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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the plone 1864 the stablished 1864

Ayodhya and now the CAA,

Opposition parties like Congress and TMC alleged

that the timing of notifying

the CAA rules evidently designed to polarise the coming Lok Sabha elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam. TMC said it will

oppose the Act tooth and nail.
The CAA was passed in
December 2019 and
subsequently got the
President's assent but there

were protests in several parts

of the country against it, with

many Opposition parties speaking out against the law calling it "discriminatory".

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Centre implements Citizenship Act CAA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

with the Lok Sabha elections due in next couple of more! **V** Couple of months, the Centre on Monday announced the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, a move that comes four years after the law was passed which paves the way for citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The CAA rules came into force in the country with immediate effect as per a Gazette notifica-

Home Minister Amit Shah with CAA said implementation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered another commitment and realised the promise of makers of our Constitution. "CAA rules enable minorities persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan to acquire citizenship in India," Shah said in a statement.

Now with the notification, the BJP-led Modi Government will start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants Hindus, Sikhs, Ja Hindus, Buddhists, Parsis



2019, in Varanasi, on Monday

Christians — from the three national Capital where anticountries.

'These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship. The applications will be submitted in a completely online mode for which a web portal has been provided," a Home Ministry spokesperson said. Over 100 people lost their lives during the anti-CAA protests or police action and security was beefed up in Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Millia Islamia and other areas of the

CAA protests were held in the

has also been stepped up in Assam as the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and 30 indigenous organisations said it will burn copies of the CAA across the State. It also announced a series of protest programmes, while also taking forward its

legal battle against the Act. While the ruling BJP party expressed their delight as the Modi Government has made to its one more commitment after abrogation of Article 370, Ram Temple at The law could not come into effect as rules had not been notified till now. According to the Manual on

Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should be framed within six months of presidential assent or the Government has to seek an extension from Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Since 2020, the Home Ministry has been taking extensions at regular intervals from Parliamentary Committee for framing the rules. No document will be sought from the applicants, an official said. On December 27, 2023, Shah said no one can stop the implementation of the CAA as it is the law of the land and accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading people on the issue. Addressing a party meeting in Kolkata, Shah said it is the BJP's commitment to implement the CAA.

Implementing the controversial CAA was a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in West Bengal. The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in Bengal.

Continued on Page 2

SBI faces SC ire on electoral bonds

Chastising the SBI, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered it to disclose the details of the disclose the details of the electoral bonds encashed by political parties to the Election Commission by the close of the business hours on March 12 and warned the country's largest public sector lender that the court may proceed against it for "wilful disobedi-ence" if it failed to comply with

its directions and deadlines.
A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, while dismissing the State Bank of India's plea seeking extension of time till June 30 to disclose of time till June 30 to disclose the details, also directed the EC to publish the information shared by the bank on its official website by 5 pm on March 15.

The order was passed by the bench, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra. In a landmark verdict

delivered on February 15, the same five-judge constitution bench had scrapped the Centre's controversial electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, calling "unconstitutional", ordered disclosure by the EC

of donors, the

"In this policy, the investment risk in the investment portfolio is borne by the policyholder"

amount

donated by them and the recipients by March 13. Ordering the closure of the scheme, the directed the the top court the SBI, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit by March 6 the details of the electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019 till date to the Election

Opposition leaders hailed the apex court's order passed on Monday and said the country will soon come to know who donated to which party through electoral bonds.

Commission.

"With the Supreme Court's decision, the country will soon come to know who donated to the BJP through electoral bonds. This is the first step in exposing the transactions of the Modi Government," Congress corruption, scams president Mallikarjun Kharge

said in a post in Hindi on 'X'. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav expressed delight over the top court's decision rejecting the SBI's plea seeking extension of time to furnish the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission.

When asked to comment on the apex court's order, Yadav said, "The people of the entire country should be informed about this. Glad that at least the list (list of people associated with electoral bonds) will come through the Supreme Court. From this list it will be known whom the election bonds related to. Now, the question is whether that list will be made public or not." The apex court passed the order while hearing the SBI's application for extension of time till June 30 to furnish the details.

Continued on Page 2

Court orders scientific survey of Bhojshala monument in MP

PTI INDORE

The Madhya Pradesh High directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to carry out a scientific survey of the medieval-era Bhojshala complex in Dhar district.

Hindus consider Bhojshala, an ASI-protected 11th century monument, to be a temple dedicated to Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), while the Muslim community calls it Kamal Maula Mosque.

"This court has drawn only

conclusion that Constitutional as well as statutory obligations of the ASI to have a scientific survey, study convened at the earliest of Bhojshala Temple and Kamal Maula Mosque," observed a division bench of the HC at Indore comprising Justices SA Dharmadhikari and Devnarayan Mishra.

The HC direction came while hearing a plea of an outfit called Hindu Front For Justice. The bench posted the matter for next hearing on

Dwarka Expressway to ease Delhi, Gurugram travel time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

The much awaited 19 km-long Haryana section of the Dwarka Expressway that will cut travel time between Delhi Gurugram was thrown open for the public by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

The total length of Dwarka Expressway is 29 km, out of which 18.9 km falls in Haryana, while the remaining 10.1 km is in Delhi. On March 9, 2019, the then Union Ministers, Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley and Nitin Gadkari had laid the foundation stone for Dwarka Expressway.

The PM simultaneously also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of ₹one lakh crore-worth National Highway projects across the country and said the implementation speed of infrastructure projects will be accelerated manifold in the next five years to make India the world's third largest

economy. Detailing the pace of his Government's approach to infrastructure projects, the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, inspects the four Level-Interchange of the Haryana Section of the Dwarka Expressway during its inauguration, on Monday

Prime Minister said he has laid the foundation stone or inaugurated projects worth ₹10 lakh crore in less than three months of the current calendar year.

He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 114 National Highway (NH) projects. The PM said the Dwarka Expressway will

change the travel experience between Delhi and Haryana forever and "will shift gears not just in the vehicles but also in the lives of the people of the region". Modi opened the Harvana section of the Dwarka Expressway which has been built at a cost of ₹4,100 crore.

Continued on Page 2

UIN: 512L354V01 | Plan No.: 873



Leopards battling human threats in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

From the dangers posed by selfie-seeking citizens in Telangana to the heartbreaking instances of being beaten in human-animal conflict in the national capital, rapid urbanisation, and the ruthless poachers across the States, leopards in India seem to be on the run for their life. Road accidents are also becoming a significant cause of leopard fatalities in the country.

India has lost 137 leopards in just two months and ten days this year alone. Among these casualties, a staggering 32 majestic cats fall victim to the poachers, according to data available from the website of the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). This is quite high, given that in calendar year 2023, a total 565 leopards had succumbed to various causes with 155 trapped by poachers to earn quick bucks in the international market.

The disturbing data comes amid a report released by the Union Environment Ministry that has suggested the leopard population has witnessed a marginal increase to estimated 13,874 leopards, up from 12,852 in 2018, even as human-leopard conflicts remain a major worry.

'The data shows that the leopard population hasn't grown the same way the tiger population has grown. It is a marginal increase," Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) former dean YV Jhala told a media house. However, he said since by locals from Kansanpalli of



targets for poachers, "it is a matter of satisfaction to manage the status quo".

Telangana majestic leopards faced a grim fate, marked by tragedy and sorrow when an ill-fated animal was captured in videos

Damaragidda mandal. In these recordings, the young leopard appeared visibly unwell, yet this did not deter the locals from pursuing it in a misguided attempt to capture selfies with the wild creature.

In fact, at the heart of the issue lies the relentless encroachment of human civilisation into leopard territory. As forests are cleared for agriculture, industry, and expansion, the urban natura habitats that sustain leopard populations are shrinking at an alarming rate.

experts Wildlife increasing territorial fight among tiger and leopard in many tiger reserves also threatens their existence.

Continued on Page 2

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NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | MARCH 12, 2024

Dissent in TMC over denial of tickets

With a number of sitting Trinamool Congress MPs and some other aspiring activists failing to land a ticket in the coming Lok Sabha elections voices of dissent have started emerging in the

Among the notables are Arjun Singh the sitting MP and party strongman from Barrackpore. The veteran TMC leader who left the party before 2019 to win on a BIP ticket before rejoining Mamata Banerjee two years ago said that he was expecting a ticket and that his hopes had been dashed to the

ground.
"I had come to the TMC after I was assured a ticket ... otherwise I would not have come back to the Trinamool Congress ... but the promise has been broken," Singh who has at least three dozen cases --- including those of murder and attempt to murder -against his name said.

The TMC have dropped five sitting MPs from its candidates' list.

On whether he was thinking of joining the BJP he said, "I am not taking a decision



immediately ... but ofcourse have my options open," adding that he had nothing to say against any particular

TMC's Dinesh Trivedi had won from Barrackpore a labour and industrial belt in 2009 defeating long time CPI(M) MP Tarit Topdar. However subsequently in 2019 Arjun Singh then a TMC MLA defeated him by fighting on a BJP.

Later he rejoined the TMC in 2022 allegedly because he could not sustain the intense pressure from the police. "He was forced by the TMC government which left two options before him --- either to join back the party or face arrest ... but now he is left nowhere," said a local BJP

However, Opposition Leader

swiftly to cement the gap between Singh and the TMC saying "he is still in touch with me and he has been a BJP man from within as during the presidential elections out of the two MPs from Bengal who cross voted one was Arjun Singh."

He also dropped hints of taking Singh back to the BJP fold saying he however was "not the final authority."

The second disgruntled MP is Sunila Mandal who attacked

the Burdwan district TMC leadership after failing to find a place in the list of TMC nominees. "I think the district leadership has played a game against me because I refuse to submit before them ... in any case the people who Mamata didi loves most are the ones who ditch her." He would not say whether he was joining any other party for the time being or not.

A third aspirant Sayantika Banerjee too said that she was disgusted at the decision of the TMC leadership. The actor-turned politician said, "I worked so hard for the party during the last five years and have not been rewarded for that ... I was expecting a tick-

Mamata fielded Yusuf against me to please Modi, says Adhir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Pradesh Congress president and party MP from Behrampore Adhir Chowdhury has strongly reacted to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "back-stabbing" ways even as he said that cricketer Yusuf Pathan was fielded by Banerjee from his constituency to divide the minority votes.

"She claims to be a major player in the INDIA alliance but has done everything to weaken the alliance ... fielding Yusuf Pathan from Behrampore is one of them," Chowdhury a five-time MP from the minority dominated district said. 'My question is why she did

not field Pathan from Gujarat from where he belongs or for that matter why he was not fielded from a place which he is better acquainted with ... why Behrampore ... is it because Mamata Banerjee wants to please Prime Minister Narendra Modi by fielding a candidate to divide the minor-

ity votes to help the BJP ... or is it simply because she wants to weaken the INDIA alliance itself," the PCC president said. Behrampore has 53 percent minority votes.

Pathan who immediately went to his constituency said he was a TMC worker and only wanted to win the elections in order to serve the people of the area. "I was contacted by the TMC leadership and have come to the area as its candidate and want to serve the people here," he said.

Another TMC candidate Kirti Azad a former cricketer and an ex-BJP leader said compared himself to a donkey or a horse of Mamata Banerjee.

Comparing the Chief Minister to Goddess Durga he said, Mamata Banerjee is the Mahishasurmardini and I consider myself as a donkey or a horse who will sun according to her wishes ... I have come here to serve the people of Durgapur and will do so if I win ... and I think I will hit such a six that the ball will land outside the stadium.

Bengal CM attacks Centre for CAA notification before polls

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday received the Centre's notification of the Citizenship Amendment Act with fury calling the exercise BJP's act of deceit and a publicity stunt just

before the general elections.
Holding a summary press conference juxtaposing the Central notification of the new Act,
Banerjee said that she had not seen the rules thus framed and would definitely protest if there was anything that hit the existing citizenship. Implementation of the CAA --

that aims to provide citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Christians from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan --- has been a longstanding demand of the Matuas a refugee community inhabiting a large part of Bengal bordering Bangladesh and having influence on at least five Lok Sabha constituencies and about 50 Assembly seats.

'I have not seen the rules ... first let me see them and then I will give my elaborate views from Habra where I will go to morrow," Banerjee said warning "If people are deprived of their

rights under the rules, then we will fight against it," Banerjee said adding it was all "an act of deceit and a publicity stunt of the BJP before the elections." She said also said that in any case she would "never allow NRC in Bengal." Wondering about the necessity of the CAA in India where the people who had properties or have already been taking part in the elections. "They are making fool of the people as they have failed to fulfill their promises in all other sectors they are hoodwinking the people by bringing this CAA and that too four years after it was passed in Parliament and just before the elections ... I don't understand where there is a need for the CAA for the people who already have prop-

Bengal would burn if the CAA rules would contain anything that would take away the people's citizenship or properties or any such facilities they enjoyed, she said. Mamata Banerjee's remarks came as the government notified the rules for the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

She also said that she would never allow NRC to be implemented. "They are trying to divide the people ... they are trying to prepare a ground to take away citizenship ... but we will not allow this ... we will resist their attempts to send people to detention camps ... we will not let NRC happen in Bengal," she said.

Meanwhile, people came out on the streets in celebration at Thakurnagar in Bongaon subdivision of North 24 Parganas where the headquarters of the Matua sub-religion lies.

"We are extremely happy and we thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his great act of giving us the citizenship that we have been demanding for a long time," locals said. Matuas an SC community had migrated from Bangladesh in various phases after alleged persecution.

Modi to launch sections of eastern, western freight corridors today

SAMAR PANDEY ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}_{\text{Modi is all set to inaugurate}}$ a major section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from New Khurja Junction to Sanehwal of 401 km long corridor and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor from New Makarpura Jn to New Gholvad section, spanning 244 km on Tuesday.

While the EDFC will bolster connectivity across key agricultural and industrial hubs in North India, spanning through 12 districts in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab, WDFC will connect five districts. Vadodara, Bharuch ,Surat, Navsari, and Valsad.

The EDFC for instance, with trains running at 100kmph, the time it takes to transport coal from Eastern India to regional power plants will be slashed from present 35 hours to less than 20 hours. In case of WDFC the freight trains will now be able to transport perishable goods such as milk, vegetables, fruits, and farm products in a marginal time. The corridor will not only reduce the risk of damages but also promise to bolster income for farmers and entrepreneurs

Sharing the details at a Press conference held at the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation Limited (DFC-CIL) headquarters on Monday, Shobhit Bhatnagar, Director of Operation & Business Development, DFCCIL said the corridor which will be commissioned by the PM will help mass fruit producer of Gujarat to export fruits to other areas and it will also help the coal supply of all Mahanadi coal fields, eastern coal fields and western coal fields, this coal is used for cooking pur-

Rahul yatra to culminate at historic Chaityabhoomi

TN RAGHUNATHA

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi will end his ongoing `Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' at the historic Chaityabhoomi at Dadar in north-central Mumbai, where late Dr B R Ambedkar was cremated a day after he passed away on Décember 6, 1956.

During the last leg of his 4,080-km 64-day Yatra, Gandhi will traverse through part of Maharashtra from March 12 to 17, before culminating his yatra at Chaityabhoomi.

The choice of Chaityabhoomi --- officially known as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan Memorial -as the culmination point for Gandhi's yatra should be seen in the light of the fact that the place is dedicated to the memory of late Dr Ambedkar. The place has a

are now on the 11th of

March. In the last 26 days,

what extent of matching has

been done by you? What

steps have you taken in the

last 26 days, the application is absolutely silent on that,"

He said an assistant general

affidavit in support of the

application for modification

on order of a constitution

"It is a serious matter when

you ask for modification of

an order of the constitution

When Salve said the bank cannot make a mistake in

this as it may get sued by the

donor, Justice Gavai observed, "Whatever you are

doing, you are doing under

the directions of the highest

court of the country. Where

is the question of you being

At the outset, Salve said the

bank had stopped the

issuance of electoral bonds

as per the court's February

In its application, the SBI had contended that the

retrieval of information

from "each silo" and the

procedure of matching the

information of one silo to

that of the other would be a

time-consuming exercise.

bench," the CJI said.

bench.

sued?"

15 direction.



bust of the leader and statue of Lord Gautam Buddha. Chaityabhoomi is located in the neighbourhood of the historic Shivaji Park, which had in the past been a venue for gatherings of freedom fighters in British India and which in the post indepen-dence period was the focal point of the Samyukta Maharashtra movement that led to the formation of the present Maharashtra state in 1960. Several top leaders of different political parties have addressed rallies and meetings from here.

After the culmination of the Yatra at Chaityabhoomi, leaders of the Opposition front I.N.D.I.A will kick-start their campaign for the Lok Sabha polls at a grand rally at the historic Shivaji Park. President

Mallikarjun Kharge, Gandhi and other Opposition leaders are expected to address the rally at Shivaji Park. It may be recalled that then

Congress President Sonia Gandhi had addressed a grand rally at Shivaji Park on Congress foundation day on December 28 2003 - marking the launch of the Congress 2004 Lok Sabha poll cam-paign after which the UPA headed by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh came to power in the country.

In fact, the Congress had announced the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on December 27, 2023, on the eve of the foundation day, when Gandhi and Kharge addressed a rally in

Dharavi redevelopment: Survey to collect residents data to begin small industries - leather Dharavi to support this exer-

erties and have been taking part

in elections ... it is all bunkum,"

TN RAGHUNATHA

In an effort to determine eli-gibility criteria for beneficiaries under the proposed Dharavi re-development project, the joint venture between the Maharashtra government and the Adani Group set up to implement the project will begin a survey to collect data from lakhs of informal tenement residents of Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, from March

Apart from providing data for taking the ambitious project forward, the joint venture M/s Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL) will create, for the first time ever,

a 'Digital Dharavi,' an advanced library of one of the world's largest informal settlements.

Dharavi, a densely populated slum located on an area measuring 210.43 hectares, is home to many flourishing processing, pottery, garment manufacturing, bidi and traditional packaged snacks, to name a few. Its current population ranges anywhere from 8 to 10 lakhs.

The survey will begin from Kamla Raman Nagar, with a unique number being given to each informal tenement.

This will be followed by laser mapping of the respective lane, known as 'Lidar Survey.' A trained team will visit every tenement with an indigenously developed application to scan documents.

Describing that the Dharavi re-redevelopment "is one of the largest urban rejuvenation projects in the world and is the first step to make Mumbai slum free", a DRPPL spokesperson said here on Monday: "It is the beginning of transforming Dharavi into a world-class township, a state-of-the-art city within Mumbai. We urge people of

cise, which will enable us to execute the rehabilitation process and ultimately provide them with their dream

As per the recent announcement by DRPPL,, the beneficiary families of Dharavi slum --- whose residential hutments existed before January 1, 2000, -- will get a 350 sq ft residential tenement each. "Recently, DRPPL announced that as per the DRP tender, all eligible and ineligible resident tenement holders will get a flat with an independent kitchen and toilet," a DRPPL

Also, eligible industrial and commercial units in redeveloped Dharavi will enjoy a five-year holiday in State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) payment to boost and help formalise their businesses; this is also as per the tender conditions," the spokesperson added.

spokesperson said.

SBI faces **SC** ire on

The bench was also hearing separate pleas seeking initiation of contempt action against the SBI for alleged willful disobedience of the apex court's February 15 directives.

It observed that SBI's submissions in sufficiently application indicated that the information which was directed to be disclosed by the court was readily available.

"In view of the above discussion, the miscellaneous application filed by SBI seeking an

extension of time for the disclosure of details of the purchase and redemption of electoral bonds until June 30, 2024, is dismissed," it "SBI is directed to disclose

the details by the close of business hours of March 12," the bench said, adding, "As regards the ECI, we direct that ECI shall compile the information and publish the details on its official website no later by 5 pm on March

The bench said the SBI chairman and managing director will file an affidavit on compliance with the directions issued by the top

During the hearing, the bench took note of the submissions of senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the SBI, that more time was needed for collating the details and matching them as the information was kept in two manager of SBI has filed an different silos with its branches.

He said if the matching exercise was to be done away with, the SBI could complete the exercise within three

"We had not told you to do the matching exercise. We have asked you for a plain disclosure," the CJI said. Salve said when electoral were

being purchased, the bank divided the information and the names were kept at one place while the purchaser record was at another place.

application, Justice Khanna said paragraph 10 of the plea specifically said all the purchaser details have been kept in a sealed cover in the main branch of the bank.

"You just have to simply open up the sealed cover and give the details," Justice Khanna said.

" Salve, our judgement is dated February 15, 2024. We

Dwarka...

The total length of Dwarka Expressway is 29 km being developed at an investment of Rs 9,000 crore.

Dwarka Expressway is India's first elevated 8-lane access control urban expressway which is part of the Rs 60,000 crore highway development plan in the NCR to decongest the national Capital.

The Harvana section of Dwarka Expressway includes two packages of 10.2-km Delhi-Haryana Border to Basai Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) and 8.7-km Basai ROB to Kherki Daula.

Highlighting that the country has moved from 11th position in 2014 to become the fifth largest economy now, Modi said the fast development infrastructure will help India soon become the third largest

economy in the world. Modi stressed that he wants everything on a large scale, with great speed to achieve the target of making India a developed nation by 2047.

"All of you know and understand me well. I cannot think small, nor do I dream small, nor do I make small resolutions. Whatever I want, I want it big! Whatever I want, I want it at a fast pace! By 2047, I want to see my

country as a 'Viksit Bharat," he said.

'The 21st Century India is India of big vision and big goals", the Prime Minister said, adding that the country cannot compromise on speed of development.

The Prime Minister noted that expressway projects would open opportunities for rural India and create numerous employment opportunities. Modi also asserted that his Government does not work with elections in mind and added that development work continues whether elections are being

"Earlier, infrastructure was announced to win the elections. Now, in elections, the focus is on the completion of infrastructure projects. This is the New India," he said.

held or not.

Modi also emphasised the link between infrastructure development and poverty alleviation, highlighting how improved roads and digital connectivity in rural areas create new opportunities for villagers.

He noted the emergence of new possibilities in rural India, driven by digital infrastructure and access to essential services like healthcare and education.

Leopards battling human...

This has left the spotted cats with fewer places to call home.

In rural areas, where subsistence farming and rearing mainstays, livelihood often leopards find themselves in direct competition with humans for resources.

