OPINION 6

NEED FOR UNIFORM

WORLD 8

GERMAN LEADER TRAVELS TO

RUSSIA, UKRAINE AS TENSIONS GROW

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Big guns on poll trail in Punjab

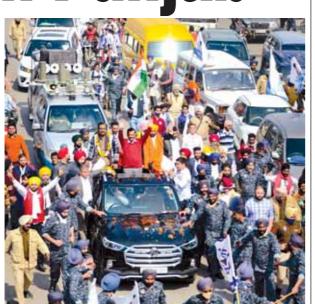
With week to go for Assembly elections PM to address rally in Jalandhar today

PNS CHANDIGARH

Just a week before Punjab's high-octane Assembly elections on February 20, all main-stream political parties are giv-ing a final push to their poll

campaign.
The "super Sunday" witnessed Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Privanka Gandhi Vadra, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, among many others, going all out to woo the electorate by addressing rallies, corner meetings, and holding road shows.

The top leaders did hectic campaigning a day before Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jalandhar to address a rally, for which all preparations have been made and security has been beefed up. Learning lessons from the PM's previous visit to Ferozepur, high-level security arrangements have been made.



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Keiriwal with Punjab AAP president and CM candidate Bhagwant Mann, during a road show ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections, in Amritsar, on Sunday

Already, BJP national president JP Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, besides other Union Ministers and senior leaders have been cam-

paigning in Punjab. Shah, seeking votes for the BIP-led alliance candidates, addressed back-to-back rallies at Ludhiana, Patiala, and then at Amritsar. Sporting a saffron

turban and starting his speech with slogans of "Jai shri Ram" and "Sat Sri Akal", Shah attacked Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi over Modi's "security lapse" issue, saying if the "person who cannot ensure safe route of the PM can he secure entire Punjab and its people."

Continued on page 2

Mamata sends I-PAC packing

Loyalists replace Kishor's team: 3 BJP leaders quit party to join TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

day after setting up a ANational Committee (NCW) of the Trinamool Congress, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday constituted a media coordinator committee to be headed by her own lovalists, Cabinet Ministers Aroop Biswas and Chandrima Bhattacharya, and former MP Kunal Ghosh

Media coordination was earlier looked after by-election strategist Prashant Kishor's

Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) — which reportedly enjoyed the trust of her nephew and party MP Abhishek Banerjee

The Chief Minister who is also the Trinamool Congress president is known to have dissolved all the top posts save her own. New portfolios would soon be declared, senior leaders in the party said.

Both, the NWC and the

Committee were allegedly created to bury the differences between the young brigade and the senior leaders loyal to the Chief Minister, sources said. Most old guards had not taken the meteoric rise of junior Banerjee up the party ladder. The latest conflict between the two groups has been over the one-person-one-post slogan coined by Abhishek.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development, the Bengal BJP suffered more blows after three of its leaders from North 24 Parganas returned to the Trinamool Congress. All these leaders are relatives of Barrackpore BJP MP Arjun Singh. Continued on page 2 ISRO COUNTS DOWN TO 2022 LAUNCH MISSION Bengaluru: The 25-hour countdown for Indian Space Research Organisation's first launch mission of 2022, to orbit Earth observation satellite EOS-04 onboard PSLV-C52, began early on Sunday.

CAPSULE

IL&FS TO RESOLVE DEBT OF ₹55K CR New Delhi: IL&FS group would resolve debt of ₹ 55,000 crore by March 2022, the board of the crisis-hit company has stated in its affidavit filed before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. P9

₹26,275 CR FOR POLICE MODERNISATION

New Delhi: The Modi Government has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of ₹26,275 crore. P4

KARAKORAM GLACIERS STABLE, SAYS GOVT New Delhi: Glaciers in the

Karakoram region are in a stable condition, but those feeding the Ganga and the Brahmaputra river basins are melting at a faster rate, the Earth Sciences Ministry has said. In reply to a written question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry said the mean retreat rate of the Hindukush Himalayan glaciers was 14.9-15.1 metres per annum, which varied from 12.7 13.2 metres per annum in the Indus, 15.5-14.4 metres per annum in the Ganga and 20.2-19.7 metres per annum in the Brahmaputra river basins

Punjab Kings get Livingstone for ₹11.50 cr, pacers get good deals

Bengaluru: England batter Liam Livingstone fetched a staggering ₹11.50 crore deal from Punjab Kings, who also roped in West Indies fast bowler Odean Smith for ₹6 crore on the second day of the IPL mega auction here on Sunday. For their left-arm variety, second-string India pacers like Khaleel Ahmed and Chetan Sakariya got handsome deals of ₹5.25 crore and ₹4.20 crore, respectively

Continued on page 2

Experts advise growing more low GI rice to fight spurt in diabetes Institute of Rice Research have

'Increasing shift to sedentary lifestyle driving up cases'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With sedentary lifestyle increasingly becoming the norm in India — more so in view of the Covid-19 induced work-from-home trend — driving up the num-



ber of diabetes cases, scientists from ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition and ICAR-Indian

favoured large-scale cultiva-tion of the low Glycemic Index (GI) rice as a fit diet for diabetic people in the country. Any variety of rice with less than 55 GI is considered dia-

betic-friendly, according to scientists. A low GI diet helps curb cravings and prevent sugar levels from spiking, reduces heart risks, and aids weight

Continued on page 2





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Questioning Army won't | Bajaj cremated with full State honours be tolerated: Assam CM

criticism over his controversial father-son remarks on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday defended his comments and asserted that questioning the army personnel will "not be tolerated anymore". In a series of tweets, Sarma

posted several screenshots of news reports of the Congress' statements on the 2016 surgical strike and the appointment of Bipin Rawat as the army chief and the chief of defence staff among others.

"Is it wrong to stand by our great Armed forces? Let's not question their patriotism. Don't seek proof of what they did for the country.

"India is not just a union of states. 'Bharat' is our Maa, not just a motherland. Questioning the jawans is an insult to our Maa!" he wrote on the

microblogging site. He also alleged that the Congress "spared no effort to abuse and accuse General Bipin Rawat"

"From the day he became Army Chief, they questioned his abilities. But they get irked when I question them for disrespecting our brave soldiers. This is new India. Such attitude won't be tolerated anymore," he

Gen. Rawat died in a chopper crash in December last year. He had served as the chief of the Indian Army from



Congress supporters hold placards and raise slogans during a protest against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, over his remarks about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, outside Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Ahmedabad on Sunday PTI

appointed as India's first chief of defence staff in 2019.

During a rally in pollbound Uttarakhand, Sarma had on February 11 attacked Gandhi for demanding proof of the September 2016 surgical

He also asked whether the BJP had ever demanded proof of him being the "son of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi".

This has led to a huge controversy with several opposition parties criticising Sarma for his "deplorable" statement.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must sack Sarma for his remarks on Rahul Gandhi.

Lashing out at Sarma, Maharashīra Congress President Nana Patole had said the Assam CM's "distasteful" statement "reflected the culture of the BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh".

"By making such statements, he has shown that his mental balance has deteriorated and he needs to be treated in a good hospital," the Congress leader said.

Members of the Congress youth and student wings had on Saturday held protests in New Delhi over Sarma's state-

Indian Youth Congress activists, led by its president Srinivas B V, staged a protest near Assam Bhavan, while the National Students' Union of India demonstrated outside its office.Protests by the Assam unit of the IYC were held at places

of Bajaj - brought from the

Veteran industrialist and Padma Bhushan-awardee Rahul Bajaj was cremated at the electrical crematorium at the Vaikunthsmashan Bhumi in Pune with full state honours.

Eighty-three-year-old Bajaj who made his company's two-wheelers popular across the country with iconic taglines like "Hamara Bajaj" and "you just can't beat a Bajaj" – died at the Ruby Hall Hospital in Pune on Saturday afternoon, following prolonged illness.

Bajaj's sons Rajeev and Sanjiv performed their father's last rites at the Vaikunth crematorium. A large number of people from various walks of life, industrialists, politicians of different hues and common people, had turned at the crematorium to bid an adieu to the renowned industrialist.

hospital -- were kept at his residence premises at Akurdi locality Pimpri-Chinchwad for a public darshan.

Several prominent personalities, including his close friend and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, State Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, senior minister and NCP leader Chhagan Bhuibal, State Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray of the Shiv Sena, former Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Raghunath Mashelkar and Pimpri-Chinchwad Mayor Usha Manohar Dhore -- visited the departed industrialist's residence and paid their last respects to him. NCP MP Supriya Sule was present at the

Bajaj, who breathed his



last at Ruby Hospital at around 2.30 pm on Saturday afternoon, had been suffering from cancer for a long time.

Bajaj, who was awarded India's third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2001,

had also served as an MP in Rajya Sabha, India's upper

Bajaj -- whose company's Bajaj Chetak scooter became an aspirational symbol for the middle class Indian families -

- had resigned as Bajaj Auto Chairman in April last year. However, he was appointed as the firm's Chairman Emeritus

for five years. He headed the Bajaj group of companies which have presence across segments such as automobiles, general and life insurance, investment and consumer finance, home appliances, electric lamps, wind

equipment and travel. Īn April 2021, Bajaj stepped down as non-executive chairman of Bajaj Auto, ceding the position to his cousin, Niraj

energy, special alloy and stain-

less steel, material handling

He remained with the company as chairman emeritus. Till February 2021, Rahul Bajaj was ranked 421 on the Forbes list of the world's billionaires with a net worth of USD 8.2 billion

Maha Covid cases drop to 3K in 24 hrs

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n a relief to the State health authorities, the daily Covid-19 infections dropped further to 3502 on Sunday, even as the daily cases in Mumbai dropped further to 288.

A day after the state recorded 4,359 infections, the daily cases dipped to 3,502

With the fresh infections, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose from 78,39,447 to 78,42,949

With 17 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths registered in the state since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the state in March **PTI** | 2020 went up from 1,43,387 to

Mumbai, where the daily infections have been dropping steadily for more than two weeks now, witnessed a drop in the number of cases from 349 to 288. With the latest cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,53,762 to 10,54,050. While the recovery rate went up to 98 per cent, the

positivity touched 0.7 per cent. As 9,815 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 76,39,854 to 76,49,669. The

from 97.45 per cent to 97.54 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 52,238 to 45,905. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.82 per cent. The active cases in Pune dropped to 12745. The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 2925 on Saturday to 2677 on Sunday, while the number of active cases in the neighbouring Thane dropped from 2402 on Saturday to 2211.

Nagpur accounted for 6953 active cases, followed by Ahmednagar (4277)Aurangabad (2533) and Nashik (1751). Of the 7,64,37,416 samples sent to various laboratories have tested positive (10.26 per cent) for COVID-19 until Sunday.

Currently, 2,94,500 people are in home quarantine while 2,380 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, as many as 218 fresh Omicron cases were recorded in Maharashtra on Wednesday, resulting in the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases going up to 3986. Till Sunday evening, 8804 samples had been sent for genome sequencing, out of which, results of 7,499 patients have been received. 1,305 results are await-

'Those who are in appeasement politics can't be samajwadi'

Barabanki: Launching an attack on the Samajwadi Party, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said á true socialist is the one who takes every section of the society along and not those who indulge in "politics of appease-

Those only speaking about Samajwad' (socialism) are 'khote sikke' (counterfeit coins) that cannot be used in the market, he said.

Addressing an election meeting in Ramnagar Assembly constituency here, Singh said the name 'Samajwadi Party' and its leaders did not go well together as "merely having such a name make one Samajwadi".

Éxplaining socialism, the BJP senior leader said, "A true Samajwadi is a person who takes everyone along. A person who indulges in politics of appeasement and attempts to form the government by dividing the society can never be a Samaiwadi."

In an apparent reference to the SP leaders, Singh said, "These people who are talking about Samajwad have turned into 'khote sikke' and you know khote sikke are not used in the market. Today's Samajwadi Party is not going to work in

Uttar Pradesh politics." Terming Barabanki a bastion of socialists, he said, ing entire India, the people of this place stood with eminent socialists like Ram Sevak Yadav and Ram Manohar Lohia. But, ever since the fake 'Samajwadis' emerged in the state, people's

myth was broken." He said the BJP is a party that imbibed the original essence of socialism and stayed

true to it.

"We have resolved the issues of hunger and fear. Hence, I can say that they (SP) are fake socialists and we are the ones who have actually moved on the path of socialism. And if anybody dares to hurt the security of the country, then we are nationalists to give them a befitting reply," he said.

Remembering his association with Barabanki, Singh said he had been elected as an MLA from the Haidargarh Assembly constituency in the district, and "you people had made me the Chief Minister".

Barabanki will vote in the fifth phase on February 27. PTI

December 17, 2016, to December 31, 2019, and was Revocation of J&K's special

status only complicated the

issue: Mehbooba Mufti

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir was a political issue and the revocation of the erstwhile state's special status only "complicated it further". Mehbooba also alleged that the BJP was using the delimitation exercise to turn the Jammu and Kashmir issue into

Addressing a press conference after the party's political affairs committee meeting, Mehbooba said the situation in the union territory was "getting worse or was made worse" day-by-day and people were facing several difficulties since August 5, 2019, the day the Centre revoked Article 370.

"Attempts are being made to trample the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the guarantee provided by the Constitution of India. The Delimitation Commission's report is part of that and nothing new. It is also an attempt to weaken the people," she said. Seeking a dialogue with Pakistan to "resolve the issue", the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said she would be labelled an anti-national, "Because whoever speaks against the BJP or its agenda or even (Nathuram) Godse, will be labelled anti-India." "But I will still say the Jammu and Kashmir (Article) 370, but has been complicated further. The Government of India will have to talk to its neighbour Pakistan today or tomorrow or some other day to resolve the issue of and to stop the bloodshed," she said. However, she said, "The more violence or bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir, the more it benefits the BJP." To a question that the Centre has categorically denied talk-

ing to Pakistan about Jammu and Kashmir and instead wants to talk about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Mehbooba said, "First, they should talk about China making inroads to Ladakh day-



A couple pose for photographs in front of the historic Taj Mahal, on the eve of Valentine's Day, in Agra on Sunday

Stage set for historic LIC IPO: Govt files draft papers to sell 5% for around ₹63k cr New Delhi: Setting the stage for the country's biggest ever pub-

lic offering, Life Insurance Corporation on Sunday filed draft papers with capital market regulator Sebi for the sale of 5 per cent stake by the Government for an estimated ₹63,000 crore. The initial public offering of over 31.6 crore shares or 5 per

cent government stake is likely to hit the D-street in March and employees and policy holders of the insurance behemoth would get a discount over the floor price.

According to the draft red herring prospectus, LIC's embed-

ded value, which is a measures of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company, has been pegged at about ₹5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors. Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation

of LIC, as per industry standards it would about 3 times the embedded value or around ₹16 lakh crore. The DRHP of LIC IPO has been filed today with the SEBI.

For filing valuation about 31.6 crore shares are on offer representing 5 per cent equity," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey Merchant banking sources said the government is expect-

ing to garner up to ₹63,000 crore (about USD 8 billion) from The IPO is offer for sale (OFS) by the Government of India

and no fresh issue of shares by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). The Government holds 100 per cent stake or over 632.49 crore shares in LIC. The face value of shares is ₹10 apiece. The LIC IPO would be the biggest IPO in the history of Indian

stock market and once listed LIC's market valuation would be comparable to top companies like RIL and TCS.

Experts advise growing more low...

"Considering increased shift towards sedentary lifestyle in the majority of the population, necessary policy changes are to be made at various levels to increase the cultivation of low GI rice in the country," lead author of the study, D Sanjeeva Rao from Indian Institute of Rice (IIRR) said.

His colleagues J Aravind Kumar, V Ravindra Babu, R M Sundaram, Ananthan and T Longvah co-authored the study published in the latest edition of the journal Current Science.

Most rice varieties in India are of high GI, a food quality said to contribute to the health problems surrounding highcalorie intake and dysregulated glucose metabolism. Manipulation of GI through various approaches is considered to significantly help in the fight against diabetes and related diseases.

The scientists also noted that paddy procured from the farmers is processed to milled rice and sold in the market under various brand names, and often the varietal purity is

compromised. Hence, they emphasized that it is equally important to indicate the original name of the variety, GI value, and available carbohydrate value on the label to translate the advantages of this research to society.
The IIRR has already iden-

tified three rice varieties with low GI values which are considered suitable for diabetic patients. These are Lalat (GI=53.17), BPT 5204 (GI=51.42) and Sampada (GI=51). Also, named the 'Telangana Sona', yet another low GI rice variety has been developed by researchers at Jayaprakash Professor Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU).

India is known as the diabetes capital of the world with above 77 million adults suffering from diabetes, this number is expected to increase to 134 million by 2045. According to the World Health Organisation, diabetes mellitus is considered as one of the major causes of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower-limb amputation.

Mamata sends I-PAC packing...

The three leaders, former MLA Sunil Singh, his son Aditya and Garulia Municipality's ex-chairperson Saurabh Singh who had filed nominations for the February 27 municipal elections on BJP ticket withdrew their nominations saying they had realised their mistakes.

Elsewhere at Uluberia too about 750 BJP men returned to the TMC complaining infighting and nepotism inside the party. Most of them had left the Trinamool to join the saffron outfit ahead of the party last year's Assembly elections in which the BJP failed to capture power allowing the Trinamool to romp home with thumping

Punjab Kings get Livingstone for ₹11.50 cr...

From Page 1 Among other Indians, all-rounder Shivam Dube fetched Rs 4 crore from Chennai Super Kings for his six-hitting abilities, while Gujarat Titans bagged another out-of-favour multiskilled player in Vijay Shankar for Rs 1.4 crore. CSK also picked up little-known Sri Lankan spinner Mahesh Theeksana (70 lakh), who looked impressive against

He also raised sensitive issues

of drugs, national security and

the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to

attack the ruling Congress

Party, urging the people of

Patiala to give a chance to Modi

and the BJP Government. "We

will eradicate drugs from

Punjab. Our goal is to make Punjab drug-free. I want you to

choose a Government that will

work together with the Centre

for the development of Punjab,"

India when they toured the island nation in July last year. Cheteshwar Pujara predictably went unsold at the auction while Ajinkya Rahae got a base price of Rs 1 crore from Kolkata Knight

The first session's highlight was the auction for Livingstone, who hit the million dollar plus mark with five teams bidding for him at one point of time. However, when Livingstone played for Rajasthan Royals in the previous season he didn't actually perform well on slow tracks, but the franchises, with slots available (minimum 18 per squad), looked desperate for

Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal,

who will be camping in the

State till elections, also cam-

paigned for the party candi-

dates all through the day by

holding corner meetings and

holding road shows for all candidates of Amritsar along

with the AAP's CM face

Bhagwant Mann and party

candidates from the district.

Kejriwal, addressing the media,

declared that when Mann will

Iq quns on

him.Marco Jansen, the South African pacer, who tormented India during the last Test series between the two sides, got Rs 4.2 crore from Sunrisers Hyderabad. The two teams that engaged

in the bidding war were SRH and Punjab, with more than Rs 20 crore and Rs 28 crore in their kitty at the start of the day. Odean Smith's price shot up as he recently impressed with his pace and control against India in the ODI series and also showed that he can hit the ball a long way. Smith has had the reputation of breaking Chris Gayle's bat during the Caribbean Premier League with

become the Chief Minister, he

will do a fair investigation into

the illegal sand mining case. At

the same time, he also claimed

that Congress CM face Channi

is losing from both seats he is

contesting and this has been

Priyanka Gandhi, on the other

hand, addressed a public meet-

ing at Kotkapura in the morn-

ing, followed by an interaction

with women in Dhuri

Assembly segment, while con-

confirmed through telepolls.

their adequate resources. "I think, it is not just about

his sheer pace and no wonder

Punjab went the distance with

the recent performances, we all know he (Odean) is an upcoming talent and he has showcased his power, bowling skills and also his batting skills and we saw that on display against India here in the one-dayers," Punjab Kings head coach Anil Kumble said. "So we have been tracking the players for a while and we are very glad that someone like Odean as an all-rounder for us we have been able to secure, so really happy with that player for Punjab," he added.

cluding her Punjab visit with a

road show in Dera Bassi con-

Priyanka, lashing out at the

former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, said the

Congress had to replace him as

his Government was being run

by the BJP from Delhi. Also

attacking the AAP, she accused

it of doing nothing in Delhi

saying that its Government

Notably, the Election Commission (EC), a day

before, announced relaxations

in campaigning rules for polit-

ical parties ahead of the second

phase of Assembly elections in

the five poll-bound States.

has been a "failure".

stituency.

CHANGE OF NAME

Service No.4201505L Lance Naik Lal Singh Unit 11 Kumaon Regt, Resident of Shyam Bihar Colony Agra Road Etah (UP). My wife,s Name Neelam Yadav is record in my army service record which is incorrect, correct and real name is Neelam, which is all record in the documents, to be recorded in my service record.

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AAP favourite to win polls in Punjab, says Kejriwal

¬he Aam Aadmi Party The Aani Adum I am, (AAP) has emerged as the favourite to win the upcoming Assembly polls in Punjab, party national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

said on Sunday.

Kejriwal said that the AAP
has made huge inroads in the
State and is set to win the elections. "Punjab CM Channi is facing a terrible defeat in both the seats he is contesting. He cannot possibly become the Chief Minister if people are not ready to vote for him. AAP's surveys have revealed shocking results from the ground. AAP is at 52 per cent in Chamkaur Sahib whereas incumbent MLA and CM Channi is at 35 per cent. AAP is at 48 per cent in Bhadaur while Charanjit Channi is at 30 per cent," he

According to the public, sand mafias are thriving under the patronage of Channi Sahib and he does not care about development, he said, adding that the Congress has become



a huge circus as all its leaders are busy monkey-balancing.

"AAP cares for the people of Punjab; we have prepared a robust agenda here and only talk about development," he

Addressing the media in Amritsar, he said "Congress has become a complete circus. We have all seen them here for the 4.5 year long government and the 111 days long one too. All they have done is fight with each other. How will they run the government when they cannot run their own party? On the other hand, AAP has

prepared a robust agenda for Punjab and is only talking about the development of the

He continued, "The public very anguished because of im. They are very angry because of him. Especially in Chamkaur Sahib, he has been the MLA of that seat since 2007 but the people are not ready to vote for him. They say that the sand mafia works under his patronage. This is one of the many reasons why he'll lose both of his seats. The Congress too is going to see the same

Under the scheme for free pilgrimages to the elderly from

traders in the national Capital

are seeking further relaxation

of restrictions, including

allowing shops to remain open till 9.30 pm.

various markets said they are

facing increasing losses due to

the restrictions. They also

questioned the logic behind continuing with the curbs when the pandemic situation has improved in Delhi.

