

Mercury Rises, Voting Falls 61 Per Cent Polling In Phase III of Lok Sabha Elections Will Kejriwal Be Able To Campaign For AAP?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A midst the hostile weather conditions, the third phase of the Lok Sabha polls on Tuesday saw a further dip in the voting percentage which recorded 61.81 per cent voter turnout when compared to 66.14 per cent in the first phase followed by 66.71 per cent in the second.

Comparatively, in the 2019 elections, these same 93 seats collectively recorded an overall turnout of 67.33 per cent. The third phase failed to buck the trend amid hot weather and heatwave in the polling States. Experts and political parties attributed the decline to heatwave

and voters' apathy. The stakes are high for the BJP in this round as it had won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, in the last election. Fate of candidates for more than half of the 543 Lok Sabha has been sealed while four phases still remain for the counting to be done on June 4. Voting has been completed in 283 seats out of 543 seats so far.

Except sporadic incidents of violence in four constituencies in West Bengal, the polling in 10 States and Union Territories has been peaceful.

Five States Assam. Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka — have wrapped up



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows his ink-marked finger after casting his vote for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Ahmedabad, on Tuesday

their polling in phase three. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Electoral Officer for Gujarat, P Bharathi, industrialist Gautam Adani were among the early voters to cast their vote. Modi urged people to vote in record numbers and said their active participation will make the election more vibrant. While the BJP has already

declared a win in Surat Lok Sabha seat as unopposed, stakes are significant for the BJP and its allies, which had, in 2019, won 75

of the 93 seats. INDIA Bloc 56.55 per cent and Gujarat at parties had won only 11. Four 56.88 percent.

seats had gone to the undivided Shiv Sena, two were won by

independents, and one by the ÂIUDF. As per the EC's voter turnout app (till 8 pm), Assam witnessed the highest voter turnout of 75.30 per cent followed by West Bengal at 73.93 per cent, while

Maharashtra witnessed the

Chhattisgarh recorded 67.24 per

cent, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu 65.23 per cent, Goa 74.47 per cent Karnataka 68.75 per cent and Madhya Pradesh.

According to the Election Commission, the figures are an "approximate" trend and are likely to rise as data is

PTI

being collected. lowest at 55.21 per cent, with In Uttar Pradesh, Agra witnessed Bihar doing slightly better at 51.53 per cent polling, Aonla

54.73 per cent, Budaun 52.77 per cent, Bareilly 54.21 per cent, Etah 57.07 per cent, Fatehpur Sikri 57.07 per cent, Fatehpur Sikri 54.93 per cent, Firozabad 56.27 per cent, Hathras 53.54 per cent, Mainpuri 55.88 per cent and Sambhal 61.10 per cent. "The polling was held smoothly and peacefully in all States/UTs across the three phases which covered the entire North Eastern part of the country. Left Wing Extremists the country, Left Wing Extremists affected and vulnerable areas in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh," the EC said in a statement. During the third phase polling, 13

people were injured when swarms of bees attacked them in two separate polling booths of two constituencies in north Chhattisgarh. Eight people were injured in Aara village under Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency and five at Jawaharnagar under Surguja Lok Sabha constituency. The first vote for the election to Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency was cast by Ali Mohammad Rather, a visually impaired person, under the Election Commission's new

home voting facility. In Karnataka's Kapalapur village in Bidar district, a 110-year-old

Gattigitti Lakshmibai reached a polling station along with her son and grandson to cast her vote while 100-year-old Gurama exercised her franchise in Sindbandagi village. In many polling stations, the elderly reached in wheelchairs.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

After the arguments by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Supreme Court in the multi-crore liquor-gate scandal on Tuesday in the court, all eyes are on the judiciary to see whether AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would be granted interim bail, allowing him a chance to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

After much deliberation on the arguments made by Kejriwal's legal team and those representing the probing agency, the Supreme Court deferred its order on the Delhi Chief Minister's interim bail plea, with a two-judge bench rising with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order." The court is likely to hear the matter on Thursday. Meanwhile, a Delhi court extended Kejriwal's judicial custody in the money laundering case till May 20. Special Judge for CBI and ED matters Kaveri Baweja

extended Kejriwal's custody after the AAP leader was produced before the court through a video conference on the expiry of his remand granted earlier.

Legal experts are of the view there is a possibility that the Supreme Court might grant Kejriwal interim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. "Suppose we grant interim bail on account of elections. Then if you say you will attend office then it may have a cascading effect... Dr Singhvi if we give any interim bail we do not want you to be performing official duties as somewhere it will lead to conflict. We do not want interference at all in



the working of the Government, the court remarked. However, in the same breath, the court also remarked," Let us see whether at all it (interim bail) should be given or not." The bench reserved its decision after hearing the arguments put forth by senior advocate Singhvi and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for Kejriwal and the ED, respectively. Solicitor General (SG) Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the ED, staunchly opposed showing any leniency to Kejriwal on account of the Lok Sabha polls and said granting interim bail to the AAP national convenor would amount to creating a separate class for politicians.

Please do not earmark a political leader as a separate class and let them not be separated from the common man. It is being stated that nothing was done (by the ED) in 1.5 years and (he was) picked up during elections. That is not the correct impression at all," he said.

GROUND тне PIONEER REPORTS FROM ZERO

GUJARAT

PNS AHMEDABAD

voter turnout of 55.22 per Acent was recorded till 5 pm in 25 Lok Sabha seats of Gujarat in the third phase of the elections on Tuesday. Home Minister Amit Shah from Gandhinagar as well as his Cabinet colleagues Mansukh Mandaviva and



UTTAR PRADESH

PNS LUCKNOW Over 56 per cent polling was recorded till 5 pm in the Lok Sabha elections being held for 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday in the third phase. According to the Election Commission, by 5 pm, 57.34 cent vot Voting began at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm. More than 1.89 crore voters are eligible to vote in these 10 constituencies. With the end of this phase of voting, 26 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats have already gone to



TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

In a polling marred by an incident of violence which claimed one life and left another person injured in Osmanabad parliamentary constituency, as many as 53.40 per cent of total 2.09 crore voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm n eleven constituencies that



WEST BENGAL

SAUGAR SENGUPTGA KOLKATA

Bengal continued to reverse its poll-day trends as Tuesday's third phase polling passed off without reporting a single electoral violence related death. Notwithstanding, reports of sporadic and stray violence filtered in from different parts of four constituencies of Murshia had. Ianginur Malda South and Malda North. Amid all these voters polled briskly but a tad on the lower side. Most number of incidents came from Murshidabad where CPI(M) candidate Md Salim ran from booth to booth to report alleged illegal gathering and false voting. The CPI(M) leader was seen holding an alleged fake polling agent at Raninagar area whom he later handed over to the police. In other places he was seen chasing away people who were jamming the booths. In the process the TMC workers raised "go back" slogans against him, sources said. In 2019 a number of people had died at Murshidabad alone. In an election about 20 years ago the same district had seen about 75 people killed in a single day ... even in last year's panchayat elections lakhs of people could not vote," said a local adding "comparing to what happens in Murshidabad this year things were far more cooler." At Jangipur a BJP booth president was seen exchanging blows with a TMC counterpart who was trying to rig polling, sources said. At Malda South bombs were hurled at Ratua to chase away voters, Congress candidate Isha Khan Chowdhury said.

Rupala and from Parshottam Rajkot, Porbandar respectively, are in the fray.

Gujarat has 4.97 crore voters, including 2.56 crore men, 2.41 crore women and 1,534 persons from the third gender.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi cast his vote at Nishan School in Ranip area, Shah exercised his franchise at a polling booth in Naranpura, both of which fall under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat.

As per the data shared by the Election Commission, the tribalreserved Valsad constituency in south Gujarat recorded the highest turnout of 68.12 per cent, while Amreli in Saurashtra saw the lowest turnout of 45.59 per cent till 5 pm.

Meanwhile, a 45-year-old woman polling officer deployed at a polling booth in Amreli district died after she complained of uneasiness while on duty on Tuesday, an official said. Kaushika Babariya, a government school teacher, was deployed at a booth in Jafrabad town.

Some voters braved physical limitations to exercise their franchise. A person with disabilities used his leg to cast his vote, and another person voted on a stretcher. Dedicated nonresident Gujaratis (NRGs) turned up in large numbers to cast their vote in their hometowns.

The State Election Commission ensured that voting was a exercise celebratory by decorating some polling stations like wedding venues and setting up selfie points for voters to make their day memorable.

In Nadiad, which falls under the Kheda Lok Sabha constituency, Ankit Soni, who lost both hands,

cast his vote using his legs. "Around 15-20 years ago, I suffered an electric shock and lost my hands. With the blessings of my teachers and parents, I started drawing, completed CS and earned an MBA. I am working towards a PhD. I voted using my legs," Soni said.

polls. Agra witnessed 53.99 per cent polling till 6 pm, Aonla 57.08 per cent, Budaun 54.05 per cent, Bareilly 57.88 per cent, Etah 59.17 per cent, Fatehpur Sikri 57.09 per cent, Firozabad 58.22 per cent, Hathras 55.36 per cent, Mainpuri 55.88 per cent and Sambhal 62.81 per cent.

The third phase is important for the family members of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav is aiming to retain the Mainpuri seat, which she won in a bypoll following the death of her father-in-law. Akshay Yadav, the son of SP national principal general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav is contesting

Tuesday. while

from Firozabad and Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav, is making his electoral debut from

Voting began at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm. More than 1.89 voters are crore eligible to vote in these

10 constituencies. With the end of this phase of voting, 26 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats have already gone to polls. Uttar Pradesh has the highest

80 parliamentary constituencies among all the states. Polling in the state is spread across all seven phases from April 19 to June 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

to polls in the third phase of highstake Lok Sabha polls held on

On a day when Kolhapur registered a maximum 63.71 per cent polling prestigious Baramati registered a lowest 45.68 per cent voting till 5 pm, a man was knifed to death and one person sustained stab wounds in a brawl that

broke out near a polling station in Patsangvi village in Bhoom taluka of Osmanabad district.

The tentative final polling percentage figures are likely to be released either later on Tuesday night.

As per the revised figures put out by the Election Commission of India on April 30, 2024, 63.71 per cent of total voters exercised their rights in five constituencies in the first phase of the Lok Sabha held in Maharashtra on April 19, while 62.71 per cent of the total electorate voted in eight Lok Sabha constituencies during the second phase of polling held on April 26. Compared with the percentages of voting that took place in the first



and second phases of Lok Sabha polling held earlier, the polling witnessed in the third phase of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday is not very encouraging which can at 60 per cent of voter turnout best be called

at moderate polling. The polling percentages in 11 Lok Sabha constituencies at 5 pm are as follows: Latur-55.38 per cent, Sangli-52.56 per cent, Baramati-45.68 per cent, Hatkanangale-62.18 per cent, Kolhapur-63.71 per cent, Madha -50 per cent, Osmanabad-52.78 per cent, Raigad-50.31 per cent, Ratnagiri -Sindhudurg-53.75 per cent, Satara-54.11 per cent and Solapur-49.11 per cent. Together, the average works out 53.40 per

cent. Since the third phase final phase polling may be around 60 per cent, it is not clear yet as to what impact it will have on the Lok Sabha polls in eleven constituencies that went to polls on Tuesday.

Top LeT commander among two terrorists killed in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

Atop commander of the Resistance Front (TRF), responsible for targeting members of the minority community, police personnel, and others, was killed, along with one accomplice in an overnight encounter with the joint team of security forces in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam on Tuesday. The TRF is an an offshoot of

Lashkar-e-Taiba. The encounter broke out after the security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Redwani Payeen of Kulgam late on Monday after receiving terrorist and was involved ir



inputs about the terrorists. The operation continued throughout the night and concluded on Tuesday afternoon. Two terrorists were neutralised and their bodies have been retrieved, IG Police, Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi said. "The slain TRF commander has been identified as Basit Dar. He was an A-category

at least 18 cases. He was involved in the planning of conspiracy to attack minorities, police forces, and

civilians," Birdi added. The terrorists, according to Birdi, were given ample time and opportunity to surrender. "They did not pay and any heed to the caution by police and security forces. The terrorists continued firing upon the forces and were killed in the encounter," he said.

According to police, the house in which the terrorists were hiding caught fire on Tuesday morning during the exchange of fire between the two sides.

Modi, Lalu in tug of war on Muslim quota

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/PATNA/BHOPAL

Budaun.

After a political slugfest over Constitution, SC/ST & OBC reservations during the campaigning for three phases of the Lok Sabha elections, a row over Muslim reservation has gained momentum ahead of the fourth phase scheduled on May 13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at RJD president Lalu Prasad over his statement that he is in favour of extending reservation benefits to Muslims.

Modi said the INDIA Bloc wants to snatch all quotas for SC, ST, and OBCs and give them to their 'vote bank' as part of a deeper conspiracy. The PM also asserted that India has reached a turning

point in history, and people have to decide in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections whether 'vote jihad' or 'Ram Rajya' is the way forward for the

country. BJP's partner in NDA, the JD(U) slammed Lalu for favouring reservation for Muslims, saying his stand violates the basic spirit of the Constitution as well as the Mandal Commission report. Such a statement is tantamount to a conspiracy against the backwards who get reservation due to their social and educational backwardness, Janata Dal (United) spokesperson K C Tyagi said. Addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, the

PM said a big alliance partner of the INDIA Bloc has endorsed what he used to say



Muslims

should

reservations but all the

reservations should be given

to Muslims. Means they want

all the reservation to Muslims

by snatching it from SC, ST

and OBC," Modi said. After all, why these people are

doing this is because they are

counting their remaining breath with the help of this

about their plan to end the reservations for SC, ST and

'Their leader, who has eaten the animal's fodder and convicted by the court, even by the Supreme Court in the corruption case, is out on bail due to health. The Congress is making him dance on their head. He is saying not only

"very vote bank" as everything else is over and nothing left with them, "one by one all have left and ran away", he said.

"I have been saying the same thing about them for the last several days. I was saying that they would cut some part of the reservation and give it on the basis of religion but the conspiracy is deeper...They are saying on the day of voting that they want to give all the reservation of SC, ST

and OBC to Muslim community," Modi said. He recalled how the maker of Constitution BR Ambedkar had opposed religion-based reservation.

Lalu alleged that the ruling BJP at the Centre wanted to do away with reservations by scrapping the Constitution.

OBCs.



Hot conditions continue, rain & thunderstorms expected to bring relief in some areas today

PNS DEHRADUN

 $T^{\rm he\ maximum\ tempera-}_{\rm tures\ in\ Dehradun\ and}$ other places dropped by a few notches while still remaining above normal on Tuesday. Even as the people suffer from the impact of the heat, light rain and thunderstorms may bring some relief in parts of tainous districts and gusty the State today. The State mewind (30-40 kmph) likely to teorological centre has forecast that very light to light occur at isolated places in the rain/thunderstorms are likely districts of the State on

Pauri, Udham Singh Nagar and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand. The meteorological centre has also issued yellow warning (Watch) regarding the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning likely to occur at isolated places in the moun-

temperatures are likely to be about 35 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various parts of the State on Tuesday were 36.9 degrees Celsius and 21.1 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 35.5 degrees Celsius and 20.5 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar

Cardiologists, technicians to be appointed in Cath lab of Srinagar medical college: Minister

PNS DEHRADUN

The Health department has started the process of ap-pointment to five posts of car-diologist and Cath lab technicians in the recently set up Cath lab at the Govern-ment Medical College in Srinagar. In view of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) implemented in the State, the department had requested the Election Commission of India to provide its approval for these appointments. The ECI has given its approval to the department for these appoint-ments. The Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the State government is com-

mitted to the successful or-ganisation of the Char Dham Yatra which is starting from May 10. He said that the State government has taken many initiatives to provide better health services to the pilgrims and Cath lab of Srinagar Medical College is one of them. Rawat informed that soon two cardiologists and three technicians will be appointed in the lab. The lab will help in providing treatment to the heart patients. Apart from the pilgrims the lab will provide cardiac treatment facilities for the locals. On the orders of the minister, the secretary R Ra

Students fall ill after taking

iron, folic acid syrup in Doon

Zacije Azadije

jesh Kumar has written a letter to the mission director of National Health Mission (NHM) to release recruitment advertisement for appointment of cardiologists and technicians in the Cath lab.

Rawat said that in view of the Char Dham Yatra, the ECI has given its approvals to the request of the department regarding recruitment in Cath lab, appointment of 361 Community Health Officers, issuing health advisory and awareness campaign on health issues of pilgrims.

More security guards posted at emergency ward of GDMC hospital

PNS DEHRADUN For the safety of both hos-

 Γ pital staff and patients, the administration of Govern-

ment Doon Medical College

(GDMC) Hospital has raised

the number of security

guards at the emergency

ward. This step was taken fol-

lowing a recent incident in which two men who had vis-

ited the emergency ward as patients, brandished a fake

firearm at a doctor. As a re-

sult of this incident, many

post graduate doctors at the

hospital went on strike on

Monday, calling for enhanced

security measures within the

hospital premises, particu-

larly in the emergency ward.

The medical superinten-dent at GDMC hospital Dr

Anurag Aggarwal empha-sised that the doctors and pa-

tients need not worry about

their security at the hospital.

He said that a recent incident

occurred due to a delay in the

arrival of security guards at

patients. In response to this and considering past incidents related to safety, the hospital administration has increased the number of security guards on duty at the emergency ward from four to six. Further, Aggarwal stated that they have instructed the security guards to remain vigilant at all times to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the hospital.

Aggarwal further informed that the hospital administration also plans to recruit young security guards for the emergency ward. The existing security guards, who are older in age, will be relocated to the college where there are fewer possibilities of threat. He said that to enhance hospital security, a security meeting is held once a week to provide guidance and train security guards with ad-vanced security measures regularly.

the emergency ward, which caused distress ward, among the doctors and THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

1385/2024



ay, Moradabad for & on beha The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const/Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behall of President of India invites E-Tenders for EPC Single Stage Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

e-Tender NIT No 17-Elect/C/TSS/UMB/EPC/135 Name of work and location : "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of double circuit 132KV/27 KV, 21.6/30.24 MVA Traction Sub-Station (TSS) at Amb-Andaura (AADR) on Nangaldam-Talwara Section, including SCADA, Electrical General work, Civil Engg work and Provision of second 132KV/27KV/21.6MVA/30.24 MVA single here the section of the sect MVA, single phase traction power transformer & its associated equipments etc at Kura (KRLI)/TSS over Ambala Division".

Completion period of the wor	k Appointed Date.	dred Sixty fifth)] day from the	
Approximate Cost of work		₹ 18,25,16,261.21	
Bid Security amount (to be de	posited Online)	₹ 10,62,600/-	
Bid due date		upto 11.00 hrs on 20.06.202	
Physical submission of all documents listed in clause No. 2.11.2		upto 11.00 hrs on 25.06.202	
Date & Time for of offer on IREPS	ailways.gov.in and te bove tender documer web site i.e. www.i	ble on Northern Railway website ender document is available on t will be available for submission reps.gov.in from 09.05.2024 to 7.05.2024 at 11.30 Hzs. All other	

20.06.2024. The bid will be opened on 27.06.2024 at 11.30 Hrs. All other Bid rms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender documents. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notic Board of the above office

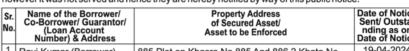
No. 17-Elect/C/TSS/UMB/EPC/135 Dated: 07.05.2024 Serving Customers With A Smile

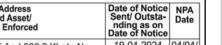
PUBLIC NOTICE

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Address: Showroom No. 301, 3rd Floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009 Branch Address: 1st Floor, Ashirwad Tower, Model Colony, Near Ranipur Mor, Haridwar-249407.

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.









(Khurd), POST- Watephal,TEH.-Paranda, DIST-Osmanabad, Maharashtra-413505. I have changed my name JIJABAI TUKARAM AOUSARE to CHANDRAKALA TUARAM AOUSARE inclusion of first and middle name as per Aadhar No.930247397743 vide affidavit sworn before notary and advocate Sanjeev Kumar dated 07.05.2024 UK.GOI.

I, SARITA DEVI (existing name) W/o Army No- 15346135L HAV SHYAMJI DUBEY.VILL- Khitole POST- Mihona, DIST- Bhind, TEH-Mihona, Madhya Pradesh- 477441, declare that in my husband's Army record, my incorrect name SARITA DEVI has been recorded, as per Aadhar No. 941228113962 my correct name is SARITA DUBEY.

In my Husband,s service records my name is mistakenly recorded as KALPANA whereas my correct name is KALPANA DEVI as mentioned in other all documents. Army no.JC 530052N SUB/HONY/ LT VIJWAR SINGH R/O PREMNAGAR SHYAMPUR AMBIWALA DEHRADUN UTTARKHAND. vide IN-UK19580548264296W Affidavit 06.05.2024 before Dehradun

Public Notice

A property bearing Property No 165 situated at Luniya Mohalla, area about 233 square meter which was received by Brijmohan Vadera from his father Ram Vadera through a will. Later Brijmohan Vadera made his son Ajay Vadera the honour of this property through a will. Now Ajay Vadera is going to sell the said property to buyer and Buyer going to mortgage this with S.M.F.G India Home Finance Company Ltd. to avail loan. If anyone has any objection/ claim, kindly contact Advocate Shammi Tandon, Civil Court Compound, Dehradun, Mobile No 9897006975 within 7 days of publication of this notice.



Two women riders with their faces covered to protect from the sunlight and heat in Dehradun on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

to occur at a few places in Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Champawat and Nainital districts and at isolated places in Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Tehri, Rudraprayag,

Wednesday. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly cloudy sky with thunder cloud development also likely to occur. The maximum and minimum

New Tehri

'Brand Bollywood Downunder' screened at Raj Bhawan

PNS DEHRADUN

Filmmaker Anupam documentary film 'Brand Bollywood Downunder' was screened at Rai Bhawan Tuesday. on Dehradun native Sharma is a noted filmmaker based in Australia. Speaking as the chief guest after the screening of the film, the governor lieu-tenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh said that films play an important role in boosting na-

that the influence of Indian cinema is not restricted to India alone as the films made here are popular around the world. Recently, while on a trip to Central Asia, he witnessed that filmmaker Raj Kapoor is still popular there, as is the iconic song, "Awaara Hoon", the governor recalled. He added that the Uttarakhand government is making sincere efforts to promote film

formation director general Banshidhar Tiwari and Information joint director Nitin Upadhyaya in formulation of the policy. Sharma also expressed his views on the occa-sion. 'Brand Bollywood Downunder' is the story of Bollywood's growth in Australia and around the world, revealing the industry's inner workings on a global scale, while celebrating Indian cin-

The governor said that the work done by Red Cross volunteers in the spirit of service, dedication and charity is highly com-mendable. He said that this year the theme of World Red Cross Day is 'keeping humanity alive' while maintaining human dignity. Singh said everyone needs to work together with full dedication towards humanitarian service. He said that Uttarakhand is sensitive to

all of them were discharged.

selflessly: Governor

PNS DEHRADUN

The governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh has I said that the Red Cross Society is selflessly serving humanity. In a message on the occasion of the World Red Cross Day, Singh said that the Red Cross is working on the mantra of 'Manav Seva Paramo Dharma' in serving mankind. He congratulated all the people associated with the Red Cross on the occasion of World Red Cross Day.

natural disasters and has

27 degrees Celsius and 13.6 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 26.4 degrees Celsius and 12.4 degrees Celsius in

PNS DEHRADUN The health of some students in a school operated by an NGO in the Rest Camp area of the city deteriorated after syrup of Iron and folic acid was administered to them on Tuesday. It is learnt that some students started vomiting and complained of ache in the stomach after consuming the syrup. The parents of the students, mostly coming from poor backgrounds, rushed to the school after hearing about the incident. The school authorities and parents took the children to the Government Doon Med-

ical College (GDMC) hospital. The doctors attended the students and administered medicine to them after which the condition of the students improved.

