the boys have learnt a lot from different sessions given by the coaches in Stuttgart," said Fernandes.

The India U-17s have arrived in Augsburg on Thursday and will play their first game against their hosts on Friday.

"Augsburg are of course one of the top clubs in Europe, and we expect their U-17 team to be of a very high standard as well. It will be a good game, but the boys are improving every day," said Fernandes.
The Blue Colts, after finish-

ing their preparation in Germany, will head to Thailand two weeks ahead of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup, for further training and acclimatisation. They will face Vietnam (June 17), Uzbekistan (June 20), and Japan



Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy enter quarterfinals of Malaysia Masters

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth booked their places in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament with contrasting wins over their respective rivals here on Thursday.

While double Ólympic medallist and sixth seed Śindhu disposed of Aya Ohori of Japan in straight games in women's singles, Prannoy had to dig deep to get the better of Shi Feng Li of China in a tough threegame men's singles contest. Later in the day, Srikanth prevailed over India Open champion and eighth seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

Taking the court first, world No. 13 Sindhu extended her domination over Ohori, ranked 28th, taking just 40 minutes to beat the Japanese 21-16, 21-11 in the round of 16. It was her 13th win over the Japanese in as many meetings. Sindhu will face China's Yi

Man Zhang in the quarterfinals. World No. 9 Prannoy then

overcame a game deficit to beat world No. 11 and reigning All England champion Li 13-21, 21-16, 21-11 in one hour and 10 minutes to book his berth in the

India veterans Atwal, Jeev to tee off at Senior PGA Championship



Veteran Indian golfers Jeev Milkha Singh and Arjun Atwal will tee off at the USD 3.5 million Senior PGA Championship here.

50-plus golfers.

Jeev, who has playing rights on the Senior Tours in Europe and Japan, got a special invite and so did Atwal, India's first and only PGA Tour winner. Atwal was on the waiting list less than a week ago. "Fields at the Seniors are

very strong. They have players who have won Majors on the PGA Tour not too far back.

"Names like Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, Ernie Els and the whole bunch of PGA stars, who are now on the Champions TOUR, as it is called, are good to give many a run for their money in any event," said Atwal.

Jeev, who made his debut at a senior major at the PGA Championships last year, is thrilled to be back in Texas, where he played college golf.

"I've been granted a special invitation to the 83rd Senior PGA. I cannot wait to get back to Texas, where I played all my college golf. This really is a huge honour." said Jeev.



Diksha, Amandeep, Tvesa among five Indians in Belgium

PTI ■ WANZE (BELGIUM)

India's Diksha Dagar, who is ■ showing signs of getting back to form, will hope for a good of five Indians in the Belgian Ladies Open, which is taking place at Naxhelet Golf Club for the second consecutive year.

Diksha and Tvesa Malik got in late into the field, which also comprises Amandeep Drall, Vani Kapoor and Seher Atwal as the Ladies European Tour (LET) returned to Europe at the Naxhelet Golf Club for the summer run of events after a trip to While Diksha is slowly get-

ting back to form, Tvesa and Vani, who missed the cut last week, will be looking to making amends as will Amandeep Drall, who last year came within a whisker of winning the Hero Women's Indian Open for her maiden LET success at home.

Seher, who earned the status through the LET Qualifying School, is looking to translate her

home success on the LET. This season India's flag has been flown by Aditi Ashok, who is leading the LET's Race to Costa Del Sol, but this week she

is playing on the LPGA, where

her last two starts have seen her finish T-2 and T-5.

Seher Atwal will be among the early starters, teeing off in the second group of the day with nnin of France, while Vani Kap oor is the very next group with two other French stars, Camille Chevalier and Agathe Sauzon.

Just as Vani tees off from the first, Amandeep will play alongside Germans Sophie Witt and Laura Fuenfstueck at the same time from the 10th.

Diksha plays with England's Chloe Frankish and Swiss golfer Kim Metraux from the first in the afternoon wave, and then Tvesa will be among the last few groups from the first with Thailand's Mim Sangkapong and Slovakia's Michaela Vavrova.

