**OPINION 6** 

INDIA IS NOT A NATION,

**WORLD 8** 

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I AM HAPPY TO BE DHRUV, SAYS JUREL

12 SPORTS

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# EC to DECLARE LS DATES TODAY

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday said it will announce the poll schedule on Saturday for the 2021 A 10 2 10 Saturday for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well as simultaneous Assembly elections in a few States setting the tone and tenor for the three months long festival of democracy

"Press Conference by the Commission Election announce schedule for general elections 2024 & some State Assemblies will be held at 3 pm tomorrow ie on Saturday, March 16. It will be live-streamed on social media platforms of the ECI," the poll body announced. The Pioneer had reported on Thursday that Nirvachan Sadan will share on Friday the dates for the announcements of poll schedule.

The EC will also announce the dates for the Assembly elections scheduled in Odisha, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, are also set to vote, in line with a Supreme Court order directing the conduct of Assembly polls by September 30 as the first step towards restoration of statehood.

With the announcement of poll schedules of the Lok Sabha polls, the Model Code of Conduct will come into effect as soon as the announcement is made. It is a set of guidelines is sued by the EC for  $\,$ the political parties, candidates, Government and the party in power during concerning speeches, announcements.



Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) Rajiv Kumar with the two newly-appointed Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Gvanesh Kumar

manifestos and general conduct. The announcement by the EC regarding the poll schedule comes on a day the two newlyappointed Election

Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- assumed the charge of the Election Commissioners. According to sources, Lok Sabha

elections are expected to be held in seven to eight phases. Chief Election phases. Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, accompanied by the newly elected Election Commissioners

Gvanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, will announce the poll dates

The EC had ended its survey

with a tour of Jammu and Kashmir this week. In a first, the poll panel has given 24-hour notice of a Press conference to announce voting dates, polling phases, and other including details, deployment of security

personnel in States where post-poll violence and clashes with Maoist or rebel forces is a factor that needs to be considered

The term of the 17th Lok Sabha is set to end on June 16 while the terms of the Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim Assemblies will end on June 11, June 2, June 24 and June 2, respectively.

Last time the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23. According to EC, nearly 97 crore people are eligible to cast vote in the upcoming polls at over 12 lakh polling stations.

The upcoming Lok Sabha polls are again being dubbed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi vs the

Opposition face to counter the Opposition face to counter the BJP. However, a host of leaders from both sides of the political divide are dominating the narrative in the run up to the general election.

The BJP has so far released two lists of 267 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls, while the Congress announced the names of 82 candidates over two lists. For the BJP, Modi is the electoral poster boy who is already crisscrossing the country to woo voters across the States.

Regional and national parties have already begun announcing their candidates for the elections to the 543 Parliamentary constituencies.

The BJP is looking to consolidate its grip on power as it aims for a historic third term while a band of Opposition parties, including the Congress, has formed a united front called INDIA to deny PM Modi another victory. Several other regional heavyweights are also in the fray, including a bevy of topline southern parties, who are fighting to bolster their presence in the states they represent.

In 2014, BJP stormed to power by winning 282 seats in the Lok Sabha. Its coalition NDA secured 353 seats.

The Congress was reduced to just 44 seats in the Lok Sabha, its lowest ever tally in history. In terms of vote share, BJP managed to secure 31 per cent of the total votes while Congress won 19.3 per cent of the total votes cast.

Continued on Page 2



### **SC** raps **SBI** for not sharing complete electoral bond data

dmonishing the State Bank of Admonishing the state Implete India for furnishing incomplete information, the Supreme Court said on Friday the bank was required to provide the number unique to each electoral bond that would disclose the link between the buyer and the recipient political party. It issued a notice to the country's

largest bank to explain the reasons for non-disclosure of unique alpha numeric numbers in compliance of its directions, saying the SBI was "duty bound" to reveal them.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the apex court had, in its verdict in the electoral bonds case, directed the disclosure of all the details of the bonds, including the purchaser, amount and date of purchase.

All details have to be furnished by the SBI, the CJI observed, a day after the Election Commission put out the entire list of entities that purchased electoral bonds for cover be scanned and digitised. making political donations. Continued on Page 2

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, issued notice to the SBI and posted the matter for resumed hearing on March 18.

Who is appearing for the SBI3

Because, in our judgement, we had directed disclosure specifically of all details of the bonds including the purchaser, the amount and the date of purchase. They have not disclosed the bond numbers. That has to be disclosed by the SBI," the CJI said.

But, really speaking, we can take exception to what they have disclosed because they were duty bound," he added.

The apex court was hearing an application filed by the Election Commission seeking a modification of the operative portion of its March 11 order in the electoral bonds case. It directed the registrar (judicial) to ensure that the data filed earlier by the poll panel before it in a sealed

those in distress.

### **BRS** leader Kavitha arrested in excise policy scam

PTI ■ HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{cccc} T^{he} & \text{Enforcement} \\ Directorate & on & Friday \\ arrested & BRS & leader & K \end{array}$ Kavitha after a daylong raid and was taking her to Delhi for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, agency sources said. Kavitha, 46, a Telangana Legislative Council member, was arrested by the Central probe agency at 5:20 pm from her residence at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad, according to the arrest memo. Her husband DR Anil Kumar was informed about her arrest,



Agency sources said the BRS leader was being brought to Delhi for questioning. The arrest of Kavitha, the daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister

Chandrashekar Rao, came after a daylong raid by the ED her premises Hyderabad.

The ED questioned Kavitha thrice last year in this case and again summoned her this year but she did not depose citing a Supreme Court direction that allowed her protection from any coercive action. Talking

Talking to reporters in Hyderabad, BRS leader and former Telangana minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy Kavitha was being taken to Delhi on a 8.45 pm flight.

He alleged that the move was "pre-planned" and said they would protest against it. BRS working president KT Rama Rao, former Minister Harish Rao and a large number of party workers gathered at Kavitha's residence and raised

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to supporters during a public meeting, ahead of the Lok Sabha election, in Kanyakumari

### Modi spearheads **BJP Southward push**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Election campaign in Kerala reached a crescendo by Friday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a whirlwind tour Pathanamthitta and

scintillated a capacity crowd of nearly ten thousand people with his emotion packed The Lok Sabha constituency of

Pathanamthitta from where the BJP has fielded Anil K Antony, son of former Union Minister Defence and Congress leader AK Antony was the cynosure of all eyes as Modi is the first Prime Minister to campaign from here in the electoral history of Kerala.

The presence of Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister and Congress strongman late K Karunakaran

added fuel to the fire. Modi, who began his 45 minutes speech by reciting the Sarana Mantra of Lord

Ayyappa, the presiding deity of youths as Islamic extremists. the holy shrine of Sabarimala Temple in the district lambasted the ruling CPI(M) and the Opposition Congress for their failure in ensuring the safety of the

common man in the State. Modi pointed out the attack on a Christian priest in the district by religious extremists and the failure of the police to control

such frequent attacks. The priest of St Mary's Forane Church in Poonjar in Pathanamthitta was seriously injured by a group of Islamist vouths when the former requested them not to use the church premises to test drive

their high end cars and bikes. It was after two days of the incident Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan named the

> 'Kerala which is being ruled alternately by the CPI(M) and the Congress have become a safe haven corruption and nepotism. While the CPI(M) has

specialised making money through gold smuggling, the Congress is engaged in making fast buck through solar energy deals. Under the CPI(M) ruling, the educational institutes in the State have become safe havens for anti-social elements," said Modi referring to the death of many students in the campuses in Kerala.

Continued on Page 2

# India terms US CAA remark misinformed

RAHUL DATTA NEW DELHI

Taking exception to certain remarks by the United regarding Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), India on Friday termed them as "misplaced, unwarranted misinformed," and said the CAA addresses issue of sness, provides human

dignity and supports human rights. New Delhi also said those who do not understand India's pluralistic traditions better not attempt lecturing. This strong reaction from India came after the US said it is concerned about the notification of the CAA in



monitoring

implementation.
"The CAA is about giving citizenship, not about taking away citizenship. It addresses the issue of statelessness, provides human dignity and supports human rights,"

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal here said. Brushing aside the US remarks, he said "vote-bank politics" should not

determine views about a

India's pluralistic traditions and the region's post-partition history are best attempted, Jaiswal said. best not His strong comments at a media briefing came when asked about the criticism against the CAA from

Lectures by those who have a

limited understanding of

ashington and other parts of the globe.
"The CAA is about giving citizenship, not about taking away citizenship. It addresses the issue of statelessness, provides human dignity and supports human rights," Jaiswal said, asserting that the

law is an internal matter of Continued on Page 2

India.



Commercial services of the country's first underwater metro train commenced in Kolkata on Friday with hundreds of passengers erupting into jubilation on their first ride. A train began its journey from the Howrah Maidan station on the East-West metro corridor of Kolkata at 7 am with loud cheers and claps from commuters, while another started from Esplanade station at the same time. The commercial services began after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on March 6 inaugurated the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor

## Animal lovers link canine aggression to human exploitation

SAUMYA SHUKLA **NEW DELHI** 

nimal activists and Arganisations, while welcoming the ban on the import, sale, and breeding of 23 'ferocious' dogs by the Centre on Wednesday, have highlighted some concerns about the reason mentioned behind it and the implementation

regulations. The move aims to curb the rising cases of dog bites in the country citizens,



While the activists support the ban, they said the reason exploitative activities such as especially on the elderly and is false and attribute the dogfighting.

engage them

People For Animal (PFA) Trustee and animal right's activist Ambika Shukla said, We are for the regulation of dog breeding but using the term 'threat to human life' pins the blame on dogs. Humans are unleashing cruelty and abuse and treating them as prisoners, making them aggressive. If you want to ban them, do so because humans do not know how to breed them in this country." She said because these voiceless creatures aren't a vote bank for the political parties, it's easier for the resulting in making them tough to get Delhi Animal

Government to impose rules on them instead of humans who engage in cruelty and abuse. People For Animals Public Policy Foundation (PFAPPF) director and member of the executive committee, Delhi Animal Welfare Board, Dr Asher R Jesudoss lauded the ban, while stating, "We are in while stating, "We are in support of the ban. These breeds aren't suited for the Indian climate. The limited urban spaces, where these dogs are raised, hamper their exercise and training,

aggressive. Let us find homes for the 4 crore street dog population before bringing more foreign breeds into the country. He said the Delhi Animal

Welfare Board is not functioning properly. "Since its formation in 2023, the board has met once, with no agendas listed for meeting," he said. The Aam Aadmi Party-led

rules in the city, he said. The activist said, "It has been

dog breeding & dogfighting are vote banks for political Delhi Government must step up the implementation of the

ground.

parties across the country. Even though the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court had ordered the Delhi Animal Welfare Board to hold a meeting once every month, nothing has moved on that front since then.

Welfare Board to fulfill their

mandated duties towards these animals. There has

been close to no action on the

Moreover, people involved in

heinous activities like illegal

Continued on Page 2

## **BJP** seeks probe into doctor claim on Mamata injury

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

On Friday it was official. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was not pushed from behind but she had a sensation of being pushed.

Even as versions changed with a frequency higher than that of Banerjee's recovery rate the Trinamool Congress leadership on Friday said that the Chief Minister had injured herself not from a fall after a "push from behind" but a fall from a "push like sensation."

As the Opposition BJP demanded a thorough investigation into the preliminary claims made by a top doctor and some family members of the Chief Minister saying, the Chief Minister had fallen after "she was pushed from behind," senior Trinamool Congress leader and Bengal minister Shashi Panja, herself a doctor

said that while falling down she was not pushed from behind but "it was a feeling of being pushed from behind. Top doctor and the director of State-run state-of-art SSKM Hospital Manimoy Bandopadhyay had on Thursday said that when she

was brought to the hospital the treating doctors were told that she had fallen from a "push

from behind. On Friday however he tended



to eat some of his words saying "my statement was misinterpreted yesterday ... what I meant to say was that it was a feeling of being pushed from behind ... Our job is to treat and we have done that," before quickly vanishing inside his

The Chief Minister on Thursday suffered "severe" injuries from a freak accident and was rushed to the SSKM Hospital in a semi-conscious state. Inside sources on Friday said that she had toppled and fell face first hitting the sharp edge of a showcase getting a deep cut on her forehead that needed three stitches and a cut on her nose requiring one stitch. After a good one-hour lull from the "first family" the first statement came from Dr Manimoy Bandopadhyay who quoting Banerjee's family members --- apparently her sister-in-law Kajari Banerjee --said that she was pushed from

Apparently in the face of a hue

### 16,000 kg of shark fins seized | Former Navy chief in India from 2010 to 2022

Astaggering 16,000 kilograms of shark fins were seized from different parts of the country between January 2010 to December 2022 and most of the confiscated Sharkderived products were destined for Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri Lanka, and mainland China

According to a report by World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, the confiscated shark fins constituted more than 80 per cent of the seizures. Significant volumes of shark cartilage and teeth were also

A new factsheet "Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India"-released by the WWF-India and TRAFFIC, a global non-governmental organization monitoring the trade in wild plants and animals -- has sounded alarm about India's illegal shark trade and highlighted ongoing threats and conservation concerns.

Tamil Nadu accounted for nearly 65 per cent of the shark seizure incidents, followed by other states such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra.

The Shark-related products confiscated were bound for Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri



Lanka, and mainland China. "The demand for shark fins and meat is a major driver of the global shark fishery. Shark fins are the most sought-after shark product used to make "sharkfin soup,' a delicacy", Dr Merwyn Fernandes, Associate Director of TRAFFIC's India Office, said.

"Other shark products are also in demand, albeit to a lesser extent. Shark's meat is consumed as food; skin as leather; liver oil (squalene) as a lubricant, in cosmetics and as a source of vitamin A; cartilages for chondroitin sulphate extraction in the preparation of medicines and jaws and teeth for making curios", Dr Fernandes

Sharks are crucial to our ecosystem. Being top predators in the oceanic food web, sharks prey on various species, including plankton, fish, crustaceans and marine mammals. Overfishing, coupled with low biological productivity, puts them at a higher risk of extinc-tion when compared to most other vertebrates.

Of 160 shark species reported in India, only 26 sharks and

rays have been given the highest protection status under the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 by listing them in Schedules I and II. Species in Appendix I and II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) have been listed in Schedule IV of the Act. Dr Dipankar Ghose, Senior Director of Biodiversity Conservation, WWF-India, and Interim Head of TRAFFIC's India Office, said: "Illegal shark trade is a serious conservation threat to sharks not just in India but globally. Misdeclaring relevant species on permits is one of the main ways sharks are traded illegal-

ly worldwide". The lack of capacity to identify the shark fins against numerous potential shark species in trade is a significant gap in curbing their illicit trade. Insufficient monitoring mechanisms further make it challenging to differentiate between legal and illegal trade of sharks," Dr Ghose said.

To help law enforcement officials such as Customs identify dried and unprocessed fins, TRAFFIC has created 3Dprinted and painted replica fins. Last year, these were shared with the concerned enforcement agencies in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka by TRAFFIC's India

# Admiral Ramdas no more

TN RAGHUNATHA

ndian Navy's former chief and Magsaysay Award winner Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas (Retd), who had played a heroic role during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War and crusaded for nuclear disarmament in South Asia, passed away on Friday.

Adm Ramdas, who was the Chief of Naval Staff for nearly three years from December 1, 1990 to September 30, 1993 died at 6.25 am at the Military Hospital in Secunderabad in Telangana, following old age

He was 90 and is survived by Lalita Ramdas and their three daughters and grandchildren.

Lalita is the daughter of Admiral Ram Dass Katari (Retd), the third Chief of Naval Staff and the first Indian to occupy the top post after Independence

A leading peace activist who was known for his efforts to demilitarise and denuclearize South Asia, Admiral Ramdas was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for peace in

Adm Ramdas was associated with the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy.

Adm Ramdas and Lalita -who stayed in Alibaug in the Raigad district of Maharashtra and were known popularly as Ramu and Lolly -- had taken up several social causes. During his illustrious career

spanning over 40 years, the Admiral held several important appointments such as Commanding Officer INS Beas during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, Warship Controller \ Production and Acquisition, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, FOC-in-C (South) and FOC-in-C (East), and rose to the helm as the 13th CNS of the Indian Navy on December 1, 1990, 'the Indian Navy said in a post put out on X..

"Disturbed to know the passing away of Admiral Ramdas this morning. He was totally dedicated to peace, democracy and secularism. I have fond memories of working with him. Admiral Saab, peace lovers will miss you most," veteran Mumbai-based peace activist, journalist and writer Jatin Desai said.

Having become a cadet at India's Armed Forces Academy in Dehradun and, later, the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England, the Mumbai-born Adm Ramdas was commissioned to the Indian Navy 1 September

Promoted as a Commander on June 30. 1969, Adm Ramdas went on to establish and head the Naval Academy in Kochi in Kerala.

### First team of military personnel operating in Maldives return

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India on Friday said its first team of military personnel that was operating an advanced light helicopter in the Maldives has returned from the island nation. The military team has been replaced by civilian technical experts. Maldivian President Mohamed

Muizzu had set March 10 as the deadline for withdrawal of the first group of Indian military personnel from his coun-

try.
"The turnaround of the first team of personnel who were operating the ALH helicopter has been completed. The first batch of people that had to be replaced has been completed. pened," Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said here at his weekly media briefing.

Following the second meeting of the high-level core group that was set up to address the issue of withdrawal of Indian military personnel, the Maldivian foreign ministry had said India will replace all its military personnel in two phases by May 10.

The second meeting of the core group took place in Delhi on February 2.

The two sides decided to set up

the core group following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Muizzu on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai in December. The ties between India and the Maldives came under some strain since Muizzu came to power in November. Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, maintained after assuming charge as the president that he will keep his election promise of evicting Indian military personnel from his country. Muizzu, 45, defeated Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September last year.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

### Bureaucratic reshuffle: Twenty two joint secretaries appointed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

and cry from an election-

bound Opposition that

demanded investigation, the

TMC leadership promptly backtracked on Friday saying

"there is a difference between

a push and a feeling of being pushed," an election expert

said reminding how a similar

incident had taken place on

March 14, 2021 ahead of the

Assembly elections when

Banerjee had injured her legs

during a road show at

Nandigram before alleging that

some BJP men had pressed the

vehicle of her car in a way to

"The entire elections she cam-

paigned on a wheel chair and

barely a couple of days after the

polls she stood up and walked

things be investigated as it is an

election year," a BJP leader said

When contacted Bengal BJP

president Sukanta Majumdar

said, "she is our Chief Minister

and her security is of prime

importance ... if there are laps-

es in her security then that

must be reviewed ... and if a

separate Chief Minister's house

has to be constructed then let

it be so ... but such incidents

must be avoided." Meanwhile,

sources said that the Chief

Minister was in a stable con-

dition and that she had a good

night's sleep, adding, no FIR had yet been lodged.

requesting anonymity.

. so it was necessary that the

injure her legs.

Twenty-two joint secretaries have been appointed in different Central Government departments as part of a seniorlevel bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Friday by the Centre. These officers are from Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and India Postal Service (IPoS) among others. Senior bureaucrat Deepankar

Aron has been named joint secretary, department of chemicals and petrochemicals, Harish Kumar Vashisth will be joint DG, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Siddharth Mahajan has been named as joint secretary in the department of commerce, according to a personnel ministry order. Additional DG, Archaeological Survey of India, Swati Meena Naik has been named as the joint secretary, department of drinking water and sanitation, and Ravi Shanakar and Gulzar N will be joint secretaries in the department of food and public distribution.

Manoj Kumar Jain will be executive director (Engg/IT),



FCI HQ under the department of food and public distribution. Pushpendra Rajput and Saurabh Jain have been appointed as the joint secretaries in the department of health and family welfare, the order said.

Senior civil servants Mihir Kumar, Parthasarathi Gurrala and Abhijit Sinha have been taries in the Ministry of Home

Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Vipul Aggarwal has been named as principal commissioner, Delhi Development Authority, Jagannath Srinivasan will be joint secretary, department of justice while Alok Mishra has been named joint secretary in the ministry of labour and

employment and Bhaskar Choradia will be additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner (HQ), Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Sanjay Pandey has been

appointed as financial advisor and chief account officer, EPFO, Kunal Satyarthi will be joint secretary in the depart-Mahabir Prasad will be joint secretary and financial advisor at ministry of power, Ajeet Kumar Srivastava has been named commissioner, national education society for tribal students (NESTS) and Sarwesh Kumar Arya will be joint secretary in the ministry of women and child development, the order said.

## India terms

Department's statement on the implementation of the CAA, we are of the view that it is misplaced, misinformed and unwarranted," the MEA spokesperson said at his weekly media briefing. The CAA, 2019 is in keeping

India's inclusive traditions and long-standing commitment to human rights, he added.

"The Act grants a safe haven to persecuted minorities belonging to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014," Jaiswal said.

Partners and well-wishers of India should welcome the intent with which this step has been taken," he said and reiterated that the CAA is an internal matter, "and is in inclusive traditions and long-standing commitment to human rights".

This terse message by New Delhi came hours after United States Department in Washington said it is concerned about the notification of the CAA and is closely monitoring its implementation.

the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on March 11," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller reporters at his daily briefing. "We are closely monitoring

how this act will be implemented. Respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law for communities fundamental democratic principles," Miller said in response to a question.

India implemented the CAA on Monday, paving the way for the grant of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

The Government also came out with a press statement to worry as the CAA will not impact their citizenship and has nothing to do with the community which enjoys equal rights as their Hindu counterparts. The Indian Government has maintained that the CAA is about granting citizenship and that no citizen of the country will lose citizenship.

#### **Animal lovers** link canine aggression...

From Page 1 The list of banned dog

breeds, by the Union Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, includes Pitbull Terrier, Tosa Inu, American Staffordshire Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, American bulldog, Boerboel, Kangal, Central Asian Shepherd Dog, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, South Russian Shepherd, Tornjak, Sarplaninac, Japanese Tosa and Akita, Mastiffs, Rottweiler, Terriers, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Wolf dogs, Canario, Akbash dog, Moscow Guard dog, Cane Corso, and every dog of the type commonly known as a 'Ban Dog'.

The ban also extends to mixed and crossbreeds of these dog breeds.

The department has also sent letter to the Chief Union Territories to ensure the proper implementation of

Asher R Jesudoss also said people who currently do not need to worry if they have these dogs. "Breeders need to just sterilise them and can continue raising them for as long as they are alive," he added.

