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JOE BIDEN SAYS HE NEVER MEANT

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GDP GROWTH TO BE CLOSER TO

JAISWAL WINS ICC PLAYER OF MONTH AWARD

12 SPORTS

Nayab Saini is new Haryana CM

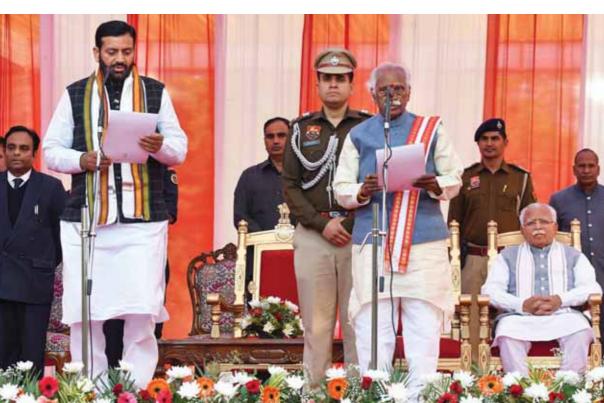
n a lightning-speed politically just days before the announcement of Lok Sabha poll schedule, a change of guard was effected in Haryana, with State BJP chief Nayab Singh Saini sworn in as the new Chief Minister on Tuesday, hours after Manohar Lal Khattar and his Cabinet Ministers resigned from their posts.

Five others took the oath as members of the new Council of Ministers along with Saini. They are BJP leaders Kanwar Pal, Mool Chand Sharma, Jai Parkash Dalal and Banwari Lal and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala. The BJP-JJP alliance broke

apart in the State, after which Khattar and his Deputy Chief Minister from JJP, Dushyant Chautala, resigned to make way for a new Government. Chautala was insisting to contest two Lok Sabha seats of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Harvana but the BJP which is currently holding all the 10 Lok Sabha seats has offered only one seat to JJP.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Saini on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Harvana.

"Congratulations @NayabSainiBJP on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Haryana. Wishing him and his team of Ministers the very best for their efforts in On the BJP removing fulfilling the aspirations of Khattar, the Congress said



Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administers the oath to BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini as Chief Minister of Haryana, at Raj Bhavan, in Chandigarh, on Tuesday PTI

the people of Haryana," Modi the "chaos" in the State was a said on social media. Saini was administered the

oath by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya during a ceremony held at the Rai Bhavan in Chandigarh. He bowed before Khattar and sought his blessings after being sworn in.

reflection of the "growing people's angst" against the saffron party and it was time for change in the country. The party alleged it was a

"pre-planned drama" by the BJP and the JJP of breaking the alliance to avoid the consequences of their "failure" and demanded fresh President's rule.

Earlier in the day, the BJP named OBC leader Saini (54) as Haryana's new Chief Minister. He is the party's State unit president and the MP from Kurukshetra.

Khattar's second term as the Chief Minister was also to end in October when the Assembly polls were due. Khattar and all 13 other

members of the BJP-led council of Ministers submitted their resignations to the Governor as a team of the party's Central observers arrived in Chandigarh.

In the past as well, the BJP has changed Chief Ministers, and reshuffled Cabinets before Assembly elections to ward off the antirejuvenate State units and

This was the tactic before polls in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, which the party won, and Karnataka, which it lost.

which it iosi.

The selection of Saini — an influential Other Backward Classes leader — also Classes leader — also represents the BJP's focus on caste and OBC equations in each State before an election. The BJP effected similar moves in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. Saini's appointment as the State BJP chief in October was seen as the party's move to strengthen its hold over the OBC community and non-Jats. The support of Jats, who are

populous communities in the State, is largely seen to be divided between the Congress, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). Along with these factors, the move to pick Saini as the

most

Chief Minister is also being seen as a counter to the antiincumbency perception against the Khattar against dispensation. The population of the Saini

community is around eight per cent in Haryana. The community wields influence in many of Haryana's northern districts, including Ambala, Kurukshetra and Hisar besides in few other

Continued on Page 2 | Commission of India, today,

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSION

SBI complies with **SC**, **Submits Bond details to EC**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday evening submitted to the Election Commission the details of the parties that had bought nowscrapped electoral bonds and those who got them, as it complied with the Supreme Court order to furnish information. The Supreme Court on Monday ordered SBI to disclose the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission by close of business hours on March 12. As per the order, the Election Commission will have to publish the details shared by the bank on its official website by 5 pm on March 15.

"In compliance of the Supreme Court's directions to the SBI, contained in its order dated Feb 15 & March 11. 2024 (in the matter of WPC NO.880 of 2017), data on electoral bonds has been supplied by the State Bank of India to the Election

March 12, 2024," Election Commission said in a post on X. According to sources, SBI has complied with the orders of the apex court and submitted the details of the electoral bonds to the Election Commission. The SBI has issued electoral

bonds worth ₹16,518 crore in 30 tranches since the inception of the scheme in 2018. The Supreme Court, however, in a landmark verdict on February 15 scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" and ordered disclosure by the EC of donors, the amount donated by them and recipients. The SBI had sought time till June 30 for disclosure of the details. Its plea, however, was rejected by the apex court, and it asked the bank to submit all details to the Election Commission by the close of working hours

on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 2

Tejas crash lands near Jaisalmer, pilot safe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} the first-ever incident involving the indigenously designed and manufactured fighter jet, a Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) crashed on Tuesday in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The pilot ejected safely, and no injuries were reported on the ground. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has ordered a mandatory court of enquiry to ascertain the cause of the mishap. "A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas of the Indian Air Force crashed near Jaisalmer today during an operational training sortie. The pilot ejected safely," the IAF said in a brief statement. Reports from Jaisalmer said the aircraft caught fire after the crash, near a students' hostel complex. Military sources said the jet, belonging to the IAF's number 18 squadron or 'Flying Bullets', was one of the three Tejas aircraft which were to be part of the wargame in Pokhran.

The crash took place around 100 km from the Pokhran desert, where a mega war game 'Bharat Shakti' witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top military brass was underway.

This is the first crash of the indigenous jet since its first test flight 23 years ago, in 2001. Tejas was inducted into the IAF in 2016. Tejas is a single-seater fighter aircraft, and a twin-seat trainer



Firefighters try to extinguish the fire at the crash site after a Tejas aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed during an operational training sortie, near Jaisalmer, on Tuesday. Pilot of the aircraft ejected

variant is also operated by the Air Force. The Indian Navy also operates the twin-seater variant. The first test flight of the

Technology Demonstrator-1 (TD-1) took place in 2001, and the maiden flight of the Second Series Production (SP2) Tejas aircraft of Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) configuration took place on March

Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Tejas is a 4.5-generation multi-role fighter aircraft designed to provide offensive air support and close combat support for ground

operations. Tejas is the smallest and lightest aircraft in its class, and its dimensions and extensive use of composite structure make it lighter. In 2016, the first IAF Squadron to induct the Tejas was the No 45 Squadron, the 'Flying Daggers'.

The Indian Air Force presently operates 40 Tejas MK-1 aircraft. In February 2021, the Defence Ministry sealed a ₹48,000 crore deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF. In November last year, the ministry accorded initial approval to procure an additional batch of 97 Tejas jets

Congress releases second list of Lok Sabha candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Tuesday announced its second list of 43 candidates for the Lok Sabha ills fielding Kamal Nakul Nath once again from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara and Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav from Rajasthan's Jalore.

The party's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gauray Gogoi has been fielded from Assam's Jorhat and Pradyut Bordoloi from Nagaon. Kahul Kaswan, who switched over from the BJP a few days ago to the Congress, has been fielded from Churu in Rajasthan. The second list came a day after the Congress' Central Election Committee, chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, met at the party headquarters to finalise the candidates.

In the meeting, discussions were held for more than 60 seats in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Assam and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

The seats announced on Tuesday include 13 from Assam, 10 from Madhya Pradesh, 10 from Rajasthan, seven from Gujarat and three from Uttarakhand, besides one from Daman and Diu, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said at a Press



conference. Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera were also at the briefing. However there is an unease in

the Congress circle with reports emanating that Kharge has expressed not to contest the Lok Sabha elections this

year. Kharge reportedly shared to the CEC in presence of predecessor Sonia Gandhi that he would

like to skip the elections and focus more dedicatedly in the campaign and day to day affairs of the party which is poll ready for the general elections in next couple of months followed by Assembly polls in some States

during the end of year.

Amongst the party veterans of

high command Sonia has already opted out from electoral politics this year.

Sources said Kharge's name was discussed for the Gulbarga constituency last week. However, the 81-year-old Rajya Sabha MP may now nominate

his son-in-law Radhakrishnan Doddamani from the same seat. The party chief's son Priyank Kharge is a Minister in the Congress Government

Kharge has won twice from the Gulbarga constituency and lost in 2019. At present, he is the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. Kharge has four more years in the Rajya Sabha.

Karnataka.

Continued on Page 2

India rejects China objection to Modi visit to Arunachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 \mathbf{I} ndia on Tuesday brushed aside China's objection to Prime Minister Narendra Pradesh last week and asserted that the northeastern state 'was, is, and will" always be an integral and inalienable part of India. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its part and has also named the area as

Zangnan. Beijing's objection came on Monday after Modi's visit to Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, on Saturday last. In an effort to provide all-weather logistical backup to the forces guarding the border facing China there and boosting economic development of the region,

he had virtually dedicated the Sela tunnel project in Itanagar to the nation. It is the world's longest twin-

lane tunnel. The tunnel has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of 13,000 feet on the road connecting Tezpur, Assam, to Tawang in the West Kameng district of

Arunachal Pradesh.

Continued on Page 2

Medical hope for snake bites

Plose on the heels of Karnataka making snakebite cases and deaths notifiable, a first for any State in the country, the Centre is considering the establishment of a dedicated Snakebite Helpline (15400).

Designed to serve as a lifeline in times of crisis, the helpline aims to assist affected individuals and communities amid the disturbing rise in snakebite cases and fatalities in India.

This much-needed effort comes in response to alarming statistics, revealing between 81.000 and 138.000 annual deaths attributed to snakebites, alongside a staggering 400,000 cases of amputations and



permanent snakebite resulting from envenoming.

innovative initiative promises swift intervention and support for individuals and communities grappling with snakebite emergencies and is set to be piloted in five states: Puducherry, Madhya

Pradesh, Assam, Andhra

Pradesh, and Delhi. The Government aims to halve the mortality and disability associated with snakebite envenoming by 2030 in India. To achieve this goal, Apurva Chandra, Union Health

Secretary, launched a National

Action Plan for Prevention and

Communication materials. These materials will serve as invaluable tools for raising awareness, disseminating critical information, and empowering communities to

Envenoming (NAP-SE) in

India, along with an array of

Information, Education, and

take proactive measures against snakebite, a neglected tropical disease. Regarding the Regarding the proposed helpline, a senior official said

individuals bitten by snakes can call the helpline for immediate guidance on administering first aid and seeking medical attention. They can also receive assistance in identifying the

species of snake encountered

and determining whether it is venomous or harmless. The helpline will offer reassurance, emotional support, and advice on coping strategies for individuals who may feel anxious or panicked after a snake encounter, even if they have not been bitten.

Helpline Snakebite represents a forward-looking approach to public health, ensuring that no life is lost or altered irreversibly due to lack of timely intervention. With the notification of snakebite envenoming by the Karnataka Government, all hospitals, medical colleges (teaching hospitals), and private facilities are mandated to record all snakebite cases and deaths on the Integrated Health

Information Portal (IHIP).



Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari during the Exercise Bharat Shakti, in Pokhran, Rajasthan, on Tuesday

EC begins consultation process to review poll preparedness in JK

The mainstream political The mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday batted for simultaneous Lok Sabha

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrived in Srinagar late Monday evening to interact with the representatives of the political parties and other stakeholders. Both the Kashmir-based politparties National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party batted for Assembly polls alongside Lok

The BJP too has expressed its readiness for simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and the . Jammu and Kashmir assembly. Delegations of the Congress party and the Aam Admi Party also met the nine-member panel at the SKICC. Jammu and Kashmir Panthers party leader Harsh Dev Singh was, however, prevented from meeting the poll panel.
Soon after the former Cabinet

minister arrived at the main gate of the venue at SKICC he was prevented from entering the premises.

Singh showed the invitation let-



and Kashmir police deployed at the venue of the meeting, SKICC, didn't allow the party

Neither the ECI nor the Jammu and Kashmir police or civil administration cited any reasons for denying Singh the meeting at the last hour.

National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani, who led his party's delegation, said they impressed upon the Election Commission the need for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir together with the Lok Sabha polls.

"We told the commission that it has been 10 years that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been deprived of their democratic rights. So, the assembly elections should be held along with Lok Sabha polls. The commission gave us

PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said his party also batted for holding assembly and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously. "It is now up to the Election Commission to decide on this," he told reporters after

the meeting.
BJP leader R S Pathania said BJP is also ready for simultaneous polls. He alleged that the NC, PDP and Congress were "frauds who have spread smokescreen in the name of half-truths to fool the people of Jammu and Kashmir'

The BJP leader demanded that polling booths be set up at places outside the Union territory where the members of the Kashmiri Pandit community have been living to facilitate their voting.

After the meeting with political parties, the poll panel chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the situation on ground zero. District Election Officers and superintendents of police also briefed the poll panel separately. The Election Commission is scheduled to visit Jammu on Wednesday and interact with the representatives of the political parties.

Meanwhile, the Chief Electoral Officer (J & K) PK Pole, and nodal officers of the state police also briefed the poll panel about the preparedness ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Mamata attacks Centre on CAA implementation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday cited the plight of the 13 lakh Hindu Bengalis of Assam to forewarn the people of her State against stepping into the CAA "trap" of the BJP Government by applying for citizenship under the new

Launching a fierce attack on the Centre for trying to introduce National Register for Citizens (NRC) in a circuitous manner, Banerjee said the Citizenship Amendment Act was legally doubtful and so it would be foolish on the part of the people to get entrapped by it. Addressing an audience at Habra in North 24 Parganas the Chief Minister said "there is no clarity given by the Centre on the CAA ... only they have framed some rules but I alert the people against stepping into the trap they have laid for you."

Reminding how 13 lakh Hindu Bengalis were sent to detention camps in Assam Banerjee said, "remember in Assam out of 19 lakh people 13 lakh Hindu Bengalis were removed from the list in the name of NRC forcing many people to commit suicide."

By implementing CAA, the Centre was indirectly bringing in NRC, she said. "If you apply for citizenship then you will fall in the said." will fall in their trap ... you will admit officially that you are an infiltrator \dots after this

you will be liable to come within the ambit of NRC ... you will lose your citizenship, property, education certificate, your children's education and all other facilities that you get as citizens of this country so I warn you against getting entrapped in this CAA procedure," Banerjee said. The Chief Minister's attack came a day after the Centre officially notified the CAA on Monday.

Saying that the procedure of granting citizenship on the basis of religion, Banerjee said such an act of the Centre was "unconstitutional and was a direct attack on the roots of secularism." She said "this is an insult to humanity," adding "the BJP thinks that they have hit a six but they will get a zero out of this."

Banerjee had earlier questioned the timing of bringing the Act saying, "the introduc-tion of the CAA just ahead of the elections only testified BJP's diabolic designs.

While the Left maintained a studied silence on the issue the Congress to hit out at the BJP Government for "playing elec-

Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury too attacked the Centre for choosing the time of implementation of CAA. "It is for everyone to understand that they had this dirty trick up their sleeves... what new will happen with this law ... you are declaring people as citizens who were already citizens ... it is just an effort to put the main issues to the backburner," he said adding the people would gradually understand would gradually understand

the efficacy of the CAA. It was and indirect way of getting people to acknowledge that they are not Indians, he said adding after applying for the so-called citizenship the people will expose them in great danger of being declared as aliens

BJP leader and union minister Shantanu Thakur however, refuted such claims saying CAA will help all refugees in all states, not only Matuas in Bongaon and it will reflect in the coming polls in all dis-

Thakur who is also a leader of Matua Mahasangh said. "I will urge this is a security and kavach for the future generations of the Matua people." Matuas are a notified Hindu

Scheduled Caste community who had migrated to India following religious persecution in Bangaldesh Independence and also after

the 1971 war. They have a formidable presence in large parts of Bengal.

Arjun Singh quitting TMC for BJP?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Angry and "insulted" at not getting re-nomination to

contest the Lok Sabha elections on Trinamool Congress' ticket Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh on Tuesday dropped strong hints of quitting the party.
Alleging breach of trust by the TMC leadership Singh who was a hardcore Mamata Banerjee lieutenant till 2019 when he left the party to join the BJP and win from Barrackpore before leaving the saffron outfit once again to rejoin the TMC two years ago said, "I came back to the TMC upon assurance that I will be given a re-nomination ... but am feeling insulted ... I am hurt ... I think I am of no use

Singh who on Tuesday morning got all the big photo frames of TMC and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee replaced in his office by those of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lotus symbols said, he had been back-stabbed by the TMC. "I have been insulted ... I was given assurance of a ticket when I was brought to the party ... now I feel my throat was slit from the behind by my own people," he said. On whether he should be considered a former TMC man he said, "what else can you say." When asked whether he would join the BJP he said, he had not decided as yet but said that he was happy with the Citizenship Amendment Act getting imple-

CAA notification Ramzan gift for Muslims: Omar

 $F^{ormer\,Jammu\;and\;Kashmir}_{Chief\;\;Minister\;\;Omar}$ Abdullah, who is known for his witty comments and acerbic commentary on social media, Tuesday termed the CAA notification as the "Ramzan gift" for the Muslims and expressed

regret over it.
"They (BJP) have given a Ramadhan gift to the Muslims of the country by notifying the CAA. We regret it," Omar said in Srinagar.

Linking with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls Omar said notifying the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) days before the Sabha elections shows the BJP is not confident about winning 400 seats in the ensuing polls. Omar told reporters, "It was passed in 2019, but notifying the CAA (rules) just a few days before the bugle of elections is to be blown, perhaps it makes it clear what the aim is. They (BJP) were saying that after the (construction) of the Ram Temple, they could not lose. But perhaps they feel that their position is weak and that is why they have to use these new

weapons," he told reporters

Abdullah said it is evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to use religion in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The Muslims have always been a target of the BJP, which is not something new for the party. Even in the CAA, the Muslims have been made a specific target. This is not new politics for the BJP, this has been their approach before as well,"

On the other hand, Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti also posted a comment on X (earlier Twitter) saying, "77 years after partition BJP is still wedded to the conof Hindu Mahasabha. They have thus implemented CAA to create another partition among our people to further their

This sudden urgency in its implementation despite the case being pending in honorable SC, is a desperate attempt to divert attention from its allround failures and engage people in hate politics. Appeal to all communities especially Muslims not to walk into their

Rahul promises six guarantees for Adivasis

T N RAGHUNATHA

 $M_{
m were}^{
m aintaining}$ that Advasis were the "real owners" of the country and that they had first right over "water, forests and land", Congress president Rahul Gandhi six guarantees for the tribal community, including declaration of "scheduled areas" and withdrawal of amendments made by the Modi government to to forest conservation and land acquisition acts.

tions separately in a year would

disturb Jammu and Kashmir's

economy. "The tourism sector

here is very vibrant and people

are expecting a huge rush of

tourists. So, if two elections are

held in a year (separately),

then the economic activity will

be disrupted. Also, the prime

minister's dream is to have

one nation and one election. So

why not start that from Jammu

and Kashmir," the National

Conference leader told reporters. Wani said the party

delegation also told the

Election Commission that peo-

ple here have apprehensions

that the elections would not be

fair. The EC should ensure a

level playing field in the elec-

The commission heard us

patiently but the decision is

tions, he said.

Addressing a largely attended rally at predominantly tribal belt of Nandurbar in north Maharashtra on the last leg of Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Gandhi said that if voted the Congress would bring in all such districts which have more than 50 per cent tribal population, they would be brought under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Coming down heavily on the BJP government for doing "precious little" for the tribals in the country, Gandhi said: "The Modi government has written off loans to the tune of a staggering 16 lakh crores



rupee of loan taken by the trib-

Reiterating that his party would carry out caste census in the country, Gandhi said: "Once we come to power, we will carry out a caste census and an economic and financial survey across the country. It will be a revolutionary step. We will have the exact data of each caste and its representation in

Questioning the BJP's use of term Vanvasis instead of Adivasis, Gandhi said: "While Adivasi means those who are the real owners of "jal-jangaljameen" (water, forests and land), while Vanvasis are those living in the forests. Adivasis account for eight per cent of the population in the country. But, they do not enjoy the fruits of power. Once we come to power, we will give them rights in commensurate with their population".

Three workers killed after falling from highrise under construction building

T N RAGHUNATHA

Three workers were killed while one was critically injured when fell down from the 16th floor after scaffolding of a 24-storey under-construction building gave way at Borivali (west) in north Mumbai.The incident took place at 1 pm when the labourers were working on the 16th floor of the 24-storied under-construction building at Soniwadi near Kalpana Chawla Chowk at Borivali (West). Immediately after the incident,

the police and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot.
The injured labourers were rushed to the Shatabdi Hospital at Kandivali (West), where three

dead. Those dead were identified as Manoranjan Samaj (42), Shankar Badiya (25) and Piyush Sardar (38). The condition of the fourth worker, Sushil Gupta (35), who is undergoing treatment at the

Shatabdi Hospital, was described as "critical". Meanwhile, the circumstances leading to the scaffolding crash are being investigated. The fire brigade personnel are trying to ascertain if the labourers were equipped with safety gear or not.

Mumbai airport adjudged best airport in Asia **Pacific region**

T N RAGHUNATHA

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has been adjudged as the 'Best Airport over 40 million passengers' in Asia Pacific region by Airports Council International's (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards. The CSMIA has been recognised with this prestigious title of 'Best Airport' for seven years in a row.

Announcing the "best airport" for CSMIA, Luis Felipe de Oliveira, Director General, ACI World said: "The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards celebrate more than outstandrecognizes the innovation and dedication of your entire airport team. Congratulations to Mumbai International Airport for your hard work that is redefining the airport experi-

"It is with great pride that we receive the 2023 ASQ Award once again for 'Best Airport over 40 million passengers' category in Asia-Pacific, one of the most prestigious accolades in our industry," a CSMIA spokesperson said.