The vice president of Uttarakhand Congress Suryakant Dhasmana who reached hospital to enquire about the health of the students said that the Health department had administered syrup of iron and folic acid to the students after which the health of 22 students deteriorated. The principal of GDMC Dr Ashutosh Sayana said that treatment was provided to the students immediately after which

Red Cross serving humanity

tional unity, a sense of nation-
alism, promotion of culture
and traditions, social har-
mony and social change. In-
dian cinema has also helped
promote values such as love
and social harmony. He said

PNS DEHRADUN

The additional director general of police (Crime,

Law and Order) AP Anshu-

man held a meeting with all

district in-charges on Tuesday

to review arrangements for

Operation Smile that com-

menced across the State on

tourism in the State and generate maximum employment opportunities through the film industry. He also praised the latest film policy of the State government while also appreciating the work of In-

dhabas, factories, bus stands,

railway stations and religious

The ADG directed the po-

lice to make efforts to find

missing people in neighbour-

ing states and send teams if

the

they suspect

person to be

found there.

He instructed

match missing

bodies with unclaimed

bodies found

in the state

border

Once

missing

officials

and

the

areas.

missing

to

places among others.

ADG reviews Operation

Smile arrangements to recover missing people

ema. It also features interviews with icons of Hindi cinema along with rare behind the scenes of movie stars filming at picturesque locations in Australia.

PNS DEHRADUN

adverse geographical con-ditions. The Red Cross is a symbol of hope, compassion and kindness for the victims and people affected by the disasters, he added.

CEO Purushottam inspects arrangements in New Tehri The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Uttarakhand, BVRC Pu-**L** rushottam inspected the strong room and counting centre at ITI building, New Tehri on Tuesday. During his one day visit to Tehri, the CEO inspected the ITI building, visitor log book and the CCTV cameras installed in the strong room and their display. He directed the officers to keep round the clock vigil on the CCTV displays. The CEO also inspected the three-tier security arrangements, uninterrupted power supply and other security arrangements. The district returning officer Mayur Dikshit informed the CEO that meetings with the representatives of the political parties are being held from time to time on security arrangements. He added that the officers are also conducting inspections as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. Chairing a meeting with the officials the CEO directed that all the arrangements such as appointment of counting supervisor, counting assistant and their training should be completed on time for smooth discharge of the counting work. He also directed that the weekly



meetings with the office bearers of the political parties should be held. The CEO took feedback on the election process and congratulated the officers and employees for the peaceful election. The DM told the CEO that counting will be done on 14 tables in each assembly segment on the counting day. He said that 77 per cent voting was reported in postal ballots and 99 per cent of the employees of the health department cast their vote. The Tehri SSP Navneet Singh Bhullar, CEO Abhisek Tripathi and other officers were present on the occasion.

No.	(Loan Account Number) & Address	Asset to be Enforced	nding as on Date of Notice	Date			
1.	Ravi Kumar (Borrower), Rakhi (Co-Borrower), D 167 Bls Institute Rajeev Colony, Mohan Nagar Mohan Nagar Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. LHDEH00001438652	885 Plot on Khasra No 885 And 886 2 Khata No 1080 Village Madhowala Situated Mauja Markham Grant First Tehsil Doiwala District Dehradun Uttarakhand Dehradun 1 Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. Bounded By- North: 15 Ft Wide Road, Side Measuring 38. 1 Ft., South: 25 Ft. Wide Modhowala Road, Side Measuring 87.11 Ft., East: 16 Ft Wide Road, Side Measuring 82.5 Ft, West: Land of Tilak Singh, Side Measuring 32.4+39.1 Ft	19-04-2024 Rs. 25,70,884/-	04/04/ 2024			
2.	Ravi Kumar (Borrower), Rakhi (Co-Borrower), D 167 BLS Institute Rajeev Colony Mohan Nagar Dehradun Uttarakhand 248001. LHDEH00001438953	 Rakhi (Co-Borrower), Ď 1080 Village Madhowala Situated Mauja Markham 67 BLS Institute Rajeev 68 Addition I Dehradun I Dehradun I Dehradun I Dehradun I Dehradun I Stanger Dehradun 60 Dehradun I Dehradun I Stanger Pohradun Dehradun I Dehradun I Dehradun Uttarakhand 248001. 60 Dunded By- North: 14 Ft Wide Road/ 34.5 60 Addition I Stanger I Dehradun I Stanger I Dehradun I Stanger I Dehradun I Stanger I Dehradun I Dehradun I Stanger I Dehradur I Dehradur I Dehradur I Dehradur I Dehradur I Stanger I Dehradur I		04/04 2024			
3.	Manish Kumar (Borrower), Ravinder (Co-Borrower), 120 Shivpur Colony Prem Nagar Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand 248007. LHDEH00001481962			04/04 2024			
4.	Manish Kumar (Borrower), Ravinder (Co-Borrower), 120 Shivpur Colony Prem Nagar Dehradun Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248007. LHDEH00001481963	1 Khata No 00155 Khasra No 372 And New 829 Mauja Jhajra Near Glory of God Church Chakrata Road Pargana Pachwadoon Vikasnagar Dehradun Dehradun 1 Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. Bounded By- North: 14 Ft Wide Road/ 50 Ft, South: Land of Other/ 50 Ft, East: 10 Ft Wide Road/ 34.5 Ft, West: Land of Shri Arjun Kumar/ 43.	19-04-2024 Rs. 32,85,621/-	04/04 2024			
5.	Manish Kumar (Borrower), Ravinder (Co-Borrower), 120 Shivpur Colony Prem Nagar Dehradun Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248007. LHDEH00001481978	1 Khata No 00155 Khasra No 372 And New 829 Mauja Jhajra Near Glory of God Church Chakrata Road Pargana Pachwadoon Vikasnagar Dehradun Dehradun 1 Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. Bounded By- North: 14 Ft Wide Road/ 50 Ft, South: Land of Other/50 Ft, East: 10 Ft Wide Road/ 34.5 Ft, West: Land of Shri Arjun Kumar/ 43.	19-04-2024 Rs. 1,74,268.94/-	04/04 2024			
6.	Aftab Saikh (Borrower), Dilshana (Co-Borrower), Laksari Ward No 05 Laksar Haridwar Roorkee Uttarakhand- 247661. LHHWR00001479048	6m Khasra No 6m Situated At Village Laksari Ward No 5 Nagar Palika Parishad Laksar Pargana Manglour Teshsil Laksar Distt Haridwar 6m Haridwar Uttaranchal- 249132. Bounded By- North: Property of Sonu 58.7ft, South: 25 Ft Wide Road 58.7 Ft, East: Property of Irfan Ansari 59.35, West: Property of Rafikan W/o.	19-04-2024 Rs. 73,251.64/-	04/04 2024			
7.	Aftab Saikh (Borrower), Dilshana (Co-Borrower), Laksari Ward No 05 Laksar Haridwar Roorkee Uttarakhand- 247661. LHHWR00001479055	6m Khasra No 6m Situated At Village Laksari Ward No 5 Nagar Palika Parishad Laksar Pargana Manglour Teshsil Laksar Distt Haridwar 6m Haridwar Uttaranchal- 249132. Bounded By- North: Property of Sonu 58.7ft, South: 25 Ft Wide Road 58.7 Ft, East: Property of Irfan Ansari 59.35, West: Property of Rafikan W/o.	19-04-2024 Rs. 16,90,521/-	04/04 2024			
8.	Aftab Saikh (Borrower), Dilshana (Co-Borrower), Laksar Ward No 05 Near Shiv Mandir, Laksar Laksar Haridwar Uttarakhand- 247661. LHHWR00001575143	6m Khasra No 6m Situated At Village Laksari Ward No 5 Nagar Palika Parishad Laksar Pargana Manglour Teshsil Laksar Distt Haridwar 6m Haridwar Uttaranchal- 249132. Bounded By- North: Property of Sonu 58.7ft, South: 25 Ft Wide Road 58.7 Ft, East: Property of Irfan Ansari 59.35, West: Property of Rafikan W/o.	19-04-2024 Rs. 6,30,992/-	04/04 2024			
app pub con	blicable) are advised to mak blication of this notice else f istruction of Financial Assets	ubstituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and te the payments of outstanding within period of 60 further steps will be taken as per the provisions of and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.	days from the Securitization a	date o ind Re			
Dat Pla	Date : May 08, 2024 Authorized Office Place: Dehradun, Haridwar ICICI Home Finance Company Limite						

PUBLIC NOTICE

l have lost following chain Titles Deeds regarding land Khatoni No. 732 (Fasli Year 1422-1427), Khasra No. 266Min measuring 267 Mauza Jakhan Dehradun (1) Sale Deed dated 31.08.2001 executed by Smt. Sangeeta Jain in favour of Smt. Simmi Gupta duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Dehradun at Book No. I, Volume 440, Page 134, A. D. F. Book No. I, Volume 1047, Pages 159 to 172 at Serial No. 697 dated 01.09.2001, (2) Power of Attorney dated 26.08.2002 executed by Smt Simmi Gupta in favour of Shri Sanjay Gaur, (3) Sale Deed dated 28.06.2003 executed by Smt. Simmi Gupta through ttorney Shri Sanjay Gaur in favour of (1) Shri Pramod Khanna and (2) Shri Sudhi Kumar Windlass duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Dehradun at Book No. I, Volume 498, Page 528, A. D. F. Book No. I. Volume 1306. Pages 185 to 194 at Serial No. 4245 dated 28.06.2003, (4) Power of Attorney dated 09.10.2015 executed by Shri Sudhir Kumar Windlass in favour of Shri Pramod Khanna duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-Dehradun at Book No. IV, Volum 119, Pages 61 to 80 at Serial No. 1004 dated 09.10.2015. If anyone come across the same, please intimate to tohini Mathur, Mob.: 8383016387

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May 1. It is a two-month long campaign which is conducted every year since 2015.

He informed that five teams each have been formed in the Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital districts and one team each in the remaining districts and railways to search for the missing persons. Each team consists of one sub-inspector and four constables. He said that the campaign is being conducted mostly in such places of the districts where chances of finding missing people are high like shelter homes,

persons are found, appropriate action should be taken in accordance with the regulations regarding their return or rehabilitation. gated as per the rules.

The police must take strict action against offenders if a crime comes to light regarding the recovered person. Anshuman said that Operation Smile was launched in 2015 and till 2023, the police have found a total of 4,611 missing people including 2,486 children, 1,207 women and 918 men.

He said that children and women should be interro-

uttarakhand 03



Forest fires continue in State, CM to review status today

PNS DEHRADUN

Forest fires continued at dif-ferent locations across the State on Tuesday. However, factors like the light rains witnessed in some mountainous in the State today.

regions have brought down the number of large active forest fires to an extent in some areas even as authorities struggled to bring the fires under control in other areas. Considering the seriousness of the situation, chief minister

According to information provided by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) there were 46 large fire events active in various parts of the State on Tuesday. This was the highest number of large fire events active in any State or Union Ter-

Pushkar Singh Dhami has ritory on Tuesday, according postponed his engagements to the FSI. More than 1,000 outside the State and is set to hectares of forest land has review the status of forest fires been affected by forest fires in the State so far.

> Meanwhile, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who is campaigning for BJP candi-dates in the Lok Sabha elections, deferred his scheduled programmes and is slated to reach Dehradun where he will chair a meeting to review ef-forts being undertaken to con-trol forest fires on Wednesday. He said that the State govern-ment is working on all fronts. In addition to taking the help of the armed forces, officials have also been directed to act on ground zero. The government is also taking strict ac-tion against mischievous elements setting the forests on fire, he said. Along with monitoring the status of forest fires in the State the CM will also the State during the winter review preparations for the Char Dham Yatra, potable and spring seasons, he said. water supply during the ongoery is working round the clock under CM Dhami's ing summer and preparations for the coming monsoon sea-son, officials said.

Mahendra Bhatt appeals to all to work | Declare forest fires in together for controlling forest fires

Warns that politically exploiting disasters to level allegations may be detrimental to public

PNS DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party State president and Rajya Sabha member Mahendra Bhatt has stressed on the importance of public participation in efforts to control forest fires while exhorting all the cooperate. He expressed satisfaction at efforts being undertaken on a war footing by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to overcome this disaster. Further, Bhatt also appreciated the cooperation provided by the public and expressed hope that the forest fires will be

brought under control soon Bhatt said that the State government is working according to a plan for disaster management. However, the forest fires were exacerbated due to less than expected rain and snowfall in

'The whole State machin-

leadership to tackle this sit-

teenagers. The police de-

tained them on Tuesday

and inquired about the in-

cident as per the rules for

They claimed that they were just burning some

trash and leaves but the

fire suddenly went out of

control and spread in the

area. The officer said that

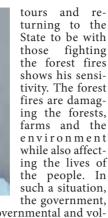
the police will take further

action accordingly as per

the law for juvenile offend-

juvenile offenders.

Service, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force and working untiringly to control the wildfires. The CM himself is taking the situation seriously and minutely monitoring the efforts to tackle forest fires. His decisions to seek the assistance of the armed forces and to impose the Gangster Act on those who repeatedly light forest fires are appreciable," Bhatt said. He further opined that Dhami cancelling his scheduled



non-governmental and voluntary organisations need to work together to check the wildfires, he added.

The BJP State president also appealed to the Congress and other opposition parties to work by rising above partisan lines in this situation. "Nobody will benefit from politics on an issue which damages the life and property of the people. The politics of considering disasters an opportunity to benefit by levelling allegations may prove detrimen-tal to the public," he said.

U'khand a national disaster: Godiyal

PNS DEHRADUN

Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal has said that forest fires raging in Ut-tarakhand should be declared a national disaster. He claimed that about 75 per cent of the forests in the

mountainous areas of the State are affected by wild-

fires. The fire has not

only damaged the flora

of the forests but large

numbers of wild animals

have also died in the fire.

He said that the wildfires

have also taken a toll on

human lives and the vil-

ernment to take prompt ac-

tion to control the fires. He

said that the fires have been

raging in the mountainous

parts of the State for the last

one month but the govern-

ment is paying no attention to

it. The Congress leader said

that the government and lead-

ers are busy in the elections

and for them the plight of people and wildlife holds no

Godiyal demanded that the

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi should take immediate

significance.

cognisance of the forest fires raging in Uttarakhand and direct the administration to take immediate action on a war footing to control the fire from spreading. He said that the PM should declare the



forest fire in Uttarakhand a national disaster. The Congress leader who is contesting the Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency said that he was raising concern on the forest fires from the month of March and during his election campaign but the government took no notice. He said that the planners should come up with an immediate plan and a long term plan to tackle the menace of forest fires in the State. Godiyal also appealed to the villagers and local people to come out in dousing the forest fires in their vicinity.

AAP questions absence Four minors detained of Forest minister amid in Pithoragarh for wildfires in State causing forest fire

PNS DEHRADUN

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Ravindra Anand has questioned the absence of the Forest minister Subodh Uniyal at a time when forest fires are raging in Uttarakhand. He claimed that Uniyal is busy going on tours to other States and foreign countries rather than handling the severe forest fire situation here. His absence shows his inability to handle this problem as the Forest minister, Anand said. He also targeted chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and said that though the CM has expressed his disappoint-ment at the officials concerned regarding the forest fires, it appears that Unival is not affected by his rage or

concern. Anand said that Dhami should tell the public where Uniyal is and why he is not taking these forest fires seriously. The whole scenario indicates that Unival's duty as a Forest minister is only limited to giving orders and reviews while sitting in his AC rooms besides going on foreign tours. The AAP leader said that it is disheart-ening for the public to see ministers being absent dur-ing such a critical time when people and wildlife are losing lives in forest fires. When ministers are not available during such big disasters, how do they expect the public to believe in their government, he questioned.

PNS DEHRADUN

The police detained four minors on Tuesday for allegedly setting fire in the Gangolihat forest range in Pithoragarh district. The four minor boys had set fire in the Gangolihat range on May 3. They were burning some trash and dried leaves on Friday but the fire soon spread and destroyed a big part of the forest, a senior police offi-cial from Pithoragarh told The Pioneer.

ers. The police have also appealed to the locals to He said that an FIR was refrain from burning anylodged against the accused thing in open areas that but it was found during the can potentially cause forest investigation that the fire was set by some local fires, he added.

Effects of forest fires posing health challenge to people: Experts

MANSI BHAMBRI 🗖 DEHRADUN

Doctors have advised peo-ple to take necessary precautions against the effects of the forest fires in different parts of the State. The forest fires have caused smoke, which has led to air pollution in nearby areas, especially in the mountainous regions. Considering this, doctors have said the people in and near the affected areas may face health challenges due to the wildfires.

Medical superintendent at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dr Anurag Aggarwal expressed concern regarding the widespread forest fires reported in various areas of the State. He highlighted that aside from the heat, there are also various man-made factors contributing to the occurrence of these fires. Factors like throwing igarettes and litter

mental impact of forest fires on public health, citing examples of carbon monoxide poisoning leading to pollution and exacerbating issues like asthma. He cautioned individuals, especially those with allergies, asthma and children, to be vigilant about their health during such forest fire episodes. Further, Aggar-wal warned of potential risks like an increased likelihood of brain strokes and heart attacks among the population

Considering this, he rec-ommended that individuals, particularly those residing in mountainous regions, should exercise caution by ensuring that no large quantities of garbage or leaves are deposited in nearby areas. Individuals with asthma should carry their inhalers at all times. Additionally, wearing a mask can serve as a preventive measure against the pollution from forest fires.

due to these fire incidents.



Senior eye specialist at GDMC hospital Dr Sushil Ojha told this correspondent that the increasing number of forest fires poses a significant challenge to public health. He indicated that the smoke generated from the fires can lead to symptoms like eye itching, watery eyes and vision problems for individuals. People

with pre-existing weak eyesight are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of forest fires. Therefore, he advised the public to wear sunglasses when outdoors and to wash their eyes with clean water twice a day to mitigate the risk of allergies from forest fire incidents.

uation. Teams of the Forest department, police, Fire

Panch Mukhi Doli departs from Guptkashi, more than 21 lakh register for Char Dham Yatra

Govt expects last year's record to be broken this year in Yatra starting on May 10

nath-Kedarnath

PNS DEHRADUN

With just a couple of days left for the formal start of the Char Dham Yatra, more than 21 lakh people have registered so far to visit the Char Dham shrines. Meanwhile, the Panch Mukhi Doli of Lord Kedarnath departed from Vishwanath temple in Guptkashi for its second halt at Fata on Tuesday.

The Panch Mukhi Doli departed from Vishwanath temple in Guptkashi at 8:45 AM on Tuesday on its journey towards Kedarnath which is flowers and hailed the lord at various places. A number of slated to be reopened to the public on May 10. The Badridevotees are also accompany-Temple ing the Doli to Kedarnath, he Committee (BKTC) media added. in-charge Harish Gaur in-

Meanwhile, more than 21 formed that the Chalvigrah Utsav Doli of Lord Kedarnath lakh people have registered to is carried on foot by the comvisit the Char Dham shrines mittee's volunteers and tradiand Hemkund Sahib so far. According to information provided by the Tourism detional right holders barefoot from his winter abode at Omkareshwar temple in partment, 21,40,505 people Ukhimath to Kedarnath temhave registered so far to visit ple. During its departure from Guptkashi, devotees Čhar Dham and the Hemkund Sahib. Till Tuesday, 7, 41,120 people had regand school children showered

istered to visit Kedarnath while 6,38,725 had registered to visit Badrinath, 3,81,267 to visit Gangotri and 3,35,413 to visit the Yamunotri temple. Further, 43,980 people have registered so far to visit the Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara. Out of the total number of people who have registered so far, 16,54,972 have registered on the web portal, 2,92,753 have registered on the mobile phone application and 1,92,780 have registered through WhatsApp, officials informed.It is pertinent to mention here



Devotees carry the Panch Mukhi Doli of lord Kedarnath from Guptkashi towards Fata on Tuesday **Pioneer photo**

ing indiscriminately are also known to cause such incidents. He stressed the detri-

850 CCTV cameras installed to manage traffic on Char Dham routes

PNS DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand police will manage traffic and other associated issues during the Char Dham Yatra with the help of eight drones and about 850 CCTV cameras installed on the Char Dham routes. The police have also marked about 130 parking spots in seven districts of the Garhwal region for the Char Dham Yatra that have a park-ing capacity of over 55,000 vehicles including about 17,000 four-wheeler vehicles and 38,000 two-wheeler vehi-

"

cles.

130 parking lots with capacity for 55K vehicles marked on Yatra routes >>

The police have also iden-tified 54 blackspots on the routes prone to accidents, the deputy inspector general (Crime, Law and Order) and on nodal officer of Traffic for Char Dham Yatra, P Renuka Devi said. She informed that the police have identified opened to the seven parking spots near on Char Dham routes in Pauri

devotees

May 12.

with the capacity to hold about 1,200 vehicles. Uttarkashi and Dehradun have 13 and 16 parking spaces with a parking capacity of about 2,200 and 1,600 vehi-cles respectively. Rudraprayag and Chamoli will have 15 and 34 parking spaces that can accommodate about 2,400 and 3,200 vehicles respectively. Besides this, Tehri has 20 parking spaces with 13,300 capacity.

Haridwar with 25 parking spaces will accommodate about 42,000 vehicles. The pilgrims have to face severe parking issues while going to Kedarnath considering which, a parking space has

been prepared in Sonprayag that can hold about 3,000 vehicles. The DIG said that the police have also identified about 70 traffic bottlenecks on Char Dham routes where traffic gets affected the most. This includes 16 bottlenecks on the Char Dham route in Rudraprayag, eight each in Rishikesh and Chamoli, over 15 bottlenecks in Srinagar and Lakshmanjhula, six each in Uttarkashi and Tehri and about 10 in Haridwar.

The authorities face traffic congestion the most in Rishikesh, Srinagar and near Kedarnath during Char Dham Yatra every year. Additional police personnel will

be deployed in these bottle necks to ensure smooth traffic. She informed that all Char Dham routes have been divided into sectors and an official has been assigned to each sector who will be responsible for tackling all road and traffic-related issues.

