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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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RR DESPERATE TO ARREST SLIDE AGAINST RCB 12 SPORTS

Congress, SP against Sanatan dharma, development: Modi

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday described the Samajwadi Party and Congress as "anti-development", saying both parties competed in the appeasement of their vote banks. He said the SP and Congress were always against the Sanatan dharma and the people of Prayagraj would never forgive those who insult Lord Shri Ram. The prime minister said that during the SP regime, jobs were given on the basis of caste. He said the UPPSC was made a family service commission. He said anarchy prevailed during the previous regimes and it was difficult for sisters and daughters to go out. "In our holy Prayagraj, bullets and bombs were fired openly. Honest people lived in terror. These people (indicating to SP and Congress) term the Sanatan dharma as dengue and malaria," he said. "What used to happen (at Kumbh) during the time of SP-Congress? There used to be stampedes in the crowd, people had to die, there was anarchy everywhere... Because they were more concerned about their vote bank than the Kumbh," he said. "They (SP and Congress) were afraid to be seen doing something extra for Kumbh as their vote bank might feel bad. A competition of appeasement used to take place between the SP and Congress," Modi said, addressing a rally in the



region known for the Kumbh Mela and the "Triveni Sangam". Modi said the 2024 elections would decide where the Triveni of India's future would flow. "India is now identified by expressways and infrastructure. Many countries say that we also want your technology. When the G-20 is organised, the whole world is surprised. Now, the people of Prayagraj neither live in fear of anyone nor under pressure," he said. The prime minister said the blessings of Tirtharaj Prayagraj meant the blessings of the whole universe. "It Continued on Page 2

'Matrishakti' to make India a 'mahashakti', says Modi

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launching a scathing attack on the INDIA bloc for destroying the Hindu Shakti, said with confidence that after June 4, India would emerge as a 'mahashakti' with the support of 'matrishakti' (women). He was addressing the Nari Shakti

Samvad programme at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University here on Tuesday evening. The programme was attended by thousands of women from different sections of society apart from Bharatiya Janata Party workers. Visiting his constituency for the second time within a week, Modi, who Continued on Page 2



BJP notice to sulking Jayant Sinha for not voting, campaigning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/ RANCHI

Jharkhand BJP has issued a show-cause notice to sitting Hazaribagh Lok Sabha MP Jayant Sinha for not casting his vote in the election. The notice was issued by the party's State general secretary Aaditya Sahu who said the party's image had been maligned as Sinha did not exercise his right to franchise. Sinha, who has served as the Union Minister in Narendra Modi's first tenure, has been given two days time to reply to the show-cause notice. Hazaribagh, along with two other parliamentary seats, namely Chatra and Koderma, went to polls in the fifth phase of polling across the country and the second phase in Jharkhand. Jayant's father and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha exercised his right to franchise along with his wife. Meanwhile, sitting MP from Dhanbad and five block presidents have also been served show-cause notices for not showing any interest in the election activities of the party and for not cooperating with the party candidate.

Ancient patterns in military culture to live again



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to highlight India's rich heritage in statecraft, the Army has explored the epic battles of the Mahabharata, heroic exploits of eminent military figures as part of a project that aims to enrich the nation's outlook in the defence domain, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said on Tuesday. "The project 'Udbhav', launched last year, delved deep into ancient texts such as Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Arthashastra, and it has revealed substantial intellectual convergences between eminent Indian and Western scholars, highlighting the resonance between their thoughts, philosophies and perspectives," the Army Chief said. He said it has catalysed exploration into new areas, by unveiling India's tribal traditions, the Maratha naval legacy, and the individual heroic exploits of military figures, particularly women. on making the force "future-ready". "The project has delved deep into ancient texts such as Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Arthashastra, which are rooted in inter-connectedness, righteousness and ethical values," the Army chief said. "Furthermore, it has explored the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance during the reigns of Mauryas, Guptas and Marathas, which has shaped India's rich military heritage," he said. The Defence Ministry last year said project 'Udbhav' is designed to weave a strategic vocabulary and conceptual framework that is deeply embedded in India's philosophical and cultural heritage. "It is worth mentioning that project 'Udbhav' has revealed substantial intellectual convergences between eminent Indian and Western scholars, highlighting the resonance between their thoughts, philosophies and perspectives," the Army Chief said. He said it has catalysed exploration into new areas, by unveiling India's tribal traditions, the Maratha naval legacy, and the individual heroic exploits of military figures, particularly women.



US says can't help Iran in crash probe

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Iranian Government has requested the US to assist in probing the deadly helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi, country's Foreign Minister, and six others but Washington won't assist Tehran largely due to "logistical reasons", according to a senior American diplomat. Raisi, 63, a possible successor for Iran's supreme leader, the 85-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and six others were found dead on Monday hours after their helicopter crashed in fog, leaving the Islamic Republic without two key leaders as extraordinary tensions grip the wider Middle East. US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a Press briefing on Monday said the US when asked for assistance by the Iranian Government made it clear that it was ready to offer assistance, as it would do in response to any request by a foreign Government in this sort of situation, but was not able to provide any help. "I'm not going to get into the details, but we were asked by the Iranian Government for assistance," said Miller. "We said we would be willing to assist. It's something that we would do with respect to any government in this situation. Ultimately, largely for logistical reasons, we weren't able to provide that assistance," Miller told reporters. In response to a question on the United States extending official condolences and participating in a moment of silence for Raisi at the UN Security Council, Miller said

the US had been quite clear that Raisi was a "brutal participant" in the repression of the Iranian people for nearly four decades but Washington regretted any loss of life in a helicopter crash like incident. "We regret any loss of life. We don't want to see anyone die in a helicopter crash. But that doesn't change the reality of his record both as a judge and as the President of Iran and the fact that he has blood on his hands," Miller said. "Our fundamental approach to Iran has not changed and will not change. We will continue to support the people of Iran, to defend their human rights, their aspirations to an open, free society and democratic participation," he said. Miller also responded to a remark by former Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who blamed US sanctions for the incident. Iran has offered no reasons for the crash that brought down the helicopter, which fell into mountainous terrain in a sudden, intense fog. The crash on Sunday killed all eight people aboard a Bell 212 helicopter that Iran purchased in the early 2000s, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. "The Iranian Government has used its aircraft to transport equipment to support terrorism. So, we will continue to fully enforce our sanctions regime, including our sanctions regimes on aircraft for use by the Iranian government. Ultimately, it's the Iranian government that is responsible for the decision to fly a 45-year-old helicopter in what was described as poor weather conditions," he said.

Maliwal shared trauma, distress with L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has for the first time reacted to the alleged assault on AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Tuesday, sharing that Maliwal called him a day earlier on Monday out of "sheer anguish". Saxena on Tuesday said he was "deeply distressed" over the alleged assault on Maliwal and said "deafening silence" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal "speaks volumes on his stance on safety of women". It wasn't a long time ago when Maliwal and Saxena were in the cross hairs for the removal of 223 Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), appointed by the former Chairperson of DCW. In a public statement, the LG said he has been deeply distressed over the unfolding media narrative over the last few days on the issue and shared that Maliwal called him. "Yesterday, she called me out of sheer anguish, describing at length her traumatic experience and the subsequent intimidation and shaming that she is being subjected to by her own colleagues. She also expressed concerns over reported tampering of evidence and coercion against her," he said. The alleged incident, which reportedly took place when



Maliwal visited the Chief Minister's residence alone, has sparked media frenzy and raised serious concerns about the safety and treatment of women in positions of power. Making this assertion in a statement, Saxena also said, "I would have expected that at least for the sake of propriety, my Chief Minister would have come clean, rather than being evasive and dodgy. His deafening silence speaks volumes of his stance on safety of women." Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said LG's letter has proved that Maliwal is "working for the BJP". Hitting back, the AAP said LG's letter proves "Maliwal is working at the behest of BJP". Responding to LG's statement, the AAP said the

BJP is hatching a "new conspiracy" every day in the lead up to the polls. "Sometimes they rake up the excise policy case, sometimes the Swati Maliwal incident and sometimes the allegation of party receiving foreign funding. BJP will use new tactics against us till polls. BJP is losing the polls badly and they are trying to lift their status using Maliwal issue," the party alleged. In a statement on X by Raj Niwas, Saxena said the Delhi Police is investigating the matter and it will be brought to its "logical conclusion". He also called the alleged U-turn by the party on the matter "baffling". "I have been deeply distressed over the unfolding media narrative over the last few days on the issue of alleged assault on Ms Swati Maliwal, MP, Aam Aadmi Party, at the residence of Chief Minister, when she went there to meet him all alone," LG said. "Yesterday, she called me out of sheer anguish, describing at length her traumatic experience, and the subsequent intimidation and shaming that she is being subjected to by her own colleagues. She also expressed concerns over reported tampering of evidence and coercion against her," he said. On Kejriwal, Saxena said, "I would have expected that at least for the

sake of propriety, my CM would have come clean, rather than being evasive and dodgy. His deafening silence speaks volumes of his stance on safety of women." Delhi is the national Capital and is home to the entire diplomatic community from around the world and "such shameful incidents and the insensitive and conspiratorial contemptuous government response, on an issue of women safety, tarnishes India's image worldwide," he said. "Had such an incident happened in any other Chief Minister's residence in the country, external forces with vested interests, inimical to India, would have unleashed a scathing global narrative around women safety in India. The absence of any outrage in this case leaves several questions unanswered," he said in the statement. Saxena rooted for Maliwal even, as he said, she has been "vociferous", "hostile" and "blatantly partisan towards me and my office, often criticizing me unjustifiably". Saxena said it was "most disturbing" that the alleged scene of crime was the drawing room of the Chief Minister, even while he was allegedly present in the house, and that it was carried out by his "closest aide" on a woman who was alone.

CAPSULE

Aircraft hits flock, 39 flamingos die

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 39 flamingos died after an incoming aircraft hit a huge flock of birds over the Ghatkopar area, while it was on its final approach for landing at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai on Monday night. The bird strike, involving EK 508 Dubai-Mumbai Emirates flight carrying 310 passengers, took place minutes before the aircraft landed at the airport. The Boeing 777 aircraft hit a flock of flamingos while it was approaching the runway for landing at the airport. The pilots reported the bird strike immediately after the flight landed at the CSMIA. The incident has come as a big jolt to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and environmentalists involved in the conservation of flamingos in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The Maharashtra Forest Department (MFD) has confirmed the death of 39 flamingos. The CSMIA officials have not commented on the incident so far. On its part, the Emirates that was operating the Dubai-Mumbai flight, said there was no injury to crew members or passengers.

India leads campaign to control penguin tourism

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As Antarctica evolves from a scientific haven to a sought-after tourist hotspot, intensifying concerns about its ecological fragility all eyes are now on India which is leading discussions at the ongoing ten days 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Kerala, on regulating tourism to safeguard the icy continent's pristine wilderness. Similar deliberations are being held at the 26th meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). Discussions around regulating tourism have been ongoing in the ATCMs since 1966, but so far these have been just centered around agenda items, sessions, papers, or resolutions. This is for the first time a dedicated working group for regulating tourism in the region has been formulated at the 46th ATCM, hosted by India in

Kochi from May 20. The gathering has over 350 participants from nearly 40 nations, deliberating on the climate change threats exacerbated by the increased tourists' footfalls at the continent's fragile ecosystem. This is leaving the continent's wildlife like Penguins at the receiving end. According to reports, the surge in Antarctic tourism over the past four decades is staggering, with visitor numbers skyrocketing from just a few hundred to over 100,000 in recent seasons, predominantly arriving on cruises. In such a concerning backdrop, it has become crucial upon the countries to ensure comprehensive regulations be framed to ensure the sustainable and responsible exploration of this unique and pristine region. India will be playing a key role as it is expected to bring a series of actionable



recommendations to be incorporated into the broader framework of the Antarctic Treaty System. While addressing the session at the meet, Dr M Ravichandran, secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth and Sciences and Head of the Indian delegation, said, "Antarctica represents one of the last frontiers of wilderness and scientific discovery. As stewards of this extraordinary region, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that all activities, including research and tourism, are conducted in a manner that preserves its ecological integrity for future generations." Dr Ravichandran said, "India being a committed member of the Antarctic Treaty System recognises the pressing need to address the growing tourism activities in Antarctica and their potential impact on the continent's

fragile environment." He reiterated that India has always advocated for a comprehensive, proactive, and effective tourism policy anchored in precautionary principles. "The collaborative efforts of nations within the Antarctic Treaty System are crucial in preserving the pristine environment and advancing scientific research in Antarctica. Through its leadership and commitment, India continues to play a key role in shaping the future of Antarctic governance," said Ambassador Pankaj Saran, chairperson of the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP. The ATCM and CEP are high-level global annual meetings conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, a multilateral agreement of 56 Contracting Parties signed in 1959. An official from the Ministry said during these meetings,

member countries of the Antarctic Treaty discuss issues pertaining to the science, policy, governance, management, preservation and protection of Antarctica. The CEP was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) in 1991. The CEP advises the ATCM on environmental protection and conservation in Antarctica. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under MoES Ministry, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat is jointly organising these meetings. Dr Thamban Meloth, director of NCPOR, said India has a legal framework to regulate India's activities in Antarctica, including tourism, through the Indian Antarctic Act enacted in 2022 but this is for the first time that regulations will be framed.

Tourism dept to take out shobha yatras in Buddhist places

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There are many major places associated with Lord Gautam Buddha in Uttar Pradesh. On the occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 23, a Shobha Yatra will be taken out at these places and other events, including Deepdaan, will be organised. A discussion will be organised under the aegis of Uttar Pradesh Tourism, Buddhist Research Institute and Culture department. The chief guest of the programme will be Principal Secretary (Tourism and Culture) Mukesh Kumar Meshram. "The programme will be inaugurated on May 23 in the audi-

torium of International Buddhist Research Institute located at Vipin Khand of Gomti Nagar. The topic of the discussion will be 'Buddhist pilgrimage sites of the state: historical and cultural importance', said a tourism official. Similarly, he said that the topic of essay and painting competition would be 'Buddhist pilgrimage sites: Sarnath'. The speakers of the discussion will be Ven Dr Julampitiye Punyasar Mahasthava, spokesperson of University of Sri Jayawardhanpur, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Professor Uma Shankar Vyas and Professor Ram Nakshatra Prasad of Nava Nalanda University, Bihar.

"There are six major places related to the life of Lord Buddha in Uttar Pradesh. Siddharth Gautam spent his first 29 years in Kapilvastu located in Siddharthnagar district. It was here that he became upset after seeing the old, sick, dead bodies and ascetics and left the royal palace and set out in search of truth. Shrivasthi is the place where Gautam Buddha spent 25 rainy seasons in Jetavana. Lord Buddha descended from heaven to earth in Sankisa. Buddha spent his sixth and ninth years of enlightenment in Kaushambi," Sarnath in Varanasi district is where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon of 'Four Noble

Truths' to his first five disciples 2,500 years ago, which is relevant for solving many problems in the 21st century. "Kushinagar is the place where Gautam Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. Ramgram in Maharajganj district was the main city of the Koliya kingdom. It is believed that the remains of Lord Buddha are present in the Ramgram stupa. Devdah in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh is identified as the maternal home of Queen Mayadevi, Prajapati Gautami and Princess Yashodhara," he said. He said that a large number of tourists visit the tourist places located in the Buddhist circuit.

Tsunami like wave for saffron party in UP, NDA to win 75 of 80 seats: BJP leader

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Uppbeat about BJP's "tsunami-like wave" in Uttar Pradesh due to schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala and Ayushman Bharat, party leader Sunil Bharala has predicted the NDA will win 75 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of BJP's Lok Sabha campaign here, Bharala said the slogan of 'abki baar, 400 paar' given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not merely a slogan, but a resolution. "It's a complete wave like a tsunami (for BJP) in Uttar Pradesh and we (NDA) are going to get 75 out of the 80 seats in the state," he said. In the 2019 parliamentary polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won 62 seats in Uttar Pradesh, while its ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) had bagged two constituencies. In 2014, the BJP had won 71 seats while Apna Dal (Sonelal) had secured victory in two constituencies. "Through the PM Awas Yojana, we have provided homes to 80 lakh people in the state and you can't even imagine how popular the schemes of Ujjwala gas, toilets, Ayushman Bharat and Lakhpati Didi are," Bharala



told PTI.

On the BJP's performance in Allahabad and Phulpur constituencies in the sixth phase polling on May 25, the party leader said, "We are going to break our records of 2014 and 2019". Both constituencies — Allahabad and Phulpur — are part of the Prayagraj district in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP has fielded Neeraj Tripathi from Allahabad and Praveen Patel from Phulpur. BJP's Rita Bahuguna Joshi and Shyama Charan Gupta won from Allahabad in 2019 and 2014 polls, respectively. In

Phulpur, BJP's Keshari Dev Patel and Keshav Prasad Mawrya won the polls in 2019 and 2014, respectively. The Phulpur seat was briefly held by Samajwadi Party's Nagendra Dev Patel who won the bypoll in 2018. Slamming the INDIA bloc, Bharala said claimed that the more the opposition tries to tarnish Modi's image, the stronger will be the performance of the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls. "The INDIA alliance is fighting the election out of arrogance. It is immensely arrogant and the way they talk about the

prime minister, the language that its members use for him is not being accepted by the public. The more they try to tarnish the image of the prime minister, the stronger will be the performance of 'lotus' (BJP symbol)," he said. "I also want to tell the INDIA alliance that till the time the BJP president (J P Nadda) and PM Modi are here, they will not allow reservation based on caste or religion. They will sacrifice their lives but will not allow such reservation on the basis of religion," he added.

On the opposition raising growing inflation, unemployment and communal disharmony as the key issues in this election, Bharala said the prime minister himself has said in interviews to the media that he is not making a scheme for 100 days but is laying out a plan for 125 days. "Of these, he has allocated 25 days to the youth, for their future, for their employment and to make them self-reliant, to make them capable of giving jobs to others instead of seeking one. Prime Minister Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are both resolved to making the youth in Uttar Pradesh self-reliant," he added.

Man found dead in SGPGL area

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 30-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the SGPGL police station area on Tuesday. His body was dumped in thickets. The man was missing since last Saturday. While the police claimed that the man was a drug addict and died after taking an overdose of it, the family apprehended foul play and demanded a probe into his death. The police sent the body for autopsy to ascertain the cause of death. The man, identified as Sunil of Sheela Khera, had died about three days back, as per police. He went missing on Saturday after he left the home without informing anyone in the family. The family members waited for him and then contacted the police but were advised to search him on their own. On Tuesday, the family was told about the recovery of the body of a man from the thickets near a shop dealing in marbles. The family

reached the scene and identified the body of Sunil.

DROWNED

Two youths drowned in different parts of the city on Tuesday. In Gosainganj, a motorcycle mechanic, Yusuf (19) of Nilmatha locality, had gone to take bath in the Sharda canal on Monday and he drowned while taking a dip in the canal around 2 pm. The local drivers searched for him but in vain. Around 1:30 pm, his body was fished out of the water and was sent for autopsy. The police said Yusuf was unmarried and had gone to the canal to take bath along with his friends. In another incident reported from Thakurganj, a 15-year-old boy, Babu of Faizullagnaj in Madiaon, had gone to take bath in the river Gomti at Pontoon bridge in Thakurganj and started drowning when he reached the middle of the river. The local divers pulled him out of the water. He was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where

he was pronounced dead. Police sent the bodies for autopsy and started the investigation.

KILLED

A 65-year-old man was killed in a road mishap in Malihabad police station area on Tuesday. Reports said the man, Mewalal of Mehmood Nagar, was going to Lucknow city for some work by motorcycle. Around 7 am, a speeding unidentified vehicle knocked him down when he was near a petrol filling station and he died on the spot. Police sent the body for autopsy and started an investigation.

and was facing a financial crisis. The police sent the body for autopsy and started an investigation.

MINOR RAPED

A man lured the minor daughter of his neighbour and raped her in Bazaar Khala. The incident came to light when the victim complained to her parents about the pain she was suffering with due to the assault by the miscreant and they filed a complaint to police. As per reports the miscreant, identified as Meraj (30) of old Haiderganj locality, lured the girl on Monday when her parents were busy with work. He took her to a secluded place and raped the minor. He also threatened the girl to kill her if she reported the matter to her family or police. After a case was registered, the police launched a hunt and nabbed the accused. He owned up his crime during police interrogation. The police booked him under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

SUICIDE

A 28-year-old man ended his life at his house in Dubagga on Tuesday. The man, identified as Monu Tiwari of Ashrayheen Colony, was a native of Atrauli in Hardoi. He was found hanging from the ceiling at around 4 am on Tuesday. Police said Monu worked as a labourer

INDIA bloc to get absolute majority, form govt: Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress on Tuesday claimed that the National Democratic Alliance would witness the worst ever defeat in this election and the INDIA bloc would get an absolute majority and form a government. Addressing a rally in Siddharth Nagar, the city of Buddha, Congress national general secretary and Uttar Pradesh in-charge Avinash Pande said that this land, which was witness to Siddhartha's childhood pastimes and youthful games, was most dear to him. "Our ancestors of this city rejected religious ostentation and traditions that institutionalised prohibition, control, contempt and insult on the lives of Dalits and backward people. In its place, Buddha's message of social equality, non-violence and compassion was adopted. Tathagata is a world man born on the land of India, whose flag is still flying from Sinhala to Siberia i.e. Sri Lanka, Burma, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Mongolia, Tibet, China, Japan. But if his legacy is registered in the name of any part, then it is Siddharthnagar," he said. "Standing from this sacred land, I can say on the basis of this legacy that we will achieve a decisive victory in the war against the culture of hatred sponsored by the Bharatiya

Janata Party. This city of Tathagata will work to put the last nail on the coffin of the forces of hatred by giving victory to the candidate of INDIA bloc," Pande said, adding that the message of love, compassion and affection of Mahatma Buddha will be re-established in the state and country. Pande said that the election of 2024 was against the culture of hatred at the ideological level and the message of peace and tranquility of Tathagata, Kabir, Nanak, Gandhi, Baba Saheb. "There is a war in which we will be successful only by following the path of Tathagata," he said. The Congress leader added that if the BJP government thinks that by locking the freedom of expression, by keeping the constitutional institutions in chains and by putting the opposition leaders in jail, the Constitution of India will end then they are not correct. "The Constitution of India is present in the hearts of the people of this country and in their dreams. Baba Saheb's legacy is not a paper document, it is a dream of Dalits, backward classes, minorities, half of the population, and instills confidence in them to be free from inequality, slavery and discrimination of any kind. It is impossible to erase that dream during the tenure of Rahul Gandhi," he said.

The Congress UP in-charge said that today the Constitution was in danger, reservation was in danger, the resources of our country were also in danger. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 21 capitalist friends had accumulated wealth equal to the wealth of 50 per cent of the country's population. "Eighty crore people are standing in line for a 5-kg ration. The country's food provider is in distress. The promise of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 has proved to be a mere phrase. India's farmers, who live on a daily income of Rs 27, have a debt of Rs 16,80,000 crore. Instead of waiving the loan of distressed annadatas, the Modi government is waiving the loans of its corporate friends. The youth are troubled by unemployment. Instead of filling the 30 lakh vacant government posts, outsourcing and contract culture is taking hold. Now the phrase of providing two crore jobs is not repeated by the prime minister even by mistake," he said. The Congress leader added that schemes like Agniveer have also posed a threat to the country's defence. "The identity of our sisters and mothers is in danger because the BJP has been giving political protection to many leaders like Prajwal Revanna, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Chinmayanand,

Kuldeep Sengar," he said. He added: "This government is silencing the voice of dissent from the House to the streets. The public has been intimidated by the government machinery. In such an environment, Rahul Gandhi appeared before the country as a ray of hope. Through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he went among the marginalised communities in all the areas of the country and instilled confidence in them and questioned the Modi government for its wrong doings." On the basis of his personal experience, the Congress in-charge said that after completing a series of coordination meetings on 77 Lok Sabha seats, he could say with confidence that like the entire country, there was a wave of change in Uttar Pradesh too. "When the results come on June 4, the BJP will have to face its worst defeat in Uttar Pradesh," he said. He appealed to make INDIA bloc candidate Kushal Tiwari victorious with huge votes. Besides Pandey, Congress national secretary Satyanarayan Patel, Ganesh Pandey, chief election manager of Samajwadi Party candidate Kushal Tiwari from Dumariyaganj Lok Sabha seat, all the office-bearers and former MLAs of the district unit of Congress and Samajwadi Party were present on the stage.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Shailendra Kumar Verma S/o Ramdara Verma R/o Village-Tandawa Jalal, District-Ambedkar Nagar. In my service records (Army no-14832330K, Rank-Naik) my mother's name is recorded as Prampti Devi and DOB is 01/07/1958, which is wrong. In other documents of my mother the correct name is written Pranjati Devi and DOB is 01/01/1955, which is correct. This should be considered correct.

