

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COME HOME

PNS NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team for breakfast here on Thursday during which, he said, there were "memorable" conversations on the side's experiences through the marquee event co-hosted by USA and the West Indies, the team went to Mumbai for victory parade.

The Rohit Sharma-led squad, that won the title after defeating South Africa by seven runs in the final last week, arrived in Delhi early morning after being stranded in Bridgetown, Barbados for five days due to a category 4 hurricane.

The victory parade of the T20 World Cup winning Indian team commenced after a two-hour delay as complete crowd chaos along the stretch of South Mumbai brought the traffic to a halt after Rohit and his men touched down little after 5 pm here on Thursday.

As per the itinerary shared by the officials here, the two-hour open bus parade started from the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in Nariman Point till the Wankhede Stadium started little after 7:30 pm in the evening as the Maximum City's stretch along the Marine Drive was drowned in an 'Ocean of Humanity?

The Wankhede Stadium here was thrown open to fans, who filled up the stands within minutes to celebrate the Indian



cricket team's title triumph last

Saturday.

After arriving in the city, Rohit's team and its support staff made their way to the southern tip of at the Chhatrapati Shivaji several hours. passionate fans as thousand the city which houses the Maharaj International Airport's Meanwhile, here at the iconic others waited outside the gates

Wankhede Stadium. Terminal 2. But not before their aircraft — a Vistara flight – got the famous airport with a sea of fans and 'Water Salute' after arriving here

The players walked out of the media waiting for them for last

which Wankhede Stadium witnessed India's last ODI World Cup triumph in 2011, the stands got filled to the brim by

which were closed around 5:00 pm. As the gates closed amid intermittent rain, extreme humidity and chaos of several thousand people arriving in the vicinity, those fortunate ones who were able to find their places inside Wankhede remained fixated to their seats even if there was scarcity of food and water

As the fans ran in all directions to take their places in the stands amid a heavy burst of rain, several pairs of footwear got left behind in the rush while debris of all kind was also thrown around along the way.

While the wait extended, rain kept pelting down with breaks but it could not force the fans off their seats inside the stadium. The DJ kept entertaining with songs of all genres and at one instance it felt like Wankhede was hosting a rain-dance party with the stadium's speakers blurting out Vengaboys' party hit 'To Brazil' and country's unofficial sports anthem "Chak de India". Soon after, Wankhede came alive with its customary chants of Sachin... Sachin' followed by 'Mumbaicha Raja, Rohit Sharma!' and 'India… India'.

Earlier in the day after meeting the world champions, Modi posted on 'X' along with pictures of him with the team.

'An excellent meeting with our Champions! Hosted the World Cup winning team at 7, LKM and had memorable а conversation their on through experiences the tournament," wrote Modi.



India script cricket history in England

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

While the Indian Men's Cricket team basked in their well-deserved T20 World Cup glory in Barbados, the cricketers of the Indian Deaf Cricket Team were quietly achieving a remarkable success of their own in England. Last week, they defeated host England by six wickets in a thrilling seventh and final T20 to claim the series 5-2 in Leicester.

Their triumph not only highlights inclusivity in sports but also serves as an inspiration, showcasing that with determination and perseverance, no barrier is insurmountable, said experts and differently-abled individuals as they expressed immense happiness and pride over this achievement.

Sumit Jain, president of the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), said, "The victory in this bilateral series against England is not just a win on the field but a testament to the perseverance and skill of our hearing-impaired players.

Continued on Page 2

BJP vs Cong over Rahul's 'incorrect' remarks in LS **CBI** files first **FIR under new** laws in Capital



member is above the Chair in

the House In his letter to Speaker, Tagore flagged that Prime Minister Modi in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the said tress had

Government formation.