She said that over 830 po-lice personnel will be de-ployed this year solely for traffic management on Char Dham routes. The police will also keep an eye on Char Dham routes with the help of about 850 CCTVs. Over 50 per cent of these CCTVs will be directly connected to police control rooms, she added.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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Whereas 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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch			
1.	Sri Balaji Foods/ Mahesh Singh/ Shashi/ '097905002231	Property Bearing Khata No.1135 (Fasli Year 1417 To 1422), Khasra No.1111, Rakba 187.28 Sq.mtr Situated At Mauza Mehuwala Mafi, Pargana Pachawadoon, District Dehradun. (Admeasuring An Area Of 167.28 Sq. Mtrs.)/ May 03, 2024	January 08, 2024 Rs. 30,76,597.00/-	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.							
Date: May 08, 2024 Authorized Office Place: Dehradun ICICI Bank Limite							



nation 04

Shekhar Suman, Radhika Kheda join BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a boost to the BJP on the day of the third phase of polling for the Lok Sabha polls, actor and TV personality Shekhar Suman, who recently garnered attention for his role in Netflix's Heeramandi, joined the BJP at the party head-quarters in Delhi, adding to the list of other actors including Kangana Ranaut, Arun Govil and Rupali Ganguly, who joined the saffron camp amid the elections. Former Congress National Media Coordinator Radhika Kheda also joined the BJP a day after she resigned from the Congress.

Addressing the media in the presence of senior BJP leaders, including National General Secretary Vinod Tawde and National Media Department In-Charge Anil Baluni, at the headquarters on party Tuesday, Suman said, "Till yesterday, I did not know that I would be sitting here today because many things in life happen knowingly or unknowingly. I have come here with a very positive thinking and I would like to thank God that he ordered me to come here." The actor said he was waiting for Heeramandi to get hit before joining the party. "Log



kahi ye na kahe ki mere paas karne ko kuch nahi tha, isleye politics join ki. Heeramandi has now become a global hit,' said the comedian-actor.He said that its probably god's wish behind him joining politics. "Hoiye vahi jo ram rach rakha" said Shekhar Suman quoting Ram Charitmanas. "Till yesterday I did not know that I would be sitting here today because many things in life happen knowingly or unknowingly. I have come here with a very positive think-

ing and I would like to thank God that he ordered me to come here..." added Suman. You have to follow what Lord Ram has thought. I don't have any negative thoughts, I am thinking only about the country. A man depends on his words but they have no meaning beyond a point. But there is a difference between saying something and doing it. I can give a long address but it will mean anything only after I have done something," the actor added, and thanked

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda, among others.

Suman is currently enjoying the success of his recently released web series, Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's show premiered on Netflix earlier this month and also stars Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Sonakshi Sinna, Kicha Chauna, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal Mehta, Farida Jalal, Fardeen Khan and Adhyayan Suman in key roles. It explores the various aspects of a woman's trials and tribulations.

Before joining the BJP, Radhika Khera made sensational allegations against Chhattisgarh Congress media chairman Sushil Anand Shukla. The former Congress national media coordinator claimed during her detailed press conference that on April 30, Chhattisgarh Congress media chief Sushil Anand Shukla started misbehaving with and abusing her when he went to talk to him. Radhika Khera further alleged that the room remained locked for around a minute and she was abused. She all the three men came towards her and no one opened the door even as she kept screaming.

EC directs X to take down Karnataka BJP video on quota row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Election Commission(EC) Tuesday directed social media platform "X" to "immediately" take down an animat-ed video shared by the Karnataka unit of the BJP related to the row over reservation for the Muslim community. In a letter to the nodal officer of 'X', the EC took exception to the non-compliance of the directive of the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer to the social media platform for taking down the video.

The panel said the animated video shared by the Karnataka unit of the BJP on its social media handle was violative of the extant legal framework. The EC said the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka registered an FIR in this connection and wrote to 'X' on May 5 to take down the objectionable post as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act and the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

"However, the post has not been taken down yet.

Therefore, 'X' is directed to take down the post immediately," the EC said

The fresh directive to 'X' came on the day votes were being cast in the remaining 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka. Polling in the other 14 parliamentary constituencies of Karnataka was held on April

The Karnataka Congress had filed a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer of the state, accusing the BJP of promoting enmity and hatred between the Muslim and the SC/ST communities.

The complaint pertains to an animated video shared by the Karnataka BJP, which has caricatures of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The cartoon shows the leaders putting an egg marked 'Muslim' on a bird's nest and after it hatches, Rahul Gandhi feeds 'funds' to the 'Muslim' hatchling while others strive for it. The 'Muslim' hatchling grows as a result and kicks the three others - SC, ST and OBC - out as Gandhi and Siddaramaiah laugh.

Kharge writes to INDIA Bloc leaders to raise voice over discrepancies in voting data

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to the leaders of various par-ties of the INDIA Opposition Bloc on Tuesday, questioning the alleged discrepancies in the voting data released by the Election Commission (EC). In his letter, Kharge urged the INDIA Bloc leaders to raise their voice against such discrepancies, for "our only objective is to protect the culture of a vibrant democracy and the Constitution".

'Let us ensure the independence of the Election Commission of India and make it accountable," he said in his letter.

"As the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), it should be our collective endeavour to safeguard democracy and protect the independent functioning of the ECI. All the aforementioned facts force us to ask a question -- could this be an attempt to doctor the final results?" he asked. "We all know how Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi

and the BJP are visibly flustered and frustrated by the voting trends and their receding electoral fortunes in the first two phases. The entire nation knows that an autocratic regime, drunk with power, can go to any extent to stay in the chair," Kharge said.

"I would urge all of you that we must collectively, unitedly and unequivocally raise our voice against such discrepancies, for our only objective is to protect the culture of a vibrant democracy and the Constitution," he added.

Several opposition parties have raised questions on the delay in releasing the polling data by the EC.

Over the few years, the BRO

has witnessed an exponential

surge in budget expenditure, marking a remarkable leap for-

ward in capabilities and impact.

This increased budgetary sup-

port has empowered the organ-

isation to undertake crucial

Defence Secretary lauds BRO for playing major role in security of country just two working seasons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI H

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane here on Tuesday lauded the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and termed it an extremely crucial organisation which, through its infrastructure projects in border areas, is playing a major role in the security of the The BRO is also country. ensuring the socio-economic progress of far-flung areas, he

He made these observations on the occasion of the 65th Raising Day of the BRO. In his address, the Defence Secretary praised the BRO for fulfilling its responsibilities successfully in inhospitable terrain and tough weather conditions.

Aramane commended the

BRO for completing the projects in a time-bound manner,

exuding confidence that the Karmayogis will continue to ensure border infrastructure development in a record time. He urged the BRO to infuse latest technology and techniques for faster completion of projects, through which human efforts will be reduced and utilised more efficiently. Automation and mechanisation will be key for the BRO in the future, he said. The Defence Secretary also

recalled the valuable contribution of the BRO personnel in the relief and rescue efforts during the Silkyara Tunnel Collapse and the Sikkim Floods. He added that the Organisation will play an important role in the Vibrant Villages Programme which

envisages comprehensive development of select border vil-

ages. Speaking on the occasion, Director General, Border Roads Lt General Raghu Srinivasan stated that the pan-India presence of the BRO reflects its commitment to national security, connectivity and development. The event also witnessed the unveiling of a compendium on

Sela Tunnel as well as some books including 'Oonchin Sadaken', 'Path Pradarshak' and 'Path Vikas' by the Defence Secretary. He gave away Excellence Awards to the BRÓ personnel for the year 2023-24 and felicitated the women achievers of the Organisation. The Casual Paid Labourers who worked in various projects such as Sela Tunnel, as well as



during Sikkim floods were also organisation with 18 projects operating in 11 States and Raised with just two projects in three Union Territories. It has

1960 - Project Tusker (now now established its credentials Vartak) in the East and Project as the leading infra construc-Beacon in the North, the BRO tion agency in the high-altitude and difficult snow-bound areas. has today become a vibrant

The BRO executes road construction and maintenance works at altitude ranging from 9,000 ft up to 19,000 ft along the Northern and Western frontiers, primarily to meet the strategic requirements of the Armed Forces.

In over six decades, it has constructed over 62,214 kms of roads, 1,005 bridges, seven tunnels and 21 airfields in adverse climatic and geographical conditions along India's borders as well as in friendly countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, thus contributing towards the nation's strategic objectives.In 2023-24, the BRO completed a total of 125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore. This includes the construction of Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road. The tunnel was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently from Itanagar virtual-

The BRO will soon commence the construction on 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel. Once completed, this tunnel will become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft bypassing Mila Tunnel in China at 15,590

The BRO accomplished the completion of two significant airfield projects namely Bagdogra and Barrackpore, marking yet another milestone in its journey of excellence. The foundation stone for Mudh Airfield Project was laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently. The BRO aims to complete the project within

Talks on nurturing future leaders

held at Commandants conclave

projects, accelerate critical infrastructure development, and enhance its operational readiness The BRO has been at the forefront of promoting gender equality and inclusivity, offering key roles and opportunities to women. Officers like Col Ponung Doming is leading critical projects in Eastern Ladakh. Assistant Executive Engineer (Civ) Nikita Chaudhary has played a pivotal

role in successful completion of Sela Tunnel Project.

Tourism Ministry unveils Cool Summers of India campaign ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

As the scorching summer sum bore down on travel-



felicitated.

coolest summer getaways that'll have you feeling frosty fresh!" Moreover, leveraging social media channels like WhatsApp to discomplicate information

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE



Tourism Ministry of India has embarked on a transformative journey to redefine summer vacations by unveiling the "Cool Summers of India" campaign at the three-day muchsought after Arabian Travel Mart 2024 in Dubai from May

The campaign is an invitation to global tourists to explore the lesser-known destinations of India's diverse landscapes during the summer season.

Moving away its focus from traditional tourism strategies, the campaign spotlighted 50 enchanting getaways across four corners of the country from the snow-capped peaks of Gulmarg, Patnitop, Auli in Jammu and Kashmir to the lush valleys of Wayanad in Kerala. The curated list of 50 summer hotspots getaways also include destinations like Pithoragarh, Auli, Chopta

Valley, Binsar in Uttarakhand; Bir Billing, Kinnaur and Tirath Valley in Himachal Pradesh giving travelers a wide range of options to explore, from serene

levs "By diverting attention from overcrowded tourist hotspots to these hidden treasures, the Ministry aims to reach out to a wider audience, including potential foreign tourists as well as alleviate strain on pop-

ular destinations and ensure that India's summer getaways are not confined to domestic travelers alone," said Rajnish Kaistha (Sr. Vice President) of hill stations to lush green valthe International Association of Tourists Operators (IATO).

The Ministry's tagline says it all. "From the snowy peaks of the Himalayas to the misty hills of the Western Ghats, from the serene lakes of Kerala to the cascading waterfalls of Mizoram, India's got the

about these destinations, the Ministry has ensured that the campaign reaches a wider audience, including potential for-eign tourists who may not be familiar with the hidden gems

of India. The campaign went live on Monday and social media handles of 'Incredible India' have already shared a teaser and some glimpses of this "segmented offering" in its run-up. Arabian Travel Mart is one of the key events in the global tourism arena.

It is largely targeted towards drawing the foreign tourists by challenging the notion that India is too hot for summer travel, as the Indian subcontinent has a range of weathers, sources had said here on May 3."The event marks a significant step in strengthening India's presence in the Middle East tourism market," the min-

resounding entry, aiming to capture the entirety of the UAE market. Leading a delegation comprising tour operators, luxury hotels, wellness resorts, and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, India is poised to showcase itself as a 365-day destination," the statement said. India's participation in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 holds immense potential for the tourism industry and the economy at large, they said.

The event provides a platform for the Indian tourism players to exhibit their offerings, forge alliances within the industry and attract visitors from the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. This, in turn, is expected to bolster revenue generation and foster job creation within the tourism sector, the statement said.

"The pavilion has made a

 $T_{\rm Commandants'\ Conclave}^{\rm he\ sixth\ edition\ of}$ was held on Tuesday at Military Institute of Technology, Pune and participants brainstormed on charting the course for future defence strategies in nurturing the future leaders of Indian Armed Forces, Defence Ministry said here.

Giving details, officials said the meet was held under the aegis of Head Quarters Integrated Defence Staff. The Commandants of esteemed Armed Forces Training Institutions and War Colleges along with other senior leadership of Armed forces attended the conclave.

Senior leadership gathered at MILIT, Pune and exchanged insights, shared best practices at institutions and strategised on building future-ready Forces. This landmark event

Government to formulate standards for over 2,000 medical devices

an industry event

Meditech Stackathon 2024'

organized by the Department

with

laboration

Industry (CII).

underscores Indian Armed Forces' commitment to continuous improvement, innovation and collaboration in the face of evolving global challenges.

This conclave served as a platform for the commandants and decision-makers of AFTIs to engage in open dialogue and discussions on fostering joint culture of learning and adoption of new technologies in

training the future leaders of the Armed Forces.

During the conclave, a wide range of key topics on strategic-resilience, technological advancement, human capital development, interoperability and jointness were discussed to harness innovation, technological advancement and to leverage the best practices of institutions for ensuring world class training at the AFTIs.

Indian Naval ships reach Singapore to enhance ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In an effort to further enhance bilateral defence ties, Indian naval ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet arrived at Singapore on Monday, Navy said here on Tuesday.

Giving details, officials said the Indian team was accorded a warm welcome by personnel of Republic of Singapore Navy and High Commissioner of India in Singapore. The visit is part of the operational deployment of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea.

Moreover, this visit is poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two mar-



itime nations through a series values of both navies The Indian Navy and Republic of engagements and activities. During the ships' stay in harof Singapore Navy have had bour, various activities planned robust relations spanning three decades of cooperation, coor-dination and collaboration with to be undertaken include interactions with the High Commission of India, profesregular visits, exchange of best sional interactions with the practices, and reciprocal train-Republic of Singapore Navy as ing arrangements. The curalso academia and communirent deployment underscores ty outreach amongst other the strong linkages between both the navies. activities, reflecting the shared

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Government is in the process of formulating standards for over 2,000 medical devices being produced in the country in order to make them globally competitive. "Zero defect, full effect, this is our mission. Through BIS, we are making product standards for medical devices which would be comparable to ISO. We have already set standards for 1,500 products," Department of Pharmaceuticals Secretary Arunish Chawla said on Tuesday

Highlighting the critical need to focus on quality to ensure that India becomes globally competitive, he noted that the government is in the process of formulating standards for over 2,000 medical devices being produced in the country in order to make



them globally competitive.

"Right now our med-tech sector is 75-80 per cent import dependent. In the next five years, we want to bring down this import dependence to less than 50 per cent," Chawla said while speaking to

The formulation of standards for around 500 products is in the process, he added. Government and industry should work together to bring down import dependence in the medical device segment to below 50 per cent over the next five years, said the senior official.

CII National Medical Technology Forum Chairman Himanshu Baid highlighted the need for enhanced data collation mechanisms to address gaps in product con-sumption and production within India.

Chawla further stressed on the need to produce quality products for global markets and noted that the government is trying to enhance standards of manufacturing process.

Chawla noted that the indusof Pharmaceuticals in coltry is also focusing on creatthe Confederation of Indian ing quality systems to get export certification which is

followed across overseas markets.

He noted that the PLI scheme for medical devices has played a stellar role in the growth of the segment.

"Around 150 medical devices, which used to be imported earlier, are now being produced in the country...Even exports have started now of such products," Chawla said. Exports have overtaken imports in consumables and disposables during last year, he said, and urged the industry to continue with the momentum in other pillars of

the med-tech sector. India's Med Tech industry is poised to grow to USD 50 bil-lion by 2030 from the current level of USD 14 billion. India currently ranks as the fourth largest market for medical devices in Asia and stands among the top 20 globally. Net imports for 2022-23 stood at USD 4,101 million.

Want 400 seats to ensure Congress does not put Babri lock on Ram temple: PM

PTI DHAR (MP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he wants the BJP-led NDA to win 400 seats in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls to ensure the Congress does not bring back Article 370 in Kashmir and put a "Babri lock" on the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Addressing a rally at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, Modi also slammed RJD president Lalu Prasad's statement over favouring reservation benefits to Muslims.

He said the opposition INDIA bloc's "conspiracy" is deeper and it wants all reservation of the SCs, STs and OBCs for its vote bank.

He also accused the Congress of belittling Dr Babasaheb adding the Ambedkar, opposition party has started saying he had a very little role in framing the Constitution.

"The truth is that the Congress parivar deeply hates Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," Modi said.

The PM said the Congress is

spreading rumours that if he gets 400 Lok Sabha seats, he will change the Constitution. It seems as if the Congress people's intelligence is focussed on their vote bank, he said. "It is important for the country's people to know the BJP-led NDA already has 400plus seats in Parliament. We used this number to scrap Article 370 (which provided

special status to Jammu and Kashmir)," the PM said. "Modi wants 400 seats so that the Congress won't bring back Article 370 to spoil the game, Modi wants 400 seats so that the Congress won't put a Babri lock on the Ram temple in Avodhva," he said. The PM said that about 14 days

back, he challenged the Congress to give in writing to the country's 140 crore people that it will not give reservation on the basis of religion.

"Secondly, I asked them to give to Muslims by committing in writing that they will never dacoity from the existing OBC snatch reservation being given they will never give reservation mouths," he said.



quota, but they are not to SCs, STs and OBC and responding and sitting silently thirdly, to give in writing that by putting a lock on their

The PM said he wants 400 Lok Sabha seats to prevent Congress from "dacoity" of the OBC quota to benefit its vote bank

We have also used these 400

plus seats to extend SC/ST quota for 10 years, appoint a tribal woman as the country's President for the first time and to provide reservation to women," Modi said.

The PM said he is asking for 400 seats so that he can stop every conspiracy of the Congress and INDIA alliance. "Modi is asking for 400 seats so that the Congress does not hand over the country's vacant land and islands to other countries, it does not take away reservation given to SC/ST/OBCs and give it to its vote bank, and does not declare all castes of its vote bank as OBC overnight," he said.

Targeting Lalu Prasad, Modi said the Congress is making him "dance on their head".

'Their leader who has eaten animal fodder, has been convicted by court in a corruption case and is out on bail due to health reasons is saying Muslims should not just get reservation but all the reservation should be given to Muslims."

'This means they want all the reservation to Muslims by snatching it from the SCs, STs and OBCs," Modi said.

These people are doing this because they are counting their

remaining breaths with the help of this "very vote bank", made the most significant contribution in the making of everything else is over, nothing the Constitution," Modi said. He said the Congress has is left with them, Modi said. stabbed Ambedkar and the

said.

PM said.

"I was saying they will cut Constitution in the back. some part of the reservation The Congress has sunk so deep and give it on the basis of into the quagmire of appeasement politics that it religion but the conspiracy is deeper. "They are saying on the day of cannot see anything else, Modi

voting that they want to give all the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs to the community," he said. Muslim

"Do you accept this game of Congress and its allies? Should such people lose their deposits or not?" Modi asked. He said Ambedkar had

opposed religion-based reservation. "Should such people be kept

away from politics forever or not? This will be the biggest tribute to BR Ambedkar," he said.

When Congress was out of power, Ambedkar was given the Bharat Ratna, he added. "The Congress has started saying that he (Ambedkar) had a very little role in framing the Constitution and Pandit Nehru Modi said the opposition was defeated in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls, destroyed in the second phase, and whatever is left of it in the third phase today will also collapse. Because the whole country has decided 'fir ek baar," he said, to which people added "Modi sarkar". Modi said these "dynasts wrote false history to glorify themselves and now

"If Congress has its way, it will say its vote bank has the first

right to live in India," he added.

"Till Modi is alive, he will foil attempts to erase India's

identity in the name of fake

and pseudo secularism," the

have started creating lies about the Constitution also.

Uddhav totally

opposite to

Women voters of Guwahati LS seat seek better future for kids, secure environment

PTI GUWAHAT

From aspiration of a better future for their children to the hope that the government will "work for the people" to appeal for a secure environment for office-goers, women voted with diverse issues in mind in Assam's Guwahati constituency on Tuesday, where two female candidates are locked in a direct fight.

As polling for the prestigious seat commenced along with three other constituencies in the third and final phase in the state, voters braved inclement weather to exercise their right of franchise.

Women, who outnumber men by over 34,000 in terms of total voters in Guwahati, had their agenda in mind while choosing their representatives.

Out of the total 20,36,846 voters in Guwahati, 10,35,588 are women, 10,01,200 are men and 58 are from the third gender. BJP is seeking to retain the seat for the fourth consecutive term through its candidate Bijuli Kalita Medhi, while the Congress has fielded Mira Barthakur Goswami. Guwahati has been ov a woman BIP renresentec



five model-cum-all do for our country. We should the women polling stations, set vote as politically conscious up in Kendriya Vidyalaya, citizens. We expect the new Khanapara, told PTI. This is the first time she is better country and more voting in a Lok Sabha development," the senior election, and she came with journalist and author added. her three-year-old son who Nilufar Rahman, a school had a nice time playing with teacher, hoped for a more the balloons which were used secure environment for

will take up these matters," Rahman said before getting clicked at the polling station's government will work for a selfie point.

Octogenarian Suparna Das sounded less enthusiastic about the government addressing the people's problems but was out in the rain to cast her vote.

Abusing Sanatan culture now a fashion for Opposition: Yogi

PTI SITAPUR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed that abusing Sanatan culture and questioning the existence of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna has become a "fashion" for the opposition leaders.

Supporters of the Samajwadi Party open fire on Lord Ram's devotees and perform 'aarti' for terrorists. They demand the withdrawal of cases against the perpetrators. They celebrate the death of Lord Ram's devotees and shed crocodile tears over the demise of gangsters," he said. Addressing election rallies in the state, Adityanath said after the third phase of polling for the general elections on Tuesday, voting for over half of the Lok Sabha seats would be over and the nation is "resonating with the slogan 'Abki Baar 400 Paar'". "The new India stands

resolute against terrorism, responding with strength," he said. At election meetings in

Sitapur and Misrikh parliamentary constituencies, experiencing a revitalization, crore people in India are the BJP leader alleged that Naimisharanya is also ence of God and abusing Sanatan culture has become a "fashion' for the opposition. He urged people to exercise their franchise to show those who insult Lord Ram and Lord Krishna their rightful place. "How can we accept those



who raise questions about Lord Ram and Lord Krishna? Ultimately, it is the people of the country who will respond their through votes," Adityanath said.

He said that BJP's doubleengine government has taken up several initiatives for the development of Naimisharanya, a pilgrimage spot in Sitapur.

"Just as Ayodhya is undergoing a tra ation Plans are underway to introduce air services and electric bus services along with the construction of guest houses for the visitors," Adityanath said.

Balasaheb, says Shinde PTI THANE In an all-out attack on his former party chief-turned-rival, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday accused Uddhav Thackeray of doing "dogli rajneeti" (double-faced

politics) and alleged that his predecessor was plotting an attack on his house while pretending to be making a peace offer for his return to the Shiv Sena after they split nearly two years ago.