### Modi spearheads **BJP Southward...**

The Prime Minister said both the Congress and the CPI(M) represent corruption, favouritism and appeasement.

"Kerala deserves a better Government and the BJP-led NDA alone would be able to provide the same," said Modi. He also said Anil Antony represents the changing face of Indian youth and has emerged as the hope of Pathanamthitta constituency.

Modi said while Keralalites who are reputed for their

look after their families back home, the LDF and UDF have done nothing to

safeguard their interests. progressive States in the country, is lagging behind in all respects of economic and social development because of the callousness of the Communists and the Congress. Political parties with the one point agenda of corruption and money making can never save the people. I was shocked when the MPs from Kerala

Triple Talaq when it was legislated in Parliament," he

said. brought 'When we "Kerala, one of the most legislation for establishing the OBC Commission, the Kerala MPs opposed the move vehemently. Isn't it shocking?" asked the Prime Minister. He listed various social and economic benefit initiatives like Ujjwala, Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Manthri Kissan Yojana which measuresbenefited millions of people

### **BRS** leader Kavitha arrested in excise policy...

From Page 1
Meanwhile, a video was shared by the BRS showing Kavitha's brother and party working president KT Rama Rao arguing with the ED officials, saying the agency has violated an undertaking given to the Supreme Court. You are in serious trouble," he was heard telling the officials in the video, which went viral. In the video he also alleged that the family members were not allowed to enter the house even after the searches were concluded.

"Search is over and an arrest warrant is produced and now she (ED official) says you cannot come in. Family cannot come in and she also says they have no transit warrant and cannot produce before a magistrate, but she wants to make a case," he said. Reacting to her arrest, Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy told reporters that ED raids are part of its inquiry into the case.

"She was also avoiding questioning by the ED by showing some reasons. If she's not guilty and not involved in the liquor case, Kavitha needs to appear before the ED or CBI to prove her innocence,"

had claimed Kavitha was linked to a "South Group" lobby of liquor traders who were trying to play a larger

role under the now scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-It alleged that one of the

accused in the case, Vijay Nair, received kickbacks to the tune of at least Rs 100 crore on behalf of AAP leaders from the "South Group", allegedly controlled by Sarath Reddy, Kavitha and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy. In the last round of questioning by the ED, officials said, Kavitha was confronted with Hyderabadbased businessman Arun Ramchandran Pillai, who was arrested in the case earlier and allegedly shared close ties with her.

Kavitha has then asserted that The Enforcement Directorate she had done nothing wrong and alleged that the Centre was "using" the ED as the BJP could not gain a "backdoor entry" into Telangana.

to the ED, comprises Sarath (promoter Reddy Aurobindo Pharma), Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy (YSR Congress MP from Ongole Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh), his son Raghav Magunta, Kavitha and others.

The "South Group", according

The ED also alleged in Pillai's remand papers that he "represented the benami investments" of Kavitha in the Kavitha was

questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the case at her residence in Hyderabad. The ED also recorded the statement of Butchibabu, an accountant allegedly linked to

According to the ED, the accountant said that "there was political understanding

Chief Minister (Delhi) (Arvind Kejriwal) and (then Delhi) Deputy Chief Minister (Manish Sisodia). In that process, K Kavitha also met Vijay Nair on March 19-20,

between K Kavitha and

Nair was arrested in the case by both the ED and the CBI. The agency alleged the Delhi Government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the

The policy was subsequently scrapped and the Delhi Lieutenant recommended a CBI probe, following which the ED registered a case under the Prevention Laundering Act (PMLA).

### **SC** raps SBI for.

From Page 1

The EC's counsel said they have filed an application for a minor modification of the March 11 order, which also directed that the poll panel shall upload on its website the data furnished to the

court. He said the EC had not retained any copy of the data which was earlier filed in the court for the sake of confidentiality.

the court had presumed that a copy of the data which was lodged before the registry of this court would be available with the EC," the bench said. In its application, the EC requested the apex court that the documents be returned to it so as to enable it to comply with the March 11 order for uploading the

documents. the data which has been filed by the ECI in pursuance of

bench said. It added that this "While issuing this direction, exercise may preferably be carried out by 5 pm on Saturday.

this exercise is Once completed, the original documents shall be returned to the EC's counsel and the poll panel shall then upload the data on its website on or before the day after, the bench said.

The bench said a copy of the scanned and digitised file "The registrar (judicial) of shall also be made available this court shall ensure that to the EC's counsel.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was appearing in the interim orders of this court is matter, said the apex court's scanned and digitised," the verdict was quite clear that

SBI shall furnish all the details of electoral bonds to the EC.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for a petitioner NGO, said the SBI had said in its application filed in the top court seeking extension of time to furnish the details to EC that it has the bond numbers.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said he was appearing for the Centre and not for the SBI. "Would your lordships consider issuing notice to They may have something to say," he said. "They should be here when the matter is going on," the bench said. Mehta said the SBI was not a party in the case and its representatives were before the court when it had filed an which was application disposed of.

Constitution bench required the SBI to furnish to EC all details of the electoral bonds purchased, and as the case may be, redeemed by political parties including the date of purchase. It has been submitted that the SBI has not disclosed the alphanumeric numbers of the electoral bonds," the bench

'We direct the registry to issue notice to SBI returnable on Monday (March 18)," it

In its March 11 order, the top court had dismissed SBI's plea seeking an extension of time and ordered it to "The judgement of the disclose the details of electoral bonds to the EC by close of business hours on March 12.

> The court had also directed the EC to publish the details shared by the bank on its official website by 5 pm on March 15. The EC put up on its website the data on electoral bonds on Thursday, a day before the deadline.

### EC to declare LS dates...

From Page 1

In 2019, the BJP improved its tally even further, winning 303 seats in the lower house. It was the first time in over three and a half decades that a party managed to cross the 300-seat mark in the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress, which was again the principal opponent,

managed to improve its seat tally slightly as it won 52 seats in the general election. Notably, the BJP saw a big surge in its vote share, winning 37.3 per cent of the votes in 2019. Besides the BJP and the Congress, regional parties like TMC,

SP, AIADMK, DMK, JD(U), BSP, AAP, TDP, YSR Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP were also in the fray from their respective

# Sethack to Kejriwal Will fix accountability on pending sewer issue: Atishi staff reporter New Delhi Mall the people sitting in this 2.12

Laundering Act (PMLA), the

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta

and advocate Rajiv Mohan,

appearing for Kejriwal, sub-

mitted before the court that the

summons were not issued to

him in the personal capacity,

but in official capacity as chief

minister as they were sent on

his official email ID and to his

They further averred that he

had responded to the summons

issued to him, pointing out that he was not able to appear due

to official exigency, therefore he

had not skipped the summons

However, his reply to the summons were neither considered

by the agency nor by the mag-

istrate. It was also submitted by

the lawyers that the court did

not apply its judicial mind as it

had not initiated any inquiry

under section 202 of the Code

of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

official address.

ED said.

City Court on Friday Arefused to stay the summons issued to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the magistrate court on the complaints filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for allegedly disobeying the summons issued by the agency in the Delhi liquor excise policy case. It is yet to be seen whether Kejriwal will appear before the court on Saturday. Saturday.

Additional Sessions Judge Rakesh Syal directed Kejriwal to approach the metropolitan magistrate for exemption from personal appearance in the matter. "The application seeking stay on summons has been dismissed .... He can move an application seeking exemption before the trial court", said special Judge Rakesh Syal.

Kejriwal had approached the sessions court challenging the orders passed by additional chief metropolitan magistrate (ACMM) Divya Malhotra summoning him to appear before the court in person on March 16. Kejriwal has till date skipped eight summonses issued by the

agency. The Enforcement Directorate has filed two complaints before the magisterial court seeking Kejriwal's prosecution for skipping multiple summonses issued to him in the case. The latest complaint pertains to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor not honouring summonses no. 4 to 8 sent by the federal probe agency under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money



Section 202 of the CrPC grants power to the court that it may conduct an inquiry, if it thinks fit, to ensure that there are sufficient grounds to issue

> of a complaint. 'The court is believing the version of the complainant despite the fact that you have the power under

summons while

taking cognisance

202 CrPC to conduct an independent inquiry....You have not conducted the inquiry and took the averments of complainant as gospel truth", they added. Additional solicitor general (ASG) S. V. Raju, appearing for ED, argued that this is not the stage to test whether Kejriwal had disobeyed the summons intentionally or not, that is to be decided in the trial. He further submitted that a prima facie case of wilful disobedience is made out as Kejriwal has given excuses for not appearing before the agency and asked whether he was being called as a witness or an accused in the case trying to get information about the investi-

gation.
"He has been asking in what capacity is he being summoned....He wants to know the details of the investigation, we cannot divulge these information at this stage", Raju argued.

Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Friday said she will order an enquiry into the nearly 8-month-long pen-dency into the sewer-related issues and fix accountability. Speaking in the Delhi Assembly on the issue of water and sewer problems, she said such issues had not even come up during the Covid-19 lockdown. "It is very rare that the opposition and the ruling party are on the same page regarding water issues and everybody wants a solution," she said. During the debate, Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar along with officials were present in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha. Atishi informed the assembly that officials have begun work on the water and sewerage issues across Delhi. Orders were given to investigate the causes of this problem over the

past year. The Arvind Kejriwal government on Friday called a special session of Delhi Assembly to discuss the issues related to water and sewer problems. 'The Chief Secretary presented a report on the actions taken during the past week. It was stated that many complaints have been addressed, while others will be resolved promptly. The lack of coordination between the Delhi Jal Board, Urban Development Department, and Finance Department over the past year has cost the people of Delhi dearly. There should be an investigation into this, and strict action should be taken against those responsible.

Immediate and long-term



sewer overflow, contaminated water, and pipeline leaks were presented, and these solutions have been passed by the Vidhan Sabha unanimously," the AAP government said in a statement.

On March 9, a resolution was presented in the Vidhan Sabha regarding the growing problems of sewage and water. The Vidhan Sabha directed the Chief Secretary to resolve water supply and sewage issues within a week. Following the Vidhan Sabha's stern directives, the Chief Secretary has undertaken work related to sewage and water issues in the city over the past week and assured progress on several fronts. This information was presented today by Water Minister Atishi in the Vidhan

"In the last one week, work was carried out to resolve sewer issues. If they could be resolved within four to five days, why did they remain unresolved for so long. This is a matter of investigation,"

The minister said she will issue directions for an inquiry into the matter and conceded there was a lack of coordination between the Delhi Jal Board, Urban Development department and Finance Department. "The problems arising in the last one year have not risen in Delhi's history. Sometimes there are no sewer machines, or a pipeline has burst right in the middle of the road or there is leakage in the pipeline. The resolution of issues regarding water and sewer has always been a difficult task in Delhi," she said.

Noting that the scale of Delhi's infrastructure growth does not match the scale of migration, she said such problems were taken care of even during the Covid-19 lockdown, when the city faced an emergency.
The fault lines between the

Delhi Jal Board, Urban development and Finance Department have come out in the open. People of Delhi have to bear the brunt of this. All the people sitting in this House get salaries from the taxpayers' money. People of Delhi have faced issues. It needs investigation and after that a white paper will also be brought out," she added. The minister stressed that

someone has to be held accountable — whether it is the DJB members or other departments' officials. The minister also informed

the Assembly that they have signed an MoU with Himachal Pradesh for release of water to Delhi.

"But Haryana has put a roadblock saying they have the first right on that water. I request the BJP to help us in this since they have a gov-ernment in Haryana. If they support our case in the Upper Yamuna River Board, we will start getting 100 MGD of water the next day," she said. The minister informed the Assembly that Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar has personally taken the responsibility for groundwater augmentation. The government will also set the timeline for the desilting of trunk sewers and peripheral sewers, she added.

On March 8, Atishi had written to Chief Secretary saying the Delhi Jal Board has more than 10,000 unresolved com-

am shocked that senior Delhi Jal Board officers have not been able to take any long-term corrective action in the matter despite recurring complaints. In the absence of an effective public grievance system, the people of Delhi are being forced to live in inhuman conditions," she had

#### BJP exposes AAP failure to address water woes in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI** 

In a significant development during Delhi Assembly ses-sion, Vijender Gupta exposed the AAP Government's failures in addressing the long-standing water woes of Delhi. Highlighting the Government's tendency to shift blame onto the chief secretary, Gupta criticised the administration for shirking its responsibilities and engaging in theatrics rather than providing tangible solutions. Gupta brought to light the bureaucratic red tape introduced by successive Water

Ministers — first by Satyendra Jain, who mandated ministerial approval for allocations exceeding ₹50 lakh, followed by Saurabh Bharadwaj, who extended this requirement to even the smallest allocations. Given the Delhi Jal Board's (DJB) substantial annual budget of ₹10,000 crore, this policy has resulted in a stagger-ing backlog of 20,000 files awaiting ministerial approval, thereby severely hampering basic maintenance and operational efficiency.

Over the past nine years, despite a reported capital expenditure of ₹25,000 crore by the DJB, Gupta questioned the conspicuous lack of improvement in the water distribution system.

## CM slams protesting Hindu, Sikh refugees, questions their audacity

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

s Hindu and Sikh refugees Astaged a protest near Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, demanding an apology from him over his statements against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Delhi Chief Minister slammed the protesters calling them "Pakistanis" and questioned their "audacity".

"The audacity of these Pakistanis! First, they illegally infiltrated our country, breaking our laws. They should have been in jail. They have the audacity to protest in our counimplementation of CAA, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis will spread all over the country and harass people. BJP is causing trouble to the entire country for its own selfish interest of making them their vote bank," Kejriwal posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday.The Hindu and Sikh refugees living in Rohini, Adarsh Nagar, near Signature Bridge and Majnu ka Tilla



took part in the protest. The protesters said Kejriwal should withdraw his statements against the CAA and refugees Gandhi, and AAP national and tender an apology. The convener and Delhi Chief near the Congress headquarters here on Friday over statements made by INDIA opposition bloc leaders on the CAA.

Lambasting the AAP supremo, the Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said it seems Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is politically frustrated with the implementation of CAA and lost his political cool. Expressing their anger, Hindu and Sikh refugee protesters carried placards and raised slogans against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia "When the BJP-led Centre is implementing the CAA to give us citizenship, why are other political parties opposing it? We are protesting against them for opposing the law," Panju Ram,

one of the protesters, said. The protesters assembled near Jaisalmer House and started marching towards Akbar Road but were stopped, according to police. In view of the protest, police and paramilitary perCentral Delhi area.

Sona Das, who came to India from Sindh in Pakistan, said that "opposing the CAA is not a good thing". "Minorities from Pakistan came to India for

We are Hindu refugees, we fled from Pakistan," Das said, amid chants of "Jai Shri Ram".

Nanki, another refugee from Sindh, said, "Some political leaders have spoken against us and said that the process to give citizenship should be stopped. We have no enmity with them. We have just come to ask why (the process to give) our citizenship should be

The Hindu and Sikh refugees staged a protest near Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal's Civil Lines residence here on Thursday, demanding an apology from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader over his statements against the implementation of the CAA. The protesters had said Kejriwal should withdraw his statements against the CAA and refugees, and tender an apology.

## Jailed gangster Tunda follows Jathedi, ties the knot on parole

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Days after notorious criminals Sandeep Kala Jathedi and Anuradha Madam Minz's marriage in the national Capital, another gangster Yogesh Dahiya alias Tunda on Friday tied the knot here under the watch of police personnel at a temple in west Delhi's Vikaspuri area, officials said. Tunda, a native of Sonipat, Haryana was given six hours of parole between 12 pm to 6 pm by the Delhi High Court for his

One of the main henchmen of Gogi gang, Tunda is allegedly involved in the murder of Tajpuria in May 2023 inside Tihar Jail, where the former is

currently lodged. Tunda is allegedly involved in over a dozen cases of murder, attempt to murder, robbery, extortion, among others in Delhi. He is also facing a case of MCOCA (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) charged by Delhi Police Special Cell.

The wedding of Sandeep alias



jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, with history-sheeter Anuradha Choudhary alias Madam Minz was held amid deployment of police force on hour parole for the wedding ceremony in a banquet hall in Delhi's Dwarka Sector 3.

Tunda's marriage was held with the presence of police at Arya Samaj Temple in Vikaspuri.

"Policemen were deployed in and around the temple. Some officials were also deployed on roads and flyovers," an officer said.

The officer said officials from

Branch were also present to prevent any gang related violence or the possibility of his escape from custody.

Tunda was taken to the temple ty of Delhi Police's Third Battalion at noon. The bride was waiting for him at the temple, the officer said. According to Tunda's lawyers,

the bride and groom's sides were allowed eight guests each - all of whom were allowed entry into the temple after verification of their IDs. Later, 'jaimala' and other mar-

riage rituals were held at the temple, the officer said.

Tunda and his girlfriend -- a south Delhi resident -- had been in a relationship for the past nine years, the officer

According to police officials, Tunda is among the main henchmen of the Gogi gang. Jatinder Mann alias Gogi was killed in Rohini court in September 2021 by members of rival Tillu Tajpuria gang. Tunda and three others are

alleged to have avenged Gogi's death by reportedly stabbing Tillu Tajpuriya about 100 times inside Tihar Jail last year in

The rivalry between the Gogi and Tillu gangs has killed over sides, officials said. Tunda was allegedly involved in several murders since 2015, they said. In an alleged attack by the Tillu gang in December 2021, Tunda lost sensation in one of his hands earning him the nickname, Tunda (someone with crooked hands), another offi-

After the wedding on Friday, he was escorted back to Tihar in a jail van, the officer added.

cer said.

### LG approves continuation of 461 part time vocational teachers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the continuation and renewal of contract of 461 Part Time Vocational Teachers (PTVTs) in government and government-aided of Delhi for the academic year 2024-25. The move will help in over-

coming the shortage of vocational teachers for teaching subjects relating to NSQF (National Skill Quality Framework) which was introduced by the CBSE In place of vocational stream.

The NSQF is a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill and quality assurance framework that provide for multiple pathways, horizontal as well as vertical, including vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education, thus linking one level of learning to another higher level. It was notified on 27thDecember 2013.

The NSQF enable a person to acquire desired competency levels, transit to the job market and at an opportune time, return for acquiring additional skills to further upgrade their competencies.

PTVTs are engaged in providing education relating to var-



includes Fashion Studies, Stenography (English and Hindi), Shorthand, Beauty and Wellness, Web Application, Information and Technology, Accountancy and Auditing, Office Procedures and Practices, Typography & Computer Application, Insurance, Library and Information Science, Textile Design, Banking, Horticulture, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Electronics Technology and Automotive. While the services of 449 (437 Qualified and 12 Non-Qualified) PTVTs have been Delhi continued in

Government Schools for the

period 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025, the LG has given

his nod for the renewal of con-

tract of 03 PTVTs engaged in

three (03) schools for the dura-28.02.2025.

Further, services of 09 PTVTs in 04 Government aided Senior Secondary Schools engaged in providing educa-tion relating to Fashion Studies, Stenography (English and Hindi), Beauty and Wellness, Web Application, Information and Technology Accountancy Auditinghave been continued for the academic session 2023-

The PTVTs are staff appointed on a contingent basis and they were engaged on contract basis and their services are dispensed with on attaining the age of 60 years. Their continuation is renewed every year with the approval of the LG.

## Setting up SEZ, free trade zone at IGI Airport okayed

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

ieutenant Governor (LG) V Saxena on Friday approved setting up of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Free Trade Zone (FTZ) at the IGI Airport over an area of five acres, officials said. "The SEZ would create eco-

nomic activities through exports, warehousing, trading and provisions for related services at the airport complex," a statement from LG office said. The move will reduce procedural complexities in terms of applications, licensing, clearances and other regulations, as well as provide tax benefits to entrepreneurs, it said. According to the notification, this move will boost the logistics sector and catalyse the economic growth apart from generating employment.

"The Ministry of Civil Aviation, GoI has identified Delhi as a Pilot Air Cargo Hub which requires Tier 1, 2 and 3 level infrastructure while DIAL already has developed Tier 1 and 2 infrastructure by way of developing two cargo terminals and logistics centres at the Airport, it will achieve Tier 3 once an SEZ / FTZ comes up at the Airport complex," the state-



ment from LG office read. Related with Infrastructure and other allied activities, this SEZ / FTZ once operationalized will give massive fillip to the logistics sector and catalyse the economic growth apart from spinoffs for generating employment. The SEZ would create eco-

nomic activities through exports, warehousing, trading and provisions for related services at the Airport complex. It will also liberalize and reduce procedural complexities in terms of applications, licensing, clearances and other regulations and reduce red tape, apart from providing tax benefits to entrepreneurs.

DIAL proposed the setting up of two Multi Product SEZs at the IGI Airport over an area of 2.02 hectare each (5 acres) and requested for

Government's recommendation under SEZ Rules, 2006. Thereafter, the Industries Department, GNCTD sought clearance of DDA in the matter. Since development of Delhi as per Master Plan of Delhi comes under the purview of DDA, Industries Department vide its letter dated 07.12.2023 requested DDA to provide their input on whether the development of such an infrastructure at the Delhi Airport is permitted as per the Master Plan 2021. DDA vide its letter dated

03.01.2024, after taking into consideration, Traffic Impact Assessment and Development Control Norms Transportation, laid out in MPD-2021, conveyed its consent subject to Regulations in this regard, laid down by the Airport Authority of India

### DDA to redevelop 4,000 households in Shahdara slums

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday announced that about 4,000 households will be redeveloped in Kalandhar colony in Shahdara area as part of the BJP led Central Governemnt's 'JahanJhuggiWahinMakan'(wh ere there are slums there will be houses) program.

The decision was taken following a visit by the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena last week following which he convened a meeting of the DDA and other stakeholders officials. "This important decision was taken in a meeting headed by Delhi LG, VK Saxena along with DDA Vice Chairman and other senior officials on Friday regarding three slum clusters in East Delhi, which will be the first in situ rehabilitation project in the entire Trans-Yamuna Area (East and North-East Delhi) and the fourth project overall in the National Capital after the in situ rehabilitation projects at Kalkaji Extension, JailorwalaBagh and Kathputli

Colony," according to a Raj

Niwas Press note Highlighting the issues of the slum dwellers living in pathetic conditions, bereft of basic

civic amenities, while taking a jibe at the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, LG took to social media and said, "Dear @ArvindKejriwalji, as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, it is my constitutional responsibility and duty to highlight the issues of the people before the Chief Minister of my government and draw your attention towards the problems being faced by the people of Delhi." Last evening, in this connection, I went to Qalandar Colony in Shahdara, North-East Delhi and saw the condition worse than hell. It is not possible to express in words the plight of people living amidst potholes, clogged drains, heaps of garbage and bad smell in the name of roads," Saxena said in a statement. .

