

# Covid uptick: Be cautious, Infighting hits Cong don't panic, say experts

SHEKHAR SINGH NEW DELH

There are unmistakable signs that Covid-19 is rearing its head again in pockets of the country with active cases increasing to 11,191 and the positivity rate climbing up pro-portionately. In Delhi, the positivity rate has gone beyond two per cent and there has been a rise of nearly 48 per cent in the number of home isolation cases in the last one week, according to official data.

The Indian Premier League saw a Covid positive case on Friday when Delhi Capitals physio Patrick Farhart tested positive for the virus. "He is being closely monitored by the DC Medical Team at the moment," the BCCI said in a media advisory

Delhi's adjoining Noida saw over 20 students infected with Covid-19 in a week. Covid cases are also on rise in Mumbai and Gujarat.

Experts have pointed out that there is no reason to panic at the moment, but they have also advised the public to remain cautious, particularly in view of a forecast by scientists from IIT-Kanpur about the fourth wave in India in June.

Haryana has reported over 1,200 fresh Covid cases in over 14 days out of which over Faridabad. The Covid positiv-1,000 infections were from Gurugram district, official data showed. The district has been



A healthcare worker administers a dose of the Covid-19 preventive vaccine to a beneficiary at a vaccination centre in Gurugram PTI on Friday

witnessing a rise in Covid cases in the past few days. cent on March 31 and 2.72 per cent on April 14. During the same period, Gurugram added 1,022 fresh

As a precautionary measure amid spurt in Covid-cases cases. Of 170 new Covid cases in past few days, the Delhi that the State reported on April Government has chalked out 14, as many as 147 were from a blueprint envisaging prepa-Gurugram and 19 from ration of at least 65,000 Covid-19 beds, including the ity rate in Haryana was 1.27 per cent on February 28, 0.41 per ICU beds, to meet the emergency even as India logged

949 new coronavirus infec tions taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4.30.39.972

Sharing details about the preparation to combat Covid-19, Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain said about 37,000 beds and 10,594 ICU beds are being set up in the hospitals across the city.

# in Punjab, Guj, Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/NEW DELHI CHANDIGARH

fter its rout in the recent Assembly polls, the Congress is in for fresh trouble as serious infighting has surfaced in several State units such as Gujarat, Bihar and Punjab

held the post of Bihar Congress chief for almost four years, tendered his resignation after meeting with former party chief Rahul Gandhi. His resignation comes a couple of days after the Gujarat Congress leader Hardik Patel expressed his anguish against the leadership of the State unit.

The Congress' plan to rope in the chairman of the Khodaldham Temple Trust Naresh Patel, a prominent Patidar face, ahead of 2022 State polls has apparently angered Hardik, who believes that his clout as Patidar leader will be finished if Naresh Patel joins the Congress party. "You used Hardik in 2017,

you want to use Naresh Bhai in 2022 and in 2027 you would use another Patidar leader. Why don't you support and strengthen Hardik?" he said. 'They should take Naresh Bhai, but will they treat him like the way the way they did to me?"

he added "I am more pained because



Congress president Sonia Gandhi being enrolled as a digital member by KC Venugopal, general secretary, organisation, AICC, during ongoing digital membership drive of the Congress party, in New Delhi on Friday

felt for quite some time.

"Jha, who is a senior

The party recently effect-

ed changes in Punjab Congress

and Uttarakhand Congress

after one of the worst ever performances in the just-con-

cluded Assembly elections.

Other States like Manipur, ear

lier Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh

are also beset with factionalism.

leader, a former State Minister

and currently a member of the

I have represented the situation to Rahul Gandhi many times, but no action has been taken by him against Gujarat Congress leaders," he said.

legislative council, has cleared The Gujarat Congress is the path by resigning gracealso divided over reports that fully. The party high comthe party high command was mand is now vetting the names of prospective candiconsidering inducting poll strategist Prashant Kishor to dates for the new State president. A final decision will be taken in due course," Tariq anchor the State unit in the Assembly polls. Anwar said.

These two developments have come as a jolt for the leadership which is preparing for a Chintan Shivir after rumblings within the party following a series of Assembly elections debacle.

AICC national general secretary Tariq Anwar said the need for having a new man to head the Bihar unit was being warship, Russia vows to intensify attacks on Kyiv

AP KYIV

PTI

day after Moscow suffered A day after Moscow suttered a stinging symbolic defeat with the loss of the flagship of its Black Sea fleet, Russia's Defence Ministry promised on Friday to ramp up missile attacks on the Ukrainian capital in response to Ukraine's alleged military "diversions on the Russian territory."

The threat of intensified attacks on Kyiv came after Russian authorities accused Ukraine of wounding seven people and damaging about 100 residential buildings with airstrikes on Bryansk, a region that borders Ukraine.

Authorities in another border region of Russia reported Ukrainian shelling.

Kyiv has gradually displayed some signs of pre-war life after Russian troops failed to capture the city and retreated to focus on a concentrated assault in eastern Ukraine, leaving evidence of possible war crimes in their wake. A renewed bombardment could return the capital's residents to sheltering in subway stations and the steady wail of air raid

sirens Ukrainian officials have not confirmed striking targets in Russia, and the reports by Russian authorities could not be independently verified. However, Ukrainian offi-

cials claimed their forces struck

a key Russian warship with

PATANJALL

saundar

face wash

missiles on Thursday. Detailed report on P9



# Each dist will get one medical college: Modi

'Govt schemes will produce record number



"Health and Wellness centers and campaigns such as the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Scheme are helping to make treatment Modi said

Shivpal dissolves party's all units, supports UCC, likely to join BJP

# PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

 $T_{\text{Pragatisheel Samajwadi}}^{\text{he leadership of}}$ Party (I ohia) dissolved a national and regional units of the party on Friday, fueling speculation that Shivpal Singh Yaday has moved closer to the Bharativa Janata Party The battle of one-upmanship between the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle and PSPL supremo Shivpal has intensified after the landslide victory of the BJP in UP Legislative Council polls This latest development has intensified speculation that Shivpal may soon join hands with the BJP. However, neither Shivpal Yadav nor his party said anything officially about their future plan of action. Shivpal on Thursday caused a stir in political circles by endorsing the idea of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), an issue identified with the politics of the BJP.

# In Bihar, senior party leader Madan Mohan Jha, who

#### of doctors in next 10 years'

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that Government schemes are fast making treatment "accessible to all" and the country is likely to get a record number of doctors in the next 10 years thanks to the expansion of medical education.

"The goal of having at least one medical college in every district and ensuring that medical education is within the reach of everyone will result in the country getting a record number of doctors after 10 years," the Prime Minister said.

Speaking after dedicating

### CAPSULE

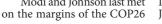
**UK: RWANDA FLIGHT FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS SOON** London: The British Governmen said on Friday that it plans to start putting asylum-seekers on one-way flights to Rwanda within weeks, as it defended a deal that has outraged refugee groups and humanitarian organisations. Critics of the Conservative government said legal and political hurdles mean the flights may never happen.

### AAP SENDS INVITE TO HARDIK TO JOIN PARTY

Ahmedabad: Days after Gujarat Congress' working president Hardik Patel expressed displeasure with the party leadership, the AAP State unit on Friday invited him to join it.

#### **IVF RESEARCH PIONEER DR BAIDYANATH NO MORE**

Kolkata: Dr Baidyanath Chakrabarty, one of India's pioneers in IVF research, died on Friday at the age of 94 after a prolonged illness, the hospital where he was admitted said.



cancelled his visit to the UK for

to the nation a 200-bed KK Patel multi-speciality Hospital in Bhuj in Gujarat's Kutch district via video-conferencing, Modi said Ayushman Bharat scheme has been instrumental in saving lakhs of crore rupees every year in the treatment of poor and middle-class families along with Janaushadhi

Yojana This is the first charitable multi-specialty hospital in the Kutch region, and it has been built by the Leuva Patel community of Bhuj with help from donors based in India and abroad

PNS NEW DELHI

next week.

G-7 in May.

Prime Minister of Britain Boris Johnson will hold wide-ranging discussions,

including defence and strategic affairs and the raging conflict in Ukraine, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here

In his virtual address, the Prime Minister cautioned that Covid-19 had still not made its exit and people should not take it easy. Modi said Yoga and Ayurveda, which have

their origins in India, caught the world's attention during the pandemic.

The PM said two decades ago Gujarat had just nine medical colleges with around 1,100 MBBS seats, but the medical education scenario has improved vastly in the last 20 years.

"Now, the State has one AIIMS and over three dozen medical colleges. Earlier, only 1,000 students used to get admission to medical colleges in Gujarat, now around 6,000 students get admission to these colleges. AIIMS in Rajkot has started admitting 50 students from 2021," Modi said.

UK PM to visit India next week;

FTA, Ukraine on talks agenda

to give you natural glow and beauty

#### Neem Tulsi

STELL CONT

saundarya

PATANJALL

Neem Tulsi Face Wash is a soap-free herbal formulation that cleans the skin & also moisturises it to maintain the natural balance. Neem and Tulsi help in removing germs, Honey and Aloe Vera are beneficial in giving a natural glow. Effective in pimples.

#### Saundarya

Patanjali Saundarya Facewash has Aloe Vera's nourishing, healing and skin rejuvenating benefits which cleans the skin without drying it. Tulsi, Neem and Honey disinfect the skin to make it healthy, remove dark spots, pimples & give it a natural glow. Orange peel keeps your skin youthful and healthy.

#### **Facial Foam**

It deep cleans and detoxifies the skin. Its activated carbon removes all the dirt and toxins from the skin, cleanses the pores to remove blackheads. Goodness of Honey, Vitamin E, Vitamin A, Zinc Oxide and activated carbon help fighting against skin problems pimples to keep the skin naturally healthy.

#### **Orange Aloe Vera**

Orange Aloe Vera Facewash is made with the formulation of extracts of Orange and Aloe Vera. They give a natural glow to the skin and are benefecial for all skin types. Using it everyday helps in removing dead cells and toxins and cleans it naturally to make it soft and glowing.

The two-day visit, likely to begin on April 21, comes after two postponements. Earlier, Johnson was to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade here last year and had

to cancel it due to the rising number of corona cases. The second time the visit was called off in April, the same year as the second wave of the pan-demic hit India. Modi also Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. Moreover, Russian

held a virtual summit with US President Joe Biden before the 2+2 dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the two countries in Washington.

Johnson recently made a surprise visit to Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr

the upcoming summit between Modi and Johnson, sources said besides Ukraine the two heads will focus on a free trade agreement. The two leaders may firm up guidelines for their respective officials for ongoing negotiations in this regard. Some other pacts are also likely to be inked during the talks.



ayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804106 | Email ID - feedback@patanjallayurved.org | Website - www.patanjallayurved.org Shop Online-www.pat



climate summit in Glasgow last November, when they reviewed the 2030 Roadmap which they had finalised at a

virtual summit in May 2021. India has seen some high profile visits in the last few weeks in the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis. British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss was here last month, while Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with his

Modi and Johnson last met

Foreign Sergey Lavrov also visited New Delhi. Earlier this week, Modi

Zelenskyy, pledging to provide more weapons to Ukraine. As regards the agenda of

# Classifieds

#### LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original Certificate of PGDBM of Year 2011 & Roll No. 0621000198 issued by IMT - CDL, has been lost somewhere. Deepshikha Sharma D/o Om Parkash Sharma R/o Chandigarh.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I. Gurdev Singh Saini s/o Late Anant Ram R/O # 3181 -Sector 44-D Ground. Chandigarh hereby Debar my wife Shyama Saini from my all Immoveable moveable 1 properties and any financial (Pension, Bank Account) benefits. She is out of my control. 1 shall not be responsible for her any Financial/ Income Returns etc. deeds . If anybody deal with her will do so at own risk and responsibility.

I. Jaimal Singh S/o Gurditta Ram R/o Village Bighar Teh. & Distt. Fatehabad declare that I disown my son Satnam from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Salma Khatoon D/o M.D. Muktar Ansari R/o Village-(Tilliya), Sundariori Panchmohali, Jamtara. Karmatar (Jharkhand) declare that have converted my religion from Muslim to Hindu and my name from Salma Khatoon to Neha.

I, Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chhatar Pal R/o H.No. 976/5, Moholla Kalvan Nagar, Ward No. 16, Sonipat have disowned my son Deepak Dhamija & his wife Payal Dhamija from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him,

he/she will do at their own risk. I. Mukesh Kaur widow Rajinder Singh r/o Village Sounti Thanesar District Tehsil Kurukshetra, have disown my adopted daughter Suraksha Devi from all my movable immovable properties, as she is out of my control. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk.

We, Nand Kishore s/o Kanshi Ram and Urmil Batra w/o Nand Kishore r/o 42, Sector-1, HUDA. Shahabad Markanda (Kurukshetra) inform that our son Amit Batra and his wife Akshata Subrahmanya are out of control. That's why we disown them from our movable and immovable properties. Our family will not be responsible for their good and bad deeds and transactions in future.

I. Vijay Kumar S/o Shri Hans Raj R/o 112, St. No. 4, Kapil Park, Haibowal Khurd, Ludhiana declare that my Son Amandeep Kumar and his wife Shiva Rani and children Prince and Teresa are out of my Control. So I Disown them from my all Moyable Immoyable Properties.

It is General Information that I, Daulat Ram S/o Parkash Chand Residing at Mohalla Tehsil Pathankot, Punjab 145001 Declare that in My Service Record My Name is Wrongly Written in Doulat Ram, Kindly Correct it as Daulat Ram. My Actual & Correct Name is Daulat Ram, All Concerned authorities Note. I, JC-850448X NB.SUB (CLK SD) Rajesh Kumar Yadav 205 Army AVN SQN(UH) C/O 56 APO Residing at Vill.Behradaber POST.Bhatni Tehsil. Salempur Distt.Deoria (Uttar Pradesh) 274701 Declare that in My Service Records My Wife's Name Wrongly Written in Reema Devi. Kindly Correct it as Rima Yadav. Vide Affidavit NO.AL 518314 Dated 13.04.2022 Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab)

I, Devi Dayal S/o Punna Ram R/o Village Jandhehari District Ambala, have disown my son Manoi Kumar, as he is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

Mohan Lal R/o Near Sai Mandir, Rambagh Road, Tipra Kalka, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) declare that my son Ashish Chauhan & his wife Bindya @Sunaina are out of my control So, I disown them from my all movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them shall

By Affidavit I Ranjit Singh S/O Jagtar Singh Vpc Hansawala Declare That My Name Is On My Passport Is Raniit Singh Sandhu But On My Another Documents Is Only Raniit Singh, So I Have Set My Name As Ranjit Singh. Concern May Note.

wife of No.2678309M Ex NK (Proposed New of

vide Affidavit dated 15.04.2022 before Notary Public Rohtak. I, Mandeep Kaur D/o Avtar Singh, R/o House No.309, Gali No.5, Vikas Nagar, Karnal, declare that I have severed all relations with my husband Palwinder Singh. They do not have any share or right of ownership in my movable and immovable property. The person doing the transactions with him will be responsible There will be no responsibility of mine and any member of my

family. में सोमबीर पुत्र श्री नरेंद्र निवासी गांव भगवतीपुर तहसील व जिला रोहतक घोषणा करता हूं कि मेरी पुत्री राखी मेरे कहने-सनने से बाहर हैं। मैं राखी को अपनी चल-अचल संपति से बेदखल करता हूं। मेरा व मेरे परिवार का राखी से कोई वास्ता नहीं है। भविष्य में राखी अपने लेन-देन व

#### होगी। CHANGE OF NAME

अन्य कार्यों के लिए स्वयं जिम्मेवार

मैं, बलराम पुत्र श्री राजकुमार निवासी गांव मामनपुरा, पोस्ट आफिस ढंढेरी, तहसील हांसी व जिला हिसार घोषणा करता हूं कि जन्म प्रमाण पत्र मे मेरे पुत्र का नाम सिधान्त इन्दौरा (Shidhant Indora) दर्ज है। अन्य दस्तावेजों में उसका सही नाम सिधान्त इन्दौरा (Siddhant Indora) है। भविष्य

में सभी उददेश्य के लिए मेरे पुत्र को

सिधान्त इन्दौरा (Siddhant Indora) के

I. Sonia Kumar alias Sonia Ahuja D/o Roshan Lal Kumar W/o Satinder Pal Ahuja R/o House no. 938. Sector-70. Mohali declare that Sonia Kumar & Sonia Ahuia are One & the same person; In future I may be

known as Sonia Kumar.

I, Chotu Ram S/o Munni

I, Sahil Rana S/o Sh.

Lal R/o #1534, Mauli Jagran

complex, UT Chandigarh have

Paramjeet R/o Village Staundi

Tehsil Gharaunda district Karnal,

have Changed my name from

Sahil Rana to Sahil Choudhary.

Rank Sub Name Saniava Kumar

Shadangi of Unit 2 Corps Sig

Regt (A), Ambala Cantt have

changed the name of my

daughter from Suman Sadangi

to Suman Shadangi at Ambala

Cantt vide Affidavit No. 46AA

I, No. 14672334Y Rank NK

I, Nathu Ram S/o Mangat

Ram R/o H.No. 745/14, New

Subhash Nagar, Hansi-125033,

hereby declare that I have

changed my name from Natu

Ram Bamel to Nathu Ram for

R/o Vill- Gangtan, Teh.Beri,

Distt- Jhajjar have changed my

name from Beda Singh to

Dinesh for all future purposes.

I, Dinesh S/o Jagfool Singh

I, Nancy Bhardwaj W/O

I, Akankshi W/o Sanjay

future purposes.

998986 Dated 13.04.2022

I. Service No. JC384279L

changed my name to Shri Lal.

I, Madhu Chauhan W/o

do their own risk in future. I. Balwinder Kaur W/O Bhupinder Singh R/O Village Pakhowal Tehsil Raikot District Ludhiana declare that my Husband Bhupinder Singh is out of my Control. So i stop relation with him with my side. Anyone dealing with him will be self responsible.

Surendra Singh Yadav S/o Gabdu Ram Yadav R/o Vill. Silarpur, Post Naghori, Tehsil Neemrana, Distt. Alwar, Raiasthan-301705 & Present Residing Unit 77 ARMD WKSP C/o 56 APO. Have Changed my Wife Name from Vijay Shree I, Satwanti (existing name) Yadav To Vijay Shri Yadav.

(TS) Rishipal Hooda R/o VPO Assan, Distt. Rohtak (Harvana) have changed my name from Satwanti (Existing Name) to Satyawati Name) my actual/correct DOB is 05.04.1972 instead 07.06.1972 for all work purposes (as per my Matric Certificate, Aadhaar/Pan Card) concerned note please make it correct in

my husbands Army records

Yogesh Sharma R/O H. No. 9231 St. No. 28 kot mangal Singh Ludhiana I Have Change My Name From Nancy Bhardwaj To Nancy Sharma Nagpal R/o H.No. B34/3149, Street No. 9, New Tagore Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana I have Changed my name from

Akankshi to Akankshi Nagpal. I, Sanjay S/o Krishan Lal Nagpal R/o H.No. B34/3149, Street No. 9, New Tagore Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana I

have Changed my name from Sanjay to Sanjay Nagpal. I, Surinder Bhanwra S/o

Dhanpat Rai R/o Ismailabad District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Surinder Kumar.

I. Riva D/o Pawan Gaba r/o H.No. 1471-A/5, Jyoti Nagar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Riya Gaba.

I. Veeta Sharma W/o Rai Kumar R/o Agondh, Kaithal, have changed my name to Babita Rani.

I. Santokh Singh S/o Samsher Singh, Vill. Aluan, PO. Basantpura, Tehsil Rajpura changed (Patiala), name Santokh Singh Sher Gill.

I, Jasmeen Kaur W/o Jaskeerat Singh R/o VPO Kakkar, Tehsil Ainala District Amritsar have Certified that Kaur is my Surname and Jasmeen is

Singh Kulwinder R/o H.No.1139, Gali No.3, New Udham Shaheed Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Parmiit Kaur to Paramjit kaur.

I. Gursharan Kaur W/o Avtar Singh R/o Village Sanghar Kot, PO Khadoor Sahib Tehsil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Gursharan kaur to Gursharn kaur.

I, Gurkarnpreet Singh S/O Sawinder Singh R/O Vill Hashampura Po.Jasterwal Tehsil Ajnala Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurkarnpreet Singh Gurkaranpreet Singh All Concerned May Please Note.

I, Ajay S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o H.No.30, Gali No.23, Fateh Singh colony, Hakima Gate, Amritsar have changed my name from Ajay to Ajay Kumar.

I, Rajan S/o Ram Lal R/o C-152, Yamuna Enclave, near sec -13/17, Distt. Panipat, have changed my name from Rajan to Rajan Makkar for all future purposes.

I. Makhtar Singh S/o Guiar Singh R/o VPO Malowal, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Makhtar Singh To Mukhtar Singh, Concerned Note.

I, Sukhbir Lal s/o Sadhu Ram r/o Village Narkatari Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Sukhbir Lal Khokhra to Sukhbir Lal.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o H.No- HL-132, Phase-2, SAS Nagar Mohali have changed my name from Balbir Singh to Balbir Singh Chauhan.

I, Parveen Kumar S/O Bhajan Dass R/O 135-A, Raja Garden Colony, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Gunjan To Gunjan Kailey

I. Parveen Kumar S/O Bhaian Dass R/O 135-A. Raia Garden Colony, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Girisha To Girisha Kailey.

I, Samari Devi is mother of NO.15502442M Rank DFR Name Kamalesh Yadav R/o Vill Rasulabad, Po Daulat Pur, Distt Ghazipur, State U.P. 233304 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Samari Devi to Somari Devi vide affidavit dated 13/04/2022 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Veena Kumari spouse of No JC248846H Rank NB/RIS name Ravi Kumar R/o Vill Dhounchak, Po Jourian, Distt Jammu, State- J&K 181202 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Veena Kumari to Veena Devi vide affidavit dated 13/04/2022 before Session Court, Hisar.

I. Rekha Devi spouse of

I, Indu Devi is mother of No 14668012F Rank Nk Name Mukesh Kumar R/o VILL -Surhari, Po Bhadeji, Distt -Gava, State - Bihar - 823003 hereby declare that I have changed my date of birth from 01/07/1949 to 10/05/1968 vide affidavit dated 12/04/2022

before Session Court, Hisar. I, Sandhya Yadav Wife Of Harikishore Yadav Resident Of Village Masmohana Post Office Masmohana Tehsil Koderma Distt Koderma State Jharkhand Pin - 825418. Have Changed My Name From Sandhya Yaday To Sandhva Kumari Vide

Affidavit Dated 13 Apr 2022

Before Notary Public Pathankot. l, No.3407679p Hav Jaswinder Singh In 18 Sikh, R/O Vpo- Kahnuwan Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur (Pb). Have Changed Name Of My Son From Ashdeep Singh To Aishdeep Singh Being Wrongly Mentioned My Army Service Documents. Affidavit No.5410 Dated 08/04/2022 Please Note All Concerned

I. No.3192199f Rank Hav Pateliya Rameshbhai R/O Navaghara Umbariya, Raipur, Sabarkanpha Gujrat-383460. Declare That In My Army Records My Wife Name Smt Renukaben Rameshbhai Patel His Dob 15-07-1981 Is Wrong But My Wife Dob 01-06-1983 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. As 989785 Dated 15-04-2022 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur,

Punjab. I, Arshpreet Kaur Dhillon D/o Nahar Singh Sohi W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o H.No. 2, Street No. 1, Nabha Road, Blossom Enclave, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Arshpreet Kaur Sohi.

I, Dilbag Singh S/O Mukhtiar Singh R/O Village Kala Afgana Patti Jeevan Nangal Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur declare that my name is wrongly written in my Son's passport as Dilbagh Singh instead of Dilbag Singh.

Dhawan residing at H.No.8/1, Ward No.30, Central Town, Jalandhar, have changed my name from Bharti Sahi to Riya

Singh R/o Near Bowli Sahib Gurudwara, Nadala, Distt. Kapurthala-144624, Punjab have changed my name as

I, Jyoti Alias Neeru W/o Parveen Kumar R/o H.No. B-1-521, Gandhi Nagar, Distt. Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my name from Jvoti Alias Neeru to Neeru Kumar.

Kulwinder Singh R/o Vill. Alamgir, Po. Kala Sanghian, Distt. Kapurthala-144623, Punjab have changed my name from Inderjit Singh to Singh Inderiit.

I, hitherto Known as Meera Sudhir D/o Jagdish Ram W/o Pawan Kumar Sudhir R/o VPO. Dhesian Kahna, Teh. Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144301, Puniab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

I, Simer Kaur W/o Narinder Pal R/o H.No. B-2/203 St.No. 2 New Teacher Colony Nawanshahr have known by both names Simer Kaur & Simar Kaur one and the same person.

I Gurjinder Singh S/o Makhan Singh R/o VPO Babanian Teh Gidderbaha Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name to Gurjinder Singh Sran.

I, Gurbachan Singh No. 1227254F, Rank-Hav(GD) R/o Vill: Gopalpur Po. Morinda (Rupnagar) Punjab, have changed my daughter her name from Paramjeet Kaur to Karamjeet Kaur.

I Subhashi Rani W/o Tarsem Chand R/o Shakti Vatika Colony, Patran Road Samana Patiala Puniab have changed my name Subhashi Rani to Sarika Garg.

I Pavan Kumar Singh S/O Avtar Singh R/O VPO Samrari, Tehsil Phillaur. Distt Jalandhar, Punjab (India)-144418 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pawan Singh.

I Manjit Kaur W/O Ajeet Singh R/O Vpo Chohla Sahib Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name as Manjeet Kaur.

I, Jagjiven Kaur W/o Karmjit Singh R/o Vpo. Dhotian (Tarn Taran) Pin-143411. Punjab, have changed my name to Jagjivan Kaur.

I Subh Kanta W/O Vinod Kumar Goyal R/O House No. 86 Gali No - 2 Dhawan Colony Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Shubh Kanta Goyal.

I Sukhdev Singh S/O Dilbag Singh R/O Village Mungla District Rukna Ferozepur My Father Was Known As Both Dilbag Singh And Dilbagh Singh.

I Ashwani Kumar S/O Krishan Chand R/O HN. 2/18, Bagh Colony, Jalalabad (W), Distt Fazilka Have Changed My Name From Ashwani Kumar To Ashwani Sidana.

I Ranjeesh W/O Ashwani Sidana R/O HN. 2/18, Bagh Colony, Jalalabad (W),Distt Fazilka Have Changed My Name From Ranjeesh To Ranju Sidana After Marriage.