Home star Manon De Roey will be teeing it up once again in her home tournament after she finished in a tie for seventh place in 2022. The Antwerp native had a solid start to the LET season with three top-10 finishes, including T3 at the Aramco Saudi Ladies International. Last vear, Cara Gainer secured her best-ever finish on the LET by coming second at the Belgian Ladies Open after rounds of 71 (-1), 67 (-5) and 64 (-8).

rndia's Aditi Ashok led for most part against French

golfer Perrine Delacour but lost the last two holes to go down in the first set of matches at the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-It was a closely fought bat-

PTI ■ LAS VEGAS

tle, where Aditi led for most part of the match. Aditi had five birdies and so did Delacour, but the latter added a sixth winning birdie on the 18th to outgun the Indian. There are 64 players in the field who will be in action in three days of round-robin play. The winner from each of the 16 groups will advance to the knockout stage on the weekend.

Aditi, who has been in Top-5 in her last two starts, was never in deficit till the 17th as her rival kept fighting back. Aditi opened smartly and went 2-up in the first three holes, with birdies on the first and the third. The Frenchwoman rallied to win the fourth and eighth to tie the Aditi again started the back

nine with a birdie and won the 10th hole only to see Delacour get back the hole on 11th. Aditi again won the 13th and lost the 14th and yet again won the 15th. With the 16th being halved

with a bogey from both players on the Par-5, So, Aditi was 1-up with two to play. Once again the gritty Delacour won the 17th



and then won the last hole to upstage the Indian.

Aditi will meet Caroline Inglis, who upset Jennifer Kupcho 4&3 in the other group

match. Aditi will need to win to keep her hopes of advancing to the knockout stage

Lilia Vu and Brooke Henderson, the two top 10 ranked

players in the field, started with wins at Shadow Creek. Vu never trailed in a 4-and-3 victory over Lauren Hartlage. Henderson took the lead for good with a birdie on the par-5 ninth hole and relied on mistakes by Yaeeun Hong and won, 3 and 2.

Among other seeds Maja Stark of Sweden was 4-up through 10 holes only to lose the next four holes against Emma Talley. Stark went back ahead with a par to win the 15th and held on for a 2-up victory.

Celine Boutier, the No. 3

seed, was taken to 18 holes and won when Min Lee made double bogey on the 18th. It was among 13 of the 32 matches that ended on the 18th hole.

India look to continue Pro League supremacy under new coach Fulton

A rejuvenated Ind-ian men's hockey team will look to carry on its fine form from the home leg and maintain its supremacy at the top of the standings when it begins the Europe sojourn of the FIH Pro

League against Olympic champions Belgium here on Friday. During the European leg of the tournament, India will also take on the Netherlands and Argentina in Eindhoven, the

Netherlands. India overcame a disappointing World Cup campaign earlier this year to climb to the top of the 2022-23 Pro League table with an unbeaten record against world champions

Germany and mighty Australia. The Indians secured three outright wins from the Rourkela

ning a shootout bonus point in the fourth match against the Kookaburras.

India are currently leading the table with 19 points from five outright victories from eight matches and

two from shootouts. The Harmanpreet Singh-led side will look to carry on with their winning momentum when it takes on Belgium on Friday and Great Britain on Saturday in

the Lee Valley Stadium here. Hosts Great Britain will be riding on their recent success in Christchurch, New Zealand where they won 5-2 and 6-1 against New Zealand, and also beat Australia 2-1 and 3-3 (4-2 SO) to gather 19 points from eight games with four outright wins and three from shoot-

After being blanked by Australia, India women lose to A team Down Under



The Indian women's hockey I team put up a fighting show against Australia A before going down 2-3 here on Thursday.

Salima Tete (40') and Sangita Kumari (54') netted a goal each for India after Alice Arnott (18') and Ruby Harris (20', 35') had put the hosts in front. India dominated Australia A in the first quarter, earning a penalty corner in the 10th minute but was unable to capitalise.

The hosts then won a couple of penalty corners, but

prevent them from taking the lead, and the first quarter ended goalless. India focused on maintaining ball possession in the second quarter, but Australia A took the lead when Arnott (18') scored a field goal. Harris (20') doubled the hosts' lead moments later as she was free at the far post, allowing her to eas-

ily put the ball in India's goal. With the scoreline stacked against them, India began to play aggressively and even made some good attacks, but couldn't find the back of the net as Australia A went into the halftime break with the 2-0 lead.

Australia A extended their lead early in the third quarter when Harris (35') scored her second goal of the game to make it 3-0 for the hosts.



Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's training proposal in Finland was on Thursday approved in the lead up to his multiple World Athletics — Gold Level events in June. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Tokyo Olympic champion intends to train at Kuortane Olympic Training Centre in Finland during this

came the first Indian javelin approved paddler Payas Jain's

Senior paddlers Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran's proposals to take personal coaches Aman Balgu and S Raman respectively for multiple events were also approved by the MOC. While Manika and Aman Balgu will head to WTT Contender, Zagreb and WTT Star Contender, Ljubljana, Sathiyan and Raman will head to Tunis in addition to the above-mentioned events.