Shinde, who now heads the "real" Shiv Sena, also said Uddhav was totally opposite to the party founder Balasaheb Thackeray and was only interested in furthering his self-interest, unlike his father who always stood by his party's workers and never went back

on his words. In an exclusive interview with PTI at his residence here, Shinde alleged that Uddhav Thackeray abandoned Balasaheb's ideology for the greed of the chief minister's air when he broke ties with the BJP to join hands with the

We are the real Shiv Sena and

taking forward Balasaheb's

vision of Hindutva and the state's development," he said.

Congress.

MP since 2009.

"It is for a better future for my child that I have voted today. We could not manage to rise much in life, but we do hope that we can give a good education to our son and the government will help us in it," Pushpa Boro, a voter at one of

PTI BHOPAL

decorate the polling to station.

Anuradha Sarma Pujari, also a voter in the same polling station, said it is with the expectation of a better future that she cast her vote. "Everyone should come and

Voters exercise franchise in nine

LS seats of Madhya Pradesh

office-g ers like her and two women candidates in the Sahitya Akademi awardee fray, she was optimistic that they would be considerate of their problems. "As working women, we face

many difficulties, including security issues, proper public transport and lack of other vote as this is the least we can facilities. I hope the new MP

was deferred due to the death

of a candidate. In all, 127 candidates,

including nine women, are in the fray in the third phase of

Bhopal has the highest number of 22 candidates,

while Bhind has the lowest at

7. Voters include 92.68 lakh

men, 84.83 lakh women, and

491 members of the third

gender, while 1.66 lakh voters

the age of 85, and 1,804 are

100 plus years old, the poll

As many as 5.25 lakh voters

are in the age group of 18-19

the elections.

official said.

vears

with lways voted possible. There has been no change in our conditions whoever may have formed the government. But I still feel it is my duty and I fulfil it. I do hope the government will work for the people," Das, who was accompanied by her nephew, added.

Addressing another election meeting, the senior BJP leader

claimed that while the

solidarity with the poor. They have ensured that the government provides facilities and financial assistance to the needy for their treatment. During the SP and Congress rule these funds were misappropriated for personal gain," Adityanath alleged.

congratulate the election commission for conducting the entire election in a voter-

friendly manner. The conduct

of our election, our election

management is such that it

can be a learning process for

Big universities of the world

should carry out a case study on Indian elections," Modi

said. "This year, almost 64 countries of the world are

going to polls. There should

be a comparison of elections

between India and other

countries. This year, the

festival of democracy is not

only in India but around the

He said he would congratulate

the Election Commission for

adopting good practices of the world in conducting

elections in India. Modi also

praised the Election Commission for adopting modern technology the poll management. Shah cast his

vote at a polling station in

Naranpura locality of Ahmedabad, and appealed to

voters to participate enthusiastically to elect a

stable government committed

Shah greeted, interacted and

even offered autographs to his

supporters as he approached

his polling booth at a sub-

station in Ahmedabad. Shah accompanied his wife Sonal

Shah, son Jay Shah and his

wife to cast his vote.

to make India prosperous.

world," Modi said.

praised

other democracies.

Samaiwadi Party used to arm

the youth with pistols, his

government provided them

opposition, the chief minister

said, "Let the 'supporters of

Pakistan' know that people

are starving in Pakistan, a

nation created after the

partition of India. While

there's a struggle for a

kilogram of flour there, 80

As and MPs s

receiving free ration." "Our MLAs and MPs

jibe at the

with tabs.

Taking a

Uddhav Tkacheray's outfit cannot be called a "Hindutva" party as they joined hands with the Congress which insults Savarkar and they cannot even refer to Balasaheb as "Hindu Hriday Samrat" anymore, he said. Asked whether Uddhav Thackeray called him to come back and offered him the chief minister's post after his rebellion in June 2022, Shinde said, "He sent an emissary to me and while that person was talking to me, he announced he was throwing me out of the

party." "He (Uddhav) was holding a meeting where they called for burning my effigy, attacking my house, those sorts of things were happening. These meetings were happening when they had supposedly sent people to talk to me. 'Dogli rajneeti, chehre pe alag, pet mein alag, honthon pe alag (This is double-faced politics, something on the face and something totally opposite behind it)," the chief minister

said. 'Balasaheb was something else. He will say whatever he has to say and he will never go back on his words. Whatever he would say once, will become cast in iron. There can't be another Balasaheb Thackeray," he added.

The 60-year-old Shiv Sena leader, who became the chief minister soon after parting ways with Uddhav Thackeray and with the support of the BJP, said that when assembly elections happened in 2019, the people's mandate was for the BJP-Shiv Sena government. "But he (Uddhav) abandoned the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray for the greed of the chief minister's chair. We are now taking forward Balasaheb's ideology and that forms the foundation of this Government.

At least 62.28 per cent of franchise till 5 pm in nine Lok Sabha seats of Madhya Pradesh in the third phase of the general elections on Of the nine Lok Sabha seats, Rajgarh recorded the highest 72.08 per cent turnout, followed by Vidisha with 69.2 per cent, Guna with 68.93 per

two sons at a polling booth in Sehore district.

Morena with 55.25 per cent and Bhind with 50.96 per cent, till 5 pm, the official

chief ministers Chouhan, Former Singh Shivraj Digvijaya Singh and state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president V D Sharma were

Tuesday, a poll official said.

cent, Betul with 67.97 per cent, Sagar with 61.7 per cent,

Bhopal with 58.42 per cent,

Gwalior with 57.86 per cent,

said.

among the early voters. Congress leader Digvijaya Singh and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who are contesting the polls from Guna, Rajgarh and respectively, will not be able to vote for themselves as the former is a registered voter of Bhopal, and the latter is registered to vote from Gwalior, party sources said. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the BJP candidate from Vidisha seat, exercised franchise with his wife, Sadhna Singh, and



his native village, Jait, in Polling began at 7 am and will

conclude at 6 pm across 20,456 polling stations, including 1,043 managed by women personnel and 75 by

Divyang employees, an election official said. To ensure smooth polling, the administration made the local candidates sit in the police control room in Morena in the Gwalior-Chambal region, which is considered

are 'divyangjan' (people with disabilities), 88,106 are above sensitive area. made BJP The police candidate Shivmangal Singh Tomar, BSP's Ramesh Chandra Garg and Congress candidate Satyapal Sikarwar sit in the police control room, Superintendent of Police Shailendra Singh Chouhan said.

The candidates came to the police control room with their consent and sat together, as it phase on May 13.

PTI AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cast his vote for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city and praised the Election Commission for conducting the polls "almost violence-free" and in a voterfriendly manner in the first two phases.

Ahmedabad is part of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, from where PM Modi's cabinet colleague and Union Home Minister Amit Shah is seeking his reelection. On the occasion, PM Modi said the conduct of elections in India and their management can be a learning process for other democracies, and added that leading universities in the world should carry out a case study on the country's polls. He also underlined the importance of voting as he called it a special gift. PM Modi, who arrived in Ahmedabad on Monday night, reached the polling booth at Nishan Public School in Ranip locality of Ahmedabad city soon after polling began at 7 am, and cast his vote.

Of the 29 Lok Sabha seats in Shah accompanied the PM when he arrived there to cast Madhya Pradesh, polling for 12 seats took place in the first his vote. Modi greeted people, two phases on April 19 and 26. The remaining eight seats gave autographs to them on will go to polls in the fourth his way to the polling booth. He shook hands with many



Modi praises EC and underlines

importance of voting

was being carried by her mother in the crowd and spent some light moments with the child. A woman from the crowd tied a 'rakhi' to him as a token of sisterly affection. Before entering the polling booth, the prime minister bowed down to his elder brother Somabhai Modi.

He cast his vote after getting his finger inked. After coming out of the polling booth, Modi waved to the crowd and showed his inked finger.

Modi is a registered voter from Ranip area. Somabhai Modi lives near Nishan School, which falls under Sabarmati assembly segment of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Talking to reporters later, the PM appealed to people to come out in large numbers to vote. "Matdaan samanya daan nahi. Hamare desh main daan

ka mahatva hai (Voting is not a common gift. In our country, a lot of importance is attached to giving donations). People of the country should vote in large numbers keeping this feeling in their hearts," Modi said.

Today is the third phase of voting and campaigning will go on for almost three weeks and four more phases of voting will be held, he said. "As a voter from Gujarat, I have been voting from here (Nishan School) for the last many years, and our Amitbhai (Shah) is the candidate of BJP from here," Modi said. "Today is the day of celebrations of democracy. I will congratulate the Election Commission, security forces and officials involved in conducting the first two phases of polls almost violence-free. In the past, violence during elections was very common," he said. would also like to "I

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The die is cast

The pivotal third phase of the elections concluded with a low turnout, featuring prominent contenders

esterday, Prime Minister Modi exercised his voting right. He was vocal about India's exemplary democratic process on the global stage. Indeed, the complexity of Indian elections, given the vastness of the nation and its electorate, makes their execution a challenging feat. As the 2024 Lok Sabha election reaches midway, India's political arena brims with fervour, anticipation, and meticulous scrutiny. The third phase of voting holds particular significance, especially for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with voting taking place in Gujarat, the home turf of Prime Minister Modi, and Amit Shah, the Home Minister. The presence of both leaders casting their votes amplifies the importance of this phase, shaping the election's narrative thus far. The third phase encompassed 11 States and Union territories, witnessing 93 constituencies participating in the electoral process. Notably, the BJP secured victory in the Surat constituency in Gujarat uncontested. With voting in 283 Lok Sabha seats (52 per cent of total Lok Sabha seats)



complete, the election is less than a month away from its logical conclusion. After four more phases, the results would be out on June 4. What set the third phase apart was the presence of several constituencies where notable figures were contesting. This phase hosted several prominent candidates, including Amit Shah (BJP) from Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat; Digvijaya Singh (Congress) from Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh; Shivraj Singh Chouhan (BJP) from Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh; Dimple Yadav (Samajwadi Party) from Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh; Supriya Sule (NCP - Sharad Pawar) from Baramati, Maharashtra; Jyotiraditya Scindia (BJP) from Guna, Madhya Pradesh; Pralhad Joshi (BJP) from Dharwad,

Karnataka; and KS Eshwarappa (BJP) from Shimoga, Karnataka, among others. The Election Commission reported a turnout of 66.14 per cent and 66.71 per cent for the first and second phases, respectively. The third phase was no different in terms of voter turnout. With the completion of the third phase, the fate of 283 Lok Sabha seats has been sealed, marking the election's midpoint with 52% of seats voted upon. The persistently low turnout across all phases raises concerns for both democracy and political parties, each grappling with the challenge of ensuring voter participation. For the BJP, the third phase holds immense significance. As a party entrenched in power since 2014, it faces the daunting task of not only maintaining its stronghold but also expanding its influence across diverse regions of the nation. As the Lok Sabha election unfolds, discernible trends and dynamics offer insights into the nation's pulse. Despite facing formidable challenges, the BJP leverages its organisational strength, robust campaign machinery, and Modi's charismatic leadership to maintain its competitive edge. However, navigating through economic concerns, social tensions, and regional disparities presents formidable obstacles. The outcome of this phase serves as a litmus test for the BJP's policies and leadership shaping the trajectory of Indian politics.



Global South's cultural diplomacy CHAITANYA K PRASAD



Cannes transcends its role as a mere film festival; it serves as a beacon of cultural exchange, artistic exploration, and industry innovation

s we inch closer to the second week of May, excitement for the forthcoming 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival is reaching a crescendo. The Cannes Film Festival, since its inception, has been hailed as the platform cele-brating the joy and creativity of cinema, the high point of confluence of cultures, and talents, and an assembly of masters of storytelling. In recent years, its stage has increasingly spotlighted the cinematic voices of the Global South, a trend underscored by the burgeoning presence of films from Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Building on last year's diverse selection from Japan, China, and South Korea, Cannes in its 77th edition, from 14th to 25th May 2024, reaffirms its commitment to amplifying varied narratives and perspectives. This year's edition promises to continue this trajectory, featuring standout entries like "All We Imagine As Light" by Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia, "Boku No Ohisama (My Sunshine)" by the acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Hiroshi Okuyama, "Viet And Nam" by Vietnamese filmmaker Truong Minh Quý, and "The Village Next to Paradise" by Somalian filmmaker Mo Harawe. These selections highlight the new creative talent spots for cinema.

With the evolving world, there is a deeper significance highlighted by the recognition of cinema as a potent tool of soft power by countries in the Global South. Across the continents of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, nations have increasingly acknowledged the power of storytelling through cinema as a means to amplify their cultural influence and enhance their global standing. Over the past two years Cannes Film Festival has seen a dynamic shift in programming, from a European narrative to a more perceptive Southern inclusion and interconnection. In the borderless world that we live in today, the prominence of the Global South



boundaries, ushering in a new era where technology plays a pivotal role in shaping interactions. This transition has reverberated across various realms, including the cinematic sphere, where soft power finds expression on prestigious platforms. Cannes truly give the Global South a platform for creativity on the silver screen

Nomination and participation in prestigious festivals like Cannes are not merely accolades but recognition of the importance of soft power in the creative ecosystem. By showcasing their cinematic prowess and an amalgamation of their creative skills on a global stage, countries in the Global South seek to assert their cultural identity, foster cross-cultural dialogue, and bolster diplomatic ties. In an era where cultural diplomacy holds increasing sway, the Cannes Film Festival serves as a creative platform for nations to assert their soft power through the medium of cinema. Through their cinematic endeavours, these filmmakers become cultural ambassadors, bridging divides and fostering mutual understanding between nations.

At the helm of the 77th Cannes Film Festival jury stands Greta Gerwig, both an accomplished actor and a filmmaker. Gerwig's appointment signals a broader effort towards gen-

der representation at Cannes, a realm historically dominated by male voices. Symbolising a step towards inclusivity and recognition of the invaluable contributions of women in shaping cinematic discourse. As the jury list for this year awaits announcement, anticipation brews for a lineup that mirrors the festival's commit-**BY SHOWCASING** ment to diversity, echoing last year's eclectic mix of talents THEIR CINEMATIC from Argentina, Afghanistan, Morocco, Zambia, and PROWESS AND AN beyond.

AMALGAMATION OF Amidst the glitz and glamour, the Marché du Film emerges THEIR CREATIVE as a vital nexus for industry professionals, offering a plat-SKILLS ON A GLOBAL form for networking, deal-STAGE, COUNTRIES making, and creative exchange. With its finger firmly on the IN THE GLOBAL pulse of evolving industry dynamics, the Marché du Film SOUTH SEEK TO embraces innovation and **ASSERT THEIR** adaptation. Recognising the need to cater to the ever-CULTURAL IDENTITY, changing landscape of filmmaking, it champions emerg-FOSTER CROSSing trends, technologies, and CULTURAL voices, fostering a conducive environment for the flourish-DIALOGUE, AND ing growth of the global film industry. As over 14,000 indus-BOLSTER try professionals converge in **DIPLOMATIC TIES** Cannes annually to present and explore nearly 4,000 films

Indeed, Cannes itself is a reflection of society's evolution, a microcosm of shifting cultural paradigms and technological advancements. Embracing the ethos of change, the Festival de Cannes introduces innovative elements to its programming, staying at the vanguard of storytelling in the digital age. One of the nominations for this year's Immersive Competition includes 'Maya: The Birth of a Superhero, an XR experience created by Poulomi Basu, an Indian artist and CJ Clarke.

The announcement of eight projects as part of the Immersive Competition heralds a bold foray into uncharted territory, encompassing location-based virtual reality, mixed reality experiences, projection mapping, and holo-graphic works. Amid these shifts, India shines bright with the participation of Payal Kapadia, Sandhya Suri's 'Santosh', FTII's "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" and the screening of Shyam Benegal's "Manthan".

As the global cinematic landscape continues to evolve, Cannes remains steadfast in its mission to celebrate the myriad voices that enrich the tapestry of world cinema. (The writer is former additional director general, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; *Views are personal)*

is a group has risen despite being dominated by multipolarity. Enhanced communication and the growing effects of globalisation have blurred geographical

and projects, the Marche du Film serves as a catalyst, urg-ing professionals to elevate their business acumen and seize new opportunities.

men show their ink-marked finger after casting votes for the 3rd phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Bareilly

Evolution of monetary policymaking in India



With the changing nature of inflation and macroeconomic turbulence, remaining committed to inflation-targeting seems daunting

◄ he history of monetary policymaking in India dates back to the preindependence era, but it gained significant momentum and structure post-independence. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established in 1935, as a private shareholders' bank and was nationalized in 1949, giving the Government greater control over monetary policy and credit system. With the establishment of the Planning Commission in 1951, emphasis was laid on the direct and active role of Central banking. A breakthrough year was

1969 when 14 private sector banks were nationalized. It led to transforming monetary policy into 'credit planning' and taking up a 'com-mand approach' (Khatkhate, 1990). Soon the economy suffered due to the two oil price shocks (1973-75 and 1979-81) leading to critical economic crises, which led to large-scale monetary expansion in the form of Government debt to support fiscal policy. It badly hit the inflation situation when it reached 23% in 1974-75. The condition worsened and



became dismal when India had to borrow largely from the IMF and also faced a critical BOP situation. Hence, the revision of the monetary policy framework was the way ahead. This was done by appointment of a committee (which came to known as the be Chakravarty Committee (1985) chaired by Sukhmoy Chakravarty) to review the functioning of the monetary system by the then Governor of RBI, Dr Manmohan Singh.

The RBI Governor, C Rangarajan, introduced the Multiple Indicator Approach (MIA) in 1998, incorporating various macroeconomic factors like interest rates, inflation, exchange rates, output growth, employment,

banking stability, among others, into the monetary policy framework, moving away from the unreliable M3 target due to economic liberalisation's unpredictability. This provided monetary authorities the flexibility to cater to a broad forum of economic disruptions. The economy was coordinating well with the MIA till the

Global Financial Crisis of 2008 dawned, and a highorder expansionary fiscal and monetary policy was floated to capture the receding economic growth. This jeopardised inflation management by the RBI with the inflation gliding into double digits in 2009-10. The RBI became hawkish and between March 2010 and October 2011, the repo rate was increased by 325 basis points. It started preparing for inflation as the primary goal of monetary policy. Finally, in May 2016, the RBI formally adopted inflation-targeting (IT), the target

being a 4 per cent inflation rate, with a relaxation of 2 per cent on both sides, to handle unforeseen macroeconomic disruptions. foreign trade, capital flows, Taming inflation helps

counter investor uncertainty and business sentiments anchors inflationary expectations, unfavourable exchange rates and balance of payments, besides supporting receding purchasing power.

The IT did not get a fair chance to prove itself due to economic disturbances like Demonetisation and the Pandemic, and the current geo-political unrest has led to supply-side inflationary pressures that are difficult to control with IT, which is more efficient against demand-side inflation.

With the changing nature of inflation from demand to the supply side, macroeconomic turbulence, and burgeoning uncertainties, remaining committed to IT seems daunting. The RBI needs to frame a comprehensive policy to make determined efforts to address and supplement IT with prudent actions to counter supplyside disruptions especially, affecting food prices.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of *Delhi; views are personal)*

JP AGGARWAL'S COMMITMENT

Madam — Apropos the news article, "I have not lost touch with Chandni Chowk people: Aggarwal," published on May 6, this is my response. In a political landscape rife with rhetoric and rivalry, Jai Prakash Aggarwal emerges as a steadfast figure, deeply rooted in Chandni Chowk's tapestry. Despite electoral setbacks, his commitment to constituents remains resolute. Aggarwal's recent critique of Prime Minister Modi's language underscores a concern for decorum in public discourse, a sentiment often lost in the cacophony of contemporary politics.

His indictment of the BJP's alleged misuse of investigative agencies reflects a broader apprehension about democratic norms and the rule of law. Beyond partisan skirmishes, Aggarwal's focus on local issues-traders' welfare, infrastructure, and healthcare—reveals a genuine concern for Chandni Chowk's residents. His vision for the area, encompassing tourism, urban renewal, and social welfare, speaks to a holistic approach to governance. Amidst shifting political alliances, Aggarwal's unwavering commitment to his constituency stands out as a beacon of stability. As he embarks on his eighth electoral campaign, his pledge to serve remains unyielding, a testament to the enduring spirit of public service. Zoya Chatterjee | Chandigarh

VOTERS' DISILLUSIONMENT

Madam - Apropos the news article, "Narendra Modi introduces India to its Ashtalakshmis," published on May 4, this is my response. The narrative of electoral promises, unfulfilled commitments, and regional disparities echoes through the decades of Indian politics. From the inception of the democratic process to contemporary times, the saga persists. The cyclical pattern of pledges made during elections, often forgotten once power is secured, perpetuates a sense of disillusionment among the populace. Despite

Make mistakes to learn something new



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

propos the news article, "Oops, I Dropped The Lemon Tart'," published on April 28, this is my response. Gyaneshwar Dayal's piece in The Pioneer paints a vivid canvas of Chef Massimo Bottura's recent culinary odyssey in New Delhi. Bottura, not merely a chef but a maestro of gastronomy and a beacon of philanthropy, brought the essence of Osteria Francescana to India's capital once more. His partnership with The

Revolution, persistent challenges like hunger and malnutrition endure, revealing systemic failures in addressing agricultural productivity. The poignant juxtaposition of floods ravaging the North while droughts parch the South underscores the urgent need for holistic solutions, like river interlinking.

However, bureaucratic inertia and political apathy have impeded meaningful progress. Amidst this backdrop, the Northeast emerges as a beacon of transformation, propelled by visionary leadership and concerted efforts to integrate the region into the national fabric. The narrative of Modi's North East Story encapsulates this metamorphosis, beckoning readers to witness the evolution firsthand and embrace the region's vibrant culture and potential.

Amaira Singhania | Bengaluru

WORK FROM HOME CHALLENGES

Madam - Apropos the news article, "Mastering self-leadership during work from home," published on May 6, this is significant milestones like the Green my response. The transition to remote

Leela Palace New Delhi illuminated the culinary scene, offering an unforgettable experience steeped in innovation and sustainability.

The narrative delves into Bottura's culinary philosophy, highlighting his penchant for turning mistakes into masterpieces, epitomised by the iconic "Oops! I Dropped the Lemon Tart." His interactive session at The Leela, where he shared the genesis of this dish, revealed profound insights into creativity and embracing imperfection. Through his culinary prowess and philanthropic endeavours, Bottura transcends the role of a chef, becoming a global inspiration. His anticipation for a simple breakfast with underprivileged children reflects his humility and dedication to making a difference beyond the kitchen. In essence, Bottura's visit not only tantalised taste buds but also stirred hearts, leaving an indelible mark on India's culinary landscape

Neha Gupta | Delhi

work has been a mixed bag, with some relishing newfound flexibility while others struggle to delineate between work and home life. Blurred boundaries breed conflicts, taxing individuals' energy and focus. Boundary theory sheds light on these dynamics, emphasising the impact of role transitions on work-home conflicts.

Employers must support employees, but self-leadership is equally vital. As remote work becomes ubiquitous, individuals must proactively manage their roles. Yet, challenges persist, from lacking managerial support to battling distractions. Selfleadership emerges as a beacon amid these complexities. Its principles empower individuals to adapt, innovate, and thrive in remote environments. As remote work becomes the norm, mastering selfleadership will be indispensable for professional success and personal wellbeing alike.