١, Jaskaran S/o Dharminder Kumar R/o Mohalla Ravidass Vpo. Partabpura Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) Pb, have changed my name to Jaskaran Kumar.

Manpreet D/o 1. R/o Dharminder Kumar Mohalla Ravidass Vpo. Teh-Phillaur Partabpura (Jalandhar) Pb, have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur.

I. Harish Kumar S/o Om Parkash R/o Mohalla Mehana Nurmahal Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my name to Harish Kumar Mehan.

I. Hina Jeet Kaur Chaha

Jalandhar changed my name

Inderjit Singh Sandhu R/o

H.No. 09 St.No. 19/3 S.B.S

Nagar Gill Ludhiana have

changed my name to Yuvraj

Naik No.2489495K Jatinder

Singh R/O Village Bhol

Badhmanian Post Office

Dharampur Tehsil Mukerian

District Hoshiarpur Have

Changed My Name To Reena

Of No.JC-287688P RANK

NB/SUB (DMT) Sanjay Kumar

Presently Residing At Village

Aura Post Office Aura Tehsil

Sheohar State Bihar Pin

843329 Have Changed My

Name From Pinki Devi To

Devi

No.AM519612 Dated 14-04-

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take sibility for the contents for

advertisement (Display

Affidavit/Declaration

Classified) carried

I Pinki Devi Is Real Wife

I Reena Devi W/O EX TS

I, Yuvraj Singh S/o

Distt.

Jalandhar Cantt.

to Hina Jeet Kaur.

Singh Sandhu.

Rani.

Pinky

2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE SH. HARJEET SING SANDHU PCS ASSTT ESTATE OFFICER, U.T., CHANDIGARH ubject - Transfer of ownership/lease hold rights in spect of RESIDENTIAL Site/Plot/Property Not

02

726, SECTOR 43-A Chandigarh (M9 726/43) to the extent of 33.34% share on the basis of Unegistered Will of Late SH. SHAKTI SINGH. t is notified for the information of general public and a concerned that as per record of this office h/Smt. SH SHAKTI SINGH is the owner/lessee. f RESIDENTIAL Site/PlotProperty No. 726 ECTOR 43-A Chandigarh to the extent of 33.34 %

has been informed by SURSH KUMAR that h/Smt. SH. SHAKTI SINGH expired on 3/04/2021 and he/she/they has/have also 23/04/2021 and he/she/they has/have al ntimated the following legal heirs of the deceas vner/lessee

Name of Legal Heirs Relation with Deceased Son Daughte Suresh Kumar Renu Katoch Rakesh Katoch Son Daughter Anu Kiran Bala Daughter ow,SURSH KUMAR has/have applied for the ransfer of Ownership/Lease Rights in respec RESIDENTIAL Site/Plot/ Property No. 726

ECTOR 43-A, Chandigarh, to the extent o 3,34% Share held by Late SH. SHAKT INGH in his/her/their favour, on the basis o INGH in his/her/their favour, on the basis in-Registered Will dated 15/04/2021. egal heir(s) of the deceased other than nentioned above, the same may be intimated o the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh,

anybody has any objection upon the mutatio Tanyoogy has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favouu of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with infidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary)in the office of the undersigned within 30 days rom the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be nutated accordingly in the name of above said enenficiary/ies and no further claim whatsoever

Autace and a for further craim muscless and no further craim muscless shall be entertained at any later stage. Harjeet Singh Sandhu, PCS, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, U.T. Chandigarh

#### Lost & Found

I, Amit Sharma, Sr. Manager, Punjab National Bank, Branch Model Town, Karnal declare that Kanta Rani W/o Vinod Kumar Sale deed No. 7738/1 dated 15/02/2010 & Sale Deed No. 2150/1 dated 11/06/2001, Address : Shop 2150/1 dated 11/06/2001, Address : Shop bearing M.C No. 19-755 (Part of Shop No.1) situated at Hospital Chowk, Kunjpura Road, Karnal. Both the above sale deeds are registered in office S.R.O. Karnal. Which are lost in the above branch. Which was not found even after searching. If anyone finds the above registry, then deposit it in the bank.

Branch: Railway Road, Tehsil Ganaur,

District Sonepat - 131101

#### केनरा बैंक 🛆 Canara Bank Con Statute

I Bhavandeep Singh S/O

I Talwinder Kaur W/O

Joga Singh R/O Village

Pandori Rukman Post Office

Piplanwala Hoshiarpur Have

Changed My Name To Singh

Gurjinder Singh Mattu R/O

Village Gopalpur P.O. Beas

Pind District Jalandhar Have

Changed My Name To Kaur

Sukhdev Singh R/O H.No.5

Rajinder Nagar G.T. Road

Near Alpha One Mall, Amritsar

Punjab That I Have Changed

My Name Gursimran Kaur To

Jagdeep Singh R/O Vpo.

Galib Kalan Distt. Ludhiana

Punjab Have Changed My

Name To Rupinder Singh Gill.

Rupinder Singh Gill R/O Vpo.

Galib Kalan Distt. Ludhiana

Punjab Have Changed My

W/O Jatinder Singh Mann R/O

Kishanpura Kalan Distt. Moga

Have Changed My Name To

Gurmail Singh R/O Ward No.-

Ludhiana Have Changed My

Name To Prabhjot Singh

W/O Prabhjot Singh Shawan

R/O Ward No.-4 Near Pakka

Darwaja Sahnewal Kalan Distt.

Ludhiana Have Changed My

Name To Sandeep Kaur

Near Pakka Darwaja

Kalan

I Sandeep Kaur Kainth

Distt.

I Prabhjot Singh S/O

Navdeep Kaur Mann.

4

Sahnewal

Shawan.

Shawan.

Name To Gurpreet Kaur Gill.

I Gurpreet Kaur Wo

I Navdeep Kaur Dhaliwal

I Rupinder Singh S/O

Simran Kaur Baiwa.

I Simran Kaur Bajwa D/O

Bhavandeep.

Talwinder.

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank/Name of the sation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of institution) under Ser interest Act. 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in Security | ercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **14/01/2022** calling upon the borrower Shri Anand Sio Sh. Inder Singh, **Prop. M/s Rathee Industries** Property situated at Arjun Puri Garhi Kesari Near Shiv Mandir, Railway Road, Ganaur, Distt. Sonepat, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs**, 5,57,462.49 (Five Lacks Fifty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Two & Paisa Forty Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receip

of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said ordinance read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on this 11th day of April of the year 2022. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank(Name of the institution) for an amount of Rs. 5,57,462.49 (Five Lacks Fifty Seven

Thousand Four Hundred Skty Two & Palsa Forty Nine Only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of ime available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### Description of the Immovable Property

All that part and parcel of the property situated in House measuring 90 Sq. Yds i.e. 3 Marla i.e 3/1149 Share of total land 57k-9M Comprised I knewat No 74 Khata No 99 having dimension East to Wast 15.7ft, North to South 52 ft. situated in Moja Garhi Kesri Ganaur Bounded: North :- Gali/Rasta, South :- Remaining Plot of Vendor, East :- Plot of Bimla, West :- Plot of Other.

Date: 16-04-2022 Place: Ganaur Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

#### LOST & FOUND

Ankit S/o Sh. Jasmer S/o Sh. Dariya Singh, R/o Vill. Sewah, Teh. & Distt. Paniapt Declared that Original Sale Deed Vasika No. 5686, Dt. 08.02.21, Sale Deed Vasika No. 2811 Dt. 01.08.13 Sale Deed Vasika No. 9440, Dt. 04.01.11, Sub Regist Panipat belongs to my property. Original Documents has been lost on 09.04.2022 at 4:00 pm at Near Ram Lal Chowk, Panipat. If any person

#### सार्वजनिक सूचना

ान साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि 1. गुलशन खुराना . हरिश खुराना पुत्र श्री तीरथ राम खुराना ने जायदाद नं. 160 हिल रोड अम्बाला छावनी जो कि तीरथ राम खुराना के IFI (Occupancy Right) के कालम में गुहकर रिकार्ड में नहीं अब लयीपन 2 में उन प्राणा छात्र 4 जागाय के आगाय पत्र / शपथपत्र क पर अपने नाम करवाने बारे नगर परिषद अम्बाला सदर जोन में आवेदन किया है अगर किसी भी व्यक्ति को यह नाम तबदील आनेदर भाषा हु जार भाषा ने जास का के कि जास के कि ज सहित इस कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है अन्यथा नियमानुसार (occupancy Right) के नम में नाम बदल दिया जाएगा सचिव नगर परिषद अम्बाला

I, Bharti Sahi W/o Rajeev Dhawan. I, Lakhvir Singh S/o Milkha

Lakhbir Singh.

I, Inderjit Singh S/o

I, Sukhvinder Singh S/o Harsha Singh R/o 175, Jalbera Road, Near Surya School, Ambala City declare that my Son Vikram Singh & Manpreet Singh & Daughter in law Manjot kaur & Parminder Kaur are out of my Control. So I Disown them from my all Movable Immovable Properties.

address

Name of Branch

D No.058410

No.037700

Punjab National Bank

Punjab National Bank

G.T. Road Panipat D

Punjab National Bank

Corporate Banking

**Branch Panipat** 

D No.814400

SSI Model Town Panipa

नाम से जाना पहचाना व लिखा जाए।

I, Paramjit Kaur Sahota W/o Upvinder Singh Sahota Ward No 7 House No 16 Garhdiwala Teh. Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) declare that my son Rajvinder Singh Sahota bearing Passport No R4382349 issued on 16-11-2017 valid up to 5-11-2017 issued by passport office Jalandhar according to all documents. My correct name Paramjit Kaur Sahota be amended in passport

No R4382349 of my son. I, Gaurav Kumar s/o Raj Kumar resident of 411/B-1 Firozepur Mothuwala Pinjore tehsil Kalka Distt Panchkula (Harvana) have changed my name to Gurshabad Singh.

I, Ramandeep Kaur Gill holder of Indian passport No.P2865157 issued Vancouver on 10/08/2016, permanent resident of village Gurditpura, Tehsil Payal, Post Office Doraha Distt. Ludhiana Punjab India 141421 and presently residing at 9441,119 ST, Delta, BC, V4C 6M8 -Canada do hereby change my name from Ramandeep Kaur Gill to Ramandeep Kaur Mundi with

immediate effect.

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक् 🔰 punjab national bank

General Administration Department, Circle Office Panipa

Phone No.0180-2620331, Email: copnpgad@pnb.co.in

Present Address

192R. Hotel Marido.

Model Town Panipat

G T Road, Near Red

Light Chowk, Panipat

1st Floor, NK Tower,

GT Road, Panipat

my given name.

I, Aman Kumar S/o Tilak Raj R/o H.No.134/8, Near Sahara Nursing Home Katra Karam Singh, Amritsar have changed my name from Aman kumar Pushkarna.

I, Monika W/o Aman Kumar Pushkarna R/o H.No.134/8, Near Sahara Nursing Home Katra Karam Singh, Amritsar have changed my name from Monika to Monika Pushkarna.

I. Kawaljit W/o Mukesh Kumar R/o Lal Avenue, Khandwala, Chheharta, Tehsil and Distrit Amritsar have changed my name from Kawaljit to Kawaljeet

I, Tanu Sharma W/o Raghu Sharma R/o H.No.102, Gali No.8, sunder Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Tanu Sharma to Tanu.

I. Amariit Kaur W/o Balbir Singh R/o L-6/1139, Gali No 3, New Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Amarjit Kaur to Amarjeet kaur

No 15474375N Rank DFR Name Rupesh Chander R/o VPO-Dariyawala, Teh - Jind, Distt - Jind, State-Harvana-126102 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rekha Devi to Rekha and date of birth from 07/05/1978 to 07/05/1980 vide affidavit dated 15/04/2022 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Liya Biju spouse of No. 15674050K Rank Hav Name Biju A R/O Vill Kannamangalam, Po Chettikulangara, Teh Mavelikara, Distt Alappuzha, State Kerala-690106 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Liya Biju to Liya Achamma Cheriyan vide affidavit dated 15/04/2022 before Session Court, Hisar.

I. No 15474375N Rank DFR Name Rupesh Chander R/O Vpo Dariyawala, Teh Jind Teh Jind, State Harvana 126102 hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Divya Drishti to Drishti vide affidavit dated 15/04/2022 before Session Court, Hisar.

Meera Bai.

I, Ashish Kumar resident of VPO Sherpur, Tehsil Pataudi, District Gurgaon (Haryana) in my service record my Father name wrongly recorded as Satpal Singh instead of Satpal vide affidavit No AT 745020 dated 13 April 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I Ashish Kumar resident of VPO Sherpur, Tehsil Pataudi, District Gurgaon (Haryana) in my service record my mother name wrongly recorded as Vinod Devi instead of Vinod vide affidavit No AT 745021 dated 13 April 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Abhishek Singh S/o Ajit Kumar R/o Flat No. 18-A First Floor Imperial Homes NK Sharma Road Behind NK Sharma Office Lohgarh MC Zirakpur Teh-Derabassi (SAS Nagar) changed my name from Abhishek alias Abhishek Kumar to Abhishek Singh.

I Sahil S/O Rajesh Kumar Vpo Bassi Wazid, Distt. Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name To Sahil Kumar

PUBLIC NOTICE

-Deponent D/o Dharam Singh R/o H.No. 115 Bunga Colony Birring

#### Public Notice

I Jeet Singh (Existing Name Of Son As Per Next Kin Record/ Service Document), S/O Army No.2443194 NK, Gurmel Singh (Name Of Husband) R/O Mojowal

Majara Tehsil Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name From Jeet Singh (Existing Name Of Son As Per Change Of Next Of Kin Record/Service Documents) To Ajit Singh (Proposed/ Adopted New Name) Vide Affidavit Dated O4 April March 2022 (Date Of Affidavit) Before Notary Public Civil Court Balachaur Distt. S.B.S. Nagar Punjab. (Name And Place

PUBLIC NOTICE

Of The Court).

Harsimarpreet Kaur D/o Harjinder Singh R/o VPO Salala District Jalandhar and ently residing at 694 Barrydowne, Ap Sudbury, Ontario, Canada hereby clare that I was adopted by Dharan Singh Dhami and Hardeep Kaur and thei name is mentioned as parents on my Passport now the adoption Deed go cancelled and I have applied to write my natural parents name i.e. Harjinder Singh and Karamjit Kaur on my Passport.

PUBLIC NOTICE

H.No. D-273-B, New Model Town Extn.,

Hisar declare that my daughter Jyoti Garg

(Masuka) is not in our control. We disown

her from our moveable or immoveable

properties. In future she will be responsible

for all transactions and behaviour, not we or

- Deponent

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Jogender Singh Deshwal s/o Balbi Singh r/o Village Mahawati Teh samalkha distt panipat declared my client lost sale deed Vasika no.789 dated 13.8.1997 of S.R.Ganaur and sale deed vasika no 511 dated 27.8.2009 of S.R.Ganaur and lost at railway road Ganaur and lost date 16.6.2020 if some one found plz contact my address

ठार्यालय तहसीलदार, अंबाला शहर

उग्रा जिया दाइरो जिया कि विद्यादा है? हिन इस पब्लिक नोटिस के मार्फत जन-साधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि श्री कुष्णा लाल निवासी मरा. 288 रतनपढ़ कालानी, अंबाला शहर से मृतक स्व. श्रीमति कृष्णा रानी के कानूनी वारिस को रिपोर्ट जारी करने हेतु एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है। प्रार्थी के प्रार्थना पत्र व सलंग्न हरफनामां व रिपोर्ट नगार पार्षद व अधीक्षक नगर निगम , अंबाला अनुसार मृतक स्व. श्रीमति कृष्णा रानी के निम्नलिखित प्राकृतिक वारिस है:-1. कृष्ण लाल - पति 2. रावेन्दर कुमार -पुत्र 3. ज्योति -पुत्री । यदि इस बारे किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपोल्त है तो वह तहसीलदार , अंबाला शहर के कार्यालय में पब्लिक शन के 30 दिन के अन्दर-2 आपत्त दुस करवा सकता है । तहसीलदार, अंबाला शहर करवा सकता है । तहसीलदार, अंबाला शहर

संयुक्त सब-रजिस्ट्रार/नायब तहसीलदार, राई, जिला सोनीपत सार्वजनिक सूचना यह कि एक वसीयत दिनांक 13.06.2015 तहरीरकत We, Krishna Devi W/o Omparkash Garg & Omparkash Garg S/o Ramniwas Garg R/o

यहां के एक रसायता विभोक 13.06.20 15 तहरारकता आनन्द प्रकाश चौह्यन पुत्र श्री मीमसिंह चौह्यन पुत्र श्री जनता निवासी यांव जाखौली, उप तहरु राई व जिला सोनीपत बाबत पंजीकरण बाद मृत्यु वसीयतकर्ता आनन्द प्रकाश चौह्यन मृत्यु तिथि 11.04.2022 मेरे कार्यालय में पंजीकरण के लिये प्रस्तुत मय दरसास्त शफ्यपत्र वसीयत

ग्रहितागण गवाहन मृत्यु प्रमाण पत्र पेश किये हैं। अब यह सूचना सार्वजनिक की जाती है कि अगर किसी को मी कोई एतराज किसी भी प्रकार का उपरोक्त वसीयत के बाद मृत्यु पंजीकरण संयुक्त सब रजिस्ट्रार कार्यालय राई, जिला सोनीपत में है तो असालतन या वकालतन 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर एतराज प्रस्तुत कर सकता है और अगर कोई किसी भी प्रकार का कोई एतराज 30 दिन के अन्दर—2 प्राप्त ना होता है तो उत्त सूरत में गुण अवगुण व साथ लफ साक्ष्यों का अवलोकन करने के बाद निर्णय लिया जाएगा और उसके बाद जरूरत हुई तो गुण व अवगुण के विराजेषण के बाद प्रायोक वर्षीयन को प्रातिकन कर दिया ।वरालबण क बाद उपरोक्त वसीयत को पंजीकृत कर दिया जाएगा और उसके बाद कोई एतराज स्वीकार्य/मान्य ना जेगा

अतः आम जनता को यह सूचना प्रेषित की जाती है कि उपरोक्त वसीयत दिनांक 13.06.2015 के पंजीकरण से पहले मृत्य मृतक आनन्द प्रकाश चौहान अगर किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई भी किसी भी प्रकार का कोई एतराज है तो उस सूरत में वो असालतन या वकालतन 30 दिन वे अन्दर-अन्दरमेरेकार्यालय में एतराज प्रस्तत कर सकते हैं। संयुक्त सब-रजिस्ट्रार, राई, जिला सोनीपत

newspaper. The Paper does not FOR KIND ATTENTION OF OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS endorse the same. Readers are In our Endeavour to consolidate and strengthen our services to our customers and Locker holder, the following branch of PNB will function at the new address w.e.f. 16.05.2022 & shall cater all types of banking business from the new General Administration Department, Circle Office Panipal requested to verify the content on their own Phone No.0180-2620331, Email: copnpgad@pnb.co.in **Classified Advertisement** It is to inform the General Public that according the Notification of Ministry ntact: 9417419351 New Address of Finance's gazette of Govt. of India where Oriental Bank of Commerc and United Bank of India have been amalgamated with Punjab Nationa R-275, Model Town. Bank. In sequence of the same, very close branches are to be merged Panipat The following branch mentioned in column no.(1) will be merged with following unit shops:branch mentioned in column no. (2) w.e.f. 30.05.2022 JV Complex, Geeta Name of Shop Colony, G.T. Road, Our esteemed customers, lessee of PNB SIKKA COLONY (531300) and Wet Canteen Panipat Fruit Juice Shop other customers will transact their business from the branch mentioned in Tailor Shop. 94. BMK Tower **Optician Shop** G.T. Road, Behind Hotel Hive, Panipat.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard and assure you of our best services at all times. Locker Holder customers please pay specia Date : 15.04.2022 **Circle Head, Panipat Circle** 

#### पंजाब नेशनल बैंक 🅒 punjab national bank

	(1)	(2)	Effective Date 30.05.2022	
1.	Punjab National Bank SIKKA COLONY (531300) SONEPAT	Punjab National Bank Memorial Hospital, (524210) Mama Bhanja Chowk Sonepat		

# is to notify all the concerned that, on behalf client, Axis Bank Ltd, I hereby give notice to th eral public that one customer, M/s Ramgar general public that one customer, M/s Ramgar Gram Udyog Samiti through Sh. Hem Rai Sio Sh Tej Ram R/o Master Colony, Ward no. 5, Lehra Gaga, Sangrur, Punjab has applied for a loan vidi application no 81053653 over the property Le House situated at ward no. 5, Master Colony Tehsil Lehra and Distt. Sangrur, area measuring 0 6.58 Marias i.e. 200 sq. yds in the name of Sh Hem Raj Sio Sh. Tej Ram vide Transfer deed no 2019-20132/1/310 dated 21.05.2019 and vide materior no. 14769 as denieted in jamoshaprid fo

- 1	mutation no. 14769 as depicted in jamabandi for the year 2015-2016. The borrower stated that	Co
al I. h	previous Original Sale deed no. 1091 dated 0612.2001 regarding the property mentioned above has been lost and regarding this the DDR has been got lodged vide No. 224672/2022 dated 15.04.2022 in Police station, Lehra Gaga. Axis Bank Ltdr equired this previous Original Sale deed	Applicatio to run the S.No
d	In 1091 dated 06.12.2001 to create equitable montgage. So through this public notice, it is noticed that if any concern, bank or person having any claim, objection related to the said equitable	(a) (b) (c)
	mortgage of the above said property with Axis Bank Ltd he/she may kindly contact with above said Bank or with me within 7 days from the date of this publication in below mentioned address, failing which no claim will be entertain later and Axis Bank	(d) Interested the public

my family. TENDER NOTICE ons are invited from War Widows / disabled ESM / ESM / Widows of ESI Qty Size Sqf Min Rebate 01 1065 6250/-216 01. 3300/ 01 280 2000/-

01. 320 3350/d person may submit applications in sealed envelope within 15 days from cation of this Ad, quoting monthly rebate alongwith PPO copy addressed to ndant 159 General Hospital Ferozepur- 152001 Ltd will disburse the loan to proposed customer Detail of the property is above mentioned. Rupinder Singh, Advocate Chamber No. 506, 4th Floor, Yadwindra Complex Tender will be opened on 16th day at 1200h. File No 226/Accts/Gen/2022 Commandant 159 GH tiala. M:- 9914379170

Vide

this in

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

Distt Courts. Pa

Printed and published by Amitabh Shukla for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Published at Beaute Espace Publications Private Limited, SCO 61, 1st Floor, Dakshin Marg, Sector 20-C, Chandigarh- 160020, Tel. No. 0172-4603847 and Printed at Impressions Printing and Packaging Ltd. Plot No. 22 & 49. Phase-II, Industrial Area, Panchkula, Haryana. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay, Senior Resident Editor: Amitabh Shukla, AIR SURCHARGE of Re. 1.00 East: Calcutta, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho, Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-4010455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900, Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443-45



# north 03

# Completing one month in office, Punjab CM to announce "good news" today Speculations are that announcement is regarding AAP's promise of free 300 units

#### MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

Set to complete his one Smonth in office on Saturday (April 16), Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will share "good news" with the people of Punjab. It is believed that the Chief Minister may make an announcement regarding the party's pre-poll promise of providing 300 units of free electricity to all households.

Mann, while addressing the media a day before in Jalandhar and responding to the queries on Punjab bureau-crats' meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his absence, had maintained that he would share "good news on April 16, and after that, you all will say to keep sending them

again and again". A major controversy erupted after Punjab's senior officials - including Chief Secretary nirudh Tewari, Power Anirudh Secretary Dilip Kumar, and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited's (PSPCL) chairman-cum-managing

director (CMD) Baldev Sran had a meeting with Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) supremo Kejriwal earlier this week in the absence of the Chief Minister and the state Power Minister Harbhajan Singh.

It has been learnt that the meeting was held to chalk out the modalities of doling out the free electricity scheme — which is expected to be on the lines of the one launched by the Delhi Government.

Defending the meeting, Mann had maintained that it was his deision to send the Punjab officers to Delhi for a meeting with Kejriwal, and if needed be, he would send them to Israel, or Gujarat, or West Bengal for Punjab's benefit.

Sources within the party have informed The Pioneer that the announcement regarding power is expected, but in what form, and with what details, is yet to be known.

As per initial estimates, the subsidy of 300 units of free power could hike the state's subsidy bill by at least Rs 5,000



crore. As of now, Punjab has a total debt burden of Rs 2.82 lakh crore. As per the government records, Punjab's power subsidy bill for 2020-21 was Rs 10,668 crore — of which Rs 7,180 crore went to the farm-

Notably, AAP, in its first poll guarantee, had announced

300 free units of electricity to all domestic consumers, waiving off all outstanding arrears or unpaid bills, restoration of all disconnected electricity con-

Kejriwal had stated. Kejriwal had also promised that the power units, exceeding 300 free units, will be charged as per the general rate from the

consumers. "All existing beneconsumers. All existing bene-ficiary categories, which were getting 200 free units like SCs, BCs, BPL families, freedom fighters will now get 300 free units. They will be charged only for over and above 300 units" he had stated units," he had stated. Now, with the AAP gov-

upgrade the infrastructure, and

then we will be able to provide

uninterrupted power supply,"

ernment set to complete one month in office, the party lead-

nections, 24-hour uninterrupted power supply while ership wanted the decision to also making it clear that all be implemented. However, the existing electricity schemes state bureaucracy has all along and benefits would continue. been advising against imple-Making the announcement menting any such decision as on June 29, last, AAP chief had of now considering the already stated that soon after the party financially weak position of the forms the government, the

state power utility. announcement about 300 units With the implementation of the free power scheme, there and bill waiver will be implemented immediately. "But will be a heavy financial burensuring 24-hour supply will den on the Powercom, besides take two-three years as it will huge losses to the state revtake three years for us to enue. Sources maintained

#### MANN'S ONE MONTH IN OFFICE

#### Achievements...

- Led Vidhan Sabha in passing a resolution reiterating Punjab's claims on its capital Chandigarh
- Brings 'One MLA, One Pension' rule
- Launched Anti-Corruption Helpline Number
- Constituted Anti-Gangster Task Force Announced to set up CM office in every district
- Doorstep delivery of ration
- 25,000 government jobs to be filled Regularising Class C and D contractual employees
- Private schools barred from increasing fees, or recommending shops to buy books or uniforms
- Seeks permission from SGPC for telecast of Gurbani from Golden Temple
- Holidays declared on the birth anniversaries of Dr Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh

#### Controversies...

- Upset MLAs after Cabinet formation
- Non-Punjabis nominated for five Rajya Sabha seats
- Punjab bábus meeting with Delhi CM Kejriwal in CM's absence
- Deteriorating law and order, murders of players
- Accused of visiting Takht Damdama Sahib in inebriated condition

that the party leadership has extensively discussed the way to compensate the PSPCL if the scheme is

implemented. Sources in the government have also indicated that the power subsidy to

"big" farmers may be discontinued, and funds thus saved would be used for providing 300 free units.

cases as of February 28 was 1,26,768 with a total fatality count of 739.

