OPINION 6

AN OPEN LETTER TO

SHEHBAZ SHARIF

WORLD 8

YEMEN'S HOUTHI REBELS CLAIM

TWO ATTACKS IN GULF OF ADEN

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

Published From



CSK AIM TO CONTINUE ASCENT TO TOP THREE 12 SPORTS

www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 10, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

ED stonewall for Kejriwal

ailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has sought 'relief' from the Supreme Court to enable him to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, faced opposition from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the AAP leader's role in a multi-crore excise policy. In a fresh affidavit filed on Thursday in the apex court, the ED opposed interim bail for Kejriwal, stating that the right to campaign for elections was "not fundamental" and that no political leader has ever been granted interim bail for campaigning, even if they are not contesting polls.

The move comes a day before the Supreme Court is set to hear Kejriwal's interim bail plea in the case on Friday. Sources also said the ED is preparing to file a chargesheet in the liquor scam in which Kejriwal has been named as the kingpin.

Interestingly, the ED said such an approach would incentivise every criminal to become a politician and being in campaign mode throughout the year while committing rampant offences and violations of laws in the country.

"Around 123 elections have taken place in the past three years and if interim bail is granted for election then campaigning politician could be arrested



and kept in judicial custody since elections take place all year round," the ED said.

It said there are numerous examples where politicians contested elections in judicial custody and some have even won but were never granted interim bail on this ground. "It is relevant to note that the right to campaign for an on fundamental right nor a even a legal right," the agency

It said to its knowledge, "no political leader has been

granted interim bail for campaigning even though he not the contesting candidate. Even a contesting candidate is not granted interim bail if he is in custody for his own campaigning".

"In light of the above, any special concession in favour of the arrestee enlarging him right to campaign for an on interim bail for election is neither a campaigning in general fundamental right nor a election would, in the humble constitutional right and not submission of the respondent, amount to anathema to the rule of law and equality and create a precedent which permit

unscrupulous politicians to commit crimes, investigation under the garb of one election or the other be it municipal election, or panchayat election Assembly election or general

election and thereafter upon being arrested, seek interim bail to campaign for one election or the other thereby creating two separate classes in the count viz. ordinary people who are bound by the rule of law as well as the laws the country politicians who can seek exemption from the laws in

the hope of securing interim bail to campaign for elections. In this regard, it may be noted that in the past five years, 123 elections have been held in various states in India," it said. The ED said in a federal structure, no set of election is more significant than another and therefore, every politician at every level would argue that if he is not let out on interim bail, he would suffer irreversible consequences.

"Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act alone presently there are many politicians who are in judicial custody and their cases are examined by competent courts upholding their custody.

"There must be several political leaders in judicial custody throughout the non-PMLA country offences

'There is no reason why a special prayer for a special treatment by the petitioner be acceded to".

"Grant of interim bail merely for political campaigning would militate against and will be discriminatory to the rule of equality as work/business/ profession or activity of every citizen is equally important to him or her. It would not be possible to hold that work of a small farmer or a small trader is any less important than political campaigning of a political leader who admittedly is not

contesting.

Continued on Page 2



Testing times ahead for BJP in Haryana

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Just a few days ahead of the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections in Haryana, the BJP-led Nayab Singh Saini Government has been trying to keep its flock together, while there has been a demand for a floor test by JJP leader Dushyant Chautala, who not very long ago was a partner with the BJP in the Manohar Lal Khattar Government. While Dushyant wrote to Governor Bandaru Dattatreya seeking a floor-test for the present Haryana Government to prove its majority on floor of the House, the

Congress, which had earlier demanded the imposition of President's rule and early Assembly elections in the State, also sought time from the Governor for a meeting with a party delegation. This comes days after three Independent MLAs withdrew support from the

BIP Government, extending support to the Congress. However, Saini maintained that his Government is not in trouble. He told reporters that his Karnal Government confidence vote in March and "if it comes to seeking the trust vote, I will do it again when the time comes"

The BJP currently has 40

MLAs in the Assembly, shy of the majority mark of 45 in the now 88-member House. Technically, the BJP Government has the support of 43 MLAs including Independents) now, though it claimed on Tuesday that four JJP MLAs too may offer "tactical assistance to the Government if needed", taking its strength

The JJP had pulled out of the BJP coalition the BJP coalition Government in March 2024. Of the JJP's 10 MLAs, at least six have distanced themselves from Chautala. Continued on Page 2

to 47

US poking nose into **India affairs**

Russia says

The US has not yet provided any reliable evidence of the involvement of Indian citizens in the murder plot of a Khalistani terrorist in that country, Russia has said, as it accused Washington of meddling in India's domestic affairs and the ongoing elections. In November last year, US

federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian Government employee in the foiled plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual citizenship of the US and Canada. He has been designated as a terrorist by the Union Home Ministry under the anti-terror law Activities Unlawful (Prevention) Act.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova, when asked to respond to a report by The Washington Post claiming that India is trying to adopt the policies as Russia and Saudi Arabia, said, "According to the information we have, Washington has not yet provided any reliable evidence of the involvement of Indian citizens in the preparation of the murder of

a certain GS Pannun. Continued on Page 2

Sandeshkhali rape victim turns 'hostile'

said.



SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

After Saturday's "fake video", on Thursday, emerged the 'fake FIR' in the Sandeshkhali mass rape case, threatening to dent and disturb the BJP's soaring graph in the Basirhat parliamentary constituency.

Things tended to boomerang against the saffron outfit, even as the Trinamool Congress' sting teams worked overtime to turn the Sandeshkhali rape-and-land-grab cases upside down.

Some women on Thursday said the police complaint that they were made to sign on blank sheets were not about rape but about non-payment of hundred days' work schemes.

"We were tricked into signing the blank papers ... we were told that the signed papers would be used to claim the 100-days' work dues ... we had no idea that rape stories would be written

there. We discovered later that rape complaints had been lodged in our names. This is a blatant lie," they said. The woman said the incident took place on the day the National Commission for Women visited the island. "A woman called Piyali who is that we had not received money as part of the 100 days' job scheme. But in the name of getting us to write a complaint to that effect she made us sign on a blank sheet," she said.
The BJP immediately rose up to

control damage by saying the TMC is threatening the women to change their versions.

Earlier they showed a fake and paid video and now they are coming up with this ... The leadership will have to say what has to be said but it is clear that it is the same TMC which has been threatening the villagers into submission for the past 10 years once again have started doing so ... though I haven't seen it ... if the video is true then the women are being threatened to contradict their statements," a local BJP leader at Basirhat said on

conditions of anonymity. State BJP leader Priyanka Tibrewal asked, "What the TMC was doing for the past several months ... why they have suddenly brought this fake video and fake FIR issue ... this is an afterthought ... but the damage has already been done ... earlier they said the women were lying and now they are saying they were tricked to lie."

INDIA Bloc to meet EC over turnout figures

and



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

eaders of the Opposition INDIA Election Commission on Friday over their demand to promptly release the absolute voter turnout figures in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls

after each phase. The Opposition leaders will also raise the issue of alleged "use of religious symbols" by the BJP in its campaign, sources

INDIA Bloc parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), have written to the poll panel separately so far, expressing concern over the alleged "delay" in the release of the voter turnout data Various Opposition parties have also approached the poll panel over speeches made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders during poll campaigns, alleging that the Model Code of Conduct had been violated.

Amid the Opposition's allegations, the poll watchdog had asserted that booth-wise data of the "actual number of votes polled" is available to the candidates soon after the voting ends. Opposition parties have also sought the details of the number of voters who exercised their franchise.

In a statement issued last week, the EC also said it attaches "due importance" to the timely release of voter turnout figures after each phase of the poll, and said not just constituency, but booth-wise data of the actual number of votes polled is available with the candidates, which is a statutory requirement.

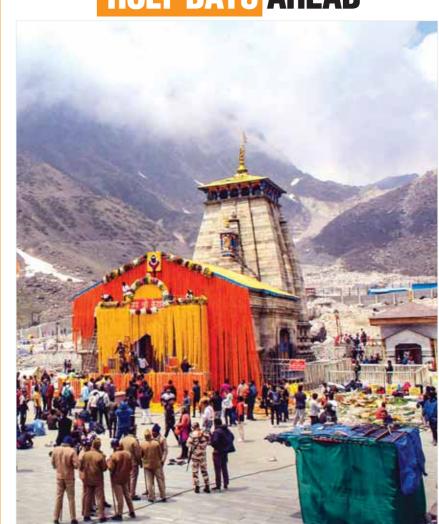
president Mallikarjun Kharge had written to leaders of various Opposition parties on the issue of alleged "discrepancies" in the voting data released by the EC. In his

letter, Kharge urged that the INDIA Bloc leaders to "collectively, unitedly and unequivocally" raise their voice on the issue. The EC officially shared the turnout

figure for the first two phases of Lok

Sabha polls on April 30. Continued on Page 2

HOLY DAYS AHEAD



Kedarnath temple being decorated ahead of its opening for the 'Char Dham Yatra' in Rudraprayag

Continued on Page 2 in the first two phases. Deadlock over, Air India Express will take to the skies again

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

fter two and a half days of Astalemate, Air India Express and the crew reached a middle ground on Thursday, putting an end to the suffering of hundreds of

The Air India Express cabin crew has decided to withdraw strike and join back for duty after the airline assured to look into all the issues raised by the cabin crew.

Besides, the airline has agreed to withdraw the termination letters issued to 25 cabin crew and the management will review the cases as per service regulations, they added. The Tata Group-owned airline has cancelled more than 170 flights since Tuesday night after the cabin crew started reporting sick to against the alleged mismanagement airline.

Regional

Perumalla, a meeting was held on Thursday between Air India Express Union and the airline CEO to reach a solution. Apparently, after the meeting, a middle ground has been reached and the strike will end, much to the relief of the travelers.

the email notice of termination it sent to the added that the widespread

Following the cancellation of several flights and the inconvenience to passengers, the Government had to get involved. At the request of the Labour Ashok

affected employees, the airline

Commissioner

sick leave "violated the Air



around 23 per cent of the total daily capacity as the disruptions due to the cabin crew shortage continue. Air India will operate services on 20 of its routes to minimise inconvenience to passengers

Express Limited breaching the relevant laws.

emailed Employees' Service Rules as followed Air India Express are applicable" in addition to CEO Aloke Singh's announcement that the

statement airline was curtailing flight services until May 13 as a result of the cabin crew crisis. A section of the cabin crew

has alleged mismanagement and lack of equality in the treatment of staff. A conciliation process is happening under the happening under the Industrial Disputes Act after a union representing a section of the Air India Express cabin crew had filed a complaint before the labour department

Room sharing, lack of proper support, revised salary revised salary and alleged structure differential treatment of experienced crew members of Air India Express are among the issues being flagged by the

of flights and also asked the

airline to resolve the issues

last vear.

striking cabin crew. On Wednesday, the Civil checks. Aviation Ministry sought a report from Air India Soon after 30 crew members were sacked for staging mass Express on the cancellation sick leave, the Air India Express on Thursday

promptly.
Discontent has been brewing among a section of staff at Air India Express since the start

of the process to merge AIX Connect, formerly AirAsia India, with itself. Regardless of the actions taken by Air India Express,

such as the dismissal of employees who went on mass leave without notice, it is ultimately the passengers who bear the brunt.

The situation with Air India Express is even more dire, as many passengers are finding out about flight cancellations only after completing security

announced that the airline

In case their flight is cancelled or delayed beyond three hours, the Air India Express said the passengers may opt for a full refund or reschedule to a later date without any

has cancelled 85 flights as

flight operations were disrupted by shortage of cabin

"We will be operating 283 flights today. We have mobilised all resources and

Air India will support us by

operating on 20 of our routes. However, 85 of our flights

stand cancelled and we urge our guests booked to fly with

us to check if their flight is affected by the disruption

before heading to the airport,"

said the airline in the

crew members.

statement.

Continued on Page 2

NEW DELHI I FRIDAY I MAY 10, 2024 The pioneer The pioneer

Maharashtra Legislative Council

MUMBAI

A mid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the State, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the schedule for the biennial elections to the Maharashtra Legislative Council to fill four seats — two seats each from the Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies, on June 10, 2024. The four members - whose impending retirement from the State Legislative Council on July 7 have necessitated the biennial elections — are: Vilas Potnis (Shivsena UBT) from the Mumbai Graduates' Constituency, Niranjan Davkhare (BJP) from the Konkan Division Graduates, Kishore Bhikaji Darade (Shivsena UBT) from the Nashik Division Teachers' constituency and Kapil Harischandra Patil (Lokbharti Party) from the Mumbai Teachers' constituency.

This is the first-ever biennial elections to the Maharashtra Legislative Council after the June 2022 vertical split in the Shiv Sena, which has thrown basis of party symbols, take place on June 13.



up a new Shiv Sena headed by chief minister Eknath Shinde, and the rebellion within the NCP which saw Ajit Pawar walked out a majority of the party MLAs and joined the Eknath Shinde Sena-BJP government on July 2, 2023.

While the ruling BJP will have to retain one seat, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray and the Shinde Sena will vie with each other to win two seats. There will be a fierce contest for the Mumbai Teachers' constituency seat.

While the elections to the Graduates' Division con-

Teachers' Unions affiliated to political parties or those independent of political affiliations will put up candidates in the elections to the Teachers Division constituencies. As per the poll schedule

announced by the ECI, the notification for the biennial MLC elections will be issued on May 15, while the last date for filing of nomination papers is May 22. The nominations will be scrutinised on May 24 and the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is May 27. The elections to four MLC seats will be held on June 10, stituencies are contested on the while the counting of votes will

EC announces poll to four seats of No victim reached out to register complaint against Prajwal: NCW

National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday said no victim has come forward to register a complaint with the NCW against Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna, and one woman complainant who reached out to it alleged that she was forced to register a fake complaint against the JD(S) leader.

The timely submission of the Action Taken Report (ATR) by the concerned authorities reveals several significant findings, the National Commission for Women (NCW) added. It said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) committee has been formed to probe the matter thoroughly. Notably, there is a commendable presence of female officers entrusted with conducting investigations and ensuring sensitivity and empathy in handling such cases, it

According to the NCW, the ATR indicated the registration of two cases based on the complaints of sexual abuse by the victims, alongside an additional complaint filed for abduction by a relative.

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW



However, no victim has come forward to register a complaint with the commission in this case, it said.

"One woman complainant came to the commission to register a complaint against three individuals dressed in civil uniform, allegedly introducing themselves as Karnataka Police officials and forcing her to give a false complaint in this case," the NCW claimed.

"She stated that she is being called by random phone numbers threatening her to complaint. It has come to light that this complainant was forced by a group of individuals to file a complaint, under the threat of potential harassment and false implications. The victim has sought protection for her family's welfare, underscoring the seriousness of the situation," it

In a separate development, the NCW said, it has been noted that the 700 women who submitted online complaints are affiliated with a social activist group and have no direct involvement or association with the primary complainant in the case. "NCW would like to state that 700 women have not given any complaints to NCW regarding Prajwal Revanna case. Some media channels are falsely reporting this," the commission said in a

The police booked Prajwal Revanna and his father JD(S) MLA and former minister H D Revanna for sexual harassment and criminal intimidation based on a complaint from a woman, who worked in their household. Prajwal (33) is the BJP-JD(S) alliance candidate for the Hassan Lok Sabha seat which went to polls on

Fourth phase LS polls in UP: A test of

Molestation charges: West Bengal Governor shows CCTV footage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Days after a contractual employee at Kolkata Raj Bhavan brought sexual assault charges against Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose he on Thursday showed the CCTV footage of the said date to a limited audience that he called "common men" which would not comprise members from any political party or for that matter police force.

May 2 footage from two CCTV cameras at the main gate was shown to people at the hall on the ground floor of Raj Bhavan, sources said adding there were about one hundred people. The alleged incident took place

when a woman working as a contractual ministerial employee complained to the Hare Street Police that she had been molested by the Governor on the pretext of giving her a good assignment and maybe a good and permanent posting. "Governor Bose has launched a programme 'SACH KE SAAMNE' in the background



cated allegations by the police that Raj Bhavan is not sparing the CCTV footage of an incident which is under the illegal and unconstitutional investigation of the police," said a Raj Bhavan post.

It was also said that the Honourable Governor has decided that the CCTV footages can be seen by any citizen of West Bengal - except politicians Mamata Banerjee and her police for the stand they had taken, which is in public domain."

Believers' Church head Yohannan passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

 K^{P} Yohannan, the Metropolitan Bishop of the Believers' Church and founder of Gospel For Asia, the renowned evangelisation organisation passed away at Dallas in USA late Wednesday evening following a car accident.

Thiruvalla born Yohannan,

who has been renamed as Athanasius Yohan following his elevation as Metropolitan Bishop was on an official trip to USA. A speeding car hit him while he was on his morning walk through a country road on Tuesday. The police rushed to the spot and airlifted him to a specialty hospital where it was found that Yohannan had suffered serious multiple injuries including broken ribs that damaged his liver. He was on life support system since he was admitted to the Dallas hospital and a cardiac arrest turned

The Believers Church management informed that his mortal remains would be brought back to Thiruvalla for the final rites. The Believers Church has many educational and business enterprises spread across the country. Spiritual

Journey, the radio programme

broadcast by Yohannan was a

opular show among the his Yohannn was 74 and is survived by his son and daughter. Born into a poor family of duck rears in Thiruvalla, Yohannan rose to become the best evangelist in Asia and is credited with bringing millions of "sinners" to the path of Cross and Jesus. Those who vehemently oppose religious conversion themselves

offered all possible help to

Yohannan and his army of

proselytisers to operate freely

across India. He spent lavishly

on these organisations by pro-

vising them with advertisements worth millions of rupees. In a rare show of communal harmony, publications owned by the RSS always spotted the advertisements issued by Yohannan.

Starting his evangelization drive through the renowned Operation Mobilization, Yohannan had made proselytization an art form. The satellite ΓV channels owned by Yohannan are a major relief to people waiting for a call from the Holy Spirit. Details like the time and place of the Metropolitan's last journey is

Believers Church was in the news in 2020 and 2022 following ED raids in the Church premises and business establishments owned by it. There were reports that the raids led to seizure of hundreds of crore rupees which is believed to be from money laundering

The constituencies in this phase include Shahjahanpur (SC), Kheri, Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Hardoi (SC), Misrikh (SC), Unnao, Farrukhabad, Etawah (SC), Kannauj, Kanpur, Akbarpur and Bahraich (SC).

dominance.

it in the 2019 elections.

While the initial phases primarily tra-

versed through Jat and Yadav strong-

holds, the fourth phase presents a

blend of both, with the BJP and the

Samajwadi Party locked in a battle for

Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Etawah, and Bahraich boast significant Dalit voter populations. In the 2019 elections, riding on the Modi wave, the BJP swept all 13 seats going to polls in this phase, despite facing the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance. However, this election witnesses the BSP independently, while SP has entered into a seat-sharing agreement with its INDIA bloc partner

The BJP faces the challenge of replicating its 2019 performance in this

the EC. We've told them how

the Sandeshkhali incident

was a conspiracy hatched by

the BJP so that false rape

statements are given. There

were no rapes in Sandeshkhali, it is all a lie."

TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh

In Kolkata Bengal Minister

Shashi Panja playing a video

where a top BJP leader was

heard using abusive words

against women said "the

entire Sandeshkhali episode

is a sham ... things were hatched for votes ... those who have money used them

to malign TMC and Bengal".

passengers have already been



CONSTITUENCY HIGHLIGHTS

SHAHJAHANPUR (SC): Shahjahanpur has witnessed a varied political landscape over the years. The BJP secured victories here in 1998, 2014 and 2019, while the Congress emerged triumphant twice in 1999 and 2004. The SP clinched this seat only once in 2009. In the last elections, BJP's Arun Kumar Sagar emerged victorious with 58.09 per cent of votes, defeating BSP's Amar Chand Jauhar, who was the joint candidate of the SP-BSP-RLD alliance. The BJP has repeated Sagar while SP has fielded Rajesh Kashyap. Daudram Verma is the BSP candidate.

KHERI: Kheri has been a battleground for multiple parties. Since 1996, the BJP has won this seat four times, including On the other hand, the SP has emerged victorious thrice, with the Congress securing a win in 2009. In 2019, BJP's Ajay Mishra Teni retained his seat by securing 53.62 per cent of the votes, defeating SP's Purvi Verma. Despite controversy surrounding his son's involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case of 2021, Teni remains the BJP candidate for the third time, challenged by SP's Utkarsh Verma. DHAURAHRA: Dhaurahra witnessed

a competitive battle in the previous Lok Sabha election. BJP's Rekha Verma secured victory with 48.21 per cent of the votes, defeating BSP's alliance candidate Arshad Siddiqui. Rekha Verma continues as the BJP's candidate and faces SP's Anand Bhadouria and BSP's Shyam Kishore Awasthi. SITAPUR: In Sitapur, BJP's Rajesh

Verma emerged victorious in 2019, securing 48.3 per cent of the votes. He defeated BSP's Nakul Dubey, with Congress securing a minor share of 9 per cent votes. Rajesh Verma continues as the BJP candidate, challenged by Rakesh Rathore of the Congress. HARDOI (SC): Hardoi saw a decisive

victory of the BJP in 2019 when Jai Prakash Rawat secured 53.71 per cent of the votes, defeating SP's Shiv Prasad Verma. Both BJP and SP have fielded their previous candidates for the upcoming election.

MISRIKH (SC): A lesser-known constituency, Misrikh saw BJP's Ashok Rawat emerging victorious in 2019, defeating BSP's Neelu Satyarthi. The BJP has repeated its sitting MP, who faces a challenge from SP candidate Manoj

UNNAO: Known as the 'Land of Pen and Sword', Unnao commands attention due to its significant Scheduled Caste Ji Maharaj secured a landslide victory, defeating SP's Arun Shankar Shukla. The BJP has nominated Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj once again, while the SP and the BSP have fielded Anu Tandon and Ashok K Pandey, respectively, highlighting the diversity of candidates in the electoral fray.

FARRUKHÁBAD: Farrukhabad has been a battleground for various political parties. In 2019, BJP's Mukesh Rajput emerged victorious with 56.8 per cent of the votes, defeating BSP's Manoj Agrawal. The BJP has retained its sit-ting MP, while the SP has fielded Naval Kishore Kashyap and the BSP has introduced Kranti Pandey, adding complexity to the electoral dynamics. ETAWAH (SC): Etawah, historically an

SP bastion, has witnessed changing political landscapes. In 2019, BJP's Ram Shankar Katheria secured victory, defeating SP's Kamlesh Kumar. The BJP has retained Katheria for the upcoming election, while the SP and BSP have introduced Jitendra Dohare and Ram Singh Baghel, respectively, reflecting the competitive nature of electoral politics.

KANNAUJ: The electoral landscape of Kannauj underwent a significant transformation in the 2019 elections. BJP's Subrat Pathak dismantled the SP's fort by defeating the then sitting MP Dimple Yadav. The BJP has reiterated its support for Subrat Pathak, while the BSP has introduced a Muslim candidate, Imran Bin Zafar, adding a diverse dimension to the electoral contest. Akhilesh Yadav is the SP candidate.