Instances of leopards preying on domestic animals provoke retaliatory killings by enraged villagers seeking to protect their livelihoods, further escalating tensions and perpetuating a cycle of violence that further endangers these majestic predators. For instance, on February 13

in Udaipur, six persons were injured in a leopard attack in Antri forest area in Dungarpur. Irate villagers later surrounded the leopard and beat it to death with sticks and stones. The incident took place in Upala Ghara Nokna of the interior forest area. The leopard first attacked cattle tied outside the houses. Stalin Dayanand, director,

Vanashakti, a non-profit organisation, took exception that roads are being built right through leopard corridors without giving a thought. "Roads have come up cutting right through sanctuaries like Tansa, Tungareshwar or even the SGNP thus blocking seamless movement for the leopards. "How is a leopard to know if a structure suddenly turns up on his path that naturally and

instinctively leads it to the next forest? He will continue frequenting that area" he said matter-of-factly. The experts also found fault in policy related to the release of leopards after being caught in conflict. They cited various studies that show that they rarely stay at the site of release. In fact, according to

forests has enhanced the conflicts. "Leopards which had been cohabitating peacefully with villagers started attacking people when they were released far away from their territory," said Vidya Athreya, scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society-India (WCS-I).

them, the policy of trans-locating leopards to other

This was likely due to the stress they faced during capture, release in an unknown area. We also found many instances of translocated leopards homing back to where they were originally caught," she

Congress discriminates against Hindus, alleges Padmaja

Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of late Chief Minister of Kerala and Congress strongman K Karunakaran made a startling disclosure on Monday against the leadership of the Grand Old Party that it was discriminating against Sanatana Dharma.

"I was asked not to wear sandal paste on the forehead. It is a custom and tradition dating back to thousands of years among the Hindus and I was forced not to wear the same for reasons known only to the Congress leadership," Padmaja told reporters at Thrissur on

She had left the Congress and joined the BJP last week which caused a mini political earthquake in the State. Padmaja was in Thrissur for campaigning for the BJP candidate Suresh Gopi, the film actorturned-politician.

Thrissur is the hometown of Padmaja and Karunakaran has built a house "Murali Mandiram" in the city suburb where her parents have their final resting place.

remain the same. Batting for

Centre implements Citizenship Act... From Page 1

In the last two years, over 30 district magistrates and Home Secretaries in nine States have been given powers to grant citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists,

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2021-22, from April 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, a total of 1,414 foreigners belonging to 1,414 foreigners belonging to these non-Muslim minority communities from the three countries were given Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Jains, Parsis and Christians coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan naturalisation is given under the Citizenship Act, 1955 to non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra. Authorities of none of the districts of Assam and West Bengal, where the issue is politically very sensitive, have been given the powers

Delhi BJP vice president Kapil Mishra, who was at the centre of a pro-CAA stir in Delhi in 2020, welcomed the implementation of the CAA saying the whole country, especially the national Capital, paid a big price during protests against the law. Mishra's February 2020 speech at Jafrabad against the anti- CAA protests was alleged to have led to riots that claimed over 50 lives, injured hundreds and caused massive loss of property in north East Delhi

the announcement is yet another attempt to "manage the headlines" after the Supreme Court's strictures on the electoral bonds issue. "Let me be very clear that we will oppose anything that discriminates against people. Let them bring out the rules, then we will speak on the issue after going through the rules," Mamata said at a hurried Press conference. Kerala CM Mamata too said she would described CAA oppose the CAA as it communally divisive law and

Congress chief spokesman discriminates against groups Jairam Ramesh alleged that of people. Stating that the of people. Stating that the CAA and the NRC are sensitive to West Bengal and the Northeast, Mamata said she doesn't want unrest before the Lok Sabha elections. While AIMIM president

Asaduddin Owaisi said the Act is divisive and based on Godse's thought that 'wanted to reduce Muslims to second-class citizens", Vijayan

asserted that it will not be implemented in the State. Owaisi alleged along with NPR-NRC, CAA is meant to only target Muslims and it serves no other purpose. "Understand the chronology. First the election season will come, next will be the CAA

rules," he said. "Indians who came out on the streets to oppose CAA NPR NRC will have no choice but to oppose it again," Owaisi said in a social media post while stating that his objections to CAA

asylum for "anyone who is persecuted," the Hyderabad MP said citizenship must not be based on religion or nationality. Samajwadi Party chief

Akhilesh Yadav attacked the Centre terming CAA notification as BJPs' game of distraction. He also said the BJP Government at the Centre should also explain why lakhs of citizens gave up their citizenship of the country during their 10-year

Security tightened across city as Centre notifies CAA

Security has been beefed up in northeast Delhi, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia and other sensitive areas across the national capi-tal following the notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) on Monday, offi-cials said cials said.

Police personnel and para-military forces have also been deployed in some parts, with flag march being conducted in parts of northeast and south east Delhi, they said.

Delhi witnessed communal riots in 2020 over the CAA and NRC (National Register of Citizens). "Safety of every single common man of Delhi's northeast district is our responsibility," DCP northeast Joy Tirkey told PTI.

He further said that intensive patrolling and checking is being carried out by northeast district police personnel and paramilitary forces for the safety of citizens in sensitive areas.



Everyone is requested to follow the safety instructions, the offi-

"We have intensified night vigil along with paramilitary forces. No one will be allowed to breach the law and order situation. We took out flag marches for the safety of every single common," the DCP said.

The rules for implementation of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 were notified on Monday, paving the way for granting of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

With the CAA rules being issued, the Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis Buddhists,

Commuters face traffic snarls

Traffic movement was affected in southwest Delhi on Monday as commuters faced congestion due to the inauguration of the Haryana section of the Dwarka Expressway. Several commuters took to microblog-ging platform X to share their ordeal. The traffic was heavy at Mahipalpur, one of them wrote

Another mentioned that the traffic was very heavy on the Dabri Dwarka Road. An X user said there was huge jam on the toll road towards Gurugram from Delhi and that traffic was halted from Subroto Park to Gurgaon

Some others travelled by metro to travel to Delhi from Gurugram after coming to know about the traffic congestion. Vistara and SpiceJet airlines also cautioned the customers about the traffic jams. "Heavy traffic congestion and slow vehicle movement are expected enroute to Delhi Airport today, March 11th. Customers are advised to allow more time for their journey to the airport," Vistara wrote on its



'Traffic congestion and slow vehicle movement is expected on NH-48 due to VIP movement. Passengers travelling to Delhi Airport are requested to keep a tab on live traffic and allow sufficient time for the journey." The traffic was also heavy at several other places of the national capital, including Naraina Vihar and Azadpur. Police on Sunday had said the traffic movement will be regu-

for inauguration of the Dwarka Expressway. The advisory had urged com-

lated in many areas of Dwarka

Chowk, Sector 8-9 crossing, Carmel Chowk Sector-20, Janki Chowk near Sector-23 police station and Pochanpur flyover Sector-23 Chowk.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Haryana section of the landmark Dwarka Expressway, which will improve traffic flow and ease congestion between Delhi and Gurugram on NH-

The total length of Dwarka Expressway is 29 km, out of which 18.9 km falls in Haryana, while the remaining 10.1 km is

DJB to issue guidelines on management of borewells after Keshopur death

The Delhi Jal Board will issue guidelines on management of borewells including sealing them better to avoid incidents like the recent case in which a man died after falling into one in Keshopur Mandi,

sources said on Monday. Though it had been stated that the borewell, in which the 30year-old man fell, was abandoned, sources said it was secured and locked.

To avoid such incidents, all borewells are being inspected by teams of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), they said.

The body of the man was pulled out of the 40-foot-deep borewell of the DJB sewage treatment plant in Keshopur Mandi after a nearly 12-hourlong operation on Sunday.

'The borewell was well secured and it was locked as well. To avoid such incidents in the future, all other borewells are being inspected. Some guidelines will be issued to those



Some of those guidelines are in place, but fresh ones will be issued to manage and seal these borewells better," a source in the DJB told PTI.

Police have registered an FIR against an unidentified person in connection with the death of the man who is yet to be iden-"An FIR under section Indian

Penal Code section 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered at the Vikaspuri police station. Further investigation will be taken up," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West)

Major projects to improve quality 41 per cent gig workers face of roads in Capital approved

Delhi PWD Minister Atishi has approved the strength-ening and upgradation of Ring Road from Nigam Bodh Ghat to Chandgi Ram Akhara signal to ensure smooth traffic movement, an official statement said

Public Works Department, according to the statement, is working on a mission mode.

Under the recently approved projects, strengthening work of Ring Road between Nigam Bodh Ghat to Chandgi Ram Akhara red light will be carried out, it said.

Atishi, who had recently given her approval to several major projects to improve quality of roads, said, "We aim to create roads that reflect the beauty of Delhi while ensuring the safety of all commuters. We are working on a mission mode to



bring about significant improvements in the road infrastructure, making it more resilient and visually appeal-

"These projects are a testament to our commitment to provid-ing a world-class road infrastructure for the citizens of Delhi. The Ring Road strength-

ening work is a crucial step in our mission to create roads that are not only smooth but also safe for everyone. The strengthening of these roads will positively impact lakhs of commuters, alleviating congestion and enhancing connectivity,"

she added. These roads were originally constructed and upgraded long ago, leading to their gradual deterioration. The PWD has conducted a thorough assess-ment of the roads with the assistance of experts and has been instructed to initiate the upgrading process, the minister said. She also stressed the importance of ensuring minimal disruption to the commuters during the construction phase, with a directive to adhere to global standards for high-quality roads.

Atishi said the government under Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's leadership is working on "mission mode" to improve the roads of Delhi.

The minister has approved the strengthening project for the road from Nigam Bodh Ghat to Chandgi Ram Akhada Red Light along with the PVC Market Road to Rohtak Road stretch in west Delhi, the statement added

Setback to

violence at work, says survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 47 per cent cab drivers and 41.5 per cent delivery persons face some form of violence at work with a majority of the latter demanding the 10 minutes delivery policy be discontinued, a survey report has revealed.

Several companies offer discount and provide the order for free if the delivery is not made within 10 minutes of placing the order.

In an incident in October last year, a pizza delivery man in Pune, Maharashtra, was assaulted and threatened by firing in the air by an angry customer due to late arrival of the

pizza at his doorstep.
"According to the data, 41.5 per cent of the delivery persons reported that they have faced some kind of violence at work. 64 per cent do not get support from companies when faced



vith violence," the findings of the survey report claimed. According to the survey by a Delhi-based NGO, PAIGAM, 41.5 per cent of the delivery persons reported that they have faced violence at work. Akriti Bhatia, a research director, said, "Gig and app-based workers should be treated as employees and the companies

should ensure that drivers get a minimum wage. Chief Coordinator Deepak Indolia said, "In most residential apartments, the workers and delivery personnel are not allowed to use elevators used by the residents. The same applies to the entry gate as well. He added that such behaviour

should be acknowledged. The report recommends mandatory registration for all app-based delivery persons in government records, emphasizing the need to stop dis-

crimination against delivery

understanding and allow them to use residential elevators. The survey studied responses

persons in public spaces, revisit terminology for a broader

from a sample size of more than 10,000 gig and app-based drivers (5308) and delivery workers (5028) between April 2022 and 2023 across eight states, including Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Indore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Bangalore.

The survey highlights the challenges faced by app-based drivers and gig workers, who are grappling with lack of employment benefits, job insecurity, legal protection concerns, income instability, violence and discrimination.

As per the survey, 72 per cent of the gig workers find it difficult to manage their expenses with a substantial percentage earning below Rs 15,000 per

Five held for involvement in fake visa scam

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested five members of a gang for their alleged involvement in a fake visa scam and recovered 235 visa papers from their possession, officials on Monday said. Three people have been arrested from Punjab and two from Delhi, they said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Suraj Bahri (49), Ashwani Kumar (30), Jaswinder Singh (40), Manish Sharma (51), and Jitender Kumar (38), police said, adding Rs 8.5 lakh have been recovered from their posses-

"One Kulwinder Singh had field a complaint at Connaught Place police station and claimed that he met some persons at a mall in Chandigarh on January 20," Deputy Commissioner Police (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar Mahla said.

The DCP said that the alleged person promised Singh a 9.30 lakh from him in Chandigarh on the pretext of 'documentation and formali-

"The total agreed-upon amount was Rs 18 lakh, with the remaining balance due after the visa was secured. Later, Kulwinder Singh got a call that his visa and plane tickets were ready and instructed him to come to Mahipalpur in Delhi to receive visa and ticket, and to pay the remaining Rs 9 lakh," he

added. The officer said that on February 24, they directed him to reach Connaught Place, where he paid the remaining amount and an additional Rs 1.25 lakh for Canadian dollars. "The accused asked Kulwinder to meet them near Dr RML Hospital gate in 20 minutes, where they would hand over the passport, tickets and Canadian dollars. However, upon reaching the location, Kulwinder found their phones switched off following which

cheated. An FIR was registered and an investigation was taken up," the DCP said.

A police team formed to investigate the matter identified two suspects and traced their location to Jalandhar in Punjab.

Three accused identified as Suraj, Ashwani and Jaswinder were arrested from Jalandhar and they admitted to their involvement in the scam, police said. The police recovered Rs 8.5

lakh in cash, mobile phones, electronic devices like laptops and printers, and forged stamps from their possession. "Further investigation revealed that Suraj Bahri identified Manish Sharma in Delhi as the source of the fake visa.

Based on this information police arrested Sharma. During questioning, Sharma, implicated Jitender Kumar, who provided him with the forged visas near Vikaspuri Metro Station. Kumar arranged visa papers, he was arrested too," said the DCP.

AAP MLA Amanatullah PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Disapproving repeated evainvestigating agencies by public persons, Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant anticipatory bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a money-laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the Waqf Board during his chairmanship.
Noting that the Okhla MLA

did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) despite six summonses, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said legislators should know that disobeying the law will lead to legal consequences as all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law and an "MLA or a public figure is not above the

law of the land". "This court wonders whether a person's plea of being busy with personal or official work can be a valid ground on several occasions to avoid summons on the ground that he is a public person. The answer in this court's opinion has to be in the negative," the court said in its order.

"The applicant, despite being summoned on six occasions till date, has not joined (the) investigation and cooperated with the investigating agency. Though a list of documents was also supplied by the agency to the applicant..," it

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

thak' gang were arrested here

after a gunfight with Noida

Police at a checkpoint here in

the early hours of Monday,

officials said. One of the

accused suffered injuries in

the retaliatory firing, they

Shah slams AAP, Congress alliance for LS polls in Delhi

Tnion Home Minister Amit Shah slammed the AAP-Congress alliance in Delhi for the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will return to power with 400-plus seats.

Accompanied by Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena and Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri, Shah launched piped natural gas supply in 41 villages and developmental works in 178 villages of the national capital under Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan. "Whether you have alliance with the

Congress or even merge with it, nothing is going to happen because zero plus zero remains zero," Shah said, referring to the tie-up between the two parties in Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana. He also slammed Kejriwal, alleging that he rose

to power by fighting against corruption and scam of the Congress but is now having alliance with the party. "There are two types of people in politics -- one those who deliver on what they say and the oth-

ers who do the opposite. Both types of people are present in Delhi. One is Narendra Modi and the other is Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who has not done anything that he said," the Union home minister said. He attacked Kejriwal over the AAP tying up with the Congress for the Lok Sabha polls and said

their alliance will not succeed. "You sat on the lap of the Congress, the very

same party that you accused of corruption. You are acknowledging the corruption of the Congress. You can keep on forming alliances but Prime Minister Modi will return to power with over 400 seats," Shah asserted. Shah also hit out at Kejriwal accusing him of

being involved in a "series of scams". He said Prime Minister Modi started a new cul-



mented all the promises made with people. "Prime Minister Modi gave LPG cylinders to 13 crore mothers of the country, provided piped gas to the homes of one crore people, tap water to 14 crore homes, built 14 crore toilets, more than three crore houses and provided five kg free food grains per person per month to 60 crore peo-

Modi has worked to fulfil the dreams of the people of the country and earned their trust, he said. Whether it is the abolition of instant triple talaq or implementing CAA, Modi has created an atmosphere of new zeal, optimism and enthusiasm in the country by fulfilling every promise and that is why the entire country is moving forward today with new confidence to become fully developed and self-reliant by 2047, Shah said in a statement.

He said it is a big day for rural Delhi that 41 villages are being provided piped natural gas facility and various development works in 178 villages with a fund of Rs 383 crore under Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan has started.

Five sharpshooters planning to kill rival gang member held

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrest-**⊥** ed five sharpshooters of the Kala Jathedi-Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate and claimed to have foiled a plan to kill a rival gang member, officials

Police said they also recovered sophisticated imported weapons from them.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Manoj C said they received a tip-off on March 7 that some members of the Kala Jathedi-Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate would come near a DDA Park in Dwarka sector 16 with illegal weapons

He said the police laid a trap and nabbed Rahul, Parveen, Rohtash, Mohan and Sachin, all residents of Haryana.

Rahul said during interrogation that he runs wine shops in partnership with gangsters Kala Jathedi and Anil Chippi and they had some financia dispute with a person named Ajay, a resident of Basantpur Village in Rohtak, according to the officer.

"Ajay was supported by one Aman, a resident of village Bhainswal, Sonepat, Haryana. Aman is also involved in crime and he is associated with fugitive gangster Himanshu. Last year, Rahul had opened fire outside the residence of Ajay and he was arrested by Haryana police in the case," said the DCP.

After four years gap, JNU to hold students union polls on March 22

he realised that he had been

(JNU) has said the students' union elections will be held on March 22 and the results will be declared on March 24. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections were last held in 2019. According to the schedule released by JNU's Election Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the polls, the tentative voter list will be displayed on Monday and will be open for correction till Tuesday. Students can file their nominations from March 14 and the

Tawaharlal Nehru University



displayed on March 16, an official notice stated.

A University Governing Body Meeting (UGBM) will be held on March 20, followed by the presidential debate wherein the students. Voting will be held on March 22. The counting of votes will take place on March 24, following which the results will be declared, according to Two Delhi-based members of the notorious 'thak-

The duo were allegedly behind the March 9 incident when window panes of five cars were found broken and valuables stolen from them near Amrapali Zodiac society in Sector 120 here under Sector 113 Police Station limits, the officials said. "In the early hours today, an

Additional DCP (Noida) Manish Mishra said.

"Our team was on checking duty when the two criminals were seen coming towards them. When gestured to stop for enquiry, the duo opened

Two members of notorious thak thak gang arrested

fire on the police team," Mishra said. encounter took place between the Sector 113 police station team and members of the inter-state 'thak-thak' gang," One of the criminals -- Aman (28), a resident of Madangir

area in Delhi -- got injured in the retaliatory firing, the DCP said, adding that the other accused has been identified as Abhishek (28), also from the same area. "Both are members of the inter-state 'thak-thak'

gang," the officer said. The DCP said the police have recovered from the duo two stolen laptops, a motorcycle that was stolen from Delhi and a country-made pistol.

"Two days ago, the accused had decamped with valuables from parked cars in Noida after breaking their window

My third term will write new chapter on rise of women power: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday cited a host of women-centric schemes of his Government to assert that only a society which boosts women's standing and creates opportunities for them can advance.

He made these observations here while participating in the 'Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat' programme and witnessed agricultural drone demonstrations conducted by Namo Drone Didis at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute,

The Namo Drone Didi and Lakhpati Didi initiatives are integral to the Prime Minister's vision of fostering economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women,

His third term will write a new chapter in the rise of women power, Modi said exuding confidence of retaining power in the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-

In a swipe at previous govern-ments, he said women's lives and hardships were not a priority for them while the BJP dispensation has come out with different initiatives to help them at every stage of life. Modi said he is the first prime minister who spoke of a host of issues related to women, including lack of toilets, use of sanitary pads, adverse effects of smoke-causing kitchen fuels like wood and coal, and the need for bank accounts from the ramparts of the Red Fort, a reference to his Independence

He said political parties like the



insulted him for this. He asserted that what he saw at his shaped his sensibilities and schemes for women. Over Rs 8 lakh crore has been

disbursed among women

schemes, Modi said. Over 1 crore women have become 'Lakhpati Didis' so far, he said.

them a help to others. Those politicians who are only concerned about their families can never understand this, he

At the 'Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat' programme, Modi dis-bursed around Rs 8,000 crore as bank loans to self-help groups (SHGs). He interacted with women

beneficiaries from different parts of the country, enquired about various aspects of their work and lauded their hard work and determination. Modi also felicitated 'Lakhpati

Didis', who have achieved success with the support of the 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission' and are supporting the upliftment of other self-help

During the event, he handed

Drone Didis', women chosen to operate drones for agriculture and related purposes.

He also disbursed about Rs 2,000 crore Capitalisation Support Fund to SHGs. The 'Namo Drone Didi' and

'Lakhpati Didi' initiatives are integral to the prime minister's vision of fostering economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas, the Prime Minister's Office had said earlier in a statement. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh said the Narendra Modi government's focus is on empowering women in different ways and the over 10 crore women associated with self-help groups are the face of 'Aatmanirbhar

At the 'Sashakt Nari-Viksit

Bharat' programme, Singh said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, work was being done for the economic independence of women at such a large scale for the first

"There are 20 crore rural households in the country. We have reached out to 10 crore women who are now linked with self-help groups... Ten crore women have been empowered, he said, adding, "Aatmanirbhar Mahila (self-reliant women) will be the real face of Aatmanirbhar Bharat." Singh also mentioned schemes such as Ujjwala, Swachch Bharat, PM Poshan, Jal Jeevan, Mudra Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and PM Awas Yojana, among others to highlight the works done by the BJP dispensation for the welfare of the

Ensure intimidation free polls: EC to observers

The Election Commission on Monday asked its observers to ensure polls free of coercion and intimidation and pushed for judicious use of central and state forces keeping in mind that their deployment should not favour any particu-

Addressing a meeting of more than 2,100 general, police and expenditure observers here ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections and some state assembly polls, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar directed them to ensure a level-playing field for free and fair elections. The polls should be free of intimidation and inducement, he said. The CEC reminded them that as observers, they represent the commission, and are expected to conduct themselves professionally and be accessible to all stakeholders, including candi-

The observers were instructed to be tough but polite in their conduct on the field, the Election Commission (EC) said in a statement.

The observers were also asked to be confined physically with-

in the boundaries of a parliamentary constituency they are allotted during the entire electoral process. GPS tracking has been proposed to be fitted in their vehicles, it said.

They were also told to always remain available on their phones and e-mails, and respond to the calls of candidates, parties, voters and polling personnel. "Any complaints in this regard shall be viewed seriously by the commission," it

The observers need to come out of their comfort zones during the entire election process, the statement said.

During the day-long briefing sessions, the officers were given comprehensive and thorough inputs about the various aspects of election management by the senior deputy election commissioner, deputy election commissioners and others.

Observers are tasked with ensuring a free and fair electoral process. They are deployed in poll-bound areas ahead of announcement of elections and work as the eyes and ears of the poll authority in states.