By March 31, Haryana's total case count rose to 9,85,218 and fatality count to

10,616, with Gurugram's infec-

tion tally rising to 2,60,903 and

death count 1,006. For

Faridabad, total cases stood at

1,27,053 as of March 31 and

By April 14, the state's

#### Haryana to open over 100 additional community kitchens to provide food at Rs 10

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

To provide affordable food to farmers and labourers for Rs 10, Haryana Government is set to open new community kitchens at more than 100 places in the State in addition to 50 already being run for the purpose.

"At present, community kitchens are being run by various departments of the Haryana Government at 50 places in the State which are proving to be a boon for the poor and needy persons," said the Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal, chairing a meeting

regarding community kitchens

start in the next three months.

ning Atal Kisan-Mazdoor Canteens at 23 places. While seeing the success of these canteens and understanding the need of the people, the Board has decided to open such canteens at 25 more places, which will start in the next six months. Besides, three affordable canteens are also being run by the Urban Local Bodies Department.

### Punjab to organize Block Health Melas from April 18

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government is set to hold block-level Health Melas across the State from April 18. Making the announcement on Friday, the state Health and Family

Minister said that early diagnosis and prevention can significantly reduce the rate of morbidity and preventable mortality.

the block level where information on various diseases and their preventive measures will

## PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana has reported over 1,200 fresh COVID cases in over 15 days, out of which over 1,000 infections were reported from Gurugram district alone. On Friday, out of 174 fresh cases, 150 were reported from Gurugram.

Notably, Gurugram has been witnessing a rise in COVID cases since past few days. Its neighbouring Delhi has also been recording an uptick in daily COVID cases with the positivity rate going beyond two percent.

'Gurugram, being a metropolitan city, lakhs of people are reaching here on daily basis. Gurugram has been reporting a steady increase in COVID cases over the last 15 days. We have collected samples and sent it to the concerned laboratory for testing. It is expected to get the report in couple of days," said Gurugram Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav, while talking to The Pioneer over the phone. Moreover, the COVID positivity rate in Harvana was

positivity rate in Haryana was 1.27 percent on February 28, and 0.41 percent on March 31, which has now rose up to 2.72 percent on April 14 (Thursday).

April 14, Haryana added 1,211 fresh infections to its COVID tally, analysis of data from the state health department showed. During the same period, Gurugram added 1,022

Haryana in 15 days, 1,000 from Gurugram

Out of 1,200 fresh COVID-19 cases in

fresh cases. Of the total 170 new COVID cases that the state reported on April 14, as many as 147 were from Gurugram and 19 from Faridabad.

total deaths remained unchanged at 739. Until April 14, the total number of COVID cases reported in Gurugram district since the outbreak of the pancumulative cases was 9,86,429 with total fatalities at 10,617 as demic was 2,61,925, which Gurugram's infection tally rose was the highest in the State. However, Faridabad, which has been the other worst-hit district, added only 121 fresh cases between March 31 and April 14.

ed in Haryana between February 28 and March 31, as many as 1,959 infections were from the Gurugram district and 285 from Faridabad.

According to the data, as of February 28, 2022, the cumulative cases in Haryana was 9,81,684 and the death toll was 10,563. Till then, Gurugram, which was then reporting over 100 daily cases, had a cumulative infection count of 2,58,944 with the total fatality count for

the district at 1,002.

For Faridabad, the total February 28

# Meeting disgruntled leaders, Sidhu building his "team"; Warring hints at action for weakening party

party MLAs. I met the rebel

MLAs of the state as well in this

meet," said Sidhu, after meeting

significance as reports were

pouring in claiming that rebel

MLAs, under Sidhu's leadership,

were planning to leave the Congress party. "They all are our

senior leaders...Jakhar saab is a

very good leader, we have come

here to meet him," said Cheema

ng Sunil Jakha

Sidhu's assertion assumes

#### MONIKA MALIK **CHANDIGARH**

East, was conspicuous by his absence. Instead, he was meet-Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu is try-ing to propel himself as the ing rebel party leaders to build up his 'Team Sidhu'. Sidhu first met Congress rebel and four-time MLA from captain after building 'Team Sidhu' by including the Congress party's 'rebel' politi-Samrala Amrik Singh Dhillon cal players. Sidhu on Thursday at Ludhiana, former Minister and senior leader Lal Singh, and held another round of meeting with party leaders, including later met party stalwart Sunil former MLAs - a develop-Jakhar at his Panchkula resithat apparently did not go down well with the Congress party's newlyappointed state leadership. Punjab Congress' new president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring was quick to hint at action against his predecessor Sidhu by making it clear that anyone indulging in mak-ing the party "weak" will face strict action. Notably, Warring was in Amritsar on Friday, along with Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee's (PPCC) working president Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Partap Singh Bajwa, and Deputy CLP leader Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, to pay obeisance at Golden Temple, Durgiana Mandir, and Ram Tirath.

being run in Haryana on Friday

While the state's first such kitchen Atal Kisan-Mazdoor Canteen was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during the COVID-19 pandemic in Karnal, the Government has now planned to open such

kitchens at more than 100 places in the state, he said. The Chief Secretary was apprised that at present, such canteens are being run by the Labour Department at nine places, where workers are getting nutritious food for just Rs

region. Sidhu, who was also a

former MLA from Amritsar

10. Now, the Department has decided to open these canteens at 100 more places. About 50 such canteens are expected to

> Haryana Agricultural Marketing Board is also run-Welfare Minister Dr Vijay Singla said that Health Melas will be organized in the state from April 18 as Punjab has a dual burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases and many of these diseases can be prevented by

### ral, and management.

Besides, lack of awareness and poor health seeking behaviour have been found to be the major underlying causes of many diseases," said Dr Singla.

Informing about organiz-ing of these Health Melas, the

The melas would be held at

early diagnosis, providing health education, timely referbe provided.

> Warring said that what led to the party's poor per-formance in the recently-held Punjab Assembly polls will be analyzed, but, at the same time, he admitted that indiscipline and infighting

played their part. As the Congress Disciplinary Committee sends notices to former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar for his public conduct

Between March 31 and

to 2,61,925 while the death count remained unchanged at 1,006. COVID cases in Faridabad rose marginally to 1,27,174 during the past fort-night with no fresh fatality. Of the 3,534 cases report-

While the daily case count in Haryana was over 200 at the beginning of March, it dropped to less than 50 a month later. However, during the past few

days, daily cases have risen over 150, with the Gurugram district fuelling the uptick. However, only a few of those who tested COVID positive during the past days required institutional care. Meanwhile, as of April 14, the total active cases in Haryana were 621 compared to 257 on March 31 and 1,940 on

Later, Warring held a meeting with former legislators and councillors of Majha

During these meetings, he was accompanied by former MLAs Ashwani Sekhri and Navtej Singh Cheema.

Notably, the Congress Disciplinary Action Committee has issued a showcase notice to Jakhar for his alleged "objectionable" comments against the SC community, besides indulging in "anti-party activities, asking him to respond in a

week's time. On the other hand, four-time MLA Dhillon had contested as an independent candidate in the recently-concluded assembly polls after he was denied a ticket by the Congress party. He has also been expelled from Congress ahead of elections.

"I will continue to fight for the interests of Punjab. During the meeting held today, we formed 'Team Sidhu' to look into the problems raised by

"Good people are getting together against bure log," said Sekhri without divulging much. Warring, during his Amritsar visit, had met former

Dhillon.

Deputy Chief Minister OP Soni, former MLA Raj Kumar Verka, Amritsar MP Gurjit Singh Aujla, and PPCC's former working president Sukhwinder Singh Dannv

Asked about Sidhu's absence from the meetings in Amritsar, Warring said that the former state Congress chief was away to Samrala. "It could be some personal matter," he said about Sidhu's visit to Samrala.

#### ACTION AGAINST THOSE MAKING PARTY WEAK: WARRING

On the other hand, PPCC chief Amarinder Warring on Friday send across a clear mes-

the partys drubbing, Warring exuded confidence that the Congress would again come to power in Punjab as soon as the internal frictions get fixed.

sage that those working to weaken the party would face

of meetings with party leaders, Warring made it clear, "If some-

one is meeting to make

Congress strong, we will support that. But action will be taken if

you do something to make the

the intense infighting and fac-

At the same time, blaming

In reference to Sidhu's series

strong action.

party weak."

"We faced a major loss and were toppled out of government (due to factions within the party). I want to say that things should be kept within the Congress family and not be publicized. We'll return to power as soon as we fix these things," said Warring in Amritsar.

Notably, Congress faced a resounding defeat in the 2022 State Assembly elections in five states, including Punjab.

'We have met Congress president Sonia Gandhi and taken her blessings. Sonia ji has asked us to strengthen the party's organization," said Warring, who met the party supremo on Monday.

tne recent times, Warring refused to comment on it saying that the notice is for him to respond to. "High command has

given notice to Sunil Jakhar ji. Only he can tell (about it). It is not my jurisdiction. Sonia ji has asked us to go and meet the people and know where we were lacking, and why we lost the elections," he said.

#### CALLED SIDHU SIR, HE DIDN'T ANSWER MY CALL: WARRING

Warring, who was appoint-ed PPCC chief on April 9 after Sidhu was asked to put in his paper following the party's shameful defeat in February 20 elections, on Friday maintained that he had reached out to his predecessor, "but he did not answer my call".

#### SAD seeks revocation of extension in BSF jurisdiction in Punjab

Asks CM to apprise Shah that dual jurisdiction coming in way of proceeding against smugglers

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday requested Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to immediately apprise the Union Home Minister Amit Shah that dual jurisdiction of Punjab Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) was coming in the way of proceeding against drugs and weapon smugglers in the state's border belt. At the same time, the Akali Dal asked the Chief Minister to tell the Union Minister that the extension in the jurisdiction, given to the BSF, should be with-

drawn. Raising the demand, senior Akali leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that a recent case, in which two drug and weapon smugglers escaped the law due to non-cooperation in Faridkot district, was an eye-opener. "It is now clear that dual

jurisdiction is coming in the way of policing in the border areas. Earlier, when the jurisdiction of BSF had been increased from 15 km along the international border to 50 km, it was stated that it was a technical issue and the earlier 15 km radius. that BSF would complement

#### the efforts of the State police. From the Faridkot incident and numerous others, it is becoming clear that the BSF wants to work independently and is openly hostile to pleas of cooperation from the Punjab Police," said the former former minister.Cheema said that this is striking at the very essence of the federal structure and the Chief Minister should approach the Union Home Minister Amit Shah immediately without fail and request that the jurisdiction of BSF be reverted to

#### **HIMACHAL DAY**

# CM announces 50% bus fare relaxation for women, free power up to 125 units to all

#### PNS CHAMBA

Eyeing state assembly polls scheduled to be held by yearend, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday announced a 50 percent relaxation in fare in HRTC buses for women, free power to all up to 125 units, and no water bill in rural areas.

Thakur, presiding over the 75th state-level Himachal Day function at the historic Chowgan in Chamba district, said that the women on the whole will save up to about Rs 60 crore with the 50 percent discount on HRTC bus fare.

"Consumers, using up to 125 electricity units, will not be charged anything from July 1," he said. With this decision, about 11.5 lakh consumers will get the benefit of about Rs 250 crore, he said.

At the same time, the Chief Minister announced that no

water bill will be charged from families living in rural areas providing financial benefits of

30 crore to all rural families. The hill state is scheduled to go to the polls in December this year. Apart from traditional political players - BJP and Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is eyeing to expand its wings in the hill state after sweeping the recent Punjab Assembly polls.

Thakur also announced Rs five crore for expediting work on Holi-Uttarala road and mini secretariat at Chamba headquarters to facilitate people of the district. He announced beautification and improvement at Chamba town, besides taking steps to solve the traffic problem of Chamba town.

He said that the State Government was getting full support from the Centre in the matter of development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a

special attachment towards Ĥimachal Pradesh and under his leadership, the state has got pro-

jects worth thousands of crores. Thakur said that the State Government has focused on bringing positive changes in the lives of the people and ensuring rapid and balanced develop-

ment of the state. He said that the State Government, in its very first Cabinet meeting, had reduced the age criteria for providing oldage pension from 80 to 70 years without any income limit, which has now further been reduced to

60 years He said that Rs 436 crore was spent on social security pension, whereas today, more than Rs 1,300 crore are being spent on it.

Thakur said that the State Government took the unique initiative of hosting Jan Manch for redressal of the grievances of the people of the State at their doorstep. And to date, 25 Jan

Manch have been organized at 244 places and out of 54,565 complaints received, more than 90 percent have been resolved.

He said that 'Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline-1100' was launched through which a person can register his complaint from any corner to get his issues redressed within a stipulated time period. So far, about 3.55 lakh complaints have been received on this helpline number, out of which 3.41 lakh complaints have been settled, he added.

Thakur said that the State Government started the 'HIM-CARE' scheme in January 2019 under which five members of the beneficiary family were being provided free treatment facility up to Rs five lakh per year. He said that to date 5.40 lakh families have been registered under HIMCARE and a sum of Rs 218 crore has been spent on the cashless treatment of 2.40 lakh

patients.

He said that 'Mukhya Mantri Sahara Yojana has been started to provide financial assistance to the economically weaker sections suffering from serious ailments. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 3,000 is provided to them every month and so far Rs 60.50 crore has been provided to about 18,000 beneficiaries under this scheme, he added Thakur, presiding over the

75th state-level Himachal Day function, also unfurled the Tricolour and took salute from the contingents of Police, Home

Guards, NCC and NSS. In a message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, telecasted on the occasion, he appreciated the state's developmental journey despite geographical and other constraints. Modi said that the State, over these years, has

#### DON'T FALL IN BJP's TRAP: AAP

Hours after Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur doled out sops, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and AAP's senior leader Manish Sisodia accused the BJP of giving freebies out of fear of losing the coming assembly elec-tions.He alleged that the BJP Government in Himachal is "copying" the Arvind Kejriwal model of governance.

At the same time, Sisodia cautioned the people of the hill state against falling "into BJP's trap", while urging them to vote for AAP in the coming elections. "BJP government's announcements ahead of assembly polls in the State are an attempt to hoodwink

people, as it has always said that it is completely against freebies like free electricity," said Sisodia, addressing a press conference in Delhi.

"The truth is that if the BJP forms the government in Himachal Pradesh again, it will withdraw all such freebies as it has made electricity, bus fares, etc, expensive in other states. The BJP has never believed in the concept of providing things to people at a cheaper rate," said Sisodia. He said that AAP's inten-

tion of fighting Himachal elections has put the fear in BJP government and that's why it is announcing freebies. "What the BJP government has announced today is an attempt to partially copy the Kejriwal model of governance. They have started staging a drama of copying the Kejriwal model of governance in the state with an eye on elections," Sisodia said.

He said that BJP and its "friends" are in power in 18 states but they have not thought of providing cheaper electricity in any of these. "Everywhere they say electricity should not be free. They make fun of such freebies. They say freebie is antinational. They even go on to review it at the level of Central government to come out.

made tremendous progress in various sectors such as power, horticulture, tourism, and allied sectors.

# **Govt finding remedy** for chronic pain

he pioneer

CHANDIGARH | SATURDAY | APRIL 16, 2022

#### ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELH

The Government has started working towards finding a remedy for chronic pain, which presently remains a major health challenge in the country with most of the patients resorting to opoids/morphine medications leading to serious adverse outcomes.

The move also aims to provide relief to the long Covid-19 survivors and it has been constantly felt that clinicians need to know what to expect and how to manage related pain and dysfunction.

Chronic pain has been defined as a pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months, and it exerts an enormous personal and economic burden, affecting more than 30 percent of people worldwide.

According to reports, at least 50 per cent of Covid-19 survivors are expected to experience Long Covid, or postacute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection, and symptoms that overlap with those of fibromyalgia among others. An official from the

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Union Science and Technology Ministry, said that plans are afoot to start a program on "chronic pain Biology" for which the process of mapping the expertise in the area has been started. The aim is to



mon form of the chronic pain

most forms of spinal pain while

Neuropathic pain is caused by

a damage or disease affecting

the somatosensory nervous sys-

tem, typically associated with

sensory abnormalities such as

cent chronic pains are of neu-

ropathic in nature and include

diabetic neuropathy, post-ther-

apeutic neuralgia and radicu-

lopathy. Nociplastic pain is the pain arising from the abnormal

processing of the pain signals

without any clear association

with damage, injury or disease

In order to address this challenge and improve the

lives of people affected by

pain conditions, better under

standing of the mechanisms of

pain and improved treatments

pathology

are needed.

Approximately 15-25 per

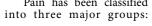
numbness and alloydynia.

develop targeted effective and Nonciceptive, Neuropathic and non-addictive pain treatment Nociplastic. Nociceptive pain results from activity in neural

To begin with the DBT has pathways and is the most comrecently invited Expression of Interest (EoI) in the area of encompassing arthritis and chronic pain to map the expertise available in the country to gain "deeper insight into the pain mechanism and advancing research methodologies for developing targeted effective and non-addictive pain treatment options."

Chronic pain is a debilitating symptom of many diseases and causes significant disability and reduces the quality of life. "But we still do not have any effective treatment options and it remains a major unmet global public health challenge.

"The difficulty in under-standing and managing pain has also led to widespread overuse of, and addiction to opoids/morphine medications. This can lead to serious adverse outcomes," he added. Pain has been classified



If you are suffering with two or four main comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension or chronic kidney disease and coronary artery disease and still survived Covid-19 then consider vourself to be lucky!

PNS NEW DELHI

A study published in BioMed International Journal has said that at least 81 per cent of the patients afflicted with the above mentioned two or four Non Communicable Diseases did not survive the peak of the pandemic.

'Covid most brutal for diabetes,

chronic kidney disease patients'

hypertension, coronary artery,

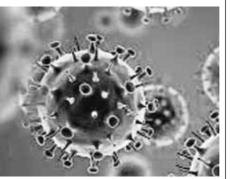
For, a study has said that Covid-19 has been found to be most brutal for the patients afflicted with two or four main co-morbidities including diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease and chronic kidney disease

The researchers studied the impact of each disease individually as well as together with other co-morbidities and found out that people with already severe comorbid conditions were vulnerable and hardly 19 out of 100 such patients could survive the deadly Covid disease.

The study 'Prevalence and Impact of preexisting co morbidities on overall clinical outcomes of hospitalized Covid-19 patients', analyzed more than 369 individual Covid cases among which 59.1 per cent had at least one comorbidity in Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, between March 2020 and August 2020.

"The research was conducted to certain, the impact of Covid in patients suffering with existing co-morbidities. Though we knew that patients with co-morbidities infected with Covid faced more risk of certain death, we were not sure which were the existing diseases that impacted more on the patients' health.

"As anticipated we found that the combination of all four co-morbidities including diabetes, hypertension, Coronary artery disease and chronic kidney disease and after getting



infected with Covid-19, the patient was most likely to face certain death.

At least 272 (73.7 per cent) patients were male, and 97 (26.2 per cent) were female. Of the confirmed cases, 218 (59.1 per cent ) had comorbidities, and 151 (40.9 per cent) were devoid of comorbidities. This study showed that old age and underlying comorbidities significantly increase mortality, hospital stay, and severity due to Covid-19 infection.

'To ascertain, the study clearly showed that 81.8 per cent of patients who had more than one comorbidity had died. Chronic kidney disease was found to be the second most deadly co-morbidity accounting to nearly 66.7 per cent of patients who did not survive the Covid-19 disease.

It was followed by Coronary artery disease, which accounted for more than 57 per cent of patients suffering with CAD and Covid-19 faced death during the pandemic. The chance of survival among Covid-19

patients was the highest when there was no comorbidity and only 9.3 per cent of those who did not have either of the four comorbidities did not survive after being severely infected with the deadly Covid-19 disease during the pandemic.

# CBI takes over probe into ₹11 cr coin deposit scam

coins estimating the scam to the tune of Rs 11 crore in the coins held by the public sector lender at Karauli in Rajasthan. Also, during the penden-

cy of the counting, an employee of the private vendor was threatened on August 10, 2021 by a group of armed men not to go ahead with the counting of the coins. In the event of continuing with the counting, the armed men threatened to kill the private employee who was staying at a dharamshala (guest house).

The State police had originally registered the case number 370/2021 on August 13 last year at police station Todabhim in Karauli district. The SBI, through its Controller, Controller Office, Sawai Madhopur region filed a criminal writ petition seeking transfer of the case to the federal probe agency.

The case was registered under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and cheating. The High Court on March

4 this year ordered the transfer of the case from the State police to the CBI.

Till August 6, 2021, the pri-vate vendor counted 2,350 bags of coins worth Rs 1,39,60,000 and the remaining 600-700 bags were estimated to contain Rs 60 lakh only as against the book value of Rs 11,62,11,275, leading to the bank's committee constituted to count the

railway network, its results are

Minister said.

Pradesh.

केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण

व्यरो CENTRAL BUREAU

OF

VESTIGATION

The CBI has taken over the

The CDI has taken of probe into the fraud detect-

ed in the bulk deposit of coins

at a branch of SBI in Karauli

district of Rajasthan causing a

loss to the public sector lender

to the tune of over Rs 11 crore.

The move comes following a

directive from the Rajasthan

revealed a scam worth Rs 11

crore involving the coin

sional vendor, Arpit Goods

Carrier, was engaged by the bank to count the total coins

worth Rs 13, 01,71.275 held by

The preliminary probe

On July 22, 2021, a profes-

High Court to the effect.

deposits of the branch.

the branch.

PNS NEW DEI HI

Following detection of irregularities and irregular transaction of the coins by the then cashier at the branch Raiesh Kumar Meena was suspended and a committee constituted by the bank undertook a cash audit of the branch. **PM greets Himachal on State's** 

# Modi, Vietnam leader Nguyen discuss Ukraine, South China Sea situations

#### PNS 🔳 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday had a telephonic conversation with general secretary of the Communist party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong and exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in the South

China Sea. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the rapid pace of wide-ranging cooperation under the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which was estabisit to Vietnam in 2016, the Prime and defence engagement, "Modi Minister's Office (PMO) said said in his Tweet.



in a statement.

"Spoke with the General Secretary of the Communist existing initiatives. Party of Vietnam H. E. Nguyen Phu Trong, today. We exchanged views on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues and agreed to promote closer coop-

They complimented each other on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi reiterated Vietnam's importance

as an important pillar of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision, and sought to said. enhance the scope of the bilat-eral relationship, besides working for expeditious progress on

The Prime Minister also requested for greater facilitation of market access for India's pharma and agri-products in Vietnam, the statement

#### civilisation links between the two countries and expressed his happiness on India's involvement in restoration of Cham monuments in Vietnam. The leaders agreed to enhance defence partnership between the two countries, the PMO

They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in South China Sea, the statement added.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. However, several ASEAN

Hawkers permitted to operate in markets

only in accordance with policy, says SC

### PNS 🔳 NEW DELHI

auding Himachal Pradesh Lauding Himachai Frances Thakur's "young" and "honest leadership" for the speedy development of the State, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted the people of Himachal Pradesh on the State's 75th establishment day. Himachal Pradesh is to face Assembly polls this yearend.

Recalling the challenges of the hilly state at the time of its formation in 1948, the Prime Minister complimented the people of Himachal Pradesh for "converting the challenges into

opportunities." praise



75th establishment day

rural road connectivity, tap water and electricity to every household. He underlined the efforts to build on these achievements in the last 7-8

"Under the young leader-Amrit Kaal, there is a need to ship of Jai Ram ji, the 'double

nology, food processing and natural farming. He said the Vibrant Village

now visible.As connectivity is getting better, Himachal's scheme, announced in this tourism is entering new areas, year's budget will give immense benefit to Himachal Pradesh. new regions", the Prime

The Prime Minister high-He also touched upon increasing connectivity, enrichlighted the new strides in ing forests, swachhta and peo-ple's participation for these tourism and new avenues of opportunities and employment for the local people. He espe-cially noted the progress in the initiatives. health sector by talking about

The Prime Minister commented on the expansion of central welfare schemes by the Chief Minister and his team. especially in the field of social security."Honest leadership, peace loving environment, blessings of gods and goddesses and people of Himachal who work hard, all these are

i in our economi

Prime Minister Modi Vietnam, Philippines and highlighted the historical and Brunei, have counter claims.

achievements in horticulture, power surplus, literacy rate,

permanent basis.

said

rural roads, highway widening,

ork in the varu the the initiative of expanding fields of tourism, higher education, research, IT, biotech-

He said that during the

the efficient and fast vaccina-

work hard for unlocking the

full potential of Himachal

Modi said the need to

tion during the pandemic.

incomp everything needed for rapid development," Modi said.

### **Alliance Air shifts to** its own cloud-based PSS

#### PTI 🔳 NEW DELHI

Pentre-run Alliance Air said it will sell tickets with "9I" code and has shifted to its own cloud-based passenger service system (PSS) from Friday onwards.

Even though parent airline Air India's control was shifted to the Tata Group on January 27. Alliance Air till date was using the full-service carrier's PSS and its "AI" code to sell tickets.A PSS is used for various functions such as ticket reservation and flight schedul-

Regional carrier Alliance Air was not part of the deal when the central government sold off Air India to the Tata Group on October 8 last year.

"Mr Vineet Sood, CEO seats.

informed that going forward PTI NEW DELHI with absolute efficiency,

Alliance Air will now sell its A hawker has no right to hinsist that he may be pertickets under Alliance Air banner under flight code 9I-XXX," the airline's statement said on mitted to keep his goods and wares at the place of hawking overnight, the Supreme Court Friday.Alliance Air has migrated to cloud based passenger service system from Friday, it has said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said 'We now have our own hawkers can be permitted to website www.allianceair.in and hawk in markets only in accorthe passenger can start bookdance with the hawking poli-"Our new call centre num-

bers are +91 44 4255 4255 and "The prayer before the high court was that the petitioner, +91 44 3511 3511. In case of any queries passenger can also who is a hawker in the Sarojini Nagar Market, be permitted to helpdesk@allianceair.in," it leave his goods and wares at the mentioned.Alliance Air operplace of hawking overnight. ates a fleet of 18 ATR-72 air-The said prayer has been rightcraft, each with around 70 ly rejected by the high court," the court said."The petitioner,



being a hawker, has no right to insist that he may be permitted to keep his goods and wares at the place where he is hawking overnight," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by a hawker in the Sarojini Nagar Market challenging an order of the Delhi High Court.