KANPUR: Kanpur remains a pivotal constituency in Uttar Pradesh politics. In 2019, BJP's Satyadev Pachauri secured victory, defeating Sriprakash Jaiswal of the Congress.

election and Congress have fielded Brahmin candidates, namely Ramesh Awasthi and Alok Mishra, respectively, while the BSP has nominated Kuldeep Bhadauriya, signaling a keenly contested electoral battle.

AKBARPUR: Once a stronghold of the BSP, Akbarpur has witnessed shifting political allegiances over the years. In 2019, BJP's Devendra Bhole emerged victorious, defeating BSP candidate Nisha Sachan.

Russia says US poking nose... misunderstanding of the affairs," RT news quoted her as

"Speculation on this topic in continues to make "unfounded accusations" about religious freedoms in India, she "Regular unfounded

accusations by the United States against New Delhi ...We see that they groundlessly accuse not only India but also many other states...Of violating religious freedoms are a reflection of the United States'

Another BJP leader said, "The TMC can do

everything ... a party that can steal jobs can steal and

Sandeshkhali --- allegedly

involving some of its local

like

Shahjahan who were

presently in jail --- had

immensely injured the

image of TMC and the

Government in the run up to

the parliamentary elections.

Incidentally the Thursday's

scandalous

Sheikh

Banerjee

fake anything."

developments

Mamata

national mentality, the saying. "The Washington Post, the absence of evidence is historical context of the it seems to me, should use the unacceptable." Washington development of the Indian state term "repressive regime" and lacks understanding of India's and disrespect for India as a everything you quoted in she said. Describing the interference as a "colonial period mentality," the Russian spokesperson accused the the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "The reason is that they try to unbalance the internal political situation in India in order to complicate the (ongoing) parliamentary elections. That is part of meddling into India's internal

Sandeshkhali rape

victim turns 'hostile'

similar sting video coming

up on Saturday sparking

controversy. In the earlier

purported video an individual identified as

Gangadhar Koyal a reported

booth-level saffron leader

was heard telling that some

women of Sandeshkhali who

were not victims of sexual

assault had misrepresented

her case under the direction

of a top Opposition leader.

Abhisek Banerjee went to

town with the video

clippings claiming how the

BJP had used its ill-gotten

general secretary

were unwell and

repressive Washington, both in domestic White House of complicating and international affairs," she The Washington Post, citing

unnamed sources, named a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer in connection with the alleged plot to kill Pannun on American soil last

campaign by dishonouring the women of Sandeshkhali

to earn political mileage

The TMC on Thursday approached the Election

Commission of India

seeking police action against

the State BJP leadership,

including Opposition leader

Suvendu Adhikari, saying

how the purported videos

showed that that the BJP's

own functionaries were

claiming that the sexual

assault stories were all

'We have written a letter to

"Your act amounts to a

concocted.

before the elections.

phase, while the SP aims to reclaim the prestigious Kannauj seat lost narrowly to the BJP in the previous election. Historically, the BSP has grappled to secure victories in several constituencies, including Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Hardoi, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, and

ED stonewall...

"This court would take the call about grant, refusal of interim bail/release after three-day long arguments of the petitioner. As against this, the respondents have just begun. Ôn this ground also this court may take a final view about the petition after fully hearing the particularly respondent when there is no medical urgency which requires consideration of interim release without fully hearing the respondents," affidavit said.

"If the petitioner is extended any interim relief on account of him being a politician for the purposes of campaigning judicial custody.

part there is no gain saving that all politicians incarcerated in some case or the other would not seek a similar treatment claiming that politicians are a class of

On Wednesday, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who headed the bench that heard Kejriwal's petition against his arrest in the case, said, "We will pronounce the interim order (on bail) on Friday. The main matter related to the challenge to arrest will also be taken up on the same day." The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was arrested on March 21 and is currently

their own," the ED said.

lodged in Tihar Jail under

INDIA Bloc to meet EC

From Page 1

According to EC figures, a voter turnout of 66.14 per cent was recorded in phase one and 66.71 per cent in phase two of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

For the third phase of voting that took place on Tuesday, the EC's voter turnout app on Wednesday showed that 65.55 per cent voting had occurred. A Press release on Monday by

over turnout figures the EC also contained the total number of electors in every seat, along with the voting percentage figures.

Based on the complaints made by Opposition parties as well as the BJP, the poll panel had earlier issued notices to BJP president JP Nadda and Congress presi-Saini dent Kharge over alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct by leaders from their

Testing times ahead for BJP in Haryana

From Page 1

The Congress has 30 MLAs in the House. The support of the three Independents takes its tally to 33.

Chautala drew Dattatreya's attention to the "current political turmoil in the State" and urged him to direct the appropriate authority to immediately call for a floor test. The JJP said it is ready to help the Congress topple Government. Independent MLAs Sombir

Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) withdrew support to the ruling BJP in Haryana on Tuesday.

Saini's predecessor ML Khattar claimed that many MLAs are in touch with the BJP and there is "nothing to worry about".

Chautala wrote that after the Government demonstrated its majority in the Vidhan Sabha with the Independent MLAs,

developments, including the withdrawal of support by the three Independents, it is evident that the incumbent Government no longer commands a majority in the Assembly, Chautala said. Referring to Article 174 of the Constitution, the JJP leader said the article confers upon the Governor the authority to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the Assembly". legislative Chautala mentioned the landmark case S R Bommai case and said the Supreme Court had clarified the

Ranjit Singh Chautala resigned. Given these

The court emphasised that a Governor has a constitutional obligation to act judiciously and impartially in such matters and can call for a floor test determine several Government's majority," he said in the letter.

'Governor's discretion in

determining the majority of

a Government".

Deadlock over... From Page 1

The number of cancelled flights at 85 translates to over 20 per cent of the airline's scheduled daily flights. In the earlier statement, the airline said it has cancelled 74 flights and will be operating 292 services.

Earlier in a statement, the airline said the crew members were rostered for a flight on Tuesday. "However, you informed the Scheduling team at the last moment that

noted that at around the same time, an overwhelming number of other cabin crew members have also reported sick and not reported for their duties.

This clearly points to a pre-mediated and concerted abstentation from work without any reason," it added.

The airline said as a result, "a large number of flights had to cancelled, thereby disrupting the entire schedule, which cause tremendous inconvenience to our esteemed passengers".

accordingly reported sick. It is concerted action with a common understanding, to not operate the flight and to disrupt services of the company." As it terminated the services of the cabin crew members,

the airline said, "You will no longer be considered an employee; you will no longer justifiable have access to official mails, servers, communication; and you and

video emerged days after a money in its disinformation

your dependants shall not be eligible for any employeerelated benefits provided by the company.'

Tuesday approximately

other

affected by cancelled flights. Air India Express, which operates between 350 and 400 flights per day - comprising over 250 domestic and 120 international flights - is now reducing its daily flight schedule by about 40 until 13

The airline has asked passengers to check if their flight is affected by the disruption before heading to the airport. If the flight is cancelled, or delayed beyond three hours, they may opt for a full refund or reschedule to a later date without any fees, it

BJP workers protest over Pitroda remark

Scores of party leaders and workers of the BJP held a protest over former chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress Sam Pitroda's controversial 'racist' remarks near the Congress headquarters at Akbar Road in the national capital on Thursday, demanding an apology from the leaders of the party, including Rahul Gandhi.

Party workers were seen holding posters saying "Racist remarks won't work, won't work" and "Rahul Gandhi apologise, apologise" during the protest. Stating that diversity is India's biggest strength and it is held through the common thread of unity, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva remarked, "But the racist statement of the Congress leader abuses our unity and integrity. This statement by Pitroda is not spontaneous. After seeing the ground shifting from under their feet after three phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Congress leaders are now resorting to racist remarks." The protesters demanded an apology from Congress leaders, including former party chief Gandhi, for insulting the people of the country and Indians living abroad. Pitroda resigned as the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress on Wednesday after his controversial remarks spurred the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to label the Congress "racist".



Photo: Ranjan Dimri / The Pioneer

He stoked a major controversy with his remarks during a podcast where he cited ethnic and racial identities like Chinese, Africans, Arabs and Whites to describe the physical appearance of Indians from different parts of the country.

BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who was also present at the protest, said that Sam Pitroda's statement is an insult to the country and no countryman will tolerate it. "The Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that abusing BJP, abusing me will be tolerated but if 140 crore people of the country are abused then it will not be

tolerated. Sam Pitroda's statement is not just a statement but an insult to the country and every nationalist is on the streets against this statement," Bidhuri

The veteran leader Pitroda was an advisor to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and has been closely associated with Rahul Gandhi, accompanying him during his foreign visits. As the BJP has made Pitroda's comments a poll issue, the Congress has distanced itself from his remarks, describing those as unfortunate and unacceptable".

162 candidates in fray for Lok Sabha polls in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 162 candidates will contest elections in the national Capital with the maximum candidates fighting the Lok Sabha 2024 elections from the North East Delhi constituency. A total of 28 candidates will be seen in the battle to secure the North east Delhi seat, as per the data revealed by the Delhi Chief Commissioner's Election office on Thursday.

In the reserved seat of North West Delhi 26 candidates will enter into the election battle followed by 25 candidates in Chandni Chowk, 24 candidates from West Delhi, 22 from South Delhi, 20 from North Delhi and 17 from New Delhi. Anticipation building up among the 162 candidates vying for becoming MP from their chosen seats.

arrangement between the Congress and the AAP, the former has fielded candidates from three Lok Sabha seats in Delhi while the latter is contesting from



Congress is contesting from Chandni Chowk, North east Delhi and North west Delhi, AAP has fielded from East Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi.

The New Delhi seat will witness a contest between two lawyers- Former Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri Swaraj, who also happens to be BJP's youngest candidate in the fray, and three times MLA from Malviya Nagar Somnath Bharti. Meanwhile, former Delhi Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, who quit from both the Delhi cabinet and the AAP a month ago, filed his nomination for the New remaining four. While the Delhi seat on Monday after he

officially joined the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Sunday. Chandni Chowk constituency will see a fight between Founder of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Praveen Khandelwal and a veteran Congress leader and five time MP JP Agarwal. Further, North east Delhi, has a sizable 'purvanchal' population, will witness a contest between two Biharis- two times MP Manoj Tiwari and student leader turned politician Kanhaiya

In the reserved seat of North West Delhi, former MP Udit raj, who joined Congress following his exit from BJP, is

former Delhi BJP general secretary Harshdeep Malhotra is contesting against AAP's sitting MLA from Kondli assembly constituency Kuldeep Kumar. From West Delhi, former Mayor of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation Kamaljeet Sehrawat will contest the election battle against AAP's Mahabal Mishra, who has been an MP from the seat earlier from Congress. South Delhi seat will witness a competition to secure a win between Leader Opposition in Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and the AAP Tughlakabad MLA Sahiram Pahalwan.

Chandolia. From East Delhi,

The process of filing the nominations was open from April 29 to May 6, barring the non-working days of Sunday and Saturday. Leaders were allowed to withdraw their candidature from the constituency till Thursday following which the Delhi CEO's office released the list. The polling in Delhi is slated to take place on May 25.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The AAP candidate Kuldeep Kumar for the East Delhi constituency on Thursday launched a bike rally as part of their 'Jail ka Jawab, Vote Se' campaign with party flags and posters of 'Jail ka jawaab, Vote se' on bikes. During the rally, which had a large contingent of party workers and supporters, the sitting AAP Kondli MLA met people and seeked their votes as the rally traversed through various areas of Laxmi Nagar area. Addressing the crowd, he expressed confidence in the INDIA alliance's victory on all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. Kumar pointed out that the BJP has done nothing in Delhi besides arresting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, which has resulted in widespread discontent among the people of Delhi.

"We are going among the people to seek their blessings through bike rallies, road shows and door-to-door campaigns. Our effort is to appeal to every voter for votes. The BJP has wasted 10 years of the people of Delhi and



Before launching the bike rally, the MLA went to a park in Geeta Colony Ward 210 to pay his respects at the statue of Bhagat 'Shaheed-e-Azam' Singh and planted a tree in the park. During his visit, Krishna Nagar Assembly AAP MLA SK Bagga was also present there. Addressing people there, the joint AAP and INDIA alliance candidate affirmed , "The blessings of Bajrang Bali are with Arvind Kejriwal. There

interacted with people and appealed for votes. He said that our job is to go among the people and appeal to them for "Sunita Kejriwal, votes. Bhagwant Mann and our leaders will be with us. We are all going among the people and appealing to each and every person to vote. We have to tell people about the situation in the country and Delhi. We have to tell them how their popular Chief Minister was put

Kuldeep Kumar launches bike rally On polling day, voters to get free ride on bike taxis from booths to their homes

n an effort to ensure voter participation in the Lok Sabha elections through augmented last mile connectivity for the electors of Delhi, Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi P Krishnamurthy on Thursday announced a strategic partnership with Rapido, a bike ride-sharing company for free ride from the polling booths to their homes. Elections in Delhi will take place on May 25. As per the arrangement with

Rapido, eligible voters in Delhi will be provided with an option to avail a free of charge ride from the polling booths to their home on the day of As Delhi prepares for the Lok

Sabha polling day, this collaboration aims to address transportation barriers and encourage citizens to exercise their democratic right to vote. Recognizing the importance of maximizing voter turnout, the Chief Electoral Officer Delhi has taken proactive



comfortable commute from polling stations for all eligible

Welcoming this initiative Krishnamurthy stated, "By

pprox.) with a two-wheeler parking

offering option of free bike The availability of bike riders rides on the polling day, we aim to ensure ease of voting experience and to encourage citizens to exercise their vote and contribute to the democratic process. Every vote counts and it is essential to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their vote without hindrance.

Rapido has a Pool of 08 Lakhs (Eight Lakhs only) bike captains in Delhi subscriber base of 80 Lakhs at Polling Stations across NCT of Delhi will be facilitated and ensured at the nearby designated polling booths.

On the day of voting, voters in Delhi, after casting their vote, can conveniently book and avail a complimentary bike ride from the polling station through Rapido app. A dedicated rider will pick up the elector from the polling station and ensure their safe

can be delay, but not injustice. in jail through a conspiracy. want to take revenge. In this honesty will prevail. Kejriwal Arvind Kejriwal. They want to election, they will vote for their will be among us soon." take revenge for his arrest," he son Arvind Kejriwal," he During his visit to the area, said.

Bhagwant Mann to hold roadshows for

 $P^{\text{unjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will}}_{\text{hold roadshows in East and South Delhi Lok}}$ Sabha constituencies in the national Capital on Saturday to campaign for AAP candidates and seek blessings from the Delhiites to vote for them for the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections. Delhi will go to polls in the sixth phase of the seven-phase election on May 25 and the counting of votes is slated to take place on June 4. With about 15 days left for polling in Delhi, the senior AAP leader will hold a roadshow to support AAP East Delhi candidate Kuldeep Kumar and South Delhi candidate Sahiram Pahalwan

"He will hold roadshows in the two constituencies," a party leader said. Under a seat-sharing arrangement between the Congress and the AAP, the former has fielded candidates from three Lok Sabha seats in Delhi while the latter is contesting from the remaining four. While the Congress is contesting from Chandni Chowk, North east



Delhi and North west Delhi, AAP has fielded from East Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and

BJP's Harsh Malhotra is contesting against AAP's Kuldeep Kumar in East Delhi constituency and BJP's Ramvir Singh Bidhuri is fighting for the South Delhi seat against AAP's Sahiram Pahalwan. From the West Delhi seat, AAP has fielded Mahabal Mishra against BJP's Kamaljeet Sehrawat and from the New Delhi seat the party has fielded Somnath Bharti against BJP's Bansuri Swaraj.

Capital's maximum temperature settles at 38.8 degrees C

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELH

The maximum temperature in Delhi on Thursday settled at 38.8 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average, according to the India

relative humidity oscillated between 44 and 59 per cent during the day, it

weather office has forecast a partly cloudy sky on Friday with the possibility of drizzle toward night, along with strong surface winds during the day.

The maximum and minimum temperatures likely to settle at 40 and 27 degrees Celsius, respectively. The Air Quality Index (AQI) has improved as it shifted from "very poor" to "poor" and "poor" to "moderate" categories in the last two days, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The AOI in the national capital was recorded in the "moderate" category with a reading of 261, according to the CPCB data.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory" 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor" 301-400 "very poor" and 401-500 "severe". An AQI above 500 falls in the "severe plus'

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA Applications are invited from the general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and

conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide Notification No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Details available at the Department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in). 1. Project Approvals Coloniser/Developer: Sriflex Projects Private Limited.

		Licence No./Year :133 of 2023 dated 26.06.2023, Building plans approved on 19.03.2024 vide Memo No.ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2024/10267 & RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/814/546/2024/41 dated 15.04.2024.		
2.	Location	ector 4, Sohna, District - Gurugram, Haryana.		
3.	Provisions	Project land is 8.76875 Acre, However the same is developed phasewise as per DTCP Phasing ApprovalZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092_dated 05/12/2023 Present offer is for Phase I Comprising 835 units out of 1105 (270 units are mortgaged with DTCP; in the present offer of 835 units, 5% (42 units) are reserved for Management Quota and balance 95% (793 Units) are for general public.Community Facility: - One Community Hall of more than 2000 sq. ft. andone Anganwadicum-creche of more than 2000 sq. ft.		
4.	Apartment Details	Type I: 2 BHK -348 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 99.67sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: 2 BHK - 281 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking.		

145.74sq.ft. (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking Unit Type Carpet Area Total Units of Total Units of No. of Units **General Category** Management Quota No. (Sq. Ft.) Type-I 644.65 281 323 Type-II Type-III 637.00

Type III: 2 BHK - 164 no. of apartments of 637sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 93sq.ft.

Type II: MQ 2 BHK - 42 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. (approx.) carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of

793 835 AllotmentRate of Apartment Type I: Rs.30,20,533/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra (All inclusive) + Taxes & other Type II: Rs.30,20,925/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. charges as applicable will be Type III: Rs.29,78,100/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra.

The above rates are inclusive of the cost of the apartment as per the rates prescribed under the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 of the Government of Haryana vide Notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013.including the amendments thereof (Details available at Department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in). However, possession charges and registration fees are extra. Payment Terms With Application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Carpet area of apartment:

Type I:Total amount of Rs. 1.45.046/-Type II: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/-Type III: Total amount of Rs. 1,43,325/

> 20% of total cost shall be payable on Allotment and the balance consideration amount shall be paid according to the construction-linked payment plan of the project duly approved by HARERA, as applicable in terms of construction stages at the relevant point in time. No interest shall accrue before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall attract interest at the rate specified in Rule 15 of the Rules 2017 by HARERA.

> Chinaware: Standard Fittings | Electrical: ISI marked products for wiring , Switches and circuits | Security: Gated Complex

Board Specifications of the Drawing Room/ Lobby Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Drawing Room/ Lobby Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash | Bedrooms Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Bedroom Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash | Toilet Walls Finish: Tiles Up to 4 feet and OBD/ Color wash in balance area | Toilet Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Kitchen Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Kitchen Wall Finish: Tiles Up to 2 Feet high above stone/ Tile Counter and OBD / Color wash in balance area | Fixture & Fittings : Single bowl steel sink & CP / PVC/ PTMT Fittings | Balcony Flooring: Tiles / IPS | Windows: MS Z-section & Glass / Alu steels & Glass | Door Frame / Doors: MS/ Fiber Door frames with flush Door/ Fiber Door | Common Area Flooring: Stone / Tiles / IPS | Lift Lobby: Stone / Tiles/ IPS |

Application form will be filled online by Registration on http://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home 8. Applications Timelines

Booking start from 02/05/2024

Last date of submission of application form is 18/05/2024

The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.

Any person can apply; however, preference will be given to PMAY beneficiaries, including their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana, under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for All" program. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the state of Haryana Thereafter, for the remaining flats, preference will be given to persons, including their spouse or dependent children, who do not own any flat/olot in any HUDA developed Colony/sector or any licensed colony in the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh, and NCT.

Any applicant can submit only one application. A successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for the allotment of any other flat under this policy in another colony. In the event that he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have the choice to retain only one flat. Supportive affidavits and certificates suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded on the TCP website while submitting the application for allotment Allotment Criteria:

The allotment of apartments shall be done through e-draw of lotsin thepresence of a committee consisting of DeputyCommissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Harvana Civil Services). Senior Town Planner (Circle Office). DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colonizer concerned After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of

the draw of lots in the same newspapers on which the original advertisement was issued.

For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 including the amendments thereof notified vide No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Available at the Department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder have brought significant changes to the real estate sector. The Promoter/Developer is fully committed to complying with the provisions laid down under RERA. The promoter/developer urges every applicant to inspect the site where the project is proposed to be constructed and not merely rely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan, or sales brochure. Therefore, applicants are requested to exercise personal judgment prior to submitting an application for booking.

The images shown here are indicative designs and for illustrative purposes only. Further designs may vary in form and finish for the above project details

Specifications can also be accessed at the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website, i.e., https://haryanarera.gov.in.

Summer Fiesta for children from May 29 **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

National Bal Bhawan (NBB), an autonomous body under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Union Ministry of Education, will organise the Summer Fiesta, an annual programme of the institution, from May 29, to June 28, 2024. Children from 5 to 16 years of age can

enroll themselves in any of the two activities by paying a membership fee of Rupees 200 per annum. "NBB organizes many activities like Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Science Activities. The institute also organises special assemblies for the children every week during Summer Fiesta, where the children are given the opportunity to perform and showcase their talent," said NBB Director Mukta Agarwal.



Agarwal said besides this summer fiesta the campus organises several events and programmes for children and for the last one year the focus has been on Swachh Bharat Mission. Eminent guests are also invited to grace the special assemblies of

NBB. There is no membership fee for SC/ST/EWS and differently-abled category children for Summer Fiesta. Bal Bhavan also provides pick & drop transport facility for rupees 800 all over

India, Maldives ties based on mutual interests: Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

evelopment of India-Maldives ties is based on "mutual interests' and "reciprocal sensitivity", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Thursday during his talks Maldivian his counterpart Moosa Zameer.

These remarks came in the backdrop of strained ties between the two countries after President Mohamed insisted withdrawal of Indian military personnel operating three

AXIS BANK LTD.

THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS"

1 ZAHID HUSAIN

2 SACHIN KUMAF

4 MUSKAN 5 RAJEEV KUMAR

6 POOJA PARMAR

9 BHARAT KUMAF

10 PADAM KUMAR

12 SUNNY KUMAR

13 SACHIN JAYANT

14 PANKAJ KUMAR SIN

18 JITENDRA DOGRA

19 SAGARIKA ARORA

20 MOHD SHAKEEL

21 SHRADHA YADAV

22 VISHWAS

23 ONKAR SINGH

26 SADHANA DEVI

33 KAMAL

34 DHRUV CHAUHAN

36 NIRBHAY KUMAR

38 SACHIN KUMAR

40 SURAJ BAHADUR

42 MANISH KUMAR

45 AKSHAY PANDEY

46 AVADHESH NARESH JHA

41 AJEET SINGH

44 PRATIMA RA

47 PREM KUMAR

48 AJAY SHARMA

50 AMIT BISWAS

52 RUBEL RANA

54 RITU

49 AARJU SAHRAWA

53 SANDHYA MISHRA

55 PRASHANT KUMAR

56 VANDANA SINGH

58 KHANDAPU ASHA

60 SUMIT KUMAR RAWAI

61 VIRENDRA PRATAP SINGH

67 SURENDER SINGH NAGAF

59 UTTAM KUMAR

62 VIKRANT JAIN

63 SATISH PRSHAD

64 AJAY UPADHAYAY

65 YUVRAJ SINGH

66 SP SINGH

68 MALAYA DAS

69 SHASHI BAKSH

70 SHASHI BAKSH

72 SUHEL KHAN

71 ANIMESH ADITYA

73 SHIVAM TRIPATH

43 DEEPAK

37 ASHISH KUMAR SAHL

39 HIMANSHOO CHADHA

35 DURGESH KUMAR DUBEY

24 SATYENDRA KUMAR

25 SHADAB QURESHI KASAI

28 RAJESH KUMAR GUPTA

15 SANYOG KUMAR BHARTI

military platforms in the island nation. Zameer is New Delhi in the

first high-level trip from Male after the Maldives' pro-China president Muizzu assumed office six months ago. "As close and proximate

neighbours, the development of our ties is obviously based on mutual interests and reciprocal sensitivity," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks in his meeting with

"As far as India is concerned, these are articulated in terms policy and SAGAR (Security

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENT. PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW

MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENT ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BARK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY

AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT. THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO

INVOKE THE PLEGGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEGGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 20-May-2024 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER

DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

XXXXXXXXXXX4094

XXXXXXXXXXX8291

XXXXXXXXXXX7106

XXXXXXXXXXX6787

XXXXXXXXXXX3822

XXXXXXXXXXX9465

XXXXXXXXXXX4045

XXXXXXXXXXX6437

XXXXXXXXXXX2764

XXXXXXXXXXXX5756

XXXXXXXXXXX7747

XXXXXXXXXXXX6014

XXXXXXXXXXXX1533

XXXXXXXXXXX7719

XXXXXXXXXXX9944

XXXXXXXXXXXX7875

XXXXXXXXXXX9444

XXXXXXXXXXXX7180

XXXXXXXXXXXX8556

XXXXXXXXXXXXX0131

XXXXXXXXXXX6262

XXXXXXXXXXX5569

XXXXXXXXXXXX5060

XXXXXXXXXXXX9500

XXXXXXXXXXXX5313

XXXXXXXXXXX2547

XXXXXXXXXXX6759

XXXXXXXXXXX9623

XXXXXXXXXXX0939

XXXXXXXXXXXX8122

XXXXXXXXXXX6881

XXXXXXXXXXXX3372

XXXXXXXXXXXX314

YYYYYYYYYYYANNO

XXXXXXXXXXXX8109

XXXXXXXXXXX6613

XXXXXXXXXXX8849

XXXXXXXXXXX7067

XXXXXXXXXXX7474

XXXXXXXXXXX6910

XXXXXXXXXXXXX8120

XXXXXXXXXXXXX1

XXXXXXXXXXXX6020

XXXXXXXXXXX4839

XXXXXXXXXXXX7184

XXXXXXXXXXXX1465

XXXXXXXXXXX3388

XXXXXXXXXXXX6165

XXXXXXXXXXX1815

XXXXXXXXXXXX8358

XXXXXXXXXXXX4039

XXXXXXXXXXX6597

XXXXXXXXXXXX7218

XXXXXXXXXXXX1596

B.O.: PALAM VII

XXXXXXXXXXXXX371

B.O.: DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]

B.O.: JYOTI NAGAR DEL DL

B.O.: KISHANGANJ OD DL

B.O.: LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI IDL

B.O.: MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI IDL

B.O.: NAZAFGARH, NEW DELHI [DL

B.O.: NEW FRIENDS COLONY.NEW DELH

B.O.: PALAM, DELHI [DL]

B.O.: PUSHPVIHAR, DELHI [DL]

B.O.: R K MISSION, NEW DELHI [DL]

B.O.: ROHINI, DELHI [DL]

B.O.: SHAHDARA, DELHI IDLI

B.O.: SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL

B.O.: SOUTH PATEL NAGAR DL

B.O.: SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]

B.O.: UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL

B.O.: VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL

B.O.: DLF, GURGAON [HR]

B.O.: FARIDABAD [HR]

B.O.: SECTOR 10A.GURGAON IHR

B.O.: SECTOR 31-32A, GURGAON [HR]

B.O.: SECTOR-22, GURG GUR HE

B.O.: GREATER NOIDA [UP]

B.O.: VAIBHAV KHAND UP

B.O.: VASUNDHARA, GHAZIABAD [UP]

B.O.: NOIDA [UP]

B.O.: NOIDA EXTENSION GNO UP

110183.000

69582.000

42716.00

36158.000

38152.000

XXXXXXXXXXX9835 101097.00

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)

153920.000

370724.000

80356.810

63680.240

45974.000

31655.00

27460.00

687400.000

42157.000

109143.350

103479.000

100950.170

43560.610

36668.000

36373.000

60229.00

35319.840

42936.000

51888.600

59238.000

376890.000

32674.000

47481.310

263445.000

42300.000

43638.360

413988.000

63280.400

36393.000

37256.390

295186.000

189161.950

242532.000

289857.000

151392.000

76192.460

40403.000

48374.540

42000.000

228919.000

166334.110

251268.000

25659.000

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS



and Growth for all in the Region) vision. I hope that our meeting today will enable us of our Neighbourhood First to strengthen the convergence of our perspectives in various

10-10-2023 57.800 54.100

28-08-2023 22.400 21.600

28-12-2023 21.600 20.900

25-02-2024 13.800 13.200

30-09-2023 12.200 11.500

28-12-2023 8.400 8.000

15-02-2024 199.400 189.500

09-11-2023 28.100 27.100

28-12-2023 29.600 27.900

28-07-2023 11.500 10.850

15-02-2024 27.000 25.200

15-02-2024 77.300 69.500

10-10-2023 16.600 15.900

28-12-2023 91.800 81.100

09-11-2023 25.840 25.340

09-11-2023 107.500 100.400

15.890

14.300

81.900

130.700

19.700

8.000

64.100

86.200

14,600 14,500

23.800 22.800

14.500 14.100

14.100 13.600

69.370 58.570

75.100 69.800

26.300 25.500

17.900 17.300

15.100

11.900

9.100

28-12-2023 84.900 83.300

28-12-2023 39.730 37.430

20-10-2023 11.230 10.630

09-11-2023 51.700 48.500

12.500

10.400

12.500 11.750

51.300 49.600

10.100

11.500 | 10.700

20.200 19.600

23.200 22.000

9.700

15.590

10.000

13.100

80.400

12.500

114.000

18,700

10.000

8.000

60.900

81.100

39.000

11.600 | 11.100

9.800

221.000 215.900

23.400 22.430

28-07-2023

25-08-2023

28-12-2023

25-10-2023

15-02-2024

28-10-2023

22-03-2024

10-10-2023

17-01-2024

12-10-2022

15-02-2024

17-01-2024

15-02-2024

09-11-2023

25-10-2023

30-09-2023

09-11-2023

29-09-2023

25-10-2023

15-02-2024

28-02-2024

28-12-2023

09-11-2023

20-11-2023

28-12-2023

28-12-2023

28-12-2023

28-12-2023

22-03-2024

domains," he said. The ties between the two countries came under severe strain in view of Muizzu insisting on withdrawal of Indian military personnel from infrastructure projects operating three military and social initiatives to platforms in the island nation. medical evacuation and India has already withdrawn most of its military personnel. Muizzu had set May 10 as the deadline for withdrawal of the Indian military troops from Nearly 50 his country. personnel have returned. In all more than 85 Indian personnel were deployed in

"India has been a key provider of development assistance to the Maldives. Our projects have benefited the people of your country; contributed to the quality of life. They range

health facilities," Jaishankar said.

'We have also extended financial support favourable terms in the past. India has been a First Responder on numerous occasions for Maldives," he said.

'Our cooperation has also enhanced the security and well-being of your country through shared activities, equipment provisioning, capacity building ar training," Jaishankar added.

BJP expresses concern over rise in Muslim population

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The BJP on Thursday expressed concern over the pace of increase in Muslim population in the country and wondered its impact on the reservation provided to SCs, STs and OBCs, OBCs, claiming the Congress is "hell bent" on providing quota to the minority community if voted to power.

The ruling party's reaction came after a recent working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) said the share of the Hindu population decreased by 7.82 per cent between 1950 and 2015 in India, while that of Muslims increased by 43.15 per cent, suggesting that there is a conducive environment in the country to foster diversity.
The paper titled 'Share of

Religious Minorities: A Analysis Cross-Country (1950-2015)' further said the share of Jains in the population of India decreased from 0.45 per cent population India in 1950 to 0.36 per cent in 2015. The report comes ahead of the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha polls.

"It's a very well-known fact, which has been in the public domain for around a decade. If you see the 1951 census, Hindus were having 88 per cent population and Muslims 9.5 per cent. In the Hindus census, (population) reduced to 79.8 percent from 80 percent while Muslims' percentage went up by more than 14.5, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said. "But, the question arises that

if by this pace the population is increasing and Congress is hell bent upon giving reservation to the Muslims on the basis of population, they will cut the share of the SCs, STs and the OBCs," he added.

Trivedi said the Congress, if voted to power will, then keep on "changing" the share of reservation in future with increase in the Muslim population, "which is more likely because they having (Muslims) are possibility of multiple marriages". Muslims share

reservation will keep on increasing also because of "conversion and infiltration



because they are having a secular cover from them (the Congress)", he added.

"So this is a bigger question and a bigger challenge which they (Congress) have to answer," Senior spokesperson said. BJP leader and Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the EAC-PM's report raises many questions because one particular community is

"increasing its population in manner demography of India is being altered, changed".

"This leads to questions that need to be asked and answered," he said, "How much of growth Muslim community is being caused by illegal immigration and conversion?" he asked.

"What is the impact of this significant increase in the minority community's (Muslims) population on the rights and opportunities (available) for the other minority communities? There are Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians. Is there any crowding out of these minority communities as a consequence of this (rise in Muslim population)?'

Chandrasekhar asked.

alleged that some political parties including the Congress are making "huge attempt to alter the Constitution and bring religion based reservation". "So, what will be the consequence when you have the Muslim community increasing its population so rapidly, from 9 per cent to 14.5 per cent and there are political forces that want to

give them reservation," he

Defence Secretary urges firms to support border areas development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on Thursday here emphasised on the need to achieve self-reliance in every field to deal with future and challenges infrastructure firms to contribute in Government's efforts towards development of border areas.

He made these assertions while inaugurating a national symposium and industry meet on Emerging Technologies in Infrastructure Development' organized by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The two-day event, with the participation from the Armed Forces, academia, industry and DRDO, aims to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge and explore innovative approaches to address the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging technologies in infrastructure development in line with the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

In his address, the Defence Secretary emphasised on the need to achieve self-reliance in every field to deal with future challenges. He stated that India is a country with a significant percentage of young population, and self-reliance ensure gainful employment to them.

Underlining the importance of achieving 'Āatmanirbharta' in defence, Aramane asserted that there is no trusted trend in geopolitics, and India cannot together they can come up



depend on other countries for with new innovations to build its security and safeguarding national interests. He stressed that self-reliance will help the country take giant strides on the path of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Highlighting the emphasis being laid by the Government on infrastructure development along the borders, the Defence Secretary exhorted infrastructure firms further in contribute strengthening the apparatus. He added that while the

Armed Forces personnel are being provided with latest weapons and equipment, the sector should contribute in bolstering the infrastructure set-up in the border areas.

He referred to the Vibrant Villages Programme which aims to motivate people to stay in their native locations in border areas, and urged the firms to set up a separate section, within their respective organisations, which focuses on development in far-flung

Aramane stated that the DRDO is extending support to the private sector in Research Development, and

faster and better in the times to come. He called upon the industry to walk hand-in-hand with the government, and focus more on the mass production of quality products in a time-bound manner.

He also urged the industry to

collaborate with the academia to enhance the skills of the workforce, which can help realise a technology into a product. Speaking on the occasion, DRDO chief Samir V Kamat emphasised on the importance of infrastructure in the development of a nation. He stated that India is witnessing a phenomenal growth in the field of technical infrastructure, which required to maintain the country's strategic deterrence. The DRDO Chairman added that technology is evolving rapidly, and the necessity of sustainable infrastructure and green infrastructure is now becoming a part of technical domain. The Defence Secretary also

inaugurated the industrypartner exhibition, organised on the sidelines of the event, showcasing latest technologies and products developed by the various industry partners.



National Archives acquires private paper collection of Rafi Ahmad Kidwai

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's rich repository of Larchival records received a significant enhancement on Thursday as the National Archives of India (NAI) acquired freedom fighter Rafi Ahmad Kidwai's private paper collection comprising original correspondences between Kidwai and other eminent leaders such as Jawahar lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, and PD Tandon. These documents hold

historical importance and provide a unique perspective on the deliberations, decisions, and collaborations that shaped India's journey towards independence and its early years as a sovereign nation. NAI Director General (DG)

Arun Singhal told The Pioneer that the family of the late leader had approached them a month ago, seeking to preserve the documents that contained in three big boxes. After examining documents, they were found to

be historically significant, and now they will be scanned and made available on the abhilekh of cost, he said.

pay a nominal amount. Access to these primary sources benefit researchers. historians, and the public alike,

portal and if anyone wishes to

download them, they have to

deepening their understanding of India's past and its journey towards progress development. The related to Rafi Ahmad Kidwai were handed over to Singhal by late leader's family members led by Faiz Ahmad Kidwai who happens to be Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Tazeen Kidwai, daughter of late Hussain Kamil Kidwai, youngest brother of Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Sarah Manaal Kidwai. Now the NAI has ensured that

valuable historical materials are safeguarded for future generations and made accessible for research and study about the personality who has left an indelible mark on India's history. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, born on

February 18, 1894, in Masauli, Uttar Pradesh, hailed from a middle-class zamindar family. His political journey began with his involvement in the Khilafat Movement and the leading

Effective Defence industry ecosystem taking shape in country, says Army Chief He said the veterans with their

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

rmy Chief General Manoi Army Chief General Indian, Pande has said an effective defence-industry ecosystem is taking shape in the country and veterans with their field experience are "ideally suited" incorporation indigenous research and

manufacturing of technological s required by the force. solutions In his address at the Army

Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) Summit 2024 held at the Manekshaw Centre here on Wednesday, he said the Army's responsibility towards its veterans remains a "sacred commitment".

The aim of the summit was to

together different bring stakeholders on a common platform, to narrow down the between enterprise requirements, veteran competencies and the pursuits

"While the demand for skilled

of AWPO.

and experienced workforce exists at the industry end, at the same time, a human resource pool of veterans with adequate experience and unique skill sets is also available, after they exit from active service each year. "The endeavour is to synergise

the linkages that can facilitate veteran absorption into not only the industry but also PSUs and organisations," the Army chief

into operational conditions, logistics of the systems and weapon platforms "are ideally suited for incorporation into indigenous development, innovation and manufacturing solutions technological required by the Indian Army." They also bring to the table,

field experience and insights

leadership qualities, and a very sound understanding of the human element and can contribute towards ergonomics and user interface design, the two as well as strengthen aspects which are critical to produce user-friendly equipment, General Pande said. He emphasised the quasi-government invaluable contributions of veterans to the nation's prosperity.

India, UK review strategic ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tndia and United Kingdom Lon Thursday here reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral strategic ties during talks between visiting British National Security Advisor (NSA) Tim Barrow and his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval. Barrow also held extensive talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Jaishankar and

Barrow discussed various bilateral, regional and global issues. global issues



overall situation in West Asia. Barrow is on a two-day visit to Talks between Doval and

Barrow reportedly focused on aimed and

security, technology, and regional affairs. This visit is also expected to strengthen and further broaden the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then-British counterpart Boris Johnson agreed to the India-UK 'Čomprehensive Strategic Partnership' and India-UK Roadmap 2030 to steer cooperation for the next 30

on bilateral issues of mutual

interest and exchanged views

on regional and global matters.

Barrow arrived in India on a

two-day visit to participate in a high-level dialogue led by the

NSAs of both countries, which

aims to deepen cooperation on

various fronts, including

portal for public viewing, free RAVENDRA YADAV XXXXXXXXXXXX0040 67062.000 19.800 "Good to meet UK NSA Tim Non-Cooperation Movement, Technology and Security 76 SNEHA THANKACHAN XXXXXXXXXXXX9779 27670.000 22-03-2024 7.800 Singhal further said that to imprisonment. Barrow today in Delhi. Initiative, a major bilateral 77 SNEHA THANKACHAN XXXXXXXXXXX8930 48108.000 15-02-2024 11.800 11.200 various historical documents Discussed a range of regional B.O.: RAJ NAGAR, GHAZIABAD [UP] Known for his vivacity, mechanism enhancing collaboration in brilliance, and charm, Kidwai 78 MAHESH KUMAR including correspondence and 28-12-2023 13.900 13.000 importance. Also reviewed the circulars related to leaders like dedicated himself to India's critical emerging AXIS BANK LTD. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ACCOUNT/CHANGE THE AUCTION DATE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. AUCTION WILL B technologies between India HELD ONLINE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN BETWEEN 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM Gandhi, Subash Chandra Bose independence and fought progress in our bilateral ties," and the UK. and other freedom fighters against communalism and Jaishankar said on X. It is SD/-, AUTHORIZED OFFICER, AXIS BANK LTD. The two NSAs also deliberated PLACE: DELHI, DATE: 10.05.2024 understood that Jaishankar have been preserved in the superstitions.





LS poll contest between vote for development, vote for jihad: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the 2024 election is Rahul Gandhi vs Narendra Modi and that it is a contest between vote for development and "vote for jihad".

Addressing an election rally in Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency of Telangana, he said the election is between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Bharativa guarantee" against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's

Congress, BRS and AIMIM as a triangle of appeasement, he said the parties don't let Ram Navami procession to take place and that they also oppose ČAA. "These people don't allow the celebration of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' (September 17). These people oppose CAA. These people want to run Telangana on the basis of Sharia and Quran," he said. BJP would secure nearly 200 seats in the three phases of Lok Sabha elections held so far and Telangana needs to vote to help the party cross "Chinese guarantee". Describing the the target of 400 seats, Shah said.

the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana in 2019, he asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to realise that BJP would win more than 10 seats in the present elections. The double digit score in Telangana would make PM Modi cross 400 seats, he predicted. Referring to Congress' allegation that BJP would change the Constitution and abolish reservations, he said Congress wants to fight elections by telling lies. Congress savs Modi would scrap quotas but he has not done so despite being in power



for the last 10 years with full majority, he said. But, Congress in Telangana robbed the reservations of SC, ST and OBCs by providing four percent reservation to Muslims, he alleged. Shah said BJP would end Muslim reservation and increase SC,

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all, TSERING YANGSKIT W/o

ATE SH. SONAM WANGDU TONGSPON R

LAT NO.111. THIRD FLOOR, POCKET-24 ECTOR-24, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 mutate

owner of FLAT NO.111, THIRD FLOOF POCKET-24, SECTOR-24, ROHINI, DELHI, hav

POCKET-24, SECTOR-24, RÓHINI, DELHI, have applied for certified copies & freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. POSSESSION LETTER & SITE POSSESSION SLIP of the above said flat has been lost.An LR NO.1719789/ 2024 dated 09/05/2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person (s)claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 9541347901 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director/Housing), or Director/Housing), or Director/Housing) or Director/Housing)

Deputy Director(Housing) or Director(Housing Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sada

NOTICE

Locker Hired by Ms. Alka

Duggal having address at-H-58

Kirti Nagar New Delhi-110015

with WHS Kirti Nagar, Branch of

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

situated at 85/1 Block No.2

WHS Kirti Nagar, New Delhi -

110015 remains un-operated

since past 17 years 9 Months

and the rent is also due for the

All the 3 letters earlier sent to

Ms. Alka Duggal calling upon

her to operate the locker has

return unreserved and the

aforementioned is not

It is hereby informed that

despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Ms.

Alka Duggal within 90 days

from the date of issuance of this

notice, break open of the said

locker will be done as per the extant process of the bank on

August 10, 2024 at around

Vehicle No. DL10CL2854, Make

Vehicle No. HR27G5525, Make

and Model- Maruti Suzuki Vitara

and Model - Volkswagen Polo,

Vehicle No. - UP14DM0087, Make

Brezza, Manf. Year- 2017

and Model- Ford Endeavour, Manf.

last 5 years.

contactable.

SALE NOTICE

WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues

Auction Date:- May 27, 2024 From 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM.

Contact Person:- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rohit Shrivastava (8657476284)

Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram – 122022

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who

shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatementor omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore

requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with

regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before

All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC

Successful bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal tower Plot no. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 for details and

the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

Year- 2018

kotak

ST and OBC quotas, if they came to power. "Modi ji does what he says. The guarantees of Rahul baba (Gandhi) don't last even till sunset," he said. At the time of Telangana assembly polls, Rahul Gandhi had promised Rs two lakh farm loan waiver, Rs 15,000 every year for farmers, Rs 12,000 annually for agriculture workers, Rs 500 bonus on MSP for paddy farmers, Rs five lakh loan to students without guarantee, 'scooty' to college going girls and international schools in every tehsil, but they have not been implemented, Shah said. Congress withheld the construction of Ram temple for 70 years, but Modi, in just five years, won the case, performed 'bhumi puja' and later participated in the consecration, he said. AIĈC president Mallikarjun Kharge said that though people from Rajasthan and Telangana don't have anything to do with Kashmir, the people of Bhongir would be ready to sacrifice their life for the sake of Kashmir, he said. Highlighting the abolition of

BRS and Congress are "ABC of appeasement". Modi removed triple talaq, but

Congress, BRS and AIMIM want to bring it back, he said, adding that the parties also boycotted the consecration of the Ram temple. He also alleged that Revanth Reddy made Telangana the "ATM" of Congress. Shah highlighted the various development works undertaken by the Modi government in the Bhongir LS constituency, including establish-

Modi to hold rallies in Odisha tomorrow

PTI BHUBANESWAR

 $P_{\text{Modi will address three}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ election rallies in Odisha on Saturday, a state BJP leader said. Modi will also take part in a roadshow in Bhubaneswar on Friday, Odisha BJP vice-president Golak Mohapatra said.

"On May 11, he will address three public rallies - the first in Kandhamal at 9.30 am, the second in Bolangir at 11.30 am and another in Bargarh at 1 pm," he

"The PM will also hold a roadshow in Bhubaneswar from 8 pm on Friday. He will stay the night at the Raj Bhavan," Mohapatra said.

The roadshow will start from BIP's state headquarters near Sri Ram Mandir and end at Vani Vihar Square.