Uttarakhand,

Congress

PNS NEW DELHI The CBI has registered its first FIR under newly enforced Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against two Delhi Police officers for allegedly demanding ₹10 lakh bribe to help the release of a person lodg in Tihar Iail the Congress made a "false promise" of ₹8,500 per The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has replaced the British month to women, when the era Indian Penal Code (IPC). party's promise was conditional to victory and The FIR registered on Wednesday evening booking Head Constables Ravindra He also challenged Modi's Dhaka and Parveen Saini both claim that the Congress vote posted in Narcotics Cell, share has gone down in 16 Maurice Nagar, under BNA States in which it had 61(2) related to alleged contested alone. "This is criminal conspiracy and factually incorrect. The Congress vote share provisions of bribery under the vote share in Himachal Prevention of Corruption Act. Continued on Page 2

Naidu bats for raise in Andhra's Central aid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A head of the full annual Budget of third tenure of BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, Andhra Pradesh Minister Chief Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national Capital on Thursday and des their discussions on key development issues concerning the State as "constructive". Naidu's assertion has come a week after another significant ally of the NDA, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) had pressed for special package and grants for Bihar during the meeting of party's national executive. Sources said during the



an important ally in the BJP-led NDA Government, presented several crucial proposals for the State's development and sought the Union Government support, sources said.

Following the meeting, he expressed confidence in Andhra Pradesh's potential "re-emerge to as rhouse amon under Modi's leadership. 'Today, I had a constructive meeting with the Prime Minister to address important matters concerning the welfare and development of Andhra Pradesh. I am confident that under his leadership, our State will re-emerge as a powerhouse among States," Naidu took to social media to share the details.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

day after the Centre on A Thursday said any MP trying to mislead Parliament will not get away easily and the "rules will get them", a war of words between the BJP ruling and the Opposition Congress escalated. This comes after the Congress wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP MP Anurag "factually Thakur made incorrect, inaccurate and misleading statements" in the Lok Sabha and sought appropriate action in the matter. already The BIP has submitted a notice against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha over alleged inaccuracies in his speech. Congress Lok Sabha MP Manickam Tagore has written to Speaker Birla, requesting that provisions of direction 115(1) be invoked over the statements made by

"Nobody can expect to escape. There is no special privilege for anyone just increased because he comes from a privileged family. If anybody wants to misuse the position in the House to mislead the House, he will not easily get away. Rule will get them," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said. Rijiju was in fact referring to a notice submitted in the Lok Sabha by BJP member Bansuri Swaraj urging the Speaker to take cognisance of

address. Opposition in the Lok Sabha including facts and figures, a and we have requested the action. We are waiting for the action," response to questions on the issue.

Modi and Thakur.

Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana etc.," Tagore was quoted as saying in the letter. He also termed as "grossly misleading" Modi's remarks that "no bullet proof jackets [were provided] for the Army during the Congress' time". "There was a shortage of jackets, not that jackets were not there. Even police had bullet proof jackets like her notice against certain in Mumbai attacks," Tagore inaccuracies in Rahul's speech on the Motion of said. He also challenged the Prime Minister over the claim that Thanks on the President's

fighter jets to the Army. "We had Jaguar, Mig 29, SU- 30, Mirage 2000," the letter read. "When the Leader of the kept on lying on many things, notice was put to the Speaker alleged Thakur's July 1 speech in the Speaker to take appropriate Lok Sabha. The Congress MP said Thakur claimed that the Rijiju said in Army was not given arms and

fighter jets when the party The Minister said rules apply ruled the country. Continued on Page 2 equally to everyone as no

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

meeting at the PMO, Naidu in lieu of special category advocated for increased status. The chief of Telugu assistance to Andhra Pradesh Desam Party (TDP), which is

Continued on Page 2

Hathras stampede site reeks of death, destruction

in the tragic incident.

six

PNS RANCHI/NEW DELHI

ahead of the Assembly

of office and secrecy by

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SAUMYA SHUKLA HATHRAS

Ateddy bear, a few lunch boxes, slippers and Aboxes, slippers and handbags lying on the ground at the spot where the Hathras stampede tragedy unfolded on Tuesday continue to tell of the horrors of the day when devotion to a self-styled godman Narayan Saakar Hari alias 'Bhole Baba' turned into a ghastly affair as more than 120 devotees lost their lives. However, locals, who were witness to the mayhem, said the number of the dead is not less than 400. In the sobbing town of Hathras many are seen grieving for their loved ones who lost their lives in one of the worst stampedes in the country, cursing the copturned-godman who claims to heal and even bring the



Family members sitting at a house after the Hathras stampede. Over 120 people were killed and several injured in the stampede, according to officials Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

dead back to life.