The hawker had sought directions from the high court to the New Delhi Municipal Council seeking to permit the

### Listed 500 substandard law colleges, will do surprise inspections: BCI to SC

#### appellant-hawker to leave the PTI NEW DELHI goods overnight at the spot

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has told the where he hawks during the day. The high court noted that Supreme Court that it has the prayer sought by the hawker goes against the very concept earmarked about 500 law colof hawking to permit him leges throughout the country occupying any given area on a which are sub-standard/below standard and a team led by "The whole concept of some former judges/senior hawking is that the hawker advocates and others plans to comes to the allotted/demarconduct surprise visits of such establishments and in case of cated area during the hours of hawking with his or her goods any deficiencies, steps would be taken for their closure. and wares; undertakes the

In an affidavit filed in a activity of hawking and leaves the area along with his or her matter related to reforms in goods and wares at the end of legal education and placements of young lawyers, the BCI said that it is constituting a high powered committee that would look into the issue mitted," the high court had of compulsory chamber placement of five juniors by senior advocates or advocates having 25 years of standing at the Bar. The council said it is pro-

posed that the legal education committee of the BCI and the advisory board would consider introducing a State Level Entrance Test for admissions to law colleges in its next meeting.It said, "the appellant (BCI) has earmarked about 500 institutions throughout the country who are sub-standard/below standard and a team led by some former judges/senior advocates, noted academicians and plans to conduct surprise visits of such

institutions and if any institu-

tion is found to be below

standard, having neither the

sufficient faculty nor infra-

Tributes paid to 1965 Indo-Pak war hero

structure then the Legal Education Committee shall take immediate steps to close such institutions"

The BCI said that it is not an executive body and relies upon the universities to close such colleges and/or upon the government to close such universities which despite the requests have been casual on the use of unfair means in LLB/LLM exams and awarding the LLD.

"Thus as a last resolve the BCI is considering withdrawing the approval granted for running courses of legal education to such university", it said and pointed out a slew of difficulties faced by the council in regulating legal education across the country.

### Govt to launch teleconsultation facility e-Sanjeevani at 1L Ayushman centres

#### PNS NEW DELHI

W<sup>ith an aim to reach out</sup> to the maximum number of people particularly from the remote areas, the Government has plans to launch tele-consultation facility 'e-Sanjeevani' at 1 lakh Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) from Saturday.

This was stated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday after chairing a virtual meeting on Tuesday with health ministers and senior officials of all the states and union territories to review the operationalisation status of AB-HWCs and tele-

#### consultation services.

April 16. These centres are

realising PM @NarendraModi

ji's resolve of 'Ayushman

Bharat'," Mandaviya said in a

HWCs had been opera-

tionalised across the country

by the end of March against

the target of 1.1 lakh, accord-

To ensure wider outreach

telemedicine services,

eSanjeevani application has

ing to the Health Ministry.

of

As many as 1,17,440 AB-

tweet in Hindi on Friday.

mentioned.

email

ing on it now," it noted.

us

also been integrated with 3.74 "On the occasion of the lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) thereby facil-4th anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness itating access to equitable healthcare in the remotest Centres, 'e-Sanjeevani Teleconsultation' facility will be areas of the country. Under ECRP-II, financial launched at 1 lakh centres on

assistance has been provided to all States/UTs for strengthening IT infrastructure for implementation of telemedicine services.

Under e-Sanjeevani platform, 56,994 Doctors have been registered to provide teleconsultation services. Till, 31st January, 2022, around 2.33 Cr consultations have been conducted through eSanjeevani platform, as per the data available from the

Ministry

To ensure patient data privacy and security, required firewalls which monitor and control the access to the application is enabled. Only valid tokens are enabled to ensure authorized access and the data is stored in an encrypted form duly using industry-standard algorithms a senior official said

Presently, eSanjeevani OPD (Patient to Doctor Teleconsultation services) has been rolled out in 25 States/UT while eSanjeevani HWC (Doctor to Doctor Teleconsultation services) has been rolled out in 20 States/UT.

#### The Indian Air Force on Friday paid rich tributes to the legendary air warrior late Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh on his 103rd birth

PNS 🔳 NEW DELHI

the hawking period. In fact,

ers even this much is not per-

in respect of mobile hawk-

anniversary. An icon of India's military history, he had successfully led a young IAF during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

"On this day, we recall the contribution made by the Marshal to the nation and Indian Air Force," the IAF said.

The only officer to attain the highest post of Marshal of the Air Force equivalent to the Army's five-star field marshal, Singh was a fearless and exceptional pilot who had flown more than 60 different types of

#### aircraft

Singh passed away on September 16, 2017, at the age of 98. He had played a major role in transforming the IAF into one of the most potent air forces globally and the fourth biggest in the world.

Singh was honoured with the rank of Marshal on Republic Day in 2002. Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw and K M Cariappa were the only two army gen-erals honoured with the rank of field marshal.

On August 1, 1964, Singh took over as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) in the rank of Air Marshal at the age of 44. Singh was born on April 15, 1919 in Lyallpur (now Faisalabad in Pakistan). "A

testing time for the nation came in September 1965 when Pakistan launched Operation Grand Slam, in which an armoured thrust targeted the vital town of Akhnur," the IAF recalled in a statement.

"When summoned to the Defence Minister's office with a request for air support and asked how quickly the IAF will be ready for operations, with his characteristic nonchalance, ...In an hour' was the reply," it said.

"And truly, the Indian Air Force struck the Pakistani offensive in an hour, gained air superiority over Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and helped Indian Army score strategic victories," it added.

He was awarded the said

Padma Vibhushan for his leadership during the 1965 War. Singh also continued his service to the nation as the Ambassador to Switzerland, the Holy See and Liechtenstein from 1971 to 1974, following which he headed the High Commission of India to Kenya at Nairobi from 1974 to 1977, the IAF said.

He also served as a member of The Minorities Commission of India from 1978 to 1981 and as the Lt Governor of Delhi from 1989 to 1990.

"His dynamic personality, professional competence, leadership and strategic vision sets him apart as an icon of the Indian Air Force," the IAF



# **Baramulla sarpanch** shot by terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI 🔳 JAMMU

The cycle of violence con tinues unabated in Kashmir valley as another elected representative was shot dead by "unidentified" terrorists in the north Kashmir district of Baramulla on Friday. The deceased has been identified by the police as Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo, an independent Sarpanch from the area.

Kashmir Zone police in a tweet clarified that the deceased sarpanch was not affiliated with any political party. He contested the Panchayat polls as an Independent candidate. "Terrorists fired upon and killed one Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo (an Independent Sarpanch) at Goshbugh area of Pattan, Baramulla. Area has been cordoned off and search to track the involved terrorists is in progress. Further details shall follow".



personnel and later trained However, local reports sug gested Bangroo was targeted in their guns towards non local the nearby orchard barely labourers and minority popuhours after the Union Home lation in the South and Central Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla Kashmir districts of Kashmir. along with Director Intelligence This is the first incident of

Bureau (IB) Arvind Kumar targeted killing in the North reviewed preparedness for Kashmir area. In the coming annual pilgrimage of Shri days the security grid would be Amarnath Ji and militancy further strengthened ahead of the 43 day long Amarnath pil-grimage. The UT administrarelated situation in the Valley. Amid peak tourist season the valley the terrorist hantion is learnt to have demanddlers have been desperately trying to disturb peace prevailing in the region. Initially

ed additional deployment of security forces to ensure incident free yatra after a gap of the terrorists targeted security more than 2 years.

# HC asks erring litigant to pay ₹25K |Popular Front to jail to purchase books for library

#### T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In an unusual punishment, the Bombay High Court has directed a litigant from directed a litigant from Kolhapur to pay ₹25,000 to the local prison for purchasing books at the local jail library, as costs for having "done every-thing possible to manipulate and abuse the process of law". While imposing a cost of ₹25,000 on litigant Riyaz lahiruddin Mulla, an employee

Jahiruddin Mulla, an employee of MR High School ad Junior College, Gadhinglaj, Kolhapur, a HC bench of Justices G A Sanap and Sunil B Shukre observed in its recent ruling: "We are of the view that this is a case wherein Respondent No.6 has done everything that was possible for him to manipulate and abuse the process of law and, therefore, it is necessary that suitable costs are imposed upon Respondent No.6, while allowing this petition".

"Respondent No.6 (Riyaz Jahiruddin Mulla) shall pay cost of ₹25,000 to Prison at Kalamba, Kolhapur for the

purpose of purchasing books Respondent No.6 withdrew the for Jail Library," the HC bench petition and the petition was disruled, as it refused to grant him time to file a file his response to the averments made in the rejoinder to the petition.

The only issue involved in this Petition is as to whether or not the Hon'ble Minister could have interfered in the administration of affairs of Zilla Parishad by cancelling the transfer order of Mulla because he had approached the minister by mak-ing a complaint. "In our view the answer has to be given in the negative," the HC bench noted as it cited reasons for the same.

Dwelling on the questionable conduct of Mulla who is one of the six respondents in a petition filed by Sushma Arun Patil, an aggrieved assistant teacher, the judges noted: "At this juncture, we would like to dwell upon the conduct of Respondent No.6 which is unbecoming of a Government employee like him. The petitioner had challenged his transfer from Kolhapur to Gadhinglaj. Seeing that he would not get any relief, the

petition and the petition was disposed of as withdrawn by this Court vide its order dated 17th March 2021"

"During the pendency of this petition, the Respondent No.6, however, filed a com-plaint with the Hon'ble Minister out to be a shocking and grueon 23rd February 2020 alleging that the affairs of Zilla Parishad, some experience for the people in Palakkad district as Zubair, Kolhapur were being run and a 45-year-old Popular Front of managed in highly arbitrary India activist was murdered in broad daylight in front of a manner and that the transfers of teachers were made illegally," the mosque. Judges observed. The HC bench noted that in his complaint, out of the mosque after offering Friday namaaz, was Mulla did not mention anything about filing of Writ Petition by attacked by a team that arrived him questioning the legality or in a car as he was boarding the otherwise of his transfer order. motor cycle along with his father. The PFI activist was "Some way or the other the Respondent No.6 succeeded in hacked many times by the getting his complaint allowed by group which escaped in a waitthe Hon'ble Minister when the latter issued a direction on 15th January 2021 cancelling the transfers of teachers made in the year 2019 and giving a further direction that those teachers be posted after due counselling," the bench said.

# leader murdered in Kerala's Palakkad

#### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Vishu, the traditional agri-cultural festival, turned

Żubair, who was coming

danger. Police has launched a man-hunt to nab the murderers and have seized the car that was used by them as a getaway vehicle. It may be remembered that

E Sanjith, an RSS activist was murdered on November 15 in a similar incident. Sanjith who was riding a bike in the company of his wife was dragged down and hacked to death reportedly by workers of the Popular Front of India.

It is said that Sanjith was on a long drawn out battle with drug traffickers and it was drug pushers who finished him off. Zubair was one of the persons who was interrogated by the police in connection with the murder.

Though the victim was rushed to the nearby hospital, he was declared brought dead by the hospital authorities. Father of the victim has been admitted to the hospital with injuries and is said to be out of

Though the Police is yet to disclose the name of any organisation involved in the murder, the locality is full of reports that the murder was the handiwork of the Sangh Parivar.

from the hotel on Friday morn-

ing as usual, two unidentified

persons on a motorcycle shot

at him at the Kudwar Naka

overbridge. As Amit fell on the

ground, the miscreants

The SP said that three

Meanwhile, within a few

police teams had been formed

to investigate the incident and

hours of the killing of a BTech

was shot dead by schoolmates

The deceased was identi-

after a tiff over Ínstagram.

rrest the culprits.

### Daughter-in-law killed for serving breakfast late TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Thane police are looking for a 76-year-old man who in a shocking fit of rage – shot dead his daughter-in-law from his revolver for her delay in serving him breakfast.

The bizarre incident took place on Thursday morning when senior citizen and an exreal estate developer Kashinath Pandurang Patil, who shot at his 42-0year-old daughter-in-law Seema Ravindra Patil at their home in Vihang Shantivan Apartments at Rutu Park of Rabodi in the neighbouring

satellite city of Thane. Quoting a complaint lodged by the younger sister-inlaw of the accused father-inlaw, the police said that Kashinath Patil, who till recently used to supply sand at resi-dential building construction

at UP's Kushinagar sites, had absconded from his home after the incident.

According to the complaint, Kashinath Patil got agitated after his eldest daughter Seema served him only tea but delayed in giving him breakfast. He whipped out his personal revolver and fired at Seema who sustained severe bullet wounds

The injured daughter-in-Seema, who had been rushed by her family to a nearby private hospital, succumbed to bullet injuries on Friday morning.

The police, who had initially registered an offence under section 307 (attempt to murder) and 506 (2) (criminal intimidation), have booked Kashinath Patil under section 302 for murder. The police have launched a manhunt for the accused senior citizen



PNS LUCKNOW To boost potato cultivation in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath Government has decided to set up a centre of excellence for potato at Kasya in Kushinagar district which will not only ncrease production of potatoes but also increase the income of farmers.

"The foundation stone of the administrative building of the ultra modern Potato Centre of Excellence at Kushinagar will be laid soon," Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said, adding that this project has also been included in the 100-day action plan of the state government.

This will contribute towards providing high quali-ty seeds to the farmers in a has-

sle-free manner," he said.

Centre of excellence

The minister said this centre would conduct research on the quality of potatoes, better varieties and new varieties for industrial use, and improved

In addition, schemes will also be made to protect potatoes from diseases. Along with this, farmers will be taught new ways of potato cultivation in the centre of excellence.

Besides, Shahi said, workshops would be organised from time to time at the centre of excellence in which farmers would be able to discuss issues faced by them with agricultural experts and find out their solutions. Farmers would also be able to get information about getting maximum production by using minimum water in agriculture, he added.

#### Nine dist police chiefs among for potato to come up 14 IPS officers shifted in UP PNS LUCKNOW

In a major administrative reshuffle, the State Government, on Friday, transferred 14 Indian Police Services officers, including nine district police chiefs.

communiqué released on Friday morning, Moradabad Senior Superintendent of Police Bablu Kumar and Amroha Superintendent of Police Poonam were removed and kept on the waiting list.

IPS officer Vikas Vaidya will replace Hathras SP Vineet Jaiswal, who has been sent to Amroha. Rampur SP Ankit Mittal

has been posted as Commandant of 8th Battalion PAC in Bareilly and Balrampur SP Hemant Kutiyal has been made the SSP of Moradabad.

Central agencies being misused in Maha, WB as BJP wanted power at any cost: Pawar PTI 🔳 JALGAON

Central probe agencies were being used in a big way in Maharashtra and West Bengal as those "who are ruling the country wanted power in these two States at any cost," NCP chief Sharad Pawar said in an attack on the BJP on Friday. Interacting with reporters here, he said recent statements about loudspeakers on mosques by parties like MNS and BJP could vitiate the atmosphere in the state. Pawar also hinted that the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, which form the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi, intend to face the next state Assembly elections, scheduled for late 2024,

together. With an electricity crisis looming in the state, Pawar said the MVA government was very serious about the issue and was taking all steps to resolve it.

## Hotel owner shot at, robbed in Sultanpur

police

#### PNS LUCKNOW

ing car.

Unidentified miscreants struck terror in Sultanpur when they critically injured a hotel owner and escaped after snatching cash bag from him.

The sensational incident took place on Friday morning.

snatched the cash bag from him and escaped. He was admitted to hospital by the According to reports, two unidentified persons riding motorcycles shot at the hotel owner on the Kudwar Naka overbridge at Karaudian under Kotwali Nagar police station on Friday morning. They robbed the cash from the hotel owner student in Aligarh, in another shocking incident in Saharanpur, a class 10 student and fled

The doctors at the district hospital referred the victim to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow after finding his condition critical,

fied as Vansh Panwar. According to Superintendent of Police Dr Police said the victim was shot dead outside the school in Vipin Kumar Mishra, Amit Kumar, a resident of Vivek the city. The victim was studying in Gochar Krishi Inter Nagar, has his own hotel near the bus stop. On his way home College near Delhi Road at Rampur Maniharan.

SP MP Sukhram meets CM Yogi Yogi Adityanath after his Yadav had served as chairman swearing-in ceremony in of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council from 2004 to 10. He became a Rajya Sabha member

The political circles are from the Samajwadi Party on however rife with speculations July 5, 2016. hat the senior SP leader, who er that there are a few differhas differences with party president Akhilesh Yadav, is likely to switch over to the BJP. Sukhram Yadav, however, dismissed the speculations. "I don't see any strength in these speculations," he said. The meeting assumes significance also because Yadav will retire as member of Rajya Sabha in July next and he might be hoping to get anoth-er stint through the saffron party. Yadav also denied this speculation saying, "The meet-ing with the Uttar Pradesh chief minister was a courtesy call. Since, I could not meet the chief minister after the elections and the oath-taking ceremony; I met him on Thursday, and congratulated him." The 70-year-old Sukhram

March, he had gone to congratulate him now.

have already said earli

# Over 2.6 cr Cong workers enroll digitally ahead of internal polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

process for the period 2022- approved enrollers went door to door to enrol members matter of happiness

**D**DP president Mehbooba

PTI SRINAGAR

According to an official

president Sonia Gandhi was among the last leaders who enrolled as Congress members digitally ahead of internal elections next month. Over 2.6 crore Congress workers have enrolled digitally and another 3 crore have used paper enrolment system to participate in the exercise that is being carried out for the first time in the party's 137-year-old history.

The drive was started on November 1 last year and Rahul Gandhi was among the first leaders to enroll as a digital member. Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal said Working the Congress Committee had decided to implement the digital membership drive in addition to the standard paper membership

that the digital membership drive has evinced great interest from people of the country, specially younger supporters of the Congress party," Venugopal said. AICC Data Analytics Department Chairman Praveen Chakravarty monitored the digital exercise, he said. Through the digital membership drive, he said the party has added 2.6 crore members across all booths

in all Assembly segments. These are all verified members, enrolled into the party by a designated enroller using a proprietary mobile phone app called Congress Membership App. Every verified member gets a digital ID card that is QR coded for

authenticity," he said. Around five lakh party

the length and breadth of the country.

"Ever since we started the drive, the key focus has been on quality of membership, not just quantity. Every member is verified at three levels, voter ID, photograph and phone number. The drive is strictly access controlled and only verified enrollers can use the membership app," Chakravarty said.

The Congress exercise comes after a series of electoral defeats in several states and internal calls from leaders and workers for a complete overhaul of the party organisation and leadership at all levels.

Congress launched a membership app in which party workers and leaders can enrol through a four-tier verification process

BJP of bulldozing the Constitution and the saffron party's leaders of "outdoing each other in stripping Muslims" of their homes and

Vengeance with which BJP bulldozing

minorities, says PDP chief Mehbooba

Constitution has reached homes of

livelihood. She was referring to the Khargone district administration in Madhya Pradesh demolishing at least 50 "illegal" structures of people accused of pelting stones at a Ram Navami procession. A stone thrown at a Ram Navami procession during which loud music was being played near a mosque in Khargone led to arson and communal tension last Sunday Curfew was imposed in the town after that.

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh said the damage caused to public and private

BJP is bulldozing India Constitution has now reached the homes of minorities.

properties during the violence will be recovered from rioters.

"The vengeance with which

"BJP leaders are outdoing each other in stripping Muslims of everything, be it their homes, livelihood and dignity," Mufti said in a series

of tweets. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the "silence" of the majority community was "deeply worrying". "As Kashmiri Muslims, we

are often accused of being silent spectators while Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee.

"But the criminal silence of the majority community in today's India while the BJP wrecks the very idea of India is deeply worrying and problem-atic," Mufti added.

Bangla teen nabbed

while sneaking into

#### Akhilesh Yadav, is likely to switch over to the **BJP**

**Political circles rife** 

with speculation that

the senior SP leader,

who has differences

with party president

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party's Rajya Sabha member Sukhram Singh Yadav met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here, triggering speculation that he might switch over to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

During the meeting at the chief minister's residence here on Thursday, Yadav was accompanied by his family, including son Mohit, who had recently joined the BJP.

On being asked about the purpose of the meeting, Sukhram Yadav said on Friday that since he could not meet

ences between me and the party leadership," Yadav asserted. "The difference is that it was said by Akhilesh Yadav during the party feud in 2016 that Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) will be made the national president of the party after the 2017 elections," he said. "However, many elections have passed but no action has

been taken in this regard. I only want that the respect for Netaji should remain intact," Yadav asserted. After the SP's loss to the BJP in the recently concluded assembly polls, some SP leaders have raised voices against the party chief, and Sukhram Yadav's meeting with Yogi Adityanath could signal fresh troubles from him.

# Yogi for better amenities in all police stations

#### **UP CM asks Home Guards to** recruit women on 20% of seats

#### PNS LUCKNOW

¬hief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday gave instructions regarding the strengthening of law and order, good governance and for ensuring peace and order in the state.

He said while establishing a clean environment for the general public in each police station, arrangements should be made for the general public to sit besides provision of clean drinking water and toilets etc, so that people may come to the police station for disposal of their grievances without any

"To make the police station clean and beautiful, along with a cleanliness campaign, the work of tree plantation etc. should be done. Along with this, a security-good gover-

nance system should also be ensured by running a strict campaign for women empowerment and against criminals in the state," he added. Giving these details here on

Friday evening, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said that the chief minister stressed that all the police stations in Uttar Pradesh should be

upgraded in the line of Rajghat police station of Gorakhpur where the local cops work hard to extend all possible comfort to the visitors along with facilitating a special desk for help of women.

Awasthi said that the then Inspector-incharge, Randhir Kumar Mishra, took personal interest in the Rajghat police station of Gorakhpur district, along with the entire police sta-tion staff, while working with a team spirit with the cooperation of the local public. He

said work was done for the restoration of the Rajghat police station complex, which resulted in the rejuvenation of the police station complex. He said all places like the visitor

room, police station office, women's help desk etc. were well organised and renovated by Mishra and in addition, the campus was thoroughly

cleaned and decorated with flowering plants, so that every visitor to the police station experienced a positive energy along with cleanliness.

He said working in the direction of women's empowerment, a women's help desk and women's restroom were also constructed in the Rajghat police station so that women visitors coming to the police station did not face any kind of inconvenience.

Awasthi said the work done by Randhir Mishra had been highly appreciated by all and was exemplary for the entire police force so the chief minister wanted every cop to work on the same lines.

Meanwhile, the state government is soon going to give big job opportunities to women in UP Home Guards, an official spokesman said on Friday.

Only women will be recruited on 20 per cent of the vacant posts in the UP Home

Guards and the officials have been asked to prepare a proposal to start the recruitment process in 100 days.

These recruitments will be done in the Home Guards, which has contributed significantly to maintaining peace and internal security.

This will drastically reduce crimes against women in the state and develop an environment of security. Women of the state, who dream of touching the heights with their cousrage and passion, will get opportunities and they will be helpful in strengthening the security system of the state as well Women will show their ability and efficiency on one hand and will also be able to serve the public, on the other hand

The government has also issued guidelines to fill all the vacant posts of Home Guards phase-wise in the next four years. The government is working fast to fill the vacancies with empowered women, able youth and fill all departmental vacancies quickly and increase the number of women in jobs.

#### PTI 🔳 AGARTALA

Bangladeshi teen has been Aarrested and put behind bars for illegally crossing into India to buy chocolate, BSF said on Friday.

Eman Hossain, a resident of a Bangladeshi village close to Shalda River, which marks the international border between the two countries, regularly swam across the water body to buy his favourite Indian chocolate in

Tripura's Sipahijala district. He used to sneak through a hole in the barbed wire fencing to buy chocolate from a shop in Kalamchoura village in India, and return home the same way. However, his adventurism came to an end on April 13 when Border Security Force (BSF) nabbed Hossain while he was undertaking one such journey. The boy was handed over to local police, which produced him before the court. He was

India to buy chocolate remanded to 15 days' judicial custody, Sonamura SDPO Banoj

Biplab Das said. 'During interrogation, the boy, a resident of Bangladesh's Comilla district, confessed to sneaking into India for buying chocolate. Only 100 Bangladeshi Taka was found with him, but he did not possess anything illegal. He was arrested for entering India without valid documents," Das said.

"Further investigation is underway. He will be again produced before the court to decide his fate," he said.

No one from his family has contacted Indian authorities so far. "The international border in Sonamura sub-division is porous despite the erection of barbed wire fencing. There are many villages in Kalamchoura gram panchayat where the border slices through bedrooms and drawing rooms of many houses," BSF sources said.

### MP violence: Curfew relaxed for four hours in Khargone the city was under control, and

PTI KHARGONE

urfew was relaxed for two hours each on Friday morning and evening in Khargone city of Madhya Pradesh as the situation began to normalise in the aftermath of the violence on Ram Navami, officials said.

No untoward incident was reported from the area, they Curfew was relaxed added. for all persons from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3pm to 5pm to allow people to buy essential items, though they were not allowed to use vehicles and must make purchases from nearby shops, Khargone district collector Anugraha P said.

Only the stores selling milk, vegetables, provisions and medicines were allowed to remain open during the curfew relaxation, the collector added.

In-charge Superintendent Police were probing if these of Police Rohit Kashwani said four persons had any link to the PFI, he said. the law and order situation in

further relaxation will be granted depending on how it holds So far, 41 cases have been registered in connection with the violence and 144 people have been taken into custody, Kashwani said. The Ram Navami proces-

sion in the city on April 10 witnessed stone pelting, group clashes and arson. Among the injured was Superintendent of Pólice Siddharth Choudhary who received a bullet injury.