More than 2,150 senior officers drawn from the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service as well as officers from the Indian Revenue Service and few other central services attended the briefing meeting which was organised in a hybrid mode. Around 900 general observers, 450 police observers and 800 expenditure observers are being deployed for the forthcoming

Congress slams BJP over its MP remark

The Congress on Monday slammed the BJP over its MP Anantkumar Hegde's remarks about amending the Constitution, alleging that the Constitution is inconvenient for the BJP's "autocratic plans" and that is why it's aiming for 400-plus seats to "officially convert India into a dictator-Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the BJP over

about amending the Constitution, alleging that the ruling party is against social justice and secularism enshrined in the Constitution. BJP though has dubbed Hegde's remarks "personal opinion" and sought a clarification from him. The Karnataka unit of the BJP said, "MP Ananthkumar Hegde's remarks on the Constitution are his personal views and do not reflect the party's stance. BJP reaffirms our unwavering commitment to uphold the nation's Constitution and will ask for an explanation from Hegde regarding his comments." Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters,

amending the Constitution. He claimed that on one hand Prime Minister Narendra Modi states that the Constitution will not be changed and on the other hand, he makes his people say that they need twothirds majority to amend it. This statement has been made not by any fringe element but a BJP MP, Kharge said.

Kharge said the BJP aims to get

a massive mandate only for

"They (BJP) are against social justice and secularism enshrined in the Constitution. This is not a good mindset, this will create upheaval in country if you want to change the Constitution," Kharge said, hitting out at the BJP. That is why PM Modi says 400-plus seats for the NDA as they want to amend the Constitution, Kharge claimed. Congress general secretary,

organisation, K C Venugopal also alleged that the BJP has a "forked tongue" with which it conveys two messages -- one for public decorum and the other its "Mann Ki Baat". Former Home Minister P

Chidambaram claimed that if the Constitution is amended according to the BJP-RSS agenda, it will be the end of parliamentary democracy, federal ism, rights of the minorities, and English being one of the two official languages.

The BJP's intention to amend the Constitution was never a secret. Dozens of BJP leaders in private conversations have said that India must be a Hindu Rashtra, that Hindi must be the sole official language of India and the central government must be strong and prevail over the state governments," Chidambaram said.

SC to examine HC ruling that downloading, watching child porn not offence under POCSO IT laws

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Terming as "atrocious", the Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea challenging a Madras High Court ruling which said that mere downloading and watching child perpography is not ing child pornography is not an offence under the POCSO Act and the Information

Technology law. The high court had, on January 11, quashed the criminal proceedings against a 28year-old man charged with downloading on his mobile phone pornographic content involving children.

The present-day children are grappling with the serious issue of watching porn and instead of punishing them, the society must be "mature enough" to educate them, it had also said.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for two petitioner organisations, that the high court judgement was contrary to the laws. "This (the high court judge-

ment) is atrocious. How can

A senior lawyer appeared for two petitioner organisations - 'Just Rights for Children Alliance' of Faridabad and New Delhi-based 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan'. The NGOs

weeks," the CJI said.

the single judge say this? Issue notice returnable in three

The top court also sought the response of S Harish, a resident of Chennai and the two police officers concerned of

work for the welfare of chil-

Tamil Nadu. The high court had quashed the criminal case against Harish under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 the Information

Technology Act, 2000. "In order to constitute an offence under Section 67-B of Information Technology Act, 2000, the accused person must have published, transmitted, created material depicting children in a sexually explicit act or conduct. A careful reading of this provision does not make watching child pornography, per se, an offence under Section 67-B of Information

Technology Act, 2000," the

Opposition takes swipe at Centre after SC ruling on electoral bonds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday came down heavily on the BJP-led Centre after the Supreme Court directive on Electoral Bonds with the Congress taking a swipe that the government which came to power on the promise of bringing black money back from Swiss banks in 100 days did whatever it could to hide the data of its own bank from the apex Court.

Congress hailed the dismissal of SBI's plea in the electoral bonds issue, while the Left parties too welcomed the Court's decision and said it was a major step towards ensuring transparency in electoral funding. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav expressed delight over the Supreme Court's decision rejecting the SBI's plea seeking extension of time to furnish the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission.

Congress also said that the apex court has once again come to protect democracy from the "devious machinations" of the current regime and that its decision is a victory for ensuring a level-playing field. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that after the SBI asked for four-and-a-half months to publish the electoral bond details, it became clear that the Modi government was making every possible effort to cover up its dark deeds.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi too attacked the government over the electoral bonds issue, saying, "Narendra Modi's 'donation business' is about to be exposed!" The government which came to power by promising to bring back black money from Swiss banks in 100 days "apne hi bank ka data chhipaane ke liye Supreme Court mein sir ke bal khadi ho



the Modi government. "Electoral Bonds will prove to be the biggest scam in Indian

history and will reveal the real face of Narendra Modi in front of the country by exposing the nexus between corrupt industrialists and the government," he said in a post in Hindi on 'X'. 'The chronology is clear donate-take business; donatetake protection," Gandhi added. He alleged that the Modi gov ernment showered blessings on those who donated and

imposed tax burdens on the

general public. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the top court's order "is a tight slap" on the SBI for defying its earlier judgment. "This was a selfinflicted stain. The order of the Supreme Court today gives an opportunity to SBI to wipe the stain and redeem itself. I am sorry for the Chairman of SBI and the fine band of officers that they placed themselves in this situation," Chidambaram

Speaking to reporters after the Supreme Court ordered SBI to disclose the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission by the close of business hours on March 12, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury said it is an important step towards stopping the "legalisation of corruption".

said in a post on 'X'.

"This SC judgment is a big step forward in ensuring transparency in political funding and particularly electoral funding. That transparency should have never been violated in the first place," he said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In a significant step towards Laccurately detecting sleepdeprived drivers, scientists from Monash University in Australia and the University of Birmingham in the UK have developed a new blood test that could potentially prevent road accidents in the future.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, shows that the biomarker used in the test accurately predicted when the study volunteers had been awake for over 24 hours under controlled laboratory conditions. Future work could examine whether these biomarkers are evident in saliva or breath and lead to a roadside

New blood test could identify sleep deprived drivers hours with a 99.2 per cent probability of being correct when compared to well-rested samples, the researchers said. When a single sample was considered without the wellrested comparison (similar to a diagnostic blood test), it dropped to 89.1 per cent, which was still very high, they said. With about 20 per cent of road accidents worldwide caused by sleep deprivation, researchers hope the discovery may inform future tests to quickly and simply identify sleep-deprived drivers.

The biomarker could also be developed for other situations where sleep deprivation may lead to catastrophic consequences, such as in safety-crit-



ical workplaces. 'This is a really exciting discovery for sleep scientists, and could be transformative to the future management of health and safety relating to insufficient sleep," said study senior author Clare Anderson who led the research while she was with Monash University.

"While more work is required, this is a promising first step," said Anderson, Professor at the University of Birmingham. The researchers noted that there is strong evidence that less than five hours of sleep is associated with unsafe driving. However, driving after being awake for 24 hours is at least

ustralian legal IIm alcohol performance-wise, they

The test may be also ideal for future forensic use but further validation is required.

Study first author Katy Jeppe, from Monash University, said it was difficult to say how soon the test could be developed for post-accident use.

Next steps would be to test it in a less controlled environment and maybe under forensic conditions, particularly if it was to be used as evidence for crashes involving drivers falling

asleep," Jeppe said.
"Given it is blood, the test is more limited in a roadside context, but future work could examine whether our metabolites, and therefore the bioThis sleep deprivation biomarker is based on 24 hours or more awake but can detect down to 18 hours awake. A biomarker for limited sleep over the previous night could be developed but more research is required to combine the time since sleep with the amount of sleep in the predictions.

"Much further work would be needed if laws were to change and a sleep deprivation test introduced on the road or in workplaces," Jeppe said.

'This would include further validation of biomarkers, as well as establishing safe levels of sleep to prevent and recover from impairment, not to mention the extensive legal process," he added.

Survey planned to find out women participation in renewable energy sector

levels in the sector and the

ongoing primary survey is being

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

s India aims to transition A towards a greener economy, pledging to enhance non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030, the Government is working on a plan to green skill women in a big way to help it achieve its goal for which it has embarked upon a nationwide survey focused on assessing female's participation in the renewable energy sector.

This survey aims to gather data on women's involvement in various aspects of renewable energy, including employment, entrepreneurship, and leader-ship roles, since they are the one who are majorly impacted due to such moves necessitated by the growing climate change threats, as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Union New and Renewable Energy Secretary, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla added, "There is requirement of gender-specific employment data at various

led by the Ministry, in association with Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), on job opportunities and representation of women in the renewable energy workforce." According to 'India's Expanding Clean Energy Workforce' report by NRDC and CEEW, and Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ), India's renewable energy sector could potentially employ around one million people by 2030, which would be ten times more than the existing workforce of an estimated 1.1 lakh (110,000) employed by the sector.

It highlighted that most of the new jobs would be generated by small-scale renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar and mini and micro-grid systems compared to utility or large-scale projects like solar parks. The Union Secretary also emphasized the requirement for skilled workforce at various levels for effective implementation of the programmes and schemes of the Government and in achieving the targeted capacities and opportunities available, for women to assume a larger role in the renewable energy sector. Speaking at an event 'Women in Renewable Energy: Inspiring Gender Inclusion through Skill Development and Targeted Policies for Green Jobs' held recently in the national capital, he said that a large number of people have started registering on the national portal to participate in the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana scheme recently announced by Prime Minister . Narendra Modi. Through a video message, Union Minister for Power and

Renewable Energy RK Singh reiterated the Government's commitment to designing women-centric policies and initiatives for enhancing women's livelihoods, improving health, and building community

India carries out first flight test of Agni 5 under Mission Divyastra PIONEER NEWS SERVICE COUNTRY. The missile care

▼ndia on Monday successful-**L**ly conducted the first flight test of the indigenously designed Agni-5 missile capable of deploying multiple warheads. The nuclear-capable missile named 'Divyastra' can hit targets at range of more than 5,000 kms including China. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)scientists for the feat.

"Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology," Modi said

on 'X'. The mission was headed by a woman scientist. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also congratulated DRDO scientists on the successful test of Mission Divyastra.

With the latest achievement

ensuring that a single intercontinental

missile(ICBM)can deploy multiple warheads at different locations, India has joined the select group of nations having MIRV capability. The other nations include US, Russia and China.

The weapon system is equipped with indigenous avionics systems and highaccuracy sensor packages which ensured that the reentry vehicles reached the target points within the desired accuracy.

The capability is an enunciator of India's growing technologi-cal prowess. The Agni-5, with a range of 5000 km, is developed considering the longterm security needs of the country. The missile can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range. The Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and have already been deployed. India in 2022 had conducted a successful night time flight

test of surface to surface Agni-

5. The nuclear capable missile which uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine, has been developed by the Defence Research and Development organisation (DRDO) and operated by the Strategic Forces Command(SFC). It is a key triservices formation that manages and administers all the strategic assets and falls under purview of the Nuclear Command Authority of India. The test was carried out primarily to validate various new technologies onboard the missile which can strike targets at ranges of around 5,000 to 5,500 kilometers with a very high degree of accuracy.

BJP leaders meet Naidu, Kalyan to finalise NDA candidates



Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Chief N Chandrababu Naidu with Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan and others during the announcement of their first joint list of 118 seats for the forthcoming Assembly polls

PTI AMARAVATI (ANDHRA

enior BIP leaders including Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat went into a huddle with TDP supremo N Ñaidu and Chandrababu Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan on Monday to finalise NDA candidates in Andhra Pradesh the upcoming Parliamentary and Assembly

elections Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and party national vicepresident Baijayant Jay Panda met Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan to discuss the selection of the alliance's candidates, TDP sources said. 'The number will remain the same but they are working on constituencies.

Parliamentary seats for the highlighted BJP...They will finalise what opposition proposition propositi the constituencies are and who might be the probable candidates, the sources told PTI. He said the BJP leaders will take forward the issue with the central leadership in Delhi ahead of a crucial election meeting on Tuesday to zero in on the candidates. The sources further said the

BJP is expected to contest six Assembly seats and an equal number of Lok Sabha constituencies while the Janasena will fight it out in 24 Assembly segments and two Lok Sabha constituencies while the remaining 145 Assembly and 17 Lok Sabha seats will go to the TDP. Andhra Pradesh has 175 Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha

Moreover, the

opposition party had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend an election meeting which could take place between March 17 and

'We have invited Modi for the meeting, mostly he will come for the meeting, date is not yet finalised. We proposed March 17 but a day here and there, mostly Modi will be there. Between March 17 and 20 it will happen. That will be a good way to kick off the campaign. Modi, Naidu, Pawan, all together, the sources added.

TDP Another emphasised that if Modi participates in this meeting, it could be the first time in a decade that Modi, Naidu and Kalyan would be sharing the entering the poll fray and the latter having responsibility of Chhattisgarh as AICC general secretary, the sources added. Congress' Central

Congress finalises about 40

more candidates for LS polls

Election Committee (CEC), chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, met at the party headquarters to finalise candidates, days after the party released its first list of 39 candidates for the polls. Among the seats that were discussed at the meeting included 14 each from Rajasthan, Assam Gujarat, 16 from Madhya Pradesh and five from Uttarakhand, besides one from Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

For Rajasthan, about 10 candidates were finalised, including Rahul Kaswan, who

Churu; Vaibhav Gehlot from Jalore and Harish Meena from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur. Discussions were first taken

up at the CEC meeting for the Uttarakhand parliamentary constituencies. Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi Ambika Soni, T S Singhdeo, P L Punia and Mohammad Jawaid, among others, attended the CEC. Though Rahul Gandhi was in Delhi, he did not attend the meet. In its first list of 39 candidates announced on Friday, Rahul Gandhi's name figured as a candidate from Kerala's Wayanad again.

At the meeting on Monday, Congress general secretary incharge of Uttarakhand Kumari Selja along with senior leaders quit the BJP to join the from the hill state also

for selecting candidates for the five seats in the state.

During discussions Rajasthan, Congress' state unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra, AICC in-charge of state Sukhjinder Randhawa and Working Congress Committee (CWC) member Pilot were present. AICC's Madhya Pradesh in-

charge Jitendra Singh and state unit chief Jitu Patwari among others, participated discussions. At the last CEC Thursday, meet on discussions were held on Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka,

Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and

Chouhan hails Modi for announcing CAA implementation

PTI BHOPAL

 ${
m F}$ ormer Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed the notification of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee means 'guarantee of fulfilment of every guarantee'.

The Centre on Monday announced the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, a move that comes four years after the contentious law was passed and paves the way for citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. With this, the Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries. 'The guarantee of Modi ji means the guarantee of fulfilment of every guarantee,' Chouhan said on social media platform X. The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it, with many opposition parties speaking out against the law calling it 'discriminatory'. The law could not come into effect as rules

TMC to announce candidates from Tura, Assam seats soon

 $T^{he\ Trinamool\ Congress\ is}_{likely\ to\ announce\ its}$ candidate from the Tura Lok Sabha seat in Meghalaya in a day or two, party sources said on Monday.

Top Congress leadership on Monday discussed over 60

seats in five states of Gujarat,

Madhya Pradesh and Assam and finalised the names of

and finalised the names of about 40 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Sources said the party has

decided to field former chief

minister Kamal Nath's son

Nakul Nath once again from

Chhindwara and Ashok

Gehlot's son Vaibhav from

Speculation was rife about both Kamal Nath and his son

Nakul switching over to the

Both Ashok Gehlot and

Sachin Pilot are unlikely to

contest, with the former's son

in

BJP ahead of the polls.

Madhya

Uttarakhand,

Pradesh's

Rajasthan.

The party will also field its candidates on two to four seats in Assam and the names will be announced soon, they said. The state unit of the party will finalise the seats that will be 'spread across Assam', they

announced candidates for all 42 seats in West Bengal on Sunday.

The sources said the party will field its candidate from Tura, currently represented in Parliament by Agatha Sangma of the National People's Party, in a day or two.

In the last Lok Sabha polls in 2019, Mukul Sangma, who was in the Congress at that time, had polled more than 41.24 per cent votes in Tura.

rea measuring 139.35 sq. Mtrs. Situate t Block-B, Sector-7, GMP Patel Naga Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. from Mr. Vino

yagi., Who is recorded Owner Vid **flutation Letter Dated 11.10.2023 issue**

equirements of BANK/NBFC, we give thi ublic notice that if any Person havin ny type of claim/right/title/interest/creatin

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Sanjay Kumar & Mrs. Sarita Singh area in process to purchase the Third Floor (with roof/ terrace rights) measuring 55 Sq. Yds. Part of Plot No. 10, MCD No. 449 & MCD No. T-449, having land area measuring 222 Sq. Yds. approx., situated at Krishna Gali, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi (availing loan from Piramall Capital & Housing Finance Ltd) from Mr. Vinod Kumar Gupta inherited after the death of his father and mother i.e. Mr. Prithvi Raj Gupta (share 1/3rd) expired on 11-09-1968 and his wife Mrs. Kamla Devi also died on 31-12-1987 2) Mrs. Anita Gupta (share 1/3rd) having acquired vide Relinquishment Deed dated 07-06-2021 & 3) Mr. Mohit Gupta (share 1/3rd) having acquired the same vide Will

(share 1/3rd)having acquired the same vide Will dated 22-03-2021 executed by his father late Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, gledge, easement or otherwise however.

charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to



seat with a margin of over 64.000 votes.

Mukul Sangma joined the TMC after quitting the Congress in November 2021. Agatha Sangma had won the In the 2023 assembly elections,

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Kishan Sharma in whose favour mutation of property was granted by Noida authority is in possession of property bearing no. E-245, area measuring 50 sq. ntts., situated at sector-27, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar. UP-201301. Mrs. Kamlesh Kumari acquired the property through a Transfer Deed dated 15.11.1995 executed by Mr. Brij Lall Mohan in favour of Mrs. Kamlesh Kumari, Atter death of Mrs. Kamlesh Kumari, the above property as mutated by Noida Authority in favour of Mr. Kishan Sharma. The above-said owners have misplaced the Original Lease Deed dated 15.01.1991 vide doc. no. 169 8.170 executed by NOIDA in favour of Mr. Ram Nath Chopra. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents.

kindly handover the same to the Manager of PNE Housing Finance Ltd, Janakpuri, Delhi.

Mr. Kishan Sharma intends to transfer the ownership of aforementioned Property to Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Subsequently, Mr. Kamlesh Kumar is in the process of mortgaging the said floor PNB Housing Finance Ltd, Janakpuri. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 10 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 10-day serior.

bmitted after the completion of this 10-day period If not be considered binding with respect to the said

the TMC got the third-largest vote share in the state with over 13 per cent votes. The TMC will, however, not

fight from Shillong, which is currently with Congress' Vincent H Pala.

On Sunday, Mukul Sangma had slammed the Congress for announcing a candidate for the Tura seat as his party announced candidates for all seats in West Bengal, ending speculations of any seat-sharing deal with the

had not been notified till now.

Lost & Found

This is to inform you that we Sanjeev Malhotra S/o Dr S.K. Malhotra & Rajendra S/o Revati Singh are the Co. Residential Owners of Property no ST-04, Sec- 130 Noida. We have lost Original Allottment Letter of Above Noted Property in Ashok Nagar Delhi on 26.2.2024, FIR is Also Lodged for the same. Finder May



He was in RS because of us: Omar on Azad criticism of NC

said.

votes?

On the central government's

plans to implement the

Citizenship Amendment Act

before the general elections,

Omar asked, 'Why have they

not brought it till now. What

are they waiting for? Why

don't they come out with the

notification on the reservation

of Paharis too? We want to

know how you are going to

implement it. Who are you including in Paharis? What

you are saying in terms of

reservation won't benefit

Paharis. It is to deceive them

before elections to get their

He made the remarks shortly

before the Union Home

Ministry notified rules for the

TENDER NOTICE

Subject: Tender for Repair and Repoyation Work

Bathla Cooperative Society (Plot NO 43, I.P.

Extension Patparganj) invites sealed tenders to be marked in the name of President, from eligible contractors experienced in repair and renovation with proof of previous work of residential complexes for its residential

omplex, comprising four towers with 12

shafts for the shaft repair, pipe replacement

waterproofing, plastering and painting work. Contractor need to supply all necessary material, labour and supervision. Quotation to be given in both form with material and labour only.

Tender to be Obtained from Bathla Cooperative Society Office during office hours from 12.03.2024 to 22.03.2024 and site can be

nspected from on the same dates. Envelop

should mark "Tender for Repair and Renovation

Contact for Clarifications: Mr. Vipin Singhal

पत्रांक :- ४०९५ / भवनकर-होर्डिंग्स-ई-निविदा / २०२३-२४

Vork." Last date for recieving the tender is 28th

Date: 11.03.2024

CAA on Monday.

PTI .IAMMII

 $D_{\text{Azad Party chairman}}^{\text{emocratic Progressive}}$ Ghulam Nabi Azad has been elected to the Rajya Sabha National twice with Conference's help and the difference in the 'ferocity' of his attacks towards the NC and the BIP showed the leader's 'agenda', former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday.

Abdullah, responding to the recent attacks by Azad on the National Conference (NC), asked if the DPAP leader had forgotten all previous 'help' provided by the NC.

I would like the same party (Azad's DPAP) to attack BIP with half the ferocity they attack us. It tells you their agenda. Everyone knows what it means to them when Azad praises the prime minister and criticises Farooq Abdullah sahib. 'Instead, Farooq Abdullah sent

him twice to the Rajya Sabha when his own party was not interested in sending him to the Rajya Sabha, Omar told reporters here in response to Azad's remarks on the NC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during his election rallies.

Taking another dig at him Omar questioned Azad whether he had forgotten the time when he used to call to PDP's remove Muft Mohammad Sayeed in 2005 Azad enjoyed power with us the NC vice president said.

'He reached the Rajva Sabha because of our members. How his wife Shameema Ji wept while calling Dr Farooq Abdullah sahib that you gave a new lease of life in politics to Azad sahib. Has he forgotten everything? Time changed. He has also changed,

he said. Omar said that Azad should not forget that he was in the Rajya Sabha for 12 years due to the NC. 'He is enjoying the house in which he lives today because of us, the NC leader

Nirupam first from Chakma community to be appointed NCST member

Nirupam Chakma who was appointed a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was felicitated by Chakma Cistrict Bharatiya Janata Party (CDBJP) on Monday. Chakma, 65, a former Mizoram

minister and 5-times legislator was appointed as a member of the NCST by President Droupadi Murmu on March 8. He is the first person from the Chakma community to be

Leaders and party workers of Chakma District Bharatiya Janata Party (CDBJP) on Monday felicitated the newly appointed NCST member at his residence in Kamalanagar town in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district.