The New Delhi Traders Association (NDTA), which represents the Connaught Place market in central Delhi,

has written to Lieutenant

Governor Anil Baijal seeking

many representations from

they should be allowed to

open shops till 9.30 pm

instead of 8 pm. Closing of

shops at 8 pm means begin-

ning the closing procedure at

7 pm, losing the prime busi-

ness timing," the NDTA said

in its letter to the LG. "Given

the hundreds of representa-

tions on the captioned subject

received from shopkeepers,

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

1931 by Viceroy Lord Irwin.

mony was spread over a week,

during which then Viceroy also

dedicated the All-India War

Memorial Arch, now known as

India Gate, on February 12 that

year in memory of the soldiers

who died in the First World

War (1914-1918) and the Third

Anglo-Afghan War (1919). The

landmark has the names of sol-

diers inscribed on its surface.

born on December 12, 1911,

during a grand ceremonial

'Durbar' here when British

monarch King George V had

announced the shifting of the

capital from Calcutta to Delhi.

ceremony was held at the Government of India Camp

Three days later, a simple

The new imperial city was

The inauguration cere-

New Delhi was inaugurated

91 years ago as India's grand

Capital by Viceroy Lord Irwin

"We have been receiving

relief for local traders.

Traders' associations of

Monday with a train carrying pilgrims to Dwarkadhish

the Trith Yatra Vikas Samiti,

said another train for Rameshwaram will leave on

February 18. The pilgrimage

was halted earlier in the first

week of January in view of ris-

carrying 1000 elderly pilgrims from Delhi will be flagged off

from the Safdarjung railway

station at 7 PM on Monday.

"We are likely to announce

trains for other pilgrimage

places as the Railway is likely

to inform us about the avail-

ability of trains," Bansal said.

maximum demand the senior

citizens was for Rameshwaram

and Dwarkadhish. Around

15,000 applications for

Rameshwaram and 7000 for

Dwarkadhish were pending.

"We are ready to arrange as

many trips as possible due to

popular demand from our

elderly but it depends upon the availability of trains," Bansal

The officer added that

The train for Dwarkadhish

ing Covid -19 cases.

Kamal Bansal, chairman of

scheme for elderly to resume from today Delhi, 11 train trips for different pilgrim sites were planned The pilgrimage scheme of Delhi government for elderly people will resume from

Delhi Govt's pilgrimage

rialise due to the third wave of Covid, he said. Meanwhile, Delhi on Sunday reported 804 daily cases of Covid 19 while the

in January that could not mate-

daily positivity rate dipped to 1.54 percent.

Incidentally, the Dwarkadhish Temple of Lord Krishna at Dwarka in Gujarat was closed for devotees from January 17 to 23 to avoid over-

crowding due to 'Purnima'. Initially, the scheme was launched for only five places of pilgrimage, later seven places were added to the list. During their pilgrimage, free facilities like the paramedical staff and one attendant each to take care of their various needs are provided. Delhi government also bears the pilgrims' food and accommodation-related

Under the scheme, launched in 2019 by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the national capital, the senior citizens who have attained the age of 60 years and above can visit as pilgrims free of cost sacred places like Vaishno Devi, Shirdi, Rameswaram, Dwarka, Puri, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura, Vrindavan and Ayodhya, added to the list last AAP asks voters to eliminate Congress, Akali Dal from Punjab



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal conducted Nukkad Sabhas with party CM Candidate Sardar Bhagwant Mann on Sunday and asked people to vote for the AAP and eliminate Congress and the Akali Dal from the State.

Addressing the gathering, Kejriwal said "This is our chance to eliminate Akali Dal and Congress forever by ensuring AAP's clean sweep. Only four days are left for the polls; we have to go in with all our might and make Sardar Bhagwant Mann the CM of Punjab. Everyone has to go to vote, no matter what; each and every vote should be for the AAP. By pressing the EVM, the public can change the future of Punjab and rid itself of the two individuals who have done injustice to them

Kejriwal campaigned in support of party candidates by conducting 'nukkad sabha' at Novelty Chowk, Hall Bazaar, Suraj Chand Tara and Chatti Wind Gate in Amritsar, today. Unprecedented response witnessed from the people during the event.

People thronged the roads in large numbers to get a glimpse of CM Arvind Kejriwal. During this event, the AAP Convenor greeted the public and appealed to them to vote in support of the party candi-

While addressing the Nukkad Sabha, Kejriwal said, "On February 20, Punjab will go to the polls. Everyone has to go to vote. Do not let anyone sit in the house. Every one of your votes should be cast for the AAP's Jhaadu button. The election is now only four days away. During these four days, full emphasis must be placed on Sardar Bhagwant Mann becoming Punjab's Chief Minister."

Transportation worry for parents as schools reopen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Schools in the national Capital are set to reopen for nursery classes to Class 8 from Monday even as few parents continue to be concerned while few others scramble for logistics such as transportation. Following a prolonged closure in view of COVID-19, schools reopened for classes 9 to 12 on February 7

According to Aparajita
Gautam, president of Delhi
Parents Association, many parents are apprehensive about sending their junior class children to schools as they are not vaccinated yet. "Hence, they will opt to wait and watch," she said. Anil Bhati, parent of a 7-year-old said, "I would want to send my child but schools have not started transportation yet and I am scrambling to make other logistic arrangements. When schools reopen, the government should also order resumption of transportation services.

Schools in the city were briefly reopened before being closed again on December 28 last year in view of the third wave of the coronavirus driven by its Omicron variant.

While the Centre has dropped the clause that mandated parental consent for students to physically attend classes from its guidelines, the Delhi government has decided to continue with the clause.

Facing losses, Delhi traders seek further relaxations in Covid curbs PTI ■ NEW DELHI Expressing concern over the impact of continued Covid curbs on local businesses,

Indian Youth Congress stages a protest against Assam Chief Minister Hemant Biswa Sarma over his remark on party leader Rahul Gandhi, outside Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi on Sunday

Haryana CM lays foundation stone of 500-bed ESIC Hospital in IMT Manesar

Gurugram: Haryana chief Khattar said. bedded the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital in IMT Manesar Gurugram on Sunday.

During the event, Khattar said that once operational health facilities will be available to the general public along with the workers in the hospital and a nursing college will also be opened in Manesar.

"This 500-bed ESIC hospital will be built on a plot of about 8 acres at IMT Manesar. The construction of this hospital will cost more than Rs 500 crore, in which people will be given high-level facilities like an emergency, OPD, ICU, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatrics, heart disease, cancer treatment, blood bank etc. Apart from the Gurugram district, the people of Rewari, Nuh and adjoining districts will also benefit from this hospital."

Khattar informed that registered on Shram Shakti Portal in Haryana and 25 lakh people are registered in Labor Department and the cashless facility started for the employees, the facility of cashless treatment should also be started for the workers in the empanelled hospitals.

He said that this 500-bed ESIC hospital would be built in Manesar with the cooperation of the Central Government.

'To increase the health facilities across the state provision has been made for setting up of 200 bedded hospital at each district of Haryana. At present, there are 500-500 beds in PGI Rohtak and Nalhad Medical College in Nuh and Badsa (Jhajjar) with more than 600 beds capacity," said Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, who was also present on the occasion.

rescue 3 staffers

staffers from a fire that broke restaurant at Uttam Nagar area

The officials said that three

and five fire tenders were

"The fire was in two sweet shops cut restaurant. Three persons who got trapped inside were rescued by out team. There has been no causality reported and the fire was doused by 11.45 AM," he said.

However, the cooling process will be carried out as per procedure and the cause of fire is being ascertained.

Delhi Police's 'pink booth' at Janpath market earns praise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

female personnel to help praise from shoppers and is now growing for similar kiosks in other shopping cen-

The issues related to women should be resolved as the section is very vulnerable. I have not gone to other shopping places for a year and if no such booth is there, the authorities should consider setting up such kiosks there as

dent of the Khan Market Trade Association, said it must be the choice of shop owners whether they want to keep the shops open or not. "As everything has been normalised, the timing (for closing shops) should also be normalised. It must be the choice of the shop owners whether they want to keep the shops open or not. We want the restrictions to go," he We are saying that strict some way," he added.

please extend the timings of

shops till 9.30 pm," it said.

These views were echoed by

other trade associations in

Delhi. Sanjeev Mehra, presi-

guidelines like wearing masks should also be relaxed in

Sarojini Nagar Traders' Association president Ashok Randhawa expressed frustraes for shopkeepers. "We are saying for a long time that the timings should be extended. We have been facing losses because of these rules. The timing (for closing) of shops is 8 (pm) and we have to start the closing process by 7 (pm)," Randhawa said. Offices have also opened. People generally go in the

evening to make purchases This is the season of weddings. So, it makes no sense to put restrictions on shops, he added. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in its meeting on February 4, had extended the imposition of night curfew in the national capital but slashed its duration by an hour -- from 11 pm to 5 am. Due to the night curfew, shops selling non-essential items are only allowed to open till 8 pm. The DDMA had also

allowed the reopening of schools for classes 9 to 12 from February 7 and for students of nursery to Class 8 from February 14. Further, it had permitted all government and private offices to function at 100 per cent capacity. Gyms were also allowed to reopen with cer-

However, several restrictions like allowing only one weekly market in a municipal zone, no standing passengers in buses and Metro trains and a 50 per cent cap on seating capacity in restaurants, bars and cinemas remain, even though there has been a marked decline in COVID-19

Delhi adds 804 Covid cases, 12 deaths; positivity

Delhi on Sunday reported 804 fresh COVID-19 cases and 12 more deaths due to the viral disease, while the positivity rate declined further to 1.50 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department.

19 tests were conducted in the city the previous day, it said.

Delhi on Saturday report ed 920 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 1.68 per cent and 13 deaths. It recorded 977 cases with

a positivity rate of 1.73 per cent and 12 deaths on Friday On Thursday, the city logged 1,104 cases with a

positivity rate of 2.09 per cent and 12 deaths. The number of daily cases in Delhi has been on the decline after touching the record high of 28,867 on January 13. The city had

recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during the latest wave of the pandemic.

It took just 10 days for daily cases to drop below the

Delhi Police taps into social media trends to connect with public to spread awareness

From making memes using clips from popular Bollywood movies to Instagram reels to conducting interactive sessions online, the Delhi Police is tapping into the latest social media trends to connect with the public, spread awareness about cyber and financial crimes, and showcase its citizen-centric initiatives. On February 3, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana interacted with Delhiites on Twitter, informing them about the new initiatives launched by the force, among other things. On February 4, the Delhi Police held a live 'Ask Me Anything' session on Twitter focusing on cyber safety.

Making the most of Valentine's Week craze, in a post Day on February 8, the police appealed to people to make a promise to themselves to dial emergency number 112 if they see anyone in distress. Behind this creative work is the

Delhi Police's Social Media Centre, which is supervised by the Special Branch unit. The Social Media Centre

team comprises youngsters from creative and technical backgrounds. None of them is aged above 35, officials said.

The team keeps track of social media trends, watches the latest Bollywood movies and follows the news to be able to create engaging content. It also analyses the public feedback to its work, they said.

is to connect better with the public so that they do not hesitate to approach the police for help and convey things in a lan-guage they will easily under-

"The Delhi Police aspires to continue informing and empowering the people it serves. Social media is one of the greatest tools for mass communication and public relations we have today. We are glad to tap into this opportunity in an effective way. It's in line with our citizen-centric approach,' Asthana told PTI.

"Social media is not only the future but the present of information flow. For us, it is a way to take policing to the last mile and give citizens 24x7 accessibility to us," he said. The Delhi Police's Twitter handle has Instagram handle has only 4,011

In the coming months, the focus will be on generating awareness about cybercrimes and the safety of women and children, among other important issues of public interest, the officials said. There are also plans to create more content for Instagram, including Reels, to improve engagement, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Branch) Suman Nalwa said social media is an excellent way to communicate and exchange information. "We invite people to come forward and use it (social media) to know more about us and the services provided by us."

Differently-abled woman denied entry in Gurugram restaurant management apologises

Gurugram: A Gurugram restaurant faced huge anger on social media after the staff of the restaurant allegedly denied entry to a 22-year-old disabled woman in a wheelchair.

The disabled person has been identified as Shrishti

The woman tweeted: "The staff first ignored her but later said that the wheelchair won't go inside, because it will disturb

"I decided to go out with

The Gurugram police have also responded to the tweet

IYC protests against Sarma over his 'father-son' remark targeting Rahul, demands public apology

PTI NEW DELHI

The Congress' youth wing on Sunday staged a protest near Shastri Bhawan here against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his "father-son" remark targeting party leader Rahul Gandhi and demanded that he tender

a public apology.

National president of Indian Youth Congress Srinivas BV said that the BJP is resorting to "low-level politics" as it fears that it will be defeated in the ongoing assembly polls in the country. "The chief minister of Assam has crossed all limits of

political bankruptcy and lost his mental balance due to the fear of defeat. Sharma's statement is proof of his petty and poor thinking," Srinivas said. He demanded that Sarma

tender a public apology for his

statement and respect the dignity of his post. IYC's national media in-charge Rahul Rao claimed that many workers of the Congress' youth wing who participated in the protest were detained by the Delhi Police. Addressing a rally in pollbound Uttarakhand on Friday, Sarma had attacked Gandhi for demanding proof of the September 2016 surgical strike and questioning the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. He asked Gandhi whether the BJP had ever demanded proof of him being the son of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

On Saturday too the members of the Congress' youth and students' wings held protests here against Sarma. IYC activists led by Srinivas B V had staged a protest near Assam Bhawan, while the National Students' Union of India demonstrated outside its national office.

of 2 sweet shops **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI $T^{he\ Delhi\ Fire\ Sevice\ (DFS)}_{on\ Sunday\ rescued\ three}$ of southwest Delhi.

Delhi Fire Service

of them were rescued while no casualty has been reported. According to Atul Garg,

Director, DFS, a call regarding fire at a restaurant at Uttam Nagar area at around 10.45 AM pressed into service.

New Delhi, the modern grand Capital of India with the Raisina Hill complex at its heart, whose foundation stones were laid by King George V and Queen Mary over a century ago, was inaugurated on this day in

The new Delhi Police "pink ■ booth" at the popular Janpath market, staffed by women in distress, has earned hawkers alike and the demand

In less than a week of its establishment, the 'pink booth' has instilled a sense of security in women shoppers and hawkers. Arushi Prakash, who works in a private company in the national capital, said, "I feel that if similar complaints are coming on regular basis, then the police should work to address the matter.

where King George and Queen Mary had laid two foundation stones of the new capital city in succession. The stone blocks did not carry anything, but a simple inscription of "15th December 1911", according to archival records. After laying of the foundation stones, the King-Emperor, said: "It is my desire that the planning and designing of the public buildings to be erected should be considered with the greatest deliberation and care, so that the new creation may be in every way worthy of this ancient and beauti-In consonance with the

vision of the king, architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker built the new capital city of the British Raj, whose grandeur and architectural splendour rivalled the best of the cities in Europe and America. The centrepiece of this new capital was the Raisina Hill complex, housing the majestic Viceroy's House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan) and North Block and South Block.

The city, constructed between the two World Wars and which took over 20 years to build, was inaugurated on February 13, 1931 by the then Viceroy Lord Irwin. On the day of the inaugu-

ration, four iconic Dominion Columns, each made of red sandstone and topped by replica of a ship, were unveiled by Lord Irwin amid fanfare of trumpets followed by the playing of the (British) national anthem, according to the book 'Glittering Decades: New Delhi in Love and War'.

rate down to 1.5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With this, the national capital's caseload increased to 18,51,320 and the death toll climbed to 26,072, the latest bulletin showed. A total of 53,719 COVID

10,000-mark.

Pandey a resident of Delhi on Friday evening.

other customers.' my best friend&her family, we went to Raasta Gurgaon in the cyber hub&asked for a table for

4 people. Bhaiya (my friend's elder brother) asked for a table for four. The staff at the desk ignored him twice," she tweeted. The woman further tweeted that: Why do I always have to fight for the smallest of things? Why was I DENIED entry in a public place? Who are they to deny my entry just like that?

"Should I stop going out at

"ruined" after looking at me. I am heartbroken. Sad. And I feel disgusted," Pandey The series of tweets has

all only then? Because I don't

belong with others. Because I'm

a "disturbance" for others.

Because their moods get

now gone viral. Goumtesh Singh, founderpartner at Raasta, also respond-

ed to her tweets. He wrote in

reply, "We are deeply regretful of the episode that took place at raasta gurgaon on friday evening. We stand for inclusivity and would never want anyone to feel singled out for any reason. As part of our efforts, we have already reached out to the aggrieved patron to personally apologise to them. We are also taking steps internally to heighten sensitivity and empathy for our staff to ensure this never happens again."

seeking her details for swift

₹5,35,000 cr bank frauds during Modi era: RaGa

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister 1 Narendra Modi, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that bank frauds to the tune of ₹5,35,000 crore have happened so far in the "Modi era" and that fraud of that magnitude has never happened before in 75 years since India's independence.

His party, Congress, which is on a high pitched poll battle in five crucial States including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, said that the biggest bank frauds in Indian history has been allegedly committed by Gujarat-based ABG shipyard and right under the patronage of BJP led Governments.

The Congress, which will also put its stakes in the Gujarat Assembly polls later this year where it lost with a whisker in the last polls, said "India's Biggest Bank Fraud in 75 years has taken place under Modi Government watch during the period of seven years ever since Nàrendra Modi became the Prime Minister and is completely respon-



sible to have wrecked the nation's 'Banking System'.

Taking to Twitter to criticise the PM, Rahul Gandhi said that the Modi-led Government has defrauded the people of India and that the current era is only good for PM Modi and his "friends"

Congress at a Press conference referred to the bank frauds allegedly committed by Gujarat-based ABG Shipyard, owned by Rishi Agarwal and others for duping 28 Banks, including State Bank of India. He alleged that delay in the case proves 'complicity, collusion and connivance of those sitting in the highest echelons of power in the Modi government'.

"India woke up to the rude shock of the biggest ever bank fraud of ₹22,842 crore in the last 75 ears. Post a 5-year delay, dilly-dallying and permitting brazen embezzlement of public money, the CBI has finally registered an FIR on 7th February 2022, against Gujaratbased ABG Shipyard owned by Rishi Agarwal and others for duping 28 Banks, led by State Bank of India," Congress chief spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala said at an AICC press conference from Chandigarh. He also alleged that the Modi government is running a "loot & escape" flagship scheme for

"The fraudsters lists include Nirav Modi, i.e Chhota Modi, Mehul Choksi, Ami Modi, Neeshal Modi, Lalit Modi, Vijay Mallya, Jatin Mehta, Chetan Sandesara, Nitin Sandesara and many others with close connection and affection to the ruling establishment. Rishi Agarwal

Bank fraudsters.

'Shehenshah'" said Surjewala, questioning the delay on the part of CBI to file the case.

"Another intriguing facet is that ABG Shipyard was allotted 1,21,000 square metres of land in 2007 by Gujarat Govt headed by the then Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The CAG indicted the Gujarat Govt for undue favouring ABG Shipyard & Rishi Agarwal for allotting land at ₹700 per square metre, while the price of land was 100 percent higher, i.e, ₹ 1,400 per square metre." Surjeyala mentioned metre," Surjewala mentioned.

"Another amazing facet is that despite the CAG report, the Gujarat Govt headed by the then CM, Narendra Modi proceeded to allot 50 hectares of land to ABG Shipyard & Rishi Agarwal in Dahej, Gujarat. The Dahej project was shut down by ABG Shipyard in the year 2015, Surjewala said sharing the details at the Press meet.

"Why did it take 5 years after the liquidation proceedings of ABG Shipyard to lodge even an FIR for duping 28 banks of ₹22,842 crore ?",

Scamsters easily getting bail whereas farmers are committing suicide: Varun

New Delhi: Dissident BJP Member of Parliament Varun Gandhi on Sunday voiced himself against "easy grant of bails" and "settlement" to those involved in crores of rupees frauds in several banks while, he said, farmers and shopkeepers are "committing suicide" as they are "unable to pay their small debts to banks".

Indirectly attacking the Government on 'delayed' CBI probe against ABG Shipyard Ltd Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal allegedly involved in ₹22,842 crore fraud in 28 banks, Varun said scamsters are easily getting bail and "get back to their plush living" by "bargaining on their own

In a tweet, the BJP MP tagged newspaper reports on CBI probe into ABG Shipyard Limited along with "suicide" by a small farmer Govind Singh in Jalaun district, Uttar Pradesh, who was "unable to pay bank loan taken for daughter's marriage and unable to pay due to deficient rain..".

It has also a report saying CBI lodged a complaint against the company for fraud way back in March Nov 8, 2019. Varun wondered how big industrialists get easy bails while property of a farmer and a small shopkeeper is immediately " seized".

"Desh ka kisan ya chota dukandar hazaron rupayon bhi Karz na chuka paye to uski kurki hogi ya unhain atmhatya ke liye majboor hona padta hain, Lekin hazaron crore ki chori karne walon ko asani se jamanat mil jati hain aur ye log man mani keemat par len-den kar phir se apne vaibhavshali jeevan main laut jatain hain..", said the Pilibhit MP who has,in recent months, been attacking the Modi-Government on several issues, including its economic policies.

The CBI on Saturday booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its then Chairman and Managing Director for defrauding a consortium of State Bank of India of over ₹22,842 crore in its biggest bank fraud case. PNS

Centre approves police force modernisation scheme for five years, allocates ₹26,275 crore

The Centre has allotted Rs 26,275 crore for continuation of police modernization in States. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday said that provision has been made under the scheme for internal security, law and order, adoption of modern technology by police, assisting States for narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic set-up in the country.

"The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF). The approval for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, moves forward the initiative of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to modernise and improve the functioning of Police Forces of States and Union

Territories. This scheme comprises all rel evant sub-schemes that contribute to modernization and improvement with a total Central financial outlay of Rs.26,275 crore, said the MHA in a statement.

Majority of the scheme is allotted for Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency affected North Eastern States Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. Rs.18,839 crore is allotted for the police modernization in these areas. The Scheme for modernization of State police forces has a Central outlay of Rs.4,846 crore. "To develop operationally independent high-quality forensic sciences facilities in States/Union Territories for aiding scientific and timely investigation through modernization of resources. A central Scheme for Modernisation of Forensic Capacities with outlay of Rs.2,080.50 crore has been approved," said

ED arrests Agarwal of Ghanshyamdas Jewels for money laundering and ₹67cr loss to SBI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Partner of Ghanshyamdas Gems & Jewels on money laundering charges in a loan fraud case in which State Bank of India, Hyderabad, suffered a loss of Rs 67 crore. The ED had initiated money

laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Banking Securities and Fraud Branch, CBI, Bangalore under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Subsequently, the CBI registered another FİR against Sanjay Agarwal and others relating to fraudulently removing gold and jewellery hypothecated to PNB against gold loan availed by his



firm and thereby causing a loss of Rs 31.97 crore to Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Investigation by ED revealed that Agarwal was engaged in wholesale trading of gold. In 2010 and 2011, he fraudulently pro-cured gold bullion from SBI by producing fake and forged Bank Guarantees and covering letters purportedly issued by PNB and sold the gold bullion in local market to various jewellers and small traders in cash

The cash generated was diverted to several other firms floated by Agarwal in the name of his wife, brothers and his employees. Later, after the default on the gold loan happened, SBI found that the bank guarantees and letters were forged.