The financial assistance will cover their air travel expenses, camp expenses, boarding and lodging cost, medical insurance and out-of-pocket allowance,

French Open 2023: Alcaraz, Djokovic on same half of draw Swiatek-Gauff could ly that the issue would not prevent her Zverev in the final. It was Zverev who from competing in Paris, where she has won two of her three major tro-

be in quarterfinals

arlos Alcaraz and the man he just Creplaced atop the rankings, 22time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic, were placed in the same half of the French Open field in Thursday's draw and could face each other in the semifinals

Alcaraz is seeded No. 1 at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time and was automatically placed in the top section of the bracket. Diokovic is No. 3 and so could have ended up on either half - had he landed in the bottom, he and Alcaraz only could have met in the final at Roland Garros, where 14-time champion Rafael Nadal will be missing for the

the clay-court major in 2005. Play begins Sunday.

Typically, the previous year's singles champions are invited to appear at the draw, so 2022 women's winner Iga Swiatek was present Thursday. Nadal, of course, was not. Still, he was the first player mentioned at the outset of the ceremony by French Tennis Federation president Gilles Morreton, who noted, "Unfortunately, he cannot play the tournament this year."

Swiatek did not appear to show any ill effects from the hurt right thigh that caused her to stop playing in the third set of her quarterfinal match in Rome last weekend.

She indicated almost immediate-



phies. "It's like my favorite tournament in the whole year, so I'm always excited to come back," said Swiatek, who has been ranked No. 1 for more than a year. "Before the tournament, I get this extra motivation to practice harder, to make everything better."

The draw put her in a potential quarterfinal against No. 6 Coco Gauff in what would be a rematch of last year's French Open final.

Alcaraz, who just turned 20, and Djokovic, who just turned 36, have played each other just once previously, in the semifinals of the Madrid Open in May 2022. Alcaraz won that one 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) — a day after beating Nadal in the quarterfinals, becoming the first player to defeat both Djokovic and Nadal at the same clay-court tournament. Alcaraz went on to collect the title there with a straight-set victory over Alexander

ended Alcaraz's 14-match winning streak in the French Open quarterfinals last year. That was also the round where Nadal stopped Djokovic in a four-set, four-hour thriller. This time, the men's quarterfinals by seeding would be Alcaraz, the

reigning U.S. Open champion, against No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, a two-time Slam finalist; Djokovic against No. 7 Andrey Rublev; No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open winner, against No. 8 Jannik Sinner; and No. 4 Casper Ruud, runner-up at the French Open and U.S. Open last year, against No. 6 Holger Rune.

Other women's matchups in that round could be No. 4 Elena Rybakina, the reigning Wimbledon champion, against No. 7 Ons Jabeur, a two-time major finalist; No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, against No. 5 Caroline Garcia; and No. 3 Jessica Pegula vs. No. 8



proposal gets approval

PTI NEW DELHI

Chopra, who recently bethrower to become World Number 1, had followed a similar training plan in the year 2022 as well. Among other proposals, the Mission Olympic Cell also proposal for an advanced training camp in Taiwan.

FINAL CALL ON ASIA CUP VENUE TO BE TAKEN AFTER IPL FINAL: BCCI SECY

decision on Asia Cup's fate will be taken on the sidelines of the IPL final, which will be attended by a host of top Asian Cricket Council (ACC) dignitaries, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Thursday.

Pakistan have the hosting rights for this year's Asia Cup but with BCCI deciding against sending its team to the neighbouring country without government permission, PCB chairman Najam Sethi had proposed a 'hybrid model' where they will organise at least four games on home soil and India will play their matches at a neutral venue.

It couldn't be confirmed whether Sethi has been formally invited for the IPL final.

"As of now, the decision with regards to hosting of Asia Cup hasn't yet been finalised. We are busy with IPL but the top dignitaries of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), Bangladesh and Afghanistan Cricket Board are coming to watch the IPL final. We will have a discussion and take a final decision in due



course," Jay Shah told PTI.

It has been learnt from ACC sources that Sethi's proposed hybrid model looks like a feasible solution although ACC had made no formal statements. According to the model, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan play

four preliminary matches in Pakistan and India would play all their games at neutral

The two India-Pakistan games will also be held in Sri Lanka although the PCB wants them in Dubai. The weather in UAE in September is not at all

conducive for 50- over games although to make the 'hybrid model work logistically, UAE is a far better option for the Asian Cricket Council.