Four persons who arrived from Gujarat and were seen distributing relief and assistance to people were detained during the day amid reports that the Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) allegedly funded the violence in Khargone, said State Reserve Police Commandant Ankit Jaiswal

CHANDIGARH | SATURDAY | APRIL 16, 2022 she pioneer

pinion 06

www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/ - PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Cost of justice**

Reforms are needed to end the notion of legal aid to the poor meaning poor legal aid

oes the ordinary citizen of the country have access to quality legal services when knocking at the doors of justice? Hardly, says Chief Justice of Odisha High Court S Muralidhar. Raising concern over the quality of legal aid available to the marginalised, he says the "lack of confidence in the legal aid lawyer is a reflection of the general approach to welfare services by the providers". He insists that the system works "unequally" for the poor and the rich. The Justice is sounding a wake-up call. The entire exercise of a person seeking justice begins with hiring the services of a lawyer. The experience depends on the litigant's ability to pay. As Justice Muralidhar points out, the poor do not get to complain if they get poor legal services because of the prevalent attitude that they cannot expect quality when the service is free. A complete overhaul of the legal aid system is long overdue. Last October, Justice UU Lalit of the Supreme Court also raised the issue, saying that legal aid to the poor "does not mean poor legal aid". He wanted the lawyers to take the initiative to improve the standard of such aid. Both the Government and the judiciary should approach legal aid reforms by first introducing the general public to the



concept of legal literacy. How many know that access to justice is a constitutional right? How many know that free legal aid is a Directive Principle because the State guarantees justice on the basis of equal opportunity for all?

A destitute person who cannot afford a lawyer is denied that equal opportunity until and unless legally assisted and for free. Over 80 per cent of Indians are eligible for subsidised legal aid. However, the number of legal aid lawyers is not more than a lakh or two. The per capita spending on legal aid is less than a rupee. In comparison, Australia spends ₹1748 and

Argentina, ₹1292. Very few States allocate aid lawyers within a day. It takes over a month in a couple of States. The National Legal Services Authority is found wanting. It is true that over 15 million people have benefited from NALSA, but it suffers from several problems. The per capita availability of lawyers and legal assistants is pitiably low. The funds allotted are inadequate. The lawyers on the panel are not adequately compensated and that is the primary reason for inferior quality of service. These three issues need priority handling. Experienced and senior lawyers should be encouraged to take up legal aid work as that would encourage the juniors. Pro bono work should have weightage in promotions of lawyers to senior advocates or judges. Legal aid is not charity; it is an obligation. And legal literacy should one day empower the poor to demand the services of lawyers not just in courts but in police stations as well. That would be the day.



# 'Militiestablishment' and the wary Sharifs



In the Pakistani cloak-and-dagger system under the broody shadows of the military establishment, no one is permanently good or bad

few years back, counterinsurgency expert David Kilcullen had painted a doomsday scenario: "Pakistan is 173 million people, 100 nuclear weapons, an Army bigger than the US Army, and Al-Qaeda headquarters sitting right there in the two-thirds of the country that the Government doesn't control. The Pakistani military and police and intelligence service don't follow the civilian Government; they are essentially a rogue State within a State." Minor deviations from the prophecy notwithstanding, the precarious situation in Pakistan with its eponymous 'Militiestablishment' (Military Deep State') holds largely true. The Pakistani Generals have just tripped their erstwhile pro-tégé, Imran Khan Niazi (who prefers not brandishing the <sup>1</sup>Niazi' bit, owing to infamy associated with Lt Gen AK Tiger' Niazi)! As the Generals simply disowned Imran during the no-confidence saga with their combination of silences, contradictory statements and ostensible neutrality, a desper-ate Imran was left beseeching "only animals remain neutral"! Once 'selected' (not necessarily 'elected'), Imran was sacrificed by the same institution of the Pakistani Army, just as it did earlier to all other civilian politicians of different partisan persuasions, without exception.

Imran is not done politically as he would still command a certain mass loyalty in the face of the barely credible alternatives in PML-N, PPP or even in Maulana Fazal ur Rehman but he faces an insurmountable challenge for now, ie, Militiestablishment'. This institution is beyond simplistic aspersions, popular passions or ideological affiliations as it is purely a self-defensive product of situational requirements which can easily deploy seemingly contradictory or even counter-intuitive instincts to protect its own relevance. increasingly preferring to control the reins from the shadows (Gen Musharraf last held national leadership position in ist, Nawaz Sharif, into the

LET'S LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY

Sir — It is disturbing that nowadays sys-

rape Muslim women and girls. A group

of youth wearing orange scarves van-

dalises a poor watermelon vendor's cart

by throwing them all over the road just

Ukraine but hasn't uttered a word against

people creating ruckus in the name of

religion. On the other hand, an incident

has touched my heart. In Gujarat's

Vadgam taluka, a small village has stood

up for communal harmony. On Friday

evening, a temple has invited Muslim

rozedaars to offer namaz and break their

fast at Iftaari. In this small village, the

Hindus and Muslims help each other

during Ram Navami and other holy fes-

tivals. This small village sets an excellent

example that both communities can live

confined to their houses. President Xi

the Government's harsh and inhuman

measures to control the infection of

Omicron BA.2 variant. This is possibly

the worst nightmare that has struck

China after Wuhan, specifically

Shanghai, where people are fed up with

stringent lockdown restrictions and

**GUARD AGAINST COVID SPREAD** 

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

Our PM is talking about Russia and

because he is Muslim.

with love and harmony.

2008), the fine art of pulling puppetry strings is critical. Whenever the 'redlines' defined by Rawalpindi GHQ were breached by the civilian dispensation of the day, the alternatives in the Opposition ranks found themselves galvanised by what Nawaz Sharif once called '*Khalai Makhlooq*' (invisible aliens or angels). Clearly, Imran got carried away by his own cult and was seen questioning the 'Militiestablishment', and assuming himself to be an equal of the Generals – a cardinal sin with unpardonable consequences in the narrative of the powerful 'Militiestablishment'. Ironically, the recent beneficiary of the meddlesome 'Militiestablishment' was none other than Shehbaz Sharif, the brother of Nawaz Sharif, who holds the fort on behalf of his presumably relieved (though wary) brother in London. The wilv and the longest serving Prime Minister of Pakistan (3 non-consecutive terms), Nawaz would know about the ways of the 'Militiestablishment' – he was after all the product and

THE ONCE-DEPOSED (SHARIFS) ARE THE CHOSEN ONES YET AGAIN, TEMPORARILY. THE DEFIANT AND WHOLLY PERSONALISED WAY IN WHICH A KICKING AND SCREAMING **IMRAN HAS BEEN LITERALLY** PUSHED OUT OF OFFICE WILL FURTHER INFURIATE

Nawaz did manage to appoint his own (again, outof-turn) Gen Raheel Sharif as the Pakistani chief - Raheel turned out to be his own man who gave his Prime Minister many sleepless nights with his popularity and murmurs of 'takeover'. Sixth man chosen by Nawaz to be Army chief was Gen Qamar Bajwa (yes, out-ofturn again!) who, instead of remaining beholden, gleeful-ly upped the ante against Nawaz and allowed him to get disqualified — all six of Sharif's selection of Pakistani chief's in his tenures ultimately dumped him. In the Pakistani cloak-

and-dagger system under the broody shadows of the Punjab Cabinet as Finance 'Militiestablishment', no one is Minister in 1981 (Chief permanently good or bad as Minister by 1985). The the once-deposed (Sharifs) 'Militiestablishment' post-Zia's death punted on are the chosen ones yet again, Nawaz's then Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) and 'helped' him (Supreme Court ruling later confirmed that IJI was created by ISI) become the Prime Minister by 1991. The young and overambitious Nawaz Sharif had perhaps succeeded too soon as he showed recklessness and impatience with the power structures - soon, his handpicked Army Chief, Gen Waheed Kakar, ensured the dismissal of the Sharif Government by 1993. In his second coming, Nawaz was defter in easing out Army Chief General Jehangir Karamat prematurely, and thought he had made a masin terstroke with the out-ofturn selection of a 'safe' Mohajir ie, Gen Pervez Musharraf. Famously, history repeated itself, and his handpicked Gen Musharraf deposed Nawaz in the 1999 coup. In Nawaz's third innings as Prime Minister, he had to deal with the outgoing dictator, Musharraf's chosen, Gen Pervez Kayani,

temporarily. The defiant and wholly personalised way in which a kicking and screaming Imran has been literally pushed out of office will further infuriate the 'Militiestablishment' who would not want to surrender the mantle of nationalism (never mind the history of 1965, 1971 or Kargil) from itself, that too, to a man who threatened to upstage them and re-script his own importance by diminishing that of the 'Militiestablishment'. Already the bloodied Sharif-Bhutto dynasts have changed their tune after Imran's ouster and are now singing hosannas favour of 'Militiestablishment' — they

know that the Rawalpindi GHQ can swing and bestow nationalistic credentials onto whichever side seems to be doing their bidding. Imran is perhaps too brash, boastful and even vain to recognise the futility of his cavalier grandstanding, that too, in front of military Generals, in Pakistan.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Anaaman e Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views *expressed are personal.*)

rform during an event to celebrate 'Himachal Diwas' at Dhalpur, Kullu district

# **Cheer, again!**

People are jostling once again at Delhi's liquor vends on the back of ongoing discounts n arely days after the city celebrated the festival of Navratri and in spite of the ongoing month of Ramzan, the 'dhamaka offer' is back at the Capital's liquor vends. As the mercury rises, the competition wars around alcohol is hotting up again between Delhi and Gurugram. Days after the Delhi Government allowed the L-7Z licensees to offer discounts up to 25 per cent, Delhi is again on a high,



and seemingly pleased as punch, too. In fact, most shops across town are offering the mandated 25 per cent discount on beer bottles and cans, and several are dangling the buy-one-get-one-free (on booze bottles costing up to ₹1,000) or buy-two-get-onefree (on liquor worth ₹1,000 or more) carrot to reel in the devotees of Bacchus. As expected, however, the development has had a ripple effect in adjoining Gurugram. With liquor in Delhi becoming cheaper, vendors in the Millennium City have moved to further slash prices in order to stay competitive with the rates in the national Capital and protect its reputation as the "cheapest liquor adda" in the NCR.

Both the neighbouring Governments are pulling out all the stops in the need to garner maximum excise revenue from this venture.

After the earlier discount schemes were discontinued in February end after kicking off in mid-November last year, the sales had come down but have now picked up again on the back of the discounted rates and literally double the fun at half the cost. However, many people still don't know that the discount is back so the liquor store owners are planning an "aggressive promotion campaign on social media to create awareness". The city Government is likely to come up with the Delhi Excise Policy 2022-23 in the next couple of months, which will be a revised form of the existing policy. The Government had last month told the Delhi High Court that the heavy discounts and offers helped sell 24.5 million litres of liquor in February, almost double the average monthly sale of 13.2 million litres in 2019-20. The discounted supply apart, there still remain issues which shall hopefully be addressed therein. For example, draught beer, which requires utmost care in handling and is meant only for "on the premises" consumption, cannot be procured from retail liquor vends. But it's all good as long as it lasts. For Delhiites, abhi to party shuru hui hai!

victim of the same

inducted a young industrial-

LETTERS TO T

Gen Zia-ul-Haq had

THE 'MILITI-ESTABLISHMENT'

as his concurrent Army Chief (Kayani later extended his term by three years, uni-laterally)! Finally, when

**IOR** 

ties and it will be governed by UGC and the

statutory bodies of higher education. MPhil

and PhD programmes will not fall under this

scheme. It depends upon the universities if

for our education system where students

can be flexible in their higher studies. It's

also a sustainable decision as it will help

increase literacy rate and will act as a boon

for fighting illiteracy. After a loss in the edu-

cation system due to the pandemic, this

scheme will provide a bright future in terms

of skills and education. Most of the students

sometimes want to pursue a job after com-

pleting UG, and sometimes it's not easy to

get a job, but from now it is highly possi-

ble because of having two degrees as the

students will have the knowledge of two

courses. Thanks to this move, they can build

titles – 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

Mumbai lacks quality spinners in the side

and that affects the talent of their batters.

So far, Mumbai Indians has failed to

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

show its mettle in IPL-15.

their skills in their choice of fields

It's a very advanced decision by UGC

they want to provide such a scheme.

#### People have a lot of faith in the uniform. Whenever they see you, they believe

**Prime Minister** – Narendra Modi



clearer that Putin is just trying to wipe out even the idea of being

#### **US President** – Joe Biden

I'm blessed to be ... where I can pursue my career while being able



Actor — Kareena Kapoor Khan

— Ravindra Jadeia



Send your feedback to:

their life is safe.



a Ukrainian.

to give my family upsets all the way. Chennai Super Kings, time after losing four games on the trot, came up trumps to win the fifth game. On the other hand, the champion side of

> Moulding into a new role, it'll take time to get things going.

> > CSK captain

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Hindus.

This is

**BJP MP** — Tejasvi Surya



Rajasthan and

Stop giving

second-grade

treatment to

winning ways. But this time around, all the matches are being played in and around Mumbai but the results are still not forthcoming. Mumbai Indians has been the most successful franchise in the Indian Premier League, having won five



he UGC allows students to pursue two degrees for UG or PG/Diplomas at once in physical+physical mode or physical+online mode or online+online mode with full-time degree courses, as UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar has said. This programme will start from the academic year 2022-23. Students can pursue it through open or distance learning programmes also; the two degrees can be pursued from the same university or from different universi-

cinated, pleading the authorities for

rules have isolated China from the rest of the world with strict travel restrictions; he should immediately heed the pathetic condition of the masses who want the curbs eased and basic facilities restored. It must be a matter of concern for other countries to gear up for precautions, including India. The recently registered COVID-19 cases in Delhi, specifically in schools, and in Kerala and Gujarat must not be ignored by the authorities and the Government

**MI HAS FAILED TO PROVE METTLE** 

tition has become tougher and there are

quarantine measures despite being vac-

food supply. At this crucial juncture, President Xi's

#### compelled them to resort to suicide and shed deep anger and frustration against

Sir —The IPL cricket is a competitive game where each team is vying for the top honour in the 15th edition of the cash-rich tournament. With the inclusion of two new teams, Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, the compe-

must act with all due seriousness.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

Jinping's zero COVID approach has

#### Sir — The unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in Shanghai has created a panicky situation for China and the world. The 26 million Shanghai residents have been pushed into lockdown and

Mumbai lost their fifth successive game, thereby raising doubts about the team qualifying for the last-four stage. Earlier also, the Mumbai outfit was on the receiving side but returned to win. For this, the Mumbai side was waiting for home games to return to their

Akankhya Rout | Dhenkanal

CHANDIGARH | SATURDAY | APRIL 16, 2022 the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

# analysis (0)7

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

# **FIRST**COLUMN **PANDEMIC AND THE** LAY OF THE LAND

Restrictions may have been lifted, but anxiety still remains



#### VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

he last two years or so have been an unprecedented experience in the chain of human evolution. The phase has not been declared formally over, yet. There are ripples of different types of experiences continuing. China for one, is going through a re-spread of a version of the pandemic in Shanghai and elsewhere. On April 11 yet another version of the virus was detected in South Africa. The extent and the nature of the spread is yet to be fully worked out. Whereas social distancing has raised fewer crescendos, masks continue to be a major focus of attention. In India, some states have removed the penalty clause on not wearing masks whereas others have retained it just as an advisory. It remains in force in a few states in the country. It is a challenge to an average citizen to keep up with the various



regulatory variations. The bewildering complexity does not end there. As the ART home testing kit becomes more popular the kind of monitoring system which was in place till some months ago with the district administration seems to be somewhat on a decline. The story has other interesting overtones. Some are reporting false positives in the ART test, the consequences of which can well be imagined. Clearly, the general verdict seems to be that if there is a variance between the ART test and the PCR test, the findings of the PCR test are deemed to prevail. Notwithstanding a general decline in the number of cases and its global virulence, the feeling of restlessness and the fallouts thereof continue. It impedesa natural flow to return of normalcy. The collaterals continue to be significant. One has to also keep in mind the anxiety which would settle into anybody's psyche in the initial or the subsequent stages of the continuing trauma. The process of transmission of the virus is not yet sufficiently established in all its modes and shades. As the number of occasions grow for the number of social groups being spontaneously or temporarily formed, one can never be sure which individual is a potential carrier of the disease.In that case one would not know to what extent one is really being exposed to the possibility of an infection. These questions can only be answered by a far greater understanding and awareness of the nature of the virus and where it can survive or for how long does it survive. In the earlier stages of the pandemic the mutation process of the virus made an understanding of the process of infection, itself. open to debate. Medicines and therapies (such as the use of the blood plasma of a formerly infected person) did the rounds. With time, medicines like Remdesivir became less fashionable and the feeling grew that even the Pulmonologist could only go so far. Today, the atmosphere is far more relaxed and many a diagnosis stops with reference to a few doses of Erythromycin and more. How long this will continue to be so, as of now, evokes very few definitive projections. All told, the exacting distress of impending consequences of infection has receded but the habits which got formed as a psychological shield in the last several months of anxiety, continues. Anybody's cough in a group of people draws attention. If people then get to learn that somebody in the group was found infected, the others begin watching themselves for symptoms. All told, the infectivity seems to have waned but anxieties continue to be the underpinning in a seemingly overwhelmingly large part of the population. So it appears, the lay of the land in the era of the pandemic.

# Social media literacy to address misinformation



The pandemic has amplified the circulation of unverified information both unwitting (misinformation) and deliberate (disinformation)

n June 2018, two Assam youths, an audio engineer and a digital artist, were killed brutally in a mob lynch-ing while they were heading for a vacation. It was an avoidable tragedy that occurred due to a misleading social media post. The local people believed a post about child kidnappers moving in the area and thought that the two were kidnappers. This wasnot an isolated case. The rumours about child-abduction spread through WhatsApp messages were con-nected to at least 17 murders across India in 2018. Such lynching incidents in several parts of the country due to social media posts shook the nation and demonstrated the devastating impacts of misinformation.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, thesocial media emerged as a major source of misinformation. India emerged as the biggest source of COVID misinformation asone out of six postsabout the pandemic was based on fake information, according toa studyby the University of Alberta. It found that social media was the biggest producer of misinformation accounting for nearly 85 per cent of it. Internet-based sources made up 91 per cent of all COVID-related fake news. Among the countries, India was foundto be the biggest source of misinforma-tion (18 per cent) followed by Brazil (9 per cent) and USA (8.6 per cent). The quantity of of misinformation was also the highest in India.

In fact misinformation is the emerging problem in the media landscape dominated by the social media in India. More than 400 million Indians have access to the internet on digital devices like smartphones. People with affordable phone and broadband connection have access to news and information flowing from different digital sources, but are not equipped to assess the veracity of claims usually made in these messages.

As per the latest data, Indians on an average spend about 2.36 hours on social media every day. The number of social media users in the country is growing by leaps and bounds due to the deep penetration of internet connectivity. The number of Internet users has grown to 658 million which is roughly 47 per czent of the total population. Of this, mobile internet users are about 600 million.The falling price of smartphones has driven mobile phones. The availability of internet connection at very low prices is another factor for a large-scale rise of internet subscribers.

AS THERE IS SO MUCH **INFORMATION** ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE IN GENERAL, IDENTIFYING **USEFUL AND** ACCURATE SOURCES IS DECEPTIVELY **DIFFICULT FOR** AVERAGE USERS. MEDIA LITERACY INTERVENTIONS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS **CITIZENS ARE** NOT CHECKING ONLINE INFORMATION FOR ACCURACY

poses a considerable threat to the life and lifestyle of the common people as evident from various studies. During the pandemic, misinformation related to false cures and conspiracy theories caused panic, anxiety, false hope, mental trauma and fear as the virus was spreading. Due to spread of health misinformation, the business of fake healthcare services and fake medicines also increased. The most prevalent impact of misinformation that were seen during and after the lockdown - suffered different kinds of socio-psychological impact in different parts of the country. Multiple languages and the diversified socio-cultural envi-

ronment have made it more crit-ical to address the problem. A top World Health Organization official in August noted that misinformation about COVID and vaccines was keeping people from getting the shots, the world.

think tank, conducted a comprehensive impact evaluation of FactShala's training program. This evaluation study also tried to find out the impacts of the misinformation float on social media.

Many respondents in the study recalled that how misinformation impacted their health, communal harmonyin some parts of the country and also generated the fear, anxiety, false hope among many of them. The spread of misinformation makesmany people feel anxious, depressed, or emotionally exhausted. The respondents cited examples of posts that impacted their physical and mental health due to believing inwrong information on social media.

A young woman explained that she didn't isolate herself for many dayseven after testing positive for COVID because she read a post claiming that 'if you can hold your breath for 30 seconds you aren't of messages and low levels COVID positive.'The study found

Uttar Pradesh. Posts carrying misinformation related to employment or cancellation of exams or promotion of next class were created false hope and anxiety among students and job seekers. After reading and believing the post appeared on different platform of social media many people suffered financial loss. During the interviews many respondents admitted that they were duped and suffered financial loss after reading the posts of money laundering or cheap tickets for the flights.

As there is so much information on the social media and online in general, identifying useful andaccurate sources is deceptively difficult for average users. Media literacy interventions have an important role as citizens are not checking online information for accuracy and authenticity, largely because of the sheer volume of awareness about misinformafact-checking. Small, standalone interventions targeting school students or institutions exist but they tend to focus either on fact-checking and verification training, or critical thinking. To make people knowledgeable and secure online an effective mechanism for increasing information literacy and building resilience to misinformation and disinformation within communities is required.



(The writer is an acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

The country's higher internet penetrationrate, increasing social media consumption and user's lack of digital literacy and regulation has led to increase the vulnerability of social media misinformation. The pandemichas amplified the circulation of unverified information - both unwitting (misinformation) and deliberate (disinformation).

(The writer is Director Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies and a development journalist. *The views expressed are personal.*)

AND

AUTHENTICITY

Digital media literacy is one wayto help internet users in India to identify and disregard misinformation and disinformation, especially in regional languages and rural areas.

One such media literacy training program run by the FactShala India Media Literacy Network, was conducted across 28 states of the country. In early 2021 the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), an inde-

treatment or the preventive measures were delayed or stopped

after reading misinformation or disinformation appeared on social media. Many posts were spreading information against vaccination. Few respondents admitted that they had read the posts that one can die also after vaccination. It created a fear among some people and boosted vaccine hesitancy.

Communal disharmony was the other major impact reported by

**ARRESTING MINISTER ESHWARAPPA ON MURDER AND CORRUPTION CHARGES IS THE** ONLY WAY TO DELIVER JUSTICE. - CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON **RANDEEP SURJEWALA** 

ONCE THE INQUIRY IS CONDUCTED, THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT. THE BACKGROUND IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS CASE. — KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** 

# The French election, round two

The latest numbers put Macron at 51 per cent and Le Pen at 49 per cent, which is effectively neck and neck

Prench President Emmanuel Macron won the first rough the first round of the presidential election on Sunday, but he's still in trouble. He knew he would be. Here's what he said on Saturday.

"Don't believe the pundits and the pollsters who tell you that it's impossible (that the far right will win in the second round of the election). Look at Brexit and so many elections, all that seemed improbable and yet came to pass. Nothing is impossible."

In fact, it's not even unlikely. Strategies have consequences, as Macron is now learning The strategy that made Macron president last time (2017) has succeeded so well that it may cost him the election in the second round this time (24 April).

Macron's strategy has

always been to exaggerate the difference between the centre and the rest. If the left was too far left and the right was too far right, then the politician representing the centre (him) was the

GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book

is 'The Shortest History

of War'. The views

expressed are personal.)

only rational choice. It worked for him in 2017, when he waltzed into the presidency with a 66% majority of the vote despite the fact that he had never held elective office before. Fast forward five years, however, and the fantasy has become the fact.

The traditional moderate left-wing party, the Socialists, has been devoured by Jean-Luc Mélenchon's extreme left 'La France Insoumise' (Rebel France), which advocates withdrawal from NATO and also, in effect, from the European Union.

The Socialists only got 4.8%



in the first round of voting on Sunday, which means they don't even get their election expenses reimbursed. The party may actually declare bankruptcy and disappear.

The traditional centre-right party, the Republicans, is suffering exactly the same fate. It too has fallen short of the 5% threshold and may go broke. Its place as standard-holder of the right

has been taken by Marine Le Pen's National Rally, which remains ultra-nationalist, racist and anti-immigrant despite a cosmetic make-over that down-

pundit Éric Zemmour, made her look moderate, if only by com-

votes in the second round of voting, naturally, but Macron's problem is that she may also inherit some of Melenchon's hard-left supporters on 24 April.

They have a shared hostility to the European Union, for example, and most left-wing voters can remember that even though Le Pen has been downplaying it recently. They both have a strong populist tone: Le Pen may be a woman of the right, but she's promising that people under 30 won't have to pay income tax, and everybody can retire on full pension at 60.

population has just voted for extremist parties, and according to the polls Le Pen is heading into the run-off still holding most of those votes. The latest numbers say Macron 51%, Le

invasion of Ukraine will vanish: Le Pen's campaign pamphlets feature a picture of her with Vladimir Putin, another hardright icon. She has stopped talking aloud about 'Frexit', but it's still there in the background somewhere, as is the anti-immigrant racism her party has always peddled.

She is much more than Donald Trump in a skirt. She is far more intelligent than he is, and not at all corrupt. She is racist and Islamophobic, but much better at dog-whistling her true convictions. If the League of Authoritarian Leaders ever needs an honorary president, she would be the best candidate for the job.

Despite all this, I think Macron will win, because the French aren't fools. But it may be a near-run thing.

plays its uglier policies. Le Pen also benefited from the fact that an even harder-right candidate, xenophobic television

Fully half of France's voting could actually win. If she does, a great deal will change, and not just in France. parison. She will inherit all his Pen 49%, which is effectively 'The West' in the face of Russia's

Macron, especially because it has always been hard for French presidents to win a second term. And while the other losing parties told their supporters to back Macron in the second round, Mélenchon just told his supporters "You must not give a single vote to Marine Le Pen." [But you

neck-and-neck.

This does not bode well for

could abstain, if you like.] Despite Covid, France is actually in good shape after five years of Macron. Investment is up, inflation is low, jobs are plentiful, the country is even opening more factories than it closes. But the French do not feel good about their lot, and Le Pen

The new-found unity of

# Lanka starts fuel rationing amid severe fiscal crisis



<u>ne pioneer</u>

CHANDIGARH | SATURDAY | APRIL 16, 2022

#### PTI COLOMBO

 $S_{
m petroleum}^{
m ri\ Lanka's\ state-owned}$ announced fuel rationing for vehicles with effect from Friday, as an unprecedented economic crisis roils the country.