On August 17, 2011, Agarwal and his brothers Ajay and Vinay clandestinely removed the entire stock of gold and jewellery kept at their store in Abids, Hyderabad. The stock was already hypothecated to the PNB against gold loan availed by the firm.

Agarwal was already lodged in Kolkata jail in another ED case related to diversion of 'duty-free export bound gold' into the domestic market. He was produced before the PMLA Special Court Hyderabad on February on Friday on a Production Warrant and he was remanded to

2 advocates, businessman held by CBI for derogatory online posts against SČ, HĆ judges



PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ CBI}$ has arrested three more accused, including an advocate, for making derogatory posts on social media against judges and judi-

ciary.

The CBI has registered several cases/FIRs against the accused allegedly involved in intentionally targeting the judges and judiciary through nterviews/social media/posts/speeches in online platforms, maliciously attributing ulterior motives in delivery of orders/judgments.

The cases/FIRs were registered on the orders of the on a writ petition 9166 of 2020. Searches were conducted at 10 locations including office/residential premises of accused/suspects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, wherein incriminating evidences were recovered.

CBI has also arrested three accused including an advocate, businessman from Hyderabad.

The arrested accused persons were produced before the jurisdictional court at Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) and were remanded to judicial custody. Investigation in the cases is continuing.

The arrested accused in the

The cases/FIRs were registered on the orders of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on writ petition 9,166 of 2020

case are advocate Kalanidhi Gopala Krishna Kalanidhi, businessman Chandrasekhar and a Hyderabad-based software

engineer. The number of accused arrested in the case went up to 14 with these arrests. Two more accused persons wanted in these cases are yet to be arrested.

In November 2020, the various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act against 16 persons for making derogatory remarks against judges and

Earlier, the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Andhra Pradesh had registered 12 FIRs on the issue and these cases were transferred to the CBI for further

The accused allegedly made derogatory social media posts against judges, intentionally targeting them following certain verdicts delivered by the Andhra Pradesh High

IMD predicts dense fog in UP, Punjab, Haryana in 24 hrs

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted dense fog conditions during night and morning hours are very likely to prevail in isolated places over northern parts of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh during the next perature is expected to rise 2 to degree Celsius in north, northwest and central India in the next two to five days.

"Dense fog is very likely to prevail in several regions of northern Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours," the IMD said on Sunday. The IMD said there will be gradual rise in minimum temperatures by 2-4 degree Celsius very likely over most parts of Northwest and most parts of Central India during the next four days. "There will be no change in minimum temperature in east India during the next four "Shallow to Moderate



Fog Conditions during night/morning hour," it added.

The Western Himalayan Region is very likely to receive scattered to fairly widespread light rainfall/snowfall and light isolated to scattered rainfall over plains of northwest India from February 17-20.

Meanwhile, the IMD has redicted isolated to scattered light rainfall/snowfall very likein Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad during February 13-16 and over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on

February 15-16.

Parts of southern Tamil Nadu districts have also been witnessing rainfall due to a feeble trough over the Comorin area and strong northeasterly winds prevailing over coastal Tamil Nadu.

According to Skymet, central and East India usually occur due to the formation of a confluence zone or movement of a cyclonic circulation from west to east. During the next week, these two types of weather systems may form leading to scattered rain.

Minimal jewellery, no visit to duty free: Air India's new advisory to cabin crew

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Air India has advised its adhere to minimum jewellery to avoid unnecessarily delay at customs and security check up, avoid visiting duty free shops and proceed to boarding gate after checks to improve airline on-time performance.

advised to complete mandatory pre-flight checks and not to delay passenger boarding. The latest advisory came weeks after Air India's cabin crew objected to the company's circular mandating body mass index (BMI) and weight checks for cabin crew prior to embarking on flights.

In a communication issued on Sunday, Air India executive director (IFS) Vasudha Chandna mentions several steps to maintain OTP on all flights across the network and prevent delays that could occur due to cabin crew. The crew have been told to adhere to regulations regarding uniforms

delays at customs or security checks at airports. Once on board, the cabin

crew should only wear the items of PPE kit which are required to be worn as per the latest circular (headgear and foot covers have been withdrawn) in the shortest possible tory checks before/well within the prescribed timings. Do not delay mandatory pre-flight check clearance which may be attributable to cabin crew," it

"..to maintain OTP on all flights across the network and prevent delays occurring due to cabin crew," the crew has been asked to proceed to immigration (at outstations) as soon as they complete check-in formalities," it said. The cabin crew must not wait for the commander at movement control/check in counter (at outstation) and proceed to the aircraft well with in time.

"The cabin crew should

with emphasis on minimum not visit duty free shops and jewellery in order to avoid any proceed to the boarding gate soon after completing immigration and security checks," it

> The cabin crew has also been asked not to consume beverages or eat food prior to the boarding of the passengers or during that process and assist in swift boarding of the communication.

Asking the cabin crew staff not to delay the mandatory preflight check clearance, which may be attributed to the cabin crew, it has advised cabin supervisor to give clearance for boarding to the ground staff before or well within the prescribed timings. Cabin supervisor must ensure that all cabin crew are present in the cabin. Besides, the airline has also sought the cabin crew proceeding to the cabin crew movement control office or MCO or immigration(at outstations) completing their check-in formalities.

Long Covid could be linked to effects of

 $M_{
m dizziness}^{
m any}$ of the symptoms such as lowing connected to post-Covid syn-

The study is to be presented at European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases to be held in April this year. The study is by Dr Gemma Lladós and Dr Lourdes Mateu, University Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Spain, and col-

The vagus nerve extends from the brain down into the torso and into the heart, lungs and intestines, as well as several muscles including those involved in swallowing. As such, this nerve is responsible for a wide variety of bodily functions including controlling heart rate, speech, the gag reflex, transferring food from the mouth to the stomach, moving food through the

The researchers noted that the long Covid is a potentially disabling syndrome affecting an estimated 10tion. The authors proposed that SARS-CoV-2-mediated vagus nerve dysfunction (VND) could explain some long Covid symptoms, including dysphonia (persistent voice problems), dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), dizziness, tachycardia (abnormally high heart rate), orthostatic hypotension (low blood pressure) and diarrhoea.

The authors performed a pilot study on 348 patients, extensive morphological and functional evaluation of the vagus nerve, using imaging and functional tests in a prospective observational cohort of long Covid subjects with symptoms suggestive of VND between March and June 2021. The study is ongoing, and continues to recruit patients.

Eating and digestive function was also affected in some patients, said the researchers.

"In this pilot evaluation, most long Covid subjects with vagus nerve dysfunction symptoms had a range of significant, clinically-relevant, structural and/or functional alterations in their vagus nerve, including nerve thickening, trouble swallowing, and symptoms of impaired breathing. Our findings so far thus point at vagus nerve dysfunction as a central pathophysiological feature of long Covid," said the

Over 70% of teens between 15-18 age group receive first dose of Covid vaccine



Over 70 per cent of adolescents in the 15-18 age group in India have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine so far, even as fresh infections at 44,877 in the last 24 hours were lower by 11 per cent than Saturday's 50,407 cases. Daily positivity rate of 3.17 per cent is marginally lower than yesterday. The weekly positivity rate is 4.46 per cent. At least 1,17,591 have recovered in the last 24 hours; 172.81 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of vaccination among adolescents—over 70 per cent already inoculated—Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday: "Young India further strengthening the world's largest vaccination drive. Over 70% of our youngsters 1st dose of Covdi-19 vaccine."

"I appeal to all eligible young friends to get vaccinated at the earliest," he added. The estimated population of beneficiaries in the 15-18 age group is 7.4 crore for 2021-22, according to the Registrar General of India.

Data available from the Union Health Ministry showed that over 1.47 crore beneficiaries in the 15 to 18 age group are fully vaccinated. With the administration of more than 49.16 lakh doses in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country have exceeded 172.81 crore, according to provisional reports till 7 am.

Vaccination of children aged between 15 and 18 began from January 3, this year across the uated the available safety and immuno-

Biological E seeks emergency use of Corbevax for 12-18 years age group

PNS NEW DELHI

 $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{iological\,E\,has\,sought}}$ authorisation (EUA) from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for its Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group, according to various

reports. The drug regulator has already approved Corbevax, which is India's

first indigenously developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against the deadly virus, for restricted use in emergency situations among adults on December

In an application sent to DCGI on February 9, Srinivas Kosaraju, head of Quality and Regulatory Affairs of Biological E Limited, said the firm had received approval for conducting phase 2/3 clinical study of Corbevax among children and adolescents aged 5-18

years in September. "Based on the no-objection certificate, Biological E has initiated the clinical study in October 2021 and has evalgenicity results of the ongoing phase 2/3 study, which indicated that the vaccine is safe and immunogenic.

"The proposed application is for obtaining permission for restricted use in an emergency situation in adolescents aged 12 to less than 18 years based on interim results (of the

ongoing phase 2/3 clinical study) considering the current pandemic and widespread of Covid-19 vaccine in India, Kosaraju said in the application. The Corbevax vaccine is administered through an intramuscular route

with two doses scheduled 28 days apart and is stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius temperatures and presented as 0.5 ml (single dose) and 5 ml (10 doses) vial pack. According to the Union Health

Ministry, the company has conducted phase 1/2, 2/3 clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine in the country. Further, it has conducted a phase 3 active comparator clinical trial to evaluate superiority against Covishield vac-

SARS-CoV-2 on vagus nerve: Study

PNS NEW DELHI

drome (PCC, also known as long Covid19) could be linked to the effect of the virus on the vagus nerve - one of the most important multi-functional nerves in the body, according to a study led by researchers from Spain.

intestines, sweating, and many others.

15% of subjects who survive the infec-

Voting in Goa, U'khand today

301 candidates for 40 Assembly seats in Goa, 632 candidates for 70 seats in U'khand in fray

Voting will be held on Monday in all Assembly seats in Goa and Uttarakhand, besides 55 constituencies Uttar Pradesh in the second phase of the State polls, with Chief Ministers Pramod Sawant and Pushkar Singh Dhami, former CM Harish Rawat and iailed Samaiwadi Party leader Azam Khan among the prominent leaders in the

fray.

It is a high-stakes election

DIP and a litmus for the ruling BJP and a litmus test for the Modi Government's policies that the Congress, AAP and other opposition parties have targeted during their cam-

The coastal State of Goa, with over 11 lakh voters, has 301 candidates contesting from 40 Assembly seats, while in Uttarakhand, which has an electorate of 81 lakh, 632 candidates, including 152 independents, are in the fray from 70 seats.

Traditionally the two states have seen bipolar politics, but they are witnessing a multi-cornered contest this time with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) throwing its hat in the ring. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) and other smaller parties are also vying to make a mark on Goa's electoral scene.

Around 100 all-women polling booths called 'Sakhi' or pink booths have been set up in age participation of women in the polling process, according to

Also, some booths will be manned by differently-abled

In the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, as many as 586 candidates are in the frav from 55 seats in this phase spread across Saharanpur, Bijnor, Moradabad, Sambhal, Rampur, Amroha, Budaun, Bareilly and Shahjahanpur.

Campaigning was affected by COVID-19 restrictions which were gradually relaxed by the Election Commission in the last couple of weeks. Election officials said all

arrangements have been made to conduct polling while following COVID-19 protocols. Voting will begin at 8 AM

and conclude at 6 PM in Uttarakhand where there will be 11,697 polling booths. It will be the fifth assembly election to be held in the hill state after its cre-Important candidates

whose fate is to be decided in these polls include Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, his cabinet colleagues Satpal Maharaj, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Dhan Singh Rawat and Rekha Arva besides state BIP president Madan Kaushik. Prominent candidates from the

each state this time to encour- Congress include former chief minister Harish Rawat, former minister Yashpal Arya, state Congress president Ganesh Godiyal and Leader of Opposition in the fourth assembly Pritam Singh.

Seeking a second consecutive term for the BJP, its stalwarts have warned voters against the Congress' "policy of appeasement" and asked for votes highlighting the road, rail and air connectivity projects underway in the state and the ones in the pipeline besides the reconstruction of Kedarnath over the past

They have sought votes in the name of a double-engine government for the state's uninterrupted development over the next five years while Congress, which is trying to gain lost ground after its rout in 2017 assembly polls, has raised the issues of inflation, unemployment and change of chief ministers in quick succession.

The BJP had won 57 out of a total of 70 seats in Uttarakhand in the last assembly polls limiting Congress to just 11. Two seats had gone to Independents.

The AAP, which is contesting all 70 assembly constituencies, has offered a slew of freebies including free electricity up to 300 units to every household, Rs 1,000 per month to every woman above 18 years, jobs to every household and an unemployment allowance of Rs 5,000 per month to them until they get the job to lure voters. The prominent candidates

in Goa include Chief Minister Pramod Sawant (BJP), Leader of the Opposition Digambar Kamat (Congress), former CMs Churchill Alemao (TMC), Ravi Naik (BJP), Laxmikant Parsekar (independent), former deputy CMs Vijai Sardesai (GFP) and Sudin Dhavalikar (MGP), late CM Manohar Parrikar's son Utpal Parrikar and AAP's CM face Amit Paleker.

The Congress and the Goa Forward Party (GFP) are fighting the election in alliance, while the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC has joined hands with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) to contest the polls. The Shiv Sena and the NCP had also announced their pre-poll alliance, while the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP is contesting on its own.

The Revolutionary Goans, Goencho Swabhimaan Party, Jai Mahabharat Party and Sambhaji Brigade are also in the poll fray, besides 68 independent candidates

The counting of votes will take place on March 10. The state had recorded an

82.56 percent turnout during the 2017 elections. The Congress had at that time won 17 seats,

BJP had then quickly stitched up an alliance with some regional outfits and independents to form government in the state.In Uttar Pradesh, polling will be held from 7 AM to 6 PM.

Of the 55 seats going to polls in this phase, the BJP had won 38 in 2017, while the Samajwadi Party had bagged 15 and the Congress two. The SP and the Congress had contested the last Assembly election in an alliance. The areas going to the polls

in this phase have a sizeable Muslim population influenced by religious leaders of the Barelvi and Deoband sects and are considered to be the strongholds of the Samajwadi Party.

The prominent faces in the fray in this phase include Dharam Singh Saini, a BJP state minister who had switched to the SP.Azam Khan has been fielded from his stronghold Rampur seat, while Saini is trying his luck from the Nakud Assembly segment.

Khan's son Abdullah Azam has been fielded from the Swar seat. He has been pitted against Haider Ali Khan, the heir of another political family, the Nawabs of Rampur, who is trying his luck on the ticket of Apna (Sonelal), a BJP

TN in grip of mini-election fever, 2.79 cr voters to cast votes

bomb has been exploded in Tamil Nadu by AIADMK leaders Edappadi Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam, both former Chief Ministers of the State. What is unique about it is the "synchronised explosion" perpetrated by Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam in a surcharged atmosphere. Tamil Nadu is in the grip of a mini election fever as 21 municipal corporations,138 municipalities and 490 town panchayaths go to the polls on February 19 when 2.79 core voters would cast their votes. Elections to the rural local bodies were completed in 2021 itself while the polls to the urban bodies were deferred due to court orders and delimita-

The poll will see the election of 12,838 local body members (corporation ward members, municipal councillors and district panchayat members) and the counting is scheduled for February 22. The AIADMK leaders has already labelled the poll outcome as a verdict on the performance of the eight month long DMK rule.

In normal course, Tamil Nadu electorate need elect a new State Government only in 2026. "Tamil Nadu would see an Assembly Poll in 2024 under the One Nation-One Election plan mooted by Prime Minister

K'taka CM confident of peace as high schools reopen today

Narendra Modi. It is good because the DMK has failed in implementing at least one of the 525 promises it made to the electorate during the 2021 Assembly election," said Palaniswamy while addressing election rallies in Karur.

Panneerselvam, who is campaigning in Tiruchirappalli district also made a simultaneous announcement that the State would see Assembly polls in 2024 and he too attributed the basis of the forecast to the One Nation One Election scheme announced by the Prime Minister. Senior Congress leader E

M Sudarshan Nachiappan, who headed the Parliamentary Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law and Justice had submitted a report on the "Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies" had recommended "One Nation One Election" concept much before Prime Minister's proposal for such a "It is time we thought

about such a reform in our electoral system. Every year we have elections to at least five or six State assemblies and this result in huge expenditure as well as policy paralysis for months. The One Nation One Poll idea mooted by the Prime Minister requires the amendment of the Constitution. But it is possible to implement the One Nation One Poll concept

over a period of 20 years without resorting to amending the Constitution," Dr Nachiappan told The Pioneer. The DMK is rattled by the synchronised statements by

Panneerselvam and Palaniswami about the prospectus of 2024 simultaneous elections. A veteran Congress leader said things were not favourable for the DMK in the local body elections as there was widespread unhappiness over the Stalin Government's failure to fulfil the promises it had made in the run up to the 2021 assembly election. "The Pongal gift given

to the people (rice, jhangri,

sweets) was of substandard

quality, there was no cash of Rs

2000 per hamper or even the

customary sugar cane," said the Congress leader. Though the going is not that easy for the DMK in this round of election. "The precedent that the ruling party generally scrapes past in the local body polls may come to the rescue of DMK," said C D Meyyappan, AICC leader from Tamil Nadu.

Kolahala Srenivasan, political observer, is of the view that the statements by the AIADMK leaders should be taken seri-

Corruption has increased in double engine Govt, says Akhilesh Yadav

National President and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav fiercely targeted the BJP in the election meeting at Krida

Akhilesh Yadav said that corruption has increased in the double engine government. A big leader in BJP tells even a bigger lie.

BJP leaders today talk about ending the mafia and goondaraj in the State, but this is completely wrong. The Hathras incident is an example of this. Had there been a system of good treatment around, that sister's life could have been saved.

Not only this, her body was cremated at midnight against the wishes of the relatives. Similarly, in Gorakhpur, the police killed a businessman. The former Chief Minister tinuously killing people.

He further said that if the SP Government is formed in the State, then the dependents of those who have died due to stray cattle will be given financial help. He also mentioned about the death of a farmer in Hathras two days ago due to stray cattle. The former CM also said

that if the SP Government is formed, then the families of the farmers who died in the farmers' movement will also be financially helped and they will be given ₹25 lakh each. The former CM also targetted the State Government regarding the incident that crushed the farmers in Lakhimpur.

The former Chief Minister appealed to the candidates of the SP-RLD alliance to win all

the assembly seats in the dis-

The former Chief Minister also mentioned the business of Hathras in his address. He said that if his government comes, then the business of Hathras will be promoted further and such arrangements will be made so that the asafoetida here can be supplied abroad.

Former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav also took a jibe at CM Yogi and said that Baba does not know how to operate a laptop. He said that the Chief Minister is talking about quelling the heat, while we are talking about taking out recruitment. Akhilesh Yadav said that we will not only give 300 units of electricity free of cost, and if needed, we will also give diesel and petrol for free

Hubballi: A day ahead of high schools across the State up to class 10 that were shut in the wake of the hijab row, reopening, Karnataka Chief Minister

Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday

expressed confidence that

peace and normalcy will pre-

He also said that a decision regarding reopening of Pre-University and Degree colleges will be taken after assessing the

"High schools up to class 10 will reopen tomorrow, already Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of police and Deputy Director of Public Instruction of all districts have been asked to hold peace meetings involving parents and teachers at important schools aimed at maintaining cordial atmosphere. I'm confident that schools will function peacefully," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here,

he said that he has asked Education Ministers to submit a report after examining the situation regarding reopening of Pre- University and Degree colleges, based on the assessment a meeting will be held and a decision will be taken.

The government on Friday said that holiday announced to universities belonging to the department of Higher Education and colleges under the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education (DCTE), in the wake of the Hijab row, has been extended till February 16.

Regarding reports about involvement of certain organisations and foreign hands behind the hijab row, the Chief Minister in response to a question said, "such reports in the media and social media are being taken note by our investigating officials, who are also gathering information on their end.

Section 144 CrPc imposed around schools in Udupi

Mangaluru: The Udupi district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC in areas around all high schools in the district from Monday till February 19.

The move comes as part of precautionary measure as the schools are reopening Monday after the holiday declared by the state government in view of the hijab-saffron shawl controversy.

The order will be in effect from 6 AM on February 14 to 6 PM on February 19. The order has been clamped following a request by the district superintendent of police to deputy commissioner. *PTI*

"What is before me, and my first duty is that schools and colleges should return to normal functioning, and students should study in a peaceful and cordial atmosphere and prepare for exams that is likely by March-April," he said. As protests for and against

the hijab intensified in different parts of Karnataka and turned violent in some places, the government declared a holiday for all high schools and colleges in the state for three days, from February 9.

Following the court order, the government on February 10 had decided to resume classes for high school students up to class 10 from February 14, and for Pre-University and Degree Colleges thereafter.

The Karnataka High Court, in its interim order pending consideration of all petitions related to the Hijab row, had earlier requested the educational institutions and restrained all the students from wearing saffron shawls, scarves, Hijab and any religious flag within the classroom. In the wake of reopening of schools, the government had

last week issued a series of

state government to reopen

directions to district administrations, aimed at maintaining peace and that the High Court order is not violated. Bommai, who also holds

the Finance portfolio and will be presenting his first budget early next month said, allround development of the state is in his mind.

"After the economic slowdown due to Covid for the last two years, things are recovering in the last four to five months, there is improvement in the revenue collection. Budget will focus on economic development, public welfare and financial discipline. PTI



Women shop at a gift shop on the eve of Valentine's Day, in Kolkata on Sunday

Jolt for BJP ahead of civic polls as 3 leaders rejoin TMC

Kolkata: Three BJP leaders, who had withdrawn their nominations for polls to the Garulia Municipality in West Bengal, on Sunday made their way back to the Trinamool Congress, voicing grievance over the saffron party's style of functioning.
Polls to 108 municipalities,

including Garulia, are scheduled to be held on February 27.

The three leaders - former MLA Sunil Singh, his son Aditya and Garulia Municipality's ex-chairperson Saurabh Singh - had withdrawn their nominations on Saturday.

The trio, relatives of BJP's Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh, rejoined the TMC at the Titagarh party office in the presence of West Bengal min-ister Jyotipriyo Mallick and Naihati MLA Partha Bhowmik.

They were fielded by the saffron party from ward numbers 12, 17 and 18 of Garulia Municipality.

"We are unhappy with the way the North 24 Parganas unit of BJP is functioning. While the organisational base of the party is shrinking fast in the district, the number of self-styled leaders has increased.

seeking release of father declared Pakistani by court

New Delhi: Two Meerut siblings have moved the Supreme Court seeking the release of their father, who was declared a Pakistani national by a court and has been languishing in a detention centre for seven years as Islamabad refuses to accept him as a citizen.

Mohammad Qamar, 62, was arrested on August 8, 2011 from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, and was held guilty by a court here for overstaying his

He was sentenced to three years and six months in jail and a fine of ₹ 500.