Nirupam Chakma is a sitting OFFICE OF THE CITY MAGISTRATE/MARRIAGE member of Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC). He embarked on his political journey in 1987 when he was elected uncontested from the erstwhile Chawngte (ST) assembly constituency. He was Mizoram minister of state for two consecutive terms between 1989 and 1998 during the erstwhile Congress governpolitical journey in 1987 when the erstwhile Congress government headed by former chief minister Lal Thanhawla and became the first minister from

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that **Mr. Rakesh Chaturved**i is the GPA Holder of Plot

Mr. Rakesh Chaturvedi is the GPA Holder of Plot No. 63, area measuring 26 Sq. Yds. out of Khasra No. 33/25/2, situated at village Karawal Nagar, in the Abadi of Shiv Vihar, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-100094. He acquired the above property through Regd. GPA, ATS dated 03.06.2003 executed by Mr. Ashok Kumar in favour of Mr. Rakesh Chaturvedi. Mr. Rakesh Chaturvedi intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned plot to Mrs. Sujata Roy, subsequently, Mrs. Sujata Roy is in the process of mortgaging the said property SMRG India Home Finance Co. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said plot of

considered binding with respect to the said plot on the interests of our client.

It anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building

No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301; Landline (s) : + 910120-3101683; e-mai

कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश

Haridwar Road Rishikesh, Distt-Dehradun, Pin-249201 Website: www.nagarnigamrishikesh.com, Email: npprishikesh@gmail.com Ph:0135-2430015,1800313529

निविदा शुद्धि-पत्र

इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कम्पनी/फर्मों से नगर निगम ऋषिकेश के

कार्यालय पत्रांक सं०-3971/भवनकर-होर्डिंग्स-ई-निविदा/

2023–24 दिनांक 01.03.2024 के द्वारा दोहरी निविदा प्रणाली

(तकनीकी एंव वित्तीय) के अन्तर्गत ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी।

ई-निविदा जिसकी प्री-बिड पृच्छाएं यथोचित शुद्धियों / संशोधनों

सहित निस्तारित कर दी गई है। जो ई-निविदा website-

नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गौ/स्थलों में होर्डिंग्स / यूनिपोल, पोल क्योस्क पर विज्ञापन प्रदर्शन के कार्य हेतु

the Chakma community. He joined the BJP in 2015 and unsuccessfully contested the ticket in 2019.

The CDBJP issued a press statement extending congratulations to Nirupam Chakma, who is also the president of CDBJP, for his appointment as a member of NĈŜT.

OFFICER GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR No. 92/ST-CM (Marriage Registration) 2024 NOTICE 11 October 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Father Late Sh. PAWAN KUMAR JAIN 6/o Late Sh. RAMKRISHAN DAS JAIN R/o B-169, Sector-55, Noida, booked a flat No 405 Tower C-3 in project called Supertech Eco Village-1, plot no. 08, Sector-1, Greater Noida I requested to M/s Supertech Limited to transfer this flat in the name of Mrs. KALPNA JAIN D/O Late SH. PAWAN KUMAR JAIN R/O B- 169, Sector-55 Noida, If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact to M/s Supertech Limited office at Plot No C-2, Sector 96, Noida, Uttar radesh 201303 within 15 days of the Published notice KALPNA JAIN. Regards,

(ADVOCATE)

us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) will not be considered binding with respect to the supportery or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 10-days period by contacting Law Varitas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-15, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 PUBLIC NOTICE

ELITE WEALTH LIMITED

Member of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) Member ID: 12325 SEBI Registration No: INZ000186539

Registered office Address- Casa Picasso, Golf Course Extension, Near Rajesh Pilot Chowk, Radha Swami, Sector-61, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122001 Corporate Add: S-8, DDA Shopping Complex, Mayur Vihar, Phase - I, Delhi, India, 110091 This is to inform that we have initiated the process of cancellation of our below mentioned Authorised Person (AP) as per the SEBI Order No. QJA/GR/NRO/NRO/30057/2023-24 dated February 29, 2024.

Name of Authorised Person	Trade Name of AP	Address of AP	AP Registration No.
Ritesh Singh Pundir	Ritesh Singh Pundir	Shop No-2, J-33/34, Main Road, Rajapuri,- Uttam Nagar New Delhi- 110059	MCX/AP/177

Please note that the above mentioned Authorised Person is no longer associated with us. Any person henceforth dealing with the above mentioned Authorised Person should do so at their own risk. Elite Wealth Limited shall not be liable for any dealing with him. In case of any queries, investors are requested to inform Elite Wealth Limited within 15 days from the

date of issuing this notice. For Elite Wealth Limited

> Dheeraj Bhatia Designated Director Date:- 11.03.2024

Member ID: 08051, 3162, SEBI Registration No: INZ000186539 Registered office Address- Casa Picasso, Golf Course Extension, Near Rajesh Pilot Chowk, Radha Swami, Sector-61, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122001 Corporate Add: S-8, DDA Shopping Complex, Mayur Vihar, Phase - I, Delhi, India, 110091 This is to inform that we have initiated the process of cancellation of our below

	oned Authorised I			
	SR/NRO/NRO/300		ed February 2	9, 2024.
Name of Authorised Person	Trade Name of AP	Address of AP	Exchange/ Segment	AP Registration
Ritesh Singh Pundir	I WIT WIT TO SEALCH	Piot No.4,Block-C, Community Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058	NSE-Capital Markets, NSE-Futures & Options, NSE-Currency Derivatives	AP067700224
Ritesh Singh Pundir	NIFM Research	Plot No.4,Block-C, Community Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058	BSE- Cash	AP0131620110342

Please note that the above mentioned Authorised Person is no longer associated with us. Any person henceforth dealing with the above mentioned Authorised Person should do so at their own risk. Elite Wealth Limited shall not be liable for any dealing with him. In case of any queries, investors are requested to inform Elite Wealth Limited within 15 days from the date of issuing this notice. Dheerai Bhatia

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and
Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. [CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as what is", and "whatever there is" basis on 12.04.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 4,10,43,701/- (Rupees Four Crore Ten Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundrad One only). pending towards Loan Account Accounts HHLN0100382214, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest ill 29.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 01.03.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from OCEAN MEDIA PVT. LTD. (THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS), URVASHI, OCEAN BOOKS PVT. LTD (THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS), PAWAN AGRAWAL and SHISHIR BHUSHAN.

he above-mentioned Loan Account along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s) underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/ or quarantee(s), including the Immovable Property, has been assigned by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. ("HFL") to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting as a Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 27.06.2023.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 4.00.00.000/- (Rupees Four Crore only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 40,00,000/ (Rupees Forty Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

UNIT/ FLAT NO. 0402, HAVING TENTATIVE SUPER AREA OF 5800 SQ. FT. ON

4TH FLOOR, IN TOWER-D, IN THE PROJECT KRRISH PROVENCE ESTATE SITUATED AT GWAL PAHARI, SECTOR - 2, FARIDABAD GURGAON ROAD GURUGRAM-122001, HARYANA, ALONG WITH TWO COVERED CAR PARKING For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the

website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.acreindia.in; For bidding, log on t www.auctionfocus.in

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

vaigs|

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with for

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

S. No.	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs
1.	61/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2023-24, D/o Park (Subhead Open Zym) with five year maintenance in sector-70. Noida	33.96
2.	65/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2023-24, D/o RSP (Beautification) FNG Road infront sector-115 with two year maintenance. Noida	86.82
3.	77/D(H)/D(H)-I/2023-24, M/o Park with Two year Maintenance Sector-6 to 10 All Park. Noida	88.71
4.	74/D(H)/D(H)-I/2023-24, M/o Park Green belt with two year Maintenance Sector-22 and 23 All Park and Green Belt. Noida	90.20
5.	42/G.M/D(H)/IDD(H)-II/2023-24, D/o Park Green Belt and RSP in sector 33, 39, 40, 43, 45, 47, 99, 78, 79, 50 and 112 DSC Rd etc. with three month maintenance (Planation). Noida	92.27

Which can be uploaded by date 19/03/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/downloaded on date 20/03/2024 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hort.) Sector-39

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। (शैलेन्द्र सिंह नेगी) Pooja Sodhi is still a director of the नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश Company, do so at their own risk. Manish Gauray- Advocate

It is hereby declared to the public a large that Mrs.Pooja Sodhi, a forme Director of Born Unicorn Tech Pris

PUBLIC NOTICE

Director of Born Unicorn Tech Prise Private Limited, (CIN)U51100 DL 2021 PTC387337 ("Company"), had tendered her resignation from the Company via email dated 22" December, 2023. Mrs. Pooja Sodhi, has taken the necessary steps by filing e-form DIR-11 with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), positiving her resignation. However, the notifying her resignation. However, the Company has not communicated its acceptance to such resignation and filed equisite e-form with the MCA, Considering Mrs. Pooja Sodhi's esignation, she should be considered absolved from any and all obligations and responsibilities towards the Company and its stakeholders employees, and vendors, effective from the date of her resignation, i.e. 22ⁿ December, 2023. In this respect nembers of the public at large should exercise caution in dealing with the Company and not reply upon any suggestion/representation that Mrs. Pooja Sodhi is still a director with the Company. Any person dealing with the Company on the assumption that Mrs

ELITE WEALTH LIMITED Member of National Stock Exchange and BSE Ltd

Designated Director Date:- 11.03.2024

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Foreign wand

One million new jobs likely as European Free Trade Association signs 'watershed' pact with India

ringing to life the 'Better late than never' adage, India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) have sealed a groundbreaking agreement after 16 long years ASSOCIATION (EFTA) Have sealed a groundstreaming agreement of negotiation. The \$100bn treaty with the four-member European bloc --- comprising Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland --- marks a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations. As part of the deal, India will lift most import tariffs on industrial products from these countries in return for investment over 15 years. The agreement, termed 'watershed' by analysts and Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, includes trade in goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights. It aims to dismantle trade barriers, streamline regulatory frameworks and foster a more conducive environment for commerce between India and the EFTA member States. The culmination of this prolonged negotiation process has far-reaching implications, particularly in terms of job creation in India. With an estimated one million jobs likely to be created across



sectors, the agreement holds immense promise for the Indian workforce, especially at a time when the global economy is facing a variety of challenges. The job creation potential stems from several factors embedded in the pact. The agreement provides Indian businesses with enhanced access to the markets of EFTA countries, facilitating increased exports of goods and services. This expanded market reach is expected to spur demand for Indian products, consequently leading to the creation of employment opportunities. By fostering a conducive environment for investments, the deal would attract greater foreign direct investment (FDI) into India. The increased investment inflows have the

potential to catalyse economic growth, stimulate industrial development. One of the biggest advantages for India would be in technology transfer: Collaboration with EFTA member States could facilitate the transfer of advanced technologies and best practices to India. This transfer of knowledge and expertise has the potential of enhancing the skill sets of the Indian workforce, opening up employment avenues in high-value sectors. As SMEs constitute a significant portion of India's economy, the expansion of their business operations would invariably lead to job creation at the grassroots. The provisions related to agricultural trade and market access could provide the much-needed stimulus to rural economy with emphasis on farming, agri-business and related industries. However, the successful implementation of the pact hinges on effective policy coordination, institutional capacity building and stakeholder engagement. Addressing logistical challenges, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and promoting inclusive growth will be imperative to fully harness the benefits. Moreover, it is essential to monitor the socio-economic impacts of the agreement to ensure that the benefits are distributed equitably. Efforts should be made to mitigate any adverse effects on vulnerable groups and to promote sustainable and inclusive development.



for future preparedness. Traditional systems, like the Gurukul method, stand juxtaposed against modern approaches, typified by the English education system

Educational traditions

veryone tries to prepare for the future. Most futures are difficult to foresee and preparing for them can only be based on some assumptions. The veracity of such assumptions is always open to doubt. Hence, preparing for the future, by definition, becomes one of the most conjectural efforts, several of whose assumptions need to be first checked out.

Yet, this cannot become an argument for not preparing for the future. It requires, therefore, foreseeing the future as a factor of continuing the present state of affairs in their logical linear sequence. It is another matter that the linearity of any process, be it technological, or even contextual, may be in doubt. Yet, this approach stands in its own right. Thus, it is that school curriculum is preparation for the future because it teaches you the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, all of which will, in some manner, help you cope with the future. As one grows, maybe through the curriculum system of schools, college or university, there are assumptions and there are logical flows. The logic of these sequential learning processes can be open to serious questions, and sometimes it becomes counterproductive by being out of sync with the requirements of the

That is a risk one has to take. Preparing for the future, therefore, can have its own hazards. Within the framework of the hazards. some assumptions could hold some truth. One of the assumptions is the need and the ability for strategic thinking. One also needs the skills to cope with an evolving environment and meet the requirement to achieve what one may set as one's goals be they financial or professional.

One thing which cuts across all variations is the need to be a constantly evolving and growing person. Data and information are one of the coping stones of this learning process. Hence, it follows that one of the basic skills a rson requires is identification of data and understanding of in poetry and poetics. This what constitutes information. This may require some rethink- as a person who has achieved ing on the elements and the excellence of a proficiency



distinguished learning institutions in sufficient numbers of the Gurukul tradition. In an era of job markets and benchmarking of skills, the certification process which the so-called English education system follows comes in very handy. Hence, its relevance remains in the job market, and many jobs are open only to certain qualifications such as secondary certificate, bachelor certificates or the master certificate of the so-called university system. The parallel Indian system also has certain benchmarks such as a person could be a Kavya Teerth. This means that the person with the title of Kavya Teerth had proficienc

person who could impart only

information but insights. The

difference between what is

now popularly termed as

"English education" and the

Gurukul system has become so

wide that it is difficult to find



DEVELOP INTENSIVE

EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS WHICH ENABLE A PERSON TO UNDERSTAND WHICH PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AND WHICH METHOD OF LEARNING PRODUCES BETTER PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

equivalent to a Teerth. The concern is that the job market does not often advertise for a person with the proficiency of a Teerth qualification in poetry and poetics. Thus, the issue arises of cali-

brating the job qualifications requirements to a degree or the proficiency certificates being awarded by educational institutions. Unless this issue is addressed with a single-minded devotion of finding solutions, the present contradictions between the English system of education and the Gurukul system of education will continue to be loaded in favour of the University or the English system of education. By all estimates, the Gurukul system of education was never loaded in favour of numbers, and as such, institutionalization of the Gurukul system seldom, if ever took place on the scale at which the English or the university system operat-

Further, the Gurukul system of education seldom had the kind of timetable which the English or the university system thrives on. Be it at the school level or the higher eduievei, ın English/University system of education a six-day week always had variations of subjects and inputs.

As compared to this, a Grurukul system of education may expect six months of intensive training, learning, and more in one subject, say geography, mathematics or whatever. It is easy to talk of "Indianness" and easier to sloganise it. The need, however, is to develop intensive educational insights which enable a person to understand which philosophy of education and which method of learning

produces better preparation for

the future. To sum it all up, preparing for the future, in part, involves knowing methods of creating competencies for the unknown. It also requires creating some applicable assumptions. Whether the English or the university system of education can do it better, or can the Gurukul system do better, is a consideration which requires a lot more thinking and analysis than what it has merited so far. Mercifully, the National Education Policy has already planted the seeds by talking of "Indian educational system". The seed has to sprout, be nurtured and allowed to grow before the

truits start coming in.
(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Nomen play with colours ahead of the festival of Holi, in Nadia Conservation techniques for sustainable farming



In the face of challenges posed by soil erosion, water scarcity and ecological imbalance, farmers worldwide are turning to Conservation Agriculture

◄o fulfil the demands of the expanding global population, farmers must overcome obstacles such as soil erosion and water loss from conventional agricultural production. Conservation Agriculture (CA) makes effective use of natural resources to provide a sustainable solution. CA techniques raise revenue, boost resource efficiency, and enhance soil fertility. A traditional farming method called tillage involves adjusting the soil by ploughing, harrowing, and ploughing to attain the ideal tilth and

Despite its advantages, tillage faces problems such as declining soil fertility, ecological imbalance, loss of sustainability, and water scarcity. Among its disadvantages are the depletion of soil organic matter brought on by exposure to air and sunlight, the breakdown of soil aggregates more frequently, soil erosion, increased production costs as a result of fuel consumption and wear and tear on machinery, and greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, which contribute to global warming. Sustainable farming strategies, which pre-



serve resources without endangering the environment, have been introduced in response to the negative effects of conventional agricultural processes.

CA eschews ploughing and other soil disturbance practices in favour of little soil mechanical interference. With the use of sophisticated zerotillage seeders known as zero ferti-cum-seed drills, crop seeds are directly dispersed into undisturbed soil. Herbicide application and weed-slashing/rolling are part of land planning. Organic agricultural leftovers are more likely to be deposited on untilled fields, where they form mulch that protects the soil from wind and rain, evens out soil temperature, and encourages the growth of microorganisms. This strategy distributes the best use of goods and services with less expensive production, lowering the usage of fossil fuels biomass and nitrogen levels

and greenhouse gas emis-

The main goals of conservation agriculture are to maintain a permanent organic soil cover to shield against the damaging effects of sunlight and rain, to supply nutrients for the quick growth of soil micro- and macroorganisms, and to modify the soil's microclimate for ideal devel-

However, since burning or removing leftovers can hurt the fertility and health of the soil, residue management poses a threat to crop output in India. In CA, crops are rotated sensibly to give soil fauna and microflora a varied diet and to take advantage of soil strata for the cycling of nutrients and water. More diversified crop rotations encourage stable root channels and macropores, optimal water infiltration and a decrease in insect incidences. Crop rotation, organic residue integration, and tillage technique modifications can significantly impact soil fertility by increasing soil aggregate and nutrient availability. Organic crop residue management raises soil microbial

compared to no-till systems. CA is a sustainable cropproduction technique that reduces soil erosion, water and land degradation, and dependency on foreign inputs. By using less petroleum, CA enhances ecosystem quality and soil and water quality, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and helps reduce global warming and air pollution. It also reduces labour, time and production expenses for farmers.

To encourage CA adoption, farmers, researchers, and technicians must change their perspectives on sustainable production strategies, such as minimal or no tillage combined with proper residue management. Socioeconomic barriers to CA adoption include inadequate residue management and sowing device selection. Farmers often burn leftover crop residue during crop rotation, contributing to environmental degradation and loss of sustainability.

(The author is an assistant professor at Agronomy College of Agriculture and Environmental Technology Surajmal University; views are personal)

HUMAN LIFE MATTERS

would entitle him to be ranked

Sir — This refers to Hiranmay Karlekar's article, "Giving stray dogs a bad name" (March 9, 2024). India has around 20,000 rabies deaths a year which according to the World Health Organisation, "accounts for 36 percent of the world's deaths." Most of the victims of rabies in India are under the age of 15 years. This fatal disease has been eliminated from many countries. It is a challenging job in a country like India where dogs are allowed to roam freely. Rabies can be eliminated by vaccinating all dogs for a number of years and by sterilising the stray dog population. Bhutan has successfully sterilised and vaccinated its entire stray dog population after pursuing a 14-year-long programme. Bhutan sets an example which India needs to follow.

Most of the victims of dog bites and rabies belong to the poor working class of our society as they have to work in the open to build our roads, bridges and houses for all of us and to serve everything at our doors starting from morning newspapers to food packets. It is really perplexing that their deaths evoke little public sympathy and a lukewarm response from the authorities. I love dogs as much as I hate insensitive attitudes towards poor workers. All stray dogs must immediately be sterilised and kept in an enclosed area to minimise

colossal loss of human lives. Sujit De | Kolkata

RISING SUICIDE CASES Sir — Between 2018 and 2022, 64 MBBS students reportedly took their own lives and 58 postgraduate students followed suit, ostensibly due to severe anxiety and depression. Also, 1270 students discontinued their studies midway. These are unwanted numbers not only for the students, who have high hopes of becoming doctors but also for the government and the society that faces an acute paucity of qualified doctors. A methodical study to pinpoint reasons for the burnout of medicos was the need of the hour. The National Medical Commission(NMC) has

Election Commissioner resigns

THE EDITOR

he resignation of Election Commissioner Arun Goel from the Election Commission of India has become sensational news due to its timing and causes a lot of doubts in the minds of many on the possibility of holding a fair and free election. The news is sensational because electons are to be announced very

address the issue. It has rightly asked the task force to study existing literature and data on mental health and suicide incidents among medical students.

Evidence-based strategies to boost the mental health of medical students cannot be overstated. At present, both the UG and the PG students are overburdened with syllabus and work. The result of all this is a high prevalence of anxiety, depression, fear of failure and suicidal thoughts. The mental health plan layout of the task force asked to report by May 31, may or may not bring about a radical shift in the thoughts and actions of the medical students. However, it is heartening that a start has been made by the NMC.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

BAN HOT FOOD IN PLASTIC BAGS

Sir — Despite the ban on plastic bags and compostable plastic bags for carrying or dispensing commodities across the country, they are still extensively used, especially for packaging food in hotels. Items like tea, coffee, milk, sambar, rasam, and hot put in place a 15-member task force to curry are commonly packed in plastic bags

soon. In this critical hour, the resignation of Election Commissioner would indeed be a setback for the Election Commission. The reason for tendering resignation in such a hurry needs to be explained as speculations are doing

Two prominent reasons placed by the debates are either serious differences within the official circle or to contest elections. Differences in the official circle need not be kept a secret, at least, after tendering resignation. Now the doubt about the free and fair poll is because the vacancies will be filled by the selection committee, which has two from the ruling party and one from the opposition. It is easy to conclude that the selected candidates will enjoy the support of the ruling dispensation and are bound to serve their cause. The erosion of democracy begins from here.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

in hotels. Many doctors cite a worry that there is an increase in the number of people suffering from kidney and throat ailments, cancer, and infertility in the city due to the consumption of hot food items carried in low-quality plastic bags or boxes. When hot food or liquid is packed in a plastic bag, toxic chemicals like styrene and bisphenol can leach into the food, potentially leading to cancer, heart disease and other reproductive problems.

Therefore, the Department of Food Safety must enforce a ban on packing hot edible items, including beverages, in plastic bags and harmful containers, particularly in cities. Hoteliers and owners of tea and coffee shops should be instructed not to use plastic bags or containers for packing hot edible items. Additionally, traders should prominently display announcements in their business establishments, urging customers to bring their vessels for purchasing any hot edible items.

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

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FIRST COLUMN

COMBATING THE RISE OF CYBERBULLYING

Facilitated by digital platforms. it is becoming increasingly pervasive



he internet today has created an entirely new world of social communications, particularly for youth. No one can deny that technology has come a long way to make the lives of humans easier but at the same time, the negative aspect of it cannot be ignored. Over the years, the advancement in technology has caused a severe rise in health issues among individuals and above all has cut off people from society at large rather than connecting them. Gen Z, who are often sleep-deprived nowadays are affected due to online bullying i.e. cyberbullying. This type of bullying is rising drastically as more and more users are victimised by this.