Protests and celebrations mark CAA implementation

couple of cities while the beneficiaries celebrated the CAA notification with immense joy and colours of

residing in the national Capital area who said they can finally look forward to a secure future through CAA. They claimed they have been living in semi-kutcha houses, cooking in mud and brick defecation in Majnu-Ka-Tilla area ever since they moved to India in 2011. Recalling the hardships they

Students' groups at Jamia Millia Islamia protested against the implementation of CAA and demanded the Centre to withdraw it. Addressing a press conference near one of the gates of the varsity, the protesting students pressed for repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and release of all students who were booked in the anti-CAA protest nearly four years ago. They also demanded withdrawal of the cases against the students. The Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the area and drones are also being used to Protests against the CAA

The 12-hour 'Sarbatamak Hartal', called by the 16-party

much response. Shops and business establishments remained closed in a few districts such as Sivasagar, Golaghat, Nagaon and Kamrup.

The Assam Police have issued notices to Opposition parties, asking them to withdraw the hartal over the implementation of the CAA, and warned that "legal action" will be taken against them if they fail to follow the diktat, officials said on Tuesday.

While Home Minister Amit Shah at a public meeting in Telangana said Modi has honoured Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain refugees by giving CAA in order to save their faith and honour lakhs and crores of people from Pakistan and Bangladesh came to India, but were not granted citizenship.

The Centre on Monday

implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014. Union Minister Anurag Thakur wondered why the Opposition parties were hellbent on snatching the rights of the religious minorities in India's neighbourhood who were set to benefit from the CAA. The senior BJP leader said TMC supremo West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has revealed the arrogant face of

filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking a direction to the Centre to stay the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 till the pendency of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 before the apex court.

The application, filed by the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), which is one of the petitioners who have challenged the citizenship law, has sought the court's direction to ensure no coercive action is taken against people belonging to the Muslim community pending adjudication of the writ petitions. Muslims cannot apply for Indian citizenship under the

It has urged the apex court to

Nayab Saini...

In 2014, when the BJP had formed its Government for the first time on its own strength in Haryana, the party had picked Khattar, a first-time MLA from Karnal, as the Chief Minister.

At that time, Khattar was picked up ignoring senior leaders like Ram Bilas Sharma, Anil Vij, Capt Abhimanyu and ÓР Dhankar. In the events

which unfolded on Tuesday,

to political funding.

authorised bank.

something which the apex court had not asked for.

The first sale of electoral bonds took place in March 2018.

Saini was picked to succeed Khattar in a similar fashion.

In the outgoing Khattar Cabinet, Anil Vij, a six-term MLA, is the senior most Minister.

Saini was born on January 25, 1970 in a village called Mirzapur Majra in Ambala district. A law graduate, he enjoys

cordial terms with Khattar,

with their relationship going

Former Finance Secretary SC Garg in a column said SBI's time-wasting tactic is laughable, saying

the bank wanted to match the buyer of each electoral bond with its recipient political party,

Such bonds had no serial number or any other identifier, he said, adding, the purchase and deposit

processes did not allow the SBI to record any identifier of a specific electoral bond for its purchaser

The electoral bonds scheme was introduced on January 2, 2018. Electoral bonds have been pitched

as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency

Electoral bonds were to be redeemed exclusively by an eligible political party through an

Electoral bonds were encashed by an eligible political party only through a bank account with the

Electoral bonds were purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the

Registered political parties that had secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in last Lok

Sabha or legislative assembly elections were eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

authorised bank account, and the SBI is the sole authorised bank for issuing these bonds.

back to their RSS days.

SBI complies with **SC...**

From Page 1

The first list released includes names of former chief Rahul Gandhi who will be contesting in the Lok Sabha election that is likely to take place in April-May this year.

taken by 22 industrialists. But,

it has not waived even one

Congress...

The party announced 39 candidates — 16 are from seven Kerala, Karnataka and six from Chhattisgarh, four Telangana and two from Meghalaya and one each from Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, and Lakshwadeep.

India rejects China objection to...

From Page 1 Built at a total cost of Rs 825 crore, the tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang across Sela Pass on the Balipara - Chariduar -Tawang Road, boosting the preparedness of the Armed Forces and augmenting the socio-economic development of the border

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said here the Chinese side has been made aware of this "consistent position" on several occasions.

Objecting to such visits by Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh India's or developmental projects in the State does not stand to reason, he said. "We reject the comments

made by the Chinese side regarding the visit of the Minister Prime Arunachal Pradesh," he said. China on Monday said it lodged a diplomatic protest with India over Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last week, and reiterated its claim over the region by saying India's moves will complicate"

boundary

unresolved

Jaiswal

said China's objection to such visits will not change the reality that Arunachal Pradesh "was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India."

leaders Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other States of India. Objecting to such visits or developmental projects does not stand to reason," he said.

'Further, it will not change the reality that the State of Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India," Jaiswal said. "Chinese side has been

made aware of this consistent position several occasions." added.

Jaiswal responded to media queries regarding China's objection to Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. In his address, the Prime

Minister expressed the Government's unwavering commitment the development of the Northeast region. He said the Sela Tunnel would provide all-weather connectivity and improve measuring 1.5 km in length.

travel ease for the people of Tawang. He also mentioned that work on many tunnels is ongoing in the region.

The Sela Tunnel has been constructed using the new Tunnelling Austrian Method and incorporates safety features of the highest standards. The project will not only provide a faster and more efficient transport route in the region but is also of strategic importance to the country.

The foundation stone of the tunnel was laid by the Prime Minister on February 9, 2019, and construction commenced on April 1, 2019. The tunnel has been completed in just five years, overcoming challenges of difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions. Border Roads

Organisation (BRO) has always been at the forefront of developing the border areas. The Sela project consists of

two tunnels and over 8 km of approach roads, with a total length

approximately 12 km. The first tunnel is a single-tube tunnel spanning 980 meters, while the second serves as an emergency escape route,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Aday after the Centre implemented Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, protests were reported from a

Celebrations erupted amongst Pakistani Hindu refugees

faced in the last 13 years after moving to India, Pakistani Hindu refugee Sona said most people in their camp have been using mud and brick stoves for cooking purposes. "The country was divided on the basis of religion. We were left to die. We did not belong anywhere. Now the Indian Government has implemented CAA to benefit us. It is a matter of pride and we can't describe it in words," said Manohar, a refugee from Pakistan now residing at a shelter in the north Delhi area.

monitor the situation.

implementation erupted across Assam with effigies of the Prime Minister, Home Minister and copies of the law being burnt. The Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) burnt the effigies of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in Lakhimpur, while the Congress also torched copies of the law in different parts of the district to protest against the implementation of the CAA.

United Opposition Forum

the Opposition alliance. Meanwhile an application was

CAA.

direct the Centre to provisionally permit people belonging to the Muslim community also to apply for citizenship and submit a report on their entitlement.

and Assembly polls before the Election Commission panel in Srinagar as it began its two-day visit to review poll preparedness ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The Election Commission panel headed by Chief Election

Hindu, Sikh refugees celebrate, say feel relieved and free now

Payara Singh, who took refuge in India escaping from war torn Afghanistan over three decades back, celebrated implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) saying he felt reborn hoping now to have his identity as bonafide citizen of the

country.

Now, 57, Singh joined dozens of fellow Sikh refugees from Afghanistan and Hindu refugees from Pakistan bursting crackers, playing Holi ing crackers, playing Holi, dancing on drumbeats and raising slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" at a programme hosted by Delhi BJP on Tuesday.

"It feels like I am celebrating

has started in my life as I am on the verge of having an identity as citizen of India that has been my home for more than three decades," Singh told PTI.

Recounting his tale, Singh said he left Paktia in Afghanistan in 1989 to save his life and reached India but there was no place for him to stay or money to start a new life.

"Identity is the most basic and important thing for any human being, but we didn't have it. We could not buy a house and the people were reluctant to give us their house on rent," said Singh, who now lives in Tilak Nagar.

He runs a small shop of mobile phone accessories in



"Now, I feel free and can do everything after getting the citizenship of India and even own a passport and voter card and travel anywhere that was impossible so far," he said.

The Centre on Monday announced the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, paving way for granting citizenship to undocnon-Muslim umented migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. With this, the Central government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians — from the three

Many other refugees living in India for decades expressed similar sentiments of relief and joy while thanking Modi government for the decision to implement the CAA.

They handed over a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the function to Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

"This Holi is unlike any other," said Sachdeva joining the refugees and BJP leaders and workers in celebrations.

Pakistani Hindu refugee Sona Das, who came to India in 2013, said he was hugely relieved and hoped for a better life for his children, including five boys and two daughters.

times and I can't express the pain of being a refugee for more than a decade," he said. Hundreds of Hindu refugees from Pakistan live in a temporary settlement at Majnu Ka Tila in north Delhi.

"Our wait is over," said Manju Ram, another Pakistani Hindu

refugee from Majnu Ka Tila.

"The Modi government did what they promised. Now we can be part of everything, buy property and vote in the elections also," he said smiling. Govind Ram said, "We have been Indian at heart for the past four decades and now thanks to Narendra Modi we will be legal citizens of the

Security upped in many parts of city | JNU issues advisory

Security was tightened in many parts of Delhi with paramilitary personnel conducting night patrols and flag marches in the northeastern parts of the city, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar and other sensitive areas after the Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

The CAA bill was passed in Parliament on December 11, 2019, leading to protests across the country, including Delhi which witnessed months-long anti-CAA protests in 2019-2020 with Jamia Millia Islamia and Shaheen Bagh being the epicentres of the stir.

In early 2020, the city witnessed communal riots in its northeastern parts over the issue in which 53 people were killed and over 500 injured. After the Centre implemented the CAA on Monday, notifying the rules four years after the contentious law was passed, police in Delhi's northeast district identified 43 hotspots and conducted patrols there. These areas include Seelampur,

Jaffrabad, Mustafabad,

Bhajanpura, Khajoori Khas

and Seemapuri, an official

"Police and paramilitary personnel are keeping a strict vigil to maintain law and order. We have identified 43 hotspots in northeast Delhi and night patrolling was comparatively high at these locations," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said. The safety of every person in Delhi's northeast district is our responsibility," he told

The Delhi Police's cyber unit is

also monitoring social media platforms to prevent provocative posts and rumours, police

Another officer said Delhi Police has held at least 29 meetings with peace committee members so that people do not "fall for rumours".

He said patrolling will be increased in several parts of northeast Delhi with the arrival of more paramilitary personnel on Tuesday.

In southeast Delhi, paramilitary personnel carried out a flag march as local police conducted patrolling on bikes. With the unveiling of the CAA

rules that came days ahead of

the announcement of the Lok

Sabha elections, the Modi gov-

ernment will now start grant-

ing Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians — from the three countries. The rules come into force with immediate effect, according to a gazette notifi-

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tawaharlal Nehru University has issued an advisory for its students, asking them to remain vigilant and maintain peace and harmony on the campus in view of the ongoing students' election process.

The advisory came hours after the Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 on Monday, notifying the rules four years after the contentious law was passed. The CAA bill was passed in Parliament on December 11, 2019, leading to protests across the country. Protests erupted in the national capital's university campuses, including Jamia Millia Islamia, which had become the epicentre of the protests and saw police action

against the agitating students. The advisory released by JNU late on Monday evening stated, "In view of the ongoing students' election process on campus and various events being organised by the student bodies, all stakeholders of the campus are appealed to remain vigilant and contribute to maintaining peace and harmony on campus."

"The administration firmly reiterates its commitment to zero tolerance towards any form of violence or indiscipline on campus and appeals to all stakeholders of the campus to desist from all such activities," it added. The advisory did not mention if it was released in connection with the Centre's

Seven arrested for supplying spurious life saving drugs

The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has busted a racket of seven people, who were allegedly involved in manufacturing and supplying spurious 'life saving' cancer chemotherapy drugs, officials on Tuesday said. The arrested accused identi-

fied as Viphil Jain (46), Suraj Shat (28), Neeraj Chauhan (38), Parvez (33), Komal Tiwari (39), Abhinay Kohli (30) and Tushar Chauhan (28) played with the lives of people by selling 'fake' drugs, police said. Information regarding a rack-

et involved in manufacturing and supply of spurious cancer medicine was received after which a dedicated team was constituted," Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Shalini Singh said. The officer said on the basis of the information developed, simultaneous raids were conducted at four locations.

Jamia students protest against CAA

ADITI SHARMA NEW DELHI

Students' groups of Jamia Millia Islamia protested on Tuesday against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and demanded its withdrawal by the Centre.

They addressed a press conference near one of the university gates and interactpus, while Delhi Police remained stationed outside.

Journalists, who arrived in large numbers at the campus to report, were not allowed

The students called for the repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the release of all students booked in anti-CAA protests nearly four years ago. Protesting students questioned the Government's CCA move and said, "The implementation of the CAA is a political strategy to gain more votes by the BJP before the 2024 General Elections."

Slogans such as "Delhi Police wapas jao" and "Inqalab Zindabad" echoed across the campus.

Students also demanded "demilitarization" of the university campus as securitv in the area was beefed up after the Government notified rules for implementation of the CAA on Monday. A senior police officer said the security around the Jamia campus has been beefed up to prevent any further gathering outside the campus.



The Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the area and drones are also being used to monitor the

Protesting students said implementation of CAA is discriminatory and partial, particularly towards Muslims. Some students were also seen with posters

"We support CAA" at the campus. A student said the protesters' demand is illogical and CAA is beneficial for the

"NSUI Jamia Millia Islamia protests against the decision of the Central Government to implement the unconstitutional CAA," a statement by NSUI's Jamia unit said.

A group of students led by the Muslim Students Federation (MSF) raised slogans against the Modi Government and the Delhi Police.

Jamia's officiating vice-chancellor, Eqbal Hussain, said the campus should not be turned into a protest site. He said the university is for study, not politics, and protests will not be tolerated during the ongoing session. The students protested inside the campus, he said.

Jamia was the epicentre of the anti-CAA protests in 2019-2020.

55 students detained at DU campus ahead of protest

PTI NEW DELHI

round 55 students were Adetained on Tuesday as the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at the Delhi University Arts Faculty, police said. Scores of students from the Left

affiliated AISA had called for a protest against the implementation of the CAA notified by the Centre on Monday.

Delhi University AIŚA unit president Manik Gupta said that the students were detained by the police even before the protest started.

"Many students who were simply standing outside the Arts Faculty and not participating in the protest were detained by the police on the basis of mere doubt," he alleged, claiming that students were brutally handled.

"Taking preventive measures, we have removed around 50 to 55 students from the Central Library of Delhi University recorded," he added.

LG inaugurates Vasudev Ghat, says DDA



(opposite Arts Faculty) who were protesting against the CAA. They were removed from the location and they will be released soon," Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) M K Meena told PTI. "All allegations that the police thrashed the students are baseless as we have all video-

The protests have also riddled other university campuses, including Jamia Millia Islamia, after the CAA was notified. Students' outfits held a press conference at Jamia demanding the withdrawal of the Act and release of all students, who were booked in the anti-CAA protest nearly four years ago.

Affairs on Monday notified the rules of the CAA giving nod to its implementation. Under the rules, persecuted non-Muslim migrants Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians - from three countries, including

Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan, will be eligible for

Indian nationality.

Landfill site for solid waste in Tehkhand launched



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi L-G V K Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated an engineered landfill site in southeast Delhi's Tehkhand for scientific dis-

posal of solid waste. Kejriwal described the launch of the engineered landfill site as a significant step towards sustainable waste management and environment con-The Municipal Corporation

three landfill sites in the city, of which the one at Okhla is likely to be cleared by this

of Delhi currently operates

The Bhalaswa site is targeted to be cleared by 2025 and the Ghazipur site by 2026.

trying to revive Yamuna floodplains PTI NEW DELHI by restoring them. The DDA has also

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Tuesday inaugurated Vasudev Ghat developed by the DDA near Kashmiri Gate ISBT, an official statement said.

Vasudev Ghat is the first ghat restored in Delhi by the DDA. Spread over an area of 16 ha, the main ghat stretches to a length of 145 metres and has 25 steps to the holy water of Yamuna. The five hectare green on the ghat is laid in Charbagh style, the statement said.

In consonance with the historic Mughal gardens, it has a Baradari and numerous Chhatris dotting the precinct, it said.

Saxena said apart from this ghat, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is also trying to revive the Yamuna floodplains and other ghats in the city 'I am quite confident that with

this, not only will the banks of Yamuna get back its old form, but people will also get a pleasant feeling by coming here. Yamuna does not belong to any one religion, individual or any government, it is a life giver and it belongs to all of us," he said "It is the biggest heritage of Delhi and it is the responsibility of all of us to cherish it. There is a need for us to increase our affinity towards Yamuna, and to become responsible and accountable for the conservation of Yamuna," the LG said. Many special attractions adorn the site, including a statue of Maa Yamuna, amidst beautifully carved pavilions and lush greens with flower beds that are sown thematically every season with

species like tulips, marigold,

sadabahar etc., the statement

The DDA has also entered into an MoU for Yamuna arti with a registered society who will be organising cultural "Yamuna Aarti" at Vasudev Ghat regu-

larly, it said. The daily aarti is not only about paying respect to the mighty river but also to bring about consciousness and a sense of responsibility in the people towards the Yamuna thus aiding in preventing further pollution and in becoming a major stakeholder in the efforts to clean the river, it said.

A 2.1 metre wide and 1.8 km long pedestrian track and 2.8 metre wide and 1.3 km long cycle track are also being devel-

A special 300kg metal bell, sourced from Jalesar in UP, which produces a unique vibration and sound when rung has been installed under a Chhatri on the ghat.

Anushka representing India in global meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home

nushka Verma is repre-Asenting India at the ongoing World Youth Festival in Sirius Federal Territory, Russia from March 1 to 8.

President Vladimir Putin had signed a decree last year for hosting the international meet. Anushka was shortlisted based on the results of the competitive selection held in accordance with the Regulations for the Competitive Selection of Russian and Foreign Participants of the World Youth Festival 2024.



I. Open E-tender for Renovation, Operation, Maintenance & Transfer Back of F

upto 15:00 Hrs. and the same shall be opened on 27.03.2024 at 15:15 Hrs. Open E-Tender Two Stage E-Tender through GeM-Portal for Supply of 2,40,00,000 Pcs of Pet Preform (13.5gms) for production of Rail Neer bottles 500 ML. Last Date & Time of Submission:-20.03.2024 at 15.00 hrs. E-mail: railneernangloi@irctc.com Open E-Tender for Supply of Alaska 27 mm HDPE Cap for Rail Neer Plant, Dan for a period on Two (02) Years. Approx tender value 1.67 Crores. Last Dai Submission: 23.03.2024 upto 15.00 hrs. E-mail: ggmrailneer@irctc.com.

ns at various Railway Stations. Last Date for submission of Tender is 27.03.2024



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Modi flags off ten new Vande Bharat trains Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande

NEW DELHI/AHEMDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday flagged off 10 new Vande Bharat trains between Ahmedabad -Mumbai Central, Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam, Mysuru — Dr MGR Central (Chennai), Patna- Lucknow,

New Jalpaiguri-Patna, Puri-Visakhapatnam, Lucknow -Dehradun, Kalaburagi - Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru, Ranchi-Varanasi, Khajuraho Delhi (Nizamuddin).

Through a virtual programme from Ahemdabad where he inaugurated, commissioned, launched several projects for across the States including GUjarat, Chhatisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, the PM also flagged off the extension of four

Bharat was being extended till Rohilla Vande Bharat is being extended till Chandigarh, Gorakhpur-Lucknow Vande Bharat is being extended till Prayagraj

Thiruvananthapuram-Kasargod Vande Bharat is being extended till Mangaluru; and two new passenger trains between Asansol and Hatia & Tirupati and Kollam stations. The Prime Minister also flagged off freight trains on Dedicated Freight Corridor from various locations - New Khurja Jn., Sahnewal, New Rewari, New Kishangarh, New Gholvad, and New Makarpura. The Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation 50 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at Railway Stations. These Jan Aushadi Kendras will offer affordable and quality



generic medicines to the peo-

The Prime Minister also dedicated 51 Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals to the Nation. These terminals will

of a boundary solution has

nothing to do with how many

seats ... Either it's a good deal or not a good deal. The issue

today is not whether you have

a political majority or not. It is

whether you have a fair deal on

Jaishankar, a former foreign

secretary, also responded to a

query from an audience mem-

ber on the India-China rela-

'I think it is in our common

interest that we should not have

that many forces on the Line of

Actual Control. I think it is in

our common interest that we

should observe the agreements

that we have signed. And, I

believe that it is not just in com-

tionship.

the table that is the issue."

promote seamless movement of goods between different modes of transportation.

Modi dedicated to the Nation 1045 Rkm of Automatic Signaling in 80 sections. This

upgrade will enhance safety and efficiency of train operations. The Prime Minister also dedicated to the Nation Digital Controlling of Railway stations at 2646 stations. This will and safety of the trains.

The Prime Minister dedicated 35 Rail Coach Restaurants to the nation. The Rail coach restaurant aims to cater to the needs of passengers and the public apart from generating non-fare revenue for rail-

He also dedicated more than 1500 One Station One Product Stalls to the nation spread across the country. These stalls will promote local products and generate income for local artisans and businesses. The Prime Minister dedicated

to the nation Solar Powered Stations/buildings at 975 locations. This initiative will contribute to India's renewable energy goals and reduce the railways' carbon footprint. The Prime Minister laid the

Petrochemicals complex of

and Propane handling facilities worth over Rs. 20,600 crores at Dahej, Gujarat. Setting up of the Petrochemicals complex in the proximity to the existing LNG regasification terminal would result in significant savings in the capex and the opex

Implementation of the project is likely to create an opportunity of direct and indirect employment to the tune of 50,000 persons during execution phase and an opportunity of employment of over 20,000 persons during its operational phase ushering in huge socio-economic benefits in the region.

cost of the project.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for Ekta Malls in two states; Gujarat and Maharashtra worth around Rs. 400 crores.

Ekta malls celebrate and sup-

itage of Indian handlooms, handicrafts, traditional products and ODOP products. Ekta malls are a symbol of the unity and diversity of India, as well as a catalyst for the development and empowerment of our traditional skills and sectors. Various other projects like dedication of newly electrified sections, doubling/multitracking of tracks, develop-ments of railways Goods sheds, Workshops, Loco Sheds, Pit lines/Coaching Depots, among others, was also done by the Prime Minister.

These projects are a testament to the Government's dedication to building a modern and robust railway network. This investment will not only improve connectivity but also boost economic growth and create new employment oppor-

Ladakh conflict in last four years has not served India or China well: Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said the tension seen during between India and China in the backdrop of the nearly-four-year border row in eastern Ladakh, has "not served either of us well." He also asserted that India

remains committed to finding a "fair and reasonable outcome" but one that is respectful of agreements and recognises the Line of Actual Control(LAC).