Having completed his sentence on February 6, 2015, Qamar, a father of five, was sent to the Detention Centre at Lampur in Narela here on February 7, 2015 for deportation to Pakistan. However, the Pakistan gov-

ernment did not accept his deportation and he is still languishing at the detention cen-

Children move SC | Person not named in FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings against other accused: SC

> New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that a person who has not been named as an accused in an FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings concerning another person in a criminal case.

> A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar made the remarks while hearing a plea seeking quashing of an FIR in the UPPCL Provident Fund investment scam registered at Hazratgani police station of Lucknow, which was initially probed by Uttar Pradesh Police but was later transferred to the CBI. The bench said, "It is not in dispute that the petitioners have not been named as accused in the said crime. If the petitioners have not been named as accused in the said crime, the question of quashing the stated FIR or the case, now under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arising from the said crime, does not arise as the petitioners will have no locus to seek such a relief.'

> It added, "In other words, the petitioners not being named as accused in the said crime or the case now registered by the CBI on the basis of the said crime cannot be permitted to ask for quashing of the proceedings concerning some other persons

> The bench said in its recent order that the court does not intend to examine the relief sought by Hukum Chand Garg and others and added that they can take recourse to appropriate remedy as and when they are named by the investigating agency (CBI) in connection with the stated offence, now under investigation.

> The bench, however, added that the investigating officer of the CBI shall give 48 hours' advance notice to the petitioners before proceeding against them so as to enable them to take recourse to appropriate remedy, as may be advised. It said all contentions available to both sides are left open and clarified that this order is in the peculiar facts of the present case and the response filed by the respondents in this petition.

Farmers winnow the harvested mustard seeds at a field on the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday

One killed, two injured in Kannur bomb explosion

Kannur: One person was killed and two others injured in a bomb blast in Kannur district of Kerala on Sunday afternoon.

According to the police, the deceased and the injured were part of the same group and were planning to attack another group with the bomb over some dispute which occurred a day ago. On Saturday, arguments between the two groups occurred at a house in Thottada where a wedding was to take place, they said.

After the locals intervened, the dispute was resolved and the wedding took place on Sunday morning.

Thereafter, in the afternoon, around 2.00 PM, the attack occurred in front of the wedding party comprising the bride and groom. No one from the bridal party was injured in the attack, it added. When the bomb was thrown, instead of hitting someone from the rival group, it hit Jishnu -- a member of the attacking group. **PTI**

No jammer, ambulance for ex-J&K CMs in Srinagar UT admn had already scaled down security cover of 4 ex-CMs of J&K

carried out by the The

Srinagar/New Delhi: The and Mehbooba Mufti jammers security cover of four former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers has been scaled down further with the Union Territory administration's decision to stop deployment of jammers and ambulances during their movement within Srinagar district, according to officials.

On Saturday, veteran politician and Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah, was seen offering prayers at the famous Hazratbal shrine and Dasgeer Saab in downtown Srinagar but there was neither an ambulance nor were there jammers, which, among other things, also blocks signals in cases where terrorists have planted an improvised explosive device that can be triggered by remote control.

attend to medical emergencies during travel. However, the officials, said during inter-district movement of former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Omar Abdullah

The ambulance is provided to

and ambulances will continue to be deployed. This comes in the wake of

the recent decision to downsize the Special Security Group (SSG), which had been created under a law enacted by the assembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for protection of chief ministers and former chief ministers.

Subsequently, the SSG cover for the four former chief ministers was withdrawn and their protection entrusted to the security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which will be backed by central armed paramilitary forces.

Queries to the Jammu and Kashmir Police on the subject elicited no formal response.

The move comes at a time when Srinagar city has been

witnessing terrorist-related violence since last year. Many encounters between security forces and militants have taken place within the

city's limits besides some tar-

geted killings of civilians being

Resistance Front, a shadow group of the banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. The Jammu and Kashmir

administration had withdrawn SSG protection after it was decided to downsize the elite unit established in 2000. This move came over 19

months after the Centre issued a gazette notification Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020, on March 31, 2020, under which it amended the Special Security Group Act of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir government by omitting a clause that provided former chief ministers and their families with SSG

The officials said the SSG was in the process of being "right-sized" by reducing number of personnel in the elite force to "bare minimum" and that it will be headed by an officer below the rank of superintendent of police as against a director, who is in the rank of an inspector general of police The SSG has now been

entrusted with the security of serving chief ministers and their immediate family mem-

The decision entailed withdrawal of security cover of National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba and Congress leader Azad at a time when a number of terror incidents have taken place in Srinagar where all of them except Azad

Farooq Abdullah and Azad, however, will continue to be provided National Security Guard cover, whose personnel are known as Black Cat commandos, as both have been categorised as Z-plus protectees. Omar Abdullah and

Mehbooba also continue to have Z-plus security cover while in Jammu and Kashmir but are likely to have a reduced security outside the Union

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Power of the purse

It's time for the IPL to plough back funds and invest in, nurture future generations

heady mix of glitz, glamour and capital! That just about sums up the 2022 mega auction of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Ten teams with a maximum Imit of ₹90 crore each turned it into the new year's second-biggest big-money affair, after the annual Budget. A total of over 600 players were up for grabs. Of them, 229 are capped players. The remaining 364 are uncapped, that is, they are yet to be selected by any of the teams. Pacer Avesh Khan created IPL history by becoming the most expensive uncapped player to be picked up for ₹10 crore. Four other uncapped players sold for a total of ₹33 crore. After the heavy-duty players were all auctioned, this is how the player-to-cash equation stood: Seven players fetched Rs83 crore in the ₹10-crore plus bracket. Twenty-eight players were sold for ₹212.5 crore, the minimum price being ₹5crore. Between the two groups, the 35 players are worth ₹305.5 crore. The allocation for sports in the Union Budget for 2022-23 went up more or less by the same amount — ₹305.58 crore. The auction budget of IPL alone is ₹900 crore which is just under a third of ₹3062.6 crore, the annual Budget for the entire Sports Ministry. The IPL celebrated young crick-

eter Ishan Krishan going for a whopping ₹15.25 crore - the highest price in the auction.



The Members of Parliament thumped their desks when the Union Finance Minister announced the ₹305.58 crore hike in the sports budget to aid India's preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games this year. Such is the contrast between the monetary fates of just one cricketer on the one hand, and the combined national contingents for the two international events on the other. This is not about big money flowing into cricket. This is about big money flowing only into top-

end cricket. Since the idea of IPL in 2007, the game has metamorphosed into a moneymaking machine, making millionaires of anyone good enough to be part of it. But that does not mean that cricket infrastructure in the country has received a new fillip. Even today, Yashasvi Jaiswals of the future must be practising hard in the crowded maidans of Mumbai or local parks in Tier II and III cities, without sneakers for their feet or roofs on their heads. The deep involvement of the corporates in cricket reflects in the luxury lifestyles of successful cricketers but not in the availability of basic infrastructural facilities for the aspiring. Youngsters lack institutionalised junior programmes such as the clubs of the English Premier League, La Liga, NBA or NFL invest in to nurture future generations. Once enrolled, the players progress from schoolboy contracts to scholarships and professional contracts between nine to 16 years. If they fail to click, they take up allied professions like fitness, nutrition, video analysis, coaching or marketing. The IPL's plough-back time is now.



The Motherland monument in Kyiv, Ukraine, as Russia keeps amassing troops along its borders

Uphill State

Uttarakhand votes today; who among the BJP, Congress and AAP will make it to the top?

s Uttarakhand goes to Assembly election today, the voters are faced with Hobson's choice. Traditionally, the hill State witnesses a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP, cornering nearly a third of total votes each and governing alternately. This has been the case in three of the four Assembly elections in Uttarakhand since its formation but this time the AAP is also in the fray on all the 70 seats. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's election-eve promise of a Uniform Civil Code is aimed at differentiating himself from his two predecessors and the lega-



cv of anti-incumbency but scams, mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, damaging environmental policies, rampant profiteering in land and, most of all, three Chief Ministers in four months can dent the BJP's prospects. Hence the Congress slogan, 'Teen tigada kaam bigada, Uttarakhand mein nahi aayegi Bhajpa dobara'. The BJP leaders have warned the electorate against the Congress's "appeasement policy" even as the latter is banking on strong antiincumbency and the consequent negative voting to regain power. The Congress has the edge but it is caught up in self-destructive factional feuds. Widespread disgust over ego clashes in the

Congress matches voters' exasperation with the BJP's shenanigans.

Despite infighting, the Congress appears marginally better placed in Kumaon (20 seats). Several districts here recently suffered devastating floods and landslides. Other than land law and migration, the grievances here are of the bijli-sadak-paani variety. The Terai plains (20 seats) are also inclined towards the Congress. Meanwhile, the AAP is seeking votes by accusing Congress and BJP Governments of not fulfilling the aspirations of people. It has also offered a slew of freebies, including free electricity up to 300 units to every household, ₹1,000 per month to every woman above 18 years, jobs to every household and an unemployment allowance of ₹5,000 per month. Uttarakhand, blessed with natural resources, high literacy and a locational advantage, has been bogged down by politics and corruption since inception. A State that, with snow-fed glaciers, 17 rivers and 31 lakes, provides water to the National Capital Region itself suffers severe water shortages. The BJP's much-touted "double-engine" Government has failed to deliver but the Congress doesn't hold out much hope either.

Need for Uniform Civil Code is real



Certain violations and contradictions leave the door wide open for our law courts to discriminate between communities in the domain of law

ome of the laws regarding marriage in India violate Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which insist on equality of all citizens. For a glaring example, a Muslim man is allowed four wives at a time while a woman has to restrict herself to only one husband. The husband can terminate his marriage within three months under the talaq rules, but the wife does not enjoy this privilege. She must take the help of khul. Her release is possible only upon payment of compensation to her husband, which may or may not entice him to make him return the mehr or the dower which was supposed to have been paid by him. In the event the husband is not tempted by her offer of compensation, she would have to suffer a lengthy procedure before a council of qazis.

Evidently, these rules are not only unequal and discriminatory but also misogynous, reflecting extreme bias and, one might add, hatred of women, besides their being anti-secular; no one other than a Muslim is allowed this privilege of so many wives with the privilege of a quick divorce. This is Article 44 notwithstanding, a Directive Principle of State Policy enjoining upon the Government the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens. When in 1955, Parliament passed the Hindu Code Bill, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was asked by a Member of Parliament why nothing was being done on the question of a Uniform Civil Code. Nehru's reply was: "Well, I should like a civil code which applies to everybody, but wisdom hinders. If he (the MP) or anybody else brings forward a civil code, it will have my extreme sympathies. But I confess that I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try and push it through. I want to prepare the ground for it."

My anxiety is that these violations and contradictions leave the door wide open for



between communities in the domain of law. For instance, whether wearing a hijab in school or college or such additional clothing is appropriate or even essential for some students, but not for others. If good for some, on grounds of either religion or freedom, why cannot another set of students come to classes with swimming suits or bikinis on grounds of freedom and easy accessibility to the school's swimming pool?

That must naturally bring us to the attention of where does society, State and law draw the line as far as competitive religiosity of the mind that is now seen on an increased scale? More importantly, what does this mean for an avowedly secular State whose Constitution, at least on paper, forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, gender, race, place of birth, etc? In this context, we cannot avoid the crucial question of a Uniform Civil Code which is, among other things, polygamy, enough to render the country's claim to be a secular democracy a mean ingless one.

Laws, especially in a secour law courts to discriminate ular democracy, have to be



WHAT DOES THIS

MEAN FOR AN **AVOWEDLY** SECULAR STATE WHOSE CONSTITUTION, AT LEAST ON PAPER, **FORBIDS** DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RELIGION, CASTE, GENDER, RACE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, AMONG OTHER THINGS?

equal for all citizens. No religious law can be permitted the privilege of superseding the Constitution. Moreover, if even those who currently enjoy the privilege of religious personal laws wish to be governed by uniform criminal laws, there can be no justification for avoidance of a Uniform Civil Code. To avoid this crucial issue any further is fraught with grave consequences for the country's polity and the very notion of secular democracy.

The issue of a Uniform Civil Code is understandably debatable and controversial but also unavoidable. Article 14 requires the Government to implement a Uniform Civil Code, although this was enshrined not as a Fundamental Right, but a Directive Principle of State Policy, and therefore not justiciable in courts of law. Successive Governments, which have been prodded by the courts to implement a Uniform Civil Code, have chosen to evade the issue, the foremost reason being keeping a captive vote bank Nehru's refusal to even touch the question of reform among other communities

while pushing the Hindu Code Bill makes it very difficult to deny this charge.

It needs no reiteration that laws have to be equal for all citizens, irrespective of religion, caste or gender. This is particularly so for a country that also calls itself democratic and a secular democracy, on top of it. In other words, the need for a Uniform Civil Code flows from the very concept of secularism, which mandates the complete separation of religion and State.

The argument that such a rigid divorce of faith and State is a western idea and construct does not hold any merit here. Even if one were to argue in favour of an Indian variant of 'secularism', ie equal respect for all faiths, the present Constitution's permitting personal religious laws to prevail for the Muslim community in the matter of marriage and divorce is an unambiguous violation of the stated constitutional right of equality as laid down in Articles 14 and 15.

(The writer is a wellknown columnist, an autho and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

TERS TO

BJP NEEDS TO TONE DOWN PITCH

Sir — Repeated electoral failures to break into the secular citadel of West Bengal and Kerala are obviously the main reason for Yogi Adityanath's character assassination of these States governed by the TMC and Left, respectively. But why belittle Kashmir also? Isn't it being directly governed from New Delhi by the harbingers of "good days" in "New India"? Didn't the most high-profile BJP leader 'enlighten' us that peace has finally arrived in the Valley following the "historic" abrogation of Article 370? So Yogi painting Kashmir in bad light not only contradicts his supreme leader, but also provides an honest confession that Centre has drastically failed in administering the Union Territory.

Lastly, all proud Bengalis, Malayalis and Kashmiris earnestly request their respective States not to attain the 'greatness' of Hathras-Unnao-Budaun-scarred Uttar Pradesh where Mohammad Akhlaqs get murdered in the name of 'Gau mata, Dalits get killed in the name of 'honour" and Vikas Dube is killed 'mysteriously' outside the ambit of judicial process. Not to forget how poor slum dwellers are banished from their shanties whenever any VIP desires to visit the Ganga ghats of Varanasi. May god save the 'hapless' residents of Bengal, Kerala and Kashmir from such unique "law and order" and "vikas".

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

UNEMPLOYMENT KEEPS RISING Sir — The number of young unemployed in the country seems to be increasing by the day. Many graduates are looking for jobs but many have lost hope and given up trying. About 37,000 seats were to be filled in the Railways recently. More than 1.25 crore people applied. In a sense, almost one per cent of the country's population had applied. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy recently released data that the number of young unemployed in India is around 3.18 crore. The real reason is that the economy has not grown as much as it should have in

the last few years. The downturn has led to recession in

Hamara 'Rahul' Bajaj!



adma Bhushan Rahul Bajaj, chairman emeritus of Bajaj Auto who died in Pune of cardiac and respiratory ailments at age 83, was a straightforward, honest and intrepid businessman. He was the grandson of Jamnalal Bajaj, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi (who treated him as his fifth son). Rahul made an indelible mark both in the socialist and neo-liberal eras with his business acumen, leadership and innovative management par excellence. Under his stewardship, Bajaj Auto's turnover grew from

just ₹7.5 crore to a mammoth ₹12,000 crore, with the company's scooter Bajaj Chetak being the main growth driver. Thanks for giving India a homegrown MNC and giving every Indian a dream of owning a "Hamara

Not only this, Rahul took pride in creating a company that saw only one labour strike and a culture where his children went to the same school as his managers' Interestingly, despite his Congress tilt, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha to fill the seat vacated by the death of Pramod Mahajan (2006-2010). But what differentiated him from his counterparts is that he was more than a business titan: He was a man of strong beliefs who didn't shy away from speaking his mind. Hopefully his wonderful legacy will be taken upon by his successors to catapult Bajaj to new heights in the future. He lived a meaningful life in the real sense of the

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

many sectors. As a result, unemployment is on the rise. From May to August 2020, the number of unemployed graduates was around 2.91 crore. By the end of December 2021, it had reached 3.18 crore. For this, the Government should make a special proposal. You have to try where the jobs are available. Today, many opportunities are available to the youth in many Gulf countries and elsewhere abroad. It requires the right guidance. Overall, this issue needs to be taken seriously.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

WHO SAYS INDIA IS POOR?

Sir — The condition of banks as well as the IPL auction has shown India's richness and how it made use of it in a meaningless way. In a shocking disclosure, ABG Shipyard cheated a consortium of 28 banks to the tune of ₹22,842 crore. We lack funds for Government-aided projects whereas we come across siphoning of money through various pockets without the knowledge of the controller of advances, in this case the SBI as the leader of the consortium paying the price for lack of audit, both internal and external, and other periodical follow-ups. With the amount involved, the blame game will soon start.

Again, after intense bidding, cricket players are being bought by IPL franchises and the prices quoted are alarming, to put it mildly. Huge stakes in the IPL saw veteran auctioneer Hugh Edmeades collapse on stage while conducting the first session of bidding. This year's big catch was Ishan Kishan for Mumbai Indians for ₹15.25 crore; Deepak Chahar went for ₹14 crore to CSK. R Ashwin, the number two bowler in the world, was sold for Rs5 crore and the number one bowler, Pat Cummins, for ₹7.25 crore to KKR. These developments prove that we are a richie rich country!

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The SP has the organisational setup in UP (to take on the BJP). I want the BJP to lose.



Trinamool Congress chief ---Mamata Banerjee



in waterways is criminal and must end if humanity wants to save the planet

Catholic Church head -Pope Francis

I had sung Subhanallah and when it wasn't kept, I told him (Pritam) to not ask me to sing again.



-Sonu Nigam I have just always wanted

Singer-actor



Indian cricketer -Washington Sundar

Had defeated BJP in Bengal

together, now will defeat them in UP. It's my promise to Didi



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MODERNISING THE POLICE FORCE AND POLICING

Following new concepts of safety and security is imperative



SUDHIR **HINDWAN**

ecently, there has been mounting pressure on the police and paramilitary forces to maintain round-the-clock surveillance after an upsurge in terrorist attacks and attempts at infiltration amid pan-

The Prime Minister's address for moving towards high-power police technology mission to equip the force with latest technologies exhibits remarkable concern for nipping violence plans of terrorists in the bud and modernise the police force.

It would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various issues related to terrorism -- right from funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercise. Cooperation



and coordination in communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives

Besides, a modernization of Police is also imperative given the possible threats from religiously-motivated bands of distraught minds. The Prime Minister has called for a smart way of policing and usage of interoperable and transferable technologies such as drones that would open a new gateway to meet complex security challenges.

Recent challenges to security of India bring to light an important fact that India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces from criminals, drug traffickers, naxals, smugglers and terrorists. Over the years a great deal of literature has appeared on India's police and the need for reforms. Policies are being made to enable the force to adapt to the challenging environment and efficiently implement recommendations suggested by the panels on reforms

As the threats today are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security need to be followed. There has been a long debate about police reforms the National Police Commission recommended them in 1979. It suggested reforms in judicial inquiry processes, reducing political interference and the police

adopting a more humane approach. Earlier the government decision to appoint a new panel to look into the recommendations of the Law Commission, the National Police Commission, the National Human Rights Commission and the Vohra Commission provided a major ray of hope for the future prospect of policing. The Ribeiro Committee on Police reforms also made certain suggestions broadly along the lines of the NPC with some additional inputs. While submitting its report in 2000, the Padmanabhaiah Committee made many suggestions including the modifications in the selection process and the commissionerate system. In 2003, the Malimath Committee suggested speeding up the criminal justice process.

Prakash Singh, a former DG of UP Police, filed a PIL and based on that the Supreme Court gave vital directions which included merit-based, transparent appointment of DGPs for a minimum fixed tenure of two years, separating law and order and investigation jobs, setting up of a police complaint authority at the State and district levels, setting up of a Statesecurity commission and a national security commission.

The police also need to play an important role as crime preventer and in this regard, developing qualities such as high level of diligence. intelligence, dedication, determination and the ability to grasp complex situationsis a must. It is high time we realized that the police alone cannot stop crime; the entire society should make substantial efforts towards it. 'Sentinel on the qui vive' appears to be the only solution for protection against the new wave of terror we are experiencing.

(The writer is Bharat Gaurav Award winner and strategic affairs expert.

Cong's internecine intra-party wars



The two-party domain in Punjab has given way to a multi-alliance contest for the first time in years

n the face of it, elections in Punjab throw up a quagmire of possibilities with multi-party and multi-alliance formations taking one another head-on in a state which has hitherto been a twoparty domain for over a quarter of a

In this scenario where there are several post electoral possibilities for each of the rival parties if they fall short of numbers, it is only Congress which is going alone in the polls with no tie-ups overt or covert with anyone. So it is now sort of clear that either Congress gets to the magic number of 59 all alone and forms the government or if it falls short, and it will have to sit in the opposition as it has no pre-poll understanding and is unlikely to have a post-poll under-

After the formal announcement of Charanjit Singh Channi as the chief ministerial face of the party, there is of course a sense of relief amongst the cadre, fed up as they were with the routine squabbles and internecine intraparty warfare amongst all the top aspi-

Channi has been the Congress invention of the last quarter of 2021, plucked out of the Amarinder Singh Cabinet and handed over the post of chief minister to neutralize the image of the Aam Aadmi Party which was rapidly gaining ascendance. Channi's style of functioning and its contrast with Amarinder was too glaring for the peo-ple of Punjab to ignore. One (Amarinder) was from the royal family of Patiala, completely cut off from the people in his second tenure and claiming the post of chief minister as his divine right to rule. The other (Channi) came out with all the right notes, playing to the gallery, doing what a common man is expected to do anywhere in Punjab-dancing to the tunes of Bhangra beats, playing cricket with kids, sipping tea at the roadside dhaba, sitting on a cot in a mustard field, simply doing what you and me would do. The third player was Navjot Sidhu, outspoken with a holier-than-thou, "it's right, because I said so" attitude.

What could have been a smooth election with little obstacles, the Congress high command ensured that run-up to the polls and in the process its chances diminished. Removal of Amarinder Singh may have been a bold decision as far as decision making in Congress is concerned, but it was followed by a series of indecisive steps. Sidhu attacked everybody-left right and centre, whether it was his party colleagues, former colleagues and even central leaders.

Then you have Sunil Jakhar who was overnight portrayed as a Hindu leader and even a chief ministerial candidate.



