OPINION 6

NOTHING 'GENTLEMANLY'

IN CHINESE DIPLOMACY

WORLD 8

TURKIYE HALTS ALL

TRADE WITH ISRAEL

MONEY 10

RUPEE RISES 3 PAISE TO END

AT 83.43 AGAINST US DOLLAR

Late City Vol.18 Issue 122 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RCB, GT EYE **MUST WIN** 12 SPORTS

DEHRADUN, SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

the plant 1864 the stablished 1864 the plant of the stablished 1864 the stablished 186

www.dailypioneer.com

Raebareli Rahul's new battlefield

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI/RAEBARELI

n deciding to contest from Raebareli Lok Sabha constituency, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi apparently made a calculated risk to solve several anomalies within and outside the party and hence retaining the legacy Gandhi-Nehru family. In this scenario, neither the

Gandhi scion has anything to lose, nor do the people of Raebareli, who were longing to continue their support for the grand old party's first family. The seat is currently held by longest-serving Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, announced her retirement from electoral politics.

While Sonia has been elected to the Rajya Sabha and will continue parliamentarian.

Congress and Rahul, who are confident enough to secure a victory in Raebareli as well as his current Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala, where he is contesting once again, will ultimately vacate the Uttar Pradesh Lok Sabha seat to pave the way for his sibling, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The party also appeared to have concluded that Raebareli would be the safer seat for Rahul who lost Amethi to Smriti Irani last time by nearly 50,000 votes.

Sources in the party said the plans were already there that



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Privanka Gandhi Vadra upon their arrival before the nomination filing of Rahul ahead of the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, in Raebareli

Priyanka could be fielded from Raebareli and Rahul from Amethi which he lost in 2019 but the party decided to Ever avoid any controversy due to the continuous pitching by Priyanka's husband Robert from Raebareli is Vadra through various platforms of media.

Though, Vadra was part of the that accompanied Rahul to the nomination office along with Sonia, Priyanka and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Former Gehlot Minister Ashok accompanied the family. since

announcement, Rahul contesting considered masterstroke several reasons which

includes taking the reins from Sonia in a real sense so that he can focus on a pan India poll campaign as he has bigger responsibility to ensure

Rajasthan Chief that the INDIA Bloc wins more seats.

Furthermore, with the Congress focusing more on Southern due declining affairs in the north, Rahul has maintained that he does not want to abandon his Wayanad

constituency. In the event of losing this Lok Sabha seat again against Irani, it would have been a significant blow

to the leader of the largest political party. On the other hand, winning would have tarnished his image with the people of Amethi if he had chosen to leave after securing a victory. The party leadership which has fielded KL Sharma who is household name in Amethi as well Raebareli and is confident enough to wrest the seat from Irani, wants to send a message that even a simple Congress worker successfully ran down the BJP candidate.

Rahul filed his papers from Raebareli barely an hour before nominations closed for the Lok Sabha seat. The party ended the suspense over Amethi and Rae Bareli, announcing his candidature as well as Gandhi-Nehru family loyalist KL Sharma from Amethi, who too filed his papers amidst the presence of large number party workers. Polling in both parliamentary constituencies is on May 20.

A large number of Congress workers, and those from Bloc INDIA partner Samajwadi Party, turned up at both the Lok Sabha constituencies. After filing his nomination, Rahul and other family members went to the district Congress office where family priest Radhe Shyam Dixit performed a

Sharma has been the key person who looked after the two prestigious constituencies on behalf of the Gandhis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters on his arrival for a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, Krishnanagar, West Bengal, on Friday

Modi's advice to RaGa: 'Daro mat, bhaago mat'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATTA/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra
Modi mocked the
Congress leader Rahul Congress Gandhi saying he had "run away" from Amethi for fear of defeat. "Today I also want to tell him, Daro Mat (don't be afraid), Bhaago Mat (don't run)," the Prime Minister sneered at three election rallies in West Bengal.

Modi's jibe came after Rahul's most often repeated remarks against the PM "Daro Mat" and accusing the BJP Government of using probe agencies to terrorise critics and political rivals. Modi also attacked former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi saying he had predicted that both mother and son would avoid contesting from their

Burdwan.

leader will not dare to contest. She will run away out of fear. She ran to Rajasthan and from there entered the Rajya Sabha. That is exactly what happened," he said. "I had said shehzade (Rahul Gandhi) is afraid of losing in Wayanad, and the moment voting ends, he will start

his loyalists saying it, he panicked so much, he ran from there and is now looking towards Raebareli. These people keep going around telling people Daro Mat. Today I will also tell them... ji bhar ke kehta hoon. Arey daro mat, bhaago the PM said in

looking for a third seat. Now

even from Amethi, despite all

Several BJP leaders seized on seats out of fear. the Amethi-Raebareli "I had said, their biggest decision, calling it a dead

giveaway that Rahul knows he can't win Amethi, where Union Minister Smriti Irani is contesting again after her win in the last Lok Sabha election. Modi also asserted that the Congress' tally in the Lok Sabha polls will be an "all-time low", as the grand old party would struggle to cross even the "half-century" mark in the hustings.

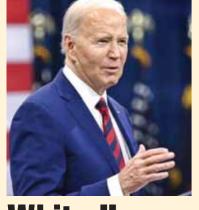
Bardhaman-Durgapur Krishnanagar and Bolpur Lok Sabha constituencies, the PM said if the Congress is voted to power, it would "snatch" quotas meant for the Scheduled Caste, Dalits and OBCs and give those to its "jihadi vote bank" to pursue

the party's "appeasement

Addressing back-to-back

in

rallies



White House plays down `xenophobia'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

 $T^{\text{he White House has responded to}}_{\text{US President Joe Biden's remark calling two of his QUAD partners}}_{-}$ India and Japan — as well as Russia and China "xenophobic" nations, asserting that none of these countries, unlike the US, welcome immigrants. Responding to a question about the remarks made by Biden at an election fundraiser on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the president was making a "broader point"

"He was making a broader point. Our allies and partners know very well that - how much this president respects them," Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference on Thursday.

"As you know, in regard to Japan, they were just here for the state visit. The US-Japan relationship is an important relationship. It's a deep, enduring alliance," she said. "He (Biden) was making a more broad comment, speaking about this country and speaking about how important it is to be a country of immigrants and how it makes our country stronger. And so, that's what he was talking about," she said. "It relates to our relationship with our allies, that continues. Obviously, we have a strong relationship with India (and) with Japan. And the President, if you just look at the last three years, has certainly focused on those diplomatic relationships," Jean-Pierre said.

"He was talking about who we are as a country. He was talking about the importance of being in a country of immigrants, especially as you see the attacks that we have seen very recently, in the last couple of years, those attacks on immigrants, in particular," the White House Press Secretary said, defending the president.

EC unhappy with truant city slicks, plans to entice more

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

The country's election watchdog has expressed its disappointment over voter apathy in metropolitan cities, including the National Capital region (NCR) cities, noting it as a India's high-tech city in the first two phases of Lok Sabha polls.

With the dismal poll average, the Election Commission has doubled up its voter participation interventions to overcome the 'small drop' in turnout in the first two phases. Besides an exclusive action plan taken up by it, t Commission hopes that the urban centres going to polls in next phases

turn the tide. The poll body has roped celebrity endorsements featuring national icon Sachin Tendulkar, Rajkummar Rao, as well as actors Ayushmann Khurrana and Vijay Varma Varma, alongside non-celebrity TVCs to

promote voter's awareness. Additionally, short films and videos are being produced by DD for social media and its channels. Radio jingle, Vox pop programmes, RJ Mention, celebrity interviews, influencer engagement, and social media messaging are being done on various radio station platforms. Food delivery platforms such as Zomato and Swiggy have also partnered with EC for disseminating voter awareness

messages in their unique style. In collaboration with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the poll body has launched voter awareness messages and songs which are being played at different stadiums during IPL 2024 to encourage people

The commission's social media cell

has started a social media campaign "I am Election Ambassador". In another initiative, a voting day alert was sent to all Facebook users pan India to inform and inform the voters about the general elections and also to nudge them to participate in the festival of

democracy

Vast network of post offices and banking institutions was also utilised by the poll body to reach out to wide and diverse audience across the length and breadth of the country.

The Department of Post has over 1.6 lakhs post offices and 1,000 ATMs and 1,000 digital screens while there are over 1.63 lakh bank branches and 2.2 lakh ATMs across public and private sector banking institutions Following the dip in turnout in

phase 1, the commission had directed State Chief Electoral Officers of Maharashtra, Bihar, UP and Rajasthan and Karnataka to come up with an additional set of plans to enhance voter turnout.

Bengal guv dares TMC to assail him, sees a 'more sinister plot'



SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{An and a Bose on Friday}}^{\text{engal Governor CV}}$ rejected the allegations of sexual assault leveled against him as an "absurd drama," a political "storm" — and a conspiracy by some political parties — which he expected and which was used to facing. A day after a woman employee at the Kolkata Raj Bhavan alleged that she was sexually harassed by the Governor, Bose blamed the political parties for the "absurd drama," adding he was expecting more such storms in the offing. His remarks came hours after

Governor's House administration banned entry of State Police and State Chandrima Minister Bhattacharya inside Raj Bhavan.

Bose through an official statement said, "I welcome all

the generous allegations and the frequent innuendoes passed on me by some political forces. I understand, my friends, there is more in the offing. But one thing is

clear, none of the absurd dramas is going to deter me from my determined efforts to expose corruption and curb violence. The Governor who left for Kerala — where he belongs — in the day also said "that is the nature of the political forces working in the State, adding, "I have

braved many storms. I tell the political party that is plotting against me, this is no storm. This is only a storm in a teacup. Do not be surprised if you realise I am the storm. Bring out all the weapons from your armoury. Use it against me. I am willing. I am prepared. I shall continue my fight for the dignity and

भाजपा चांदनी चीक लोकस

respect of my brothers and sisters of Bengal."

In an apparent bid to underscore the "absurdity" of the allegations, Bose a former IAS officer said that he could well be held responsible for the Famine that had hit for the Great Calcutta Killings of 1946. After initial bonhomie

between him and Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee Raj Bhavan's chemistry with Nabanna — State secretariat — had been on a falling track, particularly. The two sides had run-ins on a host of issues including appointment Chancellors, corruption and violence rampant panchayat elections.

Referring to the incident Chief Minister Banerjee Mamata flayed the BJP for using the Raj Bhavan Minister

Attacking Prime
Attacking Narendra Modi for not sparing a single word on the allegations of molestation leveled by the Raj Bhavan staff against the Governor Banerjee said, "I am quite disturbed by this and here he (Modi) is attacking us but not sparing a single word on what happened at the Governor's House where he spent a night on Thursday."



X results to be

out after May 20 PNS NEW DELHI

Amid speculations and rumours about announcement of the exam results by CBSE, the Board on Friday issued a clarification saying the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and XII results are likely to be announced after

May 20. "CBSE Class X and XII results are likely to be announced after May 20," the Board said in a note on its website. The Board exams for the two classes between February-April. The official website

were conducted cbseresults.nic.in said, "CBSE Board results for Class X and XII are likely to be declared after May 20, 2024." The Class X, XII results will likely be declared on the same day. Candidates who have appeared for Class X or XII Board examination can check the results on the official website of CBSE at cbse.gov.in.

Doc's VIP treatment for Khandelwal in Chandni Chowk

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

n support of his successor, ■ despite his two terms from the constituency coming to an end, former Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan made his presence felt at the grand roadshow held for the nomination filing of BJP candidate Praveen Khandelwal for Chandni Chowk on Friday. Along with Union Minister Goyal, Khandelwal started his journey from the ancient Gauri Shankar Temple turning the atmosphere ecstatic as one witnessed conch blowing,

drum beating, band playing, and party flags fluttering in the roadshow. The sitting Chandni Chowk MP said, "The BJP is an organisationbased party, and our organisation

works not for individuals but for organisational development, and each candidate is a symbol of the organisation. We will ensure the BIP candidate Khandelwal ensuring by maximum voter turnout on election day.'

This support adds a stark contrast to the infighting between the Congress in the national Capital, which is now out in the open with the exit of former Delhi

Congress Chief Arvinder Singh Slamming the INDIA Bloc, Goyal said, "The Congress and the AAP abuse each other in Punjab while seat-sharing have arrangements in other States. The people of Delhi are intelligent



others during a 'Jansabha' in support of the party candidate from Chandni Chowk constituency Praveen Khandelwal, ahead of the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, at Chandni Chowk, in New Delhi, on Fridav Ranian Dimri/Pioneer

from the entire north India after enough not to be misled by such tactics," adding that the grand old the ongoing election.

party is going to be "wiped out" Further, Goyal said the INDIA Bloc of Opposition parties has no vision and blueprint for making

have nothing to give to the country except fake videos and narratives," he said. Referring to Khandelwal as a

the country a world power. "They

long-time friend, Goyal said he has been actively involved in finding solutions to the problems of traders, micro and small enterprises as well as consumers. BJP candidate Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also filed his nomination for the South Delhi seat, accompanied by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami. A large number of BJP workers carrying party flags and raising "Jai Shri Ram" and 'Ek baar phir Modi Sarkar' slogans marched along the roadshow of Bidhuri, greeting people from open-top

One witnessed people dressed in different traditional attires.

While some dressed up in South Indian attire, others wore Uttarakhandi attires in the rally. Prior to filing his nomination, Bidhuri also visited the Gopal Temple located in Prithviraj Market to seek blessings and mark the start of his road show. Accompanying Bidhuri, Dhami said the BJP's team work is going to repeat history and the saffron party will win all the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national Capital. Dhami encouraged the party workers, saying there is no contest against the BJP and their only challenge is the hot weather. "No matter how high the temperatures are, you have to

bring the voters to the polling booths and ensure that the voting percentage does not

Warmer days to be followed | Do not panic regarding by rainy spell in State

Forest fires expected to be controlled by rain and drop in temperatures from May 8

PNS DEHRADUN

The temperatures in the State are forecast to rise three to four degrees above normal during the next three days. This warmer spell is expected to be followed by a spell of rainy weather, according to the State meteorologicentre. meteorological centre has forecast that very light to light rain/thunderstorms are likely to occur at isolated places in Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshvar and Pithoragarh district today. Dry weather will prevail in the remaining districts, The State meteorological centre has also issued a yellow warning (Watch) regarding the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning likely to occur at isolated in Uttarkashi, places Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. The surface wind is likely to be strong and gusty (30-40 kmph) at isolated places in

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly cloudy sky. The maximum and mini-

the State's districts.



mum temperatures are likely to be about 37 degrees Celsius and 20 degrees Celsius re-

The State meteorological centre director Bikram Singh said that the weather is likely to remain clear till May 6 though some weather activity is expected in some mountainous districts and higher reaches during this period. The maximum and minimum temperatures are currently near normal in both the mountainous and plain districts but the temperatures are expected to rise by three to four degrees Celsius in plains and two to three degrees Celsius in the mountainous regions in the next

few days. He said that the maximum temperature is expected to rise three to four degrees above normal and reach 37 to 39 degrees Celsius in the plains and upto 27 degrees Celsius in the mountainous regions. "From May 7. a rise in the thunderstorm activity is expected with light rain especially in the Kumaon region. Light rain is expected in various places across the State on May 8, 9, 10 and this activity is expected to rise on May 11, 12, 13. The rainfall activity from May 8 is expected to provide major relief from forest fires raging in the State. The temperatures are also expected to drop below normal from May 8," Singh

PRI & SRM CCTR-Chennai ink MoU for clinical trial of Ayurveda medicines

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Patanjali Research Institute (PRI) and Chennai-based SRM Centre for Clinical Trials and Research (SRM CCTR) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) IN Haridwar on Friday to facilitate clinical trial of Ayurvedic medicines. While Acharya Balkrishna was present for PRI the dean (Research) SRM CCTR Nitin M Nagarkar along with Satyajit Mahapatra and Saraswati Tripathi represented the



Chennai-based Hailing the event, Balkrishna

said that considered as a milestone in the revival of the ancient Ayurveda, it would ensure that the clinically researched and tested Ayurvedic medicines hit the global market in a big way. Echoing the same optimism, Nagarkar said that the MoU would prove pivin providing Ayurvedic medicines with global recogni-

Covishield report, say doctors

Rise in heart attacks likely due to unhealthy lifestyle

MANSI BHAMBRI ■ DEHRADUN

Doctors in Dehradun have advised individuals not to panic following the concerns recently emerging regarding the probable side effects of the Covishield vaccine as it is just a misconception. Recently, the British-Swedish multina-tional pharmaceutical and biotechnology company As-traZeneca acknowledged that its Covid vaccine Covishield may lead to rare side effects such as the formation of blood clots. Regarding

side effects such as heart attacks or blood clots. He further pointed out that the rise in heart attacks could be attributed to factors like long-term effects of Covid-19 and a sedentary lifestyle. He emphasised that physical activity is beneficial for the heart.

"The current report lacks accuracy as a vaccine's side effects typically manifest soon after administration and not



this, doctors here have stated that any side effects from a vaccine typically manifest within three to six weeks of administration. Rather than Covishield, the rise in heart attacks among individuals has been linked to long Covid, they said.

Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital medical superintendent Dr Anurag Aggarwal said that there is no need to panic as the fear is based on a misconception. He said that there have been no reported cases of heart ailments or heart attacks related to the Covishield vaccine. Any vaccine including Covishield or Covaxin may potentially show side effects within three to six weeks of administration. Since it has been two years since the vaccine was introduced, he assured that there should be no risk of

remain calm. Covishield is not the primary factor in the rise of heart attack cardiologist at GDMC hospital Dr Amar Upadhaya said. He further added that heart attacks are usually caused by blood clots in the heart and can lead to paralysis if they occur in the brain. He asserted that attributing increased heart attack cases to Covishield is incorrect, as the vaccine's impact period has nearly passed and its incidence rate is comparable to the occurrence of lightning strikes on individuals. He stressed that factors like managing blood pressure, sugar levels and choles-terol and refraining from smoking, play a significant role in preventing heart attacks. Increasing physical activity can also

years later. People should

help reduce the likelihood of experiencing a heart attack,

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

I, Service no 15788476L Rank-Hav (OsFC) Name - Anil Swaroop Uniyal, Permanent resident of Vill:- Moldhar, PO:- Koti (Atthurwala) Teh-Doiwala, Dist- Dehradun State Uttarakhand Pin 248140, have corrected my mother's name from Ramavati Uniyal to Rama Uniyal vide affidavit Dated 01.05.2024 before Notary Public Doiwala Dist Dehradun (UK)

In my Army service record my father's name wrongly entered as Suresh Nand Nautival whereas his Nautiyal. Hav. Sunil Nautiyal S/o Suresha Nand Nautiyal, R/o -Umedpur, Premnagar, District Dehradun Uttarakhand.

In my some documents my name is GEETIKA, some other documents my name is GEETIKA ARORA and some other documents my name is GITIKAARORA. These all name are of same person and it should be updated for all future purposes. Geetika W/o Mr. Deepak Arora R/o B-134, Panache Valley, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

I, MITALI ADHIKARI (existing name) W/o Army No- 18003990W MANASH ADHIKARI, VILL-KACHUBAN, POST-MADHUPUR DIST-COOCH BEHAR, TEH-SADAR COOCH BEHAR, WEST BENGAL - 736165, declare that in my husband's Army record, my incorrect name MITALI ADHIKARI has been recorded, as per Aadhar No. 702968826161 my correct name is MITALI BARMAN ADHIKARI.

The general public is informed that we have changed our daughter's name from ARADHAYA CHAUHAN to ARADHYA CHAUHAN and in future she should be known as ARADHYA CHAUHAN D/o SACHIN KUMAR Address: 373 RAWALI MAHDOOD HARIDWAR UK

In my Husband Service record my name mistakenly recorded as PARTIMA ADHIKARI where as my correct name is PRATIMA THAPA as mentioned in other all documents. Army no. 5846577P EX RFN ISHWAR SINGH THAPA R/O VILL. RAIPUR DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. vide IN-UK19082007885071W Affidavit 03.05.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Army Record my daughter and son name mistakenly recorded as (a) (SIWANI) (b) (KUNAL) and (SHIVANI BHURANDA) (b) (KUNAL BHURANDA) as mentioned in all 1186225X NK EX SURAL K R/O VILL. CHANDMARI PO. GHANGORA DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND vide IN-UK19058446612187W Affidavit 03.05.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Army Record my daughter name mistakenly recorded as PARULE and whereas her correct name is PARUL CHHETRI as mentioned in all other docume Army No-JC 623961L EX SUB/NB PRÉM BAHADUR R/O VILL. THAKURPUR PO. UMEDPUR DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND, vide IN-UK19102106847190W

Dehradun. Affidavit 03.05.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE In my army records, the name of my daughter is registered as RASHIMI CHODHARY and the name of my second daughter is KRISHNA CHODHARY and the name of my mother is SHRANGAVI DEVI. correct name of my second daughter is KRISHNA CHAUDHARY and the name of my mother is SINGARI DEVI, which is true and correct. And the name of all the three is registered as Army No. JC768349H SUBEDAR Vijay Pal Singh, son of late Shri Dev Raj Singh, resident of 849 Field Work Shop Company EME Raiwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

सूचना

मैं रुकमणी पत्नी स्वं श्री कुशाल सिंह चौधरी EX RFN- सर्विस न. 4042236 निवासी ग्राग पाख पो०ओ० मैगाधार, ग्यारह गांव हिन्दाउ जिला टिहरी गढ़वाल है, मेरे पति के सैन्य अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम रुकमदेई है जो कि गलत है जब कि मेरा सही नाम रुकमणी है जो वि शपथकर्ती के अन्य सभी प्रमाण पत्रों में दर्ज है जिसे अपने पति के सैन्य अभिलेखों में परिवर्तन करना चाहती है। जिसको कोर्ट देहरादून र जारी शपथ पत्र IN-UK 18867768409421W द्वारा दिनांक:- 02 / 05 / 2024 को प्रमाणित एवं सत्यापित किया गया है।

नोटः जबकि रुकमदेई व रुकमणी एक ई महिला का नाम है। भविष्य में मुझे रुकमणी के नाम से जाना जाए।