"Itne hi bade bhagwan the to Meanwhile, wapis kyo nahi aaye apne Pradesh police on Thursday bhakto ke liye? (If he is such arrested including two women in a big God why didn't he come back for his devotee?)," said a connection with the Hathras stampede. However, the preacher has not been man identified Ramesh Kashyap who lost his mother

Victims rue medical neglect SAUMYA SHUKLA 🔳

HATHRAS

Relatives of those tragic stampede incident at a 'satsang sabha' led by selfstyled godman Narayan Saakar Hari, also known as 'Bhole Baba', have voiced their grievances at the Sikandrarao district hospital in Hathras. They complained of inadequate medical treatment for the injured, with many patients being discharged prematurely despite still experiencing significant pain. Continued on Page 2

mentioned as accused in the FIR lodged at the local Sikandra Rao police station. The only accused named in the FIR is at large. The preacher 'Bhole Baba' will be questioned if required during investigation, a senior officer said.

"A reward of ₹one lakh will be announced soon and nonbailable warrant (NBW) will also be issued against the key accused Devprakash Madhukar," Inspector General of Police (Aligarh Range) Shalabh Mathur said. In the village of Sokhana, four people lost their lives including three from a single family. Binod, a 40-year- old labourer, was in Barelli in search of a job when he heard the news of his mother's death in the stampede. Continued on Page 2

Jaishankar for isolating countries harbouring terrorists

the Congress didn't give

Tagore also pointed out

inaccuracies in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/ASTANA

With tension persisting at the border for the last five years, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday that the Line of Actual Control (LAC)must be "respected."

He also asked the international community to "isolate and expose" those countries that harbour terrorists. provide safe havens and condone



terrorism, saying if left unchecked, terrorism can become a major threat to regional and global peace, in a veiled jibe at China and Pakistan.

Delivering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State Summit in the Kazakhstan capital Astana, Jaishankar, who was physically present at the meeting, recalled that one of the original goals of the SCO is to combat terrorism.

"Many of us have had our experiences, often originating beyond our borders. Let us be clear that if left unchecked, it can become a major threat to regional and global peace. Terrorism in any form or manifestation cannot be justified or condoned," he told the summit, which was attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and and Russian President Vladimir Putin among others.

Continued on Page 2

Hemant Soren back in saddle



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader down from the post months Hemant Soren takes the oath of office and secrecy as the 13th Chief Minister of Jharkhand during the swearing-in He was administered the oath Ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, in Ranchi PTI

Governor C P Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan here. Hemant's father and JMM supremo Shibu Soren, his mother Rupi Soren, wife Kalpana Soren and senior leaders of the JMM-led alliance were present at the swearing-in cer Chamapi Soren, ceremony. who resigned as the Chief Minister on Wednesday, was also present on the occasion.

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NBCC to oversee development at

University, Cuttack

Ravenshaw



PM2.5 leads to rise in mortality in metros

ARCHANA JYOTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ unrelenting \ rise \ in}_{vehicular \ and \ industrial emissions \ has \ turned \ India's}$ bustling urban centers like Delhi and Bengaluru into veritable hotbeds of air pollution with daily mortality rates soaring-on average 7.2%-due to PM2.5 levels WHOexceeding recommended safe thresholds.

This lethal phenomenon underscores the urgent need for robust environmental policies and collective action to mitigate the profound impact of air pollution on public health, as highlighted in a first multi-city study to examine the association between short-term exposures to air pollution and daily mortality in India. The study is published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal on Thursday. (PM)

Particulate matter consists of a mixture of solids and liquid droplets and can either be emitted directly or



form when pollutants from various sources react in the atmosphere. PMs less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose greatest problems, the because they can get deep into the lungs, and some may even get into the bloodstream. Researchers of the study "the first multi-city, time series

analysis of short-term exposure to PM2.5 and daily mortality in India," said that daily exposure to PM2.5 pollution in Indian cities is linked with a higher risk of death, and locally created pollution could be possibly causing these deaths. The international team

micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5 over a 24-hour period, said the study. Indian air quality standards prescribe 60 micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5 over a 24-hour period. City-wise, the authors found a 0.31 per cent rise in daily mortality per

a 10 micrograms per cubic metre increase in PM2.5 in included researchers from Varanasi's Banaras Hindu Delhi, while in Bengaluru, the University (BHU) and the rise was 3.06 per cent. The links between daily Centre for Chronic Disease

exposure to PM2.5 pollution and locally created pollutants were found to be stronger in models which the researchers used to explore cause-andeffect relationships.

quality, less stringent than WHO guidelines for safe

exposure, which prescribe 15

Therefore, it was possible that the locally generated pollutants were causing these excess deaths, the authors said. "The causal effects were especially strong in cities with lower concentrations of air pollution, such as (Bengaluru), Chennai, and Shimla," the authors wrote.