There are numerous ways to define cyberbullying. But most importantly, it is the use of digital technology to intentionally hurt, harass, or intimidate others online. It is often regarded as one of the serious offences that can harm the online reputation of everyone involved. Cyberbullying comes in various forms and doesn't necessarily mean hacking someone's profile or posing to be someone else but it could be flaming, trolling, harassment, denigration, and many more. Once something is over the internet it is out forever and can lead to depression, anxiety, and sometimes fear of using the technology. It can affect young minds in a very negative way so it can go up to the threat of death. The victim's ability to focus and achieve their personal goals

To promote better mental health among the youth, it becomes important to raise awareness about issues arising from the cyber world. Today, cyberbullying prevention is the utmost need of the hour. It needs to be monitored constantly and put an end to. Adopting various ways



such as no sharing of personal information (home address, phone numbers, and bank details) online, avoiding posting photographs of self and others, and discussing personal matters over social media. Avoiding sharing the internet password and account details with anyone and not clicking mysterious links or SPAM are a few measures one can adopt to prevent being the victim of cyberbullying.

At the same time, parents too need to educate their children about this type of bully. Gone are the days when children and teenagers were troubled by school bullies. Today, they are targeted via the internet which proves to be more dangerous than traditional forms of bully-

Parents should install parental control applications to keep monitoring their child's online activities and at the same time, they must also establish communications with their child so that they open up to them when faced with such bullying. Most importantly, parents too need to familiarise themselves with various online facilities such as social networking, chatting, and many more.

In the times of artificial intelligence, one needs to be extra cautious to protect oneself from any cyber-attack. The effect of getting bullied through this mode is highly detrimental and may lead to fatal conse-

There is no denying the fact that technology has brought ease to learn and earn for everyone but at the same time learning to use it properly and wisely is far more important.

Remember, try not to be the victim of the same. Treating everyone you meet online with respect is the only way to prevent yourself from being the victim of cyberbullying. It is not a form of fun or entertainment, but a serious issue that can cause lasting emotional and psychological harm.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Empowering MSMEs through timely payments MANOJ KUMAR ANAND



Recognising the need to strengthen the MSME sector, the Govt has introduced innovative measures aimed at enhancing their financial resilience



icro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) constitute a vital sector of the Indian economy, actively engaged in both the service and manufacturing industries. Their significance lies in their substantial contribution to India's GDP, and the Government aims to elevate this contribution to 50 per cent in the foreseeable future. Consequently, MSMEs are rightfully considered the backbone of the nation's economy, playing a pivotal role in its growth trajectory by employing mil-lions of unskilled and semi-skilled work-

In terms of economic output, MSMEs play a significant role. They contribute over 29 per cent to the GDP and account for half of the country's total exports. Additionally, they are responsible for approximately one-third of India's manufacturing output. With an employment base exceeding 11 crores, there's a concerted effort to elevate this figure to 15 crores in the coming

Acknowledging the critical role played by visivies, both the central Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have rolled out several schemes to support MSME entrepreneurs. Some notable initiatives include MSME Samadhaan, Udyog Aadhaar, Mudra, ZED Scheme, Make In India, and Stand-Up India.

Despite the provisions outlined in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act of 2006, MSMEs often faced challenges, particularly concerning timely payments from larger enterprises. To address this issue, an innovative provision was introduced in the Finance Act 2023 under section 43B(h) by the then Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitaraman. This provision aimed to strengthen MSMEs by ensuring timely payments from buyers, underscoring their status as growth engines of the econ-

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MSMEs were severely impacted due to constrained credit cycles. To facilitate their recovery post-pandemic, the Government has implemented continuous measures to



WHILE

SIGNIFICANT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE TO **BOLSTER THE** MSME SECTOR IN INDIA, THERE'S A CONTINUOUS NEED FOR PROACTIVE **MEASURES TO ADDRESS EVOLVING** CHALLENGES AND **UNLOCK THE**

SECTOR'S FULL

POTENTIAL

bolster the MSME ecosystem in India. Notably, the Finance Act 2023's provision, section 43B(h), extended to amounts payable to micro and small enterprises covered under the MSMED Act 2006. This move was geared towards enhancing the credit cycle of MSMEs, ensuring smoother business operations. Section 15 of the MSMED Act

stipulates the time limit for payments to MSMEs by buyers, emphasising timely settlements. However, the non-utilisation of these provisions in the past was often attributed to the vulnerability of micro and small enterprises vis-à-vis medium and large enterprises. The introduction of section 43B(h) sought to address this disparity, mandating timely payments and penalising delays beyond specified limits.

Under this provision, any sum payable by the assessee to a micro or small enterprise beyond the time limit specified in section 15 of the MSMED Act 2006 would be subject to disallowance. Additionally, interest for delayed payment, set at three times the Repo Linked Benchmark Lending Rate (RBLR), compounded monthly, as per section 15 of the MSMED Act 2006, would also be applicable. It's crucial to note that the registration of the buyer under the MSMED Act, 2006, is a prerequisite to avail the benefits under section 43B(h). However, this provision does not extend to dues outstanding to traders as per the MSMED Act's definition of enter-

The practical implications of section 43B(h) are manifold. Firstly, it ensures a smoother payment cycle for MSMEs, incentivising large entities to settle dues within the stipulated time frame. This not only ensures their financial stability but also fosters their growth.

Secondly, it empowers MSMEs with better bargaining power when negotiating payment terms with larger counterparts, minimizing disputes and legal complexities. To qualify as micro, small, or medium enterprises under the MSMED Act 2006, specific criteria must be met regarding net investment in plant and machinery or equipment, as well as net turnover. It's noteworthy that only

43B(h), whereas medium enterprises are excluded from its ambit. The effective implementation of section 43B(h) hinges on various factors, including clear communication between buyers and suppliers, adherence to agreed payment terms, and compliance with regulatory requirements. Furthermore, the provision mandates timely disclosure and reporting by auditors, ensuring transparency and accountability in financial dealings. in conclusion, section 43B(n) rep resents a significant step towards bolstering the MSME sector in India by promoting timely payments and strengthening their financial position. However, its successful implementation necessitates collaboration between stakeholders, proactive compliance, and robust enforcement mechanisms. By fostering a conducive environment for MSMEs to thrive, India can unleash their full

micro and small enterprises are

considered suppliers for section

Despite the progressive measures introduced, such as the Finance Act 2023's provision under section 43B(h), challenges persist in ensuring comprehensive compliance and effective enforcement mechanisms. It's imperative for stakeholders, including MSMEs, large enterprises, regulatory bodies, and auditors, to collaborate closely to address these challenges and

potential as an engine of econom-

ic growth and job creation.

realise the full potential of the MSME sector. Furthermore, the transition from Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM) to Udyam Registration has been a significant regulatory change impacting MSMEs. The mandatory conversion to Udyam Registration underscores the Government's commitment to streamlining registration processes and enhancing transparency in the MSME ecosystem. However, ensuring widespread awareness and seamless implementation of this transition remains

a critical task. The availability of financing options tailored to the unique needs of MSMEs is another area requiring concerted efforts. While initiatives like the Mudra scheme have aimed to address the financing gap for MSMEs, there's a need for continued innovation and expansion of financial instruments to support their growth ambitions effectively. Fostering an ecosystem conducive to innovation and technological adoption is essential for enhancing the competitiveness of MSMEs in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Initiatives like Make In India and the ZED Scheme provide valuable support in this regard by encouraging domestic manufacturing and promoting quality stan-

In conclusion, while significant strides have been made to bolster the MSME sector in India, there's a continuous need for proactive measures to address evolving challenges and unlock the sector's full potential. By leveraging technology, fostering financial inclusion, and promoting an enabling regulatory environment, India can further strengthen its MSME ecosystem and propel economic growth and job creation.

(The writer is a Chartered Accountant & Insolvency Professional; views are personal)

India's semiconductor quest amid geopolitical dynamics

In the global arena, semiconductor chips have emerged as critical assets shaping geopolitical strategies

Semiconductor chips are posited as the new oil by some; some see them as a threat to national security, while others view them as a passport to economic prosperity. Dominated by companies from the United States, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands, the semiconductor industry is seen as the new oil, serving as a fulcrum of future geopolitical strength for these nations. Similarly, traditional military combat is no match for AIenabled missile attacks, quantum computer-driven decision-making, drone swarms, and cyberattacks powered by state-of-the-art semiconductor chips, the manufacturing capabilities of which bestow power

and influence. They are embedded in our



lives, from coffee machines and mobile phones to electric vehicles and health equipment, offering an industry potential of trillions of dollars 2030, according to McKinsey. India's ambition to ascend the pecking order of global superpowers by building advanced technology manufacturing capabilities, including semiconductor chips, is aptly based on a bold vision, are the true test of technology

the realization of which manufacturing capabilities, requires careful analysis of the following: Complex value chain: The

three core verticals of Design, Fabrication, and ATP form one of the most diverse supply chains in the world, crossing as many as 70 borders before reaching the consumer. US companies dominate the design of advanced chips, capturing ~47 per cent of the value. Foundries manufacture the designed chips operating at subatomic-level precision, capturing ~24 per cent of the value. ATP is a relatively automated and lower-value business but is now changing with advanced packaging techniques. Precision: The advanced chips, benchmarked below 7 nanometers (nm),

currently largely vested with Taiwan and South Korea. These foundries require facilities 10,000 times cleaner than a hospital surgical room, and the purity standards of some of the 300 different materials needed to produce an advanced semiconductor are 1,000 times higher than for solar energy panels. Geopolitics: The US continues

to control key choke points of the global supply chain and retains the ability to influence other nations that wrest control over manufacturing processes. Samsung's decision to diversify its manufacturing to Vietnam signals the unfolding of opportunities for other nations from a technological decoupling with China. Technological Catchup of



less than twenty years, Taiwan and South Korea displaced the technology leaders like Germany and climbed the patent charts on semiconductors from zero to 386 and 267 respectively in the late nineties. In South Korea, the chaebols led vertical integration from the design to the testing of chips and anchored R&D, whereas a network of specialised firms

Government-supported institutions developed the R&D capabilities and acquired foreign technologies in Taiwan. Though they followed different evolutionary paths in the development of the semiconductor industry, both leveraged inter-country mobility of experts wherein return of foreign-educated nationals provided significant transfer of best practices and state-ofthe-art knowledge.

India's moonshot at becoming a Semiconductor Hub: The recent promise of \$10 billion under the Semicon India programme, the PLI scheme, and the separate Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme aspires to build India's muscle across the semiconductor value chain. Its international strategic partnerships as part of the

QUAD, India-US iCET, and investment interests from leading US firms like Micron are aimed at exploiting opportunities in technology, resourcing, talent, and research. However, in a complex industry such as Semiconductors, only industrial cooperation can do so much. Talent is identified as one of the top three risks for the industry, whereas India's skilled workforce can at best claim expertise in Chip design. India is said to be two decades behind the Chip curve, and some of the most developed nations in advanced manufacturing have struggled to establish prominence in

India's attractiveness therefore needs to extend beyond the availability of cheap land and capital and instead emerge as an attractive destination for the highly specialised global knowledge workers who relocate with their families and participate in the country's ambitious journey of development. It's also important to grab the opportunities offered by the decoupling that allows India to find value-aligned international partners, who, knowing its history of respectful coexistence and burgeoning economic prominence, bridge the R&D and execution gaps. India's success with Chandrayaan-3, 5G, and Digital technologies does offer optimism with respect to its ability to realise its formidable

(The writer is Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, North Western Railway, views are personal)

Joe Biden pledges to work towards ceasefire in Gaza

PTI WASHINGTON

Greeting Muslims across the world on the start of Ramzan, US President Joe Biden has recognised the suffering of the Palestinian people and pledged to lead international efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and work non-stop to establish an immediate and sustained ceasefire for at least six weeks there.

Biden said that more than 30,000 Palestinians were estimated to have been killed during the operation in Gaza, which Israel launched in response to the October 7 attack by Hamas militants that left approximately 1,200 Israelis dead and about 250 taken hostage. "Tonight—as the new crescent moon marks the beginning of the Islamic holy month of Ramzan -Jill and I extend our best wishes and prayers to Muslims across our country and around the world, Biden wrote in the statement on

'The sacred month is a time for reflection and renewal. This year, it comes at a moment of immense pain. The war in Gaza has inflicted terrible suffering on the Palestinian people," he added.

As Muslims gather around the world over the coming days and weeks to break their fast, the suffering of the Palestinian people will be front of mind for many, he said.

'It is front of mind for me," said the US president. Some of the Palestinians killed in Gaza are family members of American Muslims, who are deeply grieving their lost loved ones today," Biden said. He also said that nearly 2

million Palestinians are estimated to be displaced and in need of food, water, medicine and

"While we get more life-saving aid to Gaza, the United States will continue working non-stop to establish an immediate and sustained ceasefire for at least six weeks as part of a deal

that releases hostages.

"And we will continue build ing toward a long-term future of stability, security, and peace. That includes a two-state solution to ensure Palestinians and Israelis share equal measures of freedom, dignity, security, and prosperity. That is the only path toward an enduring peace," Biden said.

The US will continue to lead international efforts to get more humanitarian assistance into Gaza by land, air, and sea, he said. "Earlier this week, I directed our military to lead an emergency mission to establish a temporary pier on the coast of Gaza that can receive large shipments of aid. We are carrying out airdrops of aid, in coordination with our international partners, including

And we'll continue to work with Israel to expand deliveries by land, insisting that it facilitate more routes and open more crossings to get more aid to more

Kate admits editing family photo; apologises

Kate Middleton on Monday apologised for "any confusion" caused by a royal family portrait released by Kensington Palace of her posing with her three children, the first photograph made public since her abdominal surgery in January.

The 42-year-old Princess of Wales took to the official Palace X handle to clarify that the discrepancies which led major photo agencies to withdraw the image from circulation were the result of some amateur editing by her.

The image released on Sunday, which is celebrated as Mother's Day in the UK, showed a smiling Kate with Princes George, 10, and Louis, 5, and Princess Charlotte, 8. The palace said it had been

"Like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing," reads the statement by Catherine, Princess of Wales, which is signed as C. "I wanted to

taken by Prince William at

Windsor Castle earlier in the



spent Mother's Day together express my apologies for any confusion the family photo-Kensington Palace said it graph we shared yesterday caused. I hope everyone cele-

Mother's Day," it said. Royal sources indicated that the picture was an amateur photograph taken by William, Prince of Wales, as the royal family wanted to offer an informal picture of the family together for Mother's Day. They added that the princess made some "minor adjustments" to the image and that the family

brating had a very happy

and had a wonderful day.

would not be reissuing the original unedited photograph of Kate and her children, the BBC reported.

Earlier, in a rare move, major international photo agencies issued a so-called Kill" notice on the official royal photograph over concerns it was "manipulated" by the source".

The agencies, which have strict rules on digital manipulation of images, said they had spotted a number of inconsis-tencies in the photograph, including the alignment of Princess Charlotte's left hand. Several people also took to social media to point out that Kate Middleton was not wearing her wedding ring, which was unusual.

Kate, who has been on official leave as she recovers from an abdominal surgery in January, has not been seen in public for weeks which had led to some social media speculation over her recovery.

Kensington Palace, the office for the Prince and Princess of Wales, have repeatedly said that she is doing well and that health matters are pri-

The release of the photograph was intended to allay fears of any serious health concerns, but it triggered its own set of speculation and conspiracy theories instead

AFP said it had "come to light" that the image of the "Princess of Wales and her kids had been altered" and was therefore removed from its systems.An AP statement read:

ly published the photo, which was issued by Kensington Palace.

"The AP later retracted the image because at closer inspection, it appears that the source had manipulated the image in a way that did not meet AP's photo standards.

The photo shows an inconsistency in the alignment of Princess Charlotte's left hand." Reuters said it withdrew the picture following a "post-publication review" with a spokesperson saying the agency

is "reviewing the matter". Royal experts indicated that editing photographs after they have been taken for professional purposes is a common oractice. Therefore, it was believed

Kensington Palace may have only been trying to improve the photograph if it was indeed altered.

Meanwhile, it is unlikely to quell social media rumours over the health of the Princess of Wales as details of her medical condition have not been released by the palace except to say it is not cancer-related.

Palestinians begin Ramadan with hunger worsening

AP RAFAH

 $P_{\text{for Ramadan on Monday as}}^{\text{alestinians}} \ \text{began fasting}$ the Muslim holy month arrived with cease-fire talks at a standstill, hunger worsening across the Gaza Strip and no end in sight to the five-monthold war between Israel and Prayers were held outside

amid the rubble of demolished buildings late Sunday.

Some people hung fairy lights and decorations in packed tent camps, and a video from a UN-school-turnedshelter showed children dancing and spraying foam as a man sang into a loudspeaker.

But there was little to celebrate after five months of war that has killed over 30,000 Palestinians and left much of Gaza in ruins. Families would ordinarily break the daily fast with holiday feasts, but even where food is available, there is little beyond canned goods and the prices are too high for

many.
"You don't see anyone with
"asid Sabah aljoy in their eyes," said Sabah al-Hendi, who was shopping for food on Sunday in the south-ernmost city of Rafah. "Every family is sad. Every family has a martyr."

and Egypt had hoped to bro-ker a cease-fire ahead of the normally joyous month of dawn-to-dusk fasting that would include the release of dozens of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of a large amount of humanitarian aid, but the talks stalled last week.

antees that any such agreement will lead to an end to the war, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the offensive until "total victory" against the militant group and the release of all the remaining

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Hamas is still believed to be holding around 100 captives

The United States, Qatar Hamas is demanding guar-

> Muslim worshippers perform "tarawih," an extra lengthy prayer held during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, next to the Dome of Rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem, Sunday, March 10, 2024. Officials in Saudi Arabia have declared the start of the fasting month of Ramadan after sighting the crescent moon Sunday night. The announcement marks the beginning of Ramadar

The war has driven around 80 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people from and the remains of 30 others their homes and pushed hun-following an exchange last dreds of thousands to the

brink of famine. Health officials say at least 20 people, mostly children, have died from malnutrition and dehydration in northern Gaza.

Israeli forces have largely

sealed off the north since but humanitarian groups say October, and aid groups say such efforts are costly and Israeli restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of law and order have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver desperately needed food in much of the territory.

Israel has meanwhile vowed to expand its offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, without saying where civilians would go to escape the onslaught.

President Joe Biden has said an attack on Rafah would

be a "red line" for him, but that the United States would continue to provide military aid to Biden acknowledged in

his annual Ramadan message that the holy month comes "at a moment of intense pain." "As Muslims gather around the world over the coming days

and weeks to break their fast, the suffering of the Palestinian people will be front of mind for many. It is front of mind for me," he said. The United States and

other countries have begun air-dropping aid in recent days,

insufficient The US military has also

begun transporting equipment to build a sea bridge to deliv-er aid, but it will likely be several weeks before it is opera-A ship belonging to Spanish aid group Open Arms carrying 200 tons of food aid was expected to make a pilot voyage to Gaza from nearby

Israel says it welcomes the sea deliveries and will inspect Gaza-bound cargo before it leaves Cyprus. The ship in Cyprus is expected to take two to three days to arrive at an undisclosed location in Gaza. The food is being supplied by the World Central Kitchen, a US charity

Cyprus, though it was not

clear when it would depart.

began Sunday.
Once the ship reaches
Gaza, aid will be offloaded by a crane, placed on trucks and driven north.

founded by celebrity chef José

Andrés, which said contruc-

tion work on a jetty in Gaza

The United States has pro-

vided crucial military support to Israel and shielded it from international calls for a ceasefire while urging it to do more to avoid harming civilians and facilitate humanitarian aid.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said that at least 31,045 Palestinians have been killed since the war began. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says that women and children make up two-thirds of the dead. Israel blames the civilian

death toll on Hamas because the militants fight in dense, residential areas and position fighters, tunnels and rocket launchers near homes, schools and mosques. The military says it has killed 13,000 Hamas fighters, without providing evidence.

Speaking on Saturday to MSNBC, Biden said Israel had the right to respond to the October 7 attack but that Netanyahu "must pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost."

He added that "you cannot have 30,000 more Palestinians

50 injured by 'strong movement' on plane

Sydney (AP): At least 50 people were injured Monday by what officials described as a "strong movement" on a Chilean plane travelling from Sydney to Auckland, New Zealand. LATAM Airlines said in a statement that there was "a technical event during the flight which caused a strong movement.'

happened. Passengers were met by paramedics and more than 10 emergency vehicles when the flight touched down in Auckland.

at the scene for mostly mild injuries, with 13 taken to a hospital, an ambulance spokesperson said.

people were not wearing seat-belts when flight LA800 suddenly dropped.

Parliament is at the mercy of

opposition parties when it tries

to pass legislation. Chega's sup-

port could hold the key to a

functioning government for the Social Democrats.

tripled its vote from the last

election in 2022. The result

positioned the party as a king

maker that potentially could

hand the Social Democrats a

Chega, just five years old,

Al-Qaida's Yemen branch leader Khalid al-Batarfi dead

AP DUBAI

The leader of Yemen's branch of al-Qaida is dead, the militant group announced late Sunday, without giving details. Khalid al-Batarfi had a USD 5 million bounty on his head from the US government over leading the group, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, through years that saw him imprisoned, freed in a jailbreak, and governing forces in Yemen amid that country's grinding

Though believed to be weakened in recent years due to infighting and suspected US drone strikes killing its leaders, the group known by the acronym AQAP has long been considered the most dangerous branch of the extremist group still operating after the killing of founder Osama bin



Laden

Al-Qaida released a video showing al-Batarfi wrapped in a white funeral shroud and al-Qaida's black-and-white flag.

Militants offered no details on the cause of his death and there was no clear sign of trauma visible on his face. Al-Batarfi was believed to be in his

early 40s.
"Allah took his soul while he patiently sought his reward and stood firm, immigrated, garrisoned, and waged jihad for His sake," the militants said in the video, according to the

SITE Intelligence Group.
The group made the announcement on the eve of Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month that Yemen will begin Monday.

In the announcement, the group said Saad bin Atef al-Awlaki would take over as its leader. The US has a USD 6 million bounty on him, saying al-Awlaki "has publicly called for attacks against the United States and its allies.'

The Yemen branch of al-Qaida has been seen by Washington as the terror network's most dangerous branch ever since its attempt in 2009

to bomb a commercial airliner over the United States. It claimed responsibility for the 2015 deadly attack in Paris on the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo. But their overseas operations have waned in recent years.

"Although in decline AQAP remains the most effective terrorist group in Yemen with intent to conduct operations in the region and beyond," a recent United Nations report on al-Qaida said. Estimates provided to the UN put AQAP's total forces as numbering between 3,000 and 4,000 active fighters and passive members. The group raises money by robbing banks and money exchange shops, as well as smuggling weapons, counterfeiting currencies and ransom operations, according to the UN.

