OPINION 6

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WORLD 8

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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Telangana CM summoned in Shah fake video case

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

day after registering a case on doctored videos of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Police on Monday asked Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to join the probe on May 1 and record his statement.

Meanwhile, Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on X, informing the arrest of Reetom Singh by the Assam police. Singh is reportedly the War Room Coordinator of the Assam Congress Flagging the issue in a public

rally at Bagalkote (Karnataka), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said there is a habit among people to forward certain information that comes on various platforms without verifying.

"Those who have lost elections or have lost (while being in) the fray are using technology to make fake videos. Misusing artificial intelligence they put out wrong things in my voice in social media — this is creating a big threat." Appealing to people to inform police or the BJP about such fake videos and legal action will follow, the PM said the law of this country will not allow people to play such games with anyone," the PM alleged. The BJP on Monday lodged a

complaint with the Election Commission against the Congress, alleging that it circulated a "deep fake and morphed" video of Shah to derail the poll process, and demanded strict action against



video of Home Minister Amit Shah over reservation, at Gandhi Bhavan, in Hyderabad, on Monday; and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy (R)

the party. A BJP delegation comprising Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the national media department in-charge Anil Baluni also complained against Trinamool Congress (TMC), alleging that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led party has been using violence as a weapon, and demanded that the poll panel ensure a free and fair election in the state.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police had registered a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act following a complaint that doctored videos of Shah were being circulated on social media platforms. According to sources, a team of Delhi Police is expected to visit

the Congress office in Telangana by Monday evening. Sources said the police have served notices to five people, including Reddy, who posted the video on X. Reddy has been asked to appear with his mobile phone allegedly used for posting the fake video on X. According to sources, top MHA officials held a high-level meeting with top cops of the Delhi Police

regarding Minister's Home doctored video. Sources said that Reddy had shared the video on 'X' (formerly known as Twitter). He has been asked to bring his electronic devices, including his phone, from which the video was posted. Around half-adozen people, including Congress leaders, who shared the doctored videos are also being summoned by Delhi Police.

The Special Cell had on Sunday registered an FIR after the Cyber Indian Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah

where he is seen giving a commitment to abolish quota for Muslim community on religious ground in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

The complaint filed by Sinku Sharan Singh, DC, Indian

Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) claimed that some doctored videos are being circulated on social media with the intent of creating among disharmony communities which is likely to

to affect public tranquility and public order." Singh also shared links of videos with the police. The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Special Cell has now approached social media platforms to identify the source of the video and those who have spread it. "We have formed many different teams to investigate the matter properly and arrest the main culprits. We have written to X, formerly known as Twitter, and other social media regarding the video. We are investigating both the source of the video and those responsible for its

The Police has asked Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to join the probe on May 1 and is headed to the state, according to sources. The authorities have served notices to five people, including Reddy, who posted the video on X. Telangana CM, who also happens to be Congress Telangana Chief, has been asked to appear with his mobile phone allegedly used for posting the fake video on X. The police will also likely go to the grand old party's office in Telangana.

widespread circulation," said

the sources.

The case was registered under various sections of the IPC and the IT Act. Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, ir

Congress planning religion based quota, says Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BAGALKOTE (KARNATAKA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of planning religion-based reservation in the country for the sake of vote bank politics, but asserted that he will not let it happen. He said this Congress proposal is to appease minorities as the SC/ST and OBC community is now with the BJP. "In Karnataka, Congress has started

a campaign to change the Constitution and to snatch away the rights of SC/ST and OBCs. Our Constitution does not accept religion-based reservation. But the Karnataka Government has given part of OBC reservation to Muslims," Modi said.

Addressing a mega election rally the PM said, "They (Congress) will not settle with this. They had earlier too in their manifesto said about coming out with a law to provide religion-based

reservation. There is a similar signal in their manifesto this time." 'I want to make my Dalit, SC/ST

and OBC brothers and sisters aware about Congress' intentions. These people on the basis of religion, to keep their vote bank safe, are planning to loot your right which was given by Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution," he added. Veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa,

BJP candidates and MPs from Bagalkote (Bagalkot) and Vijayapura (Bijapur) — P C Gaddigoudar and Ramesh Jigajinagi, respectively were among those present at the

Noting that most of SC, ST and OBC MPs in the Parliament are from BJP, Modi said, "So they feel that as SC, ST and OBC are with BJP. To gain the trust of minorities, they want to loot from SC, ST and OBC and give it to minorities. Will you let this

Continued on Page 2



Rajnath, Smriti file nominations for LS polls

PNS LUCKNOW

Tnion Ministers Rajnath Singh and Smriti Union Ministers Rajinati Cing. Irani on Monday filed their nomination papers for Lok Sabha elections.

Rajnath filed his nomination papers from the Lucknow seat, seeking a third consecutive term from the prestigious Lok Sabha constituency. Accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Union Defence Minister reached the collectorate for filing the nomination

paper. Union Minister and prominent BJP leader Irani filed her nomination papers from the Amethi Lok Sabha

constituency.
Accompanied by Madhya
Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and several other leaders, Irani led a spirited roadshow from the BIP office in Gauriganj before formally submitting her papers.

Before filing his nomination, Singh offered prayers at the Dakshin Mukhi Hanuman Temple and at the Hanuman Setu Temple here. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajyapee had in the past represented the prestigious Lucknow constituency.

Irani's decision to contest from Amethi, considered the stronghold of the Gandhi family, comes on the heels of her historic victory over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 elections.

"After filing my nomination today, I am committed to serving the people of Amethi," Irani told reporters. "Over the past five years, significant strides have been made in Amethi, including the construction of 1,14,000 houses under the PM Awas Yojana, the provision of electricity connections to 1.5 lakh families, and assistance to over 4 lakh farmers through the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. I am confident that the people will once again bless Modi and the BJP." While the Congress has yet to announce its candidate from the seat, speculations abound that Rahul Gandhi will opt to contest from Amethi once more.

Congress jolted with Surat replay in Indore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Madhya Pradesh, its Indore Lok Sabha seat candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination on Monday. fore polling in stituency. After withdrawing his nomination, Bam reached BJP office to join the party and later in a photo released on social media, Bam was seen along with MP Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda, State Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya and other party leaders. Monday was the last day for withdrawal of nomination in the Indore Lok Sabha seat, where polling will be held on May 13. Indore Collector Singh Ashish confirmed that Bam has withdrawn his nomination. Bam, accompanied by local BJP MLA Ramesh Mendola, reached the collector's office and withdrew his papers.

In a major blow to the Congress in

"Congress Lok Sabha candidate from Bam is welcome to the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party national president JP Nadda, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and State president VD Sharma," Vijayvargiya said.

Police have been deployed outside the house of Bam in Patrakar Colony. Congress had fielded Bam (45), against sitting BJP MP Shankar Lalwani (62) from the Indore Lok Sabha seat, which is a stronghold of the saffron party. Bam has not contested a single election in his political career so far.



The Congress offered him the opportunity to contest from Indore at a time when several party workers, including three former MLAs of the party, have switched sides and

joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Indore, the largest constituency in the state in terms of number of voters, has 25.13 lakh electors. The BJP has expressed confidence of winning the seat by a margin of eight lakh votes this

Asked about the development Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said, "The gentleman in question has multiple universities and colleges in the state that we spoke about. One of the charges slapped against him was of murder. It is not natural, normal or ordinary that somebody just withdraws their candidature and joins the BJP."

She said those who question the party on where is the threat to democracy signifies that there is a "threat to

India slams Canada over Khalistan slogans at Trudeau event

Taking exception to 12, ed Khalistan slogans raised aking exception to reportin a rally attended by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau there on Monday, India summoned the Canadian Deputy High Commissioner here to

register its strong protest. "The Canadian Deputy High Commissioner (Monday) summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to the raising of separatist slogans 'Khalistan' at an event which was being addressed by personally the Prime Minister of Canada,"

statement by MEA said. The Government of India's deep concern and strong

protest was conveyed at such disturbing actions being allowed unchecked at the event. This illustrates once again the

political space that has been in Canada separatism, extremism and violence. Their continued expressions not only impact India-Canada

relations but also encourage a criminality in Canada to the detriment of its own citizens," MEA said.

The strong reaction came after reports from Toronto said at the Khalsa Day Celebrations there on Sunday, loud chants of pro-Khalistan slogans were seen being raised in the presence of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as



well as opposition leader Pierre Poilievre.

As Trudeau was about to take the stage for his address to mark Khalsa Day, the chants were heard getting louder till he arrived and commenced his speech in the video released by Canada-based

Zindabad" were heard at the event in which NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow were also present. A similar instance also occurred when the leader of the official opposition of Canada, Pierre Poilievre walked up to the stage to begin his address to the people gathered at the event. downtown Toronto on Sunday for one of the biggest yearly gatherings in the city.

According to the Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwaras Council (OSGC), Vaisakhi, also called Khalsa Day, commemorates the founding of the Sikh community in 1699 as well as the Sikh New Year.

Continued on Page 2

Gowda grandson's scandal sparks outcry

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

The alleged sex scandal involving the grandson of JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has led to a massive political uproar across the country with Opposition parties seeking explanation from Prime Minister from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was in Karnataka on Monday and the BJP which has an alliance with JD(S) in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

in the matter involving alleged accused Revanna, demand has been made for his immediate arrest and bringing him back to India. The BJP is yet to react on this

issue and Congress sought to know who helped Revanna escape to Germany. The Opposition

sharpened their attack as Modi was in his election campaign schedule Karnataka and hence



went ahead with its alliance with the JD(S) when a BJP leader had written to

president, exposing the presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Revanna". A case of sexual harassment and stalking has been registered against Revanna. The case was registered on a complaint by their cook, who alleged that four months after she started working for them, Revanna used to sexually harass her and used to make video calls to her daughter and have "vulgar conversations" with her. Continued on Page 2

fresh, cool water in shaded areas

and ensuring frequent refills to

maintain constant availability.

"Handling or manipulation of animals should be restricted to

the cooler part of the day.

Nocturnal animals should not be disturbed during the daytime. Electrolytes should be added to

drinking water, especially for

vulnerable animals or those on

restricted diets," stated CZA

Member Secretary Sanjay Kumar

Shukla in the advisory issued to

Authorities have been advised to

all zoos in the country.

Measures mooted to help zoo animals beat heatwave An official from Sepahijala Zoological Park in Tripura's **ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI multiple water sources with

temperatures soar and Aheatwaves become common and increasingly unbearable in various pockets of the country, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has issued urgent advisories to State zoos nationwide to help the resident

animals beat the heat and stay These measures encompass a range of preventive and from emergency actions, providing electrolyte-rich fluids to installing cool shades, misters, and sprinklers, and offering frozen treats with fruits or

vegetables in ice to captive animals. set in 2023 and making this year With extreme summer heat the warmest on record. Ditto is expected to intensify across with Bihar, Jharkhand and

various regions in the coming days, the CZA, an autonomous under the Union Environment Ministry, has already raised alarms, warning that the current heat wave conditions pose a significant threat to zoo inhabitants, putting them at risk of heat stress, dehydration, and other heatrelated illnesses. They cited the latest advisory from the India Meteorological

Department stating that severe heat wave conditions are forecasted to affect extensive areas of eastern India and the Gangetic plain of West Bengal in the upcoming days, potentially surpassing temperature records



"It's crucial to prioritise the well-

being of zoo inmates during extreme weather conditions like heat waves," emphasized officials. The proactive steps

aim to mitigate any potential harm caused by the heat wave. Heat stress in animals is considered to be a violation of importance of providing animal welfare and rights.

Sepahijala district mentioned that they have already initiated several measures to ensure the well-being of their animal residents while an official from the Delhi Zoo said that depending on the species, extreme heat can cause significant stress on animals, from tiny reptiles to large livestock like elephants. "So, we look at all the individual animals, at their natural behavior, their history, and even if they are very old or young to determine how they'll handle the heat. And then we make adjustments to make it cooler for them," he said. The CZA has emphasized the

improve enclosures with shade cloths, tarps, or trees for natural shade and provide shallow pools for animals to wade and splash in, ensuring safe depths. Continued on Page 2

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BSE SHARES TANK NEARLY

19 PER CENT

Mamata takes swipe at Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

 $B_{\rm tinued\ to\ rain\ fire\ on}^{\rm engal\ Chief\ Minister\ con-}$ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this time calling him a Prachar Babu whose Government was on its way out if the first two phases of polling were any indication. "The sluggish rate of polling in the first two phases of elections have given a clear election that this Government is going out despite the Prachar Babu's slogan of India Rising, Banerjee told in an election

rally at Khargram in Murshidabad comparing Modi with former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. "Vajpayee ji was a good man and did not exhibit this conceit ... even he tried to win by giving the India Shinning slogan but failed ... so the people of India has taken cognizance of all the misdeeds of this Government ... they will surely punish them ... which is indicative from the first two phases of the elections," Banerjee whose own



Government has been hit by a whole number of issues including corruption, falling law and order, employment scam etc said.

'Can you hear what the people are saying ... can you hear what Bihar is saying, what Uttar Pradesh is saying, what Rajasthan is saying ... the voting trend in all these States has started sending shivers down the BJP's spine ... they are trembling now because of their own policies and arrogance ... the people have already started giving them the reply," the Chief Minister

Referring to massive rise in medicine prices and the Centre blocking Bengal's lawful funds, Banerjee said "the Modi Government has done nothing about the rising medicine prices ... even the prices of the essential medicines have gone up ... then they have blocked the lawful MNREGA and housing funds ... now the people will block them," adding how "they have been trying to divide the peo-

ple in the name of religion, caste and culture to win votes." She said, the BJP was imposing Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register for Citizens and Uniform Civil Code. "Do you know that CAA, NRC and UCC mean ... these mean division of people on caste, religion and culture

... these mean detention camps," she said. Calling the BJP a party of anti-social elements Banerjee said, "the BJP is a party of thieves and smugglers who are anti-people, anti-dalit, anti-minority, anti-Muslim, anti-Hindu, anti-Christian, anti-OBC ... they will not let the people to live peacefully if they return

Education Ministry asks NCERT to review, update textbooks on

yearly basis PNS NEW DELHI

 $T_{(\text{MoE})}^{\text{he Ministry of Education}}$ NCERT to conduct a review of its textbooks and update them on yearly basis, according to sources. So far, there has been no mandate on the frequency of updating NCERT textbooks. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training has been occasionally revising and updating content since 2017.

A rationalisation exercise was also conducted in view of the closure of schools due to the pandemic but there were allegations from a section of agenda-driven editing.

"In the fast-changing world of today, it is important that the textbooks are absolutely updated. The NCERT has been asked to conduct a review on a yearly basis and update them ahead of the beginning of the new academic session... They are soon going to put a system in place,' official sources said.

BJP leader hurt in TMC attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

While the first two phases of elections remained by far peaceful, violence tended to creep in as electioneering entered parts of South Bengal with a Trinamool Congress worker getting killed in a factional fight in Baguati area of northern Kolkata and a BJP worker getting grievously attacked by the TMC goons for daring to campaign in South Kolkata constituency.

Sanjeev Das a TMC worker who was severely injured in a factional fight on Saturday died subsequently, the police

The incident occurred at Baguiati area in the northern fringes of Kolkata. Das aka Potla was a history sheeter who worked actively for the TMC, locals. The police said on Monday that they had arrested 13 people in connection with his murder. About 20 km down south

Saraswati Sarkar, the president of the BJP Mahila Mandals unit in Kasba in Kolkata South parliamentary

constituency sustained severe injuries when she was attacked with sticks and chopper by a group of local TMC sources said.

'We were returning from party work when our party men were attacked by some TMC men at the instance of the local TMC councilor who runs all kinds of anti-people activities in the area attacked the men who were with us ... two of my fellow party men fled and the third was being beaten up when I intervened ... then they left him and started attacking me with rods and chopper ... I sustained a deep cut on my head and have five stitches,"

Sarkar who was released from the hospital after initial treatment said adding, she was

afraid that she would be killed if she went out of her house. Following an FIR the police had arrested two persons involved in the attack, sources said. A local BJP leader said that the incident took place at Kasba in South Kolkata.

"They were accosted and then attacked ... the BJP workers were pulled out of their car and beaten up and when Saraswati Sarkar who was in a different car intervened she two was attacked," the BJP leader said adding Union Minister Smriti Irani had personally called up Sarkar and enquired after her health.

Former Union Minister and Raiganj MP Debashree Chowdhury who is contesting from South Kolkata seat staged a protest outside the Anandapur police station before writing a complaint to the Election Commission of

'We have demanded thorough investigation into the matter and asked the ECI to see that such incidents are not repeated again ... if this is the situation now then everyone knows what is going to happen subsequently.

Job scam: SC retains HC order cancelling 26k school jobs

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

The Bengal Government on Monday suffered a big blow with the Supreme Court refusing to put a stay on the Calcutta High Court order cancelling appointments of 25,753 school employees including teachers and nonteaching staff.

The only respite the TMC Government got is that the Apex Court stayed a CBI probe against West Bengal government officials involved in the teachers' recruitment

While staying the CBI probe against the Government functionaries — that could well have brought top level politicians into the ambit of inquiry - the Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra however observed that prima facie it looked like a

neutralise terrorists in Udhampur

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

The presence of two active groups of foreign terrorists, comprising four to six members, in the upper reaches of the Udhampur district has kept the entire security grid on its tenterhooks since late Saturday

After receiving inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Basantgarh area the security forces mobilized troops to neutralize them early Sunday morning.

A member of the Village Defence Guard was killed in action during an initial exchange of firing in the remote Panara village of Chochru Gala Heights, Basantgarh.

As more troops were rushed to the spot to lay a tight cordon the foreign terrorists managed to give a slip to the police party. Unconfirmed reports suggested one of the terrorist groups was spotted in the upper reaches around 11.00 a.m. The gunfight erupted around 7.45 a.m on Sunday during which the VDG member received injuries and later succumbed.

has also rushed fresh reineign terrorists but as the anti- Additional Director General of Basantgarh area.

Since Sunday, the Indian army



terrorist operation continued for the second consecutive day no major headway was achieved on Monday.

The area is witnessing inclement weather conditions and the same is hampering the ongoing operations in the area. On Monday, the security forces conducted thorough searches in the thickly forested belt of Basantgarh. The security forces also deployed sniffer dogs and drone cameras to trap these foreign terrorists. Senior security officials supervising the anti-terrorist operations on ground zero told media persons on Sunday as per initial inputs two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infil-

Police, Jammu Anand Jain said the strength of the two groups, as per preliminary investigation, is between four and six and the security forces are working on various inputs to flush them out.

Jain maintained the security personnel are thoroughly investigating how these two groups managed to infiltrate to reach Basantgarh. When militancy was at its peak in the late 1990's the deep forests of Basantgarh were used as transit points by the terrorist groups to move upwards towards the Chenab valley region. The area also witnessed targeted killings of Village Defence Committee members. 13 members belonging to the minority communi-

Security forces in JK mobilised to Congress takes dig at Shah's scramble for PM post remarks

Taking a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's "scramble for Prime Minister's post" remarks, the Congress on Monday said it was an "admission" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not return for a third term.

The opposition party also claimed that people have seen through the BJP's "sinister to change the Constitution and end reservations.

Shah on Monday warned that a victory of the INDIA bloc, "even by mistake", will lead to a scramble among top leaders of the opposition alliance for the prime minister's post.

Asked about Shah's remarks, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said, "I am very glad that the home minister is talking about who the potential prime ministerial candidates will be.

At least there is admission that Mr. Modi is not coming to power. From saying '400, 400 (seats)', now there is admission that the next government will be that of the INDIA bloc.'



we will take but the reality is that there is admission, there is cognizance and I thank them for it," Shrinate said at a press conference here.

The reality is that the country is seen through this "sinister plot "of trying to change the Constitution and ending reservations because that has been the core philosophy of the RSS, they have consistently opposed reservations, she alleged.

Even in the BJP, it is no coincidence that leaders such as Jyoti Mirdha to Ananthkumar Hegde, are all talking about changing the Constitution, Shrinate said.

ply means denying people a "mazboot" (strong) prime the right to reservation, it minister, not a "majboor" not be that is a decision which Dalits, tribals, backward class-

es, the poor in the general category...The people have understood your sinister plot and will throw you out," she

Addressing a rally in Jhanharpur Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, Shah claimed that leaders like M K Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad and Mamata Banerjee may agree to a year each of premiership, by turns, and 'Rahul baba (Rahul Gandhi)" will have to settle for whatever is left of the tenure. In contrast, he said, "A third

term for Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will lead to elimination of corruption from the entire country, including Bihar, and eradication of casteism in the state". "Modi's return to power is certain. But, suppose, even by mistake, if the INDI alliance comes to power, what will happen? Who will be the prime minister? Will it be Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee or Rahul Gandhi? They will all settle for sharing the top post for a year each. Is it how the country can be 'What does it mean, it sim- run?" Shah said. India wants

Centre revises limits of children education allowance for its staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

The Centre has revised the limits of children's education allowance and hostel subsidy for its employees, according to a Personnel Ministry The move comes following the

enhancement of dearness allowance with effect from January 1, 2024. 2018 directive, it said the order provides that the limits of children's education allowance and hostel subsidy would be automatically raised by 25 per cent every time the dearness allowance on the revised pay structure goes up by 50 per cent. The ministry said references are being received from various quarters about the amount of children's education allowance (CEA) and the hostel subsidy admissible consequent upon enhancement of dearness allowance payable to the central government employees at the rate of 50 per cent with effect from January 1, 2024, announced by the finance ministry on March 12, 2024.



2,812.5 per month (fixed) and hostel subsidy shall be Rs 8,437.5 per month (fixed) irrespective of actual expenses incurred by the government employees, said the personnel ministry's latest order. The reimbursement of chil-

dren's education allowance for divyang children of government employees shall be payable at double the normal rates — Rs 5,625 per month (fixed) — irrespective of actual expenses incurred by the government employee, it said. The rates of special allowance for child care to women with disabilities stand revised to Rs 3,750 per month, according to the order issued to all central government ministries. "These revisions are applicable with

Telangana CM summoned...

The Delhi Police had filed an FIR under sections 153 (wantonly causing provocation with the intention to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc), 465 (forgery), 469 (forgery to harm the reputation of any party), and 171G (publishing false statement with intent to affect the result of an election) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 66C of the Information Technology Act..

According to the FIR the MHA, in its complaint, stated that it has been found that some doctored videos are being circulated by users of Facebook and X. "The video seems to be doctored, spreading misleading information with the intention of creating disharmony among communities which is likely to affect public tranquility and public order issues. It is requested to kindly take necessary legal action as per the provisions of law," the FIR.

Congress planning religion based quota...

"I want to guarantee today to my Dalit, Adivasi and OBC brothers and sisters. I will not let such intentions of Congress be successful. To protect your rights, your reservation, Modi will go to any extent. I'm assuring you this," he added. On the occasion Modi also said that he "doesn't

believe in attacking from the back" and he had first informed the Pakistani authorities about the airstrike on a terror camp in Balakot in Pakistan. "I had asked the forces to call the media and inform them about the airstrikes, but I said, before that I will inform Pakistani authorities through phone, but they didn't pick up the phone.

the Pakistani authorities, we disclosed to the world about airstrikes that happened during the

Modi doesn't believe in hiding things nor attacking from the back, he fights openly," the PM

Measures mooted.