Along with attacking the CM, Saxena also mentioned that MCD, that comes under the control of the Kejriwal led AAP needs to look after providing the basic public facilities

India and Bhutan reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Tshering Tobgay who conveyed his deep appreciation for India's role as a reliable, trusted and valued partner in Bhutan's developmental priorities. Tobgay, who is on a five-day visit to India, said this during wide-ranging talks he and Prime Minister Modi held on Thursday evening, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)said here on Friday. Modi is visiting Bhutan next week.

In their talks, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral ties in various areas, including infrastructure development, connectivity, energy, hydropower cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and development cooperation, according to an official readout. "They (Modi and Tobgay) reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the special and unique India-Bhutan friend-ship," MEA said.

"The Prime Minister of Bhutan conveyed his deep appreciation for India's role as a reliable, trusted and valued partner in



Bhutan's developmental priori-

The MEA said on behalf of the Bhutanese King, Tobgay extended an invitation to Modi to visit Bhutan next week. "The prime minister accepted the invitation," it said. President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said India deeply values its multi-faceted partnership with Bhutan and the spiritual heritage of Buddhism connects the two countries. She said Bhutan can count on India as a reliable friend and partner. Welcoming Bhutanese Prime

Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay, who called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu said India and Bhutan enjoy a close and unique relationship, based on mutual trust, goodwill and understanding at all level.

She appreciated the fact that the Bhutanese prime minister chose India for his first overseas visit after taking the oath of office. President Murmu said the shared spiritual heritage of Buddhism connects the two countries. She highlighted that

India deeply values its multifaceted partnership with Bhutan, spanning across sectors such as energy cooperation, development partnership, people-to-people relations and trade and investment linkages, according to a statement issued by the president's office. The President said India is privileged to partner with Bhutan in the development of the cooperation sector and towards enhancing the socioeconomic well-being and prosperity of the people of the Himalayan country.

## India, Bhutan review ties Electoral bond: BJP top receiver, TMC second

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Adata uploaded by the Election Commission on its website regarding electoral bonds shows, the BJP was by far the biggest beneficiary of the electoral bonds scheme, receiving ₹6,061 crore as political donations in the last five years. This amounts to 48 per cent of all electoral bonds encashed by political parties since the start of 2019-20 and before it was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court earlier this year. Surprisingly, the Trinamool Congress was second on the list with bonds worth ₹1610 crore. The Congress is in the third spot with ₹1422 crore. Rounding off the top five are Bharat Rashtra Samithi, formerly Telangana Rashtra Samithi, with ₹1,215 crore and the Biju Janata Dal with ₹776 crore. Interestingly, the data uploaded by the EC does not say who donated to which

The list of entities which purchased electoral bonds to make political donations is a veritable Who's Who of the corporate world. But possibly the biggest donor, according to the list



released by the Election Commission, is a little known lottery company called Future Gaming and Hotel Services. The better known names include steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal, Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel, Anil Agarwal's Vedanta, ITC, Mahindra and Mahindra, DLF, PVR, Birlas, Bajajs, Jindals, Spicejet, IndiGo and the Goenkas. Cumulatively, the top 20 donors accounted for ₹5,830 crore, which is almost 48 per cent of the total bonds purchased between April 2019 and February 2024.

Qwik Supply Chain Private Limited, a little-known company with a registered address at Ńavi Mumbai's Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City (DAKC) and having links to Reliance Industries, was the third largest donor to political parties using electoral bonds. It bought ₹410 crore of electoral bonds between financial years

2021-22 and 2023-24, but Reliance said the company is not a subsidiary of any Reliance entity. Electoral bond purchases and donations by Qwik Supply were behind ₹1,368 crore of Future Gaming and Hotel Services — another littleknown lottery company — and ₹966 crore of Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infra, according to information uploaded by the Election Commission on its website. Publicly available information

describes Qwik Supply as a manufacturer of warehouses and storage units.

The unlisted private company was incorporated on November 9, 2000, with an authorised share capital of ₹130.99 crore. Its paid-up capital is ₹129.99 crore. The firm had a revenue of over ₹ 500 crore in 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) but profit numbers were not known. It bought electoral bonds worth ₹360 crore in 2021-22 to give away to political parties. In the same year, its net profit was only ₹21.72 crores. It bought another ₹50 crore worth of bonds in the financial year 2023-24. Future Gaming and Hotel

Services purchased possibly

the highest amount of bonds worth ₹1,368 crore, followed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd at ₹966 crore. Future Gaming was probed by the Enforcement Directorate in March 2022.

While it is already known that the ruling BJP received the highest amount of donation of over ₹6,000 crore followed by the Congress party, the data dump only disclosed the amount donated by each entity or individual. Among the known corporates, Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd bought ₹398 crore worth of bonds, while Sunil Mittal's three companies together purchased a total of ₹246 crore worth of bonds.

Steel magnate Lakshmi Niwas Mittal bought ₹35 crore worth of bonds in his individual capacity. Hyderabad-based Megha Éngineering, which has bagged contracts of several large infrastructure projects, bought bonds worth ₹966 crore. While most of the bonds have been issued in the name of political parties, the donations made to the Congress and the Samajwadi Party were made in the name of 'President, All India Congress Committee' and 'Adyaksha Samajvadi Party'.

### Situation across LAC stable, but sensitive: Army Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With tension persisting at the border in Ladakh for the last four years, Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Friday here said he would describe the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as "stable but sensitive" while asserting that deployment of Indian troops and other elements there is "extremely robust" and "balanced".

Making these assertions during a panel discussion in a conclave organized by a private television network, he also said "we need to keep a close watch and monitor" what other developments are taking place along the border in terms of infrastructure and movement of

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake area. Ties between India and China nosethe clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in

Asked what was the current situation at the LAC, Pande said, "Very briefly if I were to sum up as to what the situation is, I would describe it to be stable but sensitive. And, this is where we need to keep a close watch, monitor very closely the activities across the LAC, both in the immediate, shall we say depth, and further behind."

"I would say upfront, our deployment in terms of the troops and other elements that we have along the LAC, is extremely robust and, it is balanced. We also have or we do maintain adequate reserves, in terms of our infantry formation and other artilleries and the other elements, to be able to deal with any situation that may arise across the entire length of the LAC.

So, this is as far as our preparedness is concerned," he



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.

The Army chief was also asked what lessons have been learnt from tussles at the border, to which he said, not only what is happening along the border, "I would say there are very prolearn from conflicts happening around the world."

These lessons are at the "strategic level, operational level and

"At the strategic level, national security is gaining salience in the international system and what it has shown is that when national interests are involved, nations would not hesitate to go

Second, in situation where you have contested borders, such as ours, the land will continue to remain a decisive domain of warfare," Pande said.

Third is self-reliance, it has shown that not only in this conflict, but also during the pandemic time, "the importance for us to become selfreliant, to have near zero dependency on ex/import

requirements". "At the operational level, the importance of non-contact warfare, as we call it nonkinetic warfare... Cyber, information space, battle of narratives, influence operations,

the integration of solar gener-

ation systems and advanced

building materials. The Hybrid

Reinforced Cement Concrete

these are some of the areas. All the lessons we need to see in our context," he said.

Asked about a recent international report that claims the situation along the LAC may escalate, the Army chief said, "We do plan for different contingencies, and for each contingency, the responses would be different".

"So, I would not want to get into the specifics as to what the response would be, but leave it by saying that our current do have response mechanism, for different contingencies that may arise, which also will be equally robust, equally effective," he asserted.

And, while what is happening at the border is also important, there is also a need to "keep a close watch and monitor what other developments are taking place in terms of infrastructure, movement of troops, concentration of troops etc, so, this is a constant process, so not only the military in consonance with other intelligence agencies at the strategy level, we have all the wherewithal," the Army

chief said. "So, it is for us to put it all together to make sure that we are neither strategically surprised nor tactically surprised," the Army chief added.

Asked if the situation escalates, will Indian military's response will be different than what it was in the 1962 war, he said, "Certainly. Response will be effective and it will be what situation that comes about."

### Model code to come into force after announcement today Lok Sabha polls schedule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

With schedule of Lok Sabha polls to be announced on Saturday, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will come into force immediately. Interestingly, the first exercise to have such a conduct was carried out during the Assembly elections in 1960 in Kerala. The dos and don'ts for polit-

ical parties subsequently evolved over the last 60 years to assume its present form, according to the Election Commission.

The MCC is a set of conventions agreed upon by all stakeholders during the elections. Its objective is to keep campaign, polling and counting orderly, clean and peaceful and check any abuse of by the party in power. It does not enjoy any statutory back-

However, the Supreme Court has upheld its sanctity on several occasions. The Election Commission is fully authorised to investigate any violation of the code, and pronounce punishment.

The code comes into force as soon as the EC announces the poll schedule and remains operational until the process is concluded.

"The code has evolved over the last 60 years to assume its present form. It had its origin during assembly elections in Kerala, 1960 when the administration tried to evolve a 'code of conduct' for the political parties," read the book titled "Leap of Faith".

The book was published by the ECI to document journey published by the Election Commission to document the journey of elections in India. "The Model Code of Conduct was first issued by Election

and Air Conditioning system

utilising Advanced Oxidation

Plasma technology. Moreover,



Commission of India under the title of 'Minimum Code of Conduct' on September 26, 1968 during the Mid-Term Elections 1968-69. The code was further revised in 1979, 1982, 1991 and 2013," the book added.

A document titled, "Role and Parties during Elections: An Appeal to Political Parties for the Observance of a Minimum Code of Conduct during Election Propaganda and Campaign", determining the standard political behaviour, was prepared by the commission during the midterm general elections of 1968 and 1969.

It was in 1979 that the Election Commission, in a conference of political parties, consolidated the code by adding a section monitoring the conduct of "parties in power".

A revised code with a comprehensive framework was hence issued to prevent the powerful political actors from obtaining an undue advantage of their position.

A parliamentary panel had in 2013 recommended that MCC be granted legal backing to ensure there is no ?vacuum for ECI to exercise its power, which is residuary

mended that MCC be enforced from the date of notification of polls and not date of announcement; a revision in election expenditure limit of candidates to make it more realistic; fast-track courts to dispose of election disputes within 12 months and allowing independent MPs to join any political party within six months of election. Former Chief Election

Commissioner S Y Quraishi was a strong advocate of legalisation of the MCC during his tenure and had suggested stringent legal action against politicians who flout it. According to the EC, the

MCC states that the party in power at the Centre and in the states should ensure that it does not use its official posi-

Ministers and other government authorities cannot announce financial grants in any form. No project or scheme which may have the effect of influencing the voter in favour of the party in power can be announced, and ministers cannot use official machinery for campaign purposes. India is gearing up for the next general elections to elect its 18th Lok Sabha, the schedule for which will be announced on Saturday. Last General Elections in the

country were held in 2019. The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 16 and a new House has to be constituted before that.

The term of the assemblies in

Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Odisha is coming to an end on various dates in June. Last time the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23.

vessel seized by pirates PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Indian Navy responds

to SOS by Bangladeshi

**NEW DELHI** 

The Indian Navy has responded to an SOS by Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier with 23 crew members that was seized by pirates off the coast of Somalia earlier this week, the Navy said in a statement on Friday. The MV Abdullah was sailing

from Mozambique's capital Maputo to the United Arab Emirates with a cargo of 55,000 tonnes of coal when it was attacked around midday on Tuesday, the company said "A group of 15-20 Somali pirates hijacked the ship," said Meherul Karim, chief executive officer of Kabir Steel Re-Rolling Mills, which owns the MV Abdullah vessel.

"On receipt of intimation, the Long-Range Maritime Patrol (LRMP) aircraft was immedithe MV (Abdullah) in the evening of 12 March, attempted to establish communication to ascertain status of ship's crew members. However, no response was received from the ship," said the Indian Navy. "The Mission Deployed warship on Maritime Security Operations, which had also been diverted, intercepted the hijacked MV on the morning of 14 March. The safety of the MV's crew (all Bangladesh nationals) held hostage by the armed pirates was ascertained and the Indian Navy warship continued to maintain in close vicinity of the MV till its arrival in the territorial waters of Somalia," it

In the last few weeks, the Indian Navy has extended assistance to a number of merchant vessels in the Western Indian Ocean following attacks on them. The Indian Navy, earlier this

month, foiled a piracy attempt on an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel with a crew of 11 Iranian and eight Pakistani nationals along the East coast

In January, Indian warship INS Sumitra rescued 19 Pakistani crew members of a fishing vessel after their Iranian-flagged vessel was attacked by pirates in the east coast of Somalia.

The Navy on January thwarted an attempted hijacking of Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk in the North Arabian Sea and rescued all its crew members. Liberianflagged vessel MV Chem Pluto, with 21 Indian crew members, was the target of a drone attack off India's west coast on December 23.

The Navy has already enhanced deployment of its frontline ships and surveillance aircraft for maritime security operations in view of critical sea lanes, including in the North and Central

Arabian Sea. There have been mounting global concerns over Houthi militants launching a series of attacks on cargo vessels in the Red Sea in the last few months. Hijackings off Somalia since December have fuelled concerns about a resurgence of Indian Ocean raids by opportunistic pirates, coming on top of a separate surge in attacks launched by Yemen's Iran-

Houthi militia, who control a part of Yemen, have launched scores of drone and missile attacks in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden targeting what they deem to be Israeli-linked vessels in response to Israel's war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in

backed Houthi rebels.

International naval forces have been diverted north from the Gulf of Aden into the Red Sea, sparking fears that pirates will exploit the security gap.

### Rajnath inaugurates newly built Navy HQ

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Nausena Bhawan, the newly constructed Headquarters of the Indian Navy, located at Delhi Cantonment was inaugurated on Friday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The inauguration marks a significant milestone for the Indian Navy as it establishes its first independent headquarters in Delhi

Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, necessitating a consolidated and purpose-built facility such as Nausena Bhawan. The architectural design of Nausena Bhawan was selected through a rigorous all-India competition process, ensuring the building's functionality and aesthetic appeal. Comprising



the construction of large spans with maximum speed, while the building's design emphagies to optimize efficiency and sustainability. sises integration with natural Efforts toward energy and elements through landscaped gardens and internal courtwater conservation are evident throughout the complex, with

İnternally, Nausena Bhawan boasts a comfortable and congenial atmosphere facilitated by a Central Heating, Ventilation

the complex is equipped with a state-of-the-art Integrated Building Management System, ensuring efficient coordination and monitoring of security services and utility systems. The building has achieved a Green Rating IV under the Integrated Habitability Assessment, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices. Additionally, the complex features a comprehensive three-tier security system, including cutting-edge technologies such as Automatic Underbelly scantechnologies ning of vehicles, Power fence, Face Recognition Cameras, Bollards, Vehicle Stoppers,

Access Control, and Security

Yoga to empower women ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the theme 'Yoga for Women Empowerment' for this International Yoga Day to be observed on June 21, India is embarking upon a yearlong mission to empower the country's half of the population to help reach their full potential with the physical and mental benefits of the practice.

"Yoga is a comprehensive instrument for empowering women, encompassing their physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being," Rajesh Kotecha said adding that "Empowered women take on roles as leaders, educators, and advocates for change, promoting inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment across society." Speaking at the Yoga Mahotsav-2024, held here to mark the 100-

tion of International Day of Yoga (IDY), Kotecha said that the aim of holding the mega event is to propel Yoga into a widespread movement with a focus on women's well-being and promoting global health and peace. The Ayush Ministry has actively supported studies on various conditions affecting women, including PCOS/PCOD, stress management, and the like, to focus on women's health irrespective of their age or condition, promoting women's empowerment through evidence-based research, he said at the event, attended by Joint Secretary, Ayush, Kavita Garg, DDG Ministry of Ayush, Satyjit Paul, Advisor (Ayurveda), Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Manoj Nesari, Chairman, National Commission of

Homoeopathy, Dr. Khurana, and Director Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Vijaylakshmi Bhardwaj among others. Hansaji Jayadeva, Director of

The Yoga Institute, Mumbai emphasized the enduring value of good actions, stating that they are the best currency that sustains us forever. She highlighted the importance of accepting people as they are and finding joy in understanding them, rather than letting oneself be disturbed by the actions of others. During her address at the panel discussion on "Yoga and Women Empowerment: Different Dimensions" Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda, Delhi underscored the symbiotic relationship between Yoga and Ayurveda. "While Yoga embod-

Ayurveda, Ayurveda encapsulates the physical aspect of Yoga, portraying them as complementary aspects of holistic well-

She stressed the necessity of integrating Ayurveda and Yoga within healthcare practices to ensure comprehensive wellbeing and pointed out the efficacy of Yoga breathing techniques and a Sattvic diet in maintaining mood balance, managing menopausal symptoms, irregular periods, and reducing anxiety.
Dr. HR Nagendra, Chancellor,

SVYASA University, Bengaluru highlighted the challenges posed by modern lifestyle disorders as well as non-communicable diseases which can be effectively tackled by integrating Ayush healthcare, and particularly,

# **HC** permits BJP to conduct road show in Coimbatore

**¬**he Madras High Court on Friday directed the Coimbatore to grant with certain permission conditions to BJP to conduct a four km road show of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in that city on March 18.

Justice N Anand Venkatesh gave the directive to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, R S Puram Range, on a petition filed by I Ramesh Kumar, BJP District President, Coimbatore, challenging an

join BJP in MP

More Congress leaders

order denying permission to BJP to conduct the road show on Monday.

In his petition, Ramesh Kumar submitted he had applied for permission with the police on March 14 to permit him to conduct a road show for a span of four km via Mettupalayam road, Coimbatore for the purpose of enabling people to meet the Prime Minister.

The road show was to sensitize the people of Coimbatore about various welfare schemes launched by the PM and urge them to avail them through Benefit Transfer

by the "magnificent works

and developmental activities"

being carried out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

the country and CM Yadav in

Last week, former Union

minister Suresh Pachouri, ex-

Singh

Gajendra

Rajukhedi, former MLAs

Sanjay Shukla (Indore-1),

Vishal Patel (Depalpur) were

among the Congress leaders

who switched to the ruling

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had won 28

of the 29 seats in MP. Senior

Congress leader Kamal

Nath's son Nakul Nath, who

elected

Chhindwara, was the lone

winner of the party in the

Paliya (Pipariya),



without any interference of touts and also promote the habit of saying no to drugs keeping in perspective the recent incidents hazardous drug trafficking in Tamil

PUBLIC NOTICE

E BEHTA HAJIPUR, IN THE ABADI OF IR NAGAR, C-BLOCK, PARGANA: AND DISTRICT: GHAZIABAD, I HI, vide GPA, ATS and Will dated 07.05 ths no. 26494, In Book No. IV, Volume No

No. 2/5 mentioning that Mr. Kailash Sharn

is purchasing and Mortgaging the Entire Plot No. 398, area measuring 209 Sq. Mirs. situated at Sector 31, of the Urban Estate Faridabad, Haryana. However, Property no was wrongly mentioned as 398 instead of

389. Mr. Kailash Sharma is in the process of purchasing and Mortgaging the Entire Plot No. 389, area measuring 209 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Sector 31, of the Urban Estate

Faridabad, Haryana the said propert

aw Veritas: North (Advocates & Lega consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor suilding No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Utta

Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

My Client Sh. Dinesh Chandra Mishra

S/o Sh. Prahlad Narayan Mishra and

nis wife Smt Pushpa Mishra R/o H

No. E-72, Street No. 2, Subhas

Vihar. Delhi-110053 has henceforth

served all their relations with their son Sh. Piyush Mishra and his wife

Smt Sheetal Mishra and thei

daughter Prisha due to their

nisconduct in the house and my

lient have debarred & disowne them from their entire immovable and

movable properties etc. If anybody

wn risk and responsibilities and my

lients and their family member shall not be held responsible for any

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

This is to inform the public at large that one Mr. Manoj Kumar Jalan S/o Sh. Kishan Jalan AND Vandana Jalan w/o Mr. Manoj Kumar Jalan, both R/o159A, First Floor, M2K AURA, Sector-

or, Rolland, Pilot, Mar. AUHA, Sector, When Sector of the Property i.e. Ground Floor and Basement of Property admeasuring 1962 sq. ft., built on Plot on 92. Block-W, admeasuring 166.32 sqm..situated in residential colony Known as Uppal's Southend, Sector-48 & 49, in and acquirty willing Estiliary, large and Chasela.

ound village Fazilpur, Jharsa and Ghasola, Tobal and District Gurugram, HR (here in after referred to as "the said property", having acquired the same by way of Sale deed dated 06.03.2013 executed by Mrs. Manju Bagga (Doc. No. 28186, SR-GGN). The said Property has been mortraged by the owner with ICICI

s been mortgaged by the owner with ICICI

Bank Limited. Some Property papers of said

Property i.e. Original Sale deed dated

06.03.2013 executed by Manju Bagga in the name of Manoi Kumar Jalan & Vandana Jalan

name of Manoj Kumar Jalan & Vandana Jalan (Doc. No. 28186, SR-G60), has been lost in transit, and is not traceable. If anybody found the same, Plz return at the address mentioned below. Further, it is hereby declared that title of the said Property, is absolutely valid, clear and

marketable and there is no dispute / Litigation ending in any court of law, in respect of said

pending in any court of law, in respect of said Property, Whosever, is having any objection to said mortgage OR any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07days from

today, failing which it shall be presumed that the

VIPUL KR. RAHEJA Advocate Ch. No. 55, Ph. No. 41588957

Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

(GAURAV MISHRA) Advocate

deals with them, will do entirely a

IDFC First Bank Limited.

Nadu, he added. He said his application was rejected, the reasons being maintenance of law and order and peace and disturbance to tranquility

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Rajender Prasad Garg is owner of Property Bearing No. 113, area measuring 250 Sq. Yds., Situated at Sector-4 R, Urban Estate Faridabad, vide sale deed 05.10.1983, and regd. Award dated 19.11.2007, & Mrs. Laxmi Garg is owner of Property Bearing No. 102, area measuring 250 Sq. Yds., Situated at Sector-4 R, Urban Estate Faridabad, vide Asside Deed 18.0.2002 be sold beauting No. 102, area measuring 250 Sq. Yds., Situated at Sector-4 R, Urban Estate Faridabad, vide

Situated at Sector-4 R, Urban Estate Faridabad, vide a Sale Deed 18.09.2002, has lostmisplaced original registered award dated 19.11.2007, & sale deed 26.06.1990, & some re-allotment letters. & transfer permissions. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants). 2010. Intel Floror, 32 shiveli Mern, Met Naent, N. Pehi-15.