According to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) statement, now motorcycles and other two-wheelers can purchase fuel upto worth

₹1,000 per visit to a fuel station. Similarly, three-wheelers can purchase fuel worth ₹1,500, cars, jeeps and vans upto ₹5,000. Buses, lorries and commercial vehicles have been exempted from the rationing. Long queues at fuel stations

have resulted in massive public anger. Further, households are experiencing nearly 12hour-long powercuts and there is a massive shortage of essen-

tials, due to falling value of the Sri Lankan rupee. The island nation is in the midst of one of the worst economic crises it has ever seen. It has just defaulted on its foreign debts for the first time since its independence. The Galle Face protests in

Colombo entered their seventh day on Friday with more and more youth joining it every passing day. They urge the resignation of President

Gotabaya for his incompetence in handling the island's worst-ever economic crisis. The protest campaign has been running on social media, urg-ing youths to gather at Galle Face. Besides, there have been continuing protests across the island, blaming the government for its mishandling of the forex. The protesters have reject-

ed talks with the government till the President and Prime

Minister leave office. CPC chairperson Sumith Wijesinghe last week told reporters the corporation was losing between ₹800 million to ₹1 billion every day on fuel subsidies due to high global market prices and the depreciation of the Sri Lankan Rupee. Wijesinghe said the CPC

was losing 110 rupees per litre on diesel and ₹52 per litre on petrol. Wijesinghe said, "We are in discussions with India for another oil credit line for 500 million dollars". India last month extended USD 500 million to Sri Lanka, to help the country buy oil.

# Visiting US lawmakers signal support for Taiwan

#### AP 🔳 TAIPEI

U<sup>S</sup> lawmakers visiting Taiwan on Friday made a pointed and public declaration of their support for the self-governing island democracy while also issuing a warning to China.

The six lawmakers met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday morning and will also meet with the island's defence minister. Sen. Robert Menendez of

New Jersey gave a speech praising Taiwan's democracy and its global status as a manufacturer of semi-conductor chips used in everything from cars to smartphones, and he warned of consequences if that status were jeopardized.

"It is a country of global significance, of global consequence, of global impact, and therefore it should be understood the security of Taiwan has a global impact for those who would wish it ill," said Menendez, the head of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, in a speech from

Taiwan's Presidential Office. He emphasized that "we seek no conflict with China as I believe Taiwan seeks no conflict with China.

The delegation, led by Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, also includes Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, Sen. Robert Portman of Ohio, Sen. Benjamin Sasse of Nebraska and Rep. Ronny Jackson of Texas. Tsai said she welcomed their visit and hoped it would help to further deepen US-Taiwan cooperation. "Russia's invasion of Ukraine has proven that democracies must bolster their alliances and collectively we can defend ourselves from the threats posed by authoritarian nations that seek to disrupt regional peace," said Tsai.

China publicly denounced the visit on Thursday. China is against any official exchanges between Taiwan's government and other foreign governments because it claims Taiwan is part of its national territory and not an independent country. China and Taiwan split after a civil war in 1949. The U.S. Is the democratic island's biggest unofficial ally and has stepped up weapons sales to Taiwan in past years. By law, the U.S. Is bound to help Taiwan with arms that are defensive in nature. However, the question of whether the U.S. Would intervene in the case of a military invasion by China

remains open.

# US looks forward to work with Shehbaz, says ties with Pakistan 'vital'

#### PTI WASHINGTON

The US has said that it was looking forward to working with Pakistan's new government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as it again refuted ousted premier Imran Khan's allegations of America's role in toppling his government

Pakistan's relations with the US have been lukewarm, especially under the Biden administration. The ties touched a new low after 69year-old Khan, who was ousted last week through a Parliament vote, accused the US of conspiring to topple his government. The US govern-

allegations. "We've congratu-lated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his election by the Pakistani parliament, and we look forward to working with him and his government," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday.

Price said for almost 75 years, the relationship between the United States and Pakistan has been "a vital one". "We look forward to continuing that work with Pakistan's government to promote peace and prosperity in Pakistan and the broader region," he said.

A day earlier, Secretary of State Antony Blinken congratulated Sharif and said the US values the bilateral relationship

and is looking forward to continuing the long-standing cooperation, signalling Washington's intent to improve ties with Islamabad under the new regime.

Responding to a question on Imran Khan's claims of the US role in overthrowing his government with the help of the Opposition parties, Price said there is "no truth" in it.

"Our message has been clear and consistent on this. There is no truth whatsoever to the allegations that have been put forward. We support the peaceful upholding of constitutional and democratic principles, including respect for human rights. We do not support, whether it's in Pakistan or

anywhere else around the world, one political party over another," he said. The US has rebutted Khan's allegations several times earlier also.

"We support broader principles, including the rule of law and equal justice under the law," Price said.

A day earlier, supporters of Khan organised anti-US protests in Washington DC. They attacked a Pakistani-American journalist and few community members as they continue to accuse the US of playing a role in the regime change.

Khan had alleged that Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central in Affairs Asian the Department of State, was involved in the "foreign conspiracy" to topple his government

Price said the US agrees with the assessment of the Pakistan military which said that it has no evidence to suggest that the Biden administration had threatened or was involved in any conspiracy, seeking the ouster of the Imran Khan's government. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media waing of

Pakistan's army - Director-General Major General Babar Iftikhar on Thursday said that the word "conspiracy" was not used in the statement issued after a meeting of the National

Security Committee convened last month to discuss a controversial letter, which according to then prime minister Khan threatened to topple his

Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 73 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign pol-

'threat letter' on March 27 at a public gathering before his ouster claiming that his government had been threatened by the US government and opposition were involved in a conspiracy to topple him.

### **FRANCE-ELECTION** French presidential campaign spotlights Muslim headscarves

 $M^{uslim\ headscarves\ took}_{center\ stage\ in\ France's}$ presidential campaign on Friday amid far-right candidate Marine Le Pen's push to ban them in the country with western Europe's largest Muslim population.

Both she and rival Emmanuel Macron, facing a tightly contested April 24 runoff, were confronted by women in headscarves who asked why their clothing choices should be caught up in politics

Macron wouldn't ban religious clothing, but he has overseen closure of several mosques and Islamic groups. And many Muslims feel presidential campaign has unfairly stigmatised

At a farmers' market in the southern town of Pertuis, a woman in a blue-and-white head covering approached Le Pen as candidate weaved past fishmongers and vendors to hat i

woman asked. Le Pen defended her position, calling the headscarf a "uniform imposed over time by people who have a radical vision of Islam.""That's not true," countered woman. "I started to wear veil when I was an older woman ... For me it is a sign of being a grandmother." The woman noted that her father served in French military for 15 years.

Le Pen's opposition to the headscarf has encapsulated what her critics say makes her dangerous to French unity, by stigmatising millions of French Muslims. Le Pen would also slash immigration and wants to outlaw ritual slaughter, which would restrict French Muslims' and Jews' access to kosher and halal meat.

Macron too debated a woman in a Muslim headscarf their faith. on Friday in a lively exchange on broadcaster France-Info. He sought to distance himself from Le Pen by saying he would not change any laws, but defended an existing ban on headscarves headscarf doing in politics?" the secular principles.

Clashes erupt at Jerusalem holy site, 152 Palestinians hurt Pak High Court moved to stop AP JERUSALEM Govt from issuing diplomatic  $P_{\rm Israeli\ police\ at\ the\ Al-}^{alestinians\ clashed\ with}$ passport to ex-PM Nawaz

Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem before dawn on Friday as thousands gathered for prayers during the holy month of Ramadan. Medics said that at least 152

Palestinians were wounded. which is site

cides with Passover, a major weeklong Jewish holiday beginning Friday at sundown, and Christian holy week, which culminates on Easter Sunday. The holidays are expected to bring tens of thousands of faithful into Jerusalem's Old

City, home to major sites sacred to all three religions. Hours after the clashes



government. The powerful Pakistan AP PERTUIS

Khan had brandished a

# ment has bluntly denied the

ernment from issuing diplomatic passport to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and direct the authorities to immediately arrest him upon his return to Pakistan from London.

 $T_{(\mathrm{IHC})}^{\mathrm{he\ Islamabad\ High\ Court}}$ 

PTI ISLAMABAD

After the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and Nawaz's younger brother Shehbaz Sharif was elected the prime minister, there were reports that the Ministry of Interior has been directed to renew the passports of Nawaz Sharif and his brother-in-law Ishaq Dar.

Nawaz's passport expired in February this year and the previous Imran Khan-led government refused to renew his passport.

Ŝeveral corruption cases had been launched by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government against 72-year-old Nawaz since his ouster from office by the Supreme Court in July 2017 in the Panama Papers case.

The three-time former premier who is convicted in a corruption case has been living in London on the pretext of ill health since November 2019, when the Lahore High Court had allowed him to leave the country for four weeks for medical treatment after Shehbaz, the new prime minister, gave an undertaking that he would return within the stipulated time. Later, Nawaz sought extensions to prolong his stay in London on medical grounds.

A lawyer, Naeem Haider Panjutha, filed a petition in the IHC, referring to media reports that Nawaz could be issued a diplomatic passport on the instructions of the newly elected prime minister.

He claimed that the instructions for the issuance of the diplomatic passport have been given to the interior and foreign affairs secretaries, the Dawn newspaper reported. The petitioner said that Nawaz is a proclaimed offender and the government should not



issue a diplomatic passport to him. He prayed to the court that Nawaz Sharif should be arrested upon his arrival. The petitioner requested the court to hear the case on Friday, however, Chief Justice Athar Minallah approved the petition for hearing on April 18, the report said.

The petitioner contended that as Nawaz Sharif was "a court absconder who was convicted by learned NAB (National Accountability Bureau) Court for corruption ... It is violative of law, a mockery of the justice system and disgrace to the nation if a

diplomatic passport is issued to a convict". The petition stated that

the country's courts had held that a fugitive would lose all rights a normal person was entitled to, adding that Article 25 of the Constitution had set clear standards against discrimination against citizens. "And all the ordinary citi-

zens will be discriminated against if a convict is issued a diplomatic passport which has so many privileges and immunities, far more than the ordinary passport," it said.

Advocate Panjutha highlighted that diplomatic passports were issued to heads of states, highest officials and dignitaries, and that holders of these passports enjoyed certain immunities and privileges out-

lined in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961. In this connection, he also

cited Passport Rules 2021, which, he said, limit issuance of diplomatic passports to a certain class of state officials so long as they held office.



PTI ISLAMABAD Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has accused ousted premier Imran Khan of selling valuable Toshakhana gifts, including diamond jewellery, worth Rs 140 million in Dubai,

> al exchequer. As per the country's law, any gift received from dignitaries of a foreign state must be put in the state depository or the Toshakhana.Shehbaz made the claim during a meeting with senior journal-

since announced that they had put an end to the violence and arrested "hundreds" of suspects. They

said the mosque was reopened and that Friday's midday prayers would take place as usual. Tens of thousands of people were expected. Israeli authorities said they had earlier held negotiations with time. Ramadan this year coin-Muslim leaders to ensure calm

place, but that Palestinian youths hurled stones at police, triggering the violence. Palestinian witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of security concerns, said a small group of Palestinians threw rocks at police, who then entered the compound in force, setting off a wider conflagration.

showed Palestinians throwing rocks and fireworks and police firing tear gas and stun grenades on the sprawling esplanade surrounding the mosque. Others showed worshippers barricading themselves inside the mosque.Later in the morning, Israeli police entered the mosque and were arresting people.

said.In response to the alle-

gations, Bukhari said that

there was no truth in reports

about the selling of a necklace.

said that there never had

been any talk about the neck-

ill-founded and baseless.

received as a gift from a for-

eign country.

Talking to Geo News, he

### In France's election, a meaty issue unites Jews and Muslims

AP PARIS

A s she cooks lunch and talks politics, Jewish voter Sarah Gutmann has a nasty feeling of would-be French president Marine Le Pen invading priva-cy of her home, reaching direct-ly into her life and plates of chicken and kosher sausages that she is frying for her husband and their eldest son. That's because far-right candidate wants to outlaw ritual slaughter

if elected next Sunday. And that could directly impact how Gutmann feeds her family and exercises her religious freedom. She and her husband,

Benjamin, say they would have lace and the allegations were to think about leaving France if Meanwhile, former informaa far-right government intertion minister Fawad Chaudhry said that Khan fered with observant Jews' kosher diets. Their fear is that purchased the watch from under Le Pen, targeting ritualthe government which was ly slaughtered meats could be just start of steps to make French Jews and Muslims feel unwel-

impinges on our privacy and that is very serious," Gutmann said as she busied herself in kitchen of their Paris home. "The intention is to target minority populations that bother her and send a message to voters who are against these minorities: 'Vote for me, because I will attack them and perhaps, with time, make them leave."

come. "Attacking way we eat

Muslim shopper Hayat Ettabet said her family might be forced to illegally slaughter at home to stay within their reli-gious rules, bleeding out animals 'in bathroom, back to way it was."Le Pen says all animals should be stunned before slaughter, and frames the issue as one of animal welfare. That's unacceptable to observant Jews and Muslims who believe stunning causes unnecessary animal suffering and that their ritual slaughters for kosher and halal meats are more humane.

### Imran sold valuable Toshakhana gifts worth ₹140 mn in Dubai: PM Shehbaz

#### ists at the Prime Minister's House here, The News International reported on Friday. "I can confirm that Imran Khan took gifts from Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai for Rs 140 million (USD 7.6 lakh). Valuable gifts include diamond jewellery, inflicting a loss to the nationbracelets, watches and sets," he said. Shehbaz said that he also got a watch once which he had deposited in the Toshakhana."I don't need to hide anything," the newlyelected premier said. The

been reluctant to share details that amount was paid to about gifts retained from Toshakhana, the report about gifts retained from Toshakhana.

An inquiry has been initiated against Khan by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for selling a precious necklace from Toshakhana, inflicting a loss to the national exchequer. The necklace was sold to a jeweller in Lahore through Zulfi Bukhari, former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development for Rs 180 million, while only a fraction of

### Mental health may impact chances of breakthrough Covid: Study US Department of Veterans immunity following vaccina-

the risk may be related to impaired immune response as well as risky behaviours associated with some disorders.

The study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open on Thursday, found that patients over 65 with substance abuse, psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, adjustment disorder and anxiety, faced increased risks of up to 24 per cent for breakthrough COVID. For those under 65, risks were up to 11 per cent higher than for those without a psychiatric history, the researchers said. They tracked data from more than 2.5 lakh

Affairs patients, who had completed their vaccine regimen and had at least one test for SARS-CoV-2.

Just over a half (51.4 per cent) of patients had received at least one psychiatric diag-nosis within last five years and 14.8 per cent developed breakthrough COVID, confirmed by a positive test.

'Our research suggests that increased breakthrough infections in people with psychiatric disorders cannot be entirely explained by sociodemographic factors or preexisting conditions," said senior study author Aoife O'Donovan from UCSF. "It is possible that

tion wanes more quickly or more strongly for people with psychiatric disorders and they could have less protection to newer variants," O'Donovan said in a statement. The average age of 263,697 participants was 66 and 90.8 per cent were male.

Overall, those participants with psychiatric disorders had a 3 per cent increased risk for breakthrough COVID infections in 2021, when adjusted for both demographic factors and pre-existing conditions, compared with participants without a psychiatric history, the researchers said. However, the risk was 24 per cent high-

er for over-65s with substance abuse, 23 per cent higher for those with psychotic disorders, 16 per cent higher for bipolar disorder, 14 per cent for adjustment disorder and 12 per cent for anxiety, they said.

Given greater incidence of breakthrough infections among younger people, study showed significantly smaller effects in under-65s group. Risks were 10 per cent lower in participants with psychotic disorders compared to those without a psychiatric diagnosis, the researchers said. They attribute this decrease to possible lower socialisation among younger people with psychotic disorders compared with older people

who "may be less socially isolated because of their greater burden of ill health and contacts with caregivers.'

The higher incidence of breakthrough infection among older participants may be due to "decreased immunological response to vaccine that has been associated with some psychiatric disorders, which may be more substantial in older adults," said study first author Kristen Nishimi from UCSF.

It is also possible that older adults with psychiatric disorders "may require more frequent in-person care, which could increase their interactions with health care system," she noted.

#### PTI LOS ANGELES

 $P_{against\ COVID-19,\ and}^{eople\ who\ are\ vaccinated}$ have a history of certain psychiatric conditions, face an increased risk of breakthrough disease, according to a study. The researchers from the



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf gov-

ernment led by Khan had

ed "violation of the laws and

customs of war, combined with

premeditated murder." The

be independently verified.

on civilian buses could not

The Russian Defense

Ministry said Friday that

Russian strikes in the Kharkiv

region "liquidated a squad of

mercenaries from a Polish pri-

vate military company" of up to

the warship also had air-

defense missiles and other

what might have caused the

blaze but reported that the

"main missile weapons" were

The ministry did not say

claims of an attack



important victory.

blaze.

after suffering heavy damage

remained in dispute. Moscow

but not any attack. U.S. And

other Western officials could

not confirm what caused the

ity to carry 16 long-range

cruise missiles, and its removal

The Moskva had the capac-

# **Russia loses warship, vows more attacks on Kyiv**

#### AP KYIV

day after Moscow suffered Aa stinging symbolic defeat with the loss of the flagship of its Black Sea fleet, Russia's Defense Ministry promised Friday to ramp up missile attacks on the Ukrainian capital in response to Ukraine's alleged military "diversions on the Russian territory."

The threat of intensified attacks on Kyiv came after Russian authorities accused Ukraine of wounding seven people and damaging about 100 residential buildings with airstrikes on Bryansk, a region borders Ukraine. that Authorities in another border region of Russia also reported Ukrainian shelling Thursday.

Kyiv has gradually displayed some signs of pre-war life after Russian troops failed to capture the city and retreatreduces Russia's firepower in ed to focus on a concentrated assault in eastern Ukraine, leaving evidence of possible war crimes in their wake. A renewed bombardment could return the capital's residents to sheltering in subway stations and the steady wail of air raid sirens.

Ukrainian officials have flict, killing over 300 sailors on not confirmed striking targets board.

in Russia, and the reports by The Russian warship's loss Russian authorities could not in an invasion already widely be independently verified. seen as a historic blunder also was a symbolic defeat for However, Ukrainian officials claimed their forces struck a Moscow as its troops regroup key Russian warship with misfor an offensive in eastern siles on Thursday. If true, the claim would represent an Ukraine after retreating from the Kyiv region and much of the north. The guided-missile cruis-

In his nightly address Thursday, Ukrainian President er Moskva, named for the Russian capital, sank while Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the being towed to port Thursday people of his country should be proud of having survived 50 under circumstances that days under attack when the Russian invaders "gave us a acknowledged a fire on board maximum of five.

Zelenskyy did not mention the Moskva by name, but while listing the ways Ukraine has defended against the onslaught, mentioned "those who showed that Russian warships can sail away, even if it's to the bottom" of the sea. It was his only ref-

erence to the Moskva. the Black Sea. If Ukrainian forces took out the vessel, the News about the flagship Moskva likely represents the overshadowed Russian claims largest warship to be sunk in of advances in the southern combat since the Falklands port city of Mariupol, where War. A British submarine tor-Moscow's forces have been pedoed an Argentine navy battling the Ukrainians since the early days of the invasion in cruiser called the ARA General Belgrano during the 1982 consome of the heaviest fighting of



the war - at a horrific cost to civilians.

Dwindling numbers of Ukrainian defenders in Mariupol are holding out against a siege that has trapped well over 100,000 civilians in desperate need of food, water and heating. David Beasley, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that people were being "starved to death" in

the besieged city. Mariupol's mayor said this week that more than 10,000 civilians had died and the death toll could surpass 20,000. Other Ukrainian officials have said they expect to find evidence of atrocities committed

unknown," the council said in against civilians like the ones discovered in Bucha and other towns outside Kyiv once the Russians withdrew.

The Mariupol City Council said Friday that locals report-

which came up through the annexed Crimean Peninsula, to fully link up with troops in the Donbas region, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland and the

target of the looming offensive. Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas since 2014, the same year Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine. Russia has recognized the independence of two rebel-held areas of the region.

30 people and "liberated" an iron and steel factor in Mariupol from "Ukrainian Although it's not certain when Russia will launch the nationalists. The claims could not be independently verified. On Thursday, the Defense full-scale campaign, a regional Ukrainian official said Friday that seven people died and 27 Ministry explained the damage to Russia's Black Sea flagship by were injured after Russian forces opened fire on buses carrying civilians in the village of a fire had caused ammunition Borovaya, near the northeaststowed on board to detonate. In ern city of Kharkiv. addition to the cruise missiles,

Ukrainian law enforcement agencies are working to establish the circumstances of the attack, Dmytro Chubenko, a spokesman for the regional prosecutor's office, told Ukraine's Suspilne news web-

Chubenko said that Mariupol's capture is crit-Ukrainian authorities had opened criminal proceedings in connection with a suspectical for Russia because it would allow its forces in the south,

Ukrainian forces

Russia's Defence Ministry on Friday promised to

ramp up "the scale of missile

attacks" on Kyiv in response to

Ukraine's "diversions on the

accused Ukrainian forces of

launching airstrikes on resi-

dential buildings in one of the

country's regions on the border

with Ukraine, in which seven

buildings were damaged in

Thursday's attack on the

Klimovo village in the Bryansk

region. The Defense Ministry

said that the Russian forces in

down a Ukrainian Mi-8 heli-

Chernihiv region shut

Ukraine's

Bryansk region.

on Thursday.

people sustained injuries. According to Russian offi-cials, some 100 residential

The statement comes a day after Russian authorities

AP MOSCOW

Russian territory."

not damaged and the crew, which usually numbers about 500, abandoned the vessel. It wasn't clear if there were any casualties.

guns.

# Mariupol holds out against all odds

#### AP LVIV

Unbroken by a Russian blockade and relentless bombardment, the key port of Mariupol is still holding out, a symbol of staunch Ukrainian resistance that has thwarted the Kremlin's invasion plans.

More than six weeks after the Russian siege began, Ukrainian troops are continuing to fight the vastly superior Russian forces in ferocious battles amid the ruins of what once was a bustling city on the Sea of Azov coast.

The Ukrainians' fight against all odds has scuttled Moscow's designs, tying up significant Russian forces and delaying the start of a planned Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine's industrial heartland, Donbas.

The Kremlin hopes that an attack in the east could reverse the battlefield fortunes for Russia after a humiliating failure of its attempt to quickly storm the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

Mariupol has been a key objective for Russia since the start of its invasion on Feb 24.

Capturing the city would allow Moscow to establish a land cor-

ridor to Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014 and deprive Ukraine of a major port and prized industrial assets.

The giant Azovstal steel mill and other industrial plants have been heavily damaged by the ferocious Russian bombardment that has flattened much of Mariupol, indiscriminately hitting homes, hospitals and other public buildings and killing thousands.

The victims include about 300 people killed in last month's Russian airstrike on the Mariupol Drama Theatre that was being used as a shelter and had the word "CHIL-DREN" printed in Russian in huge white letters on the pavement outside to ward off aeri-

al attack. Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko told The Associated Press that at least 21,000 people were killed in Mariupol with bodies "carpeted through the streets". He said that the Russians deployed mobile cremation equipment to Mariupol to methodically dispose of the



that Russia is committing war hide the evidence of the mascrimes in Ukraine.

sacre and prevent internation-Moscow has deployed al organisations from documenting "the horror the Russian army is responsible The discovery of hundreds of bodies of civilians apparently executed by Russian forces in

Kviv's suburbs after the Russian

retreat from the area has fuelled

global outrage and accusations

from Ukrainians and the West

together produce 30% of the

world's wheat supply and

export about three-quarters of

the world's sunflower seed

buys for distribution around

the world comes from

Half of the grain the WFP

Ukrainian farmers are

plant may see their harvest rot

and there's no way to ship it,

cuts may be needed, he said.

impossible to believe.

Biden did this week.

heartbreaking.

horror story and it is truly

he warned.

oil.

fighters from Chechnya, known for their ferocity, to wage street battles in Mariupol. Chechnya's Moscow-backed guards. leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, has repeatedly boasted on his messaging app channel about defeating Ukrainians in Mariupol, but the fight has con-

Boychenko said that sev-

eral Ukrainian units are still fighting the Russians in Mariupol, including the 36th Marine Brigade, the Azov Regiment, some Interior Ministry troops and border

The Azov Regiment, a sea-soned volunteer force that is widely considered one of the country's most capable units, is defending the mammoth Azovstal steel plant that covers an area of nearly 11 square kilo-

metres (over 4.2 square miles). It has taken advantage of the plant's sprawling network of concrete buildings and underground facilities to repel continuous Russian attacks.

ging up bodies that were buried

in residential courtyards and

not allowing any new burials

being carried out and where the

bodies will be taken is

a statement posted on the

Telegram messaging app.

Why the exhumation is

"of people killed by them."

The 36th Marine Brigade was maintaining defensive positions at the Azovmash and Zavod Ilyicha factories until it ran out of supplies and ammunition and made a desperate attempt to break through the Russian blockade earlier this week.

In a post on the brigade's Facebook page, one of its offi-cers described the unit's heroic resistance, saying that "for more than a month, the marines have been fighting without replenishing ammunition, food and water supplies." "The wounded accounted for nearly a half of the brigade's strength, but those who still had their limbs and were capable of walking reported back to duty," the post said. Boychenko said that some

of the marines managed to join the Azov regiment, while others were captured by the Russians. He didn't give any numbers.

#### Ukraine survived 50 days when Russia 'gave pound residential us a maximum of 5' buildings: Russia AP KYIV

#### President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Ukrainians on Thursday they should be proud of having survived 50 days under Russian attack when the Russians "gave us a maximum of five.'

In his late-night video address, Zelenskyy called it "an achievement of millions of Ukrainians, of everyone who on Feb. 24 made the most important decision of their life to fight."

Zelenskyy gave an exten-sive and almost poetic listing of the many ways in which Ukrainians have helped to fend off the Russian troops, including "those who showed that Russian warships can sail away, even if it's to the bottom" of the sea.

It was his only reference to the Russian missile cruiser Moskva, which sank while being towed to port.

copter that was allegedly involved in the attack on the Zelenskyy said he remembered the first day of the inva-Authorities in another borsion when many world leaders, der region, Belgorod, also reported Ukrainian shelling

unsure whether Ukraine could survive, advised him to leave the country.

agencies are working to estab-

lish the circumstances of the

attack, Dmytro Chubenko said.

He added that investigators

are also establishing the routes

and destination of the vehicles

transporting civilians across

the Russian-controlled territo-

Chubenko said that Ukrainian authorities had

opened criminal proceedings

in connection with a suspect-

ed "violation of the laws and

customs of war, combined with

The claims could not be

The U.N. Human rights

April 13 since the start of the

Russian invasion on Feb. 24.

The office believes the number

is much higher, information

from some areas is delayed by

hostilities and other reports are

thousands and thousands of

people have been killed in the

Ukrainian officials say

pending corroboration.

ry around Borovaya.

premeditated murder.