From Page 1

for air circulation are recommended, direct blowing on animals should be avoided to maintain their natural cooling. Cool refuges like burrows, caves, or nesting boxes with moistened substrates like soil should be provided for animals to retreat.

Provide frozen treats with fruits or vegetables in ice. Feed animals during cooler times, like early mornings or evenings. Offer easily

digestible, high-moisture vegetables heatwaves," as circular.

Authorities have also been The Delhi zoo official said directed to avoid inter-zoo that to any issues is crucial.

some zookeepers are

For ventilation, while fans foods like fruits and treats to help lower body during temperatures and create per the enrichment games for all to

> its animal care transfers of animals during specialists are always trying heatwaves to minimize out new ways to physically stress. Training staff to and mentally stimulate the recognize signs of heat animals during the searing stress and promptly respond summers. There are 155 CZA recognized zoos in the Besides bringing animals country. Karnataka tops the indoors for air conditioning, list with 14 numbers of zoos followed by West Bengal turning the inmates to (13) and Maharashtra (12). 26.

Gowda grandson's scandal sparks... From Page 1 JD(S) MLA and former On his son's whereabouts, his father said, "Normally he Minister HD Revanna on had to go (without saying where), and he has gone.

Monday said he was open to an investigation over the allegations of sexual abuse involving his son and Hassan MP Revanna and himself, and said they were ready to face action in accordance with law, if the charges are proved. Alleging that there was "politics" behind the issue,

he said his son Revanna

would "join" the probe

"whenever he is asked to".

Revanna is the NDA

candidate in Hassan Lok

Sabha constituency, which

went to the polls on April

Did he know they will file an FIR and constitute an SIT? He will come when called for investigation." Former Chief Minister of State, Η Kumaraswamy, said the party has decided to

suspend Revanna. The JD(S)leader also sought to committed is distance JD(S)'s alliance partner the BJP and the Prime Minister from the case, amid attacks by the ruling Congress seeking their response on the issue. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi asked whether the

Prime Minister will remain silent on the matter. "The leader with whom the PM gets photographed by placing his hand on his shoulder. The leader for whom the PM himself campaigned 10 days ago. Praised him on stage. Today, that leader of Karnataka is absconding from the country. Just hearing about heinous wrenching. This ruined the lives of hundreds of women.

silent?" Priyanka said. Congress' media publicity department head Pawan Khera shared on social media a letter written

Modi, will you still remain

by BJP leader Devaraj Gowda to the Karnataka BJP president on December 8 last year. He said the letter exposed the presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Revanna".

Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev slammed the BJP and criticised them for backing the accused. She said the scandal that unfolded "goes to the top". The BJP is very much a part of the kind of sexual abuse that that has unfolded, she

Several sex videos allegedly featuring Revanna with multiple women have been doing the rounds in recent days. According to police

the country. Congress led Karnataka government has announced a Special Investigation Team to probe the "obscene videos case". AAP called the alleged sex scandal "worse than the Nithari serial murders" and questioned why the BJP did not sever ties with the southern party after the incident came to light. Former Delhi Commission for Women chief and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal appealed to the Election Commission to disqualify Revanna and demanded that re-polling be conducted constituency.

sources, Revanna has fled

India summons Canadian envoy over Khalistan slogans at Trudeau...

From Page 1

The group has been organising an annual parade down Lake Shore Boulevard for many years; the council claims that it is the thirdlargest parade in the nation and that it regularly draws thousands of spectators, according to CBC News. Even as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

walked up to address the Canada's greatest strengths, Sikh Community in Toronto and the country is strong not loud pro-Khalistan slogans were raised from the crowd. Trudeau in a staunch assurance to the Sikh strengths is its diversity. We Community in the country are strong not in spite of our has said the government is differences, but because of always there to protect their rights and freedoms at all

He said, "Diversity is one of get reminded on days such as

in spite of the differences, but because of those differences." "One of Canada's greatest our differences; but even as we look at these differences, we have to remember, and

this, and every day, that Sikh values are Canadian values...' Trudeau said during the Khalsa Day Celebrations on Sunday in Toronto. "To the nearly 800,000

Canadians of Sikh heritage across this country, we will always be there to protect your rights and freedoms, and we will always defend your community

against hatred discrimination," he asserted. Canadian

Minister also noted that the country is enhancing the security and infrastructure Freedoms that we will always programmes by "adding more security at community centres and places of worship, including Gurdwaras." "Your right to practice your

Prime A fundamental guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and stand up and defend you for," Trudeau assured the Sikh community in his Khalsa

Day address.

religion freely, and without

intimidation is exactly that.

However, Trudeau's remarks come at a time when the

diplomatic relations between India and Canada are going through a difficult phase. It was notably, the killing of India-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, that sparked a row between India and Canada. Nijjar, who was designated a

terrorist by the National Investigation Agency in 2020, was shot and killed as

he came out of a Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on the evening of June 18, 2023. The killing led to accusations from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that the government of India had a hand in the killing -- a claim that was denied by India and led to deterioration diplomatic ties between Canada and India.

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | APRIL 30, 2024

Covid handling changed world's perception of India: EAM

 $H_{
m jectory}^{
m ighlighting}$ the growth trajectory of the country, External Áffairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Monday the perception of people living abroad had changed after seeing how India handled the COVID-19 pandemic and that the country's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 had a huge impact on Indians living abroad.

Making this assertion at an event at Kirori Mal College, he noted that decisions made at home are keenly followed by the world.

"We are the largest country in the world. We are the fifth largest economy, soon we'll be the third. How we do at home is watched by everybody abroad. What decisions we make at home, is also very keenly followed by the world. So, if we are now in the coming weeks going to decide our future in whatever way we wish, it's not just a conversation amongst ourselves. It's a conversation or a discussion in which the other six billion

are all aspects of why Bharat

The External Affairs Minister said people around the world are fascinated by India's technological feats. He called the Chandrayaan-3 mission and COVID management among the most impactful things done by India in the past 10 years. Speaking about India's global image at present, Jaishankar said the perception of India changed after how India handled the COVID challenge. He noted that India started as a country of "great concern" and ended up as the "source of the greatest support."
He also spoke about how India

has been bringing its people back home when there is a war or any other emergency in another country. He talked about how Indian students were brought back to India under Operation Ganga. Jaishankar noted that many nations asked their citizens if they had to return to their country on their own.

Jaishankar said, "The second is how we secure our citizens of



India. Believe me, that has got everybody's attention in the world. You know, a lot of us rightly are very proud of how I'll give you an example of how we got our students out of Ukraine in Operation Ganga. As I said, rightly so. But I also want you to know that many

countries told their students

and their citizens, saying, sorry guys, there's nothing I can do. You now have to figure out your way out."

And these were not developing countries. They were even developed countries, who told their people, you are on your own. So, this change which has come about, that any Indian travelling anywhere has that sense, that look, you know, sometimes people talk about, you know, there's something called a passport index. And the passport index is based on how many places you don't need a visa for," he added.

Jaishankar emphasised that the Indian passport is looked at

shows that the government stands with the person carrying that passport. He said that the passport index should include who will come for a person when he or she is in trouble and the system which is willing to back you up when you go out and termed it the real value of the passport."

Stressing that people abroad are fascinated by how things like the ration card system and election system work in India. Iaishankar said, "The third is our performance at home. And I often share with my colleagues in the cabinet and the parliament that they think that when the foreign minister goes out of India, all the time we discuss foreign policy makes

Highlighting the infrastructure progress in India, he said the Indian government has built 40 million houses and given them to people who have ow incomes.

He stated that there is enormous interest in the world in investing in India, knowing in India and travelling in India

and stressed that there are a lot of possibilities in India as the and skill at home has access to nation is globalising and cre- a global workplace.

Partition broke India in many ways: Jaishankar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said the partition of India in many ways broke the natural connectivity of the northeastern states and impacted the growth in the area due to political barriers as well as administrative issues. Jaishankar was addressing an event in Kirori Mal College on the topic 'Northeast India's Integration with South East Asia and Japan: Balancing Economic Ties and Ecological Conservation'.

"The consequence of the partition of India broke in many ways the natural connectivity that the Northeast had or would have enjoyed. As a result of that, the levels of growth that

last year held that non-cooper-

the Northeast should have seen was slowed down. In the first few decades after the partition, the Northeast did not enjoy the advantages which other parts of the country did because of political barriers and administrative issues," Jaishankar said while speaking to students. The Union minister also added

that the current economic stability in the Northeast is moving towards a stronger front. "What we are seeing now, honestly should have come much earlier if history had been

kinder to us. As I always say, for India to look east, Delhi should first look east and see the Northeast. It is then the potential and the possibilities of the Northeast will be fully appreciated," he said.

BJP's Chandoliya holds roadshow as 15 candidates file nominations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{JP}\ candidate\ from\ North}_{\text{West}\ Delhi\ Yogender}$ Chandoliya held a grand roadshow on Monday before filing his nomination for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on May 25. As many as 15 candidates have filed their nominations on Monday. While the highest number of nominations filing happened from the candidates of Chandni Chowk, no candidate from New Delhi and South Delhi filed theirs. Five candidates from Chandni Chowk filed their nomination before the Election Commision, four from North west Delhi, two each from North east Delhi, East Delhi

nomination on Monday. Chandoliya, in his affidavit, declared that his immovable assets which included his residential building is worth Rs 2,15,00,000 while his movable

and West Delhi while no can-

didates from New Delhi and

South Delhi came to file their

assets, which includes cash in hand, deposits in bank, investments, motor vehicles, and jewellery, amount to Rs 29,31,137.92. Additionally, his spouse Meena Chandolia has Rs 31,92,346.63 worth of

immovable assets. The former Mayor of New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has declared that he has two criminal cases registered against him including one that involves the protest before the Delhi Jal Board for water problem faced by Delhiites in 2022 under section 188, 269, 147, 148, 149, 427 of the IPC

and Section 3 of PDPP Act

Further, he has announced that he has about 10 Lakhs worth of liabilities. The former General Secretary of BJP's Delhi unit has more than 1 Lakh worth of shares, as declared by him in the affidavit. He also has one life insurance while his wife has three. Chandoliya also has a car worth more than Rs 13 Lakhs while more than 10 Lakhs worth of jewellery with him. His wife Meena has a car worth Rs 5 Lakhs and jewellery worth Rs 18 Lakhs

SC questions non appearance of Kejriwal on ED

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the non-appearance of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal before the ED despite repeated sum the ED despite repeated summonses for recording of state-ments, and asked if he can challenge the arrest in a money laundering case related to the excise policy scam on the ground of non-recording of his version. Kejriwal is currently lodged in the Tihar jail here under judicial custody after his arrest on March 21 in the case.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which posed several questions to senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi appearing for Kejriwal, asked why the Aam Aadmi Party (AÁP) leader did not move a bail application before the trial court.

"Are you not contradicting yourself by saying that his statements under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were not recorded? You don't appear on summons for recording of statements under section 50

and then you say it was not recorded," the bench said. It asked what is the investigat-

ing officer supposed to do if Kejriwal does not appear on summons. "If you don't go for recording of section 50 statements, then you can't take the defence that his statement was not recorded," Justice Khanna

Singhvi said, "Thanks for saying that. Non recording of section 50 statements is not a defence to arrest me for reasons of believing there is guilt.

"I am saying other materials also do not establish my guilt. The ED came to my house to arrest me. Then why can't ED record my statement under section 50 at my house?" Section 50 of the PMLA deals with the power of ED authorities to issue summons and production



of documents, evidence and other materials.

Singhvi pointed out that on April 16, 2023, Kejriwal appeared before the CBI in connection with the case and answered all the queries. "Today, you cannot say that we will arrest you because you did not appear on summons. Can you say that since you did not cooperate, you will be arrested? "Non-cooperation cannot be a ground for criminality or grounds of arrest. This court has

ation cannot be a ground of arrest under the PMLA," Singhvi said. The senior lawyer said the chief minister does not have any immunity from prosecution and asked if he has less rights than a common citizen. Singhvi further submitted that the denial of relief by the Delhi High Court for no coercive action can also be no ground for arrest by the ED. At the outset, the bench asked Singhvi why did Kejriwal not move a bail application in the case. Singhvi said that he has challenged the arrest and if the arrest is held as illegal all other things go.

"My case is that the arrest is illegal. The remit of Section 19 of PMLA is much wider as it empowers ED to arrest a person based on material in their possession which provides a reasonable basis to suspect that an individual has committed an offence punishable under the law. "But where is the material except for five statements? There is nothing," he said.

summons

Singhvi, who opened the arguments challenging the arrest of Kejriwal, said there was no immediate necessity to arrest the chief minister when the Model Code of Conduct is in

"Your (ED's) power to arrest is not an obligation to arrest. There must be reason to believe (that arrest is required). This arrest was when the Model Code of Conduct was in place. "I am not a hardened criminal or terrorist who has done something a week back. There has to be some new material or a link which connects me directly to something," Singhvi said.

Kejriwal absence does not warrant absence of amenities to students: HC

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

■ Monday said the decision of Arvind Kejriwal to continue as the Chief Minister after his arrest is "personal" but it does not mean that the fundamental rights of school-going children would be trampled upon. The high court also said that Kejriwal's absence cannot allow students to go through the first term without free textbooks, writing material and uniform in schools run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The high court observed that a Chief Minister's post in any state, leave alone a buzzing Capital city like Delhi, is not a ceremonial post and that it is a post where the office holder has to be virtually available 24x7 to deal with any crisis or natural disaster like flooding, fire and disease.

"National interest and public interest demands that no person who holds this post is incommunicado or absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period of time. To say that no important decision

country's largest wholesale mar-

ket, Sadar Bazar, in Central

Delhi area. Now more than a

month of announcements of the

party merchandise.



can be taken during a model code of conduct is a misnomer," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said. Keiriwal, who is in judicial custody till May 7, was arrested on March 21 in connection with the excise policy-linked money laundering case. The court was dealing with a PIL by NGO Social Jurist, represented by advocate Ashok Agarwal, highlighting the non-supply of educational material and other statutory benefits to eight 8 lakh students in the MCD schools even after the commencement of the new acade-

The MCD commissioner had earlier stated that the non-distribution of the facilities was due to the non-formation of a

standing committee which has the power to reward contracts worth more than Rs 5 crore. The high court said as the students of MCD schools are entitled for free textbooks, writing material and uniform in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, and the schools are soon going to close for summer vacations, the MCD Commissioner is directed to incur the expenditure required for fulfilling the obligations forthwith without being constrained by the expenditure

limit of Rs 5 crore. "However, the expenditure

MCD shall be subject to statutory audit," it added and asked the MCD commissioner to file a fresh status report by May 14. The high court said there is a ring of truth in the statement made by Delhi's Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj that any increase in financial power of MCD commissioner shall require the chief minister's approval and added that it amounts to an admission that the Delhi government is at a standstill due to absence of the chief minister. "Undoubtedly, no new policy decision can be taken but holders of constitutional posts have to everyday take important as well as urgent decisions. For instance, issuance of free textbooks, writing material and uniform as well as replacement of broken chairs and tables in accordance with the existing policies in the MCD schools is an urgent and immediate decision which brook no delay and which is not prohibited during the model code of con-

2013 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA Applications are invited from the general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and

conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide Notification No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Details available at the Department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in). Coloniser/Developer: Sriflex Projects Private Limited Project Approvals

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY

2.	Location	Sector 4, Sohna, District - Gurugram, Haryana.
3.	Provisions	Project land is 8.76875 Acre, However the same is developed phasewise as per DTCP Phasing ApprovalZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092_dated 05/12/2023 Present offer is for Phase I Comprising 835 units out of 1105 (270 units are mortgaged with DTCP, in the present offer of 835 units, 5% (42 units) are reserved for Management Quota and balance 95% (793 Units) are for general public.Community Facility: - One Community Hall of more than 2000 sq. ft. andone Anganwadicum-creche of more than 2000 sq. ft.
4.	Apartment Details	Type I: 2 BHK -348 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 99.67sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: 2 BHK - 281 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Type III: 2 BHK - 164 no. of apartments of 637sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 93sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking Type II: MQ 2 BHK - 42 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of

45.74sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking No. of Units Unit Type Carpet Area Total Units of Total Units of **General Category** Management Quota No (Sq. Ft.) Type-I Type-II 644.65 281 323 Type-III

The above rates are inclusive of the cost of the apartment as per the rates prescribed under the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013

Chinaware: Standard Fittings | Electrical: ISI marked products for wiring , Switches and circuits | Security: Gated Complex

793 835 Type I: Rs.30,20,533/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. AllotmentRate of Apartment (All inclusive) + Taxes & other Type II: Rs.30,20,925/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. charges as applicable will be Type III: Rs.29,78,100/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra.

icence No./Year: 133 of 2023 dated 26.06.2023, Building plans approved on 19.03.2024 vide Memo No.ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2024/10267 & RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/814/546/2024/41 dated 15.04.2024.

of the Government of Haryana vide Notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013.including the amendments thereof (Details available at Department website i.e. <u>www.tcpharyana.gov.in</u>).However, possession charges and registration fees are extra. With Application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Carpet area of apartment:

Payment Terms Type I:Total amount of Rs. 1.45.046/-Type II: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/-

> ii. 20% of total cost shall be payable on Allotment and the balance consideration amount shall be paid according to the construction-linked payment plan of the project duly approved by HARERA, as applicable in terms of construction stages at the relevant point in time. No interest shall accrue before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall attract interest at the rate specified in Rule 15 of the Rules 2017 by HARERA.

Drawing Room/ Lobby Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Drawing Room/ Lobby Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash | Bedrooms Board Specifications of the Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Bedroom Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash | Toilet Walls Finish: Tiles Up to 4 feet and OBD/ Color Apartment wash in balance area | Toilet Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Kitchen Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Kitchen Wall Finish : Tiles Up to 2 Feet high above stone/ Tile Counter and OBD / Color wash in balance area | **Fixture & Fittings :** Single bowl steel sink & CP / PVC/ PTMT Fittings | Balcony Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Windows: MS Z- section & Glass / Alu steels & Glass | Door Frame / Doors: MS/ Fiber Door frames with flush Door/ Fiber Door | **Common Area Flooring:** Stone / Tiles / IPS | Lift Lobby : Stone / Tiles/ IPS |

8. Applications Timelines Application form will be filled online by Registration on http://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home

Booking start from 02/05/2024

Payment closure date 16/05/2024 Last date of submission of application form is 18/05/2024

Any person can apply; however, preference will be given to PMAY beneficiaries, including their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies

Any applicant can submit only one application. A successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for the allotment of any other flat under this policy in another colony. In the event that he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have the choice to retain only one flat. Supportive affidavits and certificates suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded on the TCP website while submitting the application for allotment.

The allotment of apartments shall be done through e-draw of lotsin thepresence of a committee consisting of DeputyCommissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle Office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colonizer concerned. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of

the draw of lots in the same newspapers on which the original advertisement was issued. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 including the amendments thereof notified vide No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Available at the Department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in

where the project is proposed to be constructed and not merely rely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan, or sales brochure. Therefore applicants are requested to exercise personal judgment prior to submitting an application for booking.

The images shown here are indicative designs and for illustrative purposes only. Further designs may vary in form and finish for the above project details

Specifications can also be accessed at the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website, i.e., https://haryanarera.gov.in.

ABHI SINGHAL NEW DELHI Once a hot cake during the elections time, the poll paraphernalia in forms of party flags, banners, T-shirts, scarves, stickers, printed balloons, posters, shawls, badges, angvastram and many more have no takers this Lok Sabha polls in the

Sadar Bazar finds no takers for

election paraphernalia this LS polls

polls and with two phases of elections already conducted the Sadar Bazar. The market has traders are worried over the plenty of shops selling these brisk business over the political items of different political parties and all said that it's a loss "Manda hai ji. (low business)," making venture and blamed said the proprietor of one of the the advent of social media platlargest traders of these item in

these items and several rotate amongst themselves just for the sake of making photos and images and post of media plat-Paramjit Singh Pamma.

business may pick when Delhi goes to polls on May 25, but they have already suffered losses as neighbouring Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut have already voted. On talking to the shop number 516, Zain Enterprises, the owner

The traders anticipates that the

Fazil said, "arey abhi tak ek percent ka bhi business nahin hai" (There is not even one percent business till now)

Throwing light on current election scenario, he accounted while BJP people gives manufacturing contracts to their own people, the bank accounts of the Congress party have been frozen and the leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party are in jail which has led to the subtract-

Eligibility:

1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.

1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.

Department, Haryana, under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for All" program. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the state of Haryana Thereafter, for the remaining flats, preference will be given to persons, including their spouse or dependent children, who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed Colony/sector or any licensed colony in the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh, and NCT.

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder have brought significant changes to the real estate sector. The Promoter/Developer is fully committed to complying with the provisions laid down under RERA. The promoter/developer urges every applicant to inspect the site

forms," said Sadar Bazar Traders Association representative forms. "Now one person buy

Third phase polls: Nine per cent of total 1,352 candidates women

Only nine per cent of the 1,352 candidates contesting in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections are women while 18 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, the ADR said in a new

Seven candidates have also declared prior convictions, according to an analysis of details of candidates contesting the elections in the third phase by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and The National Election Watch. The third phase of the elections will be held on May

Among the 244 candidates with criminal records, five face charges related to murder while 24 have been booked in cases of attempted murder. Additionally, 38 candidates have been linked to crimes against women and 17 declared cases related to hate speech. The analysis, based on the self-sworn affidavits of the 1,352 candidates, has shed light



The prevalence of criminal cases varies significantly across major political parties, with figures highlighting concerning trends among candidates from prominent parties such as the the BJP, Congress and the Samajwadi Party. report also highlighted the disparity in the candidates' financial backgrounds.

It disclosed that 29 per cent or 392 candidates are "crorepatis", qualifications from classes 5 to 12 while 44 per cent or 591 are graduates or possess higher educational qualifications.

Agewise, 30 per cent or 411 candidates fall within the 25-40 vears bracket while 53 per cent or 712 are aged between 41 and The report also highlights

indicates that 47 per cent or 639 candidates have educational

gender disparity in candidate selection with only 9 per cent or 123 women contesting the elections in the third phase. In response to these findings. the ADR has proposed stringent measures to address the criminalisation of politics, including permanent disqualification of candidates convicted of heinous crimes and cancellation of tax exemptions for political parties fielding "tainted" candidates.

The report underscored the pressing need for accountability and transparency within India's political landscape, emphasising the importance of electoral reforms to uphold the integrity of the democrat-

Feudal lords raising fear of threat to Constitution: Naqvi

Taking a swipe at the Opposition, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday claimed that demoralised by the tremen-dous success of a non-Congress Government, "feudal lords" are raising fear of threat to the Constitution and the democracy.

Addressing "Samajik Samrasta Sammelan" organised by the Bharatiya Bauddh Sangh in the national capital, Naqvi said this clearly reflects their "political inheritance of untouchability and intolerance" towards the BJP and deliberate designs to create instability in the coun-

The BJP and Modi have been

the "biggest victims of political untouchability and intolerance" of the "feudal fraternity", the senior leader charged. The Congress-led "clan" and its companions want a "remote-controlled government on rotation, dictation or deputation at the Centre" but the "dream" will fizzle out, he



Nagyi said the country has not forgotten the "policy paralysis, highjacking of constitutional values and the era of cut, commission, corruption, communalism under the deputation government of the dynasty". Modi has proven to be a "tried and tested leader" of good governance, inclusive empowerment and credibility with stability, he said. "Dynastic despondency" cannot dominate the democratic determination of such a mass leader, he

Naqvi said by defeating the deceit of political appeasement with the determination to development with dignity has strengthened India's glory and stature across the world.