"ACC head Jay Shah will summon an executive body meeting where a formal announcement will take place.

The PCB doesn't mind playing India at a neutral venue. "PCB would prefer Dubai because it would lead to more gate receipts but it is open to playing in another country (read Sri Lanka) provided the ACC matches the gate receipts amount (USD 0.5 million) that Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) received in 2022 from the Indo-Pak games in Dubai," an ACC source privy to development told PTI on conditions of

anonymity. The window for the Asia Cup this year is between September 1-17.

FORMAT AND OTHER MODALITIES

The six teams in the Asia Cup are India, Pakistan, Sri Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal.

One group will have India, Pakistan and Nepal while the other group will comprise Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

According to ACC sources, if the 'hybrid model' goes ahead, then Pakistan would like to host the following four games in their country.

These games are Pakistan vs Nepal, Sri Lanka v Bangladesh, Bangladesh vs Afghanistan and Afghanistan vs Šri Lanka.

As per the format, the top two teams from each group will constitute Super Fours where they again play against each other. After the Super Four round robin phase, the top two teams will play the final.

The Super Fours will ensure that at least two Indo-Pak encounters are guaranteed, which is profitable for the host nation, broadcaster as well as ACC.

If India and Pakistan qualify for the summit clash, then it will be three matches between the arch-rivals.

"Sethi has said that in preliminary round, Pakistan is only playing Nepal. His proposal is to make it six games with two Super four non-India matches, involving Pakistan to be played in Pakistan," the ACC source added.

As far as final is concerned, even if India doesn't qualify, the ACC will conduct it at a designated neutral country — Sri

MI face IPL champ GT in Qualifier 2

kash Madhwal's breath-Ataking bowling performance against Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator would have given five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians wings and they would be fancying their chances against defending champions Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 to be played in the world's largest stadium here on Friday.

Mumbai Indians, riding on magical figures of five for five produced by Madhwal at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Wednesday night, knocked out LSG from the race to the

final with an 81-run win. The massive MI victory was a warning to the rivals that they could lift their game according to the occasion even in the absence of star pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Jofra Archer and batting mainstay Tilak Varma.

MI pride themselves on thriving when the odds are stacked against them, something they have done throughout the season. Having finished last in the previous edition, Rohit Sharma's team has ground it out this season to remain in contention for a sixth IPL title even with limited

resources. The likes of Cameron Green, Suryakumar Yadav and Tim David have responded well to the challenges and now form the backbone of the batting department with the young Nehal Wadhera too making a huge impact, and the opening pair of Rohit and Ishan Kishan doing a fair job.

led by Mohammad Shami (26 wickets in 15 matches), to get the better of MI's bat- most runs in this IPL.

drastically towards the busi-

ness end of the tournament. Madhwal has been a revelation with the ball. The right-arm bowler returned a dream spell of 3.5-0-5-5 against LSG to put his side into the virtual semifinal after a three-wicket burst that set up victory in their crucial last league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Veterans Piyush Chawla (21 wickets in 15 matches) and Jason Behrendorff (14 wickets in 11 matches) have also been impressive, while an otherwise expensive Chris Jordan also enjoyed a fine outing of 2-1-7-1 in the Eliminator.

Gujarat Titans, outclassed and outgunned in Qualifier 1 by Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings, will have one last chance to gather themselves up and put their best foot forward in familiar conditions here in order to qualify for their second IPL final

It will be imperative for the defending champions that their batting clicks in unison, since Shubman Gill and Vijay Shankar have done bulk of the heavy lifting with the bat in the last few

Gill might have had an off day against CSK but his two centuries in the closing stages of the league round make him the biggest threat for Mumbai Indians.

With 722 runs in 15 matches at an average of 55.53, including two centuries and four fifties, the India batter has 421 runs more than the second-best GT batter — Shankar with It will be a stern test for 301 runs in 12 matches short of going past RCB's Faf du Plessis to finish with

Khelo India University Games kick-starts in UP

Uttar Pradesh has become a 'sangam' of sportspersons from across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after inaugurating the Khelo India University

Addressing the inaugural event virtually, Modi said the Commonwealth Games scam demonstrated the approach of the previous government towards sports.

The scam had surfaced during the tenure of the Congress-led UPA II Government in 2010.

