

Unholy Dip: Hindu numbers shrink by eight per cent

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Astudy titled "Share of Religious Minorities - A Cross Country Analysis (1950-2015) by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has revealed that the population share of the majority religion in India (Hindus) declined sharply by 7.8 per cent between 1950 and 2015, while a number of neighbouring countries saw a jump in the population of their majority community.

While the Hindu population shrunk in India, the share of minorities, including Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Sikhs, went up. However, the number of Jains and Parsis in the population saw mix decrease. Between 1950 and 2015, the Muslim population share in India surged by 43.15 per cent, Christians saw a 5.38 per cent increase, Sikhs a 6.58 per cent rise, and Buddhists a slight increase. The study, released in May 2024, assessed trends in 167 countries across the world. The authors of the study say, "India's performance is consistent with the larger global trends." The study highlighted that the share of the majority Hindu population decreased by 7.82 per cent between 1950 and 2015 (from 84.68 per cent to 78.06 per cent) in India. The share of Hindus in India's population saw a decrease from 84 per cent in 1950 to 78 per cent in 2015, while that of Muslims witnessed an increase from 9.84 per cent to 14.09 per cent in the same period (of 65 years). "The share of Muslim population



in 1950 was 9.84 per cent and increased to 14.09 per cent in 2015 - a 43.15 per cent increase in their share. The share of Christian population rose from 2.24 per cent to 2.36 per cent — an increase of 5.38 per cent between 1950 and 5.38 per cent between 1950 and 2015. The share of Sikh population increased from 1.24 per cent in 1950 to 1.85 per cent in 2015 - a6.58 per cent rise in their share. Even the share of the Buddhist population witnessed a noticeable increase from 0.05 per cent in 1950 to 0.81 per cent. On the other after Myanmar's 10 per cent.

hand, the share of Jains in the population of India decreased from 0.45 per cent in 1950 to 0.36 per cent in 2015. The share of the Parsi population in India witnessed a stark 85 per cent decline, reducing from 0.03 per cent share in 1950 to 0.004 per cent in 2015," it said The shrinking of the majority population in India (by 7.8 per

cent) is the second most significant decline in the

Modi questions Rahul's

silence on Ambani, Adani

Apart from India, majority community (Hindu) saw a 3.6 per cent decline in its share of the country's population. Buddhists, who constituted 11 per cent of the population in 1950 also witnessed a 25 per cent decrease and their share was reduced to 8 per cent in 2015. On the other hand, the share of Muslim population increased from 2.6 per cent to 4.6 per cent — a jump of 75 per cent. In 1950, the share of Christian population in Nepal was approximately zero.

PM schools Sam on Indianness

PITRODA SAYS SOUTH INDIANS LOOK LIKE AFRICANS. **UUITS AFT**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

n the midst of a high-voltage Lok Sabha poll Congress L campaign, leader Sam Pitroda once handed enough again ammunition to the BJP with his analogy depicting India's diversity. Slamming his comments as "racist", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Pitroda's pounced on comment to hit out at the grand old party and asserted that people will not tolerate attempts to insult them based on their skin colour. Later Pitroda was forced to resign as the chairman of the

after

accepted Pitroda's decision. Droupadi Mur At his rallies in Telangana, presidential bid to Indian Overseas Congress his controversial

remarks as the INDIA Bloc Modi said he is livid with the leaders too disapproved of his racial profiling of Indians by 'racist' comments. Congress the US-based "philosopher chief spokesman Jairam and uncle of shehzada (Rahul Ramesh said party chief Gandhi)", and linked the Mallikarjun Kharge has Congress's opposition to

mindset, which saw her as an "African" because of the colour of her skin.

"I am very angry today. I do not get angry if someone abuses me. Today, the philosopher of 'shehzada' (prince) has inflicted such a big abuse that I am full of anger. Will people's abilities in our country be decided by the colour of their skin? Who has allowed the shehzada to play this game of skin?" Modi said As Pitroda's remarks went

viral and triggered a political firestorm, the Congress once again in a weeks' time distanced itself from its overseas wing chairperson's remarks and even criticised those as "most unfortunate

and unacceptable" The BJP dismissed the stand Congress's as meaningless as it cited Pitroda's close association with the Gandhi family and launched a blistering attack. Pitroda's comments at a podcast landed his party in yet another soup, soon after his reference to inheritance tax in the United States as

"interesting law" an while discussing the Congress's Lok Sabha poll manifesto gave the ruling BJP a potent handle to accuse the opposition party of eying citizens' assets as part of its "redistribution of wealth" policy.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

 $F^{\text{ollowing the trend of low}}_{\text{voter turnout continuing}}$ in the Lok Sabha elections, even in the third phase, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a frontal attack on the Opposition led

by Congress, claiming corporate giants like Adani their campaign was funded by black and Ambani?. Modi on money. during the election campaign accused the Congress of having a nexus with "Ambani and Adani",

This prompted a terse response from the Congress, which said the BJP has realised it is "shaking" after three phases and has now started attacking its own "friends," showing the "real trend" of the result." In a public speech, the PM asked the INDIA Bloc leader Rahul Gandhi as to why he



Wednesday for the first time

and asked if the party has

received "tempo loads of

black money" from the two

businessmen as Rahul has

now stopped "abusing"

In what appeared to be changing the narrative on

AstraZeneca recalls

Covid vaccine amid

them.

used by the Congress to attack Modi and his Government at the Centre, the PM also demanded that the party should explain to people why it has stopped raising the 'Ambani-Adani' issue as its 'shehzada' used to do for the past five years and asked if it has struck a 'sauda' (deal).

the issue that was until now

The Congress has been accusing the Prime Minister of favouring the top five industrialists in the country, including Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani. Congress said the 'man' who collected ₹8,200 crore of Electoral Bonds for his party a scam so egregious that even the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional — is today levelling allegations on others.

Staff woes ground Air India Express flights



Taking note of the incident, the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Wednesday sought a report from Air India Express on cancellation of flights after a section of cabin crew reported sick evidently to est against changes in the

Murmu's

its

JJP favours toppling BJP Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

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m T}^{
m he~BJP's~former~ally}_{
m Jannayak~Janata~Party}$ (JJP) on Wednesday said it is ready to help the Congress bring down BIP the Government in Haryana, a day after three Independent

MLAs withdrew supp

side effects storm ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

 $M_{\text{in a UK court that its}}^{\text{onths after admitting}}$ COVID-19 vaccine, which is peing sold as Covishield

University.

injuries

AstraZeneca

The



RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Hundreds of passengers, political political leaders and workers, were left stranded and staged protests at various airports across the nation after Air India Express cancelled over 86 flights due to the cabin crew going on a "mass sick leave" on Tuesday night.

The major airports — Kochi, Calicut, Delhi and Bengaluru - witnessed chaotic scenes as most flight disruptions happened here. The international and domestic flights were cancelled after about 300 senior cabin crew members reported sick at the last minute and switched off their mobile phones. According to sources, southern regions have reported major cancellations. Air India Express CEO Aloke Singh said there will be more curtailment of flights over the

next few days amid cabin woes. "Flight

crew curtailment being done to cope with non-availability of crew, recover schedules," the

CEO said in a statement. Many of them said the delayed flights could result in them losing their jobs as their work visas were about to expire while some political leaders and workers could not reach their destinations to attend the rally of their leaders in the upcoming fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

Passengers also complained that the airline provided no accommodation, leaving them stranded until their rescheduled flight takes off. Some passengers claimed they were forced to spend the night at the airport. Some of them claimed that they were informed about the cancellations after the airports have completion of security social media.

flight rescheduling but some passengers are demanding instant refunds and same-day rescheduling.

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This is the second time in about a month that a Tata Group owned airline is facing flight disruptions (Vistara too had to cancel flights due to crew unavailability in the first week of April).

Among thousands of flvers who were hit by the sudden cancellations of the Air India Express flights on Wednesday was Jammu & Kashmir former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad who said Air India should be shut and nothing will come out of it because its culture is bad. The stinging comment came from a former civil aviation minister who said

he never travelled by Air India. Videos of furious passengers

gathered at Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram airports have gone viral on

the ruling party. resources policy. Meanwhile, Air India Express

Claiming that the BJP Government is reduced to a has offered a full refund or minority, the Congress, on its part, demanded the imposition of the President's rule and early Assembly elections in the State. However, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini asserted that his Government is not in any trouble. His predecessor and party colleague M L Khattar also claimed that many MLAs are in touch with the BJP and there is "nothing to worry

> Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) withdrew support to the ruling BJP in Haryana on Tuesday and announced that they would back the Congress.

> The fast-paced political developments in the State come at a time when Lok Sabha polls are just a fortnight away and Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in October.

Speaking to media in Hisar, JJP leader Dushyant Chautala

said if a no-confidence motion is brought in the Assembly, they will vote against the Saini Government. "I want to tell Opposition Leader of Bhupinder Singh Hooda that going by the present numbers in the Assembly, when this Government is in a minority, if a step is taken that this government is brought down during (Lok Sabha) elections, then we will fully consider to support them in this from

outside' "Now, the Congress has to think whether they will take a step to bring down the BJP government," Chautala said. Reacting to this, Congress leader Hooda said, "They should write to the Governor (that Government is in a minority)".

Dushyant Chautala also ruled out reviving his party's alliance with the BJP. The two parties had snapped ties in March. "I have made it guite clear that JJP will not minority and it has no moral go with BJP now," Chautala right to stay in power.

said and demanded that Saini should either prove majority or submit his resignation.

The 90-member Haryana Assembly at present has an effective strength of 88 with Karnal and Rania Assembly seats being vacant. The BJP has 40 MLAs, the Congress 30 and the JJP 10 in the House. INLD and Haryana Lokhit Party has one member. Independents are six. The Government has the support of two of the

Independent legislators. Independent MLA Nayan Pal Rawat said he had given unconditional support to the BJP in 2019 and it is continuing even now. "The Government is not in any trouble, it is working strongly," Chief Minister Saini told reporters at Sirsa while replying to queries on the withdrawal of support. However, Hooda said the

India, may have a potential rare blood clot side effect known as Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), pharma giant AstraZeneca has recalled the jab made in collaboration with Oxford

British-Swedish DY Chandrachud multinational acknowledged the issue, pharmaceutical company which includes demands for faces lawsuits from more than 50 alleged victims and their families who claim fatalities or permanent brain following vaccination during Covid pandemic. The company's COVID-19 vaccine is being sold as Vaxzevria in Europe. had in February this year admitted in the court that its COVID-19 vaccines could in verv rare cases have the potential to cause Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a condition that leads to blood clots and low platelet count.

However, the company in a statement said that withdrawal has been initiated due to a surplus of available updated vaccines since the pandemic. It has voluntarily withdrawn the "marketing authorisation" for the vaccine within the European Union, and similar applications are expected to be made in other countries where the vaccine was approved. However, it remains unclear whether the vaccine will be

withdrawn in India, where it is manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII). The SII has not yet commented on the developments.

The vaccine has come under the lens of the Supreme Court in India which two days ago agreed to hear a petition on a rare side-effect associated with the jab.

A date for the hearing has not been set but Chief Justice of the Apex Court



an expert panel to investigate the side-effect and for the Government to provide compensation for families of those who may have died after taking the drug. An early hearing of the petition, though, has been ruled out. According to reports, the SII has a stock of 250 million doses of Covishield at its Pune facility, which could be used for any future eventuality. Sources at the SII had in 2022 indicated plans to

halve the production of Covishield as it had a 500 million doses inventory at its facility. Half of these were finished doses, while the remaining were bulk doses that were not converted to formulation.

Meanwhile, the European Medicines Agency, the medicines regulator for the European Union (EU), issued a notice on Tuesday to confirm that Vaxzevria -known as Covishield in India — is no longer authorised for use in the 27member economic bloc after AstraZeneca (AZ) voluntarily withdrew its

authorisation in March. 'AstraZeneca has therefore taken the decision to initiate withdrawal of the marketing authorisations for Vaxzevria within Europe. We will now work with regulators and our partners to align on a clear

path forward to conclude this chapter and significant contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic," it said.

India tops in dollar remittance with 111 billion paycheck

PTI UNITED NATIONS

ndia received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, the largest in the world, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the USD 100 billion mark, the United Nations migration agency has said.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in its World Migration Report 2024 launched Tuesday, said in 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and France were the top five remittance recipient countries.

"India was well above the rest, receiving more than USD 111 billion, the first country to reach and even surpass the largest inflows of remittances migration

USD 100 billion mark. Mexico was the second-

largest remittance recipient in 2022, a position it also held in 2021 after overtaking China, which historically had been the second-biggest recipient after India," the report said. According to the report's data, India was the top country receiving remittances in 2010 (USD 53.48 billion), 2015 (USS 68.91 billion), and 2020 (USD 83.15 billion), with the remittances crossing the USD 100 billion mark to

reach USD 111.22 billion in 2022. It noted that with a very large number of migrant workers

top ten recipients of international remittances in from the subregion, Southern the world, underscoring the Asia receives some of the significance of from

globally.



subregion.

Three countries in Southern "With India estimated to have received more than USD 111 Asia-India, Pakistan and billion in 2022, it is by far the Bangladesh, rank among the recipient largest international remittances in the world and the first country to ever reach that labour figure," the report said. the

of

Pakistan and Bangladesh were the sixth and eighth international largest remittance recipients in 2022, receiving nearly USD 30 billion and USD 21.5 billion respectively. The report however noted

that while remittances remain a lifeline for many people in the subregion, migrant workers from these countries continue to face a myriad of risks, including financial exploitation, excessive financial debt due to

migration costs, xenophobia and workplace abuses. The Gulf States remain

significant destinations for migrant workers from around the world, and the 2022 football World Cup further retail.

underscored the importance of migrant labour to the subregion as well as rights violations.

continue to Migrants comprise high proportions of the total populations in many Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States.

In the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar, migrants made up 88 per cent, nearly 73 and 77 per cent of the national populations, respectively.

Most migrants - many of whom come from countries such as India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Kenya - work in sectors such as construction, hospitality, security, domestic work and



Enforcement drive against tax evading traders

used by businessmen to obtain

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o facilitate smooth conduct of election, the . enforcement agencies have been asked to prepare an action plan and take strict action against the traders issuing fake and bogus invoices, undeclared godowns and transportation of goods distributed for free. Following actions, an amount of Rs. 35.06 crores have been deposited from 143 traders. The tax eva-

sion may even be higher. So far, prima facie money has been recovered from 93 businessmen against tax evasion amounting to Rs. 20.77 crores were deposited. Particularly in garments the amount was Rs. 2 crores, utensils/household items worth Rs. Rs 3.80 crore in mobile, electrical/electronic equipments. A total of Rs. Data analysis of documents

Products Rs. 3.00 crore and registration, PAN numbers, e-Mona/Bandi/precious metal jewelery etc. worth Rs. 4.12 crores were deposited. A sum of 14.29 crores has been recovered from a total of 50 businessmen dealing with export-oriented commodities like Iron & Steel, Construction Materials, Plastic Goods, Oil & Oil Seeds, Construction and Marriage Garden etc. Led by Commercial Tax Commissioner, Swatantra Kumar Singh, the State GST Department has identified doubtful registered taxpayers on the basis of prescribed parameters. Sector-wise analy-

6.89 crore, Panmasala/Tobacco

mail addresses and other new registrations registered on mobile numbers was done along with confidential information obtained from the field. Freebies and evasion-prone commodities falling under a particular sector involved in tax evasion through undeclared godowns and undeclared stocks of businessmen related to garments/clothes, household items/utensils, mobiles, electronics, cosmetics, panmasala etc. Special enforcement action against possible tax evasion in connection with Lok Sabha elections, 2024 sis of information received

Data analysis of documents from other states, data available used by businessmen to on BIFA/GAIN, GST Prime, Eobtain registration, PAN way bill Portal, Bo-web etc. was numbers, e-mail addresses and other new registrations registered on mobile num-

Mishra's father Sachchidanand

Mishra (55) was a resident of vil-

bers was done along with confidential information

obtained from the field. While conducting investigation on sector specific freebies like garments/clothes, household items/utensils, mobiles, electronics, cosmetics, pan masala etc., a sum of Rs. 20.77 crores were deposited.

Especially in garments the amount is Rs. 2 crores, wares/household goods worth Rs 3.80 crore in mobile, electrical/electronic equipment's. 6.89 Crore, Panmasala/Tobacco Products Rs. 3.00 crore and Mona/Bandi/precious metal jewelery etc. worth Rs. 4.12 crores were deposited.

Tax Commercial Commissioner has conducted special investigation in 28 border districts of Madhya

Pradesh for special investigation of vehicles transporting goods related to freebies and without valid documents like bill, e-way bill, wilty etc. under the investigation proceedings related to Lok Sabha General Election, 2024. Temporary check post and 12 mobile teams were formed. Thus, effective prevention of the tendency of tax evasion through enforcement actions taken under Section 67 of the GST Act, 2017 and checking of moving vehicles under Section 68 will prevent the loss of government revenue and ensure revenue security as intended by the Election Commission. As per the provisions of GST Act, 2017, the statutory process of ITC reversal, levy of interest and penalty is being initiated against all the traders.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav attends a Katha event of noted spiritual leader of Malwa Sant Kamal Kishore Nagar in Petlawad, Jhabua district Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

participate in voting on voting day as well. Rajan said that

model polling centres should be established in all the dis-

tricts, not only in rural areas

but also in urban areas. The

facilities of these centres

should be such that more and

Keep conducting awareness activities continuously: CEO to Collectors Crime branch nabs cheat absconding for one year

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he crime branch Bhopal arrested the accused, who committed fraud in the name of job and was abscond-

ing for a year, a fraud of Rs 60 lakh was committed by cheating people in the name of facilitating government jobs. One of the victims Ganpat

Singh of Bijli Nagar Colony, Govindpura lodged a complaint against Pramod Mishra, Arun Mishra and Prakash Mishra for grabbing money on the pretext of getting a government job. The accused had cheated him of Rs 30 lakh on the pretext of getting me a government job. When he asked for the return of Rs 30 lakh Pramod provided a cheque number 000011, dated 09/12/2022 of IDFC Bank, which he deposited in bank and that cheque got dishonoured, based on the complaint case under section 420, 467, 468, 471

of the IPC was registered. In which earlier two accused Prakash Mishra and Pramod Mishra, were arrested and pre-

done.

sented in the court. The Crime Branch team received information that Arun Mishra, is roaming around and is planning to surrender in the court. After informing the senior officers about the infor-Mishra and his sons Prakash Mishra and Pramod Mishra mation received, the accused was arrested near the district court and presented before the

court. Bhopal Crime Branch has arrested the accused who was absconding for three years in the case of fraud of Rs 30 lakh. The accused had committed fraud in the name of getting a job. In this case, the police have already arrested two sons of the accused. The entire action has been carried out on the information of case, two accused Prakash the informer. The accused had Mishra, father of Arun Mishra come to the court planning to and Pramod Mishra, father of surrender. According to the police, Arun

ed many people of about Rs 60 lakh in the name of government job. Complainant Ganpat Singh, father Raghunandan Singh (30), resident of Bijli Colony, Govindpura, had complained to the Crime Branch that Arun

had extorted about Rs 30 in the name of getting a government When the complainant asked for the money back, the accused gave her a check which bounced. After this, the complainant complained to the Crime Branch and after investigation, the police registered sections 420, 467, 468, 471 of IPC against all three and started investigation. In this

Arun Mishra, have been arrested and sent to jail.

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lage Surasakala and had cheathief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has Jinstructed the concerned Collectors and District Election Officers to continuously conduct voter awareness activities for voting to be held on May 13 for the fourth phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024. He said that they should directly contact the voters, communicate with them, resolve their doubts and in view of the heat, also tell them about the facilities available at the polling stations. He said that all necessary arrangements should be made so that citizens come to the polling booth to vote. Rajan was addressing the collectors and district election officers of 8 Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies going for the fourth phase of voting through video conferencing on Wednesday.

Rajan said that for voter awareness, an action plan should be made at the local level and voters should be contacted door to door. Make elaborate arrangements to conduct smooth, seamless, fair and peaceful voting without any hindrance. In view of the heat, all other necessary arrangements including shade, cool water, seating arrangements, coolers, fans, medicines should be available at the polling stations.

Rajan said that utmost caution and vigilance should be exer-cised during the elections. All officers should maintain their level of alertness to conduct elections in a free, fair, uninterrupted and peaceful manner.

Rajan directed to make additional security arrangements in polling stations in vulnerable areas. Special security arrangements should be made

PNS MHOW

in buildings where there are five or more polling stations. Deploy additional polling personnel in polling stations where the number of voters is high.

Rajan said that in the fourth phase, voting will be held on May 13 in a total of 18 thousand 7 polling stations of 8 Lok Sabha parliamentary con-stituencies. Out of these, webcasting will be done in 12 thousand 180 polling stations. He asked the Collectors and District Election Officers to install CCTV cameras inside and outside the critical polling stations to keep an eye on the elements creating obstruction in the voting. Also, make effective arrangements for monitoring of webcasting, so that if irregularities are seen in voting at any centre, immedi-

ate action can be taken. more voters are motivated to Rajan laid emphasized on concast their votes. Welcome the ducting voter awareness activvoters with refreshments. He

ities on a large scale at every polling station to boost the voting turnout. He said that for this, "Chalein Booth Ki Ore" campaign should be launched. This message should reach every house and every voter connected to every polling station that everyone must exercise their franchise on May 13. All District Election Officers should form local teams for each polling station to go door-to-door to motivate citizens to cast their votes. With the assistance of this party encourage people to

said that all appropriate arrangements should be made at the polling stations as well as at the polling material distribution sites. Arrangements like mini hospital, mini ICU can be made at the material distribution site. Provide cool refreshments to the polling

capital 02

parties. Rajan said that distribution of voter information slips is very important in increasing the voting percentage. Special attention should be paid to the distribution of voter slips. No voter should be deprived of getting the slip. It should be ensured that the slips reach cent percent voters. He said that voters should be made to understand that voter slip alone is not sufficient for voting. Along with the voter slip, they will have to bring alternative identity documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India.

Passing out ceremony held at MCTE, Mhow

assing Out Ceremony of Dechnical Entry Scheme (TES) Course Ser 43 from Cadets Training Wing, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow was conducted on Wednesday with full military grandeur. The Ceremony, presided over by the Chief Guest, Lt Gen KH Gawas, PVSM, VSM, Commandant, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) and Col marked the culmination of three years of training of the Gentlemen Cadets (GCs) of the Passing Out Course at Cadets Training Wing and their transformation into young dynamic officers of the Indian Army, in the near future. Lt Gen KH Gawas, felicitated the proud award winners of



Commandant Corps of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) and Col Commandant, Corps of Signals presenting GOC-in-C ARTRAC Banner to Platoon Cadet Captain of Ariun Platoor

for their outstanding perfor-mance in academics and out-

door training. Platoon Cadet Captain Yash Vardhan was the proud recipient of the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOCin-C) Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Gold Medal for standing First in the overall order of merit. Wing Cadet Captain Yash Khatri was the recipient of the GOC-in-C ARTRAC Silver Medal and the GOC-in-C ARTRAC Bronze Medal was received by Platoon Cadet Captain Dharmendra Kumar. Arjun



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with BJP candidate Sudhir Gupta offers prayer at Lord Pashupatinath Temple during an election campaign for Lok Sabha elections in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday Pioneer photo

Patients need to

queue for the doctor's prescrip-

tion. This system has also been

That means patients will also get

lab reports online. The trial of

the new system has also now

been completed. This has come

into effect. The administration

has also deployed volunteers for

the convenience of the patients,

who are helping the patients

download the applications on

Online appointments with doc-

their mobiles.

connected to the laboratory.