Reyansh Joshi | Mumbai

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FIRSTCOLUMN OVERCOMING BONDAGE OF THINKING

God's grace frees us from anguish, quides us on the right path



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

his is a cruel fact. We are hopelessly tied down by our thinking, especially negative. What do you see on roads? Older folks are engrossed in thoughts. What happened? They realized that they were not so great after all. But the obstinate ego would not allow them to seek help where it is available. If a solution to a problem is to be found, it must be; this is their thinking. Sure, but how long would you meditate on it? There should be a time limit. No, that is why obsession is a very common problem.

Other ages are no better. The younger ones are guilty of lusty thoughts. With the advent of cell phones and the internet, age is no longer a bar. What a shame when one is supposed to be in the 'brahmacharya' (celibacy) stage. As one gets older, thoughts of earning the maximum amount of money capture the imagination. There is nothing wrong with it except our expectations should be based on reality. Otherwise, there will be a lot of pain. What is common to all ages is fear of different kinds. This is a real problem, which causes all kinds of mental diseases. This particular problem requires help at the highest level, that is from God, but will we turn to Him? Also common to all ages are hate, anger, enmity, etc. There is hardly any chance of relief when we think that we are the centre of the universe, even though there are eight billion of us. If that were true, there would be eight billion centres of the universe. See, how silly such thinking is. This is what is the basis of our thought process. The frog mentality of thinking one's limited knowledge is everything leads many to dismiss spiritual practices as simplistic, when in fact they are meant to be easily accessible to all



Let us get to the bottom of this all-pervasive problem. What is this mind? It is a faculty given to us for thinking, willing and feeling. It is subtle, i.e. far more strong than the gross body. The mind affects the body, as we all have experienced. When we are disturbed, our bodies get affected; their working is disturbed. Why has God given us a faculty, which can hurt us so much? He had to to give us free will, which can bring bliss, as indicated by Lord Krishna, 'A person, having consciousness, unattached to external sense objects, enjoys that happiness within, which is extraordinary. He who, with consciousness united to Brahman, finds eternal joy. God's kindness lies in our return to Him, part of the Cosmic Design, where independence is limited, and control rests with God. So we must turn to God to control our uncontrolled and negative thinking. Lord Krishna States, "Undoubtedly the mind is very difficult to control due to its fickle nature, but it can be brought under control by practice and by detachment from inappropriate sense objects." (6.35) This practice has to be with help from God. Otherwise, there will be partial success only. As we age, our focus shifts towards God, as our physical pleasures diminish, highlighting the purpose of the "Ashram" system for spiritual growth in later years. Therefore, God has made provisions for unlimited mental enjoyment. But we have to seek shelter from God for that. We should not be turning to drinks, etc. for compensation to get over our woes, because they send us deeper into more suffering. Fear is a defence mechanism but only in the limited sense. It should alert us to take curative action. But if it overtakes our thinking, fear becomes a serious problem, as all mental diseases point to. The conclusion is: that we must turn to God with determination sooner than later. Then God will not only free us from the bondage of painful thinking but will also help us in all matters with His guidance and help. This is the way the System has been designed.

Elected leaders need to rethink



analys \$ 07

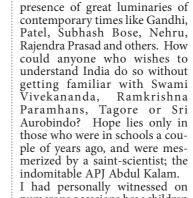
It is time that elected representatives live up to the expectations of their electors as responsible, honest and devoted community leaders



hese are election times and each one of us is a part of the process. These are also times of model code of conduct in the shape of guidelines for politi-cal parties and candidates. There are restrictions imposed by the election commission on the maximum expenditure a candidate could incur. Everyone knows what happens to it! In general, people are no more worried about spiralling high expenses that the spread of elections imposes on the candidate and State exchequer.

The spread of elections leads to avoidable wastage of manpower and other resources required to conduct and complete the process. The worst sufferers are the schoolchildren, as teachers are the most easily available manpower for elections at every stage! Once elected, no one is willing to pave the way for the generation next! Election times also reveal the behavioural decline amongst those who had tasted the fruits of power earlier but were dethroned by the people.

Their frustrations even bring forth utterances that may be blatantly unsocial, per sonal and not acceptable in a civil society. The elders have created conditions that demand innovative action by the young 'millennials' who must realize how their elders have decimated the basic principles of democracy by taking recourse to caste combinations, igniting regional and linguistic sentiments, and creating communal antagonism at the cost of deteriorating social cohesion! Independent India began its new journey at around 18% of literacy, today its boosts to nearly 80% of it despite the population increase of over 100 crores. We are a learning society. Our international standing is at its best after independence. One wonders why the language used by politicians against each other should become so coarse and uncivil. It could put to shame any decent educated person. Respect for the learned, committed and experienced is one of the most liked of the treasures of our heritage which unfortunately stands torn to tatters. India shall never be in a position to ignore the



numerous occasions how children of India fell in love with him. It ARTICULATING was not because of his position or THE NORMAL the Pokhran II, it was because of the love his persona emanated for every child, every Indian! India **EXPECTATIONS** FROM THE stands blessed with numerous such luminaries who could make ELECTED a change in the area around their place. One wishes political aspi-rants learn from APJ, and other REPRESENTATIVE, luminaries how to deal with peo-

personalities right from the panchayat level to the Parliament with whom every individual could feel connected, who may be acknowledged as 'approachable'. All this, and much more; reverberates in one's mind as various inputs concerning the general elections float before everyone. Each one of us who has voted over a dozen times in general elections would love to talk about the drastic change that has occurred in the quality of leadership on a larger scale, the deterioration in mutu-al respect and regard amongst those in public life, in power or opposition.

We are witness to the usage of a language for the opponents that would have shamed everyone some five decades ago. Today, no one seems to be worried about it. The only encouraging sign is that all this is being noted by the voters, and they are despising it. In the long run, one could say with confidence that it would not work in favour of the truants. Sadly enough, the defects of elections about whom Gandhi had written as early as 1922, have reached every stage of elections, including even those of panchayat Raj bod-One must not give up hope. And there is always hope for the better after having reached the bottom. Articulating the normal expectations from the elected representatives, APJ Abdul Kalam was giving voice to every sane Indian: "It has become crucial for us to be clear about what we can rightly expect from our leaders, from panchayat members to local councillors of a municipal corporation to members of parliament." In other words, there has to be ownership. Whether it is the panchayat member, development officer, councillor, MLA MP or minister, they have to at least try to be

the best of their ability to do what they are elected to do. We need a Parliament with a vision, one that has the larger picture in mind and can rise above petty party politics.

How would such a parliament perform? What are how it can play a far more constructive role than it has in the last Lok Sabha?" would also expect that the Hon'ble members of the next Lok Sabha shall firmly and sincerely resolve not to present before the nation any spectacles that disturb the functioning of the August House, and present a poor example before the young of India. What was happening till now, was a matter of serious concern for the last couple of decades. It was precisely articulated with great concern by the veteran politician C. Subramaniam: "The indiscipline that marks the proceedings of parliament and legislatures is a matter of great concern. Not only pandemonium is creat ed obstructing the proceedings of the legislatures but also acts of violence among the members inside the legislatures are becoming common and an almost everyday occurrence. Nobody is prepared to observe the rules of the game. Then how can we expect the masses of the people to observe discipline and respect the laws and regulations?"

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

APJ ABDUL KALAM WAS **GIVING VOICE TO** EVERY SANE INDIAN: "IT HAS BECOME CRUCIAL FOR US TO BE **CLEAR ABOUT** get with gusto. WHAT WE CAN RIGHTLY EXPECT FROM OUR LEADERS, FROM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT"

ie! APJ Addul Kalam was one of the most admired and loved celebrities during the millennial transition to the 21st century. He was a professional leader who led by example, through heart-toheart connections with one and all. His dedication and devotion to the national cause were of the highest order. He inspired, he motivated and he achieved his tar-

He could win over every Indian irrespective of their socio-economic station in life, his profession or his ideological leanings. APJ endeared himself particularly to the children of India in whom he could see the emerging India, the future Inda! He ignited the curiosity and creativity of millions of children. He gave them 'wings of fire'. He entered the Rashtarpati Bhavan with two bags and left with the same after five years. India needs people with such

It is time that future MPs and other elected representatives live up to the expectations of their electors as responsible, honest and devoted community leaders. They have to be a source of inspiration to generations ahead. Let them resolve not to let even a minute of parliament's time be wasted! It would be a great gift to the nation!

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity, views are personal)

Benevolent hearts: Dynamics of begging and household donations

Despite legal prohibitions in many States, begging persists with beggars being one of the highest recipients of household donations

Begging is a ubiquitous phenomenon in India and is hidden in plain sight. Perceptions of 'persons engaged in Beggary' may vary but it is also evident that many households donate to them. 'Persons engaged in Beggary are largely missing from the discussions on public policy in the country. A recent study by the Centre of Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP) at Ashoka University showed that 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the highest recipients of household donations, ranking only after 'religious organisations'. This leads us to question, what are the motivations that lead households in such a large proportion to donate to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Who are the biggest donation-makers to



SHAIVYA VERMA

'beggars' with respect to gender, geography and age? And in what 'form' donations are received by the 'persons engaged in Beggary's Even though begging is not a crime it is legally prohibited in more than twenty States and Union Territories and can

invite punishment for one year to 10 years and even beyond under special circum-

debate. which 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the pre-

The study by CSIP showed a 14% increase in total 'cash' donations by Indian households from INR 23.7 thousand crores in 2020-21 to INR 27 thousand crores in 2021-22 of

ferred recipients of household giving among 'religious organisations', 'non-religious organisations', 'family and friends', 'household staff', and 'supporting a cause or signing a etition. They are the second highest recipient of house-

hold donations both in terms of overall market size and the proportion of households who made donations to them among other recipient groups in the study. The report further stances. The pros and cons of notes that the market size and the existing laws are another the average cash payments to

Beggary' have increased from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

While 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the preferred recipients, households do not trust them with their money but with materials. Despite a high proportion of households who donated to 'persons engaged in beggary' they received the lowest value of 'cash' donations from households (under INR 100).

While 'persons engaged in Beggary' were least preferred for 'cash' donations as compared to other recipient groups in the study, a clear preference to donate 'in-kind' was noted for this recipient group. More than half of those donating to persons engaged in Beggary' donated 'in-kind' which is starkly different from 'in-kind'

the 'persons engaged in donations received by other also emerged as a significant recipient groups.

Households are mostly driven by their intrinsic motivations when giving to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. 'Religious beliefs' are one of the top motivators. It guided 55% of households that gave to the persons engaged in Beggary'. Religious beliefs can be understood as 'helping others is a way to serve God', and 'good karma/ Almighty rewards good deeds'.

Furthermore, 'family traditions' play an important role in motivating households to give to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. They are also affected by the visible hardship due to poverty and are driven to donate in order to support someone in financial distress. Rendering 'seva' or service women and households from and SEC C) contributed, more

motivation for giving to 'per-

sons engaged in Beggary'. Households also find it easier to give in smaller amounts in 'cash', which leads many households to offer some money to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. About 60% proportion of households responded to have donated to them. The study also found that donations made to 'persons engaged in Beggary' were in the range of smaller amounts 'under INR 100'.

It was intriguing to find that the givers who are more empathetic to the 'persons engaged in Beggary' are the people who have a 'vulnerable' position in society and are mainly dependent on others for social and economic security. Older

rural areas and from lower socio-economic categories are primary givers to fpersons engaged in Beggary'.

More households from rural India donate to 'persons engaged in Beggary' than households from large towns. In fact, the proportion of households making offerings to 'persons engaged in Beggary' in rural India was higher than the national average of the proportion of households who gave to 'persons engaged in Beggary'.

Similarly, 'giving' by lower socioeconomic category (SEC D/E) to 'persons engaged in Beggary' was higher than the national average. While about 53% of households from higher and middle socio-economic categories (SEC A, SEC B

than 65% of households contributed towards 'persons engaged in Beggary' from the lower socioeconomic groups (SEC D/E). In terms of gender and age, older women between the ages of 46 to 60 years are the biggest and primary donation-makers to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'.

Beggary in many forms has been in existence for ages. Due to the hardships faced, persons engaged in Beggary usually suffer from negativity, hopelessness, low self-esteem and stigma. In India, 'people engaged in Beggary' are often seen outside religious places. The writer is Senior Research Manager at the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP), Ashoka University. Views expressed are personal



Israeli forces seize Rafah crossing in Gaza Police break up

AP CAIRO

sraeli tanks seized control of Israeli tanks seized content Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's

edge. The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already expe-riencing "full-blown famine."

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands. The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it foot or in vehicles and donkey marked its 7-month point carts piled with mattresses and Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip. The incursion appeared to

short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city. US

President Joe Biden warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Rafah.

Cheers of joy overnight among Rafah's Palestinians over Hamas' acceptance of the cease-fire turned to fear Tuesday. Families fled in a steady stream out of Rafah's eastern neighbourhoods on

supplies. Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination which for many remained

uncertain. "Netanyahu only cares about coming out on top. He doesn't care about children. I don't think he'll agree" to a deal, said Najwa al-Saksuk as her family packed up. Israeli strikes rang out and raised plumes of black smoke.

The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of it.

Footage released by the military showed Israeli flags flying from tanks that seized the area. It also said that ground troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah. The military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence.

It said Hamas fighters near the crossing launched a mortar attack that killed four Israeli troops near Kerem Shalom on Sunday and that more mortars and rockets were fired from the area on Tuesday. The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical points of entry for food, medicine and other supplies keeping Gaza's population of 2.3 million alive. They have been closed for at least the past two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza continues to operate.

Israeli authorities denied the UN humanitarian affairs office access to Rafah crossing Tuesday, its spokesman Jens Laerke said, warning that the disruption could break the fragile aid operation. All fuel for aid trucks and generators comes through Rafah, and Laerke said they have a "very, very short buffer of about one

day of fuel? "If no fuel comes in for a prolonged period of time, it would be a very effective way

'Gaza may be Joe Biden's Vietnam'

Associated Press.

"You have to have a certain

maturity when you deal with

politics and that is yes, you can

That will be the thrust of

Israeli strikes and bombardment across Rafah overnight killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least six women and five children, according to hospital records. Mohamed Abu Amra said

his wife, two brothers, sister and niece were killed when a strike flattened their home as they slept. "We did nothing. ... We don't have Hamas," he said. "We found fire devouring us. The house was turned upside

down. Egypt's Foreign Ministry condemned the seizure of the crossing, calling it "a dangerous escalation." Egypt has previously warned that any seizure of Rafah — which is supposed to be part of a demilitarised border zone — or an attack that forces Palestinians to flee over the border into Egypt would threaten the 1979 peace treaty with Israel that's been a linch-

pin for regional security. Netanyahu has said an offensive to take Rafah which Israel says is Hamas' last

of putting the humanitarian major stronghold in Gaza — is operation in its grave," he said. crucial to the goal of destroying Hamas after its October 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war.

In that unprecedented Hamas raid, militants killed some 1,200 people and took around 250 others as hostages back to Gaza. Israeli critics say Netanyahu is concerned about his government's survival, since hard-line partners in his coalition could bolt if he signs onto a deal before a Rafah invasion.

Gbroke up a protest by sev-As Israel announced it eral hundred pro-Palestinian would push ahead with Rafah activists who had occupied a operations, it said the cease-fire courtyard at Berlin's Free proposal that Hamas agreed to University earlier in the day, did not meet its "core demands." But it said it would the latest such action by authorities as protests that send a delegation to Egypt to have roiled campuses in the United States spread across continue negotiations. An Egyptian official said delega Europe. tions from Hamas and Qatar arrived in Cairo on Tuesday. about 20 tents and formed a

An Egyptian official and a Western diplomat said the draft Hamas accepted had only minor changes in wording from a version the US had earlier pushed for with Israeli approval.

pro-Palestinian student protest in Berlin

AP AMSTERDAM

erman police on Tuesday

The protesters had put up

human chain around the tents.

Most had covered their faces

with medical masks and had

draped kufiyah scarves around

their heads, shouting slogans

such as "Viva, viva Palestina".

Earlier on Tuesday, Dutch police arrested about 125

activists as they broke up a

similar pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the

University of Amsterdam. In

Berlin, police called on the stu-

dents via loudspeakers to leave

the campus. Police could also

be seen carrying some students

away and some scuffles erupt-

ed between police officers and

against some of the protesters. The school's administrators

said in a statement that the

protesters had rejected any

kind of dialogue and they had therefore called in police to

The administrators said

some protesters attempted to

enter rooms and lecture halls

at Free University in order to

occupy them. The protest orga-

nizers, which say they are

made up of students from var-

ious Berlin universities and

other individuals, had called

on other students and profes-

sors to take part in the action,

Police used pepper spray

protesters.

the university statement said. In recent days, students have held protests or set up encampments in Finland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France

world 08

and Britain, following earlier protests at US campuses. Amsterdam police said on the social media platform X that their action was "necessary to restore order" after protests turned violent. There were no

immediate reports of injuries. Video from the scene aired by national broadcaster NOS shows police using a mechanical digger to push down barricades and officers with batons and shields moving in, beating some of the protesters and pulling down tents. Protesters had formed barricades from wooden pallets and bicycles, NOS reported.

The demonstrators occupied a small island at the university son Monday, calling for a break in academic ties with Israel over the war in Gaza.

After clearing the Amsterdam protest by early afternoon Tuesday, police closed off the area by metal fences. Students sat along the banks of a nearby canal. The school said in a statement that police ended the demonstration at its Roeterseiland campus overnight Tuesday "due to public order and safety concerns.

"The war between Israel and Hamas is having a major impact on individual students and staff," it said. "We share the anger and bewilderment over the war, and we understand that there are protests over it. We stress that within the university, dialogue about it is the only answer.

In Finland, dozens of pro-testers from the Students for Palestine solidarity group set up an encampment outside the main building at the University of Helsinki, saying they would stay there until the university, which is Finland's largest aca demic institution, cuts academic ties with Israeli universi-

ties.

Malaysia defends companies that supply weapons to Israel

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia will not interfere in business relations between arms manufacturers and other countries, its defence minister said Tuesday, after protesters demanded that the government expel companies that supply weapons to Israel from an international exhibition. More than 1,300 companies from 60 nations are participating in Defence Services Asia and the concurrent National Security Asia exhibitions that started Monday. The events are hosted and coorganised by Malaysia's Defence Ministry and Home Affairs

Ministry. The Solidarity for Palestinian coalition held a brief rally outside the exhibition centre on Tuesday to protest the presence of US weapons maker Lockheed Martin, European missile manufacturer MBDA and others that provide arms to Israel. The coalition accused the manufacturers of being complicit in Israel's offensive in

Gaza They said the companies' 2 killed, 21 injured presence was inconsistent with the Malaysian government's support of Palestinian statein knife attack at hood and insensitive to the many Malaysians who oppose Israel's actions in the Palestinian territories. Muslims account for wo_thirds of Malaysia : 34 mil lion people. "We urge the Malaysian government to take a firm and consistent stand. Do not allow these murderous arm dealers to participate and prevent their war mongering, coalition spokesperson Tian Chua said. Defence Minister Khaled Nordin said Malaysia opposes all forms of injustice against the Palestinian people but is also a "free trade country" He said the exhibition is a space for the defense industry to display its latest technology and help countries strengthen their defense preparedness. "This exhibition does not favour or give advantage to any particu-lar country or company," Khaled said in a statement. "The relationship of some global defense companies with certain countries is a business matter that Malaysia will not interfere with."

Tn April, Bernie Sanders repeatedly stood shoulder to shoulder with President Joe Biden, promoting their joint accomplishments on health care and climate at formal White House events while evis-cerating Donald Trump in a widely viewed campaign

AP WASHINGTON

TikTok video. Then just last week, Sanders was bluntly warning that the crisis in Gaza could be Biden's "Vietnam" and invoking President Lyndon B. Johnson's decision not to run for reelection as the nation was in an uproar over his support of that war

Such is the political dichotomy of Bernie Sanders when it comes to Joe Biden. They are two octogenarians who share a bond that was forged through a hard-fought primary in 2020 and fortified through policy achievements over the last three years. Now, in this election year,

Sanders will be Biden's most powerful emissary to progres-

sives and younger voters — a

disagree with somebody. That task that will test the senator's doesn't mean you can vote for pull with the sectors of the somebody else who could be Democratic Party most disilluthe most dangerous person in sioned with the president and American history, or not vote his policies, especially on Gaza. and allow that other guy to Privately, Sanders has felt win.

less enthusiastic in recent days the message that Sanders will about making the political case on Biden's behalf as the Gaza crisis worsened, according to a person familiar with Sanders sentiments. Still, Sanders remains adamant that the specter of Trump's return to the Oval Office is too grave a threat and stresses that "this election is not between Joe

Biden and God. It is between

carry through November, even as progressive furor over Biden's handling of the war in Gaza continues to escalate, protests continue to fester and Sanders' own critiques of the administration's policy become more pointed. "He's not trimming the sails on Gaza, because of

Joe Biden and Donald Trump." "I understand that a lot of Biden," said Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., who succeeded Sanders people in this country are less in the House and joined him in the Senate last year. "Bernie's than enthusiastic about Biden for a number of reasons and I credibility is that he's mainget that. And I strongly disagree tained his solid positions, and then he's going to make the case with him, especially on what's going on in Gaza," Sanders said why, Biden versus Trump." in a recent interview with The

Few can doubt Sanders' influence throughout the Biden But Sanders continued: presidency. Once rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, the two men later joined forces to assemble half a dozen policy task forces that underpinned the party's policy platform later that year an unusual endeavor that helped bring the Democratic socialist's supporters into

That laid the groundwork 2021 to legislation in the summer of 2022 that was a mishmash of longstanding Democratic priorities, including cheaper prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Sanders, who helped craft those blueprints as head of the Senate Budget Committee, had been directly encouraged by Biden to go big in those proposals, with the assurance that the president had his back.

"You and I have been fight ing this for 25 years," Biden told Sanders admiringly at their joint health care event in April. "Finally, finally we beat Big Pharma. Finally."

clear the campus. "This form Sanders, like many others of protest is not geared towards who back Biden's domestic dialogue. An occupation is not acceptable on the FU achievements, believes the public is still too unaware of them. Berlin campus," university president Guenter Ziegler said He was the one who approached White House offi-FU is the abbreviation for Free University. "We are available cials about doing an event specifically to spotlight a drop for academic dialog - but not in the cost of inhalers. in this way.

More than three years into Biden's term, Sanders' connections throughout the West Wing are deep.

He chats regularly not only with the president, but his top aides, including White House chief of staff Jeff Zients, senior adviser Anita Dunn and national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

Stormy Daniels expected to appear at hush money trial next day as they sought to limit facing and then logged them as that prosecutors contend was

intentionally deceptive. McConney acknowledged during cross-examination that never asked him to loo the reimbursements as legal expenses or discussed the mat ter with him at all.