PUNJAB IS

HEADED FOR A PHOTO FINISH. UNLIKE IN 2017 WHEN THERE WAS A **DISCERNIBLE** WAVE IN FAVOUR OF CONGRESS AND MASSIVE ANTI-INCUMBENCY AGAINST THE SAD-BJP, THIS TIME ROUND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO UNDERCURRENT FOR OR AGAINST ANY PARTY. SERIOUS THREE TO FOUR-**CORNERED CONTEST IS**

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)

TAKING PLACE IN

CONSTITUENCIES

MOST OF THE



At one point, Jakhar thought that he could be the chief minister to replace Punjab, never mind his diminishing electoral returns over the years. He then threatened to leave the party and changed his mind and finally decided to quit electoral politics. Clearly, many opinion makers in Punjab believe that only Congress has the bandwidth to tolerate all sorts of dissenting voices without any subtle attempt to reprimand anyone by the central leadership privately or publicly (read Rahul So, whatever could go wrong with Congress, did go wrong. No

two opinions about it. However, what it did right is equally important in this Punjab battle to read the undercurrent. Knowingly or unknowingly, making a dalit chief minister for the first time in the state was of course a masterstroke. The community may have different voting patterns according to their religion, sub-caste and affiliations to deras but Channi has given the community a strong sense of identity. A state where there is dalit music and a strong rate places of worship, there is a sense of euphoria amongst the community. There may not be an open display of this phenomenon but it is playing on the ground in Doaba and also to an extent in Malwa. No wonder, the party central leadership decided to make Channi contest from two constituencies to spread the word around that a dalit son of the soil has risen in the political sphere and is here to stay.

grassroots overreach in the state which is as good if not better than the arch rival Shiromani Akali Dal. Aam Aadmi Party, a serious challenger to the power equations in Punjab this time round, has realized that Congress and SAD both have presence in each and every pind (village) in the state and it has to make extra efforts to reach the last person on the ground in the villages where people only know Congress and SAD. But, this has more to do than the traditional two-party power sharing superstructure than actual work by Congress as an organization. Perhaps this very presence in every nook and corner saved Congress from a division as Amarinder Singh walked away and formed his party. This inherent strength ensured that no leader of any sig-nificance went to Amarinder's Punjab Lok Congress even though at one point it seemed as if the Patiala royal could walk away with a chunk of the party leaders and workers. In fact, PLC was left high and dry as several was banking, simply decided that Congress remained a better bet,

not a turncoat. The third X factor in Punjab for Congress could be Channi's arrival at the right moment to beat the massive anti-incumbency against the Amarinder Singh government. Though the quantum of anti-incumbency damage reversed by Channi is a matter of debate, there is no doubt that there has been reversal to an

Then comes the Congress extent that the party is now fighting fit. In the last over 50 years or so, Punjab has been known to change governments every five years, except once in 2012 when the Akali-BJP government was repeated. So, in a way antiincumbency and voting for a new government every five years is a part of Punjab political folklore. Congress sought to bring some modifications in this with the removal of Amarinder and getting Channi on the hot seat. Of course, only the results would help understand the phenomenon but on the face of it, this seems to be working.

In this Punjab election, there are five parties and alliances in the fray-all considering themselves as "serious" players. Besides Congress, SAD-BSP and the AAP, you have PLC-BJP-SAD (Sanyukt) alliance and the newly floated party of the farmers-Sanyukt Samaj Morcha. No doubt, Punjab is headed

for a photo finish. Unlike in 2017 when there was a discernible wave in favour of Congress and massive antithis time round there seems to be no undercurrent for or against any party or alliance. Serious three to four cornered contest is taking place in most of the constituencies and in a few, you even have a five-cornered contest. 'This had never happened in Punjab and the margins could be small. This helps cadre-based parties who are able to get their supporters to the polling booths," sums up an analyst here.

WE HAVE SEEN PEOPLE'S ANGER AGAINST THE BJP GOVT. THE SP-RLD WILL WIN 400 SEATS, OTHERS WILL GET THE REMAINING THREE. —SP PRESIDENT **AKHILESH YADAV**





DURING ITS TENURE, THE SP GAVE PROTECTION TO THE MAFIA AND TERRORISTS. IT'S SYNONYMOUS WITH HOOLIGANISM. -BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Voters' fears realistic: RBI warns belt-tightening

The people who normally vote for temples and communal issues also agree they are hit by rising prices

s polls begin in UP, the RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) lowers growth forecasts to 7.8 percent in 2022-23, against finance minister's 8-8.5 percent. A belttightening forecast. It has kept the interest rates unchanged at a low of 4 percent repo rate and 3.5 percent reverse repo rate.

The views expressed are personal.)

Former chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu notes that growth has been decelerating. It was 8.2 percent in 2016-17; 7.2 percent 2017-18; 4.2 percent 2018-19; and minus 7.3 percent 2020-21, each year growing less, a first since 1947.

The MPC presumes retail price inflation this year to be at 4.5 percent but cautions about hardening of global crude prices on inflation. Overall, it has retained its inflation projection at 5.3 per-



SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

(The writer is a senior jour-

nalist. The views expressed

are personal.)

cent and with closing at 5.7 percent by March on account of unfavourable base effects. However, it ignores 13-plus percent of wholesale inflation.

The voters are not bothered about the nitty gritty but are changing their perception of development - vikas-- to mean they are voting for whosoever would help them grow. Almost uniformly, the voters in UP say that they are voting for vikas, and quizzed further, they say that they are voting for "our own vikas" and name an opposition SP-RLD candidate. For other voters vikas may still mean Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Though it signals a change, it is to be seen how the incumbent BJP fares. The BJP as per the new manifesto is no more contesting the poll on dou-



bling of farmers' income, or ensuring MSP to all. The people who normally vote for temples and communal issues also agree they are hit by rising prices.

The lone voice dissenting the MPC outlook is that of Prof Jayanth R Varma. He had disagreed with the MPC resolution on August 20, 2021saying: "By creating the erroneous perception that the MPC is no longer concerned about inflation and

is focused exclusively on growth, the MPC may be inadvertently aggravating the risk that inflationary expectations will be dis-anchored. In that scenario, rising risk premia could cause long-term rates to rise".

The voters may not have read it but with their practical intuition seem to agree with the perception. The mood for change is there, for better living conditions. RBI Governor turn adverse. It assesses that

Shaktikanta Das says that next year's Centre's borrowings would not be as high as projected in the budget. It means shrinkage of borrowings, deposits, uncertain expenses and growth. It is a bit eerie.

Consumption is not rising. That seems to be the concern of the voters, RBI and the government alike. The voters realise that economy would be shaky

whatever the official rhetoric. There is no short-term reprieve for the common man. Governor Das says that rising inflation would continue to peak till the second half of 2022-23 "within the tolerance band of RBI providing room for policy

to remain accommodative". Overall, the MPC notes loss in momentum of near-term growth even as global factors

owing to Ukraine-Russia conflict, Iran-US qualm, fluid Afghanistan and uncertain Middle East the economic situation may deteriorate. In such circumstances, expecting improvement in domestic growth drivers is bit optimistic. These have been the concern for lowering growth to 7.8 percent. It expects a very high growth in the first quarter and then gradually tapering off to 4.5 percent in the last quarter of 2022-23,

according to Das. Though Indian voters need not understand the phenomenon emerging in the distant West, it can hit India hard. The world growth may be hit by the difficult situation in the US.Despite tom-tommingabout high growth, the US suffers from the China syndrome. China has bought none of the

\$200 billion it promised from the US under 'phase-I' trade deal. It can lead the US into choppy waters, impacting the global economy. A global inflation and unstable US economy can create turbulence.

The persistent increase in international commodity prices, surge in volatility of global financial markets and global supply bottlenecks can exacerbate risks to the outlook, says Das. Yes, Chinese trade moves in Indian subcontinent might also cause difficulty.

Das says still India can recover with buoyant rabi crop, robust exports, liquidity conditions improving credit offtake and continued push on capital expenses and infrastructure. The hope is a bit high and the MPC's cautions are graver than any voter can expect.

German leader travels to Russia, Ukraine as tensions grow

is flying to Ukraine and Russia this week in an effort to help defuse escalating tensions as Western intelligence officials warn that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is increasingly imminent and Germany has called on its citizens to leave Ukraine as quickly as possible.

Ahead of his first visits as chancellor to Kyiv on Monday and Moscow on Tuesday for meetings with the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Scholz has renewed his warning to Russia, as well as his advocacy of continuing diplomacy in multiple formats.

"It is our job to ensure that we prevent a war in Europe, in that we send a clear message to Russia that any military aggression would have consequences that would be very high for Russia and its prospects, and that we are united with our allies," Scholz told the German parliament's upper house on Friday.

"But at the same time that also includes using all opportunities for talks and further development," Scholz said. Russia has concentrated more than

100,000 troops near Ukraine's border and launched a series of military maneuvers in the region, but says it has no plans to invade the nation.

Moscow wants guarantees from the West that NATO won't allow Ukraine and members, and for the alliance to halt weapon deployments to Ukraine and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe. The U.S. And NATO flatly reject these

Scholz has repeatedly said that Moscow would pay a "high price" in the event of an attack, but his government's refusal to supply lethal weapons to Ukraine or to spell out which sanctions it would support against Russia have drawn criticism abroad and at home and raised questions about Berlin's resolve in standing up to Russia.

Germany's reluctant position is partly rooted in its history of aggression during the 20th century when the country's own militarization in Europe during two world wars led many postwar German leaders to view any military response as a very last resort. Despite this historic burden, experts say it is of utmost importance now that Scholz stresses Germany is in sync with its European and American allies, especially when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Scholz has to convey a very clear message in Moscow, and it can really only be: There is unity and oneness in the Western alliance. There is no possibility of driving a wedge into the Western alliance, and that must be understood in Moscow. I think that's the most important message he has to convey there," said Markus Ziener, an expert with the German Marshall Fund.

"At the same time, he has to make it clear that the costs are high," Ziener added. "That's basically the message that is most likely to catch on in Moscow as well. So a military invasion of Ukraine has significant consequences for Russia."

Scholz has not explicitly said what kind of consequences or sanctions Russia would have to face if it invades Ukraine, but it is clear that the future of the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline that seeks to bring Russian natural gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea, bypassing Ukraine, is at stake.

U.S. President Joe Biden threatened last week that the pipeline would be blocked in the case of an invasion.

That would hurt Russia economicalbut also cause supply problems for Germany. Construction of the pipeline has been completed, but it is not yet oper-

ating.
"Germany doesn't have much leverage, except for saying that it won't approve Nord Stream 2, which is the only political leverage," Claudia Kemfert, the head of department of energy, transport and environment at the German Institute for Economic Research, said.

Man accused of desecrating religious book stoned to death by mob in Pak; 62 arrested

Islamabad/Lahore: A middle-aged man was stoned to death and his body was hung from a tree by a mob for allegedly desecrating a religious book in a remote village in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Sunday, a gruesome incident that has sparked nationwide outrage.

The incident took place in

Jungle Derawala village, in Khanewal district, situated 275-km from Lahore on Saturday evening, where locals had gathered after their Maghrib (evening) prayers, following announcements that a man had torn pages of the Holy Quran and had set them on fire.

The police had arrived in the village before the incident, but the mob had outnumbered them.

They seized the victim from the SHO's custody and tied him to a tree, after which he was lynched to death, eyewitnesses said.

"Over 300 men had gathered at Masjid Shahmuqeem Muaza in Jungle Derawala village, where they tied a middle-aged man with a rope before stoning him to death. Later, they hung his body on a tree,' police officer Muhammad Amin told

He said two policemen, who

tried to bring the body down from the tree, were injured when mob began throwing stones at them.

"Police tried to take the injured man into custody, but we were outnumbered by the mob, and they killed

They chanted religious slogans and attacked the two policemen who tried to bring the victim's body down from the tree. Once fresh reinforcements arrived in the village, they shifted the body to a mortuary, Amin said.

According to BBC Urdu service. the victim was identified as Mushtaq Ahmed (son of Bashir Ahmed), who was a resident of Bara Chak village.

The villagers said that the victim was mentally unstable and stayed out of the house for several days.

A number of videos have surfaced on social media in which the enraged mob can be seen torturing the man and hanging his body on the tree. Some had even tried to burn his body, according to the videos that are circulating online.

Punjab Inspector General of Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan submitted a preliminary report of the incident to Punjab Chief Minis-ter Usman Buzdar.

Nepal's Chief Justice Rana faces impeachment motion

Kathmandu: Nepal's ruling coalition lawmakers on Sunday filed an impeachment motion against Chief Justice Cholendra Shamsher JB Rana over allegations of corruption. Spokesperson of the Parliament Secretariat Rajnath Pandey said that the impeachment was registered at 11 a.M.

Rana, who had assumed the post of Chief Justice on January 2, 2019, has been suspended from his post following the registration of impeachment motion against him at the House of Representatives.

A total of 98 lawmakers from ruling alliance including Law and Justice Minister Dilendra Prasad Badu, Nepali Congress Whip Pushpa Bhushal, CPN-Maoist Centre Whip Dev Gurung and CPN-Unified Socialist lawmaker Jeevan Ram Bhandari have signed the proposal to impeach the chief justice.

There is a provision for automatic suspension of the chief justice with the registration of the impeachment motion. Speaking to the media, Gurung said that the impeachment was registered against the top judge because the court was not functioning properly and there were charges of corruption against the chief justice.

There are 21 charges labelled against the chief justice in the motion. The charges include being unable to safeguard democracy, human rights, rule of law, judicial independence and impartiality. He has also been charged with exposure to excessive distortion, inconsistencies and corruption.

The impeachment motion comes in the wake of more than three months long agitation by Nepal Bar Association against the chief justice after one of his relatives was appointed as minister in the Deuba cabinet, who had later resigned after it sparked controversy.

If the motion is passed by at least two-thirds majority of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives, the chief justice shall be relieved of his

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 12 Indian fishermen for alleged poaching

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 12 Indian fishermen and seized two fishing trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said on Sunday, the third such incident involving Indians in the island nation this month. The arrests were made in seas north of

Talaimannar. They were indulging in bottom trawling, the Navy said. "In an operation conducted in seas north of Talaimannar in the dark hours of February 12, Sri Lanka Navy managed to seize 2 Indian trawlers with 12 Indian fishermen while poaching in Sri Lankan waters," it said. This was the third arrest of the Indian fisher-

men in the Sri Lankan waters during this month. On February 8, the Navy arrested 11 Indian fishermen and seized three fishing trawlers and on February 1, twenty-one Indian fishermen were

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in ties between the two countries. The issue also figured in the talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Sri Lankan counterpart G L Peiris last week during the latter's three-day official visit to India. The arrests of Indian fishermen come as the local immigration officials are making arrangements to repatriate 56 Indian fishermen who were arrested in December.

The arrests of Indians and the local fishermen's agitations seeking government action to stop Indian fishing boats have expanded over the last

Jaishankar lauds Indian community's key role in shaping positive image in Australia

Melbourne: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met the Indian community here and appreciated their key role in shaping the country's positive image in Australia and in the new phase of bilateral ties.

Jaishankar visited Australia from February 10 to 13 in his first trip to the country as external affairs minister. He attended the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting along with the foreign ministers of Australia, Japan and the United States on

Jaishankar appreciated the role of the Indian community in shaping India's positive image.
"So appropriate to conclude

my Melbourne visit meeting the Indian community. Their role in shaping India's positive image is commendable. Key partners in this new phase of our ties," Jaishankar tweeted.

Melbourne has a vibrant Indian community with Indianborn migrants making up 3 per cent of the city's total population.

Since 2001, the number of Indian-born migrants in Melbourne has more than tripled. On Saturday, India and Australia pledged to work together for building more trusted and resilient supply chains and ensuring broad and inclusive growth in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

At a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne after their bilateral meeting, Jaishankar said he spoke at length with Payne about regional, multilateral and global issues, besides discussing developments in South Asia, Southeast Asia and in the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region.

Jaishankar will also make a bilateral visit to the Philippines from Sunday. This will be his first visit to the Philippines as external affairs minister. He will hold talks with his counterpart, Teodoro L Locsin, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and meet with the political leadership in the Philippines. *PTI*

Blockades on Canada-US border continue as protests swell

Windsor (Canada): Hours after removing their vehicles blocking a key US-Canadian border bridge, protesters opposed to Covid-19 vaccine mandates continued to block traffic outside in the bitter cold early Sunday, while in the capital Ottawa, police were forming a new command centre with provincial and national authorities that they said would help them respond better to a larger demonstration that has paralysed downtown.

The tense standoff at the Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, eased somewhat Saturday when Canadian police persuaded demonstrators to move the trucks they had used to barricade the entrance to the busy international crossing. Early Saturday evening, crews set up concrete traffic barricades along the

But protesters reconvened nearby — with reinforcements and were still choking off access from the Canadian side, snarling traffic and commerce. About 180 remained late Saturday in the subfreezing cold. In Ottawa, the ranks of protesters swelled to what police said was 4,000 demonstrators. The city has seen that on past weekends, and loud music played as people milled about downtown where anti-vaccine demonstrators have been encamped since late January.

The protests at the bridge, in Ottawa and elsewhere have reverberated outside the country, with similarly inspired convoys in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands, and the US Department of Homeland Security warned that truck convoys may be in the works in the United States. An ex-Cabinet minister in Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government took the unusual step of calling out her former federal colleagues as well as the province and city for not putting an end to the protests.

"Amazingly, this isn't just Ottawa. It's the nation's capital," Catherine McKenna tweeted. "But no one — not the city, the province or the federal government can seem to get their act together to end this illegal occupation. It's appalling...Just get your act together. Now.

Trudeau has so far rejected calls to use the military.

"The Prime Minister stressed that border crossings cannot, and will not, remain closed, and that all options are on the table," Trudeau's office said in a statement late Saturday after he met with senior officials. Trudeau has called the protesters a "fringe" of Canadian

Óttawa police said in a statement late Saturday that a joint command centre had now been set up together with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They said that would beef up

enforcement capabilities that had been limited by "safety concerns arising from aggressive, illegal behaviour by many demonstrators - limited police enforcement capabilities" Police earlier issued a state-

ment calling the protest an unlawful occupation and saving they were waiting for reinforcements before implementing a plan to end the demonstrations.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson declared a state of emergency last week for the capital, where hundreds of trucks remained in front of the Parliament Buildings and demonstrators have set up portable toilets outside the prime minister's office where Trudeau's motorcade usually parks.

Surrounded by dozens of officers in Windsor, a man with "Mandate Freedom" and "Trump 2024" spray-painted on his vehicle left the bridge entrance early in the day as others began dismantling a small, tarp-covered encampment. A trucker honked his horn as he, too, drove off, to cheers and chants of "Freedom!"

But hundreds more arrived to bolster the crowd and settled into a faceoff with police about two blocks away, waving flags and yelling. While there were no visible physical confrontations, the crowd still controlled the road to the bridge, and traffic had not resumed as of Sunday morning.

On Friday, a judge ordered an end to the blockade of mostly pickup trucks and cars, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency allowing for fines of 100,000 Canadian dollars and up to one year in jail for anyone illegally blocking roads, bridges, walkways and other critical infrastruc-

Turkish opposition

leaders meet to

system

counter Erdogan's

Istanbul: The leaders of six

opposition parties in Turkey

met Saturday to strategise

about the future of the coun-

try's governing system - a

move that aims to unseat the

In a statement following

country's longtime ruler.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension No.01.

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.41 of 2022 dated.20.01.2022 or Outsourcing of Parking lot at Mughal Garden Parimahal is hereby extended as per the details given below: -

- 1			
	1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	12.02.2022 from 02:00 PM to 03.03.2022 up to 02:00 PM
ı	2.	Bid submission Start Date	12.02.2022 from 03:00 PM
	3.	Bid submission End Date	03.03.2022 up to 02:00 PM
	4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	07.03.2022 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid

14.02.2022

Sd/-**Accounts Officer** (Member secretary)

Big waves drown 11 people on Indonesia

East Java province despite warnings to avoid the sea, officials said Sunday. They were part of a group of 24 people from several villages who took part in a local ritual that involves swimming in the ocean on Saturday night, officials from the

A 2-year-old girl was among the 13 survivors at the Payangan beach in Jember district, the officials said. They were being treated at a health clinic. "A local resident warned them not to go into the sea because of big waves but they ignored it," said chief rescuer I Wayan Suyatna. He said that 23 of them were dragged by a sudden wave. The last victim was recovered on Sunday after-

AP ■ HONOLULU

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his

Japanese and South Korean

counterparts on Saturday in

Hawaii to discuss the threat

posed by nuclear-armed North

Korea after Pyongyang began

the year with a series of missile

conference after the meeting

that North Korea was "in a

the recent missile launches.

in our approach, in our deter-

his talks with Japanese Foreign

Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi

and South Korean Foreign

Minister Chung Eui-yong.
The three released a joint state-

ment calling on North Korea to

engage in dialogue and cease its

"unlawful activities." They said

they had no hostile intent

toward North Korea and were

open to meeting Pyongyang

Korea is using the weapon's

tests to put pressure on President Joe Biden's adminis-

tration to resume long-stalled

Some experts say North

without preconditions.

Blinken said at a news

"We are absolutely united

Pakistani medical college asks students to wear hijab and prayer caps on Valentine's Day

Islamabad: A medical college in Pakistan's national capital has issued Valentine's Day guidelines to its students, asking girls to wear hijab and boys to wear white prayer caps while maintaining a distance of two metres from the opposite sex at all times, according to a media report.

On Saturday, Islamabad International Medical College issued a circular forbidding students from participating in Valentine's Day celebrations and associated "activities which lead the youth towards the wrong path," the Friday Times newspaper reported. "All female students should be seen with properly-covered heads, necks and chests with a hijab according to the university dress code. All male students are strictly ordered to wear white prayer caps," the circular said. It also warned that members of the college staff would be patrolling the campus to catch students violating these guidelines. Those violating these rules, would be fined PKR 5,000, the report said, quoting the college cir-

The college was established in 1996, and is a medical school affiliated with Riphah International University. Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day, is celebrated annually on February

It originated as a Christian feast day honouring a Christian martyr named Saint Valentine, and over the years has become a significant cul-

tural celebration of romance across the world. PTI

the working dinner, the party leaders said Turkey was experiencing "the deepest political and economic crisis" of its history and blamed it on the executive presidential system. They said their joint goal was to transform Turkey's governance to a "strengthened parliamentary system".