"Earlier no attention was paid to the development of sports. It was considered that sports is a means only to spend spare time. But today, I am happy that the perception of prime minister said.

Minister Yogi Adityanath and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

kash Madhwal, who engi-

Aneered Mumbai Indians'

comprehensive 81-run win

over Lucknow Super Giants in

the IPL Eliminator, doesn't consider himself as Jasprit

Bumrah's replacement and is

happy to fulfil the responsibil-

ity entrusted on him by the

Madhwal, an engineer from Uttarakhand, returned

impressive figures of 5 for 5

in 3.3 overs as MI inched one

step closer to the IPL summit

fulfil the responsibilities given

to me by the team. I am not

Bumrah's replacement but

I'm trying my best to do

what I can," Madhwal told

Chidambaram Stadium in

Chennai has not benefited the

pacers much this season,

Madhwal spoke about what

reporters after the match.

Though

worked for him.

"I am trying my best to

clash on Wednesday night.

team.



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur were among those present at the event.

This year, the Khelo India University Games are being held from May 25 to June 3 in Uttar Pradesh. Over 4,750 athletes from more than 200 uniwill be organised in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Gorakhpur, Lucknow and

The university games are part of various schemes launched by the government to support budding sportspersons and efforts have been put in to strengthen the sports

ecosystem in the country. The mascot of the games is named 'Jitu', which represents society and parents has versities will be competing in Swamp Deer (Barasingha) - the The closing ceremony of the games will be held in Varanasi

Individuals showed lot of character to reach successive WTC finals: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Captain Rohit Sharma feels all individuals showed a lot of character and stepped up when needed to take India to the World Test Championship final for the second consecutive time, especially after losing in the inaugural edition in 2021.

India will take on Australia at The Oval in the 2021-2023 cycle WTC final, starting June 7.

"After the World Test Championship (2021 final) in Southampton, we quickly had to regroup and get ready for the next cycle," Rohit said in a video posted by BCCI on its website.

"I thought in that cycle we played some really, really tough cricket. We were challenged a lot of times and I thought to come out of that was obviously going to take a lot of character from not just a few individuals, but everyone." Rohit was full of praise for the fighting character of his teammates after the disappointment of losing the inaugural

"Look, it's a cycle of two years and we play a lot of Test



matches during that period. Lot(s) of players have played in that cycle," he said.

"Different individuals have stepped up, putting the performances that we were looking for from the individual."

In the upcoming WTC final, India will be without the services of three key players -- Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and Jasprit Bumrah. While Bumrah and Iver are down with injuries, Pant is recovering from a horrific car crash earlier in the year.

Besides Rohit, Pant and Iver were the only two Indian batters to average over 40 in the inaugural WTC, scoring more than up 45 wickets from 10 Tests during that period.

Cheteshwar Pujara said the team should recognise the contributions of the trio.

There have been many players who have contributed to the team. Some of them are not part of this squad currently, but it's important that we recognise all the players that have contributed in this cycle," Pujara said. "It's been a great team effort... The team management, captain, everyone has been looking forward to this moment where we qualify for the WTC finals and the guys are really excited to play at The Oval. We've got some good memories playing against England in UK. Overall, if I look at the last couple of years, it's been a very good journey for the Indian Test

Bharat would be obvious choice to go with in WTC final: Shastri



PTI DUBA

 $F^{\text{ormer India chief coach}}_{\text{Ravi Shastri feels KS}}$ Bharat would be the "obvious choice" of the team management for the wicketkeeper's role in the World Test Championship final against Australia to be played in England next month.

With India's first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant recovering from a horrific car crash and his back-up KL Rahul recuperating from a surgery on his right thigh, the

Indian team management is in a dilemma on who to select between Bharat and Ishan Kishan as its firstchoice gloveman for the WTC final at The Oval starting June 7.

Shastri said since Bharat had kept wickets during the Border-Gavaskar series earlier this year, he expected the 29-year-old to get the management's nod ahead of Kishan.

"You have to see who's a better keeper. Is it Bharat or Ishan Kishan? Now, the fact that Bharat was given a run against Australia, where he played all the Test matches, I think he would be the obvious choice to go with," Shastri said on the ICC Review. While Bharat gave a good account of himself behind the stumps, he was below-par with the bat, managing just 101 runs from six innings on turning tracks.

MI peaking

at right time: **Cameron Green**

PTI CHENNAI

ameron Green is finally Ujustifying his Rs 17.5 crore billing just when Mumbai Indians needed him the most and is happy that his team after initial struggles is now a step away from the IPL summit clash.