NOTICE

I MEENU TOMAR W/O Naib Sub Vinod Singh 4rajpoot army no. JC 483524L residence of saura hind MP. In my Husband army service record my name is wrongly mentioned as MEENA DEVI whereas in other documents my name is MEENU TOMAR. Which is true and correct

NOTICE

I, Chandra Pal, S/o Bhagwan Das R/o. 71 U-LIG, Vaidehi Vihar Jarauli Phase- II, Kanpur Nagar have changed the name of my minor son "ANCHIT VERMA" aged about 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as "ARYAN VERMA". Chandra Pal S/o Bhagwan Das R/o. 71 U-LIG, Vaidehi Vihar Jarauli Phase-II, Kanpur Nagar Mob. No. 9140685486

NOTICE

I Brijbhan Singh S/o Bir Bahadur Singh R/o- Atalpur, Sec-1, Hariharpur, Lucknow. In my service records my wife's name has been written as Shilma Devi by mistake, while her actual name is Shilma Singh. Both name have the same person

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD RAFIQ TO MOHAMMAD RAFIQ BABU. In future I Shall be known as MOHAMMAD RAFIQ BABU. MOHAMMAD RAFIQ BABU S/o Babu 202/182 Attarsuiya, Prayagraj

NOTICE

In my Son's (Rajiv Rai Army No-9425264N, Rank-Hav, Unit-7/11GR) office records my name and DOB is recorded as MANRUPARAI and 12/04/1954 respectively, while my correct name is MANRUPI RAI and DOB is 31/05/1959. MANRUPI RAI W/o Raj Bahadur Rai R/o-VIII-Labdh Division, PO-Mungpoo, Disst-Darjeeling, West Bengal-734313

NOTICE

In my husband's (Late Kashiram Army no 13930179K, Rank-Hav, PPO number 203198900358) office records my name is mention as ORMILA DEVI and Add is Vijaya Nagar Sec-C Neelmatha Maharsashtra India by mistake, Whereas my correct name URMILA DEVI, DOB 01/07/1942 and Add is Vijay Nagar Sec-B, Neelmatha, Lucknow-226002 UP. Mobile number-9935975090, Aadhar number-210186138254 and PAN number-JOIPD4626D. Please correct it accordingly for future purposes.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that, Sri Baljeet Singh Yadav S/o Late Mewalal Yadav, Sri Ardinam Singh S/o Late Mohan Singh and Sri Raghendra Pratap Singh S/o Sri Basant Singh have informed that the Original Lease Deed registered at Serial No. 2844 dated 7.1.1981 and Original Freehold Deed registered at Serial No. 3906 dated 31.3.2010 of the property i.e. Plot No. 342 Block-E Scheme II Sujatganj, Kanpur Nagar addressing 311 Sq. Yards i.e. 260.02 Sq. Mtr. have been lost somewhere and is not traceable. They are intended to sell the said property to Sri Pushpraj Singh S/o Sri Raja Singh and he will mortgage the said property in favour of Central Bank of India Kidwai Nagar Branch Kanpur Nagar. As the Central Bank of India Kidwai Nagar Branch Kanpur Nagar is going to grant finance facility to said Sri Pushpraj Singh S/o Sri Raja Singh by collaterally securing this finance by creation of Equitable Mortgage over property. The Central Bank of India Kidwai Nagar Branch Kanpur Nagar intend to create Equitable Mortgage in respect of the above mentioned properties, details which are given in the notice. Any person claiming any interest or title in the property or otherwise having any objection can make representation to the Bank within seven days of such notice. Shiv Narayan Sharma, Advocate Chamber Near New Hanuman Temple Near Gate No. 4 Civil Court Compound, Kanpur Nagar-208001. Mobile: 9335583877

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sarita Hemnani to Sarita Devi Hemnani. In future I will be known as Sarita Devi Hemnani, wife of Ramesh Chandra Hemnani. Resident 122/471, Sindh Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur.

CONGRESS, SP AGAINST SANATAN DHARMA, DEVELOPMENT: MODI

From Page 1 is giving such infinite blessings, it speaks of your enthusiasm," he added. Modi sought votes for Neeraj Tripathi, son of former governor Keshrinath Tripathi, from Prayagraj and BJP candidate Praveen Patel from Phulpur Lok Sabha seat. He said, "The Congress government in Karnataka gave OBC quota to Muslims. I have come to Prayagraj to give a guarantee. I will not let the reservation of Dalits and backward classes be snatched away. A strong government is needed so that Modi keeps serving you." Modi said earlier traders used to live in fear of the mafia. "With the coming of the BJP government, the mafia is being cleaned up. In SP rule, the mafia used to occupy the land of poor people. Our government is demolishing the property of the mafia and building

houses for the poor on it," he said. He said today Prayagraj was touching the heights of development. "From four-lane roads to Vande Bharat train, over bridges at every crossing, today the dream of a developed city is coming true," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said Narendra Modiji was the messiah of the poor. "Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party are sympathisers of goons. Modi is the first prime minister who touched the feet of sanitation workers in the Kumbh in Prayagraj itself. The prime minister worked to provide food to 80 crore people. He worked to provide four crore houses to the poor," he said. Many BJP leaders and Union minister Anupriya Patel were also present.

KGMU first in UP to provide pulmonary palliative care

Lucknow (PNS): King George's Medical University has become the first centre in the state to provide pulmonary palliative care. Head of KGMU respiratory medicine department, Prof Surya Kant, stated that pulmonary palliative care is a boon for patients with severe and chronic respiratory diseases. "When such patient come to us, our first objective is to treat them, the second is to control the symptoms of their disease, the third is to provide relief from the disease, and the fourth is to manage the severity of their disease. If we are unable to stop it, this is where pulmonary palliative care begins," he said. Pulmonary palliative care is a multi-dimensional medical approach that includes subtle exercises, yoga, pranayama, pain treatment, counseling, diet, humane compassion, oxygen nebulisation, and other supportive medical therapies. Dr Sree Devi Warriar, chairperson of Pallium India and professor at Cardiff University, United Kingdom, stated that along with treating the patient's disease, the suffering of the patient and their family should also be addressed. Assistant Professor Dr Ankit Kumar from the respiratory medicine department explained the need for pulmonary palliative care and its complexities in his lecture. Dr. Rajneesh Srivastava from Max Super Speciality Hospital highlighted the importance of palliative care in ILD (Interstitial Lung Disease) in his lecture.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Northern Railway General Manager Shobhan Chaudhuri held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs, including the DRM of Lucknow division. Chaudhuri showed deep concern

about the progress of developmental work of station upgradation. He said that the monitoring of progress of construction projects should also be a prime focus area as the development / improvement of railways was very much dependent on these projects. He told department

heads to expedite and complete the work in stipulated time manner in particular construction projects. He also emphasised on movement of goods trains and especially coal movement to thermal power stations to meet the increased demand of coal for power generation during sum-

mer. Meanwhile, for operational ease, the North Eastern Railway's Lucknow Division administration said on Tuesday that rubberised work was to be done on the track of level crossing number 18 located between Fatehpur-Pantapur stations on the Burhwal Jn-Sitapur Jn railway section.

'MATRISHAKTI' TO MAKE INDIA A 'MAHASHAKTI', SAYS MODI

Ganga had now adopted him. Welcoming the prime minister, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Modi government had increased the respect of half the population by giving them a place in his agenda in the last 10 years. "The four castes he (Modi) discussed in the country. They include the poor, food providers, youth and women. After the year 2014, various campaigns, including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Matri Vandan and others, have been launched in the country," Yogi said, adding that not only this, the Modi government has given an opportunity to half the population to be represented in the legislature of the country by passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act in the new Parliament. On the occasion, Union minister and BJP candidate from Chandauli, Mahendra Nath

Pandey, Machhlishahr MP and candidate BP Saroi, Rajya Sabha member and Uttar Pradesh Mahila Morcha president Geeta Shukya, Archana Mishra and Meena Choubey and others were also present on the dais.

JKCement J.K. Cement Limited (CN: L1722UJ1994PL017199) Regd. Office: Kamla Tower, Kanpur-208001 Email: shambhu.singh@jkcement.com Web: www.jkcement.com NOTICE Notice is hereby given that share Certificate No 81583 for 138 Equity Shares bearing Distinctive No(s) 44445739-44445876 issued by the Company in the name of Ms Sudha Agrawal are reported to be lost and requested for issuance of Duplicate Shares. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate(s) will be issued without incurring any liability by the Company for the said issue. Place: Kanpur For J.K.Cement Ltd. Date: 17.05.2024 (Shambhu Singh) Company Secretary M.No: FCS 5836

Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE: LUCKNOW Premises Dept. 2nd Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR LEASING OF OFFICE PREMISES Indian Bank, a Public Sector Bank invites tenders under 2 bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) from owners of office premises willing to offer on lease basis (Readily built / Premises Under construction) in RUDAULI, measuring in the range of 1100 sq. ft. carpet area preferably in Ground Floor with parking facility for a lease period of 15 years for setting up their Branch / Office. The tender forms can be obtained from the Zonal Office, 2nd Floor, New Building, Hazratganj, Lucknow -226001 or can be downloaded from Bank's website www.indianbank.in from 22.05.2024 to 06.06.2024. Last date for submission of bids 06.06.2024 by 5.00 pm. Details of the tender can be obtained from our Website: www.indianbank.in. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Date : 21.05.2024 Zonal Manager

INDIA Bloc dividing people on lines of caste, religion: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made a whirlwind election tour on Tuesday, covering six Lok Sabha constituencies. He kicked off the day with a public meeting for the Shravasti Lok Sabha and

rejuvenate Tharu culture," Yogi added. The chief minister said, "Previously, walking on the roads of Balrampur was difficult, and people lacked access to drinking water. Now, there is a 24-hour electricity supply, and the Har Ghar Nal Yojana is

nor the masters of terrorists to gain power." The chief minister asserted that the public is aware of the close relationship between the SP and the mafia, stating that the two cannot be separated. "Every mafia member in the state is linked to the SP. The SP's

form of Kabir Peeth, he added. He highlighted the revival of the old utensils industry under the 'One District One Product scheme', contrasting it with the SP era when people were forced to starve. Yogi also noted the ongoing development in Sant Kabir Nagar, including the



Gainsari assembly by-election candidates, concluding the day with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'Naari Shakti Samvaad' in Varanasi. Chief Minister Yogi addressed a total of six public meetings, focusing his criticism on the Congress and Samajwadi Party. He emphasised the development work done by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government while highlighting the misdeeds of the previous SP and Congress governments. Addressing a public meeting in the Shravasti Lok Sabha constituency to seek votes for party candidate Saket Mishra and Gainsari assembly by-election candidate Shailesh Kumar Singh 'Shailu', the chief minister remarked, "Their proposed inheritance tax is akin to Aurangzeb's Jizya tax, which he imposed to convert Hindus to Islam. This is unacceptable. Not only that, they will distribute your property to Muslim infiltrators from countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party will foil all their plans." "In addition to offering free housing to the underprivileged, we have extended similar benefits to the Tharu community. Furthermore, a museum has been established to

be implemented to provide clean drinking water to every household. It used to take six hours to travel from Gorakhpur to Devi Patan temple and eight hours from Gonda. Today, the journey takes just two and a half hours from Gorakhpur and 45 minutes from Gonda," Yogi said that the construction of a university in Balrampur had also progressed. A university is being built in the name of PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he added. "During the tenure of the SP government, Balrampur was considered one of the most backward districts in the country. However, today, Balrampur is recognised as one of the leading districts in the country," he added. Chief Minister Yogi held a public meeting at the Government Girls' Inter College grounds in support of Dumariyaganj MP and Lok Sabha candidate Jagdambika Pal. Labelling the SP and Congress as the "masters of terrorists" and "patrons of mafia", he remarked that before 2017, every criminal and mafia member exploited the public and extorted money, posing a threat to the safety of daughters. Yogi stated, "Today, the SP feels pain as the mafia faces consequences and is punished severely. We must not allow the supporters of the mafia,

sympathies do not lie not with daughters and businessmen, but with the mafia," he said. The chief minister said that the mafia, which was driven out by the people of Gorakhpur and Sant Kabir Nagar, would not be allowed to thrive in Siddharthnagar, the land of Mahatma Buddha. He criticised the SP, saying, "SP people used to open fire on Ram devotees. The SP general secretary even called the Ram temple 'useless'. Lord Ram is the controller of the world and the Supreme Father. 'Ram ke bina humara koi kaam nahi, Jo Ram ka nahi woh humare kisi kaam ka nahi'." Chief Minister Yogi appealed to people to support Sant Kabir Nagar MP and Lok Sabha candidate Praveen Nishad. In a scathing attack on the SP, he said that while the party ordered the opening of fire on Ram Bhakts when in power, today flowers were being showered on them in Ayodhya. He said that Prime Minister Modi had restored Treta Yuga's glory to Ayodhya. In addition, Baba Tameshwarnath's Dham in Sant Kabir Nagar is also being developed and the holy Mahanirvan Sthal is being transformed into a new research and innovation centre in

installation of a grand statue of Nishad Raj embracing Lord Ram in Shringverpur. He said that the process of restoration of his fort had also been taken forward. Addressing a public meeting at Janta Inter College grounds at Nagar Bazar Mahadeva in support of Basti MP and Lok Sabha candidate Harish Dwivedi, Yogi said, "This election pits Ram Bhakts against Ramdrohis. "The Ramdrohis support terrorism, and Naxalism, threaten India's security, hinder development, steal the rights of the poor, and divide society along caste lines," he said. During his fifth rally in Azamgarh Lok Sabha constituency, Yogi appealed for votes in favour of Lok Sabha candidate Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua'. He said that for the first time, the public was confident about the election results, with the entire country united in saying 'Fir Ek Baar, Modi Sarkar' and 'Abki Baar 400 Paar'. He said that today, the state's most dreaded criminals had either been eradicated or they had run away from the state. "The time has come to make those who created an identity crisis in Azamgarh and turned it into a den of terrorists struggle for every vote," he stated.

Ambedkar resigned from cabinet as Cong worked against quota: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday attacked both Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party and claimed that these parties have been in power in most of the states since Independence but have worked against reservation to suppress the Dalits and poor. "When the first Congress government was formed at the Centre, Baba Saheb was the law minister. At that time, Baba Saheb had told Congress chief Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that the government should take strict steps to ensure that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get reservation in government jobs under the Constitution. Baba Saheb also said provision of Article 340 had been included in the Constitution for SC, ST, people of extremely backward classes in this country whose social as their educational status was pathetic," the BSP chief asserted. She claimed that Baba Saheb had talked to prime minister Nehru about providing reservation to the extremely backward classes and said that he should set up a commission under Article 340 and give them reservation, but the Congress government did not listen to Baba Saheb Ambedkar, due to which he resigned from the post of law minister.

and thinking of all these parties is against reservation," Mayawati claimed. Terming Congress as anti-Dalit and anti-OBC, she said that because of this "we had to form BSP again". "If Congress had fulfilled its responsibility with sincerity in the beginning, then we would not have needed to form BSP," she said. Mayawati claimed, "Just like Congress, which ruled the country



for a long time and was voted out due to its wrong policies, the BJP will also be thrown out of power provided there is free and fair election and there is no tampering of the voting machine." She said that all parties were talking big about reservation for the sake of votes. "The people of the country have understood that they have been lured in the name of good days, and not even a quarter of the work that was promised has been done. These people are engaged in making the capitalists richer, giving them concessions in various matters and protecting them," she said. Accusing the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh of exploiting and harassing the Muslim commu-

nity, the former chief minister of UP said that if her party comes to power, this will be stopped. "Due to the BJP and RSS government, the situation is bad due to the politics going on in the guise of Hindutva. The farmer class is also agitated. The effect of wrong economic policies is visible in the country. Inflation, poverty, unemployment and corruption are also increasing," she said. Mayawati further said that cases like electoral bonds were coming to the fore. "A few days ago when the Supreme Court commented on this, it became clear that BJP and Congress have taken huge amounts of money from big capitalists to contest elections. The BSP has not taken any financial support from anyone. The BSP does its work by collecting small amounts of money. The farmers of the country have always been troubled due to the BJP, whereas our party took care of them in all the four governments. They were provided resources for farming and given good prices for the crops," she said. BSP supremo Mayawati said that her party was contesting the elections alone and not in alliance with Congress, BJP or any other party. The BSP has given opportunity to people of all communities in Banaras division. Seeing the tremendous enthusiasm of the crowd, she was confident that the BSP will perform better this time than the last time. She appealed to people to vote for BSP candidates -sitting MP Shyam Singh Yadav from Jaunpur, Kripashankar Saroj from Machhlishahr, Athar Jamal Lari from Varanasi, and Santyendra Maurya from Chandauli.

Re-poll ordered in one polling station of Farrukhabad seat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India has ordered re-poll at polling station No. 344 falling in the Aliganj assembly segment of the Farrukhabad Lok Sabha constituency. The re-poll will be held on May 25 along with the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections to 14 Lok Sabha con-

stituencies in UP. The polling in Farrukhabad Lok Sabha constituency was held on May 20 in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections. Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Randeep Rinwa said here on Tuesday that the Election Commission of India had declared the polling in polling station 343 falling under Aliganj assembly segment of

Farrukhabad Lok Sabha seat as null and void. He said that several irregularities were detected during the polling which prompted the ECI to take this action. He said the people of the area were being informed about the re-polling through drum beating and other means of publicity.

Stampede-like situation in Akhilesh's rally

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unruly crowd of Samajwadi Party supporters in Lalganj Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday created a stampede-like situation in an election rally addressed by party chief Akhilesh Yadav. The over-excited SP workers and supporters jostled with each other and climbed over the wooden barriers to see Akhilesh Yadav. SP supporters of Lalganj Lok Sabha constituency candidate Inspector Prasad Saroj broke the security protocol, including barricades, and rushed towards the dais when the SP chief was present there. The rally was organised near Kherwa crossing in the Nizamabad assembly segment of the parliamentary constituency. The supporters and workers were seen throwing stones and chairs at each other, creating a ruckus. The chaos erupted after the former chief minister of UP arrived at the event, with over enthusiastic party workers and supporters jostling with each other and climbing over wooden barriers to see Akhilesh Yadav. This is the third time that a rally of Akhilesh Yadav has ended in disorder. Earlier on May 19, joint election meeting of Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi in Pulpur Lok Sabha constituency had to be called



off as the crowd of SP workers and supporters surged towards the dais. Both the leaders were forced to leave without addressing the meeting. SP leaders had blamed the insufficient police arrangements leading the situation spiraling out of control as the crowd grew too large. The election rally ground in Lalganj Lok Sabha constituency was littered with broken chairs and torn banners and publicity material. The situation prompted the police to step in and control the situation. The cops had to resort to a lathi-charge to do so. During the unruly situation SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and other

including leaders from the INDIA bloc, remained on stage and appealed, in vain, to the supporters and workers to calm down. The appeals went in vain and failed to pacify the crowd. Akhilesh Yadav addressed the meeting under the police brought the situation under control and restored the order. The election meeting was organised for the SP candidate from the Lalganj Lok Sabha seat. SP had last won from this seat in 2004. Akhilesh Yadav, addressing the meeting, said, "The groundswell of support to the SP is manifestation

of deep resentment against the double-engine Bharatiya Janata Party government, known for making false promises. He said development works were only on paper. He added, "The opposition block INDIA bloc will honour the trust of the people and work to fulfill their aspirations. The electorate will dislodge the BJP in the remaining two phases of Lok Sabha elections." He said 140 crore people of the country would not give even 140 seats to BJP out of total 543 Lok Sabha seats. Akhilesh Yadav promised the people that if INDIA bloc forms the government then the quantity of free food grain will be increased from present 5 kg per month to 10 kg. He said the INDIA bloc government would also provide free data to all mobile phone holders. In 2019, this seat was won by Sangeeta Azad of Bahujan Samaj Party. She has now joined the BJP. In a similar incident in Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday, the election meeting addressed by SP general secretary Shivalp Singh Yadav was marred by the unruly party supporters who forcibly climbed the dais. The dais collapsed as a large number of SP cadres climbed it. However, nobody was hurt and Shivalp Yadav soon left the venue. Lajji Verma is the SP candidate from this constituency.

Candidates spend time with families after polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Candidates contesting the Lok Sabha election 2024 and Vidhan Sabha bypoll relaxed after the conclusion of polling on Tuesday. They spent time with their families and indulged in relaxation activities. OP Srivastava, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Lucknow East assembly constituency which went to bypoll on Tuesday, found time to visit Ram temple and Hanuman temple in Ayodhya. He said that after the announcement of his name for Lucknow East assembly seat on April 16, he had remained fully engaged in intensive campaigning for 35 consecutive days. His daily schedule included meeting the public as well as following the organisational directives, monitoring election campaign and maintaining harmony amongst the workers to avoid any dispute till the polling date. Srivastava said that he visited Shri

Ayodhya Dham on the 36th day, a day after polling, to pay obeisance to Lord Hanuman and Ram Lalla. Giving details of the routine he followed from morning, he said, "Before leaving home on Tuesday morning, I woke up, I read the newspaper headlines and took a bath which was followed by the daily rituals of worship. After this, I also spent time with the family. I enquired about the well-being of my nieces Chumki and Ana and played with them. I spent time with my wife Kiran, sons Darpan, Darshan and daughter Mahima," he said. He said that he shared his campaigning experiences with his family. "I also got a photo clicked while refreshing the memories of the past days with my family," he said. "After this, I set out for the darshan of Lord Ram in Ayodhya at 8 am along with the party workers with whom I had stayed for 36 days, morning-evening, night-day. After

reaching Ayodhya, I first visited Hanuman Garhi with the workers and then bowed my head at the feet of Lord Shri Ram at Shri Ram Jambhoomi," he said. Bahujan Samaj Party candidate from the Lucknow Lok Sabha constituency, Mohammed Sarwar Mallik, said that after waking up in the morning he offered namaz. "After that, I recited the Quran Sharif. Then after a long time I got the chance to spend some time with my family. I had tea with the family. After that, I also went with the children. Then I had breakfast and lunch with the family after a very long time. Thereafter I went to the party office in Mahanagar and met the BSP workers. Many senior members were present in the office. I reviewed the reports of the booth and sector presidents of the entire Lucknow," he added. Congress candidate from Lucknow East assembly constituency, Mukesh Singh Chauhan, said he spent time

with his family members. "After a long time, I was free so I chose to spend time with my family. After that I visited a local hospital to enquire about the health of my friend's wife who has just undergone a knee transplant," he said. Chauhan also said that he visited the Hanuman Setu temple in the city to offer his prayers. BJP candidate from Mohanlalganj Lok Sabha constituency, Kaushal Kishore, said that he continued with his 'jan sampark' (public relations). "There was no time to relax. We returned at 2 in the morning." He said that he was reviewing the reports of all the party workers from the various assembly segments of Mohanlalganj Lok Sabha constituency. Kaushal Kishore said that on Thursday he would visit another election area. He said that for him the biggest worship was that there should be maximum voting in the elections and the country should be made self-dependent.