Notice is hereby given to the public that there Outstanding Payable Amount in our books of

account of following Person/Companies/Firms

which was Invested in our Company through Sl Naresh Bajaj & Sh. Harish Sonik in the year

2019. We are unable to trace the Companies/ Person inspite of our best & Sincere efforts and

due to passing away of Sh. Naresh Bajaj & Sh. Harish Sonik , We by this Public notice intimate

the Companies/Firms/ Person to Contact us at

ccounts@magnovarealityandinfrastructure.com

pefore 31\* March 2024 between 10:00 AM-5:30 PM to claim their Outstanding amount from us

by submitting ledger account and identification

1/03/2024 the outstanding amount shall be

ritten off in our books of account as non-

AP TRADERS, ASIF ALI, BALAJI ENTERPRISES, ECO TRADERS, GS TRADERS, KALYANI

OHAN TRADING, SHREE KRISHNA INDUSTRIES

ENTERPRISES, PASHUPATI CORPORATION.

roof. In case of no claim is made by said

our registered office at G-25 A, M.B. Road,

rishwakarma Colony, New Delhi-110044 Phone 01141630840/ Email

conducting such road show and also in view of security threats as if it prevails.

The order was arbitrary and in contrary to the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. The reasons stated in the refusal were not at all reasonable and despite his willingness to abide by any conditions imposed to conduct the road show has been completely overlooked by the police for political reasons, he added.

2nd Lead

Venue: Faridabad

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to public at large through this notice

that my client Joginder Chauhan S/O Shri Suresh Chauhan R/o Flat No. 5118, 2nd Floor. Pocket-B-7, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070 is set to make Auction of his entire Setup of Gymmasium for Reserve Price Rs.30 Lacs. EÁRNEST MONEY DEPOSIT Rs.50 Thousand. Date of Auction: 19/03/2024.

> For more details contact: Mr. Joginder Chauhan- 9910362836.

R.D. MAURYA (Advocate) Ch. No. 777, Lawyers Block, Saket Court, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby informed to public at large that by clients Ram Kumar Jain S/o Amolak Chand Jain and Rekha Jain W/o Ram umar Jain R/o 54 Gali No-4 New Krishna Nagar, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051 have debarred their son Robin Jain S/o Ram Kumar Jain from their moveable and mmovable properties and severed the relationship from him due to his bad ehaviour and illegal activity, if anybody eals with him, my client and her family embers shall not be responsible for his ebt, police case, and act in future.

Sd/- NISHANT BHARDWAJ, Advocat ENROL. NO. D-1384/2017 Mob. 9990212818

PUBLIC NOTICE ueral public is hereby informed the astigating the title of M/s. C.B.G estate a is the owner of Property (Basement Floor property (Basement Floor along with

CIN NO.: U70109DL2019PTC353216 Punjab & Sind Bank

Director (DIN 08489186)

the securitization 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 dated 22.12.2023 calling upon the borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) (1) Smt. Priya Bhardwa W/o Sh. Avnish Bhardwaj (2) Sh. Avnish Bhardwaj S/o Sh. Anil Bhardwa (3) Sh. Raman S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in notice being for (1) Rs.23,31,162.56/-(Rupees Twenty Three Lacs Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two and Fifty Six Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. he borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower an the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act

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 "PUNJAB & SIND BANK (BO: BABARPUR BRANCH), for an amount of Rs. 23,31,162.56/- as on

30.11.2023 along with further cost, interest and expenses etc. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act

in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT AREA MEASURING 71 SQ YARD BEARING PROPERTY BEARING NO. 1/6206 OUT OF KHASRA NO 1794/764/36 TUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE SIKDARPUR IN THE ABADI OF GALINO 2 EAS ROHTASH NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI .110032 HAVING BEEN PURCHASED RI ADDRESSEE NO 1 VIDE SALE DEED NO 2357 BOOK NO 1 VOLUME NO 2403 ON PAGES 105 TO 112 REGD ON 30.05.20217 IN THE OFFICE OF SUB REGISTRAR IV SHAHDARA DELHI." PROPERTY BOUNDED AS:- NORTH - PROPERTY OF OTHER WEST-GALI EAST-GALI 15 FT WIDE SOUTH-PROPERTY OF OTHERS

Date: 12.03.2024

Punjab & Sind Bank

### quits after being denied LS ticket

**PTI** ■ GUWAHATI

**PTI** ■ BHOPAL

Friday.

Saturday.

The

Former Congress MLA from Mhow, Antar Singh

Darbar, and his senior party

colleague from Indore,

Pankaj Sanghvi, were among

many leaders from the grand

old party who joined the BJP

in Madhya Pradesh on

changed their political

allegiance in the presence of

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

The Election Commission

will announce the schedule

for the Lok Sabha polls on

Sanghvi was the Congress

candidate from Indore in the

The new BJP joinees said that

they embraced the saffron

party after being impressed

2019 general elections.

**Congress MP** 

leaders officially

Congress MP Abdul Khaleque, who has been denied a ticket in Assam for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, resigned from the party on Friday.

The Barpeta MP sent a letter, resigning from the party, to its national president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Congress spokesperson Bedabrata Bora maintained that Khaleque's departure will not impact the party's poll fortune in the constituency, though he also appealed to the MP to continue working for the party. Khaleque, a two-time MLA and one-time MP, was not given the Congress ticket this time.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Anju W/o Late Sh. Vikas Dahiya R/o Gopalpur (13-R), Sonipat, Haryana-131402, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as Krupa, aged 09 years in my husband Service Record. The actual name of my minor daughter is Kripa, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Devi & Rajbala Sharma

Both names are the same person, known by Devi W/o Rajbir Sharma for all future purposes. R/o- H.no-640, Nithari, sec-31, Noida, Guatam Budh Nagar, U.P.



MADHYA PRADESH STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. Paryatan Bhawan, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal-462003 Phone: 91-755-4027100, 2774340/42

क्र. 103/यांत्रिकी/पविनि/21

#### www.mpstdc.com दिनांक : 15.03.3024

MPSTDC invites RFP for Development of Passenger Ropeway Project at Jatashankar Dham Temple, Distt. Chhatarpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh through PPP DBFOT MODE. Estimate Project Cost: 12.50 cr. and Concession Period: 30 years i/c construction period

NIT/SYSTEM No. 53/2024 STDC 346297 1

For any other information contact Mr. K.K. Chouraisa, Executive Engineer e-mail at kk.chourasia@mp.gov.in Last date and Time for Online Tender Purchase and submission is 15.04.2024 Time 05:00 PM. The detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website https://mptenders.gov.in M.P. Madhyam/114500/2024 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** 

#### Tender Notice Reference No, PGSC/Admin/ Digital Projection /2024/02 Pushpa Guiral Science City invites online bids for the following

On-line Digitally signed open e -tenders are invited in two Bid System from the Original Equipment Manufacturers of Digital Full dome system software or their authorized registered Indian agents for Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing an Commissioning of High Resolution, High Brightness Full dome Digital 4K 2D multichannel Immersive Projection System with dware and software packages, interfaces, tools and / or drivers etc. (including integration of existing Audio System a cleaning of existing screen) at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala for projection on existing 23 meter 30 degree tilted dome with 3 (three) years On -site Comprehensive Warrant including preventive maintenance and further Comprehensive AMC for next 2 years.

Interested tenderers can submit https://eproc.punjab.gov. in by 06.04.2024 (1500 Hrs). Note: PGSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the process at any time, without any liability and assigning any reas on thereof.

ng date & time: 06.04.2024 (1500 Hrs) For further details, please visit website www.pgsciencecity.org ndum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.puniab.gov.i

inistrative Offic

Pushna Guiral Science City NA/12/22958/2023/33795 Dated CHD :- 3/15/2024

#### THE PIONEER O LASSIFIED.

PD(307)A

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#### न्यायालय माननीय श्रीमान त्यवहार न्यायधीश महोदया. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

ईश्तहार

आदेश दिनांक : 02.03.2024 प्रकरण क्रमांक : व्यवहार वाद (अ)67/2024 पेशी तारीख : 27.03.2024 तरनदीप सिंह अरोरा .... आवेदकगण

बनाम कृष्णलाल गोस्वामी एवं अन्य ... अनावेदकगण

प्रति.आम जनता (जिनको इनसे संबंध हो)इस न्यायालय मे वादी तरनदीप सिंह अरोरा द्वारा व्यवहार वाद अंतर्गत धारा 34 विनिर्दिष्ट अनुतोष अधिनियम, 1963 सहपठित धारा ९ व्यवहार प्रक्रिया संहिता. 1908 वास्ते अनावेदक क्र**मां**क **1** : कृष्णलाल गोस्वामी पिता बृजलाल गोस्वामी की मृत्यु बिना विधिक वारिसान हो गई है, की उद्घोषणा बाबत प्रस्तुत किया है, उक्त व्यवहार वाद का प्रकरण क्रमांक त्र्यवहार वाद (अ)67/2024 है, व पेशी तारीख 27.03.2024 को सुनवाई हेतु इस न्यायालय में नियत है। इस इश्तिहार प्रकाशन के माध्यम से आम जनता व सर्व-साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है की यदि किसी हितबद्ध व्यक्ति विशेष, बैंक, निकाय शासकीय व अर्ध-शासकीय संस्था, आदि को किसी प्रकार की कोई आपत्ति हो, तो सुनवाई तारीख 27.03.2024 को इस न्यायालय में स्वयं या ऐसे किसी प्लीडर के साथ जिसको सम्यक अनदेश दिए गए हो मय अपने पक्ष के दस्तावेज एवं साक्ष्य के साथ उपस्थित हो कर अपनी आपत्ति पेश कर सकते हैं यदि सनवाई तारीख को किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति अथवा पुनवाई में गैर-हाजिर रहते हैं या आपत्ति पेश नहीं की जाती हैं तो प्रकरण की सुनवाई एकपक्षीय किया जाकर नेराकरण किया जावेगा तथा पेशी तारीख 27.03.2024 के पश्चयात की गई आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगी। यदि किसी कारणवश शासकीय अवकाश या पीठासीन अधिकारी सनवाई तारीख को अनपस्थित रहते हैं तो प्रकरण की कार्यवाही अगले कार्य दिवस की जावेगी । आज दिनांक 13/03/2024 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की सील मुहर लगाकर जारी

> दिनांक : 13/03/2024 (कु.शोआ मंसूर) प्रथम व्यवहार न्यायाधीश वर्ग-2 के द्वितीय अतिरिक्त न्यायाधीश बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of all allottees of residential project Paras Quartier being developed by the Promoter M/s. Fantasy Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. in Gwal Pahari, Sector 2, Gurugram. The Promoter got the Project registered under name "Paras Quartier" vide Registration No 164 of 2017 dated 29.08,2017 with the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram ("Authority") under License No. 74 of 2012 dated 31.07.2012.

It is further informed that the Director, Town and Country Planning Department Haryana (DTCP) has granted license No. 186 of 2023 for development of Group Housing Project on an additional / adjoining land of 4,26875 Acres to the Project Paras Quartier and subsequently has also approved the complete project to be developed under phase wise manor i.e. in Phase - 1, 2 & 3, out of which Phase - 1 has already been granted with Occupation Certificate (OC) on 4.06.2018 and 22.06.2020. Further no allotment and/or sale have been made in Phase-2 and 3 under the above licenses

It is further informed that the DTCP has approved the revised building plans, of the remaining Phase - 2 & 3 vide Memo No. ZP-837-Vol-II/JD(RA)/2024/5740 dated 15.02.2024 after inviting objections from all allottees & general public through newspaper as well as by sending letters to all allottees of Paras Quartier through registered post, in pursuance to the Policy issued by Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana vide memo No. Misc - 862 / 2023 / 7 / 1 / 2023 - 2TCP Dt; 24,02,2023, on behalf of the Governor of Haryana. Subsequently the promoter has approached the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram for registration of additional license area for development of the project "The Manor" on 4,26875 acres along with revised Building Plans in respect of Phase 2 & 3. There are no changes in respect of the Phase-1 of the Project for which Occupancy Certificate has been obtained and possession has been handed over.

The relevant plans, sanctions, Licenses and documents of application are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority. Gurugram, which can be seen by any concerned allottee on any working day during office hours i.e. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 pm up to 27.03.2024 for filing of objections, if any

Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal Dated:- 16.03.2024

Coimbatore in the event of Days not far when Ram Rajya will be established: Rajnath Chatra (Jharkhand), Mar 15 Defence Minister (PTI) Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that the days were not far when 'Ram Rajva' will be established in India, which would be among the top three economies in the world by

> He also hit out at those branding the BJP communal over the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

> > PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Mrs. Tanuja Chawla Wo Mr. Narinder Singh & Mr. Narinder Singh S/o Mr. Gurbax Singh both R/o 83 DDA Flats, Jaidev Park, East Punjabi Bagh New Delhi-110026 who is the original allottee of property No. Flat No. J-1407, Amarpali Silicon City, Sector-76, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s).

General Power of Attorney was executed on in tavour of Mr. Rajinder Pal Singh S/o Mr. Gurbax Singh R/o 83 DDA Flats, Jaidev Park, East Punjabi Bagh New Deihi-110026 which is registered and the Agreement to Sell was not registered or not executed. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered or no Agreement to Sell is not registered or no Agreement to Sell is informed to all concern that the said Property No. Flat No. J-1407, Amarpali Silicon City, Sector-76, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Kushagra S/o Sh. Inderjeet Kumar Dutta R/o B-427, Kendriya Vihar, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) If any one has/have any objection he/she may file

Infar, wolds, Distr. Gautam Buan Nagar, (U.F. any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in he Group Housing Department of the Noids Authority within 15 days from the date o sublication of this notice.

Mr. Rajinder Pal Singh S/o Mr. Gurbax Singl

J.P./N.P.N./468/500

R/o 83 DDA Flats, Jaidev Park

East Punjabi Bagh New Delhi 110026

or CAA and demanded to know under what circumstances the population of Hindus in Pakistan dwindled to about 3 per cent from about 23 per cent.

Addressing a rally at Itkhori, around 160 km from state capital Ranchi, Singh said, "Ram Rajya will be established in India with the consecration of Ayodhya temple... Ram Lalla has reached his palace from his "India will 'vishwaguru' (world leader)

Narendra Modi on the back of development work undertaken by him and it is God's wish that he remains the PM not only for the third time but for the fourth time as well," he said. India is being taken seriously at international platforms now, he said, citing the instance of "halt in hostilities during the Russia-Ukraine War for around four hours for evacuating Indian students trapped in the country".

#### NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY **VOIGS**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

#### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

11/Manager System/Kyocera-konica/AMC/2023-24, A.M.C. of various model of Kyocera Mita and Konica Minolta make photocopier machine and Printer. Cost Rs. 31.77 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 28.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 29.03.2024 at 11.00 AM. Manager (System)

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम,भिलाई

Main Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

Bhilai/Dated:15/03/2024 nline tender are invited on behalf of the Municipal Corporation. Bhilai for the following work in form A' for Contract from the contract Procurement System portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)

Tender no. Name of Work Probable Earnest Completion निविदा जारी निविदा डाउनलोड Call Form (In lacs) (In lacs) Design, Laying Jointing 149.69 15-03-2024 01-04-2024 third Interconnection, Testing & Commissioning of Clea call Water Rising Main including 12 month trial ru

For other details visit GoC e-Procurement System portal website https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

Corrigendum Amendment if any, will be displayed on above website https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in/ only and it shall be part of tendedocument.

3. For more details please download NIT details. घर से निकलने वाले गीले एवं सुखा कचरे को अलग कर सफाई मित्र (रिक्शा) को देवे। अपील — समस्त शहर वासिया से निवेदन है कि सफाई व गंदगी / कचरा की फोटो खींचकर स्वच्छता एप में भेजे।

Executive Enginee Municipal Corporation Bhilai Chattisgarl



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID: - sepwds
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE SAMBALPUR e - Procurement BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC (R AND B) /39/ 2023-24

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of

Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Bridge work and Building work as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors. 2. No of works = 02 (TWO)

3. Tender Cost: Rs. 10,000/-

4. Class of contractor: "B" Class, "A" and "Special" Class

5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From 22.03.2024 to 17.00 Hours of 6. Date of opening of Technical Bid 06.04.2024 at 18.00 Hours.

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website

8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. OIPR-34035/11/0045/2324

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

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

No.	D //	wer/ Loan of Property/ Date of		of Branch	
1.	Manju Bhati/ Sushil Kumar/ LBNOD00005993492/ LBNOD00006297333/ LBNOD00006303529/ LBNOD00006496559	201307 (Admeasuring an Area of Super Builtup Area	November 23, 2023 Rs. 30,67,790/-	Delhi/ Ncr	

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: March 16, 2024 Authorized Officer Place: Delhi/Ncr ICICI Bank Limited

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

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 Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of

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I		pelow-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.						
	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch			
	1.	M/s. Vintage Pasture Dairy Farms LLP/ Ankur	Address 1: Area 7370 Sq.mtr. Khasra No.283, Khata No.50, Village Sakarpur, Tehsil And District Hapur, Address 2: Area 1180.41 Sq.mtr. Khasra No.296, Khata No. 164, Village Sakarpur, Tehsil And District Hapur, Area 129, 54, Sq. mtr.	November 06, 2023 Rs. 9,99,96,311.00/-	Noida			

Sakarpur, Tehsil And District Hapur. Area 129.54 Sq.mtr.

Khasra No. 296, Village Sakarpur, Tehsil And District Hapur. Area 1125.05 Sq.mtr. Khasra No.296, Village

Sakarpur, Tehsil And District Hapur/ March 14, 2024

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.

Authorized Officer Date: March 16, 2024

Bhati/ Adesh

Chaudhary/

Kumar/ Sundeep

'721851000001

HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### Winning strategy

BJP replaces a significant number of sitting MPs with new faces to enhance its voter appeal

In a strategic move aimed at tackling anti-incumbency and heighteniing its electoral appeal, the BJP has made an unusual shift in its nomination process: The party has dropped over 20 per cent of its sitting MPs in the upcoming elections. This move, while seemingly risky, reflects the ruling party's proactive approach in addressing voter discontent. Anti-incumbency, or the tendency of voters to feel dissatisfied with their chosen representatives and opt for change, can seriously affect a party's poll prospects. Over time, entrenched power can lead to complacency and perceived administrative inertia. Therefore, parties often grapple with the challenge of mitigating the anti-incumbency sentiment. However, the move appears strange this time as the BJP is confident of securing more than 370 seats in the Lok Sabha. Worldly wisdom says that sidelining 100-plus sitting MPs can create a disgruntled group in its ranks, which can be equally detrimental for the party. Such 'rebels' work



at cross purposes with party interests. On the other hand, the decision means that the BJP acknowledges the prevailing voter mood. By opting for fresh faces and new voices, the party aims to present itself as responsive to public sentiment. This strategic manoeuvre reflects its commitment to adaptability and willingness to embrace change in pursuit of electoral success.

Several other factors may also have contributed to the BJP's decision. One, demographic shifts and evolving socio-economic dynamics necessitate a recalibration of political strategies. As constituencies evolve, a party must ensure that its candidates are

in tune with the electorate's aspirations. Besides, internal assessments and feedback mechanisms may have highlighted areas where incumbent representatives were perceived as underperformers. Through its nomination overhaul, the BJP aims to prove that it is responsive to feedback, and promote accountability within its ranks. As the Opposition intensifies its campaign to capitalise on any perceived BJP weakness, the latter recognises the importance of maintaining its electoral edge. The BJP is poised to prioritise several issues in its campaign strategy, including highlighting its record in development and governance, emphasising achievements in economic growth and infrastructure projects. But the BJP's trump card is the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His charisma, decisive leadership and a clear vision for future is what the BJP would heavily bank upon. Given such an impressive array of issues to encash, if one were to look at the move from the other side of the fence, it was perhaps an unnecessary move as the Lok Sabha voting is generally for the party and the leader; a candidate's credentials are generally the last thing on the minds of voters. The decision to drop the sitting MPs in large numbers hints at a streak of apprehension within the party's ranks.



# India is not a nation, but a subcontinent!



#### A Raja, a DMK MP, has sparked controversy with his recent statement, dismissing India as a nation and branding it as a subcontinent instead

othing is shocking in the statement made by A Raja MP, that India was not a nation but a subcontinent. "India was neither a nation in the past nor will it remain as a nation in future," declared Raja while addressing a meeting held by his party, the

Neither the DMK nor the Dravida Kazhakam, its precursor, accepted the concept of India. The founding fathers of these Kazhakams (Tamil for Forum) have an inherent hatred towards anything that is Indian. The Dravidians firmly believe Robert Caldwell, a British evangelist who came to India during the colonial era, claims that there is no link between the Dravidians and Arvans (north Indians) and Tamil is the mother of all languages. The Dravidians have no answer to the question of how an evangelist with no known credentials as a linguist claims that Tamil has no connection with Sanskrit.

Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the DMK patriarch, who never missed any chance to ridicule Sanskrit and Hindi is on record insulting these languages as The impotent. name Karunanidhi itself is a Sanskrit term. His grandchildren Udhayanidhi, Dayanidhi and Aditya, grand nephews Kalanidhi and Dayanidhi flaunt Sanskrit names. Karunanidhi's son Stalin, the reigning chief minister, claims that Sanskrit and Hindi are part of Hinduism. This is not the first time people

like Raja have courted controversy by putting their foot in the mouth. Immediately after the 2019 Lok Sabha election, T Thirumavalavan, who is the founder of the SC/ST outfit VCK declared that North Indians were not welcome in Tamil Nadu. He also declared that Rohingya Muslims and Islamic immigrants should be given citizenship in Tamil Nadu. Thirumavalavan, in his eagerness to prove his anti-Hindutva stance, went one step urther and changed the name of his nonagenarian father from Ramasamy to Tholkappian! in the State speaks volumes of Every uttering by the leaders of the DMK's aversion to any-

enough hint that they are for seceding from India and forming a separate Dravida Nadu. Stalin, while speaking in a public function at Erode in 2018 declared that a separate Dravida Nadu was still an agenda of the DMK and it has been put on the backburner for the time being. Stalin declared that all South

Indian States should unitedly demand a Dravida Nation. "İf such a situation comes it would be welcome. We hope that such a situation arises. said the DMK chief. Stalin has become wiser over the years to understand the truth that Tamil Nadu can never become a stand-alone State without Karnataka and Kerala. If Karnataka refuses to release Kaveri River Water and Kerala decides to go ahead with its plans to build a new dam in place of the existing Mullaperiyar, which has outlived its utility, Tamil Nadu is in for major crisis.