### UN food chief says US, Russia clash over cause of food price rise Mariupol is starving

tinued

#### AP KYIV

¬he head of the UN World I Food Programme said people are being "starved to death" in the besieged Ukrainian city of Mariupol, and he predicted the country's humanitarian crisis is likely to worsen as Russia intensifies its assault in the coming weeks.

WFP executive director David Beasley also warned in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press in Kviv that Russia's invasion of grainexporting Ukraine risks destabilizing nations far from its shores and could trigger waves of migrants seeking better lives elsewhere.

The war that began Feb. 24 was "devastating the people in Ukraine," he said, lamenting the lack of access faced by the WFP and other aid organizations in trying to reach those in need amid the conflict.

"I don't see any of that easing up. I just don't see it happening right now," he said.

The fluid nature of the conflict, which has seen fighting shift away from areas around the capital and toward eastern Ukraine, has made it especially difficult to reach hungry Ukrainians.

The WFP is trying to put food supplies now in areas that could be caught up in the fighting, but Beasley acknowledged that there are "a lot of complexities" as the situation rapidly evolves.

A lack of access is part of the problem, he said, but so is a shortage of manpower and fuel as resources are diverted to the war effort.

"It's not just going to be the

next few days - but the next few weeks and few months could even get more complicated than it is now," he said. "In fact, it's getting worse

and worse, concentrated in certain areas, and the front lines are going to be moving." Beasley expressed partic-

Ukraine. ular concern about the port city of Mariupol, where a tons of grain bound for export are unable to be shipped dwindling number of Ukrainian defenders is holdbecause of the war, Beasley ing out against a Russian siege said that has trapped well over 100,000 civilians in desperate struggling to access fertilizer need of food, water and heatand seed, and those who can ing. in the fields if the war drags on

Russian forces that control access to the city have not allowed in aid, even though the WFP has demanded

access "We will not give up on the people of Mariupol and other people that we cannot reach. But it's a devastating situation: the people being starved to death," he said.

Russia is determined to seize the city so its forces the Russian invasion, includfrom the annexed Crimean Peninsula can fully link up with troops elsewhere in the other atrocities against civileastern Donbas region, ians have shocked the world. Ukraine's industrial heartland and the target of the coming offensive.

The U.N. Food chief warned of disastrous ripple effects due to Ukraine's role as major international grain supplier.

A global food shortage caused by the war could prompt "mass migration beyond anything we've seen since World War II," he said, echoing remarks he made to the U.N. Security Council last month.Russia and Ukraine

**AP** ■ UNITED NATIONS

The US Ambassador to the United Nations accused Russia on Friday of making the precarious food situation in Yemen and elsewhere even worse by invading Ukraine, calling it "just another grim example of the ripple effect Russia's unprovoked, unjust, Some 30 million metric unconscionable war is having on the world's most vulnerable.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a UN Security Council meeting on war-torn Yemen that the World Food Programme identified the Arab world's poorest nation as one of the countries most affected by wheat price increases and lack of imports from Ukraine.

The shipping challenges Russia's deputy UN have forced the WFP to halve rations for millions of people, Ambassador Dmitry Polyansky many in Africa, and more shot back saying, "The main factor for instability and the "People are going to be starving to death," he said. source of the problem today is not the Russian special military Beasley also visited areas operation in Ukraine, but sancnear Kyiv that were ravaged by tions measures imposed on our country seeking to cut off ing the town of Bucha, where any supplies from Russia and evidence of mass killings and the supply chain, apart from those supplies that those coun-tries in the West need, in other words energy." He described neighbor-

hoods "completely decimated "If you really want to help by bombings," likening what he saw to a nightmare that was the world avoid a food crisis you should lift the sanctions that you yourselves imposed, But he stopped short of your sanctions of choice indeed, and poor countries describing the killings a genocide, as U.S. President Joe will immediately feel the difference," he said. "And if you're "Well, I know one thing. not prepared to do that, then People are dying," he said don't get involved in demawhen asked about Biden's goguery, and don't mislead comments. "But there's no everybody." doubt in my mind this is a

The sharp exchange took place a day after a U.N. Task force warned that the war



economies of many developing countries that are now facing even higher food and energy costs and increasingly difficult financial conditions.

Humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement. "A war halfway around the world

promoting trade and development who coordinated the task

### 7 killed near **Kharkiv; explosion** felt in east

#### AP 🔳 KYIV

large explosion has struck Alarge explosion nas su uck the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk, the site of a missile strike on a train station a week earlier that left more than 50 dead and dozens wounded.

Associated Press journalists in the city heard the sound of a rocket or missile and then the blast, followed by sirens wailing early Friday afternoon. It was not immediately clear what was hit or whether there were casualties.

Witnesses to the south of independently verified. the capital Kjiv earlier reported explosions around 2 am, but office says at least 1,964 civilthe source was not clear. ians have been killed through

Seven people died and 27 were injured after Russian forces opened fire on buses carrying civilians in the Ukrainian village of Borovaya, near the northeastern city of Kharkiv, a spokesman for the regional prosecutor's office told Ukraine's Suspilne news website Friday.

Ukrainian law enforcement war.

#### 'Russians exhuming corpses of those killed in Mariupol'

AP KYIV

Mariupol City Council said on Friday that local resiallocation will save lives." dents report Russian troops are U.N. Spokesman Stephane digging up bodies previously Dujarric was asked about buried in residential court-Polyansky's comments and vards and not allowing any new whether Guterres is concerned that sanctions are driving up burials "of people killed by them.""A watchman has been "Î think it would be safe to assigned to each courtyard and say that there would be no is not allowing Mariupol resisanctions if there were no condents to lay to rest dead relatives or friends. Why the

exhumation is being carried out and where the bodies will be taken is unknown," according to a statement on the messaging app Telegram. The claim could not be independently verified.

Earlier this month, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko told the AP that Russian forces have brought mobile cremation equipment to the city to dispose of the corpses of victims of the siege.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched their report saying, "As many The United Nations on as 1.7 billion people -- one-Thursday announced it was third of whom are already livreleasing \$100 million from its ing in poverty -- are now emergency fund for seven highly exposed to disruptions hunger hotspots, Yemen and six African countries -

in food, energy and finance

systems that are triggering increases in poverty and Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Nigeria. hunger." Thirty-six countries rely on Russia and Ukraine for of children are going to sleep more than half their wheat hungry every night while their parents are worried sick about imports, including some of the how to feed them," U.N. world's poorest countries, he

said, and wheat and corn prices have risen 30% just since the start of the year. makes their prospects even Rebeca Grynspan, secretary-general of the U.N. Agency worse. This

force, said the 1.7 billion people live in 107 countries that have "severe exposure" to at least one dimension of the crisis -- rising food prices, increasing energy prices and tighten-

ing financial conditions. The task force said 69 of the countries, with a popula-

threatens to devastate the tion of 1.2 billion people, face "perfect storm" and are severely or significantly exposed to all three crises. They include 25 countries in Africa, 25 in Asia and the Pacific, and 19 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

'Hundreds of thousands

food prices.

flict," Dujarric replied.



# Min relaxes EPCG norms to aid ease of doing biz

New Delhi: The commerce ministry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Under the scheme, imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation. The authorisation holder (or exporter) under the scheme has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six years.

The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness. 'With a view to enhance

ease of doing business and reduce compliance burden, certain provisions of chapter 5 related to the EPCG scheme of the Handbook of procedures (2015-20) are amended for EPCG authorisations issued under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has



said in a public notice.

According to the changes The changes include those requests for block-wise export related to annual reporting of obligation extension should be EO (export obligation) -made within six months of instead of by April 30 each year, expiry. However, applications exporters can file that by June made after six months and up 30 of each year with specified to six years will entail a late fee information, but any delay will of Rs 10,000 per authorisation. be subject to a late fee of Rs Applications made after

six years will be subject to a fee Requests for export obligof Rs 5,000 per year. ation extension should be made Earlier, no specified time

within six months of expiry limit was prescribed, leading to instead of the earlier prescribed discretionary interpretations. period of 90 days. However, Further, the facility to pay

applications made after six customs duty through scrips months and up to six years are (MEIS /RoDTEP /RoSCTL) subject to a late fee of Rs for default under EPCG has been withdrawn.

# Major reshuffle effected in Air India's top management

New Delhi: Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran Friday effected a major reshuffle in the top management of recently-acquired airline, with Nipun Aggarwal appointed as Chief Commercial Officer and Suresh Dutt Tripathi as Chief Human Resources Officer.

Aggarwal, who is also Senior Vice President at Tata Sons, replaces Air India veteran Meenakshi Malik, while Tripathi, who was Vice President of Human Resources at Tata Steel from 2012 to 2021, succeeds AI's Amrita Sharan

The order was issued by Chandrasekaran, who is also the chairman of Tata Sons.

Malik and Sharan were on Friday appointed as Advisors to the CEO of Air India, according to a company communica-

As the Tata Group is yet to appoint the CEO of Air India, Malik and Sharan will currently be advisors to Chandrasekaran, it mentioned.

Satya Ramaswamy, who has worked at Tata Consultancy Services before, was on Friday appointed as Chief Digital and Technology Officer at Air



India, the order stated.

Rajesh Dogra was appointas the Head of Customer Experience and Ground Handling at Air India, it mentioned. Ăir India veteran R S Sandhu will continue to hold the charge of Chief of Operations at Air India, it

noted. Another Air India veteran Vinod Hejmadi will continue to hold the charge as Chief Financial Officer, it mentioned. "The new appointees will

exercise the powers of functional/departmental heads as per the delegation of authority. We wish them all the very best in their new role, Chandrasekaran stated in the order.

After a competitive bidding process, the government had on October 8 last year sold Air India to Talace Private Limited -- a subsidiary of the Tata group's holding company -- for Rs 18,000 crore.

As on April 13, 2022       As on April 13, 2022         As on April 13, 2022       April 8, 2022         RIL       17,26,714.05       43,491.37         TCS       13,39,688.48       9-9,348.88         HDFC Bank       8,12,338.57       27,866.34         HDFC Bank       5,29,739.59       5,559.02         Hind Unilever       5,05,737.77       7,119.26         SBI       4,61,848.65       1,249.45         Adani Green Energy       4,43,685.79       2.125.05         Bajaj Finance       4,43,028.49       7.44,631.11	(Top 10)	Market Cap	₹ crore
TCS       13,39,688.48       ✓       -9,348.88         Infosys       HDFC Bank       8,12,338.57       ✓       -27,866.34         Infosys       Infosys       7,35,611.35       ✓       -27,953.78         Icici Bank       5,29,739.59       △       5,559.02         If Hind Unilever       5,05,737.77       ✓       -7,119.26         SBI       4,61,848.65       △       1,249.45         Adami Green       4,48,050.99       △       84,581.89         Bajaj Finance       4,43,685.79       ✓       -2,125.05         Interc       HDFC       4,31,028.49       ✓       -14,631.11		As on April 13, 2022	
ICS       IS,35,000.40       ▼ 3,340.00         Impose       HDFC Bank       8,12,338.57       ▼ -27,866.34         Impose       Infosys       7,35,611.35       ▼ -27,953.78         Impose       Infosys       7,35,611.35       ▼ -27,953.78         Impose       Infosys       7,35,011.35       ▼ -27,953.78         Impose       Infosys       7,35,011.35       ▼ -27,953.78         Impose       Infosys       5,29,739.59       ▲ 5,559.02         Impose       Hind Unilever       5,05,737.77       ▼ -7,119.26         Impose       Adani Green       4,41,648.65       ▲ 1,249.45         Impose       Adani Green       4,43,685.79       ▼ -2,125.05         Impose       HDFC       4,31,028.49       ▼ -14,631.11	RIL	17,26,714.0	)5 🔻 -43,491.37
Intest Infosys       7,35,611.35       ✓       27,953.78         ICICI Bank       5,29,739.59       △       5,559.02         Itin Unilever       5,05,737.77       ✓       -7,119.26         SBI       4,61,848.65       △       1,249.45         Adani Green       4,48,050.99       △       84,581.89         IB       6,1,028.49       ✓       -14,631.11		13,39,688.48	9,348.88
	😳 HDFC Bank	8,12,338.57	-27,866.34
Wind Unilever       5,05,737.77       ✓       -7,119.26         Image: SBI       4,61,848.65       △       1,249.45         Image: Adami Green Energy       4,48,050.99       △       84,581.89         Image: Bajaj Finance       4,43,685.79       ✓       -2,125.05         Image: HDFC       HDFC       4,31,028.49       ✓       -14,631.11	Infosss Infosys	7,35,611.35	-27,953.78
Image: Sel (a, 61, 848, 65)       ▲ 1,249,45         Image: Sel (a, 61, 848, 65)       ▲ 1,249,45         Image: Adami Green Energy       4,48,050.99       ▲ 84,581.89         Image: Bajaj Finance       4,43,685.79       ✓ -2,125.05         Image: HDFC       HDFC       4,31,028.49       ✓ -14,631.11	<i>i</i> CICI Bank	5,29,739.59	5,559.02
Adani Green       4,48,050.99       ▲       84,581.89         Bajaj Finance       4,43,685.79       ✓       -2,125.05         ■HDFC       HDFC       4,31,028.49       ✓       -14,631.11	😻 Hind Unilever	5,05,737.77	-7,119.26
Energy       4,48,050.99	SBI	4,61,848.65	A 1,249.45
<b>HDFC</b> HDFC 4,31,028.49 V -14,631.11		1 12 050 00	▲ 84,581.89
1,01,020.10	Bajaj Finance	4,43,685.79	-2,125.05
Source: BSE Sensex KBK Infographics	3 HDFC HDFC	4,31,028.49	-14,631.11
source bez senser.	Source: BSE Sensex	К	<b>BK Info</b> graphics

#### Pharma industry must focus on generic, better link between input and output: Goyal

Mumbai: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday asked the domestic pharmaceutical industry to strengthen its generic medicine sector and ensure better linkage between input and output of products to become self-reliant.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Indian Drug

Manufacturers' Association to commemorate its Golden Jubilee celebrations here, Goyal also asked the industry to plan for a long-term to tackle challenged related to global supply chain. "The phenomenal growth that we have seen in the last ten years should be carried forward to ensure that we become selfsufficient", he said.

# Mobile retailers' body to seek Government intervention against e-commerce onslaught

10,000 per authorisation.

Kolkata: A leading mobile retailers' body has claimed that "unethical and monopolistic business practices" of online sales platforms are 'jeopardising' the future of 1.5 lakh brick and mortar smartphone retailers across the country and that it will seek govt intervention.

In such a situation, the survival of small retailers is at stake, the All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA), an apex body of smartphone retailers, said.

"The situation is extremely fragile due to the unethical, discriminatory, and monopolistic business practices by online sales platforms. Several shops are closed and now retailers are even taking an extreme step like suicide.

"We will approach the Government with a charter of demands to ensure the protection of over 150,000 mobile phone retailers across the country who are struggling to compete with the tech giants and unethical business practices



and portals," AIMRA, West mobile phone brands have reg-Bengal president, Mohan Bajoria told PTI. The association will hold a

fallout of the COVID impact, two-day AGM from April 16 in the online platform currently accounts for 50 per cent of the smartphone sales in India," Bajoria said. the city to work out a counterstrategy and action plan for survival "The USD 38 billion Indian

smartphone market is the biggest and fastest-growing mobile phone market in the

Finmin invites applications for the position of CERSAI managing director

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has invited applications for the post of managing director of Central Registry of Securities Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India (CERSAI).

The Central Registry of Securities Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India (Central Registry) has been incorporated in 2011 as a government company under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956.

The Government of India owns 51 per cent while remaining stake is with select public sector banks and the National Housing Bank

The object of the company is to maintain and operate a registration system for the purpose of registration of transactions of securitisation, asset reconstruction of financial assets and creation of security interest over property, as contemplated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act).

Applications are invited for the post of Central Registrar and managing director of Central Registry, Department of Financial Services under the Finance Ministry said in a public notice said.

According to eligibility criteria, the applicant should be below the age of 59 years as on October 17, 2022. General managers or above of nationalised banks and chief general managers of of Reserve Bank of India, Nabard, Sidbi and India Infrastructure are eligible for th

# Maruti Suzuki drives in new Ertiga tagged at ₹8.35 lakh

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said it has launched a new version of its multi-purpose vehicle Ertiga, priced between Rs 8.35-12.79 lakh (ex-showroom).

The model comes with a 1.5 litre petrol engine paired with both manual and automatic transmissions.

The auto major has also launched CNG trims of the vehicle.

The model comes with hybrid technology and driven by an all-new advanced sixspeed automatic transmission with paddle shifters.

'Ertiga's launch ten years ago was a significant moment in the Indian automobile industry, as it created a new segment that has been growing at a CAGR (compound annu-al growth rate) of 4.7 per cent," MSI Managing Director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi noted.

The next-gen Ertiga with advanced technology features

all-new transmission, he added "As it stays true to its brand vision of providing comfort, technology, and safety features, while being fuel-efficient for customers, the next-gen Ertiga will surely continue to be India's go-to MPV. We are confident that the next-gen Ertiga will be widely embraced by our cus-

tomers," Takeuchi stated. Available both in petrol and CNG options, Ertiga offers a mileage of 20.51 km/l (petrol) and 26.11km/kg (CNG).

In an interaction with PTI, MSI Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said the multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) segment has been witnessing growth over the last few years. "In 2014-15, it used to be

only around 4-5 per cent of the industry but now it has grown to around 8-9 per cent of the industry and the overall volumes have also grown from 1.6-2 lakh units in 2014-15 to almost 2.6 lakh units last fiscal

With the growth in the segment, MSI has also been able to increase it market share from 33-34 per cent to around 61 per cent, Srivastava noted. 'We used to do 5,000 units

a month earlier till 2019 but after we introduced Ertiga and XL6, it has grown to 13,500 units a month. The total MPV market roughly per month is around 22,000," he stated.

Srivastava noted that with the segment growing, the company is updating Ertiga and also bringing in a new version of XL6 later this month.

'We would like to increase the market share further provided we have availability of the parts. The pending bookings for the company has already risen to 3 lakh units. We are hoping to increase production to reduce waiting periods," he stated.Srivastava noted sales of Ertiga has increased despite the lack of a diesel powertrain, which used to be there when the model was launched ini-

#### Govt invites Eols to set up manufacturing zone for power, renewable energy sector

New Delhi: The Government has invited EoIs from interested parties for setting up a manufacturing zone on pilot basis for the power and renewable energy sector.

The last date to submit the proposal is June 8, 2022, according to a notification on the website of Ministry of Power.

"Expression of Interest (EoI) for setting up a manu-facturing zone on pilot basis for the power and renewable energy sector is on the website of Ministry of Power and MNRE and it is requested to consider participating for submission of EoI by June 8, 2022," the notification dated April 13, said

Ministry of Power had earlier issued orders for implementation of a scheme to set up a manufacturing zone for the sector on pilot basis with a budgetary outlay of Rs 400 crore over a period of five years. PTI

New Delhi: Bike taxi platform experience across a larger audi-Rapido on Friday said it has raised USD 180 million (over Rs 1,370 crore) in a Series D

round of funding led by new investor Swiggy. The round also saw invest-

ment from TVS Motor Company, along with existing investors Westbridge, Shell Ventures and Nexus Ventures, the company said in a state-

ment. The funds would be used to bolster technology, amplify

and strengthen teams across diverse sets of capabilities, and increase overall supply to create an enhanced consumer

ence base in metros, tier I, II and III cities, it added. Rapido said it will be

istered their highest shipments

to India in 2021. Due to the

The GST regime, he said,

remains a matter of concern for

small mobile retailers who find

it complicated and not con-

investing these funds in all its three categories -- bike-taxi, auto and delivery -- to enhance its drive partners' earnings and improve customer experience in over 100 cities that it operates in.

"Swiggy's participation in this round will build on the synergies between the two companies," the company said.

Commenting on the fundraise, Rapido co-founder Aravind Sanka said,"We look forward to learning from



Rapido raises USD 180 mn in funding round led by Swiggy

Swiggy's experience to scale up throughout the country and enhance our captains' (driverpartners) / customers' experi-

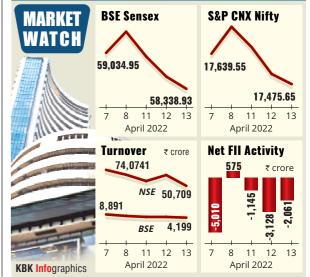
ence, who are the backbone of opportunities and higher earnour business. ings.

Besides, he said,"TVS Motor, who are very passionate about EVs and the future of mobility, will help us in further expansion. We hope to accelerate our pace of becoming a household name as we increase our geographies and services, on the backbone of our robust, global-standard technology."

On the company's investment in Rapido, Swiggy cofounder and CEO Sriharsha Majety said, "Swiggy and Rapido share a vision to build a logistics platform that empowers riders through more

"While we've already been working together, this investment facilitates closer alignment to leverage the synergies between the platforms and improve the value we provide to both consumers and delivery executives/captains across the country," Majety added.

In the past, Rapido had raised USD 130 million from various investors. It is currently present in around 100 cities across the country with over 25 million customers and over 1.5 million driver-part-ners. PTI



# Senco Gold files ₹525-cr IPO papers with Sebi

New Delhi: Jewellery retailer issue of equity shares aggre-Senco Gold Ltd has filed pregating up to Rs 325 crore and liminary papers with capital an offer for sale (OFS) of equimarkets regulator Sebi to raise ty shares to the tune of Rs 200 Rs 525 crore through an initial crore by selling shareholder public offering (IPO). SAIF Partners India IV The IPO comprises fresh Limited.

said

ing economic outlook.

Besides, the company may consider a pre-IPO placement of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 65 crore. If such placement is undertaken, the fresh

issue size will be reduced. The company proposes to

utilise Rs 240 crore of net proceeds from the fresh issue towards funding working capital requirements and rest towards general corporate purposes.

127 showrooms -- 70 company-operated and 57 franchisee in 89 cities and towns across 13 states in India.

Some of its franchisee showrooms are located in areas At present, Senco Gold has other than metros and tier-I,

providing a greater reach in tier-2 and tier-3 locations

The company also sells products through various online platforms. It also undertakes wholesale exports of its

jewellery primarily to Dubai, Malaysia and Singapore.

Its revenue from operations grew at a CAGR of 9.92 per cent from Rs 2,420 crore as of March 31, 2020 to Rs 2,660 crore as of March 31 2021. PTI

## Fund raising via debt placement hits 6-year low at ₹5.88 lakh cr in

New Delhi: Fund raising by listed companies through private placement of corporate bonds plunged to a six-year low in 2021-22 to Rs 5.88 lakh crore owing to good performance of the equities and aggressive fund disbursal by banks at lower interest rate.

This was 24 per cent lower from a record Rs 7.72 lakh crore mobilised in 2020-21, data with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed. Unless the high government borrowings and adverse interest rate cycle play spoilsport, the ongoing financial year is

expected to be robust in terms First Water Capital Fund (AIF) of fund raising activities through the debt route on account of higher demand for credit from corporates in light of the improving economic outlook, experts said.

"During FY23, there should be some increase in raising of debt through bonds as corporate India presses the

pedal on the next major phase of the capex cycle. Also, with a potentially rising interest rate scenario, these bond issuances should evince good interest In FY22, fund raising through from risk seeking investors," the private placement of cor-Ricky Kirpalani, Lead Sponsor, porate bonds was subdued at

Rs 5.88 lakh crore.

This was the lowest level since 2015-16, when listed Vibhor Mittal, Chief companies had raised Rs 4.58 Business Officer, CredAvenue, believes issuance volumes in lakh crore, the data showed.

the private debt market are In terms of issuance, 1,405 improving on account of highissues were witnessed in the just concluded fiscal year as comer demand for credit from issuers in light of the improvpared to 1,995 issues in 2020-21. The debt markets are However, dampeners to mostly tapped by the financial the cause could be high govsector companies who use ernment borrowings that may funds for onward lending (as crowd out private placements the economic cycle gathers and adverse interest rate cycles. pace) and boost capital buffers.

The non-financial bunch deploys the funds mainly for general corporate expenses, cap-

ital expenditure and for inor-

from refinancing existing debt. The lower fund raising through private placement route in FY22 compared to the preceding fiscal could be attributed to good performance of the equities in the stock market last year, Kamlesh Shah - MD Share India Securities, said.

all boost in the market. highest-ever fund-raise through the route in 2020-21, Shah said low interest rates and measures by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), boosting liquidity, helped the cause despite

market investors to compete with the loan market on yield offering," he added.

Another factor for the decline could be subdued working capital requirements /utilizations of the companies in spite of growth in the top line, Abhijit Shrivastava, Managing Partner at Azalea Capital Partners, said.

"There has been ample liquidity available with banks and 'Banks and NBFCs have been aggressive in disbursing undrawn limits with various funds through the loan route at corporate borrowers. So, it lower rates due to abundant didn't make sense for a lot of systemic liquidity; this has corporates to tap the higher made it difficult for capital cost bond debt," Kirpalani said.

Apart from the capital raised via private placement of corporate debt, a total of Rs 11,589 crore came from public issuance of corporate debt in the past fiscal year.

Higher to constant liquidity in the system and overall lower credit offtake, would still keep the dependence low on public issuance of corporate debt. However, the first half of FY23 could see an uptick through this route of fund raising, Shalibhadra Shah, Chief Financial Officer, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said

seen a steep decline in FY22 principally due to the lack of any explicit support from the government or RBI, unlike last year, when programmes such as LTRO (long-term repo oper-

Explaining the reasons for

According to CredAvenue's Mittal, bond issuances have

ation) and various credit guarantee schemes led to an over-

the pandemic. ganic growth opportunities apart



# sports 11

# FRANKFURT DUMP OUT BARCA

#### AP BARCELONA

¬ avourites Barcelona were dumped finals on Thursday, while West Ham United and Rangers joined RB Leipzig

in qualifying for the last four. Serbian international Filip Kostic scored twice either side of a Rafael Santos Borre strike at the Camp Nou for Frankfurt, who survived a late fightback to win 3-2 on the night and 4-3 on aggregate.

Sergio Busquets scored a late con-solation before Memphis Depay's even later penalty for Barcelona but Eintracht held on, to the delight of the estimated 30,000 German supporters who travelled for the game.

They go through to their second Europa League semi-final in four seasons, having lost on penalties to Chelsea at the same stage in 2019.

"I am speechless. Nobody expected this, if you are honest. Everyone expected us to suffer," said Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp.

Barcelona's recent revival under Xavi Hernandez has been remarkable but this defeat means they have won just once at home all season in Europe, and their campaign is now set to end without silverware.