During a panel discussion at an event held late on Monday evening, the minister said India "never closed doors to talking to Pakistan" but the terrorism issue should be "fair, square at the centre of the conversa-

Jaishankar, who recently returned from an official visit to South Korea and Japan, shared his thoughts on a range of issues, from the changing nature of diplomacy to the evolving world order, said on the sidelines of an event in the national Capital.

Later, he also took questions from a section of the audience that included diplomats, busi-

nessmen, academics, entrepreneurs, journalists and foreign

policy enthusiasts Asked about his views on "offers made from the Chinese side in the past" to resolve the border issue, and whether there was any scenario where he could think that this could actually be resolved, the minister said, "Any country involved in a boundary dispute negotiating, it has to believe ... there has to be a solution."

Questioned on if the current dispensation will get "more empowered with more seats in (Parliament) to talk on the issue", the Union minister interjected and said, "To me, the territory of India and the fairness mon interest, I believe it is in China's interest as well. This tension that we have seen for the last four years has not served either of us well," he

"So, the sooner we resolve it, I genuinely believe it is good for both of us. I am still very much committed to finding a fair, reasonable outcome. But one which is respectful of agreements recognises the Line of Actual Control and doesn't seek to change the status quo. That, I think, will be good for both of us," the minister added.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake area.

Ties between the two countries nose-dived significantly following the clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

India and China recently held a fresh round of high-level military talks to resolve the border row that witnessed both sides agreeing to maintain "peace and tranquility" on the ground but there was no indication of any breakthrough.

Modi to lay foundation stone for three semiconductor projects today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' and lay the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth about ₹1.25 lakh crore on Wednesday via video-conferencing. He will also address youth across the country on the occasion, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

It said in line with his vision to position India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, and boosting employment opportunities for the youth, Modi will lay the foundation stone for semiconductor projects in the Dholera Special Investment Region and Sanand in Gujarat and in Morigaon in Assam. The semiconductor fabrica-

tion facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited under the modified scheme for setting up of "Semiconductor Fabs" in India. With a total investment



of more than Rs 91,000 crore, this will be the first commercial semiconductor fab in the country, it said.

The outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon will also be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited for semiconductor assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP) with a total investment of about Rs 27,000

An OSAT facility in Sanand will be set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited and have a total investment of Through these facilities, the semiconductor ecosystem will be strengthened and will get a firm footing in India. These units will also provide

employment to thousands of youth in the semiconductor industry as well as catalyse employment generation in related sectors like electronics and telecom among others, the statement said.

The programme will witness massive participation of young-sters, including thousands of college students, along with leaders from the semiconductor industry, it added.

MHA launches **CAA** portal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday launched a por-tal for people eligible to apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, an official spokesperson said. The move came a day after the government notified rules for implementation of the CAA

"The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 under the CAA-2019 have been notified. A new portal has been launched, persons eligible under CAA-2019 can apply for citizenship on this portal indiancitizenshiponline.Nic.In," the spokesperson

A mobile app 'CAA-2019' will also be launched shortly to facilitate applications through mobile app.

The Centre on Monday implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Explained: How Indian citizenship can be obtained under CAA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Applicants for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 (CAA) can submit any of nine documents, including valid or expired passport, ID cards and land tenancy records, to prove he or she is a nationof Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan. The applicants can also submit

any of 20 documents like copy of visa and immigration stamp on arrival in India, certificate issued by an elected member of any rural or urban body or a revenue officer to prove that he or she has entered India on or before December 31, 2014, according to the rules of the CAA issued on Monday.

The rules also state that the applicants will have to provide an eligibility certificate issued by a locally reputed community institution confirming that he or she belongs to either Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community and continues to be a member of that community.

The government on Monday implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Now, Indian nationality will be

given under the CAA to the persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries. The applicants will have to give a declaration that they "irrevocably" renounce the existing citizenship and that they want to make make "India as permanent home". The list of documents to prove that the applicant is a national of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan are: copy of passport issued by the government of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan, registration certificate or residential permit

issued by the Foreigners



Officer in India, birth certificate issued by a government authority in Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan, school certificate or educational certificate issued by the school or college or board or university authorities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan.

Other documents that will be acceptable include identity document of any kind issued by government of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan or any other government authority or agency in these countries, any licence or certificate issued by a government authority of Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, land or tenancy records in Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan, any document that shows that either of the parents or grandparents or great grandparents of the applicant is or had been a citizen of one of the three countries i.E. Afghanistan or

Bangladesh or Pakistan. Any other document issued by a government authority or a government agency in Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan which will establish that the applicant is from Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan will also be acceptable. The above documents will be admissible even beyond their validity period, the rules said. List of documents to prove that the applicant has entered into India on or before December 31, 2014 are: copy of the visa and immigration stamp on arrival in India, registration certificate or residential permit issued by the Foreigners

Regional Registration Officer

or Foreigners Registration Officer in India, slip issued by the census enumerators in India to such persons while conducting census related sur-

The applicants may also submit government issued licence or certificate or permit in India, including driving licence, Aadhaar card, ration card issued in India, any letter issued by the government or court to the applicant with official stamp, birth certificate of the applicant issued in India, land or tenancy records or registered rental agreement in India in the name of the applicant, PAN card issuance document bearing the date of issuance.

Any other document issued by the central government or state government or any public sector undertakings of central government or state government or any financial institutions like banks or any other public authority, certificate issued by an elected member of any rural or urban body or officer thereof or a revenue officer, record and account details relating to and issued by the banks (including private banks) or post office accounts in the name of the applicant. Insurance policies issued in

India, electricity connection papers or electricity bills or other utility bills, court or tribunal records or processes in India in respect of the applicant, document showing service or employment under any employer in India supported by employees provident fund/ general provident fund/ pension/ employees' state insurance corporation documents will be acceptable.

Bharat Shakti showcased in Pokhran

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Aguns pounded targets and Tejas fighter jets, along with indigenous advanced light helicopters, carried out combat drills, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday underlined the country's march towards attaining self-reliance in defence and said Pokhran has become witness to the trinity of India's 'aatmanirbharta', belief and self-pride.

He made this observation after witnessing the 'Bharat Shakti' integrated tri-service firepower and maneuver exercise.

In a thrilling 50-minute display, the three services showcased the prowess of indigenous defense equipment. Tejas Light their combat capabilities. Platforms like the Pinaka satellite system and a swarm of drones left the audience spellbound. Modi, in his address, stated, "The roar of aircraft mid-air and the valour displayed on the ground during the Bharat Shakti exercise is the call of a 'new India."

He recalled that it was at Pokhran where India conducted its nuclear tests in the past. "Pokhran has become witness to the trinity of India's selfreliance, belief, and self-pride," Modi said.

Speaking about the test firing of the long-range AGNI missile equipped with advanced MIRV

Combat Aircraft (LCA), Arjun technology the previous day, and missile systems which Main Battle Tank (MBT), ALH the Prime Minister said only a reflect India's strength. M-IV, K-9 Vajra, and Sharang handful of countries in the "We are experiencing the flight technology and prowess. He underlined that the testing is another feather in the cap for self-reliance in defence.

"The idea of Viksit Bharat is unimaginable without aatmanirbhar Bharat," | the Prime Minister said, underscoring the need to reduce dependence on others. Noting that today's occasion is a step towards this resolution, the Prime Minister said India is laying emphasis on aatmanirbharta from edible oils to fighter jets.

Modi said the success of 'aatmnirbharta' in defence can be seen with India's tanks, cannons, fighter jets, helicopters

ammunition, communication devices, cyber and space. This is indeed Bharat Shakti," an elated Prime Minister said. He also mentioned indigenously made Tajas fighter jets, advanced light combat helicopters, submarines, destroyers, aircraft carriers, advanced Arjun Tanks and cannons. Listing out the steps for mak-

ing India self-reliant in the defence sector, the Prime Minister mentioned policy reforms and roping in the private sector and encouragement of MSME startups in the

He talked about defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and

Tamil Nadu and informed about Rs 7000 crore investment therein. Furthermore, Asia's

started working in India.

He congratulated the Chiefs of all three forces for preparing lists of items that will not be imported and supporting the Indian ecosystems of these items. The Prime Minister expressed happiness that in the last 10 years, equipment worth Rs 6 lakh crore has been procured from Indian compa-

During this period defence production of the country has doubled to more than Rs 1 lakh crore. In the last 10 years, more than 150 defence startups have started and defence forces have given them orders worth

India at risk of catastrophic flooding due to late arrival of winter storms: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

🕇 n what could be called a dou $oldsymbol{1}$ ble whammy for India, winter storms that provide crucial snow and rainfall to northern India are arriving significantly later in the year compared to 70 years ago, exacerbating the risk of catastrophic flooding while also reducing vital water supplies for millions of Indians. The cyclonic storms, known as western disturbances, typically bring heavy snow to the Himalayas from December to March. This snowpack slowly melts in spring, providing a steady supply of irrigation water for wheat and other crops downstream, said a new study published in the journal Weather and Climate Dynamics.

It revealed that western disturbances are occurring more often during India's summer. Over the past 70 years, the storms have increased in frequency by 60 per cent from April to July, reducing snowfall and increasing the risk of heavy



Author Dr Kieran Hunt, of the University of Reading, said: "Strong storms are now twice as likely to occur in the north of India in June compared to 70 years ago. With warmer and moist air at this time of year, these late storms are dumping heavy rainfall instead of snow. This raises the risk of deadly flooding like we saw in Uttarakhand in 2013 and around Delhi in 2023. "Some areas of Kashmir saw no

snow at all in December or January. This is a serious concern for the 750 million people in the Indus and upper Ganges basins who rely on these winter snows for water supplies. "The loss of winter snow and the increasing late-season

storms that heighten flood risks is a one-two suckerpunch that underscores the urgent need to respond to the farreaching impacts of climate change in this sensitive region." The research team attributes this seasonal shift to changes in the subtropical jet stream, a high-altitude air current that steers western disturbances. The rapid warming of the Tibetan Plateau - which is a long stretch of level high ground at the intersection of Central, South, and East Asia - is creating a larger temperature contrast with surrounding areas, fueling a stronger jet stream that powers more frequent and intense storms.

Ât the same time, global warming is weakening the temperature difference between the equator and poles that normally draws the jet stream northward in summer. As a result, the jet stream is increasingly lingering at southerly latitudes later into spring and summer, allowing more storms to strike North India after the pandemic and it could have

Global life expectancy declines by 1.6 years between 2019 and 2021: Lancet study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

On the fourth anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, a study has said that global life expectancy dropped by 1.6 years between 2019 and 2021, a sharp reversal from past improvements. The research is published in The Lancet jour-

COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020. The pandemic claimed over 7 million lives globally, and more than half a million lives were lost in India. While the WHO has officially declared the pandemic to be over in May 2023, the SARS-CoV-2 virus, causing the COVID infection, continues to mutate and infect large numbers of people worldwide. The Lancet study said that it is one of the first to fully evaluate demographic trends in the context of the first two years of the COVID-19 (coronavirus)

implications for health systems, economies and societies around the world.

The findings also included those of an ageing worldwide population.

The study found that life expectancy declined in 84 per cent of countries and territories during this time. This demonstrated the "devastating potential impacts of novel

Places such as Mexico City, Peru and Bolivia experienced some of the largest drops, the study found.

pathogens", the researchers

The researchers also found a marked increase in adult mortality rates globally during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, reversing past decreasing trends.

However, child mortality continued to drop amid the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit more slowly than in earlier years, with half a million fewer deaths among children under five years in 2021 compared to 2019, they found.

No Indian loses citizenship due to CAA: Shah Tamil Nadu CM no authority to say he will not implement CAA: Annamalai

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has honoured Hindu. Buddhiat O'' Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain refugees by giving them citizenship through CAA, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday and maintained there is no provision of stripping of anyone's citizenship in the new law.

Hitting out at the Congress and AIMIM, Shah, addressing party meetings here, said AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Hyderabad Lok Sabha member Asaduddin Owaisi are lying that minorities of the country will lose their citizenship with the implementation of CAA.

Addressing a BJP social media volunteers meeting here, Shah alleged that the Congress party opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) due to appeasement and vote-bank politics.

We had said we will bring CAA. The Congress party opposed CAA. Since Independence it was a promise of the Congress and makers of our Constitution that citizenship will be granted to those persecuted on religious grounds in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, who come (to India). But, due appeasement and vote-bank politics, the Congress party opposed the CAA," Shah said, justifying its implementation. He said in order to save their faith and honour lakhs and crores of people from Pakistan and Bangladesh came to India, but were not

granted citizenship.
"They (refugees) felt insulted in their own country when they were not granted citizenship," he said, adding that PM Modi honoured Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh refugees by granting them citizenship through the

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, Sh. Sobhagya Singh Yadav S/o Sh. Harnand Singh R/o C-2, Maharani Enclave Hastsal, Uttam Nagar, Delhi is the Owner and in Possession of Property Bearing Plot no. 261, Area Measuring 325 sq. yards out of Khasra no. 47/3/4, Situated at Village Hastsal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, by Virtue Of Notarized GPA dated 15,09,1992. This above-mentioned Property is going to be Sold to Mr Nagender Pandit and for Same ATS dated 22.01.2024 has been executed between the parties. This is the only agreement executed by client for the sale of afore said agreement executed by cheff, for the safe of address properly and this property is going to be mortgage with SMFG India Credit Company Ltd. Any person/ bank inancial institution having any claim/right, lien am objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713 Karkardonan, Court. Public 110092 along, with Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along wi locumentary evidence under address through register A/d within 7 days from the date of publication of thi notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall b deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no 9811215181

TO, be known to all that my client, SHRI WIRENGER MOHAN MACHROO alias V.M. AGENROO SO LIET FILION MATH KACKHOO PRO HOUSE NO. 883, BLOCK-I, ARSAL PALAM WHAR, CURGAGN, CHOMA (EZ), HARVAN-122017, and others, are the owners of DOA ST FLAT MO.455, THIRD FLOOR ALONGWITH SCOOTER GARRAGE, POCKET-GH-13, CATEGORY-II, STUINTED AT PROSENSIN WHAR, NOW DELHI, WIDE DOA FILE NO. F.136(47)89/STS/PA/II. The original documents is. Original DEMAND LETTER, ALIOCATION/DEMAND LETTER, STW. 2 FINAL POSSESSION LETTER, NOC. FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION and STIFE POSSESSION SLIP of the above said properly lave been lost or misplaced by my client and is not CONNECTION and SITE POSSESSION SLIP of the above said properly have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An ELR, R/NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (IR No. 1522653/2024 dated 07.03.2024). Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone 0.998865/333 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or without play to pretor (IAB Housing). STS or Director (MaR Housing). Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that n client Smt. Sarika Devi who is the owners of Pl area measuring 68.66 Sq.Yds , Property ID No 1CT1B241, Situated at Khasra No. 24//16/6 16/11, 16/12, 16/13, 16/14 waka Siwana Mauz Village Kadipur Hal Colony Gandhi Nagar, Sub-Tehsil Kadipur Distt. Guruqram, Haryana, by virtu of Sale Deed dated 27.09.2023 and intend to ge the financial assistance from Shriram Housin Finance Limited. If any person(s) /Institutio has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with resper to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date o this notice on the address mentioned herein below failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Khaitan & Khaitan

A-38 Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE S/o SH. RANJIT SAIN TULI, R/o MIG FLAT NO AG-I/53-D,THIRD FLOOR,VIKAS PURI,NEW DELHI-110018 has applied for conversion o the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold vide File No.M.18(1605)85/VP/NP i hold vide File No.M.18(1605)85/VP/NP in DDA.The original documents i.e. Demand-cum-allotment Letter of the above said flat has been lost.An NCR/LR No.1522286 dated 70.33.2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi.Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having an objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above mamed person at above Address/Phone No 9990066691 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any right, interest, objection with laiming any right, interest, objection wit respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director(LAB) Housing or Director (Housing), D Block, Third Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

W/O SH. T.N. MALHOTRA R/O HOUSE NO. POCKET-7, SECTOR-2, ROHINI, DELHI-11D is the owner of Property No.64, PKT-7, SEC-2 IN ROHINI RESIDENTIAL SCHEME, ROHINI DELHI has applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from lease hold to free hol in DDA. The original "D' Form of the above ple have been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has 11.03.2024, LR No.1535323/2024. Any pers (s)-claiming any right, interest, having as objection or found in possession of origin documents, may write/contact with abornamed person at above address/phone N 9716032478 within 15 days from the date publication of this notice. The person claimin any right, interest, objections with respect this recognition or write. this property can personally inform or write Dy. Director(LAB) R, Block C-3, 3rd Floor, Director(R),A Block,Vikas Sadan,INA,Ne

The Centre on Monday implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules four years after the contentious law was passed by Parliament to fastcitizenship undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

With the unveiling of the rules that came days ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, 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 rules came into force with immediate effect, according to a Gazette notification.

Later, addressing a BJP booth He said the Modi government workers' meeting here, Shah hit out at those spreading "misapprehension" about the CAA, saying the law grants citizenship and would not take it away.

slammed AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi and said were lying that minorities will citizenship due to CAA and accused them of indulging in vote-bank politics over the

"...I want to tell the minorities of this country that no citizen

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that my Client Mayank Pant S/o Nityanand Pant R/o. A-6, First Floor, Anand Vihar Colony, Delhi-110092 (Adahar Card No. 6737 9298 6906) has lost the Original Interim Possession Letter, Allotment Letter, Share Certificate of CCSE Sahkari Awas Samili Ltd. Area 1770 Sq. Ft. (super built up) of this Flat No. H-704, (which is injoint possession of Shri Malay Pant and Shri Mayank Pant) Vinda Society, CCSE Sahkari Awas Samili Ltd, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP, My Client also lodged an online FIR for the same in the P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on Dated 06.08.2021 vide LR No. 549100/2021.

06.08.2021 vide LR No. 54910U/2U21. If anybody finds it please return or call at Mob No. 9871972207 or contact me at the following address. If any person (s) has/have any claim objection in the above said property he/she they should contact with valid document proo within 15 days from the date of publication Any claim therefore shall be treated as nul and void. Sd/

PRAVEEN RASTOGI (Advocate) ENRL.No.D-244/06 RZ-97, Khushi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Mob: 9810986643

PUBLIC NOTICE

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy during a meeting of BJP polling booth workers, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, in Hyderabad, on Tuesday

of the country will lose citizenship due to CAA. The CAA is a law that grants citizenship and does not to away anyone's citizenship. I assure you there is no provision in CAA to snatch anyone's citizenship,'

PUBLIC NOTICE

AIMIM opposed it. Narendra Modi by granting citizenship to the refugees fulfilled their dreams to live life with dignity, he further said. Shah highlighted the abolition of Article 370, construction of the Lord Ram

fulfilled the promise of CAA

even as the Congress and the

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Kartik Mittal is in process to purchase (availing loan from TCHFL) the House no D-647 (property id is 6198 200310500) area measuring 91.65 sq., vids out of 128 sq., vids. situated in Ballabhgarh (Chawla colony Ballabhgarh). Tehsil Ballabhgarh, District Faridabad, Haryana from Gurdev Singh, whereas he has lost an Original Sale Deed dated 12.07.1972 in favour of Gurdev Singh (doc no 2532) pertain to the said property, an FIR has already been lodged for that on dated 11/3/2024 Notice is hereby given that my client Munish Abrol is in process to purchase the Entire First Floor without roof rights built on Property bearing No. G-15, area measuring 127 sq. yards situated at Block G, Village measuring 127 sq. yards situated at Block-G, Village Basaidarapur, colony known as Mansoarover Garden, New Dehi (availing loan from TCHFL) from Virmny, Joshi, who acquired the same vide Relinquishment Deed dated 02.01.2024 (Doc. No. 2024/22/167) executed by Mr. Vidith Joshi and Relinquishment Deed dated 29.9.2016 (Doc. No. 9403) executed by Divyanshu Joshi (all are the legal heirs of late Deepak Joshi, who acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 03.05.2005 (doc. no. 13059) All personls 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, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with All person/s having any claim against or in respec f the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of ale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or therwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family rrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership ossession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing and the street of the street o any, of such person or persons will be considered

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower
Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

Executive Engineer (SBM)

ICICI Bank Limited

easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to 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 Bupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF2. First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sac-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT (NAAC ACCREDITED with A++ Grade)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates (As per UGC notification 18 July 2018 and subsequent UP Government order no. 1190/सत्तर-1-2019-16(114)/2010 dated 15 October 2019 and first Statutes of University as amended from time to time) for appointment in the various departments in the University.

Online submission of application start from 06.03.2024 to 06.04.2024

Last date of submission of the printout of online filled form (downloaded) is 12.04.2024. Link for the form and other details: http://www.

cesuniversity.ac. in/ccsu/recruitment in for further details and eligiblity conditions. Registrar



Bhopal Municipal Corporation

Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)

IInd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)

Bhopal, Date: 12.03.2024 Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in in under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in.

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Bid Document
1	2024_UAD _342740_1	EMPANELMENT OF ANNUAL TENDER WORK FOR MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, TOILET, FOOTPATH, DRAINS AND OTHER WORK AT BHOPAL CITY ZONE FROM 01 TO 21 UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION	3,55,36,272/-	1,77,681/-	15,000/-
2	2024_UAD _342709_1	EMPANELMENT FOR ANNUAL TENDER WORK FOR ARTISTIC PAINTING AND MURAL WORK AT VARIOUS PLACES IN BHOPAL	1,49,00,000/-	74,500/-	12,500/-

Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspaper & correction if any, would be Published on website only

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount	Name of Branch				
1.	(26600001408 & QZDEL00005022237) & RZ C 10, First	F-159-A, First Floor Without Roof, Sitauted at Plot No. 159, Block-F, Gali No. 2, Khasra No. 31/19, 22, Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden, Delhi)/ March 08, 2024	August 20, 2020 Rs. 18,77,000/-	Delhi/ NCR				
The above-mentioned horrowers(s)/guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else								

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. **Authorized Officer** Date: March 13, 2024

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE **O**ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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

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

	Sr. No.	Dameston II and	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch	
	1.	Devi/Vill And Po Said	Tauzi No.4042, Ward No.36, Circle No.6, Holding No.482, Mohalla Aryanagar Imamganj, Mauza Aryanagar Imamganj, P.S. Chapra Town, PR. Chirand, Municipality Chapra, Block and Sub-registry Chapra, District Chapra Saran, Bihar Chapra-841301. Admeasuring an Area of 03 Katha 08 Dhur With One Storied Building Costruction In 1360 Sq.ft./ Date of Physical 07.03.2024	12-06-2019 Rs. 28,18,328/-	Delhi	
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else						

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: March 13, 2024 **Authorized Officer** Place: Delhi **ICICI Bank Limited**

temple in Ayodhya, 33 per

cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state

Assemblies, abolition of

instant triple talaq and the

country emerging as the

fastest growing economy as some of the achievements of

the Modi government. He further said India is

poised to become the third

PUBLIC NOTICE

Modi.

past 23 years.