इंडियन बैंक		Indian Bank	
(भारत सरकार का कर्ता)		(A Govt. of India Undertaking)	
ALLAHABAD			
Zonal Office: Tindwari Road Near Saint Mary School Banda (U.P.)-210001			
Appendix-IV Under (RULE - 8 (1)) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002			
POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties)			
Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the mentioned below hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties 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 dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property /ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-ALLAHABAD BANK), as mentioned below for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below.			
The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Sl. No.	Name and address of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice outstanding Amt.
Branch: Panwari, Distt. Mahoba, Mobile No.: 7752951337			
1.	Borrower: M/s Anand Brothers Proprietor: Vinod Kumar S/o Shri Tek Chandra, R/o Main Market, Panwari, P.O. Panwari, Tehsil Kulpahar, Mahoba, (U.P.) Mortgagor: Sri Rajendra Kumar S/o Shri Tek Chandra, R/o Mohalla Allipura Mauja and Post Panwari, Tehsil Kulpahar, Mahoba, (U.P.) Demand Notice Date: 30.09.2020	Equitable Mortgage of Property in the name of Sri Rajendra Kumar S/o Late Tek Chandra, at Mohalla Allipura Mauja and Post Panwari, Tehsil Kulpahar, Mahoba, (U.P.) (Total Measuring 735 Sq Ft.), (Sale Deed Registered at S.R.O. Kulpahar, dated 18.01.2005, Bahi No: 1, Khand No: 90, on the Page No: 265 to 278 as Deed No. 36) Boundaries: East: Land of Ghasi Ram, West: Common Kachha Road, North: Plot of Bhagwan Das Soni, South: House of Smt. Ram Sri,	30.09.2020 Rs. 7,69,384.00 + intt. & Charges 16.05.2024 Rs. 7,69,384.00 + intt. & Charges
2.	Borrower: M/s Hamidia Islamia School Address: Panwari Tehsil Kulpahar District Mahoba (U.P.) Proprietor & Mortgagor: Shri Syed Mohammed Naieem S/o Sri Abdul Hakim R/o Kazipura Talab, Village and Post Panwari, Pargana and Tehsil Kulpahar, District Mahoba (U.P.) Mahoba Demand Notice Date: 27.01.2020	1) Equitable Mortgage of commercial Property in the name of Hamidia Islamiya colleges/school through Manager Sri Mohd. Na'im S/o Sri Abdul Hakim situated at Gata No. 401 Mauja Panwari Tehsil Kulpahar Mahoba (U.P.) (total measuring 0.291 Ha), Sale deed Registered at S.R.O. Kulpahar, dated 09/09/2005, Bahi No: 661, on the Page No: 323 to 344 as Deed No 4308) Boundaries: East: Property of Shri Mohd Jalil and Shri Aijaj Ali, West: Property of Mohd Usman, North: Sector Road Gata No. 406 of Mohd Habib, South: Talab ki Par, 2) Equitable Mortgage of property in the name of Shri Syed Mohd. Naieem S/o Sri Abdul Hakim situated at Gata No. 379 Mauja Panwari, Tehsil Kulpahar, Mahoba (U.P.) (Total measuring 419 Sqm.), (Sale Deed Registered at S.R.O. Kulpahar, dated 23.06.2014 Bahi No: 14, Khand No: 1539, on the Page No: 195 to 2140 as Deed No.3628) Boundaries: East: Khet of Mohd. Naieem, West: Khet of others, North: Jarwa Panwari Link Road, South: Khet of Smt Kamla,	27.01.2020 Rs. 20,24,794.00 + intt. & Charges 16.05.2024 Rs. 20,24,794.00 + intt. & Charges
Branch: Bindki, Distt. Fatehpur, Mobile No.: 9415477844			
3.	Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Ram Narayan S/o Ganga Prasad, Address: Araipur Khajuha Araipur Fatehpur, Khajuha U.P.-212657 Guarantor: Mrs. Urmila Devi, W/o Mr. Ram Narayan Gherwa, Address: Araipur Khajuha Araipur Fatehpur, Khajuha U.P.-212657 Demand Notice Date: 28.02.2024	Residential House situated at Gata No. 384, Area 162 Sq. Mtr. Araipur pargana Korā, Tahsil Bindki, Distt. Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh. Boundaries: East: Khet of Lakhani Lal, West: Field of Ram Khelawan, North: Kharanja 6 feet then Talab, South: Field of Ganga Ram,	28.02.2024 Rs. 13,83,785.00 + intt. & Charges 16.05.2024 Rs. 13,83,785.00 + intt. & Charges
4.	Borrower: Riyasat Husain S/o Iqbal, Address: 134, Kajiyana, Bindki, Fatehpur, Guarantor: Sayada Khatun W/o Riyasat Husain, R/o Saray Kajiyana, Bindki, Fatehpur-212635 Demand Notice Date: 17.01.2024	A residential Plot at Arazi No. 301, Khata No. 0001 2, Hazratpur Bahar kshetra, Pargana and tehsil Bindki, Distt.- Fatehpur (U.P.) in the name of Riyasat Husain S/o Iqbal. Total area- 123.69 Sq. Mt., Boundaries: East: Kachha rasta 13 feet wide road, West: Land of Aslam and Aaseen, North: Land of Ramdutt, South: Land of Ahatsham,	17.01.2024 Rs. 14,74,012.00 + intt. & Charges 16.05.2024 Rs. 14,74,012.00 + intt. & Charges
Branch: Chilla, Distt. Banda, Mobile No.: 9793764097			
5.	1. Ramvijay awasthi S/o Ramdev Awasthi, Vill & Post - Padarathpur, Chilla, Banda (Borrower & Mortgagor) 2. Sudha Awasthi w/o Ramvijay Awasthi , Vill+post - Padarathpur, Chilla, Banda (Borrower) 3. Rakesh Kumar Sahu s/o Ram Bahori, Vill+post- Chilla, Banda (Guarantor) 4. Manoj kumar tiwari S/o Tulsidas, R/o - Mawai Bujurg, Near Katali Mill, Sekul Kuwan, banda, R/o Himmatpur, Tehsil - Bindki, Fatehpur Demand Notice Date: 20.02.2024	One residential plot situated at Arazi number 5350, mauza- Mawai Bujurg (Near katali Mill), banda in the name of Ram Vijay Awasthi S/o Late Ramdev Awasthi. Area : 122.91 sq. mt. Boundaries: East: 5.50 mt. road, West: land of seller, North: Plot of Sh. Anurag Gupta, South: Plot of Sh. Vijay Yadav,	20.02.2024 Rs. 17,28,368.00 + intt. & Charges 16.05.2024 Rs. 17,28,368.00 + intt. & Charges
Date : 22.05.2024		Place: Mahoba, Banda, Fatehpur	
		Authorised Officer, Indian Bank	

21-year-old youth commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ
A youth committed suicide by hanging himself from the roof inside the house in Dalipur village under Bahria police station area of Phulpur here on Tuesday. The family told the police that he was under stress. Arvind Kumar

(21) of Dalipur, was sitting outside the house with the family. Meanwhile, he went inside for some work and did not come out for a long time. When the family members peeped into the house through the window, Arvind was hanging and had earbuds in his ear. The family took him to a private hospital

in the village where the doctors declared him dead. The family members said that for a few days Arvind was under stress about something. Father Suresh Kumar lives in another state to support his family. Arvind Kumar lived in the village with his mother and two sisters and also gave tuition to the children

of the village. On getting information, SHO Bahria Ranvijay Singh and outpost incharge Sikandra Ravi Kumar Katiyar reached the spot and sent the body for the post-mortem. Meanwhile 17-year-old girl hanged herself with the help of a rope in Bajaha Rajpur village under Jhusi police station.

Priyanka, Dimple to hold joint roadshow in Kashi on May 25

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In response to Prime Minister Land Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Narendra Modi's address at the Nari Shakti Samvad programme targeting half the population at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) on Tuesday, the main rival camp will woo the voters of Varanasi Lok Sabha seat with two top women faces of INDIA Bloc, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Dimple Yadav, holding a joint roadshow here on May 25.

Priyanka will first go to Kashi Vishwanath Temple to offer prayers and then visit Sant Ravidas Janam Sthan Mandir at Seer Govardhan, in her bid to send messages to the majority Hindus including the Dalits. Later, Priyanka Gandhi and Dimple Yadav will take out a joint roadshow from Malviya Statue near Banaras Hindu University (BHU) main gate at Lanka, the same place from

where Modi had also taken out his roadshow last week.

However, Priyanka Dimple's route will be different as instead of going towards Assi, Sonarpura and Godowlia to Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, they will go through Durgakund, Bheulpur, Revari Talab, Girjaghar crossing, Benia Bagh and Lahurabir and conclude their roadshow at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Statue at Maldahiya.

Meanwhile, Congress candidate Ajai Rai while paying tribute to former PM Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary at the party's central election office in Lahurabir, said Rajiv Gandhi strengthened India on the world stage by connecting women power with the mainstream of the country's development. He highlighted the contribution of Rajiv Gandhi in the field of computer and information technology. City Congress president Raghavendra Choubey said those who worship 'Matri Shakti' for show today need to

learn from great politician like late Rajiv Gandhi who did important works like women's reservation, presence of women in Panchayat Raj, reducing the voting age from 21 to 18



Congress candidate Ajai Rai at a women's empowerment conference at Khazuri in Varanasi

years, digitalization of India, computerisation etc. "Today PM Narendra Modi never gets tired of giving the slogan of Digital India but there was a time when late Rajiv Gandhi started digitalization in India, the BJP had strongly opposed it", he said. Fasahat Hussain Babu, Dr Rajendra Gupta,

Arun Soni, Riyaz Ahmed Bablu, Dr Nripendra Narayan Singh, Vikas Kaundilya, Anubhav Rai, Rohit Dubey, Jitendra Mishra and others were also present.

Earlier, Congress candidate Ajai Rai addressed an election public meeting at Azad Park, Kachchi Bagh. The public meeting was called in coordination with CPI's Nandini in which former Amroha MP Dr Danish Ali was present as the keynote speaker. Addressing the gathering, Dr Danish Ali said democracy and the Constitution are the biggest strengths of India and our ancestors had realised the concept by sacrificing their lives. The programme was presided over by Haji Niruddin and conducted by Mobin Ahmed. State CPI secretary Dr Hiralal Yadav, SP leader Pooja Yadav, Shivnath Yadav, Prof Satish Rai, Prof Deepak Malik, Prof Anand Dipayan, Dr Nripendra Narayan Singh and others also addressed the meeting.

Piramal Finance
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amrit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070.
CIN:L65910MH1984PLC032639, Web Site:- www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West)- 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sr No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
1.	(LC No. 01400003023 of New Delhi Branch) Ghanakshay Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Sadhana (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 5,53,522/- (Rs. Five lakh Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Plot No. B-57, Flat No. G-3, Lig Ground Floor (R H S Back Portion) Shyam Park Extn., Sahilabad Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201009
2.	(LC No. 06000003675 of Lucknow Branch) Amit Pandey (Borrower) Priti Pandey (Co Borrower 1) Indravati Devi (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 11,50,138/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Fifty Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Gata No. 327 Vill Chakhabadur Pur Pargana Tehsil Distt Raibareilly Raibareilly Raibareilly Rae bareilly Uttar Pradesh :- 229001
3.	(LC No. 06000004643 of Lucknow Branch) Sirajuddin Ahmad (Borrower) Tabassum Siddiqui (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 11,92,256/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Six Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Plot No. 4 Khasra No. 1208 Minjuma Gram Madyaon Ward Janki Puram Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226020
4.	(LC No. 09700004720 of Dehradun Branch) Sushil Sharma (Borrower) Babita W/o Sushil Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 10,16,549/- (Rs. Ten lakh Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Khasra No. 181 Situated at Vih Sahlempur Adarsh Vihar Pargana Sultanpur Saharanpur Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 247001
5.	(LC No. 09700005092 of Dehradun Branch) Narendra Singh (Borrower) Harindara Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 1,47,521/- (Rs. One lakh Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty One Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Plot No. 2 Khasra No.20 Std at Village Dargahpur, vikrant Vihar Pgn-saharnpur Saharanpur Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 247001
6.	(LC No. 12000001108 of Varanasi Branch) Onkar Nath Shah (Borrower) Geeta Devi (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 9,53,235/- (Rs. Nine lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Arazi No. 257 Mauza Susuwahi Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh:- 221005
7.	(LC No. 14600001386 of Meerut Branch) Jai Gopal Kukreja (Borrower) Sanjay Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 16,58,751/- (Rs. Sixteen lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty One Rupees) NPA (11-03-2023)	House No. 123 & 124 Block-D Hastinapur Tehsil Mawana Disst. Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh:- 250404
8.	(LC No. 15000003275 of Haldwani Branch) Saket Kumar Saxena (Borrower) Abhishek Saxena (Co Borrower 1) Sangeeta Saxena (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 16,38,188/- (Rs. Sixteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Part of Khasra No. 27 Kha Min Ticket Ganj Tehsil Sadar Rampur Rampur Uttar Pradesh:- 244901
9.	(LC No. 29300001059 of Moradabad Branch) Saket Kumar Saxena (Borrower) Abhishek Saxena (Co Borrower 1) Sangeeta Saxena (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 6,50,939/- (Rs. Six lakh Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Part of Khasra No. 27 Kha Min Ticket Ganj Tehsil Sadar Rampur Rampur Uttar Pradesh:- 244901
10.	(LC No. 19300044276 of Lucknow- Lalbagh Branch) Shiv Shankar Awasthi (Borrower) Shashank Awasthi (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 5,02,637/- (Rs. Five lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Plot on Khasra No. 1175 Minj Std Vill Maunda Pargana Bijnour Tehsil Sarojnagar Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226020
11.	(LC No. 23400001381 of Agra Branch) Manvendra Singh Chauhan (Borrower) Manjulata (Co Borrower 1) Pradeep Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 21,43,513/- (Rs. Twenty One lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	House on Part of Plot No.85 Khasra No. 147 Bharampuri Colony Shamsabad Road Mauza Kahrai Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh:- 282001
12.	(LC No. 23400001974 of Agra Branch) Udayveer (Borrower) Babetta (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 14,38,815/- (Rs. Fourteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen Rupees) NPA (09-07-2023)	Ews House No. B-331 Yamuna Puram Colony Near Sai Mandir Bundshahar, P & T Baran Bulandshahr Bulandshahr Uttar Pradesh:- 203001
13.	(LC No. 23400003204 of Agra Branch) Anand Vardhan Upadhyay (Borrower) Priti Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 30,96,557.36/- (Rs. Thirty lakh Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven Rupees and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (03-01-2023)	Flat No. 302 (Third Floor) Khasra No. 43/2 Krishna Nagar (Near Raja Ka Taal) Mauza Milkikhanjahanpur Firozabad Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 283203
14.	(LC No. 29300001150 of Moradabad Branch) Sanjay Giri (Borrower) Neeraj Goswami (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 6,28,888/- (Rs. Six lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Part of Gata No. 314 Moh Dhakka Sarita Nagar Moradabad Moradabad Uttar Pradesh:- 244001
15.	(LC No. 29400000970 of Allahabad Branch) Pankaj Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Nandini Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 5,00,455/- (Rs. Five lakh Four Hundred Fifty Five Rupees) NPA (09-04-2024)	Part of Gata No. 697 Min, VIII Malikmau Aaima, Pargana Tehsil & Dist Raebareilly Near Patel Nagar Raebareilly Rae bareilly Uttar Pradesh:- 229001
16.	(LC No. 06300002122 of Solapur Branch) Shrishail Malikarjun Vanale (Borrower) Laxmi Shrishail Vhanale (Co Borrower 1) Niranjan Navnath Lende (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 15,68,128/- (Rs. Fifteen lakh Sixty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Rupees) NPA (09-02-2023)	Flat No.103, 1st Floor, Swapnaship - Residency, Sant Dnyeshwar Nagar S.no.20/1 & 21/1/2, Ausa Road Latur Latur Maharashtra :- 413512
17.	(LC No. 14600001120 of Meerut Branch) Umang Chhabra (Borrower) Vishal Chhabra (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 13,47,345/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five Rupees) NPA (11-05-2023)	Second Floor Flat On Plot No. 64 Khasra No.362 Mohalla Kiran City Colony Village Mustafabad Bhopal Road Muzaffar Nagar Muzaffarnagar Uttar Pradesh:- 251001
18.	(LC No. 20000042528 of Noida- sector 2 Branch) Vijay Chauhan (Borrower) Guddi Chohan (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 23,25,521/- (Rs. Twenty Three lakh Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Five Rupees) NPA (03-09-2023)	Plot No. 88/13 New Ward No. 240 New Anand Vihar Village Sadullabad Pargana Loni Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201102
19.	(LC No. 25700000045 of Gorakhpur Branch) Shashi Bhushan Mani Tiwari (Borrower) Mrs Mira (Co Borrower 1)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 5,66,092/- (Rs. Five lakh Sixty Six Thousand Ninety Two Rupees) NPA (09-02-2024)	Arazi Number-600 Mi & 601 Mi, Mauza Jungle Tuli Ram Tappa Haveli, Pargana Haveli Tehsil Sadar, Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh:- 273013
20.	(LC No. 29400000461 of Allahabad Branch) Mohd Israr (Borrower) Shaheedan (Co Borrower 1) Mohammad Salman (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 16,84,046.38/- (Rs. Sixteen lakh Eighty Four Thousand Forty Six Rupees and Thirty Eight Paise) NPA (09-04-2024)	House No. 940, Old 835, Ward No. 5 Ghosiya, Town Area, Mazre Bhanouli Pargana & Tehsil Musafirkhana Near Jama Masjid Amethi Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 227813
21.	(LC No. BLSA00010F7 of Bareilly Branch) Mohd Taki (Borrower) Mohd Danish (Co Borrower 1) Anis Jahan (Co Borrower 2)	22-04-2024/ Rs. 8,79,283/- (Rs. Eight lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Three Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Ward No.08, Moh. Shiv Mandir Bareilly, Near Lajpat Rai Inter College Bareilly Uttar Pradesh:- 243505
22.	(LC No. B0226531 of Mathura Branch) Badan Singh (Borrower) Sarita (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 24,31,426/- (Rs. Twenty four lakh Thirty One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six Rupees) NPA (03-06-2023)	House No. D 44 Khasra No. 30 Pragati Kunj Face 1 Tehsil And Distt Mathura Khasra No. 30 Mauza Ajampur Mathura Near Pragati Kunj Mandir Mathura Uttar Pradesh:- 281006
23.	(LC No. HLSA00002A9 of Agra Branch) Shiv Kumar (Borrower) Kavita Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 11,65,528/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Plot No. 27 Khasra No. 296 Mauja Girdharpur Tehsil and District Mathura Khasra No 296 Mauja Girdharpur Mathura Near Kishori Resort Mathura Uttar Pradesh:- 281004
24.	(LC No. BLSA00007C8D of Aligarh Branch) Ved Mohan Verma (Borrower) Rani Devi (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 14,11,358/- (Rs. Fourteen lakh Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	House Nagar Nigam No.15/155, Situated at Mohalla Sarai Rai, Near Khirni Gate Police Chowki, Pargana Tehsil Koll Distt Aligarh Uttar Pradesh:- 202001
25.	(LC No. BLSA00009D02 of Gonda Branch) Shahenur (Borrower) Mohd Bin Kasim (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 8,87,979/- (Rs. Eight lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Nine Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Plot, Over Gata No-1989 Min, Situated at Mauja-Shahri Chhetra Bahraich Mo. Nazir Pura, R.T.O Office Pargana and Tehsil Anddistrict-Bahraich Uttar Pradesh:- 271801
26.	(LC No. HLSA0000560A of Aligarh Branch) Akeel Khan (Borrower) Asma (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 26,89,171/- (Rs. Twenty Six lakh Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy Nine Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Part of Khet No. 497, 514, 515, Mauja Ramgarh Panjpur, Near Madina Masjid Pargana & Tehsil Koll, District Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh:- 202001
27.	(LC No. HLSA00048BF3 of Moradabad Branch) Toukeer Ahmad (Borrower) Ruksana Na (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 13,74,425/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	House Built on Plot on Khasra No. 257 (Min.), Near Gullar Wali Masjid Situated at Jayantipur Paschimi Moradabad:- 244001
28.	(LC No. BLSA00008C5C of Meerut Branch) Shan Maahmud (Borrower) Rijwana (Co Borrower 1) Jahda (Co Borrower 2) Mohd Faiz (Co Borrower 3) Zunaid (Co Borrower 4)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 17,03,408/- (Rs. Seventeen lakh Three Thousand Four Hundred Eight Rupees) NPA (04-02-2024)	Ward No.-13 New Ward No. 12 Ward No. 13 New Ward No. 12 Kasba Khautili, Par. & Teh.- Khautili & Distt.- Muzaffar Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 251201. Muzaffarnagarlandmark :- Near Caiz Gardencity : Pin: Muzaffarnagar- 251201
29.	(LC No. BLSA0001BF48 of Lucknow- Gomi Nagar Branch) Shikhar Nigam (Borrower) Suman Nigam (Co Borrower 1) Raman Kumar Nigam (Co Borrower 2)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 21,10,214/- (Rs. Twenty one lakh Ten Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Plot No. 13 Pargana- Lucknow Situated at Village- Saipur Jagir Khasra No. 106 Minj. Tehsil- Bakshi Ka Talab & District Lucknow Sant S Ram Inter College Lucknow:- 226021
30.	(LC No. M0093041 of Aligarh Branch) Chinu M (Borrower) Jarina T (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 6,38,613/- (Rs. Six lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Part of Khet No. 2618, Mohalla Sarai Miyan, Near Albar Masjid, Kasba Koll Par. & Teh. Koll Distt- Aligarh Uttar Pradesh:- 202001.
31.	(LC No. M0105142 of Agra Branch) Vijay Singh (Borrower) Kavita Kumari (Co Borrower 1) Satyapal Singh (Co Borrower 2) Chandravir Singh (Guarantor 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 16,22,256/- (Rs. Sixteen lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Six Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Shop/ Gata No. 2048 Lohakarera Runkata Agra Mauza Runkata Kirawalio Agra Mathura Road Agra Near PNB & Parihar Dhaba Agra Uttar Pradesh:- 282007
32.	(LC No. M0106757 of Jhansi Branch) Ashok Kumar (Borrower) Shivam Nagele (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 4,46,960/- (Rs. Four lakh Forty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	As Per House Tax Receipt New No. 1251/1 Mauza Lahar Gird Jhansi Nandanpura Jhansi Near Masjeed Jhansi 284135
33.	(LC No. M0172893 of Aligarh Branch) Vishart Ali (Borrower) Sajid Ali (Co Borrower 1) Shahnaz Begum (Co Borrower 2)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 9,91,869/- (Rs. Nine lakh Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Nine Rupees) NPA (04-04-2024)	Part of Khasra No. 191/3, Situated at Alahadpur Nirvi, Near Nirvi Chauraha Par. & Teh.- Koll Distt- Aligarh:- 202001.
34.	(LC No. M0140160 of Kanpur Branch) Khurshid Alam (Borrower) Khurshida Begum (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 14,42,987/- (Rs. Fourteen lakh Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Rupees) NPA (06-05-2023)	House No. 88/115 (Old) New House No. 88/567 Chamanganj Kanpur Nagar Behind of PNB Bank Near Gurudwara Kanpur Nagar- 208001
35.	(LC No. M0169890 of Delhi- Dwarka Branch) Mohd Mukim (Borrower) Anisa (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2024/ Rs. 11,17,963.92/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three Rupees and Ninety Two Paise) NPA (04-04-2024)	Property Situated at Ward No. 5/3, Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad Khasra No. 21/1, Prem Nagar, Ghaziabadlandmark: Near Arya Nagar, Afgani Masjid/ Ice Factorycity; Pin: Ghaziabad:-201102

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 22-05-2024
Place: Uttar Pradesh
Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

Anti-Terrorism Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Anti-Terrorism Day was observed on Tuesday to mark the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) under the chairmanship of General Manager (GM) Sushil Kumar Srivastava. The day was also observed at the Lahartara located office of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) under the chairmanship of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava. Besides, the Congress workers paid floral tribute by cleaning and washing the statue of Rajiv Gandhi at Town Hall in Maidigan area. In BLW the GM administered the oath to the officers and employees in the reception hall of the Administration Building. Addressing the employees he said the day aims to raise awareness about the destructive nature of terrorism and promote a world characterised by harmony, brotherhood, peace, unity and humanity. "This day also reminds us of our collective responsibility to unite against terrorism and work towards fostering a society that upholds these values", he said. At NER divisional office



the officers and employees pledged to fight against all forms of terrorism and violence. Speaking on the occasion, the DRM stressed the need to awaken the society about the sufferings being caused to the public due to terrorism and violence and the adverse effects on national interests apart from inculcating the feeling of national unity and integrity. Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM/ Operation) Rajesh Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE/Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Finance Manager (SDFM) Preeti Verma, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM) Ajay Pratap Singh, Senior Divisional Safety Officer (SDSO) Balendra Paul, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (SDEE/General) Pankaj Kesharwani, SDEE (Traction) RN Singh, SDEE (Operation) Anil Srivastava, Divisional



Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra and many others were present. Meanwhile Prof Anil Kumar Upadhyay while presiding over a programme of Congress workers at Maidigan, said by giving the right to vote to 18 year old youth, Rajiv showed a new path to the role of youth in India and saved the neighbouring war-torn country Sri Lanka from becoming a puppet of other nations by sending Indian Peace Keeping Force there for which he had to pay the price with his life. Dr Umapati Upadhyay said Rajiv was the father of computer and mobile revolution in India. District party vice-president and former corporator Dr Jitendra Seth said it was due to the leadership and vision of Rajiv that India has become economically and politically prosperous on the international stage. Pramod Srivastava, Sushil Sonkar, Sushil Singh Bacha, Anisur Rahman Ansari and many others were also present.