Having Lucknow Super Giants by 81 runs in the Eliminator, MI will face defending champions Gujarat Titans on Friday in the second Qualifier to decide Chennai Super Kings' opposition in Sunday's final.

Green in fact said even skipper Rohit Sharma told newcomers in dressing room that the five-time champions are slow starters

"Obviously, all experience that he (Rohit) has got for India and in IPL, he kind of knows. I think MI never won the first game of IPL and he tries to mention that to us, Green told Star Sports after having scored 40 odd and effecting two run-outs in LSG

am not Bumrah's replacement: Madhwal aiming for wickets," he said. about mangoes whenever the Madhwal said skipper

> him.
> "Rohit bhaiya knew that yorkers were my strength but during the nets and practice matches, he also found that I can bowl well with the new ball," he said.
>
> "So he had an idea as to

Rohit Sharma knew his

strengths and how to use

how to use me as the situation warranted. I'm also very chilled out and relaxed and I'm having fun because I'm

pursuing my passion."

Meanwhile, LSG bowler
Naveen-ul-Haq said he
enjoyed the "Kohli, Kohli" chants at the stadium on Wednesday as it gave him the passion to play well for his

During the league stage of the ongoing IPL, Naveen-ul-Haq had a heated chat with Royal Challengers Bangalore star Kohli. After the RCB-LSG game, the Afghan even posted Instagram stories

Bangalore-based outfit did not perform well in their matches. "I enjoy it. I like everyone

in the ground chanting his

(Virat Kohli) name or any

other player's name. "It gives me passion to play well for my team," he said after his brilliant spell of 4/38 against MI, albeit in a losing

cause.
"Well I don't concentrate on the outside or the noise from outside or anything else. I just focus on my own cricket and my own process. Crowd chanting or anyone saying something doesn't affect me.

"As professional sportsmen you have to take this in your stride. When you don't do well for your team, fans are going to give it to you. And when you do good for your team, (the) same people are going to chant your name. Basically this is part and parcel of the game," he added.

Jason wants to renegotiate ECB contract in order to play MLC T20 in US the remaining two teams. The MLC's first edition is League winners Kolkata Knight league and it might make them year but Roy has an incremen-ECB, those who have incre-

Opener Jason Roy is mulling over renegotiating his contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in order to take up lucrative offers to play in the first season of the upcoming Major League Cricket (MLC) in the United

States of America. With global cricket ecosystem witnessing an increasing loyalty shift towards franchisebased T20 leagues, a lot of English cricketers like Roy would be sought after in every

think about the amount of time they want to devote in national duty. Six players from England -

"The wicket at Chepauk

was good. As you saw, the ball bowler, and I pitched my was not gripping but skid-deliveries in hard lengths

Roy, Topley, Harry Brook, Dawid Malan, Matthew Potts and David Willey - have incremental contracts with the ECB. The report informed that these contracts are worth around GBP 66,000 per year and act as a 'top-up to County salaries'.

Apart from the righthanded opening batter Roy, who recently played for the two-time Indian Premier



ding. I am a swing/sling

Riders, fast bowler Reece Topley is also considering making the same move.

However, Topley's decision could be influenced by his fitness status following a surgery to his shoulder, reported ESPNCricinfo.

Topley was also last seen in the IPL, wherein he played a few initial matches for the Royal Challengers Bangalore. The report added that

England players, who are full central contracts, are not likely to feature in the MLC this

tal deal with the ECB, is planning to terminate it, which would help him to take up a role in the league to be played in the

The MLC is slated to be held from July 13-30 this year at the Grand Prairie Stadium in The league has considerable

backing from India and Australia, with four IPL team owners investing in as many MLC franchises and Australia's Cricket Victoria and Cricket New South Wales have stakes in

also set to clash with the English summer as the semifinal and final of the T20 Blast will be on July 15, whereas two County Championship games will also be in the same duration. Additionally, the ECB's

Hundred starts on August 1. Due to these fixtures, ECB will not issue NOCs which would enable their contracted players to take part in the MLC. While the fully-contracted players will not be able to negotiate a release with the

tion to do so. Meanwhile, Surrey are expecting Roy to play the MLC, most likely for LA Knight Riders, which will be between the end of the T20 Blast and the

mental contracts are in a posi-

beginning of the Hundred. Australia's Marcus Stoinis, South Africa's Quinton

de Kock, Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga, South Africa's Anrich Nortje and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips have been revealed as the overseas signings in the MLC.