Houthi rebels suspected in Red Sea ship explosion

Dubai (AP): An explosion that took place near a ship in the Red Sea on Monday is suspected to have been an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels, though the blast caused no damage, authorities said.

The master of the vessel reported the explosion and said no one was hurt, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said.

The private security firm Ambrey say the incident may have involved a missile, but information remained scarce. The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack, though it typically takes the rebels several hours to acknowledge their strikes.

Portugal in suspense after election produces no clear winner

AP LISBON

 $P^{\text{ortugal's political future is}}_{\text{hanging in the balance after}}$ a general election Sunday, with two moderate mainstream parties closely contesting the race and set to wait weeks for a decision on the winner after an unprecedented surge in support for a populist party that finished third.

The center-right Social Democrat-led Democratic Alliance won 79 seats in the 230-seat National Assembly Portugal's Parliament, after all votes cast in Portugal were counted.

The center-left Socialist Party, in power the past eight years, got 77 seats. The deciding votes will come from voters abroad to distrubte the final four parliamentary seats after an election night full of suspense. That count could take more than two weeks.

The hard-right Chega (Enough) party came in third with 48 seats, a milestone result that presented an unprecedented challenge to politics-asusual, underscoring a drift to the right in the European

Smaller parties took the rest of the vote in an election that saw turnout rise to 66%, the highest level in Portugal for

The moderate Social Democrats and Socialists have alternated in power for decades in Portugal, and the surge in support for a radical right party pointed to a significant shift in Portugal's political land-scape and likely heralded a period of political uncertainty. A minority government

Whatever happens, Chega can no longer be ignored despite attempts to shun it by the mainstream parties.

parliamentary majority.

"One thing is for sure tonight, the two-party system in Portugal is finished," said

Chega leader Andre Ventura. He insisted that the Social Democrats should ally with Chega in parliament to create a majority. "We have a mandate to govern," he said.

5 cross-country skiers found dead near Matterhorn

Geneva (AP): Five cross-country skiers have been found dead after going missing over the weekend near Switzerland's famed Matterhorn, Swiss police said Monday. Rescue authorities announced a search in difficult weather conditions Sunday for six skiers missing. The group set off Saturday on a route between the resort town of Zermatt, at the foot of the Matterhorn, and the village of Arolla, near the border with Italy. A crew of three rescuers and a mountain police team deployed near the Dent Blanche, or White Tooth, cabin found the bodies of five of the

A search was continuing for the sixth person. The nationalities or other identity details of the victims were not immediately indicated.

Macron announces legislation allowing 'aid in dying' under strict conditions

AP ■ PARIS

 $F^{\rm rench}_{\rm Emmanuel~Macron~has}^{\rm President}$ President announced new legislation to legalise "aid in dying" that will allow adults facing end-of-life illness to take lethal medication, a first in the country. The move follows last year's report indicating that most French citizens support legalising end-of-life

In an interview published Monday by French newspapers La Croix and Liberation, Macron said the new bill will be restricted to adults suffering from an incurable illness who are expected to die in the "short or middle-term" and suffering are "intractable" physical or psy-

chological pain. Macron said the law will offer "a possible path, in a

determined situation, with precise criteria, where the medical decision is playing its He gave the example of

people with terminal cancer, some of whom until now have gone abroad to end their lives. Only people aged 18 or above who are capable of forming their own views will be allowed to get in the process, meaning those with severe psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease won't be eligible, Macron specified.

Patients who seek to enter the process will need to reconfirm their choice after 48 hours and they should then receive an answer from a medical team within two weeks maximum, Macron

A doctor will then deliv-

er a prescription, valid for three months, for the lethal medication. People will be able to take the medication at home, at a nursing home or at a health care facility, Macron said.

If their physical condition doesn't allow them to do it alone, they will be allowed to get help from someone of their choice or by a doctor or a nurse. Macron said the new bill

will refer to "aid in dying ... because it's simple and humane," rather than terms like euthanasia or medically assisted suicide. Medically assisted suicide involves patients taking,

of their own free will, a lethal drink or medication that has been prescribed by a doctor to those who meet certain criteria

Euthanasia involves doc-

tors or other health practitioners giving patients who meet certain criteria a lethal injection at their own request.

Macron set no date for the legislation to be applied, saying it will first need to follow a months-long legislative process that will start in May.

A 2016 French law provides that doctors can keep terminally ill patients sedated before death but stops short of allowing assisted suicide and euthanasia. Some French patients travel to other European countries to seek further options.

Assisted suicide is allowed in neighbouring Switzerland as well as in Portugal. Euthanasia is currently

legal in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain under certain condi-



a traditional Maori greeting during a ceremonial welcome ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand on Monday.

It did not elaborate on what

About 50 people were treated

One patient was believed to be in serious condition. Passengers said a number of

Pakistan PM inducts 19-member cabinet

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday inducted 19 members into his Cabinet, ending the tenuous wait for the completion of government formation in the cashstrapped country.

Newly-elected President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath to 19 members of the Cabinet at a ceremony held in the President's House and was attended by Prime Minister Sharif among others. Those who took oath included Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Azam Tarar, Rana Tanvir, Mohsin Naqvi, Ahad Cheema, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Riaz Prizada, Qaiser Sheikh, Shaza Fatima, Aleem Khan, Jam Kamal, Amir Muqam, Awais Leghari, Atta Tarar, Salik Hussian and Musaddiq Malik. The portfolio of the new minister will be announced later. Aurangzeb will likely be the finance minister, Dar as the foreign minister, and Khawaja Asif the defence minister. Azam Tarar will be the law minister, Atta Tarar as information minister, Musaddik Malik as petroleum minister, Mohsin Nagvi as interior minister and Ahad Cheema as minister for Kashmir affairs.

technocrats Three Muhammad Aurangzeb, Mohsin Naqvi and Ahad Cheema have been included in the cabinet as advisors. The cabinet has only one woman, Shaza Fatima.

Jailed former prime minister Ímran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party leaders have criticised the formation of the Cabinet, saying it comprises those leaders who have lost the people's mandate, referring to independents backed by the PTI failing to form a government though they won the maximum num-



ber of seats in the February 8 elections. PTI leader Hammad Azhar has termed the newly sworn-in federal cabinet as a 'weak cabinet composed of outdated boomers".

In a post on X, Azhar said the federal cabinet members did not have a "clue about policy reform or vision" and were mostly those "rejected by the

Raoof Hasan, another senior PTI leader, posted "Like President, like Prime Minister, like Cabinet - an unconstitutional & illegal conglomerate of people who have entered the power corridors by stealing people's mandate. "They neither have legitimacy

nor trust of the electorate to rule & take tough decisions to bring the country out of the deepening quagmire it is stuck in," he posted on X.

Prime Minister Shehbaz has initially decided to keep his Cabinet small, but more ministers will be inducted in the second phase, Geo News quot-

ed sources as saying. The swearing-in of the federal Cabinet happened a week after Shehbaz took the oath of office as the 24th premier of the country, while President Zardari was sworn in as the

head of state a day ago.

The oath-taking came hours after Prime Minister Sharif recommended the 19 names, a day after he held a marathon meeting with the leaders of his inner circle on the matter. The cabinet include familiar faces who were also part of the previous government. They include ex-defence minister Khawaja Asif, former finance minister Ishaq Dar, ex-planning minister Ahsan Iqbal, former law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and ex-state minister for petroleum Musadik Malik. This time Dar lost the race for the Ministry of Finance and the coveted post fell to Muhammad Aurangzeb, a wellknown banker. A dark horse to rise to the cabinet is former caretaker Punjab chief minister Mohsin Naqvi, who is also currently the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman. He is considered close to

Zardari and the link may have worked in his favour. The process of government formation has been completed after the cabinet was sworn in.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's main ally, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), has refused to become part of the federal Cabinet.

Bushra confined to small room at her residence, claims PTI

its routine endorsement of the customary press conference, a ruling Communist Party's politradition followed from 1988 by cies, endorsed the annual budhis former colleagues to answer get which fixed a moderate officially screened questions from the national and foreign media mainly on the state of the "around" five per cent official target besides whopping USD 232 billion defence spending next economy, people's issues and only to the US to modernise the Beijing's world view on complex military The nationally televised Premier's press conference on the During the sessions, members of the NPC and the national advisory body the Chinese People's last day of the NPC is widely Political Consultative Conference watched all over the country as it covered several local issues (CPPCC) spoke of standing united behind Xi's leadership as the country faced more internal

UK marks Ramzan with

funding to protect

mosques, schools

concerning people's lives in a closed political system. The government has not given any reason for doing away with the practice while critics spoke of the dimming spotlight on the Premier's office amid the grow-

ing consolidation of powers by

presented his maiden work

report to NPC on the opening

day with a prior announcement

that he would not address the

China's Parl wraps up meeting

with call to back Xi's vision

China's Parliament on Monday concluded its week-

long annual session with a call to

people to rally behind President

Xi Jinping, ditching for the first time the decades-old practice of

the Premier's press conference to expound on the slowdown of the

world's second-largest econo-

my, rising unemployment and

the complex geo-strategic environment faced by the country.

The annual session of the

National People's Congress

(NPC), termed as a rubber

stamp Parliament by critics for

and external challenges amid the

economic slowdown and declin-

ing business sentiment. Premier

Li Qiang, 64, a close confidant of

Xi holding the rank of number

two leader in the party hierarchy

PTI ■ LONDON

leader after founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after two terms. Xi, who is also the General Secretary of the CPC, the military besides the Presidency, unlike his predecessors who quit after a ten-year tenure was elected for a third five-year term by the party last year. "The dimming of the spotlight on the premier, along with a shorter congress this year, are all signs of ongoing structural change within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) where President Xi Jinping is increasingly accumulating power at the expense of other individuals and institutions," Alfred Wu, an associate professor at the National University of Singapore, told the BBC A notable legislation in the pre-

Xi, 70, who became the only

Chinese Communist Party

sent meeting of the NPC passing of the "Organic Law of the State Council", China's version of a Cabinet which follows the vision of Xi, who emerged as the "core" leader of the party. The notable media interaction

during the current NPC session was by Foreign Minister Wang Yi who dismissed pessimistic sentiments over the continued slowdown of the Chinese economy. China's economy which grew by 5.2 per cent last year shows that China remains strong as an engine for growth, Wang said. "Spreading pessimistic views on China will end up harming oneself, and misjudging China will result in missed opportunities," Wang said. During the session, Chinese officials played down concerns over the rising unemployment and pledged to stabilise and expand employment and improve people's livelihoods as a priority of its overall socio-economic development efforts. In his interventions in the NPC proceeding, Xi under-

scored the importance of developing new quality productive forces based on local conditions and stressed the need to strengthen basic research in applied sciences, achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and foster new drivers for developing new quality productive forces.

Xi also called for pursuing common prosperity for all to be an essential feature of Chinese modernisation, according to official media

PPGCL

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Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for **Procurement of Vacuum Pump Assembly** of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj

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For further details visit University Website http://www.mbspsu.ac.in

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// ई-निविदा आमंत्रण //

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड (USCL) द्वारा श्री महाकाल महालोक के बेसमेंट पार्किंग के ऊपर निर्मित अवंतिका हाट" (Avantika Haat) परिसर में स्थापित दुकान√कियोस्क के लिए ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है। समय सारणी :-

क्रमांक	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1.	ऑनलाईन निविदा पंजीयन प्रारंभ करने का दिनांक एवं समय	11.03.2024
2.	ऑनलाईन निविदा ऑफर प्रस्तुत करने का अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय (तकनीकी	02.04.2024, 17:00 pm
	और वित्तय बोली जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि)	
3.	निविदा के तकनीकी प्रस्ताव खुलने की दिनांक एवं समय	04.04.2024, 11:00 am
4.	निविदा का ऑनलाईन वित्तीय प्रस्ताव निविदा प्रपत्रों का मूल्यांकन होने पश्चात	सूचित किया जाएगा
	ओपन किया जावेगा। जिसकी सूचना एस एम एस / ईमेल के माध्यम से दी जावेगी।	
5.	निविदा की वैधता अविध	वित्तीय प्रस्ताव खुलने की
		तिथि से 120 दिन तक

अतः निम्नानुसार निविदा विज्ञप्ति की सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित कराया जाना प्रस्तावित है :-दुकाना NIT क्रमांक टेंडर आई.डी. दुकान/ निकटतम सौ आरक्षण स्थिति

दुकाना	NII क्रमाक	टंडर आइ.डा.	दुकान/	ानकटतम सा	आरक्षण स्थित	अमानत साश
क्रमांक			कियोस्क	रू. के मूल्य पर		(५ प्रतिशत)
			का बिल्ड-	पूर्णांकित		
			अप एरिया	करते हुए		
1	USCL/285	2024_UAD_339526_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
2	USCL/286	2024_UAD_339534_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
3	USCL/287	2024_UAD_339538_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
4	USCL/288	2024_UAD_339540_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
5	USCL/289	2024_UAD_339541_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	41,595.00
6	USCL/290	2024_UAD 339542 1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
7	USCL/291				अनुसुचित जाति वर्ग	
		2024_UAD_339545_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	0 6/	32,620.00
8	USCL/292	2024_UAD_339548_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
9	USCL/293	2024_UAD_339549_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
10	USCL/294	2024_UAD_339550_1	5.38	6,52.400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
11	USCL/295	2024_UAD_339553_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
12	USCL/296	2024_UAD_339555_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
13	USCL/297	2024_UAD_339558_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,985.00
14	USCL/298	2024_UAD_339560_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
15	USCL/299	2024_UAD_339714_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
16	USCL/300	2024_UAD_339722_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	विकलांग वर्ग	32,620.00
17	USCL/301	2024_UAD_339738_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	45,955.00
18	USCL/302	2024_UAD_339742_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
19	USCL/303	2024_UAD_339744_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
20	USCL/304	2024_UAD_339749_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
21	USCL/305	2024_UAD_339752_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
22	USCL/306	2024_UAD_339765_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग की विधवा	32,620.00
23	USCL/307	2024_UAD_339772_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,620.00
24	USCL/308	2024_UAD_339774_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
25	USCL/309	2024_UAD_339775_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
26	USCL/310	2024_UAD_339779_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग की विधवा	32,620.00
27	USCL/311	2024_UAD_339782_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
28	USCL/312	2024_UAD_339785_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
29	USCL/313	2024_UAD_339791_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
30	USCL/314	2024_UAD_339802_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग की विधवा	32,620.00
31	USCL/314	2024_UAD_339802_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,620.00
	USCL/316			6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
32	USCL/316	2024_UAD_339806_1	5.48		अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	
33		2024_UAD_339807_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	9 41	32,985.00
34	USCL/318	2024_UAD_339808_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	32,620.00
35	USCL/319	2024_UAD_339809_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
36	USCL/320	2024_UAD_339811_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
37	USCL/321	2024_UAD_339815_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,620.00
38	USCL/322	2024_UAD_339817_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
39	USCL/323	2024_UAD_339819_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,985.00
40	USCL/324	2024_UAD_339820_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
41	USCL/325	2024_UAD_339824_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जन जाति वर्ग	32,985.00
42	USCL/326	2024_UAD_339826_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
43	USCL/327	2024_UAD_339830_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00
44	USCL/328	2024_UAD_339831_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,620.00
45	USCL/329	2024_UAD_339832_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	32,620.00
46	USCL/330	2024_UAD_339834_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
47	USCL/331	2024_UAD_339835_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
48	USCL/332	2024_UAD_339838_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
49	USCL/333	2024_UAD_339839_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
50	USCL/334	2024_UAD_339840_1	7.58	9,19,100.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	45,955.00
51	USCL/335	2024_UAD_339841_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,620.00
52	USCL/336	2024_UAD_339847_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,985.00
53	USCL/337	2024_UAD_339849_1	5.48	6,59,700.00	अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग	32,985.00
54	USCL/338	2024_UAD_339852_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
55	USCL/339	2024_UAD_339854_1	5.38	6,52,400.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	32,620.00
56	USCL/340	2024_UAD_339857_1	6.83	8,31,900.00	अनारक्षित वर्ग	41,595.00

to become first lady of Pak' PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

'Zardari's daughter Aseefa

a historic decision, In a mistoric Pakistan President Asif Zardari has decided to formally recognise his 31-year-old daughter Aseefa Bhutto as the First Lady of the country. according to a media report. The status of the First Lady goes to the wife of the general. But Zardari became a widower after his wife and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in 2007. Zardari did not remarry and the position of the first lady also remained vacant during his first tenure as the country's president — from 2008 to 2013.

Zardari, 68, was sworn in as the country's 14th president on Sunday. During his oath-taking ceremony at the President's House in Islamabad, Zardari was accompanied by his youngest daughter, Aseefa. Sources claimed that President Zardari decided to declare Aseefa Bhutto as the first lady of Pakistan, ARY News reported. This became particularly relevant when Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, the eldest

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

an official has said.

house of Kumar.

Legendary late actor Dilip Kumar's Lancestral home in Pakistan's Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province, a national heritage,

is almost on the verge of collapse after

being severely damaged in the recent rains,

The torrential rains fully exposed tall

claims of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)

Archive Department about the rehabilita-

tion and renovation of the house. Kumar

was born in 1922 in the house, located in

Mohallah Khudadad at the back side of

historic Qissa Khwani Bazar in Peshawar

city, and spent his initial 12 years here

The house was declared Pakistan's nation-

al heritage monument on July 13, 2014, by

then-Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif. Kumar had visited his house once

and sentimentally kissed the soil. Shakeel

Waheedullah Khan, Secretary of Heritage Council KPK province, said the recent

rains in Peshawar badly damaged the

Despite pledging so many grants by the previous KPK government, not a single

penny has been spent on this national her-

before leaving for India in 1932.

daughter, tagged Aseefa in a tweet on Sunday The text read: "From accompanying president Asif Zardari to all his court hearings to fighting for his release from jail — now by his side as First Lady of Pakistan" and added Aseefa's name at the end."

The Bhutto-family-led Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) e conf Zardari's decision. "Who will be the first lady of Pakistan? This is the question on many people's minds after #PresidentAsifAliZardari took oath as 14th President of Pakistan after having been accompanied by his youngest child @AseefaBZ as he was ushered to his oath-taking," the party's handle posted on X. This landmark move to elevate Aseefa to the prestigious position of First Lady marks a significant chapter in the nation's political history, ARY News reported citing well-informed sources. After the official declaration, Aseefa will be given the protocol and privileges befitting the First Lady.

Aseefa during Zardari's first term was a teenager and currently, she is 31 years old.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi has been "confined to a small room" despite her Bani Gala residence here being declared a sub-jail, a senior leader of the jailed former Pakistan prime minister's party claimed on Monday. tan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI general secretary Omar Ayub, who has been nominated by the party and Sunni Ittehad Council lawmakers as the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, said Bushra Bibi's "meal issues have not yet been resolved", the Dawn newspaper reported. Ayub, who was also the opposition's joint candidate who lost to Khan's rival Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party's Shehbaz Sharif in the prime ministerial election, said, Bushra Bibi has been "confined to one small room" despite her residence being declared a sub-jail. "We demand that you do not consider Bushra Bibi Imran Khan's weakness." She was the former premier's strength, he

The UK government marked the start of the holy month of Ramzan on Monday with a commitment to provide British Muslims with more than GBP 117 million of protective security funding over the next four Community years. The funding will go towards protecting mosques, Muslim faith schools and other community centres to combat anti-Muslim hate crimes. Measures will include technology such as CCTV, alarm Jewish community. Funding was allocated to reflect systems and secure perimeter

faith community centres, and faith schools. Meanwhile, around GBP 31 million will also be made available to protect democratic processes and institutions in response to growing "extremist threats". Anti-Muslim hatred has absolutely no place in our society. We will not let events in the Middle East be used as ar excuse to justify abuse against British Muslims," said UK Home Secretary James

fencing at mosques, Muslim

Cleverly "The Prime Minister [Rishi Sunak] has made clear that we stand with Muslims in the UK. That is exactly why we have committed to this funding, giving reassurance and confidence to UK Muslims at a time when it is crucially needed," he said. The UK government said it condemns the recent rise in reported anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish hatred.

"Ministers have made it clear they expect the police to fully investigate all hate crimes and work with the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] to make sure the cowards who commit these appalling offences feel the full force of the law," the Home

of the Department of Archive remained

limited to press statements as on the

ground no steps were taken to prevent the national heritage from natural calamity

Tourists visiting the house from across the

world became disappointed after seeing the dilapidated condition of the historic asset.

Muĥammad Ali Mir, who was looking

after the house before it was taken over by

the Archive Department, said he was prop-

erly looking after it with great care. The

condition of the house started deteriorat-

ing after it was taken over by the Archive

Department and its rehab and renovation

process remained restricted to news state-

ments. Today the property has turned into

Kumar had great love and respect for the

people of Peshawar and, unfortunately, our

department could do nothing to protect his

a ghost house.

announcement follows Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's pledge to provide more than GBP 70 million over the next four years to the Community Security Trust to protect Jewish community sites, as part of the Jewish Protective Security Grant. That funding will increase security at a range of locations across the country, including schools, synagogues and other facilities used by the

Office said. It said the funding

the number of community sites used by each faith, with British Muslims making up 14 times more of England and Wales' population than British Jews. The government said this week's announcement marks a package of longer-term support to provide reassurance that anti-Muslim abuse, threats or harassment or any form of hate crime will not be tolerathis funding demonstrate that this government stands firmly against hate crimes, abuse, threats or harassment against British Muslims. We continue to work closely with policing and community partners to ensure the safety and security of British Muslims," said UK Security Minister Tom Tugendhat. The Home Office said recent events in the Middle East since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas conflict have been used by some as an excuse to stir up "indefensible hatred" against both Muslims and Jews. Its action comes alongside the extension of the deadline for the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme, with mosques and Muslim faith

community centres invited to register for protective security Dilip Kumar's ancestral home in Pak damaged in recent rains

hampered by power outages, damaged bridges and roads blocked by thick mud and debris, the National Disaster Management Agency said. Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said rescuers recovered more bodies, mostly in the worst-hit villages in Pesisir Selatan and its neighbouring Padang Pariaman district, bringing the death toll rose to 26.

26 dead, 11 missing after flash floods. landslides on **Sumatra island**

Padang (AP): Rescuers recovered more bodies as waters began to recede after flash floods and landslides caused by torrential rains on Indonesia's Sumatra island, which have killed at least 26 people and left 11 missing, officials said on Monday. Monsoon rains and rising rivers have submerged nine districts and cities in West Sumatra province since Thursday. Late Friday, a major mudslide caused a river to breach its banks and tear through mountainside villages in Pesisir Selatan district.