<u>Disclaimer</u>

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

For advertisement booking 9045057787, 8909212518 Email: pioneerdoon@gmail.com



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through E-Procurement Technologies Limited on their online auction platform https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 09.05.2024 between 3:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction platform and/or auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective taluka within the respective district on the same terms and conditions. The balance items which were left shall be auctioned or subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective talukas within the respective district. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be

| pplicable to no | minee/regarnen. | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ranch name: H | IARIDWAR-JWAI | APUR KRISHNA | GARDEN GL. Gol | d Loan A/C No.: |
| L20020322, | GL20098693, | GL20173950, | GL20178691, | GL22866327, |
| L22872897, | GL22901704, | GL23450575, | GL24850328, | GL25100546, |
| L25107971, | GL25223015, | GL25386561, | GL25483598, | GL25549962, |
| L26209136, | GL26224503, | GL26290991, | GL26307400, | GL26443604, |
| L26562296, | GL26569909, | GL26579423, | GL26606147, | GL26849416, |
| L26861195, | GL26869089, | GL27011920, | GL27021028, | GL27293125, |
| L27298072, | GL27300642, | GL27326779. | GL27432355, | GL27452654, |
| L27600102, | GL27604937, | GL27612089, | GL27612818, | GL27622175, |
| L27643119, | GL27676817, | GL27707677, | GL27835164, | GL27979125, |
| L28205788, G | L28257729, GL28 | 3770450, GL3096 | 8698. | |
| | | | | |

| GLZIZGOUIZ | , GLZ/30004Z, | GLZ1320119, | GLZ143Z333, | GLZ1402004, |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| GL27600102 | , GL27604937, | GL27612089, | GL27612818, | GL27622175, |
| GL27643119 | , GL27676817, | GL27707677, | GL27835164, | GL27979125, |
| GL28205788, | GL28257729, GL2 | 8770450, GL3096 | 8698. | |
| Branch name | e: HARIDWAR-R | ANIPUR CHOWN | GL. Gold Lo | an A/C No. : |
| GL18062601 | | GL20060491. | | |
| GL24120799 | GL24633778, | GL24647266, | GL24705059, | GL25198099, |
| GL25206189 | GL25254445, | GL25422681, | GL25426052, | GL25666360, |
| GL25866943 | GL25950255, | GL25962282, | GL25974836, | GL26101219, |
| GL26250598 | GL26289609, | GL26306828, | GL26346436, | GL26361278, |
| GL26429688 | GL26452455, | GL26957270, | GL27036988, | GL27052101, |
| GL27058379 | , GL27077125, | GL27081694, | GL27091338, | GL27101047, |
| GL27210500 | , GL27306368, | GL27370871, | GL27379834, | GL27381528, |
| GL27393024 | , GL27394086, | GL27394098, | GL27446872, | GL27448265, |
| | | | | |

| GL27453527, | GL27535642, | GL27552935, | GL27763335, | GL27984235, |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| GL28030125, GI | L28588311, GL28 | 8890102. | | |
| Branch name: | ROORKEE-GANE | SHPUR GL. Gol | d Loan A/C No. | : GL18756904, |
| GL19651736, | GL20024716, | GL20646936, | GL20675349, | GL20860949, |
| GL21810596, | GL21977938, | GL22010332, | GL22035674, | GL22053765, |
| GL22767832, | GL23216338, | GL23497640, | GL23509630, | GL24182570, |
| GL25017951, | GL25086167, | GL25092276, | GL25116397, | GL25122405, |
| GL25131170, | GL25132481, | GL25144887, | GL25154787, | GL25156293, |
| GL25166763, | GL25181812, | GL25189948, | GL25316883, | GL25365504, |
| GL25404052, | GL25405489, | GL25427612, | GL25453677, | GL25509707, |
| GL25522927, | GL25559229, | GL25619501, | GL25760154, | GL25825155, |
| GL25829325, | GL25849552, | GL26019983, | GL26097184, | GL26109622, |
| GL26188363, | GL26197357, | GL26353896, | GL26354841, | GL26359200, |
| GL26359615, | GL26376263, | GL26382747, | GL26388258, | GL26390680, |
| GL26525680, | GL26533361, | GL26537622, | GL26538703, | GL26539004, |
| GL26562279, | GL26583376, | GL26594505, | GL26606635, | GL26611247, |
| GL26654261, | GL26676180, | GL26754613, | GL26759298, | GL26786260, |
| GL26794516, | GL26812975, | GL26822075, | GL26838109, | GL26860227, |
| GL26864761, | GL26904122, | GL26924171, | GL26932131, | GL26933419, |
| GL26953994, | GL26987280, | GL26999396, | GL27035986, | GL27063160, |
| GL27079486, | GL27098305, | GL27109304, | GL27142085, | GL27144607, |
| GL27152034, | GL27154725, | GL27160718, | GL27162921, | GL27198533, |
| GL27209159, | GL27232447, | GL27237517, | GL27262719, | GL27263681, |
| GL27266869, | GL27275446, | GL27294619, | GL27304984, | GL27322621, |
| GL27336719, | GL27348207, | GL27376889, | GL27393922, | GL27437024, |
| GL27457884, | GL27515704, | GL27524102, | GL27624356, | GL27633927, |
| GL27642271, | GL27643778, | GL27656351, | GL27662607, | GL27669263, |
| GL27673307, | GL27690059, | GL27723423, | GL27739188, | GL27769434, |
| GL27769854, | GL27784404, | GL28228881, | GL28447522, | GL28628956, |
| GL28734682, | GL28961932, | GL30266722, | GL31595707, | GL31615571, |
| GL32250943.GI | L32252817. | | | |

| GL32250943, G | L32252817. | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Branch name: | ROORKEE-RAMI | NAGAR GL. Gold | Loan A/C No. | : GL21901543, |
| GL22553419, | GL22719767, | GL25022105, | GL25080949, | GL25172652, |
| GL25255271, | GL25379332, | GL25488226, | GL26086762, | GL26448441, |
| GL26449932, | GL26816474, | GL26823720, | GL26872978, | GL26893088, |
| GL26930179, | GL26942336, | GL26952700, | GL26971902, | GL26980498, |
| GL27186565, | GL27211578, | GL27227912, | GL27289881, | GL27293819, |
| GL27300084, | GL27315706, | GL27325651, | GL27351782, | GL27365561, |
| GL27373547, | GL27392870, | GL27416237, | GL27423689, | GL27510960, |
| GL27513894, | GL27523677, | GL27560356, | GL27583708, | GL27597412, |
| GL27604294, | GL27606971, | GL27612194, | GL27612222, | GL27612893, |
| GL27617405, | GL27643544, | GL27657168, | GL27673133, | GL27781725, |
| GL27825143, | GL28001511, | GL28294928, | GL28384319, | GL28667628, |
| GL28711030, G | L28752130. | | | |

GL28711030, GL28752130.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and acosts. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details for refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED



Date: 04.05.2024

Place: HARIDWAR

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654
E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of general, that we first mine stimule stimule (int) and additioning good orinnents of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through E-Procurement Technologies Limited on their online auction platform https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 09.05.2024 between 3:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction platform and/or auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective taluka within the respective district on the same terms and conditions.

The balance items which were left shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective talukas within the respective district. If the customer is deceased, then

all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir. Branch Name: KOTDWARA-DEVI ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20262150, GL21700541, GL23280895, GL25076499, GL25090350, GL26374942, GL26390424, GL26428884, GL26873995, GL27212052, GL27390609, GL27300812, GL27339951, GL27365091, GL27375684, GL27393217, GL27480039, GL27424166, GL27446156, GL27453410, GL27464877, GL27480039, GL27531814, GL27539748, GL27551897, GL27553054, GL27567458, GL27582092, GL27665450, GL27674072, GL28450366, GL29395373, GL29807223, GL30205549.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details for refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

Date: 04.05.2024 Place: PAURI GARHWAL



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

Congress leader Joshi to hold programmes in 100 wards of Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

head of the elections of the prevent the spread of dengue. Ahead of the elections urban local bodies, the general secretary of Uttarakhand Congress Navin Joshi will organise public interaction programmes in all the 100 wards of Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD). In these programmes he will seek public support for the Congress party. Interacting with the mediaper-

sons at the headquarters of the State Congress on Friday, Joshi said that former mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' was accused of having properties in excess of his known sources of income but these charges were not investigated by the government. Similarly, the budget worth crores of rupees was hushed up in the name of Smart City project, he alleged.

Joshi said that during the global investors summit, crores of rupees were spent on the beautification of LIC building in Dehradun which is a dilapidated building that will be dismantled. He demanded that an investigation should be ordered in the case and the government should recover the amount from the officers and politicians involved.

Joshi said that roads drains Dehradun were excavated in the name of Smart City project. The rainy season is about to start and the government has made no arrangements to

He said that the government had assured that tax will not be imposed on the residents of new wards for a period of 10 years but now commercial tax is levied on the residents.

Joshi claimed that the employees sent by the MCD for assess-

ment of tax were seen demanding money from the people. Such corrupt practice cannot be done without involvement of MCD officers, he said.

The Congress leader said that the ruling BJP is frightened by the elections due to which names of people in the areas where Con-

The spokesperson Ashish Nautival, Mahendra Singh Negi, Upendra Thapli, Gopal Singh Gadia, Mohan Kala and others were present on the occasion.

off from the voters list. He

claimed that afraid of the im-

pending defeat, the BJP wanted

to postpone the municipal elec-

gress is strong have been struck

UTTARAKHAND GRAMIN BANK

SARB-Jakhan (951) Doon Vihar, Jakhan (Rajpur Road) Dehradun- 248001 Ph.No. 135-2736931

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF ASSETS ON"AS IS WHERE. IS WHAT, IS THERE", BASIS Under Securitization and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI ACT 2002) sealed tenders are invited at UttarakhandGramin Bank, SARB JakhanDoonViharRajpur Road Dehradun under Rule 8(6) ofSecurity Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 for sale of under mentioned propertiesunder the orders of the Authorised officer, UttarakhandGramin Bank,SARB JakhanDoonViharRajpur Road Dehradun for recovery in accounts as per details below:

| П | S. | Name & Address of the Borrowers | Outstanding | Description of | Date of Demand Notice | Reserve Price/ | Earnest | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| l | No. | / Guarantors & Branch Name | Amount | Property | Date of Possession | | Money | | | | | |
| | | Branch: Saharanpur Road (131) Borrower/Mortgagor: Sh Manoj Kumar S/o | | All that property forming part of Khasra No. 510 Min area having 37.67 Sq Mtr. Or 405 | | Reserve Price Rs.8,60,000/- | Rs. 86.000/- | | | | | |
| П | | Sh Late SardariLal R/o NaiBasti Vijay Colony | | sqft situated at Mauza Hathibarkala, Distt. | 17.02.2016 | | , | | | | | |
| П | | Po HathibarkalaDistt Dehradun Guarantor - | Forty Nine Only) up to | Dehradun bounded & butted as under : | Date of Possession | | | | | | | |
| П | | 1.Sh Balbir Singh S/o Late Shsardari Lal R/o | | East : Land of other person, Side measuring | 16.07.2016 | | | | | | | |
| П | | Nai Basti Vijay Colony Po Hathibarkala Distt | | 30 ft.West : Property of ShBablu Side | | | | | | | | |
| П | | Dehradun. Guarantor-2 Sh.Rahul Kumar | | measuring 30 ft. North :20 Feet wide Road, | | | | | | | | |
| П | | Sohanta S/o Late Sh Prakash Chand R/o | | Side measuring 18 ft. South : Property of | | | | | | | | |
| | | Nai Basti Vijay Colony Po Hathibarkala Distt Dehradun | | Sh Chandresh Side measuring 9 ft. | | | | | | | | |
| ı | _ | LITTAPAKHAND CRAMIN RANK, SARR Jakhan Doon Vihar Rainur Road, Debradun, Phone : 0135 2736031 Retween : 11 AM to 4PM | | | | | | | | | | |

Terms and Conditions:

1) Interested parties may send/submit their sealed tenders/bids for purchase of the said properties in a sealed cover superscripted as "Offer for Assets a along with EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) equivalent to 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers Cheque/Demand draft favouring Uttarakhand Gramin Bank, Dehradun payable at Dehradun which is refundable if the bid is not successful. (2) Place for obtaining 8 submitting tender UttarakhandGramin Bank, SARB Jakhan Doon ViharRajpur Road Dehradun between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. (3) Last date of submitting tender 10.06.2024 up to 5.00 PM. (4) Date, time and place of opening tender 12.06.2024 at 11.30A.M at UttarakhandGramin Bank, SARB Jakhan Doc ViharRajpur Road, Dehradun

(5) To the best of knowledge available on record the properties are free from all encumbrances except Uttarakhand Gramin Bank. (6) The Authorised Office shall not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale (7) The prospective bidders may satisfy themselves about condition of assets/value/measurement etc. All the details of the properties are as per information received by the Authorised Officer and so the Authorised Officer is not responsible for any deviation in the information. The property can be verified by the prospective bidders with the help of concerned branch manager on any working day, between 11.00 am to 4 pm. (8) The successful bidder shall pay initial deposit being 25% of the offer amount within 24 hours of the sale being confirmed in his favour after adjusting EMD and the balance amount within 15 days failing of which the Authorised Officer reserve the right to cancel the bid of the successful bidder without giving any notice amount EMD and/or initial deposit as above shall be forfeited on failure to pay the balance amount. (9) All Payments shall be made by Demand Draft/Bankers cheque drawn in favour o "Uttarakhand Gramin Bank" payable at Dehradun. (10) The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer (s) or adjourn/date of sale without assigning any reason thereof. (11) The Successful bidder shall bear all the charges/fee payable such as stamp duty, registration fee electricity/water bill, house taxetc/as per applicable laws/rules. (12) After opening the bids/tenders the intending bidders may be given an opportunity, at the discretion of Authorised Officer to have inter-se bidding among them to enhance the offer price. The borrowers/owners whose property is being sold should take a note of it and make efforts from their end in realizing fair market price of property. (13) This is also a notice to the borrower/mortgagor/guarantors unde

the rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement), Rule 2002 (14) After auction, for any dispute, the bank will not be responsible for any adverse decisions of Hon'able Court. (15) The sale shall be confirmed by the Statutory 30 Days Sale Notice Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of

Security Interest Act, 2002, Read with rule 8(6) Of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers, guarantors & mortgagor named above are hereby advised to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up-to-date interes and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance due, if any will be

recovered with interest and cost. Date: 04.05.2024 Authorized Officer: Uttarakhand Gramin Bank Place : Dehradun

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Former MLA Gahtori who enabled Dhami to remain in office no more

PNS DEHRADUN

Tttarakhand Forest Development Corporation (UFDC) chairman and the former MLA of Champwat, Kailash Gahtori breathed his last in Dehradun on Friday. He was suffering from cancer for some time. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, for whom he had vacated his Champawat seat, the Bharatiya Janata Party and politicians across the spectrum expressed grief at his demise. Gahtori was suffering from cancer and suc-cumbed to the disease at the Government Doon Medical College hospital here on Friday. His last rites were held in Kashipur.

Dhami attended his funeral procession in Kashipur and paid his last respects to Gahtori. Expressing grief over Gahtori's death, the chief minister said that it was a personal loss to him in addition to being an irreplaceable loss to the party and the State. Describing the UFDC chairman as his dear friend Dhami said that he was unable to express this immense pain in words.

Gahtori associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and had contested his first candidate again in 2022 but later gave up his seat to enable



Vidhan Sabha election in 2002 from Champawat as an independent candidate. He contested as a BIP candidate from Champawat in 2017 and won the election.He contested the election from Champawat on a BJP ticket and won. He won from the constituency as a BIP

Dhami to contest the bypoll.

Expressing grief at the demise of Gahtori, the BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt said that the entire BJP family is in mourning after learning of his demise. "Gahtori will always be remembered for his contribution to the party organiza-tion and the society. As a social

and political activist, he dedicated his entire life to serving the public. His demise at this age is an irreparable loss to the party and the society. The BIP will always be indebted to him for his contributions. He will be remembered as an ideal public representative," the BJP State president said.

MCD penalises 17 dairy owners, collects Rs 79K fine

owners on Friday after getting several complaints against them by locals. This is the first time that so many dairy oper-ators have been penalised by the corporation in a single day, the chief municipal health officer Dr Avinash Khanna said. He said that with the onset of summer, the dairies, espe-



cially those which operate in the residential areas, create a nuisance for the locals as many of them dump animal waste in the drains and public places. They also fail to properly dispose of the garbage generated in their dairies. They cause several sanitation issues across the city like dumping cow

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) stretches of Rispana River and open public areas. The city also open public areas. The city also open public areas. The city also open public areas. stretches of Rispana River and faces issues like waterlogging during monsoon besides potential health risks and environmental concerns like methane emission due to improper disposal of cow dung in large quantities by big dairies. This can also lead to health hazards, especially in

summer. Considering all these factors, a sanitation team led by Khanna conducted inspections of several dairies on Friday that started at 7 AM. The team found irregularities in 17 dairies of Nehrugram, Negi Road, Guru Road, Patelnagar and Raipur MCD imposed penalties on these dairies ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 and collected a total revenue of Rs 79,000. He said that the corporation warned the offenders to not dump garbage and cow dung against the rules. If they are caught again, the

MCD will impose a penalty of a hefty amount and will take legal action against them. The sanitation team will continue to conduct such inspections across the city. Those who have complaints about dairy operators in any particular area can also approach the MCD, he added.

MCH conducts antiencroachment drive ahead of Char Dham Yatra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

local police conducted an anti-encroachment drive on Friday in view of the Char Dham Yatra scheduled to commence on May 10. The team had marked these

A joint team of the Municipal Corporation of Haridwar (MCH) and the face any inconvenience here. Considering this, the MCH and the police team removed several encroachments on a stretch from Iatwada Bridge in Iwalapur to Ghas Mandi and Chowk Bazaar besides from



encroachments earlier in the main locations near the Iwalapur area that often cause trouble to tourists and pilgrims. The additional municipal commissioner of Haridwar Ravindra Dayal said that the corporation is gearing up for the Char Dham Yatra

Kathera Bazaar, Ansari Market and Shri Ram Chowk Dayal informed that the MCH seized all the items of encroachers including racks, banners, and signage boards among others and collected a fine of Rs

Delhiites set to give all seven Lok Sabha seats to BJP: Dhami

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the people of Delhi will repeat history by making the candidates of BJP victorious in all the seven Lok Sabha constituencies. He was addressing a public meeting in support of the BJP candidate from South Delhi, Ramvir Singh Vidhuri at Lado Sarai on Friday. Dhami said that the huge turnout of people and enthusiasm in the nomination rally of the BJP candidate shows that the people have made their mind to send Vidhuri in Lok Sabha and make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third consecutive term. He said that the NDA government under the leadership of PM Modi has taken many historic decisions. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has been implemented, article 370 has been abrogated, and the practice of triple Talaq has been banned. Construction of a magnificent Ram temple in Ayodhya has been completed. Under the leadership of the PM many schemes of welfare of the poor



have started. Crores of people have got houses under PM Awas Yojana. The poor are benefiting from the Ayushman scheme, Lakhpati Didi Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi and Uiiwala scheme. Terming the coalition of opposition parties as an association of corrupt, the CM said that the opposition parties have united to save their existence and to promote

the politics of dynasty. Launching an attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dhami said that the party has left Congress behind in corruption. Those who had sworn about morality and honesty to come to power are now in jail. He said all the ministers of AAP are also in jail. Dhami said the leaders of AAP and opposition parties are trying to dislodge Modi with the help of Khalistan supporters. He said that the people have made up their mind to teach a lesson to the coalition of corrupt. Dhami appealed to people to support Vidhuri and PM Modi. The president of Delhi BJP Virendra Sachdeva, co-in-charge Alka Gujar and others were present on the occasion.

Launch campaign against roadside parking before Char Dham Yatra: Raturi

The chief secretary Radha Raturi directed the departments concerned to launch a campaign from Saturday against the illegal parking of vehicles on the roadside in Rishikesh, Lakshmanjhula, Muni Ki Reti, Tapovan, Srinagar and Dehradun. This initiative is expected to improve the traffic flow in these areas before the Char Dham Yatra begins on May 10. The CS instructed officials to take strict action against those found to be violating the rules during the campaign. She also directed them to act against roadside encroachments in these areas. Raturi stated this in a meeting on Friday with the officiating director general of police Abhinav Kumar and Garhwal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey regarding the traffic management on Char Dham routes. She asked the police to make parking arrange-ments for tourists near rafting and camping sites to ensure they are not forced to park in public spaces that lead to traffic jams. If necessary, make arrangements for parking in available pri-



vate properties. She asked the officials to ensure that the authorities do not tolerate the trend of parking vehicles on the roads under any circumstances and take strict and prompt action against it. She also directed to act against such hotel and restaurant owners who have not provided adequate parking arrangements for their

employees and customers in district magistrates contheir premises and tend to promote illegal parking on roads. Besides this, Raturi also asked the officials to send proposals to the government soon regarding the widening of various narrow routes including Neelkanth in the Garhwal region to mitigate traffic jam prob-lems. She also directed the during the Yatra, she added.

cerned to start working on the proposals for alternative routes to Char Dham shrines. The officials concerned must take all possible measures to streamline traffic on Char Dham routes before the Char Dham Yatra starts on May 10 to ensure pilgrims do not

booking helicopter service,

they become more prone to

be victims of cyber fraud. Last year, the ŚTF's cyber

crime police station blocked

64 fake websites which were

being operated from various parts of the country just to

dupe pilgrims.

Cyber crime unit blocks 12 fake helicopter booking sites ahead of Char Dham Yatra

Considering the possibility of cyber scams during the booking of helicopter services for the Char Dhams, the cyber crime police station of Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) has blocked 12 fake websites during the past one month. The STF has so far blocked 76 fake websites since last year with the help of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14 C) of the Ministry of Home

The senior superintendent of police of STF Ayush Agrawal said that fraudsters are committing fraud worth lakhs of rupees in different states of the country in the name of booking helicopter services by creating fake websites. The cyber police station received several cyber fraud complaints in recent years from people belonging to different states in the name of Chardham Yatra helicopter booking service.

They lost lakhs of rupees due to such frauds. The main reason for such fraud is to book helicopter service from random websites found on Google rather than from authentic websites. The people should book helicopter services for Kedarnath from

Tender No

Name of Work

Tender Closing Date

Tender Closing Time

Advertised Value (Rs.)

Earnest Money (Rs.)

Period of Completion

Tender No. Sr.DEN-IV/Publication/24-25

NORTHERN RAILWA

e-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEN/IV/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tende

against following tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against eac

column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this

tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through paymer

modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manua

payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are no

14-DRM-MB-24-25 Dt. 23.04.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

the official website of the people do not verify the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation they find on Google before (IRCTC) or check out the

website of the Uttarakhand Development Authority (UCADA) for helicopter services for other Char Dham shrines. Talking further about the issue, the deputy superintendent of police of STF's cyber crime unit Ankush Mishra said that the scammers continuously upgrade their methods to scam people. They have started making fake websites appear similar to authentic ones to dupe more people across the country. Since many

Azadi v

authenticity of the websites

The DSP appealed to the public to provide information about such fake service providers including fake websites, web links and mobile numbers to STF. Such details can also be sent on mobile number 9412080875 through WhatsApp or call 1930 for financial fraud,

्री वैक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

ZOSARB Branch, 4th Floor, Rajendra Bhawan, Rajendra Place,

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12 read with (rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Deman Notice dated 20.05.2017, calling upon the borrowers - M/s H. V. Metal Arc Pvt. Ltd. (Directors - Mr. Harish Aswal & Ms Shivani Saklani), Regd. Office: 438, 1st Floor, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi - 110096. Also at: A - 13/1, 7th Floor, Synergy Tower, Sector - 62 Noida (U.P.) - 201301, Also at: C - 28 To 30, Industrial Estate (growth Centre) Sigadd Kotdwar, Teh. Kotdwar, Distt. Pauri Garhwal (uttrakhand), Also at: P1 & P2, UPSIDC, Site V. Suraipur, Village Kasna, Industrial Area, Greater Noida (U.P.) and Guarantors - Mr Harish Aswal S/o Shri K.S. Aswal, Ms Shivani Saklani W/o Mr. Harish Aswal & Harish Aswal (HUF) Karta, Mr. Harish Aswal, All at: E-12/3006, Flat No. C-006, Royal Garden Sector - 61, Noida (U.P.), M/s Metlo Wood Creation (Prop. Mr. Harish Aswal), C - 27 Intergrated Industrial Estate (growth Centre) Sigaddi, Kotdwar, Distt. Pauri Garhwa (Uttrakhand), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 11,54,79,574.60 + BG INTEREST (RS. ELEVEN CRORE FIFTY FOUR LAC SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR AND PAISA SIXTY ONLY+BG INTEREST) as on 20.05.2017, with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charges etc thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on nim/her under Sub - Sec. (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 2nd day of May 2024.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with said Properties and any dealings with the said Properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Baroda, ZOSARB Branch, 4th Floor, Raiendra Bhawan, Raiendra Place, New Delhi – 110008 For An Amount of Rs. 11,54,79,574.60 (Rs. Eleven Crore Fifty Four Lac Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four And Paisa Sixty Only) As On 20.05.2017, With Further Interest, Costs, Expenses And Other Incidental Charges Etc. Thereon

[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.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY

All That Part And Parcel Of The Equitably Mortgaged Property Consisting On Industrial Plot At C – 28, C – 29, C - 30, Shri Rampur Integrated Industrial Estate Sigaddi Growth Centre Kotdwar (uttrakhand), Admeasuring 3294.99 Sq. Mtrs., In The Name Of M/s H. V. Metal Arc Pvt. Ltd., Bounded as: On North: Plot No. C-48 to C-50, On South: 24 meters Wide Road, On East: Plot No. C - 31, On West: Plot No. C - 27

Date : 02.05.2024, Place :Kotdwar Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

Fabrication and Fixing of 60/52 Kg in situ Glued joints over Moradabad Division in the section of Sr.DEN/IV/MB

28.05.2024

16:00

53,05,005.00

1,06,100.00

6 months

Dated. 03.05.2024

Recovery Center, PNB House, BHEL, Sector-IV Haridwar- 249403. Email: cs8238@pnb.co.in (NOTICE UNDER 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 OF SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002 l being an Authorised Offcer of the Secured Creditor Bank has a reason to believe that all of you the under mentioned notices cannot be served ordinarily as attempted earlier except through this substituted service. As such, all of you the under mentioned notices are hereby

informed and called upon through this public DEMAND NOTICE under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 make payment of the amounts due against each of you, as mentioned below, within 60 days, the bank will proceed U/s 13 (4) of the said Act for taking possession of the secured property/ies/Assets mentioned against account and thereafter to sell the same to realize its dues with further interest till realization along with costs as contemplated under the said Act. Needless to mentioned here that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to bank for recovery of its dues, against you. 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.