AP NEW YORK

Donald Trump returns to the hush money trial



damage from the tape and keep his alleged affairs out of the press. en naid Daniels after her

legal expenses in a manner that Manhattan prosecutors say broke the law. from Jeffrey The testimony McConney yielded an important building block for prosecutors trying to pull back the curtain on what they say was a corporate records cover-up of transactions designed to protect Trump's Republican pres-idential bid during a pivotal stretch of the race. It focused on a USD 130,000 payment from Cohen to Daniels and the subsequent reimbursement Cohen received.

Biden's fold. for a burst of ambitious policymaking in the first two years of the Biden administration, from a sweeping \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package in early

hospital in China

Beijing/Kunming (PTI): At least two people were killed and 21 others injured in a knife attack at a hospital on Tuesday in China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said, in the latest incident of mass stabbing in the country.

The attack took place at around 11:30 am when a man assaulted people with a knife at a local hospital in Zhenxiong County, the county's public security bureau said.

The injured are being treated in the hospital, and the case is under investigation, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It is not yet known whether police have subdued the suspect, the Hong Kongbased South China Morning Post reported.

China, where private gun ownership is illegal for most civilians, has faced a spate of mass knife attacks in public

places in recent years. In August last year, two people were killed and seven others injured after a man with a history of mental illness attacked people with a knife in a residential district in also Yunnan

In July of that year, six peo-ple, including three children, were killed in a stabbing at a kindergarten in the south-eastern province of Guangdong. Zhenxiong County, situated in Yunnan's northeast, borders Guizhou and Sichuan provinces and, until 2020, was classified as "poverty-stricken".

call

reporters.

since 2020

time for additional gag order violations as prosecutors gear up to summon big-name witnesses including porn actor Stormy Daniels.

An attorney for Daniels, Clark Brewster, told The Associated Press that the porn actor, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, is "likely" to be called as a witness in the trial on Tuesday. Trump said earlier Tuesday that he was "recently told" who the witness would be on Tuesday and complained he should've been given more notice. In the final weeks of Trump's 2016 Republican presidential campaign, his then-lawyer and personal fixer, Michael Cohen, paid Daniels USD 130,000 to keep quiet about what she says was an awkward and unexpected sexual encounter with Trump at a



celebrity golf outing in Lake Tahoe in July 2006. Trump denies having sex with Daniels. Trump and his campaign were reeling from the October 7, 2016, publication of the neverbefore-seen 2005 "Access Hollywood" footage in which he boasted about grabbing women's genitals.

He spoke with Cohen and Hope Hicks, his campaign's press secretary, by phone the embarrassing stories from sur-

lawyer at the time, Keith Davidson, indicated she was willing to make on-the-record statements to the National Enquirer or on television confirming a sexual encounter with Trump. National Enquirer editor Dylan Howard alerted Pecker and then, at Pecker's direction, told Cohen that Daniels was agitating to go public with her claims, prosecutors said. Daniels had previously sought to sell her story to another celebrity gossip magazine, Life & Style, in 2011. The jury on Monday heard

from two witnesses, including a former Trump Organization controller, who provided a mechanical but vital recitation of how the company reimbursed payments that were allegedly meant to suppress

McConney and another wit-ness testified that the reimbursement checks were drawn from Trump's personal account. Yet even as jurors witnessed the checks and other documentary evidence, prosecutors did not elicit testimony Monday showing that Trump dictated that the payments would be logged as legal expenses, a designation

Another witness, Deborah Tarasoff, a Trump Organization accounts payable supervisor, said under questioning that she did not get permission to cut the checks in question from Trump himself.

You never had any reason to believe that President Trump was hiding anything or any-thing like that?" Trump attorney Todd Blanche asked. "Correct," Tarasoff replied. The testimony followed a stern warning from Judge Juan M. Merchan that additional violations of a gag order barring Trump from inflammatory out-of-court comments about witnesses, jurors and others closely connected to the case could result in jail time.

Boeing calls off its first astronaut launch due to valve issue

AP CANAVERAL

Boeing called off its first astronaut launch because of a valve problem on the rocket Monday night. The two NASA test pilots had just strapped into Boeing's Starliner capsule for a flight to the International Space Station when the countdown was halted, just two hours before the planned liftoff. United Launch Alliance CEO Tory Bruno said an oxygen pressure relief valve on the upper stage of the company's Atlas rocket started fluttering open and close, creating a loud buzz. The valve may have exceeded its

200.000 lifetime cycles, Bruno said, which means it would have to be replaced, pushing the launch into next week. But if engineers can determine the valve is still within that limit, the launch team could try again as soon as Friday. It was the latest delay for Boeing's first crew flight, on hold for years because



of capsule trouble.Bruno said similar valve trouble had occurred in years past on a few other Atlas rockets launching satellites. It was quickly resolved by turning the troublesome valves off and back on. But the company has stricter flight rules for astronaut flights, prohibiting valve recycling when a crew is on board. "And so we stayed with the rules and the proce-dures, and scrubbed as a result," Bruno said at a press conference. NASA's commercial crew pro-

Details of UK military personnel exposed in payroll gram manager Steve Stich data breach acknowledged it was a tough

"We're taking it one step at a time, and we're going to launch when we're ready and fly when London(AP): British officials say the names and bank details of thousands of serving British it's safe to do so," Stich told soldiers, sailors and air force members have been exposed in Within minutes of the counta data breach at a payroll sys-tem. The Ministry of Defence down halting, Boeing's new astrovan was back at the launch said Defence Secretary Grant Shapps would make a statepad to retrieve Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams from their ment in the House of Commons on Tuesday afterpad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Starliner's first noon "setting out the multipoint plan to support and pro-tect personnel". The ministry test flight without a crew in 2019 failed to reach the space station would not comment on a Sky and Boeing had to repeat the News report that Chinese hackflight. Then the company encountered parachute issues ers are suspected of carrying out the cyberattack. Cabinet Minister Mel Stride told Sky and flammable tape. NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX a that "we are not saying that at this precise moment". British decade ago to ferry astronauts to and from the space station media reported that the govafter the shuttle program ended, ernment will blame "hostile paying the private companies billions of dollars. SpaceX has and malign actors" but will not name the country it believes is been in the orbital taxi business responsible.

Trump faces jail threat over gag order

AP NEW YORK

Donald Trump returns to his hush money trial Tuesday facing a threat of jail time for additional gag order violations as prosecutors gear up to summon big-name witnesses in

encounter with Trump, and Michael Cohen, the former Trump lawyer and personal fixer who prosecutors say paid her to keep silent in the final weeks of the 2016 presidential campaign, are among those who have yet to take the stand

but are expected to in the coming weeks. The jury on Monday heard from two witnesses, including a former Trump Organization controller who provided a mechanical but vital recitation of how the company reimbursed payments that were allegedly meant to suppress embarrassing stories from surfacing and then logged them as



legal expenses in a manner that Manhattan prosecutors say broke the law.

The testimony from Jeffrey McConney yielded an important building block for prosecutors trying to pull back the curtain on what they say was a corporate records cover-up of transactions designed to protect Trump's presidential bid during a pivotal stretch of the race. It focused on a \$130,000 payment from Cohen to Daniels and the subsequent reimbursement Cohen received.

McConney and another witness testified that the reimbursement checks were drawn from Trump's personal account. Yet even as jurors witnessed the checks and other documentary evidence, prosecutors did not elicit testimony Monday show-ing that Trump himself dictated that the payments would be logged as legal expenses, a designation that prosecutors contend was intentionally deceptive.

McConney acknowledged during cross-examination that Trump never asked him to log the reimbursements as legal expenses or discussed the matter with him at all. Another witness, Deborah Tarasoff, a Trump Organization accounts payable supervisor, said under questioning that she did not get permission to cut the checks in question from Trump himself. You never had any reason to believe that President Trump was hiding anything or any-thing like that?" Trump attor-

ney Todd Blanche asked. "Correct," Tarasoff replied. The testimony followed a stern warning from Judge Juan M. Merchan that additional violations of a gag order barring Trump from inflammatory outof-court comments about witnesses, jurors and others closely connected to the case could result in jail time.

The \$1,000 fine imposed Monday marks the second time since the trial began last month that Trump has been sanctioned for violating the gag order. He was fined \$9,000 last week, \$1,000 for each of nine violations. "It appears that the \$1,000 fines are not serving as a deterrent. Therefore going forward, this court will have to consider a jail sanction," Merchan said before jurors were brought into the courtroom. Trump's statements, the judge added, "threaten to interfere with the fair administration of justice and constitute a direct attack on the rule of law. I cannot allow that to continue."

the final weeks of the case. Stormy Daniels, the porn actor who has said she had a sexual



world 09

terrorists are continuously

committing acts of terrorism in

The head of the army's media

wing said so far in 2024, the

security forces conducted

13,135 small and major intel-

ligence-based operations

(IBOs) against terrorists and

their facilitators, during which

'249 terrorists were sent to hell

while 396 were arrested". He said more than 100 operations

were being conducted daily

He said that during the oper-

ations in the ongoing year by

Pakistani forces, two of its officers and 60 soldiers were

killed. Sharif said the drive

against illegal Afghan nation-

als would continue in the larg-

er interest of Pakistan. "So far,

563,639 illegal Afghan citi-

zens have been returned to

their countries, yet hundreds of

thousands are still living in

During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail said that there is

interference but the govern-

ment is not doing anything

Pakistan," he said.

against terrorism.

Pakistan," he said.

Putin starts his 5th term as president

AP MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin begins his fifth term as Russian president in an opulent Kremlin inauguration Tuesday, after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and consolidating all power in his hands. Already in office for nearly a

quarter-century and the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Putin's new term doesn't expire until 2030, when he is constitutionally eligible to run for another six vears.He has transformed Russia from a country emerging from economic collapse to a pariah state that threatens global security. Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine that has become Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Russia has been heavily sanctioned by the West and is turning other regimes like China, Iran and North Korea for sup-

The question now is what the 71-year-old Putin will do over the course of another six years,



both at home and abroad. Shortly after his orchestrated reelection in March, Putin sug-Russian forces are gaining gested that a confrontation ground in Ukraine, deploying between NATO and Russia is scorched-earth tactics as Kyiv grapples with shortages of men possible, and he declared he and ammunition. Both sides wanted to carve out a buffer are taking heavy casualties. Ukraine has brought the battle zone in Ukraine to protect his country from cross-border to Russian soil through drone attacks. At home, Putin's popuand missile attacks, especially larity is closely tied to improvin border regions. In a speech ing living standards for ordinary Russians.He began his in February, Putin vowed to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine, and do what is needterm in 2018 by promising to get Russia into the top five ed to "defend our sovereignty global economies, vowing it and security of our citizens." should be "modern and

dynamic." Instead, Russia's economy has pivoted to a war footing, and authorities are spending record amounts on defense.

Analysts say now that Putin has secured another six years in power, the government could take the unpopular steps of raising taxes to fund the war and pressure more men to join the military.

At the start of a new term, the Russian government is routinely dissolved so that Putin can name a new prime minister and Cabinet.

One key area to watch is the Defense Ministry.

Last year, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu came under pressure over his conduct of the war, with mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin launching withering criticism against him for shortages of ammunition for his private contractors fight-ing in Ukraine. Prigozhin's brief uprising in June against the Defense Ministry represented the biggest threat to Putin's rule.

After Prigozhin was killed two

months later in a mysterious plane crash, Shoigu appeared to have survived the infighting. But last month, his protege, PTI ISLAMABAD Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ívanov, was detained on

charges of bribery amid reports of rampant corruption. Some analysts have suggested Shoigu could become a victim of the government reshuffle but that would be a bold move as the war is still raging in Ukraine. In the years following the inva-sion, authorities have cracked

down on any form of dissent with a ferocity not seen since Soviet times. There is no sign that this repression will ease in

Putin's new term. His greatest political foe, oppo-sition leader Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic penal colony in February. Other prominent critics have either been impriscritics have either been imprisoned or have fled the country, and even some of his opponents abroad fear for their security.Laws have been enacted that threaten long prison terms for anyone who discredits the military.

'Suicide bombing that killed five Chinese planned in Af' other countries but the Afghan side failed to address con-cerns regarding the TTP. "TTP

The Pakistan Army on Tuesday said the suicide bombing that killed five Chinese nationals in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in March was planned in Afghanistan and carried out by Afghan nationaĺ. an Addressing a press conference, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) chief Maj-Gen Ahmed Sharif accused Afghanistan of allowing militants to use its soil for carry-ing out attacks inside Pakistan. He said Afghan soil was used in the attack that killed five Chinese engineers in the Bisham area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in March because the plot for the attack was prepared in Afghanistan. "This suicide bombing also connects to across the border [in Afghanistan]; the planning of this terrorism [act] was done in Afghanistan. Terrorists and their facilitators were also being controlled from

Afghanistan and the suicide bomber was also an Afghan," Sharif said.

Five Chinese engineers and their Pakistani driver were killed when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-rigged car into their vehicle in the Bisham area of Shangla district in March. The victims were en route from Islamabad to their camp in Dasu, the headquarters of the Upper Kohistan dis-

trict of the province. He said the attacks by the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have been going on despite complaints lodged with the Afghan authorities.

"There is concrete evidence that TTP terrorists are still using Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan," Sharif said, adding that the Foreign Office has lodged 12 protests with the Afghan government over this issue.

Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for a long time and helped them more than

Ukraine says it foiled Russian spy agency plot to assassinate Zelenskyy Kviv (AP): Ukrainian coun-

terintelligence investigators have foiled a Russian plot to President assassinate Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top military and polit-ical figures, Ukraine's state security service said Tuesday. Two colonels in the State Guard of Ukraine, which protects top officials, were detained on suspicion of enacting the plan drawn up by Russia's Federal Security Service, a statement said The colonels were recruited before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, according to the statement. It quoted the head of the State Security Service, Vasyl Maliuk, as saying the plot foresaw an attack ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fifth term Tuesday

Maliuk said he personally oversaw the top-secret oper-ation to track the plot. Ukrainian claims of Russian efforts to kill Zelenskyy are not new. Zelensky said in 2022 there has been at least 10 attempts to assassinate him as the war with Russia

nes into a

Nawaz Sharif files plea for acquittal in corruption case PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime min-ister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday filed a plea for acquittal in the Toshakhana corruption case in an accountability court in Islamabad.

Sharif's counsel Rana Muhammad Arif Khan submitted the petition in the case, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. The prosecutor rep-resenting the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) stated in court that he would forward the application to NAB headquarters. The court issued notices on Sharif's petition and adjourned the hearing till June 3

Earlier this month, NAB gave a clean chit to 74-year-old Sharif in a case related to the acquisition of a luxury vehicle from the gift repository (Toshakhana). The anti-graft body submitted a report that read that the Supreme Court had passed instructions to longer under the ownership of investigate an alleged fake



account associated with Sharif. Furthermore, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader did not utilise funds from the alleged account to pay for the vehicle acquired from the Toshakhana. The report by the country's graft buster fur-ther read that the vehicle gifted to the then-premier by Saudi Arabia was relinquished to Toshakhana in 1997. It clarified that in 2008 when it was bought by Nawaz, it was no

federal transport pool. 'This case may attract any other offence but it has no relevance with the benefit of Toshakhana as the subject vehicle when purchased was not part of Toshakhana, rather than the same was part of the federal transport pool," it read. President Asif Ali Zardari and former premier Yusuf Raza Gilani are also accused in the case. However, Zardari enjoys presidential immunity and cannot be prosecuted during his tenure as president.

Govt not doing anything regarding interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs: SC judge

PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court judge Jamal Khan Mandokhail on Tuesday said that the government was not doing anything regarding the alleged interference by the powerful intelligence agen-cies in judicial affairs. In an unprecedented move, six judges of the Islamabad High Court in March sought inter-vention by the Supreme Judicial Council against the

Judicial Council against the alleged interference in the working of the judiciary by Pakistan's intelligence agencies

The six judges - out of a total strength of eight - wrote a let-ter to the Supreme Judicial Council members, regarding alleged attempts to pressure judges through abduction and torture of their relatives as well as secret surveillance inside their homes.

The six judges who signed the March 25 dated letter include Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani,

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz.

After a meeting between Pakistan's Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on March 28, they formed a commission to investigate the allegations of interference in judicial affairs following the cabinet's approval.

The apex court on April 1 took suo motu notice of the IHC judges' letter and formed a seven-member bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to hear the matter.

On Tuesday, the bench headed by Chief Justice Isa, resumed the suo motu hear-ing on the IHC judges' letter accusing agencies of med-dling in judicial matters.

The bench comprises Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Áthar Minallah, Musarrat Hilali and

Naeem Akhtar Afghan. On Tuesday, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan appeared before the court and told the bench that the written order of the last hearing had not yet been received, Geo News reported. Awan said that the order must be shown to the prime minister to file the government's reply. He added that the gov-ernment would be able to file its response by tomorrow if they receive the order today. The Supreme Court Bar Association also submitted Association also submitted suggestions to the top court, saying that it would never compromise on the independence of the judiciary. The SCBA called for an

inquiry against those who intervene in judicial matters. It said that the IHC has the power of contempt of court and it should have taken contempt of court action for any kind of interference.

The CJP then asked the AGP to read the written order.

about it, Geo News reported. CJP Isa then said that the Supreme Judicial Council is a separate body and the Supreme Court cannot give directions to it. "I am the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council but I am not the SJC itself. There are other members in the body," he was quoted as saying by the channel. Justice Minallah said this is not a letter but it reflects a trend, adding that the AGP

said this happened in 2018 as well. Pakistan Bar Council's (PBC) lawyer said that the government was not doing anything, hence, the judiciary itself has to take action. CJP Isa then summarised that the PBC was suggesting a probe, that the judges use

criminal laws to deal with the

issue and launch contempt of

court proceedings

Nepal's ruling coalition party splits Australia accuses China of unsafe behaviour PTI KATHMANDU

AP MELBOURNE Δ ustralia has protested to important that we make clear It was the most serious in November, Albanese invited

multiple

"It's important that we speak out respect of North Korea," Marles when events like this occur. It's added.

encounter

During a visit to China earlier

reporters.

Chinese Pres

Monday officially recognised makers," Pradip said. The Janata Samajbadi Party-Nepal (JSP-N), one of the coalition partners in Prime in Prime istered the new party at the outfit was felt after the chain advice of Prime Minister tried to break the ruling coali-Prachanda to counter Yaday, tion. whose relations with the ruling "We took this decision for the stability of the incumbent gov-ernment," Sudi said. "The party alliance have soured lately. There are reports Yadav was chair (Yadav) is against this coalition but we will continue trying to ally with the opposition Nepali Congress and the ruling party alliance CPN-Unified Socialist-led by to support this government." However, the party establish-Madhav Kumar Nepal after NC President Sher Bahadur ment's leaders said the party has not split. Just a dissident Deuba reportedly offered the faction has parted ways, they Prime Minister's post to Yadav claimed. The split in the JSP-N will not to topple the Prachanda-led government. affect the government's stabil-However, the ruling coalition consisting of the CPN-UML ity at the moment, said Central Member of CPN-Maoist led by K P Sharma Oli and the Centre Manandhar, who is also the for-CPN (Maoist Center) has manmer Minister for Environment aged to maintain a narrow majority in the Parliament with amidst speculations that it might affect the coalition govthe latest political developments. ernment.

Forest and Environment Minister Nawal Kishor Sah Sudi, who also quit the party,

Sunil Kumar

Also, prosecutors in Poland said last month a Polish man had been arrested on allegations of being ready to spy on behalf of Russia's military intelligence in an alleged plot to assassinate Zelenskyy. The Ukrainian statement said the Russian intelligence agents targeting Zelenskyy sought out members of the Ukrainian military close to the president's security detail who could take the head of state hostage and later kill him.

The operation was run from Moscow, it said, providing the names of three alleged Russian spies behind the conspiracy.

The broader plan was to identify the location of senior Ukrainian officials and target them with a rocket attack, followed by drones and missiles. The two Ukrainian colonels were arrested on suspicion of treason, which carries a life sentence, the statement said.

channels that a Chinese fighter jet endangered an Australian navy helicopter with flares over international waters, the prime minister said Tuesday. The incident occurred Saturday as the Australian air warfare destroyer HMAS Hobart was enforcing U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea in international waters in the Yellow Sea, officials said Monday. There were no injuries or damage reported. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the Australian public expected an explanation from from the Hobart.

China. "We've just made it very clear to China that this is unprofessional and that it's unacceptable," Albanese told Nine Network television. "We've made it very clear ...

through all of our channels, at all measures at our disposal, including here publicly," Albanese said. He said Beijing had yet to

make any public comment on the incident.

position, which has been done at the diplomatic levels, at government-to-government, but also defense-to-defense as well. And all of those avenues have been made clear. This issue, we have made public in order to be able to speak out very clearly and unequivocally that this behavior is unacceptable," the prime minister said. Defense Minister Richard Marles said Monday that a Chinese Chengdu J-10 fighter jet released flares in the flight path of an Australian navy Seahawk helicopter deployed

He said the flares were 300 meters (986 feet) in front of the helicopter and 60 meters (197 feet) above it and the helicopter pilot had to "take evasive action in order to not be hit by those flares?

The consequence of being hit by the flares would have been significant," Marles said.

We will not be deterred from engaging in lawful activities and activities which are there to enforce U.N. sanctions in

nations' forces since Australia accused the Chinese destroyer CNS Ningbo of injuring Australian navy divers with sonar pulses in Japanese waters in November. Australia said China disregarded a safety warning to keep away from the Australian frigate HMAS Toowoomba.

China maintains that encounter happened outside Japanese territorial waters and that the Chinese warship caused no harm.

Albanese said the encounter would be raised with Chinese Premier Li Qiang when he visits Australia next month.

Albanese referred to the period since 2020 when China ended minister-to-minister discussions with the previous Australian government which lost power at elections in 2022. "One of the things that had broken down over a period of time was any dialogue. Dialogue is important. It's always, always important to have avenues of

communication," Albanese told

visit Australia for the first time in a decade as bilateral relations have improved in recent years from unprecedented lows. He said Tuesday that Xi would not visit Australia this year.

But Albanese said he expected to have "some face-to-face engagement" with the Chinese leader when they both attend G20 and APEC summits late this year.

Australian National University expert on the navy and former naval officer Jennifer Parker described the Chinese use of flares as "incredibly dangerous." "If the helicopter had ingested one of the flares into its engine, it could've shut down the engines of the helicopter and we could have seen the helicopter need to ditch with potential injuries or loss of life," Parker told Australian Broadcasting Corp

"So this isn't normal by any stretch of the imagination," Parker added. "Impeding its flight path I would interpret as a breach of international law.

Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda-led government, has split after a majority of its lawmakers and over two dozen central committee members applied for a new party at the Election Commission.A faction of the JSP-N led by the party's federal council chair Ashok Rai registered the application for a new party while the party's chair Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav, who is also minister for health and population, is on a trip abroad.

Pradip Yadav, a lawmaker of the JSP-N, said that 29 central committee members and seven lawmakers have jointly applied to form a new party.