Modi condoles death of BJP MP Prasad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the death of BJP MP V Sreenivasa Prasad, describing him as a champion of social justice who devoted his life to the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and marginalised. He said on X, "I am extremely pained by the passing away of senior leader and MP from Chamarajanagar, Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad Ji. He was a champion of social justice, having devoted his life to the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and marginalised."

He was very popular for his various works of community service, Modi said, conveying condolences to his family and sup-

The 76-year-old Lok Sabha member from Chamarajnagar in Karnataka and former Union Minister was ailing for some time and passed away at a Bengaluru hospital. On March 18 this year, Prasad had announced his retirement from electoral politics. The six-time MP from Chamarajanagar and two-time MLA from Nanjangud in Mysuru district was ailing for some time. He is survived by his



started his political career with the erstwhile Janata Party in 1976 and joined the Congress in 1979. He also had a stint with the JD(S), JD(U), and the Samata Party before joining the BJP. Prasad served as the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Food and Public

Distribution in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government from 1999 to 2004. He joined the Congress later, got elected as an MLA in 2013 and became the revenue and religious endowment minister in the Siddaramaiah gov-

In 2016, Prasad resigned from the Karnataka Assembly and rejoined the BJP. He contested the 2017 Nanjangud bypolls on a BJP ticket but lost. He then successfully fought the Lok Sabha election from Chamarajanagar in 2019.

Modi's motto has always been | Two held as Indian Asatyameva Jayate: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking inspiration from Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels while speaking about the party's Nyay Patra for the Lok Sabha elections. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "For his MA in Entire Political Science, Narendra Modi must definitely have read Joseph Goebbels on the value of propaganda and taken inspiration from him."

He noted that Goebbels had stated that "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

Ramesh said he also wrote in the principle that when one lies, one should lie big and stick to it."

Goebbels was the propaganda minister of German ruler Adolf Hitler. "In his latest interview to a

TV channel, which is being



brazenly and shamelessly lied about the Congress's Nyay Patra. It once again proves that Modi's motto has always been 'Asatyameva Jayate.' Truth is slaughtered every time he speaks," the Congress leader alleged.

The Congress later used the Hindi saying, "Jhooth Bole Kauwa Kaate" to attack the Prime Minister and alleged that the he stands completely exposed on the inheritance tax issue.

'The Congress's Nyay Patra does not contain any mention, direct or indirect, of an tenure shock the country by has yet again blatantly, hand - His ministerial drum- Ramesh alleged.

beaters, party social media figures and corporate personalities advocated it," he said in his post.

stantial Rs 5.66 crore

The top three candidates in

terms of declared assets possess

wealth ranging into hundreds

of crores, with the highest

declared assets surpassing Rs

1,361 crore. Since filing of the

nominations and the affidavits,

the Congress nominee from

Indore has withdrawn his can-

didature. The analysis also

delves into the educational and

demographic backgrounds of the candidates. The report

The Congress leader claimed that between 2017 and 2019 the Modi Government seriously considered the proposal, with even his Finance Minister praising it publicly. "Now one of his top economic advisors has said he is in favour of an income distribution survey but after the elections! Wow.Come on outgoing PM. At least in the closing few days of your miserable

fishing boat with narcotics seized



In a coordinated effort, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) seized an Indian fishing boat in the Arabian Sea carrying 173 kg of narcotics and arrested two perpetrators on board, Defence Ministry said here on Monday.

Acting on specific and credible intelligence provided by ATS Gujarat, ICG strategically deployed its assets ensuring comprehensive surveillance to

intercepting the boat confirmed the accuracy of the intelligence inputs, establishing the involvement of the fishing boat and its two perpetrators in smuggling drugs. Further investigation into the crew's involvement is underway. The operation marked the

twelfth such seizure by the ICG in the last three years, including recent detention of a Pakistani fishing boat with a substantial quantity of drugs on board, highlighting the commitment of both agencies to safeguard the maritime borders

Congress misleading Dalits, Hindu groups against Modi Government on quota: BJP PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The BJP on Monday claimed that it is the Congress and its allies which intends to change the Constitution to give reservation to Muslims on religious grounds, as the ruling party accused them of misleading Dalits and other disadvantaged Hindu groups against the Modi government. Levelling this charge, BJP MP

Brij Lal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated time and again that no one can change the Constitution, as envisaged by Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The former IPS officer, who

comes from the Scheduled Castes, told reporters that it is the Congress which has amended the Constitution the most number of times and even suspended its provisions to impose the Emergency in

The Congress and its allies are spreading this narrative to mislead people, especially Dalits, that the BJP will end speaking on an issue over favour of including those Uttar Pradesh chief minister.



which the two main contenders for power have been targeting each other during the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Brij Lal, who headed the parliamentary panel that scrutinised the three criminal laws later passed by Parliament, cited comments of Jawahar Lal Nehru to claim that the first prime minister was not a votary of reservation and added that Rajiv Gandhi had argued that the Constitution can be changed if needed.

It is the Congress that provided reservation to Muslims in undivided Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on religious grounds, in violation of the Constitution, he said.

The Rangnath Mishra commission appointed by the then-Congress government

Muslims who were earlier in the Scheduled Castes for quota benefits meant for Dalits, he said.

He said the Modi government's decision to repeal Article 370 was most beneficial for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, while the Congress has spoken against

The Congress has always been anti-reservation and against BR Ambedkar, Brij Lal claimed. Dalits believe that a Congress government will include Muslims in the reservation meant for them, he said, adding that the party, when it was in power, ensured that disadvantaged Hindu groups did not get reservation benefits in government-funded institutions such as Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia.

Congress allies such as the Samajwadi Party has been most opposed to the interests of Dalits, Brij Lal alleged, noting that more than a lakh Scheduled Caste government employees were demoted

Five of ten patients face delay in discharge due to medical insurance claims process

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $F^{\rm ive~out~of~10~patients~face}_{\rm delays~in~discharge~due~to}$ the time taken to process medical insurance claims, according to a new study from healthcare provider Pristyn Care. The study indicates that over 40 per cent of individuals attribute delays in health insurance claims in India to hospital administrative processes, while 25 per cent cite a lack of coordination between hospitals and insurance providers. Complex documentation pro-

cedures also significantly contribute to these delays. Furthermore, the survey underscores various challenges

encountered by patient families throughout the insurance claims process, with nearly 4 out of 10 respondents reporting difficulties with customer support regarding the claims process.
The study also found that 6 out

of 10 individuals never initiated the health insurance claim process. Among those who did, 34 per cent expressed dissatisfaction with the paper-work, while 40% faced chal-lenges in receiving timely responses from their insurance

Roughly 3 out of 10 patients encountered discrepancies between pre-approved and final claim amounts.

Additionally, around 38 per



that the discharge process took over 8 hours, with hospitals requiring a similar timeframe to process claims. Approximately 4 out of 10 cent of respondents reported individuals lacked clarity on their policy's terms and con-

Furthermore, about 18 per cent expressed dissatisfaction with the communication received from their insurance providers regarding claim sta-

Commenting on the findings, Dr Vaibhav Kapoor, Cofounder of Pristyn Care, said, There is a huge gap between the intended ease of cashless health insurance and the reality experienced by policy-

holders. Despite 75 per cent of survey respondents having cashless insurance, a significant number still face challenges during the claim process.

"This creates additional stress for patients and families

already dealing with a medical emergency. However, it's encouraging to note that insurance providers have already started digitizing and using tech to make the process quick and smooth. By embracing technological innovations, insurance providers are not only addressing the current challenges faced by policyholders but also paving the way for a more efficient and customer-centric insurance ecosystem.

"As digitisation continues to evolve, it holds the promise of further enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of health insurance, ultimately benefiting patients and their families during times of med-

The organisation cited a report from the IRDA, claiming that currently, cashless settlement services are accessible in 49 per cent of hospitals in India. Both general and health insurance companies update their roster of affiliated hospitals in response to costly medical bills and false claims aimed at increasing payouts from insur-

To address these challenges, the insurance regulator, in collaboration with the General Insurance Council, aims to establish a nationwide common cashless hospital net-

This initiative aims to expand and streamline the health insurance claims settlement process, it noted.

NEET aspirant found hanging in hostel room, parents suspect murder

PNS ■ KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

A²⁰-year-old NEET aspirant was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hostel room in Kunhari area here, with his parents suspecting he was murdered, police said on Monday. This is the eighth case of suspected suicide by a coaching student in Kota since January. The number of student suicides in Kota stood at 26 in 2023. Sumit Panchal, who hailed from Harvang's Pohtak hailed from Haryana's Rohtak, had been preparing for NEET at a coaching institute here for over a year, the police said. His parents have demanded the registration of a murder case against unidentified persons and an impartial investigation into the matter. On demand of the student's

parents, a medical board was constituted to perform the autopsy, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Kaptan, who is investigating the case.

The body was handed over to the family after the post-mortem, they said. The student had allegedly

hanged himself around 9 hours before his body was spotted by the hostel staff, the ASI said. Panchal's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room at the hostel in Landmark City under the Kunhari police station limits on Sunday night, they said.

However, his parents suspected Panchal was murdered, citing that the injury on his neck from the rope was too deep to be caused by hanging, the

Majority of marginalised women still face high maternal mortality, lack of emergency care

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Underscoring the essential link between national progress and women's health, Surgeon Vice Admiral Dr Arti Sarin on Monday expressed concerns that the majority of women in marginalized communities across the country continue to have limited emergency care access and high maternal mortality rates.

"The health and wellness of a nation are not only a matter of human rights but also crucial to its progress. Women in our nation continue to face specific challenges that we actively

discuss and strive to resolve. Maternity health, nutrition, reproductive health, and mental health are among the key health concerns. Additionally, issues such as lack of access to emergency care, cultural barriers, and maternal mortality rates of 97 to 100,000 births are pressing concerns," said Dr Sarin at the Women's Health India (WHI 2024) Conference held here. Attended by an array of health experts and researchers besides policy makers, the event provided a platform for discussing evidencebased strategies and collaborations that could mitigate the impact of diseases on women.

.Dr. Madhu Goel, Director -Obstetrics and Gynecology, Laparoscopy Surgeon and Infertility Specialist, Fortis La Femme, Delhi, spoke about maternal health and environmental factors. "Air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution not only impact the health of the mother but also affect the next generation. Whatever a mother is exposed to can influence her child's health. It's crucial to take proper care beyond just diet. Factors like using mobile phones, laptops, and microwaves can also have an impact on the child." When asked whether access to healthcare for women is chang-



opined that while physical areas has indeed improved,

financial access has not She emphasized the absence of health insurance in rural health sectors, highlighting its necessity. Furthermore, she lamented the lacking attitude towards investing in women's health. Although digital access has seen advancements, its practical implementation on the ground remains deficient. Dr. Madhu also pointed out persistent pre-existing stereotypes and the enduring male gender bias that continue to pose challenges despite efforts to overcome them.

While addressing the agenda on 'Empowering women's

and Connectivity', Dr. Urvashi Prasad, Director, NITI Aayog said, many women, including those from tribal areas, with disabilities, less education, above 60 years of age, and widows, often remain unheard in mainstream discussions due to cultural and social reasons. "Addressing their issues requires substantial effort. While progress has been made in impacting women's lives, certain factors still need attention, such as sanitation, personal care, and awareness. However, socio-cultural barriers and limited access to health-

care continue to hinder

Health through Innovations

up efforts to educate women about health, financial empowerment, and other important aspects. Devika Bhatia, Product

progress. Agencies must step

Manager at the National Health Authority (NHA), Dr. Prachi Sambhaji Sharda, Mental Health Consultant at WHO, Dr. Reena Valecha Balani, Wellness Manager for Corporate Health at TATA Motors, Dr. Charu Sharma (PT), Physical Rehabilitation Project Manager at the International Committee of the Red Cross was among the speakers who shared their views on women's health.

They studied abroad, have little understanding LDF convener Jayarajan gets a reprieve of country: Dhami slams Rahul, Akhilesh

PTI LUCKNOW

Uttarakhand Chief Minister and BJP leader Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday attacked INDIA Bloc leaders Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, claiming that they have little understanding of the country as they have studied abroad.

In an interview with PTI-Bhasha here, Dhami also alleged that the Congress wants give reservations to a "particular community" from the quota meant for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC).

On Congress leader Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Yadav alleging "misuse" of central probe agencies such as the ED, the CBI and the Income Tax Department to target leaders of opposition parties, the BJP leader said, "These agencies are of the Congress era."

Dhami was in the Uttar Pradesh capital for the filing of nomination papers of Defence Minister Rajanth Singh who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Lucknow.

Asked about the alleged sex scandal in Karnataka involving JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda's grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, he said the law will take its course against anyone who violates it.

Dhami also targeted the INDIA bloc, formed by opposition parties to take on the ruling BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, saying, "This is an alliance of people promoting family causes, corruption



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Arvind Veer Gupta Son of Shri Harish Chandra Gupta residing at 211, Cariappa Marg Sainik Farms, New Delhi-110062 hereby give notice that my minor son Shaurya Veer aged fourteen years shall hereafter be known as Shaurya Veer Gupta for all future purposes.

I, SHARON RIZVI D/O PULUMO SWU born on 10th MARCH 1988 residing at T-807, 2ND FLOOR, RAGHU COMPLEX SUKHDEV NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI PIN :110003, DELHI, INDIA, have changed my name to SHARON SWU vide affidavit dated 29TH APRIL 2024 at DELHI.

PD(392)A

COURT NOTICE
IN THE SUPPERME COURT OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL)No(s) 10883
10883 OF 2018 WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM
RELIEF
IAI PARKASH
Patitionary(s) JAI PARKASH ...Petitioner(s)

JAI PARKASHPetitioner(s)
VERSUS
RAM JI LAL AND OTHERSRespondent(s)
To, 1 PREM PAHWA S/O SOHAN LAL, R/O H.NO.
K-2, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI, DISTRICT- DELHI-

N.Z., MISHIWA NAGAR, DELHI, DISTRICT- DELHI-110051, PID:259497/2023 FOR R[3.2] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 10 88 2/2018, SLP(C) NO. 10 88 3/ 2018SLP(C)MO.10882-10883/2018(SEC IV-B), 2. BHOPAL S/O SOHAN LAL, R/O HNO. K-2 KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI, DISTRICT- DELHI-110051 110051,
PID:259498/2023 FOR R[3.3] IN IN SLP(C) NO 10882/2018, SLP(C) NO. 10883/ 2018SLP(C) NO 10882-10883/2018(SECIV-B),
3. RAMAN S/O SOHAN LAL, R/O H.NO. K-2, RRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI.DISTRICT- DELHI-

10051
PID 259499/2023 FOR R[3.4] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 10882/2018, SLP(C) NO. 10883/2018SLP(C) NO. 10882-10883/2018 (SECIV-B).
4. GUDIYADO SOHANI AL, R/O H.NO. K-2, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI, DISTRICT-DELHI-110051.
PID: 259500/2023 FOR R[3.5] NIN INSLP(C) NO. 10883. /2018 SLP (C) NO. 10882-10883/2018 (SECIV-B).
WHEREAS the Peliton for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. ADITYASINGH, Advocate on behalf of the Pelitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court

ADITYASINGH, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was isled for hearing before this Court on 20th April,2018, when the court was pleased to pass the following order.

Delay condoned. Issue notice."

Delay condoned. Issue notice."

AUTHEREAS. The matter above mentioned was listed before Ld. Registers's Court on 28th November, 2023, When the following order was passed:—Opportunity to respondent No. 1 to life counter attitioative has already been declined.

Ld. Counsel for the petitioner has filed an Application for substituted service through publication in respect of respondent No.3 (ii-v). Application stands Allowed. Proof of publication the filed within four weeks. service is complete on respondent Nos.2 and 4 but none has entered appearance. List again on 16.1.2024.

none has entered appearance. List again on 16.1.2024."
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this. Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of publication of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court in due course.

course.
you may file your affidavit in opposition to the puprovided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXL, S.C within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice. later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only b setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of later than 2 would hearing, but stress to be setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP isfled. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Date: 19th December, 2023,

Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



This alliance of opposition parties is to safeguard their existence and that is why the country does not believe them, he said.

To a question on Gandhi and Yadav alleging that the BJP is seeking more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha to change the Constitution and end reservations, Dhami said, 'They have studied abroad. Hence, they have no proper understanding of the country.

'Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP are supporters of reservations for SC, ST and OBC. The two have studied abroad. They have little understanding of the country," he said.

Uttarakhand minister exuded confidence that the BIP will win all the five Lok Sabha seats in the

"We don't have to fight with anybody for five Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand. Our fight is with ourselves as to who wins with the maximum margin," Dhami said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be Known to all that my client Smt. BRINDA
PAL W/o Shri ASHISH KUMAR PAL AND Shri
ASHISH KUMAR PAL S/o LATE SHRI BHUWAN
MOHAN PAL, are R/o DDA SFS FLAT NO. 22-D,
THIRD FLOOR, SFS FLATS, CATEGORY-IL/VIIAY

THIRD FLOOR, SES FLATS, CATEGORY-II, VIII MANDAL ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110016. TI Criginal 5th and Final Demand Letter of the said premises has been Lost/misplaced. FLR to this effect has been lodged in the Polis Station, Crime Branch Delhi Vide FIR/LR N 154058/2024, Dated 18/04/2024. Any perso (s) found in possession of original document

ontact at above address/Mobile 700145615 within 15 days from the date of publication on his notice. The person(s) claiming any right the rest can personally inform or write to Dr.

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Omwati Devi w/o Mr. Kamal Singh has acquired for Khasra No 52, situated at Shanti Nagar, in the revenue Estate of village Dundaheda, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 29.11.2016, Doc no. 7444. Documents related to the above said properly has been misplaged if e. 1 Original Repd. GPA

Documents related to the above said properly has been misplaced ie 1. Onginal Regd. GPA dated 09.02.1996 registered as Document no. 162 and 2. Original Sale Deed dated 29.11.2016 registered as Document No. 7444. Anyone who fold the said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Hinduja Housing Finance Office Address: 418. Tower-2, Pearl Omaxe Building, Netsij Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 or Mr. Rakesh Kumar Contact at *91917665550 (M).

The general public is informed that the cars

with the following car numbers which have

Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was

confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt

Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till

now. All these vehicle owners are informed

to come to the company's office and claim

the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise

all these vehicles will be scrapped in the

DL7SBB2387, DL8CK4563, DL7SX7741,

DL8SN7950, DL9CF6800, JKE311. DL6SY9328, DL2CW2645, DL7SBG0289

DL7SAQ9621, DL2CK9661, DHZ9244, DL7SAQ9010, DL5CF3036

DL7SL7233, DL9CQS8919, HR51S2719, DL4SF7101. DL1CH8943.

DL7SX4034. DL4CAD5234. PB65H3978

DL1CJ7359,

DL8CQ5279, BR01AN2873, UP13P6460

DL5CE0715, MP20MG6293, DL6SY3587

DL3SE3631, DL7SAK8314, DL6SAA4943,

DI 4SAS9005

DL2CL8278.

DL2FY0777 DL4SBC4826

DL3CAQ0308

DL7SBD3368,

DL3SBK6903

TN09AT9226.

DL8CP3354.

DL2CAK1239, DL6SAA9807

DL3SBJ3148, DL6SAC4414. WB38S6402 PB46D4597. MH31BY3628.

DL2CAE2341. | DL4SNC4027. | WB20L5309.

DL3CBC1576, DL6SAA8856, AS01W7554, DL4CAB9631, DL7SAF9481, DL8CR2753,

DL4CAB8640, DL4SNC3900, DL7CH4818

DL6ST2871,

DL7SH0380

DL2CZ6352, DL4SNC1326, DL13S3359, HR26AM6381 DL9SR9767, DL2CAN7977

L4CNC1699, RJ02SJ6767

DL8CK7684. DL4SAN0258.

DL5CD0829, DL4SBJ2074,

HR30E8794.

DL2CAA7004, DL2CAE2894

UP53AC4209, DL4SBE9435

UP32BA7968, DL6SV7095 DL8SAJ5463, DL4SAM7651, DL3SBM128

DL7SAQ4973, DL7CG9750.

DL1SD4434, DL9SM7924

K9N032200. DL9SP5568.

DHN5848,

DL1L6243.

DIE2180.

MAKGM252-

SB308IN-

1848748

Γ4H312274

NDB21006

10B13604

MA6NF196-

T4H308964

DL4SAZ9010

DL8CS3593.

A3EKE41S-

00358693

DL7CJ5075,

DL1CJ5385.

DL4SBF9409, DL9CX0703.

HR36H5806

DL2CAE4186

DL6SY1687.

DL4SAD4317

DL3SAB9260

DL6SM1172.

DL6SAA8855

DL6SAC1965

DL6SAA5837

DL6SAB9950

DL6SAB5894

KA01EL4569.

DL7SF9281.

DNS1804

PB03G6693.

1R29T8727

HR35C7587.

DL7SBF1025

DL7SAF6591

UP25W9916

RJ29SB7561

DL9SX2374, DL4SBJ8995 DL1LK4818, | DL8CS5109, | DL4SNB2124, DL2CAE3026.

DL2CAH8156, DL4SAX7649

DL2CAE3348, DL4SAM6565

DL4CAD4423, UA08J8057

next three days.

a legislation in Uttarakhand and "we feel happy that the BIP has taken a vow in its 'sankalp patra (manifesto)' to implement it across the country". The Uttarakhand assembly on February 7 passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill. The

On the Uniform Civil Code

(UCC), he said it has become

Bill got the president's assent March. making Uttarakhand the first state in country after Independence to take a decisive step towards implementing the common law on marriage, divorce, land. property and inheritance for all citizens, irrespective of their religion. On the arrests of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader and former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, Dhami said that Prime Minister Modi has said "na khaunga na khana doonga".

The law is taking its course,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Medical Record of Patients

Notice is hereby given that North East

Healthcare Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram earlier

known as W-Pratiksha (here in after

referred to as Hospital) will be

destroying Medical record related to

the treatment of patients pertaining

Any patient/relative who wishes to

acquire certified true copy of the

Medical Records pertaining to above

seated period has to raise a request in

writing to the concerned office

mentioned below between 09:00 AM

to 05:30PM. All such applications

must reach the concerned office

within one month from the date of

Medical Record Department

Contact No: 7428390242

North East Health Care Pvt Ltd

Golf Course Ext. Road, Sushant Lok-2,

Sector 56, Gurugram, Harvana - 122011

Email Id:mrd.mahg@marengoasia.con

to the period till December 2018

he said, referring to the BJPled Centre's zero-tolerance towards corruption policy. The AAP and the JMM are also members of the INDIA

forest fires Uttarakhand, Dhami said, 'We are moving towards controlling the fires". These have been controlled to a great extent, he said and added that in some districts, "we have controlled the fires". Holidays of forest department personnel have cancelled and responsibility fixed to control

the fires, the chief minister

said and added that the help

of the army is also being

taken. "Such incidents happen every year. This time it is more. We have taken action... Taking strict action by filing cases (against the guilty). The environment should preserved," Dhami said while

responding to a question. On Sunday, forest officials in Uttarakhand Dehradun said efforts have been intensified to extinguish the raging forest fires in the state, especially in the worstaffected areas of Nainital, Haldwani and Ramnagar forest divisions.