1343/24

| S. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor | |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| 1. | Branch: Patanjali Bahadrabad | Pri |
| | Borrower- Smt Arzida w/o Takrrub Hasan, H.No. | |
| | 285, Village-Shantarshah, Bahadrabad, Haridwar | Col |
| | Uttrakhand-249402, Mob- 9917588212, Guarantor: | -rin Nor |
| | Sh. Takrrub Hasan S/o Sh. Shahid Hasan,H.No. | tota |
| | 285, Village-Shantarshah, Bahadrabad, Haridwar | -ing |
| | Uttrakhand-249402 | Roc |

mary Security: Hypothecation of Plant & Machinery, SARFAESI Notice issued lateral Security: Residential House having area measu g in East- 24 feet 3 inch, in West--24 feet 3 inch, in th- 49 feet 15 inch and in South- 49 feet 3 inch having with further interest & other area measuging 1200 sq feet or 111.52 sq mtr belong to part of khasra no. 303/3M situated at Mohalla Satti-Ex Roorkee Haridwar registered vide sale deed at bahi no. 1, ild 2992, of pages 279-296 serial no. 13606 on date

Details of Security/Property

Demand Notice u/s 13(2) dated 26.04.2024 for Rs 13.86.381.13 as on 31.03.2024 charges and Legal ences w.e.f. 01.04.2024

Date of NPA

Date of

13,86,381.13 as on 31.03.2024 with further interest & other charges and Legal Expences w.e.f. 01.04.2024

Due Amount

08.10.2013, in sub registrar office Roorkee-I which is bounded as: Ownership Smt. Arzida W/o Sh. Takrrub Hasar Date: 03.05.2024 Place: Haridwar **Authorised Officer**

Congress attacked Constitution by inserting word secular in Preamble: BJP

¬he Congress has been against providing reservation to the Dalits and the backwards and the party also "attacked" the Constitution by inserting the word 'secular' in the Preamble when it was in power, the BJP alleged on

Friday. The BJP's charge comes at a time when the Congress has been claiming that the saffron party is seeking more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls to change the Constitution and also end the reservations provided to the members of the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) if voted to power.

Slamming the Congress at a press conference in the BJP headquarters here, party national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam said, "They are repeatedly saying the



Constitution will be changed. Ambedkar used to say that the preamble of the Constitution is its soul. But they added a word 'secular' in it, which was the biggest attack on the Constitution."

Asked if the Preamble will be restored to its original form if the BJP is voted to power again, he said, "This? Yes. The word 'secular' should not have been inserted in it (Preamble). This hurt the soul of B R

Ambedkar." Gautam alleged that the Congress has been against providing reservation to the "Dalits and the backwards" since its "birth" and brought the provision of creamy layer durng its rule to "end reservation". "In a letter to all chief ministers on June 27, 1961, Jawaharlal Nehru (then Prime Minister)

had clearly stated that he dis-

likes any kind of reservation,

especially in services. The

Congress and its leaders did not

nothing in the name of reservation at Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia (Millia) Islamia," the BJP leader

Asked if the BJP will provide quota for the Dalits and the backwards at AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia if voted to power, Gautam said, "For this, we will prepare a draft and make all efforts. They should get reservation. We have fought for the Dalits earlier also."

Gautam alleged that the Congress denied reservation to the Dalits and the members of the backward classes in Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) by giving special status to the erstwhile state under Article 370.

The Narendra Modi government, on August 5, 2019, abrogated Article 370, thus, ending the special status given to J-K, and bifurcated it into two Union Territories - J-K and

BJP takes dig at Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/ HUKKERI (KARNATAKA)/ROHTAK

The BJP on Friday took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he filed nomination to contest from Raebareli with Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying he will lose the polls against the BJP candidate by a huge margin.

Mocking Rahul Gandhi as someone who runs away from the battlefield, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh targeted him for shifting his Lok Sabha constituency to Rae Bareli and said he could not gather the courage to contest from Amethi.

Addressing a public rally in Hukkeri (Karnataka), Shah said Rahul Gandhi is contesting the elections from Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh after running away from Amethi and predicted that he will lose the polls there against the BJP candidate by a huge

He also said former AICC



President Sonia Gandhi's multiple attempts to "launch" Rahul Gandhi had failed and claimed that this was the twenty-first attempt.

The top BJP leader addressed a public meeting here in Belagavi district for party can-didate from Chikkodi Lok Sabha segment Annasaheb

Modi ji tried and at once Chandrayaan (mission to Moon) got launched. Sonia Gandhi has launched this yaan' named Rahul Baba (Rahul Gandhi) twenty times, but her launching has not been successful. Today for the twenty-first time, running away from Amethi, he has filed nomination from Raebareli," Shah said.

He said, "Rahul Baba, I'm telling the result of Raebareli from here. Against BJP's candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh, you will lose by a huge margin. Write down my words."

In Rohtak, Rajnath said people like Rahul Gandhi want to lead the country, the senior BJP leader said in a swipe at the former Congress president at a public meeting there, claiming that many Congress leaders wanted him to contest from Amethi but he chose to run away. "I am concerned that he may be given a different name after running away from this battle," Rajnath said. In New Delhi, the BIP took a

swipe at Rahul Gandhi saying

he is contesting the ongoing Lok Sabha polls from Rae Bareli in addition to Wayanad in Kerala, as he is going to lose the contest in the southern State. "Bhag Rahul bhag, Rahul bhag, Rahul bhag (run Rahul run) this is what will go on now," Dushyant Kumar Gautam, the national general secretary of the BJP, told a press conference at the party headquarters when asked about Rahul Gandhi contesting the polls from the

When pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told the former Congress chief not to run out of fear, Gautam quipped, "Well, he (Gandhi) is a kid. He should be encour-

Rae Bareli seat.

From Feroze Gandhi to Rahul: **Raebareli's tryst with Congress**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The surprise nomination of Rahul Gandhi from Rae Bareli brings the focus back on the VVIP segment which was first represented in the Lok Sabha by the former Congress president's grandfather Feroze Gandhi, who held the seat in the first two elections after Independence. The strong foundations that

Feroze Gandhi laid in the constituency were later nurtured and strengthened by his wife and former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who won from the seat in 1967, 1971 and 1980, followed by friends and family members of the Gandhi family. Indira Gandhi contested from two seats in 1980 — Rae Bareli and Medak in Telangana — and chose to retain the Medak seat.

Arun Nehru won the 1980 bypoll and subsequently in 1984.

From Arun Nehru, who was late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's right-hand man, to Sheila Kaul, another Gandhi kin, Rae Bareli returned several of the Gandhi family members and aides to the Lok

The seat was held by Congress' after the demise of Feroze Gandhi, and by another Congress leader Baij Nath Kureel in 1962.

Sheila Kaul, an aunt of Indira Gandhi, represented the seat in 1989 and 1991. In 1999, anoth-



er friend of the Gandhis, Satish Sharma represented the Rae Bareli constituency, till Sonia Gandhi shifted there.

The only time the Congress did not represent the seat was in the wake of the Emergency in 1977 when Janata Party's Raj Narain defeated Indira Gandhi, who was then the prime minister, and BJP's Ashoke Singh in 1996 and 1998.

Although Sonia Gandhi upon entering electoral politics chose to make her electoral foray from neighbouring Amethi Lok Sabha seat in 1999, a seat her husband Raijy Gandhi had held earlier, she soon vacated it for her son Rahul's debut in politics in 2004.

Sonia Gandhi subsequently held Rae Bareli four times between 2004 and 2019, Lok Sabha polls due to health margins began dwindling.

The party's calculation behind fielding Rahul from Rae Bareli instead of Amethi, also rests on the conclusion that Rae Bareli is a better, safer seat for the former Congress president, who

lost Amethi to BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019 by nearly 50,000

Amid criticism that the Congress had given a walkout to Irani in Amethi, sources said, the party in its wisdom believed that Rae Bareli's historical, emotional and electoral importance for the Gandhi family was higher than that of Amethi. In her farewell message to the people of Rae Bareli, Sonia Gandhi had expressed confidence that the seat which always stood by her and the Gandhis will continue to support her family in future also. In the message on February 15, former party chief Sonia Gandhi informed voters of her Rae Bareli constituency that she will not contest the upcoming

In an emotional message to the constituents of the segment she has represented since 2004, the 77-year-old also threw subtle hints of a possible entry of a member of her family from

Give no dues certificate to people wanting to contest polls within 48 hours: EC to States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Election Commission ▲ on Friday directed States to ensure that those intending to contest polls are provided with 'no dues certificate' within 48 hours of the request as those who do not submit the document while filing nominations face the prospect of their papers being rejected.

If a candidate is not able to provide 'no dues certificate' even after he has cleared all such dues, it goes against his candidature at the time of scrutiny of nominations.

The EC advisory noted that there is "no respite" to the candidate even if he submits 'no dues certificate' after expiry of the statutory period of filing of nominations in the constituency concerned.

Such instances may cause significant loss not only to the aspiring candidates but also to the political parties and electorate of the constituency concerned and "undermines the principles of participatory electoral democracy", the poll authority said.

The advisory has been issued to ensure that this does not ongoing Lok Sabha polls, an intending candidate could not obtain such a certificate despite clearing dues.

A candidate who files nomination paper during an election to Parliament and state



legislature has also to file an affidavit before the returning officer concerned under the provisions Representation of the People Act, 1951. During ongoing elections to

the Lok Sabha, 2024, it has come to the notice of the Election Commission that an intending candidate could not obtain "No Dues Certificate" from concerned authorities and therefore could not file the same with respect to the (a) rent, (b) electricity charges, (c) water charges and (d) telephone charges, even after the candidate had supposedly cleared all such dues. Such instances may cause significant instances may cause significant loss not only to the aspiring candidates but also to the political parties and electorate of the constituency concerned and undermines the principles participatory electoral

The Supreme Court in its various judgments has said that the affidavit so submitted should be completely filled in and no column should be left

Dutee Chand joins sports icons in anti Vaping campaign PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Dutee Chand, a national sprint champion and Olympian, has joined a group of influential sports icons, including Baichung Bhutia, Deepa Malik, and Neha Dhupia, in supporting Mothers Against Vaping in their campaign against the rising trend of vaping among Indian youth. The Mothers Against Vaping is a collective of women dedicated to combating the proliferation of new-age tobacco devices, particularly among children and adolescents.

In a statement, Mothers Against Vaping emphasized the urgent need to address the health crisis facing young people due to the increasing use of electronic tobacco products. They highlighted the significance of proactive measures to raise awareness and implement concrete steps for pro-tecting youth from the harmful effects of vaping.

Chand's support and involvement will shine a powerful spotlight on the issue and raise its awareness, visibility and impact, the Mothers Against Vaping said in a statement.

Quoting Dutee Chand, the statement said that "the need to impact that vaping and e-cigarettes have on the lives of chil-

"Today, we are sprinting ahead as a sporting nation. From athletics to chess, it is thrilling to see the rise of talented



fields. But issues like harmful vaping habits among youngsters are setting us back so we must speak out against this trend," she was quoted as say-

ing.
"Children deserve to pursue their dreams, play and build their futures free from harmful distractions like vaping. Engaging in such habits can derail their paths and jeopardise their aspirations. Children, parents, teachers and society as a whole must understand the consequences of vaping and take proactive steps to eradicate this menace from our communities and our children's lives," added Chand.

She highlighted the importance of creating an environment where children can pursue their dreams and aspirations without being derailed by harmful distractions like vapaction from parents, teachers, and society to eradicate this menace from communities and safeguard the future of chil-

Mothers Against Vaping pointed out the multitude of health

risks associated with vaping, including the emergence of lung injuries such as EVALI (Ecigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury). They debunked the misconception that vapors from modern tobacco devices are harmless, citing evidence of harmful substances like nicotine and diacetyl, which have been linked to severe lung injuries and other health complica-

The organization also highlighted the aggressive tactics employed by multinational companies to target vulnerable youth and expand their market base through social media advertising campaigns that glamorize and normalize the use of electronic devices.

Various countries including India, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Japan and Brazil have banned vaping devices and e-cigarettes under comprehensive legislation addressing their production, distribution, and advertising. India's Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) 2019 was enacted in response to growing concerns over the addictive nature of these products and their adverse health effects, particularly on young

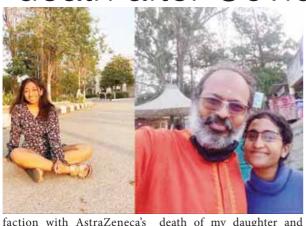
cigarettes were banned under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) 2019, which comprehensively addresses all aspects of their production, distribution, and

Parents to sue Serum Institute over daughter death after Covid jab

 $P^{\text{une-based Serum Institute}}_{\text{ of India (SII), the manufacturer of Covishield, finds itself}}$ potentially entangled in legal troubles as the parents of a 21year-old woman, who allegedly died ten days after receiving the vaccine in 2021, are contemplating suing both the company and UK-based AstraZeneca, the developer of the jab.

The British pharmaceutical giant is already under legal scrutiny in the UK, facing claims in at least 51 cases alleging that its vaccine caused deaths and severe injuries. AstraZeneca recently admitted that its vaccine can, in very rare cases, lead to Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS). Covishield, derived from the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, was extensively administered in India. However, SII, based in Pune, has not yet responded to reports of impending legal action. Interestingly, the Union Health Ministry too has chosen to remain silent despite mounting criticism and concerns among Covishield recipients on social media. The Opposition parties like those from Congress, Samajwadi party and AAP have also criticized the Government following AstraZeneca's admission in a 100 million pound class action lawsuit.

Venugopalan Govindan, who tragically lost his daughter, Karunya, expressed dissatis-



faction with AstraZeneca's belated admission, stating that it came after numerous lives had already been lost. He criticized SII for not halting vaccine supply after 15 European countries restricted its usage due to reported deaths from blood clots in March 2021. Despite their efforts to seek justice, grieving parents have struggled to get a hearing in various courts.

"The manufacturer SII, the government who advertised these vaccines throughout the nation at huge expense to exchequer as 'safe and effective' without sufficient data (and when data emerged about the adverse events from around the world, they chose not to stop the rollout or at least sensitise people and medical fraternity about it), the regulatory bodies that approved it and subsequently didn't intervene to stop it when data emerged about the dangers, are all culpable in the

death of my daughter and countless others who have died after taking this so called vaccine," read Govindan's post which has gone viral since AstraZeneca submission that its Covid jab can cause blood clot-

Venugopalan Govindan initiated a petition titled 'Post-vaccination side effects - Blood clots, MIS-A etc. Awareness required' soon after his daughter's demise in 2021. In his post, he held SII, the government, regulatory bodies, and others responsible for his daughter's death and those of others who died after receiving the vaccine. The national committee formed by the government concluded that there was insufficient evidence to link her death to the vaccine. India's vaccination campaign began on January 13, 2021, administering Covaxin and Covishield. Covishield received approval for use in 49

other countries. As of April 29,

2024, India has administered 1,749,417,978 doses of Covishield, making it the world's largest vaccination pro-

Symptoms of TTS, a rare condition associated with Covishield, include severe headaches, abdominal pain, leg swelling, or shortness of breath, usually appearing two weeks post-vaccination. Timely identification and intervention are crucial in mitigating severe consequences. India's vaccine arsenal during

the pandemic included Covaxin, Covishield, Sputnik-V, Covovax, Corbevax, ŽyCoV-D, among others. Soon after the UK vaccine manufacturer's jab which is being sold as Covishield in India came under legal tangle, Bharat Biotech based in Hyderabad, emphasized Covaxin's safety. It issued statement that it's vaccine underwent meticulous evaluation and demonstrated an excellent safety record during its licensure process

The vaccine maker also said that Covaxin was the only Covid-19 vaccine in the gov ernment's Covid-19 immunisation programme to have conducted efficacy trials in India. "Covaxin was evaluated in more than 27,000 subjects as part of its licensure process. It was licensed under restricted use in clinical trial mode, where detailed safety reporting was carried out for several hundred thousand subjects," Bharat Biotech said.

PM Modi likely to file nomination for Varanasi constituency on May 14



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{Modi is likely to file his}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ nomination on May 14 for Varanasi constituency for Lok Sabha polls and will hold a road show a day earlier. Congress show a day earlier. Congress has fielded Ajay Rai against him. Varanasi will go to poll in the seventh phase on June 1. The process of nomination filing for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha elections will begin from May 7 and end on May 14. Rai is making his third bid for the Varanasi seat in Uttar the Varanasi seat in Uttar Pradesh, having previously contested against Prime Minister Modi and suffered

2019 general elections.

Modi. Hailing from Rajasthan, Shyam Rangeela is renowned for his uncanny mimicking of Prime Minister Modi. Rangeela announced his candidature from Varanasi for the

also announced his electoral

debut from Varanasi against

Lok Sabha 2024 on social media on Wednesday, May 1. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Prime Minister scored a massive victory by a margin of 4,79,505 votes. Modi secured as many as 6,74,664 votes, while his nearest rival Samajwadi Party candidate Shalini Yadav bagged 1,95,159 votes. During the 2014 Lok Sabha

election, Modi secured victory in Varanasi by a substantial margin of 3.37 lakh votes, defeat in both the 2014 and defeating Aam Aadmi Party Apart from Rai, stand-up chief Arvind Kejriwal, who comedian Shyam Rangeela has managed to secure 2 lakh votes.

India agrees to enhance collaboration with Indonesia during defence meet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

🕇 ndia and Indonesia on Friday **⊥**here reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral defence ties and agreed to enhance collaboration in areas of defence industry, maritime security and multilateral coop-

These were the key takeaways from the seventh India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee(JDCC)meeting, defence ministry said.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Indonesia, Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto, co-chaired the meeting.During the talks, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defence cooperation between the two countries. The progress made on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives deliberated in meetings of Working Groups on Defence Cooperation and Defence

Industries Cooperation was also reviewed by the co-chairs. In addition, the dignitaries identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration especially in the field of defence industry ties, maritime security and multilateral cooperation. During the visit, the Secretary General visited the Defence Research Development Organisation(DRDO)headquarters here as well as TATA Advanced Systems and L&T Defence facilities in Pune. He also held deliberations with other Indian defence industry partners like Bharat Forge,

Mahindra Defence and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and discussed ways to enhance defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in research and joint production. He also called on Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Anil Chauhan during the visit. The Secretary General is on a visit to India from May 02-04, 2024. He laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at National War Memorial, New

Reels and selfies lead individuals to life threatening behaviour: Experts

PNS DEHRADUN

media platforms has influenced individuals to adopt a more risky behaviour, experts

The proliferation of reels validation by engaging in has led to a concerning trend risky activities in order to of normalising risky behavgain popularity. She further said that the influence of social media combined with the desire for fame through

of normalising risky behav-

iour among youth. Sharma warned that the production

and consumption of reels could potentially lead to

mental health issues like depression and anxiety. She

stressed on the importance of parental involvement in preventing such tragedies, suggesting that parents should prioritise building a strong and supportive relationship with their children to create

an environment where open communication is encouraged. Implementing time

limits on social media usage

can also be an effective strat-

egy to protect children from engaging in dangerous activ-

ities online, ultimately safeguarding their well-being,

she added.



They said this following vlogging and reels can recent incidents wherein contribute to feelings of individuals, particularly young adults, lost their lives depression, anxiety and while engaging in risky activities for the sake of creating content for reels or selfies. To mitigate these risks, they emphasised that imposing limits on screen time and internet usage is crucial. Additionally, instead of focusing solely on forming friendships, the experts recommend that parents need to media, she said. understand their role in parenting more comprehensive-

According to the psychiatrist at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dr Jaya Nawani, the unrestricted accessibility to the internet and the lack of restrictions on information content have resulted in such as making reels behavioural changes among young adults. Rather than dangerous locations. addiction, the desire for likes and more followers has led many individuals strugpeople to engage in risky behaviour, sometimes resulting in loss of life. Young the artificial world poradults may not be fully aware trayed on social media of the benefits and drawbacks platforms. The pursuit of social media, often seeking of likes and followers

fear. She stressed on the crucial role of parents in preventing such scenarios by creating an environment at home where they can easily monitor their children's activities. In addition, parents should regulate their children's mobile phone usage and educate them about the pros and cons of social

Clinical psychologist Pratibha Sharma stated that there has been a significant rise in incidents involving young adults losing their lives due to engaging in risky activities for the sake of creating social media content and taking selfies in She emphasised that gle to differentiate between real life and

throughout the year but

the SCPCR and other

authorities concerned

have not been able to

take any concrete action

State government to ensure no child marriages take place on Akshaya Tritiya: Khanna

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chairperson of the State Commission for Protection of some communities of Child Rights (SCPCR) Geeta Khanna approached the State government to ensure that no child marriages take place in the State on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. She said this to prevent this so far. in response to a recent

order issued by the Rajasthan High Court stating that village heads will be responsible for stopping child marriages in Rajasthan on Akshaya Tritiya. Following this order of the court, similar demands are emerging nationwide for stringent measures to be implemented in other states well. as Considering this, Khanna said that the Rajasthan High Court's order is groundbreaking and will have significant implications. It is a rare instance in the country where the Panchayati Raj system has been endowed with the authority to ensure that Sarpanches fulfill their duty of preventing child marriages within their area of jurisdiction. Khanna further urged all district magistrates in the State to take similar actions. She further emphasised the need for accountability from local leaders in mobilising communities to safeguard children, citing a recent Rajasthan High Court ruling. It is pertinent to mention here that child marriages especially on Akshay Tritiya are almost unheard of in Uttarakhand. Child

marriages are known to

Confiscate passports of Prajwal, HD Revanna: Sharma PNS DEHRADUN

 $T^{he\ vice\ president\ of\ Uttarakhand\ Mahila\ Congress,\ Asha}_{Manorama\ Dobariyal\ Sharma\ has\ demanded\ that\ the\ pass$ ports of Prajwal Revanna and his father HD Revanna should be suspended. She submitted memoranda addressed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs minister S Jaishankar on the issue. In the memorandum mailed to the PM, Sharma said, "Mass rapist Revanna is your associate, your family. In your election speeches you had sought votes for Revanna. Your speeches are making women uncomfortable," she said. Sharma said that BJP leader Devraje Gowda had informed about the cases related to sexual harassment of Revanna to PM, Home minister and the BJP president JP Nadda in December 2023 but the BJP leadership ignored these charges and supported Revanna. She demanded that the PM should apologise to the country on the issue as the image of the country has been sullied. The Congress leader submitted the memorandum addressed to Jaishankar



to the passport officer of Dehradun. She said that Revanna fled to Germany after the FIR was registered against him. Sharma said without the approval and tactic understanding of ministry of foreign affairs it was impossible for an accused of mass rape to flee from the country. She said that action should be taken against the officers involved in the passage of Revanna to Germany.