Of the party's 12 House of Representatives members, seven -Rai, Sushila Sherstha, Pradip Yadav, Nawal Kishor Sah, Ranju Kumari Jha, Birendra Mahato and Hasina Khan - have supported the new party named 'Janata Samajbadi Party' (without the 'Nepal' of the mother party).

The Election Commission on

Unless the CPN-Unified Leaders of the Rai-led faction Socialist and JSP-N withdraw claimed they had to revolt against the party leadership as support from the government Yadav was running the party in there is no need to seek a vote an autocratic way. of confidence by the Prachanda government, Manandhar

'The chair ran the party unilaterally and disrespected lawadded.

Powerful storms bring tornadoes to Oklahoma, hail to Kansas

AP OKALHAMA CITY

 $P_{ed}^{owerful \ storms \ have \ erupt}_{ed \ in \ the \ central \ United}$ States, bringing tornadoes to rural Oklahoma and large hail in parts of Kansas, with forecasters warning that the dangerous weather could stretch into the early hours of Tuesday amid a rare high-risk weather warning for the two states. "You can't rely on waiting to see tornadoes before sheltering tonight," the National Weather Service said Monday.

Gusty winds and heavy rains began Monday afternoon, while tornadoes were spotted after dark skirting northern Oklahoma, including one that touched down about a 45minute drive north of Tulsa.



pelted by apple-sized hail 3 At one point, a storm in the small town of Covingtohad inches (7.6 centimetres) in "produced tornadoes off and on for over an hour," the diameter. The storms tore through Oklahoma as areas, National Weather Service said. including Sulphur and Throughout the area, wind Holdenville, were still recoverfarm turbines spun rapidly in ing from a tornado that killed the wind and blinding rain. four and left thousands without power late last month. Both the In Kansas, some areas were

Plains and Midwest have been hammered by tornadoes this spring. Oklahoma's State Emergency

Operations Centre, which coordinates storm response from a bunker near the state Capitol, remains activated from last weekend's deadly storms. The Weather Service said more than 3.4 million people, 1,614 schools and 159 hospitals in Oklahoma, portions of southern Kansas and far northern Texas, faced the most severe threat for tornadoes on Monday. Monte Tucker, a farmer and rancher in the western Oklahoma town of Sweetwater, had spent Monday putting some of his tractors and heavy equipment in barns to protect it from hail.

Xi Jingping begins visit to Serbia

AP BELGRADE

hinese leader Xi Jinping's ✓visit to European ally Serbia on Tuesday falls on a symbolic date: the 25th anniversary of the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during NATO's air war over Kosovo. US jets dropped five bombs on the Chinese Embassy compound in the Serbian capital on May 7, 1999, setting it ablaze and killing three Chinese nationals. Twenty other people were injured in the incident, which has burdened relations between the two powers ever since. The Western military alliance had launched the air war in March that year to force then Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic to end a brutal onslaught against ethnic Albanian rebels in Kosovo

The US at the time apologised

and said the embassy bombing was a mistake that happened due to faulty intelligence. The intended target, Washington said, was the headquarters of a Serbian state arms exporter located on the same street, a few blocks away.

"Imagine that somebody would, even by accident, strike an American Embassy somewhere around the world. The reaction would be immediate," said Sven Biscop, a professor of European foreign and security policy at the Ghent University and Egmont Institute.

'So for a country like China, it is also clear that this is a big thing," he added. "And, of course, it has not been forgotten." Angry protesters in China stormed US diplomatic installations as the bombing fuelled anti-American sentiments and speculation that the attack was intentional rather the incident has endured to this day. "We will probably never really conclusively know either way," Biscop said. "But one thing is sure. In war, incidents like that do happen, and I usually tend to go for the most simple explanation rather than try to invent complicated theories? While straining Beijing's relations with the US, the embassy bombing brought China and Serbia closer together. China has emerged as Serbia's largest provider of foreign direct investment and its second-largest trading partner after the European Union.

Beijing opposed the NATO bombing campaign and has since backed Belgrade's bid to counter the Western-backed push for independence in Kosovo, a former Serbian province. In return, Serbia has been a loyal ally to Beijing and has opened its doors without restraint to billions of dollars of Chinese investment, even as it formally seeks EU member-

Signs of pro-China sentiments were clearly visible ahead of Xi's visit on Tuesday and Wednesday In Belgrade, a huge Chinese flag was placed on a skyscraper along a roadway leading into the city from the airport. Smaller Chinese and Serbian flags could be seen downtown and along a highway. Xi will arrive from France and proceed from Serbia to Hungary as part of his first European tour in five years. He is expected to visit the site of the former embassy on the anniversary date and pay his respects to the bombing victims. A Chinese cultural centre now stands at the spot where the embassy was once located.

ship.

than accidental. Mistrust over

money 10



Markets settle lower

HDFC Bank, Reliance, ICICI Bank major drags

PTI MUMBA

 $\begin{array}{c} E_{declined} & \text{on Tuesday} \\ \text{dragged by HDFC Bank,} \end{array}$ Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid concerns over rich valuation of equities.

Paring all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85. During the day, it tanked 636.28 points or 0.86 per cent to 73,259.26.

The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.

From the Sensex basket, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards. Among the gainers,

Hindustan Unilever climbed over 5 per cent. Tech Nestle, ITC, Mahindra, Wipro, Tata Consultancy



Services and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the other major gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled with gains while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. Wall Street ended in the green on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent





Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,168.75 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark edged up 17.39 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 73,895.54 on Mondey, The NUC Monday. The NSE Nifty declined 33.15 points or 0.15 crude climbed 0.23 per cent per cent to 22,442.70.

returned our application as the stock brokers have not given the feedback that Sebi wanted. So, as of now, the extended time frame (plan) is shelved," NSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said in a post-earnings analysts This came after the NSE had

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

urged Sebi to extend trading hours in the equity derivatives segment in a phased manner. This was aimed at potentially curtailing the overnight risk arising from global information flow.

Business

Chief Sriram Krishnan, Development Officer of NSE, had told PTI



Sebi rejects NSE's proposal

to extend trading hours

in September that the bourse was planning a session from 6 pm to 9 pm after a break from the closure of the regular session from 9.15 am to 3.30 pm. Based on the response, a gradual extension of the market timing till 11.55 pm was proposed on the lines of commodity derivatives. To begin with, only index

derivatives in phase 1 were proposed to be available followed by single stock

options and others In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed stock exchanges to set their trading hours in the equity derivatives segment between 9 am and 11.50 pm. This was similar to the trading hours for the commodity derivatives segment, which are currently fixed between 10 am and 11.55 pm.

The move was part of Sebi's

SRMIST celebrates World Intellectual Property Day

integration of stocks and commodities trading on a single exchange. With regard to NSE's IPO, Chauhan said that "situations

the

enable

remain as in". Last month, he said that NSE is awaiting approval from Sebi to kickstart the initial public offering process. The NSE's listing plans have been on the backburner amid a Sebi probe

to

efforts

backburner amid a Sebi probe against the exchange and some of its top officials. During the fourth quarter ended March 2024, NSE reported a 20 per cent year-on waron-year increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,488 crore. Further, the consolidated operating revenues stood at Rs 4,625 crore for the January-March quarter of the financial year 2023-24, marking a surge of 34 per cent year-on-year.

Apart from trading, the total revenue was also supported by other revenue including listing, lines index services, data services and colocation facility.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) marked the World Intellectual Property Day 2024 with a grand event held on May 7, 2024, at the TP Ganesan Auditorium Mini Hall-2. This event was organised by the SRM Directorate of Entrepreneurship Innovation (DEI). and The event commenced with a

PNS NEW DELHI

welcome address delivered by the DEI Associate Director Dr.Shantanu Patil, setting a celebratory tone for the day's proceedings. The Vice proceedings. Prof. Chancellor Muthamizhchelvan, inaugurated the event amidst enthusiasm and anticipation.

Rupee settles on flat note, higher by 1 paisa at 83.51 against US dollar

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled higher by 1 paisa at 83.51 against the US dollar on Tuesday, amid a negative trend in domestic equities and strong dollar demand.

Forex traders said elevated significant foreign fund outflows in the international market dented investors' sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.48 against the greenback. The unit hit an intra-day high of 83.47 and a low of 83.52 against the greenback.

The domestic unit finally settled at 83.51 (provisional) against the dollar, 1 paisa



higher than its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled weighed on the rupee, said 7 paise lower at 83.52 against Anuj Choudhary Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP the US dollar. The Indian rupee traded Paribas.

almost flat on weak domestic However, a soft tone in crude markets and positive US oil prices cushioned the

Indian FMCG industry sees 6.5 per

downside. The US Dollar gained on weak Asian currencies after the Australian Dollar fell amid a less-hawkish-than-expected tone of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA).

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on weak domestic markets and positive dollar amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

"However, softness in crude oil prices and positive European and Asian markets may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (Regional of the domestic currency. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.30 to Rs 83.75," Choudhary added.

barrel.

currencies, was at 105.26, higher by 0.20 per cent.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 383.69 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 73,511.85

points. The Nifty fell 140.20 points, or 0.62 per cent, to close at 22,302.50 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,168.75 crore, according to exchange

SRF Q4 profit falls 25 per cent to ₹422 crore

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Chemical firm SRF Ltd on Tuesday reported a 25 per cent decline in its net profit to Rs 422 crore for the quarter ended March 2024 on lower income.

"The company's Profit After Tax (PAT) decreased 25 per cent from Rs 562 crore to Rs 422 crore in Q4FY24 when compared with the corresponding period of the last year," SRF said in a statement.

The consolidated revenue of the company declined 6 per cent to Rs 3,570 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal from Rs 3,778 crore in the

year-ago period. In the 2023-24 fiscal, SRF's revenue decreased 12 per cent to Rs 13,139 crore from Rs 14,870 crore in the preceding vear

The company's profit after tax decreased 38 per cent to Rs 1,336 crore in the last fiscal from Rs 2,162 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal

SRF Chairman and Managing Director Ashish Bharat

Number of ghost shopping malls rise to 64 in 2023 across eight major cities, reveals report



PTI NEW DELHI

The number of ghost shopping malls – those with vacancy of more than and Bengaluru with 2 million sq ft (rise of 46 per 40 per cent — increased to 64 last year from 57 in 2022 across eight major cities as retailers and consumers are preferring premium properties, according to preferring

Knight Frank. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India on Tuesday released a report titled 'Think India Think Retail 2024' capturing the lvnam nino centres and high streets in Bengaluru, 10 in Mumbai, 6 in across 29 cities. The consultant found a Kolkata, 5 in Hyderabad, 4 in sharp rise in low-performing Ahmedabad and 3 each in retail assets across eight Chennai and Pune. major Tier I cities. consumption, propelled by As many as 64 shopping malls with about 13.3 rising disposable incomes, a youthful demographic, and urbanisation, tilts in favour million square feet of gross leasable area have been categorised as 'Ghost Grganised retail sector," Shishir Baijal, Chairman & Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said. categorised as

in the ghost shopping centre stock by 19 per cent YoY to 0.9 million sq ft in 2023. The sharpest rise in ghos shopping centres was recorded in Kolkata (237 per cent YoY), albeit at a lower base. Of the total 64 ghost malls across top 8 cities, Knight Frank data that such malls are showed

momentum

12

retail

Delhi-NCR,

'The

An

cent Year-on-Year), followed

by Mumbai with 2.1 million

sq ft (rise of 86 per cent YoY)

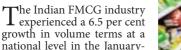
cent YoY). Hyderabad is the

only city to record a decline

JSW Energy profit rises 29 per cent in March quarter PTI NEW DELHI

cent volume growth in Q4FY24: Report PTI NEW DELHI

Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Energy on Tuesday its consolidated net profit to Rs 351 crore in the March quarter compared to a year ago mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 272 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2023, according to a BSE filing. "Profit after Tax (consolidated net profit) increased by a robust 29 per cent YoY (year on year) to Rs 351 Crore," it stated. During the quarter, total revenue increased by 3 per cent YoY to Rs 2,879 crore from Rs 2,806 crore in Q4 FY23, it stated. The profit after tax increased by 17 per cent YoY to Rs 1,723 crore in fiscal compared to Rs 1,478 crore in FY23.





Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.10 per cent to USD 83.25 per Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

March period of 2024, with rural consumption surpassing urban for the first time in five quarters, according to consumer intelligence firm NielsenIQ.

Both food and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption in the first quarter of 2024, but nonfood saw almost double the growth as compared to food, NielsenIQ (NIQ) said in its quarterly snapshot for Q1 2024.

The FMCG industry has experienced a 6.6 per cent growth in value, attributed to a 6.5 per cent increase in volume at an all-India level. The volume growth for this quarter was higher than Q1 sizes. 2023, which stood at 3.1 per The

cent, it added. NIQ Head of Customer Success India, Roosevelt

Dsouza said, "The FMCG industry's growth continues to be driven by consumption trends in Q12024 with rural urban areas surpassing growth for the first time in five quarters." Notably, Dsouza said home

and personal care (HPC) categories have outperformed food categories. While food categories witness higher unit purchases, the growth in HPC is largely driven by the popularity of larger pack

quarterly snapshot pointed out that there is a consumption slowdown in urban and modern trade,

while there is an uptick in rural and traditional trade. "Rural consumption growth has gradually picked up pace and has surpassed urban (growth) in Q12024. Urban sees sequential decline in consumer demand leading to 5.7 per cent this quarter," NIQ said

Within the retail sector, modern trade continues to exhibit strong double-digit volume growth at 14.7 per cent. Traditional trade, on the other hand, experienced stable growth, with volumes registering 5.6 per cent growth in Q1 2024, compared to 5.3 per cent in the previous

and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption but non-food saw almost double the growth as compared to food.

quarter (Q4 2023), suggesting that traditional retail channels

are holding their ground, it

According to the snapshot, at

added

"More units were purchased in food categories compared to the same period last year, whereas in non-food, more large packs were bought," it said.

In Q1 2024, the volume growth in the food sector was 4.8 per cent compared to Q1 2023, down from 5.3 per cent in Q4 2023. This slowdown in growth is primarily due to products falling under staples. In contrast, non-food categories, there is an improvement, with consumption reaching 11.1 per cent in Q1 2024 compared to last year, an increase from the 9.6 per cent recorded in Q4 2023.

"While the general said, performance has been weak, we have seen a reasonable recovery in our chemicals business in the fourth quarter, as we had envisaged. We believe that this recovery will pick up pace in the second half of FY25."

In 2024, SRF commemorates 50 years since the start of manufacturing.

With an annual turnover of Rs 12,910 crore (USD 1.6 billion), the company's diversified business portfolio fluorochemicals, covers specialty chemicals, packaging films, technical textiles and coated and laminated fabrics.

has 13 The company manufacturing plants in India and one each in Thailand, South Africa and Hungary. It exports to 100-plus countries.

Shopping Centre' in 2023. In terms of area, this is up 58 per cent from 8.4 million square feet in the preceding year.

experience remains crucial As a result of the rise in ghost shopping centres, Knight Frank estimated the loss of value to be at Rs 6,700 crore or USD 798 million in 2023

National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the highest ghost shopping centre stock measuring at 5.3

for shoppers, highlighting the significance of physical retail spaces, he added. "Grade A malls have notably excelled, maintaining robust occupancy, foot traffic, and

enhanced

conversion rates, thereby delivering value to their customers

Toy exports marginally down at USD 152.34 million in 2023-24: GTRI report

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The country's toy exports declined marginally to USD 152.34 million in 2023-24 from USD 153.89 million in the previous financial year, according to a report by economic think tank GTRI. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that India's toy exports did not benefit much from the mandatory quality control orders.

It said that while the domestic measures were primarily aimed at boosting local industry and ensuring safety, they did not significantly enhance India's toy exports. "From FY'2020 to FY'2022, exports increased modestly from USD 129.6 million to USD 177 million. However, FY'2024, by FY'2024, exports decreased to USD 152.3 million," the report said. Imports, however, increased to USD 64.92 million in 2023-

24 from USD 62.37 million in 2022-23. GTRI

Founder GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said that the QCO checked substandard imports from China but did not result in higher exports from India. Though India has taken decisive steps since 2020 to the curb inflow of substandard toy imports, especially from China, and strengthen the domestic toy industry, but "India needs to take more comprehensive approach for development of the industry," he said.

The report proposes a comprehensive strategy aimed at developing India's toy industry and boosting exports.

He suggested steps such as developing a robust domestic ecosystem, encouraging global toy brands manufacture in India, learning from China, and localise production of key inputs.



'Invest in research and development to foster innovation in toy design and functionality, positioning Indian toys competitively on the global stage. Strengthen partnerships between toy manufacturers and design institutes to continuously introduce innovative products," Srivastava said.

The report recommended setting up specialized toy manufacturing hubs to reduce costs and increase efficiency modernising traditional Indian toys while preserving their cultural value to create unique products. "Support small and medium

marketing

digital

promote Indian toys at international fairs to establish global connections," it said. It also asked India to invite international toy manufacturers who operate in China, such as Hasbro, Mattel, Lego, Spin Master, and MGA Entertainment, to consider setting up production facilities in India. enterprises in leveraging up and

This move could help shift part of the global toy production market to India. Further, it asked to reduce dependency on imports by developing local production capabilities for critical toymaking materials and components, such as glass eyes for dolls, beads, imitation stones, various types of plastics, electric motors, and remote control apparatus. This step will decrease costs and enhance the self-sufficiency of the Indian toy industry, the GTRI said.

"Imports of inputs used for making toys is much higher than import of finished toys. For example, we imported glass eyes for dolls or other toys, beads and imitation stones of value USD 137.2 million in Srivastava said. FY'2024," million

He added that India needs to make separate strategies for each group of toys such as plush toys like stuffed animals

(world trade is about USD 7 billion); educational toys (world trade is about USD 6 is minimal, totalling USD 167 billion); construction toys like LEGO (USD 10 billion); action figures and dolls (USD 10 billion); electronics (USD 15 billion); board games and puzzles (USD 9 billion); and outdoor and sports toys (USD

5 billion). In 2022, the global market imported toys valued at about USD 60.3 billion.

Dominating this market, China exported toys worth USD 48.3 billion, securing an 80 per cent share of the global exports.

Other significant contributors to the global toy export market include the Czech Republic with exports of USD 3.2 billion, the European Union with USD 2.7 billion, Vietnam with USD 1.7 billion, and Hong Kong with USD 1.1 billion.

In contrast, India's share in the global toy export market safety.

million, which represents only 0.3 per cent of the global exports, ranking it 27th, the report said. On the import side, India ranks even lower, at 61st, with toy imports amounting to USD 60 million.

The largest importer of toys is the USA, which alone procured toys worth USD 22.2 billion. It is followed by the European Union (USD 9 billion), Japan (USD 2.8 billion), and Canada (USD

1.6 billion).

India raised import duties on toys beginning in February 2020. The basic customs duty was increased from 20 per cent to 60 per cent and then to 70 per cent in July 2021.

Implemented from January 2021, the QCO mandates that all toys sold in India, whether domestically produced or imported, must comply with specific Indian Standards for



Stimac announces second list of probables for World Cup qualifiers

njured central defender Sandesh Jhingan missed out as Indian senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday announced his second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar. The first list of probables was

announced on Saturday. Key defender Jhingan, who sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January, missed out of the list. The 26 players from the first list will begin training in the Odisha capital on May 10. The 15 players from the second list, comprising players from Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan SG, who contested the ISL Cup final, will join the camp on May 15. A total of 41 players will take part in the national camp. The Blue Tigers will face Kuwait in

A talanta came from a goal down to beat Salernitana 2-1 in Serie A

and improve its chances of a place in next season's Champions League.

The Bergamo-based club rose above Roma and into fifth place. The top

five qualify automatically for the

Atalanta rested some regular starters

with one eye on Thursday's second leg

of the Europe League semifinal

It went behind after 18 minutes when

Loum Tchaouna scored against the

But Atalanta woke up in the second

half. Gianluca Scamacca converted a

nice headed assist by Mario Pasalic

and six minutes later Teun Koopmeiners stroked home from

AP ROME

Champions League.

against Marseille.

run of play.

outside the box.



Kolkata on June 6 before group will qualify for Round 3 travelling away to take on Qatar on June 11 in their last two matches of Group A. India are currently placed second in the group, with four points from four matches. The top two teams in the

> next season in Serie B. UDINESE DRAWS

time.

NAPOLI: Udinese equalized deep

in stoppage time to draw with

Napoli 1-1 at home and earn a vital

point in its fight against relegation.

Substitute Isaac Success was surrounded by defenders but

managed to squeeze a shot home in

the second minute of stoppage

Until then, it had looked like a

certain defeat for the home side

of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and book their berth at the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027. The second list of 15 probables Bhubaneswar the for camp

(training from May 15): Goalkeepers: Phurba Tempa Lachenpa, Vishal Kaith Defenders: Akash Mishra. Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose Midfielders: Anirudh Thapa, Deepak Tangri, Lalengmawia

Ralte, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad

Forwards: Manvir Singh Vikram Partap Singh The first list of 26 probables

for the Bhubaneswar camp (training from May 10): Amrinder

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh, Singh Sandhu Defenders: Amey Ganesh

Ranawade, Jay Gupta, Lalchungnunga, Muhammad Hammad, Narender, Nikhil Poojary, Roshan Singh Naorem Midfielders: Brandon

Fernandes, Edmund Lalrindika, Imran Khan, Isak Vanlalruatfela, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Mohammad Yasir, Nandhakumar Sekar, Rahul Kannoly Praveen, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Vibin Singh Mohanan.

Forwards: David Lalhlansanga, Jithin Madathil Subran, Lalrinzuala, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri

The Olympic torch will finally enter France when it reaches the southern seaport of Marseille on Wednesday. And it's already been quite a journey.

AP PARIS

After being lit by the sun's rays on April 16 in Ancient Olympia, the torch was carried around Greece before leaving Athens aboard a three-mast ship named Belem, headed for Marseille. The Belem was first used in 1896, the same year the modern Olympics came back. It will be accompanied by more than 1,000 boats as it parades around the Bay of Marseille, before arriving at the Vieux-Port, or Old Port, and docking on a pontoon resembling an athletics tracks. Torch bearers will carry the flame across Marseille the next day, the last stretch running on the roof of the famed Stade Vélodrome, home to Marseille's passionate soccer fans.

After leaving Marseille, a vast relay route will be undertaken before the torch odyssey ends on July 27 in Paris.

Here's a look at where the torch goes before reaching Paris:

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL: The torch is due to reach the famed and visually stunning site of Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy on May 31.

Located in an area of raised land surrounded by water, the island fortress looks like it was created for a Game of Thrones film set. But it's real,

So old that it already existed during the Hundred Years' War between England and France, from 1337 to 1453. An English attack was even fended off. Later it became a prison, and in 1979 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Every years swarms of tourists are in awe of its raw and

of Olympic torch to Paris

sports 11

haunting beauty. ACROSS THE OCEANS: The torch travel route is even more unique considering it takes a detour through France's overseas territories called the Relais des Océans, or Ocean Relay. Riding the waves of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean, it will be in French Guiana on June 9 before hitting New Caledonia on June 11.