Tight security arrangements

Mv client Mrs. Shashi Yadav W/o Bijendra Yadav is the Owner Residential House area measuring 167.22 sq omits. out of Khasra no. 63 MJ, Village Parthala Khanjarpur Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Through Regd. Gift Deed dated 03.05.2024 executed by Mr. Bijendra Yadav S/o Mr. Prakash Yadav in favour of Mrs. Shashi Yaday W/o Bijendra Yada Vide Reg. no. 4729 the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objectio whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Visha Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 Mobile No. 9811215181

have been made for the roadshow and the poll rallies, police said. Modi had last visited Odisha on May 6, when he Berhampur

addressed two public meetings Nabarangpur. Simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections will be held in Odisha in four phases, starting May 13.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wy client Mr. Sushil Yadav S/o Mr. Chaman Singh
Yadav the owner of Residential House area measuring
166 sq. mtrs., out of Khasra no. 181 MI, situated at
Village Hajratpur Wajidpur, Tehsil Dadri, District
Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Through Regd, Gift Deed
dated 08.05.2024 executed by Mr. Chaman S/o Mr.
Surjan in favour of Mr. Sushil Yadav S/o Mr. Chaman
Singh Yadav Vida Ren ng. 251.9 the above mentioned Singh Yadav Vide Reg. no. 2519 the above-mentione property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property. should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan E-713. Karkardooma Court. Delhi-110092 along witl documentary evidence under address through registered within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal **Mehan,** E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mahila No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. Shashikala Yadav has applied for a purchase loan to our client ICICI HFC Ltd., Karol Bagh, Delhi, by mortgage of property i.e., UGF (RHS Front Side) built on Plot Nos. 146 & 146-A, part of Khasra No. 16/10, situated at Sainik Enclave, Village Razapur Khurd, Sector-II, Mchan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59; area 483 S. F. H. Mrs. VIP. Developers through 463 Sa. Ft., M/s. VIP Developers through 493 Sq. Ft., M/s. VIP Developers through partners Mr. Pankaj Gupta & Mrs. Annu Gupta purchased the Plot No. 146, for area 101.5 Sq. Yd. from Mr. Praveen Kumar Jain vide registers Sale Deed dated 14-09-2023 & Plot No. 146-A, for total area 101.5 Sq. Yd. from Mr. Ramesh Chand Jain vide registered Sale Deeds dated 05-09-2023 & dated 04-12-2023. If any one has objection, then contact with proof within 7 days, after that no objections will be accepted.

Kartik Kumar Gola, Advocate for LEGAL ASSOCIATES' O-3/A-1, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-95. Mob.: (+91 7011604304)

Date: 06.05.202

KUSHWAHA, Aged about a d u l t , W / O M r . Manoranjan Kumar, R/O

47A/1, 4th Floor, Govin

Park So Bazar, Kirshn

Nagar, New Delhi-11005

Registrar

Lucknow

Debts Recovery Tribun

Defendant

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir. Lucknow - 226007

Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publicatio

(Summons to Defendant Under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution

Act. 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recover

O.A. No. 1060/2023

BANK OF MAHARASHTRAAPPLICANT
VERSUS
MR. MANORANJAN KUMAR AND OTHERSDEFENDANTS

1. MR. MANORANJAN 2. MRS. SUNAINA

In the above noted Application, you are required to file repl

in Paper Book form in Two sets alongwith documents an

affidavits (if any), personally or through your dul

authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, afte serving copy of the same on the Applicant or hi counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the

ummons, and thereafter to appear before the Presiding

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limite

Officer on 27/05/2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which th

application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

O.A. No. 1060 of 2023

Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

KUMAR, Aged about adult, S/O Mr. Nand Kishor Prasad, R/O 47A/1,

4th Floor, Govind Park So

Bazar, Kirshna Nagar, Nev

Delhi-110051 (Borrower)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Chanda Devi is in process to avail the LAP against her Property bearing Pvt. no. 17/63-B, area measuring 34.41 sq.mtr., situated at Gali No.-1, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat area of village Sadhora Khurd Delhi (taking loan from Suryoday Small Finance Bank) having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 04.11.2020 executed by Shyam Sunder Garg acquired the same vide Court Order dated 29.02006
All person's having any claim against or in respect

All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable! registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lein, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered

and, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that ny client, Smt. Vidya Devi Verma, aged 75, widow of Late Shri Krishan Kumar Verma R/c BFH-105, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 widow of Late Shri Krishan Kumar Verma Pićosh-H-105. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, inequivocally and irrevocably declares that the has disowned and disinherited her hithdren and their respective spouses, as sted below, from all her immovable assets wing to their lil-treatment towards her. Her Son, Vikrant Verma, and his wife, Sunita Rani Verma;
Her Daughter, Anupma Verma, and her husband, Ramesh Verma;
Her Daughter, Reenu Verma, and her husband, Sanjay Verma, and her husband, Sanjay Verma, and her husband, Sanjay Verma, and her husband, Rakesh Verma;
Her Daughter, Weenakshi Verma, and her husband, Rakesh Verma;
Her Daughter, Winita Verma, and her husband, Rakesh Verma;
Her Daughter, Winita Verma, and her husband, Rakesh Verma;
Her Daughter, Son Her Son Her Soll the bollowing properties, of whom she is the sole and absolute lawful owner:

I vt. Shop No. 105, Ground Floor, Area Measuring 148 Sq. Feet Part of Property Bearing Municipal No. 2443, Gail No. 1, Plock-M, out of the Total Piot Measuring about 222 Sq. Yards Out of Khasra No. 338, Situated at Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, Single Unit No. Privale No. 84, First Floor, Area 24.01 Sq. Mtr., Plot No. 13, Part of Multistorey property No. Water Rate - 584 situated at Mohalla Rattanchatri, Virindavan, Moja, Vrindavan Bangar Anandroon Giriraj Vihar, Tehsil and District Mathura.

Mathura.
anyone engages in any form of transactor anyone engages in any form of transactor with the disowned children, their respective pouses, legal heirs, agents, and associates will do so at their own risk and esponsibilities. My client will not be heavenable for any act, deed, or dealing with Advocate Amar Shanka

mber no. X-30, Civil Wing, Tis Hazar Court Mob: 8800338900

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Shakeel

Chaudhary, CS Comm 1109/22

Proprietor of Deepak Paneer Bhandar, CS (Comm) No. 5328

ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs Bharat Singh,

CS (Comm) No.188 of 2019

submitting the bids.

as per court orders, in the following cases:-

kotak Mahind

Locker Hired by Mr. Varun Rana having address at-E-19 S-F Vishnu Garden Near Shitla Mata Mandir New Delhi-110018 with WHS Kirti Nagar, Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 85/1 Block No.2 WHS Kirti Nagar, New Delhi 110015 remains un-operated since past 18 years 7 Month and the rent is also due for the last 1 vears.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to Mr. Varun Rana calling upon him to operate the locker has return unreserved and the aforementioned is not

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Varun Rana within 90 days from the date of issuance of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done as per the extant process of the bank on 12:00 PM.

NOTICE

contactable.

August 10, 2024 at around

PROCLAMATION U/O 5 RULE 20, CPC

Case No. 02-K/1 of 2022

SOFT TOUCH PHARMACEUTICAL

INDIA LTD. Plot No. 8 industrial area Vaknaghat Tehsil Kandaghat District Solar H.P. through its Director cum Authorize Signatory Sh. Ram Lal Garg. ...Plaintiff

Duggal Encl. Tara Nagar Kakrola New Delh Sourt West Delhi through its Directors Authorized Signatories and others. SUIT UNDER SECTION 26 READ WIT ORDER 7 RULE 1 AND 2 CPC FOR RECOVERY OF RS. 4,21,850/- ALONG WITH INTEREST @ 18% PER ANNUM FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT TILL ITS

LIMITED Plot No. B-3/436A & 437 KH 16 /

REALIZATION. otice to:- Defendant No. 1):- CONSENT ELEVATORS PRIVATE LIMITED Plot No. B-3/436A & 437 KH 16 /1 Duggal Encl. Tara Nagar Kakrola New Delhi Sourt West Delhi through its Directors/ Authorized

Jalaj Kumar Anupam Director/ Authorize Signatory CONSENT ELEVATORS
PRIVATE LIMITED office at Plot No. 8 Basement & 3rd Floor, Kakrola Housing Complex Old Palam Road, Dwarka New Delhi-110078

3. Satish Kumar Mishra Director/ Authorized rgnatory CONSENT ELEVATORS RIVATE LIMITED Plot No. B-3/436A & 437 KH 16 /1 Duggal Encl. Tara Nagar Kakrola New Delhi Sourt West Delhi-110078. 4. Ravi Shankar Singh Director/ Authorized Signatory CONSENT ELEVATORS

PRIVATE LIMITED Plot No. B-3/436A & 437 KH 16 /1 Duggal Encl. Tara Nagar Kakrola New Delhi Sourt West Delhi-110078.

Whereas in the above noted case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the cour hat above noted case Defendants no. 1 to 4 annot be served in the ordinary way. Hence his proclamation is hereby issued agains hem to appear in this court on 15.06.2024 at 10:00 A.M. to defend the case personally of through an authorized agent or pleader alling which ex-parte proceedings will be taken against them Given under my head and seal of the coun his 07 th day of may 2024

(Chunauti Sagroli)

Civil Judge Kandaghat District Solan H.P.

ICICI Bank Limited

Article 370, Shah also said Modi has

ended terrorism, Naxalism and made

the country secure. He alleged that

PUBLIC NOTICE of the FLAT NO. 2381 FIRST FLOOR, SITUATED AT SECTOR-B, POCKET-2&3, VASANT KUNJ We, Rhiti Sports Management Pvt Ltd , Rhiti Talent Management Pvt Ltd and Rhiti Marketing Pvt Ltd.have shifted our office AT SECTOR-B, POCKET-28.3, VASANT KUN, NEW DELHI and Anil Malik have not Original 1. Survivor Member Certificate of Pushpa Rani Bajaj, 2. Relinquishment Deed/NOC from other Legal heirs of Pushpa Rani Bajaj, 3. Survivor Certificate of Gita Harishankar Khanna. And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said from 7514, D-7, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 to Plot No. A-8, Ground Floor, Vasant Kunj Enclave, South Delhi, Delhi Request all public, clients and stake holders to update your records with our new address to ensure that all future correspondence

Rhiti Sports Management Pvt Ltd.

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of the general

public that one ID Card of Mr Himanshu

Hardainiya issued by ICICI Bank Itd.

having ID card no. 2437001 has been

found missing and/or lost on 6/5/2024.

Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is

requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management

Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Community

Center S.D Tower First Floor Sector -8

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank

Limited are hereby notified not to make any

payment to any unauthorised person

making payment to any person holding the

said ID card shall do so at his/her own

costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall

not be bound and/or responsible for any

Date: 6/5/2024 For ICICI Bank Limited

holding the said ID card no .2437001.

Rohini Delhi 110085.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Resam Devi W/O Brijpal, both residence of H.NO.- D-295, Street No.-8, D- Block, Amar Colony, Shahadara, North East, Delhi-110094 have served all their relations with their son Anil Kumar and his wife Ritu due to his bad habits. Both of my above named clients have also disowned and debarred his said son from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. Anil and his wife will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or

GOURAV KUMAR (Advocate) Chamber No. 30

NOTICE **ESCORTS KUBOTA LIMITED**

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate[s] for the undermentioned securities of the Company has/have been lost/misplaced and the holder[s] of the said securities applicant[s] has/have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate[s]. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date, else the

ı	Name of the	Kind of Securities	Ledger	Share	Distinctive Nos	
ı	Holder(s)	and Value	Folio No.	Certificate No.		
	DINSHAW	315 Equity	ESC0168268	51906	1850724	1850737
ı	MINOO	Shares of Rs.10/- FV	of	64163	2213360	2213376
ı	MASTER &			79024	2731447	2731471
ı	HASINA			242081	13079854	13079903
ı	DINSHAW			242082	13079904	13079953
ı	MASTER			242083	13079954	13079976
ı				312639	19405430	19405479
ı				312640	19405480	19405492
ı				317384	19604528	19604577
				317385	19604578	19604600
	Place: PUNE	Date: 10/05	/2024			

Name of the Holder(s): DINSHAW MINOO MASTER Jointly with HASINA DINSHAW MASTER

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Ranch Office: ICICI Bank Limited shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

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

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

Description

l	No.	Account Number	Symbolic Possession	in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Branch
		Priyanka Sharma/ Archana/	House No.424, Ward No.2, Naseeb Vihar Colony, Near New Grain Market, Gharaunda, Karnal, Haryana- 132001/ May 07, 2024	January 08, 2024 Rs. 12,50,440/-	Karnal/ New Delhi
l	The	above-mentioned borrowers	ice to repay the am	ount, else	

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Date: May 10, 2024 Place: Delhi

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Limited shall Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred 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.	l =	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
	1.	Future U India Ltd/ Vishal Kumar Bansal/ Sweety Bansal/ Feroz Khan/ 000705052462	Property Bearing Flat No. 501, 5th Floor Measuring Area 1715 Sq Feet, Part of Plot No. GH-08, Complex Known as 'The Adhunik CGHS Ltd.', Situated at Sector-52, Tehsil Wazirabad and District Gurugram, Haryana/ May 06, 2024	January 10, 2024 Rs. 1,55,09,334.00/-	Gurugram
1	The s	and the second contract of the second contract of			

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 10, 2024 Authorized Officer

documents to participate in the auction.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, ICICI Bank Karol Bagh. Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provise to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the

below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Earnest	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Prince Mangla (Borrower), Kiran Gupta, Prashant Mangla (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00002071242	DDA HIG Flat Bearing No. 510, 5th Floor, Pocket D-6, Ganga Block, Group 3, Vasant Kunj, Delhi- 110070, Super Area: 1450 Sq Feet	Rs. 1,35,88, 167/- as on May 06, 2024	Rs. 1,15,00, 000/- Rs. 11,50,000/-	May 28, 2024 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	June 06, 2024 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com). The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 05, 2024** before **05:00 PM** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as

. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before June 05, 2024 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **June 05, 2024** before **05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi- 110005 on or before June 05, 2024 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/8584874809 Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset

Management Pvt Ltd. 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s Date: May 10, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR **Authorized Officer** SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

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

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

No.	Loan Account Number	Date of Symbolic Possession	in Demand Notice (Rs.)	of Branch
1.	Sanjay Tomar/ Jyoti Tomar/ LBNOD00006599049/ TBNOD00006591408	Shop No. Asf 105, 2nd Floor, Gaur Word Smart Street Mall, Plot No. C-01, Sector 16B, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida West, Ultar Pradesh, Noida- 201307/ May 07, 2024	November 24, 2023 Rs. 16,68,686/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sanjay Tomar/ Jyoti Tomar/ TBNOD00006201272/ LBNOD00006567069	Shop No. OC-923, 9th Floor, Wing-A, Gaur City Centre, Sector-4, Plot No. GH-01, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201307/ May 07, 2024	November 24, 2023 Rs. 20,13,314/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Ajay Singh/ Neeru Singh/ Solid Exports/ LBGUR00002906649	Flat No. TC- 106,1st Floor, Aranya Residency, Tower C "The Aranya", Situated at Plot No. Gh- 02 Sector-119, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ May 07, 2024	December 18, 2023 Rs. 11,00,828/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Sun Agrifresh Industries Pvt Ltd/ Nilesh Singh/ LBDEL00002177845	Flat No. T5- PF04, The Aranya Situated At GH- 02, Sector-119 Noida- 201301/ May 07, 2024	December 04, 2023 Rs. 72,152/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Sun Agrifresh Industries Pvt Ltd/ Nilesh Singh/ Ritesh Singh Pundir/ LBDEL00002095528	Flat No. T5- PF04, The Aranya Situated at Gh- 02, Sector- 119 Noida- 201301/ May 07, 2024	December 04, 2023 Rs. 1,35,22,580/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Srishti Sharma/ Avneesh Sharma/ LBGHZ00002973799/ LBGHZ00003087871	Unit No. Sun 1-2302 23rd Floor, Situated At Group Housing, Gh-1 B(1), Tower 1 Migsun Wynn Sector Eta-II, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ May 07, 2024	December 14, 2023 Rs. 29,29,817/-	Delhi/ NCR/ Rampu U.P.
7.	Ganesh Kumar Paswan/ LBGHZ00006566074/ TBGHZ00006558716	Flat No:1106, Floor No. 11, Kaveri City Center, Situated At C-06, Delta One Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201307/ May 07, 2024	December 15, 2023 Rs. 46,67,643/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ quarantors(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 10, 2024 Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

J&K Bank IMPAIRED ASSETS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT DEPARTMEN Zonal Office Delhi: Plot No.132-134 Sector 44, Gurgaoni Haryana) Indi GSTIN: 06AAACT6167G1ZB -91 (0)0124-4715800 F +91 (0) 0124-4715800 | E : lapred.del@jkbmail.com W : www.jkbank.n J&K Bank

Possession Notice Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with

Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002 Whereas, I, Rajneesh Mahajan, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bani imited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of ecurity Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice Dated 29.01.2024 thereby calling upon the Borrower(s)/gurantors(s)/mortgagor(s) namely. M/S Neelam Traders Prop. Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Nafe Singh R/o Plot 91, Balsama Road, Bhamashah Nagar, Hissar, 125001 (Deceased Borrower cum Mortgagor

) Mrs. Savita W/o Sh. Anii Kumar R/o H.No. 100, Ward No. 1 Balsamand Road Bhamashah Nagar, Hissar (Guarantor)

Bhamashah Nagar, Hissar Through Guardian Mother Mrs. Savita repay an amount of Rs.15,91,791.11 (Rupees Fifteen lakhs Ninety One Thousan Seven Hundred Ninety One and paisa Eleven only) being the balance outstanding as

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property describe

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned agains dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said roperty will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including ar occreditations) Extension of Charge in Equitable Mortgage of " Residential House (Only Ground floor) constructed on plot No.100 bearing property ID No.P01700310132 and permanent Property ID NO.23C215U270 measuring and bounded as under :- East : Danda 44'-Property of Nirmala Devi West : Danda 44'

Place: Gurugram Haryana

Miss Neelam Jangra D/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o H.No. 100, Ward No. 1 Balsamand Road

Miss Nandini Jangra (Minor) Dio Sh. Anii Kumar Rio H.No. 100, Ward No. 1 Balsamano h Nagar, Hissar Through Guardian Mother Mrs. Savita Miss Bhumi (Minor) D/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o H.No. 100, Ward No. 1 Balsamand Road

on 31.12.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said tice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

rrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized erein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Ac ead with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 07" day of May of the year 2024.

ggregating to Rs 16,51,733.11 (Rupees Sixteen lakhs Fifty One Thousand Sever Hundred Thirty Three Rupees and paisa Eleven only) together with future interes ereon from 01.05.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Property of Other North : Danda 24'-Gali South : Danda 24'-Road Situated Bhamashah Nagar, Hisar In the name of Sh. Anil Kumar

(Mr. Rajneesh Mahajan) Authorized Officer, The J&K Bank Ltd Date: 07.05.2024

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Air turbulence

Air India Express cabin crew's moody 'sick leave' hits operations, leaves fliers high and dry

■ n the realm of air travel, few situations are as frustrating as flight cancellations. The anticipation of reaching a destination is replaced by uncertainty and inconvenience. Such was the case recently when Air India Express, the low-cost subsidiary of Air India, found itself in a crisis, leading to a wave of flight cancellations. The flag carrier of India has long been grappling with financial woes and operational challenges. Despite various restructuring efforts, the airline has struggled to stay afloat in a fiercely competitive industry. The latest crisis began when over 300 senior cabin crew members of Express flights reported sick at the last minute, resulting in the cancellation of more than 90 flights since Tuesday night, leaving airports in disarray and passengers seething with frustration. Of course, Air India has now lent a helping hand to its subsidiary, deciding to operate 20 flights against 74 Express cancellations on Thursday, and sacking 30 crew members over "sick leave". The root cause of this crisis stems from longstanding griev-

ances articulated by Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU). They have voiced concerns about unfair treatment, citing instances where internal job postings were filled with external candidates, bypassing qualified internal staff. The owners, on their part, do not recognise AIXEU. The Regional Labour Commissioner in New Delhi has also criticised the management for alleged violations of labour laws, highlighting a lack of responsible decision-making. Adding to the turbulence is Air India's ongoing financial struggles and operational chal-

Air India Express, despite its parent company's losses, remained profitable. In 2021, it was sold to the Tata

Group, which merged it with AirAsia India. It aimed to capture the budget aviation market with a focus on non-trunk routes and ancillary services. It is the only profitable airline with the Tatas. In 2023, the airline made a profit of Rs 116.84 crore, while the other airlines in the Tata Group's aviation stable — AirAsia India, Vistara and Air India — incurred a combined loss of Rs 15,530 crores. The fallout from these cancellations has been significant, with passengers expressing their frustration on social media platforms. Long queues, missed connections and inadequate communication have characterised the scenes at airports. In response, Air India Express has issued apologies and promises of improved services, but the damage to passenger trust has been done. The Indian aviation sector has huge potential but the issues of mismanagement are galore. The Govt must proactively ensure that the fliers are not taken for a ride and the airlines also do not incur losses. Besides, the pandemic years were very traumatic for the industry and it is slowly recovering. The Govt must resolve the crisis before it snowballs into a crisis and takes down the whole sector. Looking ahead, the fate of Air India and its subsidiaries remains uncertain. Only time will tell whether Air India Express and its counterparts can rise above the chaos and emerge with flying colours.



Students perform during the celebration of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, in Nadia

An open letter to Shehbaz Sharif



We tolerated terrorist violence for many years but when we could no longer tolerate it, we went to Parliament to do away with Article 370. But we did not resort to violence

ear Vazir-e-Azam Shehbaz Sharif Sahab, I have taken the privilege of writing to the Prime Minister of our neighbouring country, which, till 76 years ago, was part of us, but separated in acrimonious circumstances. I'm sure that you're aware, as a lot of in India are, that this separation and the aftermath it gave rise to continues to not only cast its shadow over the subcontinent but also torment relations between various communities. This open letter to you is a humble attempt, not to hark back to the events of those decades and apportion blame, but to address the contentiousness of modern-day issues that continue to trail in their wake.

Whenever the issue of Ayodhya, the Gyan Vapi temple (Varanasi) or the Krishna Janmabhoomi (Mathura) comes up, my mind travels to Lahore and the Gurudwara Shaheed Gunj at the Naulakha Bazar locality of your splendid city. The ownership of the place was disputed by the local Muslims who claimed that the place had originally been a mosque. It had been converted into a gurudwara by the local Sikhs during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. When opportune in the 19th century, the people of the city, led by some Muslim Leaguers, went to court over this. They did not win their case for the re-conversion of the gurudwara into a mosque. Legal counsel argued that an

appeal could be filed if necessary, right up to the Privy Council. However, the then premier of Punjab Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan advised against any further action as it might open a Pandora's Box across the subcontinent, which was then undivided. Sikandar Hayat also advised against any further litigation.

Any use of the argument of adverse possession might cause the return of many of the temples that had come into Muslim possession. What was then perhaps overlooked was that a Hindu temde is a residence of the divine and not merely a prayer hall. The pratimas (icons) are the first step in the quest for spirituality. Ultimately, spirituality can be

active by having a darshan of the avatar of the divine. In Sikhism, they do not have an icon nor the scope of spirituality in the same way as in a Hindu temple. Prophet Moses, the founding prophet of Judaism, the first of the three Semitic religions-also called Religions of the Book-known in Islam as Hazrat Moosa, had expressly forbidden any idol worship by the second of his Ten Commandments; "Thee shall not make any gravel image of thy lord the god". Your faith has rigidly adhered this particular

However, it does pain me no end to state that you have carried this adherence way too far. In your country, over 75 temples have been desecrated or pulled down after independence in 1947, a sordid trend that is continuing. From my Urdu teacher who was a scholar, I have learnt that it is your bounden duty as a momin (believer) to desecrate buts (idols) installed by kafirs (infidels). But for the sake of friendly relations between us two neighbours, your people should desist from such desecrations. I am saying this after

Commandment.