Dehradun district magistrate Sonika chairs a meeting to review execution of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission on Friday

Pioneer photo

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

| No. Borrower/ Loan of Property/ | | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Raj Kumar/ Hans Mukhi/ LBDEH00005055534 | Shop Built Over Khata No-484 (Fasli Year 1418-1423), Khasra No.1442 Minjumla, Situated At Mouza Jivangarh, Pargana Pachwadoon, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttaranchal, 248001/ May 01, 2024 | December 15, 2023 Rs. 10,47,122/- | Dehradun |

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

Date: May 04, 2024 Place: Dehradun **ICICI Bank Limited**

UTTARAKHAND GRAMIN BANK

REGIONAL OFFICE - II : PAURI Aency Civil Lines, Pauri - 246001 Phone :01368 : 222351, 223222 Fax : 01368 : 222273 E-Mail:r2@ugb.org.in, ugba2pauri@yahoo.com

AUCTION SALE NOTICE Public Notice for Auction for sale of Immovable properties

Whereas, the Authorized officer of Uttarakhand Gramin Bank under the Securitization of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security, Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) found with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice to borrower and Authorized Officer has Taken physical possession of the properties described herein below. Offers are invited by the Authorized Officer under sub-rule 5 & 6 of rule 8 of the said Act by holding auction on the date, place and time mentioned below. Public at large and borrower and guarantor in general is being informed hereby that Auction under SARFAESI Act-2002 in respect of under mentioned properties will be conducted for sale on the terms and conditions specified herein stated on the basis of "AS IS, WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" for realization of the debate due to Bank. The sale is subject to the conditions mentioned in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

| Γ | S. Name & Address of the Borrowers | Outstanding | Description of | Date of Demand Notice | Reserve Price/ | Date and time of opening |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ŀ | lo. / Guarantors & Branch Name | Amount | Property | Date of Possession | Earnest Money | of tender |
| I | Branch: Srinagar Sh. Madan lal S/o Sh. Gainu Das | Rs 30,25,328/- (Rs thirty Lakh Twenty | Schedule of Property; 100 Sq mts. land out of plot no. 1091 with constructed | Notice | Reserve Price 20,50,000/- | |
| l | (Borrower/ Mortgagor), R/o Vill Chwincha, | Five Thousand Three | building (area 914.60 sq ft) there on Khata | 09.01.2023 | Earnest Money 2,05,000/- | Place of Opening of |
| l | Near Jeep Road, Patti Nandlasyum, Tehsil | only) on on | no. 35, situated at Vill Chwincha, Patti | 11 10 2022 | 2,00,000 | tender |
| l | Pauri, Distt, Pauri. 2. Sh. Bharat Singh | 08 01 2023 with further | Nadalsyun, Tehsil Pauri, Distt Pauri Garhwal, (as per Sale Deed no. 286 dtd | | | Uttarakhand Gramin |
| l | Dhanai S/o Sh. Gopal Singh Dhanai, (Guarantor), R/o 05- Kothad Mohalla Srinagar, | interest, costs and charges | 23.03.2018) bounded & butted as under:- | | | Bank, Regional |
| ı | Distt Pauri, 3. Sh. Arun Kumar S/o Sh. | | East- Land of Surendra Singh, West- Land | | | Office |
| ı | Basanti Lal (Guarantor) R/o Vill Bunthi Kyark, | | of Others, North- Land of Virendra Singh, | | | -2, Agency Civil Lines, |
| ı | Distt Pauri. | | South- Public way | 1 | | Pauri. |

Terms & Conditions:-1. The Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS " AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" 2. The secured assets will not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Interested Bidders may take bid form from the Branch, Srinagar, Distt Pauri/Main Branch, Pauri or 2. The secured assets will not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Interested Bidders may take bid form from the Branch, Srinagar, Distt Pauri/Main Branch, Pauri or Regional Office-2, Agency, Civil Lines, Pauri & submit the duly filled in Bid Form with a self-attested copy of PAN Card/Aadhar Card & original bank draft/ Banker's Cheque of earnest money in a sealed envelope favoring "Uttarakhand Gramin Bank" payable at "Pauri" by 5 PM at UGB Regional Office-2, Agency, Civil Lines, Paurii, up to 04.06.2024. 4. Last Date of submission of bid: 04.06.2024 by 5 PM. 5. Date, Time & Place of opening of Bids: 06.06.2024 at 11.00 AM at Uttarakhand Gramin Bank, Regional Office-2, Agency, Civil Lines Pauri. 6. Date of Inspection of site: Any working day up to 31.05.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM for location details our Srinagar Branch, Distt Pauri/Main Branch, Pauri may be approached. 7. Date of Inspection of documents: Any working day of bank between 11 AM to 2 PM & 3 PM to 4 PM till 31.05.2024 at our branch Srinagar, Distt Pauri. 8. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/rights/dues/effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances, whether known or unknown to the bank. The authorized officer /bank will not be responsible for any charge, Lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the govt. or anybody in respect of the property under the sale. 9. No bid will be considered below the reserve price. Bidder should submit his tender in a sealed envelope marked "Bid for the purchase of property of Sh Madan Lal." Bidder should submit earnest money with the tender which will be refunded without any payment of interest in case of non acceptance of bid. 10. The successful bidder shall pay initial deposit of 25% of the offer amount within 24 hours of the sale being confirmed in his favor after adjusting EMD and the balance amount within 15 days without giving any notice. Amount of EMD and /or initial deposit as above shall be forfeited on failure to pay the balance amount. 11. All payment shall be made by Demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favor of "Uttarakhand Gramin Bank" payable at Pauri. 12. The authorized officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer (s) or adjourn / date of sale without assigning any reason thereof. 13. The successful bidder shall bear the charges/fee payable such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. as applicable as per law. 14. The buyer will be responsible in respect of all types of payments towards statutory dues or liabilities viz. electricity bill, house Tax etc. 15. After opening of the bids the top three intending bidders may be given an opportunity at the discretion of the authorized officer to have inter se bidding among them to enhance the offer price. 16. After auction, for any dispute, the bank will not be responsible for any adverse decision of Hon'able court.

The borrower/owners whose property is being sold take a note of it and make efforts at their end in realizing fair market price of property.

This may also be considered as a notice to the borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors under rule 8(6) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002.

Place : Pauri Authorized Officer: Uttarakhand Gramin Bank



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604

Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com · Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through E-Procurement Technologies Limited on their online auction platform https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 09.05.2024 between 3:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction platform and/or auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective taluka within the respective district on the same terms and conditions. The balance items which were left shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective talukas within the respective district. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-CHAKRATA ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL23003246, GL23548930, GL24064736, GL24837182, GL24843618, GL25422298, GL25437769, GL25511541, GL25519207, GL25964287, GL26103769, GL26113078, GL26375891, GL26392825, GL27258085, GL27325129, GL27359118, GL27355623, GL27444308, GL27453571, GL27467855, GL27481786, GL27792650, GL28048848, GL28609938, GL29032514, GL29418900, GL31151251, GL31387761.

GL31151251, GL31387761.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-DOONPLAZA GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19978535, GL20228349, GL22035834, GL22073997, GL25119120, GL254043574, GL25405387, GL25591786, GL25897362, GL25961418, GL26156831, GL26162129, GL26171071, GL26171844, GL26427505, GL27030652, GL27035696, GL27046620, GL27048970, GL27064073, GL27413759, GL27563247, GL27580477, GL27634279, GL27643037, GL27908390.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-GMS ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL215747705, GL2176780, GL24068095, GL24070524, GL24422769, GL25022690, GL25030822, GL25062352, GL25068103, GL25171638, GL25182834, GL25196805, GL25205940, GL25231137, GL25249440, GL25369739, GL25553333, GL25555022, GL26354911, GL26634977, GL26644011, GL26716285, GL26735735, GL2692934, GL27002244, GL27263985, GL27276414, GL27409153, GL27416798, GL27423359, GL27423767, GL27439229, GL27564696, GL27570082, GL27582084, GL27926027, GL28449027, GL28805212, GL29625487, GL30707110.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-SHIMLA BY PASS ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL23750728, GL26933825, GL27286585, GL27635079, GL27642178, GL27659290, GL27661607, GL27665388, GL27668823, GL27790895, GL27820347, GL29483056.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-SRI RADHA KRISHNA MANDIR GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL27308695.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-YIKAS NAGAR GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL27308695.

Branch name: DEHRADUN-YIKAS NAGAR GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20003378, GL25058680, GL25069942, GL25100301, GL25111409, GL25360053, GL25378572, GL25380105, GL25380521, GL255509177, GL25522855, GL25556770, GL25576332, GL26162968, GL26168715, GL26207766, GL26225944, GL26355407, GL26359863, GL26534979, GL26649973, GL26674257, GL26702170, GL2675045, GL26849711, GL66865592, GL27032029, GL27052093, GL27104264, GL27109142, GL27174863, GL27194712, GL27234790, GL27342940, GL27365974, GL27370286, GL277374922, GL27708108, GL27481563, GL27481563, GL27481563, GL27598442, GL27605158, GL27612833, GL27620378, GL27622826, GL27643122, GL27705793, GL27797422, GL27806497, GL28497898, GL29123062, GL30117562, GL32549281.

Branch name: RISHIKESH-DEHRADUN ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20019879, GL20059145, GL20160647, GL21141127, GL22647848, GL22819347, GL24985343, GL24994135, GL25168277, GL25182137, GL25446462, GL25458784, GL25460839, GL25462989, GL25750980, GL26434785, GL26455496, GL26550843, GL26570949, GL26699595, GL26707687, GL26853313, GL26853537, GL26866475, GL26869135, GL26963455, GL27129969, GL27135502, GL27296101, GL27298007, GL27328200, GL27617796, GL26869135, GL291643226, GL27643241, GL27819939, GL28159759, GL28476803, GL28494384, GL29114835, GL29126634, GL29169439, GL31840443, GL23166670.

Branch name: RISHIKESH-HARIDWAR ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19944734, GL25511734, GL25519299, GL25586827, GL25600325, GL27120091, GL27135741, GL27359648, GL27360406, GL27440569, GL27453313, GL27538665, GL32599488, GL32599802.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details for refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

ntact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited. For detailed information, terms and conditions, co



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY



Date: 04.05.2024

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Regd. Office: : IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through E-Procurement Technologies Limited on their online auction platform https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 09.05.2024 between 3:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction platform and/or auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date me herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day. IJFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective taluka within the respective district on the same terms and conditions. The balance items which were left shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center present in the respective talukas within the respective district. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

Branch Name: BAZPUR-GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19898658, GL25386868, GL27463474, GL27479737

Branch Name: GADARPUR-KASHIPUR ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19714788, GL23363548, GL27511372, GL27522340. GL27651425, GL27673992, GL28418742, GL28720967, GL28812488, GL29368254, GL29394832, GL29731314, GL29807369, GL29808377, GL31537685, GL31556656, GL31980073, GL31987520, GL32049567.

Branch Name: HALDWANI-KATGHARIYA SOHO GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL27816733. Branch Name: HALDWANI-MANGAL PADAV GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19747921, GL20120154, GL21648199, GL22001959,

GL22250416, GL22757472, GL23639117, GL24726684, GL25039468, GL25188252, GL25533904, GL25536064, GL25545774, GL25557651, GL25568634, GL25575436, GL25576534, GL25701047, GL25770317, GL26550597, GL26585429, GL27074479, GL27090721, GL27175856, GL27206185, GL27263566, GL27266870, GL27459110, GL27478575, GL27546549, GL27553022, GL27577917, GL28569938, GL28812454, GL30098732, GL30142442, GL30273116, GL31376834

Branch Name: HALDWANI-MUKHANI GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL18258777, GL18558796, GL20899255, GL23234342, GL24264487, GL24460162, GL24829466, GL25175804, GL25183682, GL25502522, GL25612411, GL25990595, GL25991445, GL26009457, GL26009679, GL26805090, GL26840411, GL26843867, GL27298095, GL27442250, GL27453427, GL27462352, GL27542913, GL27552341, GL27591825, GL27649188, GL27649641, GL27672981, GL27672999, GL28029734, GL28060507, GL28230076, GL28378583, GL29433638, GL29447826, GL34281490.

Branch Name: HALDWANI-NAINITAL ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL19992175, GL20040082, GL20060396, GL20081402, GL20094862, GL20163206, GL20910902, GL21967289, GL22394986, GL23019446, GL23388783, GL23642629, GL25676724, GL25968691, GL26632254, GL26655530, GL26676833, GL26695859, GL26727584, GL27122137, GL27136082, GL27182142, GL27239436, GL27270300, GL27432043, GL27439329, GL27577572, GL27583083, GL27607508, GL27626700, GL28795274, GL30756420, GL31112517, GL31239352, GL31359916, GL31409114, GL32486066, GL33334267, GL33351481

Branch Name: JASPUR-KASHIPUR ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL27387583 GL27514294 GL27522395 GL27576123 GL27582952, GL27588918, GL27591783, GL27613122, GL27613236, GL28484291.

Branch Name: KASHIPUR-NH 74 GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20177585, GL20223663, GL20762737, GL24537586, GL24552230, GL25192925, GL25205256, GL25416525, GL25436666, GL25899405, GL26623312, GL26643991, GL26848232, GL26865193, GL27144428, GL27162732, GL27305258, GL27381921, GL27392969, GL27402930, GL27409481, GL27425002, GL27441540, GL27453226, GL27558625, GL27579086, GL27624027, GL27655961, GL27673708, GL27821775, GL27822077, GL27832807, GL28359604, GL28438001, GL28549418, GL30620274.

Branch Name: KHATIMA-TANAKPUR ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL26652987, GL26675605, GL26992324, GL27001961, GL27076406, GL27154325, GL27162718, GL27176143, GL27291971, GL27300697, GL27351589, GL27365934, GL27627366,

Branch Name: KICHHA-UDHAMSINGHNAGAR GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL25566767, GL25574615, GL26939406,

Branch Name: RAMNAGAR NAINITAL-RAMNAGAR GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL26157370, GL26171146, GL26435327, GL26454179, GL26635365, GL26641943, GL26695839, GL26707346, GL26876236, GL27073437, GL27204607, GL27623094, GL27643449, GL27653592, GL27671315, GL27803739, GL29322731, GL29533052, GL29545031, GL30467308.

Branch Name: RUDRAPUR UK-NAINITAL ROAD GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20027474, GL20035012, GL20139948, GL22116145, GL24060659, GL24227985, GL25260144, GL26661653, GL26678565, GL27288667, GL27300383, GL27557392,

Branch Name: RUDRAPUR UK-SOLANKI HEIGHTS GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL22282483, GL25114675, GL25130843, GL27215144, GL27238512, GL27256199, GL27257358, GL27412489, GL27424720, GL27543674, GL27666641, GL31239227. Branch Name: SITARGANJ-GL. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21267975, GL22028044, GL22250373, GL23416981, GL24873463, GL25368059, GL25382785, GL26514400, GL26515638, GL26540325, GL26545814, GL26724160, GL26777348, GL27215063, GL27232909, GL27247192, GL27470820, GL27481502, GL27539428, GL27552087, GL28435590, GL29083878

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details for refund of

excess auction proceeds, if any For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the conc rned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

School for scandal

With special focus on pro-Palestine protests, several global universities have turned into activism hubs

s more students join anti-Israel protests in countries like the US, England, France and elsewhere, it has spawned a debate regarding the role of educational institutes in shaping political ideologies and influencing global opinion, as well as the question of whether students should get involved in politics. The phenomenon of anti-Israel protests on campuses cannot be viewed in isolation; it reflects broader geopolitical undertones and social movements. However, the specific targeting of educational institutes as platforms for such protests raises important questions about the purpose of universities and their responsibility to foster constructive dialogue versus perpetuating bigotry. One aspect of this development is the clash between freedom of speech and the promotion of inclusivity and diversity. Anti-Israel protests, if not conducted respectfully and with a focus on dialogue rather than confrontation, risk alienating certain student segments. That said, it is also a fact that pro-Israel demon-



strations were first witnessed in certain universities of esteem in the US. As Israel launched an offensive in Gaza, a parallel campaign started in these varsities, allegedly at Israel's behest and funding. Indeed, pro-Israel sentiment has been high in the US as well as in Europe; everyone remained tightlipped when Israel indulged in human rights violations in Gaza. Thus, the latest anti-Israel demonstrations are more of a reaction to that. Besides, even Israelites are now fed up with the ongoing war; they are rallying against Netanyahu and his policies towards West Asia in general and Palestine in particular.

As a Sanskrit saying goes: "Ya vidya sa vimuktaye" (Education liberates)." Since it is a universal truth, this liberation must manifest itself in the conduct of students. No denying the logical boundaries of any dissent and that violence has no role in such demonstrations. The students must focus on their studies, which is what they are supposed to primarily do on college campuses. But it would be rather an anti-thesis of education if they are not aware of what is happening around them and if they fail to react to correct any wrongdoings around them. It is equally true, they can't remain unaffected by the social milieu around them. Back home, let us not forget it was essentially a student movement under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan that opposed the Emergency. During the struggle for Independence, many leaders quit colleges and jumped into the freedom movement. Bhagat Singh, on the issue of students joining politics, wrote: "Was (the students of England and Germany) quitting colleges and going to war not politics? Where were the preachers then; why didn't they ask those students to study? Only the efforts of students and youth have brought independence to any country which is now free...." The words are prophetic and inspiring; one wishes his essay could be read aloud in the western universities.



Farmers harvest wheat at a village near the Indo-Pak border, on the outskirts of Jammu

Nothing 'gentlemanly' in Chinese diplomacy



China's recent outcry over the alleged breach of 'Gentleman's Agreement' with the Philippines reveals a profound irony, given the history of its coercion and deceit

here is a huge amount of insincerity and gall involved in the Chinese complaint that the Philippines had torn up the bilateral Gentleman's Agreement, between Beijing and Manila. While the term 'Gentleman's Agreement' has an implicit assumption of 'trust' as a fundamental tenet besting a relationship, which may otherwise not be legally binding — to even imagine that there has been any element of 'trust' between these two sparing countries, is to put oneself up to ridicule.

Much of the tensions in the countries around the South China Seas originates from an expansionist instinct in China that seeks to coerce, intimidate and dominate the region with creative, wholly unique and untenable concepts like the 'nine dash line' (called out by the International Court of Justice, Hague, as illegal). But it is not just the Philippines but also other regional countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei etc., that are up in arms over Chinese belligerence.

Recent events have seen optics like the Philippines charging China in the International Court of Justice, Hague (and winning the plea), dangerous military exercises to assert competitive territorial counterclaims, ramming and shooting with high-pressure water cannons at Filipino boats, disruption to freedom of navigation, denying access etc., hardly the backdrop to assume the word 'trust' between two constantly slug-fisting nations.

But the make-believe posturing and incredulously 'cry wolf' terms like 'Gentleman's Agreement' are an age-old Chinese norm, whenever anyone has stood up to expose its bullying and relentless expansionism. The Chinese through their conduct have unilaterally made a mockery of the UN Convention on the Law of the

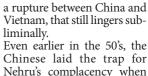
The Chinese have further upped the ante by dredging up sand to create artificial landmass e.g., iround the restive Spratty Islands. This is enough to station a pendent military historians Military base replete with fighter planes and missiles and even inflicted by the plucky, war-



lure) any emerging force that

could challenge the Chinese juggernaut is met with its patent falsehoods, sneaky 'salami tactic' encroachment, or even brazen show of force. In the late 70s, the Chinese were more concerned about the Soviet Union, than with the United States of America. Beijing had counterintuitively started engaging with Washington DC to align it towards its side as it went about preparing to attack Vietnam. Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping on a trip to the United States had told US President Jimmy Carter, "The child is getting naughty, it is time he got spanked".

Soon thereafter, China attacked Vietnam in a war that is recalled in Vietnam as Chien tranh chong bành truoing Trung Hoa (War against Chinese expansionism)! The physical-material superiority in favour of the Chinese PLA notwithstanding, most inde acknowledge the bloody nose anchor its fleet of so-called experienced and pugnacious



Vietnamese forces that led to

Even earlier in the 50's, the Chinese laid the trap for Nehru's complacency when Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai refused to contest Nehru's rightful insistence on Aksai Chin by accepting that China had no claim on it. But Zhou would renege and contradict his earlier position by later claiming that Aksai Chin was already under the Chinese they had surreptitiously built a road, while still playing naïve and ingenuous, all along.

Like all bilateral agreements that the Chinese are always willing to relegate to the bins, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was put to the same fate. In yet another act that would soon become a standard Chinese practice over the years, the Chinese cartographical interpretation was revised with newly usurped territories and claims.

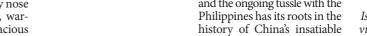
This template of dubious expansionism led to the 1962 Indo-China War and ensured unsettled status in the region with the Chinese 'updating' their official maps with new territories and new names. That same principle has been applied to sovereign maritime issues in the South China Seas and the ongoing tussle with the

expansionism and unbridled ambition to assert its hegemo-

Propaganda in the highly controlled media of China has been elevated to a fine art. Filipino Defence Secretary was quick to rebut the same by clarifying that he was, "not aware of, nor is it a party to, any internal agreement with China" and that his department had, "not had any contact with any Chinese Government officials since last year". The Chinese have been deft with wordsmithing in order to lay the blame for ongoing tensions in the Philippines by first invoking an alleged 'promise', which then became a 'Gentleman's Agreement' and have most recently morphed into a 'new model' and finally 'internal

understanding.' Gen Jonathan Malaya, of the Philippines National Security Council, put it bluntly, "The propaganda masters are clearly working overtime in Beijing to sow discord and division in our country". But unfortunately for the Chinese, there are fewer takers for their position by the day and there never was, or is, anything 'Gentlemanly' about Chinese diplomacy, for decades.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)



EVEN EARLIER IN

CHINESE LAID THE

TRAP FOR NEHRU'S

THE 1950s, THE

COMPLACENCY

WHEN CHINESE

PREMIER ZHOU

INSISTENCE ON

AKSAI CHIN BY

CHINA HAD NO

CLAIM ON IT

ACCEPTING THAT

RIGHTFUL

ENLAI REFUSED TO

CONTEST NEHRU'S

Leveraging NCERT textbooks for CUET



The textbooks offer varied resources for Common University Entrance Test aspirants, from fundamental concepts to advanced topics

he Common University Entrance Test (CUET) is a key gateway for students aspiring to secure admission to undergraduate programmes in various Central and other Participating Universities/ Institutions / Organisations across India. Balancing the assessment of core competencies and subject knowledge, CUET presents both challenges and opportunities. As students gear up for their CUET 2024 journey leveraging a crucial resource: your NCERT textbooks is a very good idea.