The forest fires are gradually being controlled with flames already doused in many areas. The fires in Marora and Khanana civil areas in the Maniknath range of the forest Narendranagar division have been completely extinguished, the officials had said.

NOTICE is hereby given that Parvesh

Kumar Gupta claims to be owner and in ssession of Ground Floor of Prop. No

16-A, Block G, Kalkaji, N.D.(hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 07.05.2015 executed by Mithlesh Mahajan, Prem Lata,

Sanieev Mahajan & Vijay Mahajan reg. vide

Doc. No. 3883, being one of the legal heirs o

Late Dwarka Dass, said Dwarka Dass was the owner of the said property vide Conveyance deed dated 01.04.97 reg. vide

doc no. 6439 and said **Parvesh Kumar Gupta** has agreed to sell the said Property

to Ramit Guota And Said Ramit Guota ha

igreed to create a mortgage in favour of ou

clients Standard Chartered Bank ITO

Branch, any person/s having claim agains

the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage

(equitable/registered or otherwise), gif

howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify

the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address

mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or

claims, if any of such person or persons will

labandoned and our client shall proceed with

creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

ement of loan and subs

H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP

Mobile No. 9818399999

ust, inheritance, lien or otherw

The State Committee of **1** the CPI(M) which met major role in facilitating the on Monday to discuss the ramifications caused by the between LDF meeting Convener EP Jayarajan and the BJP's Prakash Jawadekar gave a clean chit to the former and said that there was nothing unusual in it. Briefing the media after the State Committee meeting, M V Govindan, Kerala

secretary of the CPI(M) said that Jayarajan explained the situation that led to the meeting and clarified all issues raised in the meeting. "It has been found that the hype about this meeting was created by a certain section of the media which is not friendly with the CPI(M) and they had some intention to put the party in a dilemma. Based on the explanation given by Jayarajan, we have asked him to take legal action against those media which spread falsehoods about the meeting," said Govindan.

The party secretary also said that there was nothing unusual in two leaders belonging to different political parties and different pursuing ideologies meeting each other. "Such meetings are not uncommon so long as the agenda is confined to personal relayions," said Govindan.

He also alleged that the opposition led by the Congress wanted to divert the attention from real issues and they blew the news about the Javarajan-Jawadekar meeting out of proportion. "We have also asked Jayarajan not to have

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Metallic Ferro Alloys LLP claims to be owner and in

possession of Prop. No. 124, Block B

Ashok Vihar, Ph-I, Delhi having purchased the said property from Sunil Kakrania Sudhir Kakrania, Sushil Kakrania & Lalit

Kakrania by virtue of Sale Deed Dated

09.11.2022 reg vide Doc No. 17917 who were the only legal heirs of Late Shyam

Sunder Kakrania, said Shyam Sunder Kakrania was the owner of the said property

vide Conveyance deed dated 20.10.20 reg. vide doc no. 5377 & said Metallic Ferro

Allovs LLP has agreed to sell the said

has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of

our clients Axis Bank Limited, Axis House

Sector 128. Noida U.P., any person/s

having claim against the said Property, or

any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange

mortgage (equitable/registered o

otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or

otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with

supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days

from the date hereof, failing which the cla

or claims, if any, of such person or person:

will be considered to have been waived

nd/or abandoned and our client sha

proceed with the disbursement of loan and

subsequent creation of mortgage in respect

H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP

ICICI Bank Limited

Mobile No. 9818399999

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ **KOCHI** any more contacts with "Dallal" T G Nandakumar, who reportedly played a meeting," said Govindan.

Dallal Nandakumar, the Delhi based Keralite is credited with facilitating and finalizing underhand dealings and contracts between people in high places and favor seekers for a price.

He has been described as a dubious character and persons dealing with him are looked down by civil society.

Political observers like A Jayasankar are of the view that there are string reasons behind the State Committee opting out of taking any action against Jayarajan. 'This is a meeting which was held to save certain leaders in the CPI(M) facing probe by central agencies like ED and CBI. If any action is taken against Jayarajan at this juncture chances are that he would spill more beans and that will put the VVIPs in the party in an embarrassing situation. This is the same

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Rajattokas S/o Sh. Ajay Kumar is the Owner built-up House bearing no. 135-A, Area Measuring 82,29 Soyds out of Khasra no. 742 situated in the Old LaI-Dora of Village Mohammadpur, Munirka, abadi known as Munirka Village, New Delhi through Regd. Gift Deed Dated 28.07.2023 executed by Sh. Ajay Kumar in favour of Sh. Rajattokas S/o Sh. Ajay Kumar Vide Reg. no.4305 at VII-A DELHI. The abov mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank hould notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehar E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along wit E-715, Anianuoumia court, belin-110/92 along will documentary evidence under address through registered within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110/92; Mebilal No. 9/12/15/19 Mobile No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Chetak Sharma is in process to purchase the Plot No. 15, area measuring 75 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 7373137, situated in the vaka Swana Mauja abadi Rajendra Park, under Nagar Municipal Corporation Tehsil & Distt. Burgaon, Haryana (Property ID no 122V67M4, House no. 4616131, Block-D Rajinder Park, Burgaon, Haryana-122001) from Sunita Devi having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 18.07.2011 executed by Tarawati (Job. No. 16056), whereas she has lost a Sale Deed 10.02.1998 executed in Javour of Shubham Sharma (Doc. No. 13070) pertain to the said property, an FIR has already been lodged for that or dated 2614;2024



CPI(M) which campaigned in Kollam alleging that the member Premachandran is shifting his loyalty to the BJP following the lunch he shared with Prime Minister Modi at the Parliament House canteen," Jayashankar.

the CPI(M) is serious about taking action against Jayarajan for meeting Jawadekar, the only body capable of doing the same is the polit bureau of the party because Jayarajan is a member of the high power central committee, a body of intellectuals intelligentsia like Sitaram Yechury, Prakash and Brinda Karats. Govindan charged the BJP's national spokesperson Sanju Verma for spreading "blatant lies" about Kerala.

'This lady was heard alleging in a media that the CPI(M) was distributing 98 pr cent of the income generated by temples in Kerala to the Muslim community. The truth is that temples in the State survive because of the generous fund released by the Government," said

ELECTION NOTICE

Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal, Revised Schedule for Election (2024-2027). Election of the College Governing Body/Society (2024-2027) will be held on 23.06.2024 (Sunday) at 11.00 a.m. in the College Library Hall, Schedule for Election-Filling of Nominations: From 03.06.2024 to 07.06.2024 (till 4.00 p.m.).

Date of Scrutiny of the received Nomination forms: 10.06.2024. Last date for withdrawal Nomination: 14.06.2024 (till 4.00 p.m.). Date of Election: 23.06.2024. Name of the Presiding Officer: Sh. Sat Pal Chopra, Senior Advocate

District Court, Karnal. Election of the Four Office Bearers: President, Vice President, General

Secretary, Finance Secretary.

Voters List is available on the college notice board. Note: Reference with the election notice published in The

Tribune/Pioneer Hindi dated 20 March, 2024. The election is re-Tribune/Pioneer Hindrada ______schedule due to model code of conduct.

Signed by General Secretary.

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction of "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following case:

Vehicle No.- UP16CH1039, Make and Model- Honda Amaze, Manf. Year- 2019 FIR NO.237/2020 Auction Date: May 15, 2024 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022

Contact Person-Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rohit Shrivastava (8657476284) Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself, themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Successful bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Tower Plot no. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION/PARTIALLY CANCELLATION/ RESCHEDULING/DIVERSION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC BLOCK

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Railways will undertake the work of extension of loop lines at Nilokheri station on Delhi-Ambala Cantt. section over Delhi Division. To execute this work, Railways will take power and traffic blocks from 30.04.24 to 07.05.24. During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS				
Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)			
14053 Delhi JnDaulatpur Chowk (Himachal Exp.)	30.04.2024, 01.05.2024, 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024			
14054 Daulatpur Chowk-Delhi Jn. (Himachal Exp.)	01.05.2024, 02.05.2024, 03.05.2024 & 04.05.2024			
04176 Panipat JnAmbala Cantt. Exp.	01.05.2024 & 02.05.2024			
04140 Ambala CanttKurukshetra Jn. Exp.	02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024			

	·				
DIVERSION OF TRAINS					
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station			
15707 Katihar JnAmritsar Jn. Spl.	Jakhal-Dhuri JnLudhiana Jn.	30.04.2024			
11905 Agra CanttHoshiarpur Exp.	H.Nizamuddin-Ghaziabad-Meerut city- Saharanpur-Ambala Cantt.	02.05.2024			
11077 Pune JnJammu Tawi (Jhelam Exp.)	Jakhal-Dhuri JnLudhiana Jn.	01.05.2024			
12266 Jammu Tawi - Delhi Sarai Rohilla (Duranto Exp.)	Ludhiana JnDhuri JnJakhal- Delhi Sarai Rohilla	02.05.2024			
12312 Kalka-Howrah (Kalka Mail)	Ambala CanttSaharanpur- Meerut city-Khurja Jn.	02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024			

SHORT TERMIN	ATION/ORIG	AINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Train to Short Terminate/ Originate at/from station	Train to Partially cancelled between Stations	Date of Cancellation (From Originating Station)
04178 Kurukshetra Jn Delhi Jn. Express	From Panipat	Kurukshetra- Panipat	02.05.24, 03.05.24
04405 H.Nizamuddin- Kurukshetra Jn. Spl.	at Panipat	Panipat- Kurukshetra-	01.05.24 to 02.05.24
04406 Kurukshetra Jn H.Nizamuddin Spl.	From Panipat	Panipat	02.05.24 to 03.05.24
11841 Khajuraho - Kurukshetra Jn. Exp.	at Panipat	Panipat- Kurukshetra-	06.05.24
11842 Kurukshetra Jn Khajuraho Exp.	From Panipat	Panipat	07.05.24

RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS Train no. 12983 Ajmer Jn.-Chandigarh Jn. Garib Rath will be rescheduled at Ajmer Jn.

20.00 hrs instead of 18.00 hrs. on 30.04.2024

Train no. 14034 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra -Delhi Jn. Jammu Mail will be rescheduled at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station17.50 hrs instead of 15.20 hrs. on 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024

Train no. 12414 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Jn. Express will be rescheduled at Jammu Tawi

20.15 hrs.instead of 18.15 hrs. on 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024

For any kind of information, passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

RailMadad Download Railmadad App

You f B



PUBLIC NOTICE Accici Bank Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

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

thereof

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified b

way of this public notice.					
	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta- nding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
		Himanshu Pareek/ Meera Devi Pareek/ Yogesh Pareek- LBJAl00005649398/ LBJAl00005649399- R/o 41A, S-3, Shubhangan, Vikas Nagar-A, Near Sant Marry Church, Murlipura, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302039	Flat No. S-03, Second Floor (Without Roof Rights), Built On Plot No 41-A, Situated At Vikas Nagar-A, Murlipura, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302012	March 30, 2024 Rs. 31,30,757.00/-	01-01- 2024

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Date: April 30, 2024 Authorized Office

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

Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses,

	nowever, it has returned un-served and herice, they are hereby hotilied by way of this public hotice.					
Sr. No.		Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset tobe Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date		
1.	Prashant Kumar Srivastava, Kirti Srivastava, D-51A, Upper Ground Floor, Front Side,khasra No.362, Village Bindapur, Vishwas Park, Block- D, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 LoAN NO. 26600000844, A/c:- QZDEL00005005135	Property Bearing No.D-51A, Upper Ground Floor, Without Roof Rights/ Terrace Rights, Front Side, Out Of Khasra No.362, Situated At Village Bindapur, Vishwas Park, Block-d, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi- 110059	02/04/2024 Rs. 13,98,886/-	08/01/ 2024		
2.	Rahul, Manju Gupta, 16/738, Street No 9, H Block, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Milatry Road, Delhi-110085 Loan No. 24900001033 A/c :- QZJNK00004999579	Plot No. 196, 3rd Floor With Roof Right, Gali No. 7, Village Bindapur, Vishwas Park T Ext, Khasra No. 349, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059	04/04/2024 Rs. 15,09,595.79/-	08/08/ 2022		
3.	Prakashkumar Choudhary, Nutan Devi, B- 22, Riico Colony, Mia, Rajasthan, Alwar- 301030, Loan No.' 24900001470, A/c:-QZJNK00005016440	House No. RZ-125, 1st Floor, Without Roof Right, Khasra No.9/17, Village Asalatpur Khadar, Indira Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110059	08/04/2024 Rs. 13,86,292/-	09/12/ 2023		

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as

Date: April 30, 2024 Place : Delhi/Nci

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

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3.	Prakashkumar Choudhary, Nutan Devi, B- 22, Riico Colony, Mia, Rajasthan, Alwar- 301030, Loan No.' 24900001470, A/c:-QZJNK00005016440	House No. RZ-125, 1st Floor, Without Roof Right, Khasra No.9/17, Village Asalatpur Khadar, Indira Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110059	08/04/2024 Rs. 13,86,292/-	09/12/ 2023	
		Delhi, Delhi 110059			

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

North by Northeast

Internal strife, insurgency and a sense of alienation plague the Seven Sisters, much like the Kashmir of yore

■ ndia's Northeastern region has for long experienced insurgency, internal conflict and unrest and the challenges have often been exacerbated by its complex history, geographical isolation and perceived neglect by the Central Government. One of the most prominent facets of the restive Northeast is the internecine wars within its borders, fuelled by a variety of factors ranging from ethnic tensions to resource disputes, leading to cycles of violence and displacement. The region's strategic importance, owing to its proximity to China and Southeast Asia, has made it a battleground for competing geopolitical interests, thus complicating the situation. Traditionally, the conflict in the Northeast has been fuelled by a lack of identity with the Indian mainland, the role of external powers like China, Myanmar and Bangladesh, tribal/communal differences among its inhabitants and fault lines in the subdivision of Assam which led to the creation of other Northeastern states. Indeed, the region's woes stem from several factors, which are



reflected in its turmoil. Economic underdevelopment and lack of infrastructure exacerbate feelings of marginalisation and deprivation, providing fertile ground for insurgent movements to recruit disaffected youth. Moreover, the region's porous borders, particularly with Myanmar and Bangladesh, help insurgent groups set up base and launch attacks on our security personnel. Cross-border infiltration and support to insurgent groups by external actors have been persistent challenges for India's security establishment.

The Army's long presence in the region Delhi's apathy has been a recurring theme in the Northeast. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), enact-

ed in 1958 amidst the Naga Hills 'uprising', is a constant irritant that the locals feel reflects New Delhi's deliberate attempt to strip them of their rights and dignity. It is one of the most despised Acts in the region and stands between the Centre's goodwill and the Northeastern people. Currently, the AFSPA is enforced fully in 31 districts across four Northeastern states and partially in 12 districts. The alienation has manifested in various forms, including widespread boycott of elections, as communities express their disillusionment with the political process. The latest manifestation has been in Manipur, bordering Myanmar, where violence began on May 3 last year when hill tribal groups clashed with the ethnic majority Meitei over economic benefits and job and education quotas. Regrettably, since Independence, this area has not been fully integrated into the mainstream. Not only have many insurgent groups representing various communities been waging war against the Indian Union, internal strife and communal differences have also not been reconciled. The lack of inclusive approach to addressing the root causes of the unrest, coupled with sporadic attempts at peace talks and development initiatives, has led to instability that shows little sign of abating. Only through sustained efforts and genuine political will can the region hope to achieve peace and stability.



Members of a dance group perform on a road on International Dance Day, in Nadia

Why are the young not joining politics?



A large number of voters belongs to the younger generation; their apathy towards the electoral process is a cause of concern

he country belongs more and more to its younger citizens. It is, therefore, all the more disturbing that the youth who have lately crossed the age of 18 and have registered themselves as voters in fewer numbers. The country belongs more to the younger ones who're 18, on an overage, the country for say, sixty years more, or probably twelve general elections. To a fifty-year-old, in terms of time, he might get to see five, possibly six more general elections.

In Uttar Pradesh, our largest state only 25 per cent of the eligible youth have registered themselves as voters. What could be the reasons for this lack of desire to have a say in the running of their country? Do most young people expect Government representatives to approach them in the old maibaap fashion? Or do they feel that there isn't likely to be much competition among the political parties for their votes? Could it also be that the younger generation has come to nurse an indifference towards the entire political process and the institution of democracy itself? Over the years, a large body of the youth of the country has come to believe that whoever comes to power, won't make any difference to their lives, as the country's politicians are perceived to be a class that acts only in its interest. However, in this cynicism, the youth forget that by their indifference, they abdicate their right to have a say in the running of their nation. At the other of the age spectrum,

the necessary interest in entering the political arena and playing a meaningful role in the life of the country has not been there to the extent required. Public life of a political nature had existed for some fifty years before independence. It began with the founding of the Congress by a retired British bureaucrat, Allan Octavian Hume, in 1885. The Muslim League was founded in year 1906, the Hindu lessionally qualified Mahasabha in 1916 and the Communist Party in 1925. Indians, therefore had the oppor-But clearly, there is a long way tunity to have a feel of political to go in this regard.



Could the disillusionment have been due to disappointment with the quality of politicians? Not all parties indeed have members hailing from the most educated or knowledgeable sections of society. Although the current central Government is not a rough and tumble of the hitherto political dispensations that have ruled the country, it has still not been able to overcome the cynicism about politicians and politics in general, which continues to hold sway in the minds of a large section of the people. This is not to say that good people are disinterested in politics. We have in recent years, seen

many academically and pro-



ANOTHER REASON WHY WEALTHY CANDIDATES ARE ATTRACTED TO POLITICS IS THE TRADITIONAL BELIEF THAT ONCE ELECTED. THE CANDIDATE WOULD BE ABLE TO EARN BACK THE MONEY SPENT ON **ELECTIONEERING** AND THEREAFTER **GENERATE MUCH** One great discouragement is the number of people in a constituency, as well as the high cost of electioneering. Hopefully, some answer to this problem should emerge from the delimitation of electoral constituencies, which would be set to increase, by (approximately) 50 per cent. No ordinary entrant can afford to spend astronomical sums of money to cultivate nearly two million voters per

Delimitation and increased seats alone will not solve the problem of election expenses. Another reason why wealthy candidates are attracted to politics is the traditional belief that once elected, the candidate would be able to earn back the money spent on electioneering and thereafter generate much money. Once the doors are closed to corruption, the attraction for opportunists to become candidates would be much diminished. This also applies equally to any new avenue for making money.

electioneering. It would also eliminate the perpetuation of

vote-bank politics. For example, there was a time when the total voting used to be 50 per cent or less. Therefore, if the candidate had a secure vote bank, it wasn't difficult for him to win.

With the rise in the percent-

age of voting, the power and

effect of a committed vote-

bank is reduced. For instance, in an electorate of a lakh people, a committed vote-bank of a particular candidate is say, 25 per cent, i.e., 25,000 voters out of a population of one lakh. If the normal voting is no more than 50 to 55 per cent for that seat, this captive vote bank is assured victory for that candidate. However, if the voting percentage is 100 per cent, such a vote-bank will be of no decisive advantage. The role of freebies has to be curbed for any meaningful participation in the political process. Freebies reduce the exercise of elections in a democracy to nothing more than bribing voters. It is then futile to talk of democracy, or why the young don't partici-

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)



Reflections on rituals from around the world



From the tranquil Nyepi Day in Bali to the vibrant street celebrations in Japan, rituals surrounding life's milestones offer glimpses into cultures

e had lunch in the resort restaurant during a vacation to Thailand a few months back. There was a slight drizzle as we walked along a narrow walkway hemmed in by walls and tastefully planted beds of flowers, vines and shrubs.

I remember a late evening in our beach resort in Bali a few years back. The day after our arrival was Nyepi Day, a public holiday. It is a day of silence, fasting and meditation. No lights are lit in the evening. It is believed that spirits roam in the evening on this day. Any loud sound or bright light may attract them to come down to explore and some of them may cause harm.

We had walked to the resort restaurant along walkways at the back, which were lit up with muted lamps placed along the path to guide the guests. Even the lighting in the restaurant was subdued. We were also caught up in the spirit of the local folklore and walked silently along the dimly lit narrow path, surrounded by flowers, vines and shrubs,

apprehensive of catching the fancy of an evil spirit. A few decades back, I was in Japan for a study tour. There was a public holiday, which was celebrated as the day of the ancestors. Groups of people were out dancing on the streets, moving from one house to the other. Each household had set up a table in the front, loaded with beer and other alcohol and savouries to be partaken by the danc-

ing people. I also joined the celebrations. We have a fortnight-long annual ritual, called Pitru Paksha, to honour our lady over drinks and food.

ancestors. Prayers are offered, followed by meals specially prepared. What surprises me, though, is the fact that these 15 days, in honour of our ancestors are considered inauspicious for any new purchases, or any other auspicious work, even though we are because

A very close Parsi friend passed away a few years back. The family invited us for a celebration of her life a few days later. There was laughter all around as we all recounted the happy times that we had spent with the

The gracious hostess, her daughter, had prepared a special Parsi-style chicken dish, which had been both a speciality and a favourite of the departed soul.

We also have the thirteenthday ceremony in our Hindu religion which is formally the close of the mourning period. Guests are intimated to join prayers and then partake of our special food prepared for the occasion. Though sometimes tearyeyed, everyone remembers the time spent with the person who has joined the

supreme being. Why mourn death, which is only the passing away to another life? When my time comes, I hope my near and dear ones remember me, not for my beliefs, but for the happiness that I gave

A life led to spreading happiness all around is to be celebrated. Thomas Campbell rightly said, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die!"

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

PAKISTAN'S AFGHAN DEBACLE

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Pakistan paying for its misplaced priorities," published on April 29, this is my response. Ambassador Asif Durrani's acknowledgement of Pakistan's failures in Afghanistan reveals a stark reality: the cost of tensions along the Durand Line surpasses all wars with India combined. The fixation on India as the primary adversary stems from historical wounds and institutional agendas. However, the Afghan debacle exposes the fallacy of such fixations and challenges the 'two-nation theory'. The resurgence of Taliban attacks and Afghan nationals participating in strikes against Pakistan signal a seismic shift in regional dynamics. Pakistan's strategic ambitions in Afghanistan have backfired, eroding trust and isolating it on the global stage. Despite efforts to rewrite the narrative, Pakistan remains entangled in its past missteps, with Afghanistan looming as a permanent fixture in its regional calculus.

As the world watches with scepticism, Pakistan's plight underscores a fundamental truth: religion alone cannot sustain a nation. Bangladesh and Afghanistan stand as testaments to the folly of such notions. It's a sobering lesson for Pakistan to reassess its identity and recalibrate its foreign policy away from religious rhetoric towards pragmatic diplomacy.