OF YOUR **GENERATION MIGHT** STILL FIND COMFORT IN THE NOTION THAT INDIANS ARE A PEACEFUL AND DORMANT LOT AND THEREFORE WON'T REACT MUCH. THAT MIGHT INDEED HAVE BEEN THE CASE A **COUPLE OF DECADES** AGO, BUT IT IS NO

LONGER SO

accepting the fact that Islam detests parasti (idol worship) and insists on majahab parasti (adherence to the faith) alone. But we live in a world where adherents of other religions too have equal rights to profess and practice their faith, without hurting others. I appeal to you to care for our sentiments and not target the temples and idols that still survive.

Political leaders of your generation might still find comfort in the notion that Indians are a peaceful, and also dormant, lot and therefore won't react much. That might indeed have been the case till a couple of decades ago but is no longer so. India and Indians are changing. Real change in our civilizational journey was heralded in December 1992, of which I was fortunate to be a humble

În India, we have begun a movement to restore the temples that were casualties of the medieval age. I shall shortly be writing to Madam Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of our eastern neighbouring country. Dozens of temples continue to be desecrated in her country every year. You would agree that good neighbours do not hurt each other. Kindly, remember that there are thousands upon thousands of mosques built upon the ruins of ancient temples. So far, we have preferred to approach the courts of law and minimize unilateral action. I appeal to you to also eschew violence.

In Kashmir too, over 130 temples were attacked and desecrated even as India continued to hold control over the state's territory. I am aware that Pakistan took great umbrage when we abrogated Article 370, but is it any wonder that we had to do so? We tolerated terrorist violence for many years, but when we could tolerate it no longer, we went to Parliament to do away with Article 370. But you would certainly appreciate that we did not resort to violence even on this issue. Our Muslim compatriots are cooperating to a moderate degree, even in the state of Kashmir. This is a trend which we hope contin-

columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

(The writer is a well-known

Enigma of copyright in the digital world



BIJU **Dharmapalan**

Policymakers face the formidable challenge of revising copyright laws effectively to tackle the complexities presented by AI

Deople often say that in this digital world, nothing remains secret. Even personal details can be accessed through the Internet. The quantum of information on the Internet is so vast that, despite the security measures, it is not cent per cent foolproof. In such a scenario, one must critically examine copyright's relevance in the digital world. Copyright rules and laws traditionally protect every creation or innovation, so the original creator retains credit for their work and is aptly rewarded through monetary benefits.

When an author creates a book, they automatically own the copyright. This gives them the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, perform, and display the book and create derivative works based on it. In most countries, copyright protection for a book typically lasts for the author's lifetime plus 50-70 years. During this time, others generally cannot reproduce or distribute the book without the author's permission unless their use falls under a specific exception, such as fair use or fair

Within the realm of music, Most of the reputed journals factor authentication (MFA),

this signifies that the individual responsible for creating a song, the writer of the lyrics, the composer, or the performer, possesses the sole entitlement to utilise, disseminate, and capitalise on that song. In India, organisations such as the Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) administer the rights of copyright owners and collect roy-

alties on their behalf for the

public performance and

broadcast of songs. Copyright

also extends to research

works, protecting and mon-

etising one's creations through Unfortunately, journal publishers own the copyright for research publications. The publishers amass massive amounts through subscriptions and advertisements without providing any monetary benefit to the authors.

do peer reviews free of cost, take processing charges from authors, and get subscription fees and advertisements as revenue. What does the poor researcher get? A mental satisfaction of getting published in a high-impact journal? In a way, it's not fair. A few magazines, of course, practice giving honorariums to the

authors Despite having stringent copyright rules and regulations, its efficacy is questionable in the rapidly evolving digital age landscape. The widespread availability of digital content and the simplicity of sharing information on the Internet have presented unprecedented difficulties and intricacies for existing copyright rules. Today, one can easily copy content from online resources without crediting the original creator. Content available on social media sites, including photographs, is widely reproduced. Identifying the original content creator, be it literary or artistic works, is often difficult. Even stringent protective measures like user authentication mechanisms such as passwords, multiand role-based access controls (RBAC) to restrict access to authorised individuals or groups and watermarking techniques often fail to prevent the infringement of copyrights.

The advent of AI in digital platforms has complicated the situation. As AI systems become more sophisticated, their ability to create, replicate, and modify content raises intricate legal questions regarding ownership and authorship. Though AI can do any role, it lacks the human touch in its creation that connects human minds. While individuals are accountable for creating and instructing these algorithms, the AI system autonomously produces the outcome, erasing the distinction between human and machine authorship. The current necessity lies in incorporating ethical, cultural, and economic considerations while crafting a new policy that effectively balances the rights of creators and AI developers.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)

EVOLUTION OF MONETARY POLICY

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Evolution of Monetary Policymaking in India," published on May 8, this is my response. The journey of India's monetary policy from its inception to the present day is a saga of adaptation and evolution. From the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India to the modern era of inflation targeting, each phase has been marked by its unique challenges and responses. The nationalisation of banks in 1969 marked a pivotal moment, transitioning monetary policy towards a more centralised, planned approach. However, external shocks like the oil crises of the 1970s tested the resilience of this system, necessitating revisions and reforms

The introduction of the Multiple Indicator Approach in 1998 reflected a shift towards a more holistic understanding of economic dynamics. Yet, the global financial crisis of 2008 exposed vulnerabilities, prompting a recalibration towards inflation targeting. While inflation targeting has its merits, recent disruptions such as demonetization and the pandemic have highlighted its limitations in addressing supply-side pressures. As the landscape of inflation evolves, a nuanced and comprehensive policy framework is imperative, one that combines the principles of inflation targeting with proactive measures to mitigate supply-side disruptions. In essence, the history of India's monetary policy underscores the need for continual adaptation in the face of evolving economic realities.

Vihaan Reddy | Bengaluru

REFLECTIONS ON ELECTIONS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Elected leaders need to rethink," published on May 8, this is my response. Election times unveil a complex tapestry of our democracy, woven with threads of hope, disappointment, and societal reflection. As citizens, we witness the ritual dance of power, where promises collide with reality, and ideals meet the harsh edges of pragmatism. The model code of conduct, ostensibly a guardian of fair play, often feels like



propos the news article, "Modi, Lalu in a tud A of war on Muslim quota," published on May 8, this is my response. The recent political discourse surrounding reservations in India has taken a contentious turn, with various parties embroiled in a heated debate over extending reservation benefits to Muslims. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vehemently opposed such a

a mere whisper against the cacophony of

electoral fervor. Expenditure limits crum-

ing guotas for SC. ST. and OBC communities. The BJP accuses its rivals of attempting to appease a specific vote bank by advocating for Muslim reservations while disregarding the principles of social and educational backwardness outlined in the Constitution and the Mandal Commission report. Conversely, opposition figures argue that denying reservations to Muslims would be unjust and tantamount to disenfranchisement. Amidst these exchanges, accusations of conspiracy and attempts to manipulate voter sentiments loom large. The charged rhetoric underscores the high stakes of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, where competing visions of governance, identity, and social justice are at play. As citizens, it's imperative to critically engage with these debates and hold our leaders accountable for their promises and policies

move, labelling it as a ploy to undermine exist-

Kiara Sharma | Mumbai

ble under the weight of unchecked spending, leaving us disillusioned with the integrity of the process. The impact of elections extends beyond just

voting, as they can turn schools into battlegrounds, with political theatre taking centre stage and the future suffering while the eloquence of our founding luminaries seems lost amidst the mudslinging and vitriol of contemporary discourse. Yet, amidst the chaos, there is a glimmer of hope embodied by figures like APJ Abdul Kalam, whose legacy reminds us of the transformative power of leadership rooted in humility and service.

Arya Kapoor | Kolkata

BEGGING IS AN EPIDEMIC

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Benevolent hearts: Dynamics of begging and household donations", published on May 8, this is my response. Begging has been ingrained in the roots of Indian society for ages. This sickening culture has become a fashion, a compulsion, a profes-

sion and even a kind of recreation in our country. Beggars in India easily outnumber their ilk in other big countries. To the Westerners, India is a land of mendicants. Beggars are found everywhere—on roads, crossings, footpaths, etc. But their favourite hangouts are bathing ghats, temples, religious fairs, railway stations, trains and bus stands. It is a real nuisance to be confronted by street beggars in all places. Like the Almighty, they seem to be omnipresent. You are waiting for a bus or walking down a road with your friend, and beggars suddenly appear from nowhere and start an endless volley of supplications until you give them a few coins out of sheer disgust and helplessness. The monstrous practice of begging cannot be eradicated from our society because millions are living 'below the poverty line, yearning for a morsel of food. Unfortunately very little has been done by our past and present governments to obliterate the social illness of begging. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

EU-CHINA RELATIONS AT A CROSSROADS

Xi embarks on a strategic journey across Europe, a move laden with symbolism



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

neo-political adjustments are getting done, bilaterally and plurilateral, even as the world's largest democracies are busy calming their domestic constituencies, where a key rallying agenda is China. The two largest democracies, India and the US, both of whom have their own set of issues with China, are in the middle of some of the most competitive election processes, ever seen across the globe. Meanwhile, the EU, or at least many of its member countries, not to mention US allies such as Australia are carefully recalibrating the entangled web of engagement with China.

It is by no coincidence that Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, was on a strategic three-nation tour of Europe, earlier this week. This tri-nation tour, during which the Chinese premier, also met the European Union president Ursula Von der Leyen, comes after a gap of almost 5 years and is also a time when many European nations have been blaming China for pushing highly subsidised electric vehicles into their markets, making several European auto factories redundant. The Europeans also wanted to focus on China playing a larger role in stabilising its "friends without limits "Russia, in the war against Ukraine, pushing up fuel-aided inflation across the region. The Europeans in the plain speak, they are known for, outlined clearly in the president's press statement, "the first topic where we exchanged views on was the geopolitical situation. We especially discussed Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East. We agree that Europe and China have a shared interest in peace and security.

We count on China to use all its influence on Russia to end Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. President Xi has played an important role in de-escalating Russia's irresponsible nuclear threats, and I



drop of the ongoing nuclear threats by Russia. We have also discussed China's commitment not to provide any lethal equipment to Russia. More effort is needed to curtail the delivery of dual-use goods to Russia that find their way to the battlefield. And given the existential nature of the threats stemming from this war for both Ukraine and Europe, this does affect the EU-China relations. "The message from the EU to China was, don't help Russia in its unjust war on European soil, or else the bilateral relation would be in trouble. No surprises, Ukraine and the Middle East didn't feature, till the bottom three paragraphs of the press statement issued by the Chinese team, post the trilateral meeting.

Also no surprises with the language which read "On the Ukraine crisis, President Xi pointed out that China, France and the EU all wish to see an early ceasefire and return of peace in Europe, and support political settlement of the crisis. China has been working vigorously to facilitate talks for peace. China's objective and just position and its constructive role have been widely recognized by the international community. China is ready to stay in communication with relevant parties." The other significant element of these conversations was traded, as all parties involved are feeling the constraints of escalating fuel costs, the volatile geo-political environment and, the post-Covid, supply chain mismatch. The EU provided sharp pointers on Chinese subsidised products, free and fair access to each other's markets and supply chain resiliency in their conversations. A defensive China maintained that the two sides have extensive common interests and broad space for cooperation in green and digital transition. It is necessary that they properly address economic and trade frictions through dialogue and consultation, and accommodate each other's legitimate concerns.". China has started making, the right moves to woo back some of its largest market partners, at a time when India and the US, the other key stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific theatre, are busy with their elections. India will get over elections in about a month, and an agile nimble China policy outlook awaits.

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

Economic progress in India: A reality check



ATUL SEHGAL

Despite notable achievements, economic progress falters due to the neglect of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Public Sector Undertakings and agricultural reforms



ndia has come a long way since 2014 in the matter of various indices and parameters of economic development. Consider this. India has increased her per capita income through this decade from USD to USD 2500, a 60 per cent increase. It has purportedly lifted 400 million persons out of poverty during the decade. Its foreign exchange kitty has increased from USD 322 billion to USD 640 billion during the same period. These are impressive figures. Large figures are always impressive, but they need to be checked, compared and corrobo-rated to be sanctified.

Consider this now. The per capita income of India increased from USD 600 to USD 1560 for the period from 2004 to 2014 which is a bigger increase of 160 percent. Its foreign exchange reserves increased from USD 107 billion to USD 322 billion between 2004 and 2014. Whereas the surge from 2004 to 2014 was 200 per cent, it was only 100 per cent in the next

The above comparative figures talk aloud about India's poor economic development in the last decade. This is not an overall performance report on the current NDA government. This government has many unprecedented achievements to its credit. But on the economic front, it doesn't seem to have delivered.

Why has the NDA not been able to deliver on the economic front? There are sev-

Neglect of MSMEs: The micro, small and medium enterprises sector in the country did not receive the attention due to it. This sector is the main source of employment generation. Imports from China continued to swell and many manufacturers closed down their factories to become traders and distributors.

Poor implementation of the Make in India programme: The Make in India was a well-conceived ambitious programme



THE GOVERNMENT DID WELL TO **BLUEPRINT** REFORMS IN THE **AGRICULTURAL** SECTOR—THOSE RELATED TO MSP AND PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO IMPLEMENT IT BY

CAPITULATING IN FRONT OF FAKE **PROTESTERS** MASQUERADING AS FARMERS

to boost indigenous manufacturing. The scheme had its points of deficiency but regrettably, the major driving points of the grandiose scheme remained largely on paper and were never implemented properly. The result--share of manufacturing in the economy continues to stagnate at 14 percent.

Absence of bureaucratic reforms: Our obsolete, corruption-ridden colonial bureaucratic system had never delivered earlier and cried for reforms. But the reforms did not come. The result was a failure of key developmental programmes like the 100 Smart Cities Programme. The government did a remarkable job of establishing GST and promulgating the IBC. This enabled a clean-up of banks and a sharp decline in their NPAs. However, the failure of the government to increase the ease of doing business by cutting down on bureaucratic red tape is a big reason behind the continuing lack of a suitable ecosphere for business and big investment. Failure to implem

implement Agricultural Reforms:

The government did well to blueprint reforms in the agricultural sector-those related to MSP and procurement of agricultural produce. But the government failed to implement the same by capitulating in front of fake protesters

masquerading as farmers.

Neglect of PSUs: The government paid very little attention to the state and central PSUs which account for 15 per cent of the total economic activities in the country. It kept on harping on the absence of the need for the gov-

was an impractical approach to handling the Indian economy and failed to tap the big PSUs in which so much of public money had been invested.

Failure to bring about judicial reforms: Justice in this country continues to be delayed, denied and derailed. Despite big talks to the contrary, the government did nothing in the direction of judicial reforms. This was and remains a big dampener to FDI and even domestic investment in new business Notwithstanding the above, we

must bear in mind that most of the previous governments had left deep pits in our economy that needed to be filled to prepare the ground for the rapid holistic cation sector calls for a thorough development of the country. The overnment, between 2004 and 2014 did produce better numbers for FE reserves and economic growth rate but the money generating that investment and growth was preponderantly from the huge proportion of parallelblack money economy out of the overall economy. Money was meagrely flowing for the critical sectors of defence and infrastructure and even for some important socialistic schemes. Modi 1.0 and Modi 2.0 changed this by bringing economic discipline and curbing corruption and economic malfeasance. It brought GST and IBC and did the clean-up of Banks by bringing down drastically the NPAs. It severely dented the black money economy.

These were the pits filled by the Modi government that have prepared fertile soil for the fast-track economic progress of the country

ative and is also expected that the Modi government, if returned to power, will take the undermentioned steps to boost real progress on the economic front. Economic progress is the foundation of the overall progress of a country. Progress on other fronts like defence, foreign affairs, etc. has been significant but sustainable multifaceted development can only be achieved on the founda-

tion of a strong and healthy eco-nomic bottom line. The country needs drastic insti-tutional and bureaucratic reforms. It needs urgent implementation of the farming sector reforms which were shelved after overhaul to replace the colonial Macaulay established system with an indigenous system in tune with the nation's ethos and tradi-

Sloganeering and political gamesmanship need to be replaced by serious, earnest and committed steps for boosting investment, trade, manufacturing and exports. India has a huge potential for becoming an economic powerhouse in quick time but we need to go about building our economy with due seriousness and dedication, rising above narrow interests of caste, class, political affiliations and last but not least, political expediency. It is very much hoped that Modi 3.0, with a two-thirds majority, will usher in the much-needed administrative, bureaucratic and judicial reforms for the speedy economic progress of the country.

(The author is a management consultant; views are personal)

al security and advancing

shared interests. Both nations

are poised to deepen their

partnership and address pre-

vailing challenges through

India and Armenia strengthen defence ties amidst regional instability

As the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis looms, the growing Indo-Armenia partnership emerges as a vital defence against destabilising forces

n recent years, the strategic partnership between India and Armenia has undergone a remarkable transformation- fired by their shared commitment to fortify defence capabilities and confront regional security challenges head-on. Against the backdrop of Armenia's enduring struggle with Azerbaijan and Turkey's support for Azerbaijan's advantages, the precipitating connection between Armenia and India stands for recognition. Armenia's proximity to India and both agreeing to diversify their strategic alignment, deserves special attention on the global stage.

Military Cooperation: Armenia's imperative to diversify its security alliances and bolster its military capabilities,



PADMALOCHAN DASH

particularly amidst the enduring conflict with Azerbaijan, is evident through heightened defense spending and collaborations with nations such as India and France. India's involvement with Armenia's military not only strengthens its defensive capabilities but also serves to counterbalance external-internal influences like Turkey and Pakistan in the South Asian region. The

partnership encompasses various facets, including the exchange of weaponry, joint military exercises, and strategic consultations, all aimed at enhancing defense readiness and security in their respective

Advanced Weaponry and Joint Exercises: The acquisition of state-of-the-art weaponry highlights the growing defense cooperation between India and Armenia. Reports indicate ongoing provision of military hardware from India to Armenia, including multiple-launch rocket systems, anti-tank missiles, and radar systems. Additionally, joint military exercises and training programs are underway to enhance preparedness and

armed forces. These collaborative efforts facilitate the exchange of expertise and tactics, fostering effective coordination for potential future operations, from joint exercises to intelligence sharing, both nations are committed to showcasing their military capabilities and strengthening their strategic partnership. **Geopolitical Determinations:**

Armenia's pivotal role in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) offers India diversified trade routes and enhanced access to Eurasian markets, bolstering strategic interests in economic resilience and geopolitical balancing. Conversely, India's military support for Armenia underscores its commitment to preserving regional peace expanding Indo-Armenian interoperability between their and countering aggressive

manoeuvres by the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis. Through the realisation of mutual interests, India and Armenia can reshape security dynamics in the South Caucasus region by challenging the dominance of larger geopolitical actors and their support for rogue powers.

Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan Axis: The Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis poses a substantial threat to respective regional stability, with Turkey's unwavering support for Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict then raising concerns about potential escalations. The longstanding military partnership between Turkey and Pakistan, characterised by defence production, joint training exercises, and highlevel military dialogues, under-

scores their concerted efforts to advance mutual geopolitical goals and exert influence in the regions. This axis represents a significant challenge to the security and stability of the South Caucasus and South Asian regions, as that axis seeks to consolidate its power and undermine the influence of other regional stakeholders. Responses and Ongoing Efforts: In response to the burgeoning influence of the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis, India's steadfast support for Armenia signifies a resolute stance against their aggressive manoeuvres in the region. Aimed at preserving a delicate balance of power, India and Armenia are all set to intensify their collaboration to address these threats. While Turkey's stance on promise for enhancing region-

Pakistan-Azerbaijan axisthereby ensuring stability in both the Caucasus and South Asian regions. The Promising Prospects: The emerging strategic cooperation between India and Armenia holds immense

Kashmir validates the bur-

geoning Indo-Armenia

defence cooperation, the nexus

between Turkey's involvement

in the Kashmir issue and

Pakistan's alignment with concerted efforts in military Azerbaijan's agenda cannot be collaboration and strategic alignments. India's steadfast seen as a mere happenstance, rather a meticulously orchessupport for Armenia underscores its dedication to maintrated strategy with far-reaching intention. In this backdrop, taining peace and stability in the Caucasus region. With far-reaching implications for global geopolitical outcomes, the urgent need for a meticulously planned multilateral defence partnership underscored. This becomes essential the Indo-Armenia partnerto counter the unholy Turkeyship has the potential to redefine the regional balance of power and contribute significantly to the stability and prosperity of both the Caucasus and South Asian regions.

(The writer is working with an Independent Think Tank, views are personal)

First shipment of aid to floating pier in Gaza departs from Cyprus

shipment of humanitarian Aaid left a port in Cyprus on Thursday morning and was on its way to the US-built pier in Gaza, the first delivery to the newly built ramp, Cyprus' foreign minister said.

The relief is desperately needed, with the United Nations saying people in Gaza are on the brink of famine and as Israeli troops have ordered the evacuation of 1,00,000 Palestinians from Gaza's southern city of Rafah. Earlier this week, Israel sent tanks to seize Gaza's nearby Rafah crossing with Egypt, shutting down a vital border entry point needed to get assistance into the battered enclave. It remains uncertain whether Israel will launch an all-out invasion of Rafah as international efforts for a ceasefire continue. Israel has said that an assault on Rafah is crucial to its goal of destroying Hamas after the militant group's October 7 attack on southern Israel that left 1,200 dead and 250 seized as hostages and abducted to Gaza.

The United States, which opposes a Rafah invasion, has said Israel has not provided a credible plan for evacuating and protecting civilians now crammed in Rafah. The war has killed over 34,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, and has driven some 80 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians from their homes. President Ioe Biden said on Wednesday that he would not supply offensive weapons that Israel could use to launch an all-out assault on Rafah, over concern for the well-being of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there.

Biden, in an interview with CNN, said the US was still committed to Israel's defense and would supply Iron Dome rocket interceptors and other defensive arms, but that if Israel goes into Rafah, "we're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells used." In response, far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir

implied in a post on the social platform X that Hamas loves Biden, using a heart emoji in the tweet. Ben Gyir has pushed for a punishing military response and has threatened to leave the government if Israel does not carry out a wide-ranging military operation in Rafah.

The US vessel Sagamore, loaded with much needed humanitarian assistance, departed from the port of Larnaca early on Thursday with the aim of transferring as much aid to Gaza as possible through the maritime corridor, said Foreign Mi Constantinos Kombos. Minister

The vessel's voyage comes about two months after Biden gave the order for the building of the large floating platform several miles off the Gaza coast to be a launching pad for deliveries since not enough aid was getting in through land crossings, which require stringent checks by Israel, and by air

The US military finished the construction of the temporary pier and causeway, Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said Tuesday, but plans to move it into place on the shore were on hold due to weather and other logistics. Singh told reporters that US military ships and the assembled pier were at the Ashdod port and that high winds and sea swells made it too dangerous to install the pier at the Gaza beach. An official from Cyprus told

The Associated Press that if conditions didn't allow for the vessel to offload directly onto the pier, it would load smaller vessels, which would transport the aid directly to Gaza. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details of the operation. Still humanitarian workers say aid coming by sea won't be enough to alleviate the dire humanitarian suffering in Gaza and that the most effective way to get assistance in is by land. But the closure of the Rafah crossing and the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing this week cut off the entry of food, supplies and fuel for aid trucks and generators.