NCERT textbooks have long served as foundational resources for students across India. Beyond their use within classrooms, they play a vital role in preparing students for competitive exams like CUET. Leveraging NCERT textbooks can significantly enhance your CUET study strategy, providing a sturdy framework to progress from basic to advanced lev-

NCERT textbooks align seamlessly with the CUET syllabus, covering the majority of the necessary topics and concepts in a clear and acces-



Strong Foundation

NCEŘT textbooks follow a step-by-step approach to presenting concepts, making them ideal for laying a strong foundation. By breaking down complex subjects into manageable sections, they facilitate effective learning and foster a solid understanding of the fundamentals. As you advance in your CUET preparation, delving deeper into NCERT textbooks reveals more complex topics and advanced concepts. The detailed explanations, illustrative examples and practice questions provided in these textbooks help strengthen your understanding and problem-solving skills. Mastering the content presented in NCERT textbooks equips you to tackle higher-level questions and excel in the CUET exam

confidently.

Authored by subject matter experts and rigorously reviewed, they provide standardised material that ensures all students have access to relevant and quality content. This consistency levels the playing field for CUET aspirants nationwide. To make the most of NCERT textbooks in your CUET preparation, consider these

Subject-wise Approach: Organise your study schedule around CUET subjects, allocating specific time slots for studying NCERT textbooks related to each subject. This targeted approach allows for in-depth understanding and mastery of key concepts.

Enhance Visual Learning: Make the most of the visuals in NCERT textbooks, such as illustrations, diagrams, tables, graphs, charts, boxed information and examples for accelerated learning. These elements assist in organising information, explaining theoretical concepts and highlighting key points, leading to improved understanding and

problem-solving.

Practice and Revision: Regularly solve exercise questions and problems provided

at the end of each chapter in NCERT textbooks. Practice is crucial for reinforcing learning and identifying areas that need further revision.

Supplementary Resources: While NCERT textbooks form the core of your study material, supplement your preparation with reference books, online resources and mock tests to broaden your knowledge and enhance problem-solving abilities. NCERT textbooks offer a wealth of resources for CUET aspirants, from fundamental concepts to advanced topics.

By incorporating them into your study strategy and using them effectively, you can enhance your preparation, boost confidence and maximise your chances of success in the CUET 2024 Exam. ExamFactor stands by to support your CUET journey. Remember, dedication, a strategic approach and the solid foundation provided by NCERT textbooks can empower you to progress from basic to advanced levels in your CUET prepara-

> (The author is a Head Content, ExamFactor; views are personal)

KASHMIR'S PATH TO NORMALCY

Madam — Apropos the news article, "AFSPA repeal: A step towards Naya Kashmir," published on May 3, this is my response. The Union Home Minister's contemplation on AFSPA removal in J&K reflects a pivotal shift in the Government's approach towards the region. Amidst heightened security concerns and the promise of Naya Kashmir, the discourse on AFSPA underscores a nuanced balance between security imperatives and democratic values. While AFSPA has historically provided essential tools for security forces, its contentious history and instances of misuse necessitate a critical reevaluation. The Supreme Court's intervention in 2016 highlighted the need for accountability and

checks on its implementation. As J&K transitions post-Article 370, the call for AFSPA's removal gains traction, signalling a maturation in the security landscape. With decreased terror incidents and improved governance, the time seems ripe for a phased withdrawal of AFSPA, bolstering confidence and fostering socio-political normalcy. Ultimately, the decision demands a holistic understanding, prioritising both security imperatives and civil liberties. A judicious approach, rooted in the aspirations of Naya Kashmir, holds the key to a peaceful and prosperous future. **Jiya Patel** | Ahmedabad

PRESS FREEDOM IS VITAL

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Upholding the Fourth EState in Digital Age," published on May 3, this is my response. Press freedom stands as an indispensable pillar of democracy, safeguarding our right to knowledge and accountability. Today, amidst the tumult of misinformation and Governmental pressures, World Press Freedom Day gains renewed significance. It's a reminder of the arduous battles journalists face worldwide, risking their safety to uncover truths and expose injustices. From the historical struggles during emergency periods to contemporary challenges amplified by digital landscapes, the essence remains

Deceptive digital dangers

THE EDITOR



propos the news article, "Time to curb fake videos in elections." published on May 3, this is my response. The emergence of 'deepfake' technology in political campaigns signals a disturbing trend toward digital deceit. The recent case involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah underscores the potential harm of manipulating videos to spread false narratives. Such malicious acts not only undermine the integrity of elections but also sow seeds of discord in society. The ease with

unchanged: a free press is the bedrock of societal integrity.

However, the journey towards press freedom is far from smooth. Nations like India, with its vibrant media, often find themselves entangled in debates over freedom's extent. The quote by Advani echoes the enduring struggle against undue influence and censorship. Governments must respect press freedom, for civil society to advocate relentlessly and for media organisations to uphold ethical standards unwaveringly. On this day, we salute the bravery of journalists who persist in the face of adversity, reaffirming our commitment to preserving the cornerstone of democracy: a free and independent press.

Dhruv Gupta | Jamshedpur

NATURE'S ARTISTIC SYMPHONY

Madam — Apropos the news article, 'Travel Across Enchanted Landscapes," published on May 3, this is my response. Paradise Regained' at Palette Art Gallery beautifully intertwines artistic mastery with a profound reverence for nature. The exhibition, curated by Uma Nair, serves as

which these fake videos can be created using advanced technology raises concerns about the erosion of trust in media and public discourse. Moreover, the implications for national security, as highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cannot be overlooked.

While technological advancements have undoubtedly brought convenience, they also pose significant risks, particularly in cyberspace. Cybersecurity must evolve to address these everchanging threats, with stringent measures implemented to combat the spread of misinformation and safeguard democratic processes. As citizens. we must remain vigilant against the proliferation of deepfake videos and advocate for robust measures to counter such deceptive practices. Only through collective efforts can we mitigate the dangers posed by digital manipulation and preserve the integrity of our democratic institutions

Kavya Singh | Kolkata

a poignant tribute to Earth Month, showcasing the diverse interpretations of landscapes by ten exceptional artists. Each artwork is a testament to the artist's deep connection with nature, from Sanam Narayanan's fantastical realms to Umesh PK's multilayered odes. Paramjit Singh's vibrant oil paintings and Sanket Viramgami's intricate miniatures offer unique perspectives, while Jayashree Chakravarty and Sumesh Kamballur capture the essence of specific regions with captivating detail.

The exhibition not only celebrates the beauty of nature but also serves as a reminder of our responsibility to protect it. Through their art, the artistes convey a message of environmental stewardship, urging viewers to appreciate and preserve the planet's beauty for future generations. 'Paradise Regained' is more than just an art display; it's a call to action to cherish and safeguard the paradise we call home. **Eshaan Kapoor** | Delhi

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com



SUDHIR HINDWAN

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN PROTECTING OUR DIGITAL WORLD

www.dailypioneer.com

Cybersecurity is all about safeguarding trust, privacy and business interests



ith the proliferation of connected devices, cloud computing and various other digital platforms, the attack surface of the threats ranging from individual hackers to organised cybercriminal groups has expanded significantly. In the age, where technology pervades every facet of our lives, the importance of cybersecurity cannot be over Stated and with the advent of technology, it has been deemed to have the emergence of new threats.

Cybersecurity measures, such as encryption, access controls and data loss prevention, help prevent unauthorised access, theft and misuse of confidential information. In an era of widespread digital connectivity, maintaining privacy, safeguarding personal information and communications from unauthorised surveillance, identifying theft and invasive data collection practices are crucial not only for individuals but for organisations too. The motto 'Protecting our digital world' is a responsibility we all share. Cybersecurity researchers cover a wide range of topics be it understanding the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) of cyber adversaries or focusing on developing methodologies, tools and best practices to integrate security into the software development lifecycle; are aimed at addressing current and emerging challenges in protecting digital assets and infrastructure. Cybersecurity researchers investigate software and hardware vulnerabilities to understand their root causes.

Safeguarding cybersecurity is imperative across all sectors of work be it business or education. Cybersecurity is integral to national security and defence strategies, as cyber threats pose risks to sovereignty, economic stability and public safety in shaping India's economic growth and global competitiveness, particularly in the realm of cybersecurity, the Indian Government has implemented various initiatives and policies such as Cyber Surakshit Barat; Cyber Swachhta Kendra and many more to combat the cybersecurity challenges in India. These initiatives are aimed at generating awareness about the latest cybercrimes, detection and removal of malicious programs from devices and ultimately combat cyber threats by creating a secure cyber ecosystem.



The digital landscape is constantly evolving, with cyber threats becoming more sophisticated and pervasive. Cybersecurity measures, including threat detection, incident response and vulnerability management help identify, mitigate and contain cyber threats such as malware, phishing, ransomware and denial-of-service attacks.

Effective cybersecurity will build trust and confidence among stakeholders, including customers, partners, investors and the public at large. By demonstrating a commitment to cybersecurity best practices and compliance with regulations, organisations enhance their reputation and credibility in the digital marketplace.

The need for cybersecurity has increased due to the evolving threat landscape, technological advancements, digital transformation initiatives, regulatory requirements, geopolitical tensions and societal reliance on digital technologies. Cybersecurity is not just about safeguarding the data rather it's about safeguarding trust, privacy and freedom in the digital age. It requires a comprehensive and proactive approach involving technology, policies, education, collaboration and investment to address the evolving challenges posed by cyber threats. One needs to stay vigilant, informed and proactive in keeping online space secure. Strong passwords, regular updates and staying cautious of phishing attempts are just a few steps toward cyber resilient community. Despite advancements, cybersecurity does face a lot of challenges, including the constant evolution of cyber threats, the shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals and the global nature of cybercrime.

(The write is an educator: views are personal)

Global tapestry and impact of terrorism

In an era marked by geopolitical upheavals and regional conflicts, the spectre of terror looms large, transcending borders and threatening stability on a global scale

t a time when the world political landscape is dealing with a number of regional conflicts such as Israel-Palestine, Russia-Ukraine, skirmishes in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, trans-national terrorism has hogged the limelight world over during the last few years. Similarly at the domestic level terror organisations from across the border have unleashed a wave of terror in Kashmir to attract attention from the media to upturn the diminishing morale of the mercenaries. Seen in this recent perspective are the latest sinister designs of the terror forces in different parts of the world whether in Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Red Sea, Israel, Palestine, Scandinavian Countries, Central Asia or Russia. In the past few days, the insurgency has resulted in numerous killings of innocents and the martyrdom of several Army soldiers in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir on the domestic front in India.

International terrorism, though comparatively less in volume than the domestic variety, has crossed all limitations despite increased Government efforts to combat it. Much blood, if not ink, has flowed since terrorists struck the World Trade Centre and Pentagon in the US This was followed by an upsurge in terrorist activities across the globe. Repeated terror attacks over the years sometimes after a brief lull have not only exposed the security and intelligence network but also robbed confidence of modern nations in controlling the menace.

Whether terrorism is unleashed at the local, regional, national or international level, it cannot survive for long without international support and collabora-tion. In a globalised world, the matrices of power turn on the highly visible, ine-galitarian structure of the international economy and as such inter-relations between socio-economic conditions in different parts of the world are becoming more and more obvious. At another level, the post-Cold War international political-economic order is still a victim of the power game that was thrust on the world by the then-big powers. Many seasoned international experts on violence and terror are of the opinion that the power network woven by the hegemonic mighty in the entire West Asian region has provoked the ire of the opposition forces in almost every State where they had an interest-based relationship. Thus, as societies globalise and curtains of opacity are raised through increased inter-societal interaction at the international level, people in under-developed countries are holding the big powers responsible for their inferior socio-economic positions. The Cold War Era leading to interference in crucial areas such as Afghanistan, South-East Asia, Gulf and Latin American countries has resulted in the development of peculiar trends that provided breeding grounds for terrorist activities. Talibanisation of Afghanistan would never have taken place had the powerful nations handled the situation well in the beginning. The consequences of the failure to diag-

nose this social disease (terrorism) at the early stage can be pernicious for the various countries. The strategies of imposing arms and economic sanctions on the so-called rogue nations during the last few years have been counter-productive



THE STRATEGIES OF IMPOSING ARMS AND **ECONOMIC** SANCTIONS ON THE SO-CALLED ROGUE NATIONS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN INEFFICIENT AND RATHER HELPED THESE NATIONS TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY

and rather helped these nations to gain international sympathy. Although the hope of a permanent solution to the problem of terrorism is still far away, one hopes that the powerful nations will develop a more mature understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism that has assumed alarming proportions. The rapid international transportation and use of sophisticated weapons like AK 47 assault rifles and plastic explosives (RDX) have helped to facilitate the expansion of terrorist networks around the world. Besides, the new suicide squads of terrorists have left the entire security apparatus of the affected States in a State of shock. The in isolation.

A leading anti-terrorism expert, Mr Brian Jenkins, believes that though more articulate and multiplied effort by the police and intelligence can tell us about a possible terrorist attack, there is still confusion over whether such a mechanism is successful in dealing with terrorists driven by fundamentalism. Gradually, religion is becoming the main motivating force for terrorism across the globe. There is a growing nexus between terrorists and internationally organised crime networks. Mr. Alison Jamieson, a British analyst on organised crime and political violence, commented that the distinction between terrorism and organised crime has become very blurred recently. An Italian organised crime expert, Professor Ernesto, says: "The terrorist's goal is an ideological one,

while organised crime's goal is financial, but the instrument is the They both need money and arms".

In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers engage in drug trafficking to finance their struggle, in north-eastern India guerrillas kidnap tea planters and hold them to ransom to help fund their fight for independence. In Chechnya, the secessionists were heavily involved in drug distribution. These days terrorists are more

confident than ever before of their access to the vulnerable points before carrying out any of their attacks and they plan their attacks in a heroic manner for the justification and fulfilment of a fessional than their counterparts cause that they think is just. Thus, they attempt, by their acts, to inspire and manipulate fear to achieve a variety of purposes. For

effective administrative measures, various sources of terrorism must be found first. There is a need for a truly effective preparedness programme at the Government

First, we must know about the people involved in terrorist activ-

ities and their motivations. Dealing with a terrorist incident and mitigating its consequences need to be carefully thought out. Sufficient data about the terrorist-hit area could be of immense use. Intelligence should be able to provide information about terrorist targets, timing and site in advance. But the Government alone cannot do much to stop it. Individuals and groups can make a significant contribution towards improving the general security

environment. On the other hand, there is a need for sophisticated security procedures that can go all the way from airport screening to the border area.

Some kind of positive programmes which can alleviate the frustration of terrorists can prove effective. There is also a need to promote open institutions, including political institutions to absorb the ethnic, religious and political pressure and allow terrorists to vent their feelings in a proper way. This will change their mind and thus encourage them to settle their differences in a peaceful way. Since present-day terrorists are very well organised and more proa decade ago, new concepts of safety and security should arise. A vigilant and assertive police and paramilitary network should replace the old one. There is an apprehension that with the availability of biological and chemical weapons, terrorists could start their campaign with a renewed

No civilised political system can progress until terrorism is wiped out, but terrorism cannot be eliminated unless there is a political solution. The need of the hour is the political will to solve problems that generate terrorism. The States affected by terrorism should open up avenues for a negotiated settlement of disputes and exhibt genuine willingness to resolve

long-festering problems.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

Saffron cultivation: Replicate Poonch's success story

The Government must extend comprehensive support to farmers, fostering significant opportunities for saffron production in similar regions

n the heart of the border district Poonch in Jammu **▲**and Kashmir, amidst the rugged terrain and lush valleys, a quiet revolution is underway the cultivation of saffron. "For the past 5 years, we have been conducting trials of saffron and a year ago, we took the plunge into full-scale cultivation. The results? Astonishing! Our efforts were supported by School of Biotechnology at the University of Jammu, who provided us a generous grant of INR 10 lakhs. With unwavering support from Professor Jyoti and the expertise of the university's scholars, including PhD student Tahil Bhatti and Horticulture, Mohammad Fareed from Poonch, we started to explore



uncovering the untapped potential of saffron production in the region," shared 35-yearold farmer Ajaz Ahmad from Bayla village, in Mandi tehsil, bordering Poonch. He has made a name for himself as a saffron farmer in the region, moving away from traditional farming over the past few

In this research, Ajaz found that saffron production can be done in abundance in areas fetches around 3 lakh rupees saffron cultivation in Poonch,

like Surankote, Arai, Fatehpur, Bayla, Mandi and Mendhar of Poonch. The environment and soil here are almost similar to those in the regions of Jammu and Kashmir where saffron production takes place.

Saffron holds the esteemed title of being one of the world's most prised spices. Known as "Kong" in Kashmiri, "Jafran" in Urdu and "Kesar" in Hindi, it is derived from the delicate threads of fragrant flowers. Historically, its cultivation has been confined to specific regions within the Union Territory. While some cultivation occurs in Kishtwar, the Pampore region of Kashmir reigns as its primary producer, renowned for its superior quality. Commanding a premium price, Pampore saffron

per kilogram. It takes an astonishing quantity of flowersapproximately 160 to 180-to yield just one gram of saffron. Moreover, a kilogram of this precious spice requires the harvest of about half a million

Ajaz Ahmad highlights the shifting agricultural landscape in Poonch, noting a traditional focus on seasonal crops like maize. However, he observes a gradual change in mindset among local farmers, with growing enthusiasm for saffron production. "We have procured saffron seeds from Pampore and Kishtwar districts of Kashmir.

Now, my desire is that after Pampore and Kishtwar, Poonch becomes the third largest center for saffron production in Jammu and

Kashmir," he said. He advocates for Governmental support in the form of security measures rather than subsidies, citing the comparatively high cost of saffron seeds. Ajaz emphasises the need for crop protection from wildlife, particularly bears that frequently ravage fields, suggesting that fencing could mitigate such risks and safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

It can be easily understood that extensive efforts are required for saffron production. In India, saffron cultivation begins in June and July, while in some regions, it starts in August and September. Flowering usually begins in October. Apart from India, saffron cultivation is mainly done in Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Iran and China. 80 per cent of

the world's total saffron production is concentrated in Spain and Iran alone. For the farmers involved in its production, it is nothing less than a boon because its price in the market ranges from 3 to 3.5 lakh rupees per kilogram.

The allure of saffron extends to both men and women who actively engage in its cultivation. Shamim Akhtar, a 35year-old farmer from Bayla, shared, "I've been cultivating saffron for several years now and the results have been rewarding. However, the construction of a road through our land resulted in crop damage. Nonetheless, my passion for saffron cultivation remains strong. Despite facing financial constraints to procure seeds, I aspire to continue with this endeavor."

Farmer Abdul Samad from the same village, however, has another concern on his mind. He is worried about agriculture being affected by changing environmental conditions. He explains that due to changing weather patterns, there has been a decrease in saffron production in Kashmir in recent years. It requires rainfall between 1000 to 1500 millimetres, which has decreased and untimely snowfall has had a negative impact on the soil, resulting in reduced saffron production.

Kashmir, which previously yielded up to 15 tons of saffron annually, has seen this output dwindle to 8 to 9 tons, a worrying trend. Despite this setback, Kashmiri saffron remains highly valued for its medicinal properties, known

to alleviate blood pressure and migraines and find use in beauty products. The central Government's attention to Kashmiri saffron is evident through initiatives like the National Saffron Mission (NSM). Aimed at bolstering saffron production and enhancing the socio-economic status of Kashmiri residents, the NSM has notably benefited saffron farmers. Additionally, various other Government schemes also promote saffron cultivation. However, for farmers to swiftly reap the benefits of these programs, they must be executed on a larger scale, given the increasing enthusiasm for saffron cultivation.

(The writer is a grassroots writer from Poonch, J&K. Charkha Features)

Hamas sending delegation to Egypt for further ceasefire talks

Hamas said Thursday that it was sending a delegation to Egypt for further cease-fire talks, in a new sign of progress in attempts by international mediators to hammer out an agreement between Israel and the militant group to end the war in Gaza

After months of stop-and-start negotiations, the cease-fire efforts appear to have reached a critical stage, with Egyptian and American mediators reporting signs of compromise in recent days. But chances for the deal remain entangled with the key question of whether Israel will accept an end to the war without reaching its stated goal of destroying Hamas.

The stakes in the cease-fire negotiations were made clear in a new UN report that said if the Israel-Hamas war stops today, it will still take until 2040 to rebuild all the homes that have been destroyed by nearly seven months of Israeli bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza. It warned that the impact

will set back development for generations and will only get worse with every month fighting continues.

The proposal that US and Egyptian mediators have put to Hamas -- apparently with Israel's acceptance — sets out a three-stage process that would bring an immediate six-week cease-fire and partial release of Israeli hostages, but also negotiations over a "permanent calm" that includes some sort of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, according to an Egyptian official. Hamas is seeking guarantees for a full Israeli withdrawal and complete end to the war. Hamas officials have sent mixed signals about the proposal in recent days. But on Thursday, its supreme leader, Ismail Haniyeh, said in a statement that he had spoken to Egypt's intelligence chief and "stressed the positive spirit of the movement in studying the cease-fire

The statement said that Hamas negotiators would travel to Cairo "to complete the ongoing working forward for an agreement." Haniyeh said he had also spoken to the prime minister of Qatar, another key mediator in the process.

The brokers are hopeful that the deal will bring an end to a conflict that has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, caused widespread destruction and plunged the territory into a humanitarian crisis. They also hope a deal will avert an Israeli attack on Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have sought shelter after fleeing battle zones elsewhere in the territory.

If Israel does agree to end the war in return for a full hostage release, it would be a major turnaround. Since Hamas October 7 attack stunned Israel, its leaders have vowed not to stop their bombardment and ground offensives until the militant group is destroyed. They also say Israel must keep a mil itary presence in Gaza and security control after the war to ensure Hamas doesn't rebuild.

Turkiye halts all trade with Israel over military actions in Gaza

Turkiye on Thursday suspended all imports and exports to Israel citing the country's ongoing military action in Gaza and vowed to continue to impose the mea-sures until the Israeli government allows the flow of humanitarian aid to the region.

A Turkish Trade Ministry statement said "export and import transactions in relation to Israel have been stopped, covering all products."
Turkish officials would coordi-

nate with Palestinian authorities to ensure that Palestinians are not affected by the suspension of imports and exports, the ministry said.

The ministry described the step as the "second phase" of measures against Israel, adding that the steps would remain in



Palestinians stand in the ruins of the Chahine family home, after an overnight Israeli strike that killed at least two adults and five boys and girls under the age of 16 in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Friday. An Israeli strike on the city of Rafah on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip killed several people, including children, hospital officials said Friday

force until Israel "allows an flow of humanitarian aid to uninterrupted and sufficient Gaza.'

Publicly at least, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to insist that is the only acceptable endgame.

He has vowed that even if a cease-fire is reached, Israel will eventually attack Rafah, which he says is Hamas' last stronghold in Gaza

He repeated his determination to do so in talks Wednesday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was in Israel on a regional tour to push the deal through

the deal through.
The agreement's immediate fate hinges on whether Hamas will accept uncertainty over the final phases to bring the initial six-week pause in fighting — and at least postpone what it is feared would be a devastating account on Page. assault on Rafah.

Egypt has been privately assuring Hamas that the deal will mean a total end to the war. But the Egyptian official said Hamas says the text's language is too vague and wants it to specify a complete Israeli pullout from all of Gaza.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about the

On Wednesday evening, however, the news looked less positive as Osama Hamdan, a top Hamas official, expressed scepticism, saying the group's initial position was "negative." Speaking to Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV, he said that talks were still ongoing but would stop if Israel invades Rafah. Blinken hiked up pressure on

Hamas to accept, saying Israel had made "very important" compromises. "There's no time for further haggling. The deal is there," Blinken said Wednesday before leaving for the US.