Rohit Kapoor | Kolkata

ENVIRONMENTAL MANIFESTO

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Political parties must prioritise environmental preservation," published on April 29, this is my response. As an avid reader of daily news, it's disheartening to witness India's political landscape during election time fail to address pressing environmental concerns. Despite lip service in manifestos, concrete actions are conspicuously absent. The proliferation of plastic waste during political campaigns exacerbates the crisis. Plastic pollution poses a grave threat to ecosystems and human health, with marine life suffering the

Bihar on progress path



propos the news article, "Chronicle of Bihar, Beyond Elections," published on April 28, this is my response. Deepak Kumar Jha's narrative in The Pioneer paints a vivid picture of Bihar's rural landscape, where traditional thatched homes have given way to brick dwellings amidst agricultural abundance. Yet, glaring issues persist: healthcare and education

lag, despite decades of political promises. The narrative exposes the complexity of Bihar's socio-political fabric. While leaders tout progress, caste-driven pol-

itics remain entrenched. Migration continues, disillusioning locals with governance. Jha's storytelling captures the essence of Bihar's electoral fervour, where political discourse blends with everyday life. Amidst discussions over leaders, the grassroots yearns for tangible change. The article's depth extends beyond politics, delving into healthcare woes. The anecdote of the patient's struggle highlights systemic failures, contrasting with Bihar's rich cultural tapestry. Ultimately, Jha's piece is a poignant portrayal of Bihar's struggles and resilience. It underscores the urgent need for holistic development and the preservation of its cultural heritage amidst the political clamour

Vishal Kumar | Delhi

Political parties wield considerable influence and should champion sustainable practices to combat plastic pollution. Yet the lack of urgency is alarming. With the planet reaching critical thresholds, we can't afford complacency. The need for immediate action to safeguard our only home, Earth, is paramount. It's high time political will transcended rhetoric to enact meaningful change. We must remember that there's no Plan B for our planet.

Aditya Mehta | Mumbai

CULINARY ESCAPADES

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Feast of hot summer menus," published on April 27, this is my response. Reading through these descriptions feels like leafing through a gourmet guidebook. Each venue promises not just a meal but an experience, a journey through flavours and cultures. Olly offers a tranquil haven from urban chaos, serving up classics with a twist amidst a serene ambience. The China Kitchen tantalizes with its immersive dining experience, bringing Chinese culinary traditions to life. Viet: nom adds

a modern flair to Vietnamese classics, while L'Opéra delights with French finesse, especially with its seasonal mango collection. Café Delhi Heights, ever-evolving, captures the essence of Delhi's vibrancy

through its diverse offerings. The must-try dishes read like poetry, each a symphony of flavours designed to tantalize taste buds. From crispy sweet potato skins to succulent Peking duck, from vibrant summer rolls to creamy Alfredo pasta, there's something to suit every palate. Akanksha Dean's culinary journey adds a personal touch, showcasing a deep passion for food and an impressive resume. Her influence undoubtedly enhances the richness of each dining experience. As a regular newspaper reader, these culinary adventures beckon, promising not just a meal but a story to savour, making the dining experience more than just a necessity but a delight-

Sneha Patel | Ahmedabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN THE POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND

Settle your mind and clear accumulated dust, only then it gets purged



RAVI VALLURI

eons ago lived, Suddhodana, chieftain of the Sakyan republics. He was captivated with the thought of perpetuating the dynasty. However, his battle fatigued son Siddhartha, was not ensnared by the Mara of trappings of power, carnal pleasures and a family life.

Siddhartha eschewed violence, cast away royal clothing and adorned ochre robes in search of the quintessential truth and was to become Buddha after intense tapas. Upon attaining enlightenment, the Compassionate One dissected the bewildering characteristics of the human mind. He was soon to quantify in a plain sailing manner, "We are what we think and our thoughts shape our lives."

The human mind is not resplendent with ennobling thoughts if the prana levels are low. The prana level increases (through yoga, pranayama, meditation and Sudarshan Kriya) and at that moment an individual realises the magnetic potential of the human mind.

Once there was a Good Samaritan, Sudhakar. He happened to read the maiden effort of a civil servant called the Magic of the Mind. This gentleman, with trepidation, became a 'Facebook friend' of the mandarin and persuaded him to be interviewed by a few T.V. channels.

However, the thought process of the public functionary- who was a recovered alcoholic- doubted the sincerity of the Facebook friend. In disgust, he 'blocked' and then 'unblocked' the gentleman, perhaps more to quell the pangs of his own conscience. Finally in sheer vexation he gave in to the entreaties of the 'Facebook friend'. Soon an amazing pattern emerged and the administrator was invited by several media houses and estimable institutions to deliver lectures as to how he combated and conquered the battle against the bottle. Only much later did he realise that Sudhakar had lost some close relatives to the perils of alcoholism



The autarchic mind of the bureaucrat was ossified and looking at life through the prism of tunnel vision. One day, after a series of interviews, the functionary received a distress call from a lady, who had happened to listen to one of his interviews and was also reading the book penned by the bureaucrat, which captured his triumph over alcoholism.

On receiving the call, he could empathise with the woman's husband who was fighting a grim battle against alcoholism. There was a sudden transmutation in the mind of the public servant and went on to guide the husband on how to attain sobriety.

Realisation and awareness are two iconic qualities that shine the light on the amazing power of the human mind. Several centuries ago, Gautama Buddha was travelling with a group of disciples. The Compassionate One felt thirsty and desired some water to guench his thirst. He asked a disciple to fetch some water from a nearby lake. The enthusiastic disciple rushed to the lake but was horrified to find the water turgid as a farmer had just crossed the lake on his bullock cart.

He returned back remorsefully as he could not fulfil the wish of the holy Master. Buddha sent the disciple a couple of times to fetch water to quench his thirst. But to the dismay of the tutee on each occasion the water remained dirty and turgid. While the devotees were fidgety and distraught, Buddha remained patient. Eventually, the devotee animatedly brought fresh water from the lake and offered it.

Buddha smiled and drank the water. He was to say, "You did nothing. The mud settled down and the water was purged of the impurities. Let your mind settle all the dust accumulated over a period of time." This is the amazing power of the human mind. Just let it settle down.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living: views are personal)

Challenges loom ahead of July Union Budget



SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

The incoming Government would face the uphill task of navigating through a myriad of fiscal hurdles to foster sustainable growth



espite it being too early to discuss the union budget to be presented in July, it is certain whichever combination comes back to power it would have to majorly review the February interim budget given the debates generated during elections. The election is veering around more on

economic issues than the religion or Ram temple, though in certain regions these remain a potent issue and so the brands Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath. A larger section is concerned with the core economy, unemployment, farmers' issues, irrationally high prices, medical and health care costs, school and university fees, shooting costs of houses, high toll-jacked inflation and similar other

Even showcasing of Indian economy as the fifth largest economy is not being accepted by a large section as reality. The farmers and citizens wonder while cars and tractors are allowed to run for 40 rears like aircraft across the world, why a pro-people Government should be in a hurry to send these to junkyards in India, particularly when household debts are skyrocketing. The rural wisdom calls it weird and tries to locate the linkages of Government functionaries with the car makers.

Questions are also raised on the Rs 16.87lakh crore debt repayment in the 2024-25 budget. This effectively cuts the actual budget of Rs 47.65 lakh crore to about Rs 31 lakh crore. The repayment burden in 2025 is slated to be higher. The opposition's sharp angling on core economic issues is being rebutted by the ruling combine by charging that if the opposition gets to power it would sell "mangalsutras" and delve into divisive politics. The Election Commission has issued warnings to the ruling party for its wry comments.

Low voting in 190 constituencies in major States like UP, Bihar and Maharashtra raises concern among all parties. The voter is apathetic despite



THE NEW **GOVERNMENT** WOULD HAVE TO TAKE DRASTIC STEPS TO BRING DOWN THE EDIBLE OIL, FOOD GRAINS, VEGETABLES, POTATOES AND ONIONS, AS WELL AS SCHOOL FEES AND EXPENSIVE HEALTH CARE, MILK AND OTHER

COMMODITIES

many moves by the Election Commission. Is that a reflection on governance?

This has not put the issues on the back burner. According to RBI, inflation rises at 5.5 per cent a year and has shot beyond 55 per cent in compounded terms causing a huge rise in prices. Nobody has got such a raise in their salaries, not even Government employees.

The new Government would have to take drastic steps to bring down the prices of edible oil, food grains, vegetables, potatoes and onions as well as school fees and expensive health care, milk and other commodities. People are unwilling to buy the argument that inflation is built into the system. They rather equate it with corporate electoral bond doles to parties. The Government accepts the petrol rices are high, cut it by Rs 2 just before the polls. It has no impact on the voters' psyche.

The voter is not happy with the so-called demonstrative developments like demolition and construction of large office buildings, rail stations and rampant construction of roads or metro. Constructions devastate the hills

Himachal, Kashmir, Uttarakhand and the North East. Kisans who became millionaires overnight with the acquisition of their land for roads are not happy about losing their livelihood. Most villagers rue the roads that divide their habitats and relation-ships for a road they can't use without paying a toll. It is a serious issue because the Kisan also pays Rs 30 per litre petrol cess toll introduced with the promise of ending the toll. All these benefit bulk profiteers and the least of

A new Government has to initiate drastic changes and reorient policies. The major reason for joblessness is attributed to ad hoc decisions. Such constructions erode Government finance and build little assets. Southeast Asia tried it in the late 1990s and got into trouble in 1997. It would be wise on the part of the new Government to revive PSUs and ask the private sector to compete

and create a fair playground People question the rationale of parting a part of Indian Oil to a private giant or giving out ports to private players. At least one such port has become notorious for being a smugglers' den.

with them. It would create jobs, add to the national economy

The universities, IITs and Government institutions have been given a mandate to raise tuition fees every year. The private ones nike far more. Schools and universities need financing from the Government and education costs must be cut down. Congress promises apprenticeship to every graduate. Looks good but it is not practical. The scheme has failed several times. India's overall exports fell by 8.1 per and exports to its free trade partners shrank by 18 per cent in the first half of 2023. The country's trade deficit ballooned to \$78.2 billion in the last financial year. India's export values across all commodities declined to \$351 billion during April-January from \$366 billion a year ago, underlining the impact of the global economic slowdown and tightening of interest rates in Western countries. These numbers have emerged amid India's push to sign free trade deals with the UK and the European Union. The International Monetary Fund

says that the global slowdown is on. However India projects its march to a \$5 trillion economy and it is not easy. The West has become more protectionist and keen on imposing a carbon tax. The West needs to protect its bread.

Lower productivity can result in reduced job creation within the manufacturing sector, leading to unemployment or underemployment. The International Labour Organisation finds low pay and wages as serious challenges.

When productivity declines, the incentives for firms to invest in research and development or adopt new technologies diminish, leading to a slower pace in the manufacturing sector. However, the challenge of rising household debt and falling savings could weigh on long-term growth sustainability.

The FDI flow is low at \$ 17.96 billion. Despite a supposed buzzing market, it has not risen much. The new Government also has the challenge to cut personal income-tax rates from 39 per cent to 22 per cent in tune with the corporate tax. High taxation hits the purchasing capacity and concomitant market problems.

In short, the new Government has to stress issues regarding taxes, education, health, livelihood, low tolls and better deal with farmers. Both manifestos of the BJP and Congress speak of too many doles and caste-related benefits. If the Government can address the basic issues and make it one of the most affordable economies, India's journey will be smooth. It is a dream, if comes true it will be the most liveable

journalist; views are personal)

(The author is a senior

Celebrating the universal language of dance

From traditional Indian classical dance forms to contemporary global dance phenomena, dance continues to inspire, heal and unite communities

n April 14 last year, history was made in Assam, India, as a Guinness World Record was set for the largest gathering of Bihu dancers. Over 11,000 dancers from different communities and backgrounds came together to perform the traditional dance of Assam, watched live by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was a spectacular display of cultural diversity and unity. This event was a shining example of how cultural diversity can bring people together and foster a sense of emotional bonding and appreciation of one anoth-

er's culture and traditions. More recently as part of the 'Raag Seva' in a breathtaking display of timeless grace and unwavering passion, the 90year-old actor-dancer and



Padma Vibhushan awardee Vyjayanthimala Bali, enchanted spectators with her ethereal Bharatanatyam performance in Ayodhya. İn this rich mosaic of human expression, dance emerges as a timeless gem, casting its spell across generations and captivating hearts through the ages. Beyond mere movement, it embodies a symphony of creativity, infusing the soul with unbridled joy. A

and emotion, it offers solace from the burdens of modern life, intertwining threads of happiness into the fabric of

Welcome to the rhythm of life, as we celebrate the 'International Dance Day' on April 29th every year, since 1982. Dance helps to change lives. The 'Navras', which is used to express joy, sadness, love, anger and many other emotions, is a way of celebrating life and creating a sense of community.

This Day serves as a platform aimed at fostering awareness regarding the intrinsic value of dance and facilitating the widespread promotion of the dance community's endeavours. Central to its mission is the aspiration that Governments graceful interplay of rhythm and influential figures will

dance and extend support towards its cultivation. We are all aware of Yo-Yo Ma's

'Silk Road Ensemble', a musical group founded by the cellist Yo-Yo Ma, where musicians from China, Iran, India and Spain come together and use their music to create a bridge between cultures and promote understanding between people from different backgrounds. Through cultural collaboration, this is a forum for the exchange of ideas, tradition and innovation across borders.

Also, the 'OneBeat' initiative, which brings together musicians from around the world to collaborate and create new music - was funded by the U.S. Department of State - aims to promote cultural exchange

recognize the significance of and create a global community of musicians. 'OneBeat' has brought together musicians from countries such as Syria, Russia and Cuba, to name a few, not only providing a platform for musicians to share their music but also creating new collaborations that transcend cultural and linguistic Dance also helps in promoting

intercultural dialogue. Dance companies worldwide come together to create new works that reflect their cultural traditions and explore common themes. One such example is the 'Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which has been promoting diversity and inclusion through dance for over 60 years. The company's performances celebrate the African-American cultural

experience and explore universal themes such as love, loss

and identity. Not only this, the 'National Ballet of Cuba' is a dance company that promotes intercultural dialogue through its performances. Founded in 1948 by Alicia Alonso, one of the most famous ballerinas of the 20th century, it is known for its unique style that combines elements of classical ballet with Afro-Cuban and Spanish dance traditions. Back in India, 'The

Kalakshetra Foundation, - of the many foundations and institutions that exist to popularize Indian classical dance forms - Chennai-based dance school, founded by Rukmini Devi Arundale in 1936, sought to revive and promote Indian classical dance forms and is

today a leading institution that trains students in various forms of Indian classical dance, including Bharatanatyam, Kathakali and Kuchipudi. Similarly, the 'Nrityagram

Dance Village, near Bangalore, which was founded in 1990 by Protima Gauri, a renowned Indian classical dancer, is a unique institution that offers a holistic approach to dance training, focusing not only on dance techniques, but also on aspects such as yoga, meditation and Indian mythology. The institute has gained global recognition and has collaborated with many international dance companies to create new works that blend Indian classical dance with contemporary dance forms. We cannot miss Bollywood dance, which has become a

global phenomenon and has created a platform for people from different backgrounds to come together and celebrate India's vibrant culture. Using different dance styles from Indian classical forms to ballet; to cabaret; to hip-hop, break dance and so on - each step encompasses a unique rhythm and style involving different generations tap to the

As we celebrate the universal language of dance and its ability to unite people, it is also important to acknowledge the Guru-Shishya Parampara and celebrate the beauty of dance and its ability to create a better world for all.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti: views are personal)

'Israel must boost more humanitarian aid for Gaza'

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday that Israel must still do more to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into the besieged Gaza Strip and that he would use his current Middle East trip — his seventh to the region since the Israel-Hamas war started in October — to press that case with Israeli leaders.

Speaking to Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers in Riyadh, Blinken said best way to ease the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza would be to conclude an elusive cease-fire agreement that would release hostages held by Hamas. But, in the meantime, he said it was critical to improve conditions now. "The most effective way to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, to alleviate the suffering of children, women and men, and to create space for a more just and durable solu-

the hostages out," he said. "But we're also not waiting on

a cease-fire to take the necessary steps to meet the needs of civilians in Gaza," Blinken said. He said that because President Joe Biden has been insisting that Israel do more, including in his phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, there had been improvements, although not nearly enough. 'We have seen measurable progress in the last few weeks, including the opening of new crossings and increased volume of aid delivery to Gaza and within Gaza, and the building of the US maritime corridor, which will open in the coming weeks. But it is not enough. We still need to get more aid in and around Gaza," he said. 'We need to improve deconfliction with humanitarian assistance workers. And we

have to find greater efficien-

cy and greater safety and



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is welcomed by Saudi Foreign Ministry Director of Protocol Affairs Mohammed Al-Ghamdi as he arrives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Monday.

of that. And, finally we have to make sure that we're focusing not just on inputs, but on impact.

Scores of relief workers have been killed since the conflict began, and a deadly Israeli attack on a World Central Kitchen aid convoy in Gaza this month only highlighted the dangers and difficulties of protecting them. Israel has said the strike was a mistake and has disciplined officials involved.

World Central Kitchen says it would resume operations in Gaza on Monday after a four-

week suspension.
The war has ground on since Hamas' deadly Oct 7 attacks on Israel with little end in sight: more than 34,000 Palestinians have been killed, hundreds of thousands more are displaced and a humanitarian crisis in Gaza is wors-

The conflict has fuelled mass protests around the world that have spread to American college campuses. US support for Israel, particularly arms transfers, has come under particular criticism, something the administration is keenly aware poses potential problems for Biden in an election year.

Blinken's trip comes amid renewed concerns about the conflict spreading in the Middle East and with oncepromising prospects for İsraeli-Saudi rapprochement effectively on hold as Israel refuses to consider one of the Saudis' main conditions for normalised relations: the creation of a Palestinian state. Meanwhile, the Biden administration has been warning Israel against a major military operation on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians have fled to escape fighting further north. Israel has not yet launched such an offensive, but Netanyahu has repeatedly said that one will take

place, asserting that it is the

Israeli officials

concerned over

Both topics were discussed during the Biden-Netanyahu phone call on Sunday, according to the White House and US officials.

During his trip, Blinken said he would also underscore the absolute importance of not allowing the Israel-Hamas conflict to engulf the

The danger of conflagration was underscored this month when a suspected Israeli attack on an Iranian consular building in Syria prompted an unprecedented direct missile and drone response by Iran against Israel. An apparent retaliatory Israeli strike on Iran followed.

Although the tit-for-tat cycle appears to have ended for now, deep concerns remain that Iran or its proxies in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria or Yemen could act in such a way as to provoke a greater response from Israel or that Israel might take action that Iran feels it must retaliate for.

UK's new laws to keep smart devices secure over internet

PTI ■ LONDON

ll internet connected smart Adevices will be required to meet minimum security standards under what the UK government has dubbed as "world first" laws, effective from Monday to protect consumers and businesses from hacking and cyberattacks.

Under the new regime, manufacturers will be banned from having weak, easily guessable default passwords like "admin" or "12345" and if there is a common password, the user will be prompted to change it on startup. An investigation conducted by the Which? consumer group found that a UK home filled with smart devices could be exposed to more than 12,000 hacking attacks from across the world in a single week, with a total of 2,684 attempts to guess weak default passwords on just five devices. "From today, consumers will have greater peace of mind that

their smart devices are protected from cyber criminals, as we introduce world first laws that will make sure their personal privacy, data and finances are safe," said UK Minister for Cyber Viscount Camrose, Jonathan Berry. The UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said under the new legal requirement, manufacturers must protect consumers from hackers and cyber criminals from accessing devices with internet or network connectivity – from smartphones to games consoles and connected fridges. It said the new laws are part of the British government's GBP 2.6-billion National Cyber Strategy to protect and promote Britain online. "Our pledge to establish the UK as the global standard for online safety takes a big step forward with these regulations, moving us closer to our goal of a digitally secure future," said UK Data and Digital Infrastructure Minister Julia Lopez.

Yousaf resigns as Scottish First Minister

PTI ■ LONDON

Humza Yousaf, the Pakistani-origin Scottish National Party leader who heads the devolved government in Scotland, announced his resignation on Monday, after days of political turmoil for the devolved SNP-led government.

Yousaf, 39, took over as Scotland's first Muslim and also the region's youngest First Minister in March last

Last week, he ended a powersharing agreement with the Scottish Green Party amid growing policy differences and plunged his leadership of a minority government into crisis. His former Green Party allies then teamed up with the Opposition Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties to back two non-confidence motions - one in Yousaf's leadership of Scotland and the second regarding the Scottish government as a whole.

"While a route through this week's motion of no confi-



dence was absolutely possible, I am not willing to trade my values and principles or do deals with whomever simply for retaining power," said Yousaf.

Therefore, after spending the weekend reflecting on what is best for my party, for the government and for the country I lead I have conclud-

one else at the helm," he said. In his speech delivered at Bute House in Edinburgh, he noted on an emotional note: "I am sad that my time as First Minister is ending, but I am so grateful, I am so blessed, for having the opportunity that are afforded to so few to lead my country and who could ask for a better country to lead than Scotland." Yousaf, of Pakistani and Kenyan heritage, paid tribute to the UK's diversity and also referenced Rishi Sunak as Britain's first Hindu prime minister in his resignation speech. He added: "People who

looked like me were not in positions of political influence, let alone leading governments, when I was younger. We now live in a UK that has a British Hindu Prime Minister (Sunak), a Muslim Mayor of London (Sadiq

Khan), a black Welsh First Minister (Vaughan Gething), and for a little while longer a Scottish Asian First Minister

ed that repairing our relationship across the political divide can only be done with someonally be don ism has failed across the UK, I would suggest that the evidence is quite to the contrary and that is something we should all celebrate." Yousaf will remain in his post until a replacement First Minister is chosen in the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood. It marks a time of upheaval for the pro-independence SNP even though the outgoing leader claimed Scottish inde pendence "feels frustratingly close". "The last few miles of the marathon are always the hardest and we have run this race as a team and will now prepare to pass the baton to a successor who I am absolutely certain will lead us over the finish line," he said.

The Opposition parties welcomed his resignation, with the Scottish Tories saying Yousaf had averted a "humiliating defeat" at a vote of no confidence later this week and the Labour Party demanding a UK-wide general election soon for a "fresh start" across the country.

ICC arrest warrants Truce: Biden, **AP** ■ JERUSALEM Israeli officials on Monday appeared to be increasingly concerned that the International Netanyahu hold talks

Criminal Court may issue arrest warrants against the country's leaders, as international pressure mounts over its war with Hamas

in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes on the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight and into Monday killed at least 22 people, including six women and five children one of whom was just 5 days old, according to hospital records and an Associated Press reporter.

The ICC launched a probe three years ago into possible war crimes committed by Israel and Palestinian militants going back to the 2014 Israel-Hamas war but it has given no indication such warrants are imminent. There was no comment from the court on Monday.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said late Sunday that it had informed Israeli missions of "rumours" that warrants might be issued against senior political and military officials. It was not clear what sparked the Israeli concerns. "We expect the court to prevent the issuance of arrest warrants against senior Israeli officials," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said, adding that such warrants would "provide a morale boost" to Hamas and

other militant groups. A series of Israeli announcements in recent days about allowing more humanitarian aid into Gaza meanwhile appears to be aimed in part at heading off possible ICC action. Prime Minister Benjamin comment publicly. Netanyahu said Friday that Israel "will never accept any attempt by the ICC to undermine its inherent right of selfdefence.""The threat to seize the soldiers and officials of the Middle East's only democracy and the world's only Jewish state is outrageous. We will not bow to it," he posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. It was not clear what prompted the post. The ICC investigation covers allegations going back to the 2014 war in Gaza as well as Israel's construction of Jewish hostages

Tel Aviv (AP): The White House on Sunday said US President Joe Biden had again spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as pressure builds on Israel and Hamas to reach a deal that would free some Israeli hostages and bring a cease-fire in the nearly seven-month-

long war in Gaza. The White House said that Biden reiterated his "clear position" as Israel plans to invade Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah despite global concern for more than 1 million Palestinians sheltering

there. The US opposes the invasion on humanitarian grounds, straining relations between the allies. Israel is among the countries U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit as he returns to the Middle

East on Monday. Biden also stressed that progress in delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza be "susing to the statement.