CEC congratulates Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Anupam Rajan

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A ll appropriate arrangements should be made so that citizens come to the polling stations to vote. Strict adherence to 'Zero Tolerance for Violence' is must. Carry out special monitoring in the last 48 hours. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar reviewed the preparations for voting by dis-cussing with the central observers appointed in all the Lok Sabha constituencies conducting polls in the fourth phase through video conferencing on Wednesday. Rajiv Kumar congratulated Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan on the peaceful completion of the third phase of voting in Madhya Pradesh. VC, Élection In Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. S.S. Sandhu was also present. Chief Election

Commissioner Kumar said that observers should make frequent visits. Ensure arrangements for tents, drinking water and ORS etc. for the voters in the

polling station. Collective

efforts by the returning officers, observers, SVEEP nodal officers and the entire election team should be ensured to increase voting turnout. Chief Election The

Commissioner said that the Commission is ready to help you round the clock. If there is any problem, please inform immediately. Your problem will be resolved immediately. It may be noted that voting

will be held on May 13 in the fourth phase in Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies number-21 Dewas (SC), number-22 Ujjain (SC), number-23 Mandsaur, number-24 Ratlam (ST), number-25 Dhar (ST), number- 26 Indore, number 27 Khargone (ST) and number 28 Khandwa. Additional Chief Electoral

beds are vacant or not. Aabha (ABHA) app will have to Officer Rajesh Kumar Kaul, Joint Chief Electoral Officer be downloaded in the mobile, volunteers are also helping in the Basant Kurre and Tarun Rathi and Deputy Chief hospital. Bar codes have been Electoral Officer Pramod installed in OPD. As soon as Kumar Shukla and other patients scan and enter their officers were present in the details, they will get an ID video conferencing number.

Faculty Enrichment Programme held register on Aura scan at Army Public School, Mhow STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL PNS MHOW Tt is now mandatory for patients coming to OPD of Hamidia Hospital to register

Zini Jhariya, from Samarth through Aura Scan. The main Psychotherapy Counselling Centre addressed the APSM facreason for this is the increase in registration from 200 to 900 and as 2500 patients come to Hamidia ulty on the topic daily. The biggest advantage of "Behavioural issues of chilgetting the registration done on dren and their management and different disabilmobile will be that the patient will not have to stand in the OPD ities in children" on 8 May 2024.

The speaker is specialized in assisting children facing emotional, behavioural, and developmental challenges. She apprised about slow learners, XXY syndrome and how teachers can support these students by providing visual aids, breaking tasks into manageable chunks and fostering social inclusive environment.

tors will also start through this About ADHD students medium. Apart from this, it will who can be helped by implementing behaviour contacts and self-monitoralso be known whether the ing techniques. ODD students who can be helped by proper reinforcements.

The Behavioural Modification Techniques such as positive reinforcement, differential reinforcement, token economy

system, self-monitoring and self-management were been explained with reference to Case Study. She encouraged the teach-

ers to provide a deep understanding of the comissues.

She briefed the teachers about various activities suggested for slow learners. She stated that accept the sensitivity and need of special learners and consciously support them to lead a normal life. In her keynote address, she stated that facilitators can bring a great change in the life of these special students.

Vini Jhariya was felicitated with a memento as a token of appreciation for sharing his expertise in helping and supporting the students with special needs.

Champion Platoon during Passing Out Ceremony

TES-43 Course. In his address technological advancements, to the GCs, the Chief Guest congratulated the Passing Out Course on successfully completing the training and reminded them of what the nation expects from them, especially in view of the rapid

GOC-in-C ARTRAC Banner for standing first amongst the four Platoons.

prevailing counter insurgency These 16 Gentlemen Cadets environment and the stellar will now proceed to Officers role Army has been playing to Training Academy, Gaya for ensure the territorial integrity Passing Out Parade before of our nation. The General getting commissioned as officers in the Indian Army on Jun Officer also complemented the GCs of Passing Out Course 08, 2024.



Security personnel stand guard outside the old central jail where EVMs are kept in tight security, a day after the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Counting of votes will take place on June 04.

Post creative videos, reels, memes on importance of voting

Bhopal: CEO Anupam Rajan, has urged State Icons, District Icons, Content Creators, and Influencers to create brief videos as part of the election campaign, "IAM#Election themed Ambassador," to inspire voter participation in the democratic process. Encouraging young voters to actively engage in this celebration of democracy, he calls for them to share their inaugur-

al voting experiences and sentiments. Emphasizing the significance of voting, fostering a sense of pride in this civic duty, and conveying the excitement of casting a ballot are key objectives. Voters are encouraged to produce short video clips showcasing these aspects and share them across various social media platforms. Rajan appealed to all citizens to

spread awareness in their neighbourhood. Tell them how to use the Election Commission's app, get their name in the voter list, polling station information and motivate them to cast their vote. Discuss the importance of voting with citizens and cast their vote with their relatives and friends. One can create reels and memes and tag them on various social media platforms including Instagram.

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plexities of the human mind and supporting students with behavioural In the workshop, the speaker enlightened on specific learning disabilities

such as dyslexia, cerebral disorder, autism spectrum syndrome and approaches to meet the unique needs of children with special needs.



VD Sharma addresses party workers' convention at Khandwa

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

→ tate President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma, while addressing the workers conference in Nepanagar, Burhanpur of Burhanpur district and Khandwa of Khandwa district on Wednesday, said that this Lok Sabha election is not an ordinary election, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi For the third time, there is an election to make the Prime Minister with a historic major-

Today, the entire amount of schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi and Ladli Brahmin comes into the accounts of the beneficiaries, not even a single rupee goes to brokers or middlemen. There are no terrorist incidents anywhere in the country and India's respect has increased all over the world. Congress will

not be allowed to plunder the property of the people of the country. To make the country a developed and free India from terrorism and corruption, it is necessary for Narendra Modi to become the Prime Minister for the third time.

Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda was specially present in the workers conference organized in Khandwa.BJP State President Sharma said that now in Madhya Pradesh even the State President of Congress is saying that only BJP is winning the elections. Regarding with-drawal of nomination by the Congress candidate from Indore, the State Congress President has said that anyway BJP is winning the elections. This means it is completely clear that Congress is also accepting that BJP is winning this Lok Sabha election with historic votes and Narendra Modi

is becoming the Prime Minister

for the third time.BJP State President Sharma said that there is inheritance tax in the Congress manifesto, whereas our manifesto has the complete blueprint for the welfare of the poor, development of the country, empowerment of the poor, youth, farmers and women. People across the country have unwavering faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This time lotus is going to bloom in

Hyderabad also. Now only three days are left for the election campaign, in such a situation, all the workers should take a pledge to bloom lotus at every booth and get involved in the party work with all their heart. State President Vishnudutt Sharma said that wherever you go these days, the same voice is eard in every direction - East, West, North and South. That voice is that Narendra Modi ji has to become the Prime Minister of India for the third

time. The reason for this is that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working to change the life of every poor without any discrimination and is bringing happiness on the face of every poor.Prime Minister brought ĥappiness in the lives of Muslim sisters by removing triple talaq.BJP State President Vishnudutt Sharma said that Prime Minister's residence is being given to even those people who do not vote for BJP. Modi ji freed 13 crore mothers and sisters from smoke by giving them free gas connections under the Ujjwala scheme and these also include those sisters who do not vote for BJP. 3.62 crore Ayushman cards have been made in Madhya Pradesh and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided even to those families who do not vote for BJP. Sharma said that even in many Muslim countries of

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

mid heat wave alert in 9

cities of Madhya Pradesh,

Places. It rained in Indore at 1:30

pm on Wednesday. Heavy rain-

fall was also witnessed in Khajuri

Anjana village of Mandsaur for

According to the Meteorological

Department, there may be light

dusty storm along with lightning,

thunder, rain and hail in 8 dis-tricts including Vidisha, Sagar, Damoh, Betul, Khargone,

Dholawad of Ratlam, Ujjain and

Similarly, in Agar, Rajgarh,

Shajapur, Dewas, Raisen,

Panna in the next 24 hours.

about 40 minutes.

Ashoknagar,

the world, there was no practice of triple talaq, but in our country it was maintained due to appeasement. Modi ji also filled the lives of Muslim sisters with happiness by removing triple talaq. All of you workers should also contact these people and enumerate the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and appeal to them to vote for making Modi the Prime Minister.BJP State President Shri Sharma said that such forces are also active in this election, who want to break the country, want to defame them and want to do appeasement politics. Sam Pitroda of Congress says that if a person is of this colour, then he has come from such and such country. According to them, everyone has come from outside, no one is from India. On the other hand, Congress party is talking about inheritance tax.

It rained in Bhopal, other parts of Madhya Pradesh

Anuppur, Dindori, Katni, Rewa

and Maihar districts. There will

be cloudy conditions and light

in Mandla on Tuesday evening.

More than 20 people have been

injured in an accident during the

The Met has issued warning of

heat waves in Guna, Ashoknagar,

Shivpuri, Ditya, Bhind, Morena,

Patna, Damoh, Sagar,

Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and

Niwari districts while thunder-

storms and gusty winds with light rainfall would be witnessed

in Sehore, Dhar, Indore, Dewas,

Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur,

Ramnagar weekly market.

drizzle may also occur. A big tree fell due to the storm



and Bhagwan Das Sabnani and other leaders during a party meeting, a day after the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in Bhopal on Wednesday.

No flights from Jabalpur, citizens

write letters to PM, Union Minister



A woman rides scooter during sudden rain following a hailstorm in Bhopal on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

Four shops in Gautam Nagar gutted in massive fire

Bhopal: A massive fire broke out in 4 shops in Gautam Nagar in the wee hours on Wednesday, 5 people of the same family got trapped. Of these, two girls could be saved by rescue. The fire was completely controlled in about 3 and a half hours, but by then the goods in the shops were burnt to

ashes. Fatehgarh Fire Station firefighter Shahnawaz Ahmed said that there is a grocery, general stores, restaurant and gym on the ground floor of the building. One of these caught fire due to a short circuit. After this the fire con-

tinued to spread. A family lived on the first floor of the building, which came under fire. Three out of five members were taken out easily, but two girls were trapped in the fire.

Shopkeeper Prafulla Goyal said that there are general stores and clothes shop. Where the fire broke out at quarter to 4 o'clock. The whole thing got burnt. People nearby called on mobile and informed him, we live in Shahenshah Garden. Fire brigade came late. Before this, the neighbors together tried to control the

Resident Samarth Gupta said that a sound like the bursting of firecrackers was heard at night and when checked from the balcony he spotted fire in the lower floor and started evacuating the family members. Fire brigade was informed. With this we all started controlling the fire to some level. Some people from my family were trapped upstairs. We reached the terrace and broke the lock of the terrace door and went inside. After this everyone was taken out. People were trapped in

Bhopal: CEO Anupam Rajan has said that re-polling will be held at four polling stations falling under Multai Assembly constituency of Betul Lok Sabha constituency. Orders in this regard have also been issued by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday. He said that orders have been given for repolling in polling station number 275-Rajapur, falling under assembly number 129, no. 276-Dudar Raiyat, no. 279- Kunda Raiyat

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE

May 2024 (Friday). Voting will take place on May 10 (Friday) from 7 am to 6 pm. The process of mock poll will start on May 10 at 5:30 am. For this, the polling team will leave on May 9 along with the material. In re-polling, indelible ink will be applied on the middle finger of the left hand of the voter. The Election Commission of India has also instructed the

and no. 280-Chikhlimal on 10 Officer, Betul to give proper train-

Collector and District Election

ing to the presiding officer of the polling party and polling officers before conducting re-polling. The Election Commission of India has also given instructions to the Collector and District Election Officer, Betul to compulsorily give information about re-polling to all the candidates and political parties including observers and to give wide pub-

licity through Dondi (Munadi) in the polling station area

Mandla, Satna, Singrauli, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat districts would witness thunderstorms and hail storms issued by Met

In the next 24 hours Heat wave will prevail in Gwalior, Datia, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Satna, Khargone and Khandwa. Whereas, there will be thunderstorms in Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Seoni, Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, Anuppur, Sidhi and Singrauli.

There is an alert of heat wave in Gwalior, Datia, Khargone and Khandwa. Whereas in Indore, Dhar, Shajapur, Ujjain, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Balaghat, Umaria, Katni, Panna, Satna, Maihar, Rewa, Mauganj, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Bhind and Morena. It may be cloudy.

PNS JABALPUR

esentment is brewing not only in Jabalpur but also Ramong the citizens of Mahakaushal and Vindhya region over the worrying condition of air services in Jabalpur. While Jabalpur was once connected by air to major cities of the country, today despite the construction of a newly airport, it is waiting for flights to various places.

Citizens of the entire Mahakaushal and Vindhya region's districts from Jabalpur used to take advantage of air services to go to various places, but now they are forced to travel by road or by air to other cities, spending more time and expense. For the last few months, the citizens of Jabalpur and Vayu Seva Sangharsh Samiti held several meetings on the plight of Jabalpur's air services

Letters were written to the Prime Minister, the Union Aviation Minister and the Chief Minister of the state to this effect, but no one has yet addressed this issue. But no positive initiative has been taken.Himanshu Khare, convener of Vayu Seva Sangharsh Samiti, Jabalpur, said that industrialists, businessmen, doctors, advocates, patients undergoing Vayu Seva Sangharsh Samiti will soon hold a one-day symbolic protest for this purpose and after that will perform a Jagrati Yagya to awaken the Union Aviation Minister, with the hope that the Minister will be attracted to the situation in Jabalpur and Jabalpur will be restored as before. Air services can also be started for Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune and other cities. Committee members Baldeep Maini, Shankar Nagdev, Hemraj Aggarwal, Abhishek Dhyani, Jitendra Pachauri, Deepak Śethi, Pankaj Maheshwari, Rakesh Srivastava, PG Najpande, Manu Tiwari, Arun Pawar, Anil Aggarwal CA, Advocate

treatment, youth etc are sad

about the air services of Jabalpur

and Jabalpur, which has been

waiting for investment for many

years, is now in the air services.

The absence of flight services is

having an adverse effect on the city as large industrial groups

are hesitant in investing in

Jabalpur due to the absence of

flight services.

capital 03

Jain etc. The Aviation Minister has again been requested to take initiative to connect Jabalpur with the major cities, otherwise Vavuseva Sangharsh Samiti will launch an intense agitation.

Ravindra Srivastava Abhishek

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Corporate Office: 167–169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai – 600015 HOUSING FINANCE Regional Office - 101-B, ist Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010

Appendix IV : Symbolic Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issured by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. 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. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

the balcony because there was a lot of smoke inside. fire. DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)

Case No.: RC 234/2016 in O.A. No.302/2015 BANK OF M

Barwani, Khargone, Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Guna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria and Gwalior, Dindori. Chhatarpur, Jabalpur, Seoni, Rewa division and Chhindwara, Re-polling in 4 polling stations of Multai assembly of Betul constituency

HARASHTRA Vs M/S PK DEVELOPERS AND SUPPLIERS

E-AUCTION NO. 127/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs.2,22,76,768.00 (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Two Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Only) payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No.302/2015 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 12% p.a. with simple Interest from 06-10-2015 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction: 19-06-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours. SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

House/Plot No-8 at Part of Khasra No. 24/2/2/1/1 situated at Khanuja Enclave, Village- Bawadia Kalan, Tehsil-Huzur, District- Bhopal (M.P.) Area admeasuring 5922 sq.ft.; Property in the name of Shri Ashish Khanuja s/o Shri Surjeet Singh Khanuja.

Upset Price : Rs.1,12,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakh only)

Conditions of Sale: (1) Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt.Ltd. website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1india.com , E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (2) Intending bidders are advised to go through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids. (3) Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. (4) 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 11,20,000.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Thousand only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 31067074055 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with State Bank of India, Ridge Road Branch, Jabalpur (IFSC Code: SBIN0007208) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. (5) Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 17-06-2024 online. (6) A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. (7) Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lac Fifty Thousand Only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. (8) The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained, After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. (9) In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his / her favour through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. (10) The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned at SL. No. 04 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. (11) Property will be sold <u>"As is Where is and No Complaint basis"</u>. (12) The properties can be inspected on 03-06-2024 between 12.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs. (13) Properties will not be sold below the upset price. (14) Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone / cancel the sale without assigning any reason. (15) Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Mani Bhushan, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9343831533 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. (16) Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithilesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1indian.com, E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (17) Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Mani Bhushan, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9343831533 (18) The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself DRT / Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place: Jabalpur	Priti Desai
Date: 01-05-2024	Recovery Officer -II

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	1. Demand Notice issued Date 2. Loan Account No, 3. Amount Due as on Notice Date	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date of Symbolic Possession
MR. RAHUL JAT (Borrower) MRS. SUSHILA JAT (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-09/02/2024 2. MP/IDR/INDR/A000000569 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.10,41,997/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninty Seven Only)	HOUSE NO. 172, Survey Number 400/2, at patwari halka no. 55/107 village sejwaya, Tehsil and District Dhar (MP) area 1050 sq ft (Super Built-up Area) with following four boundaries – Bounded By: East:- House Of Radheshyam, West:- House Of Babu Jat, North:- House Of Suresh, South: Mhow Neemuch Road	04/05/2024
MR. SHIVAM NAHOR (Borrower) Mrs. YASHODA BAI THAKUR (Co Borrower) Mr. BHANU PRATAP (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-26/02/2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000536 & & CO/CPC/CPOF/A000001605 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.11,41,174/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Forty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four Only)	Property situated in survey No. 279/1 Min-3 situated at village Gogapur, PH 06 Plot situated at inside Nagda Phante Nehru School road Tesil Mahidpur distt Ujjain M.P. India 456440 area 750 sq ft (Super Built-up Area) with following four boundaries – Bounded by: East:- 3 Feet Lane, West:- 10 Feet Road, North:- House of Mr. Shyamubai, South: Remaining part of Land	08/05/2024
MR. LOKENDRA SINGH PARMAR (Borrower) Mrs. MEENU BAI PARMAR (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-26/02/2024 2. MP/IDR/INDR/A00000963 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.16,06,221/- (Rupees Sixteen Lacs SixThousand Two Hundred Twenty One Only)	B 73 B,Om Shree Residency Mhow Indore, Urban Indore Madhya Pradesh India 452001 area 507 sq ft (Super Built-up Area) with following four boundaries – Bounded by: East:- Plot no. B 73 A, West:- Plot no. B 73 C, North:- Colony road, South: Plot no. B 72	04/05/2024
MR. MOHIT SINGH THAKUR (Borrower) Mrs. KAJAL THAKUR (Co Borrower) Mr. RAJ NARAYAN SINGH KUSHWAH (Co Borrower) Mrs. REKHA (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-26/02/2024 2. MP/IDR/INDR/A000000644 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.12,70,731/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty One Only)	House no./Plot no. 130 Nehru Nagar Road no. 03 Dist. Indore (MP) area 1000 sq.(Super Built-up Area) with following four boundaries – Bounded by: East:- Road No.3,West:- Gali,North:- House No. 131, South: Road	06/05/2024
Mr. ASHOK (Borrower) Mrs. KUSUM BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-22/02/2024 2. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000264 & CO/CPC/CPOF/A000000259 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 35,43,427/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Seven Only)	Description of the Property (with Boundaries): Northen Part of Plot No. 03, Vaibhav Nagar, Sector A, Opposite Dabar Plaza, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India – 452018 Indore, Plot Size Measuring 1500 Sq.ft. And total area (House) admeasuring 750sq.ft Boundaries as per Sale Deed - East - Colony Road, West - Plot No. 06, North - Plot No. 04, South - Remaining Part of House	04/05/2024
Mr. DURGESH MATWA (Borrower) Mrs. SWATI JAT (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-26/02/2024 2. MP/HBD/HOSH/A000000071 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.10,77,116/ (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred and Sixteen Only)	All that part and parcel of the property situated at : Residential Plot known as Plot No. 138 Having an area of 4000 Sq.ft or 371.74 from the Total Area of 22370 Sq.ft on which Well Constructed House is situated at Khasra No. 91, Handiya,P.H no. 09, Mauza & Village- Bichhola maal,Tehsil-Handiya,Dist – Harda,Madhya Pradesh,461331 Boundaries as per Sale Deed - East - Rcc Road, West - Remaining Property Of Applicant, North – Property Of Bharat Gurjar, South-Property Of Narmada Prasad	06/05/2024
Mr. SATPREET SINGH BAVEJA (Borrower) Mrs. MONALI DHAKITE (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-16/02/2024 2. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000293 & CO/CPC/CPOF/A000000376 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.36,03,605/ (Rupees Thirty six Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred and Five Only)	Description of the Property (with Boundaries): ,Plot no 22 and 23 Sant Nagar Chhoti Patti, Gram Pipliyarao Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001,Sant Nagar,Near Gurudwara,Indore,Madhya Pradesh,452001 Measuring 900 Sq.ft. Boundaries as per Sale Deed - East - Plot No. 21, West- Plot No. 24, North – Soyabean Plant, South-Road	04/05/2024
Mr. SHWETA JAISWAL (Borrower) Mr. VEDANT JAISWAL (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date:-22/02/2024 2. MP/KHA/KHWA/A00000007& CO/CPC/CPOF/A000000724 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.34,31,865/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Only)	Description of the Property (with Boundaries): House on Khasra No 64/1, Nilkantheshwar Ward 04, Gopilal Joshi Marg, Khandwa, MP, Nilkantheshwar Chowk, Near BSNL Office, Madhya Pradesh,450001, Measuring 1740 Sq.ft. Boundaries as per Sale Deed - East - Colony Road, West - House of Arya Ji, North - Leela Sadan, South - Land of Smt. Sangita Jaiswal Nature / Status of the Property: Freehold	07/05/2024

STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS

Borrower(s)/Guarantor's are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public aution/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer Mobile No.- Vaibhav Shrivastav - 7987969803, Rajesh Chakotiya - 84355 71111, Sitaram Prajapati - 95845 67867, Ankita Patil - 77230 55195, Govind - 8962816436

Place : Indore, Date : 09/05/2024

Authorised Officer, Hinduia Housing Finance Limited



BJP slams Congress over Pitroda remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

fter heading the Indian Overseas ACongress for about two decades, Sam Pitroda, who was forced to resign from his post on Wednesday, had twice brought embarrassment for his party which is leading the crucial Opposition parties INDIA Bloc. The BJP latched on to Pitroda's remarks and said the Opposition party is getting increasingly unmasked as the Lok

Sabha polls progress. Senior BJP le leaders Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Sudhanshu Trivedi said Pitroda has highlighted the idea of India that Congress bigwigs, such as Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, believe in. They claimed that Pitroda's "racist" comments have betraved the Congress's bid to divide the country on the lines of race, religion and caste.

Union Minister and BJP candidate from Amethi, Smriti Irani, alleged that it (Congress) tries to divide the



which region. She also accused the Congress of always dividing the country in the name of religion and caste.

Even INDIA Bloc major stakeholder Aam Admi Party's AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said none of the members of the INDIA Bloc support Pitroda's remarks and accused the BJP of "hating" the Dalits.

Pitroda has been a "mentor" to Rahul Gandhi, who has often run down the Indian democracy and the country's countrymen on the basis of who is of institutions during his foreign trips, which colour and who belongs to Chandrasekhar said while Trivedi

mentioned the ongoing Lok Sabha polls have now become a battle between those under the influence of a foreign mindset in their definition of India and an India that is "aatmanirbhar" (self-reliant) and brimming with self-pride.

'Sam, Pity-roda on you!" Union Minister Anurag Thakur said in a social media post. "While for us, all social media post. Indians look like Indians, the Congress insists on categorising them based on foreign ethnic lines such as Chinese, Arab, White and African. Only a party with a colonial mindset like Congress could indulge in such deplorable racism.

"Having failed to stir division between the north and the south, Congress now seems intent on sowing ethnic discord. It's only a matter of time before the Shehzada, following in the footsteps of his mentor, champions this divisive strategy," Thakur said.

In the podcast interview to a media house, Pitroda said, "As a Gujarati, I love dosa, I love idli. That is my food,

that is no longer south Indian food. That is the India I believe in, where everybody has a place and everybody compromises a little bit.... That idea of India, which is rooted in democracy, freedom, liberty, fraternity, is being challenged by the Ram temple and Ram Navami and the prime minister going to temples all the time and talking not as a national leader, but as a leader of the BJP."

temple, god, history, heritage, Bhagwan Hanuman, Bajrang Dal and all kinds of issues. I respect their view. There is another group which says our founding fathers fought against the British Raj not for a Hindu Rashtra, but for a secular nation. Pakistan decided to create a nation based on religion and see what happened to them. We are a shining example of democracy in the world," Pitroda said.

Earlier, the Congress leader had stirred up a controversy by talking about the inheritance tax, which the BJP turned into a poll issue.

elected from Bahadurgarh

twice in 1996 and 2005.

case.

CBI takes over probe in INLD Haryana unit president murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation into the killing of the Indian National Lok Dal's Haryana unit president Nafe Singh Rathee and a party worker by

unidentified gunmen in case on the recommendation February in Bahadurgarh near of the Haryana government, Delhi, officials said. the officials said, adding that it was routed to the agency by During the attack, three private gunmen hired by Rathee for security had also Centre through the notification on April 26.

sustained injuries when the The central probe agency has assailants opened fire on the named seven including former BJP MLA former MLA's SUV. The CBI has re-registered the Naresh Kaushik, in its case,

the officials said. The other six accused are Karambir Rathee, Ramesh Rathee, Satish Rathee, Gaurav

а Rathee, Rahul and Kamal, they said. They added that an FIR filed under IPC sections of accused, criminal conspiracy, murder, among others has been filed

That view centres around the Ram

here.

appear before notice," the summons read. against the accused in the The 67-year-old MLA from Bahadurgarh and INLD worker Jai Kishan were killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on Rathee's SUV on February 25. Rathee was

They were booked under

JP Nadda, Amit Malviya summoned by Bengaluru police over social media post

People Act and section 505

"The said video posted on

characters

featured

of

alleged.

media

Siddaramaiah. In the clip, SC, ST and OBC community are

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police has J P Nadda and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya in connection with a social media post allegedly intimidating members of SC and ST community not to vote for a particular candidate, officials said on Wednesday. They have been asked to join the probe at the High grounds police station

"For the purpose of investigation of the said case, (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or you are hereby directed to ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code, a senior the undersigned investigation officer at 11 am at High grounds police station within police officer said. In the complaint, the KPCC cited the video uploaded on seven days of receipt of this social media platform 'X' by the official account of Karnataka State BJP which, it The move comes after an FIR alleged, is operated by Malviya, on instructions of was registered against Nadda, Malviya and BJP's Karnataka unit chief B Y Vijayendra in Nadda and Vijayendra, BJP connection with a social State President and Social media following a complaint filed by the Karnataka Media incharge- Karnataka BJP, on May 4. Pradesh Congress Committee social (KPCC) with the Election Commission and police on animated May 5 alleging violation of (Congress leader) Rahul model code of conduct. Gandhi and (Chief Minister)

sections of Representation of

portrayed as "eggs" in a nest and it also suggested Rahul Gandhi planting a big egg labelled as Muslim community. It is projected as though funds are being fed to the chick depicting the Muslim community, which then kicks out SC, ST and OBC community," it alleged. "The act of the accused person (s) is to wantonly provoke rioting and promote enmity between different religions and is prejudicial to maintenance of harmony apart from intimidating members of SC/ST community not to vote for particular candidate and against SC/ST causing enmity members of community," the complaint

nation 04



MoU signed to enhance desi content in shipbuilding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here for indigenous

complex security challenges, emphasising the need for collaboration between government agencies and the private sector. Several key benefits including quality, grades and dimensions h the designated stee

partnerships in addressing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE raised. NEW DELHI

"Steep academic growth needs steep rise in funding. Thanks to all CSR partners Institute of LTechnology (IIT), Madras and alumni of IIT Madras for raised a record funding of Rs trusting and support us in raising this all-time high quantum of funding," V 513 crore from its alumni, industry and individual donors during 2023-24 officials said on Wednesday. 2023-24, Kamakoti, Madras said. For the second consecutive The institute also attracted total new pledges of Rs 717 year, the institute set a new record for the highest funding

crore from alumni and corporate partners during FY raised in one financial year by $20\bar{2}3-24.$ an academic institute to The fund linc

partners). The funds were raised from

IIT Madras alumni and individual philanthropists in addition to the CSR (corporate responsibility) funds and grants from Indian as well as Director, IIT multinational corporate firms," Kamakoti said.

The fund-raising was led by IIT Madras' Office of Institutional Advancement, overseen by the IIT Madras Alumni Charitable Trust.

ICG rescues critically ill fisherman off Kerala Coast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Lrescued a critically-ill fisherman from Indian Fishing Boat (IFB) Jazeera, about 40 nautical miles, off Beypore, Kerala on Tuesday, defence ministry said here on

Wednesday. Giving details, officials said the fisherman experienced a near-drowning incident after he fell into the sea. He was rescued by the IFB but his health condition deteriorated due to the excess water in the lungs

The boat, then, made a

medical distress call, which was responded to by the ICG. It mobilised its advanced light helicopter with a medical team from Kochi, along with

The ICG assets located the IFB and the patient was airlifted to Kochi. He was later shifted to a nearby hospital.

PM pays tribute to Rabindranath Tagore



Drime Minister Narendra Modi on

Aryaman and C-404 ships.

the supply marine grade steel to enhance the indigenous content in shipbuilding, defence ministry said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said through this partnership, both

entities have committed to foster indigenisation, enhance capabilities to produce and use these items in the Nation's interest.

The MoU underscores the importance of public-private

plants to manufacture the product are stipulated in the MoU as an assurance to the shipbuilding yards for a timely supply of marine-grade steel for the ICG. The MoU was signed by Deputy Director General (Materiel & Maintenance), ICG IG HK Sharma and Chief

Marketing Officer, JSP S K Pradhan in the presence of senior officers of the ICG.

Ιοησ τ

and development as well as for deploying technology already built by IIT Madras, in various parts of the country based on the societal needs In addition, it is also used to support deserving students with scholarships as well as the Sports Excellence Admission programme which is also being supported from this year's philanthropic funds

Tndian

used for technology research student projects as well as to develop cutting-edge infrastructure in the campus. "This historic high of Rs 513 crore is a 135 per cent increase from the amount raised in the previous financial year of 2022-23, when Rs 218 crore was raised. The number of donors giving over Rs one crore to the institute is 48 (16 alumni donors and 32 corporate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

total of 695 candidates

NEW DELHI

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amount ra total through alumni alone during 2023-24 was Rs 367 crore, which is an increase of 282 per cent as compared to the previous year. Their focus areas included cutting-edge research across various social impact themes. infrastructure, and

social

scholarships for students, besides establishing Chair Professorships for research in specific areas.

Tagore, an iconic talent who excelled in varied fields, on his birth anniversary.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

He said on X, "I pay homage to Gurudev Tagore, on the occasion of his Jayanti. His enduring wisdom and genius continue to inspire and enlighten innumerable people

across generations." Born in present-day West Bengal, Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature and his rich contributions as a playwright, poet, composer, educationist, philosopher and social reformer have made him one of the most respected Indians.

One lakh Thalassemia patients in India: Union Health Secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **INEW DELHI**

While Thalassemia testing has been integrated into the reproductive and child health (RCH) programmes under the National Health Mission (NHM) in some States, it is yet to be universally adopted across all regions in addressing the prevalence of this genetic disorder. Union Health Secretary Chandra Apurva on Wednesday advocated for inclusion of compulsory Thalassemia testing in the existing reproductive and child health (RCH) programmes under NHM as a means to curtail the prevalence of the disease even as he added that

some States have included this in their public health programmes and activities; other States will be urged to include and expand screening and testing for Thalassemia. He said timely detection and

prevention are the most effective strategies to tackle the genetic disorder. Chandra, who was speaking at

an event here to mark the International Thalassemia He explained that in case one Day, said there are almost 1 lakh Thalassemia patients in or both the parents have this the country, with approximately 10,000 new condition, it is a good idea to consult the doctor to address cases reported each year. The the



Secretary emphasized on the proactive urgency for intervention aided by timely detection through screening. Chandra also highlighted the critical need for wide awareness around the subject. He stated that "still many people are unaware of this disease and how this can be prevented. It is imperative that all stakeholders in this arena collaborate for a nationwide campaign to enhance chelation therapy, stem cell or awareness on Thalaseemia". bone marrow transplants, and Dr Rahul Bhargava Director, Department of Clinical treating other problems. In addition, efforts must also Hematology and Bone Marrow be directed towards motivating Transplant, Fortis Hospital Gurugram said, "Thalassaemia gynaecologists and pathologies to ensure that every pregnant is an inherited disorder which woman goes through the HbA2 test before 14 weeks of affects millions of kids. We wish to see a thalassaemia-free pregnancy as this can help in India by 2030. It is important the timely diagnosis of thalassemia, said Dr Nita that all future couples should be screened before pregnancy." Radhakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head of the

risk

appropriately.

Health, Noida.

are perhaps the most feasible marriage

appearance, swelling, abnormal bone structure (especially on the face and skull), heart problems, and iron overload. Thalassemia usually requires lifelong treatment with blood transfusions and medication The main treatment methods blood transfusions, are: removing excess iron or

and cost-effective ways to control this disease. The need A are in the iray across +> constituencies spread over eight states and Union territories in the upcoming of the hour is an integrated plan of action including mass fifth phase of the Lok Sabha screening for carriers before and before polls on May 20, the Election conception, said Dr Bhargava. Commission (EC) said on Some symptoms of Wednesday. thalassemia include weakness, fatigue, slow growth, pale

Prevention and early detection

The figure emerged after the scrutiny of 1,586 nomination forms filed for the fifth phase abnormal of the ongoing polls. Of the nominations, 749 were found



to be valid after the deadline Union territories in the fifth

Phase V LS polls: 695 candidates in fray

for filing papers closed on phase. May 3, according to a statement issued by the EC. with The statement said 695 resulting in 301 valid candidates will contest the candidates contesting across polls from eight states and 13 constituencies, while Uttar

Maharashtra topped the list 512 nominations

Pradesh followed closely with 466 nominations, leading to 147 valid candidates across 14 constituencies.

The highest number of nominations in a single constituency was seen in Maharashtra's Chatra, which received 69 candidatures, followed by Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh with 67 nominations. Each constituency in the fifth phase is expected to witness an average of 14 contesting candidates, reflecting diverse range of political options for the voters.

The state-wise breakdown of the nominations and valid candidates after the scrutiny showcases the dynamic electoral landscape across the country. Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal together form the crux of the fifth phase, encompassing a significant portion of the country's electorate, the statement said. Three phases of polling have so far been held in the seven-phase election.

Dietary guidelines released to prevent nutrient deficiencies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) have jointly released a comprehensive set of 17 dietary guidelines aimed at preventing nutrient deficiencies and addressing the rising prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases in India. Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology, Post-Graduate Institute of Child

These guidelines have undergone rigorous academic and scientific review to ensure their accuracy and

effectiveness, said the top research bodies. They "are designed as easily

understandable and practicable approaches for ensuring diet diversity to meet the requirements of essential nutrients and prevent NCDs among people of all age groups across India".

The guidelines focus on eating a balanced diet; vegetables and legumes; nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers; food for infants, children, and adolescents; including nutrient-rich foods for the elderly; eating safe, clean food; and drinking adequate amounts of water.



It also calls for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass, restricting salt intake, moderating intake of oil and fats, adopting a healthy lifestyle to prevent obesity, maintaining proper exercise, minimising ultra-processed foods, and reading information on food labels to make informed and healthy food choices.

"The dietary habits of Indians have undergone significant changes over the past few decades, leading to an increase in the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases while some of the problems of undernutrition continue to persist," said Rajiv Bahl, Secretary of the Department of Health Research, Director General, ICMR.

Rajiv noted that the guidelines have been made "very relevant to the changing food scenario in India with the addition of practicable messages and suggestions on handling food safety, choosing minimally processed foods, the importance of food labels and

physical activity". Through the dietary

guidelines, we emphasise that the most logical, sustainable, and long-term solution to all forms of malnutrition is ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutrient-rich foods while promoting consumption of diverse foods," Hemalatha R., Director, ICMR-NIN and Chairperson of the Expert Committee which brought out the guidelines, added.

Give grand welcome to PM during Patna Congress manifesto representing roadshow, BJP urges people of Bihar

PTI PATNA

The BJP on Wednesday exhorted supporters from across Bihar to converge in the state capital on Sunday to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will hold a roadshow in the city.

An appeal to the effect came at a joint press conference here, addressed by former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is also the local MP, and Deputy Chief Minister cum state BJP president Samrat Choudhary, among others.

"Sifting through the pages of history I realise that never before has a prime minister held a roadshow in our city. Modi's At the most, predecessors have gone to Gandhi Maidan to give speeches", said Prasad, who is seeking re-election from the Patna Šahib seat.

He added, "I urge people from across the state to join us in welcoming the PM. Residents of the city are known for their love for Modi. I appeal to them to decorate their houses with flowers on May 12".

Speaking at the same press conference, Choudhary said the PM's roadshow will take place in the evening. Details of his programme will be available soon.

The BJP leaders bristled at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's taunt that "desperation" had driven the PM to hold a roadshow in a constituency which has always been



at Bodh Gaya".

Minister of Bihar.

Choudhary, who was earlier

in the RJD, took potshots at

Lalu Prasad for claiming

credit for the implementation

of the Mandal Commission

when the latter was the Chief

considered "a safe seat" for the an AIIMS here besides an IIM saffron party. "Does the prime minister

need to get some special visa issued by Tejashwi Yadav to come here". Prasad asked even as he hit back at the former Bihar Deputy CM for raising a fresh demand for central

status to Patna University. "Tejashwi Yadav should tell us whether his father Lalu Prasad, who ruled Bihar for long and, later, became a minister in the Manmohan Singh cabinet, cared to raise these demands", said the Patna Sahib MP. He added "The people of Bihar, though, should rest

The state BJP president added, "Lalu Prasad should assured that whatever is needed for the state will be also remember that but for done by us. It was during Atal the support of our party, the Janata Dal could not have Bihari Vajpayee's time that the engineering college in Patna formed a government with got upgraded to NIT. Modi's him as the chief minister". "The fact remains, Prasad has tenure saw the setting up of



course, we were opposed to bad laws like Article 370 which was scrapped", added Choudhary.

always been intent on giving

benefits of reservations and

other facilities only to castes

and communities he counts

on as his supporters. The

prime minister is right in

flagging a conspiracy to steal

To Tejashwi Yadav's taunt that the opposition has forced the PM to hit the streets, the Bihar BJP chief responded: 'Modi is a 'fakir' (renunciate). Tejashwi and his father have deep pockets".

A question was posed to Ravi Shankar Prasad about the "Prasad is ailing and old age fresh controversy around seems to have caused memory "south Indians look like loss. He should take rest and Africans" remark of Sam recall that even the VP Singh Pitroda, the technocrat who government at the Centre at that time was way short of heads Indian Overseas majority. BJP deserves its own Congress.

Prasad replied "he is known share of credit for not just to be an advisor to Rahul kamandal (Hindutva) but also Mandal", asserted Choudhary. Gandhi. Ι can now understand why the Congress leader often ends up with his foot in the mouth. The remark betrays Sam Pitroda's ignorance about the country and desperation over the imminent defeat of his favourite party".

Muslim League, claims Yogi

PTI GORAKHPUR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Chief on Wednesday said the Congress manifesto is like a "new version of the Muslim League".

Addressing the media at the Gorakhnath temple premises, Adityanath said, "This is not a 'Nyay Patra', but 'Anyay Patra' towards the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Sanatana

Castes and Dharma." "A new version of the Muslim League has come. Nothing can be more shameful than the manifesto of the country's political oldest party, Congress, representing the Muslim League," he said, according to a statement issued in Lucknow.

When asked about Congress Gandhi's leader Sonia accusation that the BJP promotes hatred politics, the chief minister said that instead of telling white lies, she should at least develop a habit of speaking the truth.

deceive the public anymore during the elections because the entire nation has come together in the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, he added.

Escalating his attack on the Congress, Adityanath said everyone knows that the grand old party has "inherited the policy of divide and rule". "In 1947, the Congress



the British to succeed and divided the country. After independence, the Congress fuelled class struggles within the country based on caste, region and language due to political selfishness," Adityanath said.

"Terrorism, Naxalism and separatism, all of these are contributions of the Congress," he added.

"Who doesn't know what Sonia Gandhi did as the chairperson of the UPA from 2004 to 2014?" Adityanath said and added that Justice Ranganath Mishra Committee was formed to undermine OBC reservation. The chief minister said the committee even suggested allocating six per cent of the OBC reservation to the Muslims. The BJP and NDA opposed it at that time, and the Congress' plans could not

Adityanath further said the Congress and its allies also attempted to encroach upon rights of SC-ST Congress During the

government, there were attempts, as mentioned in the Sachar Committee report, to some M Muslim include communities the Scheduled Caste category. However, due to opposition from the NDA and BJP, the Congress' plans couldn't be

fulfilled, he added. The chief minister accused Congress the of implementing Section 370 in Kashmir and undermining OBC reservation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

"The people of India will never allow the intention of the Congress to be fulfilled because divisive politics is not in anyone's interest," he added.

Adityanath emphasized the Congress' manifesto is of divisive nature, warning that it could lead India towards class conflicts and encroach upon the rights of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

however, expressed He, confidence the people of the nation will resist these plans of the Congress

a saffron

PTI AHMEDABAD ¬ujarat has recorded an Gestimated voter turnout of 59.51 per cent in the elections to 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state, as per the data shared by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday.

LS polls: EC

puts Gujarat

voter turnout at

59.51 per cent

The final figure would be available by evening after the addition of postal ballot data, an official said.

This time, the voter turnout is 4.6 per cent less compared to the 2019 general polls in the state.

In 2019, the state registered a voter turnout of 64.11 per cent in polls to the 26 Lok Sabha seats.

Voting was held in 25 Lok Sabha seats of Gujarat on Tuesday as the BJP recently bagged the Surat Lok Sabha seat uncontested.

"Gujarat has recorded an estimated voter turnout of 59.51 per cent," said a

statement by the EC. According to Gujarat's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) P Bharathi, the final voter turnout figures would be available by evening after the addition of postal ballot data. 'Polling station-wise data is now being fed into the system and postal ballots are yet to be

counted. 'So there will be a slight increase in the final figure, not much. This 59.51 per cent turnout is almost final," said Bharathi.

Poverty to be fully eradicated from India in next 15 years: Rajnath

PTI BHAWANIPATNA (ODISHA)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday claimed that poverty would be completely eradicated from India in the next 10-15 years and this is 'Modi Ki guarantee'.

Šingh said this while addressing the BJP's 'Vijay Sankalp' rally here in the district headquarters town of Kalahandi.

"Though Congress leaders from Pandit beginning Jawahar Lal Nehru to Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh all have promised to

end poverty, all of them have failed. However, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the process to end

poverty," he said. Noting that about 25 crore people have been lifted from below the poverty line during the nine years rule of Modi, the Defence minister said that this was not the claim made by the BJP, but the report of Niti Aayog. No previous government had ever done so as Modi did in the last nine years, he claimed.

Singh said: "There will be no family in India which will not have a pucca house, pipe drinking water and LPG gas



connection in the next 5 vears.

Recalling the Kalahandi situation, the BJP leader said that people from NGOs were coming to Kalahandi and writing articles on 'poverty tourism', as the place was known for h starvation death and poverty. However, things change during the nine-year rule of the Modi government at the Centre, he said. While lauding the vocabulary skill of BJP's

Kalahandi Lok

lotus symbol for proper implement the Ayushman highlighting of the local Bharat health scheme as issues at the national level. soon as Quoting former Prime government is formed in Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Odisha. the expenditure of public money, Singh said: "Only 15 He said cutting across caste, creed and religion, all the people at the age of 70 years paise was reaching the beneficiary in the ground or above would be covered under the Ayushman Bharat level if the Centre sent Rs 1 people. scheme.

"Bring BJP government in Odisha, the state will Ayushman implement Bharat immediately," he said. people are getting the money The Defence minister also claimed that during the Appealing the people to install a BJP government in Modi regime, terrorism has almost come to an end due Odisha, Singh said that the to timely and strong action will against terrorists. He,

however, said that there is a few sporadic cases of terrorism and it will completely vanish from Indian soil under the leadership of Modi.

Claiming that the BJP does what it says, Singh said the Modi government has abolished Article 370, ended the triple talaq practice and installed Sri Ram Lala's statue at Ayodhya as promised earlier. He promised earlier. appealed to people to vote for BJP candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly polls. Lok Sabha and Assembly elelctions would be held simultaneously in Odisha.

Vijay Bhabhor captures the booth in Parthampur Village,

Santrampur. He goes live on social media while doing the

same and is seen threatening

Voting Machine) and VVPAT

(Voter verifiable paper audit

Trail) machine and seeking

five to ten minutes from a poll

official even when he is asked

to leave. Bhabhor purportedly also says that "only the BJP

works here". His accomplice

'The machine belongs to my

father. Only one thing works

— that is BJP," says Bhabhor

before pressing a button on

the EVM, as per the video.

"Only Vijay Bhabhor works here," he purportedly says.

was also seen in the video.

poll officials," he claimed. The video shows Bhabhor purportedly focusing the camera on EVM (Electronic

hunger, poverty. However, things for the poor people. have undergone a massive However, Modi's Jandhan account and direct bank transfer procedure ended the corruption and the

Sabha candidate Malavika Devi, Singh appealed to the people of Kalaĥandi to vote for the BJP

materialize, he added. the communities.

These people won't be able to

Himachal: Only three women elected to Lok Sabha till date, just two in fray this time

PTI SHIMLA

Only three women have made it to the Lok Sabha from Himachal Pradesh in the past 72 years and this time, just two are in the fray. Women constitute almost 49 per cent of the total voters in the state.

Amrit Kaur, Rajkumari Kumari Chandresh and Pratibha Singh, the three successful candidates till now belonged to royal families. Only the BJP and the BSP

have nominated women candidates for the June 1 elections for the four Lok Sabha seats in the state.

While the BJP has fielded actor Kangana Ranaut from Mandi, Rekha Rani is contesting on a BSP ticket from Kangra.

"Women from humble background rising high in politics and carving a niche for themselves is still a big challenge in the country and Himachal Pradesh is no exception. At present, women constitute about 49 per cent of the total voters in the state but representation is not even one fourth and this is a cause of serious concern," said Ramesh Chauhan, head of the political department of science at Himachal Pradesh University.

In politics, what matters is who has the decision-making power. This power is normally with men and until women are given prominent positions, they would not emerge as "empowered" and surpass their dominant male counterparts, Chauhan told PTI.

According to Kamal Manohar Sharma, who also teaches political science at Himachal Pradesh University, the status of women has been high in the state and even before



reservation for women was introduced, women pradhans were elected in Mandi, Kinnaur and Kangra districts. But women were not so keen to climb the ladder to the assembly, he claimed. Moreover, the political parties

also did not promote or encourage the women with humble background, he added.

Political parties go all out to woo the women voters but when it comes to declaring candidates, women get few opportunities, the political experts felt.

To add to it, participation of women voters surpass male voters especially in rural areas but still few women get elected, they added.

A total of 56,38,422 voters -Batra from Hamirpur but she 28,79,200 male, 27,59,187 female and 35 third gender persons — are eligible to polled only 15,329 votes and lost. Even in the 68-member state exercise their franchise for the assembly, the representation seats of Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, and Shimla (SC) in of women has been abysmally low and no woman was elected till 1967. Only one the seventh and last phase of polling on June 1. woman entered the assembly Amrit Kaur, India's first in 1977 and 2022. However,

health minister who hailed from the royal family of Kapurthala, was elected to Lok Sabha from Mandi constituency in 1952. Thereafter, no woman got a ticket till 1984.

PTI DAHOD However, in 1984, Chandresh man has been detained Kumari from the royal family

minister

becoming chief minister in 2012 and his wife Pratibha

Singh won the by-election in

the third time in the by-

election held in November

2021 after the death of

In 2014, the AAP fielded

Kargil war hero Capt Vikram

Batra's mother Kamal Kanta

the highest number of seven

women was elected to the

state assembly in the 1998

So far, eight women have been

elected to Rajya Sabha from

elections.

the state.

Virbhadra Singh.

Gandhi

minister

2013.

Afor alleged bogus voting of Jodhpur who was married after he live-streamed from inside a poll booth in the in Himachal Pradesh, was fielded by the Congress from Dahod Lok Sabha constituency, officials said on Kangra and won as the party swept the election, riding on Wednesday.

the sympathy wave following The Congress has claimed that the man, Vijay Bhabhor, is the son of a local BJP leader the assassination of the then Indira and accused him of "insulting democracy" by going live on Pratibha Singh, wife of former chief minister Virbhadra Instagram from the booth. unsuccessfully The police in the state's contested the Lok Sabha polls Mahisagar district detained in 1998. However, she won the elections in 2004 when Bhabhor and another man after the opposition complained to the Election her husband was the chief Commission with a copy of the video. Though Bhabhor In 2009, Virbhadra Singh was elected to Lok Sabha from deleted the video after it drew criticism, the clip had gone viral on social media by then. Mandi but he quit after

The incident of a man relaying a video live on Instagram after going to a poll booth to cast his vote is being probed, Dahod Returning Officer Nirgude Babanrao said.

"We have received the video with a complaint and an investigation is underway," he said.

Of the 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat, polling was held in 25 constituencies on Tuesday in the third phase of the general elections. The BJP candidate in Surat has won

unopposed. The incident happened at a polling booth at Parthampur in Mahisagar district under Dahod parliamentary constituency, Mahisagar Superintendent of Police Jaydeepsinh Jadeja said.



sent by the Centre.'

"We have detained two persons and action is being taken based on the FIR registered by the presiding officer under the Representative of the People Act for bogus voting," Jadeja said.

He said Bhabhor went to the poll booth to cast his vote at 5.49 pm and left by 5.54 pm. In those five minutes, he went live on Instagram and also allegedly cast votes on behalf of two other electors, resorting to bogus voting, he said.

Prabha Taviad is the Congress

candidate in the constituency. She is pitted against incumbent MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor

Congress claimed that the person who relayed the booth capturing" video on Instagram is the son of a local BJP leader.

Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said they have repolling at booth number 220 in Parthampur over the incident.

Son of a BJP leader at Mahisagar played with the EVM machine and abused the Election Commission by creating a live video of booth capturing and thereby insulting democracy," Doshi said

A Congress leader shared the purported video on his X handle. "BJP leader's son

Priyanka campaigns for Rahul in Rae Bareli

PTI RAEBARELI (UP)

Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his Adani-Ambani jibe, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday charged that the BJP has a nexus with industrialists and waived their loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore.

She also alleged that the entire BJP machinery is engaged in spreading "lies" about Rahul Gandhi. Referring to the prime minister's remarks at a rally in Telangana that the Congress should explain to people why it has stopped raising the 'Ambani-Adani' issue as its 'Shehzada' used to do for the past five years, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Today he (Modi) is saying Rahul does not take the name

of Adani, Ambani....He does so every day. He brings their truth in front of you every

day 'We say every day that they (BJP) have a nexus with industrialists. You must understand that Prime Minister Modi has waived off Rs 16 lakh crore of big billionaires. Whose money is this? This is not Modi ji's money. That is the country's money," she said at public meetings here while campaigning for her brother Rahul Gandhi from the family bastion.

BJP leaders are not even talking about inflation and unemployment. They will come here and in their speeches talk about religion, caste, temples and mosques but will not talk about your real problems," she said.

INDIA Bloc will vanish once LS poll She again contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2014 but lost to Ram Swaroop of BJP, who was results are announced: Goa CM re-elected in 2019. But the seat fell vacant when Ram Swaroop died in March 2021

conceded defeat and its

leaders are admitting in private that they will be

restricted to only four

assembly constituencies (out

'The INDIA alliance will

vanish once the Lok Sabha

announced. The Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) will not be able

to contest the next election

as its leader and chief minister is in jail," he said, referring to Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal,

who has been in jail

following his arrest in the

Delhi liquor policy case. "Some of the INDIA Bloc

results

are

of the total 40) in the State.

election

PTI PANAJI and Pratibha Singh won for

Goa Chief Minister and Senior BJP leader Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said the opposition's INDIA bloc will vanish once the results of the Lok Sabha elections are announced on June 4. He also said that some regional parties in Goa, who are constituents of the INDIA bloc, may even get merged with the Congress after the results

Talking to reporters, CM Sawant predicted that the Bharatiya Janata Party's North Goa candidate Shripad Naik will win the election by a margin of more than one lakh votes, while its South Goa nominee Pallavi Dempo will bag the seat by a margin of 50,000 to 60,000 votes. Naik and BJP's Goa unit president Sadanand Shet partners in Goa who were more aggressive than the Congress may merge their party with the latter," he Tanavade were also present on the occasion. Sawant said added the Congress has already

According to the Goa CM, the BJP has fought this election on the issue of development, while the Congress was trying to rake up the issues of religion and caste during its

campaign in the state. "The Congress has nothing to project, hence they had to take support of the issues of caste and religion. They should have told people what they had done when they had double-engine Government," Government," he said, referring to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) dispensation that was in power between 2004 and 2014.

Man live streams from poll booth in Gujarat, detained for bogus voting

government

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The name game

Celebrities and influencers are equally liable for misleading endorsements, says the SC

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has declared that celebrities and influencers are equally liable if they endorse misleading advertisements. Hearing a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association against Patanjali's advertisements, the Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah has come down heavily on the influencers and celebrities who feature in such adverts. In the age of social media, celebrities and influencers wield considerable influence, with millions of followers taking their word as gospel truth. In many instances, the endorsements are misleading or false, leading to consumer detriment and eroding trust in advertising. The Supreme Court's ruling represents a crucial step towards ensuring transparency and accountability in advertising practices. With millions of impressionable individuals looking up to them, these personalities possess a moral obligation to exercise due diligence while endorsing products or services. The failure to do so jeopardises consumer trust. Furthermore, the court



emphasised the need for stricter regulations and enforcement mechanisms to deter deceptive advertising practices. While existing laws and guidelines provide some level of protection to consumers, they often fall short in holding celebrities and influencers accountable for their actions. The apex court's ruling sends out a clear message that no individual, regardless of their fame or influence, is allowed to mislead public for personal gains.

The ramifications of the Supreme Court's decision are far-reaching for celebrities and influencers alike. Moving forward, these individuals must exercise greater caution and diligence when entering into endorsement

agreements. They are obligated to ensure that the products or services they endorse are truthful, substantiated and in compliance with advertising regulations. This heightened accountability serves as a powerful deterrent against unethical marketing practices and underscores the importance of transparency and authenticity in influencer partnerships. Of late, many film stars promote chewing pan masala under the guise of a mouth freshener. Other celebrities have promoted online gaming sites which are actually gambling sites smartly packaged as gaming sites. However, it is just the beginning and there is a long way to go before such advertising endorsements can be curbed. There have to be clear and concise guidelines (the existing ones are not enough) to stop surrogate ads. Moreover, to be fair to celebrities, they often do not know what they are promoting. Hollywood star Pierce Brosnan once featured in a chewing tobacco ad which he later said he was told was a mouth freshener. He can be given a long rope for not understanding the difference but Indian celebrities are supposed to know such underhand tactics. As celebrities and influencers navigate this evolving guideline, they must prioritise integrity and ethical conduct to maintain the trust and loyalty of their audience. This would be good for their reputation as well as for the society.



Tasks for new regime in turbulent times



KS TOMAR

As the nation braces for a new Government, all eyes are on the horizon of challenges awaiting the new administration

eeping in view the confidence of Prime Minister, Narender Modi, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah and the BJP to cross a magic figure of "Chaar Sau Paar" nothing is certain in politics but a new regime will take shape in New Delhi after the results of general elections on June 4.

In this backdrop none can deny that the new regime is poised to confront hordes of new challenges which include giving top priority to advancements in emerging technologies, adapting to shifting geopolitical equations, the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and formulating a long-term strategy to counter China's expansionist policies and security threats in the region. These challenges are pivotal for India's aspirations to join the League of developed nations in the future. Experts say that Indian PM, Narender Modi's push for digital technologies which proved a boon during Covid19 crisis for the delivery of services besides emphasising renewable energy, a mission mode to put India back on the map of semiconductors production, setting a new target in space arena and formulation of a strategy to accelerate India's capabilities in AI has helped India to position itself to give a fillip to innovate and catch up with the US and China which have been trying to master the technological revolution to be relevant in future.

Foreign policy experts highlight India's growing concerns over China's increasing influence in the region, particularly its impact on security along the Line of Control (LOC). Consequently, the new administration must focus on devising a strategic plan, possibly in collaboration with the United States, to address these concerns. China's recent tactics involve enticing India's neighbours with debt policies and offering substantial loans for projects like the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and defence-related ventures. For

instance, China signed a military

assistance" deal with the Maldives,

providing non-lethal weapons

and free training to Maldivian

security forces, a significant totalling \$67.2 billion from



departure from the earlier training provided by India and the United States.

Ahead lies the crucial task for New Delhi to formulate an ambitious and practical longterm plan to counter China's advancements in "new productive forces," a term coined by President Xi Jinping. This involves focusing on economic development through innovation in advanced sectors. China's aim to surpass the United States in the production of advanced science and technologies poses challenges for India as well. Therefore, India must intensify its efforts to support the United States in its global technology coalitions with allies like Japan, Australia and India, along with the CHIP Alliance, while fostering deep bilateral partnerships in emerging critical technolo-

China's expanding ties in the region are evident and India needs to tread cautiously to counter its influence, as seen in the case of Nepal. The recent political shift in Nepal towards a communist Government ideologically aligned with China is concerning, especially considering China's "Debt Trap" strategy. Pakistan serves as a stark example, with China extending a massive debt of \$23 billion, a substantial portion of

2000 to 2021, underscores the risks associated with this debt dependency. Despite facing economic collapse, Pakistan remains indebted to China, highlighting the potential peril of falling into a debt trap.

Experts suggest that the incoming Government in Delhi may find solace in the recent normalisation of ties with Sri Lanka. A severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka had pushed it perilously close to the edge, but India stepped in with a \$4 billion economic assistance package and humanitarian aid, surpassing even the IMF's 48-month special package to stabilise the AHEAD LIES THE country. This move show-**CRUCIAL TASK FOR** cased India's commitment beyond traditional diplomacy NEW DELHI TO and responded to the dire needs of its neighbour. It's FORMULATE AN noteworthy that China, previ-AMBITIOUS AND ously involved, withdrew its support, while India's interven-PRACTICAL tion has been perceived positively, reflecting a shift in Sri LONG-TERM PLAN Lanka's outlook. Interestingly, **TO COUNTER** former president, Mahinda Rajapaksa had blamed India CHINA'S for interfering in the Sri Lanka elections which led to his **ADVANCEMENTS** ouster in 2015. The trend continued when Gotabaya Rajapaksa, president cancelled the East Container Terminal ECT) agreement in the Colombo airport in violation

Abeywardera thanked India for saving his country from the 'blood path' hence China stands exposed in the eyes of the people of this country. India's relations with

Bangladesh remain strong, exemplified by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts. During a joint event on November 23, 2023, Modi referred to India as Bangladesh's largest development partner, emphasising mutual benefits ..

One of the notable features of election campaigning by all parties, unlike developed nations, is the lack of debates, discussions and narratives to enlighten the people about the relevance and significance of foreign policy. The manifestoes may dwell upon foreign relations and future strategy but no effort is made to emphasise its importance in achieving the goal of joining the elite club of developed nations. India's independent stand to import crude oil from Russia, despite economic sanctions by the United States and allies owing to the Ukraine war, has demonstrated to the world that such decisions are primarily governed by keeping national interest supreme. India's strategic approach towards Maldives and Nepal needs to be flexible and innovative to counter Chinas grov

A child bathes his dog in a waterbody on a hot summer day, in Jammu

Insights into India's growing heart health crisis NAVEEN BHAMRI



Aortic stenosis with a high mortality rate is a significant cardiovascular concern. Non-surgical aortic valve replacement emerges as a game-changer

ortic stenosis stands as one of India's most Aprevalent valvular heart diseases, trailing only hypertension and coronary artery disease. Its prevalence surges with age, affecting roughly one in ten individuals aged 75 or older. The condition, characterised by a narrowing of the aortic valve opening, often manifests with symptoms such as chest pain, fatigue and shortness of

breath, impacting the quality of life for affected individuals.

The primary causes include degenerative valve disease, congenital bicuspid aortic valve disease and rheumatic heart disease, the latter being the leading global cause of aortic stenosis (AS), particularly among children and young adults. Despite an initially asympto-

matic phase that may last for several decades, the prognosis dramatically changes once symptoms develop. Without timely intervention, such as aortic valve replacement, the average survival rate dwindles to a mere 2-3 years, elevating the risk of sudden death. The early symptoms of aortic

stenosis are frequently over-



looked or misattributed to other causes. Nevertheless, recognising the significance of symptoms and promptly seeking medical attention is critical in mitigating the progression of the disease. For individuals diagnosed with aortic stenosis, heart valve replacement surgery often becomes a necessary course of action. This surgical intervention aims to repair or replace faulty heart valves, restoring proper blood flow and alleviating symptoms. According to a report by GlobalData, approximately 69,592 heart valve surgeries are conducted each year in India.

The heart's proper function relies on valves, ensuring blood flows in one direction. When valves malfunction, surgery becomes necessary to repair or replace them. This may involve fixing leaflets that don't open wide enough or don't close tightly, ensuring blood flows properly through the heart chambers and arter-**TAVI Therapy Helps** Mrs. Patel, a 78-year-old

ies. Replacement valves can be sourced from animals, human woman, was struggling with tissue, or synthetic materials. severe degenerative aortic TAVI & TAVR for AS stenosis. Mrs. Patel's condi-Transcatheter Aortic Valve tion, made it hard for blood Implantation/Replacement to flow through her heart properly. (TAVI/TAVR) is a ground-

breaking alternative proce-This caused her heart to work dure to open heart surgeries. harder, leading to symptoms TAVI/TAVR is a minimally like chest pain and feeling breathless. Her doctor suginvasive procedure that involves inserting a new valve gested a treatment called inside the damaged aortic AVI (Transcatheter Aortic valve, often without removing Valve Implantation), a less invasive procedure where a the old valve entirely. The procedure itself involves insertnew valve is placed inside the ing a catheter through an damaged one. The deployartery in the groin, which is ment of the valve was successthen guided to the heart. ful, with Mrs. Patel responding positively to the proce-The number of patients afflicted with blocked arteries dure. Remarkably, within just and co-morbidities like three days, Mrs. Patel was dishypertension, diabetes and charged from the hospital. chronic kidney disease is Subsequent assessments increasing day after day. The revealed no signs of valve ideal solution for such issues or blockages in her patients is TAVI procedure, as heart. Her journey underit offers significant benefits scores the remarkable impact over traditional treatments. of interventions like TAVI in However, only a small perrestoring health and wellcentage end up opting for it. being. Addressing aortic stenosis early, especially in patients with multiple co-morbidi-

quality of life.

Director and Head of Interventional Cardiology at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi; ties, is crucial for improving outcomes and enhancing views are personal)

(The writer is Senior

POLL BATTLE CONTINUES

which is tied to the Belt and

Road Initiative. Pakistan's

mounting debt to China,

"Poll battle enters crucial Phase III," published on May 7, this is my response. The upcoming third phase of Lok Sabha elections is poised to be a crucial battleground, with political heavyweights from both ruling and opposition parties vying for victory. The BJP, having secured a significant number of seats in the 2019 elections, faces the challenge of maintaining its dominance, especially in key States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. With over 1,300 candidates, including a notable presence of women, contesting across 12 States and Union Territories, the electoral landscape reflects a diverse array of voices. The extensive deployment of security forces underscores the significance of ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

Of particular interest are the contests in constituencies like Guna in Madhya Pradesh, where Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia seeks to reclaim lost ground and Baramati in Maharashtra, where dynastic politics adds an intriguing dimension to the electoral dynamics. As voter turnout fluctuates amidst challenging weather conditions, the outcome of this phase remains uncertain, with implications for the broader political landscape. It's a testament to the vibrancy of Indian democracy and the diverse aspirations of its citizens.

CORAL CRISIS

Madam - Apropos the news article, reefs of Lakshadweep," published on May 7, this is my response. As someone who its cascading effects on marine life sound

signed amongst three partners including Japan, India and Sri Lanka. Now Sri Lanka's speak-Mehinda Yapa

of a 2019 project contract

ing influence effectively. (The writer is a journalist and political analyst, views are personal)

THE EDITOR

Madam - Apropos the news article,



Anika Patel | Kolkata

"Marine heatwave scorches pristine coral reads the news daily, the plight of Lakshadweep's vibrant corals strikes a chord. It's disheartening to witness the gradual decline of such natural wonders due to prolonged marine heatwaves. Beyond the aesthetic loss, the ecosystem repercussions are immense. The warnings from scientists about coral bleaching and alarms for the delicate balance of nature.

More allegations against Kejriwal



propos the news article, "LG recommends NIA probe against Keiriwal." published on May 7, this is my response. The recent recommendation for an NIA probe against Arvind Kejriwal by Delhi's Lieutenant Governor raises serious concerns. The accusation of receiving funding from extremist groups is alarming and demands a thorough investigation. However, the

Moreover, the socioeconomic impact on coastal communities underscores the urgent need for action.

The Government's attention to Lakshadweep's marine ecosystems is crucial, especially considering the region's ecological and economic significance. The initiatives by CMFRI to study and develop resilience-based strategies offer hope amidst the crisis. However, collective efforts are imperative to mitigate the escalating threats and safeguard these invaluable treasures for future generations. The news serves as a reminder of our responsibility to preserve and protect our natural heritage in the face of environmental challenges

Aaradhya Sharma | Mumbai

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Madam - Apropos the news article, "CHHAYA: A contraceptive beyond family planning," published on May 6, this is my response. The recent approval of Centchroman, a non-hormonal contraceptive pill, signifies a significant stride in bolstering women's reproductive health rights. Branded as "Chhaya" in public health facilities and "SAHELI" in the mar-

timing, just before the Supreme Court's bail consideration and the political backdrop surrounding it raise questions of motive and agenda. The intertwined narratives of terrorism, politics and justice in this case create a complex scenario. On one hand, there's the gravity of allegations involving a banned terrorist organisation; on the other, there are claims of political conspiracy and manipulation.

As a reader, navigating through these intricate details leaves one perplexed and sceptical. The need for transparency and impartiality in the investigation is paramount to uphold the integrity of the democratic process and ensure justice prevails. However, amidst the political fervour surrounding elections, separating truth from propaganda becomes increasingly challenging.

Vihaan Singh | Ahmedabad

ket, this pill offers a hormone-free alternative, expanding choices for family planning. Its versatility is commendable, catering to women regardless of age, marital status, or childbirth history. Notably, its compatibility with breastfeeding ensures maternal health without compromising lactation.

Centchroman's introduction aligns with India's commitment to reproductive rights and gender equality. By providing a safe and accessible contraceptive, the Government empowers women to make informed decisions, underscoring family planning as a human right crucial for social and economic development. However, dissemination of information remains pivotal. Comprehensive education on contraception can dispel misconceptions, enabling women to navigate their reproductive health confidently. In essence, Centchroman heralds a new era of inclusivity and empowerment, promising a future where women have agency over their bodies and futures.

Kabir Malhotra | Bengaluru

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FIRSTCOLUMN PROFOUND INFLUENCE OF HABITS

Habits sculpt our lives by fostering discipline and perseverance



SAKSHI SETHI

n the words of F.M Alexander, 'People don't decide their futures. They decide their habits and their habits decide their futures.'From the moment we wake up to the moment we retire to bed, habits silently guide individual behaviours, often without even realising it. They can either propel us towards success or lead us down a path of mediocrity or failure. Habits have a profound impact on an individual's personal development and well-being. They are the fabric of daily existence, weaving through routines and decisions and ultimately, shaping the course of an individual's life. By establishing a consistent routine, an individual creates a framework within which they can operate efficiently and effectively.

The individual becomes disciplined and learns self-control and perseverance... the qualities that are essential for achieving long-term goals and overcoming obstacles. Habits play a crucial role in the social sphere, shaping relationships and interactions with others. They are the invisible architects of every individual's life, decisions and ultimately, destiny. Shared habits, such as participating in team sports or volunteering in the community, foster a sense of camaraderie and belonging. Whether consciously or unconsciously, it is the habits that dictate what an individual eats, how the free time is to be spent and even which people to surround with. By understanding and intentionally cultivating positive habits, one can steer oneself towards choices that align with their goals and values. Undoubtedly, habits are the silent architects of one's actions, often operating beneath the conscious awareness yet exerting a profound influence on thoughts.



By establishing a consistent routine, one can create a framework within which they can operate efficiently and effectively. Habits indeed hold far more significance in everyone's life than one can often realise. From the moment an individual wakes up until they retire to bed, habits silently guide behaviours, often influencing outcomes far more than one can acknowledge. One of the most powerful aspects of habits is their ability to create momentum. Once a habit is established, it becomes easier to maintain and even expand upon. This momentum propels the individual to move forward, making it easier to achieve their goals and aspirations. By starting with small, achievable habits and gradually building upon them, one can harness this momentum to make positive changes in their life. There is no denying the fact that good habits lie behind many of the positive changes while conversely, negative habits, such as procrastination, excessive screen time and unhealthy habits, hinder progress and undermine an individual's potential. Human connection is fundamental to happiness and fulfilment and this shows how habits play a crucial role in shaping one's daily experiences, behaviours and outcomes across various domains of life. It is the habits that contribute to a sense of belonging, support networks and emotional fulfilment. They encompass a wide range of actions, from simple everyday tasks to complex behaviours and thus play a significant role in shaping lives. They are not mere trivialities but powerful forces that permeate every aspect of our lives. By intentionally cultivating positive habits and breaking free from detrimental ones, one can create a life that is aligned with our values, goals and aspirations. Whether they are positive or negative, habits are and will always be an integral part of one's life. They form a crucial part of the everyday conceptual scheme used to explain normal human activity. Remember, an individual only becomes what they think they can. One cannot change the habits one does daily. The secret of an individual's success is found in their daily routine as rightly said there are no overnight transformations. (The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Rationalise regulations for e-commerce



analys \$ 07

When the Government expects foreign companies to do almost everything that a retailer does, how can it deny these firms the right to sell?

ay back in 2019, Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) an organisation of retail traders in the national capital had lodged a complaint with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) alleging anticompetitive behaviour by Amazon Seller Services (ASS) and Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL).

The CCI is an authority established under the Competition Act, of 2002. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates mergers, amalgamations acquisitions etc to ensure that there is no adverse effect on competition. Amazon and Flipkart are global giants operating e-commerce marketplaces in India through their subsidiaries, the ASS and the FIPL.

DVM argued that ASS and FIPL had entered into exclusive sales agreements with smartphone makers to sell certain phones through a small number of pre-ferred sellers. It also alleged that they had given preferential treatment to certain sellers by giving them higher search rankings and offering to pay for part of the discount that such sellers would offer during key sales periods such as Flipkart's Big Billion Days and Amazon's Prime Day.

On January 13, 2020, the CCI initiated an investigation under Section 26(1) of the CCI agreed with DVM's contention and ordered a probe by the Director General (DG) - Investigation. ASS and FIPL approached the Karnataka High Court (KHC) with a plea to quash the CCI order. The KHC refused to quash it. The duo challenged the order in the Supreme Court (SČ). In August 2021, the SC too dismissed their applications and ordered that "the CCI - DG will complete the probe.

Now, the CCI-DG has come up with its findings.

The investigation has charged Amazon and Flipkart with violation of antitrust laws. Leveraging their substantial financial resources, they have indulged in 'predatory pricing' and forged exclusive partnerships with selective sellers. Predatory pricing is the illegal business practice of setting prices extremely low albeit by offering heavy discounts to consumers in an attempt to eliminate the competition and establish a monopoly. This has resulted in the shutdown of thousands of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It has specifically targeted Amazon for certain practices, especially with Cloudtail India Pvt Ltd (a firm set up by a JV namely Prione Business Services (PBS) established by Amazon, in collaboration with an Indian entity owned by Narayan Murthy of Infosys) a "preferred" seller on Amazon's marketplace and other in-house sellers. Similarly, Flipkart has been investigated for its links to platform sellers, which contravenes new e-commerce regulations. What has led to the violations? This can't be attributed solely to the use of financial muscle by these companies as alluded to by the CCI - DG. This has a lot to do with the rules introduced in early 2016, through which the Government allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the socalled e-commerce marketplace model.





IS ALSO However, the intent wasn't reflected in the Press Note (PN) issued WORKING ON A by the Department for Promotion COMPREHENSIVE of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of POLICY ON FDI IN Commerce and Industries. While drafting the fine print, a clever E-COMMERCE. IF bureaucrat blurred the demarca-IT GOES AHEAD tion between the marketplace vhere 100 per cent FDI was

would be naïve to expect that an anti-competition situation won't emerge. With such rules in place, it was a foregone conclusion that Amazon et al would have exclusive partnerships with selective sellers who - acting in concert with the former - would indulge in predatory pricing and give heavy discounts leading to the annihilation of thousands of SMEs. Following a complaint from the SMEs, on December 26, 2018, the DPIIT clarified that "the owner of the marketplace or its subsidiary or its joint venture (JV) with an Indian company can't have ownership of the seller." Further, "a seller on the platform can't source more than 25° percent of its inventory from a firm connected with the latter."

Foreign investors can circumvent the first rider by having less than 50 per cent shareholding in the seller firm and arguing that they have no control (majority) over the latter. The marketplace owner can also sell his 'own' product - albeit through its wholesale arm - on the platform. All that the wholesale arm needs to ensure is to restrict supplies to the seller within the 25 per cent threshold. The clarification/modification in the conditions through December 26, 2018, hasn't helped much in improving the situation. A few sellers, some of them still maintaining connection with the marketplace owner continue to dominate the e-commerce platform. For instance, only three dozen firms out of the 400,000 sellers on the ASS platform account for 67 per cent of sales on control almost all of the sales it. Meanwhile, in 2020, the

(DCA), in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, issued the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, under Section 101 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The rules bar affiliated entities from selling on e-commerce platforms, restrict 'flash sales,' and disallow sellers from using the name or brand associ-ated with the marketplace e-commerce entities for the promotion of goods. In 2021, DCA made amendments to restrict businessto-business, or B2B, sales in ecommerce and a provision to prevent an 'abuse of dominant position' by e-commerce firms. The Government is also working on a comprehensive policy on FDI in e-commerce that will give primacy to the above rules. If it goes ahead with such a policy, it will be tantamount to a retrospective change of policy and send a wrong signal to foreign investors. The present mess owes it to the very idea of the marketplace which is flawed. When, the Government expects foreign companies to do almost everything that a retailer does viz. booking orders, raising the invoices, arranging the delivery, accepting rejections and so on, how can the former deny the latter right to sell? The way forward is to shun this idea; instead, allow 100 per cent FDI in retail. The bureaucrats had already done it but in a 'subtle' way. The Government should make it obvious and straightforward. Moreover, 100 per cent FDI should be permitted to all retailers, online or offline, big or small for a level playing field.

WITH SUCH A allowed and the inventory model where it wasn't. The PN (2016) POLICY. IT WILL prescribed two conditions. First, the foreign entity owning market-**BE TANTAMOUNT** place cannot permit more than 25 TO A per cent of total sales on the marketplace from one vendor or its group companies. Two, it cannot RETROSPECTIVE directly or indirectly influence the CHANGE OF sale price. POLICY AND SEND In the absence of specifying who that vendor should be, it made A WRONG SIGNAL **TO FOREIGN**

THE GOVERNMENT

way for a company linked to the owner of the marketplace to get in. The latter could set up four **INVESTORS** companies (call them subsidiaries or IVs) and control 25 per cent of each of the total sales on the platform. Contrary to the policy intent, which prohibited foreign investors from direct selling, the fine print did just the opposite. Having allowed its entities to made on the marketplace, it Department of Consumer Affairs

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Empowering rural women through the 'Umeed' scheme

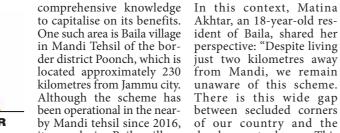
Despite its success in empowering many women, this scheme's benefits are still not fully accessible to all in the region

n remote villages of Jammu and Kashmir, a silent revolution is underway as these regions are witnessing women coming out of their houses to explore the avenues of selfemployment through the 'Umeed Scheme' - Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM). This transformative initiative aims to reach out to 66% of the rural population across the erstwhile 125 blocks, linking them to sustainable livelihood opportunities and nurturing them till they come out of poverty and enjoy a decent quality of life.

In December last year, Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, while sharing the JKRLM Vision



2024-30 informed that JKRLM has successfully federated 725,000 women and formed 87,000 self-help groups (SHGs) across the Union Territory of J&K. These SHGs are working in various areas such as livelihood, financial inclusion, gender and social inclusion and other related fields. However, certain rural pockets remain unaware of this significant scheme, lacking economic freedom.



Akhtar, an 18-year-old resident of Baila, shared her perspective: "Despite living just two kilometres away from Mandi, we remain unaware of this scheme. There is this wide gap between secluded corners of our country and the its reach in Baila village development schemes. This remains limited. When gap leaves us, women from remote areas, bereft of its advantages. We only learn asked about the 'Umeed Scheme', the response from about it when the scheme is the women of this remote village was a unanimous on the verge of closure. Our lack of awareness. When remoteness is the reason they were informed about why we haven't received any the benefits of the scheme, information about this scheme. How are we supthey expressed eagerness to posed to engage with it if we're in the dark?" understand its workings, underscoring its importance for including women in the "When I needed funds for my grocery store, I was short workforce and towards their



selling some wood from my house to procure materials. Had I known about this scheme earlier, I wouldn't have sold those timbers," lamented 37-year-old Farida Akhtar from the same vil-

When asked "If they have on cash. So, I resorted to awareness about any

scheme?" resident Zareena Akhtar, aged 23, responded that within their community, the only scheme recognised is the Anganwadi Scheme (ICDS), highlighting a significant gap in knowl-edge and accessibility to Governmental initiatives beyond this singular program.

There is also a lot of fear among the people of the village as well - both women and men. They have the fear of failure - what if they will not succeed in their

endeavour? Salma Akhtar, 19, from Baila, confirms the notion. She expressed fears about potential repercussions and uncertainties associated with loan acquisition

under the scheme. There is a need to dispel the uals, both men and women,

apprehensions lingering in the hearts of these women and endeavour to convey to them that this scheme is not a threat, but rather a boon. They need to be assured that this initiative can usher positive transformations into their lives. They must be made aware that this scheme is tailored specifically for women and designed to work towards their financial freedom

According to Naima Akhtar, the Cluster Head of the Umeed Scheme in Mandi Tehsil, the Government has allocated decent funding under this scheme for women to benefit from it. "I urge other women who may be unaware of this scheme to join us. Numerous individin the Mandi Loren area have secured rewarding opportunities through this Scheme. They are sustaining their households without needing to engage in manual labor.

Regrettably, the women of Baila remain oblivious to this exceptional program. Meanwhile, women from other regions are harnessing its benefits, propelling themselves up the ladder of

progress. They are not only achieving financial independence but also cultivating self-reliance. This brings hope for a transformative change in the lives of the women of Baila.

(The author is grassroots writer from Poonch, J&K; views are personal. *Charkha Features*)



Israel reopens Gaza crossing post-rocket attack US halts bomb

UN says no aid allowed across

AP JERUSALEM/ CHICAGO

The Israeli military said on Wednesday that it has reopened the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza, a key terminal for the entry of humanitarian aid that was closed over the weekend after a Hamas rocket attack killed four Israeli soldiers nearby. But the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said no aid has vet entered and there is no one to receive it on the Palestinian side. Workers fled during an incursion by an Israeli tank brigade on Tuesday that captured the nearby Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, which remains closed.

That limited incursion did not appear to be the start of the full-scale invasion of Rafah that Israel has repeatedly promised. But the prolonged closure of the two main crossings could exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. where the UN says a "full-blown famine" is already underway in the north. The United States paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that Israel was approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on Rafah, in a further widening of divisions between the two close allies. The US says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into Rafah, most of whom fled fighting elsewhere. Israel says Rafah is Hamas' last stronghold and that a wider offensive there is needed to dismantle the group's military and governing capabilities.

The US, Egypt and Qatar are meanwhile ramping up efforts to close the gaps in a possible agreement for at least a temporary cease-fire and the release of some of the scores of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas. Israel has linked the threatened Rafah operation to the fate of those negotiations. The Rafah crossing has been a vital conduit for humanitarian aid since the start of the war and is the only place where people can enter and exit. Kerem Shalom is Gaza's main cargo terminal. Israel now controls all of Gaza's crossings for the first time since it withdrew troops and settlers from the territory nearly two decades ago, though it has maintained a blockade with Egypt's cooperation for most of that time. Associated Press journalists heard sporadic explosions and gunfire in the area of the Rafah crossing overnight, including two large blasts early Wednesday. The Israeli military reported six launches from Rafah toward the Kerem Shalom crossing on Tuesday. COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, said the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened early Wednesday. But Juliette Touma, the director of communications for UNRWA, said no aid had entered as of midday on Wednesday and that the UN agency had been forced to ration fuel, which is imported through Rafah.

Gaza's Health Ministry meanwhile said at least 46 patients and wounded people who had been scheduled to leave Tuesday for medical treatment have been left stranded. UN agencies and aid groups have ramped up humanitarian assistance in recent weeks as Israel has lifted some restrictions and opened an additional crossing in the north under pressure from the United States. its closest ally. But aid workers say the closure of Rafah, which is the only gateway for the entry of fuel for trucks and generators, could have severe repercussions, and the UN says northern Gaza is already in a state of "full-blown famine'

COGAT said 60 aid trucks entered through the northern crossing on Tuesday. Some 500 trucks entered Gaza every day before the war.

The war began when Hamas militants breached Israel's defences on October 7 and swept through nearby army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Hamas is still believed to be holding

around 100 hostages and the remains of more than 30 others after most of the rest were released during a November cease-fire

The war has killed over 34,700 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, and has driven some 80 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians from their homes. Israel's military campaign has been one of the deadliest and most destructive in recent history, reducing large parts of Gaza to rubble. Biden has repeatedly warned Netanyahu against launching an invasion of Rafah.

But Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners have threatened to bring down his government if he calls off an offensive or makes too many concessions in the cease-fire talks.

The US has historically provided Israel enormous amounts of military aid, which has only accelerated since the start of the war. The paused shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 smaller ones, with the US concern focused on how the larger bombs could be used in a dense urban setting, a US official said on Tuesday on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

The official said no final decision had been made yet on proceeding with the shipment.

Meanwhile Police began to clear a Pro-Palestinian tent encampment at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., early Wednesday, hours after dozens of protesters left the site and marched to President Ellen Granberg's home

"Officers gave their third and final warning to demonstrators to move at about 3:30 a.m., saying all who remained in U-Yard and the stretch of H Street in front of the plaza would be arrested," according to GW Hatchet, the university's independent student-run newspaper. University officials had warned in statements of possible suspensions for students engaging in protest activities on University Yard. While the university is committed to protecting students' rights to free expression, the encampment had evolved into an unlawful activity, with participants in direct violation of mul tiple university policies and city regulations," the university said in a state ment.

shipment to Israel amid Rafah invasion concerns

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fers of military assistance as

AP WASHINGTON

anonymity to discuss the sen-

sitive matter, with the focus of

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explosives and how they could

be used in a dense urban set-

ting. More than 1 million civilians are sheltering in Rafah after evacuating other parts of

Gaza amid Israel's war on

Hamas, which came after the militant group's deadly attack

on Israel on October 7. The US

has historically provided enor-

mous amounts of military aid

for Israel. That has only accel-

erated in the aftermath of

Hamas' October 7 attack that

killed some 1,200 in Israel and

led to about 250 being taken

The pausing of the aid ship-

ment is the most striking man-

ifestation of the growing day-light between Israel Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

government and the adminis-

tration of President Joe Biden,

which has called on Israel to do

far more to protect the lives of

It also comes as the Biden

civilians from the worst horrors

of war.

innocent civilians in Gaza.

captive by militants.

Netanyahu's government The US paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that Israel was appeared to move closer toward an invasion of Rafah, despite months of opposition approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on from the White House. The official said the decision to the southern Gaza city of Rafah pause the shipment was made last week and no final decision against the wishes of the US, a senior administration official had been made yet on whether said on Tuesday. The shipment to proceed with the shipment was supposed to consist of at a later date. 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilo-US officials had declined for gram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs, days to comment on the halt-ed transfer, word of which came as Biden on Tuesday according to the official, who described US support for Israel spoke on the condition of

> agree". Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to square the arms holdup with Biden's rhetoric in support of Israel, saying only, "Two things could be true." Israeli troops on Tuesday seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing in what the White House described as a limited operation that stopped short of the full-on Israeli invasion of the city that Biden has repeatedly warned against on humanitar ian grounds, most recently in a Monday call with Netanyahu. Israel has ordered the evacuation of 100,000 Palestinians from the city. Israeli forces have also carried out what it describes as "targeted strikes' on the eastern part of Rafah and captured the Rafah crossing, a critical conduit for the flow of humanitarian aid along

as "ironclad, even when we dis-

the Gaza-Egypt border. Privately, concern has mounted inside the White House about what's unfolding in Rafah, but publicly administration officials have stressed that they did not think the operations had defied Biden's warnings against a widescale operation in the city. White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Israel described the operation along the Gaza-Egypt border in eastern Rafah as "an operation of limited scale and duration" aimed at cutting off Hamas

arms smuggling, but also said the US would monitor the fighting.

Another China, Serbia sign pact to build 'shared future' German AP BELGRADE China and European Union Ccandidate Serbia signed politician an agreement on Wednesday to build a "shared future," making the Balkan country the attacked

Berlin (AP): A prominent Berlin politician was violently assaulted and suffered injuries to her head and neck, police said Wednesday, in the latest attack on elected officials that raises concern over rising political violence in Germany

ister, was attacked at an event

in a Berlin library on Tuesday

by a man who approached her from behind and hit her with

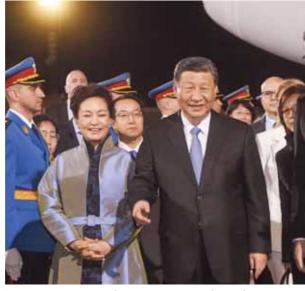
a bag containing a hard device,

police said. Giffey was taken to

first in Europe to agree on such a document with Beijing. After meeting in Belgrade, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Serbian President Vucic announced they would "deepen and elevate the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Serbia," and "build a new era of a community with a Franziska Giffey, the city's top shared future between China economic official, a former and Serbia. mayor and an ex-federal min-Xi launched the term "commu-

nity for shared future" over 10 years ago. While it may not denote a specific initiative, experts believe it has an underlying significance as another term for an alliance.

"Eight years ago, Serbia became China's first comprea hospital and treated for head and neck pain, police said. A 74-year-old man was detained hensive strategic partner in the and police searched his home, Central and Eastern European police said. They said the susregion, and today Serbia is the pect was known to police, but first European country to build a community of destiny with did not give any indication for China, fully reflecting the



In this photo provided by the Serbian Presidential Press Service, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, right, welcomes Chinese President Xi Jinping, center, and his wife Peng Livuan during a welcome ceremony upon his arrival at the Nikola Tesla airport in Belgrade, Serbia, Tuesday AP/PTI

strategic, special and high level of China-Serbia relations," Xi said during a press conference after signing the agreement. six Western Balkan countries, It was not immediately clear

including Serbia, into the EU at the top of the 27-nation bloc's agenda.

China has claimed neutrality in the Ukraine conflict, but has refused to call the Russian assault an invasion and has been accused of bolstering Russia's military capacity. Serbia has condemned the Russian invasion but has refused to join international sanctions against Moscow.

Xi arrived in Serbia to a warm welcome on Tuesday evening from France, where he had a high-stakes state visit dominated by trade disputes and Russia's war in Ukraine. Thousands of people chanting "China-Serbia" and waving flags were bused in from across Serbia to attend a welcoming ceremony for Xi on Wednesday in front of the

Serbia Palace, in the new part of Belgrade where the talks were held.

addressed the crowd from a balcony, calling Xi an "ironclad" friend. He said his visit to Serbia was "historic" because it opened the path for even clos-

'We are writing history today although it doesn't seem so to many," Vucic said. "We thank President Xi. He hasn't come to Europe in five years and he has again chosen our little Serbia. At the start of the official meeting on Wednesday, Xi said "we are first-hand witnesses that the Serbian people view Chinese people as ironclad best friends.

er ties.

"This is truly a two-sided and truthful friendship ... I truly hail this and it really made an extremely deep impression on me," Xi said, according to the state RTS television.

administration is due to deliv-Xi is travelling to Hungary later er a first-of-its-kind formal on Wednesday. Like Serbia, verdict this week on whether the airstrikes on Gaza and Hungary is seen as one of China's more friendly part restrictions on delivery of aid ners in Europe. Signs of pro-China sentiments have violated international and US laws designed to spare

were visible throughout the Serbian capital. A huge Chinese flag was placed on a skyscraper along a roadway leading into the city from the downtown and along a high way.

A decision against Israel would further add to pressure on Serbia's populist president how the EU would respond to Biden to curb the flow of airport. Smaller Chinese and Serbia getting even closer to weapons and money to Israel's China. Russia's war on Ukraine Serbian flags could be seen military. has pushed the integration of

Biden's administration in April began reviewing future trans-

UK PM loses MP amid Glory to HK protest song banned after court overturns ruling AP HONG KONG An appeals court on Wednesday granted the the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-ation of tech giants and hurt the to invest. They have also warned to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-to invest. They have also warned to invest. They have also warned to invest. They have also warned to invest. They have also warned the ban might disrupt the oper-to invest. They have also warned to invest. They ha charge of 'incompetence' AP HONG KONG

s a business cento insult the anthem he song

Asia Gro Washington headquartered business and policy consultancy, said it After the judgement was handed down, Lin Jian, a spokesper would be most practical for son for China's Foreign tech companies to restrict Ministry, said stopping anyone from using the song to incite access to the content in question in a certain region to division and insult the nationcomply with the order. al anthem is a necessary mea-Chen called on the government sure for the city to maintain to consider how to ease public national security. concerns over the order's chill-Hong Kong's Secretary for Justice Paul Lam insisted the ing effect on free speech. injunction was not aimed at He said he hoped such bans restricting the normal operawill not become "the new normal" and establish a precedent. tion of internet service providers. He said the govern-"This will get people really worried about how free Hong Kong's internet will be like tomorrow," he said. Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law in 2020 to quell the months-long unrest. That law was used to arrest many of the city's leading pro-democracy activists. In March, the city

a motive.

 $B_{\mathrm{Sunak}}^{\mathrm{ritish}\ \mathrm{Prime}\ \mathrm{Minister}\ \mathrm{Rishi}}$ fered a humiliating defection from his party benches as a Conservative member of Parliament walked across the floor of the House of Commons to join the Opposition Labour ranks Natalie Elphicke, MP for Dover,

said the Tories under Sunak "have become a byword for incompetence and division" in a resignation statement just moments before the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs).

The 43-year-old British Indian leader went on to face off with Labour Leader Keir Starmer, who made the most of the shock move which marks the second defection from the Tories to Labour in two weeks ing local election results for the

governing party. When I was elected in 2019. the Conservative Party occupied the centre ground of British politics. The party was about building the future and making the most of the opportunities that lay ahead for our country," Elphicke, a staunch critic of the Labour Party until only a few days ago, said in her resignation letter.

"Since then, many things have changed. The elected prime minister was ousted in a coup led by the unelected Rishi Sunak. Under Rishi Sunak, the Conservatives have become a byword for incompetence and division. The centre ground has been abandoned and key pledges of the 2019 manifesto have been ditched," she said. She added that the Labour

and comes on the back of bruis- Party under Starmer h "changed out of all recognition" and its policies "can be trusted". We need to move on from the broken promises of Rishi Sunak's tired and chaotic government," she declared. The dramatic moment of her crossing the floor of the House was followed by Starmer asking Sunak: What is the point of this failed

government staggering on" when the Tory MP on the front line of the small boats migration crisis on the coastline of Dover has openly attacked Sunak's handling of a priority issue like illegal migration."If he thinks his own MPs joining the Labour Party are wrong if he thinks anyone believes any of the nonsense that he spouts, why doesn't he put it to the test and call a general election," questioned Starmer, in a series of stinging attacks during PMQs.

city ernment's request to ban a popular protest song, overturning an earlier ruling and deepening concerns over the erosion of freedoms in the once-freewheeling global financial hub.

"Glory to Hong Kong" was often sung by demonstrators during huge anti-government protests in 2019. The song was later mistakenly played as the city's anthem at international sporting events, instead of China's "March of the Volunteers," in mix-ups that upset city officials. It was the first time a song has

been banned in the city since Britain handed the territory back to Chinese rule in 1997. Critics have said prohibiting broadcast or distribution of the song further reduces freedom of expression since Beijing launched a crackdown in Hong

ter. Judge Jeremy Poon wrote that the composer intended for the song to be a "weapon," pointing to its power in arousing emotions among some residents of the city."We accept the assessment of the executive that prosecutions alone are clearly not adequate to tackle the acute criminal problems and that there is a compelling need for an injunction," he said. He said the injunction was necessary to persuade internet platform operators to remove problematic videos in connection with the song" from their platforms. The operators have indicated they are ready to accede to the government's request if there is a court order, he added. The ban would target anyone who broadcast or distributed the song to advocate for the separation of Hong

can still be played if it is for lawful journalistic and academic activities. Failure to comply with the court order may be considered as contempt of court and could be liable for a fine or imprisonment.

Authorities have previously arrested some residents who played the song in public under other offenses, such as playing a musical instrument in public without a permit, local media reported. As of mid-afternoon on Wednesday, "Glory to Hong Kong," whose artist is credited "Thomas and the Hong as Kong people," was still available on Spotify and Apple Music in both English and Cantonese. A search on YouTube for the song also displayed multiple videos and renditions.

Google said in an email to the enacted a home-grown securi-AP that it was "reviewing the

ment would do its best to preserve the city's free flow of information. Lam argued that the acts covered by the ban could be constituted as criminal offenses

even before the court order, and that the scope of the injunction was "extremely narrow.

Biden visits Wisconsin to tout Microsoft facility, meet voters & subtly troll Trump

AP WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is racing into yet another battle-ground state Wednesday, continuing to push a contrast with Donald Trump on economic policy as his own reelection campaign readies a new USD 14 million advertising blitz aimed in part at Black, Latino and Asian American voters. Biden is traveling to Racine, Wisconsin, where he'll high light a decision by Microsoft to build a USD 3.3 billion data center that is expected to create roughly 2,000 jobs. It's also the same spot where Trump, to much fanfare, lauded a plan by Taiwan-based electronics giant Foxconn plan to build a USD 10 billion manufacturing facility that was supposed to eventually employ 10,000 people. Except it was never completed. Conscious of that history, Microsoft's president Brad Smith said in an interview



with The Associated Press that Microsoft had a "steadfast commitment to under-promising and over-delivering" and praised the Biden administration and Democratic Gov. Tony Evers for economic policies that set the stage for the developments announced Wednesday. Trump's campaign didn't address Foxconn, but the former president often says the economy was in a much better position when he was in

office, and it will be again should he win. Meanwhile, Biden's reelection team is sharpening their outreach to minority voters on the airwaves, with the fresh, seven-figure digital and television ad launching campaign Wednesday that follows the USD 30 million effort that began after his State of the Union address in early March. One of the ads that is a part of the fresh campaign will also be released Wednesday and focus-

es on Trump's failed vet determined push to repeal the Affordable Care Act. After his speech, Biden is making a campaign stop to speak with Black voters about the stakes of the November election.

The Biden campaign wants to capitalize on the fundraising advantage it's enjoyed over Trump, hoping to bury them on the airwaves while amassing significant resources on the ground in key battleground

states to force Republicans to play catch-up much later in the year. "Equally important as our own historic investments is the complete lack of investment on the other side," Michael Tyler, the Biden campaign's communications director, told reporters. "Trump's paid media strategy can only be described as anemic and inefficient?

A significant portion of the USD 14 million campaign starting Wednesday will go into Black and Hispanic media, as well as Asian American print and radio, according to the campaign

Campaign officials also said Biden will continue to do targeted interviews with media that serve primarily minority audiences, while the campaign plans to launch more coalition groups in May that focus on specific blocs of voters. So far the Biden campaign has started groups to engage women Latinos and educators.

Dali crew to stay onboard during demolition to remove fallen bridge from ship's deck

AP BALTIMORE

The crew of the Dali will remain on board the grounded container ship while demolition crews use explosives to break down the largest remaining span of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge, officials said Tuesday. Of the crew members, 20 are from India and one is Sri Lankan.

The steel span landed on the ship's bow after the Dali lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's support columns on March 26. Since then, the ship has been stuck amid the wreckage, and Baltimore's busy port has been closed to most maritime traffic. The controlled demolition which is expected to take place in the coming days, will allow the Dali to be refloated and guided back into the Port of Once the Baltimore, officials say. ship is removed, maritime traffic can begin returning to normal, which will provide relief for thousands of longshoremen, truckers and small business owners who have seen their jobs impacted by the closure. Officials previously said they hoped to remove the Dali by May 10 and reopen the port's 50-foot (15.2-meter) main channel by the end of May. The Dali's 21-member crew will shel-

ter in place aboard the ship while the explosives are detonated, said Petty Officer Ronald Hodges of the Coast Guard.

Engineers have been working for weeks to determine the best way to remove this last major piece of the fallen bridge. The explosives will send it tum-bling into the water. Then a massive hydraulic grabber will lift the resulting sec-tions of steel onto barges.

Video footage released by Coast Guard officials last week showed entire sections of roadway sitting on the ship's deck

Hodges said the crew's safety was a top concern as officials considered whether they should remain on the ship during the demolition. He said engineers are using precision cuts to control how the trusses reak down.

'The last thing anybody wants is for something to happen to the crew members," Hodges said.

They haven't been allowed to leave the Dali since the disaster. Officials said they've been busy maintaining the ship and assisting investigators.

A spokesperson for the crew didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Tuesday afternoon. The National Transportation Safety

Board and the FBI are conducting investigations into the bridge collapse. Danish shipping giant Maersk had chartered the Dali for a planned trip from Baltimore to Sri Lanka, but the ship didn't get far. Its crew sent a mayday call saying they had lost power and had no control of the steering system. Minutes later, the ship rammed into the bridge.

Officials have said the safety board investigation will focus on the ship's electrical system, including whether it experienced power issues before leaving Baltimore. Six construction workers were killed in the collapse. Five bodies have been recovered from the water, but one remains missing. All the victims were Latino immigrants who were working an overnight shift filling potholes on the bridge

Police officers were able to stop traffic moments before the collapse, but they didn't have enough time to alert the workers. Maryland leaders said last week that they plan to rebuild the bridge by fall 2028.



Albanese dismisses China's claim blaming Aus for aircraft encounter

AP MELBOURNE

hina's account blaming Australia for a dangerous clash between their military aircraft in international airspace over the Yellow Sea failed to undermine Australian objections, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday.

The Chinese and Australians lodged official protests and blamed each other for a Chinese warplane's extraordinary use of flares against an Australian navy helicopter Saturday.The Seahawk's pilot had to "take evasive action" to avoid flares that were dropped in the helicopter's flightpath by a Chinese Chengdu J-10 fighter jet, Australian officials said.

There was no injury or damage done, although experts warned the helicopter could have been forced to ditch at sea if an engine had been



In this undated photo provided by the Australian Defence Force, a Seahawk helicopter prepares to take off from the deck of HMAS Hobart during flying operations while on a regional presence deployment off northern Australia. Australia has protested to Beijing through multiple channels that a Chinese fighter iet endangered an Australian navy belicopter with flares over international waters, the prime minister said Tuesday AP/PTI

struck by a flare.

Australia publicly accused China of unprofessional and unacceptable behavior, while China retorted that the Seahawk deliberately flew close to China's airspace in a "provocative move." Albanese said he rejected

China's argument that the Australians had been at fault. He highlighted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian's statement that the helicopter "flew within close range of China's airspace" in attacking the Chinese case. "That's a confirmation that this chopper was in interna-tional air space," Albanese

told Perth Radio 6PR. Albanese also noted the helicopter had been upholding international law at the time as part of the crew an Australian air warfare destroy er that was enforcing U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea.

Maldives minister says Chinese research ship's activity unrelated

AP MALE

The Maldives government does not believe that a hitech Chinese ship conducted any research related to the archipelagic nation despite docking in Male twice and skirting its territorial waters for three months before departing, a senior minister said on

Wednesday. Fisheries Minister Ahmed Shiyam was talking about the 4,500-tonne high-tech Chinese research ship 'Xiang Yang Hong 03' that returned to Maldivian waters, two months after it spent a week docked at different ports in this nation. It docked at Thilafushi Industrial Island's harbour on April 25. This ship is currently in the Java near Índonesia, Sea Adhadhu.mv reported on Wednesday, quoting the satellite AIS tracking.

"We don't know that they did anything that would have affected us. Or else we weren't

sel did anything related to us and I don't believe that they did," Shivam told the news portal. If the Chinese vessel conduct ed such research. Shivam said he believed it would have been done in collaboration with the Maldives government and added that he would "share further information after clarification."In February, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said the research ship's activities complied with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). China's scientific research activities in relevant waters are for peaceful purposes and aimed at contributing to humanity's scientific understanding of the ocean", he said, adding that the vessel's activities are in strict compliance with the terms of UNCLOS.Meanwhile, Shiyam said, "The current government previously cancelled a hydrography agreement with India for underwater research." His statement comes on a day

when Maldives' Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer left on unaware that the research veshis first official visit to India. Xiang Yang Hong 03, described as the most modern research vessel in the Chinese fleet, had begun its journey to the Maldives on January 14, barely 24 hours after President Mohamed Muizzu concluded his state visit to China. The Chinese ship arrived near

the Maldives on January 29 and docked in Male' for the first time on February 22. After heading back to the boundary of the Maldives' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the vessel returned after a month and docked in the Thilafushi harbour on April 25. The Foreign Ministry had earlier confirmed that Xiang Yang Hong 03 was visiting Maldives for the replenishment of stocks and the rotation of its crew. However, according to Adhadhu.mv's report on April 26, the Maldives government had "not disclosed the reason for its return.

Ex-Chinese defense min emerges after long absence

Beijing (PTI): China's former defence minister Gen. Wei Fenghe whose prolonged absence from the public view sparked speculation about his fate has resurfaced, suggesting that he was politically safe, a media report said on Wednesday.A floral tribute by Wei at the funeral of a senior Wei at the funeral of a senior Chinese legislator on Monday suggests the 70-year-old gener-al could be politically safe, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.However, there is no

word about the fate of Wei's suc-cessor Gen. Li Shangfu who disappeared from the public and was later sacked. Former foreign minister

Qin Gang too suffered a similar fate. Both were not seen in public yet. Wei's name was spotted on a wreath at the funeral of Oyunqemag, 81, who served as vice-chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee from 2008-2013.

In a prime-time news bulletin on state broadcaster CCTV Wei's tribute was visible among those from other former state councillors at the side of the funeral hall, with wreaths from President Xi Jinping and other incumbent officials in the mid-dle. Wei, who headed the PLA Rocket Force, the new name for China's missile force from its formation on December 31, 2015 as part of Xi's military overhaul, disappeared from the public eye after his successor Li was abruptly sacked as defence minister in October last year, with-out explanation. Li, who like Wei spent most of his career in the PLA's rocket wing, was also stripped of his rank as a state councillor and removed from the top decision-making body - the Central Military Commission (CMC).Wei's indirect reappearance indicates he may have escaped the purge of the People's Liberation Army's top brass, including commanders of the rocket force - which manages China's nuclear arsenal - that followed Li's disgrace, the

Post report said.Direct and indi-rect appearances in official settings are important indicators of political fate in China's opaque system, where little information is given away

Britain to expel Russian defense attaché over dangerous activities AP LONDON Britain is expelling Russia's defense attaché after accus-ing him of being an undeclared military intelligence officer, one of several measures it is taking against Moscow for malicious activities, the government said Wednesday. Home Secretary James Cleverly said the measures were aimed at what he called the "reckless

and dangerous activities of the Russian government across Europe.

The government said the Russian Federal Security Service had targeted members of Parliament in recent years by hacking and had leaked UK-US trade documents.

It said the Russian government planned to sabotage military aid for Ukraine in Germany and Poland and carried out espionage in Bulgaria and Italy, along with cyber and disinformation activities and air space violations.

"In the coming days we should

expect accusations of Russophobia, conspiracy theo-ries and hysteria from the Russian government," Cleverly said in Parliament. "This is not new and the British people and the British government will not fall for it, and will not be taken for fools by Putin's bots, trolls

for tools by rutils bots, troas and lackeys." The UK will also rescind the diplomatic status of several Russian-owned properties because they are believed to have been used for intelligence purposes, and impose new restrictions on Russian diplomatic visas and visits, he said. The Russian ambassador to the UK will be notified of the measures and told that Russia's actions will not be tolerated, the Ministry of Defense said.

detained.

for Russia

officials were trying to estab-

lish whether the man was a

deserter from Russian army

'trying to flee the horrors of

"Our message to Russia is clear: Stop this illegal war, withdraw your troops from Ukraine, cease this malign activity," Cleverly said. The UK has had an uneasy relationship with Moscow for years, said. "The question is accusing its agents of a range of whether we are dealing here

Poland detains Russian who illegally crossed from Belarus

with someone who was car-rying out tasks for Russian (secret) services."

Polish media reported the man was not armed and was in civilian clothes, but was carrying a written contract with the Russian army that included participation in actions being part of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. Deputy Interior Minister Czeslaw Mroczek said that

Donald Tusk was meeting with top security officials over alleged Russian influ-ences in Poland and its leadership.

the war" or whether he was The development also came assigned to carry out secret tasks in the European Union shortly after a controversial Polish judge, who had access "We must determine what his intentions were," Mroczek to sensitive information. defected to Belarus this week which Tusk described as "high treason."

Taliban reject claims of Afghan involvement in

'Split in JSP-N would not affect stability of Prachanda-led govt'

French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and his wife Peng Liyuan watch

folklore dancers onTuesday at the Tourmalet pass, in the Pyrenees moutains. French president is hosting China's leader at a

remote mountain pass in the Pyrenees for private meetings, after a high-stakes state visit in Paris dominated by trade disputes

and Russia's war in Ukraine. French President Emmanuel Macron made a point of inviting Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Taurmalet Dasa near the Spanish border where Macron spent time as a child visiting his grandmother.

Tourmalet Pass near the Spanish border, where Macron spent time as a child visiting his grandmother.

Pushpa

in the Madhesi party

government

SL looks for USD 17 billion debt reduction from restructuring

Warsaw (Poland)(AP):

Poland's security officials said Wednesday that a 41-year-old man from Russia

had been detained and was being questioned after ille-gally crossing in from Russia's ally Belarus. The Border Guard confirmed that a 41-year-old "deserter" from Russia has been

The detention came as Poland's Prime Minister

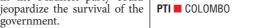
recent attacks

Islamabad (AP): The Taliban on Wednesday rejected claims of Afghan involvement in recent attacks in Pakistan, calling it "irresponsible and far from the reality".Pakistan's military said Tuesday a suicide bombing that killed five Chinese engineers and a Pakistani driver in March was planned in neighbouring Afghanistan and that the bomber was an Afghan citizen.

Maj. Gen. Ahmad Sharif, a spokesman for Pakistan's army, has said that four men behind the March 26 attack in Bisham, district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, had been arrested. Enayatullah Khawarazmi, a spokesman for the Taliban's Ministry of Defence, said in a statement on Wednesday that "blaming Afghanistan for such incidents is a failed attempt to divert attention from the truth of the matter and we strongly reject

Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Janata Samajbadi Party-Nepal (JSP-N) Upendra Yadav on Wednesday said that he will approach the court against the "unconstitutional move" to divide his party when he was abroad as he insisted that the split won't affect the stability of the coalition government. The JSP-N, one of the coalition

gal and unconstitutional". He partners in Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal termed the move by Ashok Rai to form a new party namely, Prachanda-led government, suf-Janata Samajbadi Party, a "conspiracy hatched out of power fered a division early this week when Yadav was in the US to hungry and egoistic attitude".Yadav, a senior Madhesi attend an event. The Election Commission on Monday offileader, said that Rai divided the cially recognised a faction of party only for his vested inter-JSP-N led by Ashok Rai as a new est and blamed it as having no political party. "The party was unlawfully value as it jeopardized federalism and the issue of the identidivided in my absence. This ty of Madhesi people.He said that his party won't quit the Prachanda-led coalition govern-ment. The split in the JSP-N division, driven by personal ambitions, is unconstitutional." Yadav said during a press conwon't affect the stability of the ference in Balkumari. Yadav said coalition government," he said, they will approach the court as the split of the party was "illeamidst speculation that the split



I talked to the Prime Minister and assured my party's continued support to the coalition government," said Yadav. Yadav claimed that a majority of lawmakers of his party are with him and he enjoys two-thirds majority support in the Central Working Committee of the party.He also dismissed the rumour that he was planning with the Nepali Congress-led by Sher Bahadur Deuba and CPN-Unified Socialist led by Madhav Kumar Nepal to topple the Prachanda-led government. Before the split, in the 275member federal lower house the ruling coalition had 154 seats - 16 more than the magic number of 138.Among them, the CPN-UML has 79 seats (including the Speaker and one suspended lawmaker), the CPN (Maoist Centre) has 32, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party has 21, the JSP-N has 12 seats and

Sri Lanka is looking at a reduction of approximately USD 17 billion from its overall debt burden in the ongoing

debt restructuring process, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said here on Wednesday and highlighted his government's efforts to foster strong ties with major partners and creditors, including China and India, for further negotiations with the IMF.

Sabry's statement comes days after the visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said Tokyo expect-ed cash-strapped Sri Lanka to sign early MoUs with the offi-cial creditors to reach a "transparent and comparable" debt restructuring agreement with all the creditors. Japan is leading the international discussions on Sri

Lanka's debt restructuring as co-chair of the Official Creditors' Committee after the island nation, in April 2022,

declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The unprecedented financial crisis led President Ranil Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit office in 2022. In March, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it has reached a staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka for the next phase that would enable it access to USD 337 million from the nearly USD 3 billion bailout approved

in 2023 for the country. Two tranches of USD 330 million each were released in March and December 2023 even as the global lender has praised Colombo for its macroeconomic policy reforms, which it said, "are starting to bear fruit." Speaking with reporters here on Saturday, Sabry said that Sri Lanka is looking at a reduction of approximately USD 17 billion from its overall debt burden in the ongoing debt restructuring process. "This advantage may

manifest in various forms, including reductions in principal amounts, interest payments, or extended repayment timelines. Such restructuring efforts hold the potential to alleviate our debt burden by USD 17 billion," Sabry said. The current debt restructuring negotiations revolve around USD 46 billion, mainly involving private bondholders. Simultaneously, these endeavours will pave the way for the continuation of developmental activities within the country at the earliest opportunity, he said, adding, that Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena's recent visit to China, where Sri Lanka signed nine MoUs with China, reflects

He also expressed the government's expectations about concluding the foreign debt restructuring process by June. "The initial phase of domestic debt restructuring has been completed, with attention now turned to foreign debt restructuring. Negotiations with pri-

the same

vate investors linked to sovereign bonds aim to finalise this phase by June, with a targeted completion before June 2024," the Minister added. Dealing with the foreign policy outlook of the government, Sabry referred to the recent visit of the Japanese Foreign Minister and the visit of the Iranian President and emphasised Sri Lanka's adherence to a "nonaligned foreign policy" coupled with its commitment to maintaining relations with all nations while safeguarding its sovereignty.

Securing support from major partners and creditors, includng the US, France, India and China, was pivotal during negotiations with the IMF. "We've made progress in debt restructuring, gaining the backing of the Official Creditor Committee and comprising nations like India, Japan and the Paris Club. Our aim is to conclude debt restructuring by the end of June, with the support of all major players.

Chinese warships docked in Cambodia for 5 months; not permanent, says govt

AP PHNOM PENH

`ambodia's Defense **U**Ministry insisted Wednesday that the monthslong presence of two Chinese warships in a strategically important naval base that is being newly expanded with funding from Beijing does not constitute a permanent deployment of the Chinese military in the country

Questions had arisen after the Center for Strategic and International Studies reported last month that two Chinese corvettes that docked at the Ream Naval Base's new pier in December had maintained a nearly permanent presence there since.

Current satellite images, ana-

more than five months since they initially appeared. The United States and others have long worried that the new pier at the Ream Naval Base, built with Chinese funding, could serve as a new outpost for the Chinese navy on the Gulf of Thailand, but Cambodia has said that would not happen.

Asked about why the two ships had been there for five months, Defense Ministry spokesperson Gen Chhum Socheat told the AP they were due to take part in a joint Cambodian-Chinese military exercise later this month, and that they were also involved in training Cambodian sailors.

"We have been clear that it would be able to post military

lyzed by The Associated Press, confirm that the two ships remained there on Wednesday, Cambodia is not allowing any foreign forces to be deployed on its territory," he said. "That won't happen; that point is in our Constitution and we are fully following it." He said the ships were also "testing" the new pier, and that they were on show for Cambodia, which was considering purchasing similar warships for its own navy. "The ships are docked for the

training period only, they are not staying permanently," he said. Controversy over Ream Naval Base initially arose in 2019 when The Wall Street Journal reported that an early draft of

a reputed agreement seen by US officials would allow China 30-year use of the base, where

personnel, store weapons and berth warships. The base sits adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has aggressively asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway, and also provides easy access to the Malacca Straits, a critical shipping route leading from it to the Indian Ocean. The US has refused to recognize China's sweeping claim and routinely conducts military maneuvers there to reinforce that they are international waters.Cambodia's then-Prime Minister Hun Sen denied there was such an agreement. He pointed out that Cambodia's Constitution does not allow foreign military bases to be established on its soil, but said visiting ships from all nations are welcome.

the CPN (Unified Socialist) has

10 seats.

Russia launches attack on Ukrainian energy facilities

AP 📕 KYIV

Russia launched aerial attacks on energy facilities throughout Ukraine early Wednesday, targeting seven regions with more than 50 missiles as well as drones, Volodymyr President Zelenskyy said. The attacks also damaged the

railway station and tracks in the city of Kherson, across the Dnieper River from Russianheld territory, and injured two people in Brovary, adja-cent to the capital Kyiv, officials said.

Russia consistently targets Ukraine's energy infrastructure. There was a major aerial attack on energy facilities on April 27 and another a week earlier.

In a social media post, Zelenskyy noted that



Wednesday's attacks occurred on the day that Ukraine observes the end of European fighting in World War II.

Massive missile attack by Nazi Putin on the Day of Remembrance and Victory over Nazism in the Second World War," Zelensky said."The whole world should clearly understand who is who; The whole world has no right to give Nazism another chance." National electrical grid operator Ukrenergo said facilities were hit in the Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Poltava and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

Two energy facilities were hit in the Lviv region, which is in the country's far west and distant from the fighting's front lines, according to regional governor Maksym Kozytskyi.



money 10

Possibility of GDP growth touching 8 per cent in FY24 quite high: CEA

PTI NEW DELHI

hief Economic Adviser V CAnantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said there was a high possibility of GDP growth touching 8 per cent in FY24 on the back of robust growth registered during the three quarters of the financial year ended March 2024.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 8.4 per cent in the third quarter ended December 2023. In the second quarter, the GDP growth was 7.6 per cent while 7.8 per cent in the first

quarter. "The IMF has projected a growth rate of 7.8 per cent for FY24. But if you look at the

trajectory of growth in the first three quarters, obviously the possibility that the growth rate touches 8 per cent is quite high," he said at an event organised by NCAER here. This is higher than RBI's estimate of 7.5 per cent growth for the Indian economy in 2023-24.

For the ongoing financial year, he said, the International Monetary Fund has an estimate of 6.8 per cent but the Reserve Bank of India expects a 7 per cent GDP growth for FY25. If that materialises, of course,

it will be the fourth consecutive year after COVID starting from FY22 that the economy will have grown at 7



per cent or more. The RBI forecasts of 7 per cent for FY25 turns out to be either correct or even underestimate, then it would be the fourth consecutive year of 7 or higher growth rate," he said.

However, he said, a lot would depend on how the monsoon shapes up. Although the expectations are that there will be an above-normal monsoon, spatial and temporal distribution will matter.

On the growth beyond FY25, he said, there is a possibility of India growing between 6.5-7 per cent because the key decade difference this compared to the last is the one

of balance sheet strength in financing, he said, this is draft the financial sector and the guidelines and would not like non-financial sector in the

corporate sector as well. The investment made in supply-side augmentation of both physical and digital infrastructure has placed the economy to pursue noninflationary growth, he said, adding that this also helps absorb the challenge of

overheating. He also said that the household sector's net financial savings flows were lower in 2022-23 at 5.1 per cent due to the bulk of savings shifting to real sectors.

Asked about the RBI's recent circular on underconstruction infra project

to comment. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week proposed to

lenders that they set aside higher provisions for underconstruction infrastructure projects and asked them to ensure strict monitoring of any emerging stress. As per the draft norms, the

RBI proposed that lenders set aside a provision of 5 per cent of the loan amount. This will be reduced to 2.5 per cent once a project is operational. Currently, lenders are required to have a provision of 0.4 per cent on project loans that are not overdue or

loss in Q4

Sterliter

stressed.

Sebi issues periodic reporting India playing very critical role in IT Sterlite Tech posts sector: CEO of cloud security firm format for investment advisers ₹82 crore important role. I'm very the rest of the world. That's PTI SANTA CLARA

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a standardised periodic reporting format for submission of information by investment advisers (IAs) pertaining to their activities, whereby they also need to disclose their social media handles.

At present, the Investment Advisers Administration and Supervisory Body (IAASB) has been seeking reports from IAs on an ad-hoc basis. IAASB has been recognised by Sebi for the purpose of administration and supervision of investment advisers.

Under the new format, investment advisers have to disclose details of their social media handles, bank accounts used for receiving advisory NISM certification fee, details, information about the last inspection carried out by Sebi or IAASB, details of advertisements issued during the half-year period and information on publishing of complaints against them, Sebi

said in a circular. Investment advisers have been directed to submit



Exchange Board of India periodic reports for halfyearly periods ending on (Sebi) came out with a September 30 and March 31 framework of every financial year. administration Sebi said that IAs need to supervision of research analysts and investment submit the periodic report for the half-year period ended on advisers, whereby a stock March 31, 2024, to IAASB exchange can be authorised to within 15 days from the date oversee and manage such of issuance of the circular by entities. Sebi stated a stock exchange the supervisory body. should be granted recognition

For the subsequent half-yearly periods, IAs will be required to submit periodic reports within seven working days from the end of the halfyearly period. Last week, the Securities and India is playing a very critical role in the IT sector

for

as RAASB (Research Analyst

IAASB (Investment Adviser

Administration

Administration

Supervisory Body).

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government is playing a very good role in creating a techfriendly environment in India.

"I think the government, especially under (Narendra) Modi, is already playing a very good role (in creating a tech-friendly environment in India," Indian American technology entrepreneur Chaudhury told PTI in an interview on the sidelines of TiECon here last week.

"In fact, when I started Zscaler, I opened my office in Bangalore for Zscaler before I opened the offices in Silicon Valley," he said.

"Today about 40% employees are in India. A lot of core development is done in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Pune, and Hyderabad. Brilliant people. You just have to work hard to find them.



Once vou do, they do a great job, very cost-effective, very driven, very passionate," he said in response to a question. India is playing a very critical role in the IT sector and Indians, he said, are helping the world find

You go to any large hightech company, it may be Zscaler or Microsoft or Google, Indians are in every level from software developments to managers, through directors to CEOs and the like," he said.

proud of it. That's because Indians come with a mathematical mindset. We have grades in schools. Some of the top schools are very good and people are hardworking. They're hardworking. passionate because they want to get out there and make a difference," Chaudhury said. According to him, India is yet to catch up in the area of building software companies in India that can sell in every

part of the world. ^{*}I think the IT sector that started with system integrators like Wipro and Infosys has done extremely well. The next phase is still early. There are lots of good opportunities. We're seeing investments going there. I think it's bound to happen, but it's still at an early stage, he said. "The lesson I think Indian entrepreneurs could take is that when they build these products, they need to keep the Western world in mind first. If you can be successful in selling in America and Europe, you can build a very large company. That's how Israelis do it. Israel is doing an extremely good job in building software in Israel and selling that in

the area where Indians can improve it," Chaudhary said. The first thing the Indian government should do is get out of the way entrepreneurs.

"We do that very well. There was a time when they used to be licensed raj, license for everything. It's by and large gone. I think India is helping set up collaborations. I see in the hardware area, whether it is Apple or it's Samsung, some of those high-tech companies are being set up. They create an ecosystem of companies that help learn and evolve the ecosystem. I think it's good," he said.

"What we need to do overall, is probably provide a little bit of more mentorship for Indian companies. The Indian companies need to start leveraging some of the US connections to understand how to successfully sell software solutions you build in India for the entire world. "There's some work to be done. I don't think the government needs to do a whole lot more. I think organisations like TiE can play a big role and they're doing some good job in the area," he said.

contract for smart meter

installation in Uttar Pradesh

to install over 5.1 million

The primary objective of

these projects is to reduce

losses for discoms and to

introducing smart prepaid meters, enabling them to have

better control over their

Jaipur-based Polaris is into

empower consumers

energy consumption.

smart meters.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI Broadband technology Sterlite Technologies on Wednesday reported a consolidated loss of Rs 82 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024, mainly due to a dip in optical networking business.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 63 crore a year Its consolidated revenue from operations declined about 39 per cent to Rs 1,140 crore

> during the reported quarter from Rs 1,872 crore in the March 2023 quarter, according to a regulatory 2023

filing. "FY24 had its challenges, but we were resilient in actioning our priorities on customer, cost and cash. We see the market turning gradually, and early signs of this are visible in our customer discussions and order volumes," Sterlite Technologies (STL) Ankit Agarwal said in a statement. For the fiscal ended March 31, 2024, STL posted a consolidated loss of Rs 57 crore, while it had reported a profit of Rs 127 crore in FY23. The optical networking business revenue of STI almost halved to Rs 777 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 1,505 crore in the March 2023 quarter.

Domestic automobile retail sales Polaris gets new ₹2,246 crore smart metering project surge 27 per cent in April: FADA PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The

market

customer

Padwa, he noted.

traction," Singhania said.

models, he said.

and Indians are helping the world find solutions to global problems, the CEO of a top American cloud security company has said. Jay Chaudhury, CEO and founder of San Jose-based Zscaler also said the Modi

Indian

solutions to global problems

of

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{sales in India rose 27 per}}^{\text{assenger vehicle retail}}$ cent year-on-year to 22,06,070 units in April as all segments, including passenger vehicles and twowheelers, witnessed growth, industry body FADA said on Wednesday.

overall The vehicle registrations stood at 17,40,649 units in April 2023. at Passenger vehicle retail sales rose 16 per cent to 3,35,123 units last month as compared to 2,89,056 units in the same month last year.

two-wheeler Similarly, registrations increased 33 per cent to 16,43,510 units in April against 12,33,763 units in the same month last year. Commercial vehicle retail witnessed a 2 per cent yearon-year jump to 90,707 units in April.

Three-wheeler sales rose 9 per

cent year-on-year to 80,105 units while tractors witnessed growth of 1 per cent at 56,625 units in April.

While some attribute this growth to the shift in Navratri to April instead of March last year, the overall increase was significant," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said.

sales, Singhania said. vehicle passenger category experienced double-In the commercial vehicle segment elections dampened digit YoY growth, supported enhanced model sentiment with customers availability and favourable delaying expansion plans, he sentiments, said.

particularly around festive events like Navratri and Gudi Limited finance options and regional challenges such as water scarcity "Despite strong bookings and impacted performance, he flow, high added. competition, excess supply Singhania noted that the

and discounting presented domestic auto industry challenges for sustained growth. Additionally, the lack remains cautiously optimistic about its near-term outlook of new models in some "Market opportunities exist with rising customer interest portfolios impacted market in new models. However, The two-wheeler segment saw election-related uncertainty notable growth due to improved supply and the and financial constraints remain key challenges that the increasing demand for 125cc industry will need to monitor closely to navigate this evolving la effectively," he added. landscape Positive market sentiments, bolstered by stable fuel prices,

further

FADA said it collated vehicle retail data from 1,360 out of 1,503 RTOs across the country.

 $E_{\rm Polaris\ on\ Wednesday\ said}^{\rm nergy\ solutions\ provider}$ it has secured a contract worth Rs 2,246 crore to install 2.2 million smart meters in West Bengal. "With this order, Polaris has successfully closed orders over Rs 7,700 crore across the geographies of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Manipur, Bihar and Ladakh," the company said in a statement.

The new order worth Rs 2,246 accurate metering, and crore in West Bengal is for installation of 2.2 million improved grid management capabilities smart meters in the state. This contract comes under a

Design-Build-Finance-Polaris Smart Metering will Operate-Own-Transfer supply, commission, install (DBFOOT) agreement. In addition to West Bengal, and maintain smart meters for consumers and system Polaris has also secured a metering across the consumer base in these contract of Rs 206 crore for important clusters for the smart meter installation in next 10 years. These smart meters will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology, enabling prepaid billing, real-time energy monitoring,

Manipur in the region of Imphal to install over 1.6 lakh smart meters.

In January, the company had secured Rs 5,200 crore

The annual revenue from the optical networking business also declined by about 30 per cent to Rs 3,830 crore from Rs 5,439 crore a year ago.

The annual profit of STL declined by about 21 per cent to Rs 5,478 crore during the reported year from Rs 6,925 crore in FY23.

"AI is bringing renewed excitement into the fibre space. We see 5G, fibre to the home, and data centre buildouts as the holy trinity of fiberisation for the years to

Graduates of School of Planning recruited as Assistant Town Planners in PMIDC and HPSC

PNS AMRITSAR

s many as fifteen students A of Guru Ramdas School of Planning, GNDU, Amritsar are selected as Assistant Town Planners in Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Corporation, Chandigarh and Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula. Professor Ashwani Luthra, Head of the Department, said its Under-graduates and Postgraduates are high in the North-Western region of India, though they are eligible for Class-I posts in other States as well. The Department offers specialised UG and PG level programmes. Its Five Years Integrated M Tech (Urban and

Regional Planning) is a special

feature, which provides option to the students to exit after 4 years and get BTech. (Urban Regional Planning) and degree. The other programmes are 2 years MTech (Urban Planning), MTech (Infrastructure Planning), MTech (Transport Planning). Admission for all the programmes is starting from 8th May, 2024 by submitting admission forms online on the University website.

Professor Luthra said the graduates of the department are eligible for the class I gazetted posts in the Town and Country Planning Municipal Departments, Corporations, Improvement Trusts, and many other public and private sector firms in different parts of India.

Google launches Google Wallet for Android users in India

Tech titan Google on Wednesday launched the Google Wallet app for Android users in India, allowing them to securely store essentials like boarding passes, loyalty cards, event tickets, and public transport passes.

The digital wallet, which becomes operational in India from Wednesday, comes as a complementary service to existing payment app Google

Pay, a top official said. "Google Pay is not going anywhere, it will remain our primary payment app, Google Wallet is specifically tailored for non-payment use cases," Ram Papatla, GM and India Engineering Lead, Android at Google, said.

He said the idea behind the service was "to create an open software where carriers, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), and developers can build amazing products".

For the new service, Google has partnered with 20 Indian brands in the likes of Air India, IndiGo, Flipkart, Pine Labs, Kochi Metro, PVR and INOX, and said more partners would be onboarded in the months to come.

Google Wallet will allow users to save movie/event tickets, access boarding passes, store metro tickets, store office/corporate badges, digitise and physical documents.

"Google Wallet offers users a single, organised location for fast, secure access to everyday countries.

essentials passes, loyalty cards, event tickets, public transport passes, gift cards, and more," Google said in a statement. Papatla further said the tech giant will surely ideate in future on building an all-inone app that allows both payment and non-payment use cases.

He said the company's top priority currently is value and engagement creation, onboarding partners, and gaining trust. "Google Wallet is built on the foundation of security and privacy," he said, adding that Google remains committed to

its "promise of providing openness, choice, and safety Google Wallet is currently operational in about 80

manufacturing and of implementation smart metering projects. come," Agarwal said. **Career with high** placement avenues in urban, regional planning

by

PNS AMRITSAR

Towns and villages are facing numerous problems and challenges related to tariffs housing, and transportation, water supply, sewerage, electricity, and many other social infrastructure. A qualified planner having specialisation in urban, regional, transportation, and infrastructure disciplines contributes quite significantly for the planned development of cities, regions, and villages. Guru Ramdas School of Planning at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is a premier institute of spatial planning in North India since 1972.

Professor Ashwani Luthra, Head said till date the department has played a

prominent role in contributing to the planned development of cities, regions, and villages. Currently, the department offers four specialised specialised programmes, i.e, MTech (Urban Planning), MTech (Infrastructure Planning), (Infrastructure MTech (Transport Planning), and BTech (Urban and Regional Planning).

The graduates of the department are eligible for the Class I gazetted posts in the Town and Country Planning Departments, Municipal Corporations, Improvement Trusts, and many other public and private sector firms in different part of India. The graduates of the Department are also eligible for public and private sector jobs in coutries like USA, Canada, Australia, Europe, etc.







PNS NEW DELHI

Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, expressed during the expressed inaugural ceremony of the annual carnival named Edesia the institute's dedication to

excellence in food technology, education, and research. He articulated the goal of elevating NIFTEM to an educational hub comparable to top prestigious institutions.



Dortmund beats PSG 1-0 to reach Champions League final

Mbappe cannot pull off comeback

AP PARIS

hen Borussia Dortmund's players rushed over to their fans wearing yellow "London 24" T-shirts and joined in the celebrations after knocking out Paris Saint-Germain to reach the Champions League final on Tuesday, Mbappé had long left the field.

Wembley Stadium on June 1 is the final stop on Dortmund's quest for the Champions League trophy, by which time Mbappé will have played his last game for PSG having failed to win the trophy the club's cash-rich Qatari owners so crave

Central defender Mats Hummels headed Dortmund into the final as the German team won 1-0 at PSG

Moments after Warren Zaïre Emery missed an open goal for PSG, Hummels rose unchallenged to head in Julian Brandt's corner from the left in the 50th minute.

Dortmund advanced 2-0 on largely aggregate and contained Mbappé, who is leaving at the end of the season. PSG exerted late pressure.

Goalkeeper Gregor Kobel palmed away Mbappé's low shot, then pushed Mbappé's deflected close-range effort onto the crossbar with a superb one-handed save. The Parc des Princes crowd groaned when midfielder



Vitinha's thumping 25-meter strike rattled the woodwork. Dortmund is on course for its second Champions League Coach Edin Terzic's team will trophy after winning in 1997 play either record 14-time and a third European trophy, champion Real Madrid or sixhaving won the now defunct time winner Bayern Munich on June 1 at Wembley UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1966. Dortmund also reached Stadium. Madrid and Bayern the Champions League final in drew 2-2 in the first leg and 2013, losing to Bayern. play on Wednesday. "Extremely proud. I'm very Indescribable. After more

than 10 years, I am in the happy," Terzic said. "We beat a final with Borussia again," team like PSG two times and said we again kept a clean sheet. Dortmund's midfielder who is leaving the We started really well and kept team after this season. "How them away from the goal.

we won the game, no one will ask tomorrow. Shots against the post won't matter tomorrow. For PSG, it's another season

ending without raising the trophy its cash-rich Qatari owners have chased after by spending huge amounts on star players like Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar, Lionel Messi and Mbappé. PSG lost Řeus, its only Champions League veteran final in 2020 to Bayern. "Efficiency, that's what we

were missing," PSG captain

Marquinhos said. "We should have defended better. They scored from a corner and a counter-attack (in the first leg). We created more chances but they won both games."

As Dortmund's players celebrated, Mbappé looked dejected as he trudged for the last time in a Champions League game wearing a PSG jersey. He is widely expected to join Madrid. Moments before Dortmund's

It will be auctioned in Paris

goal, Zaïre-Emery somehow hit the post from two meters out after Gonçalo Ramos flicked on Mbappé's cross from the left. goal, PSG Gianluigi On Hummels' goalkeeper

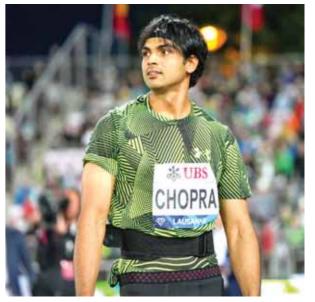
Donnarumma again did not move off his line to claim the ball, having not done so when Barcelona scored on a corner from the left in the first leg of the quarterfinals.

Coach Luis Enrique's players seemed nervous, playing cautiously and defending too deeply in the first half, allowing Dortmund to settle into a comfortable rhythm. Mbappé was ineffective in attack when PSG lost the first leg and, despite their speed, Mbappé and Ousmane Dembélé struggled to find space behind a well-organized Dortmund defense with midfielder Emre Can offering good protection.

It took 30 minutes before Mbappé and Zaïre-Emery freed Dembélé on the right of the penalty area, but he failed to hit the target.

Speedy left winger Karim Adeyemi did so for Dortmund five minutes later when a rapid counter-attack exposed PSG's defense, but Donnarumma rescued PSG with a fine low save.

Hummel's goal at least woke up PSG's attack, but Ramos missed the target when wellplaced either side of a stinging shot from left back Nuno Mendes hitting the left post.



sport 11

Neeraj to compete in India for first time in three years at Federation Cup

PTI NEW DELHI

 $O_{\mathrm{champion}}^{\mathrm{lympic}}$ and world javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will compete at home for the first time in three years after confirming participation in the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15.

The 26-year-old superstar is expected to travel to India from Doha after opening his season in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series on May 10. "As per entries @Neeraj_chopra1 and Kishore Kumar Jena will compete in domestic competition starting May 12 Bhubaneshwar," the in

Athletics Federation of India tweeted. coach Klaus Chopra's

who won a silver in the Hangzhou Asian Games where Chopra won gold, will also be competing in the Doha Diamond League on May 10. Chopra last took part in a domestic competition at the same event on March 17, 2021, when he won a gold with a throw of 87.80m.

in the Bhubaneswar event.

The 28-year-old Kishore Jena,

Since then, Chopra has won a historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics, became Diamond League champion in 2022, world champion in 2023 and defended Asian Games gold in China.

He also won three individual legs of Diamond League and claimed a silver in the 2022 World Championships. He is, however, yet to touch the 90m mark. His personal best and national record is

Bartonietz also confirmed to PTI that his ward is taking part 89.94m.



PGA Championship invites seven LIV players to get top 100 in world



Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy from the 1986 World Cup has resurfaced. The award, which had been missing for decades, will be auctioned in Paris next month, the Aguttes house said.

Marco

said. Maradona, who died in 2020 at age 60, was awarded the trophy for his scintillating play at the tournament, where he captained Argentina in its 3-2 win over West Germany in the final in Mexico City. Before that, he scored the controversial "Hand of God"

"Goal of the

The auction house said it expects the trophy "to fetch millions due to its uniqueness Maradona received the award - given to the tournament's best player - at a ceremony at

the Lido cabaret on the Champs-Élysées in 1986. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumors. Some say it was lost during a wild poker game, or sold to pay off debts, Aguttes said. Others said Maradona had stored it in a safe in a Naples bank that was robbed by local



Maradona World Cup Golden Ball trophy had mysteriously disappeared

a reformed member of the mafia, the trophy was then melted down into gold pieces. "A far-fetched theory, given that it was made of a gold-copper alloy," Aguttes said in its auction catalogue. Aguttes said the trophy

reappeared in 2016 among other lots that were acquired from a private collection at auction in Paris.

thoroughly 'It was investigated and authenticated as Diego Maradona's Adidas Golden Ball trophy," Aguttes said.

The "Hand of God" goal came Bidders will be asked to make when Maradona punched the net for his hall into Englan a deposit

his feet and four minutes later, he weaved through England's midfield and defense and then past goalkeeper Peter Shilton for what FIFA later declared the greatest goal in World Cup history.

'To say that this World Cup had it all would be an understatement ... It was also, and above all, the tournament where Diego Maradona really showed the world what he could do with his feet, and even with his said Francois hands," Thierry, a sports expert at Aguttes.

150,000

PTI LOUISVILLE (US)

The ron Championship officially has Tiger Woods in a field released that includes invitations to seven players from Saudifunded LIV Golf, giving the major 99 of the 100 in the world ranking at Valhalla next week. The PGA of America

strives to have the top 100 in the world to maintain its reputation for having the strongest field of the four majors, although it is not part of the criteria. Those hopes ended late Tuesday when Rikuya Hoshino (No. 94) withdrew.

The PGA leans on a catchall category of "special invitations." The group of LIV players includes Patrick Reed, whose tie for 12th in the Masters moved him inside the top 100. He is at No. 92, and the invitation keeps alive his streak of playing every major since the 2014 Masters.

The PGA Championship returns to Valhalla in Louisville, Kentucky, for the fourth time on May 16-19. Rory McIlroy won at Valhalla the last time it was there in 2014. The course is best known for Woods winning a playoff over Bob May in 2000 for his third straight major. Joaquin Niemann, who won the Australian Open in December and has two LIV Golf wins this year, already received an invitation. The surprise was Talor Gooch announcing in an X post on Monday that he had been invited. It was a sign the PGA of America's selection committee was looking at LIV results on their own, as Gooch doesn't play much outside the Saudi

league. He won three times on LIV in 2023 and won the season points list.

Other invitations went to Dean Burmester, Lucas Herbert and Adrian Meronk, all of them inside the top 100 in the world. The seventh invitation went to David Puig, the 22year-old from Spain who is No. 106 in the ranking. Puig has finished in the top 10 in six of his last seven tournaments on the Asian Tour, including two wins. LIV will be represented by 16 players, down from 18 a

year ago. There might have been one more, except British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen turned down his invitation. Oosthuizen, who is No. 125 in the world, won twice late last year in South Africa in tournaments coby sanctioned the

European tour. Carlos His manager, Rodriguez, said in a text message that Oosthuizen

already nau second commitments. The LIV group includes champion Brooks Koepka, who goes for a fourth PGA Championship title. He is the only active LIV player to win a major.

Haigh, Kerry the championship director for the PGA of America, has said he would consider deserving players from tours around the world. Invitations were given to Tim Widing of Sweden, who has won consecutive tournaments on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Another invitation went to Kazuma Kobori, a 22year-old born in Japan who now plays under the New Zealand flag. He has won three times this year in the Webex Players Series on the PGA Tour of Australasia

played in the Italian league. Century" in a 2-1 win over According to the story told by England in the quarterfinals.

gangsters in 1989



(\$161,000) to participate in team's opener. Maradona was also a magician with the ball at the June 6 auction.

Asia needs its best players to compete in own tournaments: ATF president Yuriy Polskiy

PTI NEW DELHI

goal and the

 $D_{\mbox{face}}^{\mbox{etermined}}$ to change the face of Asian tennis in his tenure, Yuriy Polskiy, the youngest ATF President, has exhorted the best players from the region to compete in Asian events before travelling abroad and has set his sights on developing the game in smaller tennisplaying nations such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Syria.

The 36-year-old Polskiy had won the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) presidential elections in December last year on the back of reforms in his home country Kazakhstan and wants to use his troubleshooting experience to help struggling nations to popularise the game.

Polskiy is clear that Asia's strong players need to compete in their own events which should help upcoming players with exposure and learning, and a robust Asian tour and programme for U14 players with considerable financial support is the need of the hour. He is also clear that ATF

would work in tandem with ATP rather than competing with them and create a viable Asian tour with lots of tournaments in close vicinity that will reduce the travel expenses of players from the

region. Asia has only six players in the world's top-100 and it worries Polskiy.

"Asian tennis needs the participation of the best



tournaments, because, quite often, they go to Europe, they go to North America, South America and it means that the local Asian players don't have a chance to compete with the best," Polskiy told PTI in an interview.

"And to go to Europe, it's very costly. So the ones who are good, they spend a lot of money, which can be redistributed, you know, in order to increase the base, like you will send not only the best ones to the tournaments, but the number two, three, four, because with the kids, you never know who will eventually be the best player.

need "So, you the competition inside the country, you need the competition inside of your region, and you need the high competition in Asia."

Polskiy understands that Asia is very strong in the eastern Asian players in Asian countries such as Japan,

Korea, China, Taiwan, India, Thailand and Kazakhstan but the continent needs more tennis-playing nations. "In recent years, Uzbekistan

(grew), also Iran has a big history, and I feel that smaller nations like Iraq, Syria, Nepal, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and others, also deserve a chance, and they have big

population." Polskiy said they are now working with the Grand Slams, with ITF, in order to improve the quality of tournaments in Asia. The ATF President said the players will get incentives for playing in Asia.

"We (should) give extra incentives to good Asian players to play on Asian circuit. So they don't spend their time competing for nothing, there is something meaningful they get, they get the ranking, they get the grants, there is an Asian team of the best players in each age category, so they can get in there and get extra support from ITF."

Asia's highest-ranked player is world No. 17 Alexander Bublik from Kazakhstan. The next best is China's Zhizhen Zhang (56) and is followed by Kazak̆hstan's Alexander Shevchenko (60), Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka (80) and Taro Daniel (82) and India's Sumit Nagal (93). "We should do better in ATP

and WTA rankings. And I see several challenges which we need to overcome in that regard. First of all, Asia is quite divided and many big nations like Japan, China, India, many players do not participate in international tournaments.

"They play a lot inside their countries, they compete with local players. But to some extent, it can work. But for 16 year old (players), it's very difficult to stand the competition of countries located in Europe, where they compete with each other from a very young age.

"And in that regard, we do a lot of talking to nations, bringing new initiatives and hosting different tournaments. So everybody will come on board.'

In the past, ATF had launched a closed-door launched a closed-door circuit only for Asian players but it did not work. While it offered a lot of money to Asian players, absence of ATP ranking never allowed it to grow.

Polskiy said he won't restart any such programme because he does not want to compete with ATP.

High hopes from Aman Sehrawat at last Olympic Qualifying event in Istanbul

PTI ISTANBUL

The immensely-talented Aman Sehrawat and the experienced Deepak Punia will be followed keenly when they take to the mat to lock the men's freestyle quotas for Paris Olympics at the World Qualifiers beginning here on Thursday.

It is the last event to secure spot for the Paris Games.

There were high hopes that U23 world champion Aman would qualify for the Games either at the World Championships or the Asian Qualifiers in Bishkek but both the chances were lost. While Aman (57kg) bumped into a strong opponent in Gulomjon Abdullaev in the quota-deciding bout in Bishkek, both World Championships silver medallist Deepak (86kg) and Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) could not reach Bishkek on time after being stuck in Dubai due to storm.

Now it's a do-or-die situation for all Indian wrestlers at Istanbul where the two finalists in each category will be awarded the quotas. A third quota will be given to the wresters who emerges winner in the bout between the two bronze medallists. The tournament will begin with Greco Roman style and followed by women's and freestyle on the last two days of the four-day qualifying competition.

None of the Indian men's wrestlers has so far got a quota and drawing a blank

will be a huge embarrassment for the country that took some major strides in international wrestling before the protest against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh halted the progress. Endurance has always been the strong point of Indian wrestlers but their preparations have suffered in the absence of national camps and competitions due to protest.

Usually, the Indian wrestlers tire their opponents out but for that to happen, it is important to stretch the bout to full six minutes. It's a strategy that Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya have employed although the latter has always been aggressive and finishes the bout in a jiffy "If the bouts lasts full distance, Aman can beat any wrestler, so managing the first three minutes are crucial. He was obviously verv disappointed for what happened in Bishkek," said coach Praveen Dahiya who trained him for four years before being shifted out of Chattrasal Stadium.



BHOPAL | THURSDAY | MAY 9, 2024

RESURGENT RCB TAKE ON ERRATIC PBKS IN BATTLE OF SURVIVAL

PTI DHARAMSALA

Royal resurgent Challengers Bengaluru Will look for their fourth consecutive victory when they face an unpredictable Punjab Kings as the two sides fight for survival in the Indian Premier League, here on Thursday.

After a horrendous start to the season, RCB have managed to claw their way back into the tournament. They have the winning momentum on their side, having won their last three games comprehensively. The wins have not only boosted their sagging morale but also taken them to the seventh spot in the points table. With eight points from 11 games, RCB can still make the playoffs if they win all their remaining three fixtures although the chances are slim. Punjab Kings too stare at a similar situation. They occupy the eighth spot, having collected eight points from 11 games.

However, between the two -only one team can reach the all-important 14 points mark. Having beaten PBKS earlier in scores with a belligerent knock in the last game. Will Jacks also impressed with

PREMIER LEAGUE

clash with three wins on the trot, RCB will feel more confident than the hosts. Virat Kohli remains consistent at the top, while skipper Faf du Plessis broke his string of poor

the pioneer

the season and heading to this

a match-winning century against GT, and Cameron Green showcased his all-round skills with

contributions in runs and wickets against Sunrisers

Hvderabad. Their bowling department has started clicking with started Mohammed Siraj, who is in India's T20 World Cup squad,

finally finding his rhythm. Yash Daval and Vijaykumar crucial Vyshak also did well against GT and RCB will expect them

to continue in the same vein. PBKS, on the other hand, will be low on confidence having suffered an inexplicable batting collapse against Chennai Super Kings. The Kings showcased their very best and worst against CSK. Their bowlers were all over the CSK batters but the batting unit choked but the batting unit choked. It was a example of how Punjab's season has been this year -- unpredictable.

0 0 0 0 0

They have showcased their They have showcased then potential with away wins over Kolkata Knight Riders, when they recorded the highest successful run chase in T20 cricket, and CSK. However, they have faced difficulties getting the job done

at home. They won just one out of five games in Mullanpur, their main home ground. A change in venue to the Himachal Pradesh Cricket

Association Stadium also didn't go their way in the previous game here. The team would hope to end its home run on a high but for

that to happen, the PBKS unit has to fire in unison.

RR captain Samson fined 30 per cent match fees for breaching IPL Code of Conduct

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has been fined 30 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his side's 20-run loss to Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here.

The offence committed by Samson, who made 86 during RR's unsuccessful run chase of 222 on Tuesday, was not specified but it could be for arguing with the umpires when he was given out after Shai Hope took a catch just near the boundary ropes in the 16th over.

The question was whether Hope's feet touched the ruled Samson out but the RR skipper was not happy. He initially started walking towards the pavilion, only to return to the middle and have some words with the on-field

requesting a referral to the TV Umpire and arguing or entering into a prolonged

discussion with the Umpire about his/her decision." On April 10 also, Samson was fined Rs 12 lakh after RR maintained a slow over rate during their match against Gujarat Titans in Jaipur.

We should have seen game home: Rajasthan Royals head coach Sangakkara

PTI NEW DELH

Skipper Sanju Samson's departure Deft Rajasthan Royals in a tight spot but the team still should have won the IPL match against Delhi Capitals here, says their head coach Kumar Sangakkara.

In a chase of 222, Samson got out after making 86 off 46 balls. His dismissal left the Royals with a task of getting 60 runs from 27 balls and eventually they fell short by 20 runs Tuesday night.

A win would have ensured a play-offs spot for the Royals and exit for the Capitals but the result meant that the hosts stayed alive in the tournament. "Irrespective of that dismissal, we still should have probably seen that game home," Sangakkara said at the postmatch press conference.

"Losses happen. We had a great run at the start of the season. We bowled brilliantly in this game, especially Ashwin but once you make too many



casual mistakes, it becomes very hard. At the end of the day it's about The decision was referred to the TV umpire who ruled Samson out but the

Royals skipper chose to argue with on-field umpire before walking back. Sangakkara said it is difficult sometimes even for the third umpire

to make a call. "It depends on replays and angles, and sometimes you think the foot's touched. But it is a difficult one for the third umpire to judge. The game was at a crucial stage, so that

happens in cricket. We have different perspectives on it. At the end of the day, you have to stand by that decision in terms of what the umpires did. If we have any other kind of opinion on it, we will share it with the umpire and sort it out?

The coach was happy with Samson's batting approach.

"Sanju Samson has a lot of clarity about the way he should bat. There are certian stages where he seems to lose his concentration a little bit and we worked on that in the off season. It is really important for him, not just as captain but as a batter. He is а exceptionally talented," he said, adding that he takes very good care of the group.

The catch by Hope, who stumbled before regaining his balance, was PTI NEW DELHI hailed by Capitals' assistant coach Pravin Amre. Yashasvi Jaiswal's Test career is just nine games old but "In IPL some moments are very

crucial, and it was a deciding moment in the game," Amre said. the great Brian Lara feels if "Sanju was batting so well. We have to there is anyone who can get close to his lofty feats,

give credit to the way Hope judged that catch. Umpires are there, and there is so much technology.

"We also thought from the dugout that he has (touched the boundary) but it (happens) in the game, and the umpire's decision is the final decision. It wasn't an easy catch, it was really travelling. After the game also I spoke to him and he said the ball came very, verv fast."

Delhi Capitals moved up a place to fifth in the points table after Tuesday's win. They now have 12 points and can get a a maximum of 16 while there are teams that have a chance of getting to 18 points and qualify for the play-offs.

Jaiswal has got very good chance of breaking my records: Brian Lara

including the record 400 not

out, it is the 22-year-old

Lara's high praise for Jaiswal

doesn't come out of the blue.

The left two-handers share a

special bond, having spent a lot

of time over the past year following their "4 am

conversation" during the IPL

southpaw from India.

following their

when the West Indian was coaching Sunrisers Hyderabad

and the young opener was in the Rajasthan Royals' camp. A lot has changed since IPL 2023 with Jaiswal now becoming an integral part of India's Test and T20 team. His exploits in the longest format stand out as he averages close to 70 with three hundreds including two double tons in the recent home series against England. What has impressed Lara is Jaiswal's ability to change gears as per the situation of the game.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.) क्रमांक/146/अ.क.री./का.से./2024 दिवाङ्गापिट्ता इन्दीर, दिनांक 08/05/2024 मच्यादेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम खराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मच्यादेश ग्राम पंचायद (कालीनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद्धारा ग्राम-रंगवासा, तहसील-राऊ, जिला-ईदीर में आवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कालीनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है:--स्थान जहां के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडो का विवरण कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता 1 2 ग्रिम्सवामी 1. श्री मांगीलाल चीघरी पिता श्री ग्राम-रंगवास, तहसील-अम्बाराम चीघरी 2. श्री सुरंश उर्फ सुरेशावन्द्र चीघरी राऊ, जिल-इंदीर स्थित भूमि पिता श्री अम्बाराम चीघरी 3. श्री व्हेजाशावन्द्र दुवे स्वराग स्वर 584/1/1/1 बंधकनामा पंजीयन क्रमांक एमपी

am



execution?

Samson was not a happy man when he left the field because there were doubts if Shai Hope, who caught him at the boundary ropes, had touched

I have hit energy saving mode: Nikhat Andy Murray to return from ankle injury at Geneva Open this month Zareen on preparations for Olympic debut

OTHER SPORTS

PTI NEW DELHI

long-cherished Olympic Adebut just about three months away, two-time world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen has hit "energy-saving mode" ahead of her date with destiny

So, she is off social media, is embracing solitude, devouring sweets on her cheat days, and binge-watching Netfli magnum opus 'Heeramandi'. Netflix

Zareen, who is a medal favourite in the 50kg category, believes activities that might sound like leisure to many, are actually legitimate ways to ensure that she has a calm frame of mind ahead of the Games beginning in Paris on July 26.

"Honestly, the feeling that I am going to be an Olympian soon hasn't sunk in yet. As days are passing, the nervousness is increasing. But I always train my brain to focus on a good performance," she told PTI in an interview from Patiala.

27-year-old from The Hyderabad is a former junior world champion. She won consecutive senior world titles in 2022 and 2023. Her 2022 season was nothing

short of sensational as she remained undefeated and she would be hoping to hit similar peak in Paris.

"Every competition brings with it a degree of nervousness. You have expectations from yourself and the people around you also have expectations. It all adds up to the overall weight you feel on your mind. "You cope with it by working hard, keeping your focus and having a calm mind, basically not allow yourself to be distracted. So, I am off social media, and I also try to keep my distance from people in general," she revealed. "Basically, I have hit energy

saving mode, indulge my sweet



(good days will tooth on cheat days, do grocery aayenge come). That this is my journey and I have to endure," she shopping, listen to music, it helps me stay calm. Also, I watch movies or Netflix shows. explained.

What helps is the fact that I am watching 'Heeramandi' right now, it's quite interesting," women's boxing is fetching material incentives now, something which wasn't the A believer in destiny, Zareen case when she started.

"But the fact that you are being

people

hands. Obviously it feels bad

and IOC and IBA will find a

refusal

for the future," she said.

push

to

anvtime.

solution.

said she could have been an Olympian in Tokyo itself. She "Once Mary didi won that had lost a bitter selection trial to six-time world champion M Olympic medal in 2012 (a bronze), people took women's C Mary Kom, who went on to boxing seriously. I was among qualify for the Games. those who felt inspired. Boxing "Everyone knowns how badly I is not a sport that you can play for too long. Injury can happen

she said.

wanted to go to Tokyo. But it wasn't destined. The setback made me resolute. The day I qualified for Paris, I was so rewarded so much for international performances, it's happy that it is difficult for me to describe. It was like one major dream coming true," she making themselves to succeed. It's good said. "But then it hit me that it's just half the job done."

Talking of future, the sport's Olympic preparations are not Olympic status continues to always about merely training, hang in balance due to the International Olympic as nutrition, and psychological readiness play a role too. The Committee's recognise the International mental part of it becomes all the more significant in her Boxing Association over sport, which is often described governance issues and alleged as lonely. corruption.

"But you have to fight your battles, you can sometime share your thoughts with with your support staff or team but end of the day, it's you who has to fight inside the ring, you are alone there," she said. "You have to condition your

stay in the Olympics," she mind to believe that 'acche din asserted.

AP GENEVA

Three-time Grand Slam L champion Andy Murray is set to return from his ankle injury at the Geneva Open this month.

Tournament organizers announced Wednesday they had given the 36-year-old Murray a wild-card entry for the clay-court event that starts May 18.

Murray damaged ligaments in his left ankle during a match at the Miami Open last month. He opted against surgery.

Brazil bid highest for hosting 2027 Women WC

AP LAUSANNE

Brazil's bid for the 2027 Women's World Cup was ranked higher than the bid submitted by Germany, Netherlands and Belgium in an evaluation report released by FIFA on Tuesday.

The FIFA Congress is set to vote for the 2027 host on May 17 at its meeting in Bangkok. It will be the first time the member federations of soccer's 211-nation governing body will hold an open vote to pick the tournament's hosts.

Brazil has been favored to win the 2027 contest since FIFA brokered a deal with several of soccer's continental governing bodies in October to get preferred hosts of the men's World Cup in 2030 and 2034. South American soccer body CONMEBOL agreed to take Zareen said she is hopeful of a just three games for 2030 - one 'These things are not in our each in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay for a 104-game but I hope things will improve tournament mostly to be hosted in Spain, Portugal and solution. I believe boxing will Morocco - and skipped its turn to bid for 2034, which is going to Saudi Arabia.



The former No. 1 has only played sparingly since having hip surgery in 2018 and has said he will probably retire after this summer. He is a twotime Wimbledon and Olympic champion and is hoping to compete for Britain again at the Paris Games

Sending a first Women's World Cup to South America

then became a likely

evaluation by a FIFA in-house

panel, Brazil's bid was given an

average score of 4.0 out of 5,

technical evaluation.

due next year.

tournament.

hosting another major FIFA

event would make better use

of stadiums built for that

on the technical

consequence.

Based

The Geneva Open is a key warmup event for the French Open, where Murray is a former finalist but has only played once since reaching the 2017 semifinals.

CHANGE OF NAME AND DOB

I, ARMY No.390912W RANK NB/SUB NAME-KH BN SINGHA S/O KH BHUBANJOY SINGHA, OF UNIT 2TTR 1STCR/O- RAMNAGAR, TARA PUR, TUKO, DIST CACHAR, ASSAN PIN CODE-788003 solemnly declare declare and affirm on oath under:state that I am presently residing a the above mention address. I state that my wife, Aadhar card my wife (Krishnabati Singha) which is true and correct but in my army service recor my wife name is KH KRISHNA SING HA WHICH IS INCORRECT I STATE THAT THE TRUE AND CORREC NAME IS KRISHNAWATI SINGHA AND SAME NAME SHALL BE COR RECTED IN MY ARMY SERVICE RECORD I state that for the above variation date of my wife this affidav is being furnished CORRECT NAME: KRISHNABAT

SINGHA INCORRECT NAME: KH KRISHNA SINGHA

while the joint European bid CHANGE OF NAME AND DO received a 3.7. The three-

I. ARMY N0.390912W RANK person evaluation team, led by FIFA's chief women's officer NB/SUB NAME-KH BN SINGHA S/ KH BHUBANJOY SINGHA, OF UNI Sarai Bareman, determined 2TTR 1STCR/O- RAMNAGAR, TARA both bids qualify for consideration "due to both PUR, TUKO, DIST CACHAR, ASSAM having exceeded the minimum PIN CODE-788003 solemnly declar declare and affirm on oath under:hosting requirements" in the state that I am presently residing a the the above mention address. I state The United States and Mexico that my son, Aadhar card my son (KHAIDEM ASHWIN SINGHA) which withdrew a joint bid last week. U.S. Soccer said the is true and correct but in my army ser federations will instead focus vice record my son name is KH ASH on hosting the 2031 tournament. South Africa dropped its bid late last year, WIN SINGHA WHICH IS INCOR RECT I STATE THAT THE TRUE AND CORRECT NAME IS KHAIDEM ASH WIN SINGHA AND SAME NAME saying it would also turn to SHALL BE CORRECTED IN MY 2031. That hosting decision is ARMY SERVICE RECORD I state that for the above variation date of my so Brazil hosted the men's World this affidavit is being furnished. Cup in 1950 and 2014, and

CORRECT NAME: KHAIDEN ASHWIN SINGHA INCORRECT NAME: KH ASHWI SINGHA

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I	पिता श्री अम्बाराम चौधरी 3. श्री कैलाशचन्द्र दुबे	खसरा नंबर 584/1/1/1	16.03.2024 से भूखण्ड क्रं. ए– 16,
I	पिता स्व. श्री रमेशचन्द्र जी दुबे 4. श्री सुभाषचन्द्र दुबे	रकबा 1.0980 हे. में से	167, 32, 44, 45, 56, 57, 93, 98,
I	पिता स्व. श्री रमेशचन्द्र जी दुबे 5. मेसर्स एस. एस.	1.0120 हे., खसरा नंबर	99, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108,
I	इन्फ्रा एण्ड रियल इस्टेट प्रा. लि. तर्फ डायरेक्टर श्री	584/1/1/3 रकबा 0.5060	109, 100, 101, 102, 103, 110,
I	पुनीत बजाज पिता श्री अमर बजाज तर्फ विकासकर्ता		111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 126,
I	मेसर्स एस. एस. इन्फ्रा एण्ड रियल इस्टेट प्रा. लि.		127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132,
I	तर्फ डायरेक्टर श्री पुनीत बजाज पिता श्री अमर	585/2 रकबा 0.1560 हे. कुल	133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138
I	बजाज पता : क्लब हाउस, सांई रॉयल पाम, रंगवासा,		
I	आर. आर. केट, इंदौर (म.प्र.) कालोनी का नाम	में से 1.830 हे. भूमि पर।	क्षेत्रफल २५९१,३९ वर्गमीटर भूमि है।
1	OBHAVYA ESTATE EXTENSIONO		_
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अपराक्त फालम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 39 भूखंड इस कार्यालय में घरोहर के ख्य में बंधक रखे गये है अतः सर्व साधारण को सुवित किम जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडो का कय, विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नहीं किया जावेगा । (सबम प्राधिकारी द्वारा अनुमोदित)

अपर कलेक्टर, जिला इंदौर

179092024ए1339530 दिनांक

IndusInd Bank Limited (#)

FRR Dept, 11th Floor, Tower 1, One Indiabulls Centre, 841, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road, Mumbai 400013

PUBLIC NOTICE

(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) of SECURITISATION AND **RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from IndusInd Bank imited (IBL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets on 10-11-2023 in the books of the Bank as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, Bank has issued demand notices on 29-04-2024 under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount of Rs. 24,98,030.85 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Thirty and Paise Eighty Five Only) together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the borrower has refused to accept the said demand notices and therefore the service is being done by us by way of this publication as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules).

	Names and address of borrowers
1	M/s Real Tea Company (Borrower) Proprietor: Anju Lalwani Residing at H.No.06 Old Sindhi Colony, Berasiya, Road, Bhopal, M.P. 462001
2-4	Raj Kumar Lalwani (Guarantor), Mr. Ashok Lalwani (Guarantor & Mortgagor), Anju Lalwani (Guarantor) All Residing at:H.No.06 Old Sindhi Colony, Berasiya, Road, Bhopal, M.P. 462001
adm Bou	Description of secured asset lateral: Property: 6, Old Sindhi Colony, Opp. Sai Mandir, Bhopal (M.P.) land neasuring 1800 Sq. Feet and construction thereon existing and future ndaries:- East: House of Maharaj Naradlal, West: Road, North: House of aldas, South: House of Hargundas Tanwani
	ereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the of this notice, the outstanding amount Rs. 24,98,030.85 (Rupees Twenty