Relief efforts for have been

विशेष नोट :-

the property that was built in 1880. The property being so old, its reservation is the responsibility of the government, he said. The local socio-political circles have expressed grave concern over the attitude of the archive department to prevent the national asset from collapsing. The claims

itage to protect and preserve it, he said on Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honour,

house from being collapsed, he said. The actor, who died on July 7, 2021, in Mumbai at the age of 98, had always held the city of Peshawar close to his heart and would reminisce about his childhood memories. He was awarded Nishan-e-

ई-निविदा में भाग लेने वाले व्यक्ति / संस्था / साझेदारी फर्म / कंपनी या कंपनी द्वारा अधिकृत व्यक्ति / संस्था फ्रेंचाईजी मध्य प्रदेश के ई-निविदा पोर्टल <u>https://mptenders.gov.in</u> पर ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत कर सकते है।

2. प्रत्येक दुकान की निविदा के लिए पृथक-पृथक आवेदन प्रस्तुत किये जायेगें।

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड

Government revamps pharma scheme; broadens eligibility criteria

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Department has Pharmaceuticals revamped a scheme entails financial assistance to drug companies to help them upgrade their facilities to produce medicines conforming standards, an official release said on Monday.

revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance (PTUAS), government has expanded the scope of the initiative beyond MSMEs to include any pharmaceutical manufacturing unit with a turnover of less than Rs 500 crore that requires technology and quality upgradation, the Chemicals

and Fertilisers ministry said in

Preference however remains MSMEs, supporting smaller players in achieving high-quality manufacturing standards, it added. The revamped scheme also

more flexible introduces financing options, emphasising subsidies on reimbursement basis, over credit-linked traditional approach.

This flexibility is designed to diversify the financing options of the participating units, facilitating a more widespread adoption of the scheme, the statement said.

Besides, in alignment with revised Schedule-M and WHO-GMP standards, the scheme now supports a broader range of technological upgrades, the ministry said



include activities improvements such as HVAC systems, water and steam utilities, testing laboratories, stability chambers, clean room facilities, effluent treatment, management etc. comprehensive support for participating units, it added.

Similarly, the revised scheme allows integration with state government schemes, enabling benefit from additional top-up assistance. This collaborative approach

Intra-day on March 11, 2024

22,517.50

aims to maximise support for the pharmaceutical industry in authority their technology upgradation efforts, as per the statement. The scheme also introduces a

robust verification mechanism through a project management agency, ensuring transparency, accountability and the efficient allocation of resources, it

The revised guideline aims to support the pharmaceutical inductor's industry's up-gradation to the Revised Schedule-M & WHO-GMP standards, enhancing the quality and safety pharmaceutical products manufactured in the country, the ministry stated.

In January this year, the Union Health Ministry notified the Revised Schedule M guidelines under which pharmaceutical companies will have to

Intra-day on March 11, 2024

(-0.83%)

74,119.39

73,502.64

73,433.91

authority about recalling a drug and also report product defects, deterioration or faulty production.

These guidelines come against the backdrop of complaints of sub-standard Indian drugs and deaths abroad reportedly due to it since 2022.

Schedule M part of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 deals with Manufacturing 'Good Practices' to be followed by pharmaceutical manufacturing units in the country. There are around 10,500 manufacturing units in the country out of which around 8,500 fall under the MSME category.

India is a major exporter of medicines to low/middleincome countries (LMICs) which require WHO GMP

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, many others want to start rupee trade with India: Goyal

Many developed and developing countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and nations of the Gulf region are keen to start trade in rupee with India as it would help cut transaction costs for businesses, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He expressed confidence that the development is going to be a "very game-changing" dimension to India's international

"Bangladesh, Sri Lanka are already talking to us and they want us to start this immediately. Other countries in the Gulf region are looking at that. I think it'll take some time for people to see the benefits. And then we'll have more and more developed countries and countries in the Far East also joining the bandwagon. Singapore is already on board to some extent," he said. The minister added that gradually countries are realising that undertaking trade in domestic currencies has several advan-

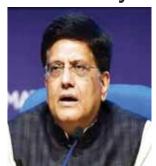
The minister said that it is now picking up traction and a lot of countries have come forward for this arrangement and are talking to India for that as they would also like to initiate direct transactions between their local currency and the rupee.

"Gradually the conscience is setting in that rather than converting all the transactions into a third currency, both ways, adds significantly to transaction costs," Goyal told PTI in an interview.

Undertaking trade in other currencies leads to foreign exchange and transaction losses as there is a cost for conversion. The delays in the movement of money also pushed transactors

We started with the UAE. The UAE was one of the first countries to accept this. It's now picking up traction. We get a lot of countries who come and talk to us that they would like to also initiate direct transactions between the local currency and

"It's a process which takes time.



It involves the central bankers of both nations to create the framework and then it evolves acceptance by importers and exporters," Goyal said, adding 'when it will take off, it'll just fly' The engagement is also beneficial as the Indian Rupee is mostly stable against most of the international currencies and according to experts, this is one of the reasons that different nations today want to have trade relations built on rupee

The rupee trade is also helping many of the countries, which have dollar shortages. India has started trade in the

rupee with neighbouring countries, including Nepal and Bhutan. The rupee trade mechanism has been initiated to facilitate trade in national currency with Russia, while Sri Lanka has included the rupee in its list of designated foreign currencies.

India's first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased was from the UAE and that is helping the world's third largest energy consumer to push for taking the local currency glob-al, as it looks for similar deals

with other suppliers. Changes have been made in the

Accordingly, authorised Indian banks are permitted to open and maintain special rupee Vostro accounts of the partner trading

country's banks.

JM Financial shares plummet 10 per cent after Sebi ban

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of JM Financial plummeted 10 per cent on Monday, days after Sebi barred the company from accepting new mandates to act as a lead manager for the public issue of debt securities, for flouting regulatory norms.

The stock of JM Financial tumbled 9.78 per cent and 9.77 per cent to settle at Rs 79.35 each on NSE and BSE In volume trade, 1.80 crore

equity shares were traded on NSE, while 13.59 lakh shares were traded on the BSE during the day. The 30-share BSE Sensex

declined by 616.75 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 73,502.64, while NSE Nifty slumped by 160.90 points to close at 22,332.65 Last Thursday, Sebi barred JM

Financial from accepting new mandates to act as a lead manager for the public issue of debt securities, for flouting regulatory norms.

However, in the case of existing

mandates, JM Financial can continue to act as a lead manager for the public issue of debt securities for a period of 60 days, Sebi said in its interim order. The regulator's order came days after the Reserve Bank of Índia (RBI) barred JM Financial Products Ltd from providing any form of financing against shares and debentures, including sanction and disbursal of loans against Initial Public Offering (IPO). The Sebi's directive came after markets

undertook routine The investigation focused on the activities of JM Financial and its related entities in a particular debt

After being barred from accepting new mandates by Sebi, JM Financial said it would fully cooperate with the capital markets regulator in its investigation into the public

regulator

examination of the public issues of Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD) during

issue of debt securities.

Sebi chairperson Madhabi Pruri Buch on Monday said there are pockets of "froth" in

BUSINESS BRIEF

POWERGRID SIGNS MOU WITH RVPNL

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Govt of India, has signed an MoU with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited



(RVPNL) at a function held in Jaipur. It was signed in presence of R. K Singh, Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, Bhaianlal Sharma, Chief Minister, Raiasthan, and in august presence of Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines and Diya Kumari, Deputy CM, Rajasthan. The MoU was signed by Nathmal Didel, IAS, MD, RVPNL and D, N, Rozekar, Executive Director (BDD&JV) POWERGRID in the gracious presence of Alok, Addl. Chief Secretary (Power) Govt. of Rajasthan and RK Tyagi, CMD,

VIT CHENNAI HOLDS CULTURAL AND SPORTS FEST Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik, famous



playback singers Shreya Ghoshal, Andrea, and Jonita Gandhi, and International dance crew Shraey Khanna and team performed and entertained the students. More than 200 cultural and sports events were a part of Vibrance 2024. International

students from Japan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Poland, and Philippines. and Students from prestigious institutions like IIT, NIT, and Anna University participated in the events. Vibrance attracted over 22,000 students across India and Winners of the events received prizes worth around ₹ 10 lakhs. The great fest had its valedictory on 09.03.2024. Valedictory guest, Actor, and Social activist Sonu Sood shared his valuable thoughts with the students and encouraged them.

SRMIST, RENAULT NISSAN TECH INK PACT

SRM Institute of Science and Technology-India's premier higher education institution in engineering, technology, management, law, arts and science, and global automobile major Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India (Renault Nissan Tech.) entered into a Memorandum of



Understanding on Recently. The partnership will pave the way for driving advancements in automobile technology and education, while serving as a platform for innovation in research and developing skilled talent. As a part of the pact, Renault Nissan Tech. also handed over a car to SRM's Fab Lab, giving students an opportunity to test and develop products directly on the vehicle, paving the way for researchers to explore and arrive at sustainable mobility solutions.

EDELWEISS TOKIO LAUNCHES 3 GEN PLAN

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has launched Legacy Plus that offers life cover for 2 and income lasting 3 generations through a single product. The product offers an effective way of providing for multiple customer needs, including child financial planning, legacy planning and any emergent needs during its tenure. "An average person typically has 3-4 basic concerns - child's future, retirement, legacy, any potential contingencies, etc," Subhrajit Mukhopadhyay, Executive Director, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

Markets break two days on notice and said it may be **NSE NIFTY BSE SENSEX**

-160.90

(-0.72%)

Previous close

22,493.55

Ctock market benchmark Sensex declined by 616.75 points on Monday, snapping its two-day gaining streak due to selling in metal and banking shares amid weak trends in the global markets. Taking a breather after a record-breaking rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 616.75 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 73,502.64 due to profit taking. During the day, the barometer tanked 685.48 points to 73,433.91. The broader Nifty slumped by

160.90 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 22,332.65. "In the short term, Nifty could

experience weakness, possibly leading to a decline toward the range of 22,200-22,250. Looking at the upside, immediate resistance is identified at 22,400 based on closing prices," Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said.

Among Sensex firms, Power Grid and Tata Steel fell more than 2 per cent. HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever and NTPC were among the major laggards. Nestle, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance were among the gainers. "Continued sell-off in global

Speaking to women journalists

on the sidelines of an event

here, Buch said the 'T+0'

settlement of securities will

begin on March 28 but on an

When asked about the small

and mid-cap space, which has

seen a fast-paced rise in

valuations over the last few

months, Buch admitted that there are "pockets of froth in

the market" which are like

"It may not be appropriate to allow the bubble to keep

optional basis.

bubbles.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

markets due to uncertainty over rate cuts impacted the domestic market sentiment, which is currently at an overbought level. The stronger-than-expected US non-farm payroll data and caution ahead of the release of US inflation data tomorrow kept investors on the edge," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. 'The broader market continued its underperformance due to val-

uation concerns, while investors

are rebalancing their portfolios

to include safe haven assets like

gold," he added. In the broader

market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 2.01 per cent and mid-

cap index dipped 0.24 per cent. Among sectoral indices, ness hours on March 12.

telecommunication plunged by 2.40 per cent, metal by 1.39 per cent, utilities by 1.25 per cent, realty by 1.16 per cent, and energy by 1.15 per cent. Healthcare was the only gainer. Shares of State Bank of India settled 2 per cent lower on Monday after the Supreme Court trashed the public sector lender's plea seeking an extension of time to disclose the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission and ordered it to give the data related to poll bonds by close of busi-

The apex court also put the SBI

inclined to proceed against the lender for "wilful disobedience" of its February 15 verdict, if the bank failed to comply with its directions and timelines. Shares of JM Financial settled 10 per cent lower on Monday after Sebi had barred JM Financial

Ltd from accepting new mandates to act as a lead manager for the public issue of debt securities, for flouting regulatory

Also, scrip of Alembic Pharmaceuticals finished more than 2 per cent lower on Monday after the US Food and Drug Administration issued a Form 483 with four observations for the drugmaker's Gujarat

Among Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index shed 2.2 per cent and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.8 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.4 per cent and Shanghai Composite jumped 0.7 per cent.

The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose by 0.29 per cent to USD 82.32 a barrel Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,304.11 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

FTP (Foreign Trade Policy) to allow international trade settlement in Indian Rupee with a view to making INR a global currency. In July 2022, the Reserve Bank of Índia (RBI) decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee

AstraZeneca Pharma India, Mankind Pharma ink pact to distribute asthma medicine

straZeneca Pharma India

Astrazeneca rimina.

Attd and Mankind Pharma

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ltd on Monday said they have entered into an agreement for exclusive distribution of the Symbicort brand, an asthma medicine, in India. Symbicort is owned by AstraZeneca, which will retain the intellectual property rights and will continue to be the marketing authorisation holder (MAH) and import license after the agreement, a joint statement shared on BSE by AstraZeneca Pharma India said. 'The partnership with Mankind Pharma presents an opportunity to accelerate access and maximise the potential of our asthma drug as well as the turbuhaler which is a simple device, efficient in consistently delivering a higher proportion of respirable particles than the other devices," AstraZeneca India Managing Director and Country President Sanieev Panchal said. Mankind Pharma has a distribution network, including close to 16,000 field forces and more than 13,000 stockists, across India providing access to quality pharmaceuticals across the country, including small towns and rural areas, the statement

Bhopal, Dated: 11.03.2024

Date of

Date of

Pockets of froth in small, mid cap stocks; price manipulation in SME segment: Buch

small and mid-cap stocks which appear like "irrational exuberance" to the capital building, because when it markets regulator. bursts, they impact the Buch also said that Sebi has investors adversely. That is not "price manipulation" in the

She added that the valuation small and medium enterprises parameters are "not supported (SME) segment, and asked by fundamentals at all" and it investors to be more cautious appears like "irrational while investing in the risky exuberance".

Since January 2023, small and indices mid-cap significantly outperformed the broader equity indices, and many asset management companies have stopped accepting lumpsum amounts into schemes and also capped monthly investments in such schemes.

Buch also said that the Sebi has seen evidence of "price manipulation" in the SME segment, including both initial public offerings (IPOs) and secondary trading activity.
"We do see the signs (of price



manipulation)', we have the technology to do it. We are able to see certain patterns. I'd say it is still on the kitchen table, it's not yet gone into the oven," Buch said.

The capital markets regulator is still working with advisors to understand all the dimensions and analyse the data, she said, adding that if it finds some malpractices the next step may to issue a public

mulling to act against entities which are indulging in the malpractices. She said the investors need to understand that the SME

for Sebi to push the companies make the necessary disclosures to investors. Regulations governing the SME segment, the disclosures and therefore, the nature of risk are all different, she said,

segment is different from the

main board and it is necessary

defending the decision to have such a platform. The regulator was desirous of playing a facilitative role and introduced the SME segment where the regulations were not as high as the main board because some SMEs find it

difficult to comply with the However, she did not give any requirements, she explained. specific timelines by which the To a question on Sebi's plan to and introduce the T+0 or same-day settlements, Buch said the regulator plans to make such settlements live by March 28 but added that the same will be optional for investors. As per the plans, T+0 settlement will eventually lead to instantaneous settlement of trades as well.

> She declined to comment specifically on the actions against non-bank lender JM Financial but admitted that while there is no collaboration between the financial sector regulators, there is better data sharing. The orders against the Kampanis-promoted lender by the RBI and Sebi on consecutive days this month is only a coincidence, she said.

Control Print acquires 50.49 per cent stake in UK based Codeology Group for £1 mn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ontrol Print Ltd on Monday Cannounced the acquisition of 50.49 per cent in UK-based Codeology Group Ltd, a provider of print and apply systems, for £1 million (over Rs 10 crore).

The acquisition will help Control Print get a toehold in the UK market, leading to new growth opportunities, the company said in a statement. This collaboration represents a

key step in our plan to diversify our product offerings further. In addition, Codeology has a well-established presence in the UK and will benefit from our products, expertise, and support in their home markets," Control Print Joint Managing Director Shiva Kabra said. Further, he said, "This partner-

ship will also help us expand to

newer markets to provide high-

quality products with Codeology's assistance. Together,

growth and deliver value to our customers." Codeology Group Ltd Director Jim Mason said the partnership with Control Print will give Codeology a broader vision and enhance its capabilities in offering products. "Moreover...Čontrol Print's product additions and financial

we are well-positioned to drive

strength combined with our existing market coverage will provide a significantly higher ceiling for Codeology's growth rates. This is also a notable opportunity for us to reach a new customer base in a new market, further enhancing our network," Mason added.

Government abolishes wireless operating licence Launches regulatory telecom sector.

sandbox to ease trial permit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has abolished said on Monday.

While speaking at the curtain raiser of the telecom sector event India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, the minister said that the wireless operating licence was abolished a few months back but it is being formalised now.

For operating licence.... wireless devices they had to wireless take operating licences. That has been done away with. It was done away for a few months and we are formalising it today," Vaishnaw

said. The minister unveiled a will provide online approval regulatory sandbox for the

He said that through the regulatory sandbox, the DoT

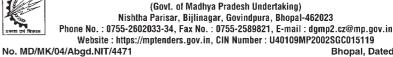
wireless operating licence and launched a regulatory sandbox for quick and online approval of product testing, Union Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

"There was a wireless operating

for product testing at minimal

charge in an easy manner to even enable students to test their products.

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.



Particulars

TENDER NOTICE MPMKVVCL, Bhopal invites online Bids from Agencies for Survey, Supply & Execution of below mentoned work as per Tender Specification under SSTD Scheme

Approx. | Tender Fee

Specification Number		Value (Rs. Lakh)	including GST @18% (in Rs.)	Pre-Bid Conference	opening of tender
	Survey, Supply & Installation of "BORE EARTHING" at various 33/11KV Substations on Semi Turnkey Contract Basis in Bhopal Region under SSTD Scheme in MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.		11800.00	21.03.2024 3:30 pm	02.04.2024 3:30 pm
	Survey, Supply & Installation of "BORE EARTHING" at various 33/11KV Substations on Semi Turnkey Contract Basis in Gwalior Region under SSTD Scheme in MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.		11800.00	21.03.2024 3:30 pm	02.04.2024 3:30 pm

Other details are available on Company website https://portal.mpcz.in & "https://mptenders.gov.in" CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)



Amandeep Drall ready for all challengers in sixth leg of WPGT

mandeep Drall will be among the favourites to win the sixth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour, which gets underway at the DLF Golf and Country Club here this

It will be an exciting week with 46 players, the highest ever on the WPGT, and the prize purse will be a whopping Rs 25

For the second straight week, the players will be playing over four rounds and 72 holes. Amandeep, who won by four

shots, will be challenged by

Bakshi and Sneha Singh. Vani featured in Singapore last week, Hitaashe leads the WPGT Order of Merit, whereas Sneha is the only multiple winner this

The field also includes the promising amateur Vidhatri Urs, who has also won on the Pro Tour this season.

Another amateur to watch out for will be Zara Anand, who, along with Vidhatri, will be playing on the Indian Golf Union's national team at the Queen Sirikit Cup.

One of the interesting features

three-member Indian Golf Union's team for the Queen Sirikit Cup, Vidhatri, Zara and Heena Kang are in the field. It has been a closely-contested season so far with four

different winners in the last five events. All of them are in

the field this week. the field this week.

Among the others looking for their first win of 2024 will be Gaurika Bishnoi, who was second to Amandeep last week, along with Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi, Seher Atwal and Khushi Khanijau. A total of savon ametours will be total of seven amateurs will be playing on the field.

Lifter Chanu to train in Paris ahead of Olympics



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's proposal to train in Paris ahead of the Olympic Games was on Monday cleared by the govern-

The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist will acclimatise to the weather and prepare for the quadrennial showpiece during her month-long stint in La Ferte-Milon in Paris, according to a statement by the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic

The 29-year-old Chanu, who competes in the 49kg category, will be accompanied by two coaches and a physiotherapist. The government will bear the cost for air tickets, visa fees, accommodation, food, train-

ing, local transport and medical insurance among other expenditures under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme

The Mission Olympic Cell also cleared the proposals of equestrian exponent Anush Agarwalla to compete in eight competitions and buy equipment for his hors-

"TOPS will cover his and his coach's accommodation costs, entry fees, two horse feed costs, coach fees, and horse grooms costs among other expendi-

Judoka Asmita Dey and shooter Arjun Singh Cheema's request for financial assistance were also cleared.

"MOC also approved judoka Asmita Dey's proposal for finan-cial assistance to participate in

Grand Prix, Austria and shoot er Arjun Singh Cheema's request for financial assistance towards participation in ISAS Dortmund competition," said the statement. The request for financial assistance by ace Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal for participation in two international competitions along with expenditure for his support staff was also approved by MOC.

"The other proposals approved by MOC during the meeting were financial assistance towards hiring of video analyst for badminton players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, extension of contract for weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga's physiotherapist and financial assistance towards buying equipment for track athlete Amoj Jacob," the statement added.



Khandelwal wins silver in Para World Cup

Tndia's Rudransh Khandelwal and Nihal Singh settled for silver and bronze respectively in the mixed 50m pistol (SH1) category as a gold medal eluded the hosts on day three of the Para Shooting World Cup here on Monday. Rudransh, Nihal and Tokyo

Paralympics silver medallist Singhraj also bagged the mixed 50m pistol (SH1) team silver with China claiming the top step on the podium.

Teenaged shooter Rudransh, who had secured a Paris Paralympic berth last year, shot 223.2 in final to finish behind Italy's Davide Francesschetti,

who totalled 230.0 for the gold

Nihal had to settle for a bronze medal with 202.8 points.

Earlier in the qualification round, Rudransh shot 530 and Nihal 527 to enter the eight-shooter final placed sixth and seventh.

In the mixed 50m pistol (SH1) team event, the trio of Rudransh (530), Nihal (527) and Singhraj (516) aggregated 1573 for the silver medal with China taking the gold with China taking the gold with a combined score 1611.

Rifle shooter Mona Agarwal is the only one so far to have won a gold medal for India in the prestigious Para World Cup for India.



US beats Brazil 1-0 in Women Gold Cup title game

AP ■ SAN DIEGO

stoppage time and the United Mexico - just the second loss in CONCACAF Women's Gold

The United States lifted the trophy on Sunday despite being stunned by a loss to Mexico in the group stage of the tournament. It was the first women's Gold Cup, with the event created to bring teams in the region more meaningful competition.

It was the fourth time that the United States faced Brazil in a final. tournament Americans also won the previous three, including the 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

The game drew a sellout crowd of 31,528 to San Diego's Snapdragon Stadium, a record crowd for a CONCACAF women's match.

Horan scored just moments into stoppage time with a header off a well-placed lofted pass from Emily Fox. It was Horan's third goal of the tournament, her earlier goals were from the penalty spot.