 $B_{\text{president K Annamalai on}}^{\text{JP Tamil Nadu unit}}$ Tuesday said Chief Minister M K Stalin has 'no powers' under the law of the land to take a stand against implementing the CAA in the

Outlining Constitutional provisions like the State list, largest economy in the world under the leadership of PM Union list and Concurrent list Terming the Congress, the BRS and the AIMIM as and separation of powers including those related to legislation, the BJP leader said dynastic parties, Shah asserted that the BJP should Stalin has taken his oath of get 12 Lok Sabha seats in the office under the Constitution. Though Stalin may oppose upcoming general elections. He said he did not see the CAA politically, he cannot take an official stand Narendra Modi taking a against implementing the Central law in Tamil Nadu holiday even for a day in the

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Mrs. Laxmi Devi Mangla is the Owner of Shop bearing Old no. 1729, and new property ID. 3P65472, area measuring 41 sq. yards, studed at Waka Mauja Moti Bazar, (minar Gate to Sadar Bazar Kishan-Ganj) under Badid of Lal Dova, Under Municipal Corporation of Palwal, Tehsil and Disitt. Palwal, Haryana, by virtue of Sale Deed Executed by Mr. Rajendra Kumar Gaur vide doc no. 7914, dated 02.11. 2023. This property was owned by the seller vide registered will dated 25.04.2013 executed by Mr. Lalchand Sharma in favour of Sellers Vide Doc no. 55. This Property is going to be mortgage with SMFG India Credit Company. Ltd. Any person/ bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/ Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-11092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice falling which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waved. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110992, Mobile no. 9811215181 THIS IS INFORMED TO PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT ASHOK SAMRAT BAKSH S/O LATE G.R.BAKSHI R/O G-176, PALAM VIHAR, GURUGRAM, HR.122017, PRESENTLY AT DELHI HAS DEBARRED AND DISOWNED HIS SON SUMIT BAKSH AND DISJOURD HIS SON SUMIT BARSHI R/o 901-902, LAVENDER TOWER, OMAXE GREEN VALLEY SOCIETY, FARIDABAD, HR. FROM ALL HIS MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED RELATIONS FROM HIS SAID SON. IF ANYBODY DEALS WITH SAID SUMIT BAKSHI, THEN HE/SHE SHALL DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK, COST AND CONSEQUENCES. MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT OF SAID SUMIT BAKSHI. S.K.TYAGI ADVOCATE

Ch. No. K-7. Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

SALE NOTICE

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

Case Details ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Rajesh Kumari, CS No. 2356/18 Vehicle No. HR26DG5479, Make and

Model- HONDA ACTIVA 4G, Manu Year- 2017 Auction Date: April 06, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM

Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022 Contact Person: Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708) / Rohit Shrivastava (8657476284)

Terms of Sale

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

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

Indian Bank: Swami Sivananda Bhawan, Amar Colony Market, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi - 110024

APPENDIX – IV {Rule-8(1)} POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Where as, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rul 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice date 13/12/2023 Calling upon the borrower Shri. K Sibaprasad Rao and Seema Mohanty ony Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs26,96,000/- (Rs Twenty six lakh Ninety six thousand only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property describe herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 7"day of March of the year 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs 26,96,000/- and interest thereon

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No A-1501, Block A, Floor 14th "R G Luxury Homes", Plot No. GH-07 A, Sector 16 B, Greater Noida (Noida Extension),

Date: 07.03.2024 | Place : New Delhi Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

Karnataka Bank Ltd.

Asset Recovery Management Branch 8-B, First Floor, Rajender Park, Pusa Road New Delhi - 110 060. APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Phone: 011-40591567(Ext-240) E-Mail: delhiarm@kbank.com Website: www.karnatakabank.com CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

Whereas, undersigned being the Authorised Officer of KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED. under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securit nterest [Act], 2002(54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notic dated 16.08.2023 calling upon the borrower / mortgagor / guarantors: (1) M/s Faujdar Enterprises Represented by its Proprietrix, Mrs. Kamlesh Devi, Addressed at: Village and Post Jarua Katra Agra -283102, Uttar Pradesh (2) Mrs. Kamlesh Devi Wild Mr. Sachendra Singh (3) Mr. Sachendra Singh Slo Mr. Peetam Singh, Both No. (2) & (3) are addressed at: Jarua Katra, Agra- 283102, Uttar Pradesh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.38,62,179.70 (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Two usand One Hundred Seventy Nine and Paisa Seventy only) i.e (i) Rs. 20,84,607.00 under PS Overdraft Loan A/c No.0307000600014201 with future interest from 01.08.20223, (ii) Rs.8,97,733.64 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800007201 with future interest from 15.08.2023, (iii) Rs.5,51,421.06 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800007901 with future interest from

The borrowers, mortgagors and the guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, mortgagors, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Possession of the property described herein below in xercise of the powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read vith Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement, Rules 2002 on this the 12" Day of March of the year 2024. The borrowers, the mortgagors and the guarantors in particular and the public is

01.08.2023, (iv) Rs.3.28.418.00 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800008401

with future interest from 01.08.2023 plus cost within 60 days from the date of receip

general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and my dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Karnataka Bank Limited, Agra Branch for an amount of Rs.41,08,493.70 (Rupees Forty One Lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three and Paisa Seventy only) i.e (i) Rs.22,48,055.00 under PS Overdraft Loan A/c No.0307000600014201 with future interest from 01.03.2024, (ii) Rs.9,35,931.64 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800007201 with future interest from 15.03.2024, (iii) Rs.5.80,289.06 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800007901 with future interest from 01.03.2024, (iv) Rs.3,44,218.00 under PS Term Loan A/c No.0307001800008401 with future interest from 01.03.2024, plus cost. IThe Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act

respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.]

Description of the Immovable Property

All that part and parcel of Residential Flat bearing Flat No.18B, First Floor, admeasuring 50.14 Square meters, constructed on Plot No.18, Khasra No.52 & 53 situated at Gaur Kunj, Mauza-Rohta, Gwalior Road, Tehsil & Dist.Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Belonging to Mrs.Kamlesh Devi. Boundaries: East: Other's Property West: 9.00 Wide Road North rop. No.B-17 F.F South: Prop.No.B-19 F.F

Place : Agra Date : 12.03.2024

For Karnataka Bank Ltd Chief Manager & Authorised Officer



and he does not have any authority under the Constitution to decide to not implement the CAA and related rules, Annamalai asserted. In case Stalin insisted on such a stand, he asked if the Chief Minister was going against the oath of office.

'The extent of the Chief Minister's knowledge on Constitution provisions is a question mark.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This is to bring to your notice that VIVEK KUMAR JAIN / HEMLATA JAIN (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBDEL00002473328 & LBDEL00002473337 located at FLAT NO C/G006, KHASRA NO-238, MOTI RESIDENCY, VILLAGE MARTAM, NEAR NH- 58, PRADESH GHAZIABAD. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated

Nov 14, 2023, informing that TECHMAN BUILDWELL PVT. LTD. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the

said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: March 13, 2024

For ICICI Bank Limited

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 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement

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 is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.03.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of

there is " basis on 30.13.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery or Rs. 2,62,96,351/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Two Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLLAJ00501980, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 28.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 29.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from KUNSANG TENSING TAMANG and TENSING SANGMO TENŽIN SANGMO. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 2,60,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 26,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, (I. E. ABOVE STILT FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR (UPPER GROUND FLOOR), ALONGWITH 1/4TH OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN STILT PARKING, PART OF ABOVE SAID FREEHOLD

BUILT - UP PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 83. BUILT ON LAND MEASURING 202 500 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN MODEL TOWN, NEW DELHI - 110009 ONGWITH FREEHOLD PROPORTIONATE RIGHTS IN THE LAND

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

Date: 07.03.2024

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited



E-Auction Notice property/les under the SARFAESI Act, 2002)

"Appendix, IV-A, Refer Proviso to Rule 8(6)" Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers and guarantors in

articular that the below mentioned property mortgaged to secured creditor (Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of he Secured Creditor (Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd) under Section 13(4) of the SARFAES ct. will be sold through E-auction on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" AND WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on below mentioned dates, for recovery of amount as entioned below due to the secured creditor from concerned borrower(s), mortgagor(s ind guarantors. The Reserve Price is mentioned below and earnest money to be leposited is mentioned respectively.

of Borrower/

Guarantors

Name & Address 1, M/S Saree Palace, Plot No. B-111, Basement and Ground, Sector 65. Noida, UP-201301(Borrower Mr. Satinder Kapoor S/O Mr. Joginder Pal Kapoor R/O D-13 Anan Vihar, Delhi-110092 (Partner/Bo whar, Deini-110092 (Partner/Borrower)

Mr. Harjinder Singh Sandhu S/O Mr. Satnam Singh Sandhu R/O H

No. C-1, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, East Delhi-110092(Partner/Borrower/Mortgagor) Mr. Sulabh Kapur S/O Satinder Kapur R/O D-13 Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092(Gurantor)

Details of covered under Auction

Equitable Mortagage Of Property Bearing No. B-17/2 (adjoining oprerty B-17/1) Measuring 451 1/2 Sq. Yard (377.45 Sq. Mts.) ituated At Krishna Nagar, Village Ghondli, Iliaqa Shahadra, Delhi-110051 Standing In The Name Of Harjinder Singh Sandhu S/o Mr. Satnam Singh Sandhu R/o House No.c-1, Aruna Park, Laxm Nagar, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, Esat Delhi-110092.

Reserve price EMD Amount Rs. 42.70 lakh Bid Increment Rs. 2.00 Lakh Outstanding Dues Rs 837.41 lakhs as on 29.02.2024 Name & Number | Altaf Ahmad 7006653421 Branch Manager: J&K Bank, Dwarka, Delhi. of Contact Person & Branch Date & time of 28-03-2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Branch Manager: J&K Bank, Dwarka, Delhi. erms & Conditions of E-Auction are as under:

The E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and will be conducted online. The bid document/format containing full details of the property and all the terms and conditions can be had from, and submittee on, the website "http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net" (contact person Ram Sharma 9978591888, Contact no. 079-68136880/68136837 Mob.: +91 9265562821/18 email

support@ auctiontiger.net). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties, except specifically disclosed herein. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall no be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The bidders shall satisfy themselves as to the description, condition or accuracy of the details regarding the propertyles given hereinabove. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net (the user ID and password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with "http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") through their login ID and word. The EMD 10% of RESERVE PRICE shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS (EMD remittance details given above) on or before 27-03-2024 at 5.00 PM. Please note that Cheques/Demand Drafts shall not be accepted as EMD amount.

The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or

The other terms and conditions of the e-Auction are available on the website

https://www.auctiontiger.net Date: 12.03.2024 Place: New Delhi Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.

Registered Office: Corporate Headquarters M.A. Road Srinagar-190001, J&K, India

CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T:+91(0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91(0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com W: www.jkbank.com

www.dailypioneer.com

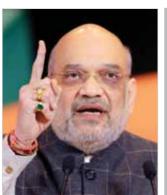
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Hornet's nest

The notification of CAA rules has raked up a controversy about the move's timing

s the nation braces for the model code of conduct, the Government's notification of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) rules has ignited a fresh wave of controversy. The CAA, which aims to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, has long been a contentious issue. Supporters laud it as a humanitarian gesture and critics pan it as discriminatory and an attempt to polarise voters for the Lok Sabha polls. On March 11, the Home Ministry announced the enforcement of CAA rules, which enables Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi refugees from the three neighbouring countries — who arrived in India before December 31, 2014 — to obtain Indian citizenship without a valid passport or visa. The 2019 Bill, which sought to amend the citizenship Act of 1955 granting Indian citizenship to foreign illegal migrants of specific religious communities, was passed by Parliament



in December that year. Not too long ago, countrywide protests against CAA had started from Shaheen Bagh in the Capital and fanned across the nation. Now, notification of the rules has reignited the debate just days before the implementation of the model code of conduct; since Muslims are excluded from the purview of the Act, the opponents are arguing that it violates the Constitution's secular principles.

Of course, the timing is being questioned as the Government is almost in a lame-duck state as the election schedule may be announced any day now. In this situation, notifying the CAA rules is creat-

ing only confusion and tension. Critics allege that the Government is trying to polarise voters along religious lines by this move. Indeed, the decision might have been best left for the new Government. The Opposition has been quick to condemn the move, accusing the Government of prioritising divisive agenda over pressing issues such as economic development and social welfare. It argues that the CAA not only undermines the nation's secular fabric but also exacerbates communal tension. Concerns have also been raised about the logistical challenges associated with the implementation of the CAA, including the identification and verification of eligible applicants. On the other hand, the move's supporters counter that CAA is essential for protecting the rights of persecuted minorities in the neighbouring countries. They argue that India has a moral obligation to provide refuge to those facing religious persecution, regardless of their faith. But couldn't this wait for just two months? As the debate over the CAA continues to rage, it remains to be seen how the notification will influence the electorate. With emotions running high on both sides of the divide, the coming weeks are likely to witness intense rhetoric and heightened tension around this contentious issue.



eople perform yoga during the International Yoga Mahotsav at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, in Rishikesh

The US presidential race intensifies

While Biden seeks to maintain his position after his dominant performances in the Super Tuesday primaries, speculation surrounds Trump's re-entry into the race heats up

ho will be the next President of the United States? Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the current and former Presidents, are competing for the White House. They won most of the seats in the Super Tuesday primary. This is the first time in almost 70 years that such a competition is taking place. However, Americans find it difficult to decide between the two candidates as there is little enthusiasm. On March 5, voters in 15 states and one territory cast their ballots in the primaries. Both candidates won almost all

the contests, making Super Tuesday the most significant night in the primary calendar. This day was important because a third of the total number of delegates were up for grabs - 865 Republican and at least 1,420 Democratic. Now, both candidates are preparing to face the November 5 General elections. Super Tuesday was a crucial day for the candidates and parties in the US during the election year. Winning the nomination requires a certain number of delegates. For Republicans, a candidate must win 1,215 of the 2,429 delegates. For Democrats, a candidate must win 1,968 of the 3,934 delegates. Both Donald Trump, 77, and Joe Biden, 81, have faced criticism over their ages as they compete for the presidency of the United States. However, both candidates have secured their party's nomination, proving that age should not hinder political success. Despite facing many challenges, Trump won the primary election this time. According to recent polls, Trump is leading the race against Biden, but the competition is still neck-and-neck. Nikki Haley, who previously served as the US envoy to the United Nations, has withdrawn herself from the contest to challenge Frump. With 946 delegates, Trump has now secured his position as the presumptive nominee for the Republican party.

Trump's supporters tried to manipulate the 2020 election results in his favour after he lost. As a result, Trump is facing charges related to this and three other cases. He started cam-



paigning for the 2024 election soon after leaving the White House. After winning Super Tuesday, in an interview with Fox News, Trump said he was proud to lead the Republican Party and the country towards better health and prosperity, unprecedented in politics. President Biden has faced several challenges during his presidency, including the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation rates, significant industrial policy bills, and conflicts in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Middle East. Recent polls show that Americans need more enthusiasm for the upcoming historic rematch. This has raised concerns about low voter turnout during the election. Candidates must focus on Americans' problems and present plans to tackle the nation's challenges. Both candidates are discourag-

ing people from voting for their opponents. Biden is confident about winning and believes voters must choose between moving forward or returning to Trump's criticised administration. Biden says, "I'm not young, but I know how to get things done for the American people." Biden needs 1,968 delegates to

THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTION IS** GAINING MOMENTUM AFTER SUPER TUESDAY. OVER THE NEXT EIGHT MONTHS, WE EXPECT TO SEE A RISE IN NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN **STRATEGIES**

19. Trump is expected to become the Republican nominee after the March 12 and 19

Former President Trump faces multiple legal challenges, including two impeachment proceedings, four criminal tri-als, and 91 criminal charges. Additionally, he is waiting for a \$450 million civil court judgment. His disorganised leadership during the pan-demic negatively impacted his reputation. Despite this, he continued to maintain his base of supporters and portrayed himself as a victim of persecution. After winning Tuesday's election, President Trump has challenged his opponent, Joe Biden, to a debate. The candidates will discuss their achievements and goals for the country and advise voters not to vote for their opponent. Trump has offered to discuss this at any time, place, and location. He believes it is crucial for the benefit of Americans. However, Joe Biden has not yet responded to the offer. Historically, no incumbent president has debated in a primary since

President Gerald Ford.

The Trump campaign is expected to focus on Biden's alleged economic failures, immigration policy, and the US stance on Ukraine and Israel. Meanwhile, Biden is planning to attack Trump for his alleged role in the Capitol riot and for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. To improve his poll numbers, Biden must address concerns about his age and improve his ratings on the economy and immigration.

The 2024 presidential election is gaining momentum after Super Tuesday. Over the next eight months, we expect to see a rise in negative campaign strategies. American voters have limited options and are not particularly excited about either candidate. Both of them get below 50 per cent approval in several current polls. People know the positive and negative aspects of each candidate's policies. Both main parties see their potential candidate as a big problem. Trump's re-election could lead to a significant decline. Bidens win may bring minor changes.

(The writer is a popular columnist, views expressed are personal)

Intricacies of Indian electoral politics



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

From Members of Parliament switching allegiance to candidates making outlandish promises, the stage is set for a captivating saga to capture power

☐ lections have been ☐ described as the festivals of democracy. It is the time when we celebrate democracy in its true splendour. Those who do not get seats to contest cross over to the rival camp in the hope of getting a ticket from the latter. A parliament member who represented the Hindutva party jumps ship and joins the secular party when it is known that his name does not figure in the list of his mother party. He can never think of a life without membership in parlia-ment or the legislative assembly because he is obsessed with serving the people, though this member might not have visited his constituency even once after the results of the previous election were announced.

Earlier, it used to be the family patriarchs who led the exodus to the enemy camp when their interests were overlooked while allocating party tickets. Now it is the other way around, as there was a report about a father-son duo leaving the party in which they were working for the rival camp, which has offered them tickets. This is not a fictitious clinic, the lady launched a team that reached the spot

story, and anyone who reads newspapers daily comes across such reports. There are other scenarios also. The member of parliament representing the Grand Old Party falls sick and rushes to the USA for treatment. Though elections are yet to be declared, there is a queue of party leaders to his residence to find out the seriousness of the ailment. A woman leader immediately starts distributing her CV among the electorate, though she is magnanimous enough not to mention the fact that she is after the particular seat. She has been seen by the electorate only on television news channels and never even once in the constituency as she is wary of the high humidity and hot weather. When it was known that the sitting member was found fine in the tests held in the US

blistering attack on the system for not reserving enough

seats for women! The recent mysterious death of J S Sidharth, the veterinary science student at Wynand, is also having ramifications in the electoral politics of Kerala. Leaders of the SFI, the student wing of the CPI(M), are on a State-wide campaign condemning the death of Sidharth. But those who have been arrested in connection with the death are all activists and leaders of the SFI. The activists have put up billboards near Sidharth's residence offering homage to the "martyr," while other political parties stand perplexed. The situation is similar to a scene in the black comedy movie Sandesham (Malayalam for message) made by ace filmmaker Sathyan Anthikkadu in 1991. Immediately after the change of government following a general election, the dead body of a man was found lying in the village square. Leaders of the two leading political parties claim that the dead man belonged to their outfit and they have the right over the body. The police

held a quick investigation and ruled that the body belonged to the dead person, and no one other than him could lay any claim over it. No wonder, even 33 years after its release, Sandesham remains the numero uno movie shot in Malayalam, and each character featured in it remains a household name in the State. The promises made by political parties at the time of the election are also subjects of fun and laughter. In Sthaanaarthi Saramma (Saramma, the candidate), the theme is the election to the panchayat. The political party that has fielded . Saramma, a young woman as a candidate, makes some earthshaking promises. They read like this: an airport on the riverbank, farmland to all farmers, rich people to be exiled to the deserts, nongazette officials (NGOs) to get a fourfold hike in their monthly salary, and disbanding of the tax department! Remember, these are the promises made during a panchayat election!! The movie was shot in 1966. (The writer is special corre-

spondent with the Pioneer, views are personal)

MISSION DIVYASTRA

Sir — It is a proud moment for India as PM Modi announces the successful launch of Mission Divvastra, showcasing an important advancement in India's strategic capabilities. This marked the inaugural flight test of the Agni-5 missile, a 6000 km range nuclear missile, equipped with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. With MIRV, a single Indian missile can deploy multiple warheads to different locations, a remarkable accomplishment for India. While achieving missile range is common mastering MIRV is a serious achievement and all the credit goes to DRDO.

Intercepting BrahMos missiles is no easy feat; it requires firing an entire salvo of the Patriot SAM system, an advanced US air-defined missile. Only a few nations, including the UK and France, have launched ballistic missiles with MIRV technology but now India is also part of MIRV technology. This achievement reflects the dedication of our scientists and the government's commitment to national security. Hats off to DRDO and the ruling dispensation! **Preetiyukta Mohakud** | *Bhubaneswar*

POPE'S REMARK IRKS UKRAINE Sir — Vatican City-based Roman Catholic religious leader Pope Francis is generally a calm person. But sometimes some part of the world cannot remain affected by his statements. For example, his recent statement has distressed every country including Ukraine which calls the attack on the sovereignty of other countries wrong. While advising Ukraine, he said that 'Russia should have talked about peace. Had to have the "courage" to negotiate an end to the war with Russia. In an interview with a Swiss broadcaster recorded last month and partially released Saturday, Francis used the phrase "the courage of the white flag" as he argued that Ukraine, facing possible defeat, should seek the mediation of international

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No basic amenities in local trains



s Mumbai is the financial capital of the country, lakhs of women travel by local train towards Mumbai every day but; The Mumbai Local Railway or the local administration has not paid enough attention to the facilities of these same women passengers

Many women who do not drink water, instead of going to the toilet after drinking water, are travelling for two to three hours by the Mumbai local train. Such a shocking thing has come to light. One restroom behind 600 men in Mumbai; There is a busy ratio of one toilet for 1500 women. But only three of them are designed for women

The charges for such a clean and tidy toilet are very high and common women cannot afford it. It also has inadequate electricity, broken doors, lack of water. Women passengers have to face many inconveniences etc. Due to home responsibilities, work stress, and adverse conditions, these women passengers travel by Mumbai local train every day. The administration needs to identify the basic needs of such women passengers and immediately provide facilities. Who is responsible for this "down" state of women?