International aid groups warned Wednesday that a distribution network is at risk of collapse across the territory because fuel shipments into Gaza were cut off. Israel's threat of invasion of Rafah itself, where many of the aid groups have based their warehouses and staff, is also further disrupting distribution, the groups said. Israel said it reopened on Wednesday the Kerem Shalom crossing, shut after Hamas mortars killed four Israeli soldiers nearby in an attack on Sunday, but aid groups said no trucks were entering the Gaza

Trucks let through from Israel must be unloaded and the cargo reloaded onto trucks in Gaza, but no workers in Gaza can get to the facility to do so because it is too dangerous, the

Meanwhile, attacks continued across Gaza with Israeli airstrike on a residential building killing eight people, including four children, late Wednesday, according to hospital records.



Protestors carry a model of the Dome of the Rock during a Stop Israel demonstration, between Stortorget and MA¶lleplatsen in

'US won't supply weapons for Israel to attack Rafah, in warning to ally'

AP WASHIGNTON

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden said that}}_{\text{he would not supply offen-}}$ sive weapons that Israel could use to launch an all-out assault on Rafah — the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza over concern for the wellbeing of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there.

CNN on Wednesday, said that the US was still committed to Israel's defence and would supply Iron Dome rocket intercep tors and other defensive arms but that if Israel goes into Rafah, "we're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells used".

Biden, in an interview with

Biden acknowledged that "civilians have been killed in Gaza" by the type of heavy bombs that the US has been supplying — his first validation of what administration critics have been loudly protesting, even if he still stopped short of taking responsibility. His threat to hold up artillery

The book, shared with The

Associated Press before its

release Thursday, is the latest

effort from the America First

Like the Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025," the group is

seeking to help Trump avoid

the mistakes of 2016, when he

entered the White House

Beyond its policy efforts, the

institute's transition project

has been working to draft

dozens of executive orders

and developing a training pro-

gram for future political

appointees. Heritage has been

building an extensive person-

nel database and offering its

Both groups stress they are

independent from Trump's

campaign, which has repeated

ly tried to distance itself from

such efforts, insisting that the

only Trump-backed policies

are those the candidate artic-

Still Fred Fleitz, the book's edi-

tor, noted that he and retired

Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who

served for a time as Trump's

acting national security advis-

er and wrote several of the

chapters, have been in frequent

touch with the former presi-

dent, soliciting feedback and

discussing topics such as

"We hope this is where he is.

We're not speaking for him, but I think he will approve,"

Ukraine at length.

own policy manuals.

ulates himself.

Policy Institute.

largely unprepared.

Trump-linked group

shells expanded on earlier revelations that the US was going to pause a shipment of heavy

The US has historically provided enormous amounts of military aid to Israel. That has only accelerated in the aftermath of Hamas' October 7 attack, which killed some 1,200 people in Israel and led to about 250 being taken captive by militants. Biden's comments and his deci-

sion last week to pause the shipment of heavy bombs to Israel are the most striking manifestations of the growing daylight between his administration and Israel Prime Benjamin Minister Netanyahu's government. Biden said on Wednesday that Israel's actions around Rafah had "not yet" crossed his red

lines, but has repeated that Israel needs to do far more to protect the lives of civilians in The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) gram) bombs, according to a senior US administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter. The focus of US concern was the larger explosives and how they could

be used in a dense urban area.

'Civilians have been killed in

Gaza as a consequence of those

bombs and other ways in which they go after population

centres," Biden told CNN. "I made it clear that if they go into Rafah — they haven't gone in Rafah yet — if they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities, that deal with that problem." "We're not walking away from Israel's security," the Democratic president continued. "We're walking away from Israel's ability to wage war in those areas." Defence Secretary Austin earlier Wednesday confirmed the weapons delay, telling the

Appropriations

of high payload munitions". \"We're going to continue to do what's necessary to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself," Austin said. "But that said, we are currently reviewing some near-term security assistance shipments in the context of unfolding events in Rafah.'

Subcommittee on Defense that

the US paused "one shipment

UK PM Sunak asks university chiefs to fight antisemitism

PTI LONDON

 $B^{
m ritish\ Prime\ Minister\ Rishi}_{
m Sunak\ on\ Thursday\ urged}$ university chiefs to address the rise in antisemitic abuse on campus and disruption of learning in reaction to the Israel-Hamas conflict. Sunak and his ministers will meet with university vice-chancellors to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to antisemitic abuse is adopted on all campuses, Downing Street said. The government said it wants to make it clear that debate and the open exchange of views in universities is essential but that this can never tip over into hate speech, harassment or incitement of violence. "Universities should be places of rigorous debate but also bastions of tolerance and respect for every member of their community," said Sunak. "A vocal minority on our campuses are disrupting the lives and studies of their fellow students and, in some



cases, propagating outright harassment and antisemitic

That has to stop," he said. The meeting is to also help to inform planned government guidance on combatting antisemitism

campus.Meanwhile, the Office for Students (OfS) has committed to publishing the response to its consultation on a new condition of registration, which could give OfS the power to impose sanctions where there is clear evidence that universities are failing to take sufficient or appropriate including antisemitic abuse. "I have made it absolutely clear that universities must crack down on antisemitism and ensure that protests do not unduly disrupt university life," said Éducation Secretary

action to tackle harassment

Gillian Keegan. In the Budget last year, the government announced GBP 7 million of extra support to tackle antisemitic abuse in educational settings, and GBP 500,000 of this will be dedicated to supporting the work of the University Jewish Chaplaincy, boosting support for Jewish students on cam-

The University Jewish Chaplaincy helps students deal with incidents of antisemitism and intimidation and currently supports over 8.500 students at over 100 universities in 13 regions. The Union of Jewish Students (UJS) have criticised the "toxic environment" faced by Jewish students across the country.

China criticises US for ship's passage through Taiwan Strait

Taipei (AP): China's military criticised a US destroyer's passage through the Taiwan Strait, which occurred less than two weeks before the island's new president takes office and while Washington and Beijing are making uneven efforts to restore regular military exchanges.

Navy Senior Capt. Li Xi, spokesman for the Eastern Theater Command, accused the U.S. of having "publicly hyped" the passage of the USS Halsey on Wednesday.

In a statement, Li said the command, which oversees operations around the strait, "organized naval and air forces to monitor" the ship's transit and handle matters "in accordance

with laws and regulations." The Navy's 7th Fleet said the Halsey "conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit on May 8 through waters where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance

with international law." The Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer transited through a corridor in the Strait that is "beyond the territorial sea" of any coastal state, the fleet's

statement said. "Halsey's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States' commitment to tion for all nations as a princi-ple," it said "No member of the international community should be intimidated or coerced into giving up their rights and freedoms. The United States military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. China responded by firing mis-

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim two attacks in Gulf of Aden unveils national security

the Gulf of Aden on two Panama-flagged container ships that caused no damage, while also saying they targeted a ship in the Indian Ocean in a previously unreported assault.

The claims by Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree come as the tempo of the rebel attacks have waned in recent weeks as they've been targeted by repeated airstrikes launched by a U.S.-led coalition warship in waterways crucial to international trade. The Houthis insist their assaults will continue as long as Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip goes on. Saree in a prerecorded statement claimed attacks on the MSC Diego and MSC Gina. The Joint Maritime Information Center, a U.S.-led coalition of nations operating in the Mideast, said those two missile attacks happened early Tuesday.

Jerusalem (AP): Yemen's "Neither were hit and all crew Houthi rebels on Thursday on board are safe," the center reported proceeding to next

port of call. The center added that the vessels were "likely targeted due to perceived Israeli affiliation." Both vessels were operating for Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Co., which did not immediately respond to a

request for comment. Saree did not say why it took the rebels two day to claim the attacks. He also claimed the Houthis targeted the MSC Vittoria, another container ship in the Indian Ocean. An attack on that vessel, however, has not been acknowledged by any authorities. The Houthis say their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are aimed at pressuring Israel to end its war against Hamas in Gaza, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians there.

Chinese President Xi receives ceremonial welcome in Hungary

hinese President Xi Jinping come in Hungary's capital on Thursday ahead of a day of talks with Hungarian officials which are expected to result in further Chinese investments in the Central European country. Hungarian President Tamás Sulyok received Xi in an opulent courtyard of Budapest's Buda Castle, where the two men walked down a red carpet beside a ceremonial honor guard and listened to the Chinese and Hungarian national anthems. Numerous Chinese and Hungarian officials attended the ceremony, including Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Hungary's longserving populist leader who has pursued deeper ties with Beijing while distancing himself from his more mainstream partners in the European



Xi arrived in Hungary late Wednesday in a European tour that also took in Serbia and France. He will hold talks later in the day with Orbán and other officials on potential Chinese investments in Hungary in infrastructure, energy and electric vehicle manufacturing.

Beijing has invested billions in Hungary and sees the EU member as an important foothold inside the 27-member trading bloc. In December, Hungary announced that one of the world's largest EV manufacturers, China's BYD, will open its first European EV of the country — an inroad that could upend the competitiveness of the continent's auto industry. Hungary is also hosting sever-

al Chinese EV battery plants and hopes to become a global hub of lithium ion battery manufacturing, and has undertaken a railway project to connect the country with the Chinese-controlled port of Piraeus in Greece as an entry point for Chinese goods to Central and Eastern Europe. Both governments have been careful to keep the contents of any potential deals secret until their official announcement But unconfirmed media reports suggest China could announce additional investments in EV manufacturing and in developing Hungary's railway network.

The last such passage was April 17, a day after U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs held their first talks since November 2022 in an effort to reduce regional tensions. Military-to-military contact stalled in August 2022, when Beijing suspended all such communication after then-

siles over Taiwan and staging a surge in military maneuvers, including what appeared to be a rehearsal of a naval and aerial blockade of the island.

the May 20 trial date, postpon-

ing it indefinitely. As former President Donald Trump

remains stuck in the court-

room listening to salacious

details of an extramarital sex-

ual encounter he denies.

another spectacle is playing out

in the background as his vice

presidential tryouts get under-

The dynamic was on full dis-

play in Florida at a fundraiser

at his Mar-a-Lago club that

"This weekend, we had 15

people. ... They're all out there

campaigning," Trump told

doubled as a VP audition.

Passengers, crew evacuated after plane's tyre burst

Ankara (AP): A total of 190 people were safely evacuated from a plane in Turkiye on Thursday after one of its tyres burst during landing at a southern airport, Turkiye's transportation ministry said. No one was hurt. The Boeing 737-800, belonging to Turkiyebased Corendon Airlines stopped safely on the runway after landing at Gazipasa airport near the Mediterranean coastal town of Alanya, the company said. The plane, which carried spends more time discussing 184 passengers and six crew members, was on a flight from Cologne, Germany. Corendon Airlines denied Turkish media reports that the aircraft had landed on its nose. Turkiye's Transport and Infrastructure Ministry reported damage to the plane's front gear but did not provide details. The runway was not damaged but flights were diverted to the nearby Antalya airport while the aircraft was being removed.

Stormy Daniels to return to stand in hush money trial **AP** ■ NEW YORK

Stormy Daniels will return to the witness stand in Donald Trump's hush money trial on Thursday, two days after she spent hours recounting in sometimes graphic detail the alleged 2006 sexual encounter with the former president that she was eventually paid to keep quiet about during the

2016 presidential election. The former president's attorneys aggressively sought to poke holes in Daniels' credibility during cross-examination, accusing the porn actor of trying to extort Trump and rehearsing her testimony two assertions she forcefully denied. The defense also made a failed attempt to have a mistrial declared, arguing that Daniels' morning testimony had "nothing to do with this case and is extremely prejudi-

Trump denies the two ever had sex.Prosecutors say Trump and two of his associates orchestrated a scheme to influence



the 2016 election by purchasing and then burying stories that might damage his cam-

Daniels' testimony is a buildup to the prosecution's star witness Michael Cohen, who arranged the USD 130,000 payment to Daniels and later went to prison for orchestrating the payments and other

Trump is accused of falsifying internal business records to cover up the hush money payments and instead recording them as legal expenses. He has

pleaded not guilty. The case is the first-ever criminal trial of a former US president and the first of four prosecutions of Trump to reach a jury. Over the first few weeks of Donald Trump's hush money trial, the scene outside the courthouse has largely settled into a routine — a few dozen members of the public, a typically small group of demonstrators and the journalists covering the day-to-day developments.

But the arrival of Stormy Daniels seems to have shifted that equilibrium.

With Daniels set to re-take the stand on Thursday, a far larger share of the public has amassed outside 100 Centre Street, alongside new ranks of media from the US and abroad.

in Florida presiding over the classified documents prose-A few minutes before 8 am, as cution of Trump has canceled

president.

lines swelled to their longest since the start of the trial, court officers said they had no choice but to turn people away. Among the members of the

public in line was Rose Brennan, a 63-year-old woman wearing a hand puppet meant to resemble Donald Trump. "He has accompanied me on

many adventures," she said of the puppet. "Even though I hoped he would have been retired by now."

She said she and the puppet travelled from New Jersey, arriving outside the courthouse at 5:30 a.m. because "I just want to be a witness to history." A Georgia appeals court

on Wednesday agreed to review a lower court ruling allowing Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis to continue to prosecute the election interference case she brought against the former

On Tuesday, the federal judge

Spectrum News 1 Wisconsin on Tuesday. "It might actually be more effective this way because, you know, every one of them thinks they could be chosen, which I guess possibly is so. For now, the presumptive GOP nominee is happy to revel in the attention as reporters parse

his choices and prospective candidates jockey and woo him in an "Apprentice"-style competition.



trying to lay the groundwork for a second Trump administration if the former said Fleitz, who formerly Republican president wins in November is out with a new served as the National Security policy book that aims to artic-Council's chief of staff. He said he hopes the book will ulate an "America First" national security agenda. serve as "a guidebook that will

> "that's easy to use.' 'It's a grand strategy," added Kellogg. "You don't start with the policies first. You start with the strategies first. And that's what we've done.'

be an intellectual foundation

for the America First

approach" to national securi-

The group casts the current trajectory of US national security as a failure, thanks to a foreign policy establishment it accuses of having embraced an interventionist and "globalist" approach at the expense of America's national interests. While short on specifics, the book offers some guideposts to how a future Trump administration could approach foreign policy issues such as Russia's war against Ukraine.

Trump has said, that if elected, he would solve the conflict before Inauguration Day in January, but has declined to say how. The book's chapter on the war

how the conflict unfolded

than how to end it. But it says the US should make future military aid contingent on Ukraine participating in peace talks with Russia. It predicts the Ukrainian army will likely lose ground over time and advises against the US continuing "to send arms to a stalemate that Ukraine will eventually find difficult to

Putin accuses West of Taliban sound warning fueling global conflicts

R ussia on Thursday wrapped itself in patriotic pageantry for Victory Day, as President Vladimir Putin celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II by hailing his forces fighting in Ukraine and blasting the West for fueling conflicts around the world. Even though few veterans of what Russia calls the Great

Patriotic War are still alive 79 years after Berlin fell to the Red Army, the victory remains the most important and widely revered symbol of Russia's prowess and a key element of national identity.

Putin has turned Victory Day the country's most important secular holiday — into a pillar of his nearly quarter-century in power and a justification of his military action in Ukraine. Two days after beginning his fifth term in office, he led the festivities across Russia that recall the nation's wartime

"Victory Day unites all generations," Putin said in a speech in Red Square that came on the coldest May 9 in decades amid some snow flurries. "We are going forward relying on our centuries-old traditions and feel confident that together we will ensure a free and secure future of Russia."

As battalions marched by and military hardware — both old and new — rumbled over the cobblestones, the sky cleared briefly to allow a flyby of warplanes, some of which trailed smoke in the white, red and blue of the Russian flag.

Putin hailed the troops fighting in Ukraine as "our heroes" for their courage, resilience and self-denial, adding that "all of Russia is with you." He accused the West of "fuel-

ing regional conflicts, inter-ethnic and inter-religious strife and trying to contain sovereign and independent centers of global development. With tensions with Washington

over Ukraine soaring to their highest level since the Cold War, Putin issued another stark reminder of Moscow's nuclear

"Russia will do everything to



Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces Oleg Salyukov, left, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, centre, and Russian President Vladimir Putin leave Red Square, walk, after the Victory Day military parade in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, May 9, 2024, marking the 79th anniversary of the end of World War II

prevent global confrontation, lenges. Since coming to power but will not allow anyone to on the last day of 1999, Putin but will not allow anyone to threaten us," he said. "Our strategic forces are in combat

Nuclear-capable Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles were pulled across Red Square, underscoring his message. The Soviet Union lost about 27

million people in World War II, an estimate that many historians consider conservative, scarring virtually every family. Nazi troops overran much of the western Soviet Union when they invaded in June 1941, before being driven back all the way to Berlin, where the USSR's hammer and sickle flag was raised above the ruined capital. The US, UK, France and other allies mark the end of the war in Europe on May 8.

The immense suffering and sacrifice in cities like Stalingrad, Kursk and Putin's native Leningrad now St Petersburg — still serve as a powerful symbol of the country's ability to prevail against seemingly overwhelming chal-

has made May 9 an important part of his political agenda, featuring missiles, tanks and fighter iets. Medal-bedecked veterans joined him Thursday to review the parade, and many including the president — wore the black-and-orange St George's ribbon that is tradi-

tionally associated with Victory

About 9,000 troops, including about 1,000 who fought in Ukraine, took part in Thursday's parade. Although the US and UK ambassadors did not attend, Putin was joined by other dignitaries and presidents of several former Soviet nations along with a few other Moscow allies, including the leaders of Cuba, Guinea-Bissau and Laos.

In his speech, he accused the West of "revanchism ... hypocrisy and lies" in seeking to play down the Soviet role in defeating Nazi Germany Putin described Victory Day as "very emotional and poignant."

"Every family is honoring its heroes, looking at pictures with dear faces and remembering their relatives and how they fought," he said.

Putin, 71, talks frequently about his family history, sharing memories of his father, who fought on the front during the Nazi siege of the city and was badly wounded. As Putin tells it, his father, also

named Vladimir, came home from a military hospital during the war to see workers trying to take away his wife, Maria who had been declared dead of starvation. But the elder Putin did not believe she had died saying she had only lost consciousness, weak with hunger. Their first child, Viktor, died during the siege when he was 3, one of more than 1 million Leningrad residents who died in the 872-day blockade, most of them from starvation.

For several years, Putin carried a photo of his father in Victory Day marches — as did others honoring relatives who were

to journalists, experts

The Taliban on Thursday warned journalists and experts against working with Afghanistan International TV. It's the first time they have told people not to cooperate with a specific outlet.

Afghanistan International TV, which is headquartered in London, is accessible through satellite, cable and social A spokesman for the Taliban-

controlled Ministry of Information and Culture alleged the station was committing professional violations and violating moral and legal boundaries. The Media Violations

Commission wanted all journalists and experts in Afghanistan to cease their collaboration with the station, said ministry spokesman Habib Ghofran. "At the commission's meeting held yester-

decided that participating in discussions and facilitating the broadcast of this media outlet in public places is prohibited," added Ghofran.

He didn't give further details, including what would happen to those who cooperated with the station. The director of Afghanistan International TV, Harun Najafizada, said the decision would not affect the channel because it had no employees or freelancers in the country.

We don't have anyone on the ground and rely on the reporting of Afghan citizens," said Najafizada. "That's more challenging, but we have tough verification. It's a threat to free media, to other media, and to put pressure on us to forgo out professional standards. It's not going to work."

Afghanistan fares abysmally in terms of press freedom. The latest index from Reporters

day (Wednesday), it was without Borders ranked the country 178 out of 180. It ranked 152 last year. RSF said that three radio

reporters were arrested in April for broadcasting music and receiving calls from female listeners during shows. Local authorities weren't available to confirm the arrests. Also last month, the Taliban suspended two TV stations for failing to "consider national and Islamic values".

The director for one of the

suspended stations, Barya TV, rejected the Taliban's allegations. The station is still off air. Latif Sadiq said the station wasn't informed about the suspension. "The reports that they repeatedly warned (Barya) are absolute lies," Sadiq said on Thursday. "They have decided on their own that (Barya) television is off, broadcasting is off, and they said the case will go to

Japanese aircraft makes emergency landing after glitch

Tokyo (AP): A Japanese defence aircraft carrying eight people made an emergency landing at a commercial air-port in central Japan on Thursday after a cockpit window inadvertently slid open during its training flight, officials said. No damage or injuries were reported. The Japan Air Self-Defence Force said its C-2 transport aircraft experienced the window glitch on Thursday afternoon after taking off from the Iruma Air Base north of Tokyo for a training flight. The incident caused the pilot to request an emergency landing at the nearby Niigata airport, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of the air base. The aircraft landed safely and there was no damage or injury from the mishap, officials said. The JASDF said the roughly 20-inch square window on the left side of the cockpit, which is designed to slide open only manually, did not fall off the

Spanish court shelves tax probe against Shakira

Madrid (AP): A Spanish investigative magistrate on Thursday provisionally shelved the latest probe into an alleged case of tax fraud by pop star Shakira following recommendations by prosecutors. The Colombian singer had been under investi gation for the alleged evasion of 6.7 million Euros (USD 7.2 million) in taxes on her 2018 income via an offshore company. She denied wrongdoing. State prosecutors who ini-

tially brought the allegations said Wednesday "there is not sufficient evidence" of a possible fiscal crime and recommended that the probe be closed. In a statement Thursday, the investigating court said that given that there is no accusation on behalf of prosecutors or the regional government of Catalonia in northeastern Spain, there was no cause to proceed further with the case. The court said "there is no indication that can prove that Shakira Isabel M R had consciously and voluntarily omitted information and documentation with tax signif-

IS group claims bombing in Af

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a bombing in Afghanistan's northeast that killed police officers who were part of an anti-poppy crop campaign. A motorcycle was booby-trapped and exploded, targeting a Taliban patrol in Faizabad town in Badakhshan province, killing and wounding 12 members of the patrol

Wednesday. Abdul Mateen Qani, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the officers were on their way to destroy poppy

as well as destroying a four-

wheel drive vehicle, the group

said in a statement late

crops in the area. The Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan, a major Taliban rival, has conducted attacks on schools, hospitals, mosques and Shiite areas throughout the country. In March, the group said one of its suicide bombers detonated an explosive belt among Taliban gathered near a Kandahar bank to receive their The Taliban pledged to wipe

tion industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022, dealing a heavy blow to hundreds of thousands of farmers and day laborers who relied on proceeds from the crop to survive. Opium cultivation crashed by 95% after the ban, a report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said last November. Protests are rare in Afghanistan under Taliban rule, but there was a backlash

out the country's drug cultiva-

in Badakhshan last week in response to the poppy eradication campaign. It prompted a high-ranking delegation led by the chief of military staff Fasihudin Fitrat to visit the region and negotiate with protesters. Protests erupted last Friday after a man was shot and killed by the Taliban for resisting poppy eradication attempts in Darayum district. Another was killed on Saturday during a protest in Argo district.