The call lasted just under an hour, and they agreed the onus remains on Hamas to accept the latest offer in negotiations, according to a U.S official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to

There was no comment from Netanyahu's office.A senior official from key intermediary Qatar, meanwhile, urged Israel and Hamas to show "more commitment and more seriousness" in negotia-

Qatar, which hosts Hamas' headquarters in Doha, was instrumental along with the US and Egypt in helping nego tiate a brief halt to the fight-ing in November that led to the release of dozens of

But in a sign of frustration, Oatar this month said that it was reassessing its role.

Spain's PM Sánchez to continue in office

AP MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Monday ended days of speculation about his future by saying he will continue in office "with even more strength."

Sánchez shocked his country last Wednesday by taking five days off to think about his future, following the decision by a court to open preliminary proceedings against his wife on corruption allegations."I have decided to continue on with even more strength at the helm of the government of Spain," he said in a televised speech after informing King Felipe VI of the decision earlier Monday

His resignation would have deprived Europe of a prominent Socialist prime minister ahead of European elections in June and at a time when the center right increasingly holds sway. "It is a decision that does not mean a return to the status quo, this will mark a before and after, I promise you that," Sánchez said, without detailing what steps he could take to curtail "the smear campaign" he says he and his family is facing.

The eurozone's fourth-largest economy had been in suspense since Sánchez, prime minister since 2018, posted an emotional letter on X on Wednesday before he holed up in his Moncloa Palace, the prime minister's residence in Madrid. In it it he said the moves against wife were too personal an attack on his family and he needed time to decide on his priorities.

În that letter, where he declared himself "deeply in love" with wife Begoña Gómez, he said that he could no longer just stand aside and watch her being targeted by a legal probe brought by allegations by a right-wing platform that accused her of using her position to influence business deals.

The group, Manos Limpias, or "Clean Hands," acknowledged that the complaint was based on newspaper articles. Spanish prosecutors say it should be thrown out.

The expectation Monday was such that Spain's state broadcaster had put up a 10-minute countdown clock before his announcement on the screen during their morning news talk show.

Speaking from the steps of Moncloa Palace, Sánchez said that he and his wife "know that this campaign to discredit them won't stop" but that he has decided that he couldn't give his adversaries the satisfaction of

Rallies by his supporters over the past few days played a part in his decision, he said. Essentially Sánchez had four options: resign, seek a parliamentary vote of confidence, call a new election or remain in

At least 40 die in Kenya after dam collapses

dam collapsed in western Adam conapsed in western Kenya early Monday, killing at least 40 people after a wall of water swept through houses and cut off a major road, police said.

The Old Kijabe Dam, located in the Mai Mahiu area of the Great Rift Valley region that is prone to flash floods, collapsed and water spilled downstream, carrying with it mud, rocks and uprooted trees, police official Stephen Kirui told The Associated Press.

Vehicles were entangled in the debris on one of Kenya's busiest highways and paramedics treated the injured as waters submerged large areas. Ongoing rains in Kenya have caused flooding that has already killed nearly 100 people and postponed the opening of schools. Heavy rains have been pounding the country since mid-March and the Meteorology Department has



warned of more rainfall. Kenya's Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki ordered the inspection of all public and private dams and water reservoirs within 24 hours starting Monday afternoon to avert future incidents. The ministry said recommendations for evacuations and resettlement would be done after the inspection.

The Kenya National Highways

Authority issued an alert warning motorists to brace for heavy traffic and debris that blocked the roads around Naivasha and Narok, west of the capital, Nairobi.

The wider East African region is experiencing flooding due to the heavy rains, and 155 people have reportedly died in Tanzania while more than 200,000 people affected in neighbouring Burundi.

Solomon Islands pro-Beijing PM won't keep his job following polls

settlements in occupied territo-

ry that the Palestinians want for

a future state.

Solomon Islands pro-Beijing Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on Monday withdrew from the contest to remain head of the strategically important South Pacific island nation's government following general elections two weeks ago that are central to the US-China rivalry in the region.

Sogavare has been reelected to the parliament. But he told a press conference in the capital Honiara on Monday he would not be nominated as a candidate when the 50 newly elected lawmakers vote on Thursday for the prime minister, Australian Broadcasting Corp reported. Sogavare had hoped to become the first than any other party. The

party's candidate to become Solomons prime minister to prime minister will be maintain power in consecu-Foreign Minister Jeremiah tive four-year terms follow-Manele. ing the April 17 election. During his previous term, China's influence increased more in the Solomons than

A prime minister needs the support of at least 26 lawmakers in the 50-seat chamber.Observers expect China to have secretly backed more candidates than Sogavare at the election in a bid to ensure the government change does not diminish Beijing's influence. Sogavare could again return to power during the current four-year term. He was elected prime minister after the last election in 2019. But he has served as

orime minister three times before 2019 because his predecessors had quit or were ousted by fellow lawmakers in a precarious political sys-

Deepfake of principal's voice is latest case of Al being used for harm

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The most recent criminal case I involving artificial intelligence emerged last week from a Maryland high school, where police say a principal was framed as racist by a fake recording of his voice.

The case is yet another reason why everyone — not just politicians and celebrities — should be concerned about this increasingly powerful deep-fake technology, experts say. "Everybody is vulnerable to

attack, and anyone can do the attacking," said Hany Farid, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who focuses on digital forensics and mis-

information. Here's what to know about

cause harm Manipulating recorded sounds and images isn't new. But the ease with which someone can alter information is a recent phenomenon. So is the ability for it to spread quickly on social

The fake audio clip that impersonated the principal is an example of a subset of artificial intelligence known as generative AI. It can create hyper-realistic new images, videos and audio clips. It's cheaper and easier to use in recent years, lowering the barrier to anyone with an inter-

net connection. "Particularly over the last year, anybody — and I really mean anybody — can go to an online service," said Farid.

some of the latest uses of AI to

China's top scientist, who developed the first inactivated COVID-19 vaccine at the height of the pandemic in the country in 2020, has been dismissed from Parliament for alleged corruption. Yang Xiaoming, the chairman

AP ■ BEIJING

China National Pharmaceutical Group's vac-cine subsidiary China National Biotec Group (CNBG), has been stripped of his membership in the National People's Congress (NPC) due to serious discipline and law violations, official media reported here on Monday.

The charge of serious discipline and law violations is a common euphemism for corruption under the ruling Communist Party of China

(CPC) disciplinary practice. Yang, 62, is a veteran researcher who headed the CNBG - a vaccine subsidiary of state-owned Sinopharm and led a team that developed

Sinopharm's BBIBP-CorV

vaccine, China's first coron-

Top Chinese scientist expelled

over corruption allegations

avirus shot approved for general use. Coronavirus first surfaced in the Chinese city of Wuhan in March 2020 and later spread to the world, becoming the pandemic of the century and

claiming millions of lives. According to a statement by NPC, Yang is already being investigated by the party dis-

ciplinary body – the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The Sinopharm shot and Sinovac Biotech's CoronaVac were the most widely used in

China and the leading

by the country. Yang's dismissal comes amid

COVID-19 vaccines exported

the biggest crackdown on China's healthcare system, expanding a sweeping anti-corruption drive launched by President Xi Jinping in the last few years The crackdown aims to root out widespread corruption in

a system plagued by kick-It targets hospitals, drug com-panies and insurance funds with dozens of hospital chiefs detained since last year, Hong

Kong-based South China

Morning Post reported. Another former Sinopharm senior executive, Zhou Bin, who once served as the company's deputy general manager, was placed under investigation by the CCDI in

AP ■ MELBOURNE

anywhere else in the South Pacific. Sogavare switched diplomatic allegiances from Taiwan to Beijing and struck a secret security pact that has raised fears of the Chinese

navy gaining a foothold in the region. Sogavare said in his press conference he had been "vilified by media" and his family had been subjected to "unprecedented abuse," the ABC reported. Sogavare's Ownership, Unity and Responsibility Party, known as the Our Party, won 15 seats in the election, more

S Korea's opp leader urges prez to accept probe against wife, officials

 $E^{\rm mboldened\ by\ his\ party's}_{\rm recent\ election\ win,\ South}$ Korea's opposition leader pressured President Yoon Suk Yeol to accept special investigations into allegations involving top officials and his wife, as they met Monday for talks on bipartisan cooperation.

The meeting was their first since Yoon took office in 2022 after defeating Lee Jae-myung in the country's closest presidential election race. During their 2022 campaigns, Yoon, Lee and their supporters demonised each other and filed dozens of lawsuits against one another.

Yoon proposed the meeting as he faces growing calls to cooperate with Lee's Democratic Party, whose victory in the April 10 parliamentary election allows it to extend its control of the single-chamber National Assembly until after Yoon's single five-year term ends in

In his lengthy opening remarks, Lee said the election results mean "the people's stern demand for correcting wrong government administrations addressing economic troubles and restoring democratic rules. Lee urged Yoon to accept independent probes into the 2022 Halloween crush in Seoul that killed 159 people, and the 2023 death of a marine who drowned during a search-andrescue operation for flood victims. Lee's party has accused Yoon of ignoring public demands and retaining top officials and military commanders responsible for the deadly incidents.

Lee also asked Yoon to resolve "diverse suspicions involving his family" that "poses a big burden on government operations." That was apparently a reference to first lady Kim Keon Hee, who faces an allegation of involvement in a stock price manipulation and other scandals. "I'd say it would be good for you, as president, to respect the National Assembly and consider the opposition party as a partner for government operations," Lee said.

While listening to Lee's statement, Yoon nodded several times and said he had expected Lee to make such comments



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, right, shakes hands with main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung during a meeting at the presidential office in Seoul South Korea, Monday, AP

but didn't elaborate.

In a briefing after the meeting, senior presidential adviser Lee Do-woon said that Yoon told Lee that he won't oppose a special law to investigate the Halloween deaths but noted some potential legal concerns over an ad-hoc investigation committee. He didn't mention Yoon's responses to demands for other probes.

During the meeting, Lee also asked Yoon to accept his contentious idea of the government giving 250,000 won (about USD 180) to all South Koreans as a way to boost the economy, a step that Yoon's party has called a populist measure. Lee Do-woon, the presidential adviser, said Yoon said that he prefers selectively supporting those in need.

In a separate briefing, Democratic Party spokesperson Park Sung-joon accused Yoon of lacking the resolve to revive public livelihoods. Park cited Lee as suggesting he was disappointed at the meeting's

results though the start of direct communication with Yoon would still be meaningful. No agreement was reached, but Yoon's office said the president and Lee agreed to meet frequently without setting a date for their next meeting.

In one positive news for bipar tisan cooperation, Lee told Yoon that his party would support the government's highstakes push to increase medical school students, which prompted thousands of young doctors to walk out of the job in February. The government recently suggested it's open to halving its target medical school enrollment increase to 1,000 per year from the previously proposed 2,000, but doctors say they can't accept any increase in students.

Yoon has said South Korea needs to create more doctors as it has one of the world's most rapidly aging populations and its doctors-to-patient ratio is among the lowest in advanced economies. Doctors say schools

can't deal with a too steep increase in students, but critics say they simply worry the supply of more doctors would eventually result in lowering their income.

The parliamentary election was seen as a litmus test of Yoon who has been struggling with low approval rating and an opposition-controlled parliament that has limited his policy agenda since his inauguration. Critics say the election defeat was largely attributable to the government's failure to suppress rising prices and other economic problems and Yoon's personal management and leadership styles.

Despite the election defeat Yoon's major foreign policy agendas will likely remain unchanged as they mostly don't require parliamentary endorsements. Yoon has pushed hard to boost trilateral cooperation with the United States and Japan to cope with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats and other challenges.

Dar's surprise elevation as deputy PM a 'pre-planned' move: Report

The surprise elevation of Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar — a close confidant of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif — as the deputy prime minister was in reality "pre-planned" and is reportedly a move to "compensate" the PML-N supremo for the loss of the finance portfolio, it emerged on Monday.

Dar, 73, a chartered accountant and a veteran politician from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, was appointed as deputy prime minister by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday "with immediate effect and until further orders".

Shehbaz Sharif and Dar are currently in Saudi Arabia for the World Economic Forum's (WEF) special meeting. According to the Dawn newspaper, Dar's new appointment took many by surprise, but drew hardly any criticism from its allies". Dar being "awarded"

prime minister has raised many questions, the report said. The main talking point is that

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif wants to have his "confidant" in a key position in the federal cabinet to "compensate him for the loss of the finance portfolio", it said.

The move was also seen in the context of Nawaz Sharif taking over the reins of the ruling PML-N party as its president, a position he had lost following his conviction in the Panama Papers case, the report said. Dar is considered close to Nawaz Sharif due to matrimonial links between the two families, as his son is the son-in-law of the elder Sharif.

An insider claimed that the move to appoint Dar as deputy prime minister was "pre-planned", the report said. At the time of the formation of the coalition government, it was decided that Dar would become the Deputy Prime Minister.

However, according to a Geo News report, the appointment of a four-time finance minister as foreign minister suggested a ramped-up role for economics in the nation's diplomacy as the cash-strapped country tries to secure another International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deal and shore up external financing from foreign capitals.

Dar served as finance minister from 1998 to 1999, then from March to May 2008. He again

2013 to 2017 and then from 2022 to 2023. He has also served the country as minister for industry and investment from February 1997 to July 1997 as well as commerce from December 1997 to October

According to the Dawn report, when Nawaz Sharif was the prime minister, Dar was acting as the de facto deputy prime minister, heading dozens of government and parliamentary committees as its chairperson. Although there is no provision for a deputy prime minister in the Constitution, Dar is the second lawmaker to hold the post. Chaudhry Parvez Elahi served as Deputy Prime Minister when the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was in power from June 25, 2012, to June 29, 2013. His role at that time was mostly symbolic as he was rewarded by then-President Asif Ali Zardari for supporting the PPP-led government.

Pak Sharif discusses new loan 4 suspects involved in Chinese engineers' killings arrested

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan authorities claimed on Monday that they have arrested four suspects involved in the killing of Chinese engineers in a dead ly terrorist attack last month. Five Chinese nationals and a Pakistani driver were killed in the attack on March 26 when a vehicle-borne suicide bomber targeted a convoy escorting Chinese engineers in the remote Besham area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but officials said that the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was involved in the attack. The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province said that a probe by a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) exposed the network of terror ists, claiming that the "key actors" of the network involved

programme with IMF chief

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva and discussed a new loan programme for the cash-strapped country to put the economy back on track.

In a meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting in Riyadh, the premier thanked Georgieva, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director, for her support to Pakistan in securing the USD 3 billion standby arrangement (SBA) from IMF last year that was now nearing its completion.

Pakistan secured the USD 3 billion IMF programme in June last year, which helped it avert a sovereign default. Pakistan is seeking a new long-term Extended Fund Facility (EFF) after the current SBA expires this month.

"Both sides also discussed Pakistan entering into another IMF program to ensure that the

gains made in the past year were consolidated and its economic growth trajectory remained positive," according to a statement issued by the PM Office on Sunday

Sharif reiterated his government's commitment to put Pakistan's economy back on track. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said Islamabad could secure a staff-level agreement on the new programme by early July. Islamabad says it is seeking a loan over at least three years to help achieve macroeconomic stability and execute long-overdue and painful structural reforms, though Aurangzeb has declined to detail what size of the programme the country seeks. If secured, it would be Pakistan's 24th IMF bailout.

The USD 350 billion economy faces a chronic balance of payments crisis, with nearly USD 24 billion to repay in debt and The IMF MD shared her instiinterest over the next fiscal year - three times more than its central bank's foreign curren-

cy reserves, according to Geo

News. According to the staterun PTV News post on X, this was the first meeting between the prime minister and Georgieva since his re-election last month. They last met in Paris in June 2023 on the margins of the Summit for New Global Financial Pact. The IMF Executive Board is

expected to meet on Monday to decide on the final tranche of USD 1.1 billion under SBA, the post said. IMF chief Georgieva appreciated the leadership of Sharif for timely securing SBA last year, according to the state-During the meeting, the prime

minister said that he had directed his financial team to carry out structural reforms, ensure strict fiscal discipline and pursue prudent policies that would ensure macro-economic stability and sustained economic growth.

tution's perspective on the ongoing programme with the premier, including the review

Indonesian, Singaporean leaders hold annual talks, joined by successors

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday celebrated the countries' continued cooperation at their seventh and final Leaders' Retreat in Jakarta, an annual meeting between the two Southeast Asian leaders that was also attended this year by their suc-

Lee's visit to Indonesia is one of his last working trips before he hands over the reins of his administration to a new leader. The eldest son of Singaporean founding father Lee Kuan Yew announced his resignation earlier this month after two decades at the helm. His deputy prime minister and finance minister, Lawrence Wong, will succeed him in May

Widodo, Indonesia's first president from outside the traditional Jakarta elite who is widely known by the nickname Jokowi, will be succeeded by Prabowo Subianto, who takes office in October

All four top officials met Monday at the colonial-style Presidential Palace in Bogor, just outside Jakarta, as the retreat became a passing of the guard for both countries.

"I'm glad that President Jokowi and I are handing over the bilateral relationship in good state to our successors," Lee said at a joint news conference with Widodo after the meeting. "I have every confidence that Mr. Prabowo and DPM Lawrence will continue to bring the relationship to greater heights."

Singapore's Prime Minister's Office said in a statement ahead of Lee's visit that the two leaders would take stock of the significant progress made in bilateral cooperation during their tenures.

Previously, the two countries ratified three milestone agreements, including a defense

cooperation agreement and

separate treaties on extradition and airspace.

The agreements were signed during the 2022 leaders' retreat and came into effect this year. At this year's retreat, the leaders oversaw the signing of several agreements, including an update on defence cooperation which Lee said reflects the two countries' robust defence ties. A similar defense agreement was first signed by the two countries in April 2007, but didn't to go into effect after opposition in Indonesia's Parliament.

The defence cooperation agreement will significantly boost Singapore's ability to carry out naval and military exercises amid regional tensions over China's growing military strength.

The island city-state lacks maritime, land and airspace to effectively train its military. Indonesia, which holds huge land and maritime areas, has agreed to let Singapore carry out naval exercises with other nations in the Bravo area of the South China Sea four times a year — terms that previously criticism

Indonesian lawmakers. 'We completed these agreements, and they went into force last month," Lee said. "This shows that when we work together in a spirit of friendship and openness, we can address even the most complicated issues in a pragmatic and mutually beneficial manner." Widodo said they also discussed regional and global issues.

We agreed to continue to encourage peace in the Middle East region and vowed to strengthen ASEAN centrali-Widodo said, referring to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He added that Indonesia and Singapore agreed to cooperate on food security, energy transition, digital economy and

Attack in Russia's North Caucasus leaves 2 cops, 5 gunmen dead

Moscow (AP): A group of militants attacked a police checkpoint in Russia's North Caucasus region, killing two officers, officials said on Monday. Four other officers were wounded and all five attackers were killed in the shootout in the Karachay-Cherkessia region late Sunday according to the regional branch of Russia's Interior Ministry. The Investigative Committee, the country's top state criminal investigation agency, said the same gunmen had raided another police checkpoint in the region a week before, killing two police and injuring another. It didn't describe the attackers' affiliation or motive. While Chechnya has stabilized under the rule of Moscow-backed leader Ramzan Kadyrov after two separatist wars, violence linked to Islamist groups has occasionally erupted in other parts of Russia's volatile North Caucasus.

NATO's chief chides alliance countries | Thailand FM resigns for not being quicker to help Ukraine

in the attack have been identi-

fied. "Four accused have been

arrested...efforts are underway

to capture the entire network,

the CTD Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

TATO countries haven't Natio countries they delivered what they promised to Ukraine in time, the alliance's chief said Monday, allowing Russia to press its battlefield advantage while Kyiv's depleted forces wait for Western military supplies to

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that "serious delays in support have meant serious consequences on the battlefield" for Ukraine.

"NATO allies have not delivered what they promised," Stoltenberg said at a news conference in Kyiv with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, referring to delays by the U.S. and Europe in sending weapons and ammunition. Ukraine's troops were compelled to make a tactical retreat from three villages in the eastern region, where the Kremlin's forces have been making incremental gains against their weaker opponent, Ministry claimed Monday its forces had also taken the village of Semenivka.

The lack of ammunition has allowed the Russians to push forward along the front line. Lack of air defense has made it possible for more Russian missiles to hit their targets, and the lack of deep strike capabilities has made it possible for the Russians to concentrate more forces," Stoltenberg said. Ukraine and its Western partners are in a race against the clock to deploy critical new military aid that can help check the recent slow and costly but steady Russian advance across eastern areas, as well as thwart

drone and missile attacks. Zelenskyv said new Western supplies have started arriving, but slowly. "This process must be speeded up," he said. Though the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line has shifted little since early in the war, the Kremlin's forces have in tary analysts say.

Ukraine's army chief said recent weeks edged forward, Sunday The Russian Defense especially in the Donetsk region, by sheer weight of numbers and massive firepower used to bludgeon defensive

> Kyiv's Western partners have repeatedly vowed to stand with Ukraine "for as long as it takes." But vital U.S. military help was held up for six months by political differences in Washington, and Europe's military hardware production has not been able to keep up with demand. Ukraine's own manufacturing of heavy weapons is only now starting to gain traction. Russia is a far bigger country than Ukraine, with greater resources to draw on. It has also received weapon support from Iran and North Korea, the U.S. government says. Drawn-out Ukrainian efforts to mobilize more troops, and the belated building of battlefield fortifications are other factors currently undermining Ukraine's war effort, mili-

after being dropped as deputy prime minister Bangkok (AP): Thailand's for-

eign minister abruptly resigned in dissatisfaction over a Cabinet reshuffle that removed him as one of the country's deputy prime ministers. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Monday confirmed the report of the resignation of Parnpree Bahiddha-Nugara, saying that he respected the decision, and that he has already started looking for a replacement.

Srettha said it was normal that some people would be upset by the reshuffle, adding that he already sent a message to Parnpree, apologising and thanking him for his work. 'For his work that has been in the good interest of the country, I believe that the new minister will continue these good efforts," he said, but did not say when the next appointee

would take up the post. On

Sunday, Srettha's government,

which took office less than a year ago, announced its first Cabinet shuffle. Shortly afterwards, the media circulated a document said to be a letter of resignation from Parnpree, dated Sunday, indicating his dissatisfaction that he was removed from the position of deputy prime minister and only remained foreign minis-

Ministers in Thailand are allowed to hold multiple Cabinet positions, and it is common for senior ministers to also be appointed as deputy prime ministers. Srettha said that the intention behind Parnpree being dropped as deputy prime minister was to allow him to concentrate on his role as foreign minister. In an interview with the public broadcaster Thai PBS on Sunday, Parnpree said the letter was authentic but denied that he was unhappy.

China nod to Tesla cars as Musk lobbies in visit to Beijing

Tn a big relief for Tesla, its Lvehicles passed the key test of compliance with China's data security rules as its billionaire CEO Elon Musk who air dashed to Beijing on Sunday met Premier Li Qiang to press for all clear approval for his cars which faced stiff competition from local rivals

Musk's Tesla, which in recent months faced entry bans in Chinese government-affiliated buildings besides military bases due to security concerns over data leaks, "passed" the security assessment by a stateowned Chinese industrial association on Monday

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers and the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Centre of China on Monday published a list of 76 models of

intelligent connected vehicles that meet the country's auto data security requirements, including those from Tesla. The list was released after secu-

rity tests jointly conducted by the two organisations clearing models of local Chinese electric vehicles, including Li Auto, Lotus, Hozon New Energy Automobile, and NIO besides BYD and Tesla, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. In tests starting in November 2023, cars were assessed to see if they met four compliance requirements — the anonymisation of facial and other information from outside the car, the default non-collection of incar data, the in-car data processing, and the conspicuous notification of personal infor-

mation processing. The tests were carried out according to related laws and standards, and the carmakers submitted their models voluntarily, according to the association.

The association said the test aims to help regulate auto data processing, protect the rights of car users, and build a sound environment for auto data security and the industry.

Significantly, Tesla was included in the list that was released as Musk air dashed to Beijing on a surprise visit and met Chinese Premier Li Qiang and other officials.

This is Musk's second visit to China which is Tesla's secondbiggest market. Built and put into operation in 2019, the Shanghai factory, Tesla's first gigafactory outside the US, delivered 947,000 vehicles last year, which was 33 per cent more than in 2022.

His visit came amid reports that Tesla car drivers in Ĉhina faced entry bans in government-affiliated buildings as security concerns with the US reported.

Chinese electric vehicles and its popular social media app TikTok faced restrictions and bans in the US over security

and data breach concerns. Reports said Tesla vehicles faced restrictions in China in an increasing number of meeting halls and exhibition centres across the country besides military bases.

Even highway operators, local authority agencies, and cultural centres reportedly began restricting the Tesla vehicles which began impacting its sales in China. Musk arrived in Beijing on

Sunday at the invitation of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Automobile company as Tesla has been in negotiation with the Chinese authorities about the lifting of all restrictions, the state-run China Daily

the endorsement of its Model 3 and Model Y vehicles assembled at the Shanghai Giga factory would lead to an easing of restrictions on its cars' access to certain statebacked entities, airports and

"The result of the review will give Tesla car owners and other fans of its cars a lot of confidence in driving them on the streets of China," Chen Jinzhu,

motorways

CEO of consultancy Shanghai Mingliang Auto Service, said. "Since the CAAM is a government-backed auto industry association, the review certainly will have an influence on relevant authorities' policymaking," Chen told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

The endorsement also bodes well for the approval of Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) system, its autonomous driving softreportedly is lobbying.

In his meeting with Musk,
Premier Li said Tesla's opera-

tions in China represented a successful example of an economic tie-up between China and the US as he encouraged more cooperation between the two countries.

Musk's visit to Beijing aims to bring the Austin, Texas-based carmaker's autonomous driving technology to China amid intensified competition with local competitors in an EV market that accounts for about 60 per cent of global sales, the Post reported on Sunday. Calling Tesla's development in

China a successful example of trade cooperation between Beijing and Washington, Premier Li Qiang expressed the hope that the US will work in the same direction as China to promote the stable development of bilateral ties.

BSE shares tank nearly 19 per cent

After Sebi directive on regulatory fee

PTI NEW DELHI

Shares of BSE tanked nearly 19 per cent on Monday as the exchange is expected to shell out more regulatory fee after markets watchdog Sebi asked it to pay the fee based on the "notional value" of its options contracts rather than on the premium value.

The stock plummeted 18.63 per cent to Rs 2,612.10 on the NSE.

About 103.10 lakh shares of the exchange were traded on the NSE in intra-day trade. In the broader market, the NSE Nifty traded with a gain of 205.10 points or 0.91 per cent to 22,626.65.

"BSE is hereby advised to pay the regulatory fee based on annual turnover to Sebi considering the notional value in case of options contract," the exchange said in a filing to the National Stock Exchange

(NSE) on Friday. Also, the exchange has been asked to pay the differential regulatory fee for the past periods along with an interest of 15 per cent per annum on remaining

It has been directed to pay the amount within one month of receipt of the letter, the filing

Sebi's letter mentioned that

Direct-to-home service provider Dish TV on Monday said its existing as well as new customers in Delhi can now access TV and

OTT content from popular apps without

paying an additional cost. With the 'Dish TV



since the introduction of derivative contracts, BSE has been paying the regulatory fee on "annual turnover" to the regulator considering premium value for option contracts, instead of the notional value.

Notional turnover represents the overall strike price of all traded derivatives, whereas premium turnover is the sum of premiums paid on all contracts traded. As the notional value exceeds the premium turnover, opting for notional turnover as the basis

Dish TV launches service for customers

in Delhi to access TV, OTT content

In a disclosure on Sunday, BSE said it is currently evaluating the validity of the claim as per Sebi communication.

In case it is ascertained that the said amount is payable, the differential regulatory fees for the period from FY 2006-07 to FY 2022-23 would be Rs 68.64 crore plus GST, which includes an interest of Rs 30.34 crore. Further, the differential Sebi regulatory fees for FY 2023-24, if liable, could be around Rs 96.30 crore plus GST, BSE

"We are giving a facility to customers whereby they can switch to different apps with the same

subscription without paying anything extra," Dish TV India Ltd CEO Manoj Dobhal told

He said the company has already launched the

new service for customers in Mumbai,

"If the global situation continues to be like this, it would impact global demand. In the first quarter numbers, the demand slowdown may be visible," FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai said.

He added that despite all the challenges, freight rates are softening and it is giving an indication that demand may be impacted in the times to



India Inc revenue growth weakest since September 2021: Crisil Report

products and services are expected to have led the show January-March

discretionary Among products, the automobiles sector was steered by healthy growth in passenger vehicles on the back of higher volumes and price hikes in the past year.

The organised retail sector, the report said, grew for the thirteenth quarter in a row, on healthy urban demand. Discretionary services, such

airlines and hotels benefited (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions),

weddings and rebound in corporate travel.

On the other hand, it said, revenue from constructionlinked sectors is expected to have grown at a tepid pace, essentially on account of a high base of the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023 that saw construction companies achieving their highest quarterly revenue.

The report further said that the cement sector, despite steady demand momentum during the quarter, recorded moderate revenue growth as prices remained under pressure amid higher supply and intense competition.

Increasing global uncertainties may impact demand, India's exports: FIEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PTI MUMBAI

sectors firms.

India Inc is likely to log 4-6 per cent revenue growth in the January-March quarter of 2023-24, marking the slowest

quarterly growth since

recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic which began in

September 2021, said a Crisil

The report is based on an

analysis of 350 companies which exclude financial

services and oil and gas

The moderation follows

stronger growth in previous

years, the report said, adding

among the 47 sectors

The escalating geopolitical tension may have implications for the country's exports in the first quarter of 2024-25 as it is likely to impact global demand, apex exporters body FIEO said.

The global uncertainties caused by continuing war between Russia and Ukraine has impacted India's outbound shipments in 2023-24, which recorded a decline of 3.11 per cent to USD 437 billion. Imports too dipped by over 8 per cent to USD 677.24 billion.

He cautioned that further escalation of the current situation could have serious implications on the world also crucial reasons for



demand slowdown," he said, adding certain advanced economies like Europe may witness more slowdown. He also said that India's

currency domestic depreciated only about 1.3 per cent during 2023-24 as against Chinese Yuan's 4.8 per cent; Thai Baht 6.3 per cent and Malaysian Ringgit's 7 per

When asked about the impact exporters engineering sector have

stated that the demand for goods that are going to the ŬAE and then to Iran has come down. Jewellery demand may also

director suggested the government to take certain steps for exporters at the liquidity

come down, he said.

'Due to demand slowdown, payments. So we require funds for longer period. Exporters also need interest subvention support," Sahai

He asked for continuation of interest equalisation scheme. On December 8, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved an additional allocation of Rs crore for continuation of the scheme up to June 30.

The scheme helps exporters from identified sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters to avail of rupee export credit at competitive rates at a time when the global economy is facing headwinds. Exporters get subsidies under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre-and post-shipment rupee

export credit.
"The rates should be enhanced to 3 per cent and five per cent," he said.

He added that technology and knowledge-based sectors like electronics, electricals, telecommunication, machinery, auto, pharma, medicine and diagnostics would help achieve USD one trillion exports by 2030.

'But we have a problem in labour intensive sectors like apparel, footwear, and gems and jewellery as our market share is going down,' he said.

Indegene ₹1,842 crore IPO to open on May 6

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ndegene Ltd, a healthcare **⊥**tech firm focused on the global life sciences industry, on Monday said it has fixed the price band at Rs 430 to Rs 452 per share for its Rs 1,842-crore initial share-sale offer that opens for public subscription on May 6. The initial public offering (IPO) will conclude on May 8. The bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on May 3, the company announced.

The company's IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 760 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 2.34 crore equity shares aggregating Rs 1,082 crore, at the higher end of the price band, by selling shareholders. This takes the total IPO size to

1,842 crore. The OFS would see sale of shares by existing investors CA Dawn Investments, a Carlyle group entity, Vida Trustees in its capacity as partner of Group Life Spring, Brighton Park Capital's entities BPC Genesis Fund I SPV Ltd, and BPC Genesis

Fund I-A SPV Ltd, and individual investors Manish Gupta, Rajesh Bhaskaran Nair, and Anita Nair.

Smart+' service, all Dish TV and D2H Kolkata, and Chennai while the Delhi edition is being launched on Monday. offtake of goods will be low trade. "Besides geopolitical customers can access to content on popular Sharing the company's expansion plans going ahead, he said, "We are collaborating with OTT apps, along with their chosen TV uncertainties, high inflation of Israel-Iran war, he said so foreign buyers will also subscription pack, through the 'Watcho' App and high interest rates are certain take a longer period to make global giants on the on any screen from anywhere.

Good growth, cloud migration, GenAl gaining traction: HCLTech CEO

current environment, CEO C Vijayakumar said, adding cloud migration and GenAI projects are gaining traction but financial services vertical could face 'headwinds'

Vijayakumar told PTI in an HCL interview that Technologies (HCLTech) is keen on acquisitions in areas semiconductor,

automotive, and of platforms that drive strong annuity revenues or geographies such He asserted that the company

is poised to capitalise on generative AI opportunities, and that 50,000 people are expected to be fully trained, leveraging GenAI, this year. The top boss of India's third largest IT services company said discretionary spends

environment "continues to be HCL Technologies' FY25 guidance of 3-5 per cent under pressure" and the situation in FY25 appears "similar" to FY24. The deal pipeline looks and the company expects to convert some opportunities soon, which will "definitely help in delivering the growth this

The company reported nearly flat year-on-year net profit for March quarter at Rs 3,986 crore amid a global environment marred by weak client spends, geopolitical shocks, high inflation, and m a c r o e c o n o m i c uncertainties. On a sequential basis the net profit

was down 8.4 per cent. In the fourth quarter of FY24, the revenue from operations stood at Rs 28,499 crore, up 7.11 per cent from a year ago. For the full fiscal year (FY24), the company reported a 5.7 in FY25. If things change per cent rise in net profit to sometime you will have a



Rs 15,702 crore. The company posted Rs 1,09,913 crore in revenue in FY24, up 8.3 per cent from the

previous fiscal. "Across the industry there is good mix of revenue, which is coming from discretionary spending patterns of clients in this environment that is subdued, which will be visible

much better outcome, if things remain similar to what it was in FY24 then you will have subdued growth in FY25," Vijayakumar said. HCLTech's projected revenue growth of 3-5 per cent for FY25 is a "good growth" in current environment and probably highest guidance

among the tier-one providers,

Areas like cyber security,

according to Vijayakumar.

hyperscalers and building growth for two years in coming to FY25, of course, a Force. The platform helps private AI stacks, all catalysed financial services, lot will depend on how the end-to-end lifecycle of the by GenAI are showing a good significantly

Efficiency-driven programmes are being conduced in a timely-manner both in decision-making and timelines for execution.

some transformation programmes, I think customers are either taking a slightly slower pace or they're cutting down on some, pausing them for a few quarters or a few months, and then reinitiating it," he said. Technology, telecom and media verticals will continue to do well based on the bookings done, Vijayakumar said, but called out financial services as a space that could face some headwinds, after demonstrating a stellar growth for a couple of years. Financial services will have

data, cloud migration to because we've had a stellar headcount is growing. And some headwinds like some deals will transition to an offshore model. And then some deals like State Street...We have divested the JV...So that will have an impact on the revenue. So financial services will have these dynamics, but all other verticals will grow," he said. HCLTech added 2,700-plus employees in March quarter, which the top honcho said should not come as a surprise given the company's overall

growth numbers. The headcount addition should not come as a surprise, because we had a good growth of 5.4 per cent (for FY24) in the current environment, obviously needs good talent to execute, and that's why our

tly ahead of year shapes up. At this point, software development and So there will be we've planned at least 10,000 product engineering. So I freshers to be hired during this year," he said.

The lateral hiring numbers depend on how the year pans out. The US accounts for 64 per cent of the company's revenue and the company is very positive about outlook for the market.

"We've done very well. We've done 6.8 per cent growth in the US market and it continues to be a very strong geography, with mindshare, presence in a lot of big clients. And so we are very positive about the outlook for US," he said.

The company is wellequipped to capitalise on GenAI opportunities, and "expects things to scale up". "In fact, we launched a think we're very positioned," he said.

He went on to add: "We've got good talent, we have already trained a significant number of people, more than 25,000. This year, we expect at least 50,000 people will be fully trained, leveraging generative AI. We are focused on AI developer community, and already have 2,000-plus people who are focused in this area. And there are many small projects, which are all sub-USD 10 million," he said. On acquisitions, Vijayakumar said semiconductors

automotive, or platforms that drive strong annuity revenues with clients and geographies like Japan are areas where the company continues to look

Rupee falls 10 paise to settle at 83.48 against US dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee declined 10 paise to close at 83.48 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as investors remained cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision.

A robust sentiment in the

domestic equity market and softening crude prices in the international market, cushioned the downfall in the Indian currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.39 and touched the intra-day low of 83.51 against the greenback

during the session. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.48 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 10 paise compared to its previous closing level.



On Friday, the rupee had declined 10 paise to close at 83.38 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.26 per cent to 105.53.

The weakness in the dollar was attributed to investors' cautious approach ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy and global as domestic rupee at lower levels,"

macroeconomic numbers to be released this week. The Federal Open Market

Committee (FOMC) meeting will begin on Tuesday and the interest rate decision is expected to be announced on Anuj Choudhary Research

Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the Indian rupee fell on Monday on positive US dollar in early trades and sustained FII outflows. However, positive domestic equities and softening crude oil prices cushioned the downside.

'We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on selling pressure from foreign investors and expectations of a recovery in crude oil prices. However, improved global risk sentiments and contained geopolitical tensions in the Middle East may support the

Choudhary said, adding, "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.70."

Brent crude futures, the benchmark, global oil declined 0.53 per cent to USD 89.03 per barrel.

"Crude oil demand is expected to face challenges from the US due to renewed inflationary fear," Mohammed Imran, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

On the other hand, he said, the geopolitical risks appear to have eased considerably, removing some of the risk premium priced into the market.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 941.12 points, or 1.28 per cent, to settle at 74,671.28, and Nifty soared 223.45 points, or 1.00 per cent, to close at 22,643.40.

Urja Arpan conclave organised

headwinds



PNS NEW DELHI

Tata Power Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power Power utility supplying electricity to a populace of 7 million in North Delhi, hosted the second edition of Urja Arpan Conclave on April 24, 2024, to commemorate the World Earth Day.

The conclave focused on the Demand Side Management journey of Tata Power-DDL along with raising awareness about responsible and efficient electricity consumption among organisations.

Infant food formulation done on global basis, racial stereotype charges unfortunate: Nestle

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan on Monday asserted that the company's infant food formulation for children below 18 months is done on a global basis and the allegation that "it is racially stereotyped is unfortunate" and untrue. Addressing reporters here, he said the amount of sugar content in infant foods is determined by the capability

to meet the nutrition profile of a particular age group and that is universal. Nestle India's added sugar content in Cerelac is much

lower than the upper limit prescribed by FSSAI, he added. "There is nothing in this product that makes it a product that is potentially of

any risk or any kind of harm to the child," he said. As far as Nestle is concerned, he said a majority of sugars present in the product are natural sugars. As per the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the permissible level

of added sugar is 13.6 grams per 100 grams of feed. Nestle is 7.1 grams, which is well below the standards and the maximum limits set up,"

Narayanan asserted. Earlier this month, Swiss FMCG major Nestle was accused of selling products with more sugar content in

less developed countries.

According to findings by Swiss NGO, Public Eye and

International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Nestle sold baby products with higher sugar content in less developed South Asian countries including India, and in African and Latin American nations compared to its markets in Europe. Countering the allegations,

Narayanan said that every formulation for child food below 18 months is done on a global basis. There is no local kind of

approach to making a nutritional adequacy study...Globally, the recipes are engendered in an age where energy dense products are needed by growing children. So there is no distinction that is made between a child in Europe and a child in India or any other parts of the world, Narayanan said, adding the Codex requirement is fully followed up for Cerelac.



India seal quarterfinal berth with 5-0 win over England

PTI CHENGDU (CHINA)

champions efending India sailed to the knockout stage of the Thomas Cup with a 5-0 rout of England in a Group C contest here on Monday.

India, who defeated Thailand 4-1 in their opening tie, notched up consecutive win to qualify for the quarterfinals.

HS Prannoy returned to winning ways, defeating Harry Huang 21-15 21-15 to give India a 1-0 lead.

"To give a start to the team is really important, it gives a good boost to the team to go ahead. It is really important to finish off the matches clinically, you saw against Thailand one match was bad

clinically," Prannoy said after his match.

The star pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty was stretched to three games by Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in the first doubles fixtures before 2022 world champions bronze medallist picked up a 21-17 19-21 21-15 win in one hour five minutes.

Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth recorded a 21-16 21-11 victory over Nadeem Dalvi to give India an unassailable 3-0 lead.

"Happy with the way both the matches have gone for me (in the tournament). There is a lot of pressure on players to win games. I feel I have played little easier opponents so far. But

for us. So it's important to $\,$ from now we will face better finish $\,$ off $\,$ the $\,$ matches $\,$ opponents and I have to be my best," Srikanth said.

> On his recent form, Srikanth said "I'm playing well but not able to pull off the matches. Obviously people will compare how I was playing from 2021-2022. I was in my 20s then."

> The second doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila then brushed aside Rory Easton and Alex Green 21-17 21-19.

> In the final match, 24-year-old Kiran George prevailed 21-18 21-12 over Cholan Kayan to wrap up the fixture. India will take on group

toppers and record 14-time champions Indonesia in their final group fixture on Wednesday.

Arsenal and Man City both win to keep it tight at top in race for Premier League title

A rsenal survived a late scare at Tottenham to stay narrowly ahead in the race for the Premier League title. A 3-2 win at the Tottenham

Hotspur Stadium ensured Mikel Arteta's team remained at the top of the standings, ahead of defending champion Manchester City, which won 2-0 at Nottingham Forest.

But Arsenal had to endure a nervous finish despite powering to 3-0 lead in a nervous London derby that was supposed to be one of its biggest tests in the title chase. 'The last 20 minutes wasn't

nice, but it was worth it," Arsenal forward Bukayo Saka said afterward. "We know it is a big derby and they don't want to lose 3-0 at home. Momentum shifted their way, but I am proud of the boys - we managed to get the three points?

An own-goal from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and further strikes from Saka and Kai Havertz put Arsenal into a commanding position at the break. But in the face of a potential rout, Tottenham responded in the second half through Cristian Romero and a penalty from Son Heung-min in the 87th minute.

Under pressure, Arsenal held on and remains one point clear at the top, having played a game more than City.

The advantage is still with Pep Guardiola's team, which will clinch a fourth-straight title if it wins its remaining games this season and responded to Arsenal's win with victory of its own at relegation-fighting

With Liverpool's title hopes



further diminishing after dropping five points in two games this week, it is down to Arsenal to challenge City's domestic dominance.

Having collapsed late on in last season's title race, Arteta's players look more capable of going the distance this time

An away fixture against its fiercest rival, Tottenham, was a major test of its credentials at this stage of the campaign. And while Arsenal was guilty of letting Spurs back into a game that should have been killed off much earlier, victory when tension was high was a test of character

"Maybe last season that could have ended in a draw and we showed we have the experience," Saka said. "We know City are an amazing team, but they are not perfect, we just need to do our job."

MAN CITY WINS: Ársenal's win meant the pressure was on City to keep the heat on its title

It was always favorite to beat a Forest team that is desperately fighting for survival but without Phil Foden, who was

ill, and Erling Haaland on the bench, Guardiola was without two of its big match-winners in the starting 11.

An injury to goalkeeper Ederson also forced City into a change at halftime.

But Ğuardiola's team looks to be in unstoppable form and a 2-0 win extended its unbeaten record in the league to 19 games, dating back to a 1-0 loss to Aston Villa at the start of December. Back then there were questions about Citv's ability to win a sixth title in seven years. While Arsenal may lead the way, City's titlewinning know-how could make the difference.

So could Haaland, who stepped off the bench to score the goal that effectively killed off

Forest's challenge. Josko Gvardiol headed City in front in the first half, but Chris Wood had two clear chances from close range to score for Forest.

Haaland missed City's last two games through injury, but was quickly back on the scoresheet with a clinically taken goal just nine minutes after coming on

Among those in the crowd to watch were his father, Alf-Inge, and rock star Noel Gallagher. The goal saw Haaland move

clear of Cole Palmer as the league's top scorer with 21 goals. "It's an important win, it does not matter how we do it, and it is good to be back," Haaland said. "We knew it was going to be a fight, and the pitch was not the easiest to play on but we cannot complain, it is about winning and that is exactly what we did."

B O U R N E M O U T H RECORD: Without a win in its first nine league games this season, Bournemouth is now in the top half of the table and has set its own Premier League points record.

A 3-0 win against Brighton moved Andoni Iraola's team up to 10th and on 48 points. Bournemouth's previous best in the top flight was 46 points in the 2016-17 season under former manager Eddie Howe. Goals from Marcos Senesi, Enes Unal and Justin Kluivert secured victory against a Brighton team that is going in the other direction after six games without a win.

positive attitude."

seasons. Last season, PSG supporters were booing Lionel Messi even though the soccer great was the player who helped the club clinch an 11th

supporters

PSG wins record extending 12th French league title

Daris Saint-Germain has won the French league in Kylian Mbappé's last season at the club after Monaco lost 3-2 at Lyon. PSG has an unassailable 12-

point lead over second-place Monaco, which has three games left. The Ligue 1 triumph is PSG's third in a row and a record-

extending 12th overall.

Mbappé has been involved in six of them, but comes off contract at the end of the season. He's expected to be

signed by Real Madrid. PSG is on course for a potential historic treble as it will play at Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals on Wednesday

and face Lyon in the French Cup final on May 25. In coach Luis Enrique's first season at the club, PSG produced one of the most dominant seasons in league history with just one loss in 31 games so far.

PSG could have secured the title a day earlier but was held 3-3 by Le Havre on Saturday. "Our fans are incredible. We were losing 1-0, 3-1, and they kept supporting us," Luis Enrique said after the draw. We managed to draw later on and effectively win the league thanks to the supporters, thanks to their

That was quite a contrast with the past couple of

league title by scoring in a 1-1 draw with Strasbourg.