VDO murdered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A village development officer (VDO) was murdered while sleeping in Kannauj late on Monday night. His brother and son took him to a hospital where he was declared dead by the doctors. His kin did not divulge details of issue. The police have a started probe in the matter. Reports said that Ajay Pal Singh of Karmullapur under Chhibramau Kotwali police area, was a VDO in Saurikh Block. Around 11 pm when he was fast asleep in his room, unidentified persons killed him by slitting his throat with a sharp-edged weapon. On coming to know about the incident, elder son Sidharth Rajput informed his uncle and both took him to a hospital where he was declared dead by the doctors. The hospital administration informed the police about the incident and sent the body to the mortuary. Deceased is survived by two sons Sidharth and Aman and a daughter Nidhi Rajput. Kotwali incharge Jitendra Pratap Singh said a probe was on in the matter. As there were bite marks on the body of the elder son Sidharth and abrasion marks on his neck, chest and back, police suspect the involvement of kin in the killing of the man. He said the investigation is being done taking every aspect into consideration.

Newcomers in legal fraternity felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Newcomers in legal fraternity, after passing AIBE, were felicitated at a function organised by the Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti in the Kanpur Bar Association hall on

Tuesday. KBA president Pramod Dwivedi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, felicitated as many as 79 newcomers. Dwivedi advised the newcomers to visit the court with the knowledge of latest legal arrangements to become

a famous lawyer. He asked them to keep on studying more and more on the subject. Former president of The Lawyers Association Pt Ravindra Sharma also spoke on the occasion. Arvind Dixit proposed the vote of thanks.

Dr Yashasvi selected as YOU council member

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dr Yashasvi Singh, assistant professor, Department of Urology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), has been selected as Council Member for Youth Organisation of Urological Society of India (YOU) for the year 2024 - 25. A total of eight seats were present nationwide and among them two were from the North Zone chapter of USI. YOU is a young society which was started four years back from Urological Society of India to fulfil the aspirations and work for betterment of young urology doctors and to work for patients at grassroots. It's the first time that anyone from Purvanchal region has been selected for the prestigious post.

Dr Yashasvi's selection comes as a testament to his exemplary contribution to the field of urology and his unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare in the region. Dr Yashasvi graduated in general surgery from Maulana Azad Medical college and went on to pursue MCh urology from GMC GUWAHATI. He is also a MIUC fellow from KKCC Erode, Tamil Nadu. His area of specialisation is uroonology. He was also a part of the transplant team in the recently conducted renal transplant in BHU.

Man strangled by son over property dispute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A retired sub-inspector (S-I) was strangled by his elder son over property dispute in Bhartauli village under Moosanagar police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Monday evening. His body was recovered on the outskirts of the village near a cowshed.

The wife of his younger son lodged an FIR alleging the involvement of her brother-in-law in the killing. The police have taken the accused into custody and started quizzing him. According to a report, Khushiram (72) lived with the wife of his younger son in a house near Mandi Parishad. On Monday around 2 pm, he had gone to the village for some work. Around 5 pm his body was recovered near a cowshed on the roadside of the village. SP BBGTs Murthy, ASP Rajesh Pandey and Circle Officer (CO) Bhognipur Devendra Singh rushed to the spot and carried out investigation. Premalata daughter-in-law of the deceased informed that her husband Pramod had died in 2018. Thereafter, her father-in-law had started living with her by constructing a house near Mandi Parishad. She has two daughters Vaishnavi, Kirti and two sons Yash and Harsh. Her father-in-law owned about 11 bighas of land. After death of her husband, father-in-law had transferred nine bighas of land in the name of her sons Harsh and Yash which made her brother-in-law Hemant Kumar

angry. Differences were going on in the family over this issue for the past several days.

A heated argument had taken place on Monday morning too. SP BBGTs Murthy said accused Hemant Kumar had been taken into custody. During quizzing, he said his father had transferred the land to the sons of his widowed daughter-in-law. His father had gone to hand over the remaining land for farming on sharing basis and on protest he argued with him. Due to this he strangled his father with the gamchha, he informed.

DRIVER KILLED: A truck driver was killed when his vehicle rammmed into a tractor-trolley from behind on the Rind river bridge near Raipur village under Akbarpur Kotwali police station area of Kanpur Dehat late on Monday night. The seriously injured driver was taken to the district hospital by an ambulance where doctors declared him dead. The truck was going towards Akbarpur from Kanpur when it rammmed into a tractor-trolley laden with the iron angle. A resident of Kanpur passing that way informed the police at dial-112 and the ambulance. EMT Ram Mohan of Rania ambulance took him to the district hospital. Dr Sriprakash on emergency duty declared him dead. After sending the body to mortuary, hospital administration informed the police. SO Rania Mahendra Patel said efforts are on to ascertain identity of the deceased.

16-year-old girl drowns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A 16-year-old girl who went to bathe in a canal in Jaswan village under Handia Kotwali died due to drowning in deep water here. When the villagers saw the girl's body floating, they informed the family members.

According to a report the incident occurred when while bathing the girl went into deep water. When she was not seen for a long time the people nearby informed her family. After this the villagers and family kept searching for the girl for several hours in the canal, but without any success. When the villagers saw the body of the girl in the canal near the culvert of Purnathuradas village, the villagers informed the family members.

Nation's strength resides in its ability to leverage its heritage: MoS Defence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt on Tuesday said here the strength of a country resides not only in its military might but also in its ability to adapt to changing circumstances and leverage its cultural heritage as a source of power. He made this assertion while addressing an event at the National Museum to mark the culmination of Project Udbhav, which aims to promote indigenous discourse

in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen into a contemporary military domain with a focus on making the force "future-ready". The project is a collaboration of the Indian Army and Delhi-based think-tank United Service Institution of India (USI). Praising the Army and USI, Bhatt said, "The aim of this project envisioned by USI is to find invaluable insights into our strategic culture by finding ancient texts and oral traditions... The geopolitical landscape is continuously

evolving and it is necessary for our armed forces to be adaptive and innovative in their thinking." In his address, the minister also praised the ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which was part of the tagline used by India during its year-long presidency of the G20. "The ancient principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'... Has transcended cultural boundaries and become a guiding light in international diplomacy," Bhatt said. Bhatt said in the last decade,



the government of India has started a significant journey towards promoting indigenisation initiatives in various areas. "Today, we are nearly atmanirbhar, we are progressing to become fully self-reliant in future. And, Project Udbhav is going to play an important role in this," the minister said. "There is a need to honestly make efforts to imbibe Indian thoughts and values even in our works and decisions. The dream of 'Viksit Bharat' can only be realised when we

fully understand the priceless wisdom of our ancient past and implement it contextually in shaping modern ambitions and policies," he said. The event was also attended by Army Chief General Manoj Pande and other senior officials of the force. Bhatt further said that by delving into India's ancient texts and traditions, Project Udbhav "not only enriches our understanding of strategic culture but also lends a valuable discerning thinking on unconventional war strategies, diplomatic tradi-

tions, and moral thoughts in a war". Bhatt also said India's history is an amalgamation of different thoughts and accomplishments which is a source of inspiration not only for Indians but also for people around the world. Bhatt also inaugurated an exhibition themed on the 'Evolution of Indian Military Systems, Warfighting, and Strategic Thought -- from Antiquity to Independence', which showcases the evolution of India's military systems and strategy.

VP Dhankhar to represent India at Raisi's funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

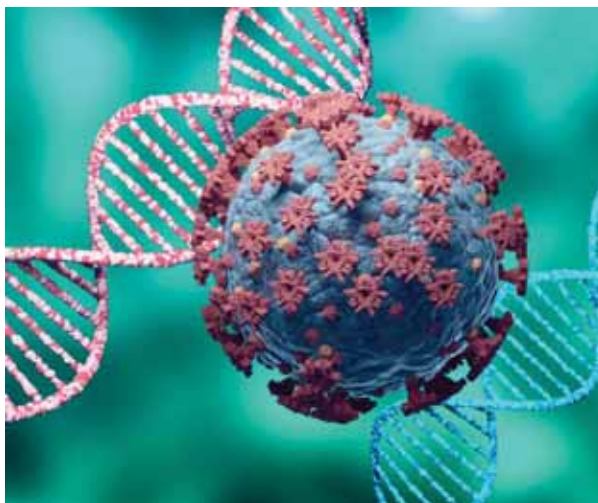
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar is likely to represent India at the funeral of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, sources said on Tuesday. They said Dhankhar is likely to leave for Iran on Wednesday. A one-day state mourning is being observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Raisi. The Iranian president, the country's foreign minister and several other officials were found dead on Monday, hours after their helicopter crashed in a foggy, mountainous region in the northwestern part of the country, Iran state media reported. Raisi, 63, and his entourage were heading to the city of Tabriz after returning from a visit to a locality on the Azerbaijan-Iran border on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Congress president Malliarjun Kharge on Monday expressed shock and sadness at the demise of Iranian President Raisi. Modi said "India stands

with Iran in this time of sorrow." Prime Minister Modi said "Deeply saddened and shocked by the tragic demise of Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Modi said on X. "His contribution to strengthening India-Iran bilateral relationship will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Iran. India stands with Iran in this time of sorrow," the prime minister said. India stands with the people of Iran at this time of tragedy, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said while expressing shock over the death of Iranian President Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. "Deeply shocked to hear of the passing away of Iran's President Dr Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister H. Amir-Abdollahian in the helicopter crash," Jaishankar said on X. "Recall my many meetings with them, most recently in January 2024. Our condolences to their families. We stand with the people of Iran at time of this tragedy," he said.

Surge in new COVID 19 variants: No reason to panic, says Health Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst surge in sub-lineages of COVID-19 — 290 cases of KP.2 and 34 cases of KP.1 in India—the Union Health Ministry here has clarified that they are all sub-variants of JN.1, with no associated increase in hospitalisation or severe cases. It also stressed that mutations are expected in viruses like SARS-CoV-2. "So there is no reason for concern or panic. The mutations will keep happening at a rapid pace and this is the natural behaviour of viruses like SARS-CoV2," said a senior official from the Ministry. Singapore is seeing a new COVID-19 wave as the authorities recorded more than 25,900 cases from May 5 to 11 with KP.1 and KP.2 accounting for over two-thirds of cases in that country. However, the officials here said that there was nothing to worry as the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) surveillance is sensitive and is able to pick up the emergence of any new variant and samples are also picked from hospitals in a structured manner to detect any change in the severity of disease due to virus.



Data compiled by the INSACOG showed that 34 cases of KP.1 have been found across seven states and UTs with 23 cases registered from West Bengal. The other states are Goa (1), Gujarat (2), Haryana (1), Maharashtra (4) Rajasthan (2) and Uttarakhand (1). As many as 290 cases of KP.2 have been registered with Maharashtra reporting the highest number at 148, according to the data. The other states and Union territories are Delhi (1), Goa (12), Gujarat (23), Haryana (3), Karnataka (4), Madhya Pradesh (1), Odisha (17),

Rajasthan (21), Uttar Pradesh (8), Uttarakhand (16) and West Bengal (36). Globally, the predominant COVID-19 variants are still JN.1 and its sub-lineages, including KP.1 and KP.2. KP.1 and KP.2 belong to a group of COVID-19 variants scientists have nicknamed 'FLiRT', after the technical names of their mutations. The strains in FLiRT are all descendants of the JN.1 variant, an offshoot of the Omicron variant. KP.2 was classified by the World Health Organization as a Variant Under Monitoring.

Rajnath slams Rahul at rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BOKARO (JHARKHAND)/NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday attacked Rahul Gandhi, questioning whether a leader who has been "praised by the enemy" be allowed to form the Government. Singh, while addressing an election rally in Jharkhand's Bokaro, was referring to former Pakistan Minister Fawad Hussain Chaudhry's praise for the Congress leader. "Former Pakistan minister Fawad Hussain Chaudhry, who had claimed that Pakistani terrorists were behind Pulwama and Uri attacks, had not praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi but had praised Rahul Gandhi with comments such as 'Rahul on fire'." "I want to ask you (people) whether such a leader who has been praised by the enemy be respected or allowed to form the government? Which direction do they want to take the country? I appeal to everyone to save the country," Singh said. Chaudhry, who was a minister in the Imran Khan government in Pakistan, had shared a video featuring Rahul Gandhi on X, with a caption 'Rahul on fire'. Singh asserted that "no force on earth" can prevent the estab-



lishment of 'Ram Rajya' in India. Singh said that under the Congress rule, banks ran into losses but under the BJP government, all banks recorded huge profits. He also attacked the Congress, stating that the grand old party was promising reservations on the basis of religion, which is not permissible under the Constitution. Singh said all prime ministers of the Congress had promised to eradicate poverty and failed but under Modi rule, 25 crore people have been brought out of poverty. Attacking the JMM-led alliance and jailed former chief minister Hemant Soren for "plunder of wealth", he said corruption peaked in Jharkhand under the present regime and without the CM's

patronage it was not possible. He appealed to the people to show the "exit door" to the ruling coalition in the state. "The CM who mysteriously went missing for 24 hours, which is unprecedented in India's history, is languishing in jail," he said, while referring to Hemant Soren. Singh said although INDIA bloc accuses BJP of misusing ED and CBI against opposition but these agencies could seize only Rs 32 lakh under the previous Congress regime, whereas under Modi government, they seized Rs 1 lakh crore besides property worth Rs 22,000 crore. "In our party, if any worker or leader is found indulged in corruption, he will be sent to jail. Nobody could raise an accusing finger at any of the CMs of BJP-ruled states," he added.

Need to create joint culture of three services, says CDS Chauhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday called upon the three services to create a joint culture as they move towards forming Joint Operational Structures to fight modern day war. Speaking here on "Jointmanship : The Way Ahead" as part of 22nd Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture organised at United Service Institution (USI), the CDS termed developing Joint Culture in Armed Forces as Jointness 2.0, which is the way forward. General Chauhan said Jointness 1.0 was about better bonhomie and consensus among the services, and as there were no major differences, there is an impetus to move towards the next level of jointness which is Jointness 2.0. Acknowledging the distinct culture of all the three Services,



the CDS underscored that there was a need to create a fourth culture in the services. "Joint Culture though different from Service specific Culture, needs to respect the uniqueness of each service. We must be able to distill the best of each service, and incorporate the Highest Common Factor, rather than settle for the Least Common Denominator," said the Chief of Defence Staff. He mentioned various initia-

tives of symbology that were being processed towards fostering the Joint Culture, including Tri-Services participation in national events. The CDS termed Jointness and Integration as pre-requisites to the creation of functional Integrated Theatre Commands, and explained the significance of such Commands. "The creation of such commands will separate the 'operational' functions from the Raise-Train-

Sustain (RTS) and other administrative functions, and will allow greater focus of the operational commander to matters of security," he said. The CDS said the Theatre Commands will not be an end state but the beginning of the next set of reforms. He said, Integrated Theatre Commands will lead to many reforms like Single to Multi Domain operations, fusing space and cyber space into traditional domains, digitisation of battlefield information and visualisation, net centric to data centric among others. Stressing that the reforms in Indian defence eco-system are necessary, the CDS said, nation states across the globe are facing a new set of challenges, and current flux in world order is forcing nations to review their security strategies. The rapid and unbridled march of technology is transforming the way future wars will be fought, he added.

Modi, Congress pay tributes to Rajiv on death anniversary



Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi pay tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary at Veer Bhumi, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary. India's Prime Minister between 1984 and

1989, Rajiv was assassinated by LTTE cadres at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu in 1991 during an election campaign. "On his death anniversary, my tributes to our former PM Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji," Modi said in a post on X. The Congress leaders also paid tributes to Rajiv.

Baggage delivery time improves at major airports in last four months in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The baggage delivery time at Delhi, Mumbai and four other major airports has improved significantly in the last four months, with more than 90 per cent of the passengers getting their baggage arriving within 30 minutes of an aircraft landing. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also advised all domestic and international airlines operating at other airports to improve baggage delivery timings. "From 62.2 per cent of passengers getting on-time baggage delivery in January, the number increased to more than 90 per cent from March 2024 onwards...The percentages of bags arriving within 30 mins has reached a high of 92.5 per cent in May 2024," the Ministry said. In January, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) start-

ed an exercise to boost the baggage delivery system of the domestic airlines at the country's six major airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The exercise under the aegis of the civil aviation ministry was started after it was noticed that baggage was getting delivered late after the landing of a plane. As per the global standards prescribed by IATA (International Air Transport Association) and the provision under the OMDA (Operation, Management and Development Agreement) with airports, baggage should be delivered to passengers within 30 minutes of the arrival of the aircraft. In a release on Tuesday, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said that when the exercise was started on January 14, only 62.2 per cent of the passengers were getting their baggage within IATA-prescribed timelines.

Disturbed sleep, hallucinations warning signs of onset of lupus: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Mental health and neurological symptoms such as disturbed dream sleep, hallucinations or depression and loss of balance may act as a warning signal for the onset of autoimmune disease such as lupus, also known as Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), according to an international research team. Lupus is an autoimmune inflammatory disease known for its effect on many organs, including the brain. The team led by researchers at the University of Cambridge and King's College London in the UK, maintained that such symptoms can act as an early warning sign that an individual is approaching a "flare," where their disease worsens for a period. For the study, they surveyed 676 people living with lupus and 400 clinicians, as well as carried out detailed interviews with 69 people living



with systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (including lupus) and 50 clinicians. The results, published in the journal eClinicalMedicine, showed that disrupted dream sleep was the most common symptom experienced by three in five patients. Of these, a third went on to develop lupus disease a year

later. Just less than one in four patients reported hallucinations, seen in 85 per cent of people with lupus. Further, three in five lupus patients and one in three with other rheumatology-related conditions also reported increasingly disrupted dreaming sleep - usually vivid and distressing nightmares -

just before their hallucinations. The patients reported that the nightmares were often vivid and distressing, involving being attacked, trapped, crushed, or falling. Melanie Sloan from Cambridge University called on doctors to speak to their patients about these types of symptoms and write down each patient's progression. "Patients often know which symptoms are a bad sign that their disease is about to flare, but both patients and doctors can be reluctant to discuss mental health and neurological symptoms, particularly if they don't realise that these can be a part of autoimmune diseases," said Melanie, the lead author from the varsity's Department of Public Health and Primary Care. Dr Rudrarpan Chatterjee and Dr Amita Aggarwal, both from Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow in

a separate review published in ScienceDirect last year noted that while the lupus is treatable, most patients in India bear healthcare costs as out of pocket expenses. "While this has been recently addressed by a new policy (Ayushman Bharat scheme) that offers low-cost insurance at the national level to everyone within the social security scheme of the Indian Government, a lot of rheumatological conditions at present do not have coverage under this scheme." The review titled, 'Challenges in the diagnosis and management of SLE in India', further attributed the lack of financial aid to the rare nature of these diseases and a lack of awareness even in policy making circles. "Though SLE has recently been included in this scheme, the benefits are available only once the diagnosis is made and only for inpatient care." Researchers estimate that over 1 million cases of Lupus are diagnosed in India every year.

NIA files chargesheet against pro Khalistani Arshdeep, three others

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed charge sheet against Canada-based pro-Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Singh and three of his aides for being part of a conspiracy to unleash terror attacks in various parts of Punjab and Delhi, the agency Tuesday said. The action marks a big leap in NIA's efforts to destroy sleeper cells operated by Singh alias Arsh Dala to unleash terrorist attacks in various parts of Punjab and Delhi, it said. "Canada-based Arshdeep Singh alias Arsh Dala and his Indian agents Harjeet Singh alias Harry Maur, Ravinder Singh alias Rajvinder Singh alias Harry Rajpura, and Rajeev Kumar alias Sheela have been charge sheeted before the NIA Special Court, New Delhi (on Monday)," said the statement issued by the anti-terror agency.



The three aides were running a major terror-gangster syndicate in India on the directions of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) terrorist Dala. Accused Maur and Rajpura were operating as sleeper cells and were being harboured by Rajeev Kumar, and the trio had planned to carry out a series of terror attacks on Dala's directions and with funds received from him, the NIA said. While Maur and Rajpura were the gang's shooters and had the mandate of executing targeted killings, Rajeev Kumar alias

Sheela was receiving funding from Arsh Dala for harbouring Harry Maur and Harry Rajpura, the statement said. NIA investigations have further revealed that Kumar was also providing logistics support and arranging weapons for the other two on the instructions of Dala. The probe agency had arrested Maur and Rajpura on November 23, 2023 and Kumar on January 12, 2024. "Investigations are continuing to destroy the entire terrorist-gangster syndicate," the NIA added.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Iran at crossroads

Ebrahim Raisi leaves behind a rich legacy and an uncertain future for his country

Iran is grappling with an unprecedented political crisis as both President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian were tragically found dead in a helicopter crash under mysterious circumstances. The sudden loss of these key figures has plunged Iran into uncertainty, creating a significant leadership void and fuelling various speculations and conspiracy theories. Raisi, known for his hardline stance and involvement in controversial actions, leaves behind a complex legacy. His death, alongside Amir-Abdollahian, not only creates a leadership void but also raises questions about the trajectory of Iranian politics and foreign relations. The circumstances surrounding the helicopter crash, which occurred in heavy fog near the Azerbaijan border, have fuelled speculation. Given Raisi's past, including his involvement in mass executions in 1988 and some contentious actions such as uranium enrichment and missile attacks on Israel, the possibility of foul play cannot be easily dismissed. Conspiracy theories abound, ranging from internal power struggles to foreign interference.



President Raisi had numerous domestic adversaries, from moderates marginalised by his policies to conservatives critical of his presidency. Israel, a long-standing rival of Iran, also enters the conjecture. Recent escalations, including the assassination of an Iranian General by Israel and subsequent missile exchanges, add fuel to speculations of Israeli involvement. Mossad has conducted such operations, but assassinating a head of state is a risky move even by Israel's standards. Both Israel and US Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer have denied involvement.

The big question is Raisi's succession and Iran's trajectory going forward. Md Mokhber has been appointed the Acting President, while Ali Bagheri Kani, who was Deputy Foreign Minister, has been elevated in the Ministry. The election date has been set for June 28. Raisi was a hardliner cleric but by no means a saint. During the summer of 1988, Raisi was a key member of the "Death Commission" responsible for the execution of thousands of political prisoners, primarily members of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (MEK) and other leftist groups. A prominent figure in Iran's power structure, Raisi was poised for further advancement until his horrifying death. While his demise creates speculation about the successor to Supreme Leader 85-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, it's unlikely to significantly alter Iran's political trajectory. The conservative-dominated system will prioritise continuity and stability, albeit amidst internal jockeying for influence. Raisi's successor faces a daunting agenda amid economic turmoil and societal discontent, with the spectre of continued international sanctions looming large. With internal dissent simmering and external pressures mounting, the succession process becomes pivotal. The coming days will decide if any discernible change takes place or if the old order continues where moderates and leftists have no role to play.

PICTALK



A man feeds a parrot's chick that fell off a tree, in Guwahati

The rise of online internships for students

Students are opting for online internships to gain practical experience, develop crucial skills and prepare themselves for the evolving job market

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, students are increasingly recognising the importance of proactive engagement in shaping their future careers. Embracing the adage of "building a door" to their professional aspirations, school students are turning to online internships as a means to gain valuable experiential learning opportunities and prepare themselves for the dynamic job market that awaits them upon graduation. Online internships have witnessed a surge in relevance in recent years, offering school students an array of benefits that extend beyond traditional in-person placements. **Flexibility and Accessibility:** Unlike traditional internships with fixed schedules, online internships provide students with a flexible work environment tailored to accommodate their schedules. This flexibility allows them to optimise productivity according to their peak hours of concentration while balancing other commitments such as classes or extracurricular activities. Additionally, the absence of commute time associated with virtual internships fur-



ther enhances students' ability to dedicate time to their roles. **Skill Development :** Engaging in tasks aligned with their field of interest, interns acquire practical experience and hone essential competencies crucial for professional success. By demonstrating initiative and self-reliance in completing assigned projects remotely, interns showcase their readiness to thrive in diverse work environments. These experiences not only deepen their expertise but also bolster their resumes, setting them apart in competitive job markets. **Access to Talent Beyond Geographical Boundaries:** Online internships offer employers access to a diverse pool of talent unrestricted by geographical boundaries. This expanded reach enriches organisations with diverse perspectives, skills and cultur-

al insights, fostering innovation and collaboration within teams. Additionally, it prepares companies for the evolving dynamics of the modern workforce by developing remote work capabilities. **Exploration of Career Paths:** Online internships serve as a platform for students to explore different career paths and gain insight into various industries. This exploration phase allows students to clarify their interests, identify strengths and weaknesses and make informed decisions about their future career goals. **Networking Opportunities:** Despite being remote, online internships provide students with networking opportunities that can be instrumental in their career development. Interacting with professionals within their chosen industry, connecting with fellow interns and building relationships with mentors and supervisors can lead to mentorship opportunities, job referrals and valuable insights into industry trends. **Innovative Learning Experiences:** Through interactive projects, virtual meet-

ings and online training sessions, online internships offer innovative learning experiences that complement traditional classroom education. These immersive experiences bridge the gap between theory and practice, fostering critical thinking. **Cultural Exposure:** Working with colleagues from diverse backgrounds exposes students to different perspectives, communication styles and work cultures, enriching their understanding of the global economy's interconnectedness. Engaging in online internships significantly boosts students' resumes and bolsters their prospects for future employment. These experiences serve as tangible evidence of their initiative, adaptability and capacity to thrive in dynamic work environments, positioning them as desirable candidates poised for success in their chosen career paths. Thus, online internships not only enrich students' skill sets but also empower them to navigate the complexities of the modern job market. (The author is the Founder, Zamit; views are personal)



AARUL MALVIYA

Can AAP survive its ultimate resilience test?

As Kejriwal presents himself as an underdog fighting against perceived persecution, this election will be pivotal in determining the trajectory of both his career and the AAP



KALYANI SHANKAR

Delhi's Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, has overcome numerous obstacles in the past decade. Yet, his unwavering resilience has been a beacon of inspiration. He and his party are currently facing the biggest crisis in the liquor policy case. Despite the challenges, Kejriwal's political journey is a testament to his indomitable spirit. From a brief 49-day tenure and losing all seven seats in Delhi in 2014, he orchestrated a remarkable comeback, securing 67 out of 70 seats in the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls. The arrest of Kejriwal in the Delhi liquor policy case last month, which involves allegations of corruption and misuse of power, has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the future of the Aam Aadmi Party. Will this be the end of the party's road, or can they weather this storm and continue their political journey?



The Apex court's decision to grant bail to Kejriwal, allowing him to campaign for his party in the ongoing elections, is a beacon of hope for Kejriwal's supporters. This positive development paves the way for Kejriwal's success, especially if he garners public sympathy. Kejriwal presents himself as the underdog, highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged persecution and his colleagues' imprisonment. Kejriwal and his party have been trying to show the public how he was mistreated in prison and how he was denied insulin and his diabetes medication. Kejriwal's arrest is the biggest crisis for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) since its founding in November 2012. The party has faced numerous challenges, including internal conflicts, allegations of corruption and the need to maintain its image as a party for the common man. Over the years, many of Kejriwal's associates from the India Against Corruption (IAC) days have been dumped and he remains a des[er]v[er]. Kejriwal has introduced a personality cult centred around him. The Aam Aadmi Party's rise to power has been quite dramatic.

It originated from the India Against Corruption movement led by Anna Hazare in 2012. The party came into power within months, but Kejriwal's resignation within 48 hours was unsurprising. However, he returned in 2015 and 2019, winning the Delhi Assembly polls with a significant majority. These events have sparked curiosity about the party's political trajectory and Kejriwal's resilience. Kejriwal has always been ambitious. He positioned himself as a prime ministerial candidate and even ran against Modi in Benares in 2014 but lost. This bold move significantly boosted Kejriwal's and his party's profile. In the recently formed INDIA coalition, a significant political alliance that aims to challenge the dominance of the BJP, the AAP stands out as the only party other than Congress to rule more than one State. This alliance could pave the way for his party's expansion beyond Delhi and Punjab. However, currently, AAP will have a significant political impact in only 20 constituencies. Kejriwal's national influ-



THE AAM AADMI PARTY IS NOT JUST A POLITICAL ENTITY. IT IS POISED TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY CONGRESS AND TARGET POLITICALLY BIPOLAR STATES LIKE HIMACHAL PRADESH, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT

ence depends on his party's performance. The AAP currently holds one seat in the Lok Sabha and ten in the Upper House. The party has expanded its influence to other States and was granted national party status in April 2023. The Aam Aadmi Party's rise to power in Indian politics is fascinating. Unlike the BJP or the Left parties, it has no solid ideological stance. It has not relied on regional or socialist backgrounds like the AIADMK, DMK, Samajwadi Party, Biju Janata Dal, or Rashtriya Janata Dal. Instead, it has gained power by championing development and the freebie culture. The AAP is now contesting elections in Delhi with the Congress party, while Punjab is contesting 13 seats independently. These alliances offer a promising outlook for Kejriwal's political journey. The Aam Aadmi Party is not just a political entity. It is poised to fill the void left by Congress and target politically bipolar States like Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Modi has promised a "Modi ki guarantee," while Kejriwal

has outlined a ten-point agenda. This agenda includes "freeing" Indian land from Chinese occupation if the I.N.D.I.A. bloc forms the Government at the Centre, attaining Statehood for Delhi, ensuring a 24/7 power supply and providing free education. These promises reflect Kejriwal's focus on national issues. The Delhi liquor policy case has become inconvenient for the AAP and convenient for the BJP as elections are underway. It raises questions like, is it the end of the road? Can the second rung of leaders like Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bhardwaj, Sandeep Pathak, Raghav Chadha and Atishi Run the party, or will Kejriwal, with his usual luck, return? Kejriwal is optimistic and hopes that luck will be on his side. This positive outlook has served him well so far. His popularity will rise if his party secures a respectable number of seats in the current Lok Sabha polls. Only the voters can decide and their decision will shape the future of Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party in Indian politics. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MALIWAL CASE

Madam — Apropos the editorial, "An Intricate Puzzle," published on May 20. Wherein the Pioneer has truly asserted that the incident is likely to have ramifications beyond immediate political dynamics, potentially influencing voter perception and future elections. The cases booked under IPC Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 354D (stalking), filing the FIR under sections 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 509 (word, gesture or intent to insult) against Bibhav Kumar aide Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the attack on Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal reflect seriousness. Picking up Bibhav Kumar from the official residence of the Chief Minister and seizing CCTV, DVR, mobile etc. can prove helpful in revealing the secrets of the crime. But it seems that as part of a conspiracy, Bibhav Kumar was hiding at Chief Minister Kejriwal's house and was engaged in destroying the evidence. Delhi Police should make every effort to collect crime data by using the latest digital technology and present concrete evidence before the court. So that the perpetrators of this serious crime can be punished as per the rule of the law.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

RISING LIFE EXPECTANCY

Madam — An individual's life span is dictated by a myriad of factors. According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, global life expectancy is expected to increase by 4.9 years in men and 4.2 years in women by the year 2050. From 73.6 in 2022, there may be a jump to 78.1 in 2050. This trend will tend to be more exemplified in nations with a history of very low life expectancy. It is no secret that nowadays people are more cautious about their health. While diseases and disorders have taught them lessons, mortality and morbidity around them have disciplined their lives. Past pandemics, in particular COVID-19, have instilled a sense of fear

Secularism over politics



Apropos the news article, "Economic crisis takes a backseat in elections", published on May 20, this is my response. It is a pity that religion rather than economic issues take the stage in the election campaign for the ruling party at the Centre in our secular country. Earlier in feudalism, a king or a feudal lord used to favour his religion over other religions. History witnessed that such a practice spelt disaster on every occasion. The people felt the need for a complete separa-

tion of religion from politics. This gave birth to secularism. All modern progressive nations have embraced secularism after learning how painful it would be to deviate from its path. Mixing religion and politics destroys accountability, enables corruption and favours one religion over others, undermining democracy. Politicians should be elected based on policy, not religion and churches should focus on spirituality, not politics. It divides the citizens and damages the unity and integrity of the country. It does not allow the policymakers to follow the progressive ideals of equality and fraternity. Rather, it attracts negative things such as discrimination, marginalisation, conflict and unrest. Some of our neighbouring countries have experienced the danger of not walking in the path of secularism. India must follow secularism and let religion be a personal matter between God and a person.

Sujit De | Kolkata

as well as responsibility in them like never before.

An extended lifespan increases susceptibility to non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes and hypertension. As life expectancy in India is projected to rise, addressing behavioural and metabolic risks is crucial for healthy aging over the next two decades. Health outcomes can be significantly improved by efficiently addressing the risk factors. Furthermore, a safe environment and adequate vaccination can go a long way.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

HAPPINESS IS A SKILL

Madam — Apropos the feature article, "Connecting the Mind and Body," by Ravi Valluri, published on May 20, this is my response. Happiness is a skill that human beings must teach themselves. A lot of people spend so much time ruminating about the past or thinking about the future that they forget to enjoy the most beautiful gift they have received from God—the present moment. Our society is structured in a way that keeps reminding us of our

failures in the past and makes us anxious about our future. We need to consciously make efforts to silence our minds by incorporating daily practices into our daily routines. Spending time in nature is one of the best-known ways to reconnect with your inner self. Meditating for 20 - 30 minutes daily can also provide you with a treasure trove of peace. Journaling can help you manage your emotions and teach you to focus on the present moment. Expressing gratitude to loved ones for being a part of your lives also goes a long way in nurturing the relationships you have with people that eventually become a source of joy for you. Exercising daily is also a good way to take care of your health. Staying away from social media and all the unrealistic expectations it imposes on you is imperative. All these practices when done every day can help you augment your happiness levels and enjoy life to the fullest.

Charvi Kathuria | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

SPIRITUALITY CAN HELP US AVOID DEAD ENDS

Through spiritual purity, we can rise above limitations and obstacles



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We all end in death, i.e. our material bodies must die at some time in future, but we should avoid a dead end also, i.e. that leads to something not so good. We, souls, will go on in new bodies, but the problem is in what bodies and where. Are we going to a place where there is perpetual unrest? There are many areas in the world, which are in perpetual turmoil. Place of birth is one problem. Then, in what bodies are we born? Even in human bodies, there can be many handicaps like deformities, genetic defects and surely not-so-good looks, personality, level of intelligence, etc. There is a world of difference between ourselves and our material bodies. We, souls, are journeying eternally in various bodies, but our bodies have limited lifespans only. This thought should be uppermost in our minds. We should try to make sure that we make progress and avoid our end in a worse situation, condition, form or State.

Let us see how we can ensure it. We, souls, are parts of God. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7) What does this mean? That we are very special, being parts of God. Imagine being the son of a very rich and cultured person. God is infinitely superior than any parent can be. God will always be favourable to us if we take His shelter because we have free will. In the case of parents, we receive shelter automatically, but in the case of God, it is a matter of choice. It shouldn't be too difficult to make this choice, but it is. Why? Taking shelter requires some basics. We must give up our egos; we need to do spiritual practices to qualify for God's attention. There is another big problem. Our lives are almost entirely controlled by our fate, which is what we have accumulated in our previous life/lives. One may question this premise. Yes, there is free will and liberty to do what we desire, feel or decide. But all these are controlled by our natures, which again are parts of our fate. What is the evidence? A person given to get angry readily continues to do so throughout his life, unless God intervenes on his or her behalf. And God wouldn't unless we take His shelter. Where does it leave us? In not a pleasant place. Life will go on almost automatically with not much improvement.



Are we doomed? We are not. God is very kind; He has left an opening for us; we just have to get started. We must have a desire. God has arranged to preach everywhere. If we bother to go and listen, we will be convinced. And the start is very simple. We just need to become better in whatever we do, not just in our work. In spiritual parlance, we must try to increase the mode of goodness in ourselves. Our whole being is made up of three modes, which are goodness, passion and darkness. They are in different percentages, with the mode of passion being predominant in most of us. It is no wonder that we are quite passionate about what we think, do, etc. Now we should try to be good in everything. For example, if we are habituated to eating foods, which are bitter, sour, salty, very hot, pungent, horse, etc. (17.9), we should choose tasty, not dry, not having too much liquid foods. (17.8) Similar improvements are required in what we speak, see, hear, etc. As purity increases, we will begin to get attracted to God and spiritual acts.

The next big decision is to control our egos. This is the biggest hindrance in taking shelter from God. Arjuna had a similar problem. His ego would not allow him to accept God's instructions. Lord Krishna had to warn him, "If you will not heed on account of the feeling of being the doer, you will perish." (18.58) Is this not the fate of almost all of us? Who can change fate? God can and only He can in a substantial way. There is no one to share one's tough times. The solution again suggests itself. Love God and you will be able to love others as well. You won't always look for faults in others. This attitude change will help in becoming friends with family members. The conclusion is: that God is the solution if we wish to avoid the dead ends of our lives. Will we take God's shelter?

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

Raisi's tragic demise clouds Iran's future



SANTOSH MATHEW

The enigmatic President of Iran breathed his last in a helicopter crash, leaving behind a legacy as complex as the country he governed



In the heart of the Middle East, where history and geopolitics are deeply intertwined, a towering figure met a tragic end, sending shockwaves across the globe. Ebrahim Raisi, the enigmatic President of Iran, breathed his last in a helicopter crash, leaving behind a legacy as complex as the region he governed. Raisi's rise to power was nothing short of remarkable. Born in 1960, he emerged from humble beginnings to become one of Iran's most influential figures. His journey began in the hallowed halls of Tehran's judiciary, where he earned a reputation for his unwavering commitment to Islamic principles and his uncompromising stance against corruption.

Raisi truly made his mark on the political stage. In June 2021, he ascended to the presidency, promising to usher in a new era of prosperity and stability for his beloved nation. His tenure was marked by bold foreign policies and ambitious domestic reforms, as he sought to solidify Iran's position as a regional powerhouse. At the heart of Raisi's vision was Iran's role as a champion of Shia Islam, a beacon of resistance against oppression and injustice. Under his leadership, Iran forged alliances with like-minded nations, offering support to movements and groups fighting for their rights across the Middle East.

However, amidst the triumphs and accolades, tragedy struck with devastating force. On a fateful day, as Raisi embarked on a routine journey to Azerbaijan, fate intervened. His helicopter plummeted from the sky, claiming his life and those of several others onboard. The crash sent shockwaves rippling through Iran and beyond, leaving a nation in mourning and the world reeling from the loss of a visionary leader.

As the dust settled and the wreckage was cleared, the full extent of Raisi's legacy came into focus. His death left a void in Iran's political landscape, one that would be difficult to fill. But beyond the borders of his homeland, Raisi's impact was felt far and wide. In the halls of power in Moscow and Ankara, Raisi was revered



RAISI WIELDED IMMENSE INFLUENCE, SHAPING IRAN'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES WITH A FIRM HAND. HIS PRESIDENCY WAS MARKED BY A SERIES OF INITIATIVES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING IRAN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND REDUCING RELIANCE ON FOREIGN POWERS

as a stalwart ally, a steadfast defender of Iran's interests on the global stage. Russia and Turkey had lent their support to the rescue efforts, a testament to the enduring bonds forged between nations in times of crisis.

Meanwhile, in distant New Delhi, Raisi's passing was met with a mixture of sorrow and reflection. India had enjoyed a burgeoning partnership with Iran under his leadership, particularly through collaborative efforts at the Chabahar Port. His absence would be keenly felt in the corridors of diplomacy, where his influence had helped shape the course of history. But perhaps most intriguing were the whispers of conspiracy surrounding Raisi's untimely demise. Some speculated that external forces were at play, seeking to destabilise Iran and undermine its leadership. Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, was mentioned in hushed tones, its shadowy hand suspected of orchestrating the tragedy. As the world mourned the loss of Ebrahim Raisi, it also grappled with the uncertainty of what lay ahead. His death cast a pall of uncertainty over Iran's future, raising questions about the country's leadership and its place on the global stage. But amidst the darkness, there remained a glimmer of hope, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. For in the legacy of Ebrahim Raisi, there lay the seeds of inspiration, a reminder that even in the face of tragedy, the indomitable spirit of humanity endures, ready to rise again, stronger and more determined than ever before.

Raisi's sudden demise not only revealed the depth of his ultra-conservative beliefs but also showcased his unwavering commitment to populism, positioning him as a champion of the people

and the right-hand man of Ayatollah Khamenei. As the Ayatollah's trusted confidant, Raisi wielded immense influence, shaping Iran's domestic and foreign policies with a firm hand. His presidency was marked by a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening Iran's economic independence and reducing reliance on foreign powers. He focused on bolstering the country's industrial base, improving infrastructure and promoting technological innovation.

On the international front, Raisi pursued a policy of strategic partnerships, particularly with Russia and China. These alliances were seen as a counterbalance to Western influence and as a means of securing economic and military support. Raisi's administration also prioritised the expansion of Iran's influence in regional conflicts, providing support to allied groups in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. His efforts to position Iran as a regional leader were often viewed through the lens of resistance against Western hegemony.

Despite his achievements, Raisi's tenure was not without controversy. His hardline stance on social and political issues drew criticism from both domestic and international observers. Human rights organisations frequently condemned his administration for its treatment of political dissidents and minority groups. The suppression of protests and the enforcement of strict social codes were seen as hallmarks of his governance.

Raisi's death left a nation at a crossroads. The mourning period was marked by both grief and reflection, as Iranians contemplated the future of their country without the man who had steered it through turbulent times. The

question of succession loomed large, with potential candidates vying for the position of leadership. The uncertainty surrounding Iran's political future was palpable, with analysts speculating on the potential shifts in policy and power dynamics.

In the international arena, Raisi's passing was met with a range of reactions. Allies expressed their condolences and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining strong ties with Iran. In contrast, adversaries viewed his death as an opportunity to reassess their strategies towards the country. The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, already fraught with complexity, faced the prospect of further upheaval. Despite the challenges, there was a sense of resilience among the Iranian populace. The nation's history of overcoming adversity served as a reminder of its enduring strength. Raisi's legacy, with its blend of conservatism, populism and strategic acumen, would continue to influence the country's trajectory. His vision of an Iran that stands firm against external pressures and champions the cause of Shia Islam would remain a guiding principle for future leaders. As the world continued to navigate the aftermath of Raisi's death, one thing was clear: his impact on Iran and the broader Middle East would be felt for years to come. The region, shaped by his policies and leadership, would continue to evolve, reflecting the enduring legacy of a man whose life and career were as multifaceted as the history of the land he loved. In the end, Ebrahim Raisi's story was a testament to the complexities of leadership in a region where past and present are forever intertwined.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Rajasthan healthcare challenges despite Government efforts

The Government's health programmes fail to sufficiently support rural women and girls affected by anaemia, a significant public health concern

In Rajasthan, the healthcare system is facing significant challenges, particularly in rural areas. Despite numerous Government initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access and quality, the benefits of these programs are not reaching their intended targets.

This issue is especially pronounced among women and adolescent girls suffering from anaemia. While the State Government has enacted the Right to Health Act and conducts monthly campaigns to combat anaemia, these efforts have yet to bring about substantial improvements in the health sector across rural Rajasthan. An example of this can be seen in the village of Manoharpura located just four kilometres



NASEEM BANO

from the heritage city of Udaipur. This village falls under the Badgaon Panchayat and has a population of around one thousand.

Predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes, the village has a low level of education, which impacts the awareness of its residents. Despite its proximity to the district headquarters, Manoharpura lags significantly in the health sector. Many families in the village lack even basic identification documents, which prevents them from accessing healthcare services.

The reason for not having documents is that most children in the village were born at home rather than in hospitals, resulting in the absence of birth certificates and Aadhar cards. For young girls



and women, the State Government has launched the 'I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana'. This scheme aims to empower economically weaker women and girls and the goal is to include about 2.8

million women and adolescents in this benefit by 2024. As part of this scheme, menstruating girls and women aged 11 to 45 receive sanitary pads. However, most adolescent girls and women miss

out on this benefit. Due to both a lack of awareness and poverty, many girls still use dirty clothes during menstruation instead of buying pads. Additionally, about half of the adolescent girls and women in the village suffer from anaemia, despite the State Government's monthly Shakti Diwas events aimed at eradicating anaemia in Rajasthan. It is important to note that various activities are organised under this campaign to reduce anaemia rates among children, women and adolescents. 'Shakti Diwas' events are held at Anganwadi centres, Government schools, health and wellness centres, sub-health centres, primary health centres, CHCs, dispensaries and sub-district and district hospitals. These

events include anaemia screenings, haemoglobin tests and treatment, distribution of iron tablets and activities to raise awareness and promote behaviour change regarding anaemia.

On 'Shakti Diwas', targeted activities are conducted for children aged 6 months to 59 months, out-of-school children aged 5 to 9 years, adolescents aged 10 to 19 years and married women aged 20 to 24 years. Efforts are also made to combat anaemia in pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

However, this issue extends beyond Manoharpura village to the entire Udaipur district, where ineffective implementation has affected district rankings. During the health department's monthly review

meeting last November, the CEO Kirti Rathore expressed dissatisfaction with the situation. She emphasised the urgent need to ensure that benefits reach all children, adolescents and women and to strictly enforce measures to make the district anaemia-free.

These shortcomings reveal that Manoharpura residents are still not receiving full healthcare benefits and the village has not met its health targets. Addressing this requires both administrative action and increased community awareness, involving as many families as possible.

(The writer is a social worker from Grameen Awam Samajik Vikas Sansthan, Ajmer; views are personal. Charkha Features)



Nation cannot move forward with INDIA Bloc sins: Modi

PTI ■ MOTIHARI (BIHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday alleged that the INDIA bloc stood for corruption, appeasement politics and a "perverted anti-Sanatana mindset", all of which would receive a "big blow" when the Lok Sabha poll results are announced on June 4.

Addressing an election rally in the East Champaran Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, the PM also launched indirect attacks on leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav, who he said were "born with silver spoons".

"The nation cannot move forward with the sins of the INDIA bloc, which stands for corruption, appeasement politics, represents the 'tukde-tukde' gang and a perverted mindset that heaps scorn on Sanatana Dharma," he said.

"This is the reason why the INDIA bloc was exhausted in the very first phase of the elections. In the subsequent phases, it was battered. In the remaining two phases, the trend will continue and on June 4 when votes are counted, the results will come as a big blow to the intentions of the opposition alliance," he claimed.

Modi alleged that Congress



wants to change the Constitution to "snatch" reservations from SCs, STs and OBCs, and hand it over to those who indulge in "vote jihad".

"If Ambedkar was not there, Nehru would not have allowed reservation for SCs and STs," he claimed.

Modi also bristled at the opposition parties' criticism of welfare schemes run by his

government, claiming his opponents had "bundles of notes stashed away in Swiss banks" and could not understand the plight of the common people "the way I do, having been born in a poor family".

"They were opening accounts in Swiss banks, while the people of India were starving," he alleged.

Referring to Tejashwi Yadav,

whom he did not mention by name, Modi said, "I am told that the 'warris of jungle raaj' has been resting I will be advised bed rest after the Lok Sabha elections. The 'shehzada' of Congress says he wants to see me in tears. His party openly chants slogans like 'Modi teri kabr khudegi' (your grave will be dug)."

"These people have a

counterpart in Uttar Pradesh (an allusion to Akhilesh Yadav) who says I have reached the end of my life and hence contesting from Varanasi," said Modi, adding that the remarks betrayed a lack of sensitivity on the part of those "born with silver spoons, who have never known what is a life filled with struggles".

In his speech, Modi also made a reference to the much-talked-about feast Gandhi had enjoyed at Lalu Prasad's residence last year. "Those who refused the invitation to the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya had no problems in sharing a meal with the corrupt," he said. Modi also referred to East Champaran as Mahatma Gandhi's "karma bhoomi" and his own roots in Gujarat "the janmabhoomi (place of birth)".

"The Congress betrayed his ideals upon coming to power and devoted itself to promoting the interests of one family," he alleged.

"I have spent my first 10 years in power filling the potholes left by the Congress. I intend to speed up progress in the next term," said Modi as he spoke about his thrust on welfare measures like toilets for women "who had to suffer physical ailments because of the absence of this very basic of all amenities".

Baramulla LS seat scripts history

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Baramulla Parliamentary constituency purportedly scripted a "change" by recording an approximately 60 per cent voter turnout, the highest-ever poll percentage since 1996 on Monday. Last time the highest polling percentage of 61.09 was recorded in the 1984 Lok Sabha polls in the same constituency. During the turmoil, the highest voter turnout of 46.65 per cent was recorded during the 1996 Lok Sabha polls on the same seat. This time the higher voter turnout has once again prompted the poll pundits to analyze the assembly segment-wise voter turnout before predicting the poll outcome.

After the polling process was completed the contesting candidates made tall claims and predicted huge victories for their parties.

The National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, contesting from the Baramulla Lok Sabha segment for the first time, claimed he was comfortably winning the Lok Sabha polls. Omar predicted the higher voter turnout has worked in his favor on ground zero.

Taunting his nearest rival Sajad Lone, who labeled Omar as a "tourist" much to his chagrin during the entire campaign mode, Omar said after the entry of an independent candidate Abdul Rashid Sheikh in the fray Sajad Lone was fighting to grab the runners-up slot. PDP candidate Fayaz Mir is



coming on number four in the race.

In response after the polling concluded Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone announced, "Voters in the Baramulla scripted a change by stepping out in large numbers". In an informal chat with a visiting media person Lone said, "I am very confident. Hopefully, we will win".

Commenting on the higher voter turnout, Lone said, people have decided to come out. Staying in was always a disaster. Stepping out and scripting a change is better. Second, there was an anger vote as well.

Commenting on the tall claims made by the National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi that Omar is set to emerge victorious, Sajad Lone maintained, "I would not be surprised if NC would be taken back on June 4".

"After a drought of a few decades, the voters are visibly seeing signs of change", he added.

According to poll observers, the higher voter turnout has made the multi-corner contest on the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat a little more intriguing.

The surprise entry of Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is contesting as an Independent candidate from Tihar jail, in the fray has already created a buzz. His sons ran a low-profile campaign highlighting common problems of youth and the local electorate in the backdrop of the Abrogation of Article 370 while seeking votes in the name of their father. Their poll strategy worked wonders as the local youth and angry voters connected with them. His home constituency of Langate recorded over 66 per cent voter turnout in Kupwara district.

Of all the 18 Assembly segments, the Handwara Assembly segment recorded the highest voter turnout of 72 per cent while Gurez recorded the lowest turnout of 40.82 per cent. Around 32 per cent Kashmiri migrant voter turnout was reported across 26 special polling stations set up in Jammu, Udhampur, and New Delhi.

The North Kashmir district of Kupwara considered a strong bastion of Sajad Lone, remained the trendsetter as five assembly segments recorded over 60 per cent voter turnout. Only the Lolab assembly segment recorded a 58 per cent turnout.

Seven Assembly segments of Baramulla also recorded an impressive voter turnout. Gulmarg, Rafiaband, Uri, and Pattan recorded over 55 per cent voter turnout. Sopore, which recorded only 4 per cent voting in 2019, recorded an impressive turnout of over 44 per cent on Monday.

BJP star campaigners throng Delhi to win voters' hearts and minds

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the election campaigning in the national Capital is coming to an end in just two days, BJP's star campaigners including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP President JP Nadda, Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday held non stop rallies and roadshows to support their party candidates in the city.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari along with other senior leaders addressed three election rallies in Vikas Puri Vidhan Sabha in West Delhi, Moti Nagar in New Delhi and Karawal Nagar in North East. Extending his support to West Delhi's candidate Kamaljeet Sehrawat, New Delhi's Bansuri Swaraj, and North East's Manoj Tiwari, he appealed to the people of Delhi to choose BJP if they want the pace of development to continue as it was going on for the last five years. He said, "Since the Central Government has dedicated the 16-lane Dwarka Expressway to the people, the journey of an hour can be completed in minutes. Similarly, UER-2 Expressway connecting Bawana, Rohini, Mundka,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a roadshow in support of northwest Delhi candidate Yogendra Chandolia (Pioneer photo)



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow for Congress and joint INDIA Bloc candidate from North East Delhi, Kanhaiya Kumar (Ranjana Dimri/Pioneer)

Najafgarh, Dwarka and IGI Airport and Gurugram is under construction in the final stage at a cost of 7.7 thousand crores," adding that BJP seeks votes on the basis of development and on the basis of the report card of the last 10 years.

"Choose BJP to make the country a 5 trillion economy, to become the third largest economy of the world and especially to free Delhi from water pollution, air pollution

and noise pollution," he said. Rajnath Singh held roadshows in support of BJP candidate for the reserved seat of North west Delhi Yogendra Chandolia and East Delhi's Harsh Malhotra. His campaigning witnessed scores of party supporters cheering for him while fluttering party flags. During his roadshow in North west Delhi's Budh Vihar, Singh said, "Yogendra Chandolia is a popular person

in his constituency. He has been working as a BJP worker for a long time. With the crowd that you can see here, it is certain that he will win with a huge margin."

Further attacking Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the INDIA alliance, he said, "INDI Alliance's strength is weakening day after day. Delhi CM-AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal is out of jail only until 1st June. He has shamed the

people of Delhi with the kind of things he has done." Nadda also held a roadshow in Palam area of South Delhi to support party's candidate Ramvir Singh Bidhuri from South Delhi. During his roadshow, the BJP chief attacked Kejriwal and said, "Aam Aadmi Party has deep relations with anti-national forces. In Punjab elections also there was an allegation that they got funding from terrorists."

Arvind Kejriwal has not given any answer on this till now. They are examples of urban naxalism. We will get 400 plus seats in the favour of Modi." The BJP leader also held a roadshow to support his party's candidate Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi.

Chouhan also held back to back three roadshows in the evening to support South Delhi's candidate Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, North west Delhi's

Yogendra Chandolia, and North east Delhi's Manoj Tiwari and claimed that the BJP is sweeping all seven seats in Delhi. While the one in the favour of Bidhuri was held at 5:00 pm in the evening, the next one in support of Chandolia was conducted at 7:00 pm followed by one in support for Tiwari at 9:00 pm. The Rajasthan Chief Minister also held a roadshow in support of Sehrawat in West Delhi at 5:00 pm in the evening while he addressed a public gathering in South Delhi to seek votes in favour of Bidhuri at 8:30 pm. His counterpart from Goa took part in Purnanchal Morcha Maha Sammelan to appeal to the public to vote for his party's candidates. He asked the people to look at the development work carried out by the BJP and seeked blessings for Chandolia and Tiwari.

Meanwhile, AAP Chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal held a 1 km long roadshow in support of joint INDIA and Congress candidate Kanhaiya Kumar for North East Delhi in Bhajanpura. Scores of supporters of both AAP and Congress gathered to witness the campaign of the INDIA alliance. AAP and Congress are in a seat sharing arrangement of four and three seats respectively.

Karnal becomes test of BJP's ten years in Government

PTI ■ KARNAL (HARYANA)

Nayab Singh Saini in his car when he pulls out a tiffin box to have his food in the moving vehicle to save on time amid hectic electioneering.

The Haryana Chief Minister pours some 'Khichdi' on his plate. "I like to have simple food," he says with a smile, as shown in a video uploaded on Facebook. Saini often carries his tiffin box with him in his car and the post shows he loves his 'Khichdi'.

Saini is fighting the Karnal assembly bypoll which was necessitated by the resignation of his predecessor Manohar Lal Khattar, who is fighting the parliamentary election.

Even as a heat wave is sweeping the entire northern belt, the 54-year-old has been criss-crossing the state, keeping up with meetings and rallies.

A few days ago, Saini was out on a morning walk in Karnal's Atal Park, where he played cricket with children. While campaigning recently in the Karnal assembly constituency, Saini talked about the developmental works undertaken by the "double-engine" government.

Saini said that Khattar's almost decade-long rule ended the "parchi-kharchi" system which was rampant in the previous Congress regime, when jobs were given on the basis of "favouritism and corruption."

In all his rallies, Saini makes it a point to attack the Congress and accuse it of failing to work for the welfare of the elderly and seeking power for the power's sake.

The BJP leader also makes it a point to talk about his party's scrapping of Article 370, enacting laws like Citizenship Amendment Act, and abolition of triple talaq system.

Saini claims that the BJP government in the state ensured equitable development and gave a transparent administration. Saini had won his first Lok Sabha polls in 2019 from Kurukshetra. Before that as Naraingarh MLA, he had been a minister in the first Khattar government.

"Lotus (BJP poll symbol) will bloom on all eleven seats (10 parliamentary plus Karnal assembly seat)," Saini says with confidence at all his rallies.

Congress spreading lies that NDA intends to change Constitution, says Sitharaman

PTI ■ PATNA

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday slammed Congress leaders for spreading lies that the NDA intends to change the constitution and said leaders of the grand old party should stop talking about such things as they "failed" to protect the constitution of their own party just to promote one family.

"Congress and RJD leaders are spreading lies that the BJP-led NDA would change the Constitution after coming to power. Congress leaders should stop talking about protecting the Constitution. How can they talk about such things, when Congress leaders failed to protect the constitution of their own party? They must remember how former Congress president Sitaram Kesri was locked in a room to prevent any obstacle in Sonia Gandhi's elevation in the party," she said while interacting with media



persons here.

Alleging that the RJD and Congress are trying to "rob" SCs, STs and OBCs of quotas and divert these to Muslims, she said, "They want to give reservation on the basis of religion to benefit Muslims only, which is against the Constitution. The Congress and RJD are trying to rob SCs, STs and OBCs of quotas and divert these to Muslims. The Congress party in Karnataka has already done

this."

"When Congress was in power, it never gave due respect to Baba Saheb Ambedkar. He was given the Bharat Ratna in 1990. They don't deserve to speak about the Constitution or Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Modi Ji has taken several steps for uplift of the weaker sections of society... And also for the overall growth of the country," she said. She maintained that the

accelerated growth of eastern states has always remained a top priority of the NDA-led Central government.

"The Central government wants eastern states — Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha — to become engines of growth for the whole country as part of the goal to make India a developed country by 2047," said the Union Finance Minister.

As far as Bihar is concerned, she said, "Bihar's growth was adversely affected due to 'jungal raj' before 2005. The per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Bihar was Rs 21,282 in 1991, higher than Odisha. But during 'jungal raj' it came down to Rs 14, 209, almost a 33 per cent drop in the Bihar per capita GDP. I must say that post-2002 per capita GDP in Bihar rose to Rs 37,000".

The NDA government has so far provided 40 lakh houses to poor people under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Rural and Urban), she added.

Karnataka Government has written to MEA to cancel diplomatic passport of Prajwal, says Home Minister

PIT ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the state government has written to the Ministry of External Affairs to cancel the diplomatic passport of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexual abuse, on the basis of an arrest warrant issued against him by a court.

The 33-year-old Prajwal, who is the grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and is the NDA's candidate for Hassan Lok Sabha segment, is facing charges of multiple instances of sexually abusing women.

Prajwal reportedly left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to polls, and is still at large.

"CM (Chief Minister) has already written to the Prime Minister, but the department (Home) writing it in accordance with law is different. Warrant has been issued now, on the basis of the warrant, a letter has been written stating that -- warrant has been issued and the diplomatic passport has to be



cancelled," Parameshwara said. Speaking to reporters here, he said if the passport is cancelled, it will be impossible for Prajwal to stay anymore in the foreign country, and he will have to come back.

"We have written to the Ministry of External Affairs as matters related to passports come under them, they will have to respond to it," he added.

A Special Court for Elected Representatives issued an arrest warrant on Saturday against Prajwal Revanna, following an application moved by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the state government to probe the serial sex abuse charges against the MP.

Earlier, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had on May 1 written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to move the Ministries of

External Affairs and Home Affairs to take swift action to cancel the diplomatic passport of Prajwal Revanna.

A 'Blue Corner Notice' seeking information on Prajwal's whereabouts has already been issued by Interpol, following a request by the SIT via the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Responding to a question on JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy requesting Prajwal Revanna, who is also his nephew, to return to India and face the probe, Parameshwara said, "I have seen it in the media, it is their family's internal matter, let him (Prajwal) come and face the law."

Regarding Kumaraswamy alleging that 40 phones including his own and those of his family members and supporters are being tapped, the Home Minister said, "I have already said that the government has not tapped the phones of Kumaraswamy or 40 people that he has claimed. If he has accurate information that it has been done, let him give the information, we will get it investigated as to who has done it and why."

Mourners begin days of funerals for Iran's pres killed in chopper crash

AP ■ DUBAI

Mourners in black began gathering Tuesday for days of funerals and processions for Iran's late president, foreign minister and others killed in a helicopter crash, a government-led series of ceremonies aimed at both honoring the dead and projecting strength in an unsettled Middle East.

For Iran's Shiite theocracy, mass demonstrations have been crucial since millions thronged the streets of Tehran to welcome Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979 during the Islamic Revolution, and also attended his funeral 10 years later. An estimated 1 million turned out in 2020 for processions for the late Revolutionary Guard Gen Qassem Soleimani, who was slain in a US drone strike in

Baghdad. Whether President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and others draw the same crowd remains in question, particularly as Raisi died in a helicopter crash, won his office in the lowest-turnout presidential election in the country's history and presided over sweeping crackdowns on all dissent.

Prosecutors already have warned people over showing any public signs of celebrating his death and a heavy security force presence has been seen on the streets of Tehran since the crash. But Raisi, 63, had been discussed as a possible successor for Iran's supreme leader, the 85-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. His death now throws that selection into question, particularly as there is no heir-apparent cleric for the presidency ahead

of planned June 28 elections. "Raisi's death comes at a moment when the Islamist regime is consolidated," wrote Alex Vatanka, an Iran expert at the Middle East Institute. "In short, there will be no power vacuum in Tehran; nonetheless, post-Khamenei Iran suddenly looks far less predictable than it did just a few days ago."

A procession Tuesday morning led by a semitruck carrying the caskets of the dead slowly moved through the narrow streets of downtown Tabriz, the closest major city near the site of the crash Sunday. Thousands in black slowly walked beside the coffins, some throwing flowers up to them as an emcee wept through a loudspeaker for men he described as martyrs.

On Wednesday, a funeral presided over by Khamenei will then turn into a procession



Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi Kermani arrives to attend the first session of Assembly of Experts after an election that decided the new assembly, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday. Under Iranian constitution the 86-member all-cleric assembly has the right to monitor the performance of supreme leader, and choosing or dismissing him. Movahedi Kermani was picked Tuesday as head of the assembly. AP/PTI

as well. The caskets later arrived in Tehran to an honor guard at the airport. They will go on to the holy Shiite seminary city of Qom before returning to the Iranian capital.

It remains unclear what international presence that funeral will draw, as Raisi faced US sanctions for his part in mass executions in 1988 and for abuses targeting protesters and dissidents while leading the country's judiciary. Iran under Raisi also shipped bomb-carrying drones to Russia to be used in its war on Ukraine.

"I don't feel comfortable sending condolences while Iran is sending drones that are used against civilians in Ukraine," wrote Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis on the social platform X. United Kingdom Security Minister Tom

Tugendhat echoed that in his own message on X: "President Raisi's regime has murdered thousands at home, and targeted people here in Britain and across Europe. I will not mourn him."

On Thursday, Raisi's hometown of Birjand will see a procession, followed by a funeral and burial at the Imam Reza shrine in the holy city of Mashhad, the only imam of the Shiite's faith buried in Iran. That shrine has long been a center for pilgrims and sees millions visit each year. Over the centuries, its grounds have served as the final burial site for heroes in Persian history. It's an incredibly high, rare honor in the faith.

Iranian President Mohammad-Ali Rajai, the only other president to die in office when he was killed in a 1981 bombing, was buried in Tehran.

Iran's theocracy declared five days of mourning, encouraging people to attend the public mourning sessions. Typically, government employees and schoolchildren attend such events en masse, while others take part out of patriotism, curiosity or to witness historic events. Across Iran, its rural population often more closely embraces the Shiite faith and the government. However, Tehran has long held a far different view of Raisi and his government's policies as mass protests have roiled the capital for years. The most recent involved the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, a woman detained over her allegedly loose headscarf, or hijab. The monthlong security crackdown that followed the demonstrations killed more than 500 people and saw over 22,000 detained.

Israel faces fallout as allies back warrant requests

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel sought Tuesday to contain the fallout from a request by the chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court for arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leaders, a move supported by three European countries, including key ally France.

Belgium, Slovenia and France each said Monday they backed the decision by International Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan, who accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders — Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh — of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel.

While no one faces imminent arrest, the announcement deepens Israel's global isolation at a time when it is facing



Police use water cannon to disperse demonstrators blocking a road during a protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, and calling for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas militant group, outside the Knesset, Israel's parliament in Jerusalem on Monday. AP/PTI

growing criticism from even its closest allies over the war in Gaza. Support for the warrants from three European Union

countries also exposes divisions in the West's approach to Israel. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel

Katz headed to France on Tuesday in response, and his meetings there could set the tone for how countries navigate the warrants — if they are eventually issued — and whether they could pose a threat to Israeli leaders.

Israel still has the support of its top ally, the United States, as well as other Western countries that spoke out against the decision. But if the warrants are issued, they could complicate international travel for Netanyahu and Gallant, even if they do not face any immediate risk of prosecution because Israel itself is not a member of the court.

As Israeli leaders came to grips with the prosecutor's decision, violence continued in the region, with an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank killing at least seven Palestinians, including a local doctor, according to Palestinian health officials.

Universities, student groups lobby PM Sunak to protect post-study visa offer

PTI ■ LONDON

Universities and student groups on Tuesday urged British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to safeguard the country's post-study visa offer, which has been dominated by Indians to gain work experience for around two years at the end of their university degree. Amid reports that Sunak is considering either restricting or ending the Graduate Route to curtail soaring migration statistics ahead of a general election, a group of nearly 30 university vice-chancellors and the National Indian Students and Alumni Association (NISAU) UK have issued detailed letters of appeal to 10 Downing Street. They list a series of factors in favour of keeping the Graduate visa scheme unchanged, including the benefits that international students bring to the UK economy in a competitive global higher education marketplace.

"Modelling by consultancy London Economics shows that

a single cohort has a net economic benefit of GBP 37 billion to the UK economy; as well as through the soft power that Britain's international graduates generate for the country over time, including through furthering ties of trade and diplomacy," reads the NISAU UK letter addressed to Sunak.

"Indeed, 70 per cent of Indian students have told us that the ability to gain meaningful work experience is a critical element in their decision to choose between competing international destinations, of which the UK is one... The Graduate Route allows the opportunity to gain this work experience for a temporary period. It is non-extendable and does not count towards permanent settlement. This means that neither students nor Graduate visa holders should be considered 'immigrants' in the context of the long-term picture of migration," it notes.

Their appeal comes a week after the influential Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) advised the government to let

the scheme continue as it found no abuse of this post-study work offer. It also confirmed that Indians topped its tally, accounting for 89,200 visas between 2021 and 2023, or 42 per cent of the overall grants, and were likely to be "most affected by any restriction on the Graduate Route". In their letter to Sunak, universities in the north of England — from Sunderland to Sheffield, Leeds to Lancaster, Liverpool to Teesside, Bradford to Huddersfield, and York to Newcastle — said they will all be harmed by the removal or reduction of this visa as it is an "intrinsic part of the educational offer that has made the UK so attractive to brilliant students from all around the world".

"The Graduate Visa Route is regarded by students in key markets like India as an integral part of their educational experience. The MAC review made clear that the removal of this route would make the UK less attractive and thus would cause considerable financial detriment to universities around the country," reads their joint letter.

"International student tuition fee income has long cross-subsidised underfunded research and has increasingly become critical to cross-subsidise the teaching of UK undergraduate students because of the frozen tuition fee. Universities cannot continue to absorb the costs of teaching UK undergraduates without some form of alternative funding source," they caution.

On top of their visa fees, international students who find work and start businesses contribute billions of pounds in income tax, national insurance and VAT annually. The university chiefs point out that they are also usually net contributors to the National Health Service (NHS) through the NHS surcharge.

The Russell Group of the UK's leading universities issued its appeal over the weekend, with CEO Tim Bradshaw warning that there has already been a 10 per cent decline in international applications for post-graduate courses starting this September in the wake of the clampdown on students being able to bring dependant family members.

British man dies, co-passengers hurt in S'pore airlines turbulence

AP ■ BANGKOK

An elderly British man died and more than two dozen passengers were injured when a Singapore Airlines flight from London was struck by severe turbulence and plunged 6,000 feet in the span of some a few minutes Tuesday over the Indian Ocean.

The flight was then diverted and landed in stormy weather in Bangkok. Authorities said the British man may have suffered a heart attack, though that has not been confirmed. His name was not immediately released.

The Boeing 777-300ER flight from London's Heathrow airport to Singapore, with 211 passengers and 18 crew members aboard, landed at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport at 3:45 pm local time, the airline said in a Facebook post. Emergency medical crews rushed to help the passengers. Videos posted on the LINE messaging platform by

Suvarnabhumi Airport showed a line of ambulances streaming to the scene.

In a statement posted on Facebook, Singapore Airlines said that as of four hours after the emergency landing, 18 people remained hospitalized while another 12 were treated on outpatient basis.

"The remaining passengers and crew are being examined and given treatment, where necessary," at the airport, it said. Airports of Thailand group said the lightly injured and non-injured passengers are being assisted at a specially assigned location inside the terminal at the Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Thailand's Transport Minister Suriya Jungrungrangkit said in a statement that Singapore would dispatch another plane later Tuesday night to transport the lightly injured and non-injured passengers to the city-state's Changi airport. He said that plane was expected to arrive in Bangkok at 9:45 pm.

Kittipong Kittikachorn, general manager of Suvarnabhumi Airport, told a news conference on Tuesday night that the British man was 73 years old and appeared to have suffered a heart attack.

Tracking data captured by FlightRadar24 and analysed by The Associated Press show the Singapore Airlines flight SQ321 cruising at an altitude of 37,000 feet (11,300 metres). Just after 0800 GMT, the Boeing 777-300ER suddenly and sharply plummeted to 31,000 feet (9,400 metres) over the span of some three minutes, the data shows.

The aircraft then stayed at 31,000 feet (9,400 metres) for under 10 minutes before diverting and landing in Bangkok less than half an hour later. The sharp descent in turbulence happened as the flight was over the Andaman Sea, near Myanmar. The aircraft sent a "squawk code" of 7700 at that time, an international emergency signal.

Greek judge dismisses case against nine in shipwreck

AP ■ KAMALATA

A Greek judge dismissed charges against nine Egyptian men accused of causing a shipwreck that killed hundreds of migrants last year and sent shockwaves through the European Union's border protection and asylum operations, after a prosecutor told the court Greece lacked jurisdiction.

Shortly after the trial opened in the southern Greek city of Kalamata, public prosecutor Ekaterini Tsironi recommended that the charges be dismissed, saying that Greek jurisdiction could be established because the overcrowded trawler sank outside Greek territorial waters. More than 500 people are believed to have gone down with the fishing trawler, which had been travelling from Libya to Italy. Following the sinking, 104 people were rescued — mostly migrants from Syria, Pakistan and Egypt — and 82

bodies were recovered. Supporters clapped and cheered as the judge announced the dismissal of a case that had faced criticism from international human rights groups, who argued that the accused's right to a fair trial was compromised because they faced judgment while an investigation into the Greek coast guard's rescue attempt is still under way.

Earlier, a small group of protesters clashed with riot police outside the courthouse. There were no reports of serious injuries but two people were detained. Officers from the special police forces maintained order in the courtroom. The defendants, most in their 20s, faced up to life in prison if convicted on multiple criminal charges over the sinking of the "Adriana" fishing trawler on June 14 last year off the southern coast of Greece.

Defence lawyer Spyros Pantazis had earlier asked the court to declare itself incompetent to try

the case, arguing that the sinking occurred outside Greek territorial waters.

"The court should not be turned into an international punisher," Pantazis told the panel of three judges.

Kontaratu questioned all nine defendants through an interpreter. The accused said their intention was to travel to Italy, not Greece, and several declared their innocence.

Kontaratu acknowledged that there "were no Greeks on board, it was not under a Greek flag and all the documents refer to the (vessel being) 47 nautical miles away."

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres last year described the shipwreck as "horrific." The sinking renewed pressure on European governments to protect the lives of migrants and asylum seekers trying to reach the continent, as the number of people traveling illegally across the Mediterranean continues to rise every year.

Macron makes surprise trip to New Caledonia

Paris (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron is making a surprise trip to riot-hit New Caledonia, the French Pacific territory that has been gripped by days of deadly unrest and where indigenous people have long sought independence.

"He will go there tonight," government spokesperson Prisca Thevenot said after a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday where the president said he'd decided to make the more than 33,000-kilometre (20,000-mile) round trip himself to the archipelago east of Australia.

Six people have been killed, including two gendarmes, and hundreds of others injured in New Caledonia amid armed clashes, looting and arson, raising new questions about Macron's handling of France's colonial legacy. There have been decades of tensions between indigenous Kanaks who seek independence for the archipelago of 270,000 people, and descendants of colonisers who want to remain part of France. The unrest erupted May 13 as the French legislature in Paris

debated amending the French Constitution to make changes to New Caledonia voter lists. Opponents fear the measure will benefit pro-France politicians in New Caledonia and further marginalise Kanaks who once suffered from strict segregation policies and widespread discrimination.

The violence is the most severe to shake New Caledonia since the 1980s, when France also imposed emergency measures on the island that became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III.

Paris last Wednesday declared a 12-day minimum state of emergency on the island and rushed in 1,000 reinforcements to bolster security forces that lost control of parts of the capital, Noumea.

"Faced with the outbreak of violence, the priority is the return of order to allow dialogue to resume in New Caledonia," Thevenot, the government spokeswoman, said. "We are clear: Much remains to be done before the return to normal."

Seoul summit opens with Google, Meta pledging safe AI development

AP ■ SEOUL

The world's leading artificial intelligence companies pledged at the start of a mini summit on AI to develop the technology safely, including pulling the plug if they can't rein in the most extreme risks.

World leaders are expected to hammer out further agreements on artificial intelligence as they gathered virtually Tuesday to discuss AI's potential risks but also ways to promote its benefits and innovation.

The AI Seoul Summit is a low-key follow-up to November's high-profile AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in the United Kingdom, where participating countries agreed to work together to contain the potentially "catastrophic" risks posed by breakthrough advances in AI.

The two-day meeting — co-hosted by the South Korean and UK governments — also comes as major tech companies

like Meta, OpenAI and Google roll out the latest versions of their AI models. They're among 16 AI companies that made voluntary commitments to AI safety as the talks got underway, according to a British government announcement. The companies, which also include Amazon, Microsoft, France's Mistral AI, China's Zhipu.ai, and G42 of the United Arab Emirates, vowed to ensure safety of their most cutting edge AI models with promises of accountable governance and public transparency.

The pledge includes publishing safety frameworks setting out how they will measure risks of these models. In extreme cases where risks are severe and "intolerable," AI companies will have to hit the kill switch and stop developing or deploying their models and systems if they can't mitigate the risks. Since the UK meeting last year, the AI industry has "increasingly focused on the most

pressing concerns, including mis- and dis-information, data security, bias and keeping humans in the loop," said Aiden Gomez CEO of Cohere, one of the AI companies that signed the pact. "It is essential that we continue to consider all possible risks, while prioritising our efforts on those most likely to create problems if not properly addressed."

On Tuesday evening, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak are to meet other world leaders, industry bosses and heads of international organisations for a virtual conference. The online summit will be followed by an in-person meeting of digital ministers, experts and others on Wednesday, according to organisers. "It is just six months since world leaders met at Bletchley, but even in this short space of time, the landscape of AI has changed dramatically," Yoon and Sunak said in a joint article published in South

Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper and the UK's online news site Monday. "The pace of change will only continue to accelerate, so our work must accelerate too."

While the UK meeting centred on AI safety issues, the agenda for this week's gathering was expanded to include "innovation and inclusivity," Wang Yun-jong, a deputy director of national security in South Korea, told reporters Monday. Wang said participants will subsequently "discuss not only the risks posed by AI but also its positive aspects and how it can contribute to humanity in a balanced manner."

The AI agreement will include the outcomes of discussions on safety, innovation and inclusivity, according to Park Sang-wook, senior presidential adviser for science and technology for President Yoon. Last year's Bletchley meeting attracted world leaders and tech luminaries like Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.

Slovak Parl votes to condemn political violence

Bratislava (AP): Slovakia's Parliament voted unanimously on Tuesday to condemn politically motivated violence following an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Robert Fico, who is recovering from multiple wounds from last week's shooting, hospital officials said.

Fico "remains conscious and communicative" and "further actions are being taken to improve his health condition," said the hospital treating him in the central city of Banská Bystrica.

The hospital says that Fico, 59, is no longer in life-threatening condition after being shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters last Wednesday in the town of Handlova, about 140 km (85 miles) northeast of the capital, Bratislava.

Fico underwent five-hour surgery immediately after the shooting, followed by another two-hour operation last Friday.

Haiti's main airport reopens

AP ■ PORT-AU-PRINCE

Haiti's main international airport reopened Monday for the first time in nearly three months after relentless gang violence forced authorities to close it. The reopening of the Toussaint-Louverture airport in the capital of Port-au-Prince is expected to help ease a critical shortage of medications and other basic supplies. The country's main seaport remains badly affected. Gangs control 80% of the capital.

U.S.-based airlines are not expected to start using the airport until late May or early June.

The first commercial passenger flight since March left for Miami nearly two hours behind schedule, with sweating passengers complaining to local carrier Sunrise Airways about the lack of air conditioning until takeoff.

Before Monday, the sole airport operating in Haiti was located in the north coastal city of Cap-Haitien. It was out of reach for many seeking to flee the country, with roads leading from



Port-au-Prince controlled by gangs that have opened fire on cars and buses passing through. The U.S. government had evacuated hundreds of citizens by helicopter out of a hilly neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, as did nonprofit organizations, as gangs laid siege to parts of the capital.

The attacks began on Feb. 29, with gunmen seizing control of police stations, opening fire on the Port-au-Prince airport and storming Haiti's two biggest prisons, freeing more than 4,000 inmates.

Gangs since then have directed their attacks on previously

peaceful communities, leaving thousands homeless. More than 2,500 people have been killed or injured in Haiti from January to March, a more than 50% increase compared to the same period last year, according to the United Nations.

At the Couronne Bar near the sole airport gate operating on Monday, 43-year-old manager Klav-Dja Raphael welcomed her first clients. But her smile belied her fear.

"We are scared because they can still attack us here," she said. "We must come in. It's our job, but we're afraid."

Markets regulator Sebi changes rule to determine m-cap of listed firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has revamped the method for calculating the market capitalisation of listed companies under the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) rules. Instead of using the market capitalisation of a single day (currently March 31), listed companies will now use the "average market capitalisation" for a six-month period. Market experts believe the market capitalisation of a listed entity keeps fluctuating on a daily basis based on market dynamics and, therefore, an average of market capitalisation figures over a reasonable period of time (six months) would more accurately reflect the market size of the listed entity and consequently the ranking, vis-a-vis its peers. The changes came after a recommendation of an expert committee chaired by Sebi's former whole-time member S K Mohanty in a bid to promote ease of doing business. The amendment aims to specify a defined



period for calculating average market capitalisation. The new amendment would come into force with effect from December 31, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notification on May 17. The ranking of compliance would be based on average market capitalisation from July 1 to December 31, with December 31 as the cut-off date. After determining the market capitalisation on December 31, there would be a three-month transition period, or from the beginning of the immediate

next financial year, whichever is later, before the relevant provisions become applicable. Amending LODR norms, Sebi said, "Every recognised stock exchange shall, at the end of the calendar year i.e., December 31, prepare a list of entities that have listed their specified securities ranking such entities on the basis of their average market capitalisation from July 1 to December 31 of that calendar year". In case ranking of an entity changes for three consecutive years, the new provisions would cease to be applicable

for the listed entity, providing relief to entities experiencing fluctuations in market capitalisation. In addition, Sebi has given relaxation pertaining to filling up vacancies of key managerial personnel (KMP) with increasing the time limit to six months in certain cases from the current three months. In cases where the listed entity is required to obtain approval of regulatory, government or statutory authorities to fill up such vacancies, these should be filled up by the listed entity at the earliest and in any case not later than six months from the date of vacancy, Sebi said. In order to maintain uniformity, the timeline for prior intimation of board meetings has been harmonised to two working days for all types of events. Current LODR regulations require a listed company to intimate stock exchanges about board meetings for certain proposals such as financial results, share buyback, fundraising, etc, within 2-11 working days.

India's global travel and tourism index rank rises to 39th: WEF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed on Tuesday. While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said. India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021, though changes made to the index parameters limit its comparability to earlier years. After the US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia figure among the top five in the 2024 list. The index, prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, showed India is highly price-competitive (18th) and boasts competitive Air Transport (26th) and Ground and Port (25th) infrastructure. In particular, India's strong Natural (6th), Cultural (9th) and Non-Leisure (9th) Resources help drive travel, and the country is only one of three to score in the top 10



for all the resource pillars, the WEF said. Moreover, despite a decline compared to 2019, the country still scores well for travel and tourism demand sustainability, especially thanks to more sustainable long stays among inbound visitors. It further said that as with many economies, travel and tourism enabling conditions in India have been impacted by global inflationary supply-

side trends for the sector, with price competitiveness declining, while air transport and tourist services infrastructure are yet to recover to the 2019 level. As a result, the country's overall TTDI (Travel and Tourism Development Index) score is 2.1 per cent below its 2019 level. High-income economies in Europe and Asia-Pacific continued to lead the index. "International tourist arrivals

and the travel and tourism sector's contribution to global GDP are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels this year, driven by the lifting of COVID-19-related travel restrictions and strong pent-up demand," the WEF said. The Middle East had the highest recovery rates in international tourist arrivals (20 per cent above the 2019 level), while Europe, Africa and the Americas all showed a strong recovery of around 90 per cent in 2023. The biennial index analysed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries around a range of factors and policies. Germany was ranked 6th, followed by the UK, China, Italy and Switzerland in the top ten. The results highlighted that high-income economies generally continue to have more favourable conditions for travel and tourism development. This was helped by conducive business environments, dynamic labour markets, open travel policies, strong transport and tourism infrastructure, and well-developed natural, cultural and non-leisure attractions.

Sensex declines by nearly 53 points in volatile trade amid weak global trends

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by nearly 53 points in a volatile trade on Tuesday amid weak trends from Asian and European markets and fresh foreign fund outflows. The 30-share Sensex declined 52.63 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 73,953.31. During the day, it hit a high of 74,189.19 and a low of 73,762.37. The broader Nifty of NSE, however, closed higher by 27.05 points or 0.12 per cent to 22,529.05. Among the Sensex components, Nestle, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were the major laggards. Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra and State Bank of India were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. Wall Street ended mostly higher on Monday. Foreign Institutional



Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 92.95 crore on Saturday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.55 per cent to USD 83.25 a barrel. The BSE benchmark climbed 88.91 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 74,005.94 in a special trading session on Saturday. The NSE Nifty advanced 35.90 points or

0.16 per cent to 22,502. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE conducted a special trading session in the equity and equity derivative segments on May 18 to check their preparedness for handling major disruptions or failures at the primary site. Markets were closed on Monday due to general elections in Mumbai.

ONGC net profit jumps 19 times in Q4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) March quarter net profit soared 19 times as the year-ago period had a one-time exceptional provision, while it posted a record earning for the full fiscal. The company's standalone net profit of Rs 9,869 crore in January-March — the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 — compared with a profit of Rs 528 crore in the same period of the previous financial year, according to a company statement. India's top oil and gas producer had made a provision of Rs 9,235 crore in the January-March 2023

quarter towards disputed taxes for the period from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2022. ONGC reported a 4.3 per cent rise in crude oil production in the fourth quarter this year to 4.71 million tonnes. The price realised for the same also was higher at USD 80.81 per barrel compared to USD 77.12 a barrel in January-March 2023. Gas price was, however, lower at USD 6.50 per million British thermal units as opposed to USD 8.57 in the previous year. Also, gas production fell 2.4 per cent to 4.95 billion cubic metres. Its revenue from operation was 4.6 per cent lower at Rs 34,637 crore. For the full 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024),



ONGC reported the highest-ever standalone net profit of Rs 40,526 crore on a revenue of Rs 1.38 lakh crore. This compared with Rs 40,097 crore net profit on a revenue of Rs 1.55 lakh crore. On a consolidated basis after taking into account the earnings of subsidiaries, including listed companies Hindustan Petroleum

Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and MRPL, ONGC had a record consolidated net profit of Rs 57,101 crore for FY24. Oil production for the full year was 0.7 per cent lower at 18.4 million tonnes while gas output fell 3.2 per cent to 19.97 bcm. The company declared a total dividend of 245 per cent (Rs 12.25 per share of face value Rs 5 each) with a total payout of Rs 15,411 crore. This includes an interim dividend of 195 per cent (Rs 9.75 per share) already paid during the year and a final dividend of 50 per cent (Rs 2.50 per share) recommended by the Board. ONGC said it has invested around Rs 37,000 crore of capex in FY24 (2023-24 fiscal)

compared to Rs 30,208 crore in the previous fiscal. Its overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd ended the year with 7.178 million tonnes of crude oil production and 3.34 bcm of gas output. This compared with 6.349 million tonnes of crude oil production in FY23 (2022-23) and 3.822 bcm of gas output. OVL posted a net profit of Rs 639 crore against Rs 1,660 crore in FY23, mainly due to higher impairment, the company statement said. Its turnover decreased 18.2 per cent to Rs 9,553 crore "mainly due to non-accounting of revenue from Sakhalin-1 (project in Russia) and lower crude price realisation", it added.

Glenmark unit ties up with BeiGene to market cancer drugs in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Tuesday said its unit has inked a marketing and distribution agreement with BeiGene to commercialise the latter's oncology medicines, Tislelizumab and Zanubrutinib in India. Glenmark Specialty SA, a unit of Mumbai-based drug maker, has inked exclusive marketing and distribution agreement with BeiGene. "The addition of Tislelizumab and Zanubrutinib to our oncology portfolio underscores our dedication to the cancer patients' community and our commitment to provide access to novel therapies across India," said Alok Malik, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals President and Business Head, India Formulations. As per the collaboration, Glenmark will be responsible for locally required development, registration and distribution providing access to the two medicines for cancer patients across India. BeiGene Vice President and Head of Asia-Pacific Adam



Roach said the collaboration is a testament to both companies' shared vision of enhancing healthcare access across Asia. "We take great pride in advancing mission-driven access, especially given the significant disease burden in India, where rising cancer rates require comprehensive healthcare solutions - a commitment we share with our partners at Glenmark," he added. Glenmark said recent statistics indicate that India has the third highest number of cancer cases worldwide, with predictions suggesting this could reach 2.08 million cases by 2040 — a 57.5 per cent increase from 2020. Currently, cancer claims around 9,00,000 lives annually in India.

Global Vaishya Federation demands social security for high tax paying traders: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jai Bhagwan Goyal, chairman of the Global Vaishya Federation, senior BJP leader, and International executive president of the United Hindu Front, strongly raised the long-standing demand for social security by traders and professionals at a seminar held today at Constitutional Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. He emphasised that those who fill the nation's coffers have

never received due attention from the government. Although the issue of their social security has been discussed, no concrete measures have been implemented by the Government. The Global Vaishya Federation organised this special seminar to bring this demand to the government's notice. Traders, Chartered Accountants (CAs), and other professionals attended the seminar.

Revamping of BOT model tactical move to attract private capex: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on Tuesday said the revamping of the built-operate-transfer (BOT) model is a tactical move to attract private capex, which is estimated to surpass Rs 1 trillion by 2030, as per the government. According to the rating agency, during the past seven years, the government has successfully rolled out about 400 Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) road projects in

India, worth over Rs 4 trillion. This approach has balanced risk appropriately between private and public partners, thereby boosting public-private partnership activity in the sector. Also, the government's enhanced focus on monetisation via the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) has attracted foreign investors, including various sovereign wealth funds and pension funds, it added.

Ind-Ra asserted that developers need to be mindful of aggressive bidding, taking projects beyond the appetite of their balance sheet, and overestimating toll revenue for greenfield projects to protect them from volatilities in the longer run. The road sector in India has been at the forefront of performance and innovation and has played a crucial role in shaping the country's economic growth trajectory, with a CAGR of about 14 per cent over the past decade, it said.

Custom Manufactured Chemicals phase II expansion on track: Chemplast Sanmar

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, part of the SHEL Chemicals Group on Tuesday said the phase II expansion of the Custom Manufactured Chemicals division was on track for completion. The city-based company, engaged in the manufacturing of specialty chemicals declared revenues of Rs 1,051 crore for the January-March 2024 quarter as compared to Rs 1,147 crore registered during the same quarter of last year. Net loss for the quarter under review stood at Rs 31 crore as against a net profit of Rs 46 crore registered in the same period of last year. In a statement, the company said Custom Manufactured Chemicals business was adversely impacted during the year by the overall slowdown in the global agrochemicals industry.

"The impact was partly offset by the commencement of supplies of new products under the first two Letter of Intent (LoI) signed in the last 12-15 months. As a result Custom Manufactured Chemicals division revenues were lower by 13 per cent," the company said. The positive impact of the new products would be seen in the upcoming quarters, it said. On the status of the company's projects, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd Managing Director Ramkumar Shankar said, "Construction of Phase 2 of the CMC expansion project is underway and we expect to complete this by the end of Q1-FY25." "With the recent signing of the 4th Letter of Intent, the CMC division continues to make significant strides in growing the business. The pipeline of the CMC

division continues to be robust," he said in the statement. On the financial performance, Shankar said, "FY'24 has been one of the toughest years for the company in recent times. The year was marked with challenges on all fronts including pricing and margin pressures due to excessive dumping of PVC resins by China and other countries, the sharp correction in prices of Caustic Soda due to oversupply situation." "Amidst these headwinds, we closed FY'24 with a topline of Rs 3,923 crore and an EBITDA of Rs 26 crore," he said. On the outlook for the future, he said, "while the short-term challenges persist, we have laid the foundation to capitalise on the long-term prospects of each of our businesses and are confident of delivering a stronger performance in the future."

Rupee rises 6 paise against US dollar as crude oil prices ease

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 6 paise to close at 83.31 against the US dollar on Tuesday following a weak greenback against major currencies overseas and softening crude oil prices in international markets. However, a sluggish trend in the domestic equity markets restricted the sharp upside in the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 83.32 and touched an intraday high of 83.26 and a low of 83.36. The domestic unit finally settled at 83.31 (provisional), a gain of 6 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 83.37 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Monday on account of general elections. "A decline in crude oil prices and fresh foreign inflows also supported the rupee. US Dollar softened on rate cut expectations by Fed but hawkish comments by Fed officials supported the US dollar at lower levels," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 52.63 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 73,953.31, while the broader NSE Nifty rose 27.05 points or 0.12 per cent to 22,529.05.

WFI EXEMPTS OLYMPIC QUOTA WINNERS FROM TRIALS BUT WILL ASSESS THEM IN HUNGARY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday decided to exempt all six Olympic quota winners from selection trials but their form and fitness will be assessed at the upcoming Ranking Series event and the subsequent training camp in Hungary.

The WFI said the decision to not hold trials has been taken under peculiar circumstances and should not be used as a precedent in future.

The WFI also made it clear that if any wrestler is found to be lacking in fitness, the federation would consider a replacement through trials before July 8, the deadline for sending entries.

India have got six quotas for the Paris Games where Aman Sehrawat (57kg) will be the lone male wrestler in fray from the country.

Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) are the women wrestlers who have qualified.



The wrestlers had requested the WFI not to hold trials, arguing that it could lead to injuries and the selection committee, led by President Sanjay Singh, accepted the plea.

"We discussed the issue and both chief coaches were also of the view that trials could lead

to injuries and impact India's medal chances. So we have decided not to hold trials," Sanjay Singh told PTI after the meeting.

The quota winners will compete in a UWW Ranking Series in Budapest from June 6-9 and will also participate in a training camp after the

conclusion of the tournament from June 10-21.

"We have to ensure that no wrestler carries any injury into the Olympics. So, instead of trials, the Indian coaches will assess the quota winners at the Ranking Series event and at the following training camp in Budapest.

"If the coaches find that someone is not fit, we may then look for a replacement in that particular category. We will hold selection trial before July 8 in that weight class," the president added.

The WFI decision has shut the Paris Olympic door on Tokyo Games silver medalist Ravi Dahiya (men's 57kg) and World Championship bronze winner Sarita Mor in women's (57kg), who were preparing for trials.

It also means that Vinesh Phogat will now have to compete in women's 50kg event only. She had the chance to compete in 53kg also if she defeated Antim in trials.

Women's head coach Virender Dahiya and freestyle head coach Jagminder Singh also attended the selection committee meeting.

London Olympic bronze medalist Yogeshwar Dutt, former wrestler Geetika Jakhar, WFI vice-president and Olympian Jai Prakash, WFI treasurer Sandeep Deshwal also attended the meeting. Geetika attended the meeting through video call.

Juventus rallies from 3-0 down to draw with Bologna in first match without Allegri

AP ■ BOLOGNA (ITALY)

In its first match since Massimiliano Allegri was fired, Juventus came from 3-0 down to draw with Bologna 3-3 in Serie A on Monday.

Allegri was sacked on Friday, two days after berating the referees while winning the Italian Cup final. Under-19 coach Pablo Montero agreed to oversee Juve's last two games.

Bologna, third, and Juventus, fourth on goal difference, have already qualified for the Champions League next season but played like they hadn't.

A double by Riccardo Calafiori helped a dominant Bologna to 3-0, and in their grasp was a first home win over Juve in 26 years.

But Juventus began its comeback with 14 minutes left of regulation time, starting with Federico Chiesa's goal. Within eight more minutes, Arkadiusz Milik struck from a free kick and the equalizer was by Kenan Yildiz, the 19-year-old forward who Juve consider a star in the making.

In this breakthrough season, Yildiz debuted for Juventus and became its youngest foreign scorer, and debuted



and scored for European Championship-bound Turkey. Meanwhile, Verona guaranteed its Serie A status for another season after beating Salernitana 2-1.

Marco Baroni's men are four points clear of the relegation zone with one game to go. Salernitana and Sassuolo are already down and Verona's win means Udinese, Empoli, Frosinone and Cagliari are fighting to avoid joining them.

Verona's third win in five games was timely given its last league match is against champion Inter Milan, which has lost only twice all season.

Tomas Suslov's second goal in the league was the opener, and Darko Lazovic crossed for Michael Folunsho to poke home from close range on the stroke of halftime.

Giulio Maggiore scored a consolation for the home side in the final minute.



Messi in, Dybala out in Argentina squad for preCopa America friendlies

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Lionel Messi is in and Paulo Dybala is out of Argentina's squad for friendlies against Ecuador and Guatemala before defending its Copa America title next month.

The squad of 29 players announced on Monday will be cut by three by coach Lionel Scaloni when he finalizes the group on June 12.

Midfielder Dybala was part of Argentina's World Cup-winning squad in 2022.

Argentina will play Ecuador on June 9 in Chicago, and five days later Guatemala in Landover, Maryland.

Argentina begins at the Copa America on June 20 against Canada in Atlanta. Chile and Peru are also part of Group A.

ARGENTINA:
Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa), Franco Armani (River Plate), Gerónimo Rulli (Ajax).
Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel (Nottingham Forest), Nahuel

Molina (Atletico Madrid), Leonardo Balerdi (Marseille), Cristian Romero (Tottenham), Germán Pezzella (Real Betis), Lucas Martínez Quarta (Fiorentina), Nicolás Otamendi (Benfica), Lisandro Martínez (Manchester United), Marcos Acuña (Sevilla), Nicolás Tagliafico (Lyon), Valentin Barco (Brighton).

Midfielders: Guido Rodríguez (Real Betis), Leandro Paredes (Roma), Alexis Mac Allister (Liverpool), Rodrigo De Paul (Atletico Madrid), Exequiel Palacios (Bayer Leverkusen), Enzo Fernández (Chelsea), Giovanni Lo Celso (Tottenham).

Strikers: Ángel Di María (Benfica), Valentin Carboni (Monza), Lionel Messi (Inter Miami), Ángel Correa (Atletico Madrid), Alejandro Garnacho (Manchester United), Nicolás González (Fiorentina), Lautaro Martínez (Inter Milan), Julián Álvarez (Manchester City).

Rafael Nadal returns to Roland Garros

AP ■ PARIS

Rafael Nadal returned to Roland Garros on Monday to practice and try to figure out whether to compete at the French Open, a tournament he has won a record 14 times.

The 37-year-old Spaniard showed up late in the afternoon with his coach, Carlos Moya, and a couple of sparring partners at Court Philippe Chatrier, which was open to the public.

About 6,000 fans were there at the French Open's main stadium, cheering loudly as Nadal stepped onto the court. After the practice, which lasted about an hour and a half, Nadal signed several autographs before disappearing through a doorway and into a tunnel that leads toward the locker rooms. The training session gave



Nadal a chance to reacquaint himself with the red clay at Roland Garros - he hasn't played a match there in two years - and test his fitness.

The tournament begins on Sunday and it remains uncertain if Nadal will enter. He is still regaining his match readiness after missing nearly

all of 2023 with a hip injury that required surgery, and much of this season because of problems with a hip muscle and an abdominal muscle.

His recent loss in his second match at the Italian Open - 6-1, 6-3 against Hubert Hurkacz - left Nadal unsure about whether he would consider himself ready for the French Open.

"Let's see what's going on, how I feel myself mentally tomorrow, after tomorrow, and in one week," Nadal said in Rome. "If I feel ready, I (am) going to try to be there and fight for the things that I have been fighting (for) the last 15 years, (even) if now (that) seems impossible."

As of Monday, Nadal still had not announced whether or not he would play in Paris. This is expected to be his final season on tour - and so this would be his final appearance at a tournament he has won more times than any other tennis player has won any Grand Slam title.

He won the French Open in 2022 for his 22nd major championship overall, which ranks second among men to Novak Djokovic's 24.

Saudi Arabia going to sponsor WTA women's tennis rankings under new partnership

AP ■ NEW YORK

Saudi Arabia's move into tennis will now include a multiyear deal to sponsor the WTA women's rankings.

The WTA released word of its partnership agreement with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) on Monday, a move that follows last month's news that the kingdom will host the tour's season-ending championships in Riyadh starting this year and February's announcement that it will sponsor the ATP men's rankings.

Both tours' rankings deals are for five years. The PIF is the first naming-rights partner for the WTA rankings and the new arrangement also includes plans to promote tennis at lower levels of the sport. Tennis has been consumed lately by the debate over whether the sport should



follow golf and others in making deals with Saudi Arabia, where rights groups say women continue to face discrimination in most aspects of family life and homosexuality is a major taboo, as it is in much of the rest of the Middle East.

Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova are among those who urged the WTA to stay out of Saudi Arabia, while another former

star player and Hall of Famer, equal rights pioneer Billie Jean King, advocated for engagement.

The WTA Finals will be in Saudi Arabia as part of a three-year deal that will increase the prize money for this November's season-ending championship to a record \$15.25 million, a 70% increase from 2023.

Saudi Arabia's Private Investment Fund formed the LIV Golf tour and put money into soccer, for example, and the kingdom's role in tennis has been rising. The ATP Tour moved its Next Gen Finals for leading 21-and-under players to Jeddah in November; 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal recently became an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation; he will join 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic and rising stars Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner at an exhibition event in Riyadh in October.



Chandru G knocks out Jaskaran to win WBC India national title

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Tamil Nadu's rising star Chandru G clinched the WBC India Cruiserweight Championship title with a spectacular fourth round knockout victory over Punjab boxer Jaskaran Singh.

Entering the fight with a flawless 10-0 record, the 27-year-old Chandru had a slow start, allowing Jaskaran (9-3) to take advantage of his height. However, by the second round, Chandru began to dominate, landing heavy three-punch combinations and right crosses.

In the decisive fourth round, a powerful right cross from Chandru hit Jaskaran square in the face, sending him crashing to the ropes. Referee Kevin David halted the fight and declared Chandru the winner.

"This victory is not just for me, but for the whole of Tamil Nadu, for my team, my family, and all my supporters who have stood by me throughout this journey," Chandru said.

"Jaskaran Singh is a formidable opponent, and a very hard puncher. But training over the past 40 days paid off. I hope this win inspires more boxers from Tamil Nadu to start making a move to Pro Boxing. "This is just the beginning, I have a possible shot at the WBC Asian title in the coming few months. Thank you to everyone who believed in me," he added.

The eight-round contest between Akshay Chahal (14-0) and Ram Singh (3-0) ended in a draw. Both fighters, who are seasoned amateurs, showcased their skills in a thrilling bout.

Ram Singh dominated the early rounds, while Akshay made a strong comeback in the final rounds, resulting in a dramatic fight.

Haryana's Ashish Choudhary triumphed over Punjab's Manish Sharma by unanimous decision.

Renu Phogat of Haryana pulled off a technical knockout victory over Delhi's Ruby in the first round.

Liverpool confirms Arne Slot as Jurgen Klopp's replacement

AP ■ LONDON

Arne Slot will take on one of the most daunting challenges in soccer by replacing Jurgen Klopp as Liverpool manager.

Slot was confirmed on Monday after he signed a long-term contract with the six-time European Cup winner and 19-time English champion.

He will follow in the footsteps of an Anfield icon in Klopp, who ended Liverpool's 30-year wait for the English title in 2020 and won a full set of major trophies in his time at the Merseyside club.

Slot comes in with a winning record of his own after leading Feyenoord to the Dutch title last year and following that with the Dutch Cup this season.

He will formally take up his role on June 1 and his contract runs through to 2027, a deal with knowledge of the person told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the details of the contract have not been made public.



Slot's appointment was expected for some time, as the 45-year-old Dutchman said he was in talks with Liverpool in April and announced he would be Klopp's successor last week.

Slot has coached Feyenoord since 2021 and was previously with AZ Alkmaar. His work with both clubs has seen his reputation rise for his coaching methods and achievements in a short time.

Klopp stunned the world of soccer when he declared in

January he would step down at the end of the season. The German established himself as one of the finest managers of his generation.

He won the Champions League in 2019, the Premier League in 2020, and the English League Cup and FA Cup in 2022. He departed with one final trophy, the League Cup in February.

Under his watch, Liverpool also won the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup and was a beaten finalist in two more Champions Leagues.

Liverpool took its time identifying Klopp's successor. Michael Edwards, its former sporting director, returned in March as chief executive of football for the club's American owners Fenway Sports Group and led the search.

Edwards was a key figure in Klopp's success — overseeing the signings of star players like Mohamed Salah, Alisson Becker, and Virgil van Dijk. Liverpool fans can only hope he is as adept at identifying coaching talent after putting his faith in Slot.

With Djokovic awaiting the winner, Murray trails Hanfmann at rain hit Geneva Open

AP ■ GENEVA

Needing a win to face Novak Djokovic next at the Geneva Open, Andy Murray was saved by a heavy rainstorm when he trailed unseeded Yannick Hanfmann 7-5, 4-1 in a first-round match on Monday.

Murray and top-ranked Djokovic both got wild cards to enter the last clay-court event to prepare for the French Open, and were drawn to meet in the second round. They have not faced each other on tour since February 2017.

Ranked No. 75, Murray began to struggle in his first tour match in two months when heavy rain and strong winds swept across the stadium court in a lakeside park.

The 85th-ranked Hanfmann broke Murray's service twice in a row to lead 4-1 with his service game to come when play was suspended.

In the opening set, Murray found some big serves to get out of trouble in the ninth game when he saved two break points.

It was just a respite, as Murray was



broken to love in his next service game, sealed by a Hanfmann forehand service return winner.

The German served out the set taking his first chance at 40-0. The serve pushed Murray wide to his backhand and he netted the return.

The winner is expected to play Djokovic on Wednesday, the 37th birthday for the record 24-time Grand Slam singles champion. Murray, who has a 2-5 career record against Djokovic in Grand Slam finals, turned 37 last Wednesday.

Indian junior men hockey team begins Europe tour with thrilling win over Belgium

PTI ■ ANTWERP

Shardanand Tiwari struck twice as the Indian junior men's hockey team beat Belgium via penalty shootout in the opening match to kick off its tour of Europe with a thrilling win here.

Tiwari (3', 27') scored a brace as the two teams ended the regulation time 2-2 before India won the penalty shootout 4-2 on Monday. India took the lead early with Tiwari firing in a penalty stroke. They maintained their tempo throughout the first

quarter to hold onto their lead going into the break.

In the second quarter, Tiwari (27') doubled the lead with yet another penalty stroke as the first half ended with the visitors leading 2-0.

Belgium converted a penalty corner early in the third quarter to reduce the goal deficit to one.

No further goals were scored in the quarter as the score read 2-1 in favour of the Indian team at the end of the third quarter.

Although the Indian colts had a one-goal lead going into the final quarter, Belgium didn't give them much breathing space and kept the pressure on them. With just a few minutes left in

the game, the Belgians converted yet another penalty corner to equalise.

As no more goals were scored in the regulation time, the fourth quarter ended with the scoreline reading 2-2, taking the game into a shootout.

Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh and

Manmeet Singh scored for the Indian colts in the penalty shootout while goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh made two brilliant saves as they won the penalty shoot-out 4-2 to begin their Europe tour with a win.

India will play their next match against Belgium in Breda, Netherlands on Wednesday.

Manmeet Singh scored for the Indian colts in the penalty shoot-out while goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh made two brilliant saves as they won the penalty shoot-out 4-2 to begin their Europe tour with a win.

India will play their next match against Belgium in Breda, Netherlands on Wednesday.



KKR OUTPLAY SRH, STORM INTO IPL FINAL

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Mitchell Starc-powered Kolkata Knight Riders' juggernaut rolled into the IPL final as the two-time champions produced a ruthless performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad for an eight-wicket win in Qualifier 1 here on Tuesday.

Starc produced a stunning opening burst of three wickets in the powerplay to break the back of SRH's dangerous batting.

They were eventually shot out for a mere 159 in 19.3 overs with Rahul Tripathi scoring a vital 55 while Heinrich Klaasen (32) and Pat Cummins (30) also fought hard.

On a benign wicket in steaming hot conditions, SRH's fight petered out as KKR knocked off the innocuous 160-run target in a mere 13.4 overs with skipper Shreyas Iyer (58 not out off 24) and Venkatesh Iyer (51 not out off 28) taking them over the line. KKR will play their fourth IPL final in Chennai on Sunday.

SRH, who had pipped Rajasthan Royals on the final day of the league stage to finish second in the points table, will now proceed to Chennai to have another crack at making the summit clash with the Qualifier 2 to be played on May 24.

The Pat Cummins-led side will face the winner of the Eliminator between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Wednesday.

In his first game this season,



Rahmanullah Gurbaz (23) played his role to perfection with two crucial grabs behind the wicket and a quickfire 14-ball 23 at the top laced with two sixes and as many fours. Chasing a below-par target, KKR raised their fifty in no time. Sunil Narine (21) perished shortly after the powerplay which brought the pair of Shreyas and Venkatesh together. They put on 97 runs for the

third wicket to complete a comprehensive victory. Shreyas also had luck on his side as a paddle sweep off Vijaykanth Vijaykanth ricocheted off SRH keeper Heinrich Klaasen who went for the catch in the 10th over. But with short midwicket fielder Rahul Tripathi running in hard for it as well, Klaasen could not hold onto the ball despite having it in his grasp

while nearly avoiding a collision. Soon after, the day went from bad to worse for SRH and Head who spilled a regulation catch off T Natarajan in the 11th over which gave the KKR skipper another lifeline. If Shreyas was content nudging the ball around while putting the odd ball away for boundaries, Venkatesh outmatched his skipper with a rapid half-century which was completed

off 28 balls. However, Shreyas overtook his younger partner to wrap up the game with a flurry of boundaries. Venkatesh, on his part, remained unbeaten on 51 off 28 balls with four sixes and five fours.

Earlier, the lanky Australian speedster Starc reaped benefits of utilising his core skill of bowling quick and swinging the ball. He rattled the stumps of SRH marauder Head on the second ball of the contest to set the tone in KKR's favour.

IPL's third highest run-getter Head was all over the place when he went for a wild heave against his compatriot, who got the ball nipping slightly away after pitching and knocking down the off and middle stumps to dismiss the batter for his second consecutive duck.

Starc also bounced out Nitish Reddy (9) and had Shabbaz Ahmed (0) chopping one onto his wickets to put KKR in firm control inside the powerplay.

With Head removed from the equation early, SRH pinned their hopes on Abhishek Sharma but the left-hander too was confined to having an unsuccessful outing.

Abhishek, who has immaculately picked gaps and unleashed spectacular shots more often than not this season, played one meekly towards cover where Andre Russell timed his leap to perfection and used both his hands to complete the dismissal, off Vaibhav Arora.

RR desperate to arrest slide against RCB

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Sanju Samson's Rajasthan Royals will face a stern test of character as they look to arrest a shocking slide in a do-or-die IPL Eliminator against an in-form Royal Challengers Bengaluru, here on Wednesday.

The Royals, at one stage, had looked set for a top-place finish in the league stage before a string of four defeats and a washout in the last game against KKR resulted in Sanju Samson's side finishing third behind Sunrisers Hyderabad.

On the other hand, RCB have sensationally fought their way back from the brink of elimination. After losing seven of their first eight games this season, the team led by Faf du Plessis hit a dream run and finally knocked out defending champions Chennai Super Kings a few nights ago to seal a playoffs berth.

If Rajasthan Royals are coming off four losses and a rained-off game, RCB have notched up six consecutive wins to sound a warning to their rivals that they mean business in the playoffs.

RR, the 2008 IPL winners, suddenly find themselves as the underdogs, when a couple of weeks ago they were red-hot favourites.

When on song, Rajasthan Royals have shown they are unbeatable, but the last four games have exposed frailties in their batting and bowling.

The exit of Jos Buttler has taken a lot of firepower out of their batting and a lot will depend on Yashvish Jaiswal (348 runs), skipper Samson (504) and Rryan Parag (531) to halt the slide.

Samson and Parag will once again be expected to deliver the goods for RR, with England's Tom Kohler-Cadmore expected to partner Jaiswal in what seems like a frail opening pair going by form and experience.

Shimron Hetmyer is expected to be available for the contest giving Rajasthan solidity in the lower order, which has not made a big contribution with



the bat this season.

RR's strong bowling lineup could come in handy given the venue for the Eliminator has not been a batting paradise like the other grounds, where shorter boundaries and docile tracks have made the bowlers' job tougher.

The 200-run mark has been breached only twice in 12 innings this season at the Narendra Modi Stadium, which means the team having a disciplined bowling attack and a strong batting lineup is more likely to win here.

On the other hand, RCB's Virat Kohli continues to be the highest run-getter this season with 708 runs from 14 matches and could make the difference in the contest.

After initial struggles, RCB skipper Faf du Plessis has also found form with the bat to forge a dominating partnership at the top with Kohli, while Rajat Patidar (five half-centuries this season) has also given solidity at the top.

RCB have not been impacted much by the exit of England's Will Jacks, while veteran Dinesh Karthik is firing on all cylinders with a strike rate in excess of 195 lower down the order.

In their last match, left-arm seamer Yash Dayal turned around his fortunes to dish out a splendid final over against CSK to deny them a win and lead RCB into the playoffs.

For a bowler who was devastated after conceding five consecutive sixes in an over last year, Dayal has proved his mettle this year.

OTHER SPORTS

Ekta wins gold with season's best effort in club throw at World Para Athletic Championships

PTI ■ KOBE (JAPAN)

India's Ekta Bhyan secured the gold medal with a season's best throw of 20.12m in the women's F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships here. A day after Deepthi Jeevanji clinched the gold medal in women's 400m T20 category race, Indian athletes continued their impressive run with Ekta producing the goods to finish in the top, while Kashish Lakra took the silver with an effort of 14.56m. Nadjet Boucherr of Algeria won the bronze with a score of 12.70m.

Ekta, a Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officer, had won a bronze medal in the Asian Para



Games China. The 38-year-old, who took up sports after her selection in the Haryana government as HCS officer, also won gold medal in the club throw event at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta. She had also qualified

for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Ekta wanted to pursue a career in medical stream but a tragic accident in 2003 cut short her dream. The accident happened near Kundli in Sonapat district when a truck overturned on

her cab on the Delhi-Haryana border.

While she suffered quadriplegic spinal cord injury and is wheelchair-bound ever since, six other students were killed in the accident.

On Monday, Deepthi, Para Asian Games gold medalist, had smashed a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category race en route to her gold medal.

On Sunday, Nishad Kumar (T47 high jump) and 200m runner Preethi Pal (T35 200m race) won a silver and bronze respectively.

India's tally has now swelled to five medals — 2 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze.



Hockey Pro League: Indian men's, women's teams hope to make most of European leg

PTI ■ ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

Indian men's hockey team will hope to iron out the flaws ahead of the Paris Olympics, while the women's team under new skipper Salima Tete will look to overcome the disappointment of not qualifying for the Summer Games, when the gruelling European leg of the FIH Pro League commences here with matches against Argentina on Wednesday.

The men's team under drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh is coming into the tournament following a 0-5 Test series whitewash at the hands of Australia and would look to make the most of the opportunity in Europe to get back to winning ways ahead of the Paris Games.

"Undoubtedly, we are focused on the Olympics but we also need to give our best to finish as champions (in Pro League) and secure direct qualification for the 2026 Hockey World Cup as well," said Harmanpreet, whose team is currently placed third with 15 points from eight Pro League games.

Netherlands are leading the charts with 26 points (12 matches), while Australia are on 20 points (8 matches).

"To achieve both these targets (doing well ahead of Olympics and secure direct qualification for 2026 World Cup), we will strive to give our all on the pitch and win all our matches," the skipper added.

Besides Argentina, the Indian men's team will also test their Olympic preparations against Belgium, Germany and Great Britain.

The Indian women, currently placed sixth on the Pro League

table, have a chance to climb up the table when they take on world No.7 Argentina on Wednesday.

The world No.6 side has earned eight points from an equal number of games in the Pro League home leg, registering victories against the United States and Australia. Newly-appointed captain Salima said the friendlies against South Africa in India earlier this month had helped her team prepare for the European leg of the Pro League.

"We played practice matches against South Africa (in India) to prepare for these Hockey Pro League matches. The point difference between us and second-placed China is just seven points," said Tete in a Hockey India release.

"We (will) aim to close this gap in the remaining matches against Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain in a bid to finish as high as we can," she added. China are placed second on the table with 15 points from eight games, while leaders Netherlands are on 36 points with an all-win record in 12 games.

Following the matches against Argentina, the women's team will play Belgium on May 23, while the men's side will take on the hosts a day later.

The women's and men's teams will face Belgium again on May 25. India women and men will end their first half of the European tour with matches against Argentina on May 26, before moving on to the final leg in London where they play Germany on June 1 and 8 and take on hosts Great Britain on June 2 and 9.



Vennam fourth in rankings, takes India to second spot in qualifying round

PTI ■ YECHON (SOUTH KOREA)

Reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam's fourth place finish lifted compound women's team to second spot in the qualifying rankings of the Archery World Cup Stage 2 that got underway here on Tuesday.

Fresh from winning a hat-trick of gold medals at the season-opening Shanghai leg of the World Cup last month, Jyothi missed the top-three spot in the rankings by just three points, finishing behind South Korea's Oh Yoo Hyun, who shot 707.

Han Seungyeon took the pole position at 711, followed by Luxembourg's Mariya Shkolna one point adrift. At eighth and 15th places respectively, Parneet Kaur (704) and world champion Aditi Swami (702) were the next best Indians as overall as a team India grabbed the second seed behind South Korea. The Indian women's team will get a bye into the quarters

where they will face seventh seeded Italy. It was a forgettable outing for the compound men archers and Priyansh at 16th place in the leaderboard was the best among the Indians.

Prathamesh Fuge and multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma, who seemed to have past his prime, were the next best Indians finishing lowly at 20th and 24th places.

It impacted the team ranking as they slipped to fourth place. Priyansh and Jyothi combined to get a fourth spot in the mixed team ranking as well.

The qualifiers for the recurve archers will begin on Wednesday. Indian men's recurve team are coming back after upsetting South Korea for the first time in a World Cup final in the Shanghai leg in April.

India topped the medal standings at the Stage 1 World Cup with five gold medals, two silver and one bronze, pushing South Korea to second spot (two gold, three silver and two bronze medals).

Treesa, Gayatri enter second round of Malaysia Masters; Indians falter in singles qualification

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Indian shuttlers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the second round of women's doubles competition after securing a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu-Hsun and Liang Ting Yu at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 here on Tuesday.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa and Gayatri, seventh seeded, notched up a fine 21-14 21-10 win over Huang and Liang, ranked 104, in the round of 32. There were four Indians in men's singles qualification round but none could make the cut for the main draw.

Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, who won his



maiden BWF Super 100 title at Odisha Masters last December, beat Malaysia's Cheam June Wei 21-15 21-19 before going

down 21-13 20-22 13-21 to Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

Ayush Shetty, a bronze medallist at the World Junior Championships, beat compatriot Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 21-7 21-14 but lost 21-23 21-16 17-21 to Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratrakul.

Former World Junior Championships silver medallist S Sankar Subramanian suffered 12-21 17-21 to Rhustavito in the opening round of qualification.

In women's singles qualifiers, Tanya Hemant went down 21-23 8-21 to Lin Sih Yun of Chinese Taipei.

In women's doubles, Palak Arora and Unnati Hooda lost 10-21 5-21 to Chinese Taipei's Hsu Yin-Hui and Lin Jhij Yun to also bow out of the competition.

Paralympics champion Sumit defends F64 javelin world title, India jump to third

PTI ■ KOBE (JAPAN)

Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil on Tuesday defended his F64 javelin throw world title while Thangavelu Mariyappan and Ekta Bhyan also grabbed gold medals in their respective events as India jumped to third place in the World Para Athletics Championships here.

With five medals won on a productive fifth day, India's tally swelled to 10 (4 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze) and the country is currently placed below China (15 gold, 13 silver, 13 bronze) and Brazil (14 gold, 6 silver, 5 bronze).

Antil, who had won gold medals in the Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 World Para Athletics Championships, sent his spear to a distance of 69.50m to stand on top of the podium.

The 25-year-old Haryana athlete thus continued his global domination in the F64 javelin event. He is the current world record holder also, courtesy his massive 73.29m throw while winning gold in the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, China last year. He also holds the World Para Athletics Championships

record of 70.83m which he had produced while winning the gold in the last edition in Paris in 2023.

Compatriot Sandeep won the bronze medal in the same event with a throw of 60.41m. Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku took the silver with a throw of 66.49m.

Antil was the leader all through the event in the nine-man field as he opened with a 68.17m effort before coming up with his day's best jump of 69.50m in the second attempt. His next four attempts read 64.04m, 65.58m, 69.03m and 68.08m.

Sonipat's Antil wanted to pursue a career in wrestling, but in 2015, when he was 17, his motorbike was hit by a speeding truck while he was returning home from a tuition class. As a result, his left leg was amputated and he had to abandon his dream of becoming a wrestler.

His father, employed in Indian Air Force, died when he was seven. Tokyo Paralympics silver winner Mariyappan also grabbed a gold in T63 high jump with a championship record of 1.88m. This was his first gold in a major event in eight years.

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