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

powers. We should be open to peace talks. This means that Pope Francis is advising Ukraine to surrender to the Kremlin. According to Pope Francis, there is no such thing as justice and injustice in this world.

They follow the principle of 'Might is Right'. Small countries should not protest but adopt the path of surrender. seems that Pope Francis is not only a religious leader but also a Russian agent. First, he should take care of his religion where Catholic priests have been facing strong allegations of sexual abuse, not just today but since the 20th century. Even today the situation remains the same. Therefore, Pope Francis should first take concrete steps to put his house in order and later advise

Ikraine to surrender. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

HEALTH IS IMPERATIVE

Sir — Your health should be your priority everything else needs to be in second place. Growth with good deeds and

great health is what we call a "real success". Humans are becoming so stupid nowadays, going away from a happy life and mental peace, rushing for materialistic pleasure. Everything should be balanced in our life as we all are aware of the fact that extreme of anything is bad or can be worse so just try to curb yourself at every point in time because health is most precious.

Uniqueness moulds your personality to stand out in the crowd like doing charity to needy ones, giving donations to poor children for their education and many more good deeds, the euphoria you feel, and the high regard you get afterwards are inexplicable. A combination of intellectual mind and great well-being will build success more briskly. Success is embarked on with a brilliant mind, and happiness commences with fine health.

Apurva Garg | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN

PRIORITISING TEACHER WELL-BEING IS A MUST

It can encourage talented individuals to pursue the teaching profession



ducation since ancient times has never been static. It has always been and is still evolving with advancements in technology, changes in society and new research findings. Gone are the days when teaching was limited to textbooks and traditional methods, and teachers were restricted to a mere 8-2 job. Today, teacher wellbeing has become a fundamental aspect of the education system, influencing not only the quality of teaching but also the overall effectiveness of the learning envi-

Teachers, catering especially to the current generation, encounter various stressors, including classroom management, grading and meeting diverse student needs, which brings them to an utmost need of wellbeing. Teacher wellbeing is a critical and often overlooked aspect of the education system. The various dimensions of teacher wellbeing, the challenges faced by educators and the strategies to enhance and safeguard their physical, mental and emotional health directly influence not only their personal lives but also the quality of education they provide to learn-

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of prioritising teacher wellbeing to ensure a positive and sustainable educational experience. Adopting various mindfulness practices, stress management techniques and accessing mental health resources are some of the crucial components of mental well-being.

Empowering educators is an investment in the future of education and for that, a focus on teacher wellbeing is essential for both retaining experienced educators and attracting new talent to the profession. There is no denying the fact that high levels of stress and burnout contribute to



teacher turnover, which in turn negatively affects the stability and continuity of the learning environment. Prioritising teacher wellbeing can enhance job satisfaction and encourage talented individuals to pursue and stay in the teaching profession.

It is only when the educators are physically and mentally well, they can create a positive and engaging learning environment. By fostering a culture that values and supports teachers, providing them with opportunities for professional growth, offering them flexible work arrangements and promoting a healthy work-life balance, one can unleash the full potential of teaching professionals. Also, recognising and appreciating the hard work and dedication of teachers fosters a positive work culture. Not only this, acknowledging the contributions made by the teacher through awards, celebrations and expressions of gratitude reinforces the value placed on

Encouraging a healthy work-life balance through reasonable workload expectations, flexible scheduling and clear boundaries between work and personal time will help prevent burnout. The impact of empowered educators extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the educational landscape and inspiring generations of learners. Also, professional development ensures that educators are well-informed about the latest trends and best practices in education.

Remember, teacher empowerment is not just a concept. It is a powerful catalyst for educational excellence. By cultivating a culture that values autonomy, professional development, leadership opportunities and a supportive environment, the management running the institutions can empower their teachers to reach their full potential, and in doing so, they contribute to the creation of a vibrant, innovative and inspiring educational landscape that will benefit both the educators and the students/learners alike

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Re-orienting agriculture for sustainable growth



While the nation's overall economic outlook is promising, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors has dwindled to 0.7 per cent, the lowest in the decade



he country's economy is expected to grow by 7.6 per cent in the current financial year (2023-24). However, it's alarming to note that the growth rate of the agriculture and allied sector has drastically fallen below 1 per cent, and it's estimated to be at 0.7 per cent, the lowest in the last ten years. The Indian agriculture sector, which provides a source of livelihood to 65 per cent of households, faces multiple challenges, including fragmented small landholdings, sub-optimal mechanisation, and low productivity. Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare predicts that the total food grain production during the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 2023-24 may decrease by 41 lakh tonnes compared to the previous year.

The crisis in agriculture is deep-rooted and results from an accumulation of distress. Meanwhile, five significant crises are impeding the growth of Indian agriculture, and a range of indicators suggest that the sector is losing its sheen. The first and foremost is an income crisis, with stagnant or falling incomes of farm households, leading to an investment crisis on the family farm. The second is a factor crisis of degrading natural resources, particularly soils and water. The third is the accelerating human resource crisis, as the younger generation of farmers loses faith in the future of agriculture as an attractive employment option and seeks to escape to urban or even overseas for alternative livelihoods. The fourth is the impact of the climate crisis is growing, and it threatens our hard-won food security. Furthermore, the fifth crisis is the almost complete lack of clarity on a coherent and coordinated policy response to address the multifaceted unattended challenges of the agriculture sector. All of this underscores the need to address the problems affecting the country's farmlands. Therefore, we need a policy-backed intervention for reorientation to equip farmers to overcome these challenges.

Re-orientation of the Farm Land: Indian



BY ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH, FARMERS CAN CHALLENGES OF SMALL LANDHOLDINGS AND ACHIEVE **GREATER** SUCCESS IN

oped countries.
Smaller landholdings often result in lower yields, but there are

success in agriculture. **AGRICULTURE**

farmers face a major challenge due to the small size of their landholdings. The average size of landholding in India has decreased by half over the past two decades and is currently at just 1.08 hectares, which is significantly smaller than that of devel-

ways to maximise productivity and make these small landholdings work for farmers. One approach is to aggregate small farms and create network effects, allowing farmers to jointly access credit, inputs, information, and known products. Such initiatives could help address current issues in agriculture and make it more income and employment-oriented. Moreover, educating farmers on the best ways to utilise modern technology and mechanisation suitable for small landholdings could enhance yields and boost incomes. By adopting a holistic approach, farmers can overcome the challenges of small landholdings and achieve greater

Re-orientation of Technology: Farmers have always been at the mercy of unpredictable weather patterns, but with increasingly frequent climate changes, their vulnerability has risen significantly. Therefore, it is imperative to take immediate and decisive steps to enhance farm productivity and resilience. The government must increase spending on research and development, as the current share of the agricultural budget is a meagre 0.3 to 0.5 per cent, which falls far behind the United States (2.8 per cent), China (2.1 per cent), South Korea (4.3 per cent), and Israel (4.2 per cent). These inadequate investments in R&D hinder the ability of science and

farm distress.

Fortunately, we are living in a technological era where connected technologies can revolutionize agriculture. Innovations have to be scaled up urgently around hybrid technology, biotechnology, protected cultivation, precision farming, bioenergy, crop biofortification, remote sensing, information and communication technology, etc. Predictive analytics, drones, sensors, artificial intelligence(AI), and the Internet of Things(IoT) are some of the new technologies that can enable farmers to adopt resource-conserving precision farming practices and predict and prepare for unseasonal weather events.

Moreover, countries that have embraced genetically engineered technology have a significant advantage in terms of productivity and cost. Clearly, with 30 per cent of cereals still under traditional varieties, it is high time to increase the penetration of improved seed technology to more farmers across the country. Farm mechanisation can help increase productivity by using other inputs and natural resources efficiently and promptly while reducing the cost of cultivation and the physical strain associated with various farm operations. Engage younger as agricultural entrepreneurs: Around 25 per cent of India's population is below 15 years of age. Therefore, it is crucial to reorient agricultural higher education in the context of globalisation, food security, diversification, sustainability of ecosystems and agribusiness. A more broad-based curriculum coupled with scientific training around new-age technologies such as biotechnology and genetic engi-

technology research to tackle multiple challenges that lead to stand the effort, money, and stand the effort, money, and resources that go into food production and make farming an attractive career choice.

To engage the younger generation in agriculture and nurture them as successful agricultural entrepreneurs, it is imperative to give paramount importance to practical skills and entrepreneurial capabilities among students. This is a non-negotiable requirement for the economic and social development of the country.

The Future Agricultural Leaders

of India (FALI) program is one

such initiative that has been instrumental in achieving this objective. FALI has successfully empowered around 13,000 students in just under a decade and established itself as a highly impactful and unique program that makes the field of agriculture an attractive option for the next eneration. The program does so by facilitating interactive learning, field visits, business plan contests, and exposure to cutting-edge agriculture and agribusiness. In conclusion, the Indian agriculture sector is facing significant hurdles. However, a comprehen-

sive collaborative approach that involves all stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, researchers, and the private sector, can overcome these challenges. The farming community must be given an active role in policy, planning, and execution, allowing them to become partners rather than just passive beneficia-

(The author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

Balancing consumer needs and farmer welfare

With the sale of 'Bharat atta', the Govt aims to address the essential needs of consumers while safeguarding the interests of farmers

¬he recent flagging off of 100 mobile vans for the sale of Atta under the 'Bharat' brand in New Delhi marked a bold new initiative of the Government to take care of the interests of ordinary people who are consumers of essential commodities. Globally, supply chains remain disrupted, and logistics costs have gone up, pushing food inflation up. The Bharat Atta is available at an not exceeding Rs.27.50/kg at NAFED stores, Kendriya Bhandar, and other cooperative outlets. This is not only much below the market price but will also put pressure on retailers and wholesalers to bring down the general prices, giving relief to all classes of consumers. Indeed, in the



SUDHANSHU **PANDEY**

market expectations, prices of both wheat and atta have nary consumers needs to be either come down or remained stable.

The launch of "Bharat Atta" is to be seen from the perspective of the wider intent of the Centre to take care of the welfare and interests of its vast population in a period of fluctuating geopolitical situations, which may affect the mechanism for farmers is a

adversely. The alacrity and speed at which the government deals with the ground situation is indeed remark-

The launch of retail sales of 'The Bharat' brand Atta has increased supplies in the market at affordable rates and is helping in the continued moderation of prices of this important food item. The initiative in the interests of ordiseen in the context of efforts of the planners to ensure remunerative MSP to farmers so that their interests are not compromised at the cost of keeping prices low for the sake of consumers. Bharat Atta at Rs.27.50/kg for consumers and an excellent support between the two sides of the problem. Supply-side economics has been balanced intelligently with demandside economics.

The challenges of maintaining a fine balance between the needs of the masses in getting food and essential commodities at reasonable rates and the farmers to have a higher income each year have always been cited as mutually competitive sides of this delicate balance. The terms of trade between agriculture and farming goods vis-a-vis other manufacturing goods and other tertiary services have historically been loaded against the farm sector.

The launch of affordable Bharat Atta is to be seen last three months, contrary to prices of all such commodities unique management solution alongside a slew of other anti-

ensuring the availability of Bharat Dal (Chana dal) through the physical and/or retail outlets of 3 agencies at Rs.60 per kg for a 1kg pack and Rs.55 per kg for a 30 kg pack, onions at Rs.25 per kg. FCI is also offering 4 LMT of rice for sale in the weekly eauctions to increase the availability of rice in the domestic market. FCI also offered rice for sale at Rs.29.00-29.73/kg by the prices fixed by the Government as a signal for the market. Besides such measures, the

Centre has done well to withstand pressures from international powers, global trade institutions, millers, and export lobbies while introducing administrative pressure in

to achieve a unique balance inflationary measures like and some varieties of rice to ensure sufficient domestic availability of those com-modities. The government has also imposed limits on the stock holding of wheat by different categories of entities like wholesalers/traders, processors, retailers, and big chain retailers to prevent hoarding.

To take effective anti-inflationary remedial measures, the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential food commodities through 545 price monitoring centres set up in 34 States/UTs. The daily report of prices and indicative price trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions for the release of stocks from

imposition of stock limits to prevent hoarding, changes in trade policy instruments like rationalisation of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity, etc.

The Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) set up by the Centre has been extensively used to check the volatility in the prices of agri-horticultural commodities. Currently, under the PSF, a dynamic buffer stock of pulses (Tur, Urad, Moong, Masur, and Gram) and onion is being maintained. Onion prices in India have always been a politically sensitive matter. To check the volatility in prices of onions, the Government maintains an onion buffer under the PSF. The buffer size has been restricting exports of wheat the buffer to cool down prices, increased year after year from

1.00 LMT in 2020-21 to 2.50 LMT in 2022-23.

To augment domestic availability and moderate the prices of pulses, the import of tur and urad has been kept under the 'Free Category' till 31.03.2024, and import duty on masur has been reduced to zero till 31.03.2024. Import duty of 10 per cent on tur has been removed to facilitate smooth and seamless importation. Bharat Atta and many such interventions like the regular sale of wheat by the Food Corporation of India demonstrate the strong will of the Government of India to take people-centric decisions swiftly and proactively when it's needed the most. (The writer is a former food

secretary, views are personal)

Aid Ship sails to Gaza amid starvation crisis

An aid ship loaded with some 200 tons of food set sail for Gaza on Tuesday in a pilot program for the opening of a sea corridor to the territory, where the five-month-old Israel-Hamas war has driven hundreds of thousands of people to the brink of starvation.

The food was gathered by World Food Kitchen, the charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés, and is being carried on a barge attached to a ship belonging to the Spanish aid group Open Arms. It is expected to arrive at an undisclosed location on the Gaza coastline in two to three days. Andrés and the Open Arms boat captain, Oscar Camps, confirmed the food was destined for northern Gaza.

On Saturday evening Andrés told The Associated Press in a brief interview they wanted to keep the location under wraps to avoid a repetition of the Feb. 29 incident that saw Israeli troops firing on a large crowd of Palestinians racing to pull food off an aid convoy in Gaza City, killing the Gaza health ministry.

The United States has separately announced plans to construct a sea bridge near Gaza in order to deliver aid, but it will likely be several weeks before it is operational.Cyprus Nikos President

Christodoulides posted on X social media platform X that the inaugural voyage was "one of hope and humanity" and that food being delivered is a "Till he is a 'lifeline to civilians." The Cypriot government initially pitched the idea of using the east Mediterranean island nation as a base to send aid to Gaza by ship.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen thanked the Cypriot president and wrote on X that the ship's departure was a sign of hope," and vowed to "do everything in our power for aid to reach Palestinians.

The war, triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel has killed over 30,000 Palestinians and driven some 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people from their homes. The U.N. says a quarter of the population is starving. The US, Qatar and Egypt had tried to broker a cease-fire and hostage release ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which began on Sunday, but the talks stalled last week as Hamas demanded that any temporary pause in the fighting come

with guarantees for ending the war.Aid groups say it is nearly impossible to deliver aid in much of the territory because of Israeli restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of law and order after the Hamas-run police force largely vanished from the streets. The planned sea route has the support of the European

Union, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and other countries. The U.S. and other countries have also launched airdrops of aid in recent days, but aid groups say those efforts are costly and unlikely to meet the mounting

Once the ship nears Gaza two smaller vessels will tow the barge to a jetty that World Central Kitchen is building at an undisclosed location, organizers said. The food charity and mosques.

then plans to distribute it through the 60 kitchens it operates across Gaza.

Israel says it supports the effort and will be inspecting all cargo before it sets sail for Gaza.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel in a surprise attack on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Hamas is still believed to be holding around 100 hostages, and the remains of 30 others, after releasing most of the rest last year in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.Gaza's Health Ministry says the Israeli offen sive launched in response to the attack has killed at least 31,112 Palestinians. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but it has said women and children make up twothirds 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

NSA Doval calls on Israeli PM to discuss Gaza war

Jerusalem (PTI): National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss regional developments and the urgent need to address the issue of humanitarian assistance to Gaza which is facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met today with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and updated him on recent developments in the fighting in the Gaza Strip," the Israeli Prime Minister posted on X from his official handle.

More than 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. The sides also discussed the effort to release the hostages and the issue of humanitarian assistance," he said.

The Israel-Hamas conflict has created a growing humanitarian crisis, and the UN has warned that at least 576,000 people across the Gaza Strip one-quarter of the population - are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity. Western countries have

ressed Israel to expand land deliveries by facilitating more routes and opening additional crossings.Doval also met his Israeli counterpart Tzakhi Hanegbi, who was also present during the meeting with Netanyahu.Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been constantly in touch with the important leaders in the region, such as the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, and is actively involved in discussions to promote peace and stability in the region.

Khanderao Kand from the

Foundation for India and

Indian Diaspora Studies

(FIIDS) said technology

immigrants are leading entre-

preneurs in big industries.

point of view, the largest inno-

vators, patent holders are

coming from the immigration background," he said.

Technology professionals.

When they settle, they create

jobs and wealth in the United

particularly the largest source

of technology professionals

coming from India, they are

shackled by the seven per

cent country quota. This pol-

icy created a huge backlog

resulting in the green card

processing for new appli-

cants for more than a hun-

dred years. They will never be

able to get their green card

unless technology policies

are changed. That's why we

ho sted this immigration

summit. We addressed the

issues like, seven per cent

quota, EAD, OPT, various

such kinds of issues," Kand

"However, their situation,

"From an innovation

Joe Biden says he never meant to keep classified documents

AP WASHINGTON

Over five hours of interviews, President Joe Biden repeatedly told a special counsel that he never meant to retain classified information after he left the vice presidency, but he was at times fuzzy about dates and said he was unfamiliar with the paper trail for some of the sensitive documents he handled.

The Associated Press reviewed a transcript of the Biden interviews, which were being turned over to Congress by the Justice Department on Tuesday just hours before the special counsel, Robert Hur, was going before the House Judiciary Committee to face questions about his investigation the Democratic presi-

Hur, in his report, concluded that Biden should not face criminal charges over his mishandling of documents but also impugned the president's age and competence. The special counsel, for his part, stood by his assessment of the president's memory as "accurate and fair," in prepared testimony to be delivered to

In prepared remarks, Hur said: "What I wrote is what I believe the evidence shows and what I expect jurors would perceive and believe. I did not sanitize my explanation. Nor did I disparage the President unfairly," he said.

While Biden fumbled some details in his interview, the full transcript could raise questions about Hur's depiction of the 81-year-old president as having "significant

limitations" on his memory. At the same time, it makes plain that the Republican lawyer never asked Biden about the timing of his son's death, contradicting the president's indignant public objections to that supposed line of questioning. Both the hearing and the transcript were meant to clear up lingering questions about Hur's report on the discovery of some classified records at Biden's home and former Washington private office. But there was no guarantee they would alter preconceived notions about the president or the Trump appointee

who investigated him, particularly in a hard-fought elec-

tion year. Ón Capitol Hill, Hur appeared set to be the rare witness likely to be vilified all around — by Republicans angry over his decision not to

charge the president, and by

Democrats for his unflattering commentary about Biden. Republicans were likely to dig further into Hur's assessment of the president's age and memory — a major attack line as they seek to unseat Biden come November. Democrats will try to paint Hur, whom Donald Trump appointed a US attorney, as a political partisan out to help his party win a presidential

election. Hur's report cited evidence that Biden willfully held on to highly classified information and shared it with a ghostwriter, based on audio of the conversations between the two men in which Biden said he had just come across some classified documents at his home.

In the interviews, Biden said he did not recall the exchange, or that he had actually discovered any documents. He said if he had discussed anything questionable with the ghostwriter, it was in referring to a 20-page sensitive memo he had written to then-President Barack Obama in 2009 arguing against surging troops in Afghanistan that he wanted to ensure didn't make it into publication. Hur devoted much of his report to explaining why he did not believe the evidence against Biden met the standard for criminal charges, partly based on the hours of interviews

with the president.

US pledges additional USD100 mn for Haiti

Kingston (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday announced an additional USD 100 million to finance the deployment of a multinational force mission to Haiti following a meeting with Caribbean leaders in Jamaica to halt the country's violent crisis. Blinken also announced another USD 33 million in humanitarian aid and the creation of a joint proposal agreed on by Caribbean leaders and Haitian stakeholders that would expedite the creation of a "presidential college.

He said the college would take "concrete steps" he did not identify to meet the needs of Haitian people and enable the pending deployment of the multinationalforce to be led by

Kenya.

The joint proposal has the backing of members of Caricom, a regional trade bloc that held Monday's urgent meeting."I think we can all agree: Haiti is on the brink of disaster," said Guyanese President Irfaan Ali. "We must take quick and decisive action."He said that he is "very confident that we have found commonality" to support what he described as a Haitian-led and -owned solution. hile Iama Minister Andrew Holness said the meeting was a work in progress.
"It is clear that Haiti is now

at a tipping point," he said. "We are deeply distressed that it is already too late for too many who have lost far too much at the hands of criminal gangs." Blinken

met

Caribbean leaders in Jamaica on Monday in an urgent push to solve the spiraling crisis in Haiti, while pressure grows on Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign or agree to a transitional council.

The closed-door meeting did not include Henry, who has been locked out of his own country while traveling abroad, due to surging unrest and violence by criminal gangs who have overrun much of Haiti's capital and closed down its main international airports.

US lawmakers call for addressing Green Card backlog

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

 $E_{\rm both\ the\ Democratic\ and}^{\rm minent\ lawmakers\ from}$ Republican parties at an immigration summit have called for urgently addressing the Green Card backlog, an issue that is majorly impacting Indian professionals and the issues related to the H-1B visa.

At the first-of-its-kind Tech Immigration Summit' at the US Capitol on Monday hosted by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora (FIIDS), the lawmakers pushed for removing the seven per cent country quota when it comes to issuing Green Card or legal permanent residency to foreign guest workers in specialised categories. In the absence of such a move, the Green Card waiting period for Indian immigrants would be more than 20 years and over 70 years in many cases.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.

Congressman Ro Khanna, who is also co-chair of the Congressional India Caucus, called for a rational immigration policy.

"We know that immigrants have helped build Silicon Valley, that so many of the companies that have started that have created so many jobs that have created so much employment have been founded by immigrants from India, from China, from Asia, the Middle East, from Europe," he said.

Khanna is co-sponsor and lead of the Eagle Act, which he said would get rid of the country caps so that people aren't perpetually in status because that hurts American workers.

You are hurting American workers by allowing corporations to underpay folks on an H1-B, and you're hurting the families on H1-B. And that's why we need to move them to green cards and ultimately citizenship," he said.

"It will help raise wages, help American workers, and help these families. We also should be providing a Green Card to folks who are educating in the United States. It our immigration system," he makes no sense that we're paying for someone's education at college or giving them STEM, and then we're telling them that they have to go back to where they came from when American taxpayers are funding the education. I'd rather stay here, create the jobs here instead of offshoring those

jobs," Khanna said.
"We made a lot of progress on these bills. We need to now get it again through the House. But the obstacle, as you know, has been the Senate, as is often the case," Khanna said.

Congressman Swalwell said 40 per cent of his constituents in California were born outside of the United States.

"If we want to take on the bigger challenges, we need the fix. If we want to cure cancer in America, we need to fix a broken immigration system. If we want to see fewer emissions when it comes to how we get our energy, we need to fix our immigration system. If we want to pay less in childcare, we need to fix

The American immigration system is broken, Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar said.

'We need legal immigration solidified; our businesses need that. Every time I meet CEOs of companies, they tell me how important it is to be able to find a skilled workforce. Today we are losing so many people to Australia to Canada because they're taking advantage of our broken immigration system.

"We need to be able to keep the skilled workforce in the US. That's going to help our GDP, that's going to help our businesses to grow, and that's going to create more American jobs," he said.

"It's in the best interest of the United States to continue to welcome immigrants and make it easier. I think the current system is so stressful to the employees and their families," he said. Congressmen Rich McCormick and Raja Krishnamoorthi called for passage of the relevant legislation from the US Congress.

Sudan's military regains control of TV and radio headquarters

Cudan's military has said it Sregained control of the country's national radio and television headquarters on Tuesday from a rival paramilitary group it has been battling for about a year. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces seized the headquarters of Sudan's Radio and Television in the first weeks of Sudan's conflict which broke out in April last year after long-simmering tensions between its commander and the head of the mili-

In a statement midday Tuesday, the military said it took over the headquarters buildings in the city of Omdurman from RSF fighters who fled the area. It also posted footage online showing its soldiers inside the headquarters. There was no immediate comment from the RSF.The



seizure came after months of intense fighting between the warring sides.

The conflict has wrecked Khartoum and other urban cities across the Northeastern African nation. In the western region of Darfur, the fighting took on a different form, with brutal attacks by the Arabdominated RSF on ethnic African civilians. Thousands of

people have been killed.In January, the International Criminal Court prosecutor said he had "clear finding" that there are grounds to believe both sides committed war crimes in Darfur.More than 10 million people were forced to leave their homes either to safer areas inside Sudan or to neighbouring countries, according to UN agencies.

Haiti PM to resign with transitional council formation AP PORT-AU-PRINCE officials including Blinken and

Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced early once a transitional presidential council is created, capitulating to international pressure that seeks to save the country overwhelmed by violent gangs that some experts say have unleashed a low-scale civil war. Henry made the announce-ment hours after officials including Caribbean leaders and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in Jamaica to urgently discuss a solution to halt Haiti's spiraling crisis. Henry has been unable to

enter Haiti because the violence closed its main international airports. He had arrived in Puerto Rico a week ago, after being barred from landing in the Dominican Republic, where officials said he lacked a flight plan. required Dominican officials also closed the airspace to flights to and from Haiti.It was not immedi-



ately clear who exactly would lead Haiti out of the crisis in which heavily armed gangs have burned police stations attacked the main airport and raided two of the country's biggest prisons. The raids resulted in the release of more than 4,000 inmates.

Scores of people have been killed, and more than 15,000 are homeless after fleeing neighborhoods raided by gangs. Food and water are dwindling as stands and stores selling to impoverished Haitians run out of goods. The main port in Port-au-Prince remains closed, stranding dozens of containers with critical supplies. Caribbean leaders said late

Monday that they "acknowledge the resignation of Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry' once a transitional presidential council is created and an interim premier named.The announcement was made by Guyana President Irfaan Ali, who held an urgent meeting earlier Monday in Jamaica with members of Caricom, a regional trade bloc. They met behind closed doors for several hours spiraling violence. Before sharing details of

the proposed transitional council, Ali said, "I want to pause and thank Prime Minister Henry for his service to Haiti." Henry served the longest

single term as prime minister since Haiti's 1987 constitution was approved, a surprising feat for a politically unstable country with a constant turnover of premiers.Earlier Monday, Blinken announced an addi tional \$100 million to finance the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti. Blinken also announced another \$33 million in humanitarian aid and the creation of a joint proposal agreed on by Caribbean leaders and "all of the Haitian stakeholders to expedite a political transition" and create a "presidential col-

Online influencer detained in Romania

AP BUCHAREST

Online influencer Andrew Tate was detained in Romania and handed an arrest warrant issued by British authorities, his spokesperson said Tuesday. Tate, 37, and his brother Tristan Tate were detained Monday evening on allegations of sexual aggression in a U.K. case dating back to 2012-2015, spokesperson Mateea Petrescu said. She said the Bucharest

Court of Appeal is set to make a "pivotal decision" Tuesday on whether to execute the warrants issued by U.K.'s Westminster Magistrates Court.

Four women had reported Tate to the U.K. authorities for alleged sexual violence and physical abuse, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to prosecute him. The alleged victims then turned to crowdfunding to cover their legal costs as they pursue a civil

case against him.
"We handed over our evi-



violence we endured and waited for action. But four years later we were told the U.K. authorities would not prosecute him," they state on their campaign page. "It's our one remaining route to hold him accountable."

Tate is charged in a separate case in Romania with rape, human trafficking and forming a criminal gang to sex-ually exploit women. He was arrested near Bucharest in December 2022 along with his brother Tristan and two

Romanian women. Romanian arrested

prosecutors formally indicted all four in June last year and they have denied the allega-

Andrew Tate, who has amassed 8.7 million followers on the social media platform X, has repeatedly claimed that Romanian prosecutors have no evidence against him and that there is a political conspiracy to silence him. He was previously banned from various prominent social media platforms for expressing misogynistic views and for hate speech

After their arrest in Romania, the Tate brothers were held for three months in police detention before being moved to house arrest. They were later restricted to the of Bucharest Municipality and nearby Ilfov

County In January, Tate won an appeal challenging the seizure of his assets by Romanian authorities, which were confiscated in the weeks after he was

S Korea flays doctors joining their juniors in walkout

Seoul (AP): South Korea's government criticized senior doctors at a major hospital for threatening to resign in sup-port of the weekslong walkouts by thousands of medical interns and residents that have disrupted hospital oper ations. About 12,000 junior doc-

tors in South Korea have been off the job for a month to protest a government plan to sharply increase medical school admissions. Officials say the plan is meant to add more doctors to

deal with the country's rapidly aging society, but doctors say universities can't handle an abrupt, steep increase in the number of students, and that would eventually hurt the quality of South Korea's med ical services.

as role model woman in business PTI ■ LONDON Britain's First Lady, Akshata Murty, has praised her moth-

er Sudha Murty as a role model for women as she highlighted the importance of mentors for women and girls in business during an International Women's Day celebration event at Downing Street here. The 43year-old businesswoman wife of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak played host to a mentoring session with female role models and business leaders for girls and young women on Friday.

The event was part of her regular "Lessons at 10" programme, which provides children from across the UK an opportunity to see behind the scenes of the famous black door of No. 10 Downing Street – the office and residence of the British Prime Minister.

"I'm so pleased to be marking this International Women's Day by celebrating women in

business. It is fantastic to host a special mentoring session with female role models and business leaders for girls and young women at Downing Street," said

'Í know the phenomenal work that goes into running a business. My mother's endeavours in science, technology, engineering and maths allowed her to push boundaries both academically and professionally and gave her a ringside seat to the technological revolution," she

Akshata Murty all praise for mother

Author and philanthropist Sudha Murty, who began her career in computer science and became the first female engineer to be hired at TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO), was nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha last week for her contribution to social work and education.

The 73-year-old engineerturned-philanthropist's nomination to the Upper House of Parliament coincided with International Women's Day on March 8.

Sudha Murty, the former chairperson of Infosys Foundation, is also renowned for her contribution to Kannada and English literature and is a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri (2006) and Padma Bhushan (2023). Murty is famously known to have provided the seed capital of Rs 10,000 from her emergency funds to her husband

N R Narayana Murthy to start Infosys, which has a market cap of over USD 80 billion. "I hope other women and

girls are inspired by role models around them to pursue their own passions," added Akshata Murty, who until recently was director of Catamaran Ventures UK - an early-stage investment firm with a focus on British brands. On moving into No. 10

Downing Street when Rishi Sunak was elected leader of the Conservative Party in October 2022, Murty launched "Lessons at 10" to encourage a love of learning and inspire children from across the UK with the help of special guests, industry experts and charitable organisations. International Women's Day last week was organised alongside the Girls' Network, a charity that partners with secondary schools and colleges across England to offer girls aged 14-19 a year-long mentoring programme to support their ambitions.

Pakistan's Punjab govt bans Imran's meetings at Adiala Jail

iting security reasons, Pakistan's Punjab government has banned former prime minister Imran Khan from hold ing any meetings, including with his family members, lawyers and party leaders for two weeks at the Adiala Jail, a move criticised by his party as "illegal".

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaf (PTI) has strongly protested the government's "fascist' decision, saying another attempt is made by the state to silence the cricketer-turned-politician's voice and alleged that his life is under

According to the Punjab Home Department notification, based on the threat alerts shared by different intelligence agencies of the country, there exist different types of threats to the security of Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi (where Imran Khan has been incarcerated)

"Some anti-state terrorist groups supported by the enemies of Pakistan have planned target-



ed attacks thereof. Stop meetings, public visits, meetings and interviews within Adiala Jail immediately for two weeks. This matter may be treated as most important," says the Home Department's order to the Inspector General Prisons of

On the other hand, the PTI says no such security concern was conveyed to the party's legal team. "Islamabad High Court had authorised meeting of PTI senior leaders Senator Shibli Fraz, Omer Ayub Khan and Barrister Gohar Khan with Imran Khan this morning and threat at any level," a PTI spokesperson said. He said the "fake governments" of Shehbaz Sharif in the Centre and Maryam Nawaz in Punjab have taken this

Terming the ban illegal, the party alleged that Khan's life was under threat and called for his immediate release.

"The illegal ban on meeting Imran Khan in Adiyala jail despite court orders is worrisome and suggests that his life is under threat. The nation demands the immediate release of their leader Imran Khan! #ReleaseImranKhan," the PTI said in a post on X.

"Imran Khan has been incarcerated unlawfully for 220 days and is now isolated from meeting his party, lawyers, and family members, a deliberate effort to break his spirit," it said in another post. The party also said it will challenge the government's illegal step in the court. After the formation of the new government led by Shehbaz

been tightened against the PTI and its leadership.

Terrorism cases have been registered against the PTI leaders and workers for holding peaceful protests against the February 8 polls riggings. The PTI calls the rulers "mandate thieves" and is urging the judiciary to take notice of massive election rigging which Imran Khan calls "mother of all rigging." The ex-prime minister, along with former foreign min-ister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was handed down a sentence of 10 years each in the cipher case in January for publishing contents of a secret cable sent by the country's ambassador in Washington to the government in Islamabad.The cipher case pertains to a piece of paper, purported to be a diplomatic cable

- the cipher — that Khan had

waved at a public rally on March

27, 2022, and naming the US

had claimed that it was 'evidence

to topple his government.

of an "international conspiracy Zardari, co-chairman of

Pak's new President Zardari decides to forgo salary; cites economic hardship of people to supporting and serving our

Pakistan's newly-elected President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday announced that he would not draw any salary during his tenure as part of his bid to help the cash-strapped country face the challenging economic hardship. Zardari, 68, who took oath as Pakistan's 14th President on Sunday, decided to encourage prudent financial management and not burden the national exchequer, his Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said in a statement on X

'The President considered it essential not to burden the national exchequer and preferred to forgo his salary," President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on

Former president Arif Alvi was drawing Rs 8,46,550 per month, which was fixed by Parliament in 2018. Zardari is one of the richest politicians in Pakistan.

the PPP, took oath as President



of Pakistan for a second term at a ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad on Sunday.

Separately, Minister Mohsin Naqvi, following the steps of Zardari, also decided to forego his salary while in office citing the economic challenges faced by the

Taking to X, Naqvi said that he committed to serving the nation in challenging times "in every possible way Naqvi said that he has

decided to forego his salary during the tenure. "In these nation in every possible way," he said in an X post. Debtstruck Pakistan has been reeling under economic pressure with the price of commodities

touching sky-high prices.
The newly elected government needs a new loan from the International Monetary Fund on an urgent basis, and its politicians, who are often super-rich, use such tactics to win support from the impoverished masses.

In February last year, the Cabinet of then-prime minister Shehbaz Sharif gave up their salary and other perks to help the country tackle its possible default on external liabil-

Addressing the maiden cabinet meeting after inducting 19 members on Monday, Prime Minister Sharif said that the first test of the cash-strapped country's newly-elected government is to rein in inflation and prices of food items.

Sharif, who was elected for

that bringing inflation under control is the biggest challenge, however, the government together with the provincial administrations would consider ways how to manage the prices of the essentials.

'This is our first test," he

Sharif said Pakistan is facing massive challenges and a "deep surgery" is required to pull the cash-strapped country out of the economic crisis.

Taking stock of the issues and problems affecting the and problems affecting the economy and the country, the prime minister asked his Cabinet members to "perform" or perish", saying that the time is "now or never".

Sharif said the government should make difficult decisions without wasting any time. "Deep surgery is needed as antibiotics will not work," he

He directed the immediate formation of a committee to control the prices of essential food items.

Nepal PM 'Prachanda' to seek vote of confidence today

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is scheduled to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament on Wednesday, days after the Maoist leader dumped the Nepali Congress and forged a new alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) party. Prachanda, a former guerilla leader belonging to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), the third largest party in the House of Representatives (HoR), on Sunday sent a letter to the Parliament Secretariat, indicating that he has severed ties with the Nepali Congress.

According to constitutional provisions, a prime minister has to take a vote of con-

Pakistan's new foreign minister

as the cash-strapped country

attempts to tackle myriad prob-

lems on the domestic and

external fronts, including its

relations with India and other

neighbours.Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif on Monday

inducted 19 members into his

Cabinet, ending the tenuous

wait for the completion of gov-

ernment formation after the

February 8 elections resulted in

a hung Parliament and days of

and chartered accountant by

training, and is a senior leader

of the ruling Pakistan Muslin

League-Nawaz (PML-N). He is

also a confidant of the party head and former three-time

Dar @MIshaqDar50 has for-

mally assumed the role of

"Mr Muhammad Ishaq

Dar is an ethnic Kashmiri

political uncertainty.

premier Nawaz Sharif.

Muhammad Ishaq Dar

takes charge as Pak's

Islamabad (PTI): Veteran Pakistan's 39th Minister for

politician-cum-economist Foreign Affairs," the Ministry

Muhammad Ishaq Dar on of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

new Foreign Minister



fidence after an ally withdraws support to the ruling coalition. Prachanda is required to prove his majority after he lost the support of the previous ally, the Nepali Congress, the largest party in the HoR. Prachanda has now forged a new alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) led by former prime minister K P Oli, who

managing foreign affairs, the

73-year-old leader has been

given the important portfolio

when Pakistan's ties with its

neighbour India and

Afghanistan are at their lowest

off trade ties and lowered

diplomatic presence in each

other's capital in August 2019

after New Delhi revoked the

import several items and raw

materials at cheaper rates from

ic relations with the archrival

but it was not possible to move

ahead due to the Kashmir

Dar has favoured econom-

Territories.

India and Pakistan broke

was regarded as a top critic of the Maoist leader.

The new government requires at least 138 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives to win the vote of trust. Wednesday's vote of confidence will be the third such by Prachanda, 69, since he assumed office in December 2022. The Prachanda-led coalition government currently enjoys the support of 150 members in the lower house of Parliament.

The second-largest party in the HoR, CPN-UML, led by former premier KP Sharma Oli, has 76 seats, while the third-largest party, CPN-Maoist Centre, has 32 seats. Similarly, the Rastriya Swatantra Party, the Janata Samajwadi Party and the CPN-Unified Socialist have 20, 12 and 10 seats, respective-

Russian military

people on board

plane with 15

ly.Out of a total of 78 lawmakers of the CPN-UML in the lower house, one of the members has passed away, while

another is suspended.

The CPN-Maoist Centre has issued a whip to all of its members of the HoR to be present in the lower house on March 13.Meanwhile, the Nepali Congress party has asked its members to vote against the Prachanda government.Prachanda became the prime minister for the third term with the support of the Nepali Congress on December

Last year, Prachanda faced a floor test after the Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew its support to the Prachanda-led government following a rift over backing the main opposition party's candidate for the presidential poll.

IMF team to visit Pakistan from March 14-18: Report

Islamabad (PTI): An IMF team is expected to arrive in Pakistan within the next 24 hours for talks with the new finance minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, days after a new government was formed in the cash-strapped country following days of political uncertainty. Aurangzeb, who took oath as the finance minister on Monday said that his priority was to start negotiations with the Washington-based International Monetary Fund.

"No debates, no waste of time — just a steadfast commitment to implementation," the professional banker, told the Dawn newspaper after being sworn in at the President's House on Monday. The new Pakistan government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assumed office last week after

Nine killed in Pak building collapse

At least nine people, including five teenagers, were buried alive on Tuesday when a three-storey building collapsed in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said. The building collapsed reportedly due to a cylinder explosion in Haram Gate Multan city, some 350 km from Lahore.Police officer Sohail Chaudhry told reporters that the three-storey building collapsed apparently owing to a gas cylinder blast.

However, police are also investigating other aspects to determine the exact cause of the collapse," he said.

According to Punjab Emergency Services Rescue 1122's District Emergency Officer Dr Kaleemullah, a total of 11 people were present in the building when it collapsed with a bang on Tuesday, and they were all trapped



under the rubble. He said the rescue teams pulled the nine dead bodies out of the rubble. The other two survivors were shifted to Nishtar Hospital, where their condition was stated to be critical.

He said seven of the dead belonged to one family, including five teenagers. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has expressed her grief and sympathy with the victims' families. She also directed the Multan Commissioner to thoroughly investigate the

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif's sons return to Pak

prime minister Nawaz Sharif's two sons returned to the country from the UK on Tuesday after a six-year self-exile after an accountability court suspended their arrest warrants in the Panama Papers scandal.Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz left the country in 2018 after they were named in the 2016 Panama Papers scandal.

An accountability court had declared them as proclaimed offenders in the Avenfiled case in 2018 and had issued non-bailable perpetual arrest warrants against

The case revolves around the Sharif family's ownership and acquisition of luxury apartments in London.

"Nawaz's sons arrived here from London on Tuesday and were escorted to their Jati Úmra Lahore house in a high security," the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party said in a statement. Nawaz Sharif is the PML-N supremo.

The Jati Umra residence of the Sharifs has already been declared as Chief Minister House where a heavy contingent of police has been deployed for the security and protocol of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and

her father Nawaz Sharif. through their counsel, applied to an Islamabad accountability court, seeking the suspension of the warrants issued against them in the Avenfield Apartments, Al-Azizia, and Flagship Investment cases

which were accepted. Last week the court suspended their arrest warrants till March 14 in the three corruption cases related to the Panama

Papers scandal. The brothers, who are British nationals, were implicated in the cases in 2018 along with their father Nawaz Sharif, sister Maryam Nawaz and her husband Muhammad Safdar. All other accused, including Nawaz Sharif, have been acquitted in all the cases and only the two brothers were still required to face the courts as they were not formally tried due to their

Russia reports Ukrainian drone strikes on targets deep inside its territory

crashes Moscow (AP): A Russian milpeople on board crashed on Tuesday while taking off from an air base in western Russia. the Defense Ministry said. The ministry said the Il-76 aircraft with eight crew and seven passengers on board crashed in the Ivanovo region. It didn't say whether there were any survivors. The ministry's statement said that an engine fire during takeoff was the likely cause of the crash.

special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the The four-engine Il-76 is a heavy-lift transport plane that state into two Union has been in service since the Pakistan has suffered due 1970s with the Soviet and to a hiatus in trade as it used to then Russian air force.

Tuesday's crash came on a day when the Defense Ministry reported dozens of attacks on Russia by Ukrainian drones. In the past, Ukrainian drones hit some military air bases deep inside

Ukraine launched a wave of long-range drones against

Nikitin. That region is located some about 775 kilometres from the Ukraine border. Tuesday, Russian officials said,

hitting at least two oil facilities in the attack on eight regions of Russia in the latest display of Kyiv's expanding drone capacity. Also Tuesday, soldiers who Kyiv officials say are Russian volunteers fighting for Ukraine reported to have crossed the border into Russia, as they have several times during the war. Russia said it had beaten back attempted incursions, but it wasn't possible to verify either sides claims and the reports of border fighting were

Alleged incursions reported occasionally during the war are the subject of claims and counterclaims, as well as disin-

formation and propaganda. One Ukrainian drone struck and set ablaze an oil refinery in the Nizhny

Novgorod region, according

to regional governor Gleb

drone was shot down in the Moscow region, Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. Though it was brought down well south of the city centre, the drone was close to Zhukovsky Airport, one of Mocow's four international airports.

Another drone hit an oil depot in Oryol, 116 kilometres from Ukraine.

The strikes appeared to be evidence of Ukraine's growing sophistication in domestic drone technology and its brashness in taking the war to Russia, after the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24,

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last year that his country had developed a weapon that hit a target 700 kilometres away, in an apparent reference to drones.

ingly deployed sea drones in the Black Sea, where it claims through eastern and southern the Black Sea, where it claims to have sunk Russian war-

Kyiv's forces are hoping for more military supplies from Ukraine's Western partners, but in the meantime are struggling against a bigger and better-provisioned Russian army that is pressing hard at certain front-line points inside Ukraine.

Zelenskyy said that recent Russian advances have been halted and that the battlefield situation is now significantly better than in the previous three months.

"We had some difficulties due to the lack of artillery shells, long-range weapons, sky blocking and the high density of Russian drones," Zelenskyv said in an interview with France's BFM TV and Le Monde published late Monday on the Ukrainian presidential website.