They did not mention President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by name, but their clear aim is to find a way to work together to unseat him. After more than 11 years as Turkey's prime minister, Erdogan was elected president in 2014. At the time, the position was primarily ceremonial, however in 2017 Turkish voters approved an executive presidential system, greatly expanding Erdogan's powers at the expense of those of the prime minister and parliament. Erdogan was re-elected the following year. Critics call the

system "one-man rule". The leaders at the dinner were Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the head of the main opposition Republican People's Party; Meral Aksener from the nationalist Good Party; Temel Karamollaoglu from the conservative Felicity Party; Gultekin Uysal from the Democrat Party; Democracy and Progress Party's Ali Babacan; and Future Party's

They had previously conducted bilateral meetings but Saturday's meeting was their first all together.

ment on Feb 28.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We act for and on behalf of our client, "The Khattri Co-operative Urban Bank Limited", having its branch at F-3/4, having its branch at F-3/Block-F. Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, and publish this Public Notice for the necessary information and intimation to all the below mentioned customers of the Bank who availed locker facilities from the Bank but have persistently defaulted in payment of Locker Rents and have also not operated their respective lockers for more than three years. The below mentioned lockers have thus become dormant and individual Notices to the below mentioned locker holders have already been issued on 26.12.2021 asking them to pay the overdue locker rent and regularize their respective lockers within 15 days of receipt of the said Notices. Accordingly, by way of this Public Notice, a last and final opportunity is granted to the below mentioned locker holders, who have, despite the service and receipt of the said individual Notices, not come forward either to regularize the position of their respective lockers or to surrender them after paying the overdue locker rent. Such below mentioned locker holders of the Bank are given this last and final opportunity to regularize the position of their respective lockers or surrender them within 15 days of publication of this Public Notice, failing which, the Bank shall be constrained to break open the below mentioned lockers, collect contents thereof and then proceed in accordance with law and more particularly under the provisions of Rule 7 of Safe Deposit Vault (Locker) Conditions, to which the said

S.No.	Locker Number	Size	Name and Address of Locker Holder	Amount of Rent overdue in Rs. excl of	Rent due from	Date last operated
1	626	Medium	Mrs. Prem Kanta Kanwar and Mr.	GST & other Taxes / levies 4,000.00	September	02.02.2013
			Surinder Kumar Kanwar (Since deceased) through their LR Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Kanwar 5/4/14, Geeta Colony Delhi 110031	,	2020	
2	546	Medium	Mrs. Harpreet Kaur & Mr Gurmeet Singh H-149, Hargovind Enclave Delhi 110092	6,000.00	April 2019	13.06.2015
3	784	Large	Mrs rachna grover & Mr Sanjeev Grover B-23 Ashoka Niketan anand vihar, Delhi-92 and also at: B-9/15, Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051	10,800.00	April 2019	07.10.2014

Accordingly, the locker holders named above, may take Notice and act accordingly. No further Public or Private Notice shall be given

> N.K.BHATNAGAR NKB LEGAL -Advocates & Legal Consultants 1st Floor, 50 Janpath Tolstoy Lane, Connaught Place New Delhi – 110001

E-mail: nkb@nkblegal.com Phone: 9810039263

For The Khattri Co-operative Urban Bank Limited

beach despite warning

Jakarta: Eleven people drowned after being dragged by big waves on a beach in Indonesia's

Surabaya Search and Rescue Agency said.

US, Japan, South Korea meet in Hawaii to discuss North Korea nuclear negotiations as the nomic lifeline. But analysts pandemic puts further strain

> agement and crippling U.S.-led The Biden administration

> has offered North Korea openended talks but has shown no willingness to ease the sanctions without meaningful cuts to the country's nuclear pro-

on an economy already bat-

tered by decades of misman-

North Korea has rebuffed phase of provocation" and the U.S. Offers to resume diplomacy, saying it won't return to talks unless Washington drops three countries condemned what it says are hostile polices. The North bristles at both the sanctions and regular military exercises the U.S. Holds with mination," Blinken said after South Korea.

The tests also have a technical component, allowing North Korea to hone its weapons arsenal. One of the missiles recently tested — the Hwasong-12 intermediaterange ballistic missile — is capable of reaching the U.S. Territory of Guam. It was the longest-distance weapon the

North has tested since 2017. North Korea appears to be pausing its tests during the their earnings. Winter Olympics in China, its Blinken arrived in Hawaii most important ally and eco-

believe North Korea will dramatically increase its weapons testing after the Olympics. The recent tests have rat-

tled Pyongyang's neighbors in South Korea and Japan. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who helped set up the historic talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and former President Donald Trump in 2018 and 2019, said last month that the tests were a violation UN Security Council resolutions and urged the North to cease "actions that create tensions and pressure.

The Security Council initially imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006. It made them tougher in response to further nuclear tests and the country's increasingly sophisticated nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

China and Russia, citing the North's economic difficulties, have called for lifting sanctions like those banning seafood exports and prohibitions on its citizens working overseas and sending home

from Fiji, where he met with

Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and other Pacific leaders to talk about regional issues, especially the existential risk posed by climate change. It was the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of state to Fiji

since 1985. He started his Pacific tour in Australia, where he met his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan. The four nations form the "Quad," a bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies that was created to counter China's regional influence.

Hayashi and Chung held a separate bilateral meeting Saturday for about 40 minutes before seeing Blinken. Japan's Foreign Ministry said they reaffirmed the importance of cooperating together and with the United States to respond to North Korea and to achieve regional stability.

The ministry said they also "frankly" exchanged views on ongoing disputes between the two countries, including wartime Korean labourers and sexual abuse of Korean women forced into sexual servitude by Japan's imperial army.

Blinken also met separately with Chung. He met Hayashi earlier this week in Australia.

Ahmet Davutoglu.

They are expected to release details of their agree-

IL&FS group to resolve its debt by March

IL&FS group would resolve debt of Rs 55,000 crore by March 2022, the board of the crisis-hit company has stated in its affidavit filed before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

While updating the progress of the resolution progress, the IL&FS board, led by Uday Kotak, said Rs 55,000 crore debt would be resolved through asset monetisation, restructuring and insolvency proceeding ini-

Some of this has already been completed while the rest is at different stages of resolution, it said in a brief snapshot on the resolution process till December 7, 2021, and suggested estimates of progress to be made by

The IL&FS had a total outstanding debt of Rs 99,355 crore as of October 8, 2018, of which Rs 45,500 crore debt is handled through debt resolution initia-

Technology can play a big

■ role in taking prosperity to

the remotest corners of India

and it can really help democ-

ratise basic amenities, such as

healthcare through telemedi-

cine and education, Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush

ONDC (Open Network for

Digital Commerce) is that

small retailers should be pro-

tected. "We are ok with large

e-commerce also contributing

to the nation's economy and

retailers be allowed to become

extinct like in the western

world, where mom-and-pop

stores are almost gone or

should we not protect liveli-hoods," Goyal said while

interacting with students of

by the government to deal with the problems of the pan-

demic, Goyal, who is also the

consumer affairs, food and

public distribution minister.

said the government decided

PUBLIC NOTICE
Unit No. A-2001 was allotted to Ms. Shivali

Choudhary, Unit No. A-1401 was allotted to Mrs. Vibha Sharma, Unit No. L-1408 was

allotted to Mr. Vivek Ranjan, Unit No. M-604 was allotted to Mrs. Sangeeta Kumari, Unit

No. M-1107 was allotted to Mr. Tanveer Alam, Unit No. M-001 was allotted to Mr.

Rahul Rawal, Unit No. M-1206 was allotted

to Mr. Deepak Narang, M308 was allotted to

Mr. R.P. Aditya, L-1406 was allotted to Mr.

Preet Pal Singh, M-1604 was allotted to

Ms. Sonia Vij in project Blossom County (Logix Infrastructure) Plot No.02, Sector 137

Noida Expressway, Noida-201305. Pursuant to repeated reminders the allottees has

defaulted in making payments and taking possession of the said unit.

This to intimate that in case nothing is heard

from the concerned allottees within 5 working

days of this public notice, the unit's shall stand

cancelled without any right or lien of the

allottees and Logix shall be free to deal with

For Logix Infrasteature Pvt. Ltd.

Authorized Signatory Contact No. 8595791125

Talking about steps taken

IIT-Kanpur.

"But, should the small

working their way through.

He said that the idea of the

Goyal said on Sunday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Technology can play big role

in taking prosperity to India's

remotest parts, says Goyal

Of this, debt of Rs 20,500 crore has already been resolved through monetisation, Rs 4,000 crore by way of debt discharged and Rs 21,350 crore in cash available across companies and Invit unit (Infrastructure Investment Trust) due to be issued. In addition, the board also expects to resolve Rs 5,300 crore through various "transactions approved by the relevant court/tribunal and pending transaction closure" and Rs 4,200 crore from resolution applications filed with courts and pending approvals.

As of January 4, 2021, the total number of entities in Respondent No 1 (IL&FS) group has reduced to 111 from 302, the affidavit said.

In this, IL&FS's domestic entities have been reduced to 95bfrom 169, while the offshore entities have been reduced to 16 from 133. The Board had informed to resolve 29 of 60 entities through entity monetization process; 12 road assets

under Invit; 3 assets where con cession were terminated and 30 entities where it initiated closure or insolvency proceedings. "A critical focus of the New Board has been on maintaining the going concern status of the Respondent No. 1 Group. Respondent

No. I Group has also been focused on multiple resolution initiatives including expediting recoveries of loans and investments provided or made by the Respondent No I Group, which amounts will be utilised towards discharging claims of the creditors of the relevant Respondent No I Group entities in accordance with the Revised Distribution Framework approved by this tribunal (NCLAT) vide the March 12, 2020 judgement," the affidavit said. This has also resulted into an accumulated cash balance of Rs 16,742 crore as of December 7, 2021. The NCLAT had on March 12, 2020, approved a distribution framework based on

5G Spectrum auction likely to be held in May

 $T^{he\ long\text{-}awaited\ 5G}_{\text{Spectrum auction is expected to be held in May this year}}$ if the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) submits by March its recommendations on the rules regarding the sale process, according to a senior official of the telecom department

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier this month said the Trai has informed that it will submit its recommendations for the 5G auction by March and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is simultaneously firming up other processes to hold the auction at "Trai has indicated that they

will send it (recommendations) by March. Thereafter, it will take us a month to make a decision around it," Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman told PTI.

Earlier, the government has taken time of 60-120 days to

auction after receiving recommendations from Trai on spectrum auction. Rajaraman said it will take

the DoT two months to start the auction from the day it gets recommendations from the Trai. According to the DoT, 5G is expected to deliver download speed 10 times faster than 4G services. As per the process, DoT seeks reference from the Trai on spectrum price, method for allocating it, block size of spectrum, payments terms and conditions, among others. The Trai holds consultation with the industry and other stakeholders and then submits recommendations to the DoT. As per the current practice, the apex decision making body at the [']Digital Communications Commission (formerly the Telecom

Commission) takes the decision on Trai recommendations and

then approaches the Cabinet for TVS Supply Chain Solutions

files draft papers with Sebi

to mop up funds via IPO
PTI NEW DELHI public offering will be

TVS Supply Chain Solutions, part of TVS Mobility Group, has filed preliminary

and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 5.95 crore equity shares by promoter and existing investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

public offering will be Rs 5,000 crore. The company may consider a pre-IPO placement aggregating up to Rs 400 crore. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced, as per the draft papers.

Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 1,166 crore will be used to repay debt and Rs 75.2 crore will be deployed strategically important subtowards inorganic growth.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby brought to the notice of the public at arge, that the following original registered

locuments/sale deeds related to the land situated

at village Binola, Tehsil Manesar, Districi Gurugram, Haryana & described hereinbelow had been misplaced /not available with the owner M/s Skymettle Infrastructures Private Limited (Sale Deed as Document no.12036, registered or 18.10.1995. (2) Sale Deed as Document no.12038, registered on 18.10.1995. (3) Sale Deed as Document no. 12042, registe-red or 18.10.1995. (4) Sale Deed as Docu-ment no 12052, registered on 19.10, 1995, (5) Sale Deer as Document no. 12073, registered of 19.10.1995. (6) Sale Deed as Document no. 12056, registered on 19.10.1995. (7) Sale Deed as Document no. 12060, registered or 19.10.1995. (8) Sale Deed as Document no 13:10:1993. (a) Sale Deed as Document no. 12328, registered on 27:10:1995. (b) Sale Deed as Document no. 12328, registered or 30:10:1995. (10) Sale Deed as Document no. 12330, registered on 30:10:1995. (11) Sale Deed as Document no.12339, registered or 30.10.1995. (12) Sale Deed as Documer no.12341, registered on 30.10.1995. (13) Sal-Deed as Document no.12452, registered or 31.10.1995. (14) Sale Deed as Document no 12098, registered on 20.10.1995. (15) Sale Deer as Document no. 12162, registered of 20.10.1995. (16) Sale Deed as Document no 12192, registered on 25.10.1995. (17) Sale Deed as Document no. 12199, registered or 25.10.1995. (18) Sale Deed as Document no 12193, registered on 25.10.1995. (19) Sale Deer as Document no. 12201, registered of 26.10.1995. (20) Sale Deed as Document no 12451, registered on 31.10.1995. (21) Sale Dee as Document no. 12453, registered or 31.10.1995. (22) Sale Deed as Document no 12479, registered on 31.10.1995. (23) Sale Deer as Document no. 12478, registered of 31.10.1995. (24) Sale Deed as Document no 9525, registered on 13.11.2000. (25) Sale Deed as Document no. 10233, registered or 27.11.2000. (26) Sale Deed as Document no 10342, registered on 29.11.2000. (27) Sale Deed as Document no. 9769, registered on 17.11.2000 (28) Sale Deed as Document no. 9964, registere on 21.11.2000. (29) Sale Deed as Document no. 10154, registered on 24.11.2000. (30) Sale Deed as Document no. 9842, registered on 20.11.2000 (31) Sale Deed as Document no. 9621, registere on 15.11.2000. (32) Sale Deed as Document no. 10424, registered on 01.12.2000. (33) Sale Deed as Document no. 10551, registered or 04.12.2000. (34) Exchange Deed as Document no. 1412, registered on 01.05.2001 The Public at large is hereby informed that M/ Skymettle Infrastructures Private Limited who i present owner of Land measuring 36 Kanal 03 Maria, falling under Rectangle No. 37 Killa No. 3 (0-14), 4/1 min (2-4), 4/2 min (0-4), 6/1 min (1-4) 6/2 min (2-16), 7/1 (1-2), 7/2 (6-16), 8 (1-9), 15/ (3-2), 15/2 (3-2), Rectangle no. 38 Killa no 6/1/2/2/1 (1-18), 7 min (2-18), 8 min (2-18), 9 min (2-18), 10/1 min (0-5), 10/2 (2-13), situated in the revenue estate of village Binola, Tehsil Manesal District Gurugram, Haryana and have obtained and/or shall obtain credit facilities from HDF Bank Ltd. with security of the aforesaid propertie after publication of this notice. Any person, who comes in knowledge or possession o aforementioned original sale deeds, may please return the same to above mentioned propert address or at below mentioned address. An person or authority dealing with the deed/documents and / or the aforesaid Propertie and/or deriving any benefit by impersonation of claiming any interest in the aforesaid Propertie on the basis of said sale deeds/documents or in

undersigned along with documentary evidence i Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate) F-10, LGF, Jangpura Ext., New Delhi-110014

any manner whatsoever, he/she/it shall do so a

his/her/its own cost, expense, liability and risk of

may also send his/her/their claims in writing to the

The workers sat in front of $E_{\text{Visakhapatnam Steel Plant}}^{\text{mployees}} \ \ \text{of} \quad \text{the}$ the police station at Gajuwaka, leading to a huge traffic jam (VSP) on Sunday organised 'jail on the national highway. bharo' programme to mark Police arrested the protesters one year of their protest against and shifted them to the police

Vizag Steel Plant workers intensify

protest against privatisation

The VUPPC leaders said the Centre should not privatise VSP as it was achieved after several struggles. They reminded the Modi government that it had to repeal the farm laws after realising its mistake following massive protests by farmers.

clear that their agitation will Film director and actor R. continue till the Centre with-Narayana Murthy took part in draws its decision on strategic the protest to show solidarity with the VSP workers. He The workers took out the hailed their struggle for the rally from VSP arch to last one year and urged them Gajuwaka, raising slogans against the central governto carry on till the Modi government withdraws its deci-

Narayana Murthy also suggested to VUPPC to create awareness on the issue among people through folk perfor-

mances. He also felicitated lyricist Suddhala Ashok Teja and singer Ramki for their song to motivate the workers during

the year-long protest. The workers had launched the agitation in February 2021 after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given its approval for 100 per cent strategic sale/privatisation of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) along with its joint ventures and

RINL is the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant also known as Vizag Steel Plant.

Centrum Broking

gives 'buy' call

NSDC, Common Service Centres inks pact for delivery of services to accelerate skill development

proposed privatisation.

plant, Visakha

huge rally in the city.

sale of VSP.

Demanding that the

Ukku

Central government take back

its decision to privatise the

Parirakshana Porata Committee (VUPPC) stepped

up its protest by taking out a

The protesters made it

 $T_{\text{Development Corporation}}^{\text{he National Skill}}$ National Skill (NSDC) and Common Service Centres (CSC) have inked a pact for the delivery of services to accelerate India's skill devel-"The NSDC has signed a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Common Services Centres today (Sunday) to collaborate for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes to the youth in rural and remote areas of the country," according to a statement. Under the partnership, the CSCs at the village level will act as a skill desk, creating awareness about the various available skill development programmes. Registrations of the candidates will be carried out under the available programme for skill development training, along with the Aadhaar seeding of candidates and certificate

distribution. NSDC Chief Operating

🔘 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🍘 **E-TENDER NOTICE** E-tender Notice No.Com/Lease

East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender, for leasing space of 3.9/4 tonnes of SLRs/LHBs on per trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels in following trains for a period of five (05) years. It can be seen on the website: www.ireps.gov.in

Reserve Price (In Rs.): 11,786/-

2. Train No.: 12391, From-To: RGD-NDLS,

to 07.03.2022 at 12.00 hrs through online www.ireps.gov.in only.

07.03.2022 at 12.00 hrs.

East Central Railway, Danapur PR/01676/DNR/COML/T/21-22/32

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby brought to the notice of the public a large, that the following original registered documents/sale deeds related to the land ituated at village Bhora Kalan, Tehsil & Distric Gurugram & described here in below had bee misplaced & not available with the owner, M/ Skymettle Infrastructures Private Limited (1 Sale Deed as Document no. 275 on 07.04.1999 (2) Sale Deed as Document no. 2044 or 10.05.1999. (3)Exchange Deed as Documen no. 1562 dated 26.08.2016. (4) Sale Deed as Document no. 3878 dated 04.06.1999. (5) Gil Deed as Document no. 3786 dated 25.11.2011 (6) Sale Deed as Document no.3529 date (6) Sale Deed as Document in 0.3529 date of 0.8 03.2013. (7) Exchange Deed as Document no. 2364 dated 20.01.2017. (8)Sale Deed as Document no. 2430 dated 08.02.2017. (9) Sale Deed as Document no. 883 dated 01.09.2000. The Public at large is hereby informed that M/s The Public at large is hereby informed that Mis Skymettle Infrastructures Private Limited who is present owner of Land measuring 0 Kanal 7 Maria, falling under Rectangle No. 192 Killa No. 22/1 (0-4), and Rectangle No. 196 Killa No. 21/1 (0-3), Land measuring 12 Kanal 0 Marla, falling under Rectangle No. 196 Killa No. 18/2 (5-4), 19/1/1 (4-18), 19/2/1 (0-10), 19/2/2/1 (1-8), Land measuring 34 Kanal 8 Marla comprised in Rectangle No. 192 Killa No. 23 (8-0), 24/1 (2-4), 24/2 (5-16), 25/1 min (0-12) Rectangie No. 192 Killa No. 23 (8-0), 24/1 (2-4), 24/2 (5-16), 25/1 min (0-4), 25/2 min (0-12), Rectangie No. 196 Killa no. 4 (8-0), 5 min (0-16), 6 min (0-16), 7 (8-0), Lend measuring 87 Kanal 12 Maria, falling under Rectangie No. 192 Killa No. 22/2 (7-8), Rectangie no. 195 Killa no. 20 (6), 21/1/1 (1-1), Rectangie no. 195 Killa no. 20 (6), 21/1/1 (1-1), Rectangie no. 196, Killa No. 21/12 (5-3), 2/2/1 (0-1), 2/2/2 (2-5), 3 (8-0), 8 (8-0), 9/1 (7-8), 9/2 (0-4), 12/1/2 (2-1), 12/2/2 (4-15), 13/1 (2-0), 13/2 (6-0), 14/1 (1-7), 14/2 (6-13), 15/1 min (0-8), 15/2 (0-8), 16/1 (7-12), 16/2 (0-8), 17 (8-0), 18/1 (2-16), 22/1/2(0-7), 23/1 (0-9), 24/1 (0-9), 25/1 (1-13), situated at village Bhorsili & District Gurugram and have obtained and/ or shall obtain credit facilities from obtained and/ or shall obtain credit facilities from HDFC Bank Ltd. with security of the aforesaid properties after publication of this notice. Any person, who comes in knowledge or possessio of aforemen-tioned original sale deeds, may please return the same to above mentioned property address or at below mentioned address Any person or authority dealing with the deed/documents and / or the aforesaid Properties and/or deriving any benefit by impersonation or claiming any interest in the aforesaid Properties on the basis of said sale deeds/documents or in any manner whatsoeve he/she/it shall do so at his /her/ its own cos expense, liability and risk or may also sen his/her/their claims in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of

the daim.

Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate) F-10, LGF, Jangpura Ext. New Delhi-110014

for M&M, Hindalco. SAIL Officer Ved Mani Tiwari said in the statement,"Through CSC, NSDC will be able to identify IANS NEW DELHI skill seekers at the grass-root level and connect them with the

right skilling opportunities in the

partnership will help NSDC leverage the database and ana-

lytics of CSC and plan intend-

ed skilling for the youth who

aspire to be skilled. CSC SPV Managing

Director Dinesh Kumar Tyagi

said, "The association with

NSDC will be pathbreaking as

it will allow the village-level

entrepreneurs managing the

CSCs to identify the candidates,

help them in registration, link

them with training providers,

thereby fulfilling the aspirations

of a large number of rural

youth interested in upskilling

or enhancing employment opportunities."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Residential Apartment bearing CGJ 163,

admeasuring 1597 sq. mtrs. situated in

DLF Capital Greens Phase-II, Shivaji

Marg, New Delhi The Flat was purchase

in joint name of Mr B.M. Agarwal & Sm

Shukla Agarwal W/o B.M. Agarwal R/o QD

-43 , Ground Floor Pitampura Delhi -110034.Mr Brij Mohan Agarwal expired on

17.04.2021 leaving behind a registered

will dated 05.03.2020 in favour of his wife

Smt Shukla Agarwal which is being noted

n DLF,s record in respect of the captioned

flat.If any body has any objection he or she may approach M/s. DLF Home

Developers Ltd., DLF Centre, Sansad

Marg, New Delhi-110001 within 21 days of

He added that this strategic

ecosystem.

subsidiaries.

The brokerage house Centrum Broking has given a 'buy' call for Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindalco Industries, and Steel Authority of India shares.

"While tractor sales have slowed down over a high base and stress in the rural segment, the auto segment is showing improvement as its 'EBIT' margin improved 100 basis points quarter-on-quarter to 3.7 per cent," the brokerage said for the automobile company Mahindra & Mahindra. Tractor segment could see improvement in FY23 depending on crop yield and monsoons, it said. The target price is kept at Rs 1,081 against its current price of Rs 850 per share.

Notice is hereby given to the Public that (1) Share Certificate (2) Allotment Letter (3) Possession Letter (4) Society-Member Agreement (5) Payment Receipts, issued by Rajmi Gandha CGHSLtd., Plot-4. Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi to LOK NATH GULATI SIO H.C. GULATI and Registered Agreement to Sell, General Power of Altomey and WILL all dated 17-05-2005 with payment receipt, possession letter, Affidavit and an Special Power of Altomey executed by JAMES KEISHING SIO K. LUICE all are related with FLAT No.1004, RAJNI GANDHA CGHS LTD., PLOT No.4. SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-75 has been lost/ misplaced by its owner INDER PREET KAUR W/O Harvinder Singh R/o Flat No.1004, Rajni Gantha CGHS Ltd., Plot No.4. Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi, to this effect an NCR/FIR has already lodged on online portal of Delhi Police vide LRN No.119809 dated 11-02-2025. Founder kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present hereafter the user/holder of the lost/misplaced/missing documents/Article shall be responsible for the use of same.