The intransigent attitude of the Dravidian party not to accept the reforms and suggestions proposed by the Centre is ample proof of the fact that the State wants to pursue an independent path. Its refusal to launch the Jawana Navodaya Vidyalaya program the DMK and its allies gives thing that is Indian. A scheme



TAMIL NADU CAN

**NEVER BECOME A** STAND-ALONE STATE WITHOUT KARNATAKA AND KERALA. IF KARNATAKA **REFUSES TO** RELEASE KAVERI RIVER WATER AND KERALA DECIDES TO **GO AHEAD WITH ITS** PLANS TO BUILD A NEW DAM, THIS CAN BE A MAJOR CRISIS

FOR TAMIL NADU

conceived and introduced by late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to make public school education available to the poorest of the poor in the country envisaged the setting up of Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district of India.

The school to be built in the backward region of the district would have a cosmopolitan atmosphere with students drawn out from all over the country a la the public school in Dehradun where Rajiv Gandhi had his schooling. While the concept was accepted in toto by all States, Tamil Nadu remains the only State in India that has not allowed the opening of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. The reason? The DMK's opposition to teaching Hindi and Sanskrit. Though this is a blatant violation of Fundamental Rights assured in Part III of the Constitution, Congress is reluctant and afraid to take up the issue with its Big Brother.

The AIADMK has been mesmerized by the DMK's claim that any move to introduce Hindi in Tamil Nadu would have disastrous results. Hindi was accorded the status of national language by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. Chennai is the headquarters of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha which was instituted by Gandhi. He

was the chairman of the Sabha from its inception in 1918 till his last in 1948.

While the DMK is always at the forefront of attacking Sanatana Dharma for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, the party has no qualms about having an electoral alliance with forces that support the assassins of Rajiv Gandhi.

The party had gone out of its way to get clemency for the murderers of Rajiv Gandhi and even their liberation from imprisonment. The MDMK led by Vaiko and VCK led by Thol Thirumavalavan are fanatic supporters of LTTE and its founder V Prabhakaran. Every year on the birth and death anniversaries of Prabhakaran, rationalists Vaiko and Thirumavalavan offer prayers for the LTTE chief and his comrades who waged war against India.

There are enough instances to prove the secret secessionist plans being conceived by these elements. The DMK and its associates are a threat to the national security and integrity. The centre and other state governments are advised to be Caveat Emptor" (Customers, Beware!) in their dealings with the DMK and Iring parties like MDMK and VCK.

(The writer is special correspondent with the Pioneer, views are personal)

## Fifth-generation stealth jet to be a reality soon



India makes a significant stride in its defence programme with the approval of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft project

**¬**he Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the project to design and develop the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) on March 7. This aircraft will be a fifth-generation, medium-weight stealth fighter jet. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) is spearheading the project, valued at around Rs 15,000 crore. Under this project, DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) will collaborate with various private and public sector agencies to develop the stealth iet and associated technology. It's anticipated that approximately five prototypes will be built within a span of five years. The manufacturing of these prototypes will involve the public sector unit Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This endeavour will propel India into a select group of nations either possessing or developing 5th generation fighter jets.

A fifth-generation fighter jet possesses four primary attributes. Firstly, it boasts stealth capabilities, rendering it nearly invisible to enemy radars due to its minimized radar reflectivity. In stealth mode, Fighter Aircraft program



cross-section. Secondly, it can achieve 'Supercruise', enabling it to fly faster than the speed of sound without relying on fuel-intensive afterburners. Thirdly, it is equipped with advanced avionics, sensors, and network-centric operations. Increasingly, artificial intelligence is being integrated to enhance the pilot-aircraft interface, allowing a single pilot to manage both flight and combat operations. Lastly, it has the ability to outperform adversaries by detecting and engaging tar-gets from considerable distances, facilitated by active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars. Achieving stealth involves meticulously shaping the aircraft to scatter radar waves rather than reflecting them, in addition to employing specialized materials and paints known as 'Radar Absorbing Structures' to further minimize radar these fighters conceal their weapons within internal bays, relying solely on internallycarried fuel to avoid radar detection, as external weapons or fuel tanks compromise stealth by reflecting radar waves.

The AMCA is slated for development in two phases. Phase 1 will result in the AMCA Mk-1, powered by the US GE-414 engine. Phase 2 will see the development of the AMCA Mk-2, featuring a more advanced and powerful engine. However, it's important to note that the projected induction of the AMCA by 2035 may not result in a

'Completely 5th-generation fighter aircraft'. China is poised to surpass the US in stealth aircraft production. China's J-20A Mighty Dragon, its first fifth-generation fighter, was expected to outnumber the US Air Force's F-22 Raptor fleet last year. Notably, the F-22 Raptor, the first operational fifth-generation fighter, has ceased production, with the US focusing on the more cost-effective F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter family. India withdrew from the Fifth Generation

(FGFA) in April 2018, a joint effort with Russia aimed at developing an India-specific variant of the Russian Su-57 stealth fighter. Following a series of challenges, India's indigenous LCA Tejas has been inducted by the Indian Air Force. Despite this, India's fighter squadron strength continues to decline, falling short of the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. New Delhi is exploring various options to bolster squadron numbers, recognising that a few Rafale and Tejas LCA squadrons are insufficient to bridge the gap. From the Indian Air Force's perspective, the urgency and importance of acquiring manned stealth fighters necessitate Cabinet Committee on Security approval for the AMCA proiect. While the project has received the much-awaited green light, it's crucial to remain vigilant regarding potential pitfalls and the project's impact on the Indian Air Force's combat capabilities. With meticulous planning and execution, it could prove to be a game-changer. (The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)

#### **VR HAS BECOME A MENACE**

Sir — In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, virtual reality (VR) is emerging as a game-changer, not only in the realm of entertainment and gaming but also in the field of mental health. While VR has been captivating users with its ability to transport them to alternate realities, it also holds immense promise as a therapeutic tool. Recent years have witnessed a growing body of research and a surge in VR applications specifically designed to alleviate stress, and anxiety, and even assist in the treatment of conditions like PTSD and social anxiety.

By immersing individuals in controlled, immersive environments, VR is harnessing the power of technology to positively impact emotional well-being. Prepare to journey through a landscape where pixels and pixels alone have the potential to heal and rejuvenate the human mind. Welcome to the fascinating world of VR's therapeutic promise.

Rajeev Yadav | Ujjain

#### **SUNAK'S PARTY IS IN TROUBLE**

Sir — British Indian-origin Prime Minister Rishi Sunak feels that moving to 10 Downing Street is proving inauspicious for him. Ever since he assumed this position, his conservative party, has been getting into various problems. The popularity of this government is continuously sliding downwards. By throwing the country into the fire of Brexit, this party has worsened the economic condition of the country. The economic situation is rapidly moving towards recession. Sometimes its MPs appear to be victims of Islamophobia. Sometimes a donor makes an indecent comment towards a black woman MP. Recently Conservative MP Lee Anderson has expressed outrage by saying that "Islamists" have "taken control" of Labour's London mayor, Sadiq Khan. The party tried to save its own life by immediately throwing him out of the

#### **Water crisis in Bengaluru**

THE EDITOR

is pathetic to see that Bengaluru, the 'Garden City of India' has been facing a severe water crisis, the kind which the city has never witnessed before in its nearly 500year history. The present water crisis in Bengaluru is not a resource-based concern, but an issue emerging out of poor policy implementation. Though Bengaluru has been receiving abundant rainfall every winter, the local government hasn't invested enough to get water to every resident across the city.

For years the thirsty city has swung between Cauvery and tanks. The administration of Bengaluru must start anticipating the water problem and create effective alternate plans instead of just managing the situation. The causes of the failures and problems relating to water governance in Bengaluru must be examined as a whole mainly because this is not a case of 'tapless homes', but a problem of 'waterless taps.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

when due to a new revelation, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appeared to be on the defensive. Industrialist Frank Hester, who has donated £10 million to the Conservatives, told a meeting in 2019 that he did not hate all black women. But he said watching Ms Diane Abbott, Britain's longest-serving black MP, on TV "makes you want to hate all black women just because she's there". Will the Conservative Party return the donated amount to the donor and take legal action against him by accusing him of racism? Or will they consider racism as the ideology of the party and stand in the support of donors?

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### **RISHABH PANT IS BACK**

Sir — A sportsperson will never lose whether it's on a track field or in a life party. This uproar had not yet subsided race, and this phrase would prove true

by Rishabh Pant, one of the most gifted players and wicketkeepers of men in blue. The decision to come back on the field after the long break of 14 months is positive news for all the fans of the Indian wicketkeeper. In the upcoming IPL matches, the number 17 jersey will showcase his sportsmanship spirit and battle for Delhi Capitals.

Rishabh Pant, after surviving a lifethreatening car accident and ahead of that moment, the wicketkeeper-batter is nervous like a debutant all over again. Seeing Pant on the pitch with his weapon and marking the tally with the score is good. The true motivating force for sports is the only reason for coming back for players like him.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

### THE SILENT EPIDEMIC **AMONG STUDENTS**

From sweaty palms to sleepless nights, the toll of exam stress is palpable



RAVI VALLURI

achel felt irritable on denouement day. She felt nauseous, her palms were sweaty, her facial muscles twitching and she was on tenterhooks on her way to appear for the 12th standard math examination. A student's anxiety gets compounded by gargantuan expectations of apprehensive parents and those of an extended family consisting of grandparents, siblings and peers.

The power and focus of the mind shift from solving complex quadratic equations appearing in the question paper to handling unnecessary pressure generated. Kid Stuf, was a musical produced by St Xavier's School Delhi, in which I was a participant too. The storyline championed the cause of children against the overbearing attitude of parents and an oppressive education system. It had the iconic lines – " School is such a bore and we are building more."

A student should approach examinations bubbling with energy. The mind ought to be in a state of equilibrium and remain fresh like dew on a petal. The mind should be razor-sharp to solve the questions appearing in the question paper. Anxiety disorders take a massive toll on the human body. It leads to improper sleep, an irritable disposition, obesity, acid refluxes, mood swings, decreased memory power resulting in a dip in output, loss of appetite, reduction in immunity levels, and disturbingly students are now getting afflicted with Type II diabetes.

Anxiety is an uneasy feeling about the outcome and a state of disquietude. Students find themselves in a pressure cooker kind of situation, thereby unable to score the winning runs. Several students develop psychosomatic disorders and perforce have to seek remedial help through counsellors and psychiatrists. The innocence of a child is sacrificed under the scanner and the scalpel of a doctor. This is indeed both bizarre and tragic



Today, we have access to technology and highly qualified teachers, who impart quality education. Yet, the number of students is very large so it is practically impossible to pay minute attention to the needs and requirements of every child. Therefore, in such a situation, empathetic parenting can act as an ideal buffer to combat the stress faced by students, especially during examination time.

Good humour is a tonic for the body and mind. It is the best antidote for anxiety and depression. It is a business asset. It attracts and keeps friends. It lightens human burdens. It is the direct route to serenity and contentment,' writes GrenvitteKlieison.

Teachers should create an Aha! moment in the classroom to attract the attention of the students and parents need to be innovative to spread warmth and mirth in the household, to uplift the mood of their child. The examination schedule, as planned by the controller of examinations, needs a review. It extends and stretches over a long jurisdiction of time. Whether the students can maintain their interest and motivation levels needs to be debated by the stakeholders. It is quite possible that ennui sets in and the mind gets distracted and consequently loses the focus. It reminds me of a cricket team touring Down Under which had to play a five-test series, followed by one-dayers and T-20s. If there are no fresh pairs of legs, visitors are likely to be pummeled.

These are however extraneous factors, beyond the control of a student. What a student can do is adopt simple measures such as taking a long walk, a yoga session, pranayama, proper diet and adequate rest along with intake of fluids or even listening to soothing music in the run-up to the examinations. Test the skill of the student, not their anxiety levels.

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

# The eventful centennial of Jimmy Carter



SANTOSH MATHEW

As Jimmy Carter reaches the milestone of his 100th birthday, let us reflect on the extraordinary journey of the 39th President of the United States

e can choose to alleviate suffering. We can choose to work together for peace. We can make these changes—and we must: Jimmy Carter.

At 100, Jimmy Carter is the oldest president in United States history. James Earl Carter Jr., the 39th President of the United States, has not only witnessed the ebb and flow of American history but has actively shaped its course with a commitment to peace, justice, and compassion. Born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia, Jimmy Carter's journey from a humble peanut farm to the highest office in the land is a testament to the American dream.

As we commemorate his centennial birthday, it is an opportune moment to delve into the extraordinary life of a man whose presidency, post-presidential years, and philanthropic endeavours have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our nation and the world. Join us on a reflective journey through the highs and lows of Jimmy Carter's century-long life, exploring the milestones, challenges, and enduring principles that define his legacy. From the Oval Office to Habitat for Humanity work sites, Carter's story is one of resilience, compassion, and an unyielding belief in the power of diplomacy and cooperation. As we celebrate the centennial of this statesman, it is an occasion not only to honour the past but also to glean insights from a life rich in experiences, lessons, and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

From 1977 to 1981, Jimmy Carter served as the President of the United States. Before becoming president, Jimmy Carter served as the Governor of Georgia in 1971. Despite running for president again in 1982 (Democrat) and competing against Ronald Reagan, he faced defeat. After leaving the presidency, he, along with his wife Rosalynn Carter, established the Carter Centre in 1982 in pursuit of helping the disadvantaged. Rosalynn Carter became the first lady and the first woman to serve as a board member of the Carter Centre. In 2002, Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts towards peace and his exemplary actions in promoting human welfare. Despite reaching the age 90, ne remained active in various fields.

Carter continued his philanthropic work, including building houses for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity, reducing diseases and elevating the quality of life for the underprivileged. His advocacy for human rights, international conflict resolution, presidency, human rights, and socio-economic development reflects his dedication to humanitarian causes. Carter's dedication to peace and social justice, as well as his active involvement in public service, sets him apart among U.S. presidents. Carter played a key role in mediating international conflicts, notably contributing to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. His post-presidential activities, including receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and actively participating in various humanitarian initiatives, showcase his commitment to making a positive impact on the world. However, his attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran, known as Operation Eagle Claw,





**CARTER VISITED** 

THE VILLAGE OF CHUMUKEDIMA. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO REVITALISE THE VILLAGE WHERE HIS MOTHER, LILLIAN PEACE, HAD SERVED IN THE PEACE CORPS. DURING HIS JOURNEY, **CARTER** DISTRIBUTED A **CONSIDERABLE** AMOUNT OF MONEY TO THE

**VILLAGERS** 

married Rosalynn in 1946, and their marriage lasted more than seven decades. They have four children: Jack, James, Donnel, and Amy. Roselyn "Rosalynn" Carter, actively participated in various activities, including writing, activism, and advocacy for different causes. She was born in 1927. Rosalynn was actively involved in various meetings and discussions as the First Lady. She faced controversies, engaged in foreign trips, and represented her husband in diplomatic roles. In 1978, the then-American President Jimmy Carter visitea India. Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister at that time. He had a meeting with 500 media persons. Carter visited the village of Chumukedima. The purpose of his visit was to revitalise the village where his mother, Lillian Peace, had served in the Peace Corps. During his journey, Carter distributed a considerable amount of money to the villagers. The village was later renamed as Carterpuri.

Despite facing challenges and controversies, Jimmy Carter remained an active and influential figure in national and international affairs throughout his life. His contributions to diplomacy, human rights, and conflict resolution earned him recognition and respect. Even though his time as the American President failed, he left the White House and continued his work as a

He established the Carter Presidential Foundation to protect human rights globally, helping those in need and experiencing hardship. The organisation has grown globally, assisting those in distress in África, Latin America, and other societies. Carter's compassionate activities in these regions included healthcare services and other humanitarian initiatives. Today, he remains one of the eminent figures among the great presidents

of America. As Jimmy Carter

reaches the remarkable milestone of a century on this Earth, we find ourselves not merely celebrating the passage of time but honouring a life devoted to service, humility, and the unwavering pursuit of a better world. From the peanut fields of Plains, Georgia, to the corridors of power in Washington, D.C., Carter's journey has been emblematic of the American spirit—a testament to the belief that ordinary individuals can bring about extraordinary change. As we reflect on the legacy of the 39th President of the United States, it becomes evident that Jimmy Carter's impact extends far beyond the confines of his political career. His commitment to diplomacy, human rights, and humanitarian causes has transcended the boundaries of his presidency, leaving an indelible

mark on the global stage. Carter's

post-presidential years have been

cation to building homes with Habitat for Humanity, mediating conflicts, and advancing public health initiatives. His work stands as a reminder that true leadership extends beyond the trappings of office, resonating in the actions and deeds that shape the lives of those around us.

As we commemorate Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday, let us not only acknowledge the historical significance of his tenure but also recognize the enduring relevance of his values. In an era marked by division and uncertainty, Carter's commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and compassion serves as a beacon of hope—a reminder that the pursuit of justice and peace knows no age limit. As the sun sets on a century of Jimmy Carter's remarkable life, we are left with a legacy that challenges us to aspire to something greater than ourselves. May we draw inspiration from his example, fostering a world where empathy triumphs over apathy, where diplomacy prevails over discord, and where the pursuit of a better tomorrow remains a timeless endeavour. Happy 100th birthday, President Jimmy Carter—a centennial celebration of a life well-lived and a legacy that continues to illuminate our path forward. "We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry."- Jimmy Carter. (The writer is an associate pro-

fessor, views are personal)

# Bridging the digital gap in rural Jammu and Kashmir The Army initiative is empowering rural youth through computer literacy in Jammu and Kashmir

he Indian Army launched a threemonth project in November of the previous year to enhance computer skills among students at a government high school located in the border area of Khui Milan, Akhnoor tehsil, Jammu district. This initiative aimed to equip students with basic computer skills, paving the way for future employment opportunities. Upon completing the course, students received certification. Balvir Singh, the computer teacher appointed by the army for this school, explains that the program was designed for students to grasp the fundamentals of computers within 90 days. He emphasised the program's goal: to ensure that children in rural areas are at



par with their urban counterparts, bridging the technolog-

In the past, children used to receive computer education directly from army personnel. However, facing challenges in commuting to them daily, as mentioned by the Regional Education Officer, Vidushi Gupta. In response to this, the are still distant from computarmy has donated 10 computers to the school under this

dren don't have to travel far to learn computers. Sanjeevani Verma, a student from the same high school, expressed gratitude, stating, "My family's financial situation is very weak, due to which I could not go anywhere to learn computers. Now, the Indian Army has provided computers to our school and also appointed a teacher to teach us." She further added, "This has proved to be very beneficial for us. Today's India is becoming digital, and there-fore, we need to learn computers." In remote rural areas, computer literacy rates are still low. Especially compared to men, rural women and girls er knowledge.

According to a 2023 report, program, ensuring that chil- over 40% of the Indians sur-

veyed in the age group of 15-29 years reported having the basic skill of handling files on computers. However, the abilities declined as the difficulty level of skills increased. The report also stated that men's abilities with computers far exceeded those of women and urban areas were better at handling computer-related tasks. The share of men who could perform the simplest task of handling computer files was 13 percentage points more than women. Under the stark urban-rural gap, in urban areas, the same task was performed by 27% more people than those living in rural

Other organisations have joined the effort to impart computer skills to the children of Jammu and Kashmir. In the bordering district of Poonch, Today, due to the advancea non-governmental organisation named 'Seva Bharati' has established a centre in Manganad village dedicated to teaching children computer skills. Prince Kumar, a 22year-old youth, shared, "I come to learn at this computer centre every day. Initially, I did not know about computers at all, but now I have gradually learned many things about computers." The organisation has provided two computers, and a teacher has been appointed, dedicating two hours to instructing adolescent boys and girls. This initiative is particularly beneficial for girls in the village, where computer literacy is low, and the female computer literacy rate is almost neg-

ment of computers, the entire world has shrunk into the form of a technological village. In today's era, knowing computers has become a priority. There is no field today where the use of a computer is not essential, whether it is the government or the private sector.

A 25-year-old woman named Suraksha Devi says that keeping up with the digital world without knowledge of computers is challenging. While almost everyone today has a smartphone, which is a type of computer, certain things remain incomplete without learning about computers. In the centre of Manganad village, Suraksha Devi has learned things about the Internet. She has also learned

to work on MS Word and Excel. She says that today's girls, whether from rural areas or urban areas, should be computer literate because it will be crucial in making them empowered and self-

reliant. Reflecting on the success of the course, Balbir Singh expresses, "Over the 3-month course, our primary aim has been to impart comprehensive foundational knowledge to the children. The basic test we administered during this period yielded remarkably positive results from the students. We extend our gratitude to the Indian Army for generously providing us with 10 computers. Witnessing the dedication of the children, they took the initiative to install these computers within the school premises." Adarsh Sharma, a sixth-grade participant in the computer

course, expresses, "The computer skills we've acquired in this course can prove beneficial in our future endeavours. Whether it's a government or private job, the demand for computer literacy spans across all sectors today. I extend my gratitude to the Indian Army, whose support has afforded us the chance to learn about computers at an early stage. Additionally, I want to thank our computer instructor for imparting valuable knowledge and insights."

(The writer writes on socio-economic development challenges of rural communities of J&K; views are personal. Charkha Features)

# **Ship carrying over 220** tons of aid nears Gaza

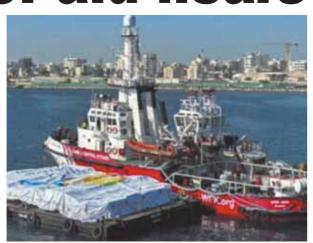
ship carrying 200 tons of aid approached the coast of Gaza on Friday in a mission to inaugurate a sea route from Cyprus to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the enclave five months into the war between Israel and Hamas

The ship, operated by the Spanish aid group Open Arms, left Cyprus on Tuesday towing a barge laden with food sent by World Central Kitchen, the charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés. Ít could be seen off Gaza's coast Friday morning.