What to know about journey

Next is the island of Réunion at Saint-Denis coincidentally the same name as the Paris suburb with the Olympic village — before reaching Papeete in the surfing realm of Tahiti, then 700,000 French and German Baie-Mahault in Gaudeloupe and finally Fort-de-France in

Martinique. The torch comes back to France on June 18 in the

southern city of Nice. FROM SEA BREEZE TO HEAVY CHEESE: Just five days after landing on French shores, the torch heads up the Alpine mountain pass of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc for Olympic Day on June 23.

The Haute-Savoie region is known for its outstanding Chamonix ski resort, which hosts World Cup races, for sweeping views across glacier fields to nearby Italy, and some would say more importantly — as a producer of fine cheese.

A Cheese Olympics, should it be invented, would feature a



soldiers were killed or wounded at the Battle of Verdun. BASTILLE DAY ARRIVAL:

The torch is to arrive on the streets of Paris on July 14 hardly surprising, considering it's Bastille Day, France's national day.

The torch will stay the following day in Paris, then exit again before snaking back to the French capital via Versailles - home to the resplendent Royal Palace and the suburbs of Nanterre on July 24 and Seine Saint-

Denis on July 25. From there, it's to travel a very short distance back to Paris on July 26, the eve of the grandiose opening ceremony where athletes will parade on more than 80 boats at sunset on the Seine River.



Gukesh, Arjun and Praggnanandhaa in Warsaw for Superbet Rapid and

PTI WARSAW

WITH

tournament, Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins A part of the Grand Chess GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world number seven Erigaise Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tournament which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner.

three will be rapid and blitz. Arjun might have missed out on a Candidates berth very



Besides Carlsen and Arjun, the other four wild cards have been given to Wei Yi of China, Jan-Krzysztof of Poland, Vincent Keymer of and Shevchenko of Romania. Set to play four out of five rated player too till Gukesh

in the tour Gukesh

narrowly but has quickly put that setback aside. Banking on open events that elite players seldom play, Arjun Kirill struck back like a hurricane and briefly became top Indian



Late Baldé header steals dramatic 4-3 win for Lyon at Lille

Atalanta comes from behind to beat Salernitana and improve Champions League chances Salernitana remained on the bottom of the table and will spend

after Victor Osimhen scored his 15th league goal five minutes into the second half.

Osimhen rose to power home an

are fighting to avoid joining Salernitana in the second division.

Politano. The Nigeria international also had a goal chalked off 10 minutes from the end.

and very old.

bottom and in the relegation zone but it was just two points behind Empoli and Frosinone. Three rounds remain and six teams

Udinese remained third from the

top 10 finish 2024 FIM Junior GP World Championship

India's Kavin Quintal bags

PTI CHENNAI

Ace Indian rider Kavin Quintal made a stunning debut in the 2024 FIM JuniorGP World JumorGP World Championship with a top-10 finish in the Stk European class in Round 2 at the Circuito do Estoril, outside Lisbon, Portugal.

Representing Fifty Motorsport team, Kavin clocked 23:19.001s for the 11 laps, just 34.866s adrift of the winner Adrian Rodriguez of Spain (SF Racing) and just 16.092s off fifth-placed 16.092s off fifth-praced Lorenzo Della Porta (Yamaha GV Racing) the current championship leader and 2019 Moto3 champion.

The 18-year-old faced early setbacks as he crashed during out-lap in qualifying and had to start the race from the 30th position on the grid.

The stock race was red flagged due to deteriorating track conditions in the rain in the second lap, but Kavin had already moved up to 19th place by then.

He navigated through the treacherous conditions overtaking his competition one-by-one and crossed the finish line in an impressive ninth position, for a top-10 finish among 36 riders. The stock race is a stepping stone for Moto2 and JuniorGP World

Championship, a new FIM event for juniors on to the road for MotoGP.

Having begun racing as a 13-year-old, Kavin became the youngest rider to bag points in the FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Championship in 2018, switched to Honda Talent Cup in 2019. He made his international debut in the Asia Talent Cup

in 2020 and represented India thrice in the Asian Road Racing Championships, with two top-10 finishes in 2023. Kavin's next race will be Round 3 of the JuniorGP Stk announced Tuesday that the center back is joining on a

The tournament favourite is none other than world number one Magnus Carlsen

of Norway who starts as the top seed. The USD 175000 prize money event has as many as six wild cards in the first of the five

events. The tour also has a bonus prize pool of USD 175000 for the top three finishers out of which a UDS 100000 is reserved for the

winner.

signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan. All of them will take part in four out of five events out of which two will be classical and remaining

looks like one of the tour favourites. The Chennaibased player also has a World Championship match to play later this year against Ding Liren of China and he surely has his hands full. The four players who have Praggnanandhaa is a known expert in the faster version of

the game and has beaten Carlsen a few times already. If there is one opponent that creates fear for the opposition that's this 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa.

surpa Arjun is one

uncompromising player in the world who fears none and AP LILLE wants to be his best, no matter

Lyon scored a dramatic stoppage time winner to beat Lille 4-3 in a topsy-turvy who the opposition is. For Carlsen, the biggest opposition will come from the Indian trio only, both in French league thriller.

Rapid and Blitz. Mama Baldé got the winner Gukesh may not be the best with a superb header in the when it comes to faster version of the game but the second minute of stoppage time to shock a home side reason why he is playing is a that led 1-0, 2-0, and 3-2. clear signal that he wants to get better at it.

Lyon's fourth win in five league games ended Lille's run of three consecutive home

victories. Bafodé Diakité put Lille ahead with a fine header after 20 minutes, and Edon Zhegrova added a second 16 minutes later when he fired a low shot

home from outside the box. Goals from Said Benrahma in the 65th and substitute Malick Fofana eight minutes from time brought Lyon level. Bafodé Diakité gave Lille the lead again three minutes later with his second goal.

The defender was in Brazil's squad for the last four World Cups. He also won the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2019 Copa América with the national team Alexandre Lacazette made it 3-3 with two minutes remaining and Baldé grabbed national team.

following year.

Silva is expected to join Fluminense once Brazil's the spotlight. Lyon moved into seventh place in Ligue 1, two points behind Lens. transfer window reopens in

Thiago Silva to return to Brazilian club Fluminense after leaving Chelsea at the end of the season

AP RIO DE JANEIRO

Veteran defender Thiago Silva will return to Brazilian club Fluminense after leaving Chelsea at the end of the season The 39-year-old Silva said last week he was not extending his contract with

free transfer. defending The

Libertadores champion posted a picture of Silva wearing a Fluminense shirt on social media with the text:

"The monster is back." Silva played for Fluminense between 2006 and 2008. He left for AC Milan in 2009, Chelsea and Fluminense and three years later joined Paris Saint-German. The Brazilian joined Chelsea in



Olympic bound Preeti among seven Indians to win gold at Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships

PTI ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

Paris Olympics-bound Indian boxers to have clinched the gold medal as the country's medals tally hit a high of 43 at the conclusion of the Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships here. Preeti (54kg) made a remarkable comeback after going down 0-5 in the first round to register a 3-0 win in the final against Kazakhstan's Bazarova Ĕlina.

The Indian boxers won 12 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals to finish second behind hosts Kazakhstan who

bagged a total of 48 medals. The first gold medal on Tuesday went to Vishvanath Suresh in the 48kg category with the reigning defeating Kazakhstan's Karap Yernar 5-0

Nikhil (57kg) defeated Sabyr Yerbolat of Kazakhstan with a referee stopped contest (RSC) win in the third round. Akash Gorkha (60kg) secured a 4-1 win over Kazakhstan's Ruslan Kuzeubayev to win India's third gold medal in the men's category.

In the women's category, Poonam Poonia (57kg) and Prachi (63kg) defeated Kazakhstan's Sakysh Anel and

Anar Tursynbek respectively with an identical 4-1 scoreline. Later, Muskan (75kg) was made to work hard by Uzbekistan's Zokirova Aziza for a 3-2 split decision but one that gave India's its seventh gold medal. Preet Malik (67kg), Guddi (48kg) Tamanna (50kg)

(48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Gudu (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Saneh (70kg) and Alfiya Pathan (81kg) finished their campaigns with silver medals after going down in their respective finals.

The Indian U-22 team grabbed a total of 21 medals including seven gold, five and nine bronze silver medals.



LIST OF MEDAL WINNERS:

Youth medallists: Gold -Men's: Brijesh Tamta (48kg), Aryan Hooda (51kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg); Women's: Laxmi (50kg), Nisha (52kg); Silver - Men's: Sagar Jakhar (60kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Rahul Kundu (75kg), Aryan (92kg); Women's: Tamanna (54kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Shrushti Sathe (63kg), Rudrika (75kg), Khushi Pooniya (81kg); Bronze -Men's: Sumit (67kg), Sahil (80kg), Lakshay Rathi Men's: Brijesh Tamta (48kg), (80kg), Lakshay Rathi (92+kg); **Women's:** Annu (48kg), Yatri Patel (57kg),

Parthavi Grewal (66kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg), Nirjhara Bana (+81kg). U-22 medallists: Gold -Men's: Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Nikhil (57kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg); Women's: Preeti (54kg), Poonam Poonia (57kg), Prachi (63kg), Muskan (75kg); Silver - Men's Preet Malik (67kg); Women's - Guddi (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Saneh (70kg), Alfiya Pathan (81kg); Bronze -Pathan (81kg); **Bronze** - **Men's:** M Jadumani (51kg), Ajay Kumar (63.5kg), Ankush (71kg), Dhruv Singh (80kg), (71kg), Dinuv Shigh (80kg), Jugnoo (86kg), Yuvraj (92kg); **Women's** - Devika (52kg), Kajal (66kg), Ritika (+81kg).

2020 won and the Champions League

the

sports 12



INCONSISTENT SRH TAKE ON LSG IN PUSH FOR PLAYOFFS SPOT

PREMIER LEAGUE

PTI HYDERABAD

unrisers Hyderabad will S be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they host Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

he pioneer

Both teams are locked in at 12 points from 11 games with SRH making the top four cut based on a slightly superior net run rate of -0.065 compared to LSG's -0.371.

The Sunrisers find themselves in a fierce competition for the top four spot with Kolkata Knight Riders (16), Rajasthan Royals (16) and Chennai Super Kings (12) stationed above them on the points table. The winner of the duel will

take a leap in the playoff race. The Pat Cummins-led side has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Sunrisers have lost three of their last four matches, mainly because their destructive batting line-up hasn't delivered.

In their last match against Mumbai Indians, which they lost by seven wickets, they failed to put up a good target on the board, which has been

PTI 📕 MUMBAI

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke does not read much into Rohit Sharma's string of poor scores, but suggests that the "fatigued" Indian skipper take a break to freshen up ahead of the T20I World Cup.

especially considering his Rohit, who will lead India in strong start. In my view, he the next month's 20-team might be feeling a bit fatigued as well," Clarke told Star Sports. "A break to freshen up could global showpiece, has four single-digit scores in his last five outings for his franchise do wonders for him, but as the Indian captain and a key player Mumbai Indians in the ongoing IPL. for Mumbai Indians, you're not getting a break. He's going to

The 37-year-old has had a busy season this year with an have to find form," Clarke five-Test intense series continued. Rohit played as an impact preceding the IPL for Mumbai Indians, who are all but substitute in their match against Kolkata Knight Riders eliminated from the race to the playoffs this year.

last week, raising some concerns for the Indian camp. However, he played a full game Rohit, being the wise judge of his own performances, will



their strong suit this season. breached the 30-run mark just Barring Travis Head, who has once in the last four games. And while SRH head coach been their stand out performer, Daniel Vettori has conceded the other batters in the side have faced a recent slump. that the openers are not expected to do the job all the After displaying his powerhitting ability, young opener Abhishek Sharma has time, the middle order needs to step up

undoubtedly be disappointed,

The flambovant Heinrich batting counterparts. Natarajan has

Klaasen has also been unable to strike the ball consistently and Nitish Reddy too has been patchy. The bowlers have fared better compared to their been

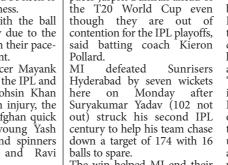
consistent with the ball while seasoned seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar also seems to have found his mojo after his incisive spell helped SRH eke out a one-run win against RR. LSG, on the other hand, have to get over their overall lacklustre display against Kolkata Knight Riders, when they not only conceded the first-ever 200 plus score at the Ekana Stadium but also folded their injungs at 137

ତ ତ ତ ତ

It was a day when skipper KL Rahul failed to anchor the innings while the likes of Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran were unable to get the big shots when needed. Ayush Badoni has had a subdued run in this IPL and the uncapped Indian player would be keen to

shrug off the rustiness. LSG's struggles with the ball have been majorly due to the lack of firepower in their pacebowling department.

With tearaway pacer Mayank Yadav ruled out of the IPL and left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan also picking up an injury, the onus will be on Afghan quick Naveen-ul-Haq, young Yash Thakur, Stoinis and spinners Krunal Pandya and Ravi Bishnoi to deliver.



PTI MUMBAI

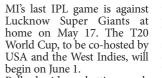
Mumbai Indians have no plans to rest ace India

pacer Jasprit Bumrah ahead of

The win helped MI end their four-match losing streak and record only their fourth win in 12 matches. "I certainly haven't had any discussions about that," Pollard told media after the game when asked if there are any plans to rest Bumrah from MI's remaining two matches keeping in mind the upcoming T20 World Cup.

"I don't think that's my role and function at this point in time. But let's see what happens. We are all here to play an entire IPL. Sometimes when we think too far ahead of different things, thinking about World Cups, all these things could affect performances even from before the team was selected.

"For us and in our camp, the most important thing is finishing off the IPL and let's see what happens after that. When he leaves the IPL and he goes into the Indian team, I think that's where that concession will take place."



No plans to rest Bumrah yet:

slice

begin on June 1. Pollard said as a batting coach the most difficult aspect of coaching an all-round batter like Suryakumar is to curb his attacking instinct.

"He's one, who, by nature, instinctively, is very aggressive. He wants to take the bowler's on more often than not. At times it's just a matter of understanding the situation and respecting the new ball when it's moving around," Pollard said.

"If the conditions are not suitable for a certain amount of shot making, having that discipline in order to be there for a period of time and they'll get into your work. "I think that would be the

hardest thing - to try to curb the attacking instinct. But it's not something you want to curb too much and get them in a defensive frame of mind because of the direction the sport is heading now in terms of the amount of runs being scored?

SRH'S ASSISTANT COACH HELMOT DOFFS HIS HAT TO SURYAKUMAR: SRH's assistant coach Simon Helmot said Suryakumar played an exceptional innings to take the game away from his side and the world No 1 T20I batter will have a lot of influence in the T20 World Cup.

"On some days you just have to

MI batting coach Pollard take your hat off and say well played and well played to him. He's an exceptional cricketer and he's always going to demand a spot in the Indian team and I'm sure he'll have an influence in the World Cup,"

> he said. "It's very difficult (to bowl at Suryakumar) and you guys have seen him close up for many years as I have. He's a very difficult batsman to match up with when he's in that sort of frame of mind, that sort of mood."

> Helmot said the conditions assisted swing bowling with the new ball in both the innings which forced the batters to adjust their game.

"Travis (Head) has been one of our best players this season at the top of the order. But even he found it difficult at times to time the ball out in the middle on this particular track and that will happen at different times during the season," he said.

Helmot said not losing their fourth spot in the IPL points table was the biggest positive for SRH in a resounding defeat. "The positives are that we're still fourth in the ladder. It's a really tight competition; one of the tightest competitions we've had in IPL for years that I can

remember," he said. "For us, we've got our very first fly tomorrow (Tuesday) and then play the next day against Lucknow (on Wednesday). For us, it's (about) very quickly get through over this game," he added



'Fatigued' Rohit Sharma needs break to freshen

up ahead of T20I World Cup: Michael Clarke

against Sunrisers Hyderabad three days later. Clarke said it is only a matter of time before Rohit gets back to his usual elements as a batter.

"He was in a great mood. He's happy, which is a really good sign. He doesn't seem to be struggling with his timing; it's just a matter of getting out," he

"With someone like Rohit, it's only a matter of time before he finds his form again. Hopefully, he stresses less and focuses on his game because he's too talented to keep missing out. He's at his best when he's timing the ball, rather than trying to force it," he added.

praise in store for Rohit's deputy for the World Cup and Mİ skipper Hardik Pandya, who returned with 4-0-31-3 in their seven-wicket win over SRH on Monday.

Clarke, meanwhile, also had



KKR players spend night in Varanasi after flight diverted multiple times due to bad weather

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $K_{
m players\ had\ a\ harrowing}^{
m olkata}$ experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather.

Following their massive 98run win over Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday, the Shreyas Iyer-led side left on Monday evening for Kolkata at 5:45pm. The team was scheduled to arrive at 7.25pm. But the charter flight had to

be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi after adverse weather conditions made it impossible to land

the plane in Kolkata. The KKR media team provided an update at 8.46pm, saying, "Due to 8.46pm, saying, "Due to inclement weather over Kolkata, the KKR charter flight has been diverted to Guwahati. We've just landed here.'

Then another update at 9.43pm said, "We've got clearance to fly back to Guwahati. Estimated arrival: 11pm."

However, the ordeal was not over for the players and support staff as multiple attempts to land the flight field forging the efficient as failed, forcing the officials to divert the flight mid-air to

Varanasi. "Flight took off from Guwahati to Kolkata, was scheduled to land at 11 PM. Couldn't land once again due to bad weather, despite several attempts. Diverted mid-air to Varanasi now. Just landed here," said an update at 1:15 am. The KKR team then spent

the night at Varanasi and will be travelling to Kolkata this afternoon.

"The team would be checking into Varanasi hotel for overnight stay. Return flight to Kolkata TBD on Tuesday (7 May) afternoon," the KKR media team said in the final update at 3:00 am. Fortunately, KKR's next game is against Mumbai Indians at Edens Garden on May 11. The two-time former champions will play Titans Gujarat in Ahmedabad on May 13 and Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati on May 19 for their final two league matches.

Man United in crisis: Transfers, tactics and takeover helped lead up to 4-0 humiliation at Palace

AP MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

bad season just keeps on Agetting worse for Manchester United.

The 20-time English champion was routed 4-0 by Crystal Palace on Monday and faces the prospect of its lowest finish in the Premier League era, as well as a season without European soccer.

League Champions qualification was already beyond Erik ten Hag's troubled team before its latest defeat. Now, sitting eighth in the standings, even the third-tier Conference League could end up out of reach.

On current form, United might need to beat Manchester City in this month's FA Cup final to secure a place in the Europa League. On current form, there is little chance of

that happening. One of the world's most storied clubs is in a mess and the humiliation at the hands of

Palace was the latest evidence of that. A record of 13 league defeats is

the most United has suffered in a Premier League campaign. In all competitions that number rises to 18, including four losses in six games as United crashed out of the Champions League at the group stage.

Ten Hag's team has conceded 81 goals in all competitions, which is the most since 1976-

According to stats company Opta, United has also spent more time in a losing position in league games this season than a winning one.

Its only win in its last seven league games was against last-placed Sheffield United.

United's lowest finish in the Premier League era - which it long dominated, winning 13 titles under former manager Alex Ferguson - was seventh under David Moyes in 2013-14.

Here are some of the reasons



OTHER SPORTS

behind United's fall this season

INJURIES: United's bench against substitutes' Palace included six teenagers and two goalkeepers, such is the level of the injury crisis which has gripped Ten Hag's team. Jonny Evans, the veteran 36-year-old center back, was rushed back from injury to cover for the absent Harry Maguire and midfielder

Casemiro had to play as a makeshift defender.

It has been the story of United's season with key players ruled out for long periods, including Luke Shaw, Lisandro Martinez, Mason Mount, Casemiro, Christian Eriksen, Rasmus Hojlund and Marcus Rashford. Yet United is not the only team to suffer from injuries, with Liverpool and Newcastle also seeing their squads decimated



Badosa shows signs

of her old form in a

win over Andreeva

Badosa jumped out to a 5-1

lead in the first set before a 45-

minute rain delay and then picked up where she left off against the 40th-ranked

Andreeva, who was the WTA

tour's newcomer of the year in

quarterfinals in Rome last year

reached

the

at Italian Open

AP ROME

by absences. Even Ten Hag accepted there was no excuse for Monday's performance.

"The players who were available should do better. It's a deserved defeat," he said. TACTICS: Last season United had one of the meanest defenses in the Premier League, with only treble-winning City and Newcastle conceding fewer goals. It's been a very different story

in Ten Hag's second season in charge, with the openness of Paula Badosa showed signs of her former top-five form his team a consistent problem. during a 6-2, 6-3 victory over 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva in To compound the issue, United has found goals hard to come by at the other end of the field. the first round of the Italian Open on Tuesday. Badosa was ranked as high as No. 2 before she missed the second half of last year due to a A total of 52 scored is the joint lowest in the top half of the standings, level with 10thback injury that has also slowed her this season. She's place Bournemouth. Luton which is in the relegation zone - has scored 49. now No. 126.

United is too open in midfield, too fragile in defense and not potent enough in attack. And it falls on Ten Hag to come up with the solutions

In the day's other match, Harvana dominated possession from the start. The breakthrough came through Manju Chorsiya (12),

who capitalised on an opportunity to score from open play, putting Haryana in the lead.

In the second half, Haryana strengthened their position with Pooja (37) converting a penalty corner.

Despite Maharashtra's efforts and multiple opportunities, including four penalty corners, they could only convert one, with Sukanya Dhaware (55) scoring a field goal in the dying minutes to narrow the deficit for her team team.

Bengal, Haryana win women hockey nationals ties

PTI 📕 RANCHI

 $B_{\text{registered}}^{\text{engal} \quad \text{and}}$ Haryana identical victories by margins of 2-1 over Odisha and Maharashtra respectively in the National Women's Hockey League 2024 here on Tuesday.

the second quarter when Shanti Horo (23) manoeuvred past Odisha's defence before unleashing a thunderous shot into the net. The momentum swung further in Bengal's favour in the second half when Shanti Horo (39) capitalised on an unmarked opportunity

Bengal showed relentless attacking prowess and swift passing throughout the game. Their breakthrough came in



in the D area, slotting home her second goal with precision. Odisha managed to score a goal in the final quarter

through Dipi Monika Toppo (51), who converted a penalty corner. Nevertheless, Bengal held on to their lead to emerge

winners. Despite the loss Odisha, remained on top of the points table with 12 points from six matches.

but that turned out to be her penultimate tournament of the season. It was Badosa's first win since beating Simona Halep at the Miami Open last month in

Halep's return from a doping ban. It also ended Badosa's sixmatch losing streak against players ranked in the top 40 that had stretched back to Rome last year.

2023.

Badosa

Also on the red clay at the Foro Italico, Shelby Rogers routed Italian wild-card entry Lisa

Pigato 6-1, 6-0. The only other matches scheduled on the opening day featured 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez against Ana Bogdan and Yulia Putintseva against Martina Trevisan.