An Israeli airstrike, meanwhile, killed at least five people, including a child, in Deir a-Balah in central Gaza. The bodies were seen and counted by Associated Press journalists at a hospital. The war broke out on October 7 when Hamas militants broke into southern Israel and killed over 1,200 people, mostly Israelis, taking around 250 others hostage, some released during a cease-fire on November.

Sunak under pressure amid dire local election results for his party

PTI ■ LONDON

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak's leadership is under}}$ severe pressure on Friday as the results of local elections and a crucial by-election poured in overnight, delivering what is being characterised as one of the worst poll outcomes for the governing Conservative Party in 40 years. Rebels from within his party are expected to renew their attacks on the British Indian leader after the Opposition Labour Party made definitive gains, including overturning the Tory majority in the Blackpool South by-election which was necessitated following a resignation amid a lobbying row. Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer declared the result as a "seismic" victory and an overall poll verdict in favour of the party as it comes on the eve of a general election,

expected later this year.

"Blackpool speaks for the whole country... This is the one

Boris Johnson turned away from polling station

London(AP): Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was turned away from a polling station after forgetting to bring ID to vote in the UK's local elections. British media reported Friday that Johnson — who introduced the requirement for voters to provide ID with a photo when he was in office was told by polling station staff in South Oxfordshire Thursday that he would not be able to vote without proving his identity. Sky News reported that Johnson, who served as Conservative prime minister from 2019 to 2022, was later able to cast his ballot and that he voted Conservative. Johnson introduced the Elections Act requiring photo ID in 2022 which was implemented last year.



contest where voters had the chance to send a message to Rishi Sunak's Conservatives directly, and that message is an overwhelming vote for change," said Starmer of the by-election 'The message to Rishi Sunak is clear. It's time for change, it's time for a general election," he said. The Labour candidate in Blackpool South, Chris Webb, defeated Conservative David Jones in the constituency which the Tories had won from Labour under former prime minister Boris Johnson in 2019. The swing of 26 per cent from

the Tories to Labour has been characterised as the third biggest in a by-election since

1945.
"We're probably looking at certainly one of the worst, if not the worst, Conservative performance in local government elections for the last 40 years," eminent pollster Professor John Curtice told the BBC. The byelection took place alongside local elections around England and Wales, in which voters elected their local councillors who manage day to day issues such as waste collection, roads and local infrastructure as well as crime fighting.

The results will continue to pour in over the weekend, with the overall picture expected to be clear by Sunday. But the early indications are that Labour has taken control of a number of local authorities in the regions that had turned away from the party in favour of the Tories over its anti-Brexit stance.

Prosecutors present recorded conversation as key evidence

AP ■ NEW YORK

The prosecution's star witness has yet to take the stand in Donald Trump's hush money trial. But jurors are already hearing Michael Cohen's words as prosecutors work to directly tie Trump to payments to silence women with damaging claims about him before the 2016 election. The second week of testimony in the case will wrap up Friday after jurors heard a potentially crucial piece of evidence: a recording of Trump and Cohen, then his attorney, discussing a plan to pay off an ex-Playboy model who claimed to have an affair with Trump. The former president denies the affair. Prosecutors have spent the week using detailed testimony about meetings, email exchanges, business transactions and bank accounts to build on the foundation of their case accusing the pre-

TRUMP HUSH MONEY TRIAL



sumptive Republican presidential nominee of a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election. They are setting the stage for pivotal testimony from Cohen, who paid porn actor Stormy Daniels USD 1,30,000 for her silence before he went to prison for the hush money scheme. Trump's defense has worked

to poke holes in the credibility of prosecutors' witnesses, and show that Trump was trying to protect his reputa-tion and family — not his campaign — by keeping the women quiet.

The defense also suggested while questioning an attorney who represented two women in hush money negotiations that Trump was, in fact, the victim of extortion. The recording played Thursday was secretly made by Cohen shortly before the 2016 election.

Cohen is heard telling Trump about a plan to purchase the rights to former Playboy model Karen McDougal's story from the National Enquirer so that it would never come out. The tabloid had previously bought McDougal's story to bury it on Trump's behalf.

WH defends Joe Biden's 'xenophobic' remarks on India, China

Washington (PTI): The United States is a country of immigrants, the White House has said, defending President Joe Biden's remarks calling two of his QUAD partners — India and Japan — as well as Russia and China "xenophobic" nations, asserting that none of these countries, unlike the US, welcome immigrants Responding to a question about the remarks made by Biden at an election fundraiser on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the president was making a "broader point". "He was making a broader point. Our allies and partners know very well that — how much this president respects them," Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily

"As you know, in regard to Japan, they were just here for the state visit. The US-Japan relationship is an important relationship. It's a deep, endur-ing alliance," she said. "He (Biden) was making a

news conference on Thursday.

more broad comment, speaking about this country and speaking about how important it is to be a country of immigrants and how it makes our what he was talking about," she said. "It relates to our relation ship with our allies, that continues. Obviously, we have a strong relationship with India (and) with Japan. And the President, if you just look at the last three years, has certainly focused on those diplomatic

"He was talking about who we are as a country. He was American people.

relationships," Jean-Pierre said.

Kenya president postpones reopening of schools

enyan President William Kenyan Freshen.
Ruto has postponed next week's planned reopening of schools until further notice, as heavy rains and floods that have killed more than 200 people continue.

The president, in his state of the nation address on Friday, said that "meteorological reports paint a dire picture," citing the possibility of Cyclone Hidaya hitting coastal Kenya in coming days. Kenya and other parts of East Africa have been overwhelmed by flooding, with more than 1,50,000 displaced people living in camps across the country.

Schools originally were to reopen this week, but the education ministry postponed that by a week. Students will now wait for the announcement of new reopening dates as some



others have been damaged. Some displaced people

have been living in schools while the government prepares

to relocate them to camps.

The government has ordered people living near 178

uate or be forcefully moved. Water levels at two major hydroelectric dams have reached historic highs and the government has warned those living downstream along the Tana River.

Last week, a boat capsized on the river, which flows to the Indian Ocean, leaving seven people dead and 13 others missing. A passenger bus was also swept off a bridge along the same river last month. The government has been accused of an inadequate response to the floods.

The flooding has left more than 155 people dead in neighboring Tanzania, where Cyclone Hidaya is expected to hit coastal areas. Hundreds of people have been affected in Burundi, Ethiopia and Somalia

Denmark to liberalise its abortion law to allow procedure until 18th week of pregnancy

 $D^{\text{enmark's government said}}_{\text{Friday it is relaxing its}}$ restrictions on abortion for the first time in 50 years to make it legal for women to terminate pregnancies up to the 18th week from the previous 12th week.Officials said the law will also be changed to allow girls between 15 and 17 years old to have an abortion without parental consent.Marie Bjerre, the gender equality minister, said Denmark is strengthening women's rights while they are being rolled back in other parts of the world."It is about the individual woman's freedom, about the right to decide over her own body and her own life. It is a historic day for women's equality," she said. Free abortion was introduced in Denmark in

1973. The limit was set at up to vote in parliament. No date for to life of the little life that lies all abortions were performed surgically, and at that time an abortion after the 12th week entailed a greater risk of complications," the health ministry

"After 50 years, it is time for the abortion rules to keep up with the times," Health Minister Sophie Løhde said

She said neighbouring Sweden, which set the legal limit at 18 weeks of gestation in 1996, has not experienced a significant increase in the number of abortions or when they are carried out.

The three-party centre government agreed on the move with two left-leaning groups, the Socialist People's Party and the Red-Green Alliance, and two centre parties, the Social Liberals and the Alternative. The deal is to be sealed by a but certain to pass because the government has a majority. The change is expected to

enter into force on June 1, 2025.

The health ministry said the legal age of consent in Denmark is 15, and a 15-yearold girl can make her own choices about her own body. Bjerre said that she hoped that 'young women can find support from their parents. But if there is disagreement, it must ultimately be the young woman's own decision whether she wants to be a mother. It is her body and her life."

Lawmaker Mette Thiesen, from a populist, anti-immigration party that was not part of the deal, called it "a terrible day. It's a terrible new law.

There is a "very fine balance between the woman's right to her own body, but also the right Danish broadcaster DR. "In week 18, we are talking about a small person with fingers and toes, which you can feel inside the womb?

Figures from the Danish Health Data Authority show that the total number of abortions in Denmark has been stable in recent years. In 2022 there were 14,700 medical abortions, compared to 14,500 in 2017. It peaked in 1975 when 27,900 abortions were performed. While abortion is a deeply divisive issue in the United States, it is broadly legal across Europe.

France inscribed the guaranteed right to abortion in its constitution in a world first this year, sending a powerful message of support to women around the globe. Meanwhile, Poland's parliament held a

talking about the importance of being in a country of immigrants, especially as you see the attacks that we have seen very recently, in the last couple of vears, those attacks on immigrants, in particular," the White House Press Secretary said, defending the president. "The President is always going to be really clear on speaking to issues that matter to the

China launches probe mission to Moon's far side

AP ■ BEIJING/ WENCHANG

hina on Friday successful-Clv launched a 53-day-long lunar probe mission to collect samples for the first time from the far side of the Moon and bring them for scientific studies. The Change-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from the moon's far side to Earth – the first endeavour of its kind in the history of human lunar exploration, China National Space Administration (CNSA)

The entire mission would last for 53 days. The far side of the moon is not visible from Earth. An hour after the launch, an official announced that Change-6's launch was "a complete success" The CNSA has announced

that scientific instruments from France, Italy and the European Space Agency/Sweden will be on board the lander of the Chang'e-6 mission and a

that China has included an orbiter from its all-weather ally Pakistan in its moon mission. According to reports from Pakistan quoting the Institute of Space Technology (IST), the satellite ICUBE-Q has been designed and developed by IST in collaboration China's Shanghai University SJTU and Pakistan's national space agency Suparco. ICUBE-Q orbiter carries two optical cameras to image the lunar surface. The lunar probe was carried by

a Long March-5 Y8 rocket blasted off smoothly from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the coast of China's southern island province of Hainan. The launch was telecast live by state-run television.

Chang'e 6 consists of four components: an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a re-entry module, according to CNSA. After collecting dust and rocks on the moon, the ascender will

Pakistani payload on the orbiter. This is the first time lunar orbiter for transfer to the re-entry module, which will carry them back to Earth. The CNSA said earlier that the mission is poised to make breakthroughs in key technologies, such as automatic

sample collection, take-off and ascent from the far side of the moon. Meanwhile, the probe will carry out scientific exploration of the landing zone. The Chang'e lunar exploration

probe is named after the Chinese mythical moon goddess.The Change 5 brought samples from the moon's near side. Chinese said the analysis of the samples found they contained water in tiny beads embedded in lunar dirt. China also plans to have a lunar station on the moon in future. A major space power, China in the past successfully launched

unmanned missions to the

moon, including landing a

rover. China has also sent a

rover to Mars and built a space

station, which is currently in

Earlier, China announced plans for a manned lunar landing by 2030. India became the first country

to land near the little-explored lunar south pole region last vear when its Chandravaan-3's lander, carrying the Pragyaan rover successfully landed there. Collecting and returning samples from the far side of the moon is an unprecedented feat. Now we know very little about the moon's far side. If the Change-6 mission can achieve its goal, it will provide scientists with the first direct evidence to understand the environment and material composition of the far side of the moon, which is of great significance," said Wu Weiren, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and chief designer of China's lunar exploration programme. After the spacecraft reaches the

moon, it will make a soft land-

ing on the far side. Within 48

hours after landing, a robotic

arm will be extended to scoop rocks and soil from the luna surface, and a drill will bore into the ground. Scientific detection work will be carried out simultaneously. After the samples are sealed in

a container, the ascender will take off from the moon and dock with the orbiter in lunar orbit. The returner will then carry the samples back to Earth, landing in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The entire flight is expected to last about 53 days, the CNSA is quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. Remote-sensing images show the moon's two sides are very different. The near side is relatively flat, while the far side is thickly dotted with impact craters of different sizes and has much fewer lunar mares than the near side. Scientists infer that the lunar crust on the far side is much thicker than that on the near side. But why that is so remains a mystery.

Maryland officials release cost estimate for rebuilding bridge truck. The state police underwa-

Maryland plans to rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge in just over four years at an estimated cost between USD 1.7 billion and USD 1.9 billion, a state transportation official said Thursday. The state plans to build a new span by fall of 2028, said David Broughton, a spokesperson for the Maryland Department of Transportation. He said the cost estimate is preliminary, and detailed engineering specifics have not been con-

As salvage efforts continue, authorities also announced late Wednesday they had recovered the body of a fifth person who was missing after the bridge's March 26 collapse, which shut down the port of Baltimore, one of the busiest ports in the country. Six members of a roadwork crew plunged to their deaths when a container ship lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's supporting columns. The Key Bridge Response Unified Command announced that the victim found Wednesday was identified as Miguel Angel Luna Gonzalez, 49, of Glen Burnie, Maryland. All of the victims were Latino immigrants who came to the United States from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. "We continue to pray for Miguel

Angel Luna Gonzalez, his family and all those who love him acknowledging the anguish they have experienced since the Key Bridge collapsed," Gov. Wes Moore said in a statement Thursday. "We pray for comfort, we pray for healing, and we pray for peace in knowing that their loved one has finally come home? Salvage teams found one of the missing construction vehicles Wednesday and notified the Maryland State Police, officials said. State police investigators and Maryland Transportation Authority Police officers and the FBI responded to the scene and recovered the body inside a red

Meanwhile, the broker for the bridge's insurance policy confirmed Thursday that a USD 350 million payout will be made to the state of Maryland in what is expected to be the first of many payouts related to the collapse Chubb, the company that insured the bridge, is preparing to make the USD 350 million payment, according to WTW, the broker. Douglas Menelly, a spokesperson for WTW, on Thursday confirmed plans for the payout, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal. Chubb did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday

The Maryland Transportation

Authority said Thursday that

the state's treasurer filed a claim

on the day of the bridge's collapse

"against our USD 350 million

property policy and put on notice our USD 150 million liability pol-

icy first tier carrier on behalf of

ter recovery team and crime

scene unit also assisted.

Ukraine, trade likely to top agenda as Xi visits Europe

Ukraine, trade and invest-ment are expected to dominate Chinese leader Xi Jinping's first trip to Europe in five years, as the Asian giant rebuilds its foreign relations after a prolonged absence during the Covid-19 pandemic. Xi will start the tour in Paris on Monday, meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, who has been stressing the idea of European strategic autonomy from the US. On a visit to Beijing last year, Macron courted controversy by saying France would not necessarily always align with the US in foreign policy, an apparent reference to American support for the self-governing republic of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory to be annexed

by force if necessary. After leaving France, Xi will visit Hungary and Serbia, both seen as China-friendly and close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, rebuffing Western criticism of his full scale invasion of Ukraine.

Xi's European visits will be closely followed in Washington for signs of diminishing support for its key foreign policy goals. The Chinese leader will arrive in France just as Paris is putting the finishing touches on its preparations for hosting the Summer Olympics, an event in which China invests huge amount of national prestige. France sees Xi's visit, which officially marks 60 years of French-Chinese diplomatic relations, as an important diplomatic moment, and wants to focus on China's broader relations with the EU. Macron invited European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to the talks Monday.

It comes a month before Macron, who positions himself as the diplomatic leader of Europe, hosts Biden for a similar state visit. It is also a sign of "the good vibes from Macron's visit to China in April last year," said Kerry Brown, professor of Chinese Studies



promised investments, some-

thing that prompted Italy to

Despite that, Hungary's govern-

ment has deepened its economic ties with China, with the pro-

liferation of Chinese electric

vehicle (EV) battery factories

across the country gaining the

most attention. Near Debrecen,

construction is underway of a

nearly 550-acre, 7.3 billion euro (\$7.9 billion) EV battery

plant, Hungary's largest-ever

China has also invested heavily in infrastructure to link

Hungary with its southern neighbor Serbia, Xi's next stop

In 2014, Hungary and Serbia

concluded an agreement with

Beijing to modernize the rail-

way between their capitals of Budapest and Belgrade, part of

a Belt and Road plan to link up

with the Chinese-controlled

port of Piraeus in Greece, to the

south, an entry point for Chinese goods to Central and

The more than \$2 billion pro-

ject is expected to be complet-

ed in 2026, after numerous

delays. In Serbia, Xi will hold

talks with President Aleksandar

Vucic, with whose government

China has built strong relations.

The two countries have a long

history of friendship, particu-

larly since 1999, when NATO

bombed the Chinese embassy

Eastern Europe.

on his European tour.

foreign direct investment.

Hungary's second-largest city,

drop out last year.

and director of the Lau China Institute at King's College

This is a highly strategic visit to Europe by Xi. And in his itinerary you can divine the runes of Chinese policy on Europe now, bolstering the traditional links as far as possible, and reinforcing new ones," Brown said. Xi is also visiting Budapest,

where Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in power for 14 years, is facing political challenges from the opposition over his authoritarian style. Hungary has straddled a middle ground between its membership in the EU and NATO and an unusual openness to diplomatic and trade relationships with eastern autocracies such as Russia and

Orbán, a right-wing populist who has forged close ties with Russia, delayed Sweden's entry into NATO for months. China has cited NATO expansion as provoking Russia to invade

Hungary is the first EU member to participate in Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative that seeks to build billions of dollars of roads, ports, power plants and other infrastructure across Asia, Africa and beyond. Orbán was the only EU leader to attend a conference in Beijing on the BRI, which has been criticized for burying participating countries in debt in Belgrade, killing three and failing to deliver on Chinese nationals, during the

crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo.

The US apologized, saying faulty target selection was to blame, but the incident led to violent attacks on U.S. diplomatic installations in China and fueled anti-American sentiment in both countries that endures to this day. In 2022, shortly after the Russian assault on Ukraine,

Serbia took semi-secret delivery of a sophisticated Chinese anti-aircraft system flown in on six Chinese Air Force Y-20 transport planes. The arms delivery over the territory of at least two NATO member states Turkey and Bulgaria, was seen by experts as a demonstration of China's growing global reach. China claims neutrality in the Ukraine conflict but Xi and Putin declared their governments had a "no limits friendship" before Moscow's attack on Ukraine. China has refused to call the Russian assault an invasion and has been accused of bolstering Russia's capacity to produce weapons and its military advantage against Ukraine, which is awaiting tens of billions in Western military aid.

A US military aid bill passed last week allots \$61 billion for Ukraine, as well as \$8 billion to counter Chinese threats in Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific, which China has condemned as a dangerous provocation. China's foreign ministry said the US position on Chinese defense trade with Russia was hypocritical when considered alongside the amount of military assistance Washington is providing to Kyiv.

China denies selling arms to Russia and the US says it has found no direct evidence of such evidence of such. However, China does sell machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow in turn is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry for use in its war against Ukraine, according to a US assessment.

All that is left for Pak Army is to 'murder me', Imran Khan writes from prison

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has lamented the sorry state of affairs in the country where political leaders like him languish in jail and said all that is left for the powerful military leadership was to "murder"

In a column for the UK's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper, penned from the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi where he is being held for disputed corruption charges, the 71-year-old crick-ter-turned politician reiterateter-turned-politician reiterated his previous assertion that if anything happens to him or his wife, General Asim Munir – the Chief of Army Staff, will be responsible.

The founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said the cash-strapped country was at a "dangerous crossroads", with the government a "laughing stock'

'The military establishment has done all they could against to now murder me," writes

"I have stated publicly that if anything happens to me or my wife (Bushra Bibi), Gen. Asim Munir will be responsible. But I am not afraid because my faith is strong. I would prefer death over slavery," he says. The powerful army, which has

ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. However, the military has denied meddling in the country's politics

Khan warned that the state was treading the same path it trod in 1971, when it lost East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. "At the same time, it is seeing

an upsurge in terrorism and a growing alienation in Balochistan where the issue of enforced disappearances is growing in severity. On Pakistan's borders, India has already admitted to undertak-

ing assassinations inside of Pakistan and the international border with Afghanistan remains volatile," he notes Khan notes the military establishment's expectation of

"unquestioning support" from the US, in return for the provision of access to airspace and related facilities to the US for military purposes, has been punctured after the publication of the latest US State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which highlights the many which highlights the many human rights violations in

spiralling prices and a people politically angry at having their electoral mandate stolen and being economically beleaguered, the state stands isolated," he writes.

ed, he writes.
Khan hailed the "democratic revenge" of the February 8 general election, during which people came out and "voted overwhelmingly" for candidates supported by his party. "Unfortunately, instead of accepting the people's mandate, the military establishment went into a fit of rage and electoral results were manipulated to bring into power the losers. The same vote tampering was

seen in the recent by-elec-

tions," he notes. The PTI founder also praised the six "brave judges" of the Islamabad High Court who have written a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan highlighting instances of harassment and blackmail including of their families by intelligence

20 die in NW Pak bus mishap

people were killed and 21 others injured when a passenger bus skidded off a mountainous terrain and plunged into a ravine in northwest Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan region on Friday, authorities said.

The incident occurred around 5:30 am on the Karakoram Highway in Diamer district when the bus was on its way from Rawalpindi to Hunza, a police official said.

The driver lost control of the vehicle which then overturned and landed near the banks of the Indus River, the official said. As many as 43 passengers were aboard the bus when the incident took place, the official said. The injured were moved to the Chilas hospital, the official said. The official said the rescue efforts assisted by army helicopters were over and the dead and injured were moved to the hospital. The source said the death toll was expected to rise further as many of the



injured were in critical condition. Gilgit Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan expressed condolences over the incident and directed the administration to provide immediate medical aid to the injured. Giltgit-Baltistan govspokesperson ernment Faizullah Faraq said an emergency was declared at the Chilas Hospital after the acci-

dent. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief on the loss of lives and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families. He instructed authorities to provide the injured with "every possible medical treatment". Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also expressed his condolences on the incident and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

SL PM says direct pvt investment from China welcome

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena has welcomed direct private investments from China and greater Chinese participation in sectors like agriculture, renewable energy, IT and education. The issue of direct private investment came during a meeting of Prime Minister Gunawardena and Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong on Thursday when they discussed ways for the early implementation of the agreements and Memorandums (MoUs) Understanding

reached between the two countries during the former's official visit to Beijing in March. A statement from the Prime Minister's Media Office said

Gunawardena and Qi met at the Temple Trees, the official residence of the Sri Lankan prime minister.

Kremlin critics say Russia targeting foes abroad

The military defector was killed in a hail of gunfire and then run over by a car in Spain. struck repeatedly with a hammer in Lithuania. The journalist fell ill from a suspected poisoning in Germany Since President Vladimir Putin

launched his invasion of Ukraine, attacks and harassment of Russians — prominent or not have been blamed on

Moscow's intelligence operatives across Europe and elsewhere. Despite attempts by Western governments to dismantle Russian spy networks, experts say the Kremlin apparently is still able to pursue those it perceives as traitors abroad in an attempt to silence dissent. Opponents of Putin increasingly fear the long arm of Moscow's security services, including in countries they once thought were safe.

"We just escaped Russia and had this illusion that we've escaped prison," said journalist Irina Dolinina, who works for the independent outlet Important Stories, based in the Czech capital of Prague.

Dolinina and colleague Alesya Marokhovskaya were harassed



in 2023, leading to fears they were under surveillance. They were sent threatening messages via comments on the media outlet's website and told not to travel to a conference in Sweden. To underscore the point, the threat included their airline ticket numbers, seat locations and hotel booking. "It was a mistake for us to think that here, we are safe," Dolinina told The Associated Press.