Public Notice

I Sushma Bansal W/O Late Ved Prakash Bansal R/O 1299, New Shivpuri Hapur, Disown my elder son Prashant Bansal (Unmarried) from all my movable and immovable properties due to his misbehave and misconduct. I and my youngersons Nishant Bansal & Anant Bansal (Both married) shall not be responsible for any act of my above named som.

Under instruction from and on behalf of my Client Sh. Meer Singh S/O Dal Chand R/O C-Cleint St. Meel Singh 3/O Dat Charlot Not 222 A New Ashok Nagar Vashundhra Enclave East Delhi-96, have served all there relations with their Son Sh. Pradeep Kumar and Daughter-in-law Shivani Pal Due to his bad habit. Both of my above name clients have also discussed and of the best discussions of a soll disowned and debarred his said son from all their movable and immovable properties. Any body dealing with Sh. Pradeep Kumar and his wife will do so at his/her/ their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done

MANOJ KUMAR ADVOCATE BAR LIBRARY NO.1, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

SBFC SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.) Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270 PUBLIC NOTICE

Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com|

PUBLICATION

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance
Pvt. Ltd. on 21st February' 2022 or thereafter at 10 AM at 0 - 7, 1st Floor, 'above Look Saloon ,
Lajpat Nagar- 2, New Delhi-110024, Faridabad branch D-2, First Floor, N.I.T., Near 1-2 Chowk, Faridabad,
Haryana- 121001 and Gurugram branch First Floor, Property No. 342/9, Subhash Nagar, 1 st Floor, New
Railway Road, Gurugram-122001, Noida Branch add- Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Cashlet Hotel, Main Dadri Road, Salarpur, Bhangel, Sector 101, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida 201304 (UP),
Ghaziabad add- B2, BASEMENT, RDC RAI NAGAR, GAZIABAD -201002, Hapur add- First Floor, Above
PC Jewellers, Garah Pargana, Garah Road, Tehsil & District Hapur 245101, (UP)
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have
failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Event Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have
failed by The Cold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Event Loan Accounts of Sut Various Customers who have
failed by The Cold Ornaments to Beauctioned belong to Proved Loan Accounts of Sut Various Customers mentioned belong to Develoue Loan Accounts of Sut Various Customers mentioned belong to Develoue Loan Accounts of Sut Various Customers mentioned belong to Develoue Loan Accounts of Sut Various Customers mentioned belong to Develoue Loan Accounts of Sut Various PROS84957/985100224,

PRO084443,5163100239, PRO0836067,963100007, PRO093506927,963100310, PRO0937975,96310045, PRO0895431,963100311, PRO0856067,963100007, PRO093506927,963100013, PRO0837975,96310045, PRO08595431,963100311, PRO085067,963100008, PRO083795,963100011, PRO0937975,96310045, PRO0854067,6710040, PRO0935048,6710160, PRO09303186,67101438, PRO08661107,67101054, PRO0854061,676701043, PRO09303186,67101438, PRO08661107,67101165, PRO0854061,6767010440, PRO0854061,6767010440, PRO0856107,67101167, PRO0854061,6767010440, PRO0856061,6767010440, PRO086061,6767010440, PRO086061,676701044

For more details, please contact: SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. Contact Number(s): Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011- 40305228 / 207, Faridabad: 01294314725/4104450 and Gurgaon Branch 0124-4276037,

Ghaziabad branch - 9205325672, Hapur branch - 8439761293 (SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

imposed & Punishment imposed of Orders NIL Bikram Singh, Candidate 018- Amritsar East

Name of Court & Dates | Description of Offences

full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in PR/01675/WPO/WP/T/21-22/48

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender No. - 2022 WPMechJUDWWT-26 OPE E-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentione

1. Name of the work with its location Composite Works (Civil, Electrical Mechanical) involving construction o Industrial sheds, other ancillary buildings Track works, Drainage system Electrification and illumination works Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant (EOT crane etc.) in connection with LHE coach POH enhancement & Wagon Bogie Shop Extension at Jagadhari Workshop Northern Railway. 2. Approx. Cost of the work: Rs.21,18,44,708.05, 3. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs.12,09,200.00 4. Date and time for closing of tender 22.03.2022 up to 13.00 Hrs. 5. Website particular and notice board

location where complete details of loaded from IREPS websit www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at Office o CAO/WP, Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road Patna-800001. Any e-tender which is sent by Post Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted

All such manual submission of tender ever if it is on firm's letter pad or received in tim will not be accepted. The above e-tender document along with

under the national food security programme to 80 crore The government ensured that "80 crore Indians got five

kg of extra food grain for 19 months and it will continue till March this year", he said. Further, he suggested a

creation in all their ventures; GatiShakti; helping set the agenda/themes for India's G20

The suggestions include focusing on scale, quality, job providing innovative solutions for farmers, artisans and weavers; studying digital platforms like ONDC and PM presidency starting in Dec 2022; and making service and

Name of Political Party:

*Name of constituency:

criminal antecedents:

Smt. Parvinder Kaur.

(FIR No. 171/dated

Sh. Tejpartap Singh Randhawa, ACJM

(FIR No. 137/dated

CHD/UID No. PB0256

07-08-2020, P.S. East

Sec. 26, Chandigarh)

FIR No. 02/dated

20-12-2021, P.S.

FIR No. 87/dated

06-11-2021, P.S.

North, Chandigarh

FIR No. 26/dated

16-03-2021, P.S.

FIR No. 09/dated

15-01-2022, P.S.

Sultanwind, Amritsar

North, Chandigarh

Punjab State Crime

SAS Nagar, Mohali

SDJM Zira, PB

|08-12-2017, P.S.

Makhu, District

Ferozepur)

S I . Name of Court

Name of Election:

Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

five-point action plan for IIT students to unleash India's

and above the entitlements

Oragadam Royal Enfield Employees General Union, the latter's President M Muthukaruppasamy told sacrifice guiding philosophy.

Shiromani Akali Dal

018-Amritsar East

Status of

Cases

Pending

Pending

Ward No.5, Majitha, Teh: Majitha, Amritsar

Section(s) of Acts

Concerned and Brief

description of offence(s)

Section 341,283,431, 188, 148 IPC, Section 8B of National highway

Act - 8B IPC - Protest

against the Govt. and

Protest against the Govt.

and Disobedience to

order of public servant

Section 25 - Section 27A -

Section 29 NDPS ACT

Charges upon allowing

premises, etc. to be used

for commission of an offence

Section 188, 186, 353, 332,

34- IPC - Protest against the

Govt. and Disobedience to order of public servant

Section 186, 323, 341, 511-

Section 188 IPC, 51 of Disaster Management Act 2005 Section

1897-Protest against the Govt.

Maximum Punishment

and Disobedience to order of

IPC - Protest against the

Govt. and obstruction to

3 Epidemic Diseases Act

public servant

public servant

block the road.

Section 188, IPC

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Election 2022

Eicher Motors IANS CHENNAI While merger of rival companies is normal, a

Rival unions

unite at

merger of two worker unions is something rare, which happened at two-wheeler maker Eicher Motors Ltd's plant here, said their leaders.

Further, the amalgamation has happened at a time when the union has submitted its charter of demands as the earlier wage agreement with the management will end in

"On Friday, the Royal Enfield Employees Union (REEU) decided to merge itself with the majority union

Declaration about criminal cases (As per the judgment dated 25th Sept.,

2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W P (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest

Name and address of candidate: Bikram Singh S/o Satyajit Singh R/o 97-A,

I Bikram Singh (name of Candidate), a candidate for the abovementioned

election, declare for public information the following details about my

(A) Pending criminal cases

Case NO:

and dated

Case No.

CHI/259/

Date:

2021 Next

16-02-2022

Case No.

2021

PCH/4643/

Next Date :

28-02-2022

presented

presented

presented

presented

Challan not Challan

Challan not Challan

Challan not Challan

Challan not Challan

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences:

not

not

presented

presented

presented

presented

papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The initial share-sale consists of fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 2,000 crore

Those offering shares in the

OFS are TVS Mobility, Omega TC Holdings PTE Ltd, Mahogany Singapore Company PTE Ltd, Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd and DRSR Logistics Service. According to market sources, the size of the initial

towards the capitalisation of its sidiaries in Germany, USA and Thailand. Further, Rs 60 crore will be infused in the company's UK arm to increase its stake in Rico UK to 100 per cent and the remaining amount from the net proceeds will be deployed

SLR/LHB/DNR/21/5 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)

1. Train No.: 22644, From-To: PNBE-ERS,

Compartment: F-1, F-2 & R-1 (4.0), Reserve Price (In Rs.): 6.044/-Date & time of submission of Tender: up

Date & time of opening of Tender: After

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)







EVERYDAY HEROES

SANISH KULKARNI's attempt to educate and empower underprivileged youth by providing them with livelihood options has impacted close to 500 youngsters, says MITHILA NAIK-SATAM



anish Kulkarni called me to his digital centre at Thane without giving me the context of where we were off to for the day. He called it 'on-field'. Full disclosure and fieldwork have always been up my alley, so I gladly agreed.

We hopped into a rickshaw and Kulkarni disclosed that we were headed to Kalyan, Vittal Wadi — approximately an hour's ride from Thane. En route, he gave me the background of why Guddu's (name changed) tale is one of his rewarding success stories. Guddu was one of Kulkarni's early students and a part of the digital skill training programme. Speaking of him, Kulkarni beamed with pride. "He would spend a lot of time looking at music videos on YouTube. Our team picked up his organic inclination towards the visual medium and taught him editing. Six months into training, he edited his first rap music video and it is now up on YouTube," informed Kulkarni proudly.

Guddu learned these skills at the 12month training course that Kulkarni designed. "We started with tech training and soon realised that we needed to

Be your authentic self

include mental health sessions and workshops too. Since our course also includes editing, we added movie screenings for the kids to watch from

and learn," explained Kulkarni.

A gold medalist Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) alumnus, Kulkarni along with a handful of likeminded fellow graduates, formed Advocating Youth At-risk through Nurturing and Support Hub (AYANSH) Foundation, an action plan to educate and empower underprivileged youth, roviding them with various liveli-

Without a doubt, this is one of the most pressing problems in our country iven that every third person in an Indian city today is a youth. According to a report, by 2020, India's population was expected to become the world's youngest; more than 500 million Indian citizens would be under 25 years of age, and more than two-thirds of the population were eligible to work. This implies that a growing number of India's youth need the right educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed



or become entrepreneurs

Since the early days, Kulkarni wanted to support youth who were deprived of privilege. While asking what pushed him in this direction, he said, "You notice the stark difference; we have the privilege. These kids, who come from marginalised backgrounds, don't. Simply put, the idea was to create an equitable society where all the youth-at-risk are enabled with work-oriented education and training that prepares them for jobs, self-employment or even entrepreneur-

AYANSH's skill-based training model stemmed from Kulkarni's strong determination to uplift the underprivileged youth and create a livelihood path

"Before starting AYANSH, my team and I were engaged in an initiative to train youth in different skills like painting, carpentry, housekeeping. However, after spending enough time with the stu-dents, we noticed, they often signed up for the courses to get into good books but were not keen to pursue them. After repeated conversations with youngsters based in Mumbai, Thane and Pune,

we affirmed that these youngsters are aspirational and more inclined to study courses related to new software technologies," narrated Kulkarni as we walked the narrow lanes of Vittal Wadi.

As I tried to understand what

drove Kulkarni to take this initiative, he drove Kulkarni to take this initiative, he revealed that his academic background in Mass Communication made him decide to train students in graphic designing, video editing, and other digital software. "This led to us opening our first digital training centre in Thane in July 2018," said Kulkarni.

As far as curriculum is concerned.

As far as curriculum is concerned, it is designed according to the needs of the industry so that students get handson experience before joining a company. They also ensure to provide basic training to the students who have had zero exposure to computers or the internet before starting the software training.

Along with skilling, they understood the importance of gearing up youngsters to speak and read the English language. "We extended our teachings to train them in the English language during the digital course, this helped students gain confidence while coaching them for job interviews," informed Kulkarni.

Speaking of the support systems he gives due credit to Pravah, a non-profit body, his research guides at TISS -Sasmita Swain and Dr Sri Krishna Sudheer Patoiu — and his coach Roshan D'souza at UnLtd India who supported his venture strongly and believed in the idea.

AYANSH's first batch had six students from a variety of backgrounds. And Guddu was one of them. Today, AYANSH has impacted close to 500 youngsters. Kulkarni likes to believe that the foundation and his work are more like a movement with vibrant individuals leading and helping it move forward. "We will continue to bridge the gap between the underprivileged and the opportunities by developing students' creativity. I want to help build a ripple effect where Guddu soon becomes a guide to a younger Guddu who probably needs to be nudged in the right direction," Kulkarni adds.

As this on-field day came to an end, Kulkarni smiled widely and quoted, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for

(The author is a development worker and a writer from Maharashtra.) —Charkha Features



No life without love

Nothing in this world appears beautiful in isolation. It is only when seen in the context of its surroundings that it becomes outstanding, says Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj ji

It is rightly said that 'love makes the world go round'. Isn't it true that without love, our lives seem dry and empty? Without love, we can neither see the beauty in creation nor can we find our inner beauty. After all, love is what we are all about. That is why Mahatma Gandhi has rightly said 'Where there is love, there is life'. Although we live in this material world which is filled with natural beauty and we have created the wonders of science, we must not forget that without love, we cannot experience the benefits of those creations

It's a known fact that when a child is born, the mother automatically loves the child as it is innocent and pure like nature that provides us with instinctive love so that we protect and nurture that child. The newborn baby goes on to become the focus of the family and its bonding begins based on love. This bonding further plays a crucial role for the child to develop its personality, to relate to the very big world around it, to feel secure, confident and to be able to express itself in societv. Remember, a child who is loved will have no fear in his/her life and would be able to easily venture outside the fam-

All of us are unable to integrate our experiences properly without a loving family because ultimately it is the love of our family that gives us a sense of safety and

lenges that life brings on. We must understand that nothing in this world appears beautiful in isolation. It is only when seen in the context of its surroundings that it becomes beautiful. Hence, our friends and family are the nuclei of our existence.

When we are alone, we can feel lonely, but not if the soul has developed the consciousness of unlimited love. When we learn to connect with our inner nature of love, it becomes an imperishable treasure that remains with us wherever we go. This unlimited love means that I have a connection with every living being and I also spread the rays of love to the five elements of nature. With this love, İ begin to understand the interdependence of all things and realise that I am not alone, but I am a part of the world drama and it is love that makes this beautiful

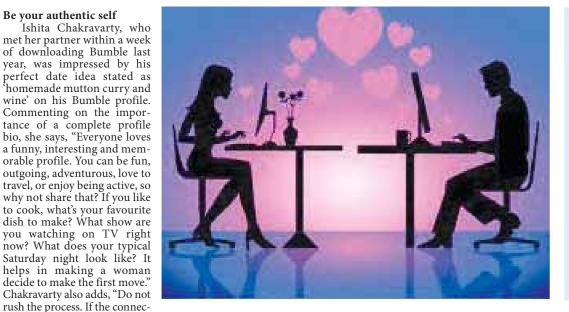
By developing the understanding that all beings are His sweet children and He is the one who purifies nature, we also become a part of His unlimited family and the custodians of nature. With this attitude, we are not able to see anyone or think about anyone without feelings of love, acceptance and of belongingness. Remember! Supreme Almighty's pure love makes no judgement, it does not discriminate nor reject but is an all-embracing, all-accepting, powerful love that transforms and purifies everyone and everything by gently removing traces of fear, loneliness, sorrow and grief from within the soul and makes our life truly magical and beautiful. So let us all spread the light of love & heal the world from the wounds



courage to face chal-

world drama work.

of hatred and negativity.



step," adds Anamika.

Interesting conversation starters

Believe Anamika when she Struggling to start a consays, "If you feel something is versation with something right, go for it. Be yourself and more interesting than just a 'hi'? Go for the basics, Anamika advises. "Talk about let people get to know the real you. Being clear about your what you like or dislike, give dating intentions and your true self will help you make a cute compliment or even better decisions and have share something funny that transparent conversations with happened recently". Anamika your match. This helps in suggests playing Bumble's building that trust you both Question Game which has need to take it to the next proven to be a great conversa-

SWIPE RIGHT

This Valentine's Day, women who found love on Bumble share their tips and tricks on how to navigate online dating. By TEAM VIVA

ber playing the Question Game on Bumble. My favourite was beach or mountain person, cat or dog person,

tion starter for her. "I remem- house party or clubbing?"

Respect boundaries Angana Chakraborty, who met her partner on Bumble last

year and also got married to him during the time, shares that honesty in their relationship helped in deciding to spend their lives together. Chakraborty believes that respecting one's boundaries and space is essential. "Carry on chatting with your connection if you are comfortable or politely decline. Women know how to take hints if you are not interested. In case a woman did not, for whatsoever reason, have the courtesy to give her closure", she shares.

Patience is a virtue

Urmi Bhatt who met with her partner on Bumble during the lockdown in May 2020, explains that finding trust in the online space can be a little tough for women. So, it is best to give someone the time and space she requires to build a connection. "Be clear but not overly persistent. It's great to ask questions and keep the conversation going but try not to go overboard with too many messages if she is taking time. She'll come around!'

tion between two people is real,

then things will fall into place".

Be clear on dating intentions

It always seems impossible until it's done.

— Nelson Mandela

of humans has been gradually diminishing. The study has found two scent receptors for musk and body odour with mutations, which make scents less or more intense. Sijia Wang of



the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Joel Mainland of the Monell Chemical Senses Center have contributed to these

asked to rate the intensity and pleasantness of 10 odours on a 100-point scale. The odours tested included galaxolide, a synthetic musk

and 3M2H, which is one of about 120 chemicals that comprise body odour but also carries the 'characteristic scent' by itself.

The results of the study confirmed associations discovered earlier between the perception, including intensity, and genetic variants for specific odour receptors for three out of four of the scents.

SOLAR STORM CAN DEVASTATE EARTH

 $P^{\text{redicting solar storms is difficult. It is currently believed that} \\ \text{they are more likely during an active phase of the sun, or} \\$ solar maximum, during the so-called sunspot cycle. However the new study published in Nature Communications shows

that this may not always be the case for very large storms. "We have studied drill cores from Greenland and Antarctica and discovered traces of a massive solar storm that hit Earth during one of the sun's passive phases about 9,200 years

ago," says Raimund Muscheler, geology researcher at Lund University.

The researchers scoured the drill cores for peaks of the radioactive isotopes beryllium-10 and chlorine-36. These are produced by high-energy cosmic particles that reach Earth and can be preserved in ice and sediment.

If a similar solar storm were to take place today, it could have devastating consequences. In addition to power outages and radiation damage to satellites, it could pose a danger to air traffic, astronauts and collapse communication systems

CELL PHONES IMPACT MALE FERTILITY

 $\pmb{C}^{\text{ell phones emit radiofrequency radiation}} - \text{a type of } \\ \pmb{C}^{\text{electromagnetic wave}} - \text{that studies show is linked to} \\$ brain and salivary gland tumours, behavioural problems in children and neurological problems. Earlier research has

shown that very high exposure to radiofrequency radiation can damage eyeballs and testicles. A study, by Korean scientists, concludes that cell phone use is linked to lower overall

sperm quality - its motility, viability and concentration. And it's worse for men with "high" cell usage

Their new meta-analysis integrated findings from 18 peer-reviewed studies, including about 4,000 sperm samples. The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Research

It examines the impact of the duration of cell phone use on sperm quality.

70% OCEANS COULD SUFFOCATE BY 2080

 B^{y} 2080, around 70 per cent of the world's oceans could be suffocating from a lack of oxygen as a result of climate change, potentially impacting marine ecosystems worldwide, according to a new study. The

new models find midocean depths that support many fisheries worldwide are already losing oxygen at unnatural rates and passed a critical threshold of oxygen loss in 2021. It finds that

significant, potentially irreversible deoxygenation of the ocean's middle depths that support much of the world's fished species began occurring in 2021, likely affecting fisheries worldwide. The new models predict that deoxygenation is expected to begin affecting all zones of the ocean by 2080.

The results were published in the AGU journal

Geophysical Research Letters.



Nof insomnia symptoms, highlighting the potential impact of noise pollution on public health in large populations Traffic noise at night can affect a population's quality and quantity of

sleep. A study published in Environmental Science and Pollution Research found an association between insomnia and

adults." the authors wrote.

traffic noises in northern India. This study aimed to

analyse the relationship between traffic noise exposure at night and self-reported sleep problems, as well as evaluate subgroups that may be more vulnerable based on sociodemographic characteristics and health-related problems. The study authors note that in India, the acoustic environment is "alarming" compared with Western developed countries, and therefore research on traffic noise exposure and sleep problems should be a priority. "Insomnia is one of the most common sleep disorders present in

octurnal road traffic noise was strongly linked to a range



According to a recent study, the sense of smell



In this research, around 1,000 Han Chinese people were

the pioneer

Madrid held at Villarreal before PSG

The only positive that Real Madrid could take away from its scoreless draw with Villarreal was Gareth Bale, whose good form belied his return to the pitch after more than five months on the sidelines.

The stalemate left Madrid four points clear of second-placed Sevilla as the Spanish league leader continues to struggle without injured striker Karim Benzema, and with their Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain just three days away.

While Madrid stumbled, an 89th-minute goal by Mario Hermoso snatched 10-man Atlético Madrid a 4-3 victory over Getafe in a wild capital derby that featured a red card, three penalties, and six

Bale had not played for Real Madrid since three appearances in

. Then injuries and a COVID-19 infection ensured he fell out of Carlo Ancelotti's rotation in favor of younger players such as Vinícius Júnior and Marco Asensio.

did play three World Cup qualifiers

once in November.

With Benzema recovering from a left hamstring pull, Ancelotti gave Bale the nod to play as his striker. Bale needed almost the entire first half to finally get involved against Villarreal, but once he did, he showed the same ability he always had to produce scoring

"(Bale) had his opportunity and he made the most of it. He could have scored, he gave us a threat up front, he did all we asked of him," Ancelotti said about the former star who returned to Medial former star who returned to Madrid last summer after his loan to Tottenham.

Only the goalkeeping of Gerónimo Rulli stopped Bale on three occasions, including one shot he pushed onto his bar in the 56th minute. Late substitute Luka Jovic almost grabbed a stoppage-time winner on the break when he sent his chipped shot onto the bar.

Villarreal, which remained in sixth place, was also without its top striker as Gerard Moreno nursed a right leg injury. Villarreal, however, got the bet-

During that period, however, he ter of Madrid in an intense, and sometimes testy, first half.