AP ■ MADRID

arlos Alcaraz continues Cto make a successful return from injury at the Madrid Open. The two-time defending champion cruised past Thiago Seyboth Wild in the third round on Sunday to earn another comfortable

Alcaraz won 6-3, 6-3 for his second straight victory in his first tournament after skipping Monte Carlo and Barcelona because of an arm

"I think I played at a really good level," Alcaraz said. *Coming into this match I was nervous a little bit because I didn't know how my forearm was going to be. Thiago has big shots really strong. I am really "Obviously I'm not hitting happy with the performance. my forehand on my 100% ... It was difficult a little bit at But I'm just focused to Tallon Griekspoor got his

Alcaraz earns another comfortable win in Madrid

the end, at 5-0 and then serving at 5-3. I am really happy to get it at the end." The second-seeded Alcaraz had made his debut at the tournament with a 6-2, 6-1 Alexander over Shevchenko.

Alcaraz had been scheduled to play at the Monte Carlo Masters and he also missed Barcelona to try to fully recover ahead of the French

Open next month. "I think I'm in a good shape right now. I'm not feeling anything in the forearm, and I played good tennis," the 20-

hitting the forehand as much relaxed as I can. I'm really happy to be competitive without pain.

No. 3-ranked Alcaraz is trying to become the first player to win three straight Madrid Open titles. He will next face Jan-Lennard Struff, his opponent in last year's final in Madrid.

return to form with a 7-6 (10), 6-4 win against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. The world No. 8 arrived in Madrid coming off a four-match losing





first top-20 win on clay on Sunday by defeating world No. 12 Holger Rune 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the fourth round at an ATP 1000 event for just the second time.

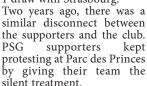
American Taylor Fritz, coming off an appearance in the final in Munich, defeated Sebastian Baez 6-2, 6-3, while Francisco Cerundolo picked up his first top-20 win of the season by beating 15th-seeded Tommy Paul 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2.

Second-ranked Aryna test against 19-year-old American wild card Robin Montgomery, prevailing 6-1, Wimbledon champion.

6-7 (5), 6-4. Sabalenka is trying to become the second woman to win three Madrid titles after triumphing in the Spanish capital in 2021 and 2023. Petra Kvitova won the Madrid Open in 2011, 15 and '18. Sabalenka will next face American Danielle Collins,

who rallied to defeat Jaqueline Cristian 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 for her 15th straight victory. Collins went into the tournament having won the Charleston Open. And Miami Open.

Teenager Sara Bejlek beat Ashlyn Krueger 6-3, 6-1 While 16-year-old Mirra SABALENKA ADVANCES: Andreeva made it to the last 16 for a second straight year seventh-seeded Marketa Vondrousova, the reigning



Archer Deepika Kumari reinducted into TOPS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world number one archer Deepika Kumari, who won a silver medal at the just-concluded World Cup in Shanghai, has been re-inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group ahead of the Paris Games, the Sports Ministry announced

Monday. Deepika, who missed the entire season last year after becoming a mother in December 2022, recently made a comeback and has been doing well both at the domestic and international stage.

The 29-year-old recurve archer, who is a three-time Olympian, had also medalled at the Asia Cup earlier this year. So far, only Dhiraj Bommadevara has qualified for the Games in the men's individual event owing to his silver medal at the Asian Qualifying Tournament in Bangkok last year.

Only one qualifying tournament is left to be held and it will take place in Antalya, Turkey on June 15 Another archer, Mrinal Chauhan, has been added to the TOPS Development group, while Pravin Jadhav has been moved from Development to Core group and para-powerlifter Ashok has been inducted in TOPS Core group, the sports ministry said in a statement. The Mission Olympic Cell

(MOC), during its 133rd meeting, also inducted squash players Anahat Singh, Abhay Senthilkumar to the TOPS Development group, to help them prepare for the Los Angeles Olympics, that will take place in the year 2028. In October 2023, the LA

organising committee had include squash in the 2028 edition of the Games.

"Looking "Looking at India's performance in Squash in the past two decades, especially at Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, MOC decided to induct three squash players in their TOPS Development group, with the aim to help them provide all required assistance to prepare for the global event," the ministry release stated.

Andrey Rublev continued his

Bayern, Dortmund seek Champions League glory BOTH CLUBS KICK OFF BIG SUMMER OF SOCCER FOR GERMANY

AP MUNICH

Tt's shaping up to be quite the few ■weeks for German soccer.

The country is preparing to stage the European Championship over June and July, with Germany's national team taking a nicely timed upturn in

Before that, Germany might yet be celebrating having a European champion once again, with Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund making up half of the lineup for the Champions League semifinals beginning this week. The last time Bayern and Dortmund both reached the Champions League semifinals was in 2013 and they

went on to meet in the title match at Wembley Stadium, with Bayern winning 2-1. As fate would have it, Wembley will be hosting the final this year, too. Setting up a repeat of that 2013 final would mean upsetting the odds.

Bayern is up against another European heavyweight in Real Madrid, the record 14-time champion and king of the competition.

Dortmund faces Paris Saint-Germain, whose star striker Kylian Mbappe is looking to lead the French team to its first ever Champions League title in his last season there before a likely move to Madrid. Germany didn't have a single

semifinalist in each of the last three seasons. In the 2019-20 competition, it had two - Bayern and Leipzig - and Bayern was the eventual champion. This season, Bayern and Dortmund have mounted impressive European campaigns while underperforming on the domestic front. Bayern has relinquished its Bundesliga title to Bayer Leverkusen

after an 11-year hold on the biggest

prize in German soccer, and needs

to win the Champions League to





avoid a first trophy-less season since in the second leg of the quarterfinals

Dortmund, meanwhile, is in fifth place in the league so its deep run in Europe has come as something of a surprise.

Here's a closer look at the two games: BAYERN MUNICH vs. REAL MADRID (TUESDAY): Madrid

should arrive well rested after the Spanish league moved its game at Real Sociedad to Friday. Madrid won 1-0. With Madrid set to win Spain's

domestic title, coach Carlo Ancelotti kept Jude Bellingham, Vinícius Júnior, Eduardo Camavinga, Toni Kroos, Federico Valverde, Antonio Rudiger and goalkeeper Andriy Lunin on the bench at the start of the league game in San Sebastian. Forward Rodrygo did not travel with the team because of flu. All started against Manchester City

starting lineup against Bayern. Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel is

and are expected to be back in the

leaving at the end of the season, and the Champions League - which he won with Chelsea in 2021 - offers him the chance to go out on a high. Two months on from Bayern's announcement that Tuchel would depart, he seems more popular than ever among sections of the Bayern support. Part of that is down to the calm, controlled way Bayern knocked out Arsenal in the second leg of their quarterfinal. Partly it's a reaction to Bayern's failure to hire top coaching targets like Bayer Leverkusen's Xabi Alonso or Germany's Julian Nagelsmann.

As Tuchel nears the end of a troubled tenure at Bayern, he's often seemed more upbeat than ever. "If people want me to stay, it is still an issue that has no priority," Tuchel

said Friday when asked about a fan petition begging the club to keep him. "Even if in this case it is a pleasant issue for me."

The injuries that have plagued Bayern this season are easing off, too. Tuchel predicted Friday that Serge Gnabry would recover from his latest problem in time to play and score - against Madrid on Tuesday, while fellow forward Leroy Sané could also return.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

SAINT-GERMAIN PARIS (WEDNESDAY): PSG won another

French league title on Sunday - after second-place Monaco lost at Lyon but the Champions League is the trophy the Qatar-backed club is desperate to finally get its hands on. And there would be no better way for Kylian Mbappe to sign off at the end of the season than by leading PSG to victory in European club soccer's elite competition. The club is already planning for life without its superstar striker, who is set to walk away as a free agent, with players like Randal Kolo Muani, Ousmane Dembele and Goncalo

still have a big say in the Champions League and he scored two goals in PSG's 4-1 comeback win against Barcelona in the quarterfinals. PSG drew 3-3 at home to Le Havre on Saturday after coming back from 3-1 down and needing an equalizer

Ramos expected to help fill the void

in his absence. But Mbappe could

stoppage time. It's been a strange season for Dortmund and that was underlined by Saturday's 4-1 loss against top

from Ramos in the fifth minute of

four rival RB Leipzig.

Dortmund has certainly saved its best performances for the Champions League, none better than the comeback win over Atletico Madrid in the quarterfinals.

Striker Sebastien Haller scored in the first leg against Atletico but injured his ankle in Dortmund's next game and hasn't played since. Forward Donyell Malen has been struggling with pain, too. Much could depend on which version of Jadon Sancho turns up to face PSG. Sancho, who scored against Leipzig, has shown glimpses of his obvious talent since returning to Dortmund in January on loan from Manchester United. The issue is whether the former England forward can

"Both I and Jadon have noticed he isn't at the peak of his performance yet, but that's totally OK. That's something we were aware of when we decided to bring him back, but we know that he's able to reach that maximum very quickly," Dormund coach Edin Terzic said Friday. Every training session, Jadon has a moment that shows his incredible talent and we see how hard-working he is with the team.

consistently play at his best.

FOCUS ON RAHUL DURING LSG, MI CLASH

with T20 World Cup selection round the corner, KL Rahul will have one final chance to stake claim on the second wicketkeeper's spot in the Indian team when Lucknow Super Giants host Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday. Rahul's strike-rate in T20 cricket has always been a bone of contention. Despite the advantage of field restrictions in the Powerplay, Rahul has often started his innings on a slow note in the

IPL. However, the LSG captain has managed to change gears this

In the 2024 edition, he has scored 378 runs at a strike rate of 144.27 but it is still less than that of Rishabh Pant (160.60) and Sanju Samson (161.08). While comeback man Pant has all but sealed the first wicketkeeper's spot in the marquee event in the Caribbean islands and the USA in June by displaying some sharp work behind the stumps and sensational knocks with the bat, Samson has also made a strong case for himself by playing match-winning knocks for Rajasthan Royals at a brisk pace. In such a scenario, Rahul needs to play more fearlessly and exploit the

field restrictions not only to strengthen his Indian team selection prospects but also to help his side score in in excess of 200 runs, which has become a norm in

this edition LSG were handed a seven-wicket loss by Rajasthan Royals, who chased the 197-run target with six balls to spare. The onus will also be on the team's big hitting troika of Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran to hit those towering maximums and get

match-winning totals as the race

for the playoff heats. They will fancy their chances against a struggling Mumbai bowling unit which was carted all over the park by the Delhi Capitals batters the other day. MI bowlers struggled to find answers against young Jake Fraser-McGurk, who wreaked havoc in the Powerplay. Even the world class Jasprit Bumrah conceded a 19-run over

before returning to his frugal self

while the likes of Luke Wood and

skipper Hardik Pandya were pummelled into submission. They would look to do better.

Mumbai Indians find themselves

in a precarious position sitting

ninth on the points table. They need to win all their matches to stay alive in the competition. The five-time champions need to

fire as a unit and the likes of Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, premier T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav would be like to get into the rhythm and churn out some consistent performances ahead of

consistent performances ahead of the World Cup.
All-rounder Pandya has flopped with the bat and ball this season. He did get his highest score this season the other day but more would be needed to make it to the World Cu squad.

SQUADS:
Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yaday, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalik Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Harvik Desai, Nehal Wadhera, Luke Wood.
Lucknow Super Giants: Quinton de Woods Will Babul (a Street)

Lucknow Super Giants: Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul (c & wk), Deepak Hooda, Ayush Badoni, Marcus Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran, Krunal Pandya, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohsin Khan, Shamar Joseph, Thakur, Manimaran Siddharth, Prerak Mankad, Arshad Khan, Krishnappa Gowtham, Amit Mishra, Kyle Mayers, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, Naveen-ul-Haq, Devdutt Padikkal, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Mayank Yadav and Arshin Kulkarni.



Gaikwad is one step ahead of bowlers more often than not: Hussey

The ability to remain one step ahead of the bowlers has allowed Ruturaj Gaikwad to flourish in this Indian Premier League, reckons CSK batting coach Michael Hussey

After an unbeaten 108 in the previous game, CSK skipper Gaikwad was on the cusp of another century on Sunday but fell two runs short of the milestone against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"Gaikwad is such a wonderful player. He is a brilliant timer of the cricket ball. I've been asking him what his secret is in terms of his placement since he always finds the gaps," said Hussey after the win over Sunsers.

"He is a smart batsman as well. He knows when to attack and when to soak up pressure. He plays spin and seam well. He can score all around the

ground.
"He's almost one step ahead of the bowlers a lot of times. He is wonderful to watch. Very thankful that he is in our team."

The 27-year-old was announced as the new skipper of the defending champions a day before the IPL opener, replacing the legendary MS Dhoni.

Talking about how Gaikwad has adjusted to the leadership responsibility, Hussey admitted that it has been challenging to succeed the 'GOAT'.

"It has been challenging for him as well. He has taken over as captain to which you have to take your hat off to him. He is succeeding the greatest of all time in this country," he said.

Strike rate is more important than

batting averages in the T20 format but at CSK, that aspect of the game is not discussed much.

'We don't talk about it (S/R) much at all. We talk about each player since they need to assess the conditions out in the middle as quickly as they can. The batter needs to take up the responsibility and the ownership in the middle," he continued.

"Sometimes, as coaches, we put too much into the players' heads. I am trying to take as much out of their heads as possible, let them be as clear as they possibly can, see the ball and react accordingly.

The strike rate keeps changing, depending on the way you play and the conditions."

Hussey was delighted with Daryll Mitchell finally delivering for the Yellow Brigade at number three. He scored a 32-ball 52 against SRH, which also happened to be his maiden IPI half-century IPL half-century

"It's not easy. He's a new player who comes to the team, even Rachin Ravindra, for that matter, and we expect them to come in and fit in right away and go out and perform. But in reality, it's not that easy," he explained. "This is the IPL, the best T20

competition in the world. So sometimes, it takes time. We feel like he's been playing well. Although not getting the big score, he has been contributing down the lines well.

He has been moving up and down the batting order, which can be destabilizing for him, but he has found a nice role in number three, and he can feel comfortable at it. Hopefully, it is the start of some consistent form moving forward."

T20 has always been a batters game and that has gone to a new level this IPL: Cummins

T²⁰ format has always favoured the batters and that has gone to a 'whole new level' in this Indian Premier League, feels Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins. The Australian gave his thoughts following SRH's 78-run loss to defending champions Chennai

PTI CHENNAI

Super Kings here on Sunday. IPL 2024 has witnessed six 250 plus totals already with 200 no more a safe total. Prior this edition, 250 was only breached

twice in the history of IPL. "T20 is always on the batting side, and it has gone to a whole new level this season. The way we set up, we had the best chance if we got some really aggressive batters, and that's the way to win the tournament," Cummins said post-match press conference.

"Frankly, we don't have much (bowling) options. It's not Test cricket, with the ball swinging

around. There's not much sideways movement, and there's not much on the wicket either. 'So, a lot of times, the best way to

get a wicket is to try and defend. get a wicket is to try and defend. Batters are getting better at hitting the ball out and even getting confident. It challenges you as a bowler. But, if you have a big total like 270-280 and if you can go at 9.00 as a bowler and make an impact, it could be match-winning," said the Australian. Analysing the reason for the loss to CSK, he admitted that the side has some work to do while chasing. while chasing.

"Hard to put a finger on it. Nothing really went (according to) to plan tonight. We're pretty well-suited to chasing, but it



hasn't really come off yet. So yeah, it is something (we need) to work on," Cummins reckoned.

'There was definitely dew there; haven't seen so much at any other venue across the country. But, we failed to make the most of it, and they bowled well as well. So, it (dew) didn't really factor in this match as much as we would have liked." Of their four losses, three of them have come chasing. Cummins said while their have been

commendable, middle-order needs to step up.

"Whenever the openers have gone off (to score), it's been match-winning and crazy. In a few chases, we felt that we set up really well," he analysed.

"Different batters have stepped up throughout the tournament, and you need two or three guys to make an impact. But tonight, we never really got going, unfortunately.

"I am really happy about how the boys have been going about it. Even tonight, there were not too many reckless shots.

As for the struggles for the bowlers this season, Cummins felt that it could be possibly due to the wickets being drier.

"Haven't really seen too much of a difference with the (new) white ball. It doesn't have as much swing as before, maybe because the wickets are drier. It's a tricky format, and I don't think there's a lot with the new ball," he said.

Video reviews have changed |Silva to leave Chelsea at end of season tace of European soccer

One country is holding out

s the Swedish league got As the Swedish league got underway this spring, yellow-and-black-clad supporters of Stockholm club AÎK held up an enormous banner containing a long, vivid story about the dark forces of modern soccer conquering the world.

"The whole world? No!" read the words on the giant display. "There was, in fact, a small area that successfully resisted the intruders, surrounded by modern football's smoldering ruins.

The intruder in this case is VAR — the high-tech video review system formally written into the laws of soccer in 2018 to help referees make the right calls in the biggest moments.

While most leagues around the world are now using this technology, Sweden is an outlier in holding out and, in its view, retaining the game in its purest form.

The Swedish league is the only one of Europe's top-30 ranked leagues yet to have rolled out the system. It won't be happening anytime soon,

"VAR is a symbol of modern, commercialized-to-the-pointof-destruction football," says Ola Thews, vice-chairman of AIK's largest organization, ASK.

Thews is more than just a diehard AIK fan. He played a part in mobilising anti-VAR

sentiment among Sweden's top clubs and helped push VAR room. through a motion at AIK opposing the introduction of the technology, before the Swedish soccer federation had

the chance to bring it in. That's possible because Swedish clubs are majoritycontrolled by members essentially, supporters under a regulation that states members should control at least 50% of their club's shares,

plus one. Although the federation initially appeared to want VAR in operation — the technology is, after all, used at European and international — it will not go against the wishes of its member-run clubs. As a result, the federation has held off on further discussions about adopting VAR and said last week it doesn't envisage any in

the foreseeable future. That's a big win for Swedish match-going fans who are proud of their rebel status in

European soccer. No VAR. No out-of-touch American owners or oil money from the Middle East. A culture where fans matter. Soccer as it should be, in their

VAR "ruins the euphoria" that soccer can bring, Thews says.
"The absolute happiness and passion, or grief and sadness, that comes from a goal being conceded or a goal being scored if you're not sure what has happened until it has been reviewed and decided in a

Compared to other sports, soccer is a latecomer to video replays. In the United States, the NFL introduced instant replays in the mid-1980s but scrapped the system in 1991 after widespread discontent. They returned in 1999 and have spread to other major North American leagues and international sports, such as cricket and rugby.

In soccer, pausing for video reviews can appear more disruptive. Not least because the VAR system has its

imperfections. In the English Premier League, a communications mix-up between the official running the video review and the on-field referee cost Liverpool a valid goal in a loss at Tottenham in October. Weeks later, a Tottenham-Chelsea match had a total of 21 minutes of stoppage time added on largely because of a raft of video reviews.

this month, Earlier Nottingham Forest put out an inflammatory statement, questioning the integrity of a match official, after being denied what it perceived to be three clear penalty shouts overlooked by the video

referee Spain, Barcelona threatened legal action to force a replay after a VARrelated controversy in the recent "clasico" against Real Madrid.

AP LONDON

 $B^{ ext{razil}}$ defender Thiago Silva will leave Chelsea at the end of the season after four years at the club. The 39-year-old Silva made the announcement on Monday, saying he is leaving the door open for a return to

Chelsea "in another role." 'Goodbyes are for those that leave and don't come back," he said in a message to Chelsea's fans. "I intend on coming back one day.

Silva joined Chelsea in 2020 after his contract at Paris Saint-Germain expired. He said he only planned to stay at the English club for one season.

He continued playing for the team after winning the Champions League at the end of his first season there. Now his sons are playing in Chelsea's youth teams.

"It's a source of great pride to be a part of the Chelsea family - literally because my sons are here," Silva said. "I hope they can continue their careers here at this victorious club that many players wish to be part of."

Tust call him Xabi Houdini.

Bayer Leverkusen coach

Xabi Alonso has seen his team pull off several scarcely believable escapes from defeat

this season as it remains

Leverkusen, which has already

secured the Bundesliga title, is

on a 46-game run without a

loss - a record across Europe's

It has been achieved in

the last kick of the game for a

2-2 draw with high-flying

Stuttgart on Saturday. The goal

came in the sixth minute of

stoppage time when there was

only supposed to be five.

across

AP ■ BERLIN

unbeaten

competitions.

"big five" leagues.

extraordinary fashion. Robert Andrich scored with

Chelsea has five league games left this season but is languishing in ninth place after an inconsistent campaign under first-year coach Mauricio Pochettino. Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry rally to win Zurich Classic team event in a

playoff New Orleans, Apr 29 (AP) Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry received a standing ovation at historic, creole French Quarter restaurant Arnaud's on the eve of their final round at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans team event.

They also had the largest, loudest galleries at the TPC Louisiana, where the charismatic, 34-year-old McIlroy, had not previously played.

"He's getting old, but he still moves the needle a little bit," Lowry joked as McIlroy chuckled. "Rory brings a crowd and people love him and we've gotten a lot of love in New Orleans. We've had just the best week."

McIlroy and Lowry won Sunday, beating Chad Ramey and Martin Trainer with a nervy par on the first hole of a playoff.

Trainer pushed a 6-foot par putt to the



right of the cup to end it, with Lowry lifting a laughing McIlroy off the ground with a bear hug on the green. To win any PGA Tour event is very cool, but to do it with one of your closest friends - we've known each other for a long, long time, probably like over 20 years," McIlroy said. "To

think about where we met and where we've come from, to be on this stage and do this together - really, really cool journey that we've been a part of." McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, won his

25th PGA Tour title and first of the season. Lowry, of Ireland, claimed his third PGA Tour victory. Each walked away with about \$1.29 million and 400 FedEx Cup points apiece. "People have come out in the thousands

to support us. It's not lost on me how cool that is," McIlroy said. "Every time I get to play in front of thousands of people, the little boy in me just thinks it's so cool and so exciting.'

The Irish tandem closed with a 4-under 68 in the alternate-shot final round in windy conditions to match Ramey and Trainer at 25-under 263.

Ramey and Trainer began the day tied for 27th at 16 under and shot to the top of the leaderboard with nine birdies between the seventh and 18th holes. They tied the alternate-shot tournament record of 63, but then had to wait nearly three hours to see if their lead would stand up.

Bayer Leverkusen late escapes are keeping Xabi Alonso team unbeaten this season

Stuttgart had won seven of its nine games since losing to Leverkusen in the German Cup and led 2-0 against Leverkusen, but even that wasn't enough of a cushion to prevent Alonso's team from coming back and extending its unbeaten record.

Stanišic scored in the seventh minute of stoppage time for a draw at Dortmund. And Leverkusen's previous game,

The previous weekend, Josip Borussia Amine Adli scored in the 90th minute for a 1-1 draw at West Ham in the Europa League. In all, Leverkusen has eight draws this season to go with 38

"We've scored so many goals in stoppage time this year," Adli said after the latest drama on

Saturday. "But we should score earlier. It would be better for us."

Andrich's equaliser against Stuttgart was the 16th goal that Leverkusen has scored in the 90th minute or later across all competitions this season, and the 21st that was scored from the 86th.

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