Lynn Williams nearly scored a second for the United States in the 79th minute but the play was offsides. Casey Krueger headed out a dangerous Brazilian cross in the final

The United States was stunned Lindsey Horan scored on a in the group stage of the tournament by a 2-0 loss to

The Americans rebounded with a 3-0 win over Colombia in the quarterfinals, before advancing to the final on penalties after a rain-soaked 2-2 draw with Canada in the

semifinals. Brazil had won each of its five matches in the tournament, including a 3-0 victory over Mexico in the semifinals,

scoring 15 goals. The Brazilians allowed just two total goals in the team's first competitive tournament under coach Arthur Elias, who took over for Pia Sundhage after Brazil's exit at last summer's Women's World Cup. Likewise, the United States was

playing its first tournament under interim coach Twila Kilgore, who assumed her role after the team parted ways with coach Vlatko Andonovski after the earliest-ever World Cup

The United States hired Emma Hayes as the team's coach, but she is concluding the season with Chelsea in the Women's

Super League. Both Brazil and the United

■ INDIAN WELL

Iga Swiatek avenged her Australian Open ouster at the hands of Linda Noskova, beating the Czech teenager 6-4, 6-0 in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open. Second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz and

third-seeded Jannik Sinner each advanced in straight sets in the men's draw, but fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev lost to No. 32 seed Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-

Swiatek advanced to the round of 16, where the top-ranked Polish star will face Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan. Putintseva beat Madison Keys 6-4, 6-1, part of a tough day for American cincle players. singles players.

Francis Tiafoe lost 6-3, 6-3 to Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Katie Volynets was eliminated by Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 4-6, 6-0. The final American on the court, Ben Shelton, did manage a pulsating 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Francisco Cerundolo. Shelton won the decisive tiebreaker 7-5.

Swiatek wins rematch with Noskova The 16th-seeded Shelton advanced to face Sinner in the round of 16. The 11th-seeded Tsitsipas will face

Noskova beat Swiatek in three sets in Australia, becoming the first teen to beat a No. 1-ranked woman at that event in 25 years. The rematch was competitive for a set, but Swiatek eventually rolled to victory in just under 73 minutes.

"I made some mistakes at the beginning. I tried to maybe play to finish the rallies too early," Swiatek said. "But I knew that if I'm going to try to stay consistent and make a little bit less mistakes, my chances may

Jasmine Paolini won another tight match against Anna Kalinskaya, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Paolini won the Dubai Championships two weeks ago, rallying to win a three-set final over



Kalinskava

Alcaraz beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2, 6-3, and Sinner ousted Jan Lennard-Struff 6-3, 6-4.

"I love playing here. I think it's called the fifth Grand Slam, and I know why," Alcaraz said. "I mean, the site is amazing, the courts. I mean, I feel

tennis players, we are going to every tournament and we try to find, you know, that peace off the court, to feel calm, you know, and we find it here." Alcaraz advances to face Fabian Marozsan, the Hungarian who beat him as a 135th-ranked qualifier at the Italian Open 10 months ago. "After that match I really wanted to

here so peaceful that I think that

rematch that match against him," Alcaraz said. "I mean, he's playing great tennis. He is beating big guys. ... Yeah, I'm really looking forward to playing against him again." Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula edged

Sofia Kenin and Bethanie Mattek-Sands 7-5, 6-3 in an all-American doubles matchup. The top-seeded men's doubles team is out after the first round - Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen eliminated Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden 7-6, 4-6, 10-8.

Dev one win away from securing Paris Olympic quota

PTI BUSTO ARSIZIO (ITALY)

World Championships medallist Nishant Dev moved within touching distance of a Paris Olympic quota after he registered a dominant victory over Christos Karaitis of Greece to enter the 71kg quarterfinals of the first

World Olympic Boxing Qualifier here.
The 23-year-old, who won the featherweight bronze at the World Championships last year, sontiated his risk win of forms as he sent continued his rich vein of form, as he outpunched Karaitis by a 5-0 unanimous decision in the pre-quarterfinals late on Sunday.

With the qualifying tournament offering four quota places in the men's 71kg weight class, Dev needs to win his quarterfinal on Monday to seal his passage for Paris Games and earn the fifth 2024 Olympic quota for India and the first in the men's category in boxing.

However, Dev, who is vying to compete in his debut Olympic, will have his task cut out as he faces a tough opponent in 2021 World Championship silver medallist Omari Jones of the USA in the last eight round on Monday. The Haryana boxer is the only Indian boxer out of the nine-member contingent who is still in the fray for a quota.

All others, including 2023 World Championship bronze medallists Deepak Bhoria (51kg) and



Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) — have so far secured Paris quotas at the Asian Games last year.

The remaining Indian boxers will get a final chance to seal their passage to Paris during the second World Olympic Boxing Qualifier, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 23 to June 3. Between 45 and 51 boxers will qualify from the Bangkok meet.

India had nine boxers competing in the Tokyo Both Brazil and the United States have qualified for this summer's Olympics in France. | Mohammed Hussamudin (57kg) crashed out after losing their opening bouts. | Glympics with Borgohain winning the only medal, a bronze. The Boxing Federation of India competitions. It advanced to will hope to match the number if not increase it. |

Real Madrid regains seven point lead over Girona

Real Madrid made peace with its fans with a comfortable win over Celta Vigo and reclaimed a seven-point lead at the top of the Spanish league. Vinícius Júnior scored his third goal in four games on Sunday as Madrid eased to a 4-0 victory that followed consecutive draws that included a lackluster performance against Leipzig in the Champions League, which prompted jeers from the home crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

'We improved in attitude and intensity. It wasn't too hard to do better than we did on Wednesday," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. 'We're happy, focused and

motivated because it's an important stage of the season. At Real Madrid, a draw is the first step toward a crisis." Madrid had drawn four of its

Champions League on Wednesday despite a poor performance in a 1-1 draw against Leipzig.

Defender Antonio Rüdiger set up two goals on Sunday, and Turkey international Arda Güler made his scoring debut with Madrid. The hosts got two own-goals. The victory maintained Madrid's cushion at the top after second-place Girona beat Osasuna 2-0 on Saturday and third-place Barcelona defeated Mallorca 1-0 on Friday. Barcelona, the defending champion, is eight points behind Madrid with 10 rounds left.

Madrid is unbeaten at the Bernabeu in 18 matches this season, with 15 wins and three draws. Its last home loss was in April 2023 against Villarreal. It is unbeaten in the league in 22 straight matches, since a 3-1 loss at Atletico Madrid.

Celta had only one attempt on target in what was its eighth straight loss to Madrid. Rafa Benítez's team sits just outside the relegation zone, two points

"We were playing against the best team in the league and we were in it until the 79th

minute," Benítez said.
"Things could have gone differently." Vinícius opened the scoring from close range after a firm header by Rüdiger in the 21st. Madrid added to the lead with own-goals by goalkeeper Vicente Guaita in the 79th and defender Carlos Domínguez in the 88th. Guaita's own-goal came after a firm header by Rüdiger bounced off the crossbar and

the goalkeeper's back.
The 19-year-old midfielder
Güler, who replaced Vinícius
in the 89th, scored his first goal
for Madrid four minutes into stoppage time.

Vinícius again had a run-in with an opponent, shoving Oscar Mingueza to the ground after the Celta defender held the Brazil forward's jersey to stop a breakaway. Ancelotti had defended Vinícius during the week, saying he is "poorly

Diksha registers second straight Top

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar registered her second straight Top-10 finish with a steady 1-under 71 on the third and final day of the Aramco Team Series here.

Diksha, who shot 69-70 in the first two rounds, finished 6under 210 and was Tied-sixth. Fellow Indian, Pranavi Urs, playing her first season on the Ladies European Tour, also had a decent finish after an even par 72 on the final day. At 3-under for 54 holes, Pranavi finished T-17.

It has been a good start for the two Indians, who are both multiple winners on their home tour, the Hero Women's

Diksha was T-9 at Morocco after being T-19 in Kenya, while Pranavi, the No. 1 golfer in India in 2022, was T-5 in Morocco.

Pranavi is now 14th on the LET Order of Merit and Diksha is 17th.

Alexandra Germany's Försterling fired a final round of 67 (5) to secure a three-shot victory at 12-under.

Diksha had mixed feelings as she said, "It wasn't easy but on some few holes I had good shots. Because of the wind I struggled a bit but I made some great up and downs and it was alright. I'm happy with that. But on some of the birdie

mistakes which could have been easily birdie." Pranavi was happy with her first Aramco Team Series

"It was my first-ever team series so I absolutely loved playing with Bronte (Law) and Sophia (Popov). I think the first hour was pretty good, it was a bit of a roller coaster but overall I think I've been playing pretty and it was good to keep the momentum going from Morocco. I think I did

fairly well. Winner Fosterling sat in a share of second place overnight and started well making a birdie on the second hole. Back-to-back birdies on holes, I made a few silly the sixth and seven put her in



front before she dropped a shot on the eighth.

However, on the back nine, she remained calm and collected rolling in birdies on 12, 13 and 16 to stay in front and win her third title on the LET with a total of -12.

England's Charley Hull, threetime LET winner, was unable to add another victory to her name, but she has two starts in LET events in 2024 and finished second in both of

She finished in outright second place on nine-under-par after a final round of 71 (-

England's Bronte Law, who won the 2024 Lalla Meryem Cup, had a final-day surge, firing a round of 67 (-5) to finish in third place on eightunder-par. Spanish duo Ana Peláez Trivino and Carlota Ciganda

ended the week in a share of fourth place on seven-under-Five players were tied for the sixth place with France's

Nastasia

Switzerland's

Nadaud,

Chiara

Tamburlini, Diksha Dagar, Belgium's Manon De Roey and Germany's Aline Krauter all finishing on six-under-par. The LET now has a two-week

break before heading to Australia for the Women's NSW Open which takes place from March 29-31 at Magenta Shores Golf & Country Club.

the pioneer NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | MARCH 12, 2024

SHAMI COMEBACK LIKELY BY HOME SERIES AGAINST BANGLADESH: JAY

ndia's premier pacer Mohammed Shami, who is Trecuperating from an ankle surgery, is expected to make his comeback with the home Test series against Bangladesh later this year, BCCI secretary Jay Shah told

Shami missed the five-match Test series against England and will also sit out of the IPL after having undergone surgery for Achilles tendon last month. He will also miss the T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the West Indies and the USA in June.

Shami last played for India in the ODI World Cup where he was their standout performer. India will host Bangladesh for two Tests and three T20 Internationals in September.

"Shami's surgery is done, he is back in India. Shami's return is likely for the home series against Bangladesh. KL Rahul needed an injection, he has

started rehab and is at the NCA," said Shah while talking to media here.

Rahul missed the last four Tests of the England series after complaining of pain in his right quadriceps. He is expected to turn up for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, having undergone treatment in London.

RISHABH PANT ON

TRACK COMEBACK: The BCCI secretary also gave an update on Rishabh Pant, who is set to make his much-awaited comeback in the IPL. Pant has been out of action since a horrific car accident in December 2022.

"He is batting well, he is keeping well. We will declare him fit very soon. If he can play the T20 World Cup for us, that will be a big thing for us. He is a big esset for us.

us. He is a big asset for us.
"If he can keep, he can play
the World Cup. Let's see how
he does in the IPL," said Shah. The accident had left Pant



that required a ligament reconstruction besides a fractured wrist and

ankle. But he has done well to bounce back.
His IPL franchise Delhi
Capitals' head coach Ricky
Ponting has already stated
that he would be participating
in the league

in the league.

IPL CAN'T ACCEPT
FOREIGN INVESTMENT:
Asked about the potential of foreign investment in the IPL, Shah said that is not possible considering the BCCI is a society and not a company society and not a company. "BCCI is a society and nobody can invest in it," Shah asserted.

It had been reported last year that Saudi Arabia was eyeing multi billion dollar investment in the IPL.

In India, a registered society cannot accept foreign investment without the approval of the central government and the Reserve Bank of India.



Stokes gave India the upper hand: Ian

Legendary Australian Cricketer Ian Chappell has punched holes in England skipper Ben Stokes' aggressive egendary Australian leadership tactics during the just-concluded five-Test series against India, saying some of his decisions were responsible for the visitors' 1-4 series humiliation.

He said that while the need of the hour on the third evening of the fourth Test in Ranchi was to give the ball to pace stalwart Jimmy Anderson to make early breakthroughs, Stokes decided to bowl parttime spinner Joe Root, thus missing a trick.

"On the third evening, Stokes India's chase with his best two bowlers and try to claim at least one wicket. Incredibly, he gave the ball to a part-timer, Joe Root, and ignored the experienced, probing bowling of Jimmy Anderson. India took full advantage and scored an invaluable 40 runs off just eight overs," said Chappell in his column for ESPNcricinfo. India did not lose a wicket in the post-tea session on day three, scoring 40 invaluable runs to put the pressure back on England. India won the Test by five wickets to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the

series. "Stokes missed a trick in Ranchi. He then compounded his error by allowing too many easy singles on the final day (day four) by resorting to some cautious field placings. At a time when Stokes needed to be extremely brave as captain and hope he got lucky, he was abnormally conservative. "India probably would still

ustralia have overtaken New

A Zealand to take the second spot in the World Test

spot in the World Test Championships ranking following

the 2-0 series win over their Trans-Tasman rivals in Christchurch on

The win in the second Test helped

Australia collect 12 points on their

road to defending the World Test

Australia have improved their

percentage points from 59.09 to

60 percentage points to 50 to be

third on the list. They have played

India, who have won six of their

nine matches, continue to lead the

Championship mace.

62.50 after 12 matches.

PTI DUBAI

Monday.

six games

table 68.51.

have won but at least by going on the attack, Stokes would have given England their best chance of an upset victory."

He said that Stokes could probably take a lesson or two from former Pakistan skipper Javed Miandad, who was a "leadership master" in trying

situations.
Chappell added that India skipper Rohit Sharma took full advantage of the tentative field placings on day four of the Ranchi Test with a thoughtful innings, and India's solid opening partnership helped

seal victory.
"By allowing easy singles, Stokes gave his opponents the upper hand. He also needed to use the experience and guile of to try and issue on the third evening but instead relied on the part-time

spin of Root." Chappell said that Kuldeep Yadav ripped open England vulnerabilities to quality wrist spin, adding that R Ashwin did the job by decimating the lower order.
"In the final Test (in

Dharamsala), England again capitulated to spin -- this time it was the wrist version, from the talented Kuldeep Yadav, who broke open England's vulnerable batting order while R Ashwin plundered the bottom half as offspin was

again dominant.
"India have been getting stronger in this series, while England are regularly being overwhelmed by spin. They're fortunate it's the final Test. Despite all the feel-good stories and bold predictions, India and Australia are still flexing their muscles as dominant teams," Chappell

moments:

needed.

I targeted Richa toes on last delivery: Jess Ranji Trophy final:

Delhi Capitals' left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen is happy to have executed a perfect block-hole delivery last-up which didn't allow the dangerous Richa Ghosh to tee off during her team's thrilling one-run win against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Women's Premier League .

However, the ace Southern Star spinner cheekily admitted that since she became the holder of 'Purple Cap' for highest wicket-taker, she hasn't been bowling well. Needing 17 to win off the last over, RCB's Richa hit two huge sixes to bring the equation down to 2 off one ball but the India international, who was already out of breath, couldn't complete a single to take the game into a Super Over with Jonassen hardly giving her any room to manoeuvre. "In the last ball, I targeted on her toes, I think (I) executed well and thankfully it went straight to Shafali, who got it in quick enough. And coming away with the onerun win felt nice after the heartbreaking loss by one run in the previous game," Jonassen was quoted as saying in a media

The 31-year-old is currently leading the wicket-takers' chart in the season so far (10 wickets in five matches) but seemed to be in a mood to turn into a self-critic.

"Since I've got that Purple Cap on my head, I've been quite ordinary with the



ball. Ideally, I'd love to keep taking wickets, but I haven't been as consistent as I was in those first couple of matches that I've

"I'm probably my harshest critic. It's something to be mindful of and keep rectifying. I always want to try and do my best for whatever team I'm a part of," she

Sunday's game was the closest of encounters that one has witnessed this season and Ionassen knew things went wrong once Richa hit her for a straight six. "I internally knew that at the start of the over, if I could set it up without going for a boundary in one of the first two balls, then we were sort of well and truly on the front

But, getting hit for a massive six down the ground was not ideal, and then I gave it too much air for her in the second last

Job is far from done for Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Senior left-arm spinner Shams Mulani feels that Mumbai team cannot afford to be complacent despite having an overall lead of 260 runs after two days in the Rnji Trophy final against Vidarbha.

Mumbai produced an allround show on the second day at the Wankhede Stadium to take complete command, bowling out Vidarbha for a mere 105 in the first innings to earn a big 119-run lead.

In their second innings,
Mumbai were jolted twice

early on but skipper Ajinkya Rahane (58 not out) and Musheer Khan (51 not out) led a resolute fightback with an unbeaten 107-run stand for the third wicket to take second innings score to 141/2. "Three days are left (in the game). We have not thought about anything else other than batting. Yes, we have got a healthy lead but we will look to build on it and see heavy we

to build on it and see how we can improve and take the game away from them as much as possible," Mulani told the media after stumps. "Right now, we feel that we need to bat. There's no target in mind because we are just thinking that it's just 141. We are not thinking of the lead as of now. It's just 141 for two and we will bat along — the game is still a long way to go,"

Mulani said Rahane's timely unbeaten fifty was worth celebrating like a century for the Mumbai dressing room. "We celebrated like it was a hundred because we knew how important this small milestone for him is. For the team, for himself, in this situation, it was very important that he stays on the

wicket," Mulani said.

he added.

The domination for Mumbai was, however, set up by veteran Dhawal Kulkarni, who snaffled two key wickets on first day evening and bowled a measly spell of 11-5-15-3 while adding one more dismissal to his kitty.

Mulani said to see former India medium pacer Kulkarni excelling in his final game of

Cummins (32 not out) struck the

"If the scoreboard is not moving,

you always feel in the game (from the bowling side), but if they're

his career was "emotional". "It was emotional moment for all of us. For him, obviously it was very emotional. But coming the way he did — he didn't play the last four games but it didn't feel like he has not played," Mulani said.

"Him coming in at a crucial stage like the finals and delivering... Coming in is a different thing and delivering in the finals is a different thing. We are very happy for him as a unit," Mulani said. The left-arm spinner also heaped praise on Musheer for his gritty 51 not out, revealing a dressing room conversation between the Mumbai players, including his elder brother Sarfaraz Khan, from last year when the 18-year-old made his debut.

"Last year, when Musheer made his debut, Sarfaraz told the dressing room that what others do, this guy can do much better than that," Mulani revealed.

"He knew what (kind of) character Musheer is — the gritty character that he is. He has shown that, coming into the knockouts from the (U-19) World Cup," he added.

Mulani also credited his team for being disciplined enough to bundle out Vidarbha inside one session on the second day. "Discipline was the major thing, where we picked the wickets because we didn't give too many bad balls in the initial overs. In 14-15 overs (or so), we gave around 20-25 runs. We put the pressure on them by not giving too many runs and bowling in the right channel," he added.

Meanwhile, Vidarbha pacer Yash Thakur admitted his team is behind in the game but expressed confidence of a turnaround given the amount of time left in the contest.

"It is a long game, a five-day game. We have a chance to come back and we believe in that we will come back in this game," Thakur said.
"It is a part of the game that

we collapsed. We are behind in the game but you don't know, cricket is a funny game and you can make a comeback anytime," he added.

McCullum concedes Bazball needs refinement

PTI DHARAMSALA

England coach Brendon Mccullum has conceded that the team's much-hyped 'Bazball' approach needs some "adjustment" after exposed its frailties and forced the visitors to become "timid" during the recently-concluded Test series here. England started with a thrilling

win in Hyderabad but things went downhill for the visitors from there as India bounced back in stunning manner to take the five match rubber 4-1. "Sometimes, you can get away with things. But when you're exposed the way we have been in the back end of this series in particular, it does require some pretty deep thinking and some adjustment to make sure we're staying true to what we believe in," McCullum told the travelling British media on Sunday.

"If anything, we got more timid as the series went on, and that was because of the pressure that was applied to us by the Indian line-up, not just with the ball. With the bat, they put us under a tremendous amount of pressure, too," he



added. Indian youngsters played a prominent role in the series win. In the absence of key players like Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami and KL Rahul, the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, and Sarfaraz Khan led the charge. The series loss was England's first in the 'Bazball' era. Ben Stokes and Co. Are now

winless in three series and

There are some things where you can get a little bit of luck on your side and you paper over a couple of the cracks. When you are exposed in the way we have been here, you know that you have to get better in some areas," McCullum said.

The next couple of months will be us working out that and making sure when we come to the summer we are a more refined version of what we are at the minute."

critics have panned the one-England were guilty of dimensional philosophy of squandering strong chances in

the second, third and fourth Tests while their batters displayed poor judgement, giving away their wickets.

Whether that affected our approach a little bit and put some doubt in our minds that wasn't there early in the series, I'm not really sure why at this point in time.

They probably outplayed us at the style of cricket that we want to play and made us start to retreat a little bit. So that's something that we will have to change," McCullum said.

quoted as saying by ICC after the end of the match. Cummins feels the 92-run first innings lead over New Zealand

played a big role in Australia's success in the keenly-contested clash. "That day one moved really quickly. And then after that the pitch flattened out and it was a bit

tougher going for the bowlers. But yeah, the first innings lead was always key.
"I think the story of this series was

in key moments one guy stood up, and we didn't necessarily play complete games but you know, someone stood up and made themselves a match-winner. (We) keep finding ways to win. It's a pretty awesome squad," hes said.
"Amazing win, bit by bit, the boys



winning runs off New Zealand debutant Ben Sears (4/90), whose double-wicket over to collect Mitchell Marsh and Starc, earlier looked to bring the Kiwis back into the match In the end, the 61-run partnership between Cummins and Carey sealed the deal for Australia.

A herculean effort from Alex Carey alongside Mitchell Marsh's New Zealand have dropped from 80 and Pat Cummins' late heroics helped Australia defeat New Zealand in the second Test and

One guy stood up in key

Cummins lauded his team for its

fearless attitude and particulary

praised wicketkeeper Carey for his

series-clinching effort, saying the

story of the rubber was that one

player who stood up when they

thrilling series-win over NZ.

Cummins

seal the series. Australia had won the first Test by 172 runs in Wellington last month.

just chipping away at it seems like it's all happening pretty quickly. "So that was a goal today - just always be busy out there. Just keep the run rate ticking over, bit by bit Carey finished on 98 not out while were fantastic today." getting closer," Cummins was Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement befor responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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