"It's a hammer blow for us. They deserved to go through," admitted Xavi. After conceding three penalties in their workend wir guert largente Parce

their weekend win over Levante, Barca fell behind to another spot-kick inside four minutes against Eintracht, as Kostic converted after a foul by Eric Garcia to the delight of the enormous away support.

The visitors scored again in the 36th minute as Colombian forward Borre fired high into the net from range, and



Kostic's low finish into the far corner made it 3-0 midway through the second half.

Busquets had a late goal disallowed for offside before he found the net with a fantastic strike from 20 metres in the first minute of injury time.

The game carried on into an 11th added minute when Depay netted a penalty after Evan Ndicka was sent off, receiving a second caution for a foul on Luuk de Jong.

#### WEST HAM BEAT LYON

Yet Eintracht maintained their record of not having lost to Spanish opposition since the 1960 European Cup final against Real Madrid, and they will face West Ham in the semi-finals.

The English side are through to their first European semi-final since losing the 1976 Cup Winners' Cup final to Anderlecht after they outclassed Lyon in France, winning 3-0 on the night and 4-1 on aggregate.

The Hammers took the lead in the 38th minute of the return when Craig Dawson headed in a Pablo Fornals corner.

Captain Declan Rice slotted in their second just before the break, his sidefoot effort from the edge of the area beating Lyon goalkeeper Julian Pollersbeck with the aid of a deflection.

The outcome was put beyond doubt when West Ham scored again three minutes after the restart as Fornals sent

## Pedri out after sustaining hamstring injury

#### AP BARCELONA

 $B_a$  hamstring injury in his side's defeat by Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League quarter-finals, the Spanish club announced on Friday.

"Tests on Friday morning have revealed that Pedri has ruptured the femoral biceps in his left hamstring," Barca said.

"It means he will be unavailable for selection until he recovers from the injury.

According to Catalan media, the 19-year-old Spain international will likely be out for at least one month. Pedri sustained the injury at the

end of the first-half of the shock 3-2 defeat to Frankfurt, manager Xavi

#### Jarrod Bowen away to make it 3-0.

'The journey in two years, we were talking about relegation, and now we're talking about getting to the semi-final of a European tournament. It's fabulous, and we're all going to look forward to it," said West Ham manager David Moyes.

#### **RANGERS THROUGH IN ET**

There was drama in Glasgow as Rangers were taken to extra time by Braga before winning 3-1 on the night and 3-2 on aggregate as the Portuguese side finished the game with nine men.

James Tavernier gave Rangers a second-minute lead to level the tie on aggregate, and they had another goal disallowed and then hit the woodwork before winning a penalty just before the



replacing him with Frenkie de Jong for the second-half.

#### interval.

Vitor Tormena was sent off for a foul on Kemar Roofe, and Tavernier netted from the spot.

David Carmo's 83rd-minute header took the tie to extra time, but Roofe's 101st-minute finish put Rangers back in front on aggregate and Braga then had Iuri Medeiros dismissed.

Rangers will now face Leipzig in their first European semi-final since reaching the 2008 UEFA Cup final.

French international Christopher Nkunku scored both goals as Leipzig

beat Atalanta 2-0 in Italy to win their last-eight tie 3-1 on aggregate. Nkunku opened the scoring in the 18th minute in Bergamo and then added a late penalty, his 30th goal of the season in all competitions.

# AS Roma set up Leicester semi



the 77th minute to equalise. Substitute Ayoze Perez did brilliantly to get to the byline and pull the ball back for Maddison, who picked out the roof of the net to score for the 14th time this season.

A PSV fan threw a cup at the celebrating Leicester players, before a two-minute delay. The Foxes completed their

comeback with just two minutes of normal time remaining, as Pereira pounced on a rebound after Patson Daka's shot was saved.

#### **ROMA THROUGH**

Nicolo Zaniolo scored a brilliant hat-trick as Roma cruised past Bodo/Glimt at the Stadio Ólimpico to win 5-2 on aggregate.

It was revenge for the capital club after an embarrassing 6-1 thumping by Bodo/Glimt in and the defe

last week in an ill-tempered



### Zverev, Tsitsipas in Monte Carlo Q/F

### **Liverpool face Man City in FA Cup** week, this time at Wembley for a

last weekend's 2-2 draw.

AP LONDON

iverpool will put their unprecedented quadruple bid on the line against treble-chasing Manchester City on Saturday in an FA Cup semi-final that will make or break one club's dream of football immortality.

Jurgen Klopp's men are in contention to become the first English team to win all four major trophies in one season.

They lifted the League Cup in February and advanced to the last four of the Champions League after surviving a late scare in their quarter-final second leg against Benfica on Wednesday.

With Liverpool expected to see off Spanish side Villarreal in the semi-finals of Europe's elite club

G Piramal

competition, it is Premier League leaders City who will provide the place in the FA Cup final. major obstacle to their ambitions.

One team will leave the City are just one point ahead national stadium on a high, the of their title rivals in the Premier other having to quickly refocus.

League with seven games left after Having closed the gap to City from a 14-point margin in January, Pep Guardiola's team are also Liverpool are living up to Klopp's in the hunt for the Champions desire to be as "annoying as possible" to the Premier League cham-

pions. Their two league meetings this season both ended in 2-2

draws and it could take extra-time and penalties to separate them this weekend.

clash for the second time within a rematch.

As Klopp concedes, Liverpool were slightly fortunate to escape the Etihad Stadium unscathed last Sunday but they could have a significant advantage for the

League crown and could face Liverpool in the final if they beat Real Madrid in the semis. City have a rare feat of their own to aim for as they seek to become only the second English

side to win the prized treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. The grand goals of both City and Liverpool mean the stakes could not be higher when they

**PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** (Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.) Registered Office: Unit No-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Pirmala Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Nagar, Kuria (West) Mumbal-400070-



#### AP LONDON

eicester battled back to beat LPSV Eindhoven 2-1 on Thursday in the Europa Conference League to reach a European semi-final for the first time in their history, where they will face Jose Mourinho's Roma.

After a goalless draw in the first leg in England last week, PSV took the lead in the quarter-final tie through Êran Zahavi.

But late goals from James Maddison and Ricardo Pereira sent Brendan Rodgers' Premier League side through and stunned the Philips Stadion crowd.

Leicester will play Roma for a place in the final in Tirana on May 25, after the Serie A side

overturned a 2-1 first-leg deficit against Norwegians Bodo/Glimt with a 4-0 thrashing

"We are a team that is so young in European football, Leicester manager Rodgers told BT Sport.

PSV have an incredible history in Europe and for us we are so young — these are great experiences for us and I am so happy for the players."

PSV did forge ahead shortly afterwards the first 25 minutes

Goetze intercepted Youri Tielemans' loose pass just outside the Leicester box, before

laying the ball off for Zahavi to drill a fine strike into the bottom corner. The visitors pressed in the

second half but had to wait until

England striker Tammy Abraham gave Roma the perfect start with his 24th goal of the season in the fifth minute.

clash.

Zaniolo scored three excellent finishes with his left foot, all coming at the end of sweeping moves from the home side.

Marseille also booked their place in the last four as Dimitri Payet scored for the second time in the tie — a 1-0 victory over PAOK in Greece sealing a 3-1 aggregate success.

Marseille may have to play the home leg of their semi-final behind closed doors after UEFA opened an investigation into violence before last week's first

The Ligue 1 club will take

on Feyenoord in the semis, after the Dutch outfit won 3-1 against Slavia Prague in the Czech capital after a 3-3 firstleg draw, with Cyriel Dessers netting twice.

hird-ranked Alexander Zverev beat Pablo Carreno Busta 6-2, 7-5 at the Monte Carlo Masters to reach the quarterfinals of the clay-court season opener in Monaco.

Jannik Sinner.

Defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced by beating Laslo Djere 7-5, 7-6 (1). The fifth-ranked Greek will meet Diego Schwartzman of Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Sinner beat eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 to advance, winning six straight games in the second set and dominating the decider before wrapping it up with his seventh break

"I tried to win every play, every point," said the 20-yearold Ítalian, who reached the quarterfinals in Miami last month before retiring from the match against Francisco

tegional Office address: Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, PCHFL (Formally known As Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited, DHFL). A-301 & 302, 3rd Floor, Elante Office Complex, industrial Area Phase 1, Chandigarh -160002 APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. (Formerly Known as Dewai ousing Finance Corporation Ltd) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securit terest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conterred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioner herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him unde Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. (Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd) for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession		
(Loan Code No. 00000891)/ Ludhiana Metro Branch), Parmjit Kumar (Borrower) Baljit Kaur (Co-Borrower)	# 369, Sec 2B, Ward No 19 Mat Rani Mohalla Adarsh Nagar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Ludhiana- 141401	Date and Amount 20-May-19 Rs. 22,02,913.00/- 14-Jun-21 14-Jun-21 Rs. 21,45,850.00/- 20-Jul-21 Rs. 3,04,374.00/- http://doi.org/10.00/- http	13-Apr-22		
(Loan Code No. 00004892)/ Patiala Branch), Manpreet Singh (Borrower) Jaspreet Kaur (Co-Borrower)	Vill Mullapur Near Gurudwara Sahib Patiala Patiala Patiala Punjab :- 140406		13-Apr-22		
(Loan Code No. 00005506)/ Patiala Branch), Ram Kailash (Borrower)Punam Devi (Co-Borrower)	Mohalla Guru Ki Nagri, Ward No2, Nr. Sekhon Furniture Fatehgarh Fatehgarh Patiala Punjab:- 147301	Rs.	12-Apr-22		
Date : April 16, 2022 Place: Ludhiana	Sd/- (Authorised Officer) PIRAMAL CAPITAL AND HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd				

#### **AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

#### APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the am the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Aortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No. 13(2) Notice Date & Amount		Description of Mortgaged Property		
(A/c No.) L9001060717111702 & L9001061121409562 Manoj Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Babita (Co-Borrower)	17-Jan-22 Rs. 3248662/- Rs. Thirty-Two Lac Forty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Two only & Rs. 491303/- Rs. Four Lac Ninety-One Thousand Three Hundred Three only as on 13-Jan-22	<ol> <li>All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/Structure and fixtures Property Situated Atplot No 1373 kh.No.58 Waka Ucha Gaon Te-Ballabgarh Dist-Faridabad Haryana Admeasuring 50 Sq. Yrd.</li> <li>All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/Structure and fixtures Property Situated At khata No. 28/31Mu No 58 Killa No 13 (8-0),23 (8-0) Vill-Hari Vihar Uncha Gaon Adarh Nagar Te- Ballabgarh Dist-Faridabad Haryana Admeasuring 60 Sq. Yrd./Sq.</li> </ol>	13-Apr-22	
(A/c No.) L9001061121783539 Bhim Sain (Borrower), Sunita Rani (Co- Borrower)	07-Jan-22 Rs. 126648/- Rs. One Lac Twenty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Eight only as on 07-Jan-22	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Freehold - Municipal Limit Metro & Urban, Wakya Dabwali Road Wakya Dabwali Road, Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 18.33 Sqyds	12-Apr-22	
(A/c No.) L9001060116575431 Bhim Sain (Borrower), Sunita Rani (Co- Borrower)	07-Jan-22 Rs. 574203/- Rs. Five Lac Seventy-Four Thousand Two Hundred Three only as on 07-Jan-22	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Freehold - Within Municipal Limit Wakya Dabwali Road Residential Gram Chattargarh, Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 18.33 Sqyds	12-Apr-22	
(A/c No.) L9001061121908571 Prince Kumar (Borrower), Hardeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	07-Jan-22 Rs. 208138/- Rs. Two Lac Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Eight only as on 07-Jan-22	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Municipal Corporation Dashmesh Nagar Residencial , Dabwali, Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 300 Sqyds	12-Apr-22	
(A/c No.) L9001060117404966 Prince Kumar (Borrower), Hardeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	07-Jan-22 Rs. 1067999/- Rs. Ten Lac Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine only as on 07-Jan-22	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Municipal Corporation Dasmesh Nagar Mandi Kilianwali,Dabwali, Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 300 Sqyds	12-Apr-22	
property described herein above mentione date mentioned in the above table. "The secured assets." The borrower in particula	ed table in exercise of powers conferred on borrower's attention is Invited to provision or and the public in general is hereby cauti	the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken posse him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said so of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to oned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will b the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.	d rule on the redeem the	

Date: 15-Apr-2022

-sd-Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

### Latest face-off with BAI could well end Saina's 'India' journey

#### PTI INEW DELHI

Caina Nehwal's decision to skip the Selection trials for the CWG and the Asian Games could well be the beginning of an end to what has been an illustrious journey in international badminton for more than a decade and half.

A former world No 1, Saina has been the torch-bearer of women's badminton in the international arena, having represented the country thrice at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow (2018), New Delhi (2010) and Melbourne (2006).

While there shouldn't be an iota of doubt that the Hisar-born shuttler can still work her magic with some stunning performances in the professional circuit but her reluctance to appear for BAI trials could well end her chances of representing the flag at multi-discipline events like CWG, Asiad, Olympics and Uber Cup.

A two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medallist, Saina did harbour hopes of defending her title at Birmingham but call it a hasty decision or a miscommunication, the dream is now looking like a distant one.



On Thursday, an upset Saina took to Twitter to slam the Badminton Association of India for not responding to her e-mail also questioning the logic behind hosting the trials.

The federation, however, has maintained radio silence, indicating that the transition phase in women's singles has started and the focus from now on will be solely on the younger crop of players allowing them to showcase their talent at the international stage. "She has achieved a lot for the coun-

try but in the last two years, she hasn't done anything worth mentioning. She has also not been able to sort out her injury issues," a former coach said.

"It is tough to play at the international level with consistent niggles, so she needs to accept it and shouldn't get hyper over these issues. No one can deny her contribution to the game but I don't want to see her being so bitter about it," the acclaimed coach said. BAI seems to have set the wheels of change into motion when they called for the selection trials on April 2 to pick teams for Commonwealth Games Thomas and Uber Cup and Asian Games. Place: Haryana

AP MONACO

# Cerundolo.

Carreno Busta broke Zverev to open the second set and built a 3-1 lead before the German rallied, setting up a quarterfinal match against



### Mumbai Indians search Rana, Russell steer KKR to 175-8 1st win of IPL 2022

#### pointstable

Po. TEAM	Μ	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1. GT	5	4	1	0	8	0.450
<b>2. KKR</b>	5	3	2	0	6	0.446
3. RR	5	3	2	0	6	0.389
4. PBKS	5	3	2	0	6	0.239
5. LSG	5	3	2	0	6	0.174
6. RCB	5	3	2	0	6	0.006
7. DC	4	2	2	0	4	0.476
8. SRH	4	2	2	0	4	-0.501
9. CSK	5	1	4	0	2	-0.745
10. MI	5	0	5	0	0	-1.072

boundarymeter



#### PTI MUMBA

unrisers Hyderabad pacers controlled S the innings for a large part before Nitish Rana and Andre Russell lifted Kolkata Knight Riders to a 175 for 8 in their IPL match here on Friday.

The Knight Riders lost three top-order batters cheaply inside the powerplay overs but recovered to some extent to post a decent total, thanks to Rana and Russel's ond over. Natarajan then bowled a knocks of 54 and 49 not out, respective- sensational fifth over, snaring two

The pacers - Marco Jansen (1/26), T Natarajan first bowled a brilliant Natarajan (3/37), Bhuvneshwar Kumar length ball, pitching just outside off to (1/37) and Umran Malik (2/27) account- account for Venkatesh Iyer (6), who ed for the bulk of the wickets.

used the bounce and swing on offer real- lowing his teammate a couple balls ly well to draw first blood as he sent Aaron later as KKR slumped to 31 for 3. Finch (7), who is playing his first match of the season, back to the hut in the sec- but left-armer Jagadeesha Suchith



wickets Natarajan first bowled a brilliant looked unsettled during his stay, with Opting to field, South African Jansen the flamboyant Sunil Narine (6) fol-

Kane Williamson introduced spin

(1/32) looked rusty and struggled with his line. Young Malik then struck twin

blows, snapping the wickets of Shreyas Iyer (28) in the 10th over and Sheldon Jackson (7) as Sunrisers bowlers continued striking at regular intervals.

However, Rana kept the score board ticking, hitting singles and boundaries alike in his 36-ball knock. Rana smashed six fours and two

maximums. He was involved in 39run stands with skipper Iyer and Russell each

However, his stay in the middle was cut short by Natarajan in the 18th over as SRH broke the potentially

dangerous partnership. Russell, whose 25-ball innings was laced with four boundaries and as many six, including two in the final over. The West Indian helped KKR add 55 runs in the last five overs.

An auction botched up by poor planning, Mumbai Indians will continue to grope in the dark in search of an ideal playing eleven with an aim to end their five-match losing streak against Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match on Saturday.

This is not the first time that MI have had a losing streak of five matches but this is probably the first time that it seems that the team's think-tank do not have an idea of how to stem the rot that has set in.

It is certainly not skipper Rohit Sharma's fault that the five-time champions had bungled big time at the auction table with below-par domestic signings save NT Tilak Varma, which is coming to bite them.

Against Lucknow in the afternoon Mumbai heat, Rohit and his chosen ten would have to put their best foot forward in order to tame the likes of Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul, Krunal Pandya, Ayush Badoni to name a few.

Krunal and De Kock, in particular, would like to pose some serious challenges for the MI brigade and may be compel them to think whether not putting enough efforts to get them back in their roster was a prudent enough thing to do.

There had been some inexplicable team selections and dropping a million dollar plus buy like Tim David after two games is one of them.

Such has been MI's plight that they haven't been able to field their full quota of foreign players in order to have enough bowlers in their ranks

However, David might be given a go in place of a Jaydev Unadkat, who has once again come short in the highest level of cricket and is an example of the yawning gap between standards in domestic cricket and IPL.

One among Unadkat and Basil Thampi need to make way for David as they don't have too many options at the table.

In case of Murugan Ashwin, the only plausible replacement at this time looks to be legspinner Mayank Markande, who not so many moons back had some decent performances for the five-time champion outfit.



Not having a quality spinner like Rahul Chahar or Krunal, who can at times stem the flow of runs is also hurting MI.

Head coach Mahela Jayawardene had already said and rightly so that Rohit's performance isn't a worrying factor.

One of the reasons being his touch which is not out of place but perhaps he needs to curtail down on a few shots and bat deep along with Suryakumar Yadav to put up a challenging score which the weak bowling line-up can defend.

For Lucknow, mentor and brains behind the strategy Gautam Gambhir needs to think whether both Marcus Stoinis and Jason Holder could be a part of same eleven or they would be better off dropping one of them and playing the hard-hitting Evin Lewis in the top-order alongside Rahul and De kock.

## Deepak Chahar ruled RCB need Harshal boost to get out of IPL, DC physic tests campaign back on track against DC positive for COVID-19



his replacement. "Chennai Super Kings bowler Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 owing to a back injury, said the IPL in a statement. kata Knight Ride



Siraj and Akash Deep has been taken for runs, while Wanindu Hasaranga claimed two wickets but he bled 35 in three overs in the last match.

Spin duo of Glenn Maxwell and Shahbaz too was blown away and skipper Du Plessis will expect a better show from his bowlers on Saturday.

In batting, Du Plessis and young lefthander Anuj Rawat have given the team good starts, while Dinesh Karthik has ed the role of the finisher w turned cricketer Shahbaz Ahmed too has impressed with his batting so far.



#### PTI MUMBA

¬hennai Super Kings all-Grounder Deepak Chahar was on Friday ruled out of the IPL with a back injury, while Delhi Capitals physio Patrick Farhart tested positive for COVID-19.

Chahar had also suffered a hamstring injury during the home series against the West Indies in February.

KKR pacer Rasikh Salam is also out of the IPL with a lower back injury with young Delhi pacer Harshit Rana named as

(KKR) have signed fast bowler Harshit Rana as a replacement for pacer Rasikh Salam for the rest of the TATA IPL 2022 season. Salam, who played 2 games for KKR this season, has been ruled out owing to a lower back injury and will take no further part in the tournament.

"His replacement, Harshit Rana, from Delhi will join KKR at his base price of INR 20 Lakh.

PTI MUMBAI

Saturdav.

L defending champions, Royal Challengers

Bangalore will hope Harshal Patel returns

to the playing XI and contribute in bring-

ing their campaign back on track when they

face Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here on

RCB were flying high with three succes-sive wins before Chennai Super Kings out-

witted them by 23 runs in their last outing.

It was absence of Harshal which hurt the

team as skipper Faf du Plessis looked out of

options to control the rampaging duo of

Shivam Dube and Robin Uthappa, who took

the bowlers to the cleaners as CSK posted

On Farhart, a former physio of the Indian cricket team, the statement added: "Delhi Capitals physio Patrick Farhart has been tested positive for COVID-19. He is being closely monitored by the DC Medical Team at the moment." With cases gradually rising,

COVID threat has increased during the two-month-long IPL Last year, the tournament

had to be suspended at the peak of the second wave in May and was later completed in the UAE

#### a huge total on board.

Known for his variations and death heir winning streak halted by the bowling skills, Harshal is a vital cog in RCB's wheels and Du Plessis had admitted that the team missed his services after he left the biobubble on Sunday following the death of his cousin.

The 31-year-old from Haryana, who had taken 32 wickets in the 2021 edition, has emerged as one of the best T20 bowlers with his variations, which include off-cutters and slower ones, bowled with variable arm speed.

This season too, Harshal has snapped six wickets from four games at an economy of just 5.50 and remains the go-to-man for du Plessis whenever the going gets tough. Among others, pace duo of Mohammad

Former skipper Virat Kohli has blown hot and cold with two 40 plus scores but lacked consistency.

The Capitals, on the other hand, are heading into the match after a massive 44run win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

With two back-to-back fifties, opener Prithvi Shaw has been in sensational form, while seasoned Australian opener David Warner has provided the team solidity at the top as he provided the fireworks to set DC's massive win over KKR.

The number three spot, however, remains a concern with none of the batter tried by the team able to grab the chance. Skipper Rishabh Pant too will expect more

runs from his batting. Spinner Kuldeep Yadav has emerged as their top bowler with 10 wickets so far, while pacer Khaleel Ahmed too has taken seven calps in three games.

South African Anrich Nortje, who looked rusty in his only outing, also remains an option, while Delhi also have plenty of bowling all-rounders such as Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur and Lalit Yadav to count on.

However, Rovman Powell has looked subdued so far and DC would expect more from him.

### Hardik has kept amazing team environment: Rashid

#### PTI NAVI MUMBAI

Hardik Pandya has been leading from the front with inspirational performances and is also going out of his way to create a happy team environment leading to a good start by Gujarat Titans in its maiden IPL campaign, feels Rashid Khan.

Gujarat are now on top of the table with four wins from five games and Hardik is currently second in list of run-getters and is also bowling well in

"The way he (Hardik) has led the team, the way he has kept the team environment, inside and outside the field has been amazing so far," Rashid said at the virtual post-match press conference.

Rashid, the ace spinner

from Afghanistan, said Hardik was someone who always takes brave decisions.

"He (Hardik) is someone who always takes that brave decision, always has confidence and he is someone who is very clear in mind on what he is going to do. "This is an important thing

as a captain when your mind is clear, and you take right deci-sions, the result will take (care) by itself," added Rashid. Ability to take right deci-

sions at right time makes him a good leader, feels Rashid

'You take right decisions with confidence, that is something which makes him the best and he has been delivering the best so far and leading from the front - (be it) batting, bowling and fielding," said Rashid.

#### **Root resigns as England Test captain** Mithali to play in Women's Sr T20 Trophy

#### AP LONDON

oe Root resigned as England's Test captain on Friday after a five-year term that ended in a torrid run of results including an Ashes drubbing and defeat in the West Indies.

The Yorkshireman, appointed as Alastair Cook's successor in 2017, holds the record for the highest number of wins as England skipper, his 27 victories putting him one ahead of Michael Vaughan and three in front of Cook and Andrew Strauss.

The 31-year-old led his side to a number of notable series victories, including a 4-1 home win over India in 2018 and a 3-1 triumph away to South Africa in 2020.

But the past 12 months have been dismal. After winning their career but opening three Tests of 2021, having England have won just one since, discussed

losing 11 and drawing five of their past 17.

Root's decision comes after the 1-0 Test series defeat to West Indies last month, which followed a humiliating 4-0 Ashes loss in Australia.

"After returning from the Caribbean tour and having time to reflect, I have decided to step down as England men's Test captain," Root said in a statement released by the England and Wales Cricket Board

"It has been the most challenging decision I have had to make 🚺

(ECB) my in

this with my family and those closest to me, I know the timing is right.

"I am immensely proud to have captained my country and will look back on the past five years with enormous pride. It has been an honour to have done the job and to have been a custodian of what is the pinnacle of English cricket.

"I have loved leading my country, but recently it's hit

home how much of a toll it has taken on me and the impact

it has had on me away from the game

Root already England's second-highest Test run

time behind only Cook and scored 14 centuries as captain. His tally of 5,295 runs as

skipper is the highest by any England captain and puts him fifth on the all-time list behind only Graeme Smith, Alan Border, Ricky Ponting and Virat Kohli.

> fifth in the Test rankings without a captain, head coach, and managing director while the ECB seeks a new chairman.

Players in the frame to succeed Root include star allrounder Ben Stokes and veteran fast bowler Stuart Broad, who was dropped for the West Indies is tour.

England play a three-match Test series against New Zealand starting on June 2 before a Test against India and a series against



#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Speculations rife about her international future, India's Test and ODI skipper Mithali Raj will be turning up for Railways at the Women's Senior T20 Trophy beginning on April 18 in what will be her first competitive event since the Women's World Cup. The future of stalwarts Mithali and Jhulan

Goswami have been a subject of debate since

India's early exit from the World Cup in New Zealand last month.

While Jhulan is recovering from a side strain that she suffered during the global event, Mithali will groom the next generation of players in the Railways squad. Both are 39 and are at the business end of their illustrious careers.

"Mithali will be there to guide the younger players. As a senior player, she understands her role really well. Anyway, she never misses domestic assignments when not on national duty," a BCCI source said.

Mithali, who is the leading run-getter in international cricket, had captained the Railways team to the title in the T20 competition last year. Her international T20 career came to an end in 2019

As far has her ODI and Test future is concerned, the source added: "There is no international cricket lined up in the near future. She has a lot of time to think over her future.'

India's next confirmed international assignment is in September when they play three T20s and as many ODIs in England after the Commonwealth Games in July-August.

Root's exit leaves England -

scorer of all South Africa.