Kyiv's increasingly bold

Ukraine has also increas- attacks behind the 1,500-kilo-Ukraine are coinciding with President Vladimir Putin is all but certain to win another sixyear term by a landslide, but Ukraine's attacks deep inside Russia undermine his attempts to show that life in Russia has been unaffected by the war.

The Russian Defence Ministry also said Tuesday that drones were intercepted over the Belgorod, Bryansk, Kursk, Leningrad and Tula regions of Russia.

Separately, the ministry said that one Tochka-U ballistic missile, with a range of about 70 kilometres, and eight Vampire missiles, which are fired from trucks and have a range of about 20 kilometres, were shot down over Belgorod. Russian border defences are also reportedly being tested, though it was impossible to independently verify any side's battlefield reports.

Muslims perform a special prayer called 'Tarawih' at Data Darbar mosque on the start of Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, in Lahore, Pakistan on Monday

UN nuclear chief tells Japan transparency is 'very important'

Tokyo (AP): The head of the UN atomic agency on Tuesday emphasised to Japan's government the importance of transparency in its ongoing discharges of treated radioactive wastewater at the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi also expressed support for increasing Japan's nuclear capacity as the country looks to it as a stable, clean source of

Grossi is in Japan for the first time since releases of the treated water began in August. His visit comes one day after Japan marked 13 years since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami triggered the Fukushima disaster. The 2011 disaster damaged the Fukushima plant's power supply and reactor cooling functions, triggering triple meltdowns and causing large amounts of radioactive wastewater to accumulate. After more than a decade of cleanup work, the plant began discharging the water after treat-ing it and diluting it with large amounts of seawater on August 24, starting a process that's expected to take decades. The discharges have been

opposed by fishing groups and neighbouring countries including China, which banned all imports of Japanese seafood immediately after the release began. Japan has sought the IAEA's help with safety monitoring and evaluation to allay concerns.Grossi will examine the discharge and sampling facility Wednesday after meeting with local resi-

Iran, Russia and China to perform joint naval drill

Tehran (AP): Iran will begin a joint naval drill with Russia and China in the northern part of the Indian Ocean, state media reported on Tuesday. Iran has stepped up its military cooperation with Beijing and Moscow in response to regional tensions with the United States, including by supplying military drones to Russia before the European nation invaded Ukraine in 2022. Visits to Iran by Russian and Chinese naval representatives have also increased in recent years.

A report by state TV quoted the drill's spokesperson, Adm. Mostafa Tajaddini, as saying that "Marine Security Belt 2024" will begin later Tuesday in 17 thousand square kilometres of the water. The drill is aimed at "fostering security and multilateral coop eration," as well as showing the allies' good will and naval capacities.



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E-Tender Notice

E-Tender Enquiry No.:02/CE-28/FE&T/GHTP/2024 DATED: 12-03-24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ FE&T/ Circle GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for th work to conduct Energy Audit of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat Unit No. I to IV having capacities of 2x210 MW+ 2x250 MW for the year 2021-22. Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated 14-03-2024 at 17:00 hrs onwards.

Note: No corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official website https://eproc.punjab.gov.ir 76155/12/2830/2023/33582 Dated CHD :- 3/12/2024



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copy of the online submitted application form and supporting documents (4 sets of hard copies of online application form along with self-attested copies of all the certificates/documents) by courier or by hand i 05.04.2024. . For further details visit University Website http://pisrecruitmentpsu.com

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GDP growth to be closer to 8 per cent in FY24: CEA

ndia's real GDP growth in FY24 will be "closer" to 8 per cent on higher activity in industry and services verticals, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Tuesday.

Addressing a conference organised by ARIA (Association of Registered Investment Advisors) virtually, Nageswaran said the growth will be higher than the Ministry of Statistics' estimate of 7.6 per cent, and added that there is much reason to be optimistic in the near term

about the prospects in India.
"...Unless the Q4 GDP numbers fall very significantly from the momentum that we have seen in the first three quarters, the GDP will be closer to 8 per cent rather than 7.6 per cent as the Ministry of Statistics currently estimating,

Nageswaran said. However, he stressed on the need to put heads down and work towards the goal without "succumbing to triumphalism and exuberance".

"As a country, we should realize that we are in it for the longer haul, not for the short term," he said, adding that the gratification will be delayed and not instant.

Industry and services are seen pulling growth for FY24, while agriculture will be behind because of the delayed and erratic monsoons which impacted the summer crop, he said, adding that the high sowing of the winter crop, waning of El Nino and expectations of a normal monsoon bode well for the farm

sector going ahead. Exports will not be the biggest growth driver going ahead unlike the first decade of this century, he said, pointing out to sluggishness in global growth.

Instead, he said that the domestic consumption will be driving the growth for some time and added

that the gap between the rural and urban consumption will also narrow down going ahead.
"...How much Indians are able to

consume and how much Indian businesses are able to invest are going to be important contributors (for growth)," he said.

Amid concerns on tepid capital expenditure, Nageswaran pointed to recent data releases like the purchase managers indices and said, "there is clear signal that industry is optiomistic, investing and producing more". The financial health of both Indian

banks and corporates is healthy, which will ensure that the two are able to make a contributions to growth over the next 5-7 years, he

If anything, there can be a case for credit growth to slow down because the deposit growth is unable to catch up, he said, warning that continuing with the current trend



will make the interest rates high. He termed the inclusion of the country's government securities in major bond indices as a "seminal" move, but advised caution on the same, saying this can also attract "hot money" which can go back due change in domestic

fundamentals

"There is an increase in demand for securities when more money comes in. That can actually lead to short term bubble like phenomena. But whereas, what you need is also supply. The market has to become broader and wider," he said

Over the last nine years, inflation has come down, he said, adding that the government's efforts to supply foodgrains at very cheap prices to over 80 crore people should be seen as a measure to increase their disposable incomes by saving on Given the domestic realities, we are

in a situation where the country is combining growth, democratic framework and social inclusion at the same time, he said, adding that such a transition has not been attempted elsewhere before. Pointing to recent findings by

official surveys showing heightened instances of obesity across gender and income levels in the country, Nageswaran flagged health as an "important risk" going forward, stressing that health has a direct impact on the overall economic

Even though there is a perception that the government has spent only

public investments, he cited data to show that social sector expenditures have also gone up over the years. "We need to have a healthy

on infrastructure building and

population, investing in physical activity, being proactive about screentime, about sedentary activities, eating schedules etc. Especially as we go into the middle age is a challenge," he said, making it clear that even though the government may have schemes the onus is on the individual on this

He said the participation of young women in labour force is low because a large number of girls are enrolling for higher education, and fruits of the same will be realized over a period of time.

Contrary to concerns, he said the overall female labour force participation is also going up as seen in a survey conducted after 2017-18.



Exports will close this fiscal same as last year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ommerce and Industry Uminister Piyush Goyal has exuded confidence that during this fiscal, the country's goods and services export numbers will be at the same level; as it was last year despite slowdown and uncertainties in the global

He also said that the government measures such production-linked incentives schemes and focus on highquality goods and services would help in containing the country's trade deficit.

So our trade deficit will be significantly lower than last

year.
"I am happy to share with you that we close the current year in March at the same level as last year. We have a little bit of an adjustment between goods and services, but collectively we will be at the same level as last year, which will be a very, very significant achievement given that most developing countries are seeing a fall in their international trade," Goyal told PTI in an interview. Cumulatively, the country's merchandise exports in April-January 2023-24 contracted by 4.89 per cent to USD 353.92 billion. The estimated value of services exports during the ten-month period stood at USD 84.45 billion.

In 2022-23, India's goods and services exports stood at USD 776 billion.

The war between Russia and Ukraine; Israel-Hamas is impacting global supply chains and the Red Sea crisis has led to significant increase in transportation costs and delay as Îndian exporters have to send their consignments through the Cape of Good Hope, encircling Africa.

The minister said that India saw a scorching pace of growth in its international trade in the years between 2021 and 2023

"We grew by 55 per cent over a period of two years, both in goods and in services'. It went up to USD 776 billion in only two years. And with growth on both goods and services, we could clearly see that this year is going to be one where we will have to consolidate the gains," he said. When asked if the government

is thinking of extending some kind of support measures to exports to deal with the crisis, he said the approach of being dependent on the government to resolve all the problems is something that now Indian industry also does not really

'We have been able to change the thinking to bring the confidence in the Indian exporters that we should stand on our own feet. We should not be dependent on the crutches of the government. And I'm glad to share with you that they do not want the crutches of support anymore. 'What we are doing is of course working through the military and the Navy to see that we can give protection to the ships traversing the Red Sea. We are also continuously in dialogue working with the countries in that region and very mindful and watchful of the situation," he

When asked about the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the minister said it is "very relevant and will continue to increase in its relevance as the world needs a rules-based trading system, which is transparent.

"The understanding that is gradually creeping in that we will not allow ourselves to make the same mistakes that countries made in the rural ground, for example, in agriculture," he said.

Certain quarters of experts are of the view that the WTO is losing its relevance as the member countries are not able to reach consensus on key

On March 1, the talks at the WTO's ministerial conference ended with no decision on key issues such as finding a permanent solution to public food stockpile and on curbing fisheries subsidies, but the members agreed to further extend the moratorium on imposing import duties on e-

especially in remote and hilly areas, the Government has partnered with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide loans with a credit limit of up to Rs. 2 lakhs at highly competitive and affordable interest rates to small entrepreneurs managing such centers. The objective is to enable them to offer essential services effectively to local communities. In this regard, a pact was

To strengthen the network of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

PNS NEW DELHI

nationwide,

signed between SIDBI and the Pharmaceuticals and Medical

Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) on Tuesday, at an event in the presence of Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare. During the event, a website for credit assistance to Jan Aushadhi Kendras was also launched.

On the occasion, Dr Mandaviya said, "Medicines which are affordable and accessible are an essential requirement for any society. From only 80 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in 2014, there are around 11,000 units operating across the country today." He also said that "it is estimated that around 10 to 12 lakh



Scheme to provide loans to Jan Aushadi Kendras launched

people visit these Jan Aushadhi Kendras every day, providing them with significant savings access to requisite medicines.

The Minister also emphasised

that the government provided financial assistance individual operators of these Aushadhi Kendras, including additional assistance for those located in remote and

them to open these centres. This, he said, provided small entrepreneurs with financial autonomy as well as strengthened the network and reach of Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country In fact, to expand the Ausadhi

hilly regions, to encourage

Kendra coverage, the Government has already allowed 2,000 Primary Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting between Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Mandaviya at an event here

According the officials, a large number of PACS have already got approval to foray in the

So far, more than 9,400 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country. About 1,800 types of medicines and 285 other medical devices are available in these Kendras.

Raman, ivasubramanian Managing Chairman & Managing Director, SIDBI informed that the credit assistance program takes advantage of both GST and the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) of India to provide unsecure working capital loan for small

Sensex edges higher, Nifty ends almost flat

Equity market benchmark Sensex ended higher on Tuesday due to heavy buying in index heavyweights like HDFC Bank, TCS and Reliance Industries amid mixed cues from Asian markets

Witnessing a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 165.32 points or 0.22 per cent higher at 73,667.96. During the day, the barometer surged 501.52 points to 74,004.16. The broader Nifty, however,

ended almost flat at 22,335.70, inching up 3.05 points or 0.01 per cent. Among Sensex firms, HDFC Bank climbed more than 2 per

cent. TCS, Maruti, Infosys,

Airtel were among the major gainers State Bank of India, JSW Steel, ITC, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement and Nestle were among

the laggards. 'The domestic market witnessed range-bound trading today after the previous day's sharp profit booking. However, mid and small-cap stocks remained pressured, primarily due to apprehensions regarding inflated valuations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said



"Global sentiment remained mixed as investors awaited key US inflation data, which could offer insights into the Fed's interest rate decisions. lv ma pants are anticipating India's inflation figures scheduled for release today, to remain consistent with the previous month, which will be at the middle of RBI's tolerance range," he added. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 2.11 per cent and midcap index dipped 1.31 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty plummeted by 3.53 per cent, industrials by 1.74 per cent, commodities by 1.73 per cent, services by 1.70 per cent, utilities by 1.59 per cent and metal

by 1.34 per cent. IT and Teck

were the only gainers. "Despite certain indices and sectors initially performing well, many retreated from their day's close to their lows. Throughout the day, both the midcap and small-cap indices remained under pressure, reflecting the prevailing challenges across these segments of the market. "On the sectoral front, apart from IT, all other indices were trading in the red, with the realty index down nearly 4 per cent. 'The benchmark index witnessed a volatile opening hour, with sharp swings on both sides. As the volatility cooled off.

the index oscillated in the range

of 96 points and closed in the

lower quartile of the 196-point trading range established during the day," Avdhut Bagkar Technical and Derivatives Analyst at StoxBox, said. Shares of Jio Financial Services

extended its record run on Tuesday and jumped 5.27 per cent to hit a 52-week high of Rs 374.50 apiece on the BSE. Shares of Sanghi Industries settled more than 8 per cent higher on Tuesday after Adani Group-owned Ambuja

Cements said it intends to divest up to 2 per cent stake in the company to comply with minimum public shareholding Ambuja Cements is one of the

promoters of Sanghi Industries having a 54.51 per cent stake in 2023. Shares of SpiceJet settled 9 per

cent lower after the airline said several members of its commercial team have resigned with immediate effect, as part of a strategic restructuring at the airline.

Among Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.1 per cent and the Shanghai Composite index retreated, losing 0.4 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng went up 3.1 per cent and South Korea's Kospi advanced 0.8 per

NCLAT upholds Jet Airways

transfer of ownership

PTI NEW DELHI

Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Tuesday upheld the resolution plan of grounded carrier Jet Airways and approved the transfer of its ownership to Jalan Kalrock Consortium.

The NCLAT bench has directed the Jet Airways monitoring transfer of ownership within 90 days. Besides, it has also directed the lenders of Jet Airways to adjust the Rs 150 crore paid by the consortium as performance bank guarantee.

The lenders of Jet Airways and Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC), the successful bidder, are in a legal tussle for more than a year over the transfer of the management of the grounded carrier.

Earlier, the lenders had approached the Supreme Court, which had declined to interfere in the matter and had directed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to take a decision on the issue. The NCLAT directed the managing committee, consisting of lenders led by SBI, to create security on immovable properties as offered by the successful resolution applicant (SRA) JKC within 30 days.

Upon creation of such security, lenders were directed to adjust the performance bank guarantee of Rs 150 crore towards the payment of the same amount from the SRA.

The NCLAT has directed that within 30 days of the creation of security, lenders will issue shares

of Jet Airways to SRA and hand over the company.

Within 30 days from the date of such handover, the SRA and lenders will be required to complete all payments to creditors as per the approved resolution plan, the NCLAT said.

Jet Airways can start business and operations, subject to regdover to SRA, it said.

Jet Airways in a statement said the "NCLAT has approved the implementation of the resolution plan as originally approved without any deviations and has given directions to lenders for specific and immediate implementa-

Jet Airways, which has not flown since April 2019, had in September last year said that the new proposed promoters — the Jalan-Kalrock consortium had completed an additional infusion of Rs 100 crore in the

With this infusion, it said, JKC has fulfilled its total financial commitment of Rs 350 crore equity as per the court-approved

resolution plan. The consortium has fulfilled all other commitments to take con-

trol of the airline, it added. The airline had also said it was looking to relaunch operations from 2024.

After grounding in 2019 owing to severe liquidity crisis at that time, the full-service carrier underwent an insolvency resolution process. However, it was having a dispute with the lender. In 2021, JKC emerged as the successful bidder of Jet Airways.

commerce trade for two more in the year-ago period.



BUSINESS BRIEF

53 RD NATIONAL SAFETY WEEK HELD AT POWERGRID

NEW DELHI: The 53rd National Safety Week was celebrated at Regional Headquarters, Faridabad and under its all establishments with great enthusiasm. During this Safety Week emphasis was laid on safety of human resources to create awareness among employees about safety in all spheres of life. This year, the theme of National Safety Day 2024 is Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence. The key objective of organizing the said Safety Week is to raise awareness about workplace safety and promoting safety culture within the organization. AK Mishra, Executive Director, POWERGRID, NR-I Region administered the Safety Pledge to all employees and all the employees were asked to comply with the safety norms

reported its highest-ever sales "Passenger vehicles, twowheelers, and three-wheelers of February posting sales of 3.7 Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose 11 per cent lakh units with a growth of 10.8 per cent as compared to

Domestic passenger vehicle sales rise 11 per cent in February

year-on-year in February, as utility vehicles continued to steer demand in the market, industry body SIAM said on Tuesday.

The total passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers last month stood at 3,70,786 units, as compared to 3,34,790 units

General Rajesh Director Menon said in a statement. The total two-wheeler sales rose 35 per cent to 15,20,761 units in February, as against 11,29,661 units in the same month last year. Three-wheeler dispatches rose to 54,584 units last month, as against 50,382

units in February last year.

2023,"

February



have posted growth in February 2024 compared to the previous year, while commercial vehicles have witnessed a slight de-growth," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Vinod Aggarwal said in a statement. Overall robust GDP growth of

the country in the third quarter of 2023-24 has helped the auto sector, he added.

green energy and accelerate the renewable energy transition through innovative solutions," TPREL CEO and Managing Director Deepesh Nanda said in the statement. The project is expected to generate an estimated 243.53 million units of

energy annually and reduce carbon footprint by 4.87 million tonnes in 25 years, contributing significantly to India's renewable energy goals. SECI Chairman & MD R P Gupta

said in the statement, "We are committed to leverage latest technology in the renewable energy segment and this project supports the country's energy transition vision. The project has been delivered on time by Tata Power Solar that will help in providing 24x7

Tata Solar commissions 100MW solar project PTI ■ NEW DELHI

'Passenger vehicles

Tata Power Solar Systems (TPSSL) on Tuesday said it has I on Tuesday said it has commissioned 100 MW solar PV project, coupled with 120 MWh utility scale battery energy storage systems (BESS), at Rajnandgaon in

Chhattisgarh.
TPSSL bagged the Rs 945-crore project on EPC (engineering procurement construction) basis from the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) in December 2021, a statement said. included order

scope design, engineering, supply, construction, erection, testing, O&M, and commissioning of the

According to the statement, TPSSL, a

fully integrated solar company in India and a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd has successfully commissioned the country's largest solar and BESS project comprising 100 MW Solar PV Project coupled with 120 MWh Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh. TPSSL team displayed

exceptional project execution and engineering prowess during the project execution, which faced various challenges such as unsuitable full hard rock soil conditions, and remote location. In spite of these, the project was

completed in the stipulated timeframe. The cutting-edge Bifacial the largest solar and battery storage Mono Crystalline technology was

used for 239,685 modules in the The successful commissioning of

technical expertise and project execution skills of Tata Power Solar. This will ensure round-the-clock

project for SECI, reflects the

renewable power."

Luca stuns boyhood idol and top ranked Novak at Indian Wells

AP INDIAN WELLS (US)

uca Nardi used a combination of poise ⊿and power to stun his boyhood idol and top-seeded Novak Djokovic with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open.

Nardi, who's ranked Ño. 123, closed out his huge upset over the No. 1 player in the rankings with an ace. The 20year-old from Italy dropped his racket and brought his hands to his face almost in disbelief before greeting Diokovic at the net.

"This is a miracle," Nardi said in an interview after the match on the Tennis Channel. "I'm a 20-years-old guy, 100 in the world, and beating Novak. So, crazy. Crazy.

Setting the tone early with his hard-hitting shots, Nardi frustrated Djokovic all evening. There was a moment when Nardi was surprised by an "in" call and casually hit the ball back over the net. It resulted in a winner and led to Djokovic complaining to the official about a potential hindrance.

To think, Nardi was nearly on his way home. He got into the field as a "lucky loser," which



but made it into the main draw as a replacement for an injured player who pulled out before the first round. In Nardi's case, he stepped in for 30 Tomas Martin Etcheverry and received a bye through the opening round. He went on to become the

is a player who stumbled on the final hurdle in qualifying Djokovic in a Grand Slam or ATP Masters 1000 level event, surpassing No. 122 Kevin Anderson in 2008 in Miami. Using a combination of aggressiveness and finesse, Nardi had Djokovic, the 24time Grand Slam singles champion from Serbia he

grew up watching, smiling

and shaking his head at times in a mixture of surprise and Nardi was far from

intimidated, either, answering Djokovic's well-placed shots with well-placed returns of his own.

"Before this night, no one knew me," said Nardi, who will face American Tommy Paul in the round of 16. "I hope now the crowd enjoyed the game. I'm super happy with this one.'

Djokovic certainly didn't know that much about Nardi, only what he gleaned watching him play. He knew Nardi had a strong baseline game, especially with the forehand, and moved well.

"He got in as a lucky loser' to (the) main draw, so he really didn't have anything to lose. So he played great," Djokovic said. "Deserved to win. I was more surprised with my level. My level was really, really

No. 4 Daniil Medvedev's was just good enough, as he edged No. 29 Sebastian Korda 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 and will face No. 13 Grigor Dimitrov.

Earlier in the day, Coco Gauff gave herself an early birthday Bronzetti 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the third round. Gauff, who turns 20 on Wednesday, struggled early but found a way to hold her serve by saving 10 of 11 break points. She closed out the match with a serve into the body that Bronzetti couldn't return. It extended Gauff's winning streak in the United States to 18 matches, a run that includes winning the title at last year's U.S. Open. Bronzetti had a chance to force a third set when she took a 5-4 lead in the tiebreaker. Gauff won the next three points.

These days, Gauff is finding ways to win when she doesn't necessarily have all her shots



Establish academies, start competitive **leagues: Somaya**

AP ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{women's}}^{\text{isappointed}} \ \ \text{at the team's}$ failure to make the Paris Olympics, former captain M M Somaya wants Hockey India to primarily grassroots, focus on including launching academies competitive leagues at the U-12 level.

The Indian team, which finished a creditable fourth at the Tokyo Games in 2021, could not qualify for Paris after disappointing outings at the Asian Games and the Olympic Qualifiers.

"Our focus must shift towards nurturing talent at the grassroots level. Establishing academies and competitive leagues for aspiring players should ideally commence at the under-12 stage," Somaya said in the latest episode of 'Hockey Te Charcha'.

"Many existing academics initiate programs only at the under-16 level, which is a delayed start. We must prioritise evaluating the performances of young talents identified at the age of 12 when they reach the under-16 level, emphasising continuous

improvement strategies." Somaya was a member of the Indian team that won the gold medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, while captaining the squad in the 1988 Games in Seoul. talent identification is the geographical concentration from limited regions, primarily Haryana, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh,

"However, numerous untapped pockets across India are rich with talent. Ensuring equal opportunities, exposure, proper coaching

becomes imperative.

"To address this, we must expand our reach from the grassroots, casting a wider net and engaging players at a younger age. This comprehensive approach is vital for long-term development and success. Somaya expressed disappointment over the missed opportunity but stressed on addressing some areas, like penalty

corner conversions and injuries to the core players. We boast a talented lineup of players, yet a critical aspect that

warrants attention is our performance in crucial moments, notably during the Asian Games and Olympics Qualifiers. "Finishing, particularly in

penalty corners, has been an area where we fell slightly short. Despite facing the setback of missing key players in the Qualifiers in Ranchi due injuries, acknowledge that this should not serve as an

excuse. "It underscores the need for focused improvement and strategic planning to address these challenges effectively.

"However, I believe, "Another crucial aspect of women's hockey has come up in leaps and bounds over the last four to six years. Even after the Tokyo Olympics, where they finished fourth, they have played some very good hockey," he said.

Ronaldo scores but **Al Nassr** ousted

AP RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

ristiano Ronaldo scored Cand Al-Nassr was still ousted from the Asian Champions League quarterfinals

Âl-Nassr responded to a 1-0 first-leg defeat against Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates by winning the return match 4-3 in Riyadh on Monday. But it lost the penalty shootout 3-1. Ronaldo was the only home player to score in the shootout.

The 39-year-old Ronaldo did miss several chances in regulation, and shook his head in disbelief in the second target from just two meters out with Al-Ain goalkeeper Khalid Eisa on the ground. Soufiane Rahimi, the only

goal-scorer from the first leg, was much more clinical on Monday. The Moroccan scored twice in the first half to give one-time champion Al-Ain a 3-0 advantage overall. Just before the break,

Abdulrahman however, Ghareeb pulled one back for Al-Nassr, and just after, an own goal from Éisa made it 2-2 on the night.

With 18 minutes of normal time remaining, former Manchester United defender Alex Telles scored for Al-Nassr to force the game into extra time.

Al-Ain restored its lead through Sultan Al Shamsi, but with 118 minutes on the clock, Ronaldo scored from the spot to level the tie 4-4 on aggregate.

In the shootout, Ronaldo found the net while Marcelo Brozovic, Telles and Otavio all

FIH world rankings

Indian men slip to fourth, women team ranked ninth

AP ■ NEW DELHI

 $I_{
m spot}^{
m ndia}$ on Tuesday slipped a spot to the fourth position in the latest FIH men's world rankings with Germany taking the third place following their impressive run at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

India (2761) had directly qualified for the Paris Ölympics through an Asian Games gold last year and didn't need to play in the recently-concluded Olympic Qualifiers.

Germany (2786), on the other hand, went unbeaten at the Olympic Qualifiers in Oman and followed that up with two wins and two draws against Argentina and a young Belgian side during the Santiago del Estero mini tournament in the FIH Pro League to surpass India. Netherlands (3060) continue

to sit at the top of the rankings, coming away from during the FIH Pro League the India leg of the FIH Pro mini-tournament in India, League, relatively unscathed,



with two draws against India into fifth place. Argentina and a loss to Australia accounting for their only dropped points in 8 matches. Belgium (2848) continue to hold on to the second place in France (2085) was ninth, while Qualifiers in Valencia, Spain. Australia (2757), who were the stand out performers mini-tournament in India, leapfrogged England (2720)

(2524) and Spain (2296) continue to hold on to the seventh and eighth positions respectively.

following a spirited showing at the Olympic Qualifiers in Oman, where they pipped Pakistan in the bronze medal match to qualify for the upcoming Olympic Games.

In the Women's Rankings, India (2215), who failed to make the cut for the Paris Games, are ranked ninth in list headed the rankings after a strong showing at the Olympic their way back into the top-10 pack having won all 12 of their Pro League season 5 matches thus far.

(2827) and Argentina Germany (2732) moved ahead of Australia into second and third places performances during the Santiago del Estero mini-Australia (2678) in fourth are

followed by Belgium (2499) who dropped a place on the back of four straight losses in the FIH Pro League.
England (2304) remained sixth, followed by Spain (2244) on seventh, who have

closed the gap to England thanks to a strong showing at the Olympic Qualifiers in Valencia, where they finished second to qualify for Paris. China (2226)'s performances during the Indian minitournament of the FIH Pro League in February, saw them sit second in the Pro League

table, catapulting them ahead Netherlands (3422), who of India (2215) in the world rankings, into the eighth Less than 100 points separate

England on sixth and India on ninth, showing the closely contested nature international women's

Coco reaches round of 16 at Indian Wells by beating Lucia

AP INDIAN WELLS (US)

oco Gauff gave herself an early Chirthday present by beating Lucia Bronzetti 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the third round of the BNP Paribas

Gauff, who turns 20 on Wednesday, struggled early but found a way to hold her serve by saving 10 of 11 break points. She closed out the match with a serve into the body that Bronzetti couldn't return. It extended Gauff's winning streak

in the United States to 18 matches, a run that includes winning the title at last year's U.S. Open. Bronzetti had a chance to force a

third set when she took a 5-4 lead in

the tiebreaker. Gauff won the next three points. These days, Gauff is finding ways to win when she doesn't necessarily have all her shots tuned in. "The mentality is the reason why I'm playing and the reason why I'm being successful," said Gauff, who will play a doubles match with partner Jessica Pegula later in the evening. "I'm not always playing my best, but mentally when I show that each match I'm not going to give up, it gives something for the opponent to think about."

Gauff will face Elise Mertens in the round of 16. Mertens held off Naomi Osaka 7-5, 6-4. Osaka played in the fifth tournament of her return after her maternity leave in 2023.



"Elise, she's always a tough opponent to play. It's never an easy match Rune played his first match of the to play. It's never an easy match against her," Gauff said.

and Punjab.

She doesn't give you much leverage. For me, just going to have to approach being aggressive. Also, just trusting my strokes and trusting myself." Two-time Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka beat Emma Radućanu 6-3, 7-5 to advance. Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, stayed composed in times of stress. She's been known to smash a racket something she's trying to change. "It's a new approach to tough situations," Sabalenka said on the television broadcast.

"Don't focus on the negative and try to stay positive.

tournament and beat Lorenzo Musetti 6-2, 7-6 (5) to advance to the round of 16. Rune had a bye in the first round and advanced through the second when Milos Raonic

withdrew with an injury.
"I was very eager to play," Rune said. Gael Monfils won a three-set thriller Norrie, the over Cameron tournament's 2021 winner, in a match that took more than three hours. Americans Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul won in straight sets. The night competitions included top seed Novak Djokovic taking on Luca

Nardi and Daniil Medvedev facing American Sebastian Korda.

SNOW MARATHON

Runners brave freezing temperatures

AP ■ KULLU (HIMACHAL

What's the picture that one would have in mind when thinking about a marathon? Certainly not an icy course, sub-zero temperatures and snow-clad terrain.

But this is exactly what participants braved at the third annual Snow Marathon, which had to be shifted from Sissu to the Jana Waterfalls trail in Manali due to a spate of avalanches at the regular

venue. Over 200 runners competed, including those from the USA, Russia and Ethiopia. But it was hardly a surprise that the for the event. I never expected

battle-hardened participants from the Indian Armed forces dominated the proceedings on

Shabir Hussain of Ladakh Scouts, which is an infantry regiment of Indian Army, claimed the top honours in the men's full marathon (42 km) by clocking 03:58:21. The Ladakh Scouts are incidentally nicknamed 'Snow Warriors' or

'Snow Leopards'. In the women's competition, two-time defending champion and local favourite Tenzin Dolma claimed the title with her best timing of 04:35:13.

She was expectedly elated. "I am happy, as I practised hard



that I will complete my hat-trick of wins here. There was a lot of elevation on the trail but I usually practice on such routes. So never really felt any difficulties," Dolma told PTI

"I want to prepare myself for the World Championship and later this year will compete in the Ladakh Silk route marathon as well," she said.

Aside from snow, another challenge for the runners was having to run through a jungle on an uphill path. But the participants enjoyed the experience.

"I urge that lots and lots of people should participate in this tournament. People

should keep challenging push themselves and themselves towards accepting such challenges," said 55-yearold Suresh, a Kargil war veteran who was running his second marathon.

Navy officer Ameya, who is 21, also enjoyed his first race despite the difficulty he is faced in acclimatising to the conditions. "I have never been to this altitude before. This is my first experience of such an event but I am not happy with the time I took. I just want to thank god that I was at least able to complete the race," he

The organisers expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army

and Navy for helping them make the 2024 edition possible. We would like to express

gratitude towards the efforts put in by the Indian Army and Navy. They made the third edition possible. We expect to get 400 plus participants next

The participating athletes did well in training and acclimatisation sessions. They never lost the will despite this route being more difficult and the altitude (approx 2200 ft from sea level) being so high. Their sincere efforts made the event a grand success," marathon's CEO Rajiv Kumar

Jaiswal wins ICC Player of Month Award

ndia's newest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal was on Tuesday named the ICC 'Player of the Month' for February, following his prolific run in the Test series against England, which saw him amass over 700 runs.

The 22-year-old southpaw totalled a staggering 712 runs over five matches, the highest aggregate by an Indian batter in a Test series against England.

The Indian opener created several records in February, and equalled the long-standing Test record for most sixes in a Test innings (12) during

He struck two double hundreds and three half-centuries in the just-concluded series against England, which the

hosts won 4-1 with Jaiswal playing a handsome role in the triumph.

"I'm really happy to achieve ICC award and I hope I will be getting more in future," Jaiswal said after he was informed about the win.

"It's one of the best and this is my first five-match series series. I really enjoyed it, the way I have played and the way it's been and we won the series by 4-1. It's been an incredible experience with all my mates And I really enjoyed it."



start to their international career as Jaiswal and the numbers prove that he could already be one of the best Test openers in the world.

Jaiswal singled out the celebration following his knock of 214 not out in Rajkot as one that he enjoyed the most.

"I think when I celebrated my double century in Rajkot, I think that was something which I really enjoyed and felt it. And I was, I was living," he added.

He also slammed 219 in Visakhapatnam.

The back-to-back double hundreds at the age of 22 years and 49 days made him the world to record two double centuries in Tests after Sir Donald Bradman and Vinod

Kambli Jaiswal ended the month with astounding numbers in the three Tests he featured in - 560

runs at an average of 112 including 20 sixes. To his credit, he has carried the form into March, reaching the milestone of 1000 Test runs, becoming the secondquickest Indian to the land-

mark. Jaiswal beat competition from New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka to win the award.

T20 WORLD CUP

McDonald backs Mitch Marsh for Australian captaincy



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has backed Mitch Marsh over Pat Cummins to captain the team in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and

Marsh has been leading the T20 side on an unofficial basis since Aaron Finch's retirement with Cummins doing the leadership duty in Tests and ODIs, and McDonald is set to recommend the star all-rounder's name to the Cricket Australia (CA) board.

McDonald wants a formal

handover of the reins to the 32year-old Marsh.

I think all roads will lead to Mitch, so just got to get that ticked off in certain areas," McDonald was quoted as saying on cricket.Com.Au.

"We're happy and comfortable with the way he's been able to operate with that T20 team. "We think he's the leader for the World Cup, and I think that will just be a matter of due

McDonald forms a part of the selection panel chaired by George Bailey, with Tony Dodemaide being the other member of the committee.

In 54 T20Is, Marsh has aggregated 1432 runs with nine half-centuries besides 17 wickets at an average of 22.76. While the head coach is backing Marsh for the top job, Australia won their sixth ODI

World Cup under Cummins' leadership last November. Placed in Group B of the first 20-team T20 World Cup, Australia kick off their World Cup campaign against Oman

at Barbados on June 6. Besides Oman, Australia have drawn England, Namibia and Scotland in their group.

Kohli aggression gives his team Pant set to required intensity: Kumble

Former Indian captain Anil Kumble is marvelled at Virat Kohli's manic consistency and believes that his on-field aggression always adds to required intensity in any T20 team that he plays for. Kumble marked it as the

biggest legacy of Kohli, who is the only player in history of IPL to play 16 seasons for one franchise -- Royal Challengers Bangalore.

"I would say consistency. I saw him in RCB when I was a part of RCB, that's where he started his T20 career, after being a U-19 World Cup winner. From there, the transformation in his fitness, the way he wanted to play his cricket, and the performances he put in white-ball cricket," Kumble told Jio Cinema.

"In Test cricket, we know his greatness. In T20s for India, his consistency over a period of time has been immense. The kind of aggression and attitude he brings on to the field help the team gain intensity," said Kumble.

The World Cup winning England captain Eoin Morgan rated Kohli as one of the finest cricketers of the modern era. within the group."

"I highly regard him as one of Mike Hesson, who has shared cricketers of the modern era.



the greatest of the modern era, across all three formats. When you have a player of that calibre in your side, it's crucial that you're constantly asking him to get the best out of him-

"It brings a huge ceiling, as we've seen in the past. The level of inspiration and intensity that he brings lifts everybody

dressing room space with Kohli during his tenure as RCB coach, offered a slightly different view of a calmer Kohli outside the playing field.

'You talked about the side on the field, but he's very calm off the field. When youngsters come into the team or overseas players, he'd spend time getting to know them.

'This was after he was a captain (of RCB) as well. It's not a ers Chennai Super Kings.

captain thing. It's a genuine want to share and communicate about things other than cricket," said Hesson.

For Robin Uthappa, the combative instincts of Kohli makes playing against him a tough and an even more "annoying" experience.

Uthappa has played alongside Kohli at Royal Challengers Bangalore, and he has also been in opposition while playing for various other IPL teams such as Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight

"Playing against Virat isn't daunting as much as it is annoying. As an opposition, he could be grating, in your face. You'd always feel like there's a hattle, happoning and the state of t battle happening with a bowler," Uthappa said.

But Uthappa said the ambit of that battle is not just restricted to Kohli the batsman.

There's an extra battle happening with an extra-cover fielder because he's coming at you all the time. He's throwing the ball and it's whizzing past your head. You feel that pressure all the time," he added

Royal Challengers Bangalore will start their IPL 2024 campaign on March 25 with an away match against title hold

return as DC captain



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Tuesday declared Rishabh Pant fit to play as a wicketkeeper-batter in the upcoming IPL, brightening his prospects of a national comeback in the T20 World Cup after suffering multiple injuries in a harrowing car crash 14 months

Pant, who will once again be "If there was any nerve damage, back as Delhi Capitals skipper, there was a possibility of amputation. That is when I felt scared," Pant had said in Star has undergone extensive rehabilitation and is ready to shoulder the dual responsibility in the event starting March 22, ending Sports series 'Believe: To Death & Back' which documented his weeks of speculation surroundrecovery. "I had taken an SUV, but what ing his exact role in the league. "After undergoing an extensive 14-month rehab and recovery I was seeing was a sedan," he quipped as he remembered his process, following a life-threat-ening road mishap on December 30th, 2022, near mangled vehicle. There was someone around so I asked if he could help getting

the leg back in the position. He Roorkee, Uttarakhand, Rishabh helped the knee get back in Pant has now been declared fit upcoming IPL 2024," said the It was the first time I had such BCCI in a statement.
The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in the West Indies and the USA in June.

a feeling in life. At the time of the accident, I was aware of the wounds, but I was lucky as it could have been even more serious," he recollected.

year, and has been working on

his fitness at the NCA after

recovering from the injuries

sustained in the unfortunate

The accident had left Pant with

a severe right knee injury that

required a ligament reconstruc-

tion surgery besides a fractured wrist and ankle. But he has done

well to bounce back.

incident.

The big-hitter had said the process of recovery was boring at best and frustrating at worst. "I was focusing on recovery cut off from the world. It helped me in recovering fast, especially when the injury is so serious. For recovery, you have to do the same thing

it take for me to recover. I told him that everybody is speaking different things, but you will give me the most clarity about it. He (Doctor) said it would take 16 to 18 months. I told the doctor tating, it's frustrating, but you have to do it," he elaborated. from whatever timeline you Shami not to be back before September give me, I will reduce six months from it," Pant had told the official TV broadcasters of IPL. The National Cricket Academy

had declared him fit a week back after he passed all the fitness tests related to his 'Return To Play' It has been learnt that he batted

A few weeks back, Pant, in an interaction with Star Sports, had recalled telling his doctor

that he would shave off at least

six months from his recovery

"I asked the doctor how long will

timeline.

for long hours and more importantly, kept wickets for extensive periods in match simulations organised by the NCA. There was speculation that he

might play only as an 'Impact Player' or batter but one of India's biggest match-winners in the past six years has managed to get back in shape to go full throttle.

Pant keeping wickets also means that he would have a fair chance of playing the T20 World Cup if he can come up with some impactful innings during the IPL

thing for 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," BCCI secretary Jay Shah had recently told PTI

every day. It's boring, it's irri-

The BCCI also confirmed the PTI news report from last month that Mohammed Shami (Gujarat Titans) will not take part in the IPL due to heel

Shami is not expected back before September this year. "The fast bowler successfully

underwent surgery on February 26th, 2024, for his right heel problem. He is currently being monitored by the BCCI medical team and is ruled out of the upcoming IPL 2024," the BCCI statement read.

Lanky fast bowler Prasidh Krishna (Rajasthan Royals), who had an unsuccessful Test debut in South Africa is also being monitored by the BCCI medical team. PTI had report-ed in January that Prasidh will be out for an extensive period. "The fast bowler underwent surgery on February 23rd, 2024, on his left proximal quadriceps tendon. He is currently being monitored by the BCCI Medical Team and will resume rehab at the NCA soon. He will not be able to take part in the upcoming IPL 2024," the

TROPHY

Mumbai set 538 runs target for Vidarbha

Young Musheer Khan (136) continued his rapid ascent with a superlative 135 to put Mumbai in an impregnable position on day 3 of the Ranji Trophy final against Vidarbha, with Shreyas Iyer (95) and Ajinkya Rahane (73) also making significant contributions here on Tuesday. At stumps, Ranji Trophy behe-

moths Mumbai had one hand on their 42nd title after setting a humongous 538-run target against a battered Vidarbha, who remained without their most successful bowler Aditya Sarwate throughout the third If the second day was all about

Mumbai adopting a cautious approach to build their lead, day 3 witnessed their batters ramming home the advantage with a definite plan and execution as they put on 418 in their second innings. Vidarbha were 10 for no loss in

their second innings with openers Dhruv Shorey (7) and Atharva Taide (3) unscathed, needing another 528 runs to win with two days left in the

Despite having a strong grip on the game, Mumbai batters respected the fact that there is still plenty of time left in the contest and tables can turn quickly.

Ĥence, Mumbai's approach on day 3 remained fixated on batting for long hauls and in the process taking the game as far



away from the opposition, who

have been battered. Resuming at 58, Rahane began positively with a four but became a victim of left-arm Vidarbha spinner Harsh Dubey (5/144) for the second time in the contest.

Rahane was caught behind for 73 off 143 balls with five fours and a six after Dubey found an outside edge off the Mumba skipper's bat which was collected well by his counterpart Akshay Wadkar behind the

Iyer joined his captain Rahane in making the most of the opportunity, as a change in approach was evident for a batter which has been in news for wrong reasons. A lofted hit for a six over

Vidarbha pacer Aditya Thakare's head was the shot

that Iyer began with, and for his

4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

111-ball 95 which featured 10 fours and three sixes, the flamboyant batter outgunned his younger teammate Musheer and Rahane for the strokes that he hit.

Iyer's innings was laced with strokes in all parts of the ground, though his fifty came up with an outside edge which flew between the two men positioned at the slip cordon. Îyer's outing was about two halves - one had Iyer stroking his way to get into 80s but in the other, the right-handed batter slowed down to such an extent that he ran out of patience and threw away his

Not only did Iyer slow down, but he also appeared to be struggling in the middle as the physio ran out twice to attend to the 29-year-old, helping him with some stretching exercises.

Tendulkar, Rohit presence underlines growing emphasis on domestic cricket

 $R^{ ext{ed-ball}}$ cricket needed it, Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma wanted it.

The growing emphasis on the importance of domestic cricket and red-ball games got another shot in the arm with Tendulkar and Rohit attending the third day's play during the Ranji Trophy final between Mumbai and Vidarbha here on Tuesday.

Coming off an excellent 4-1 series win over England with a depleted Indian side and heading into IPL 2024 season, Rohit appeared relaxed and was spotted in the Mumbai dressing room during the afternoon, with the dominant hosts running away with the contest on the field.

Rohit was seen scrolling through his phone while also chatting with Mumbai teammates including Shardul
Thakur, but how did the India
skipper made his way to the
domestic giants' dressing room
with a phone while not being a part of the squad remained an intriguing question.
With the backdrop of Shreyas

Iyer missing out on a BCCI contract and also losing his spot in the Indian Test side, Rohit witnessed the right-handed batter getting back into his groove but also throwing away his wicket when he was just one hit away from triple-figure mark. In the morning session on Tuesday, the TV camera kept panning towards the MCA

President Box wherein sat the

legendary Tendulkar to witness the action. Tendulkar was spotted sitting alongside former players Dilip Vengsarkar, Subroto Banerjee, a few officials as well as Chandrakant Pandit, the incumbent coach of Madhya Pradesh and Kolkata Knight Riders. The Little Master, who had

termed Mumbai's batting as opposition.

Tendulkar took to his social observations. "Mumbai displayed a lot more

'ordinary' on the opening day when the 41-time champions were shot out for a mere 224, appeared satisfied with the improvement shown in the second innings wherein Musheer Khan (135), Ajinkya Rahane (73) and Iyer flayed the

media platforms to share his

mitment in the second innings," he wrote.

'First, a crucial partnership between @ajinkyarahane88 and Musheer Khan put Mumbai in a solid position. Then, Musheer's stand with @ShreyasIyer15 has taken the game further away from Vidarbha. Had a good time watching the game today with my friends and colleagues," Tendulkar added.

The presence of Rohit and Tendulkar came a day after another Mumbai and India legend, Sunil Gavaskar, showed

Gavaskar sat with cricket administrator Ratnakar Shetty and former women's cricket team skipper Diana Edulji as well as former captain and chairman of the Mumbai selecdiscipline, patience and comtion committee, Milind Rege.

season. "If he can make the T20 World Cup for us, that will be a big

in an exclusive interaction. Pant was present at the Capitals table during the IPL auction last

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