Pak leadership vows not to allow May 9 'executors' to get away Terming May 9 (Black Day) as mount to ensure that in future, property and military installa-

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Dakistan's top civil and milstrongly condemned the unprecedented violence by the supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on May 9 last year and vowed not to allow its "executors" to get away with their acts which were aimed at establishing an "individual's dictatorship"

On May 9 last year, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan by paramilitary Rangers from the premises of the Islamabad High Court. His supporters vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander house), Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters in Rawalpindi was also attacked by the mob for the first time.

On the first anniversary of the riots, the Pakistan Army issued a statement saying its entire leadership "strongly condemn the criminal acts perpetrated on 9th May 2023".

the media wing of the army said that the politically motivated and brainwashed miscreants in an act of rebellion deliberately resorted to violence against state institutions and vandalised sacred symbols of the state and the sites belonging to national her-

The army said that after failing to undermine national harmony and stability, the planners, facilitators and executors of this conspiracy embarked upon a sinister campaign of hate against the Armed Forces and the state with an intent to twist the narrative to their advantage and shift the blame on the state institutions.

"It is precisely for this reason there can neither be any compromise with the planners, facilitators and executors of the 9th May tragedy nor they would be allowed to hoodwink the law of land," it said.

one of the "darkest days in our no one dares to desecrate the tions." national history", the Inter- memories of our heroes and Condemning the violence, he refused to apologise for the Act in connection with the the symbols of our unity through such unwarranted conduct in future," it added. Addressing a meeting of the cabinet, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the real aim of the May 9 violence was to end democracy and establish kingship and an "individual's dictatorship". He said that the May 9 violence was not just a rebellion against Pakistan but against the state, including the army and its chief Gen Asim Munir to create a divide in the coun-

> There can absolutely be no soft-pedalling of what happened on May 9 and there can be no absolution for those who orchestrated, supported, and assisted the attempt to damage the foundations of our nation, he said in a post on X.

In a message, President Asif Ali Zardari said, "May 9, 2023, will always be remembered as a dark day in Pakistan's history when a politically instigat-"Bringing the real culprits of ed mob ran amok across the 9th May to justice is para- country, damaging public

ly tarnished" the country's image and thus only "served the interests of Pakistan's ene-

Defence Minister Khawaia Asif said that the accountability of the perpetrators and conspirators of the May 9 violent acts would be taken to its logical conclusion because the characters behind the violence were known to every-

Information Minister Atta Tarar said there was evidence about who was involved in the May 9 acts, emphasising that these need to be brought to justice. The violence was also condemned by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz who emphasized "bringing the plotters to justice was necessary". Pakistan Peoples Party chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari condemned the May 9 acts as "yet another dark chapter in the nation's history". He said the "instigator behind the strongly condemnable events

of May 9 is well-known to

military ruled out dialogue with his party unless they tendered a public apology over the unprecedented vio-

Khan, who spoke to the media after the court proceedings in the 190 million pounds Al Qadir corruption case at Adiala jail on Wednesday, said that he was ready to face an inquiry into the sit-in that his Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf party

staged in 2014. "I condemned the May 9 incidents in front of (former) chief justice Umar Ata Bandial," the 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politi-cian said when asked whether he would apologise for the May 9 violence. Khan has been incarcerated since August last year after he was booked in several cases ranging from corruption to violating the Official Secrets Act.

Following the May 9 violence last year, Imran Khan and hundreds of his party workers are being tried under multiple

everyone". cases, including one under Meanwhile, Imran Khan the stringent Official Secrets

The government organised several events on the first anniversary of May 9 violence to honour victims whose monuments were defiled by the protestors.

A heavy contingent of police was deployed outside the residence of Imran Khan in Lahore and his party offices across Punjab province to prevent any protest by the party on the first anniversary of the May 9 violence. PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan said the government launched a crackdown against his party workers to stop them from taking to the streets but they would hold demonstrations. "Regardless of the crackdown, peaceful rallies and protests will be held all across Pakistan in the morning (of May 9)," he said. A Punjab police officer told Press Trust of India that Khan's party would not be allowed to hold any rally in the province on May 9. Authorities in Islamabad have declared all gatherings as illegal.

Prez pins Sri Lanka's economic stability on IMF programme

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday told lawmakers that there was

no "alternative path" to economic recovery for the island nation other than the IMF-prescribed reform plans. Sri Lanka has been facing the worst economic crisis, leading to a sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities, including fuel, since its independence from the British

President 1948. Wickremesinghe's address to Parliament came on the second anniversary of the public uprising against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government over handling the unprecedented economic crisis in the country. On May 9, 2022, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign following anti-government protests. Wickremesinghe replaced him

as prime minister. Two months later, Wickremesinghe replaced Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the President to serve the balance term until the end of 2024. Wickremesinghe succeeded

him as the president and began to steer the bankrupt economy. "When I assumed leadership, our nation was in crisis, the economy was severely contracted with inflation soaring to 70 per cent," Wickremesinghe, also the finance minister, told

Parliament. The president said the budget deficit had surged to over 10-12 per cent, resulting in an increase of interest rate to 30 per cent. He added that there were insufficient funds to import food and essential goods even for a week and the "majority of the population found themselves on the streets with some enduring lengthy queues for necessities

He said under the IMF bailout of USD 2.9 billion, the government implemented economic discipline. He said he anticipated a growth of 3 per cent this vear. He said the interest rates had also decreased substantially to as low as 10-13 per cent. "I reiterate once more there exists no alternative path to reconstructing our economy. No other programme rivals the efficiency of the one currently in place, nor does any other plan offer a viable alternative," he said. Separately, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka said on Thursday the island nation will hold a presidential election between September 17 and October 16. Although the two main opposition leaders and several others had already announced their candidature for presidential poll, Wickremesinghe has not announced his intention to seek

Yoon rejects S Korean opp calls for probe against wife, top officials

AP SEOUL

South Korea's president on Thursday dismissed calls for independent investigations into allegations involving his wife and top officials, drawing quick, strong rebukes from his political rivals

After his conservative ruling party suffered a heavy loss in the recent April 10 parliamentary elections, President Yoon Suk Yeol faces what appears to be his biggest political challenge yet as opposition parties would extend their control of the National Assembly to 2028. The opposition has recently stepped up its demand for an independent investigation into first lady Kim Keon Hee over various scandals, such as her

price manipulation scheme and the release of spy camera footage showing her receiving a luxury bag from a Korean American pastor.

In a news conference marking his two years in office, Yoon said he apologizes for what he calls "my wife's unwise behavior" in accepting the Christian Dior bag but refused to elaborate because the scandal is under investigation by prosecutors. Yoon described the demand for a new, special investigation on Kim's shares price allegation as a political offensive, as Kim wasn't charged or convicted from investigations that began when the Democratic Party was in power. Yoon already in January

alleged involvement in a stock had vetoed a bill calling for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate his wife's stock price allegation. During Thursday's conference,

Yoon also made it clear that he opposes another Democratic Party-led push for a special investigation into suspicions surrounding the death of a marine who drowned during a search for flood victims in 2023. Yoon called the marine's death heartbreaking, but stressed that police and an anticorruption investigation agency have already been examining the case. Yoon said he would approve a new independent investigation if police and the anti-corruption investigation agency fail to address public suspicions over the case.

House rejects Greene's effort to remove Speaker Johnson

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Hardline Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene tried and failed in sudden action Wednesday to oust Speaker Mike Johnson, her long-shot effort swiftly and resoundingly rejected by Democrats and Republicans tired of the political chaos.

One of Donald Trump's biggest supporters in Congress, Greene stood on the House floor and read a long list of "transgressions" she said Johnson had committed as speaker. Colleagues booed in protest. Greene of Georgia criticized Johnson's leadership as "pathetic, weak and unacceptable." No sooner than Greene trig-

gered the vote on her motion

to vacate the speaker from his office, the Republican Majority Leader Steve Scalise countered by calling first for a vote to table it. An overwhelming majority, 359-43, kept Johnson in his job, for now. It's the second time in a matter

of months that Republicans have tried to oust their own speaker, an unheard of level of party turmoil with a move rarely seen in U.S. history.

As Greene pressed ahead despite pushback from Republicans at the highest levels, GOP lawmakers filtered towards Johnson, giving him pats on the back and grasping his shoulder to assure him of

their support. "We need steady hands at the wheel," Johnson said after-

ward. "The country desperateneeds a functioning Congress? The Georgia Republican had

vowed she would force a vote on the motion to vacate the Republican speaker if he dared to advance a foreign aid package with funds for Ukraine, which was overwhelmingly approved late last month and signed into law.

But in recent days it seemed her effort had cooled, as she and Johnson met repeatedly for a potential resolution. Johnson of Louisiana marched on, saying he had been willing to take the risk, believing it was important for the US to back Ukraine against Russia's invasion and explaining he wanted to be on the "right side of history."

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

a second term

(Admission Branch) Admission Notice for PPMET (Basic B.Sc. Nursing) Course, session 2024 Online applications are invited alongwith requisite fee for admission to

Basic B.Sc. Nursing course in all the Govt./University constitute / Private colleges of Punjab through University website from 09.05.2024 to 23.05.2024. Prospectus for admission to Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be available on university website from 09.05.2024. The Entrance Test (PPMET- 2024) for admission to Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be conducted on 05.06.2024

Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For Prospectus/fee details/schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at: www.bfuhs.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

00/12/234/2023/34047 Dated CHD :- 5/9/2024

Household savings decline due to rising home, auto, personal loans

Household savings are to have declined for the third year in a row in FY24 as liabilities on account of interest towards housing and vehicle loans have continued to rise, but the trend could reverse in 2024-25 on account of the impact of RBI's curbs on personal loan. The net household savings declined sharply by Rs 9 lakh crore to Rs 14.16 lakh crore in three years to 2022-23, as per National Account Statistics 2024 data released by the Ministry of Statistics Programme Implementation (MoŠPI).

Explaining the data, ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar attributed the declining trend in household savings to a sharp 73 per cent year-onyear increase in liabilities during 2022-23.

She further said that as per the indication the trend of decrease in household savings has continued in 2023-24, the data for which is likely to be released later.

However, the trend could reverse in 2024-25 as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken measures to curb unsecured personal loans, she told PTI. Chief Economic Advisor V Nageswaran



within the national accounts

classification. It can include

proprietorship. 2. How has

the household savings been

savings had touched a peak of

Rs 23.29 lakh crore in 2020-

21 — the year which saw the second wave of the Covid

pandemic. Following that it

has been on a decline. It then

fell to Rs 17.12 lakh crore in

2021-22 and further to Rs

14.16 lakh crore in 2022-23. 3.

What are the liabilities that

erode household savings?

Liabilities are mainly the

housing, auto, personal and

other loans that an entity

from

system

and

Household

financial

statistics

partnership

historically?

attributed the decline to a shift in portfolio where were being channelised to real assets. "Household net financial savings flows were lower in FY23 and there were some concerns around that, which said households are saving less. But, in reality, it was a portfolio shift where the savings were going into real assets," Nageswaran had said at a NCAER event on Wednesday.

Following is an explainer of what household savings means, the historical data and the outlook for 2024-25. What does households

Households include everything that is not

Loans to households by financial corporations and NBFCs increased four-fold to Rs 3.33 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs 93,723 crore in 2020-21. It grew 73 per cent in 2022-23 over Rs 1.92 lakh crore worth of loans in 2021-22. 4. Why are the liabilities going up?

According to Nayar, a part of this is towards housing loans. We have seen the housing market recover after Covid and housing sales have touched highs in the next few vears post Covid.

But it is not just housing loans where household liabilities have gone up. It also includes vehicle and education, agri and business loans. "It looks quite likely that household liabilities will go up in FY24 so some of these trends may continue. However, with the tightening regulation by RBI, we do expect that some categories of personal loans will see slower growth in FY25. And that will augur well for household savings rate for the current

fiscal," Nayar said. Seeing a surge in personal loans, the RBI in November year, raised the provisioning requirement for unsecured loans, including personal loans.

Sensex tumbles over 1,000 points

Nifty falls below 22,000 amid poll uncertainties

Equity benchmark Sensex on Thursday crashed over 1,000 points while the Nifty dived below the 22,000 level due to across-the-board selloff general election uncertainties. Besides, foreign persistent fund outflows and heavy selling pressure in HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Reliance Industries weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

Declining for the third day running, the 30-share BSÉ Sensex dropped 1,062.22 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 72,404.17. During the day, it tanked 1,132.21 points or 1.54 per cent to 72,334.18.

The NSE Nifty dived 345 points or 1.55 per cent to 21,957.50. It tumbled 370.1 points or 1.65 per cent to 21,932.40 during the session.

market

broader witnessed volatility, underscoring caution on account of Q4 earnings and general election uncertainties, which led investors to stay on the sidelines. We expect the trend to continue in the short term as the market slid below the physiological level of 22,000. The global indices are trading with mixed cues ahead of the BOE policy meeting later today and US inflation figures due next week," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.



From the Sensex basket, Larsen & Toubro tanked over 5 per cent after March quarter earnings.

Asian Paints, JSW Steel, ITC, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Power Grid were among the laggards. In contrast, Tata Motors,

Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Infosys and HCL Tech were the gainers. Meanwhile, the country's largest lender SBI reported 18.18 per cent growth in the March quarter consolidated

net profit to Rs 21,384.15 crore

against Rs 18,093.84 crore in

the year-ago period. Petroleum Hindustan Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Thursday posted a 25 per cent fall in its March quarter net profit on lower refining margins and announced one

free bonus share for every two

shares held.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 2.41 per cent and midcap index dropped 2.01 per cent.

Among the indices, oil and gas lost 3.41 per cent, capital goods dropped 3.37 per cent, metal tanked 3.13 per cent, tanked 3.13 per cent, industrials (2.92 per cent), utilities (2.59 per cent) and commodities (2.39 per cent). On the other hand, auto

emerged as the major gainer. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 6,669.10 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"Nifty ended sharply lower led by institutional selling and traders squaring up due to nervousness on election progress. World shares were mostly lower on Thursday ahead of the Bank of England's policy decision and after the US market's pause stretched

into a second day and as Chinese stocks rose after China reported better-thanexpected trade figures for April," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research,

HDFC Securities. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains, while Seoul and Tokyo

ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. Wall Street closed mixed in

overnight trade on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to USD 83.89 a barrel. "The market is continuously

witnessing pressure ahead of the election outcome. We don't have any global reason for this correction, while some uncertainty ahead of the big event is causing profit-booking in the market. Our market has been largely driven by domestic investors, including both HNIs and institutional investors, for the last few months.

"Now, they are sitting on the sidelines for the last couple of days and taking some profit off the table ahead of the big event, while FIIs are continuously selling in our market, which is pushing the market lower. The Volatility index, India VIX, has risen 70 per cent from its lows, which is also creating some uncertainty among traders and investors, Santosh Meena,

Fairfax backed Go Digit to float IPO

o Digit General Insurance Ltd, a firm backed by Canada-based Fairfax Group, is set to launch its initial public offering on May 15.

The initial share sale will conclude on May 17 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on May 14, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP).

Go Digit's proposed IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 1,125 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 5.47 crore equity shares by a promoter Go Digit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

supportive

environment

commentaries.

domestic franchise.

itch Ratings on Thursday

Fifth Ratings on Axis

Bank and ICICI Bank with a

outlook

Fitch Ratings has affirmed

India-based Axis Bank and

ICICI Bank's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at

'BB+', the global agency said in

Fitch has also affirmed the

banks' Government Support Rating (GSR) at 'bb+' and

Fitch said its IDR ratings

reflect expectation of a

moderate probability of extraordinary state support

from the government relative

Viability Rating (VR) at 'bb'.

separate

and

Fitch affirms ratings of Axis

operating environment

operating

Bank, ICICI Bank on supporting

existing shareholders. present, Go Digit Infoworks Services owns an

83.3 percent stake in the Proceeds from the fresh issuance have been proposed be utilised for the augmentation company's capital base and maintenance of solvency

levels and general corporate purposes. Cricketer Virat Kohli and his wife and actor Anushka Sharma are among the investors in the firm. They are not selling any shares in

said

agency

medium-term

expectation of a supportive

operative environment is on account of India's robust

potential. Fitch expects GDP

growth of 7 per cent in 2024

and 6.5 per cent in 2025, supported by investment prospects. "The economy has

been resilient as healthy

business sentiment, steady

financial markets and the

government's capital spending

buffered global economic

headwinds and inflation.

These factors are conducive

for banks to sustain profitable

business, provided risks are well-managed," Fitch said.

With regard to Axis Bank, Fitch said the bank's appetite

for growth is likely to remain

above the sector average, albeit

similar to other large private

In March, Go Digit secured approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to float the IPO.

The company had first filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Sebi in August 2022 to raise funds through an initial share sale. However, it was thwarted primarily due to certain compliance requirements pertaining to the employee stock appreciation rights

> Sebi returned Go Digit's draft IPO papers on January 30, 2023, and asked the company to refile the documents with

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tindustan

Houstan Ltd (HPCL)

on Thursday reported a 25 per cent fall in its March

quarter net profit on lower

announced one free bonus

share for every two shares

Its consolidated net profit of

Rs 2,709.31 crore in January-

March - the fourth quarter of

the 2023-24 fiscal year -

compares to Rs 3,608.32 crore

in the same period of the previous financial year,

according to a company's stock exchange filing.
The firm earned USD 6.95 on

turning every barrel of crude

oil into fuel in the quarter

against USD 14.01 per barrel

gross refining margin a year back and USD 8.50 per barrel

margin in the preceding

refining margins

Petroleum

Following this, the company again filed the preliminary IPO papers with Ŝebi in April 2023.

Go Digit offers motor insurance, health insurance, travel insurance, property insurance, marine insurance liability insurance, and other insurance products, to meet the needs of the customers. It is one of the first non-life

insurers in India to be fully operated on the cloud and has developed Application Programming Interface (API) integrations with several

HPCL Q4 net falls 25 per cent,

records ₹16,000 profit in FY24

IHCL expands partnership with CG Hospitality

PTI ■ MUMBAI

ndian Hotels Company 【(IHCL) on Thursday announced a strategic with Hospitality with a plan to grow its portfolio in the Indian sub-continent to 25 hotels by 2025, involving a total investment of around Rs 4.000 crore.

of 25 portfolio properties by 2025, will include 11 operating hotels with 900 keys and will add

1:2 bonus issue - 1 free share

Turnover was higher at Rs 1.22 lakh crore when compared to Rs 1.15 lakh crore in January-March 2023. For the full 2023-24, HPCL reported a record net prefit of

reported a record net profit of

Rs 16,014.61 crore as opposed to a loss of Rs 6,980.23 crore

The annual profit benefited

from the nearly two-year-long

freeze in petrol and diesel prices. While the freeze was affected when crude oil (the

input used for making fuels like petrol and diesel) started

rising in 2022 post-Russia's invasion of Ukraine,

international rates moderated in most of 2023, helping companies like IOC book

handsome profits. It was only in mid-March that

which came just before the

in the previous year.

for every 2 shares held.

another 14, which will be under one platform -'Ekyam' opportunities in destinations offer adventure experiences across the Indian Ocean and Himalayan regions and wildlife escapes, IHCL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Puneet Chhatwal told reporters. Vice President IHCL's Commercial

Maheshwari will lead the 'Ekyam' platform, he added.

general elections, happened

when crude oil prices started

inching up. For FY2023-24, the revenue

from operations stood at Rs 4,61,638 crore (Rs 4,66,192

crore during the previous

The average gross refining margin (GRM) for 2023-24

(April 2023 to March 2024

fiscal) was USD 9.08 per

barrel as opposed to USD 12.09 per barrel during the

The reduction in GRMs is in

line with the trend of

international product cracks,"

the company said in a

The Board of Directors has

recommended the issue of

bonus shares in the ratio 1:2 -

one new bonus equity share of

Rs 10 each for every two

the approval of shareholders.

previous financial year.

vear).

statement.

petrol and diesel prices were existing equity shares of Rs 10

cut by Rs 2. The rate cut, each fully paid up, subject to

Maruti Suzuki to re-energise small car segment

Petting big on the entry-Blevel segment, Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday said it will continue to "re-energise" the small car segment as the automaker expects the vertical to revive over the next few years, according to MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi.

Speaking at the launch of the new generation Swift here, he noted that the automaker aims to cater to the diverse to sell 40 lakh units by 2030-

Takeuchi noted that the entry-level segment continues to be a high volume vertical accounting for around 28 per cent of the overall domestic passenger vehicle sales.

For us to maintain our leadership position, it is important to cater to diverse customer segments. The hatchback segment in India continues to be a highvolume segment, accounting for approximately 28 per cent of total passenger vehicle sales," Takeuchi said.

Interestingly, the premium hatchback segment contributes nearly 60 per cent of total hatchback sales, he noted.

"As a market leader, we took the responsibility to reenergise the hatchback segment at a time when this segment really needs a

catalyst for growth," Takeuchi

He noted that the company

has a strong belief in India's growth story.

"As the government aims to make India a developed country by 2047, we can expect increased economic activity and robust demand for automobiles in the coming years" Takeuchi stated.

With only 32 vehicles per 1,000 people compared to over 600 in developed countries like Japan, India presents a vast pool of car

aspirants, he said. "As car ownership rises, the hatchback segment will serve as an entry point for many

customers, and thus shall expand," Takeuchi noted. Therefore, the hatchback segment will continue to remain relevant for India, and the company's focus on this segment will persist, he

India's exports rise in 115 nations out of 238 destinations in 2023-24: Data

Its net profit was also lower

because of the Rs 2 per litre

cut in petrol and diesel prices.

HPCL and two other state

fuel retailers were affected in March ahead of the

announcement of general

elections. The reduction came

just as international oil prices climbed, leading to a drop in

The firm's pre-tax profit from

dropped 22 per cent in the

HPCL board also approved a

petroleum

marketing margins.

downstream

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

to large state banks.

India's exports have increased to as many as 115 countries out of the total 238 destinations during 2023-24 despite the global economic uncertainties, according to commerce ministry's data.

115 export destinations, which account for 46.5 per cent of India's export basket, include the US, UAE, Netherland, China, UK, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany and

The country's merchandise exports dipped by 3 per cent to USD 437.1 billion in the last fiscal. However, services exports rose to USD 341.1 billion in 2023-24 as against USD 325.3 billion in 2022-23. The data showed that despite persistent global challenges, overall exports (goods and services together) hit the

highest level in 2022-23 Overall exports reached USD 778.2 billion in 2023-24 as compared to USD 776.4 billion in 2022-23, registering a marginal growth of 0.23 per

share of India's merchandise exports has also increased marginally from 1.70 per cent in 2014 to 1.82 per cent in 2023. India's rank in world merchandise exporters too has improved from 19th to 17th during the same period.

Further, India's export to its top 10 destinations witnessed a 13 per cent year-on-year increase in 2023-24.

The UAE has emerged as the primary destination, with a substantial 12.71 per cent growth in export value at USD 35.6 billion.

Similarly, exports to observed in countries like Singapore that surged by Russia (35.41 per cent), 20.19 per cent to USD 14.4 Romania (138.84 per cent), Similarly,



billion, to the UK (up 13.30 per cent to USD 13 billion), and to China (up 8.70 per cent to USD 16.7 billion) also recorded healthy growth indicating a sustained indicating a sustained demand for Indian products. The data showed that the exponential growth rates observed in countries like and Albania (234.97 per cent) underscore the exploration of new markets.