Israel has been under increasing pressure to allow more aid into Gaza. The United States has joined other countries in airdropping supplies to the isolated region of northern Gaza and has announced separate plans to construct a pier to get aid in. Aid groups said the airdrops and sea shipments are far less efficient ways of delivering the massive amounts of aid needed in Gaza, Instead, the groups have called on Israel to guarantee safe corridors for truck convoys after land deliveries became nearly impossible because of military restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of order after the Hamas-run police force largely vanished from the streets. The daily number of supply trucks entering Gaza since the war began has been far below the 500 that entered

Earlier in the week, Israel allowed six aid trucks to enter directly into the north, a step aid groups have long called for. World Ĉentral Kitchen operates 65 kitchens across Gaza from where it has served 32 million meals since the war started, the group said. The aid includes rice, flour, lentils, beans, tuna and canned meat, according to World Central Kitchen spokesperson Linda

before October 7.



The ship could be spotted from

the coast hours after the Palestinian Health Ministry in

Gaza accused Israeli forces of

launching an attack near an aid

distribution point in northern

Gaza, killing 20 people and

The Israeli military said in a

statement that Palestinian gun-

men were the ones to open fire

and that none of its forces, who

were securing a convoy of 31 aid trucks, fired toward the

waiting crowd or the convoy.

Some of those in the crowd

were run over by the trucks, it

The health ministry said a

group waiting for aid near the

Kuwaiti roundabout was hit

by Israeli shelling late Thursday. Bloodshed sur-

rounding an aid convoy on Feb. 29 killed 118 Palestinians

in northern Gaza. The Israeli

military said some of its forces

fired at people in the crowd

who were advancing toward them. Witnesses and hospital officials said many of the

casualties were from bullet wounds. The Israeli military

said many of the casualties

were caused by a stampede

over the food and people being run over by the aid

trucks. After that, plans for the

sea route took shape and the

United States and other coun-

wounding 155 others.

It plans to distribute the food in the north, the largely devastated target of Israel's initial offensive in Gaza, which has been mostly cut off by Israeli forces since October. Up to 300,000 Palestinians are believed to have remained there despite Israeli evacuation orders, with many reduced to eating animal feed in recent weeks. The aid is a tiny fraction of what is required, but the shipment was intended to pave the way for other larger shipments, officials working on the route have said.

A second vessel being loaded with even more aid will head to Gaza once the aid on the first ship is offloaded and distributed, Cyprus' Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos said. He declined to specify when the second vessel would leave, saying it depends in part on whether the Open Arms delivery goes smoothly.

The Israel-Hamas war was triggered by Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and left another 250 taken into Gaza as hostages. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 31,000 Palestinians and driven most of Gaza's 2.3 million people from their homes. A quarter of Gaza's population is starving, according to the United ping aid into the north by

But people in northern Gaza But people in northern Gaza say the airdrops are insufficient to meeting the vast need. Many can't access the aid because people are fighting over it, said Suwar Baroud, 24, who was displaced by the fighting and is now in Gaza City. Some people hoard it and sell it in the market, she and sell it in the market, she

A recent airdrop that malfunctioned plummeted from the sky and killed five people. Another drop landed in a sewage and garbage dump, said Riham Abu al-Bid, 27. Men ran in but were unable to

retrieve anything, she said. "I wish these airdrops never happened and that our dignity and freedom would be taken into consideration, so we can get our sustenance in a dignified way and not in a manner that is so humiliating," she said. The war has exacerbated tension through out the region and threatened to flare into broader violence. At Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the third-holiest site in Islam, the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan were

tions on worshipers. The mosque has been a frequent flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian violence in the past. Hamas hopes a fresh eruption now would put more pressure on Israel and improve the militant group's leverage in cease-fire talks.

being held amid Israeli restric-

But Israel put restrictions in place limiting West Bank Palestinians' access to the compound for Friday's prayers to men over 55, women over 50 and children under 10. The compound has long been a deeply contested religious space, as it stands on the Temple Mount, which Jews consider their most sacred

May 2 general election

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak has firmly ruled out}}$  an early general election to coincide with local polls scheduled for May 2 amid intense al election, what matters is the speculation from the choice.

Opposition Labour benches. The British Indian leader had indicated earlier in the year that he was considering going to the polls in the second half of the vear but in recent weeks there had been mounting theories that he may call a snap election in early May.

But during an interview with 'ITV News West Country channel on Thursday, he sought to quash the speculation having previously preferred to keep people guessing. "In several weeks' time we've

got elections for police and crime commissioners, for local councils, for mayors across the country," the 43-year-old prime

Asked if there would also be a general election at the same time, Sunak said: "There won't be a general election on that day but when there is a gener-

Rishi Sunak firmly rules out

'I can see that the Labour Party are trying to whip up this idea that I'm about to call a general election. It's very deliberate, it's because they want to avoid questions about how they're going to fund all of their spending commitments," he Labour's deputy national cam-

paign coordinator Ellie Reeves responded on Friday to say people rightly want a general election" after 14 years of a Conservative-led government and accused the governing Tories of "running scared".
"I think he should get on and

call it for May 2. What's he running scared of," Reeves told 'Sky

Sunak faces a tough political landscape as his party lags in most opinion polls with clear signs of anti-incumbency, with the Labour Party holding a

A lot was riding on the Spring Budget earlier this month when Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced some tax cuts. However, the reaction on all sides of the political spectrum is that the announcements are unlikely to have favourably moved the dial on the electoral fortunes of the Conservative Party.

The repeal of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act in 2022 restored the ability of British prime ministers to set election dates. However, by law a general election has to take place at least every five years, making January 2025 the outermost deadline for Sunak to go to the ballot box.

While local council and mayoral elections across England, which take place every four vears, have been scheduled for May 2 for some time, the date for a general election remains

### William and Harry salute Diana's legacy

Prince William and Prince Harry both took part in an awards ceremony in honor of their late mother Princess Diana — but the estranged brothers were many miles apart at the time.

William gave a speech at the Diana Legacy Award, which recognizes young people around the world who are working to improve their communities. California-based Harry addressed the event Thursday by video link, after his brother had left the ceremony at London's Science Museum. William said many of the recip-

ients "have overcome adversity and prejudice, but they are driven by courage, compassion and commitment — qualities shared by my mother.' Mentioning his wife Kate —

public engagements since work." undergoing abdominal surgery in January — William said Diana's legacy "is something that both Catherine and I have who has not appeared at any sought to focus on through our

Harry spoke to the audience via a live video call. He thanked organizers and winners "for inspiring so many others and at mother's legacy."
"I really appreciate that," Harry

Princess Diana was killed in a

car crash in Paris in 1997, when William was 15 and Harry was 12.

The brothers have fallen out since Harry and his wife Meghan quit royal duties and moved to the United States in 2020.

Harry has alleged that the British media treated him and Meghan as villains compared with virtuous William and Kate, and accused palace officials of lying to protect his elder brother.

William, who is heir to the throne, has kept silent in public about the rift.

Last month Harry flew to London to visit his father King Charles III after the monarch was diagnosed with cancer. He did not meet William during the 24-hour flying visit.

### Houthi rebels strike Voters head to poll booths in Russia oil tanker, crew safe

A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a tanker in the Red Sea early Friday, causing damage to the vessel while unharmed, authorities said.

The attack off the port city of Hodeida comes as part of the rebels' campaign against shipping over Israel's ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said the ship

missile." "The vessel has sustained some damage," the UKMTO added. It described the crew as being "safe" and said the ship was continuing on its way, suggesting the damage wasn't

reported being "struck by a

The private security firm Ambrey also reported Friday's attack and said the tanker with armed guards aboard had a "near miss" on Thursday off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden. It said the ship had been Israel-affiliated but changed owners in February. The Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility the attack — it typically takes the rebels hours to acknowledge

their assaults. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, said an "important announcement" would be coming later Friday afternoon from the rebels.

ships since November, saying they want to force Israel to end its offensive in Gaza. The ships targeted by the

Houthis, however, largely have had little or no connection to Israel, the US or other nations involved in the war. The rebels have also fired missiles toward Israel, though they have largely fallen short or been intercepted.

The assaults on shipping have raised the profile of the Houthis, who are members of Islam's minority Shiite Zaydi sect, which ruled Yemen for 1,000 years until 1962.

A report on Thursday claimed the Houthis now had a hypersonic missile, potentially increasing that cachet and putting more pressure on Israel after a cease-fire deal failed to take hold in Gaza before the Muslim holy month of

Ramadan. Hypersonic missiles also would pose a more serious threat to American and allied warships

Voters headed to the polls in Russia on Friday for a three-day presidential election that is all but certain to extend President Vladimir Putin's rule by six more years after he stifled dissent.

the backdrop of a ruthless crackdown that has crippled independent media and prominent rights groups and given Putin full control of the political system.

It also comes as Moscow's war in Ukraine enters its third year. Russia has the advantage on the battlefield, where it is making small, if slow, gains. Ukraine, meanwhile, has made Moscow look vulnerable behind the front line: Long-range drone attacks have struck deep inside Russia, while high-tech drones have put its Black Sea fleet on the defensive.

Voters are casting their ballots Friday through Sunday at polling stations across the vast country's 11 time zones, as well as in illegally annexed regions of Ukraine. Russians also can vote online, the first time the option has been used in a presidential contest; more than 200,000 people in Moscow voted online soon after the polls opened, authorities said. The election holds little sus-



pense since Putin, 71, is running for his fifth term virtually unchallenged. His political opponents are either in jail or in exile abroad, and the fiercest of them, Alexei Navalny, died in a remote Arctic penal colony last month. The three other candidates on the ballot are low-profile politicians from token opposition parties that toe the Kremlin's line Observers have little to no

expectation that the election will be free and fair. Beyond the fact that voters have been presented with little choice, the possibilities for independent monitoring are very limited. Only registered candidates or state-backed advisory bodies can assign observers to polling stations, decreasing the likelihood of independent watchdogs. With balloting over three days in nearly 100,000 polling

stations in the country, any true monitoring is difficult any

'The elections in Russia as a whole are a sham. The Kremlin controls who's on the ballot. The Kremlin controls how they can campaign. To say nothing of being able to control every aspect of the voting and the vote-counting process," said Sam Greene, director for Democratic Resilience at the

Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington. Ukraine and the West have also

the vote in Ukrainian regions that Moscow's forces have seized and occupied. In many ways, Ukraine is at the

condemned Russia for holding

heart of this election, political

say. They say Putin wants to use his all-but-assured electoral victory as evidence that the war and his handling of it enjoys widespread support. The opposition, meanwhile, hopes to use the vote to demonstrate their discontent with both the war and the Kremlin.

The Kremlin banned two politicians from the ballot who sought to run on an antiwar agenda and attracted genuine albeit not overwhelming support, thus depriving the voters of any choice on the "main issue of Russia's political agenda," said political analyst Abbas Gallyamov, who used to work as Putin's speechwriter. Russia's scattered opposition has urged those unhappy with Putin or the war to show up at the polls at noon on Sunday, the final day of voting, in protest. The strategy was endorsed by Navalny not long before his death. "We need to use election day to

show that we exist and there are

many of us, we are actual, living, real people and we are against Putin. ... What to do next is up to you. You can vote for any candidate except Putin. You could ruin your ballot," his widow, Yulia Navalnaya, said. How well this strategy will work remains unclear.

pendent election observer group, said in a report this week that authorities were "doing everything so that the people don't notice the very fact of the election happening." The watchdog described the

campaign ahead of the vote as "practically unnoticeable" and "the most vapid" since 2000, when Golos was founded and started monitoring elections in Russia.

Putin's campaigning was cloaked in presidential activities, and other candidates were "demonstrably passive," the report said.

State media dedicated less airtime to the election than in 2018, when Putin was last elected, according to Golos. Instead of promoting the vote to ensure a desired turnout, authorities appear to be betting on pressuring voters they can control - for instance, Russians who work in state-run companies or institutions — to show up at the polls, the group

## Prosecutors open to delaying Trump's hush-money trial

New York prosecutors said on Thursday they are open to delaying the start of Donald Trump's hush-money criminal trial by a month "in an abundance of caution to give the former president's lawyers time to review evidence they only recently obtained from a previous federal investigation into the matter.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said in a court filing that it does not oppose adjourning the trial for 30 days but would fight the defense's push for a longer delay. Judge Juan Manuel Merchan did not immediately

Jury selection is scheduled for March 25. The hush-money case is one of four criminal indictments against Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Trump's legal team said it has received tens of thousands of pages of evidence from the US attorney's office in Manhattan in the last two weeks, including records about former Trump lawyer-turned-prosecution witness Michael Cohen that are "exculpatory and favourable to the defence". Prosecutors said most of the

newly turned over material is "largely irrelevant to the subject matter of this case", though some records are pertinent. Trump's lawyers want a 90-day delay, but they've also asked Merchan to dismiss the case

entirely, alleging the lastminute disclosures amounted to prosecutorial misconduct

the sharing of evidence. That process, called discovery, is routine in criminal cases and is intended to help ensure a fair

Prosecutors contend Trump's lawyers caused the problem by waiting until January 18 to subpoena the US attorney's office for the full case file — a mere nine weeks before the scheduled start of jury selection. District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said it requested the full

file last year, but the US attorney's office only turned over a subset of records. Trump's lawyers received that material last June and had ample time to seek additional evidence from the federal probe, the DA's office said.

Short trial delays because of issues with evidence aren't and violated rules governing unusual, but any delay in a case

involving Trump would be significant, with trial dates in his other criminal cases up in the air and Election Day less than eight months away. The defence has also sought to

delay the trial until after the

Supreme Court rules on Trump's presidential immunity claims, which his lawyers say could apply to some of the allegations and evidence in the hush-money case. The Supreme Court is scheduled to

hear oral arguments April 25. Arlo Devlin-Brown, a former chief of public corruption for the US attorney's office in Manhattan, said prosecutors may be acquiescing to a delay because they recognise the amount of material is substantial and want to stake out a position they think Merchan will find reasonable.

'The Trump team likely views this as quite a positive on two fronts: They're getting a trove of documents, some of which may be useful, and they're getting more time," said Devlin-Brown, who is not involved in the hush-money case.

Since March 4, Trump's lawyers have received at least 84,000 pages of records from the US attorney's office, including a batch of 31,000 pages on Wednesday, according to a court filing. More material is expected to be turned over in the coming days.

The hush-money case centres on allegations that Trump falsified his company's records to hide the true nature of payments to Cohen, who paid porn actor Stormy Daniels USD 130,000 during the 2016 presidential campaign to suppress her claims of an extramarital sexual encounter with Trump years earlier.

Trump pleaded not guilty last year to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records and has denied having a sexual encounter with Daniels. His lawyers argue the payments to Cohen were legitimate legal expenses and not part of any cover-up

Trump has repeatedly sought to postpone his criminal trials

while he campaigns to retake the White House.
"We want delays," Trump told

reporters as he headed into a February 15 hearing in New York case. "Obviously I'm running for election. How can you run for election if you're sitting in a courthouse in Manhattan all day long?"

At that hearing, prosecutor Matthew Colangelo complained that Trump was attempting to use his complicated legal calendar "to evade accountability" by seeking delays. But Manhattan prosecutors'

new willingness to bump the trial comes about a week after another document dump prompted them to abandon another high-profile case in the midst of a trial — a fact Trump's lawyers hardly missed.

## Shehbaz proposes 5-year plan for Pak's economic revival FTA with Iran likely

**¬**he newly-elected government of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to work on a comprehensive five-year roadmap for the cash-strapped country's economic resurgence, according to a media report on Friday. This strategic blueprint will focus on curbing inflation, alleviating poverty and creating jobs, the Dawn newspaper reported.

In the first meeting, the prime minister sought estimates from different ministries and divisions and formed a committee to go back to the ministries to set five-year targets in different sectors, such as IT, agriculture, industries, energy, food and livestock, reforms in FBR (Federal Board of Revenue), ease of doing business, etc.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja said after the meeting. Khawaja said the committee, after getting the required information from the ministries and divisions, would prepare a consolidated document carrying fiveyear targets for all sectors. She said several meetings would be held soon on the five-year roadmap. Earlier, speaking at the meeting, Prime Minister Sharif said consultation should be held on the plan with all stakeholders of different sectors of the economy. "Without wasting any time, implementation of projects for the economic stability and progress of the country should be ensured," Shehbaz said, according to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office

The prime minister said a schedule of implementation

for the projects should be presented and steps should be taken on a priority basis to speed up progress in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, information technology, foreign investment and small and medium (SME) enter-

He said the government would reduce its expenditure and he would not allow 'further waste of money of the poor".

"In the next five years, the country's economy would be stabilised to put the country on the path of progress," he hoped.

Shehbaz, 72, who earlier this month took oath as the country's PM for a second time since 2022 amidst staggering economic and security challenges, said tax revenue would be increased with digitalisation and technology, while per-acre yields in the



agriculture sector would also be increased with the use of technology.

The loss-making government institutions would be privatised on a priority basis, he added.

Cabinet members Ahsan Muh¬ammad Ahad Khan Igbal, Jehanzeb, Cheema, Dr Musadik Malik, and various high-ranking officers attended the meeting. Earlier, Federal Minister for

Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh reiterated Prime Minister Shehbaz's commitment to Pakistan's rapid development and asked the opposition parties to work with the government to provide relief to the common

Minister for Petroleum and Energy Musadik Malik told journalists on Thursday that the prime minister had also decided to bring down political and social tension in the

"In such a tense situation, even a house cannot run, let alone a country," he said, adding that "we need to show tolerance while maintaining differences so that a tolerant future could be given to a growing population". However, he did not spell out the required measures.

The prime minister, he said, had prepared a couple of sec-

to cheap and green energy. He said that under the agriculture strategy, farmers in rural areas would be provid-ed direct subsidy so that they could arrange fertilisers.

This would be a departure from the existing subsidy regime that provides cheap gas to manufacturers, who pass on the benefit to farmers only partially and keep the remainder with them to earn profits, the report said. Likewise, farmers in rural areas would be provided Iranian Ambassador Ór Reza quality seeds directly for increased productivity to remove middlemen and monopolistic seed companies charging heavy costs to consumers. These farmers would also be facilitated in operating their tube-wells on solar energy, it added.

# toral strategies for agriculture, education, SMEs' promotion and energy transition to chean and group agriculture, chean and group agriculture, education, SMEs' promotion and energy transition to Pak, says envoy

The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan has said a Free Trade Agreement with Pakistan is likely to be finalised during the planned visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Islamabad, according to a media report on Friday.

Amiri Moghadam, while addressing a business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Thursday, said the FTA would increase mutual trade and several bilateral economic and trade agreements would also be signed during the visit, the Dawn newspaper reported.

However, the Iranian envoy did not provide any details such as the timing of the upcoming visit of his country's president. He also said that the two countries need to have strong air, maritime and sea links, which agencies and directed the tele- will strengthen the economic relations and Pakistan will also global trade.

The envoy emphasised the closeness of maritime links, especially Karachi and Gwadar and Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports and said that Gwadar and Chabahar should be declared as sister ports.

trade volume was just USD 2.5

billion, which increased by 11 per cent in the last 11 months After the FTA and bilateral agreements for the promotion of mutual trade, there is a strong possibility that the mutual trade between Pakistan and Iran would reach USD 5 billion in the next few years," he

He said Pakistan and Iran can fulfil 70 per cent of each other's needs by engaging in mutual

trade, just as Iran imports halal

meat, Pakistan can do a lot of work in Iran in this sector. The envoy added that the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline was a significant project, which would benefit both the domestic and industrial sectors of Pakistan. "Iran is serious about resolving Pakistan's energy problems and that is why Tehran completed the gas pipeline project for USD 1 billion in 2009 so that Pakistan could meet its energy needs," he said, adding that it was essential that the project be completed at the earliest. He added that

Iran was already trading in the gas and the energy sector with Turkiye, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, therefore Pakistan can also follow the procedure adopted by these countries. He acknowledged that the banking channel between Pakistan and Iran was a serious issue, but Iran has banking links with Turkiye, Bahrain and Iraq, reported the paper.

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### 'Pak govt has access to legal phone interception system' **Top telecom authority informs Islamabad High Court**

**PTI** ■ ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's telecommunication authority has installed}}$ a system for legal phone interception and the system was at the disposal of the government and its agencies, the chairman of the country's top telecom body told a court here.

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman, Major-General Hafeezur Rehman made the statements during the

Islamabad High Court on Thursday, the Dawn newspaper

reported Responding to a question by Justice Babar Sattar, who was whether there was a mechanism for legal interception, Rehman said that the top telecom body had installed a system, but it was at the disposal of the federal government and its agencies.

However, he added that all pro-

hearing of a case at the visions of the licence for telecom operators have been enforced, except the provision of legal interception

"Phone hacking has become so easy that if you leave your heading the IHC bench, about mobile phone somewhere and go to the washroom, I can connect and hack it before you return," Rehman told the court. Rehman said the Pegasus spyware developed by an Israeli surveillance firm, the NSO Group, can "hack a phone

On being asked if audio recording or phone tapping was being done illegally, the counsel for the telecom authority replied that legal interception does not pertain to cellular services, as it is the domain of the PTA, the government and relevant agencies, the report said.

Justice Sattar pointed out that in the case of legal interception, telecom operators share the individuals' locations with law enforcement agencies, while under an agreement with consumers, the operators are obligated to keep their personal information confidential.

The court also asked if telecom operators could share an individual's personal information with any agency without the government's permission. The PTA lawyer Irfan Qadir told the court that the regulator could take action against such cellular companies for breach of privacy.

The court asked the PTA about the law under which they

shared information relating to a consumer with the relevant com operators to submit a detailed report by the next be connected to regional and hearing date.

The court was hearing a case on the petitions of former chief justice of Pakistan Sagib Nisar's son Mian Najam-us-Saqib and jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, about their audio: conversation leaks, according : He said the current bilateral

### IMF criticises Pak finance ministry declaration | Chinese satellites heading that all targets have been achieved

**PTI** ■ ISLAMABAD

The IMF has expressed its displeasure to cash-strapped Pakistan's claim that it had achieved all structural benchmarks, and quantitative and indicative targets even before scrutinising and completing the review by the global lender.

A team from the International Monetary Fund has reached Islamabad to hold talks before releasing the much-needed final USD 1.1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion bailout package which was agreed last year. According to media reports, the IMF Mission chief Nathan Porter and his colleagues expressed their displeasure that the finance ministry had announced its verdict before the completion of the review process under the USD 3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA) programme, would come up with their prescriptions only after analysing the official data of various sectors of the national economy.

Earlier, the finance ministry announced in its official handout that they had met all structural

Somalia hotel

siege ends

Security forces in Somalia say

they have killed all five attack-

ers who laid siege to a hotel in

a normally secure area of the

Police spokesperson Kasim Roble said Friday that three sol-

diers were killed and 27 people

injured in the Thursday night

attack on the SYL Hotel in

The Somali extremist group al-

Shabab said on Telegram on

Thursday that its fighters man-

aged to penetrate the hotel,

which is not far from the pres-

idential palace and is patron-

ized by government officials.

"The situation is now calm, the

Mogadishu.

getting any feedback from the IMF. The IMF review mission grilled the finance ministry team in the maiden session of the review talks and everyone seemed clueless about how to respond, The News International reported. However, Finance Minister Aurangzeb took the stance that he had taken note of it and such an episode would never be repeated in

Pakistan and the IMF kick-started parleys for the completion of the second review and striking an agreement on the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) after which the release of the last tranche of USD 1.1 billion will be presented before the Fund's Executive Board in the second week of April 2024.

scriptions of raising rates of different taxes, especially General Sales Tax (GST) in order to fetch additional revenues on an instant basis. It will only become affirmative if the FBR faces any shortfall in achieving the tax collection target of Rs879 billion benchmarks and other targets before for March 2024," top official sources

hotel is secure now, and law-

makers and other hotel resi-

dents started returning, and the security situation returned to normal," Roble said.

Journalists were barred from

accessing the hotel after the

Attacks in the seaside capital

had declined in recent weeks as

security was beefed up. Al-

Shabab, which opposes

Somalia's central government,

has been responsible for many

deadly attacks on hotels and

The last major attack in

Mogadishu was in October

2022, when at least 120 civilians

were killed in twin car bomb-

ings at a busy intersection.

other places in the past.

siege ended.

confirmed while talking to the newspaper on Thursday.

The IMF team also asked about the possibility of achieving the target for the last quarter (April-June) to meet the desired annual tax collection target of Rs 9,415 billion. The IMF team inquired about the

exact timeframe for unveiling the simplified tax scheme for retailers and the political will of the incumbent regime in this regard. The FBR high-ups were not able to

The IMF also held crucial talks with energy sector high-ups and asked them to come up with a plan to restrict the circular debt to avoid any further accumulation.

The Ministry of Energy high-ups said that they were withdrawing gas "The possibility of any mini budget subsidies for fertiliser plants and cannot be ruled out at the moment, wanted direction on cheaper fertilisinput of the farm sector.

> According to an official announcement made by the finance ministry on Thursday, an IMF mission called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Ministry of

#### to moon fail to reach orbit **PTI** ■ BEIJING attached to a Long March-2C carrier

A pair of Chinese satellites failed to reach a planned orbit on their way to the moon after experiencing abnormalities, a rare setback for Beijing's high-profile space programme. The satellites, known as DRO-A and

DRO-B, were launched on Wednesday evening from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the Sichuan Province, the launch centre said in a press release on Thursday.

They were carried by A Yuanzheng-1S (Expedition-1S) upper-stage aircraft, rocket, it said.

The first and second stages of the rocket operated normally, while the upper stage encountered an abnormality during flight, causing the satellites to fail to enter the preset orbit accurately, it

The relevant disposal work is currently underway, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the launch cen-

The plan was for the two satellites to head towards the moon and enter a distant retrograde orbit (DRO).

### कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, एफ0आई0यू०,

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, हरिपुर ग्राम कालसी Mail ID- <u>eewbfiu@gmail.com</u>

पत्रांक : 1138 / निविदा सूचना / 2023–24

दिनांक : 15/03/2024

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से देहरादून जनपद में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, कालसी, देहरादून अन्तर्गत विश्व बैंक पोषित अर्द्धनगरीय क्षेत्रों के लिए उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत चयनित जीवनगढ पेयजल योजनान्तर्गत स्टोर रूम निर्माण एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य हेत सीलबन्द निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती है जो कि दिनांक 16.03.2024 से 22.03.2024 तक अपरान्ह 3:00 बर्ज तक कार्य दिवसों में उल्लेखित दरों पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। यह निविदायें दिनांक 23.03.2024 को अथव वर्णित तिथि को अवकाश हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस के साय 3:00 बजे तक शाखा कार्यलय में जमा करवाये ज सकते हैं, जो कि उसी दिन साय 3:30 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं या उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोर्ल

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम		निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (₹)		कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	
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अधिशासी अभियन्त						अभियन्ता

ई-निविदा सूचना

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A rubber dinghy carrying migrants sank off Turkiye's northern Aegean coast on Friday, killing at least 16 people, officials said.

Turkish coast guard personnel rescued two migrants from the sea off the town of Eceabat in Canakkale province, while two others were able to reach the shore by themselves, Gov. Ilhami Aktas said

It was not clear how many people were on the boat when it sank and the coast guard was continuing to search the area, he said. Aktas told the state-run Anadolu

Agency that four of the dead were infants and children. The migrants' nationalities were not immediately known. Ten coast guard boats and two helicopters were involved in the search and rescue mission, Anadolu

Although their numbers have

on standby at a nearby port.

### 15 Indian fishermen detained by Lanka Navy for poaching

The Sri Lanka Navy on Friday detained at least 15 Indian fishermen off the coast of Karainagar in the northern Jaffna Peninsula for allegedly fishing in the island nation's waters, an official statement said, in the latest such incident this year.

The fishermen and their trawler were escorted by the navy to the Kankesanturai port and handed over to the fishing directorate for further action.

In recent weeks, Sri Lankan fishermen have protested against the authorities to protect their rights from the alleged poaching by their Indian counterparts in the Sri Lankan waters.

With this morning's arrests, the total number of Indian fishing trawlers confiscated by the navy in 2024 so far has risen to 16 with 225 fishermen being detained for poaching, the Sri Lanka Navy said.

## Migrant boat sinks off Turkiye's coast, killing at least 16 people

reported. Several ambulances were

declined in recent years, migrants mostly from the Middle East and Africa often leave Turkiye to try to reach Greece in search of a better life in European countries. Some migrants leaving Turkiye also attempt to sail to Italy. The Turkish coast guard said it caught at least 93 migrants attempting to leave the Turkish coast on boats this week.

# Government approves e vehicle policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

government Friday approved an electric-vehicle policy, under which duty concessions will be given to companies setting up manufacturing units in the country with a minimum investment of USD 500 million, a move aimed at attracting major global players like US-based Tesla.

According to an official statement, the companies setting up manufacturing facilities for e-vehicles will be allowed to import a limited number of cars at lower customs duty.

The policy seeks to promote India as a manufacturing destination for EVs and attract investment from reputed global EV manufacturers, it added.

Under the policy, a company will be required to make a minimum investment of USD 500 million or Rs 4,150 crore. There will be no upper "The duty foregone on the total number of EVs allowed for import would be limited to the investment made or Rs 6,484 crore (equal to incentive under PLI scheme) whichever

"A maximum of 40,000 EVs at the rate of not more than 8,000 per year would be permissible if the investment is USD 800 million or more. The carryover of unutilised annual import limits would be permitted," it

The investment commitment made by the company will have to be backed up by a bank guarantee in lieu of the custom duty forgone.

The statement further said the bank guarantee will be invoked in case of non-achievement of DVA (domestic value addition) and minimum investment criteria defined under the scheme guidelines.

It said that the initiative "will provide Indian consumers access to the latest technology, boost the Make in India



initiative, strengthen the EV ecosystem by promoting healthy competition among EV players, leading to high volume of production, economies of scale, lower cost of production, reduce imports of crude oil, lower trade deficit, reduce air pollution, particularly in cities, and will have a positive impact on health and environment".

The policy is designed to attract investments in the evehicle space by reputed global EV manufacturers, it said. As per the policy, a company

will get "three years for setting up manufacturing facilities in India and to start commercial production of e-vehicles, and reach 50 per cent domestic value addition (DVA) within five years at the maximum". With regard to domestic value

addition manufacturing, it said, "a localisation level of 25 per cent (will have to be achieved) by the third year and 50 per cent by the fifth year".

The customs duty of 15 per cent (as applicable to CKD units) would be applicable on

vehicles of minimum CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value of USD 35,000 and above for a total period of 5 years, subject to the manufacturer setting up facilities in India within a three-year period, the ministry

Recently in an interview with the PTI, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India will not tailor its policies to suit US EV maker Tesla, and its laws and tariff rules will be formulated to attract all-electric vehicle manufacturers from across the world to set up a base in the world's fastest-growing

economy Besides Tesla, the other major global manufacturer of e-vehicles is China-based BYD. Tesla, it may be mentioned, has been seeking an initial tariff concession that would allow it to offset 70 per cent customs duty for cars priced less than USD 40,000, and 100 per cent for cars of higher value.

Tesla has pitched the concession demand as a

in India.

The Indian factory, as and when it happens, would be Tesla's sixth vehicle plant.

At present, cars imported as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above USD 40,000.

The fast-growing EV market in India is catching the eyes of global players.

India's electric vehicles market is expected to grow to one crore units in annual sales by 2030 and create five crore direct and indirect jobs, according to the Economic Survey 2022-23. As per industry estimates, the

total EV sales in India stood at around 10 lakh units in 2022. In India, Tata Motors is the leading player in passenger vehicles. electric company's current EV portfolio comprises Nexon EV range, Tiago EV and Tigor EV.



### Indian market has maintained certain level of sanity: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said despite huge fluctuations globally, the Indian stock market has maintained "a certain level of sanity" and the market should be allowed to play on its own.

The statement from the Finance minister comes days after Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had said that there are pockets of froth in the small and midcap stocks and the regulator is looking into the same to come out with into the same to come out with a possible consultation paper. Speaking at India Today Conclave, Sitharaman said, "I allow the markets to play on their own...We should leave it to the wisdom of the market because all of us have seen that despite huge fluctuations globally, the Indian market has maintained a certain level of sanity. It hasn't really gone too violent this way or that way. So, I place a lot of trust in the market."

Earlier this week, the capital markets regulator had raised concerns about valuations of small

midcap stocks, indicating possible market manipulation and the risk of a market bubble.

There are pockets of froth in the small and midcap space in the equity markets that have the potential to become a bubble and burst affecting investors," Buch had said. On Crypto assets, Sitharaman

and that's the government of India position. Currencies are to be issued by the government or the central

said, they cannot be currencies

bank of the day, she said. Crypto assets are technology driven and have a bearing on cross-border payment, she adding said, that a regulatory comprehensive framework around such assets

G20 level. "If one country regulates and others don't, it will be an easy way of moving money, roundtripping or funding drugs or even terrorism and so on. So we wanted to create a framework by taking it to the level of G20. It has been very well received, and I'm sure there will be some framework

emerging," FM added.

Q3 GDP numbers

mystifying, says

has been considered at the

# 4.8 per cent in February

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic rose 4.8 per cent on an annual basis to 126.48 lakh in February, while more than 1.55 lakh passengers were affected by flight delays during the cent of t the same period, according to official data released on

In February, Air India's market share rose to 12.8 per cent from 12.2 per cent while that of IndiGo marginally dipped to 60.1 per cent from 60.2 per

cent in January.
The domestic air traffic climbed to 126.48 lakh in February compared to 120.69 lakh in the year-ago period, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said. However, the traffic was less than 1.31 crore reported in

January. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January - February 2024 were 257.78 lakh, as against 246.11 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 4.74 per cent and monthly growth of 4.80 per cent," DGCA said.

1,55,387 As many as passengers were affected due to flight delays in February out Rs 222.11 lakh towards facilitation

The DGCA also said that passengers were impacted by cancellations and airlines spent Rs 99.96 lakh towards compensation and facilities

Last month, a total of 917 passengers were affected due to denied boarding and the



amount spent by the airlines compensation facilities in this regard was Rs 78.19 lakh.

A total of 791 passengerrelated complaints were received by the scheduled domestic airlines in February and the number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried was around 0.63.

The data showed that 37.8 per cent of the passenger complaints were about flight problems, followed by baggage (19 per cent), refund (16.3 per cent) and customer service (11.1 per cent), as per the data. Last month, the domestic market share of SpiceJet dropped to 5.2 per cent from 5.6 per cent, Vistara and Akasa nanaged to maintain their share at 9.9 per cent and 4.5

per cent, respectively. Connect (formerly AirAsia India) cornered a market share of 6.1 per cent in February, unchanged from the previous month, and similarly Alliance Air's share remained the same as the previous month at 1 per cent According to the data, the On-

Time Performance (OTP) of Air India was 56.4 per cent while that of SpiceJet stood at 59.1 per cent in February. The OTP — computed for the

four metro airports of Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai — was 67.4 per cent for Vistara, 72.7 per cent for IndiGo and 72.9 per cent for Akasa Air. AIX Connect's OTP touched

73.5 per cent in February. "The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines for the month of February

2024 has been 0.90 per cent, DGCA said. The cancellation rate was the highest for Zoom at 7.69 per cent while it was the lowest for Akasa Air at 0.30 per cent.

cancellation rate was 7.41 per cent, Alliance Air (3.83 per cent), Indiaone Air (3.18 per cent), SpiceJet (1.54 per cent), IndiGo (0.84 per cent), AIX Connect (0.64 per cent) and Air India (0.62 per cent). In the case of Star Air and

Vistara, the cancellation rate was at 0.60 per cent and 0.58 per cent, respectively.

creation of SM REITs will pro-

vide a significant boost to the

inflow of investments in the

The additional transparency

and measures to enhance investor's protection, as well as

the decision to reduce minimum

investment threshold to Rs 10

lakh will encourage participation

from retail investors, he added.

With this move, we project this

segment's growth to be on an

accelerated path characterised by

a more regulated, mature mar-

ket coupled with added aware-

ness among stakeholders," Irani

Somy Thomas, Managing

Director, Valuation & Advisory

and Capital Markets, Cushman

Indian Real Estate Sector."

### Domestic air traffic rises | Paytm gets five handles to continue UPI transactions

Fintech firm One97 Communications, owner of the Paytm brand, has got five handles in partnership with four banks to continue UPI transactions, as per an update on the NPCI website.

The company's existing handle @paytm is among the five handles that users can continue using without the need to make any changes at their end. National Payments Corporation

of India (NPCI) has approved @paytm and a closed user group

and foreign fund outflows.

the major laggards.

in the green.

Bank were among the gainers.

negative territory on Thursday.

Equity benchmark indices declined near-ly 1 per cent on Friday after a day's breather amid weak global market trends

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 453.85

points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 72,643.43

after a weak beginning. During the day, the

benchmark tanked 612.46 points or 0.83 per cent to 72,484.82. The NSE Nifty dropped

123.30 points or 0.56 per cent to 22,023.35.

From the Sensex basket, Mahindra &

Mahindra, Tata Motors, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys,

Tech Mahindra and State Bank of India were

Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv,

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong

Kong settled lower, while Shanghai ended

European markets were trading with mar-

on Thursday, according to exchange data.

fc with HDFC bank and @ptsbi with State Bank of India as a partner. However, these two handles are not active immediately. Paytm spokesperson said users can continue to use @paytm handle seamlessly without the need to make any

changes at their end.

On March 14, NPCI approved a third party application (TPAP) provider permit for Paytm in collaboration with SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank and HDFC

22,064.85

UPI handle @ptyes for Paytm in partnership with Yes Bank.
NPCI has also approved @pthd
bank for continuity of UPI transactions for the company's users. Paytm's UPI transactions transactions for the company's users. Paytm's UPI transactions were earlier being carried out through Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) that has been barred by the Reserve Bank of India from accepting deposits, credit transactions, or top-ups in any customer accounts after March 15. One97 Communications Limited (OCL) holds a 49 per cent stake in PPBL, while company's Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds 51 per cent stake in the beleaguered

#### Markets fall after day of breather **BSE SENSEX**



**KBK Infographics** 

ginal gains. The US markets ended in the smallcap index went up by 0.25 per cent. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) "Cautiousness towards mid & smallcaps offloaded equities worth Rs 1,356.29 crore continued to drag market sentiment, dampening the broader market. However, the moderation in global commodity prices and In the broader market, the BSE midcap

**NSE NIFTY** 

Intra-day on March 15, 2024

Previous close:

22,146.65

21,931.70

-123.30

gauge slipped 0.51 per cent while the the upward revision of India's GDP for FY25 are poised to highlight robust domestic demand, potentially supporting a rebound once the broader market attains stability," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit

### Former chief economic advis-er Arvind Subramanian on numbers are 'absolutely mysti-

former CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

fying' and difficult to compre-India's economy grew by betterthan-expected 8.4 per cent in the final three months of 2023 - the fastest pace in one-and-half

vears. want to be honest with you

that the latest GDP numbers, I just simply can not understand "I say that with genuine respect

and things. They are absolutely mystifying. They don't add up. I don't know what they mean Subramanian said while speaking at the India Today conclave The NSO has also revised GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of this fiscal to 8.2 per cent and 8.1 per cent from 7.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent, respectively. Elaborating further, Subramanian said while the implied inflation in these numbers is 1 to 1.5 per cent, actual inflation in the economy is somewhere between 3 and 5 per

'The economy is growing at seven and a half per cent, even though private consumption is at 3 per cent," he pointed out. And in the latest data accounted for, are actually about I don't understand. I am not say-

Subramanian said errors and omissions, which are not 4.3 percentage points out of the estimated 7.6 per cent growth for FY24. "So it's a lot of stuff about the numbers which you know, ing these are wrong. That's for others to judge," the former CEA said. According to Subramanian, while the buzz is that the econ-

omy has become a very good place to invest in, in the last few quarters, and last few years, it has actually declined very sharply. .. You can see foreign direct

investment actually collapsed quite a bit," he said. The former CEA wondered if India has become such an attractive place, why is not there more foreign direct investment. "Private investment, corporate invest-ment is well below levels in 2016," Subramanian pointed

### Shares of IOC, BPCL, **HPCL** tumble

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Oil Market Companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL, and HPCL - tumbled on Friday after the petrol and diesel prices were cut by Rs 2 per litre

each. The stock of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) plummeted 8.10 per cent to Rs 459.60 on the BSE. Shares of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) tanked 6.80 per cent to Rs 158.40 and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) dropped 6.37 per cent to Rs 570.20

This is the first revision in rates in nearly two years.

now cost Rs 94.72 a litre as compared to Rs 96.72 per litre previously while the price of diesel will now come to Rs 87.62 as opposed to Rs 89.62 currently, a price notification of stateowned fuel retailers said. In the equity market, the BSE

benchmark traded with a

decline of 529 points or 0.72 per

cent at 72,568.28

Petrol in the national capital will

year, with 92 per cent of recruiters expecting either new or replacement hiring in the first six months of 2024, a survey said on Friday Naukri's Hiring Outlook Survey is a bi-

annual survey conducted amongst 1,200 recruiters and recruitment consultants across sectors pan-India. "Reflecting on our recent Hiring

Outlook findings, it's encouraging to see that 92 per cent of recruiters remain

optimistic about new and replacement hiring in the first half of 2024. Coupled with anticipation around hiring trends

returning to normalcy, the overall hiring outlook, while calibrated, seems to be stable and balanced," Naukri.Com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goval

tors, stated the survey. Some of the significant hiring in sectors other than IT are business devel-



opment roles and supply chain roles, it said. In contrast, the survey found that marketing roles were among the top three in the mix during the preceding

The survey found that 75 per cent of recruiters anticipate that attrition rates will stay below 15 per cent from January to June 2024, marking a slight improvement from the previous two quarters. Only a small fraction, 5 per cent, said they expect higher attrition rates of 40 per cent or more during the

first 6 month of this year, it stated. ing freeze, many employees want to be

panies they are working for, it added. Around 67 per cent of recruiters surveyed forecasted 5-15 per cent increments across levels during the upcoming appraisal cycle, mirroring trends similar to the mid-year cycle. Over 24 per cent recruiters expected to

#### SM REITs new framework to boost investment: individuals and the upper midment, CREDAI President Boman Irani said, "SEBI's decidle class craves innovation and for dispute resolution." sion to amend the regulations diversification," he said. and establish guidelines for the

Realtors' body CREDAI has hailed the new framework for Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trusts (SM REITs), saying that this will boost the inflow of funds in the Indian property market.

Amid rising demand for highvalue realty assets, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has notified the framework for SM REITs. The watchdog notified the amended regulations for REITs on March 8, permitting fractional ownership of REITs and it will encompass commercial and residential properties.

Investors can now have fractional ownership of rent-yielding real estate assets by making a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh. Commenting on the develop-

& Wakefield, said SM REITs is a landmark development that can help organise the small commercial offices and other and 3 cities.

assets in India including tier 2 "Investment in real estate is preferred by many Indian families and this measure institutionalises the same and mitigates risks to some extent," he added.

Proptech firm Housing.Com

CEO Dhruv Agarwala said the SEBI's recent introduction of norms on fractional ownership in real estate marks a pivotal moment for India's investment landscape.

"For generations, Indians have revered traditional investments like real estate and gold. However, amidst a changing economic landscape, a burgeoning segment of high-net-worth SEBI's progressive regulations

would not only democratise access to real estate assets but also foster diversified portfolios for investors, mitigating risks while maximising returns, the Housing Com CEO said. "By enabling investors to own a

piece of coveted real estate without the hefty price tag of tradi-tional ownership, Sebi's embrace of fractional ownership embodies regulatory adaptability in the face of evolving investor preferences," Agarwala said. Aankush Ahuja, CEO and

Founder, FOIP, said the move will have various advantages for investors. "These include ensuring uniformity, protecting investor interests, promoting fairness and transparency, and

providing access to mechanisms

The regulation of the fractional ownership industry under this framework will encompass both commercial and residential properties, thereby enhancing investor protection, he added. "This move creates numerous

opportunities for retail and institutional investors to participate in office yielding real estate across various market sizes and product types," Ahuja said. Sudeep Chandran, Founder and COO of YOURS (a platform for

Fractional Ownership of Luxury second homes), said the appetite for co-ownership of luxury properties has been on the rise. This trend is here to stay. In fact, the recent guidelines on SM REITs will also help in deepening the fractional market," he said.

### 92 per cent expect new or replacement hiring in H1 2024: Survey stable in their job and stay in the com-

**T**ndian white-collar job market is

Lexpected to witness optimistic hiring sentiments during the first half of this

said. The survey further showed that despite challenges in the IT sector, a majority of recruiters still anticipate that IT roles will dominate hiring activities. This is attributed to significant IT recruitment taking place in non-IT sec-

Lower attrition potentially points to people holding on to their jobs in the face of global headwinds, noted the survey. As the IT/ITES sector face a global downturn and with layoffs and hir-

offer higher than usual increments, it

added. Despite a conservative global sentiment, industries such as infrastructure and manufacturing continue to project robust growth in the current economic environment of the country contributing to higher increments, said the survey.







From the bustling streets of Nairobi to the untamed wilderness of Shaba National Reserve, and the pristine beaches of Mombasa, Kenya beckons with promises of adventure, serenity, and hospitality. Join **DIVYA BHATIA** as she uncovers the hidden gems and unforgettable moments that await in this extraordinary African paradise

# THE H LAK OF AFRICA

a radiant beacon of adventure and natural wonder, casting a spell on Indian travelers with its awe-inspiring landscapes and vibrant biodiversity. The proposal by Ranbir Kapoor to Alia Bhatt amidst the scenic backdrop of Masai Mara only served to etch Kenya deeper into the consciousness of Indian wanderers, leaving an indelible mark on their souls. While Masai Mara gleams as an iconic wildlife haven, Kenya offers a rich tapestry of diverse experiences for the discerning traveler, promising an immersive escapade into nature's embrace, where serenity, warmth, and hospitality intertwine to craft unforgettable memories.

n recent years, Kenya has blossomed into

#### **UNRAVELING NAIROBI**

Our expedition commences in Nairobi, a vibrant metropolis pulsating with life and culture. Despite its modern skyline and bustling thoroughfares, Nairobi retains a profound connection with the natural world, seamlessly blending urban dynamism with wilderness allure. As we delve into the city's heart, a kaleidoscope of experiences unfolds before us - from wildlife safaris within city limits to cultural showcases honoring Kenya's rich

Our first stop, The Giraffe Centre, stands as a testament to Nairobi's unique allure, providing sanctuary for the endangered Rothschild Giraffe. Here, amidst verdant surroundings, visitors have the rare chance to observe these graceful creatures up close. From a raised platform, we extend our hands to feed the gentle giants, their inquisitive gazes reflecting a bond between humans and wildlife. Our journey continues to Nairobi

National Park, an oasis of tranquillity amidst urban sprawl, where majestic lions roam against the backdrop of Nairobi's skyline, reminding us of the delicate harmony between progress and

No exploration of Nairobi is complete without wandering its bustling markets - the Maasai Market and City Market. Here, we immerse ourselves in a riot of colours and textures, navigating alleyways lined with stalls brimming with handcrafted treasures, each artifact narrating a tale of Kenya's rich cultural mosaic.

#### **EMBARKING ON A SAFARI**

Leaving Nairobi behind, we venture into Kenya's wilderness, bound for Shaba National Reserve. Nestled between Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Parks, Shaba unveils untamed landscapes and abundant wildlife across its rugged terrain. As we traverse dusty plains and rocky hills, a symphony of sights and sounds unfolds - Somali





#### TRAVEL TIPS THAT MAY COME HANDY...

Here are a few important things to remember before you pack your bags for

- Apply for an eTA in advance. Indians need only an electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to enter Kenya, and the process is simple and hassle-free. This eTA is free of cost.
- Make sure to apply for the Yellow Fever vaccination well in advance, as it can take some time to obtain. Additionally ensure you have the polio vaccination certificate before you travel, as it is a mandatory travel document for entry into Kenya
- Kenya is a tourist-friendly country, and you can find various ATMs, currency exchange shops, and all kinds of cards are accepted, even at small shops. Still it is suggested to carry smaller denominations of Kenyan Shilling (KES) for easier transactions.
- Avoid bringing mosquito repellents from India, as they may not be effective. It's better to purchase them in Kenya, where they are more potent.
- During game drives or hiking tours, avoid wearing shorts, as you may encounter strange insects or come into contact with poisonous plants or shrubs in the wild.
- Don't forget to purchase traditional Kenyan artifacts, jewellery, and other souvenirs, as they are unique and offer wonderful memories of your trip.

Food is not a challenge. You have

- multiple options available, including Indian food. Buy a local sim at the airport as it is
- easy and a convenient option. You can also exchange the currency at the airport as they offer good exchange
- Avoid walking alone in poorly lit areas at night and ensure to keep your valuables securely with you at all times. If you're traveling with children, remember to carry an ample supply of medicines and bottled water. It's advisable to book accommodations and tour operators with reputable credentials to ensure a safe and enjoyable stay
- Bargaining is a customary practice in Kenya's markets and when interacting with street vendors, so don't hesitate to showcase your Indian talent for

giraffes, Grevy's zebras, and the famed "Special Five" thriving amidst the harsh beauty of Shaba. Against this backdrop, life's resilience in adversity becomes apparent, a testament to nature's enduring spirit.

#### **LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK**

Our journey leads us to Lake Nakuru National Park, nestled within the Great Rift Valley. Named for its algae blooms, the lake teems with birdlife, while terrestrial wonders abound endangered rhinos, graceful giraffes, and towering waterbucks. Against the lake's shimmering waters, a tableau of life unfolds, each creature a testament to the delicate balance of nature. From the lumbering hippopotamuses to the agile impalas, Lake Nakuru's wildlife captivates us with its beauty and resilience, reminding us of the fragility of the natural world.

#### **VENTURING INTO MAASAI MARA**

We were filled with eager anticipation, brimming with high expectations, as we awaited the chance to behold the majestic Lions in their natural domain. Each day held the promise of a fresh adventure, yet it was the exhilarating game drives, offering glimpses of the iconic "Big Five" in their native environs, that truly elevated our excitement to unprecedented heights at Maasai Mara. Famed for its aweinspiring wildebeest migration, a defying adequate spectacle description, Maasai Mara exceeded all expectations. At long last, our much-anticipated moment arrived, and the sight of these magnificent creatures in their undoubtedly made our day. The of traditional melodies, Maasai Mara longer one spends in Maasai Mara, the deeper the enchantment with its stands as one of Earth's most amidst the shifting currents of breathtaking locales, its expansive modernity. savanna vistas leaving visitors spellbound. Here, the dream of encountering the "Big Five" becomes



observe a regal lion family but also to witness cheetahs stealthily concealed amidst the golden grass, a lioness on the hunt for her next meal, and a sizable herd of hippos luxuriating in the Mara River. And who could overlook the majestic African elephants traversing the plains? Yet beyond its abundant wildlife, Maasai Mara offers a portal into

Kenya's rich cultural tapestry, with opportunities to engage with Maasai communities and partake in age-old customs firsthand. As we immersed ourselves in the cadences of Maasai existence, we were warmly embraced, our hosts eager to impart their traditions and narratives. From the intricate beauty of Maasai element beadwork to the pulsating rhythms serves as a gateway to a world untouched by the passage of time, splendour grows. Undoubtedly, it where ancient customs endure

#### **EXPLORING MOMBASA**

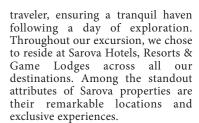
Our journey culminates tangible reality. During our sojourn, Mombasa, a coastal gem blessed with we were privileged not only to pristine beaches and rich cultural



heritage. Diani Beach beckons with its azure waters and golden sands, while Mombasa Marine National Park offers a glimpse into underwater wonders. Snorkeling amidst vibrant marine life, we conclude our adventure with a taste of Mombasa's vibrant nightlife.

#### **FINDING A PLACE IN WILDERNESS**

As we journey through Kenya, we discover solace in a variety of lodges and camps, each offering a distinctive fusion of comfort and adventure amidst the untamed wilderness. Ranging from opulent safari lodges to humble tented camps, Kenya's accommodations cater to the preferences of every



The Sarova Hotel Group not only furnishes sumptuous accommodations but also upholds a steadfast commitment to sustainable tourism and ethical practices. Through active participation in environmental conservation and community initiatives, the hotel group demonstrates a sincere dedication to safeguarding Kenya's natural and cultural legacy. For further information regarding Sarova Hotels and Resorts or to make reservations, please visit their website at www.sarovahotels.com.

#### TRAVEL BETWEEN THE CITIES Kenya's cities are well-connected by

road, but for those seeking true adventure, consider ALS for swift and scenic travel. For game drives, rely on One Above Destination Management Service for a fleet of vehicles and experienced drivers. In Kenya, adventure beckons at every turn - a symphony of nature's bounty and cultural riches, promising indelible memories and a journey of



# STOP CLOCK RULE MADE PERMANENT IN ODIS, T20IS

racking the whip on time-wasting tactics in white-ball cricket, the ICC on Friday announced that the stop-clock system, which requires teams to start a new over within 60 seconds of the previous one to avoid penalty runs, will become a permanent feature starting with the T20 World Cup this

The system, which is currently on trial, was introduced in December 2023, and has now been incorporated into the standard playing conditions which will be in operation from June 1, 2024, when T20 World Cup begins in the USA and the West Indies.

The failure of the fielding side to be ready to bould the first

to be ready to bowl the first ball of their next over within the stipulated 60 seconds will attract two warnings, and the subsequent breaches will lead to a five-run penalty per incident.

"The stop-clock is set to become permanent in all ODIs and T20Is from June 2024, starting with the ICC men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA," the ICC said in a statement after its Annual Board Meeting.

"The trial was supposed to run until April 2024, but the experiment has already yielded results in terms of timely completion of matches, saving approximately 20 minutes per ODI match," it added.



An electronic clock, counting down from 60 to zero, will be displayed on the ground, and the third umpire can determine the start of the

However, the ICC has also laid out some exceptions to the rule, and the clock, if it has already been started, can be cancelled in some situations. "If a new batter comes to the crease between the overs, during official drinks interval or during the on-field treatment of an injury to a batter or a fielder. The rule will also not be activated if the time is lost because of circumstances beyond the control of the fielding side," the ICC said.

Fielding Teams have often been guilty of trying to slow down proceedings to get more time to strategise and change field placements after every delivery. So far, the team and the captain could only be penalised financially which hasn't worked as well in stopping the practice.

RESERVE DAY FOR T20

RESERVE DAY FOR T20 The global governing body WC SEMIS, FINAL: The ICC also approved the

meeting has also approved reserve days for the semifinals (June 27) and the final (June 29) of the T20 World Cup.

During the league or Super Eight stages, a minimum of five overs will have to be bowled to the team batting second to constitute a full game.

However, in the knockout matches, a minimum of 10 overs need to be bowled in the second innings to constitute a

qualification process for the T20 World Cup 2026, to be cohosted by India and Sri Lanka. The tournament will feature 20 teams and will have 12 automatic qualifiers.

automatic quainters.

The top eight teams in the 2024 World Cup will join India and Sri Lanka as automatic qualifiers, with the remaining spots taken up by the next best-ranked sides in the ICC T20I rankings as of lune 30, 2024 June 30, 2024.

The remaining eight positions will be filled through the ICC

### There is only one MSD, I am happy to be Dhruv: Jurel

He might be drawing comparisons with Mahendra Singh Dhoni, but wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel on Friday said nobody can quite match up to the former India captain and he would rather focus on carving his own niche in international cricket. Jurel, who made his Test debut during the recentlyconcluded series against England, was sharp behind the wickets, solid with the bat and quite instinctive while guiding captain Rohit Sharma during DRS calls.

His assured performance prompted the legendary Sunil Gavaskar to compare Jurel with Dhoni, but the 23-yearold, who is the son of a Kargil war veteran, begged to differ.

'Thank you so much Gavaskar sir for comparing me with Dhoni sir. But I want to say personally that no one can replicate what Dhoni sir has done," Jurel said at the 'India Today Conclave' here.

There is only one Dhoni. Always was and always will be. For me, I just want to be Dhruv Jurel. Whatever I do, I want to do as Dhruv Jurel. But Dhoni sir is a legend and he will always remain like that," added the young wicketkeeper-batter. Jurel called Tests the "purest" form of the game and said getting the India cap was a dream come true for him.

"It (getting the Test cap and getting the man of the match) hasn't yet sunk in. It was a pleasure to play Tests, the purest form of cricket. I was sure that I would play Test cricket some day and it has



been a dream-come-true moment for me." "I always wanted to play Tests. When I was playing U-19, my goal was to play 200 Tests, which I later realised was not possible," said the youngster, who at the age of 12, travelled alone to a cricket academy in Noida for training from his Agra home.

dismissed Jurel also comparisons between Test cricket and Indian Premier League as unrealistic. '(For me) IPL has not reduced

the love for (Test) cricket. When I got the baggy cap (India Test cap), it was a different feeling altogether. There is no contest whatsoever (between the two). Test cricket is at a different level," he said. On whether he fancies his chances of making the squad for the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA, Jurel said he wasn't thinking so far ahead. The World Cup is to be held in June.

"To be honest, I don't have to think much; let's just control the controllables," he said. Jurel also praised the BCCI's recent move to reward those playing more Test matches, saying it was a "great initiative" but he was still trying to figure out the increase in perks.

It was an emotional moment for Jurel when his father, Nem Chand, who was also present among the guests at the conclave, saluted his son for bringing laurels to the country.
"Dad was in the (Indian) Army. He wanted me to join the special forces and prepare for the NDA (National Defence Academy exams). Dad was disciplined in diet

and training. "(But) he was not in favour of cricket. So I did not tell dad (initially) that I had started playing cricket. He tried to convince me to continue with academics. Then I approached my mother and tried to bring

both on the same page.
"Finally, he agreed to get me a slogger bat made of Kashmir willow. When I wanted a kit worth Rs 5000-6000, my mom said she would sell her gold chain to get me one," he recalled a well-documented anecdote from his formative



### Not disappointed about missing IPL: Musheer

Atop of cricketers' bucket list, but Mumbai's teenaged Ranji Trophy hero Musheer Khan is happy that he went unsold during last year's player auction because it gives him some more time to "understand" the T20 format. The 19-year-old, who became the youngest Mumbai batter to score a hundred in a Ranji final eclipsing the mark of legendary Sachin Tendulkar, was confident of making his mark in the IPL in due course. "My name is not in the IPL. But I don't feel disappointed. My father tells me to play Test cricket and play for Team India. IPL will eventually happen, if not today then tomorrow," Musheer told PTI Video recalling the words of his father and formative coach

n IPL contract might be on

"It's good that I got another year to prepare for the IPL. I will understand T20 cricket more, and how I should prepare for this format," said Musheer, who has so far played just five First-Class matches.

Naushad.

Musheer embossed his name on the Ranji final against Vidarbha recently with a 136 in the second innings that helped Mumbai set a massive target of 538. It eventually helped Mumbai land their record-extending 42nd title in the Ranji Trophy. Understandably,

drew inspiration from his elder brother Sarfaraz, who made his India debut in the third Test against England at Rajkot last month.

"I am really inspired by my brother because of his

dedication and the way he bats. Our batting style is similar. He told me before the game (Ranji final) to think of it as a normal match and not to take too much pressure."
"From outside, it may feel like

a normal match but on the field, we feel pressure on the field. He told me to back my skills and follow the process," he added.

Musheer, who was also the leading run-scorer in the ICC Under-19 World Cup earlier this year including two hundreds, was quite chuffed after Mumbai's Ranji Trophy triumph after a gap of eight years.
"It's a matter of pride that we

have amassed 42 titles. Many great players have played here (for Mumbai). I feel very proud that I have played for Mumbai and won a championship.

'I also want to thank the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) and congratulate them because they have provided us with a lot of support. I hope they continue to back us in the same way," he said.

The elegant right-hander lauded veteran pacer Dhawal Kulkarni, who retired after the

Ranji Trophy final. "The support he has given to Mumbai cricket, the things he has done for Mumbai, it's incredible. The speech he gave ahead of the final was a real motivation for all of us.

"It was his last match. We were emotional and we wanted to win the trophy as a gift to Dhawal bhai. We wanted him to leave happily. He took the last wicket (of Vidarbha) of the match and everything came out perfectly," he noted.

### Wade to retire from first class cricket favourite format. What I'm

**PTI** HOBART

ustralian wicketkeeper-Australian WICKETKEEPEr-batter Matthew Wade on Friday said he will retire from first-class cricket after the upcoming Sheffield Shield final, but will remain available for selection in white-ball

The Sheffield Shield final Tasmania and between Western Australia, beginning here on March 21, will be Wade's final red-ball match of a career that started in 2012.

After that game, the left-handed batter will join Gujarat Titans for IPL 2024, though he will miss the first couple of appearance was against find at Brisbane in 2021 after which lost his place to Alex Carrey. "Red-ball cricket has always been my number one and

clashes with the league's schedule. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that the long-form game provides, and although I will continue to play white ball cricket, wearing the baggy green while playing for my country remains a highlight of my career," said Wade in a statement

Wade in a statement. Wade appeared in 36 Tests for Australia and made 1613 runs with four centuries at an average of 29.87. His last Test appearance was against India at Brisbane in 2021 after which



going to miss is sitting down after four days of really grinding it out in a First-Class game and having a beer with vour teammates.

"I've played franchise leagues around the world and you don't get that feeling," he added.

However, Wade has developed himself as a finisher in T20 format in recent years, and played a significant role in Australia's triumphant run in the T20 World Cup 2021. His unbeaten 41 off just 17 balls against Pakistan in the semifinal at Dubai remains one of his most mamorable knocks.



arfaraz Khan said on Friday that Shis father, Naushad, urged him to play domestic matches as if he was playing for the country even when his selection to the Indian team was getting delayed despite scoring tall runs in the national circuit.

Sarfaraz finally got the opportunity to play for India during the recentlyconcluded five-match Test series against England where he showcased his prowess by scoring three half-

Despite an amazing First-Class record of scoring 3,912 runs at an average of

69.85 with 14 centuries, the Mumbai cricketer wasn't getting a break in the India team. Even the legendary Sunil Gavaskar backed his Test selection last year after seeing him score copious amount of runs in domestic

"I would ask my father when would I get a chance to play for India and if there were people supporting us. He would tell me just one thing, think as if you're playing for India in your next domestic match and score runs there

"So I only had one job, that was to score runs whereever I'm playing," Sarfaraz said during the India Today

Sarfaraz was handed the Test cap by former India captain Anil Kumble

before the third Test in Rajkot, where he scored two half-tons to emulate Gavaskar. From my childhood, I have been hearing stories about the importance of Test cricket. My father kept telling me the importance of the longest format of the game. It's not like there

was playing my maiden series," Sarfaraz said. Sarfaraz thanked Gavaskar for taking up his cause. Gavaskar, reacting to the

cricketer not getting a Test berth in

was no pressure, I felt pressure when I

January last year, had said the selectors should not choose players based on their shape or physique, but rather on their form with the bat or

"I want to say thank you to Gayaskar sir, who has helped and supported

Sarfaraz said playing for India had seen his social media following rise exponentially.

"My Instagram followers have grown to 1.5 million after my Test debut. For the last four years, it was 600-700k followers on Instagram. Suddenly, after playing for India, it has become 1.5 million. It's good," Sarfaraz said.



2024 due to an injury. The Capitals have roped in Australian all-rounder Jake Fraser-McGurk in place of

Friday ruled out of the IPL

McGurk, a 21-year-old hardhitting opener and leg-spinner from Melbourne, made his ODI debut against the West Indies at Sydney last month. He has joined DC for his

reserve price of Rs 50 lakh. Ngidi, who has been battling an ankle niggle from India's tour to South Africa in December, 2023-January, 2024, has played 14 IPL matches and has taken 25 wickets.

### back in

 $F^{\text{resh}}_{\text{run}} \ \text{from a title-winning} \\ \text{frun with Mumbai in the}$ Ranji Trophy, India all-rounder Shardul Thakur is now looking forward to his IPL homecoming with the Chennai Super Kings where he expects to "grow" under the leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni after a not-so-great season last year.

Thakur was part of the CSK squad from 2018 to 2021 before plying his trade with Delhi Capitals (2022) and Kolkata Knight Riders (2023). He will return to CSK this season after being bought for Rs 4 crore.

"Honestly, I did not have a great IPL last year," Thakur told PTI Videos in an interview. Thakur averaged 14.13 with

the bat and managed seven wickets in the 11 IPL games he

played last year.

"I am very excited to play under Mahi Bhai. There is something or the other that you take away from the game when you are playing with him. He is standing behind the stumps, guiding you, allowing you to grow," he said on the sidelines of the Ranji Trophy final against Vidarbha here on Thursday which the hosts won by 169 runs for a 42nd title. Thakur said Dhoni's leadership

style is driven by the allowing philosophy of individuals to flourish. "I think that's the biggest quality that he possesses, he

gives a lot of freedom to players and asks them to take ownership of performances, and I am excited to join CSK again, I will say I am playing for a team that values family and values family culture," said the all-rounder. Thakur will be joined by new entrants like voungster Sameer Rizvi and New Zealand all-



rounders Daryl Mitchell and Rachin Ravindra in the CSK

dugout.
Reflecting on Mumbai's brilliant Ranji campaign this year, Thakur lavished praise on teammates and the Mumbai Cricket Association for the winning run. On his part, Thakur struck a

hundred in the semifinal boys, coaches, and support

against Tamil Nadu and contributed a 75-run knock in the first innings of the final

against Vidarbha. "I started off very late, I played a couple of Vijay Hazare games for the team and then I came back to the team only in the second last league game, the sixth league game, But all the staff they have been working really hard, from the month of June till now," he said.

"I think the process for everyone started from the month of June whether it is fitness, game-related, polishing their skills, each and every thing...In Mumbai, for threefour months you can't have any cricket because of rains

..Today we were 15 of us but there are three to four members of our team who were not in the squad today but you know they have played one or two odd games at some point in time and they have done well in that game so

...Overall the credit, I would give right from the MCA management because association, supported us each and every time, the coaches, support

trainers, physiotherapists, everyone and the boys of course," Thakur said. Thakur was particularly

the youngest player of the match winner in a Ranji final after his brilliant second innings hundred that helped Mumbai set Vidarbha a mammoth target of 538. "I think the way he (Musheer Khan) is batting and contributing in the field, they

impressed with 19-vear-old Musheer Khan, who became

way he is fielding and the way he is bowling, I think he is mature enough to play at the highest level of cricket in the Ranji trophy or the IPL," Thakur said. 'We hardly find these kinds of

players who are already ready when they come to the Ranji trophy and he is one of them," he pointed out.

...It's always pleasing to see youngsters coming in and performing straight away. The kind of maturity that he has shown in the last three games is just unreal to see," he signed

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