Bale, Ancelotti also started the sparingly used Marcelo on the left side of his defense. Marcelo, whose contract is up in June, was slow to keep up with winger Samuel Chukwueze, while new arrival Giovani Lo Celso cued Villarreal's

Giovani Lo Celso cued Villarreal's passing attack.

"Each side had their half. We did enough to have led the first half, but then they had their chances in the second and we struggled. I think splitting the points is a fair result," Villarreal defender Raul Albiol said. Madrid faces a trip to PSG on Tuesday with only one win in its lest Tuesday with only one win in its last four games and doubts if Benzema will be ready.

SHOOTOUT AT THE WANDA
Even though Luis Suárez had an
early penalty saved by Getafe's
David Soria, Atlético looked ready to roll after Ángel Correa and Matheus Cunha gave it a 2-0 lead at their Wanda Metropolitano Stadium. But Getafe roared ahead in less than 15 minutes, helped by two careless touches by the host and the same defensive errors that have undermined its title defense.

Borja Mayoral sparked the fightback by knocking in an errant

shot by a teammate. Enes Unal then put his side ahead after converting penalties in the 37th and 42nd following handballs by Cunha and

Thomas Lemar. Lemar helped make up for his mistake with a cross that Correa headed home for his second goal to

make it 3-3 just before halftime. Atlético's Felipe Monteiro was sent off in the 58th for sticking his studs into the upper arm of Mauro Arambarri during a high speed clash. That came shortly after Unal left the pitch following a knock with

Atletico was on the verge of an embarrassing setback on the heels of its 4-2 loss to Barcelona in the last round when Hermoso scrambled in his own miss after fellow substitute João Félix headed down a free kick in the six-yard box.

The hard-earned victory lifted Atlético back into fourth place ahead of Barcelona before its derby at Espanyol on Sunday.

ELSEWHERE

Cádiz goalie Jeremías Ledesma saved a late penalty by Celta Vigo's Santi Mina to ensure a 0-0 draw, while Osasuna won 3-0 at Rayo

AIFF condoles demise of N Pappana

IANS NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the demise of former Indian footballer N Pappana, who passed away in his residence in Mysuru on Sunday. Pappana made his international debut against Hong Kong in the 1968 Merdeka Cup and has one goal to his name which he scored against Japan in the Merdeka Cup. He represented India in three match-

"It is really sad to hear that Mr. Pappana is no longer with us. His invaluable contribution to Indian Football will always remain with us. I share the grief," said AIFF President Praful Patel, in his condolence message. "Mr. Pappana will remain alive in his

achievements. He was a brilliant footballer and was an inspiration for so many. My condolences to his family. We pray for his soul to rest in peace," said AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das.

At the domestic level, Pappana had scored a whopping 115 goals for Mohammedan Sporting, winning the Calcutta Football League in 1967, Bordoloi Trophy (1969, 1970), Stafford Cup (1968,



1970) and many other trophies. He had also represented Bengal in the 1967 edition of the Santosh Trophy and

IANS VASCO (GOA)

There will be no love lost when Kerala Blasters FC take on beleaguered SC East Bengal in the Indian Super League match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on

Kerala will look to get back into the top-four after suffering a heavy defeat at the hands of Jamshedpur FC in their last outing. For SC East Bengal, it will be about salvaging some pride after being mathematically ruled out of the playoffs race with their loss to Odisha FC in their previous engagement. While SC East Bengal will

look to play party-poopers, for Kerala this game should be one to pick up three points as they take on ATK Mohun Bagan and Hyderabad FC, two teams above them in the league table, in the next two games after Monday. Their final three games see them go up against Chennaiyin FC, Mumbai City



Vukomanovic, his team's setpiece woes would be a cause for concern given SC East Bengal do score a lot from them. The Blasters have conceded just four goals via open play, against ATK Mohun Bagan. In fact, no team has conceded fewer openplay goals this season than Kerala Blasters (6). SC East

Bengal have scored 70.59% of their goals (12 out of 17) from set-pieces. No team scores a greater percentage of goals from set-pieces than the red and gold brigade. Kerala Blasters are also going through a period of injuries and suspension as they may be without Ruivah Hormipam, Harmanjot Khabra and Marko Leskovic for the

Kerala Blasters take on SC East Bengal

next game, all of whom are either injured or suspended or not fully fit.

"We have enough players in our squad. That's why we have a large squad. Some other players will take the positions. I am not worried. I am confident that these boys can do the job. We will see tomorrow. I am glad these boys will get some game

time," said Vukomanovic.
"We are confident for

tomorrow's game. Every game is important now. We have to be fully concentrated and ready to fight for all duels," he added.

SC East Bengal, sitting 10th in the points table with just 10 points to show for from 16

points to show for from 16 games, will have nothing to lose. They have just managed to win one game so far and head coach Mario Rivera will be eager to change that statistic.

'Ĭ'm sure the top teams will not be happy to play SC East Bengal now because they know we'll be a very difficult team to beat. We are focused on winning the next match," he said.

KBFC has a very balanced side. Their attack and defence are well balanced. Of course, they'll miss some players in tomorrow's game but their squad depth is fantastic and they're performing well in ISL," he added on Kerala.

The last time the two sides met, the game ended in a 1-1

Hamilton looks 'totally focused' on the 2022 campaign

IANS DUBAI

Seven-time Formula One world Champion Lewis Hamilton is absolutely committed to fighting for an eighth title in 2022, F1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali confirmed on Sunday.

Domenicali said that the Mercedes driver's silence spoke volumes over his desire to win what would be a record eighth title. This season of course boasts brand-new F1 cars -- a huge challenge for all 20 drivers on the grid -- with 23 Grands Prix on the calendar.

"From what I see in the picture he has posted, he seems to be totally focused on this year's challenge that, sporting-wise, will be very interesting. We are all looking forward to seeing how the new cars behave and sure this will be as exciting as the last one," he

Since that photo, Hamilton has started posting more regularly, with a series of images showing what he's been up to over the last few weeks -- and is well into his pre-season regime.

The 37-year-old lost out on what would have been a record eighth championship when he was passed by rival Max Verstappen on the last lap of the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi.



Aside from a short post-race interview, Hamilton hasn't addressed the 2021 season finale. He is set to partner

with new teammate George Russell in the W13 challenger, which is set to be launched on February 18.

Arif Khan finishes 45th in giant slalom at Beijing 2022



IANS BEIJING

Indian skier Arif Khan finished 45th in the Men's Giant Slalom race at the 2022 Winter Olympics, here on Sunday. The 31-year-old skier from Jammu and Kashmir, who is the only Indian athlete at the 2022 Winter Olympics, ended at 53rd in Race 1 with a time of 1 minute 22.35 seconds. In Race 2, he clocked 1:24.89. The lone Indian athlete at the Winter Olympics 2022, Arif Khan finished overall 45th at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre. His combined time was 37.89 seconds behind gold winner Marco Odermatt of Switzerland, who clocked a combined time of 2:09.35. Slovenia's Zan Kranjec

(2:09.54) and France's Mathieu Faivre (2:10.69) clinched the silver and bronze medal, respectively. Khan has qualified for the slalom race event also, where he is

scheduled to compete on February 16.
"It's one of my dreams to be at the Winter Olympics and this is my first time. It really means a lot. It's a great message back to our country, to our people to join winter sports in future," Khan was quot-

ed as saying by Olympics.com. "There were like millions of people watching me live back home. I was trying my best to give the best I have got. But the weather was uncertain, you couldn't see much, like how the slope was used, but it was good," he said.



Top-seeded Ruud and Schwartzman to play Argentina Open final

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES

op-seeded players Casper Ruud and Diego Top-seeded players Casper Ruda and Tog Schwartzman will play in Sunday's final of the Argentina Open.

The Norwegian Ruud, the 8th-best ranked player, and the Argentinian Schwartzman, the 15th-best player, won the 2020 and 2021 editions of the clay court tournament, respectively.

Ruud beat Argentinian Federico Delbonis 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday. Hours later, Schwartzman topped third-seeded player Lorenzo Sonego of Italy in a tense match by 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Schwarztman had finished just a few hours earlier his quarterfinal tie against his compatriot and 2021 runner-up Francisco Cerundolo.

The match was interrupted Friday night in the third set, tied 1-1, due to rain.

Schwartzman won 3-6, 6-2, 7-5. Ruud overcame Spain's Roberto Carballés Baena and Argentinians Federico Coria and Delbonis to reach the final. Schwartzman bested Spain's Jaume Munar, Argentina's Cerundolo and Italy's Sonego to play the decider in Buenos

Inter's draw with Napoli blows Serie A title race open

IANS ROME

The showdown for the Serie A title between Inter Milan and Napoli ended in a 1-1 draw, as Edin Dzeko's volley cancelled out Lorenzo Insigne's early penal-

It was a head-to-head for top spot as Napoli ranked second before Saturday's game, one point behind leaders Inter, who have a game in hand.

Napoli made a good start just seven minutes into the game, as Victor Osimhen was kicked down by Stefan De Vrij, and the referee awarded the home side a penalty after a VAR check. Insigne, who will join Toronto FC in the summer, stepped up to

The Partenopei should have made it 2-0 in the 12th minute, but Piotr Zielinski saw his attempt graze the post.

Napoli were more aggressive in the first half, but Inter scored the equaliser straight after the break when Dzeko's header was blocked, but the Bosnian reacted quickly to smash the rebound into the net.

Napoli still had chances to put the game to bed, but Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic performed well to keep the scoreline down.

After the draw, Inter still lead the table, but will be overtaken by city rivals AC Milan if they beat Sampdoria on Sunday.

Also on Saturday, Lazio dominated Bologna 3-0, and Venezia won 2-1 at





YASH DHULL READY TO ROAR IN IPL

elhi Capitals acquired India's U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull on Day 2 of the IPL 2022 Mega Auction here. After a tussle with Punjab Kings, the local lad was snapped up by the Delhi-based franchise for Rs 50 lakh.

The trainee of Delhi Capitals

Academy hogged the limelight in

the Caribbean where he overcame Covid-19 to lead India to its record-extending fifth U19 World

Having missed out on a few matches due to the dreaded virus, the classy top-order batter marked his comeback with a match-winning 110 in the semi-final match against Australia. The 19-year-old batter notched 229 runs in just four matches at a remarkable average of 76.33 in the recently-concluded marquee event.

Expressing his excitement on being acquired by the franchise, the DC Academy graduate said, "Hi Delhi Capitals. Thank you for showing faith in me and selecting me at the auctions. I have been a part of the Delhi Capitals Bal Bhavan Academy for 8-9 years. So this is a dream come true for me.

Having missed out on a few matches due to the dreaded virus, the classy toporder batter marked his comeback with a match-winning 110 in the semi-final

match against Australia. The 19-year-old batter notched 229 runs in just four matches at a remarkable average of 76.33 in the recently-concluded marquee event.

and I am ready to give my best."

Having acquired the DC Academy prodigy at the IPL 2022 Mega Auction, Delhi Capitals' Interim CEO Vinod Bisht said, 'Yash has been a talent who has been spotted 4-5 years back since he was a small kid. At that time, in the earlier avatar of ours, we always wanted to develop the whole idea of doing grassroots cricket and build stories. This is an outcome of that effort of 5-6 years. When a 14-year-old young talent came up to us, and we supported him at that time, and then he goes on to become the captain of India U-19 team, and wins the World Cup, and is back into our fold."

He further added, "This was one talent we could not have allowed to go. The very ethos of saying we develop grassroots talent, we develop talent who can become big and we need to support them in the formative years. That's what exactly we have done. We have done it in the past with Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant, and that is a story we want to continue. That is how we build our character brand where we want young talent to come to us and grow with us. We will support them at each and every stage school, university and then playing

Speaking about the development, Jagrit Anand, Head of DC Academies, said, "It's extremely satisfying and a moment of great pride for us that Yash Dhull has become a part of Delhi Capitals franchise. He has set an example for a lot of younger kids going for-ward that a pathway to an IPL team can be setting foot at the right place, at the right age, like Yash did at the age. He is an ideal example, not just because of his skills or his talent, but also because of his mindset."

"The fact that he is so calm, and so grounded, it sets a great example for younger kids to become like him, in their own amazing ways. Along with the hard work of the coaches, the entire framework of the academy has worked in his favour. And, I am glad that at this crucial stage in his career, he has been picked up by the Delhi Capitals franchise, because he will be under the right kind of guidance to further progress in his career. I am sure he will be groomed in the best possible way and become a great asset for Delhi Capitals."

HAZLEWOOD STARS AS AUSTRALIA BEAT SRI LANKA

 $B^{\text{rilliant bowling by pacer Josh}}_{\text{Hazlewood helped Australia}}$ hold their nerve to get the better of Sri Lanka in a thrilling Super Over in the second T20I here on Sunday. Hazlewood was spot on with his bowling in the Super Over and restricted Sri Lanka to just five runs. Maxwell and Stoinis then completed the formalities with the bat and won the match in three balls, helping Australia take a 2-0 lead in the series.

Sri Lanka, who lost the opening T20I match on Friday, decided to bowl first after electing to bat first. They managed to restrict Australia to 164/6 in their allotted 20 overs thanks to a knock of 48 by Josh Inglis with Dushmantha Chameera (2/30) and Wanindu Hasaranga (2/33) leading the bowling efforts for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka made a match of it as they rode on a 53-ball 73 by Pathum Nissanka and 19-ball 34 by skipper Dasun Shanaka helping them reach 164/8 in 20 overs.



Hazlewood claimed 3/22 for Australia.

Sri Lanka had to make a forced change with Binura Fernando being unavailable for this match, with round-arm seamer Nuwan Thushara replacing him. Australia, on the other side, rested Mitchell Starc and brought the Kane Richardson.

Ben McDermott, the highest scorer for Australia in the first T20I, started with intent but soon fell to debutant Nuwan Thushara. failing to clear Wanindu Hasaranga at long-on. Inglis top-scored for Australia with 48 from 32 while skipper Aaron Finch, who seemed set in the middle lost his wicket at a crucial time to a wrong-un from Wanindu Hasaranga.

well, says DC owner Jindal

I don't think KKR handled Kuldeep

Maxwell was Hasaranga's sec-ond victim and fell for 15. It was all up to Steven Smith and Marcus Soinis to finish strongly in the death overs but Dushmantha Chameera snapped them both up in consecutive deliveries. Matthew Wade did manage to make an impact towards the end as he hit a four and a six in the 20th over helping Australia finish 164/4 in 20

While Sri Lanka bowlers were brilliant in the second half of the innings, Australia once again failed to finish strongly with the bat, going from 92/2 at the end of 11 overs to 164/6 at the end of 20.

The Australian bowlers were on the money from the start and picked up crucial wickets early on. Hazlewood sent Danushka Gunathilaka back to the pavilion in the first over for a duck and followed it up with the scalp of Avishka Fernando in his next over, according to a report in the ICC's official website.

Charith Asalanka didn't trouble the scorers either and was the

second batter to depart without

opening his account.

Opener Pathum Nissanka and
Dinesh Chandimal came to the rescue before Adam Zampa struck
crucially to remove the latter after
the 10-over mark, the report said.

Captain Dasun Shanaka played brilliant knock of 34 of 19 deliveries, which included two fours and three sixes, kept Sri Lanka in the chase but was unlucky to get run out. Hasaranga played a crucial cameo of 13 while Nissanka too exploded towards the end.

With 19 needed off the last over, Nissanka smashed a four off the first ball but was out for 73 two balls later. Needing 12 off 3, Maheesh Theekshana smashed a six despite Steve Smith's best efforts on the boundary and took a single off the next.

With five needed off the last ball, Chameera, playing his first ball, smashed a four-over Stoinis' head to force a Super Over.

But in the end, it proved insufficient as Australia won the match in the one-over eliminator.

part of KKR since 2014, but

ahead of the IPL 2022 mega auc-

tion, the franchise did not retain

him. He was ruled out of the

2021 edition due to injury.

Kuldeep, who had set his base

price at INR 1 crore, was bought

by the Delhi franchise for INR

2 crore in the auction."When we

looked at the value names, one of the names that stuck with us

was Kuldeep Yadav. And we went for him," said Jindal. The Delhi-based franchise

also acquired the services of

David Warner, Mitchell Marsh,

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman along with exciting domestic talents, Ashwin Hebbar, Sarfaraz Khan, Kamlesh

Nagarkoti, and KS Bharat, on Day 1 of the IPL 2022 Mega



PTI ■ LAHORE

 $F^{
m lamboyant}$ former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has called time on his Pakistan Super League (PSL) career due to a persistent back problem, ending a seven-year association with the event.

part in this season's PSL only for the sake of

"I was trying to sign off on a good note; my lower-back injury has been there for 15-

16 years, and I have been playing with it. But now it has become so much that it has affected my groin, my knee and it goes down to extreme pain in my toes," Afridi said in a

social media message Afridi, who began his career in international cricket with a then fastest 37-ball hundred, looked in pain at times but took three wick-

ets in three PSL games for Quetta Gladiators. "I tried to cope with it but can't tolerate the pain anymore. After all, when you have good health, you have the world with you. I will go back and undergo rehabilitation on my fitness. There is cricket coming up... So I will soon return in front of my fans again," he

Quetta is Afridi's fourth PSL franchise. He has also played for Multan Sultans, Karachi

Afridi took 47 wickets at an average of 26.51 in his PSL career, besides scoring 459 runs at a strike rate of 150.8.

Babar Azam's Karachi Kings

Kings and Peshawar Zalmi.

Faf du Plessis sends emotional message for CSK fans cial memories. I think it's

IANS NEW DELHI

tions of the IPL.

Parth Jindal, the chairman of

Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav

was not handled well by Kolkata

Knight Riders in the last few edi-

handled well in the IPL for the

last few seasons, he is a player who rides very much on confi-

dence. In the environment we've

created at Delhi Capitals with

Ricky Ponting and Rishabh Pant,

it is something that we want to

give him. He has a lot to prove, and I think the fire in his belly

is there and we are very keen to

see what he does in the next IPL,"

Jindal said on 'Auction Alert with

The left-arm spinner was

"I don't think he has been

Delhi Capitals feels that

Couth Africa star Faf du OPlessis, who was bought for Rs 7 crore by Royal Challengers Bangalore on Day 1 of the IPL 2022 mega auction, on Sunday sent an emotional message to Chennai Super Kings fans after his decade-long association with the franchise came to end

A bidding war had ensued for du Plessis between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), and Delhi Capitals (DC), with Bangalore eventually succeeding in picking him.

Du Plessis, who began his IPL journey with CSK, has been one of the most consistent players in the cash-rich league so far. He was also in superb form for



CSK during their victorious run in the IPL 2021 campaign, scoring 633 runs in 16

thank you to Chennai, the

fans, the staff, the management and players for it has been a decade with one team," Faf du Plessis said in "I just wanted to do a quick video message to say

a social media post shared by "You create a lot of spe-

with great opportunities. I'm excited to see what the future holds. From me and my family, thank you very much," he added. Faf du Plessis is likely to

really important for me to say

thank you. I've really enjoyed

open the batting with Virat Kohli at RCB. The South African could also take over as the captain of RCB as Kohli stepped down from the role after the end of the IPL 2021 season.

RCB's Director of Cricket Operations Mike Hesson insisted that du Plessis, along with Maxwell, Kohli and newest acquisition Josh Hazlewood will be the leaders in the side.

my time a lot. I will really Pakistan Super League as Peshawar miss everyone there. But as Zalmi handed the 2020 champion one door closes, a new one a 55-run defeat on Sunday. Nothing seemed to go right for the injury-hit Karachi team, led opens up and that comes up

by Babar Azam, as its batters yet again struggled and reached just 138-6. Peshawar had earlier capitalized on sloppy Karachi fielding to score 193-6 with the opening pair of Hazratullah Zazai (52) and 20-year-old debutant Mohammad Haris (49) providing a rollicking start of 97 runs from 10 overs.

Australian Ben Cutting provided a late flourish to Peshawar's total with a breezy 26 off 15 balls that included three boundaries against Chris Jordan (3-41) in the 19th

Babar had scored an unbeaten 90 against Peshawar in the first-leg at Karachi in a losing cause and again on Sunday his 59 runs off 46

suffer 6th successive loss balls were not enough.

AP ■ LAHORE $K^{
m arachi}$ Kings suffered their sixth successive loss in the

"The drop chances and death bowling led to a score that was well over par," Babar said. 'We played poorly in the pow-

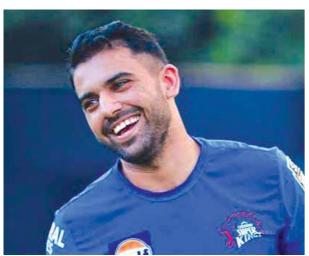
erplay and that cost us the match but they bowled well and deserve credit for it."

Power-hitter Sharjeel Khan's struggles in the powerplay continued before he holed out in the fifth over after scoring 14 off 16 balls as Karachi slipped to 33-1 in the first six overs.

Fast bowlers Salman Irshad (2-24) and captain Wahab Riaz (2-26) didn't allow Babar and Joe Clarke to score freely as the boundaries dried up for Karachi.

Liam Livingstone (1-22) also bowled three tidy overs in the mid-dle and had Clarke clean bowled off his legspin for a run-a-ball 26.

Babar got little support from the other end to pace the chase before Irshad had him leg before wicket off a full-pitched delivery in



When I reached ₹14 crore, I was thinking 'I should not go for more than this', says Deepak Chahar

IANS NEW DELHI

India pacer Deepak Chahar, who was bought back by Chennai Super Kings for a whopping sum of Rs 14 crore, on Sunday said that he was travelling with Team India to Kolkata from Ahmedabad in a bus and was watching the IPL 2022 auction on his mobile phone.

He added that he did not want the price to go more than Rs 14 crore, fearing CSK may pull out of the bidding war.

Chahar became the most expensive Indian fast bowler at an IPL auction when CSK paid Rs 14 crore to secure the services of the India bowler on Day 1 of the mega auction on Saturday. "We (Indian team) were travelling from Ahmedabad to

Kolkata. We were watching the auction on the phone, the whole team was watching it. Everyone was asking 'kitna ho gaya?' When I reached till Rs 14 crore, I was thinking 'I should not go for more than this' because if CSK pulled out after that, I would have been very sad. I wanted to play for CSK because I can't imagine myself playing for any other colour," Chahar

told Star Sports.

"At one time, I thought it was too much. As a CSK player, I also want the team to build a good team and we can buy ne other players."

Chahar was not retained by CSK as the management went for Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Moeen Ali as their four picks ahead of the auction.

He revealed that he never had a discussion with skipper Dhoni or the management on retention, but was confident that the four-time champions would pick him up. "I am really happy to be back in Chennai Super Kings. I don't think there will be any dif-

ference. When I go back, I will be seeing the same faces over the last four years, maybe over the last six years because I was with the Pune side and half the players were there. I could not have asked for a better auction than this," said Chahar on Sunday.
"I have never spoken about

all this to Mahi bhai or the CSK management (about retention). They just assured me that in 2018, I met Kasi sir and Srinivasan sir and they told me that I was going to play for Yellow always.