"Strengthening trade relations with these nations could untapped opportunities and bolster overall competitiveness," an official

The country's outbound shipments to including (commonwealth independent states, Oceania and Europe too witnessed expansion during 2023-24

over 2022-23. five The top destinations driving export growth in CIS region during 2023-24 are Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Tajikistan. Similarly, the top five destinations driving India's export growth in Oceania

region in the last fiscal are

Australia, Timor Leste, Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon

And in Europe, the major countries where Indian exporters recorded healthy growth in their shipments during 2023-24 are the UK, Romania, Albania, Netherland and Greece.

On the commodities front, as many as 17 items have registered an increase in exports in 2023-24 over the last financial. These sectors constitute 48.4 per cent of India's export basket.

These sectors include engineering, electronic goods, pharmaceuticals, and cotton yarn/fabrics/handloom products.

However, there were notable decline in key sectors in the last fiscal such as petroleum products (- 13.66 per cent) and gems and jewellery (-13.83 per cent).

According to the data, of the 229 source nations, India's imports have declined from 124 countries in 2023-24.

The top 10 source countries, which constitute 59.3 per cent of India's import basket, include China, USA, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Russia, and Switzerland.

Decline in imports are reported from countries like the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman and it highlights the need for India to bolster its trade relations, especially with GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) member countries, the official said.

"While some declines may stem from market dynamics or economic conditions, they also present opportunities for policy makers to reconsider trade strategies, prioritize domestic production, and foster indigenous industries," the official added.

Meanwhile, India Exim Bank on Thursday projected that India's merchandise exports would rise by 12.3 per cent to USD 116.7 billion during April-June this fiscal.

'Positive growth in India's exports could be as a result of India's strong GDP growth fundamentals and outlook, sustained momentum in manufacturing and services sector, backed by expected global easing of monetary tightening spurring global demand, and to some extent due to base effect," it said in a statement.

The outlook is, however, subject to risks of uncertain prospects for advanced economies, geopolitical shocks, the Middle East crisis leading to the intensification of the Red Sea crisis and deepening geo-economic fragmentation, among other factors, it added.

Russian Cultural Centre celebrates victory day with the Cottage



In commemoration of the 79th Anniversary of the Victory Day of the Russians, a delegation Led by Eliana Burman, president of Indian Association of Russian Compatriots, along with families of various Russian citizens living in India visited "the cottage", Tolstoy Marg, Janpath to pay homage to the eminent luminary and renowned Russian writer Leo



Photos: Pankaj Kumar/Pioneer

THE ENCHANTING TAPESTRY OF

The Kendra Dance Festival mesmerised audiences with its captivating blend of dance and storytelling, showcasing India's rich heritage. From spiritual explorations to mythological tales, each performance left a lasting impression, says SAKSHI PRIYA

tep into a world where art transcends boundaries and narratives come alive through graceful movements. The Kendra Dance Festival 2024, hosted at the prestigious Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi, was a mesmerising journey through the rich tapestry of Indian culture. Over three enchanting evenings from May 3 to May 5, 2024, this festival promised and delivered an unforgettable exploration of Indian culture through the captivating art of dance drama. Each night unfolded a unique dance drama,

transporting audiences to a different realm. The festival opened with *Parikrama*, a production that transcended the boundaries of entertainment to delve deep into the human psyche. Through a harmonious blend of direction, choreography, lighting, costumes and production Parikrama entranced the audience. The choreography, a brilliant fusion of movements mainly derived from the Chhau dance form, drew a standing ovation highlighting the dedication and skill of the performers. Principal performer artist Shivam Sahni, essaying the challenging role of Atma, spoke of the difficulty in portraying a non-being showcasing the depth

> production. The visionary direction Padmashri Shobha Deepak Singh transformed the

and complexity of the

stage into a realm of spiritual exploration. The production beautifully depicted the cyclical nature of existence, from birth to liberation, drawing from the profound concepts of Indian philosophy. The audience was taken on a journey from the potentiality symbolised by Hiranyagarbh to the manifestation of the soul as Atman, exploring the soul's struggle against the senses and its quest for liberation, ultimately achieving Moksha. The innovative use of lighting and sound coupled with a thoughtful script added layers of depth to

the performance making it a profound theatrical experience. The second night brought the epic *Mahabharata* to life with *Karna*. This captivating dance drama delved into the complexities of human existence through the lens of the enigmatic

Karna. We stood witness to his struggles and triumphs, his unwavering ideals, and the timeless questions of morality and righteousness that his life embodied. The choreography, expressive and evocative, brought Karna's life to vibrant life on stage, evoking both sympathy and admiration from the audience. The pertormance was a visual masterpiece, with every detail from the expressive dance to exquisite costumes contributing to its exceptional excellence. The unwavering support from the audience filling every seat in the auditorium further solidified the importance of

The final evening culminated with Meera, in vibrant portrayal of renowned saint

celebrating and preserving Indian

poetess. This dance drama, titled after its central figure, delved into her life and legacy. Meera's poetry bursting with vibrancy and effervescence resonated with audiences carrying messages of liberation and inner awakening. The performance challenged societal norms and redefined Meera's image offering an introspective exploration of the struggles faced by women. Drawing inspiration from Rajasthani dance styles, the choreography beautifully captured Meera's enduring influence. The Kendra Dance Festival's success was solidified by the audience's profound engagement with the performances evident in the thunderous applause and heartfelt comments such as "heaven for the eyes" and "a soulful

performance." Throughout the festival, the commitment of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra to preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage was evident. Their tireless efforts in organising this exceptional dance festival have not only enriched our lives but also provided a platform for these alluring stories to be shared with the world. The choreography for all three performances by Shashidharan combined Nair, Padmashri Shobha Deepak Singhs visionary direction, created an alluring experience that celebrated the timeless beauty of

Indian culture. As Padmashri Shobha Deepak Singh aptly stated, Kendra Dance Festival's productions are not just performances; they are reflections of our cultural essence and timeless wisdom."

Dance Festival was

testament to the power of artistic expression and a celebration of the enduring relevance of Indian culture in today's world. It was an unforgettable journey that left a lasting impression on all who were fortunate enough to witness its magic. The deepest appreciation is reserved for Padmashri Shobha Deepak Singh for her visionary leadership and unparalleled artistic direction. Under her guidance, the Kendra Dance Festival has transcended mere entertainment to become a transformative and unforgettable experience showcasing the profound beauty and depth of Indian culture to audiences worldwide.

The three-day celebration of dance was an enduring and compelling experience where storytelling, acting, dance, drama, and music converged to create an unforgettable

spectacle. The festival beautifully showcased the rich tapestry of Indian history and mythology weaving together narratives that resonated with audiences and left a lasting impression. The performances were a testament to the cultural heritage of India offering a glimpse into its vibrant traditions and timeless stories. This festival was a celebration of artistic excellence and a tribute to the depth and beauty of Indian culture. This festival wasn't celebration of dance;

it was a celebration of heritage, a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and a glimpse into the soul of India.

A Journey through Creativity and Appreciation

SAKSHI PRIYA explores the world through the eyes of master artists and emerging talents whose works redefine the boundaries of creativity

mbark on an alluring journey into the vibrant world of art with 'Detente: A Haven of Artistic Rhapsody,' an exhibition that celebrates the spirit of creativity and cultural diversity. This exhibition showcase of modern and contemporary Indian and international art invites spectators to explore a variety of artistic themes and narratives, each piece offering a unique perspective on evolution, culture, and

Stepping into the gallery feels like entering an enchanted world where each painting tells a captivating story, inviting viewers on a journey of emotions and creativity. The exhibition, featuring works by renowned master artists such as MF Hussain, SH Raza, GR Santosh, Satish Gujral, Manu Parekh, B Prabha, Anjali Ela Menon, Ajay Samir, Anup Kumar Chand, Ashok Bhowmick, alongside contributions contemporary and participating artists like M Narayan, Bahaar Dhawan Rohatgi, Sanuj Birla, Aditee Garg and more, is a testament to the richness and diversity of contemporary Indian and

international art. The artwork demands to be seen and appreciated by all, showcasing the exquisite talent of each artist. Visitors stand before the paintings, interpreting and admiring the work in their unique way, captivated by the details, patterns,











and colours. This experience highlights exude a mesmerising aura, showcasing the immense value and appreciation for

art in today's world. The gallery itself feels like a journey through memory lane which continues to resonate even after they are no longer with us. Their art speaks volumes, as the saying goes, "an artist's work always stays with us." Artists like SH Raza, GR Santosh, MF Husain, B Prabha, and Satish Gujral demonstrate their mastery through their paintings, with

each piece reflecting their profound skill and artistic vision. The walls of the gallery

the true worth and beauty of these

artworks. M. Narayan's artwork, with its focus on equestrian aesthetics, captures the power and speed of horses through expressionist strokes and dynamic lines. His paintings convey the thrilling energy and elegant beauty of horses and polo players, drawing viewers into a world of vivid colours and bold strokes

Satish Gujral's canvas delves into the depths of history, channelling an expressionist grandeur of gesture and space. Bahaar Dhawan Rohatgi's art invokes a sense of calmness with abstract explorations

that blend various mediums. Her pieces unlock the immensity within her artistic journey, revealing layers of emotion and

dreams through intricate brushstrokes. Manu Parekh's work echoes the rich tradition of Indian folk art fused with modernist sensibilities. His paintings evoke a rousing provocation known for their vibrant and dynamic composition that captures the essence of

painting. Aditee Garg's sculptures are praised for their cultural resonance and narrative depth with graceful curves that



Each artist's work is celebrated for its uniqueness and ability to evoke a range

emotions interpretations making the exhibition a truly immersive and inspiring experience for all visitors. The exhibition is not just about showcasing art; it is about honouring the legacy of artists and the impact of

their work. It is a celebration power, grace, and beauty.

As visitors immerse themselves in this artistic journey, they are transported to a world where time slows down and the boundaries between reality and fantasy blur. The gallery becomes a testimony to the immersive experience that art can offer, where every piece evokes a beautiful sense of emotion and reality.

Sumer Raj Chadha, the founder of Gallery West End reflects on his appreciation for art, nurtured over the years by his grandmother, Santosh Raj Chadha, a passionate art collector. He says, "This exhibit is a tribute to a true art aficionado and a fervent connoisseur of beauty, our vanguard, late Santosh Raj Chadha, my beloved grandmother. She sowed the seed of love for art and has been a custodian of creative curiosity in our family." Chadha's dedication has transformed this exhibition into a platform for artists to showcase their talent and connect with enthusiasts. His commitment to honoring artistic legacies and encouraging creativity shines in every aspect of this remarkable exhibition.

'Detente: A Haven of Artistic Rhapsody' is more than just an art exhibition; it is an incredible source of inspiration and an immersive journey into the artistic vision of modern and contemporary artists. It is a place where art speaks to everyone, inviting them to delve into realms of exploration, connection, and

Photos: Pankaj Kumar/Pioneer

CSK AIM TO CONTINUE ASCENT TO TOP THREE

espite being hit by the absence of key bowlers due to injuries as well as international commitments, Chennai Super Kings will still like to display their on-field ruthlessness while taking on wooden spooners Gujarat Titans in a 12th round IPL encounter here on Friday. Caught in a mid-table logjam with 12 points from 11 games, the away match against Gujarat will be very important for

Ruturaj Gaikwad's men as they are still not assured of a playoff berth and a defeat could really dent their chances. With Deepak Chahar and Matheesha Pathirana out of the tournament due to injuries and

Mustafizur Rahman back on national duty, CSK's bowling attack sans Ravindra Jadeja and Tushar Deshpande can at best be termed second string.
A lot will depend on how the three CSK spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Mitchell Santner and Moeen Ali bowl on a two-paced track

Yet, the manner in which CSK

Kings will give their fans hope of upping the ante against Titans, who have already lost seven in the tournament so far. A win will take them to third place in the standings, ahead of Sunrisers Hyderbad by virtue of better net run-rate. Among the three teams stuck on 12 points, only CSK (+0.700) enjoys a positive net run-rate. On paper, bottom-placed Titans are still in the mix but with a maximum tally of 14 points, it would be very difficult for the Shubman Gillled side to get into the top four. The side is low on confidence having managed just one win from their last five matches

and has struggled in all departments of the game.
Their bowling has lost firepower in absence of the injured Mohammed Shami, while the captaincy responsibility has weighed down heavily on the talented opener Gill, who has three single digit scores and a highest of 35 in his last five outings. Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan and David Miller have also



improve its performance as the likes of Mohit Sharma and Josh Little have been leaking runs in the Powerplay.
While defending a paltry 147,

their bowlers gave away 92 runs in the Powerplay against RCB, who chased down the target in just 13.4 overs.

With no support from the new ball bowlers, the Afghan spin duo of Noor Ahmad and Rashid Khan also seemed less effective. CSK, on the other hand, have no such concerns with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad

leading by example.

He has been their top rungetter with 541 runs from 11 innings, just one run away from Virat Kohli in the race for the Orange Cap.

Daryl Mitchell was also among runs in a 19-ball 30 against PBKS in their last match as they would just hope that Shivam Dube returns to form after capping successive golden

Their biggest plus in the win over PBKS has been the addition of Simarjeet Singh. Making his debut for CSK as an impact player, Simarjeet

SRH's total of 167 was also the highest by any team by the end

of the tenth over in men's T20s.

and returned with 2/16 from his three overs.

TEAMS (FROM)

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

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avanish, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, RS Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Santner, Nishant Deepak Chahar, Mitchell Sindhu, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Choudhary, Simarjeet Singh, Prashant Solanki, Shardul

Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana

and Sameer Rizvi.

Will KL Rahul step down from LSG captaincy for last two games?

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ll but out of contention for the IPL play-offs, AKL Rahul's future as Lucknow Super Giants skipper is uncertain for the remaining $\hat{t}wo$ games after the team received a pasting at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad at home on Wednesday. It is a foregone conclusion that the LSG skipper, who was roped in before the auction in 2022 for a record Rs 17 crore, is unlikely to be retained before the mega auctions in 2025. However, there is speculation that the skipper might step down on his own and concentrate on batting during the next two games

"There is a five-day gap before the next game against DC. As of now, no decision has been taken but it is understood that if Rahul plans to just concentrate on his batting for the remaining two games, the management won't mind," an IPL source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. Videos of LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka's agitated conversation with Rahul emerged on social media after Sunrisers Hyderabad openers Travis Head (89 not out off 30 balls) and Abhishek Sharma (75 off 28 balls) reached a target of 167 in less than 10 overs.

This was after the home team batters struggled to get going on the same track.

Worse, Rahul's (29 off 33 balls) batting in the Powerplay has been one of the biggest reasons for LSG's below-par show in the cash-rich league and it seems that Goenka has finally run



out of patience

The India star has scored 460 runs in 12 games and could again cross the 500-run mark for the season but it is his strike-rate of 136.09 which is

LSG are still mathematically in contention as they can reach 16 points by winning their remaining two games — vs Delhi Capitals in New Delhi on May 14 and vs Mumbai Indians at

Wankhede on May 17.
However, it will be very difficult to massively improve upon the net run-rate (-0.760).

In case, Rahul decides to step down, vicecaptain Nicholas Pooran, easily the team's most impactful batter in the season, is likely to take

Backing of captain Cummins, SRH support staff matters a lot: Abhishek Sharma

balls) scaled down 166 in just

9.4 overs, rewriting the record

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The unwavering support from skipper Pat Cummins and the entire think-tank played a big role in his success in the on-going IPL, reckoned Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Abhishek Sharma.

The 23-year-old Punjab left-hander fired from all cylinders for Hyderabad this season, making 401 runs from 12 matches and those runs have come at an awesome strikerate of 205.

"Our support staff and Pat (Cummins), the way they think, I have never seen anyone else think like that," Abhishek said on IioCinema Match Centre Live after their record 10-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Wednesday

"They're like, 'Go out there and express yourself. Play as aggressively as you can, we'll back you. I think that matters a lot," said Abhishek, who has



any batter this season. The SRH openers Abhishek (75 not out off 28 balls) and for the quickest chase of 150is Head (89 not out off 30

"I think this approach was something I took on during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, said Abhishek who played a key role in Punjab winning the domestic T20 title last season. Abhishek (485 runs from 10 matches) was the second highest run-getter behind Riyan Parag (510) of Assam in last season's SMAT.
"I feel when I play this way, look at the ball, and react, my chots, come off better and the shots come off better and the bowler comes under pressure. I always thought if I play in the IPL, I'll try to maintain this," he added.

'BIG FAN OF HEAD': With Head at his explosive best, SRH have smashed many batting records this season including the highest ever IPL total of 287/3 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Abhishek hailed the way Head

played spin. "I don't think anyone plays

Diksha set for landmark

spin better than

shots he hit off (Krishnappa) Gowtham, normally batters can't do that, that shows how special he is.

He's very clear, whenever I talk to him, the way he compliments me, I have always been a big fan of him over the last year that I have followed him.

"When our understanding was established and our partnership improved, we became good friends off the pitch and have started spending more time," he added.

Abhishek then touched upon his strategy against the LSG bowlers, especially pacers.

"They were bowling cutters in the middle. I thought the cutters could slow down on their way, but Travis and I had planned to play it the way you would hit a spinner with the

So, if it's an off-cutter, we look to hit towards long-off covers. If it's a leg cutter, obviously we look at mid-wicket or mid-on,"

OTHERS SPORTS

UWW suspends Bajrang; SAI approves his training stint abroad but wrestler cancels trip

Wrestling's world governing body UWW has suspended Bajrang Punia till the end of this year following NADA's decision to hand him a provisional suspension for refusing to suspension for refusing to undergo a dope test. However, in a rather surprising

decision, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned close to Rs nine lakh for his training abroad despite being well aware of NADA's order.

Bajrang, one of the country's most successful wrestlers, was suspended by NADA on April 23 after being served a whereabouts failure notice on April 18.

In his defence, the Tokyo Olympics bronze-medallist

fter yet another magical night at the

A Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Real

Madrid is back in the Champions

The 14-time European champion pulled off another thrilling comeback

AP ■ MADRID

League final.

said he never refused to give his sample for testing but merely asked the Dope Control Officer to explain the presence of expired kits which were brought to take his sample. Bajrang told PTI that he has received

communication from the UWW about his suspension but the world governing body while updating its internal system clearly mentions that he

stands suspended.
"Suspended for the following reason until Dec 31, 2024," reads the update on Bajrang's

profile.
"Provisionally suspended by NADO IND for alleged ADRV (Anti-Doping Rule Violation)," was the reason mentioned.

Real Madrid rallies late to beat Bayern 2-1

and reach another Champions League final



meeting, was informed that Bajrang has been sanctioned Rs 8,82,000 plus air fare (actual) for his proposal to train at Dagestan, Russia from May 28.

Bajrang's initial proposal was for a 35-day training trip from April 24 but, as per the minutes Interestingly, the Mission of MOC meeting, due to Olympic Cell (MOC), in its "conflicting travel dates due to

his whereabouts failure, he chose to defer the travel plans from 24th April, 2024 to 28th May 2024. May, 2024."

The proposal also included travel plans of his strength and conditioning coach Kaazi Kiron Mustafa Hasan and his sparring partner Jitender.

Neither Sandip Pradhan, the SAI Director General, nor Col. Rakesh Yaday, joint CEO TOPS, responded to calls or messages, when PTI reached out for an explanation for the decision to sanction his

training. Bajrang confirmed that he had given a proposal for approval to SAI.

"I am also surprised that SAI cleared it. I have actually cancelled my plan, I am not going anywhere for training

Like it happened so many times in 2022, Madrid needed some late drama

to advance. Joselu scored in the 88th

minute and then in stoppage time as

Madrid advanced 4-3 on aggregate to set up a final against Borussia

"Well, it has happened again what has

Dortmund on June 1 in London.

In the same MOC meeting Sarita Mor, who competes in the women's 57kg category, was sanctioned Rs 5,96,000 for her training stint in the USA along with her husband and coach Rahul Mann from May 5.

Anshu Malik had locked the women's 57kg category Paris Olympics quota during the Asian Qualifiers in Bishkek. Anshu's training stint in Japan, along with her father and coach Dharamveer Malik, was

also approved at a cost of Rs 14,67,000. If WFI decides to hold one final selection event, Sarita will

an Alphonso Davies goal in the 68th -

and then deep in stoppage time thought it had equalized but hadn't because of

an offside call that Bayern coach

Thomas Tuchel described as "disastrous" and "against the rules."

Joselu's first goal was a tap in after Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer spilled an easy save. The second was initially called off for offside but was

eventually allowed after video review.

"You always dream of being part of

moments like this," the 34-year-old

have to emerge winner in the trials to challenge quotawinner Anshu. fantastic stadium, players who never stop believing - it's simply something magical." Bayern had taken the lead on

100th start on LET golfer to have played at both the Summer Olympics (2021 Tokyo) and the Deaflympics



PTI SEOUL

Diksha Dagar will become the first Indian woman golfer to play 100 events on the Ladies European Tour when she tees up at the Aramco Team Series Korea, her first appearance in the series. Diksha, who turned pro in

2019 and won on LET in her first full season, has been a regular on LET since then. Currently ninth on the LET

Order of Merit, Diksha turned 23 in December. She is one of the three Indians to tee off at the New Korea Country Club. The other two Indians in the field are Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor.

Diksha will also lead the team of Czech Tereza Melecka and Korean Do Yeon Park, while Pranavi and Vani are in the team led by Singaporean

Diksha was part of the winning team in the Aramco Team Series in London in 2021. That was the year when the series was played across five countries.

Diksha has finished in the Top-10 of the individual section only once. That first Top-10 came this year in Tampa Florida, where she was tied sixth.

Diksha, a lock-in for the Olympic Games in Paris, is ranked 147th in the world and the second best Indian after Aditi Ashok (53rd). A gold medallist at the 2021

Deaflympics, Diksha is also a recipient of the Arjuna Award in 2023

Representing India is the biggest honour one can have so I am looking forward to my second Olympic appearance,"

twice — once in Investec South African Women's Open in 2019 and in Czech Ladies Open in 2023. "For the present my focus is the LET, where I have won twice and I want to do better," said

Diksha is one of only two

Indian women to have won on the LET and she has done it

(2017 and 2021).

United States. Diksha, who won once in the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open and was T-3 at the Amundi German Masters and Hero Indian Open last year, was also third in the Order of Merit. She had nine individual Top-10

Diksha, who is also aiming to

get to the LPGA Tour in the

finishes and one more in the team event in Hong Kong. This season she has had Top-10 finishes in Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco (9th) and in Tampa Florida (T-6). The busy

part of the season is still ahead Vani has been around for some years but is still looking for her first win on the LET, as is

Pranavi Urs, who is playing her first full season on the Tour. Meanwhile, the French star Pauline Roussin-Bouchard, who produced a fine winning effort at the Aramco Series

event in Singapore last year, is

on Wednesday, rallying to defeat Bayern Munich 2-1 and reach the final happened so many times before," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's Joselu said. "Not even my best dreams all set to take on winners Danielle Kang and Lydia Ko. were as good as this." for the second time in three seasons. inexplicable. Fans who push us on, a Shannon Tan, who has already said Diksha, who is the only Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement befor

Printed and published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Regd Office:-100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Corporate Office:- 201-205, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements