

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $S_{m\ u\ l\ t\ i\ n\ a\ t\ i\ o\ n\ a\ l}^{parking\ criticism\ and\ raising}$ pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca has for the first time acknowledged in court documents in the UK that its Covid-19 vaccine, which is known as Covishield in India, has the potential to cause Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia with Syndrome (TTS), a rare side effect associated with blood clotting.

This condition involves the formation of blood clots accompanied by a low platelet count, which is critical for blood

up to 51 litigations, being sued in

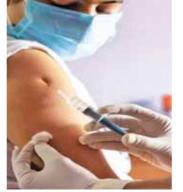
class action over claims its vaccine caused death and serious injury in dozens of cases. In India, it was one of the widely administered Covid vaccines to reduce severe Covid-19 complications. Developed in collaboration with

University of Oxford, AstraZeneca's vaccine was manufactured in India by Punebased Serum Institute of India (SII). As many as 1,749,417,978 doses of Covishield vaccine have been administered in India, in what was the world's largest vaccination programme from January 2021, according to the

clotting. As per media reports in government's web portal CoWIN as on April 29, 2024.

Taking cognizance of the development, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the Indian Government should work to urgently address the alleged side-effects of the Covidshield vaccine as millions of people in India were administered the shot during the Covid pandemic.

Bharadwaj expressed concern over the alleged link between the vaccine's side-effects and a series of sudden deaths in India. claiming that Covidshield was banned in several European countries, including Germany, France, Spain, Finland, Norway vaccine dashboard of the and Denmark, at the beginning of



2021 due to apprehensions about its safety.

Speaking about complications related to the Covidshield vaccine, Bhardwaj told a news agency,

"We have seen numerous videos on social media recently showing people collapsing and dying immediately after performing activities, which was not observed before the pandemic. Many people speculate a connection to the coronavirus vaccine and such reports are a matter of concern as they escalate tension?

However, in India, the doctors said there was no need to worry. They said that if a person has received the AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India, two years ago, the likelihood of experiencing any adverse effects now is extremely low. "Adverse effects, if they occur, typically manifest within a few weeks of vaccination," said Dr Sudhir

Kumar, Neurologist, Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad.

Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman of the National Indian Medical Association, added that this particular outcome is reported only in the first month following the first dose, not afterwards. In India, Dr Kumar added that the incidence of TTS after the vaccine is not known.

"Only isolated case reports have been reported. So, TTP is extremely rare after Covid vaccination, considering millions of vaccine doses have been administered," the expert said. TTS is thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, which is basically clot in blood vessels of the brain or elsewhere,

along with a low platelet count. It is known to occur in very rare instances following certain types of vaccines and also from other causes. According to the WHO, adenovirus vector vaccines in particular have been rarely associated with this condition, Dr Jayadevan asserted. Dr MV Padma Srivastava,

Chairperson - Neurology, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram, however, told a news agency, "I have read the recent report which states that (Thrombosis TTS Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) is happening. In rare events, I can say that the vaccine has caused certain consequences and TTS."

Amit Shah deepfake video singes the Congress Sex scandal plot thickens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

The Gujarat police on Tuesday said they have arrested a Congress leader and an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) functionary for allegedly sharing Union Home Minister Amit Shah's deep fake video, in which he is purportedly seen announcing the curtailment of reservation rights of the SCs, STs and OBCs.

The arrest comes a day after Delhi Police initiated a probe and summoned several persons including Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy for questioning in the case. A few arrests have already been made in this case as Mumbai police too registered FIRs against the Maharashtra Youth Congress social media platform and 16 others. Police in other BIPruled States also swung into action making the first arrest in Assam in connection with the

case on Sunday. In his first reactions pertaining to the matter, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Congress' frustration and disappointment have reached such a level that it made and circulated it on social media ief ministers and



Union Home Minster Amit Shah addresses a Press conference at Vajpayee Bhawan, in Guwahati, on Tuesday. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and State BJP president Bhabesh Kalita are also seen

Guwahati when asked on the

arrest of a Congress

Shah alleged that since leader Rahul Gandhi assumed leadership the of Congress, its level of politics is sinking and the attempt to create confusion and mislead

people is condemnable. They should contest elections on the basis of their principles, programmes and Personal Assistant (PA) of manifesto and not by circulating a fake video

functionary of Assam for allegedly circulating a fake video of the BJP leader Ahmedabad The Cyber Crime Cell arrested the two persons, including one

Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani since the last si ars Another

the last four years and third belongs to the Dalit community, also serves as the general secretary of Banaskantha district Congress. The duo was booked under section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505(2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) The police release

Dahod district president since

edited video of Amit Shah's speech with an intention to create enmity between reserved castes and unreserved castes in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "Both of them had shared this edited video of Amit Shah on their Facebook pages. They received this video on their WhatsApp and investigations are still on to nab the person who had edited this video," said a Gujarat police official. BJP on Monday lodged a complaint with the Election

Commission against the Congress, alleging that it circulated a "deep fake and morphed" video of Amit Shah to derail the poll process, and demanded strict action against the party. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police had on Sunday registered an FIR after the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a

commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious ground in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

TD(S) on Tuesday suspended its Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from the party with immediate effect over an alleged sex scandal involving him. Prajwal is the BJP-JD(S) alliance's candidate from Hassan, which went to the polls in the second phase on Friday.

While Home Minister Amit Shah sought to know why the Congress Government in the State did not take any action against Prajwal for alleged sexual abuse of women, the National Commission for Women sought a report within three days from the Karnataka police over allegations of sexual abuse involving Praiwal. The 33-year-old is the son of HD Deve Gowda's elder son HD Revanna, who is an MLA and a former Minister. Prajwal's uncle H D is State Kumaraswamy president of JD(S).

The suspension came minutes after the party core committee that met in Hubballi recommended his suspension to its national president and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who is also Praiwal grandfather



NSUI members hold a poster of JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna during a protest against his involvement in the alleged sexual abuse case in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Revanna allegedly harassing women are widely in circulation on social media and media and this has caused huge embarrassment to the party and its leadership,"the suspension order said. Stating that the Congress

government in Karnataka has constituted a Special Investigation Team to investigate this, it said,

"In this backdrop, as per ' party and r JD(S)' constitution rules regarding breach of discipline and punishment, Prajwal Revanna has been suspended with immediate effect."

allegations of sexual abuse, asserting that it will push for the full might of law against him, and launched a fierce counter-attack on Congress for "delayed" action by the Karnataka Governmer

Revanna were circulated in

Hassan over the last few days.

Police on Sunday booked

Prajwal Revanna and his

father H D Revanna on

charges of sexual harassment

and criminal intimidation

based on a complaint from

in their household.

a woman, who worked

BJP welcomed the

ID(S) decision to

suspend MP Prajwal

over

state unit chiefs also forwarded said at a Press conference in has been serving as the AAP's said the duo had uploaded the

explicit Some "Videos of Hassan MP Prajwal allegedly involving Prajwal

MEA debunks WaPo report claiming RAW hand in murder plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $A^{\mathrm{day}\,\mathrm{after}\,\mathit{The}\,\mathit{Washington}\,\mathit{Post}\,\mathrm{named}\,\mathrm{an}}_{\mathrm{Indian}\,\mathrm{official}\,\mathrm{for}\,\mathrm{allegedly}\,\mathrm{plotting}\,\mathrm{to}}$ eliminate Sikh extremist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, India on Tuesday said the report made "unwarranted and unsubstantiated" imputations on a serious matter.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, named a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate Pannun.

"The report in question makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

There is an ongoing investigation of the high level committee set up by the Government of India to look into the security concerns shared by the US government on networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to media queries on the report.

"Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," Jaiswal said.

The report in The Washington Post claimed that a man referred to as 'CC-1' in the indictment filed on the alleged murder plot to kill Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun was a RAW officer, Vikram Yadav. Yadav forwarded details about Pannun to the hired hit team, the report said. Vikram Yadav, an officer who allegedly worked with the Research and Analysis Wing, had hired a hit team and plotted an attack on Pannun on American soil, the report said.

According to the report, Vikram Yadav, who is allegedly working with a different government organisation now, forwarded details about Pannun, including his New York address, to the hit team. The Washington Post claimed that the Ministry of External Affairs declined to respond to its article. In November last year, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun. He is wanted in India on terror charges

for 88 constituencies.

 $D_{\mathrm{turnout}}^{\mathrm{ays}\,\mathrm{after}\,\mathrm{suspense}\,\mathrm{over}\,\mathrm{the}\,\mathrm{low\,voter}}$ (EC) on Tuesday came out with official data showing low voting percentage in the first two phases that concluded recently.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

A voter turnout of 66.14 per cent was recorded in the first phase and 66.71 per cent was recorded in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections.

In 2019, the voter turnout was recorded at 69.43 per cent and 69.17 per cent in the first and second phases, respectively. The voter turnout in the two phases of the recent Lok Sabha elections experienced a decline compared to the 2019 polls.

The first phase of polling was held on April 19 across 102 constituencies and the second phase was held on April 26

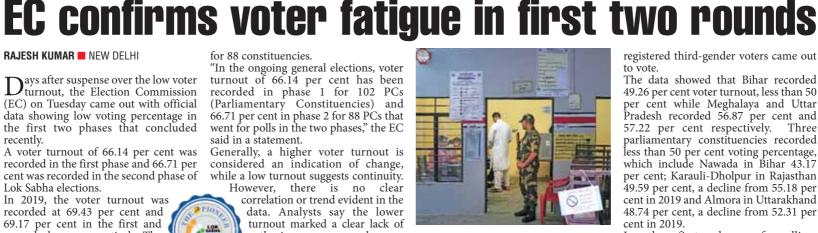
"In the ongoing general elections, voter turnout of 66.14 per cent has been recorded in phase 1 for 102 PCs (Parliamentary Constituencies) and 66.71 per cent in phase 2 for 88 PCs that went for polls in the two phases," the EC said in a statement.

Generally, a higher voter turnout is considered an indication of change, while a low turnout suggests continuity.

However, there is no clear correlation or trend evident in the data. Analysts say the lower turnout marked a clear lack of enthusiasm among people.

Officially sharing the turnout figure, the EC said in phase one of the elections, 66.22 per cent of male and 66.07 female electors turned up to vote.

The turnout for registered third-gender voters stood at 31.32 per cent. In the



2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase stood at 69.43 per cent.

In the second phase of elections held on April 26, the male voter turnout was recorded at 66.99 per cent, while the female turnout stood at 66.42 per cent. As many as 23.86 per cent of the

registered third-gender voters came out to vote.

The data showed that Bihar recorded 49.26 per cent voter turnout, less than 50 per cent while Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh recorded 56.87 per cent and 57.22 per cent respectively. Three parliamentary constituencies recorded less than 50 per cent voting percentage, which include Nawada in Bihar 43.17 per cent; Karauli-Dholpur in Rajasthan 10 50 per cent decline from 55 19 per 49.59 per cent, a decline from 55.18 per cent in 2019 and Almora in Uttarakhand 48.74 per cent, a decline from 52.31 per cent in 2019.

In the first phase of polling, Lakshadweep (84.1 per cent) recorded the highest voter percentage while Bihar (49.26 per cent) recorded the lowest voter turnout of the twenty-21 States and Union Territories that voted on April 19.

Kolkata experiences 43°C burns for first time ever

Revanna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA

Even as parts of south-western being in the simmered in the vicinity of 45-46 degrees centigrade, Kolkata on Tuesday recorded its all-time highest temperature at 43 degrees which is temperature at 43 degrees which is six degrees above normal, said the weather office, adding the temperature is to go up in the coming 3-4 days

Kolkata had recorded highest temperature of 41.7 degrees 44 years ago in 1980, said sources at Alipore weather office, adding Orange alert had been issued for the City of Joy which had presently turned into a 'city on the boil'.

Red alert has been sounded in the Gangetic West Bengal including the areas adjacent to Chotanagpur plateau like Purulia, Bankura, West Midnapore and Birbhum, sources said advising caution for the election campaigners and asking them to abstain from campaigning

between 12 and 3 pm. "While heat wave like conditions will prevail in Kolkata, severe heat wave like conditions will prevail in western districts of the Gangetic Bengal," weather office sources said predicting heat-wave like condition in districts of North Bengal too save Darieeling Bengal too save Darjeeling.

The Bengal Government had preponed the summer vacations in Government and Government aided schools from April considering rising heat. "Considering the prevailing heat wave situation, the competent authority has decided to prepone the summer vacation in the schools under your administrative jurisdiction with effect from April 22 except for schools in hill areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, wherein the existing academic schedule may continue until further order," the notice issued by School Education earlier said.

India squad for T20 World Cup

RISHABH MALIK NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the Indian squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup which will be hosted in the West Indies and the USA from June 2.

Selection The Senior Committee chairman Ajit Agarkar and Captain Rohit Sharma picked India's 15member squad on Tuesday. However there are many

surprising inclusions in the team and shocking omissions which created buzz among the cricket fans.

In a 15-member squad opener Yashasvi Jaiswal found a place with opening partner Rohit (captain) followed by Hardik Pandya who is newly appointed vice captain for the upcoming World Cup which raises eyebrows about his poor

In the much awaited race of wicketkeepers who are named in the squad are Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson. KL Rahul was ignored in the selection with many questions

form.

arising despite his seniority and experience in the game and Ishan Kishan due to his form and inconsistency. Virat Kohli and Suryakumar

Yadav will be seen batting at number three and four positions. The new all-rounder Shivam

Dube, who is getting praises for his swashbuckling batting in the IPL for the CSK, will further strengthen India's bowling attack with Ravindra Jadeja.

Yuzvendra Chahal is making a comeback in this year's World Cup. The four spinners in the team are Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra



Jadeja and Axar Patel. Right-arm leg break spinner Ravi Bishnoi has been axed in Ravi Bisnnoi has been axed in this year's World Cup. The pace attack will be headed by Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, and Mohammed Siraj. India will begin their World Cup campaign against Ireland in Group A on June 5 in New York.

SQUAD:

Sharma (Captain), Pandya (Vice Rohit Hardik Captain), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson Yashasvi (WK), Jaiswal, Dube, Ravindra Shivam Jadeja, Suryakumar Yadav, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal.

Reserves: Shubman Gill, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan and Rinku Singh.



jharkhand 2

Jamshedpur swelters as temperatures soar to record 45.5 degrees

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

amshedpur experienced its hottest day of the season on Tuesday as the mercury soared to a scorching 45.5 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, Baharagora sweated it out at a staggering 47.1 degrees Celsius, marking one of the highest temperatures in the region.

According to reports, the Chottanagpur plateau region is currently gripped by severe heat wave conditions, with nearby suburbs also experiencing sweltering temperatures. The heat wave alert, initially issued on Monday, has been extended across the state for another 48 hours, underscoring the severity of the situation

Officials attribute the blistering conditions to prevailing

Chas municipal corporation organises voter awareness program

PNS : BOKARO

In a bid to enhance voter awareness ahead of the upcoming elections, the Chas Municipal Corporation organized a voter awareness program in the Chas Municipal area. Laborers enthusiastically participated in the Voter Awareness Morning Rally and Quiz Competition, highlighting the importance of active

citizenship. Led by Chas AMC Sourav Kumar Bhuvaniya, along with Subdivisional Officer, Om Prakash Gupta, and Sveep Nodal Officer, Prabhash Datta, the Voter Awareness Morning Rally commenced at the Chas Municipal Office premises on the eve of International Labor Day 2024. Hundreds of laborers

actively engaged in the event. Addressing the gathering, AMC Bhuvaniya emphasized the significance of democracy, especially with the upcoming polling day on May 25, 2024, in Bokaro district. Expressing concerns over the relatively low voter turnout in urban areas, he highlighted the continuous efforts of the district administration, through the Sveep campaign, to increase voter awareness. The event aimed to inspire both self-voting and encouraging others to participate in the democratic process. Various speakers urged everyone to participate



westerly to northwesterly winds at lower levels over the region. They warn that heat wave conditions are expected to persist in parts of the

Chottanagpur region over the next two days. April has proven to be exceptionally hot Jamshedpur this season, with

indicating clear forecasts skies and temperatures exceeding 43 degrees Celsius for the next two days. An official from the Meteorological

Quiz by ESL Steel Limited and Sarthak foundation aims to foster achievement and pride

in

R SHARMA : BOKARO

ESL Steel Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Group and a prominent steel producer in India, reaffirmed its dedication to societal progress by organizing an inter-centre quiz competition aimed at fostering a thirst for knowledge

among students. The competition, held in collaboration with Sarthak Sustainable Development Foundation, sought to transcend traditional learning boundaries by encouraging students to apply their knowl-edge practically. It was part of ESL Steel Limited's ongoing efforts to support community development and provide platforms for educational enrichment beyond textbooks. Distinguished guests

including local dignitaries and educators, commended ESL



Steel Limited and its partners for orchestrating the event. They were impressed by the students' enthusiasm, even in adverse weather conditions, and lauded the company's commitment to holistic community development.

Ashish Ranjan, Head of CSR, ER & PR at ESL Steel Limited, emphasized the company's focus on nurturing talent and fostering a vibrant learning environment. He highlighted initiatives like the quiz competition as catalysts for talent development and

teamwork. Rakesh Mishra, Deputy Head of CSR at ESL Steel Limited, expressed satisfaction with the competition's outcome, noting the unwavering confidence displayed by the contestants. He pledged to continue organizing such events to empower students and enhance their learning experiences

The competition witnessed participation from various groups, with winners recognized across different categories. Projects like "Prerna," undertaken in collaboration

Development Foundation, aim to provide quality education to socio-economically disad-vantaged students, thereby fostering their overall development. various winners The amongst the categories in

with Sarthak Sustainable

Office in Sonari remarked on

the unbearable heat, predict-

ing even hotter temperatures

The scorching summer has not only made daily life

difficult but has also led to a

rise in health issues among

residents. Hospitals and nurs

ing homes are witnessing a

surge in admissions due to ail-

ments such as dehydration,

gastroenteritis, jaundice, and

Interestingly, historical data reveals that Jamshedpur

holds records for extreme

temperatures. On June 11,

1942, the city recorded its

highest maximum tempera-

ture of 47.2 degrees Celsius.

Additionally, in May 2013,

temperatures soared to 45

degrees Celsius, marking one

the hottest days

Jamshedpur's history.

for May.

viral fever.

of

Drawing Centre, Chandaha; and 3rd position by Prerna

(5 teams); 1st was by Prerna Centre, Chandaha; 2nd position was secured by Prerna Centre, Siyaljori; Prerna

While in Group C (Vedanta ESL Excel 30 centre (5 teams)

wa admn review meet on poll preparations

Man held with country made pistol

Garhwa police arrested one Upadhyay Singh, son of Mundrika Singh of Nawadih village and recovered a country-made pistol and a live cartridge. Sub-Divisional police officer Neeraj Kumar said that to conduct peaceful polling in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and on the instructions of Superintendent of Police Deepak Kumar Pandey district police conducting continuous raids against anti-social elements . Some unsafe polling stations have been identified, where violence had also taken place in the last Lok Sabha elections. He said that after identifying those polling stations, special raids are being conducted against the antilements around there. He said that on on a tip off socia that Upadhyay Singh, a resident of Nawadih village of Garhwa police station area, is carrying illegal firearms with him. This information was given to the Superintendent of Police and after his instructions, a special raid team was formed under his leadership. He said that the raid team conducted a raid at Upadhyay Singh's house. During this, a loaded country made pistol was recovered from their. On opening the barrel, a live cartridge was recovered.

Dr TMA Pai Hall inaugurated at Manipal Tata Medical College

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) witnessed a momentous occasion today as it commemorated the 126th Birth Anniversary of its visionary founder, Dr. Tonse Madhava Anantha Pai. The grand celebration, held at the Manipal Tata Medical College, Jamshedpur, was marked by the inauguration of the "Dr TMA Pai Hall," a tribute to the enduring legacy of Dr. Pai.

The ceremony, held in the Lecture Hall and Auditorium of the Academic Block, brought together faculty, students, and esteemed guests in a spirit of reverence and gratitude. Dr. TMA Pai's visionary leadership continues to shape the ethos of MAHE, and the inauguration of the hall serves as a fitting tribute to his remarkable contributions to education and healthcare.

Dr. TMA Pai's enduring legacy serves as a beacon of inspiration for generations of students and educators at



Manipal Tata Medical College. The inauguration of the "Dr TMA Pai Hall" stands as a proud moment for the MAHE community, symbolizing a renewed commitment upholding the values

instilled by its founder. The event concluded with heartfelt reflections from faculty, students, and staff, highlighting the profound impact of Dr. TMA Pai's visionary leadership on the

MAHE community beyond. His legacy continues to resonate through the halls of the institution, inspiring excellence and innovation in education and healthcare.

As MAHE commemorates Founders Day and inaugurates the "Dr TMA Pai Hall, it reaffirms its dedication to honoring the visionary ideals of its founder and perpetuating his legacy for generations to come.

Brahmananda Narayana Hospital receives award for excellence in patient safety

care services, stands as a

beacon of excellence in the

healthcare landscape. The

recent recognition in the

Patient Safety category at the

IHW Summit Awards under-

scores the institution's dedi-

cation to maintaining the

highest standards of patient

safety. In an era where

patient safety is paramount,

Hospital has distinguished

itself through its implementa-

tion of stringent protocols,

innovative technologies, and

comprehensive training pro-

grams. This multidisciplinary

approach, coupled with a cul-

ture of continuous improve-

Narayana

Brahmananda



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR Brahmananda Narayana

Hospital, a distinguished healthcare institution under the banner of Narayana Health, has been recognized with a prestigious accolade at the 9th IHW Summit Awards 2024 in Mumbai. The hospital's unwavering commitment to patient safety and centricity has earned it the esteemed title of "Best Hospital in Patient Safety & Category" Centricity in Jharkhand.

Brahmananda Narayana Hospital, accredited by NABH and renowned for its tertiary

ment, has propelled the hospital to the forefront of patient safety practices in the region.

Expressing gratitude for the honor, Vinit Raj, Facility Director of Brahmananda Narayana Hospital, emphasized the institution's unwavering commitment to prioritizing patient safety. He reit-erated the hospital's belief that every patient deserves the highest level of care and reaffirmed their dedication to upholding the highest standards of safety, quality, and

excellence. Brahmananda As Narayana Hospital celebrates this remarkable achievement, it remains steadfast in its mission to provide compassionate, comprehensive, and safe healthcare services the residents Jamshedpur and beyond. The recognition serves as a testament to the hospital's enduring commitment to excellence and its tireless efforts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every patient entrusted to its care.

DIC Encourages Lady Executives to Compete with Themselves for Professional Growth



DC held review meeting

NITYANAND DUBEY : that voting through postal GARHWA ballot has to be ensured by fully complying with the District Election Officer cum instructions issued by the Commissioner Election Commission of India. Deputy Shekhar Jamuar held a In the meeting, instructions were given to not keep the review meeting with the officials regarding the prepara-EPIC card received at the post tions for the Lok Sabha elecoffice level pending and to distribute 100% voter identity cards at the address of the concerned voter card holders. In the meeting, instructions were given to operate the Certification and Media Monitoring Cell effectively. Instructions were also given for the location of the control level. room to be operated on the day of polling and deputation The District Election of personnel. Web casting was also discussed in the meeting.

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which the children were competing In Group A (Prerna Tutorials (5 teams): 1st position was secured by Prerna Tutorials, Modidih; 2nd position was won by Prerna

Tutorials, Kumatand. In Group B (Prerna centre

Centre, Yogidih stood 3rd.

- Team 1 won.

Nar

fearlessly in the festival of democracy and pledged their commitment to vote Moreover, additional activities like quiz competitions, musical chairs, and rangoli were organized among school children to educate them about the importance of voting . Citizens also took selfies at the designated selfie point to commemorate the event.



tions, in the auditorium of the Collectorate on Monday. In the, meeting all the nodal officers of the compulsory service were discussed on the subject of postal ballot and information was taken about the voters voting through postal ballot and preparations related to voting through postal ballot.

Officer said in the meeting

Under AMF, the concerned sub-divisional officer was asked to ensure the review of other arrangements including drinking water, electricity at the polling stations at his

Deputy Development Commissioner Pashupatinath Mishra, Additional Collector Matiyash Vijay Toppo, Sub-

Deputy

Divisional Officer Garhwa Vijay Kumar, Sub-Divisional Officer Shri Banshidhar Nagar Prabhakar Mirdha, Civil Surgeon Garhwa Dr Ashok Kumar, Deputy Election Officer Sushil Kumar Rai, District Public Relations Officer Sanjeev Kumar Singh and othersy were present in the meeting.

PNS : BOKARO

In the closing session of the Leadership and Management Productivity (LAMP) Workshop for Women Executives. Atanu Director Bhowmick, In-Charge at RSP, urged 25 lady executives to prioritize selfimprovement for their career advancement. Held at the HRD Centre on April 27, 2024, the workshop saw the presence of esteemed guests including Mr. S R Suryawanshi, ED (Works), Dr. B K Hota, ED (M&HS), and Tarun Misra, ED (P&A) with Additional Charge of ED (Projects). Organized by B-More Consulting, the workshop featured industry veterans like Dr. Shoeb Ahmed Former Director (SAIL), and Roshan Joseph and Ajoy Joseph as faculty members.

Mr. Bhowmick emphasized the essential pillars of leadership, stressing the importance of team happiness, engagement, information, and pro-



ductivity. Mr. Survawanshi urged the lady executives to assume leadership roles in their respective domains, regardless of their current positions. Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Misra expressed optimism about seeing more women in higher positions and leadership roles within RSP.

Certificates were awarded to the participants by DIC Bhowmick, Mr. Suryawanshi, and Mr. Misra, with special recognition given to team 'Sharks' for their outstanding performance during the three-day workshop. Dr. Shoeb Ahmed commended cess

the workshop's objective and lauded the management for grooming future leaders. Roshan Joseph praised the participants for their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and perform. Rajashree Banerjee, CGM

(HRD), extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Each participant shared their learning experiences and takeaways from the program, highlighting how the work-shop enriched and motivated them to become better leaders. K K Jaiswal, AGM (HRD), efficiently coordinated the program, ensuring its suc-

Football tourney for creating voters awareness

PNS: LOHARDAGA

For voter awareness under Lok Sabha General Election, 2024, a football match was organized between the District Administration and Talent Center Lohardaga at Nadia

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

Cyber Cowboy



on Tuesday. The match was

Ma

started by kicking the football by District Election Officertheir suffrage in the upcoming elections to be held in Lohardaga district on 13 May cum-Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna. In 2024The Commissioner said that you this, the Deputy Commissioner got introduced to all the parshould motivate yourself and ticipants and appealed to all all the eligible voters in your the eligible voters to exercise family to vote. Voting is to be

held in Lohardaga district on 13 May. All of you should participate enthusiastically in this great festival of democracy. The Deputy Commissioner administered the voter oath to all the present participants, officials and personnel.

Vineet Kumar leads netizens to Cyberpeace Google.org aims to tackle misinformation and other cyber security challenges through innovative solutions and partnerships and also

> **Global CyberPeace** Challenge or GCC happens to be the world's largest cybersecurity competition with participants from over 120 countries, aims to recognise and award talent that can build solutions to some of the most pressing cybersecurity problems faced by society. The objec-tive of the challenge is to tap into the innovative approaches adopted by participants to solve critical real-world problems in the technical and policy challenges.

Through these initiatives, CyberPeace and Kumar continue to make ing cyber peace and creat-

ing a safer digital world for

ie Gi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND			
Notice Director, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi invites applications for the following posts for a period of 10 months 01.05.2024 to 31.03.2025 on contract basis. Details of vacant posts are as under:			
SI. No.	Name of the post	No. of Posts	Salary per month (INR)
٦.	Drug Treatment Centre (DTC) Coordinator	02 (UR)	57,652.00
П.	Training and Field Coordinator	05 (04-UR, 01-OBC)	47,000.00
III.	Accounts-cum-Administrative Assistant	01 (UR)	30,000.00
Desirous candidates possessing the eligibility criteria and who are within the prescribed age limit should send their duly filled applications upto 13.05.2024 for walk-in-interview till 5:00 pm in the prescribed format giving full details of academic records and experience along with original and attested photocopy of the relevant documents with recent photograph at this Institute by registered post or by hand. The walk-in-interview for the following posts shall be held on on 15.05.2024 at 9.30 A.M. onwards. Details can be seen on the Institute website www.cipranchi.nic.in . Sd/-Director			

In the ever-evolving landscape of cyber warfare, a name that stands as a stalwart defender of peace in Award.

cyberspace is Major Vineet Kumar whose story began in Ranchi, Jharkhand where he displayed a powerful aptitude for technology as a child prodigy.

A TEDx speaker and guest instructor at esteemed institutions like the National Police Academy, Railway Staff College and Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi, Kumar's influence in cybersecurity education and training is profound.

Kumar floated the pioneering initiative National Anti-Hacking Group (NAG) followed by the Global Association of Ethical Hackers (GEHA). He further

IYK

went on to be recognised as UN Youth Achievement

to act as an Advisor to the Jharkhand

At the young age of 16,

the youngest Microsoft-certified systems engineer in 2008 and later also received the

Kumar further went on

Government. While at 22, he served as the Chief Technology

Officer and Head of State Government Agency, Cyber Defense Research Centre at the Jharkhand Government. He is also a commissioned officer of the Territorial Army

His academic pursuits led

him to Cyber Defence and Information Assurance at Cranfield University and the Joint Services and Staff College in the United

Kingdom followed by leadership studies at Cambridge University.

Additionally

he expanded

his expertise in Cyber Defence

through studies at the Geneva Center for Security Policies in Switzerland.

Further, driven by an unwavering commitment to creating a safe cyberspace for netizens, the social entrepreneur founded CyberPeace, presently recognised as the



world's first non-profit organisation dedicated to cybersecurity and think-tank with offices in three countries. impacting over 200 million netizens and stakeholders across 112 nations.

Under his leadership, CyberPeace has launched several groundbreaking initiatives aimed at promoting cybersecurity, fostering digi tal hygiene and combating cyber threats. Among these

initiatives, the CyberPeace Corps stands out as a global community of cybersecurity experts and enthusiasts united in their mission to collaborate and share knowledge to combat cyber threats.

Kumar's leadership has also led to the inception of several impactful programmes and initiatives on the national level like The CyberPeace Initiative, which in collaboration with

create cyber warriors and master trainers.

across significant strides in foster-



jharkhand 3

RANCHI I WEDNESDAY I MAY 1, 2024

Rajasthan CM, Marandi, Bauri participates in Dhullu's nomination Bhajanlal Sharma highlights achievements of Narendra Modi govt

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PNS : RANCHI

ajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Tuesday participated in the nomination of Dhanbad's NDA candidate Dhullu Mahato at Dhanbad collectorate. Later he addressed a huge public meeting, where he highlighted the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government.

Sharma said that after 2014, a huge change has taken place within the country. Everyone must have seen the situation in the country before 2014. Corruption was at its peak. Before 2014, terrorists used to explode bombs in crowded areas of the country. They used to take away the heads of soldiers from the border. After the year 2014 the situation has completely changed.

He said that earlier the poor did not have any bank



Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and State BJP President Babulal Marandi being garlanded by party workers during a public meeting after filling of nomination papers by Dhanbad BJP candidate Dhullu Mahto in Dhanbad on Tuesday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

account. The poor could not money was prevalent in even step on the threshold of Jharkhand. Former Prime Minister of Congress used to the bank. Prime Minister Narendra Modi curbed cut say that we send ? 1, by the money by making everyone time we reached the village open bank accounts. Cut 15 paise used to reach. Today if the Prime Minister puts ?100, the entire money comes into the beneficiary's account. Farmers get Kisan Samman Nidhi. There is no cut money anywhere. This is a change after 2014.

Prime Minister Modi did the work of honoring mothers and sisters by giving them toilets. Mother and sisters were troubled in cooking. It used to increase during rains. Smoke entered the eyes and lungs. Prime Minister Modi worked to honor mothers and sisters by giving them the connection of Ujjwala.

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan said that the pace of development increased after 2014. Constructing 6 lane roads. There has also been historical development in railways. There has been development in every field. The number of hospitals has increased five times. India's respect has increased within the world. Earlier the face of

backward, dayless India was visible to the world. Today the whole world looks at India with longing eyes. Prime Minister Modi did the work of safely evacuating the youth of India trapped between the war between Russia and Ukraine. He said that this time 25 out of 25 seats are coming to the Lok Sabha in Rajasthan. This time in Jharkhand also, 14 out of 14 seats are going to be held by Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA. Bharatiya Janata Party is going to form the govern ment in the upcoming assembly elections also. BJP always follows the culture and ideas

of the country. Sharma said that the opposition used to say that Article 370 will not be removed from Jammu and Kashmir. Rivers of blood will flow. Those who said so got the answer. After the removal of Article 370, not even a single pebble was thrown there.

When we used to say that Ramlala will come, the temple will be built there. The opposition said that they will not tell the date. Now a grand temple of Lord Ram has also been built. The opposition tried to portray Lord Ram as imaginary. The invitation for the consecration of Lord Ram was also not accepted. If Lord Ram does not belong to him, then how will Ram be his? BJP government will be formed in Jharkhand by registering a historic victory in the upcoming assembly elections

BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi said that in this election. Dhullu Mahato has to be made victorious with more votes than last time. This heat and the challenge of the opposition also have to be accepted. The security of the borders became stronger during the tenure of the country's Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. Common people are liv-ing their lives free from fear. People are scared in Dhanbad city today. There is news of murder from here every day. There is news of extortion demand. I assure the public that if the BJP government is formed in the state after six months, the hooliganism going on in Dhanbad will be ended overnight. This will be possible only with the cooperation of the general public. It has to start with the Lok Sabha elections. When BJP government is formed, the state develops and the people develop. People develop themselves when Indian coalition government is formed. Develop the family. Vote for BJP for the development of the state, for the poor and for the country. Vote to recreate Narendra Modi in the country.

Leader of Opposition Amar

Bauri said that for the third

time, voting has to be done to

elect Narendra Modi as the

Prime Minister of the country. Ignoring every problem and using 100% voting, NDA candidate Dhullu Mahato has to be made victorious from Dhanbad by a record number of votes. The teeth of the opponents were already sour. The public has further soured his teeth. It has worked to break his morale.

AJSU Party chief Sudesh Mahato said that no challenge from the opposition is visible here. This election is the election of the leader of entire India. To fulfill NDA's target of crossing 400, Dhulu Mahato has to be made victorious from Dhanbad. The opposition has no face of a leader. There is no alternative to Prime Minister Modi. The alliance which has no face has no votes. People have to vote assuming this. The country has come out to elect a Prime Minister and it needs a Prime Minister who has been serving for 10 years.

CEO took stock of poll preparations in Khunti LS seat

PNS : RANCHI

Officer, Chief Electoral Jharkhand. Ravi Kumar on Tuesday took stock of the progress of election preparations in Khunti Lok Sabha constituency including various polling stations and doorto-door distribution of voter information slips. He took information about the work done so far and being done by the BLO regarding the Lok Sabha elections. Instructions were given to bring progress in the work. He said that this time there is a provision of incentive for BLOs working in the Lok Sabha elections. But, BLOs with poor performance or negligence in work will be deprived of incentives. He encouraged all the BLOs to do good work and asked them to complete the election work on time

The Chief Electoral Officer went to Pipra Toli Belahathi Road, Khunti and took information about the distribution of Voter Information Slips by BLOs among the voters. Also inspected the forms filled by them. He met the BLOs at the

polling stations located at Karra Road, Urban Primary Health Center of Khunti district and got information about the updated status of the works related to Lok Sabha elections. Apart from this, he inspected the polling stations located at CM School of Excellence (Girls), Khunti and Community Hall, Namkom. The Chief Electoral Officer took updated informa-

tion about absent/shifted/death list, voter information slip, polling station awareness group and directed to bring progress in the work. He directed to complete the distribution of voter information slips among all voters by May 3. Besides, BLOs, supervisors and senior officials were asked to speed up the preparations for the election work.

Before this, the Chief Electoral Officer conducted a surprise inspection of Kalamati check post in Khunti district. Expressing displeasure over the laxity of the soldiers and magistrates deployed at the check post, he directed to keep a close watch



on the movement of vehicles and conduct thorough checking of the vehicles. He said that any kind of negligence in vehicle checking work will not be tolerated.

During the inspection of the Chief Electoral Officer, Khunti District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Lokesh Mishra, Sub-Divisional Officer Aniket, Block Development Officer Jvoti Kumari etc. were present.

Later in the day, Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar also inspected various polling stations which had low voting percentage during the last elections in Simdega and observed the preparations for

voting. He directed the Deputy Commissioner, Simdega to take action against the BLO and Supervisor of Polling Station No. 162 of Chief Minister Girls Excellent School, Simdega for negligence in their work. The voting percentage at these booths was low in the last elections. In the voter list of this polling station, names of many voters were found who no longer live here. There were names of many govern-ment employees who had been transferred earlier. The names of such voters have neither been removed from the voter list nor have they been included in the Absent. Shifted or Death i.e. ASD list.

in the annals of Jamshedpur's

political landscape, cement-

ing his legacy as a formidable

leader and a true representa-

is underpinned by his unwa-

vering commitment to serving

Jamshedpur. Throughout his

tenure, Mahto has remained

dedicated to addressing the

needs and concerns of the

community, advocating for

their interests at the national

level. His pledge to secure an

unprecedented victory mar-

gin reflects his deep-seated

belief in the power of democ-

racy and the enduring bond

between elected representa-

underscored Mahto's endur-

ing appeal and the solid sup-

port he enjoys within the local community. Notable BJP fig-

ures, including Union Jal

Shakti Minister Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat and Union

Minister Arjun Munda,

graced the occasion, reaffirm-

ing their backing for Mahto 's

candidacy. The presence of

leaders from the NDA further

solidified the coalition's sup-

port for Mahto 's re-election

bid. Prior to the nomination

submission, the BJP organ-

ized a large-scale public

meeting at the Bodhi Temple

ground in Sakchi.

The ceremony, held at a

gathering,

(+)

tives and the electorate.

well-attended

constituents

Mahto 's ambitious vision

tive of the people

the

Nilendu Singh is new CMD, CCL **PNS : RANCHI**

Nilendu Kumar Singh took charge as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) a Coal India subsidiary.

In the light of the orders of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India and Coal India Limited (CIL), after selection from the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), Singh assumed the charge of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Central Coalfields Limited Tuesday.

Before this assignment, Singh was working as Director Technical (Projects and Planning) of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). He graduated in Mining Engineering (B.Tech.) from IIT-ISM, Dhanbad in the year 1989 and obtained First Člass Mine Manager Certification in the year 1994.

Åfter his education, he started his career in 1989 Central Coalfields from Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited. Shri Singh served in various capacities in CCL till 2011. During this period, he served as Mine Manager in projects like Piparwar, Ashoka, Urimari and Kalyani and others.

BJP alleges JMM, govt 'connivance' in grabbing land illegally

PNS : RANCHI

BJP state spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo today attacked the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and state government alleging that ruling party and state government are working hand and hand in grabbing land illegally in State. Shahdeo addressing a press conference at BJP media centre at alleged that the documents filed in the PMLA court have made it clear that several people including JMM leader Antu Tirkey, Saddam Hussain, Afsar Ali have accepted that the fake documents of 8.86 acres of land of Hemant Soren were prepared by them. Pratul said that these accused have also admitted that they run a huge racket of transfer posting and land fraud. Pratul said that the land loot scam can be worth billions of rupees. The situation in Jharkhand has become such that it seems there is corruption on every branch, what will happen to Jharkhand as a result?

Pratul said that the WhatsApp chat between Jharkhand Mukti Morcha General Secretary Supriya Bhattacharya and Antu

sion. Pratul commented that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha should also open a 'Transfer Posting Morcha' on the lines of Mahila Morcha and Yuva Morcha.

Pratul said that the information about the file reaching the brokers involved in the land grabbing business shows that either the CMO 100 1000 was also involved or these brokers had influence even on the CMO. Pratul said that Supriya Bhattacharya had **BJP** spokesperson made many false statements defending Hemant Soren. Pratul Shahdeo at the The latest rescue was when press conference. Rs 36 lakh was recovered that Antu Tirkey, who was from Hemant Soren's Delhi involved in land racketeering, house. At that time Supriya was lobbying Supriyo Bhattacharya had said that Bhattacharya to post Jitendra this money has been planted Munda, working as DCLR, by ED. Later. Hemant clarified Khunti, as District Land in his petition in the High Acquisition Officer in Ranchi. Court that he had received the money from the party fund for It was also known that the file reached the CM House. Pratul the treatment of his parents. said that how the things Pratul said that now Suprivo inside the CM House were Bhattacharya should leave his leaked and why did Supriyo misrepresentations and tell the truth. Pratul wanted to Bhattacharya not file an FIR know from Chief Minister when Antu Tirkey told this? Is this not a violation of the Champai Soren through the Official Secrets Act and confipress conference, what is the dentiality? Pratul said that it ernment, party and the peo-ple engaged in the racket of land brokers and tracef relationship between his govis clear from the documents that Antu Tirkey used to arrange transfer and posting land brokers and transfer of officers by taking commisposting?



Girls shine in JAC 12th Board results



PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) has released the result of Inter Board Examination for standard 12th Board. Girls shined in all three streams Arts, Science and Commerce.

Topper in Arts is Zeenat Praveen from Government High School, Kanke with 94 per cent, topper in Science is Sneha from Ursuline Inter College, Ranchi with 98.2 per cent and topper in Commerce is Pratibha Saha from Ursuline Inter College, Ranchi with 94.8 per cent.

Secretary In-Charge of Education Department, Uma Shankar Singh, present as the chief guest in the program, special guest and Director of Secondary Education Utkarsh Gupta and JAC President Anil Mahato jointly released the Inter Board result. This year 3, 44, 000 candidates appeared in the examination. of these, 94,433 candidates appeared for Science, 25,907 for Commerce and 2,24,502 for Arts. Students can check their results on the official websites of JAC. jacresults.com, jac.jhark-hand.gov.in and lagatar.in. Total 94433 students had registered in Science. Out of 93805 students these, appeared in the examination. But only 68203 students have passed the examination. This includes 72.2 percent boys and 72.67 percent girls. 72.70 percent students have passed in first division. Talking about vocational, 508 candidates had registered. Of these, only

493 students appeared in the examination. Out of 493, 439 students that is 89.22 percent students have passed.

In Commerce stream, 23235 which was 90.06 percent of students have passed. 93 per cent of these are girls. 61 per cent candidates have passed in first division. A total of 25907 students had registered in Commerce. Out of

these, only 25644 candidates appeared in the examination. 93.7 per cent students have passed in Arts. In this, 83404 students have got first divi-sion. A total of 2, 24, 502 students had registered in Arts. Out of these, only 2, 06, 685 students passed the examination. Girls have also won in arts. Singh said that the result has declined due to change in the examination pattern. He said that the results in Physics and Chemistry were not satisfactory. Five districts were top in Commerce are Latehar, Koderma, Simdega, Pakud and Godda. These districts in the top five in Science are Koderma, Latehar, Chatra, Jamtara and Hazaribagh and five districts top in Arts are

Simdega, Godda, Koderma, Gumla and Hazaribagh.

JAC had earlier released the result of Secondary Board Examination (10th Board) on April 19. 90.39 percent children had achieved success in the matriculation examination. In the year 2024, 4,21,687 (1,91,262 boys and 2,00,549 girls) students had registered. But only 418623 candidates appeared in the examination. Of these, 3,38,398 (90.39 percent) students passed the examination. In this, 2,05,110 candidates (54.20 percent) passed in first division, 1,53,733 (40.65 percent) passed in second division and 19,555 (5.17 percent) passed in third division.

Bidyut files nomination for third term as Jamshedpur Lok Sabha candidate



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

With a hope to register a hattrick on the Jamshedpur seat in this Lok Sabha election, Bidyut Baran Mahto of BJP officially submitted his nomination papers. He expressed his confidence to win the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat for the third consecutive term. The nomination ceremony, held on Tuesday, garnered significant attention, with notable figures from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in attendance.

Mahto reminisced about the overwhelming trust bestowed upon him by the electorate in the previous election, which resulted in a resounding victory margin of over 3 lakh votes. Building upon this foundation of public trust, Mahto boldly proclaimed that this year, he anticipates an even greater show of support from the people, aiming to secure victory by a margin exceeding five lakh votes.

With his sights set on clinching the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat for the third consecutive term, Mahto envisions not only securing victory but also establishing a record in the electoral history of the region. By achieving a victory margin of such magnitude, Mahto aims to etch his name

subsequently, he was posted in SECL in January, 2012 where he worked as Mine Manager at Gevra; Contributed as Deputy Area Manager (Agent) in Deepka and Chhal Project and General Manager in Deepka area, Korba area and Raigarh area of SECL.

Singh has extensive experience in working in mega open cast mines, operating FMC projects, commissioning sidings, adopting new mining technologies and working with the highest capacity HEMMs.

Nilendu Kumar Singh has also visited Australia in 1997 to gain experience in mining techniques. He has keen interest in sports and painting. She has represented volleyball at the All India University level.

Having vast experience of over three decades in the coal industry, Singh has contributed significantly in introducing various new mining methods and improving the functioning of the company. Along with this, he has diverse and long-term experience in the coal industry in working with various labor organizations and company stakeholders. Team CCL will benefit

from Singh's experience of over three decades in the coal industry. Under his able leadership the company will definitely achieve the set target. Notably, CCL has created new records in performance by achieving highest ever generation and dispatch in FY 23-



Nilendu Kumar Singh

Tirkey has revealed shocking facts. It is clear from this chat



Jharkhand Ratna Award : The Jharkhand Ratna Award was conferred to Ashok Bhagat an eminent social worker and founder secretary of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, a voluntary social organization of National repute. The award was presented by Kamya Punjabi TV Actress and Saurabh Tiwary Former Indian Cricketer. The aim for Jharkhand Ratna is to Honour people of Jharkhand who have made an impact and are continuing to do the same. The Award had two titles Jharkhand Ratna Award :Honorary Award and People's Choice : Jharkhand Ratna Awards. The event was attended by more than 200+ people from Jharkhand. The aim of the event is to continue and make it a signature event and try to make sure that the awards are not bought but given in honour of

Cong candidate KN Tripathi files nomination from Chatra has taken everything for

granted. BJP alleges outsiders

and insiders, but let me tell

you that I have a lineage of

500 years, if they want, I will

show it. Can Kalicharan show

his lineage? They are out-

siders from Buxar, they are

not me. BJP is promoting me

by calling me an outsider and

insider," he added. The elec-

tions are to be held in Chatra

on May 20. BJP candidate

Kalicharan Singh will face

KN Tripathi. Let us tell you

that at the time of nomina-

tion, Minister Satyanand

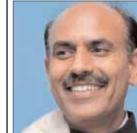
Bhokta was also with KN

of

Meanwhile,

Ranchi

Congress



PNS : RANCHI

Congress candidate, KN Tripathi has filed nomination from Chatra Lok Sabha seat on Tuesday.

After the nomination, Tripathi said that this is a Tripathi. President fight to save the Constitution. Metropolitan "BJP is raising the slogan of Committee, Kumar Raja said crossing 400, but will they cross 400 without public votes? This time the public in the meeting held in Ranchi that the manifesto of Congress has to be taken to

every last person of the society. A meeting of Morabadi Block Booth Committee was called by Congress. In this, talks were held with the chairpersons of all the wards coming to the block to prepare for the public relations campaign. A review was conducted regarding preparations. Kumar Raja said that instructions have been given to all the block and ward level officials of all the cells of the Congress Party, Metropolitan Congress, Mahila Congress and Youth Congress. It has been said that everyone should form a group and work to deliver the manifesto to every last person of the society. Work to expose the anti-national ideologies of BJP and oust it from power.

IYK



nation 04

BJP claims its performance in South India will be historic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday claimed that its performance in South India, a region where it has traditionally struggled outside Karnataka, will be historic and accused the Congress of running a campaign full of blatant lies and misinformation.

BJP leader and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who contested against incumbent MP and Congress candidate Shashi Tharoor from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, said history will be made on June 4 when votes for the Lok Sabha polls are count-

The BJP has performed extremely strongly in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and its overall tally from south India will be closer to 60 this time, he claimed.

The region has a total of 131 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP had won 29, including 25 in Karnataka, of those in 2019, drawing a blank in Andhra



Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Polling in Kerala and

Tamil Nadu are over. The BJP is in a tight fight in nine seats in Kerala and people will witness a dramatic change in the political landscape in Tamil Nadu as it will emerge as a principal second pole there, he said. He also accused the Congress of running a campaign full of

blatant lies, misinformation, deepfake videos and bizarre economic proposals. It has become so desperate that it is misleading voters that the BJP will change the Constitution, he said. Such a claim has come from a party that has



Amid police action by several BJP-ruled states besides the Delhi Police, which reports to the Centre, in the case of morphed videos of Home Minister Amit Shah to give the impression he promised to end the reservation for disadvantaged Hindu communities, the Union minister blamed the Congress for it and said the party is doing what Prime Minister Narendra Modi had warned about deepfakes long ago. Law has stringent provisions against pro-moting deepfakes, he said.

Admiral Dinesh Tripathi takes charge as new Navy chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy should remain operationally ready at all times to deter potential adversaries at sea, Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi said on Tuesday shortly after taking charge as the 26th chief of the Naval Staff.

Tripathi, who is a communication and electronic warfare specialist, assumed charge of the force following the retirement of incumbent R Hari Kumar.

The new chief took charge of the Navy at a time various strategic waterways, including the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, are witnessing security challenges, especially in view of Houthi militants targeting various merchant ships in the region

"Over the years, our Navy has evolved into a combat-ready, cohesive, credible and futureproof force," he told reporters. The existing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain mandate that the Indian Navy should remain operationally ready at all times to deter potential adversaries at sea in peace and to win war at and from the sea when asked



to do so," he said. "This will remain my singular focus and endeavour," Tripathi added. The new Navy chief also said

boosting the Navy's ongoing efforts to enhance self-reliance will be one of his priorities. "I will also strengthen the ongoing efforts of the Indian Navy towards 'Aatamnirbharta', towards introducing new tech-

nologies and becoming an important pillar of national

development towards our collective quest for a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India)," he said.

Before taking charge, Admiral Tripathi paid tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. He was also accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the lawns of the South Block at the Raisina Hills here. He took blessings from his mother Rajni Tripathi

before taking charge as the

chief of the Indian Navy. An alumnus of the Sainik School Rewa, Admiral Tripathi was serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff before taking the reins of the force.

Admiral Tripathi was commissioned into the executive branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985.

A communication and elec-

tronic warfare specialist, he has had a long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years.

Prior to taking over as Vice Chief of Navy, he had served as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

Admiral Tripathi has com-manded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.

He has also held various impor tant operational and staff appointments which include fleet operations officer of the Western Fleet, director of naval operations, principal director, network centric operations and principal director, naval plans. As Rear Admiral, he served as flag officer commanding of the eastern fleet. He also served as Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy,

Academy,

Ezhimala. An alumnus of National Defence

Khadakwasla, Admiral Tripathi has undergone courses at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Naval Higher Born on May 15, 1964, Command Course, Karanja and Naval Command College

in the United States. Admiral Hari Kumar retired following superannuation after a career spanning four decades.

Congress slams Modi for ignoring farmers plight in Marathwada Gujarat. Maharashtrian farm

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of ignoring the plight of farmers in Marathwada, and also asked about his vision to address water scarcity in that region. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to the prime minister ahead of his rallies in Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

"Why has the PM ignored the plight of Marathwada's farmers? What is the PM's vision to address water scarcity in Marathwada? Why has the

Elaborating on what he said were "jumla" details, Ramesh said that in the first half of 2023, the Marathwada region accounted for the highest number of farmer suicides in Mahrashtra. "As many as 685 farmers took

their own lives in Marathwada and the State Agriculture Minister's home district, Beed, reported the highest number of deaths at 186. Now, after suffering from drought conditions for the last four months, the Marathwada region has been hit by unseasonal rains and hailstorms, causing severe

export ban only been lifted on Gujarat's white onions?" crop losses, The ruling BJP gov-ernment has not declared this event a national disaster or announced any relief mea-

sures," Ramesh said. This is no surprise from a government that has also "failed" to care for the Godavari river, which is considered the lifeline of Marathwada, he said. "Although 88 crores were allocated for the cleaning of the river in 2022, there has been no tangible improvement in water quality. Similarly, Manjra river that passes through Latur has also been neglected," he claimed.

"What are PM Modi and the BJP doing to protect Marathwada's farmers from

drought and natural disasters? What is their vision to prevent

farmer suicides?" he said. Ramesh further said that more than 600 villages and 178 hamlets in Marathwada have



become dependent on water tankers amidst an acute drinking water shortage.

"Most of Maharashtra is facing a water shortage this year but Marathwada has been the worst affected with drinking water reservoirs only at 19 per cent capacity, compared to 40 per cent last year," he said. In Latur, water availability has come down to once in 15 days, he noted.

"Instead of trying to address this catastrophe, BJP leaders have shirked responsibility, played the blame game, and failed to address allegations of widespread corruption in the implementation of relief and support schemes," Ramesh alleged. What is the PM's vision to tackle water scarcity in Marathwada, he asked.

He also raised the issue that since December 2023, onion farmers in Maharashtra have

been reeling from the Modi government's ban on onion ers, who primarily grow red onions, have been left out.

exports. "During the cultivation season, the state was hit with unsatisfactory rainfall and water crises, and most farmers were only able to produce 50 per cent of their usual crop. When onions were finally harvested, farmers were faced with an arbitrary export ban which led to devastatingly low sale prices," Ramesh said. As a result, farmers have racked up significant losses in the last five months, he said.

'To add insult to injury, yesterday, the Modi Sarkar allowed the export of white onions which are primarily grown in

neglected Maharashtra's onion farmers?' Ramesh said. The Congress Nyay Patra promises a stable, predictable import-export policy to prevent such catastrophic lastminute policies being imposed on farmers, he said.

Can PM Modi explain why his

government is playing favourites? Why have they so

"What is the Modi Sarkar's vision to assure farmers of policy stability?" Ramesh said and asked the prime minister to break his "silence" on these

callously

Army Chief underlines importance of Manipur cops drove two Kuki Zomi women to mob: CBI technology infusion in Armed forces desperately asked the police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

rmy chief General Manoj APande said here on alive to the imperative of transformation, and it is with a progressive outlook, that it intends, to not only change, but to change at a good pace too. The Army chief especially underlined the importance of "technology infusion" and "selfreliance" in the armed forces, saying both are distinct yet



the Army Staff, who is also fondly called as the 'Father of the Mechanised Infantry

Regiment'. General Manoj Pande delivered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Manipur Police per-sonnel allegedly drove the two women from the Kuki-Zomi community, who had sought refuge in their official gypsy, to a mob of around



escape from the mob but were spotted by the rioters who had separated the victims. Some members of the mob told the women to reach the police vehicle parked on the roadside to seek help, officials in the know of the development said.

The mob had already killed the father of one of the male victims who was sitting in the gypsy along with the two women, the agency has said. The violent

scene, leaving the victims at

their clothes and paraded

them naked before sexually

personnel to drive them to

safety, but no help was pro-

vided to them.

interconnected. Making this point while paying tributes to former Army Chief General K Sundarji, he also said the holistic transformation of the Indian Army "we put into effect two years ago, is part of our efforts to give shape to a modern, agile, adaptive, technology enabled and self-reliant future ready force."

The 4th General Sundarji Memorial Lecture was organised by the Indian Army in



Manekshaw Centre to commemorate the legacy of one of India's foremost military thinkers General K Sundarji.

The lecture was conducted under the aegis of Mechanised Infantry Centre and School (MIC&S) and Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). The event was attended by serving and retired officers of the three Services as well as literati and various think tanks. The lecture remembered the dynamic and visionary General

scored the foresight of General Sundarji. He highlighted Sundarji's vision in the fields of digitisation of the battlefield, Information Warfare, technology infusion, conventional strategies and force structure,

reflected in his work 'Vision 2100

The eminent speakers NN Vohra, former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, shared his experiences with General Sundarji and also expressed his thoughts on 'Need for National Security Policy' while Lieutenant General Subrata Saha (Retired), former Deputy Chief of Army Staff and Member National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) delivered a talk on, "Modernising India's Armed Forces: Lessons K Sundarji, the 13th Chief of from Gen K Sundarji".

Kangpokpi district, the CBI charge sheet has said.

The two women were subsequently stripped naked and paraded before being sexually assaulted during the ethnic violence in the state, the charge sheet added.

The women, one of whom was the wife of a Kargil war veteran, desperately asked the police personnel to drive them to a safe location but were allegedly told by them that "there was no key" (of the vehicle) and did not provide any help, the officials giving details of the charge sheet said.

A video showing two women being paraded naked surrounded by a mob of men went viral last year in July, nearly two months after the

ethnic violence broke on May

The CBI filed its charge sheet against six accused and a report against one Child in Conflict with the Law (CCL) before the Special Judge, CBI Court at Guwahati on October 16 last year.

It has alleged that the two women were running away

from a mob of around 900-1,000 persons carrying sophisticated weapons like AK rifles, SLR, INSAS and .303 rifles. The mob had forcefully entered their village in Kangpokpi district, about 68 km south of Saikul police station, it said.

The women, along with other victims, ran into the forest to

towards the gypsy when the police personnel fled from the get inside the vehicle, in which two police personnel and the driver were sitting. Three to four personnel were the mercy of the crowd. The rioters dragged the women out, stripped them of outside the vehicle.

One of the male victims, who also managed to make his way inside the vehicle, kept pleading with the driver to drive them to a safe place but was told "there was no key". The husband of one of the victims had served the Indian Army as a subedar of the Assam Regiment. The police also did not help the father of the man sitting in the vehicle from being assaulted by the mob,

the CBI alleged. Later, the driver of the police gypsy drove the vehicle towards a mob of around 1,000 people and stopped it in front of them. The victims

assaulting them, the charge sheet has said. The CBI has charge sheeted Huirem Herodas Meitei, who was nabbed by Manipur police in July, and five others, and a report has been filed against a juvenile.

The accused have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including those pertaining to gang rape, murder, outraging the modesty of a woman and criminal conspiracy, the CBI has said.

Rahul urges party candidates to carry Above normal rain predicted over South Asia in 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Above-normal rainfall is Aexpected during the 2024 southwest monsoon season over most parts of south Asia, the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum said on Tuesday.

The forecast follows the prediction of above-normal rain in the monsoon season in India on the back of favourable La Nina conditions, expected to set in by August-September.

"Above normal rainfall is most likely during the 2024 southwest monsoon season (June-September) over most parts of south Asia, except some areas over northern, eastern, and northeastern parts of the region, where below-normal rainfall is most likely," the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) said. Above-normal maximum and

minimum temperatures are predicted over most parts of south Asia during the season,



except a few areas over the Hydrological (NMHSs) of south Asia with southeastern part of the region where normal temsupport from international peratures are most likely. experts at the 28th session of SASCOF-28, conducted This regional climate outlook for the 2024 southwest mononline. The SASCOF said moderate soon season has been devel-El Nino conditions are pre-vailing at present. ENSO (El oped by all nine National Meteorological and

Nino-Southern Oscillation) Services neutral conditions are expected in the first half of the monsoon season. Thereafter, La Nina conditions may set in by the second half.

El Nino conditions - periodic warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean — are associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India.

La Nina conditions - the antithesis of El Nino — are the dominant factor in the likelihood of "above-normal" rainfall during the monsoon season, DS Pai, a senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), told PTI. Positive Indian Ocean Dipole conditions, favourable for the Indian monsoon, are predicted in the later part of the sea-son. Additionally, the snow cover in the northern hemisphere is low.

The northern hemisphere winter and spring snow cover extent generally have an inverse relationship with the subsequent southwest monsoon rainfall over south Asia. Earlier this month, the Indian M e t r o l o g i c a l Department(IMD) said the seasonal rainfall in India will be on the higher side of 'above-normal' and pegged it at 106 per cent of the longperiod average (87 cm).

Constitution copy during nominations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday urged all party candidates to carry a copy of the Constitution with them during nominations, public meetings and outreach programmes, and tell the people that as long as the Congress is there, let alone the BJP, no power in the world can snatch

away the Constitution. The former Congress chief has been carrying a copy of the Constitution in his public meetings. He did so in Gujarat's Patan and Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur on Monday and in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind on Tuesday.

"A boon for the poor, respect for the deprived and pride of every citizen — our Constitution! I request all Congress candidates and leaders to keep the sacred



Constitution with them during nominations, meetings, speech-es and public outreach," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. "Announce it in every village and every street that as long as the Congress is there, let alone BJP, no power in the world can snatch away the Constitution of India," the former Congress chief said.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Even fulfil the "conspiracy" of the today, Rahul Gandhi reached RSS to abolish reservation.

the public meeting in Madhya Pradesh with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution. This election is between those who save the Constitution and those

who destroy it." "This is the most important election of our lifetime," Ramesh added.

The Congress has been alleg-ing that the BJP wants "more than 400 seats" so that it can amend the Constitution and

Congress spreading lies about BJP changing Constitution: Shah

PTI 📕 GUWAHAT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday alleged the Congress was spreading lies that the BJP intends to change the constitution and end reservations if it returns to power for a third term

Shah also said the BJP is heading towards its goal of 400-plus Lok Sabha seats with the blessings and support of people. "The Congress is spreading

lies about the saffron party changing the constitution and ending reservations... We do not see voters as minority or majority; the BJP will win 12 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam," he told a press conference here.

The senior BJP leader slammed the Congress for practising the "politics of appeasement since the very beginning", and said it wants to save "the little of what is remaining of their support base".



'The BIP does not believe in country and ensure that there reservations on the basis of is one law for people of all religion... We are also in religions," the home minister favour of implementing the said. Uniform Civil Code across the In a secular country, it is not

right to have laws based or religion, and this is against the spirit of the constitution, Shah said.

BIP The condemns the Congress' promise to bring back the Muslim Personal Law as mentioned in its manifesto, he said.

Commenting on the "fake video" of Shah on reservations that was circulated on social media platforms, he said all kinds of methods were being employed by the opposition to misguide people.

A Congress functionary of Assam was arrested on Monday for allegedly circulating the video, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said.

To a question, the home minister asserted that the BJP was getting a "very good response" from voters in the southern states.

Shah had arrived here on Monday evening and held a roadshow for the party's Guwahati candidate Bijuli Kalita Medhi.



81.16 per cent voter turnout recorded

voter turnout of 81.16 per Acent was recorded at six polling stations in Outer Manipur Lok Sabha seat, where repolling was held on Tuesday, election officials

No untoward incident was reported and voting, which commenced at 7 am, was held peacefully under tight security arrangements, they said.

A voter turnout of 81.16 per cent was recorded till the end of polling at 4 pm, the officials

PTI 📕 IMPHAI

said.

Repolling was necessitated as unidentified persons had damaged EVMs and VVPATs before the completion of voting at four of these six polling stations on April 26, while EVM malfunctioning was reported at one polling station, and voting could not be completed at another due to "threat and intimidation by unknown miscreants", they said.

Voting at four polling stations in Ukhrul assembly segment, and one each in Chingai assembly seat in Ukhrul and Karong in Senapati was

and

and

to existing laws and rules,

global

necessary

Haryana to rope in musical bands in repolling in Outer Manipur LS seat to encourage young voters

PTI CHANDIGARH

Haryana will rope in musical bands to play election-theme songs for encouraging young voters to exercise their franchise, Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal said.

These bands will encourage people to cast their vote on the day of polling and also promote awareness and education regarding the election, Agarwal told PTI. "Soon we will be doing the first band play, hopefully in Panchkula. The band will perform and election-theme music will be played," he

said. Later, these bands will be engaged districts having a higher percentage of young voters, he said.

Notably, 1,99,81,982 voters across the state are eligible to cast their votes when polling will be held on May in 10 Lok Sabha 25 constituencies of the state in the sixth phase of general elections.

Developments in Surat, Indore show people affection for BJP: Rajnath

PTI INDORE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday termed the Congress a "sinking ship' and said the developments in Surat and Indore showed the people's affection for the ruling BJP. Several Congress candidates

had been elected unopposed in the past, he said at a rally at Mandhata in Madhya Pradesh in support of BJP candidate from Khandwa and sitting MI Dnyaneshwar Patil.

"This time there was a miracle in Lok Sabha elections. The BJP candidate from Surat won unopposed, and the Congress people's



his nomination and extended increasing all the time," Singh support to the BJP. This shows said. deep affection Countering Congress' claim 22 after the nomination of

of regaining Andhra Pradesh

that such developments were a threat to democracy, the Union minister said its candidates had been elected unopposed on 20 occasions. "I want to ask the Congress, was there no threat to democracy then?" he said. The Opposition party was a "sinking ship with a hole," and no power in the world can save it, the BJP leader further said. On Monday, Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, withdrew his nomination and joined the BJP. Earlier, the BJP scored its first victory in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections on April

Congress' Surat candidate party," he added. Singh also attacked Rahul Gandhi's Nilesh Kumbhani was rejected for technical reasons and the statement about conducting a other candidates dropped out "wealth survey" and Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam of the race, leading to the BJP's Mukesh Dalal being elected Pitroda's remarks about unopposed. inheritance tax. Such proposals were not

"Mahatma Gandhi had said the Congress should be acceptable to the people of the dissolved after independence. country economists too have termed them a "very dangerous game", the BJP leader said. But Congress leaders did not listen to him. Now the people of India are bent on finishing Congress as per Gandhi's wishes," Singh further said. "If you were to ask a child ten years down the line if he

knows Congress, he would say, 'what Congress'. This is the condition of the Singh said.

Modi targets Sharad Pawar

future

PTI MALSHIRAS (MAHARASHTRA)

day after terming Sharad could not complete their full Aday after terming onatad term," Modi had said. Ministe

result, several chief ministers the Mal At shiras

that Maharashtra has always

been an unstable State. As a

Congress having vicious, divisive design: **BJP** president Nadda

PTI SHIVAMOGGA (KARNATAKA)

Accusing the Congress of supporting the idea of religion-based reservation, despite the fact that it cannot be done as per the Constitution, BJP President J The BJP's was determined to P Nadda on Tuesday charged the grand old party with hold simultaneous Lok Sabha having "vicious and divisive and Assembly elections in designs" amendments would be made

notification issued by the office of Manipur's chief

electoral officer had earlier

Five of the polling stations are

in Ukhrul district and have a

Around 76.06 per cent of 4.84

lakh voters exercised their

franchise during polling in 13

of 28 assembly segments of

Outer Manipur Lok Sabha

constituency on April 26. Voting was held in the

remaining 15 segments, along

with the entire Inner Manipur

Lok Sabha seat, in the first

phase on April 19.

total of 4,156 voters.

said.

He said this while speaking at "professionals meet organised here as part of the BJP's campaign for Shimoga Lok Sabha candidate B Y Raghavendra. "In the Constitution, it is very clearly written that there is no place for religious reservation, but what they (Congress) did -- 4 per cent reservation to Muslims, from OBC quota (in Karnataka). Who is against the OBC? They are neither friends of Muslim brethren nor sympathisers of OBC," Nadda said.

Addressing the gathering, he noted that in undivided Andhra Pradesh Congress NDA crossing 400 seats under PM's leadership. This came out with a law four times, where they tried to take reservation of SC/ST and OBCs, to give it to the Muslim community. "We are not against the Muslim community, but we have to understand that the Constitution clearly says that there will be no reservation based on religion, and it is a very deep thought...But these people (Congress) the kind of vicious and divisive designs they have. Are we going to support them?" he asked. Veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, Raghavendra and other party leaders were present. Accusing opposition parties of indulging in 'divisive politics', Nadda said, "a few days ago there was a video and they were trying to create an impression and environment that BJP is



against SC/ST and OBC, and if we (BJP) come to power the reservations for these communities will go."

They came out with a fabricated video... People and media exposed the INDI Alliance's deep fake video. The sad part of it is that the fake video was uploaded on social media from Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's phone, and all partners of the INDI Alliance tried to make it viral....They are in deep depression bout IP and

"Morale of all officers is very low. Nobody is willing to work. This is the scenario today in has made the spec ne said People were suffering due to lack of development. 'There is no water in the villages. There is no power in the villages, no proper roads. In fact, the income of an ordinary man is far less compared to his expenditure.

Reddy and bring normalcy in is total "chaos" in the state as every sector is in "doldrums". the state.

"At that time, we were very keen on the special status issue. Now, the YSR Congress Party

Chandrababu Naidu confident

institutional frameworks will ensure his party sweeps both assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh as people have 'realised' the ruling YSR Congress has failed to live up to all its promises. The former Chief Minister

supremo

Chandrababu Naidu has

said the anti-incumbency wave

PTI KURNOOI

who is fighting to regain power in the state, expressed confidence that the TDP-BJPexpressed Jana Sena Party (JSP) combine will win 24 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats and 160 of the 175 assembly seats comfortably in the simultaneous elections to be held on May 13.

Naidu (74) said the YSRCP came to power on the promise of getting a special status to AP but the issue has been relegated to the background as people are struggling to deal with alleged mismanagement of every government department. The state has gone into huge financial debt to an extent that

people have not received salaries and pensions, he added.

'There is a tremendous antiincumbency. YSR Congress has destroyed the ecosystem of development in Andhra Pradesh," Naidu told PTI in an interview.

The YSR Congress has not only failed to get a special status for the state but also not been able to build a proper capital even after 10 years of the state bifurcation, he said. He alleged that the current government has 'destroyed' all

This is very bad. Total living standards for everybody has gone down," he said. Naidu further claimed the

people have seen the false promises made by the YSR Congress without doing any iota of work on the ground. This has boosted the antiincumbency wave and people have made up their mind to vote for TDP.

"moving

for doles"

sorrv"

away

On tying up with BJP despite the saffron party not having enough presence in AP, he said it was done to end the sufferings of the people under the "misrule" of Chief government institutions. There Minister Y S Jagan Mohan

non-issue. Now, if I fight also, nothing will happen," he said. Due to bifurcation in 2014 Andhra people had to suffer. But they suffered more under the YSR Congress rule.

status

"We don't want people to suffer any more. And we have to rebuild Andhra revive, Pradesh. That's why we joined together — BJP, TDP and Jana Sena under the NDA umbrella," he said.

"We will fight, we will restore total normalcy, and also we will create a better future for the people of Andhra?

Asked if alliance with actorturned politician Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party will turned benefit TDP, since film actors are generally good crowd pullers but do not turn fans into voters, Naidu said, "Pawan Kalvan is different as he is a party head. He has a vote bank. That's why we joined him."

Narendra Modi on Tuesday continued his attack on the NCP leader, saying he did not do much for farmers while being the Union agriculture minister.

When a big Maharashtra leader was Union agriculture minister, farmers used to make rounds of sugarcane commission for their arrears," Modi said at a rally in Malshiras of Solapur district in Maharashtra. 'There is a 'bhatakti atma'

(wandering soul) in Maharashtra. If it does not manage success it spoils others good work. Maharashtra has been a victim of it," Modi had said at a rally on Monday, hitting out at Sharad Pawar without taking his name.

"This game was started by the same leader 45 years ago. It out of poverty and 80 crore "This game was started by the was just for his own ambition are getting free ration.

Tuesday, Modi asked voters not to waste their vote by giving it to Congress and other Opposition parties. Why waste your vote by giving it to those who are not contesting even the minimum number of seats needed for a simple majority in Lok Sabha," he said. He asserted that when there is a strong government in the country, its focus is on the present as well as the future. Modi said people are seeing

the difference between his government's 10 years and Congress rule of 60 years. Congress leaders kept talking about eradicating poverty in every poll but would not do anything after that, he said. Modi said that in the last 10 years, his Government was

shows their mentality," he added. Noting that on one hand there is BJP, which is being led by PM Modi, under whom India is becoming stronger day-by-day and things have changed, the BJP chief said, but it is very sad to note that on the other hand the INDI Alliance, which has

got "no perspective, no objective and no direction." 'They (INDIA bloc) are so frustrated that they are trying to build divisive forces and encourage divisive forces, they want to create a north and south divide. When PM speaks about 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Vishwas Sabka Sabka Prayaas', they talk about division of north and south, he added.

'Atmanirbhar Bharat', West

Bengal will also become self-

reliant if the BJP comes to

creating a new India, he said

that good and efficient people

should be elected to the Lok

He claimed that what the

Modi government has achieved for the development

of the country in the last 10

years could not be done in 65

ower

Sabha

Polling held in 191 LS seats so far indicate third term for Modi Government: Yogi

BAHARAMPUR/SURI/ASANSOL (WB)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asserted that polling held in the 191 Lok Sabha seats so far indicate another term for the Narendra Modi government, with 400 seats for the BJP-led NDA. He claimed that Uttar Pradesh would "gift" all 80 constituencies in the northern state to Modi.

"Polling held in 191 Lok Sabha seats so far indicate another term for the Modi government, with 400 seats for NDA," Adityanath said, while addressing an election rally in Baharampur Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal in support of BJP candidate Nirmal Kumar Saha. Elections are being held

phases for the 543-seat Lok

Sabha. Polling has been conducted in two phases on April 19 and 26, with the next hase scheduled on May 7.

Taking on the Trinamool Congress dispensation in West Bengal, Adityanath sought to assure people that the perpetrators of crimes in Sandeshkhali and clashes between groups of people on Ram Navami celebrations in the state will be brought to book by the BJP.

"Had such incidents taken place in Uttar Pradesh, I would have taught the perpetrators such a lesson that their next seven generations would not have dared to even think of doing any such thing," he asserted. He said that hundreds of rallies were held in Ayodhya on the occasion of Ram Navami sans any incident.

"West Bengal also needs a model like UP," he said. across the country in seven



great personalities, "has been Claiming that West Bengal is no longer the 'Sonar Bangla' destroyed by Congress, communists and Trinamool (prosperous state) as it was earlier, he said the state is Congress". from

Claiming that neither Rahul development and is looking Gandhi nor any other leader of the Congress or TMC Adityanath said he "feels "would come to the aid" of that West Bengal, people of the state if they are which had given birth to in a crisis, he alleged, "Didi's many nationalist leaders and affection is for the mafias that

are looting Bengal and "We putting to crisis the state's identity.

He asserted that only the BJP and Narendra Modi stand by the people in all situations.

Stating that there has not been any communal tension or curfew in Uttar Pradesh in the last seven years during his tenure as the chief minister, he said that everyone, irrespective of caste or creed, gets the benefits of welfare projects in the northern state. In Uttar Pradesh, both daughters and businessmen are safe," he said, asserting that no one can browbeat any

other person in his state. Speaking at another election rally in Birbhum seat in support of BJP candidate Debtanu Bhattacharya, he asserted that since he took over as the chief minister seven years ago, all gangsters in Uttar Pradesh have "either left the state or the world".

have not only constructed Ram temple in Ayodhya, we have also arranged for 'Ram Naam Satya Hai' (funeral) of many big gangsters," he said.

He claimed that the large-scale influx of illegal immigrants into West Bengal, which shares a long border with Bangladesh, is changing the demography of the state. Adityanath alleged that the perpetrators of crimes in Sandeshkhali and during Ramnavami celebrations were being "protected" by the ruling party in West Bengal. Adityanath accused the Congress and other members of the opposition INDIA alliance of "trying to divide" the country and resorting to "religious appeasement" in a bid to win the elections.

"I have come to give the guarantee of development without any discrimination," he added.

He claimed that terrorism and Naxalism have been contained under the Modi government.

Now if even a cracker is Speaking at another election rally in Asansol Lok Sabha burst, Pakistan comes forward to clarify that it does seat, where the BJP has fielded S S Ahluwalia, not have any hand in it, because our neighbouring country knows that even if Adityanath alleged that West Bengal has come under the grip of violence, lawlessness something happens by mistake, it will have to pay a and corruption. Stating that this election is for heavy price," he said.

"This is the new India under Modi ji. We do not tinker with anyone, but if anyone dares to do so with us, we do not leave them unscathed,"

Adityanath asserted. He said that infrastructural projects such as highways, railways and educational institutions are flourishing under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi but the TMC government is preventing the implementation of such initiatives in West Bengal.

Stating that 50,000 Durga Pujas are held in Uttar Pradesh, he said there has not been a single incident of violence during the festivities He said that along with an in his State.

years by the Congress.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Repeat offenders

Pro-Khalistan slogans raised again at Toronto event in front of Trudeau; India hits back

Jet another event which saw pro-Khalistan slogans being raised, this time in Toronto, has triggered diplomatic tensions between India and Canada. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was also present in the programme, which made it look like the Canadian Government was condoning the act. It prompted India to summon in New Delhi a Canadian diplomat and express strong disapproval. The event, celebrating cultural diversity and inclusivity, took an unexpected turn when a group of individuals began chanting slogans in support of Khalistan, a separatist movement. The unfortunate incident is indeed a setback to ongoing discussions between the countries on various issues. For India, the incident struck a sensitive chord as it perceives the Khalistan movement a threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Indian authorities view any display of support for Khalistan, especially in the presence of heads of State, with utmost seriousness. The Indian Government, therefore, wasted no time in



conveying its concerns to Canadian authorities. The summoning of their diplomat serves as a clear signal of India's displeasure and underscores the gravity with which it views the matter. Meanwhile, in Canada, the incident has sparked discussions about the limits of freedom of expression and the implication of such incidents on diplomatic relations. While Canada may uphold the principles of free speech and assembly, the chanting of pro-Khalistan slogans on its soil in the presence of its Prime Minister raises questions about the appropriateness of such actions, particularly in a diplomatic context. Trudeau, who has been an advocate for multiculturalism and

diversity, has yet to publicly comment on the incident. However, it is expected that he will address the matter in due course, considering the diplomatic ramifications and the need to maintain constructive relations with India. Given the history of the roots of Khalistanis in Canada, it was a foregone conclusion that something of this sort might come up. The Canadian Prime Minister should have ensured in advance such a thing would not happen as it reflects badly on his Government and strains relations with India. Indeed, pampering Khalistanis on its soil is going to be a problem for Canada as history repeats itself and all those regimes that once harboured such elements have paid a heavy price for it. The incident also underscores the complexities of managing diaspora politics, particularly when it intersects with sensitive geopolitical issues. Canada is home to a significant Sikh population, many of whom have strong ties with India and hold varying views on the Khalistan movement. Ultimately, the Toronto incident highlights the interconnectedness of global politics and the need for vigilance in safeguarding the principles of sovereignty, unity and respect for diverse perspectives. It is a stark reminder that actions and words uttered in one corner of the world can have far-reaching implications, shaping the course of international relations for years.



Why is the BJP avoiding China in campaigning?



The BJP's election focus has shifted away from recent China tensions, opting instead to highlight Nehru's actions during the 1962 conflict

hina has been generally missing from election manifestoes and campaigning so far. Former Army Chief Gen Naravane at a literary festival in Ajmer recently called China India's primary threat adding confrontation along LAC was a good thing as it exposed this ground reality that Delhi was shy to admit. EAM S.Jaishankar and especially Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane have made unkind references to Beijing. In his book Four Stars of Destiny Naravane has written extensively about the India-China confrontation which started under his watch. It was a serious failure of intelligence which allowed the Chinese PLA to occupy nearly 2000 square km of territory on the Indian side of LAC corresponding to their 1956 claim line. The avoidable tragedy at Galwan and the refusal of the Chinese to restore the status quo ante April 2020 even after 21 rounds of military dialogue (the last round on 21 February) place India at a serious disadvantage. In 1998 India gave China as the reason for conducting nuclear tests which

incensed the Chinese, requiring then foreign minister Jaswant Singh to travel to Beijing to "untie the knot". I was witness to the repair exercise in Beijing even as then our Army was retaking Tololing Heights, Kargil. Singh had to say that China was not a threat. Later then defence minister George Fernades called China the number one threat though it was misreported as ' No 1 enemy". This caused a diplomatic furore as China is acutely sensitive to being seen as or worse a threat by any country. The Government is careful in its articulations on China as it hopes to secure full disengagement diplomatically. But the gloves came off Feb /Mar. Jaishankar speaking at the Raisina dialogue said that China should not be allowed to play mind -games to counter which India must use other means (implying US help) to seek better equilibrium. His



there in case we need their support". Not since 1962 have we sought unequivocally US military support. This is bound to have upset China. Worse, no Indian official had ever called China a bully. Surprisingly China has not reacted.

Naravane's book and excerpts have been withheld by the Government in damage control after publishers circulated excerpts of Operation Snow Leopard Night 29/30 August 2020 which belittle the Government's political control in war and explosive comments on Agniveer. Armed with material from the horse's mouth, the opposition is targeting the Government in China and Agniveer — during election rallies where foreign policy is an issue. How Army intelligence cleared the book for publication is a mystery. In parliament on 10 Feb 2021. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had informed Parliament about withdrawals in the North Pangong Tso Lake Fingers area. But he made no mention of vacation from Kailash Heights, which presumably was implied in ^tmutual withdrawal'. But Singh added: "Chinese side is aware of our resolve not to allow an inch of territory to be taken".

FORMER ARMY CHIEF **GEN NARAVANE**

RECENTLY HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CAUTIOUS ARTICULATIONS ON CHINA AIM TO SECURE FULL DISENGAGEMENT DIPLOMATICALLY. **DESPITE THE** SERIOUS INTELLIGENCE FAILURE ALLOWING

CHINESE OCCUPATION OF INDIAN TERRITORY

ERS

North about Bank (Pangongtso Lake)". Recently Congress leader

Jairam Ramesh cited an X post by Chushul Councillor Konchok Stanzin of autonomous Ladakh Hill Development Council that the Rezangla battle 1962 memorial was dismantled as it fell in the 'buffer zone' negotiated with China during the vacation of Kailash Heights. That undisputed Kailash Heights in Indian territory had been made a buffer zone is a revelation that the Government never even informed parliament.

In the critical operational situation replete with vertical and horizontal escalation that developed at Kailash Heights that critical night, no political guidance had been provided by CCS/RM/PM to Naravane which became clear from his conversation with Singh urgently seeking orders. With Naravane's book and excerpts embargoed for release, the book may never materialise as it showed the political direction of a war-like situation in poor light. But Naravane will know why he didn't become CDS even as critical Kailash heights are lost for perpetuity. In the election campaign, no BJP leader has so far menout of the fray, the opposition is attacking the Government for losing 2000 sq km of land as well as 26 of 65 patrolling points. Campaigning in Pune and speaking to the media on 12 April, Jaishankar emphasized "there was no encroachment by China; it has not occupied any of our land; but the situation is sensitive, competitive and challenging." The PM, HM and RM have all also denied loss of territory.

In his interview with Newsweek in response to a question on China, PM Modi's terse reply was: "New Delhi ties with Beijing are important and the prolonged situation at the border should be addressed urgently, for peace and tranquillity to be restored and sustained at the borders". The Chinese welcomed the statement adding sound and stable ties were in common interest. Restoring the LAC to April 2020 as sought by India, the Chinese will never do. It's tough to conceive of a compromise formula. Consequently, the C word is almost missing from the BJP election discourse, cleverly diverted to Nehru's follies in 1962. But Naravane deserves praise.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka and a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence *Staff. Views are personal)*

comments came a day after Armane at the INDUS-X FORUM in Delhi unprecedently called Beijing a bully adding we expect our friend US will be

Former NSA, Sniv Snanka Menon in his writings has observed: "we don't know what happened in South Bank (Kailash heights) as we know

CHALLENGES FOR NEW GOVERNMENT

ALONG THE LAC

tioned Galwan or Kailash heights which were examples of valorous use of force against China as it could open a can of worms. Keeping Naravane

Fireworks light up the sky at the Golden Temple on the birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur, in Amritsar

Recognising workers' resilience and struggle



SANTOSH MATHEW

On International Labour Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to worker welfare and advocate for fair, empowering policies

n May 1st, as we celebrate International Labour Day, these words of Karl Marx resonate with renewed significance. May Day is not merely a day of rest; it is a powerful reminder of the resilience and collective strength of workers worldwide. It is a day to honour the countless individuals who have fought for the rights and dignity of labourers and to recognise the ongoing struggle for justice in the workplace.

Every year on May 1st, International Labour Day serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles, sacrifices and triumphs of workers worldwide. It is a day to honour the contributions of labourers across various countries and industries, while also acknowledging the ongoing battle for labour rights and social justice. As we commemorate Ínternational Labour Day on May 1, 2024, let us reflect on the significance of this day and recommit ourselves to advocating for the rights and welfare of workers. The roots of International Labour Day trace back to May

1, 1886, when workers in



Chicago staged a massive protest demanding an eighthour workday. This pivotal event led to the

establishment of International Workers' Day, symbolising the collective struggle for fair labour practices. Since then, May Day has evolved into a global movement, with workers from all walks of life coming together to advocate for their rights. May Day holds immense significance in highlighting the importance of workers' rights. It serves as a platform to address issues such as fair wages, equal opportunities, maternity benefits, healthcare and safe working conditions. By amplifying the voices of workers, May Day fosters solidarity and empowers individuals to strive for better living stan-

dards and dignity in labour.

advocacy, Dr Ambedkar laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable soci-

cant strides in advancing labour rights, challenges persist. Many workers, especially those in the informal sector, continue to face exploitation and lack of protection. We must address these issues and work towards creating a more just and equitable work-

ing environment for all. As we celebrate International Labour Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the welfare of workers. We must advocate for policies that promote fair labour practices, empower workers and ensure wellbeing. their As International Labour Day dawns upon us once again on May 1st, 2024, let it serve not just as a commemoration of past struggles, but as a beacon lighting our path towards a future where every worker's dignity is honoured, every

a world of equality and justice. (The writer is an associate

Madam - Apropos the news article, "Challenges loom ahead of the July

Union Budget," published on April 30, this is my response. The forthcoming union budget already stirs anticipation, underscoring the critical juncture India faces. Economic discourse dominates electoral debates, eclipsing divisive issues. However, the electorate's focus on core economic woes signals a paradigm shift. Spiralling inflation, mounting household debts and sluggish job creation demand urgent attention. Yet, electoral promises veer towards populism rather than pragmatic solutions. The fiscal landscape is daunting, with staggering debt repayments curtailing budgetary flexibility.

Amid global economic headwinds, India's export slump exacerbates trade deficits. Addressing structural issues like low productivity and high taxation is imperative for sustained growth. Furthermore, infrastructural development must align with socio-economic welfare, assuage rural discontent and foster inclusive growth. A judicious blend of public and private sector involvement and prudent fiscal policies can steer India towards its lofty economic aspirations. Ultimately, the onus lies on the new Government to navigate these challenges deftly, prioritising the populace's wellbeing over partisan agendas.

Neha Iyer | Pune

ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLITICS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Why are the young not joining politics?" published on April 30, this is my response. Witnessing the apathy of young voters towards participating in the political process is disheartening. While some may feel disillusioned with the quality of politicians, others might believe their voices won't make a difference. However, by abstaining from voting, they relinquish their right to shape the nation's future.

On the other end of the spectrum, the eat too. Sugary and starchy foods can

State Assembly sessions

THE EDITOR



propos the news article, "Delhi, other state Alegislative meetings dwindle," published on April 29, this is my response. As someone who follows daily news, the pattern of state assembly sessions raises concerns. The data compiled by PRS Legislative Research reveals a significant disparity in the number of days assemblies convene. While some states meet

lack of interest among older individuals in entering politics is concerning. The decline in ethical and social values, coupled with the high cost of electioneering, deters many from pursuing politicareers. Addressing these issues cal requires systemic changes, such as the delimitation of electoral constituencies and measures to reduce election expenses. Compulsory voting could also enhance participation and diminish the influence of vote-bank politics. Moreover, curbing the distribution of freebies is crucial to prevent elections from devolving into mere transactions. True democracy demands active engagement from all citizens, irrespective of age or background.

Meera Patel | Ahmedabad

NUTRITION FOR ORAL HEALTH

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Diet, Mint, Ginger Impact," published on April 29, this is my response. Maintaining oral health extends beyond brushing and flossing; it's about what we

the constitutional mandate of at least one session every six months, others fall drastically short. The emphasis on budget sessions, evident from the majority of sittings concentrated within these periods, indicates a rushed legislative process. Such haste might compromise the quality of debate and scrutiny essential for robust policymaking.

Moreover, the prolonged sessions in some states, stretching beyond a year in extreme cases, question the efficiency and accountability of legislative bodies. The instances of bills being passed swiftly after introduction raise doubts about thorough deliberation and stakeholder consultation. Efforts to streamline legislative processes and ensure meaningful engagement during sessions are imperative to uphold democratic principles and deliver effective governance

Nisha Menon | Bhopal

feed harmful mouth bacteria, leading to gum disease. A balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, protein, calcium-rich foods and whole grains not only supports a healthy body but also promotes a bright smile. Opting for natural foods over processed ones is key to oral and overall wellbeing. Remember, oral health impacts your entire body; bacteria from the mouth can spread, increasing the risk of various diseases

Mint and ginger offer natural remedies for oral care. Mint's antiseptic properties combat bacteria, freshen breath and prevent cavities. Meanwhile, ginger, with its gingerol compound, fights infections and inflammation, strengthening teeth. Incorporating these ingredients into a refreshing drink like Mint & Ginger Healthy Drink adds flavour and health benefits to your routine, promoting a radiant smile and robust health

Arjun Reddy | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

In India, May Day was first celebrated in 1923 by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Madras (now

Chennai). Led by visionary leaders like Singaravelu Chettiar, this event marked the beginning of a movement to champion the rights of workers. Since then, May Day has been observed with fervour across the country, with various labour organisations leading rallies and campaigns to advocate for workers' welfare.

Dr BR Ambedkar, a towering figure in India's labour movement, played a pivotal role in advocating for the rights of marginalised labourers. He emphasised the principles of equal pay for equal work, maternity benefits, eradication of discrimination and fair treatment of workers.

Through his leadership and

While we have made signifi-

voice is heard and every dream finds its fulfilment in

professor, views are personal) RANCHI | WEDNESDAY | MAY 1, 2024

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FIRSTCOLUMN A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Visual storytelling can promote sensitivity and empathy



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

scared figure crouching in a corner, a large hand covering a mouth trying to muffle a scream, outstretched arms pleading for help, tattered clothes. More often than not, images like these accompany media reports of sexual violence against women. As a survivor of sexual harassment. Ankita Anand felt insulted looking at these images. She didn't want to be depicted this way.

What upset her most were drawings meant to represent the survivors and create awareness that served to titillate. She decided to take matters into her own hands. The activist-turned-journalist started a campaign with a Change Org petition and directed her attention to one of the major news channels to set an example by not using disrespectful images of women in sexual violence reporting. What was needed to transform the way society perceived women was images that were not about helplessness but about the rage that challenged the oppression. Pictures that showed that women are "doers," not always the "done upon-s." were shared by Anand in her piece about her innovative campaign for the Network of Women in Media, India.

While her 2018 petition garnered over 47,000 signatories and also helped to spotlight an earlier Redraw Misogyny campaign by Breakthrough, an organisation working to end violence against women, many media platforms continue to churn out images that strip the victim of agency and perpetuate shame and stigma attached with rape and sexual harassment, creating a biased perception of women who have experienced sexual violence.

But now Anand and the many survivors in India and the region, no longer have to be depicted in this disempowering way thanks to the just-launched free-to-use image bank reframing visual narratives around women and sexual violence in South Asian media



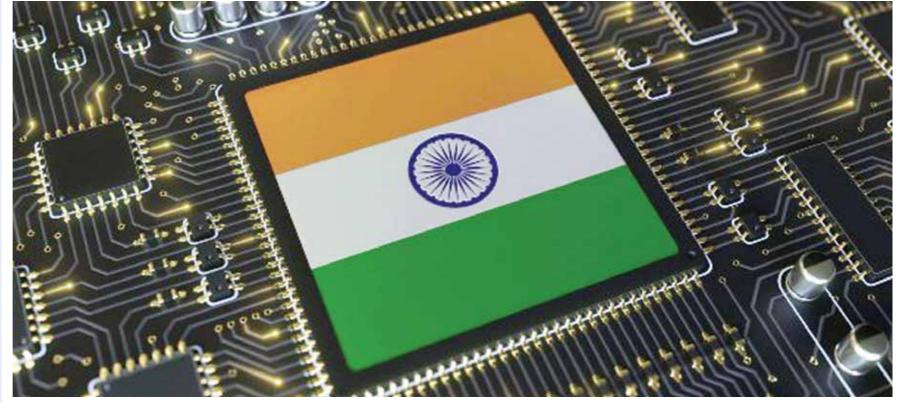
Conceptualised by the Hri Institute for Southasian Research and Exchange, Kathmandu and developed with the help of a team of artists and photographers from India and Nepal, the image bank re-imagines visual depiction of women and sexual violence to address the wide spectrum of women's experiences. It is an outcome of a unique collaborative effort to explore the role images play in forming perceptions around sexual assault, women and gender equality. The project 'Challenging Visual Depiction of Women and Sexual Violence in Southeast Asia' led by Laxmi Murthy and Pawas Manandhar united researchers, activists, filmmakers, and artists to redefine visual portrayals of gender-based violence in cinema, media, and popular culture across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka The one-year project focused on challenging problematic imagery and promoting more meaningful depictions of violence and trauma. South Asian artists utilised textiles alongside illustrations and photos to narrate stories of injustices against women. It is an important artistic medium of expression, especially for those who have suffered violence, repression and discrimination as textiles are inextricably linked to the lives of people, particularly women. "I Never Ask For It," a campaign by Blank Noise, a Bengaluru-based volunteer-led project, has been working to generate awareness of gender-based violence and end victim shaming/blaming by building testimonies of clothing. Images from this campaign can also support survivors of violence to feel heard and believed. A picture is worth a thousand words. It can transform the way sexual violence against women is framed in the media when used sensitively and appropriately. It just needs the will to do it.

Semicon ecosystem: A revolution in India



analys \$ 07

India's talent, resources and infrastructure position it to excel in the semiconductor sector and becoming a global leader



s our lives become increasingly reliant on technology, semiconductors have become the essential foundation of society. These tiny chips are the powerhouses behind our electronic devices, communication systems and even the functioning of our agricultural implements medical equipment and vehicles. India has recognised the enormous socio-economic potential and strategic importance of this silent revolution of technology and is taking the lead in building a robust semiconductor ecosystem and developing a talented workforce.

India's goal of becoming self-sufficient and a global leader in semiconductors is supported by the fact that the semiconductor industry is expected to generate over one million job opportunities for semiconductor design engineers, manufacturing engineers, R&D scientists, operators, technicians and skilled workers in chip design and semiconductor fabrication, packaging and sales facilities over the next five years. "Around 30 per cent of the new global capability centres established in India during the December quarter of last year were in the semiconductor space, indicating a growing interest in leveraging the local talent pool in areas such as front-end design, performance testing and post-silicon validation", according to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) and Zinnov latest report. The world's leading chip design companies, including Intel, Texas Instruments, AMD, Nvidia and Qualcomm, have design and R&D centres in India. AMD recently inaugurated its largest global design centre in Bengaluru. In March, an event- 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat,' witnessed the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore. Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Power Chip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), set up the country's first semiconductor fab plant in Dholera (Gujrat) with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore and another plant in Morigaon(Assam) with investment of Rs 27,000 crore, with the first chips to



plant with an investment of Rs 22,500 crore in Sanand(Gujarat), is expected to roll out the first "Made in India" memory chips by December. It is contributing its bit to the Chandrayaan-3 mission Semiconductor Corporation of India(SCL) proposed to update and expand its chip facility in the Mohali plant with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore, to enhance its contribution to ISRO and other space research organisations globally. 95 Percent Import Dependency: Despite the upward trajectory of India's current semiconductor chip ecosystem, the country remains dependent on the US, Taiwan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, with over 95 per cent of semiconductors imported from these countries.

begin coming off the production

line in 2026. US-based semicon-

To reduce this dependency on \$55 BILLION imports, India recognised the strategic importance of a robust

China. Amid this relocation in the industry, India and Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have been preferred for front-end manufacturing in the future. India's entry into this ecosystem is timely and strategically important for diversifying the global supply chain and positioning India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the creation of employment opportunities for

the nation's youth. Present Landscape and Scope of Growth: Bengaluru and Hyderabad together host about two-thirds of India's semiconductor global capability centres (GCCs), which is over two-thirds of the total 55 semiconductor GCCs in the country. With more than 95 GCC units and a specialised workforce of 50,000, this demonstrates India's strong commitment to the semiconductor industry. Presently, India's semiconductor market is valued at an estimated \$15 billion and is expected to reach \$55 billion by 2026. Smartphones and wearables, automobile components, computers and data storage account for more than 60 per cent of the market. Challenges: Semiconductor manufacturing is an extremely complex process that requires precision at the smallest level. Since the global chip world is closely connected, Indian companies need to collaborate with countries like Taiwan and South Korea to gain access to advanced technology that will enable them to support emerging applications with more chip content, such as autonomous machines, smart medical devices, futuristic communications at 6G onward and AI across electronics. Bridge the skill gap: India needs to bridge the skill gap, especially for advanced chip design and fabrica-

tion. The global semiconductor

manufacturing industry has a talent pool of 2.3 million, with nearly 25 per cent of senior talent being Índian.

To attract and retain this talent, Indian companies are holding roadshows in Taiwan's chip manufacturing centre of Hsinchu. Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says, "The engi-neers who have decided to return to India from the US are younger, while those from Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia are generally over 45 years and with more experience. We expect many of them to come back to participate in India's high-tech manufacturing revolution".

Road Ahead: The future of the semiconductor industry in India holds immense promise. It will play a crucial role in shaping the country's advanced technological landscape, driving economic growth and positioning India as a global leader in innovation. The semiconductor industry will also generate opportunities for an entrant and Indian talent working in this sector globally, many of whom wish to return to their roots. India's ambition to become a selfreliant and dominant player in the semiconductor industry is clear. With the talent, resources and infrastructure in place, India is poised to make significant strides in the semiconductor sector and establish itself as a global leader in the years to come. -The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President, of Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA). Views expressed are personal

(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal)

BY 2026. SMARTPHONES AND WEARABLES, **AUTOMOBILE** COMPONENTS, **COMPUTERS AND** DATA STORAGE ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE MARKET

domestic semiconductor industry. It unveiled the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) offering 50 per cent capital expenditure support to new entrants, production-linked incentive (PLI) and design-linked incentive (DLI) schemes with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, as well as state Government incentive support, international partnerships and a focus on talent development. The Electronic and IT Ministry plans to train over 85,000 engineers in chip design over the next five vears to address the skill gap. Such focused efforts aim to steer the ecosystem through nurturing policymaking to develop a self-sufficient ecosystem.

Moreover, the geopolitical uncertainties involving the China-US trade war have compelled companies to seek alternative production bases or sourcing locations outside

Driving innovation: Role of intellectual property in India

India can emulate Japan's post-Meiji transformation by harnessing innovation, embracing change and cultivating a risk-taking culture

n the 76th Independence Day speech on August 15, 2022, the Prime Minister called for innovation with a focus on indige-

nous innovations highlighting "Jai Anusandhan". Innovation is the key to India realising a self-reliant, competitive and USD 30 trillion economy by 2047. Innovation has the potential to unlock major productivity gains and

will allow the nation to leapfrog towards higher value-added products and services across sectors. In the last few years, globally we have witnessed a fundamental and rapid shift from a knowledge economy to an era of artificial intelligence (AI) and virtuality. During the same time, the

unprecedented nature and



scale of the pandemic affirmed the importance of having an innovation ecosystem for finding new cures vaccines, medicines and diagnostics.

For a country with a legacy of scientific and technical knowledge base, the private sector in India has previously made modest investments in research and development (R&D). India has taken a dif-

to meet its unique challenges. The transformational digital public infrastructure, starting with the Aadhar platform, is a case in point. Similarly, against the backdrop of concerns regarding public health, access and

KRISHNA SARMA

and protecting the domestic industry, India's approach to innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector is primarily based on public-sector-led collaborative innovation, where the private sector has merely been 'encouraged 'to invest in R&D in priority

areas. While in many cases, publicly supported research provides a wellspring of initial discovery, it is the private sector that must develop new technolo-

market. To be a leader in a rapidly changing marketplace across sectors, private sector innovation is critical. How does one measure innovation? One way could be to determine how much a company spends on R&D as a affordability of medicines percentage of its revenue annually. As patents secure exclusive rights to an invention, the innovative index of a company can be additionally judged by the number of grated patents, patent applications filed, whether the filings are in multiple coun-

patents and so forth. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce's 161st Report on IPR Regime in India (July 2021) expresses concern that the rate of ferent approach to innovation gies and bring them to the increase in the number of

tries, the quality of the

four years has been very low compared to the US and China. It goes on to say that this is co-related to the microscopic spending on R&D which is a meagre 0.7 per cent of India's GDP. Globally, companies with the highest R&D spend are big tech US companies like Amazon, Meta, Alphabet, Microsoft, Intel Corp. and bio-pharmaceutical companies like Roche, J&J, Pfizer,

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck & Co. This list also includes three companies from China — Huawei, Tencent Holdings and Alibaba; Samsung from S. Korea; and European automobile manufacturers like Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz.

patents in India in the last Regarding the biopharmaceutical sector, the removal of product patent protection for drugs in 1970 allowed reverse engineering, which led to the exponential growth of the domestic generic industry and helped India be 'the pharmacy of the world'. At the same time, however, the lack of effective patent protection profoundly impacted corporate investment in R&D and the discovery of new molecules. Zydus Cadila's Saroglitazar, launched in 2013, remains so far, the only compound that was entirely indigenously discovered.

India has the potential to spur its innovative spirit by leveraging its strengths, embracing change and fostering a risk-taking culture. Second, we must vigorously

Japan's transformation after the Meiji Restoration from being an importer and imitator of foreign technologies, to a global powerhouse in innovation that has defined the world's technological landscape exemplifies that necessity is the mother of invention.

There is no silver bullet for creating an enabling environment for innovation. Bryce Hoffman in his book Red Teaming shows how disruptive innovation requires critical and contrarian thinking. So, to inculcate the scientific temper and risk-taking and entrepreneurship spirit, there is a dire need to shift the emphasis of our education system from rote mem-

orisation and conformity.

pursue closer collaboration between academia and industry to commercialise innovation. It is a matter of great pride that Prof. Rahul Purwar, IIT Mumbai obtained marketing approval for the first indigenously developed cell and gene therapy for the treatment of cancer.

Last but not least, a robust, meaningful and predictable intellectual property rights system can most optimally provide economic incentives to inventors and investors to invest risk capital in inventive activity — a very high-risk undertaking.

(The author is Managing Partner, Corporate Law Group, a New Delhi-based *law firm; views* are personal)

world 08



US military ships working to build pier for Gaza aid

This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows the USNS Roy P. Benavidez, center in the Mediterranean Sea off shore from the Gaza Strip on Monday. AP/PTI

AP JERUSALEM

US Navy ship and several AArmy vessels involved in an American-led effort to bring more aid into the besieged Gaza Strip are offshore of the enclave and building out a floating platform for the operation that the Pentagon has said will cost at least USD 320 million. Sabrina Singh, Pentagon spokeswoman, told reporters the cost is a rough estimate for the project and includes the transportation of the equipment and pier sections from the United States to the coast of Gaza, as well as the construction and aid delivery operations.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press on Tuesday show the USNS Roy P Benavidez about 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) from the port on shore, where the base of operations for the project is being built by the Israeli military.

The USAV General Frank S Besson Jr, an Army logistics vessel, and several other Army boats are with the Benavidez and working on the construction of what the military calls the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore, or JLÕTS, system.

Satellite images from Sunday and Monday by Planet Labs PBC showed pieces of the floating pier in the Mediterranean Sea, alongside the Benavidez. Measurements of the vessel match known features of the Benavidez, a Bob Hope-class vehicle cargo ship operated by the Military Sealift Command.A US military official confirmed late last week that the Benavidez had begun

construction and that it was far enough off shore to ensure that the troops building the plat-form would be safe. Singh said

on Monday that next will come the construction of the causeway, which will then be anchored to the beach.

The US military's Central Command early Tuesday pub-lished images of the floating pier's construction online, after the AP's publication of the the AP's publication of the satellite photos.

"The pier will support USAID and humanitarian part-ners to receive and deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza," the statement on the social platform X said. US and Israeli officials

have said they hope to have the floating pier in place, the causeway attached to the shore and operations underway by early May. The Pentagon said on Monday the operation will cost at least USD 320 million. The cost was first reported by Reuters. Under the plan by the US military, aid will be loaded onto commercial ships in Cyprus to sail to the floating platform now under construction off Gaza. The pallets will be loaded onto trucks, which will be loaded onto smaller ships that will travel to a metal, floating two-lane causeway. The 550-meter (1,800-foot) causeway will be attached to the shore by the Israeli Defense

Forces. The US military official said an American Army engi-neering unit has teamed with an Israeli military engineering unit in recent weeks to practice the installation of the causeway, training on an Israeli beach just up the coast.

proposal had been put to Hamas, whose officials were in Cairo talking to Egyptian mediators. Israeli airstrikes killed 26 people in Gaza's southernmost town of Rafah,

according to hospital records. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, ahead of a visit to Israel this week, urged Hamas to accept the latest proposal, calling it "extraordi-narily generous" on Israel's

presses Hamas

to accept new

Gaza ceasefire

Cairo (AP): The United States

stepped up pressure Monday for a cease-fire deal in Gaza as

the secretary of state said a new

proposal for

part The terms were not made public. But according to an Egyptian official and Israeli media, Israel has softened its position, lowering the number of hostages it demands that Hamas free during the initial six-week phase of the cease-fire in return for the release of hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli prisons.

One question is whether that will be enough to overcome Hamas concerns over the cease-fire's second phase.

Hamas has demanded assurances that an eventual release of all hostages will bring a complete end to Israel's nearly seven-month assault in Gaza and a withdrawal of its troops from the devastated territory. Israel has offered only an extended pause, vow-ing to resume its offensive once it is over. The issue has repeatedly obstructed efforts by US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators during months of Some Israeli commenta-

tors depicted Israel as at a crossroads: Go for a deal with a potential end to the war, bringing benefits that could include normalisation of ties with Saudi Arabia, or push ahead with plans including an attack on Rafah in the hope of crushing Hamas and risk inter-national isolation.

Antony Blinken Protesters take over Columbia University

AP NEW YORK

Dozens of protesters took over a building at Columbia University in New York early Tuesday, barricading the entrances and unfurling a Palestinian flag out of a window in the latest escalation of demonstrations against the Israel-Hamas war that have spread to college campuses nationwide.

Video footage showed protest-ers on Columbia's Manhattan campus locking arms in front of Hamilton Hall early Tuesday and carrying furniture and metal barricades to the building, one of several that was occupied during a 1968 civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protest on the campus. Posts on an Instagram page for protest organizers shortly after midnight urged people to protect the encampment and join them at Hamilton Hall. A "Free Palestine" banner hung from a window. "An autonomous group reclaimed Hind's Hall, previously known as "Hamilton Hall," in honor of

Hind Rajab, a martyr murdered at the hands of the genocidal Israeli state at the age of six years old," CU Apartheid Divest posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, early Tuesday.

The student radio station, WKCR-FM, broadcast a play-by-play of the hall's takeover – which occurred nearly 12 hours after Monday's 2 pm deadline for the protesters to leave an encampment of around 120 tents or face suspension.

Representatives for the university did not immediately respond to emails requesting comment early Tuesday but the Public Safety department said in a statement that access to the Morningside campus has been limited to students living in the residential buildings and employees who provide essential services, such as dining, public safety and maintenance staff. There was just one access point into and out of campus. 'The safety of every single mem-

ber of this community is paramount," the advisory said.

In the X post, protesters said they planned to remain at the hall until the university conceded to the CUAD's three demands: divestment, financial transparency and amnesty. Universities across the US are grappling with how to clear out encampments as commencement ceremonies approach, with some continuing negotiations and others turning to force and ultimatums that have resulted in clashes with police. Dozens of people were arrested Monday during protests at universities in Texas, Utah, Virginia and New Jersey, while Columbia said hours before the takeover of Hamilton Hall that it had start-

ed suspending students. The nationwide campus protests began as a response by some students to Israel's offensive in Gaza after Hamas launched a deadly attack on southern Israel

on October 7. Militants killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took roughly 250 hostages. Vowing to stamp out Hamas,

Israel has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the local health ministry.

Israel and its supporters have branded the university protests as antisemitic, while critics of Israel say it uses such allegations to silence opponents. Although some protesters have been caught on camera making antisemitic remarks or violent threats, organizers of the protests, some of whom are Jewish, say it is a peaceful movement aimed at defending Palestinian rights and protesting the war. At the University of Texas at

Austin, an attorney said at least 40 demonstrators were arrested Monday. The confrontation was an escalation on the 53,000-student campus in the state's capital, where more than 50 protesters were arrested last week. Later Monday, dozens of officers in riot gear at the University of Utah sought to break up an encampment outside the univer-sity president's office that went up in the afternoon. Police dragged students off by their hands and feet, snapping the poles holding up tents and zip-tying those who refused to disperse. Seventeen people were arrested. The university says it's against code to camp overnight on school property and that the students were given several warnings to disperse before

police were called in. At Princeton University, 13 peo-ple were arrested Monday night including 11 students, after briefly occupying a building that houses its graduate school that houses its graduate school. They received summons for trespassing and have been barred from campus, President Christopher Eisgruber said in a statement.

The plight of students who have been arrested has become a central part of protests, with the students and a growing number of faculty demanding amnesty for protesters. At issue is whether the suspensions and legal records will follow students through their adult lives.

Netanyahu vows to invade Rafah with or without deal

AP TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Tuesday to launch an incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering from the 7-month-long war.

Netanyahu said Israel would enter Rafah to destroy Hamas' battalions there "with or without a deal." Israel and Hamas are negotiating a cease-fire agreement meant to free hostages and bring some relief to the Palestinians in the besieged enclave

"The idea that we will stop the war before achieving all of its goals is out of the questions. We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate Hamas' battalions there - with a deal or without a deal, to achieve the total victory," Netanyahu said in a meeting with families of hostages held by militants in Gaza, according to a statement from his office.

2.3 million population are sheltering. The international com-munity, including Israel's top ally, the US, have raised an alarm over the the fate of civilians in Rafah if Israel invades.Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected stopping the war in return for hostage releases, and says an offensive on Rafah is crucial to destroying the mil-itants after their Oct. 7 attacks on Israel triggered the conflict. threatened if he agrees to a deal because hard-line Cabinet members have demanded an

King Charles III returns to public duties with cancer centre visit PTI LONDON

London (**PTI**). Britain's King the progress made so far that the

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, left, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, right, and other officials attend a Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council and US to discuss the humanitarian crises faced in Gaza, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Monday AP/PTI

Man arrested after stabbing Judge holds Trump in spree in London, teen dies contempt, fines him \$9k

dent

said.

recounted that she recalled once

seeing Daniels at Trump's office

suite in Trump Tower and fig-

ured the performer was a potential contestant for one of Trump's "Apprentice"-brand

shows. Former National

Enquirer publisher David

Pecker laid out how he agreed

to serve as the Trump cam-

paign's "eyes and ears" by help-

ing to squelch unflattering

rumors and claims about

ny on email exchanges, business

transactions and bank accounts,

prosecutors are forming the foundation of their argument

that Trump is guilty of 34 felony

counts of falsifying business

records in connection with the

hush money payments. The

prosecution is leading up to cru-

cial testimony from Cohen him-

self, who went to federal prison

after pleading guilty to cam

paign finance violations and

other crimes. Trump has denied

any wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty. It's unclear when

Cohen will take the stand; the

trial is expected to go on anoth-

er month or more. And with

every moment Trump is in

court as the first of his four

criminal trials plays out, he's

growing increasingly frustrated

while the November election

hell and we sit here day after day

after day, which is their plan,

"Our country's going to

moves ever closer.

Through detailed testimo-

Trump and women.

Netanyahu has vowed to achieve 'total victory" in the war and has faced pressure from his nationalist governing partners to launch an offensive in Rafah, which Israel says is Hamas' last major stronghold.

Hopes have risen in recent days that the sides could move toward a deal that would avert an Israeli incursion into Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's

His government could be attack on Rafah.

Missile attack by Houthi rebels damages ship in Red Sea Jerusalem (AP): A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels damaged a ship in the Red Sea and presumptive Republican nominee has been on Monday, authorities said, campaigning in his off-hours, the latest assault in their cambut is required to be in court paign against shipping in the crucial maritime route. The when it is in session, four days attack happened off the coast of a week. Outside the courtroom Trump criticized prosecutors Mokha, Yemen, the British again. "This is a case that should military's United Kingdom have never been brought," he Maritime Trade Operations centre said. The ship was dam-Jurors so far have heard aged in the attack, the UKMTO from two other witnesses. said, though its crew was safe Trump's former longtime execand heading to its next port of utive assistant, Rhona Graff, call. The agency urged vessels



Charles III, who was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, on Tuesday resumed his public-facing duties with a planned visit to a cancer centre in London where he held hands with a number of patients. The 75-year-old monarch, still undergoing treatment which Buckingham Palace earlier said has been rated as "very encouraging" by his medical team, was also named Cancer Research UK's new patron as he joined wife Queen Camilla at the Macmillan Cancer Centre at University College Hospital. Smiling and cheerful Charles and Camilla spoke to staff and patients at the centre where the King was overheard saying it was important to get enough people diagnosed early. "This visit will be the first in a number of external engagements His Majesty will undertake in the weeks ahead? Buckingham Palace has said. "His Majesty's treatment programme will continue, but doctors are sufficiently pleased with King is now able to resume a number of public-facing duties. Forthcoming engagements will be adapted where necessary to minimise any risks to His Majesty's continued recovery," the palace said.

The royals also handed out presents to children and received some flowers in return. The King, who is also patron of Macmillan Cancer Support, said he was "much better" when people shouted out to ask how he was feeling. The royal couple were introduced to clinicians to hear more about all the new technology at the hospital, including CT scanners which are being used to help with the early detection of cancer. The King met Cancer Research UK's chief clinician, Professor Charlie Swanton, who has led a project called TRACERx a collaboration with 250 researchers and clinicians based at 19 centres across the UK, to investigate how lung cancer

sword-wielding man on A Tuesday smashed a vehicle into a home and then went on a stabbing spree in a "serious incident" near an east London Tube station, killing a 13-yearold boy and wounding four people, before being arrested, the Metropolitan Police said. The police said the incident did not appear to be linked with "any act of terrorism" and that of the five people injured, a boy has died from his injuries and

the others, including two police officers, remain in hospital after the attack in Hainault area of the city. "A 13-year-old boy was taken to hospital after being stabbed and sadly died a short while after. The child's family are being supported by local officers and are now with some specialist officers," said Met Police Chief Superintendent

Stuart Bell in a statement.He confirmed the 36-year-old suspect was tasered within 22



Police talking to members of the public at the scene in Hainault, north east London, Tuesday after reports of several people being stabbed at a Tube station. AP/PTI

minutes of the first call and here.

remains in custody. "I cannot even begin to imagine how those affected must be feeling. My thoughts are with the injured, their families and the wider community as we all begin to come to terms with what has happened and try to understand what has happened

'I know that there will be clearly and understandably a desire for answers and an explanation to what happened. Our investigation is in its very early stages and my officers are working right now to establish the full facts as a priority," he added.

AP NEW YORK

Donald Trump was held in contempt of court Tuesday and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order that barred him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his New York hush money case. If he does it again, the judge warned, he could be jailed. Prosecutors had alleged 10 violations, but New York Judge Juan M Merchan found there were nine. The ruling was a stinging rebuke for the Republican former president, who had insisted he was exercising his free speech rights. Merchan wrote that Trump "is hereby warned that the Court will not tolerate continued willful violations of its lawful orders and that if necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, it will impose an incarceratory punishment.

Trump stared down at the table in front of him as the judge read the ruling, frowning slightly. The ruling came at the start of the second week of testimony in the historic case. Manhattan prosecutors say Trump and his associates took part in an illegal scheme to influence the 2016 presidential campaign by burying negative stories. He has pleaded not guilty.Trump must pay the fine by the close of business on Friday, Merchan said in a written ruling. He must remove seven offending posts from his Truth Social account and two from his campaign website by 2:15 pm EDT, Tuesday, Merchan said. Merchan is also weighing other alleged gag order violations by Trump and will hear arguments Thursday. Court was resuming Tuesday with Gary Farro, a banker who helped Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen open accounts, including one that Cohen used to buy the silence of porn performer Stormy Daniels. She alleged a 2006 sexual encounter with Trump, which he denies. For his part, the former presicourthouse hallway. to exercise caution in the area. There was "an explosion in close proximity to a merchant vessel," the UKMTO said. Vessel and crew are reported safe?

The US military's Central Command identified the ship damaged as the Cyclades, a Malta-flagged, Greece-owned bulk carrier. The military separately shot down a drone on a flight path toward the USS Philippine Sea and USS Laboon, the military said Tuesday.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the attack on the Cyclades and targeting the US warships in a statement early Tuesday.

Meanwhile Monday, the Italian Defence Ministry said its frigate Virgino Fasan shot down a Houthi drone that morning near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

"A missile exploded in the water in the vicinity of the escorted vessel, causing only minor superficial damage," the Italian Defence Ministry said not identifying the commercial vessel being escorted. "The frigate Fasan and the protected merchant vessel are continuing their southward route as planned to exit the Red Sea."

Saree did not acknowledge that attack, though he claimed the Houthis also targeted a ship in the Indian Ocean.

because they think they might be able to eke out an election," There was no immediate Trump declared last week in the report or evidence to support that claim.

COVID sequencing scientist protests eviction from lab

to control information related

ingful domestic and interna-

Shanghai (AP): The first sci entist to publish a sequence of the COVID-19 virus in China staged a sit-in protest outside his lab after authorities locked him out of the facility — a sign of the Beijing's continuing pressure on scientists conducting research on the coronavirus. Zhang Yongzhen wrote in an online post Monday that he and his team had been suddenly notified they were being evicted from their lab, the latest in a series of setbacks, demotions and ousters since the virologist published the sequence in January 2020 without state

approval. When Zhang tried to go to the lab over the weekend, guards barred him from entering. In protest, he sat outside on flattened cardboard in drizzling rain, pictures from the scene posted online show. News of the protest spread



widely on Chinese social media and Zhang told a colleague he slept outside the lab but it was not clear Tuesday if he remained there. "I won't leave, I won't quit,

tional efforts to trace it from I am pursuing science and the the first weeks of the outbreak. truth!" he wrote in a post on That pattern continues to this Chinese social media platform day, with labs closed, collabo-Weibo that was later deleted. rations shattered, foreign sci-

entists forced out and Chinese researchers barred from leaving the country.

When reached by phone on Tuesday, Zhang said it was "inconvenient" for him to speak, saying there were other people listening in. In an email Monday to collaborator But Zhang wrote online Edward Holmes seen by AP, Zhang confirmed he was sleeping outside his lab after guards barred him from entering.

An AP reporter was blocked by a guard at an entrance to the compound housing Zhang's lab. A staff member at the National Health Commission, China's top health authority, said by phone to the virus: An Associated Press investigation found that that it was not the main department in charge and referred questions to the Shanghai govthe government froze meanernment. The Shanghai government did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Zhang's ordeal started when he and his team decod-

and wrote an internal notice warning Chinese authorities of its potential to spread — but did not make the sequence public. The next day, Zhang's lab was ordered temporarily shut by China's top health offi-

ment permission.

ed the virus on Jan. 5, 2020, cial, and Zhang came under pressure by Chinese authori-

Around the time, China had reported several dozen people were being treated for a respiratory illness in the central city of Wuhan. Possible cases of the same illness had been reported in Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan involving recent travelers to the city. Foreign scientists soon learned that Zhang and other Chinese scientists had deciphered the virus and called on China to release the sequence. Zhang published it on Jan. 11, 2020, despite a lack of govern-

evolves.



North Carolina home shootout'

AP CHARLOTTE

_our police officers serving a Fwarrant for a felon wanted for possessing a firearm were killed and four other officers were wounded in a shootout Monday at a North Carolina home, police said.

Some of the officers who rushed to the Charlotte neighbourhood to rescue the first wave of downed officers were wounded as a second shooter began firing on them after they killed the wanted man, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Johnny Jennings said.

"Today we lost some heroes who were out simply trying to keep our community safe," Jennings said at a news conference.

After a three-hour standoff, the suburban Charlotte home was torn open. Armoured vehicles smashed into it, ripping off windows and entire doorways

armoured vehicles were parked across yards, some with tree branches dangling off them. The US Marshals Task Force was fired on by the wanted suspect as they approached the house and the man was killed in the front yard, Jennings said. His name was not released, but the chief said he was wanted as a felon illegally possessing a

that were left broken. Several

weapon. A second person then fired on officers from inside the home where a high-powered rifle was found, Jennings added. A woman and a 17-year-old

male were found in the home after the standoff. The two are being questioned, Jennings said. The Marshal's Service confirmed one of its agents was killed. Two officers from the state Department of Adult Correction also were killed, said North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. The governor was in

Charlotte and was speaking to the families of the officers killed and hurt. Their names have not been released. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police

officer Joshua Ever died a few hours later at the hospital, Jennings said. Eyer was named the officer of the month for the force for April a few weeks ago, the chief said. "He certainty gave his life and

dedicated his life to protecting our citizens," Jennings said. One other member of the task force, which is made up of federal agents and other officers from across the region was injured. Three other Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers who responded to the scene were shot while trying to rescue the wounded officers Neighbors said gunfire lasted

for several minutes. WSOC-TV said their helicopter

captured an armoured vehicle driving through yards and

knocking over recycling bins before officers removed a person with blood on their shirt who was then loaded into ar ambulance.

After the home was cleared, the helicopter pilot said he couldn't show the front lawn of the home because the scene was too graphic and disturbing.

A lot of the questions that need to be answered, we don't even know what those questions are now," Jennings said, somberly briefing reporters less than four hours after the shooting. "We have to get a full understanding of why this occurred and also uphold the integrity of the investigation."

Many roads in the area including Interstate 77 were closed so ambulances could get to hospitals faster. TV footage showed ambulances speeding to hospitals escorted by vehicles both in front and behind with their sirens wailing.

of violating international law

by storming the Mexican Embassy in Quito to arrest a

former vice president who

had just been granted asylum

by Mexico. The April 5 raid

hours after Mexico granted

asylum to former Vice

President Jorge Glas, spiked

tensions that had been brew-

ing between the two countries

since Glas, a convicted crim-

inal and fugitive, took refuge

December.Leaders across

Latin America condemned

the raid as a blatant violation

of the Vienna Convention on

wanted on corruption convic-

tions and not for political rea-

sons, and has argued that

Mexico granting asylum to a

convicted criminal was itself a

violation of the Vienna con-

vention. Two mornings of pre-

Ecuador said Glas was

Diplomatic Relations.

embassy

in

at the

AP THE HAGUE

'4 law officers killed, 4 hurt in IMF approves immediate disbursal of \$1.1 bn loan tranche to Pakistan capitalise on this hard-won sta for a new long-term Extended

AP WASHINGTON/ ISLAMABAD

The IMF has approved an immediate disbursal of the final tranche of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's decision on Monday came after the global lender completed the second and final review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA). With this development, the disbursements under the SBA reached around USD 3 billion. All board members favoured the release of the last instalment. India, however, abstained from

voting "Given the significant chal-lenges ahead, Pakistan should

bility, persevering — beyond the current arrangement — with sound macroeconomic policies and structural reforms to create stronger, inclusive, and sustainable growth," said IMF's Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh. Continued external support will also be critical, she said. Achieving strong, long-term inclusive growth and creating jobs require accelerating structural reforms and continued protection of the most vulner-The development came a day able through an adequately after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing financed Benazir Income Director Kristalina Georgieva in Support Programme, she said. She said that advancing the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In his first meeting with the IMF chief reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ensuring that since his re-election as premier, Sharif also discussed all SOEs fall under the new policy framework, strengthening Pakistan's demand for another governance and anti-corrup-IMF programme as the country still needs the global lender's tion institutions, and continu crutches to wobble on to get its ing to build climate resilience economy back on track. was the priority

The IMF official said Pakistan will receive the loan payment

this week. Sayeh emphasised Pakistan needed to adhere to "a Fund Facility (EFF) ranging between USD 6 to USD 8 billion market-determined exchange with the possibility of augmenrate to absorb external shocks tation through climate financand broadening of structural reforms to support stronger

However, the exact size and time and more inclusive growth". frame will only be determined "Moreover, stronger action to after evolving consensus on the address undercapitalised finanmaior contours of the next procial institutions and, more gramme in May 2024. If broadly, vigilance over the secured, it would be Pakistan's financial sector are needed to ensure financial stability," she 24th IMF bailout. Separately, former prime minsaid in a statement.

ister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said all indicators of the economy were negative and the gov ernment's decision to seek another bailout from the IMF was an admission of their "failure", The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Economic growth stalls and

world 09

inflation rises due to such agree-ments with the IMF," he said, adding that the IMF "keeps you alive, but your economic condition deteriorates on every parameter.

Japan's PM denies he will step down over his party's loss in special polls

AP TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday his governing party's major defeat in last weekend's by-elections was largely due to a political fundraising scandal and that he would not step down or replace party executives to take responsibility

Instead, Kishida said he will push anti-corruption measures and political reforms."As I take the results seriously, I believe as president of the governing party we must tackle the challenges we face one by one and achieve results, and this is the way I will take responsibility, Kishida said. "By doing so, I will regain the people's trust." Kishida said the scandal dealt "a big and heavy hinderance" to the party. The scandal centres on dozens of lawmakers in Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party who allegedly pocketed profits from ticket sales to

political events by falsifying

accounting reports.

Asked if he would take responsibility for the election loss, Kishida denied he would step

down or replace top LDP posts, and pledged to pursue party and political reforms, including a revision to the political funds laws. He also vowed to tackle economic issues.

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party lost all three seats in Sunday's parliamentary by-elections in Nagasaki, Shimane and Tokyo. Kishida's party only fielded its own candidate in Shimane, a conservative stronghold, while the liberal-leaning main opposition

Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan clinched all three seats previously held by LDP.

The loss is seen as a punish-ment by voters for the governing party's scandal, which erupted last year and has undermined Kishida's leadership. The party is unlikely to lose power because the opposition is fractured. But Sunday's defeat marks a further setback for Kishida, who will seek reelection as his party's leader in the fall.Political analysts say Kishida was hoping to call a snap election possibly after the current parliamentary session ends in late June, seeking to receive a public mandate, and

then win another term in the party presidential vote in September. Kishida's state visit to the US earlier this month was perceived as a success, but Sunday's losses could erode his clout and LDP lawmakers may try to bring him down in favor of a fresh face ahead of the next general election.

to top UN court are focused on Mexico's request for interim orders Mexico is taking Ecuador to the top UN court on known as provisional measures to be put in force while Tuesday, accusing the nation

Mexico taking Ecuador

the court — a process likely to take many months. Among the measures Mexico is seeking are for the world court to order Ecuador to take "appropriate and immediate steps to provide full protection and security of diplomatic premises" and prevent any further intrusions. It also wants Ecuador to let Mexico clear its diplomatic premises and the homes of its diplomats in the country. In its case filed April 11

Mexico also asked the court to award reparation and suspend Ecuador from the United Nations. On Monday, Ecuador also filed a case at the International Court of Justice, accusing Mexico of using its embassy to "shield Mr. Glas from enforcement by Ecuador of its criminal law" and arguing that the actions "constitut ed, among other things, a blatant misuse of the premises of

the case progresses through ritorial conflict.

off since last year.

and an accompanying fisheries vessel were patrolling the waters off Scarborough Shoal when four Chinese coast guard ships, backed by six suspected militia ships, executed dangerous blocking maneuvers, Philippine coast guard spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela said.

a diplomatic mission".

Chinese coast guard fires water cannons at Philippine vessels

the fisheries vessel, the BRP

An IMF team is expected to visit

Pakistan in May to initiate talks

AP MANILA

Bankaw, and two other Chinese coast guard ships fired water cannons at two Chinese coast guard ships hit the Philippine coast guard ship, the BRP Bagacay, simul-taneously from both sides, Philippine patrol vessels Tuesday near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, damdamaging part of its deck railaging both in the latest flareing and a canopy, Tarriela added. up in an increasingly tense ter-

"China's coast guard and mar-There were no immediate itime militia vessels harassed, reports of injuries in the inciblocked and rammed vessels of dent off Scarborough Shoal, the Philippine coast guard and one of two hotly disputed the Bureau of Fisheries and areas where confrontations Aquatic Resources," between China and the Philippine government task Philippines have flared on and force dealing with the territorial disputes said. A Philippine coast guard ship

The Philippine fisheries vessel sustained damages, including to its electrical, navigation and radio systems, the task force said. A number of journalists who were invited to join the patrol witnessed the hostilities. it added."China's latest illegal and irresponsible behaviour highlights its egregious disregard for the Philippines' law-ful exercise of its rights and A Chinese coast guard ship entitlements in our own used a water cannon against

task force said. The Philippine vessels pressed on with their patrol despite the Chinese coast guard's actions, according to the Philippine coast guard. "They were not

Exclusive Economic Zone," the

deterred and would persist in carrying out their legitimate operations to support Filipino fishermen and ensure their safety," it added.

China called its action Tuesday a "necessary measure". "The Philippines has violated China's sovereignty with its actions,' said Gan Yu, spokesperson for China's coast guard. "It will continue to carry out actions to defend its rights in the Chinese waters according to law, and will resolutely uphold our country's maritime rights", he insisted. The Chinese coast guard has also re-installed a floating barrier across the entrance to the shoal's vast fishing lagoon. The Philippine coast guard removed a similar barrier in the past to allow Filipinos to fish there.

Microsoft will invest \$1.7 bn in AI, cloud infrastructure in Indonesia

AP JAKARTA

Microsoft will invest USD



growing market and at" potential location for more AI Indonesia. ed to significantly impact its economic landscape. A study held by Kearney, a global consulting firm, said that AI could contribute nearly USD 1 trillion to Southeast Asia's GDP by 2030, of which Indonesia is expected to capture USD 366 billion. The investment announced Tuesday will include AI train-ing for 840,000 people, as well as support for Indonesia's growing community of tech developers. Indonesia is home to the third-largest developer community in the Asia-Pacific region after India and China. More than 3.1 million developers in Indonesia use GitHub, a Microsoft-owned platform for software development, collaboration, and innovation. It is projected to be one of the top five developer communities on GitHub globally by 2026.Apple CEO Tim Cook met Widodo on April 17 and said the company would "look

manufacturing in product development. The rise Indonesia, under President has emphasised development of digital technology and information sectors, aiming to achieve the government's Golden Indonesia 2045 Vision, which projects Indonesia becoming one of the world's top five economies with GDP of up to USD 9 trillion, exactly a century after it won independence from Dutch colonisers.Nadella met Widodo on Tuesday in the Presidential Palace. During the meeting, Widodo proposed building an AI research centre in Indonesia, and a Microsoft data centre based in Bali or Nusantara, the country's new capital city on Borneo island, according to Indonesia's Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Budi Arie Setiadi. The CEO's regional visit began in Indonesia and will be followed by Thailand and Malaysia over the next two days.

four years in new cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure in Indonesia — the single largest investment in Microsoft's 29-year history in the country — Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said Tuesday.

Microsoft runs one of the world's largest cloud computing operations and has taken a significant step into artificial intelligence by incorporating an AI chatbot into its search engine, Bing. Its earnings report Thursday said profit rose 20 per cent for the January-March quarter as it tries to position itself as a leader in applying artificial intelligence technology to make workplaces more productive.

"This new generation of AI is reshaping how people live and work everywhere, including in Indonesia," said Nadella, in Jakarta on the first stop of a tour of Southeast Asia.

"The investments we are

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks as the logo of Github, a subsidiary of Microsoft Corp, is displayed on the screen during an event titled "Microsoft Build: Al Day" in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday. AP/PTI

announcing today — spanning and support for developers digital infrastructure, skilling, will help Indonesia thrive in Microsoft sees Southeast Asia

control.

them.

Saeed concedes there are obsta-

develop but said he was work-

are problems with the road net-

this new era," he said.

The European Union said Tuesday that it's investigating Facebook and Instagram over a range of suspected violations of the bloc's digital rulebook, including not doing enough to protect users from foreign disinformation ahead of EU-wide elections.

The European Commission the EU's executive arm, said it's opening formal proceedings into whether parent company Meta Platforms breached the Digital Services Act, a sweep ing set of regulations designed to protect internet users and clean up social media platforms under threat of hefty fines worth up to 6% of annual revenue. Brussels has been cracking

down on tech companies since the DSA took effect last year, opening investigations into social media sites TikTok and X, formerly known as Twitter, and ecommerce platform AliExpress. TikTok bowed to EU pressure last week and halted a reward feature on its new app after the Commission started demanding answers about it.

The investigation includes an urgent request for Meta to provide information about its move to discontinue a key tool for monitoring elections.

"We have a well established process for identifying and mitigating risks on our platforms," Meta said in a statement.

"We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the European Commission and providing them with further details of this work." European Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a social media post that the bloc is probing Meta "for suspected breach of DSA obligations to protect integrity of elections.

The EU is stepping up measures to safeguard elections as citizens of the bloc's 27 nations prepare to vote in June for European Parliament lawmakers, amid widespread fears that



Facebook, Instagram

face EU scrutiny

could be used to disrupt the many votes around the world this year.

The Commission said it's looking into whether Meta is doing enough to curb the spread of "deceptive advertisements, disinformation campaigns and coordinated inauthentic behaviour" that could pose a risk to "electoral processes" and consumer protection.

Officials said they suspected the Meta's content moderation system for advertisements was inadequate, allowing ads made with generative AI including deepfakes to exploited by malicious foreign actors seeking to meddle in elections even as the company makes money from them. The EU also suspects that Facebook and Instagram might be reducing the visibility in recommendation feeds of political content from accounts that pump out a lot of it - a practice known as shadowbanning - and not being transparent about it with users, which would violate the DSA. A third concern is Meta's decision to phase out Crowdtangle, a tool used by researchers, journalists and civil society groups for real-time monitoring of trending social media posts including during elections.

The Commission is giving Meta five days to respond with information on how it will remedy the lack of such a tool. The Commission is also investigating whether Meta's mechanism for users to flag illegal content is good enough under the DSA, because it suspects it's neither easy to access nor userfriendly.

Taliban working to woo tourists to Afghanistan

AP KABUL

round 30 men are Acrammed into a Kabul classroom, part of the debut student cohort at a Taliban-run institute training tourism and hospitality professionals. It's a motley crew. One student

is a model. Another is 17 and has no job history. They're all men - Afghan

women are banned from studying beyond sixth grade — and they don't know anything about tourism or hospitality. But they are all eager to promote a different side of Afghanistan. And the Taliban are happy to help. Afghanistan's rulers are pariahs on the global stage, largely because of their restrictions on women and girls. The economy is struggling, infrastructure is poor, and poverty is rife. And yet, foreigners are visiting the country, encouraged by the sharp drop in violence,

increased flight connections with hubs like Dubai, and the bragging rights that come with vacationing in an unusual destination. The numbers aren't huge — they never were — but there's a buzz around Afghan tourism.

In 2021, there were 691 foreign tourists. In 2022, that figure rose to 2,300. Last year, there were 7,000.

Mohammad Saeed, the head of the Tourism Directorate in Kabul, said the biggest foreign visitor market is China because of its proximity and large population. Afghanistan also has advantages over some of its neighbours. 'They've told me they don't

want to go to Pakistan because it's dangerous and they get attacked. The Japanese have said this to me also," Saeed said. 'This is good for us." But there are disadvantages, too. Visas are difficult and

ly avoid Afghan airspace. The capital Kabul has the most expensive to access. Many countries severed ties with Afghanistan after the Taliban international flights, but no returned to power, and no Afghan airport has direct country recognizes them as the routes with major tourist markets like China, Europe, or legitimate rulers of the country. Afghan embassies either closed India.

Despite the challenges, Saeed or suspended their operations. wants Afghanistan to become There's an ongoing power struggle between Afghanistan's embassies and consulates a tourism powerhouse, an ambition that appears to be backed by the Taliban's top staffed by people from the former Western-backed adminisleaders. tration, and those under the "I have been sent to this depart-

Taliban administration's full ment on the instructions of the elders (ministers). They must trust me because they've sent cles for Afghan tourism to me to this important place." The students also have aspiraing with ministries to overcome tions. The model, Ahmed Massoud Talash, wants to learn His ultimate aim is to have a about Afghanistan's picturesque visa on arrival for tourists, but spots for Instagram posts and that could be years away. There its history for media appearances.

Business school graduate Samir work, which is half-paved or non-existent in some parts of Ahmadzai wants to open a hotel but thinks he should the country, and airlines large-

know more about tourism and hospitality first."They hear that Afghanistan is backwards, poverty and all about war," said Ahmadzai. "We have 5,000 years of history. There should be a new page of Afghanistan. "Classes include Afghan handicrafts and anthropology basics. An unofficial subject is how to interact with foreign women and how their behaviour or habits could clash with local customs and edicts. Examples might be women smoking or eating in public, to mixing

marriage The Taliban have imposed a dress code for women and requirements for them to have a male guardian, or mahram, when they travel. Dining alone, travelling alone, and socialising with other women in public have become harder. With gyms closed to women and

freely with men who are not

related to them by blood or

beauty salons banned, there are fewer places where they can meet outside the home. In a sign that the country is preparing for more overseas visitors, the country's only five-star hotel, the Serena, has reopened its women's spa and salon for foreign females after a monthslong closure.

Foreigners must show their passport to access services. Women with "born in Afghanistan" on their ID are barred. The restrictions on Afghan women and girls weigh on overseas travel companies, who say they try to focus on the positive aspect of cultural interactions by making donations, supporting local projects or only visiting family-run businesses.Shane Horan, the founder of Rocky Road Travel, said visiting Afghanistan should not be seen as an endorsement of any particular government or political regime. | the latest generative AI systems

money 10



Indian economy likely to grow over 7 per cent in 2024-25: NCAER

PTI NEW DELH

The Indian economy could grow more than 7 per cent during the current fiscal amid a benign global outlook and expected above-normal monsoon, economic think tank NCAER has said.

In its April 2024 issue of Monthly Economic Review (MER), NCAER said a range of high-frequency indicators reveal the resilience of the domestic economy with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing at a 16-year high and UPI, the leading digital payments system, touching the highest volume since its inception in 2016.

"Projected acceleration in both global growth and trade volumes, as well as a forecast of an above-normal monsoon, indicate that the Indian economy can again attain growth rates higher than 7 per



year," Gupta added.

period.

headline inflation was down to

4.9 per cent in March from 5.1

per cent in February, while

core inflation came down to

3.2 per cent during the same

the

Employees

cent during the current fiscal year," said NCAER Director General Poonam Gupta According to NCAER, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached Rs 1.8 lakh crore in March, the second best since its rollout in 2017, while UPI recorded 13.4 billion transactions (in volume) in March 2024, the highest since its introduction, registering a growth of 55.3 per cent on a

The report said employment year-on-year basis. indicators again showed mixed 'These high-frequency trends, with an increase in the indicators, coupled with a number of net new subscribers more benign global outlook under



basis

Bank (ADB) and Fitch Ratings have estimated India's growth at 7 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), S&P projected by the IMF and WTO bode well for the Indian Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley projected a 6.8 per cent economy during the current growth rate for FY25. According to the report, The Monetary Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

Provident Fund Organisation

(EPFO) on a year-on-year

While the Asian Development

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept projections for India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for FY2024-25 at 7 per cent and Consumer Price Index (CPI) headline inflation at 4.5 per cent, in line with their previous projections.

Central Bank of India Q4 profit jumps 41 per cent

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

State-owned Central Bank of India on Tuesday reported a 41 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 807 crore for the March quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income.

The Mumbai-based lender had earned a net profit of Rs 571 crore in the year-ago period.

During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 9,699 crore as against Rs 8,567 crore a year ago, Central Bank 2023. of India said in a regulatory filing. Interest income grew to Rs

8,337 crore during the period under review from Rs 7,144 crore in the corresponding

quarter a year ago. On the asset quality side, the bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) were reduced to 4.5 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2024, compared to 8.44 per



cent by the end of March rights Institutional Placement (QIP) issue, or any other mode or through issue of BASEL III Compliant Tier I and Tier II Net NPAs also came down to 1.23 per cent of the advances

over 1.77 per cent at the end of 2024. The fall in bad loans ratio helped cut the provisions towards NPAs for Q4FY24 to Rs 509 crore compared to Rs

applicable laws etc, it said. Provision Coverage Ratio stood at 93.58 per cent as on March 31, 2024. 789 crore a year ago. The board also approved The bank's capital adequacy raising of capital up to Rs 5,000 crore through a Followratio declined to 15.08 per cent from 14.12 per cent at on Public Offer (FPO) or the end of FY23.

bags projects worth ₹2,500 crore in Q4

Sterlite Power

Sterlite Power on Tuesday announced securing new orders worth Rs 2,500 crore during the quarter ended March 31.

This takes the company's cumulative order wins in FY24 to Rs 7,000 crore, up 35 per cent year-on-year (YoY) over FY23, Sterlite Power said in a statement.

"Sterlite Power has capped off a successful fiscal year FY24 with new orders worth Rs 2,500 crore for its Global Products and Services (GPS) business unit in Q4. This growth underscores the growing global and domestic demand for robust power transmission infrastructure, particularly to support the integration of renewable energy sources critical for a net-zero future," the company said.

Pratik Agarwal, Managing Director, Sterlite Power, said, the company's GPS business is experiencing significant growth. These products are essential in driving the sector's expansion over multiple decades, spurred by the global shift towards energy transition and decarbonization.

In Q4, some of the projects secured by the company are for conductor supply to power green energy power transmission projects in Rajasthan including the Fatehgarh - Bhadla Transmission line project. The company also bagged export orders for OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) in Africa and CIS (Commonwealth Independent States) markets. Besides, Sterlite Power has secured multiple orders to

supply Extra High Voltage (EHV) & High Voltage (HV) large-scale for infrastructure projects that are underway in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, and

Gujarat. The company's specialized EPC services unit signed a turnkey project contract with Odisha state transmission utility to uprate its existing 132 kV Pratapsasan-Kesura-Ransinghpur transmission line using high performance

sector power ion infi

India's oil import bill could swell in FY25: ICRA Markets wipe out early gains on fag end sell off Nifty slips from record

PTI MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Tuesday as a fag-end sell-off wiped out early gains, with IT and power stocks playing spoilsport amid a mixed trend in global markets.

Snapping its two-day winning run, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 188.50 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 74,482.78. During the day, it had jumped 440.11 points or 0.58 per cent to 75,111.39.

The NSE Nifty dipped 38.55 points or 0.17 per cent to finish at 22,604.85. In the late afternoon trade, the benchmark hit its all-time peak of 22,783.35, up 139.95 points or 0.61 per cent. From the Sensex basket, Tech

Mahindra, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen Toubro and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid Baiai IndusInd Bank and Maruti were the



Tokyo and Hong Kong settled said Vinod Nair, Head of in the positive territory while Research, Geojit Financial Services

Shanghai ended lower. Foreign Institutional Investors European markets were mostly trading lower. Wall (FIIs) turned buyers on Street ended with gains on Monday. Global oil Monday after continuous offloading. They bought equities worth Rs 169.09 benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to USD crore, according to exchange data. In the previous session, the BSE benchmark jumped

88.59 a barrel. "Global markets remained mixed ahead of the US FED 941.12 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 74,671.28 on policy meeting, as markets Monday. The NSE Nifty went up by 223.45 points or 1 per appear to have already factored in the slim chance of cent to 22,643.40. a near-term rate cut. Profit ensued towards

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

India's net oil import bill could widen to USD 101-104 billion in current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said on Tuesday.

The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of USD 7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from USD 5.1 billion in 2022-

'With India's oil import dependency expected to remain high, if the discounts on purchases of Russian crude persist at the prevailing low levels, ICRA expects India's net oil import bill to widen to USD 101-104 billion in FY2025 from USD 96.1 billion in FY2024, assuming an average crude oil price of USD 85/bbl in the fiscal," ICRA said.

Additionally, any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict and an associated rise in crude oil prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in the current fiscal year, it added. As per ICRA' calculations



during the year, thereby enlarging the current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3 per cent of GDP.

Accordingly, if the average crude oil price rises to USD 95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP from ICRA's current estimate of 1.2 per cent of GDP for 2024-25.

CAD, which is the difference between value of India's imports and exports, is estimated at 0.8 per cent in 2023-24.

dependent on imports for its Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) ds of crude o

imports by USD 12-13 billion imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal, even as volumes rose slightly in this period

This was supported by the fall in average global crude oil prices as well as savings from stepped up purchases of discounted Russian crude.

In volume terms, the share of crude petroleum imported from Russia jumped to 36 per cent in April-February FY2024 from $\hat{2}$ per cent in FY2022, while that from West India is more than 85 per cent Asian countries (Saudi

basis points in FY2023-24.

However, the extent of monthly discounts relative to price narrowed sharply over the fiscal, to 8 per cent on an average in Septemberaverage in September-February FY2024 from 23 per cent in April-August FY2024. Consequently, the savings related to purchase of Russian crude are likely to have dipped to USD 2 billion in Santamber Edbruary EV2024 September-February FY2024 from USD 5.8 billion in April-August FY2024, ICRA said. cables Post the Ukraine war, some Western nations shunned Russian oil, leading to Moscow offering discounts.

issue, Qualified

bonds or such other securities

as may be permitted under

of Russian oil, compared to imports from West Asia, has

led to savings in India's oil import bill amounting to USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23 and USD 7.9 billion in 11

months of 2023-24, thereby

compressing India's CAD/GDP ratio by 15-22

This led to Indian refiners lapping up the discounted oil. The recent conflict in the Middle East also poses threat to crude oil import route. Earlier this month, Iran first launched drone and rocket attacks on Israel, which retaliated by firing a missile.

India imports oil from Saudi conductors (HPC) Arabia, Iraq and the UAE as Sterlite Power is a leading well as liquefied natural gas private (LNG)m Oatar thro ransmi the Strait of Hormuz, which is developer and Global Products and Services provider.

close given the sharp rally in remain closed on Wednesday major gainers. the last couple of days and a on account of Maharashtra In Asian markets, Seoul, holiday-led truncated week," Day.

USD 10/barrel uptick in the converted into fuels such as average crude oil price for this fiscal pushes up the net oil ICRA said the value of India's

cent, respectively.

fell to 23 per cent from 34 per ICRA estimates that the lower a narrow sea passage between imputed unit value of imports Oman and Iran.

Gold slumps ₹150; silver plunges ₹750 **RITES completes 50 years** Rupee recovers 4 paise to 83.41 against US dollar

PTI NEW DELHI

Extending the losses for the second straight session, gold prices on Tuesday slumped Rs 150 to Rs 72,600 per 10 grams in the national capital amid fall in precious metal rates in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also plunged Rs 750 to Rs 83,750 per kg. In the previous close, it had ended at Rs 84,500 per kg. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in

the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,600 per 10 grams, is expected to see continued lower end, Navneet Damani,

down Rs 150 taking bearish cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi,

Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at at LKP Securities, said. close. "Gold prices continued to weaken... As this sell-off was attributed to the anticipation of a hawkish stance from the US Federal Reserve in the upcoming interest rate policy announcement scheduled for May 1.

"Additionally, the week ahead

volatility in gold prices, driven by key data releases such as the Nonfarm Payroll and Senior Unemployment data," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency USD 2,320 per ounce, down Silver was also quoting lower USD 13 from the previous at USD 26.80 per ounce. In the previous session, it had finished at USD 27.22 per ounce.

equity m

Investors will await for the key data, including the US consumer confidence due to release later on Tuesday, which if is reported lower than expectations then it could support bullion prices on the

PNS GURUGRAM

RITES Limited, a leading engineering consultancy firm in India, celebrated its milestone 50th anniversary on Friday. The month-long Foundation Day celebrations, 'Marking The Gold', that were carried across worksites culminated with a cultural evening at Shikhar, RITES' Corporate Office, Gurugram. Members of RITES' cultural team 'Sankalp' presentRITES Anthem at the 50th anniversary celebrations

On the occasion, Chairman & Management Director Rahul Mithallaunched RITES' coffee table book — Atulya, a compilation tracing the illustrious organisation's journey of becoming 'The Infrastructure People'. Also, it marked the unveiling of 'RITESDharohar', a novelinitiative to treasure the organisation's legacy and encapsulate the essence of its core values — Integrity, Professionalism and Excellence.

Addressing the gathering and paying gratitude to the founding fathers, Mithal said, "From piece-site "From pioneering projects to fostering sustainable practices, RITES' five-decade journey has been golorious.

PTI 📕 MUMBAI

The rupee recovered 4 paise to 83.41(provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking foreign capital inflows and a ning greenback major crossee strengthening against overseal

According to forex analysts, the domestic currency initially faced resistance from a strong greenback and upward momentum in the crude oil prices but closing level. recovered the lost ground The rupee had settled 7 paise

during the session on the lower at 83.45 against the US back of a sharp rally in equities in the late afternoon trade.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.46 and traded between 83.41 and 83.52 against the greenback during the session.

domestic currency The finally settled at 83.41 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 4 paise from its previous

manner".

dollar on Monday after losing 10 paise in the preceding session on Friday. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said: "Volatility in the capital market kept the rupee rangebound. Participants are closely monitoring the upcoming interest rate decision in the US for potential price action in the rupee. Weakness persists in the rupee, albeit in a stable

US tile industry seeks import tariff on India

PTI WASHINGTON

coalition of US ceramic Atile suppliers has urged the federal government to impose tariffs on ceramic tile imports from India as it is impacting domestic industry due to subsidised imports by the Indian government. The Department of Commerce instituted has an investigation into this matter. Import of ceramics and tiles from India has increased significantly over the past few years, an association of the US ceramic and tiles industry has claimed alleging that these are impacting their domestic industry as the imports are subsidised by the Indian government. In a petition filed before the International Trade of Commission the

Department of Commerce,

the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile (TCNA), which claims to represent more than 90 per cent of US tile seeks production, the imposition of tariffs estimated between 408 per cent to 828 per cent, alleging that there is ongoing massive and widespread dumping from India.

"American tile manufacturers have always welcomed fair competition from imports. In fact, US manufacturers have plentiful deposits of clay and feldspar, an efficient and wellrespected labour force, local community support, stateof-the-art equipment, and affordable energy - so much so that major exporters from Italy, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, and China have built facilities in the Us from



which to compete on a global companies depend on it," scale," stated Tile Council of Astrachan said. North America executive director, Eric Astrachan.

Indian tile "However, producers enjoy substantial government subsidies, which in conjunction with selling excess capacity at dumped prices, has allowed them to flood the US market. Over the last 10 years, sales of tile from India have increased from a mere 344,000 square feet in 2013 to nearly 405 million square feet by the end of 2023," he alleged.

domestic "Our manufacturers had no alternative but to petition the federal government for relief from these unjust trading practices. The vitality of the US industry and the livelihoods of thousands of employees and their families within our

International Trade US

Commission last week issued a federal notification giving notice of the institution of investigations commencement

phase preliminary antidumping and duty countervailing investigation to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that the imports of ceramic tile from India impact US industry. June 10 is the last date for responses. According to Barnes & Thornburg, trade counsel for

the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile, if the US finds that Indian imports are unfairly traded and have injured or threatened to injure US tile manufacturers, the Government will impose

porcelain tile, mosaic tile, and more.

a few months and would impose final tariffs at the conclusion of its investigation in

approximately 16 months, with the calculation of such and of final tariffs applied retroactively to the date of preliminary tariffs, and possibly to the date of initiation, he said. In its filing, the Coalition for

Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile (FTCT) claimed that India is engaged in unjust trading practices by allowing lowpriced ceramic tile imports into the United States, which undercut domestic

manufacturers. the of The scope includes investigation various types of ceramic tile, such as flooring tile, wall tile, member tariffs on Indian tile imports. paving tile, hearth tile,

articles containing a mixture of minerals, including clay, that are fired to produce a finished product less than 3.2 cm in actual thickness. The investigation covers both glazed and unglazed tiles, regardless of end use, surface area, weight, or other factors. The members of the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile include Ceramic include American Wonder Porcelain, Crossville, Inc., Dal-Tile Corporation, Del Conca USA, Inc., Florida Tile, Inc., Florim USA, Landmark Ceramics, and StonePeak The Ceramics. Department of Commerce has initiated investigations in response to the petition filed by the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile.

The Government would first impose preliminary tariffs in These ceramic tiles are



Vishvanath, Akash, Preet storm into semis at ASBC Asian U 22 & Youth Boxing Championhips

PTI ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

-ishvanath Suresh, Akash Gorkha and Preet Malik advanced to the men's U-22 semi-finals after convincing wins in their respective bouts at the ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships here on Tuesday.

Reigning youth world champion Vishvanath (48kg) led the charge for India as he beat Iran's Hassani Seyedarsham 5-0 in a one-sided quarterfinal bout. Senior national champion Akash (60kg) outclassed Ebadi Arman of Iran with an identical 5-0 scoreline. Preet (67kg) also didn't take much time before finishing

the bout with a Referee Stopping the Contest (RSC) decision in the first round itself against Vietnam's Nguyen Duc Ngoc. Kunal (75kg), however,

he pioneer

RANCHI | WEDNESDAY | MAY 1, 2024

bowed out after losing 0-5 Mahshari against Iran's Mohammad in the quarterfinals. (86kg), Rhythm Jugnoo

(+92kg), Tammana (50kg), Preeti (54kg) and Priyanka (60kg) will have their U-22 quarter-final bouts later on Tuesdav The U-22 semi-finals will be

The U-22 semi-finals will be played on Saturday. On Monday night, Rahul Kundu (75kg), Lakshay Rathi (+92kg), Laxmi (50kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg) and Shrusthi Sathe (54kg), amargad victoriaus to (63kg) emerged victorious to enter the semi-finals in the vouth category. On Wednesday, nine youth

Indian boxers will compete in

their respective quarter-final bouts: Aryan (51kg), Jatin (57kg), Yashwardhan Singh (57kg), rashwardnan Singin (63.5kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Sahil (80kg) and Aryan (92kg) in the men's category, and Nisha (52kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg) and Rudrika (75kg) in the women's section (75kg) in the women's section. Nearly 400 boxers from more than 24 countries are competing in the prestigious tournament across 25 weight categories.

The finals of the youth and U-22 category will be played on May 6 and 7 respectively.

equally in the men's and women's World Cups. FIFA said last year it planned to spend \$896 million in prize money for the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The governing body devoted \$110 million in prize money for last year's Women's

AP NEW YORK

tournament.

The U.S. Soccer Federation and its Mexican

and its Mexican counterpart dropped their joint bid to host the 2027 Women's World Cup and said they instead will focus on trying to host the 2031

The decision left a proposal from Brazil and a joint

Germany-Netherlands-Belgium plan competing to be picked for 2027 by the FIFA Congress that meets May 17 in

Bangkok. The USSF said the 2031 bid will call for FIFA to invest equally in the men's and

AP BARCELONA

 $B_{\rm beat}$ Valencia 4-2 with the help of a second half hat trick from Robert Lewandowski and a red card to Valencia

goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili. On a rainy night in Catalonia, the home side dominated possession but was behind at the break due to two defensive errors. Fermín López put Barcelona ahead with a lovely glancing header midway through the first half. Valencia levelled just five minutes later thanks to a woeful intervention from keeper Marc Ter Stegen. He intercepted a long ball 25 yards from His goal but he tried to be too fancy and Hugo Duro easily dispossessed him and ran the ball into the empty net. Before halftime, Valencia took the lead

thanks to another elementary mistake. Ronald Araújo's mistimed tackle felled Peter Federico in the box and Pepelu coolly converted the spot kick.

World Cup in Australia and

tournament is a huge undertaking — and having

additional time to prepare

World Cup

New Zealand.

"Hosting a

US and Mexico drop bid to host 2027 World Cup

The balance of the match changed moments before the break when

same 11 to be used in the 2026 men's World Cup. Mexico listed Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey - its three sites for the men's World Cup -and in addition for 2027 listed as possibilities Leon and

Querétaro. "We feel that moving our bid back to 2031 will allow us to promote and build up to the most successful Women's World Cup ever," MFF President Ivar Sisnieg said in a



statement. "The strength and universality of our professional players, fans and all our women's leagues, coupled with our experience from organizing the 2026 World stakeholders. Shifting our bid will enable us to host a recordbreaking Women's World Cup Cup, means that we will be able to provide the best infrastructure as well as an in 2031 that will help to grow and raise the level of the enthusiastic fan base that will women's game both here at home as well as across the make all the participating teams feel at home and to put together a World Cup that will

allows us to maximize its impact across the globe," USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone said in a statement. "I'm proud globe." In detailing the bid in December, the USSF proposed of our commitment to provide contribute to the continued U.S. Sites from among the equitable experiences for the growth of women's football. Lewandowski hat trick gives Barcelona comeback victory over Valencia

Mamardashvili used a hand outside the box to thwart a scoring chance by Lamine Yamal and was red-carded. Lewandoski headed an equalizer from a corner kick after 50 minutes. However, it took Barcelona until the 82nd to regain the lead from another Lewandowski header after Valencia failed to clear another corner.

The hat trick came in the third minute of stoppage time from a 25-yard free kick. "It wasn't easy," Lewandowski said. "In the first half we didn't find any space in attack." Barcelona replaced Girona in second place and was 11 points behind Real Madrid. Madrid needs five from its last five matches to guarantee a 36th Spanish league title.

win Cachin Nadal tested Madrid a over

AP MADRID

After spending more than three hours on the court and earning a hard-fought victory, Rafael Nadal was feeling optimistic again. Nadal's body withstood its

toughest test yet at this Madrid Open in a 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over 91st-ranked Pedro Cachin on Monday. He didn't show any signs of

physical limitations in a victory that earned him a spot in the round of 16 at the clay-court tournament where he is the record five-time champion.

"It's positive, now I don't feel that something went wrong on my body, but I need to wait until tomorrow, being 100% honest," he said. "I am trying nv best to keep

everything." Nadal will next face 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka. He said he

needs "to find a way to be able to play days in a row and still be competitive? "I don't know if I am in that moment yet," the 22-time Grand Slam champion said.

"Let's see what can happen tomorrow.

The 37-year-old Nadal is trying to get in shape for next month's French Open. Since his latest injury layoff, he's had two matches in Basedone and two matches in Barcelona and was pessimistic about his physical condition after arriving in Madrid. But hes won three more times in the capital.

again Nadal comfortable early on against Cachin The Arg ntine rallied

Nadal didn't look as loose in the final set, but did look tired. He wasn't as consistent with his shots but picked up three breaks to seal the victory to the delight of the local crowd in the Caja Magica.

"I took more risks in the third set, but it's hard after so many months without competing, Nadal said. "I hadn't played a match like this in a long time. I don't know how I'm going to wake up. But I'm already happy for having won three matches in a row. Cachin asked for Nadal's shirt

after congratulating him at the net, and received the gift moments later. Top-seeded Jannik Sinner was

looked not at his best but had enough to defeat Pavel Kotov 6-2, 7-5 Sinner who has been de lino



sets to beat Coco Gauff 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-4 in an all-American

fourth-round meeting. It will be the 20th-ranked Keys' first quarterfinal appearance in Madrid. She lost in the first round in seven of her nine previous trips to the Spanish capital.

The third-seeded Gauff undermined herself with 38 unforced errors, including 13 double faults.

Keys will face eighth-seeded Ons Jabeur, who eased past Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 6-4. SWIATEK ADVANCES: Top-

ranked Iga Swiatek remained on track for a first Madrid title with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Sara Sorribes Tormo. Swiatek dropped just five

points in the second set en e quarterfinals of the only high-profile European clay tournament she is yet to win. The 27th-ranked Sorribes

Tormo was the last Spanish woman in the draw.

Swiatek, who lost last year's Madrid final to Aryna Sabalenka, will next face 11thseeded Beatriz Haddad Maia who defeated fifth-seeded

Maria Sakkari 6-4, 6-4. Sabalenka, the champion in Madrid in 2021 and 2023, advanced by beating No. 15 Danielle Collins 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. The result ended Collins' 15match winning streak, and sent Sabalenka into her first WTA 1000 quarterfinal of the season. Mirra Andreeva celebrated her 17th birthday with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over 12th-seeded Jasmine Paolini. The Russian teenager rallied from 5-2 down in the first set to reach the quarterfinals, a round furt



Tomorrow is another day to keep dreaming. To keep playing in front of this amazing crowd and, to me, that means

in the second but was broken twice while serving for the set before eventually prevailing in the tiebreaker.

with a hip issue, will face 16thseeded Karen Khachanov. "I have been struggling a little bit with my right hip," Sinner

solution and I don't think it's anything serious. Sometimes I feel it more like today and some days are a little bit better."

Medvedev was two points from defeat before he rallied to beat Sebastian Korda 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Cameron Norrie 6-2, 6-4. KEYS DOWNS GAUFF: Madison Keys rallied after trailing in the first and second

managed in Madrid a year ago. Fourth-seeded Elena Rybakina defeated teenage qualifier Sara Beilek 6-1, 6-3

than she

Indian women blanked 0-5 by China in Uber Cup

PTI CHENGDU (CHINA)

Teenage sensation Anmol Kharb left the badminton court in tears owing to an ankle injury as an understrength Indian women's team suffered a 0-5 defeat to the mighty China in its final group A fixture of the Uber Cup here on Tuesday.

Having already qualified for the quarterfinals by picking up successive wins against Canada and Singapore, Ashmita Chaliha sat out the contest against the 15-time champions. The team is competing without double Olympic-medallist P V Sindhu, who opted out of the tournament.

It was a reality check for the young Indian team as it could not take a single game from the Chinese during

the five-match tie. To add to India's woes, 17-year-old

Anmol was forced to retire after twisting her ankle during the second singles contest.

Olympic champion and world no.2 Chen Yu Fei started off the proceedings for China with an easy 21-12 21-10 win over 83rd ranked Isharani Baruah.

"A little disappointed in my game because I made too many errors, I thought I would play good with her but it was an easy win for her...The pace was really high, I had to increase my speed," Isharani said after her match.

"Her variations were good, and all her strokes were going in the third court and it wasn't comfortable to hit well. It



was a tough game but it was a good experience," National she added Priya champions

Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra, ranked 67, were no match for reigning world champions Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan, who doubled China's lead with a 21-13 21-12 win. After losing the first game 9-21 and

trailing 1-4 in the second against Han Yue, Anmol rolled her right ankle while trying to defend a point. She received medical attention but the pain didn't seem to subside and the ankle looked swollen, forcing her to retire from the match giving China a 3-0 unassailable lead.

In the next two matches, Liu Shen Shu and Tan Ning defeated Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker 21-9 21-10, while Tanvi Sharma lost 7-21 16-21 to Wang Zhi Yi as China completed the 5-0 drubbing of India.

India will end the group stage proceedings in second place behind China.

MESSI TO MIAMI:



Soccer star, and a few teammates, show up for Heat Celtics game

Real Madrid coach Carlo apologises for forgetting German on his Bayern Munich return

AP MUNICH

 $R^{\mathrm{eal}}_{\mathrm{Ancelotti}}$ has apologized upon his return to Bayern Munich for not remembering his German.

"Ich habe vergessen Deutsch (I have forgotten German)," the Italian coach said on Monday in his only words in that language, albeit with the word order mixed up, before the teams meet on Tuesday for the first leg of their Champions League semifinal. Ancelotti coached Bayern for

just over a year during 2016-17 and won the Bundesliga, but the league title alone is not always enough to sate ambitions at the Bavarian powerhouse

Bayern had won the previous four Bundesligas. After Ancelotti made it five in a row, Bayern won the next six.

Ancelotti was forced out after a shaky start to the 2017-18 season. Losing to Paris Saint-Germain 3-0 was the final straw for club chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"Unfortunately, we weren't as successful back then as he is now at Real," Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich said on Monday.

Under Ancelotti, Bayern's Champions League ambitions were ended by Madrid in the quarterfinals. Borussia Dortmund knocked his team out of the German Cup, leaving just the Bundesliga. "One title is a bit scant for us," Bayern president Uli Hoeneß

said at the time. Ancelotti departed the club that September, his reputation tarnished after failing in the

times before previous season in the Champions League, а competition he had won three



his time in Munich. But Ancelotti said on Monday this club. It could have been for he had only fond memories of

"I was fortunate to be coach of a nice time," he said. "I have fantastic

remember it with a lot of affection?

The Italian, who led Madrid to the 2014 Champions League title, returned to the Spanish giant in 2021 after stints in charge of Napoli and Everton. He won the Champions League again in 2022, his fourth success as coach including the two titles won with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007. "He's been successful almost everywhere he's been," Kimmich noted. Ancelotti has won domestic honors with Milan, Madrid, Chelsea, Paris-Saint-Germain and Bavern.

also praised his counterpart on Monday

"What Carlo has done for football as a player and as a coach is at the highest level. Yet he's always very polite and humble, it's extraordinary," Tuchel said.

AP MIAMI

ionel Messi took a night off Lto watch the Miami Heat. The Inter Miami star and eight-time Ballon d'Or winner as the world's best player along with teammates Jordi Alba, Sergio Busquets and Luis Suarez - arrived just before tip-off of the Heat playoff game with the Boston Celtics on Monday night.

Messi's group - some clad in Heat attire and Busquets wearing a Heat hoodie arrived in the players' parking garage, then were brought in through a VIP entrance before making their way to their seats in a suite atop the lower level. Messi has been to the arena before for at least one other event, but never before had arranged to be at a Heat game since moving to Miami last vear.

Inter Miami is 6-2-3 so far this season in Major League Soccer play, sitting in first place in the Eastern Conference and with the most points of any team in the league

Messi had two goals and an assist in Inter Miami's 4-1 win at New England on Saturday, and has multiple goal contributions in five straight matches - the first MLS player ever to do that. He has nine goals and seven assists in seven matches with Inter Miami this season.

Messi, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 2022, has more than 800 goals in his career for club and country, making him one of the greatest scorers in soccer history. He scored twice in the 2022 World Cup final against France, a match that ended 3-3 with Argentina prevailing 4-2 on penalty kicks.

longer, yes, but otherwise it was memories and

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel



have scalped just seven wickets among them this season. TEAMS (FROM):

CSK: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), MS

Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avanish,

Rasheed, Moeen Ali, Shivam

Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadav

Nishant

Chahar,

Pathirana, Simarjeet Singh,

Prashant Solanki, Shardul

Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana

PBKS: Shikhar Dhawan (c),

Bairstow (wk), Prabhsimran

Singh (wk), Jitesh Sharma

(wk), Sikandar Raza, Rishi Dhawan, Liam Livingstone,

Atharva Taide, Arshdeep Singh, Nathan Ellis, Sam

Harpreet Brar, Rahul Chahar, Harpreet Bhatia, Vidwath Kaverappa, Shivam Singh,

Harshal Patel, Chris Woakes,

Ashutosh Sharma, Vishwanath

Kagiso Rabada,

Short,

Darvl

RS

Rachin Ravindra,

Rahane,

Shaik

Mitchell

Mitchell

Sindhu,

Mukesh

Jonny

Mustafizur

Matheesha

Tushar

Hangargekar,

Ajinkya

Dube,

Mandal,

Santner,

Deepak

Deshpande,

Choudhary,

and Sameer Rizvi.

Rahman,

Matthew

Curran,

he pioneer RANCHI | WEDNESDAY | MAY 1, 2024

CSK EYE ALL ROUND STABILITY AGAINST UNPREDICTABLE PBKS

PTI CHENNA

n inconsistent Chennai 200-plus total.

Super Kings will have to display all-round solidity when they face an unpredictable Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. The Super Kings have 10 points from nine matches, similar figures as that of Super Lucknow Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals, and the defending champions would certainly like to breakaway from that mid-table gridlock with a win. However, the defending champions will be a worried lot as Punjab Kings, who have six points from nine games, are coming to this match after scaling down 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders,

the highest chase in the history of T20 cricket. But the Chepauk deck is a different beast, offering a semblance of assistance to the bowlers and it was evident in CSK's impressive 78-run win over SRH in their previous match. There was no dew in Chennai on that night, and the CSK bowlers defanged SRH's

potent batting unit with their

accuracy and variations after their batters put on board a

PREMIER LEAGUE

They need an encore against Punjab, and all eyes will be on skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is on a hot streak. Gaikwad has registered scores of 108 and 98 in his last two innings and New Zealand man

Daryl Mitchell too seemed to have regained his touch at just the right time with a 32-ball 52 against Hyderabad.

However, the real storm-force in the CSK line-up is Shivam Dube, who has pulverised the opposition bowlers while coming as an Impact Sub. While Dube has always been a

spin-basher, the left-hander has now added another angle to his batting with his effective tackling of pacers. Dube so far has made 350 runs, second highest for CSK behind Gaikwad's 447, and

those runs came at a strike-rate of 172.41, second only to MS Dhoni's 259.45. However, the CSK opening

combination continues to be a bit iffy. Gaikwad has been a solid presence but both nowdropped Rachin Ravindra and Ajinkya Rahane have not been able to play the support role to



their skipper. Rahane's last four outings as

opener produced scores of 5, 36, 1, 9, and those numbers don't reflect his experience or skill-level.

However, CSK in all likelihood will continue to back him. Batting coach Michael Hussey had remarked that the 35-yearold was close to getting a big knock under his belt

On the other hand, PBKS will be desperate to carry the momentum after that record chase and climb up the ladder from the current eighth place. For that, their batters need to fire in unison once again and the onus is on Jonny Bairstow, who made a hundred against KKR, Shashank Singh and Prabhsimran Singh.

But they will eye a more impact outing from wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma. However, PBKS' bowling department looks a bit shaky despite having experienced campaigners such as Kagiso Rabada, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh and Sam Curran in their ranks.

The visitors will also require a much-improved effort from their spinners — Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar - as they

Pratap Singh, Shashank Singh, Tanay Thyagarajan, Prince Choudhary, Rilee Rossouw.



This IPL is different, need to mentally accept challenge, says Varun Chakravarthy

PTI 📕 KOLKATA

pepped them up with a quick motivational talk. "Even Shah Rukh bhai, he $K_{\rm spinner}^{\rm olkata}$ Knight Riders came up to us yesterday and Varun Chakravarthy said the teams spoke to me a lot he said 'don't take it personally, whatever is happening this IPL is just have understood the concept of Impact Player better in this iteration of IPL and now going at a crazy rate, just don't self-doubt yourself? bowlers will have to find ways DC OPTIMISTIC TO MAKE to counter the ultra-aggressive make of batsmer an impact on the game. Chakravarthy's spell of three for 16 played a vital role in KKR's thumping seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals on Monday. "The Impact Player rule was there last year also. The teams have now understood how to use the impact player rule better. So, they know that there is extra batting and they want to charge from the first ball. That's how it's going," Chakravarthy said in the postmatch press meet. "However much the bowlers cry, that's how it is. We've to accept that this IPL is different and mentally accept that challenge. You can't change the side of the ground or you can't change anything." Chakravarthy also said the Eden Gardens pitch offered a good amount of help to the bowlers against Delhi. "The last two matches before this, we didn't defend that well because the wickets have become very placid in the second innings. But this pitch was a little bit more turning. "That was the difference. The length is basically the same for all the matches. It's just how the

MI camp divided, they are not performing as a team, says Clarke

PTI NEW DELHI

Winning tournaments hinges on rather than teamwork individual brilliance, according to former Australia captain Michael Clarke, who reckons the Mumbai Indians camp is divided into groups, hindering players from functioning cohesively. After the sudden pre-season change in captaincy when Rohit Sharma was

unceremoniously replaced by Hardik Pandya, the five-time champions are in descension. They need to win all their remaining five matches to even have a shot at qualifying for the playoffs.

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"Yeah, I don't know (they will make it to the playoffs). I think it's wishful thinking for

Mumbai this entire IPL. "I think there's a lot more going on than what we are seeing on the outside and you can't have that many good players and perform this inconsistently. So, I think there are different groups inside that changing room and something is not working, they are not gelling together, they are not playing as a team," Clarke said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

Despite having proven match winners like Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav, Pandya Tim David and Jasprit Bumrah, MI have found it difficult to find victories this

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MY TICIRCLE

season, slumping to six losses from nine outings. Their three wins can be attributed to the individual

brilliance of pacer Bumrah and the Shepherd

"Individual brilliance can get them over the line, if Rohit Sharma comes in and gets another hundred or Hardik does something with the bat or big-hitting Romario Bumrah bowls like a genius again, you never know," Clarke

"I think to win big tournaments you need to be a team and not just have individual performances and unfortunately they haven't played well as a team so I hope

they turn it around, but I can't see them winning this game," he added.

MI, occupy the who penultimate spot on the points table, take on Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday in Lucknow

Format C-1

DISTRICT

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25' September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: ARJUN MUNDA

64A, KHELARISAI, VILL.-KHELARISAI, PO-KHARSAWAN, PS-KHARSAWAN, SERAIKELA KHARSAWAN, JHARKHAND -833216

Name of political party

: BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

wicket behaves? Chakravarthy said the KKR players and management went into a huddle to find solutions after Punjab Kings managed to chase a record 262 in their previous match.

Definitely, the last match (vs PBKS) was a very hard pill to swallow. We had many with conversations the management, everyone chipped in. We spoke with the coaches Carl Crowe, Bharat Arun sir, (Gautam) Gambhir, Chandrakant (Pandit) sir, Abhishek Nair.

The 32-year-old said even the KKR owner Shah Rukh Khan hard.

PLAYO against KKR, Delhi have have slipped to sixth with three just matches left for them, and bowling coach James Hopes said they are optimistic of making the playoffs.

Delhi next face Rajasthan Royals at home on May 7, before travelling to Bengaluru (May 12). Their last fixture in the league is against Lucknow Super Giants at home on May 14. "We have a week off now. Our destiny is still in our own hands, you might say," Hopes said.

"If we can win three games and get to 16 points, that should be good enough. But we do have a week off now where we can readjust and see if we need to think a little different about anything.

"Yeah, tonight was a missed opportunity, and we won't hide behind any excuses there," he said.

Hopes said they could have recalibrated the target on a slow pitch. "This has been a high-scoring

venue, and even though we'd lost three wickets in the power play, we had no reason to really think it wasn't going to be anything other than that. We were still going 11 and half an over. So, we were still thinking 200-220. But I think

once the spinners started to grip the ball, we saw it in Sunil (Narine) first over, it gripped a bit for him in the sixth over.

"So our mistake probably lay in that we didn't recalibrate our sights on something slightly lower. I think everyone assumed that it was going to be a 240 game. "The trick is understanding that it's not that way

sometimes, and you have to actually put a defendable score on the board and not go too



RuPay

TATA A

WYTICIRCLE CEAT

Rana suspended for one match, fined 100 per cent match fees

PTI 📕 KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders Harshit Rana was on Tuesday fined 100 per cent of his match fees and suspended for one match for breaching IPL Code of Conduct during their sevenwicket win over Delhi Capitals here.

Rana, who was fined 60 per cent of his match fees for giving a flying-kiss send off to Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Mayank Agarwal in an earlier match, almost repeated the same offence when he knocked over Abhishek Porel in their game against Delhi on Monday

Rana was seen pointing his hand towards Porel, indicating him to go back to pavilion and was about to give another flying kiss before he stopped short of doing that. He was also seen appealing excessively after hitting Rasikh Salam high on his pads.

"Rana committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and

accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the IPL said in a statement.

"The player was earlier penalised under the same level and article of the IPL Code of Conduct," it added.

Rana will now miss KKR's next match against Mumbai Indians in an away game on Friday. Article 2.5 of the IPL Code of Conduct addresses offences related to "Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a another player in the match?

In KKR's IPL opener against SRH on March 23, Rana committed two Level 1 offences under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He was fined 10 per cent and 50 per cent of his match fees for the two respective offences.

Rana is KKR's joint leading wicket-taker with the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. The trio have 11 wickets each.

Name of Election

Name of Constituency

ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE - 2024

<u>11— KHUNTI (ST) PARLIAMENTARY</u> CONSTITUENCY

IARJUN MUNDA (name of candidate), a candidate for the above-mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases Section(s) of Acts SL Case No. and Name of Court Status of case(s) concerned and brief No. dated description of offence(s) 1 MS NUTAN EKKA, FIR NO. 107/23 **APPEAL FOR** SECTION 147, 148, JUDICIAL DT. 11.04.2023. 188, 109, 353, 352, **REVISION FILED MEGISTRATE 1** DHURWA PS, 427, 323 OF I.P.C. VIDE W.P. (Cr) RANCHI RANCHI Protest against NO. 270 OF 2024 Jharkhand State at Jharkhand **Government Policy** High Court for quashing of FIR No. 107/23 of **Dhurwa PS** (B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences SI. Name of Court & Description of offence(s) & **Maximum Punishment** No. date(s) of order(s) punishment imposed Imposed NOT APPLICABLE NOT APPLICABLE NA | NOT APPLICABLE *In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative

Council byMLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

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