The Kremlin, which routinely denies going after its opponents abroad, has been blamed for decades for such attacks. The most famous cases include Soviet revolutionary-turnedexiled dissident Leon Trotsky, who was killed in 1940 in Mexico after being attacked

with an ice ax by a Soviet agent, and Georgi Markov, a dissident working for the BBC's Bulgarian language service, who died in 1978 in London after being jabbed with a poison-tipped

umbrella. Britain was the site of other poisonings blamed on Russian security services under Putin. Defector and former intelligence officer Alexander Litvinenko died after drinking tea laced with radioactive polonium-210 in 2006, and former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter fell gravely ill but recovered following an attack with a Soviet-era nerve agent in 2018. The Kremlin repeatedly denied involvement in the

Kremlin says comments on Ukraine by Macron, **Cameron 'dangerous'**

will deepen international tension around the conflict, the Kremlin's spokesman said on Friday. French President Emmanuel Macron, in an interview published Thursday, repeated an earlier comment that he doesn't exclude sending troops to Ukraine. UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron, meanwhile, said during a visit to Kyiv the same day that Ukraine will be able to use British longrange weapons to strike targets inside Russia — a possibility that some other NATO countries providing weapons have balked at. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov branded Macron's comment "a very important and very dangerous statement." Remarks by Macron about possible direct French engagement in the conflict represent a "very dangerous trend," he said. Cameron's statement about

Ukraine's right to use British weapons provided to strike facilities inside Russia is "another very dangerous statement, Peskov told reporters. "This is a direct escalation of

Kyiv (**AP**): Recent statements by tensions around the Ukrainian France's president and Britain's conflict, which potentially may foreign secretary about the war threaten European security, the tecture," Peskov said.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 significantly heightened tension between the Kremlin and NATO countries. The alliance countries have provided much of the military hardware that Kyiv is using to fight Russia, ensuring that the tension has continued to simmer. Russia, in turn, has sought help from China, Iran and North Korea,

according to the US. As Russia heaps battlefield pressure on depleted Ukrainian forces and appears poised to launch a major offensive, that antagonism has become sharper. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu claimed Friday that Russian troops had captured more than 500 square kilometers (200 square miles) of territory from Ukrainian forces since the start of the year.

'The Russian groups of forces continue to break through the enemy's strongholds along the entire line of contact," Shoigu said at a meeting with top mil-

Cyberattack: Germany warns Russia of consequences

Sydney (AP): German's top diplomat on Friday said Russia will face consequences after accusing its military intelligence service of masterminding an "absolutely intolerable" cyberattack Relations between the two European countries were already tense, with Germany providing military support to Ukraine in its ongoing war with Russia. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Russian

state hackers were behind a cyberattack last year that targeted the Social Democrats, the leading party in the governing coalition. "Russian state hackers attacked Germany in cyberspace," she said at a news conference in the Australian city of Adelaide. "We can attribute this attack to the group called APT28, which is steered by the military intelligence service of Russia." "This is absolutely intolerable and unacceptable and will have consequences," she said. Baerbock is visiting Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. "The defense cooperation between Germany and Australia is close and we would like to deepen it further and together expand it, because we are in a situation where we face similar threats, said Baerbock, who is the first German foreign minister to visit Australia in 13 years.

Pakistan's debut **lunar orbiter lifts** off from China

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's entists for launching the first was launched Friday on board China's first lunar probe mission to collect samples from the far side of the Moon. The 53-day long Change-6 mission will collect samples for the first time from the far side of the moon and bring them for scientific studies. This is the first time that China has included an orbiter from its all-weather ally Pakistan in its moon mission

According to the Institute of Space Technology (IST), Pakistan's ICUBE-Q satellite has been designed and developed by IST in collaboration with China's Shanghai University SJTU and Pakistan's national space agency Suparco.

optical cameras to image the lunar surface. The Change-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from the moon's far side to Earth the first endeavour of its kind in the history of human lunar exploration.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation and the sci-

ICUBE-Q orbiter carries two

Following the launch, Prime

In a statement, Sharif said the ICUBE-Q satellite is Pakistan's first step into space. "Just as in the nuclear field, our scientists, engineers, and talented individuals are diligently striving in this field," he said. "This achievement will bolster Pakistan's satellite communication capabilities and pave the way for new opportunities in scientific research, economic development, and national security," the prime minister said. Congratulating students and scientists on the launch of the lunar orbital mission, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar posted on X, "Today's launch from Hainan in China, is a good example of countries and organisations coming together for space cooperation and shared benefits. It shows the promise of Pakistani youth." Quoting IST Core Committee member Dr Khurram Khurshid, Geo News reported that CubeSat Satellite iCUBE-Q will reach the lunar orbit in five days and will circle the moon for three to six

Damaged in war, vibrant church in Ukraine rises as symbol of faith, culture

AP ■ LYPIVKA (UKRAINE)

This Orthodox Easter sea-I son, an extraordinary new church is bringing spiritual comfort to war-weary residents of the Ukrainian village of Lypivka. Two years ago, it also provided physical refuge from the horrors outside.

Almost 100 residents sheltered in a basement chapel at the Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary while Russian troops occupied the village in March 2022 as they closed in on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, 40 miles (60 kilometers) to the east.

"The fighting was right here," the Rev. Hennadii Kharkivskyi said. He pointed to the churchvard, where a memorial stone commemorates six Ukrainian soldiers killed in the battle for

Lypivka. "They were injured and then the Russians came and shot each one, finished them off," he said. The two-week Russian occupa-

tion left the village shattered and the church itself — a modern replacement for an older structure — damaged while still under construction. It's one of 129 war-damaged Ukrainian religious sites recorded by UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural organisation. "It's solid concrete," the priest said. "But it was pierced easily" by Russian shells, which blasted holes in the church and left a wall inside pockmarked with shrapnel scars. At the bottom of the basement staircase, a black scorch mark shows where a grenade was lobbed down.

But within weeks, workers were

starting to repair the damage

and work to finish the solid building topped by red domes that towers over the village, with its scarred and damaged buildings, blooming fruit trees and fields that the Russians left littered with land mines.

For many of those involved – including a tenacious priest, a wealthy philanthropist, a famous artist and a team of craftspeople — rebuilding this church plays a part in Ukraine's struggle for culture, identity and its very existence. The building, a striking fusion of the ancient and the modern, reflects a country determined to express its soul even in wartime

The building's austere exterior masks a blaze of color inside. The vibrant red, blue, orange and gold panels decorating walls and ceiling are the work



of Anatoliy Kryvolap, an artist whose bold, modernist images of saints and angels make this church unique in Ukraine.

The 77-year-old Kryvolap whose abstract paintings sell for tens of thousands of dollars at auction, said that he wanted to eschew the severe-looking icons he'd seen in many Orthodox churches. "It seems to me that going to church to meet God should be a celebration," he said.

There has been a church on this site for more than 300 years. An earlier building was destroyed by shelling during World War II. The small wooden church that replaced it was put to more

workaday uses in Soviet times, when religion was suppressed. Kharkivskyi reopened the parish in 1992 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and set about rebuilding the church, spiritually and physically, with funding from Bohdan Batrukh, a Ukrainian film producer and distributor. Work stopped when Russian troops launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Moscow's forces reached the fringes of Kyiv before being driven back. Lypivka was liberated by the start of April.

Since then, fighting has been concentrated in the east and south of Ukraine, though aerial attacks with rockets, missiles and drones are a constant threat across the country.

Christians usually celebrate By May 2022, work-Easter later than Catholic and

ers had resumed work on the church. It has been slow going. Millions of Ukrainians fled the country when war erupted, including builders and crafts-people. Hundreds of thousands of others have joined the military. Inside the church, a tower of wooden scaffolding climbs up to the dome, where a red and gold image of Christ raises a hand in blessing For now, services take place in

the smaller basement, where the priest, in white and gold robes, recently conducted a service for a couple of dozen parishioners as the smell of incense wafted through the candlelit room. He is expecting a large crowd

for Easter, which falls on Sunday. Eastern Orthodox tify as Orthodox Christians, though the church is divided. Many belong to the independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, with which the Lypivka church is affiliated. The rival Ukrainian Orthodox Church was loval to the patriarch in Moscow until splitting from Russia after the 2022 invasion and is viewed with suspicion by many Ukrainians. Kharkivskyi says the size of his congregation has remained stable even though the population of the village has shrunk dramatically since the war began. In tough times, he says, people turn to religion.

Protestant churches, because

they use a different method of

calculating the date for the holy

day that marks Christ's resur-

A majority of Ukrainians iden-

rection.

Sensex tumbles 700 points

Amid broadbased selloff; Nifty slips from record

Equity benchmark Sensex plummeted over 700 points to sink below the 74,000 level and Nifty retreated from a record high on Friday as investors pared exposure to telecom, capital goods and tech stocks. Heavy selling pressure in Reliance Industries, L&T and HDFC bank counters also pulled indices down, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 732.96 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 73,878.15 after soaring 484.07 points earlier in the day. From its intra-day high of 75,095.18, the benchmark tanked 1,627.45 points to the day's

The NSE Nifty also declined 172.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 22,475.85. The benchmark hit a record 22,794.70 in the early trade, up 146.5 points or 0.64 per cent.

From the Sensex basket, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti, Reliance Industries, Nestle, Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and JSW Steel were among the major laggards. Bajaj Finance climbed nearly 1 per cent higher. The Reserve



Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on Bajaj Finance on sanctioning and disbursal of loans through eCOM and Insta EMI Card, the company said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

In November last year, the central bank directed Bajaj Finance to stop sanction and disbursal of loans under its two lending products — eCOM and Insta EMI Card due to the company's nonadherence to the extant provisions of digital lending guidelines. Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra &

Mahindra, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Infosys

were among the other gainers. "Profit-booking and a degree of caution ahead of the release of the US non-farm payroll resulted in selling pressure in the market. However, the absence of significant significant negative surprises in Q4 earnings thus far, along with a decline in oil prices, might help to mitigate the downside. Though the correction was broad-based, the large-cap stock was the key underperformer due to the moderation of FII's exposure to the domestic market," said Nair, Head of

Sebi facilitates ease in digital onboarding process

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday relaxed the digital onboarding process for clients of portfolio managers, a move aimed at facilitating ease of doing business. While onboarding clients,

portfolio managers will have to ensure that new clients use a typed or electronically written note saying that they have understood the fee structure rather than the current practice that focuses on clients giving the same in their own handwriting.

The change, aimed at making digital onboarding easier, would become effective from October 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The move came after Sebi observed certain operational challenges in complying with the requirement of handwritten note on the annexure of fees in the agreements, including the non-availability of a stylus at the location of the investors. requirement creating a hindrance towards

complete onboarding of the clients. "While on-boarding a client, portfolio manager shall



separately signed annexure on fees and charges and added a note, that they have understood the structure for fees and charges in handwritten in case the client onboarded through physical mode and typed using keyboard or written electronically using fingers/a stylus pen, in case the client is on-boarded through digital

mode," Sebi said. Also, the regulator said that the standard procedure for onboarding of clients through digital mode would be specified by the industry body Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI) in consultation with the markets

regulator.

Sebi said that portfolio managers will have to provide an annexure detailing the fee calculation.

To facilitate ease understanding of the critical aspects of the portfolio manager-client relationship, Sebi asked portfolio manager to additionally provide its client 'Most Important Terms and Conditions' document, which needs to be duly acknowledged by the client. On Thursday, Sebi decided to promote collective oversight of PMS' (Portfolio (Portfolio Management Services) distributors by making registration with the APMI making mandatory for them.

ADB open to funding space sector in India: VP Bhargav

PTI ■ TBILISI (GEORGIA)

The Asian Development Bank is open to funding the space sector in India in addition to focusing on climate finance to mitigate the associated risks, said its Vice President Bhargav Dasgupta on Friday.

ADB has done some projects

ADB has done some projects in satellite in the Asia Pacific region, but has not provided any assistance in the Indian space sector. We have not done much till

now. We are always open to look at new areas...We understand it has been opened up and there is lot of interest on startup side...If we find alignment with our objectives in terms of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we will look at it," he said.

Last month, the government notified amendments to the foreign direct investment policy in the space sector to attract offshore investors in satellite manufacturing and satellite launch vehicles segments.

Talking about initiatives in India, Dasgupta said, "We are very excited about the work that is happening in the country including recently launched rooftop solar projects, large solar projects, pump hydro, and battery

storage. 'We are talking to many sponsors in these segment and we will be happy to see how many of them we can

finance." Besides, he said there is a lot of interest in the corporate

sector in energy transmission, conversion of older coal-fired power projects into green energy Dasgupta, former MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard, was

appointed Vice President of ADB in September last year. He is responsible for management of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department and Office of Markets Development and Public Private Partnerships Public Private Partnerships. ADB, established in 1966, is owned by 68 members, 49 from the region.

It is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. India, a founding member of ADB, is now ADB's fourth largest shareholder and its top borrower since 2010.

Rupee rises 3 paise to end at 83.43 against US dollar

Research, Geojit Financial

The rupee appreciated 3 paise to settle at 83.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a weak American currency and retreating crude oil prices.

Forex traders said a massive selling in the domestic equity market and outflow of foreign funds capped the gains in the local currency

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.40 and moved in the range of 83.34 and 83.44 against the greenback during the session. The local unit finally settled at 83.43 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a rise of 3 paise from its previous close. The rupee had settled 3 paise lower at 83.46 against the dollar on Thursday.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP



Paribas, said the rupee gained on a weak US dollar and a decline in crude oil prices. However, weak domestic markets and FII outflows capped sharp gains. The weak dollar was

attributed to the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep the key interest rate unchanged for the sixth consecutive time, citing slower progress on the inflation front. Choudhary further said the with a slight negative bias on weak domestic markets and selling pressure from foreign investors. However, a weak tone and a soft US dollar may support the rupee at lower

"Traders may remain cautious ahead of non-farm payrolls report and ISM services PMI data from the US today.

non-farm Encouraging Encouraging non-farm payrolls may support the dollar while dismal data may weigh on the greenback. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.60," he added added.

India's manufacturing PMI fell to 58.8 in April 2024 from 59.1 in the previous month, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index

(PMI), however, recorded the second fastest improvement in operating conditions in three-and-a-half years supported by buoyant buoyant

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.10 per cent to 105.07.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.04 per cent to USD 83.64 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tumbled 732.96 points, or 0.98 per cent, to settle at 73,878.15, and Nifty tanked 172.35 points, or 0.76 per cent, to close at 22,475.85.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they sold shares worth Rs 964.47 crore on a net basis, according to exchange data.

India's fossil fuel capacity grows 2.44 per cent in FY24: Data

The country's fossil fuel-based power generation capacity increased 2.44 per cent to 243.22 GW in FY24 from 237.27 GW in March 2023, according to official figures. There was a 10.79 per cent rise

in non-fossil fuel based capacity (renewable energy sources) addition at 190.57 gigawatt (GW) in 2023-24 over 172.01 GW in 2022-23, the government data showed. While the fossil

fuel-based capacity includes power generation through coal, lignite, gas and diesel sources, the non-fossil fuel includes power generated from solar, wind and hydropower.

The nuclear power capacity



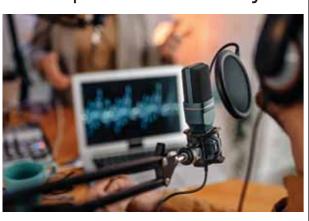
addition rose to 8.18 GW from 6.78 GW in the last fiscal year, posting a year-on-year rise of 20.64 per cent. In FY24, India's total power

generation capacity rose 6.22 per cent to 441.97 GW over 416.06 GW, the data showed. The coal-based capacity increased around 3 per cent to 210.97 GW from 205.24 GW in the last financial year, and gas capacity rose marginally to

25.04 GW from 24.82 GW in

The lignite- and diesel-based capacity were at 6.62 GW and 0.59 GW, respectively, in FY24. The renewable energy sources capacity increased to 143.64 GW, up 14.76 per cent over 125.16 GW in FY23. Hydropower capacity also increased to 46.93 GW from 46.85 GW in the last fiscal

Report: Majority of Indians | Apple clinches strong double digit growth in India surveyed got to know about podcasts recently



India has emerged as the third-largest market for podcast listeners globally even as around 78 per cent of people surveyed got to know about this media recently, a report said on Thursday.

According to the report, around 82 per cent of respondents were initially unaware of podcasts, highlighting a significant opportunity for awareness-building efforts.

"78 per cent of consumers

"78 per cent of consumers discovered podcasts less than a year ago, indicating a recent surge in interest," the report, The Podcast Pulse: Unveiling India's Podcast

Landscape, stated. India has surged to become the third-largest market for podcast listeners globally, yet only 12 per cent of Indians are currently engaged, leaving a vast untapped audience waiting to be explored, prepared the report UNPAC prepared by UNPAC Research (OPC) in support of Ideabrew Studios said.

Authenticity and vulnerability in podcast conversations are highly valued by listeners, fostering

The report is based on responses from individuals across 10 cities in India, including Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Ahmedabad Lucknow, Indore, Patna, and Jaipur, the report gauged awareness and listenership statistics.

Additionally, detailed interviews with 1,800 active listeners provided invaluable insights into their behaviour and preferences. Sheetal Choksi, Director, UNPAC Research said that the Podcast Pulse is a comprehensive report on

Regional podcasts are identified as a driving force in shaping the industry's future, offering audiences a more relatable and culturally resonant listening

Ideabrew Studios is podcast production and fullcompany.

a deeper connection with hosts and content, it

podcast consumption in

experience, he added.
The Unpac Research (OPC)
Pvt. Ltd. Is a full service

qualitative research agency. service content solutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Apple CEO Tim Cook on Friday said the company grew strong double-digit in India, clinching a new March quarter revenue record amid an "incredibly exciting

market".

Describing India market as a "major focus", Cook said Apple is working on the entire ecosystem from developer to the market to operations, and that he is "very pleased" with the growth numbers growth numbers.

"We did grow strong double-digit (in India). And so we were very, very pleased about it. It was a new March quarter

revenue record for us. As you know, as I've said before, I see it as an incredibly exciting market and it's a major focus for us," he said in India specific call-outs during the tech titan's Q2 earnings. Cook further added: "In terms of the operational side or supply chain side, we are producing there; from a pragmatic point of view, you need to produce there to be competitive."

The Cupertino-based iPhone maker has set revenue records in more than a dozen countries and regions. These include, among others, March quarter records in India, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as



Canada, Spain, and Turkey. On Apple's India report card, Cook said the company has both operational things going on and go-to-market, alongside various initiatives. "We just opened a couple of stores as last year, and we see enormous opportunity there,"

Apple continues to expand its channels, and is also working on the developer ecosystem. "And we've been very pleased

that there is a rapidly-growing base of developers there. And so, we're working all of the entire ecosystem from developer to the market trom developer to the market to operations, the whole thing. And I just — I could not be more excited and enthusiastic about it," he said. Apple is also investing in new solar and wind power in the US and Europe, both to power its growing operations power its growing operations and users' devices.

"And we're working with partners in India and the US to replenish 100 per cent of the water we use in places that need it most, with the goal of delivering billions of gallons of water benefits over the next two decades," Cook said. Announcing its financial results for its fiscal 2024 second quarter ended March, Apple said it posted a quarterly revenue of USD 90.8 billion, down 4 per cent

year on year. Luca Maestri, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Apple, said the company is particularly pleased with strong momentum in emerging markets, "as we set first-half revenue records in several revenue records in several countries and regions including Latin America, the Middle East, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Turkey".

Sri Lanka rupee makes gains over major currencies: Minister

PTI ■ COLOMBO

 $S_{\text{suffered}}^{\text{ri Lanka's rupee, which}}$ severe depreciation because of the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis since 2022, has started to make gains in comparison to other currencies, State Minister for Finance Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said on Friday.

He said during the first four months of the year, the Sri Lankan rupee had appreciated by 9.1 per cent against the US dollar, 12.7 per cent against the Euro, 10.8 per cent against the UK pound, 11.4 per cent against the 11.4 per cent against the Chinese Yuan, 21 per cent against the Yen, 9.5 per cent against the Indian rupee and 14.2 per cent against the Australian dollar.

When the Sri Lankan economy slumped during the first quarter of 2022, which led to the announcement of its first-ever sovereign default,

its first-ever sovereign default,

Sri Lanka was assisted by

imports India essentials. The Sri Lankan rupee was boosted by the Reserve Bank of India's extended currency swaps. The Indian assistance was worth over USD 4 billion

which provided a lifeline to the ailing economy until the deal for an IMF bailout of USD 2.9 billion was sealed in March 2023. Siyambalapitiya on Thursday said the country has maintained strict financial

unpopular decisions to

facilitate economic recovery

and continues to service its

while taking

discipline

default announced in 2022. He said USD 2.5 billion debt in 2022 and USD 2.6 billion debt in 2023 had been repaid to multilaterals such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Only the bilateral external debt payments had been suspended with the announcement of the debt default in mid-2022.

multilateral debt despite the

"We have maintained strict financial discipline while taking unpopular decisions to facilitate economic recovery," Siyambalapitiya said.

Forex reserves drop USD 2.41 billion to USD 637.92 billion

PTI MUMBAI

he said

India's forex reserves dropped USD 2.412 billion to USD 637.922 billion as on April 26, in the third consecutive weekly decline in the reserves the Reserve Bank **T**ndia's the reserves, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined USD 2.28 billion to USD 640.33 billion.

For the week ended April 5, the reserves had hit an all-time high of USD 648.562 billion following multiple weeks of increases. The earlier high of USD 642.453 billion achieved in

September 2021 got surpassed in March this year. For the week ended April 26, the foreign currency assets a major component of the reserves — decreased USD 1.159 billion to USD 559.701

billion, the data released on

Friday showed.



RESULTS ANNOUNCED

New Delhi: The result of Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) has been declared. Vellore Institute of Technology Entrance Examination (VITEEE) for admissions to BTech programme was conducted from April 19 to Ápril 30, 2024 as a computerbased proctored examination in 125 cities in India and six cities abroad (Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Qatar, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore). Applicants from all States and Union Territories of India participated in VITEEE-2024. The results are available in the portal "https://ugresults.vit.ac.in/viteee" which can also be accessed through VIT website vit.ac.in. First Rank was obtained by Rupinder Singh of Haryana, second rank by Bhanu Mahesh Chekuri of Rajasthan, third rank by A Vedaanthh of Andhra Pradesh, fourth rank by Aayushi Baid of Assam, fifth rank by Sanvi Singh from Uttar Pradesh, sixth rank by Abhiraj Ramakant Yadav from Maharashtra, seventh Rank by Chaitanya Ramesh Bochre of Uttarakhand, eighth rank by Vicky Kumar Singh of Uttar Pradesh, ninth rank by Sohan Hazra of Himachal Pradesh and tenth rank by Sahil of Bihar.

ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE LAUNCHED

New Delhi: Ferrato, the premium brand of Okaya EV, has launched its electric motorcycle Disruptor at Rs 1,59,999. The newly launched vehicle has a 3.97 kWh battery which provides a range of 129 km on a single charge. The bike runs at a low cost of 25 paise per km, a company A well-timed book, *Modi's North East Story*, enumerating the development story of the North East, is an inspiration for those genuinely wishing to connect with this hitherto remote region of India, says KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

NARENDRA MODI INTRODUCES INDIA TO ITS



television news channels across the country are on a roll as spokespersons of try their best to churn out the India with most of the rivers of the NDA Government that has been in power for the past 10 years even as representatives of the ruling recurring floods as the snow in coalition vociferously list out the achievements of the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

This is an age-old practice since the first General Elections held in India from October 1951 to February 1952. Although the ruling Congress party back then had nothing major to list out as the party achievements, continued to roll out new promises. From the basic provision of drinking water to all villages, establishment of schools in all districts of the country, to subsidised ration to the poorer sections of society, all topped the list of electoral promises.

promises These so-called continued till the 1990s. In fact, in the 1960s, people were asked to forego a day's meal owing to the severe famine the nation faced back then. A lot has been written about the Green Revolution but the sad truth is that despite the much publicised initiative, hunger and malnutrition continued to haunt India. There was no serious

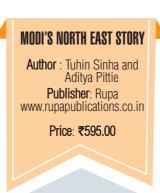
is election time and "pluralism" and "vivid nature" were on full display during the summer as well as rainy seasons. While the scorching heat of the various Opposition parties summer played havoc in South going dry, the North experienced floods and deluge. Every year hundreds were drowned in the the Himalayas melted causing severe deluges in the mighty Brahmaputra which resulted in village after village in States like Bengal, Assam and Bihar getting completely devoured by flood waters. While the northern part of the country was battered by floods, the southern States were crying for drinking water.

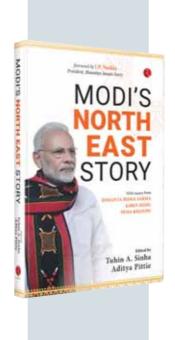
Rivers like the Kavery and the Krishna routinely run dry whenever the South West Monsoon fails to hit the Indian coast. The drought in the Kaveri River has severe implications for Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry as farming operations come to a complete standstill due to non-availability of water for irrigation.

Although a lot of experts ranging from Sir Arthur Cotton and Captain Dastur to CP Ramaswamy Iyer and VK Rao had suggested the interlinking of Indian rivers no Government took note of the proposal. Every year the west flowing rivers in or more quantity of flood water into the Bay of Bengal. Had a responsible Government taken adequate measures to divert these river waters into the Mettur Dam or other parts of water-starved regions, Tamil Nadu would have come out of its perpetual struggle with water scarcity.

The Supreme Court in 2002 ruled that the Government of India should take the initiative and interlink the rivers in the country so that the perpetual flood, drought and water scarcity problems would be resolved once and for all. Athough we did get governments that worked while other governments worked faster, nothing permanent was done to sort out the issue for good.

In fact, we even witnessed a Chennai-based Gandhian write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately after the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, asking him not to take up the post of Prime Minister as the latter had no mandate to rule the country. Indeed, the priority of our politicians was at variance with that of the requirements of the common man. Till 1998, the country had not heard about a four-lane highway linking Kanyakumari and Kashmir and Surat to Silchar. Nobody took the initiative to bring down the travelling time between New Karnataka and Maharashtra Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram attempt from the Governments of discharge thousands of cubic feet when train travelers had to toil the day to increase productivity water into the Arabian Sea while for almost 52 hours to cover the of our farm lands. India's the Godavari discharges an equal 2900 km. There was no highway





between Chennai and Kochi and a bus journey took literally two days to reach the destination.

If this was the situation in mainland India, the condition in the North East India was far worse. Insurgency grew by leaps and bounds. The Nagas, the people of Manipur, and other North Eastern states of India considered themselves as citizens of a separate country altogether. So much so, that a so-called government in exile is functioning from some European countries claiming to be the lone representative of the Nagas.

Most of the youth of the North Eastern States are even misled to believe that they do not belong to India. Making matters worse, those in power in these regions never wanted to disprove this notion. Immediately after Independence from our British colonial masters, what the new rulers did instead was to create yet another problem, this time in Kashmir. A separate entity by the name North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) was formed with the objective of uplifting the seven sisters of Brahmaputra (as Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram were known initially). Unfortunately, the Congress Government that ruled post-Independence till 1977, 1980-States. In 1998, when Atal Bihari infrastructure, the number of country's mainstream.

Vajpayee was sworn in as Prime airports have increased manifold Minister, he renamed the Seven Sisters of Brahmaputra as Ashtalakshmi by including Sikkim in the group and some long-needed efforts were made to bring these eight States into the national mainstream. Till then, news emanating from these States dwelt mainly on secessionismrelated issues. Bodoland, AASU, the Maoists of Manipur and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim and the turf war between various terrorist organisations formed the crux of news broadcasts from the North East.

However, when the BJP Government came to power in 2014, it launched a plethora of missions to harness the real potential of the North East. In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the one to comprehend the vast opportunities and immense potential offered by this hitherto unexplored region of

It is in this context that Modi's North East Story authored by two young professionals, Tuhin A Sinha and Aditya Pittie, deserves appreciation and immediate attention. The 196-page book offers a panoramic view of the eight North Eastern States and the path-breaking developments that have taken place in this long 1989, 1991-1996 and 2004-2014 neglected region in the past did nothing for the economic and social development of these unprecedented development in people long alienated from the states. In 1998 when Atal Ribari infrastructure, the analysis of the second in the past visit the North East, behold its decade. It has witnessed an people long alienated from the people long

and the entire region today has and communication connectivity to boast of.

Clearly, neither Prime Minister

Modi nor his team are the kind to

rest on their achievements. Instead they are continuing furiously on the path of development and work is going on at a frenetic pace to develop these States with world class infrastructure facilities even as they ensure that the essence and unique culture and heritage of these regions remain untouched. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Kiren Rijiju, the energetic and youthful Union Minister from Arunachal Pradesh and Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, and a host of such dynamic leaders and policy makers have made their mark in the holistic development of the North East. The authors of Modi's North East Story deserve kudos as make the readers travel straight to these scenic States with the story of the coming of age of the eight States,

Even an old and ailing person like this writer felt inspired to fly to these abodes of the God and Goddesses. The words penned down by Tuhin Sinha and Pittie come straight from the heart and indeed inspire their readers to

the Ashtalakshmis.

A Breathtaking Journey into the Heart of Nature

Ompal Sansanwal's passion for trees and nature shines through every page of his book. His art whispers tales of resilience and interconnectedness - a heartfelt tribute to nature's enduring grace, says SAKSHI PRIYA

editations on Trees by Ompal Sansanwal, co-Book Company and Black Cube Gallery, is a breathtaking journey into the heart of nature's timeless beauty and spiritual significance. Through a masterful fusion of art and philosophy, Sansanwal invites readers to contemplate the majesty of trees and their profound connection to human experience. At the core of Sansanwal's work are his stunning paintings of banyan trees which serve as powerful symbols of life, growth, and unity. With each brushstroke, the artist captures the essence of these ancient trees, infusing them with a sense of liveliness and wisdom that transcends time. His cityscapes, devoid of human figures yet brimming with life, offer a poignant reflection on the between urban harmony development and the natural

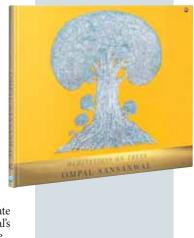
Meditations on Trees offers a profound exploration of an artist's deeper connection with nature, particularly with trees, as a source of inspiration and reflection. Through a rich collection of artworks and insightful commentary, the book takes readers on a visual and spiritual journey, inviting them to contemplate the beauty and significance of trees in our lives. One of the key themes that resonate

through the book is Sansanwal's view of trees as metaphors for life.



Author: Ompal Sansanwal Publisher: ALEPH Book Company www.alephbookcompany.com

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

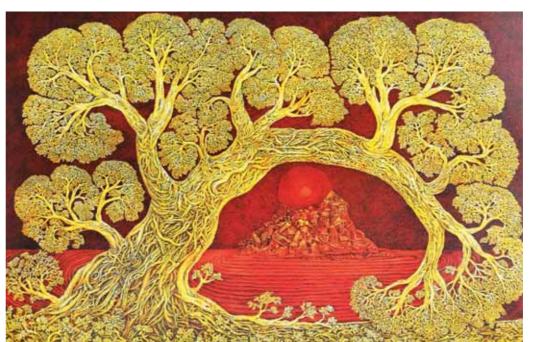


He sees them as symbols of strength, resilience, interconnectedness, much like the complexities of human

existence. This perspective is beautifully captured in his depiction of ancient banyan trees, with their aerial prop roots and sprawling trunks, mirroring the intricate web of relationships and experiences that shape our lives. The book also delves into

Sansanwal's exploration of urban landscapes, particularly cityscapes. These paintings, characterised by softened hues and the gentle play of light, offer a serene glimpse into the rhythm of urban life, highlighting the harmony that exists between man-made structures and the natural world. Central to Sansanwal's artistic vision is his deep spiritual connection with nature. His paintings of the Nataraja using the banyan tree's branches and his portrayal of Krishna lifting Govardhan Hill are symbolic of his reverence for the divine in nature. His art not only celebrates the aesthetics of the natural world but also invites viewers to contemplate the deeper spiritual meanings embedded in them.

In addition to his spiritual reflections, Sansanwal's artistic process is also explored in the book. His meticulous studies of foliage and monochromatic pen and ink drawings reveal his keen observation of nature's intricate



details. These studies, combined with his use of light and shadow, showcase his mastery of technique and his ability to evoke a sense of wonder and awe in the viewer.

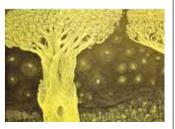
The book also pays tribute to the influences the artist draws his inspirations from, which include French artist Georges Seurat and German writer Hermann Hesse. His study of Seurat's work inspired his techniques and processes, while Hesse's writings on nature resonated deeply with his own



spiritual beliefs. These influences, combined with Sansanwal's individualistic vision, have culminated in a body of work that is both deeply personal and universally resonant.

This book is an immersive artworks journey into the heart of nature through the eyes of a visionary artist. It offers a poignant reminder of the beauty and significance of trees in our lives and invites us to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the natural world





around us. His artwork is not just images on canvases, they are windows to a world where the boundaries between man and nature, art and spirituality reveal the timeless truths that lie at the core of our existence. Arguably, Meditations on Trees is

a beautifully crafted book that celebrates the profound wisdom of nature. The heart of this book is Ompal Sansanwal's deep spiritual connection with nature, reflected in his exquisite and insightful commentary. This timeless treasure resonates with readers of all ages, be it a nature lover, an art enthusiast, or one simply seeking a moment of reflection, making it a must-have for your

RCB, GT EYE MUST WIN TO KEEP PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE

rom a maths perspective, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans can still reach the IPL playoffs, but they need to ward off inner gremlins on Saturday to notch a mandatory win to keep that dream flickering.

The Royal Challengers are the bottomdwellers with six points from 10 matches, while the Titans are placed eighth with eight points from 10

However, the floundering outings of Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals (10 points each) have fuelled the hopes of these two teams of the points into the middle tier of the sneaking into the middle tier of the points table and from there to the knockouts

But both RCB and GT will know that keeping their own house in order is a better option than depending on other teams to stay afloat as the IPL group stage is entering its business end. In that context, the Faf du Plessis-led

side will feel a tad more confident than their opponents after registering wins in their last two matches.

They have also found new heroes across these two games - Will Jacks powered his way to a match-winning century against GT, while Cameron Green finally lived up to his tag of all-rounder with crucial runs and wickets against Hyderabad.

RCB would hope for an encore from them at the home venue as well.

At the top, Virat Kohli continues to be a run-making presence as he recently became the first batter to go past 500run mark in this edition of the IPL, and RCB will certainly like a few more from his willow.

However, the Royal Challengers will ask for some more consistency from their bowlers. The likes of Mohammed Siraj, who has been drafted into India's T20 World Cup squad, Yash Dayal, Karn Sharma and Swapnil Singh were



GT at Ahmedabad, they returned to their profligate ways, allowing them to whittle a 200-run total.

They will have to tidy up their act at the unforgiving M Chinnaswamy Stadium, as despite all their inconsistencies GT have the tools to punish them.

But to the Titans' dismay, those tools have malfunctioned more often than not, and it aptly mirrored in their two successive defeats against Delhi Capitals and RCB. Shubman Gill and Bhardwaj Sai Sudharsan have run an exclusive store of runs for Gujarat, amassing over 700 runs between them. Other than them, the likes of Wriddhiman Saha, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia, Vijay Shankar and Shahrukh Khan have not managed to even touch 200 this season, imparting a brittle look to GT's middle and lower order.

Their bowling group too has been vastly underwhelming, and none reflected it more than Rashid Khan. on the money against SRH. But against The star spinner has taken just eight

wickets across 10 matches while giving eight runs an over, a significantly higher economy rate than his overall 6.7 in IPL since 2017. In IPL 2023, Rashid had given away 8.24 runs an over but the Afghan took 27 wickets from 17 matches. This year, the wicket column too remained barren.

The pace bowlers offer a similar storyline. In the absence of Mohammed Shami, who is recuperating after a surgery, the Titans' most experienced duo of Umesh Yadav and Mohit Sharma have gone for plenty.

Mohit has taken 10 wickets in as many matches, the highest so far this season for GT, but leaked nearly 11 runs an over, while Yadav's economy stands at 10.5 for seven wickets.

The back-up options such as Sandeep Warrier, Noor Ahmad, R Sai Kishore and Azmatullah Omarzai too have not covered themselves with glory either, conceding way too many runs for minimal returns

TEAMS (FROM):

RCB: Faf du Plessis (c), Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson,

Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan. GT: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, B. Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Noor Ahmad, Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little, Mohit Sharma, Azmatullah Omarzai, Umesh Yadav, Shahrukh Khan, Sushant Kartik Tyagi, Manav Suthar, Mishra, Spencer Johnson, Sandeep Warrier, BR

My role is to carry on till 14th over so that Klaasen gets license to play freely: Nitish

Entrusted with the task of Sunrisers Hyderabad's middle-order, young Nitish Reddy has been doing the job with aplomb at a time when he is seen by many as a future India all-rounder, thanks to his ability to bowl lively medium pace.

Opting to bat in the IPL game table-toppers Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday, Reddy (76 not out) and Travis Head (58) produced explosive fifties, while Heinrich Klassen made an unbeaten 19-ball 42 to power SRH to 201 for three.

Experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar then did the star turn with a sensational final over as SRH pulled off a heist, stunning RR by just one run in a last-ball thriller to keep their plantfill. run in a last-pail ultiller to keep their playoff hopes alive. Nitish, 20, stated that his role was to rebuild the innings after quick wickets.

From the last two matches, we are losing quick wickets and I have to go. My role is to carry on till the 13th and 14th over so that Klaasen gets a license to bang. There is no point in Klaasen and Samad coming early, but not getting to score freely," said Nitish at post-match conference.

The all-rounder hailed Bhuvneshwar after the veteran pacer bowled a brilliant final over to help Hyderabad seal a

dramatic win. Nitish said he was hopeful that Bhuvneshwar would be able to defend 13 runs in the last over. "I was looking at who was going to bowl. When I saw Bhuvneshwar was going to bowl, I got the confidence that he was going to pull it off. During his prime, he had done it so many times. I did

not think we were going to

win, I thought either we'd lose or tie. But that last-ball wicket, I felt so happy," Nitish said. During his explosive knock, Nitish smashed RR's in-form Yuzvendra Chahal for two fours and two sixes in the 13th over. Nitish said that he

seasoned leg-spinner. Reddy also said the victory against RR, following losses to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings, is important.

backed himself to attack the

"Beating RR will boost our confidence, they are at the top of the points table," he concluded.

NOT IN MY BEST FORM: PARAG: Rajasthan Royals batter Riyan Parag returned to the top five in the Orange Cape race after striking his fourth fifty of the season. Parag

The 22-year-old Parag slammed 77 off 49 balls but could not help his side chase down the target set by SRH.

Despite his breakout season with the franchise, Parag said he was not in his best form since he could not finish the game. "I got a lot of areas to improve. I am not in my best form, I would have finished the game otherwise.

"I got a lot of areas to perfect. I try to learn from my mistakes and not repeat them. Is it my best innings? No. I would say that if I get a hundred," Parag told reporters.

The Assam player said the loss was "dramatic", adding that his team made a few errors

"It is never good to end on the losing side. We did a lot of things right. We will focus on them more rather than dwelling on our mistakes. We are at a good position in the points table. Just one bad game

We made a few errors in twothree overs and it cost us the game. That is how T20 is, IPL is," he said

OTHER SPORTS

After strong 2023, Indian athletes hope to make impact in World Relays

PTI NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

15-member strong Indian Aathletics contingent will look to make an impact in scenic Nassau and hope to qualify for the Paris Olympics in three events when the the two-day World Athletics Relays Bahamas 24 commences here on Saturday.

The Indian men's 4x400 relay team has been making waves of late, coming up with impressive performances at the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo and following it up by challenging the USA's aura of invincibility at the World Championships in Budapest last August.

The team then lived up to the billing by clinching gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games with a tremendous run of 3:01.58. On a high following those

superb performances last year, India would be hoping to reset the national and Asian record of 2:59.05 seconds set by the quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh in Budapest. The quartet will, however, have to work really hard to achieve that feat, given that its best this season is only 3:05.71 seconds, which is nearly four seconds adrift of the their gold medalwinning performance in Hangzhou.

As per the World Relay format for Paris, the two top teams in each heat on Saturday will advance to the final a day later. They will also secure Paris 2024 Olympic quotas in the process. The Olympic lane seeding positions will be decided in the finals on Sunday and those will also be competing for medals.

All the other teams will compete in an additional round on Sunday where the top-two teams in each heat will also qualify for Paris.

India will be fielding teams in men's, women's and mixed 4x400m, with the men's quartet the best placed to qualify for Paris based on their performances last year.

India has sent an eight-member men's 4x400m relay team here, including the Asian Games gold-medallist quartet of Amoj Jacob, Muhammad Anas Yahiya, Muhammad Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh.

The squad also includes 2018 Jakarta Asian Games mixed relay gold medallist Rajiv Arokia, Noah Nirmal Tom, Yashas Palaksha and Avinash Krishna Kumar.

Amoj, Arokia Rajiv, Nirmal and Anas had also competed at the Tokyo Olympics, where they put up a commendable performance but missed out on a place in the final by a whisker on way to setting an Asian record of 3:00.25.

India has also entered a seasoned seven-member squad for the women's 4x400m relay event, led by multiple Asian Games gold-medal winner MR Poovamma. The squad also has the Hangzhou Asian Games silver medal-winning team of Vithya Ramraj, Aishwarya Mishra, Prachi and Subha Venkatesan.

Rupal and Jyothika Sri Dandi are the other Indian members. India will also have high hopes in the mixed 4x400m relay event following their silver medal-winning performance at the Hangzhou Asian Games.



AP MADRID

Iga Swiatek cruised to a straight-sets semifinal win over Madison Keys to reach the Madrid Open final and a rematch against No. 2 Aryna Top-ranked Swiatek beat No.

face the defending champion Sabalenka, who rallied to overcome No. 4-ranked Elena Rybakina 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5). The Madrid Open is the only high-profile European clay-court title that Swiatek is yet to

"It was a pretty clean performance and really solid game from myself," she said.
"I'm happy with everything." It will be the third final of the year for Swiatek after titles in

Índian Wells and Doha. "I'm happy that we can play a final against the top players,"

Swiatek said.

"It shows consistency. For sure it's going to be a challenge, whoever it's going to be, and a tough match. I will be ready. I will focus on myself'

Tottenham's hopes for Champions League

getting thinner by the day. By falling 2-0 at Chelsea on

slumped to a second loss to a London rival in the space of four days in the Premier League - after a 3-2 home

defeat to Arsenal in the north

confirmation that England

will have just four places in

Champions League, and not

That's another blow to Spurs,

who are fifth and stayed seven

points behind fourth-place

Aston Villa with one game in

hand. They still have to play

Liverpool and Manchester

City in their remaining four

games so it is looking increasingly unlikely they will

close the gap to Villa.
"We lacked belief and

conviction in our game,"

Tottenham manager Ange

"I don't know if it's low

confidence but we're not

playing with the mindset we need to play the football we

Postecoglou said.

season's expanded

London derby on Sunday. In between those losses came

Tottenham

AP ■ LONDON

Thursday,



Sabalenka, who needed three sets to defeat Swiatek in the Madrid final last year, is into her third Madrid final after ending Rybakina's 16-match clay-court winning streak.

"I was just trying to fight for every point," Sabalenka said. "I was hoping that I'll have opportunity to turn this match around, and yeah, super happy that I was able to do that." Keys said she was disappointed but there were "a lot of really great things to take from the tournament" in the Spanish

capital. "It's been a while since I have won four matches in a row. Lots to build on. It's obviously great momentum going into Rome next week," she said.

"It's obviously only my fourth tournament back after the shoulder injury, so to do so well here and to be able to play some tough matches and have some three-set matches and be

physically 100% still and being able to look forward to Rome and hopefully play some good tennis there is a huge positive."

MEDVEDEV INJURED:
Daniil Medvedeve retired from his quarterfinal match after losing the first set 6-4, sending the 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime. No. 4-ranked Medvedev needed treatment on his upper right leg while leading 3-2, complaining about having trouble moving trouble moving to the state of the s also needed treatment at 4-3, and after Lehecka broke serve in the ninth game to win the set, Medvedev decided not to continue.

'It's never easy in a match like Lehecka said this," Medvedev's retirement.

"If I were to choose the way how to win this match, it wouldn't be like that. So of course, it's never easy to see your opponent struggling, but at that moment, you just need to focus on yourself, trying to get the maximum level out of yourself.

Klopp says he has no problem with Salah after touchline spat

AP ■ LIVERPOOL (ENGLAND)

LKlopp insisted Friday his spat with Mohamed Salah has been "completely resolved," saying his long history with the star forward ensured there was no lasting damage to their

relationship. Klopp and Salah were involved in a touchline confrontation during the 2-2 draw at West Ham on Saturday. When Salah was asked after the game to comment on the incident, the Egypt international was heard saying: "There's going to be a fire today if I speak."

Nearly a week later, Klopp said the matter was a "non-story." "There's no problem," said Klopp, who was speaking ahead of Liverpool's home match with Tottenham in the Premier League on Sunday. "If



we wouldn't know each other for that long, I don't know how we would deal with it but we know each other for that long and respect each other too much that it's really no problem."

The incident happened as Salah was preparing to come on as a substitute, having been selected on the bench for the

second time in three games.

Tottenham Champions League hopes hit further by 2-0 loss at Chelsea in Premier League

want to and that's something I have to look at."

Headed goals by Trevoh Chalobah in the 24th and Nicolas Jackson in the 72nd were enough for Chelsea, which could yet salvage a place in one of the minor European competitions from what has been underwhelming Premier League campaign for a squad

assembled at a cost of more than \$1 billion. Chelsea climbed above West Ham and into eighth place, two points behind Newcastle

and three behind Manchester United in sixth. It's likely that two of those three teams will be playing in either the Europa League or Europa Conference League next

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino said it was the best feeling he had had all season about his team. "It's the moment, after 10

months, that we start to

realize how we compete," Pochettino said. "It showed we're doing things well. "We showed it's not about names. It's about being competitive.

Pochettino, however, didn't

backing of Chelsea's American owners to be around next season.

"It's difficult to see I am under scrutiny and judgment every week," he said, adding: "We'll see if I have time to build after sound convinced he had the

Tottenham has now won just one of its past 34 away league games against Chelsea, making it one of the most one-sided top-flight fixtures. The sole victory came in 2018, when Pochettino was in

charge of Spurs.

Chalobah got on the end of a free kick by Conor Gallagher to loop a header over Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario and into the net to give Chelsea the lead. It was a 15th goal this season conceded from the season conceded season conceded from a set piece by Spurs and that is becoming a major issue under Postecoglou.

Jackson, who had a shot partially saved by Vicario and subsequently cleared off the line by Micky van de Ven in the first half, eventually got his goal when he was quickest to react after Cole Palmer's free kick rebounded out off the crossbar. Jackson did well to head the ball over two Tottenham defenders who were retreating toward their own goal line.

Tottenham is six points clear of Man United and might have to settle for a fifth-place finish, which would earn a spot in next season's Europa