Mumbo Jumbo politics in Kerala's Congress

details

of

due to poor health.

the

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Though the Congress swept all but one seat it contested in Kerala in the recent Lok Sabha polls from the State, the party is embroiled in mumbo jumbo politics much to the embarrassment of the High Command.

On Thursday, a group of party workers and sorcerers traced materials from the Nadal residence of K Sudhakaran, MP and president of KPCC. The materials retrieved on Thursday are reportedly remnants of sorcery and black magic performed for the annihilation of Sudhakaran, said one of his aides who was present during the probe.

Copper sheets, pancha loha (made of five metals) pendant and bones of birds form the materials dug out from various corners of Sudhakaran's house. "These are all materials which are nearly two years old and I do not have anything to say about this," Sudhakaran told the media which had turned up in large numbers for an on the spot assessment.

Though he refused to tell any



witchcraft," persons despite this suspected behind the black Sudhakaran was heard telling magic, the needle of suspicion the reporters after the points towards a woman investigation. A sorcerer from Pathanamthitta had been leader from the State who was waiting anxiously before the summoned to find out the Lok Sabha polls for the announcement from High possibility of any witchcraft and he replied in the Command that Sudhakaran affirmative. Interestingly, may not contest the election Sudhakaran had some ailments in his legs which the But things did not work out as attributed sorcerer to

witchcraft. she had planned and the party's central leadership insisted that Sudhakaran The Malabr region in Kerala that includes the northern should contest from Kannur districts is known for sorcery and black magic. Services of sorcerers in the region are which he did and won with a big majority defeating the CPI(M) strongman M V Jayarajan. Rajmohan hired by all including Marxists and Congress to weaken their Unnithan, MP was with rivals. As the saying goes, all is fair in love and war. Politics Sudhakaran when the probe was underway at his house. "Thank God, I am alive too is a form of war.

PNS NEW DELHI NBCC is overseeing the c o m p r e h e n s i v e development of Ravenshaw

University in Cuttack, Odisha. The project, valued at approximately 250 crore, aims to enhance infrastructure across the university's main campus and Mahanadi campus. The scope of the project

includes the construction and development of various key facilities with more than 45,000 sqm of built-up area.

The main campus of Ravenshaw University will include the construction of two research scholar hostels (G+3), each accommodating 150 students and spanning approximately 8,000 sqm. Additionally,

comprehensive mess facility, complete with dining areas, and essential kitchens amenities to serve 1,000 students shall be built.

Recommend Article 355: LoP to Bengal Governor

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Bengal Opposition Leader Urged Governor CV Ananda Bose to recommend imposition of Article 355 in the State on grounds of deteriorating law and order situation. Adhikari's demand comes close on the heels of a number of violent incidents including the one at Chopra in Islampur where a couple was publicly flogged by a Trinamool Congress strongman and a series of attacks on the BJP workers in Cooch Behar and other districts taking place. "I can give the name of 40-50 police stations in the State where the law and order

situation has completely collapsed and there is no rule of law and safety of the people," Adhikari who has repeatedly concern over the deteriorating law and order situation of the State said. "Goons are on rampage in Bengal. It is not only the case of Chopra or Cooch Behar ... the TMC backed criminals have taken control of the administration and with the help of the ruling party and taking advantage of a servile police force they are torturing the common man ... today no one is safe .. there is no law and order in the State ... the Governor as the constitutional head of

the Centre about the falling law and order situation. Adhikari said.

Control, New Delhi.

They found that an increase

of 10 micrograms per cubic

metre in the average of fine

particulate matter (PM2.5)

pollution measured over two

days (short-term exposure)

was related to 1.4 per cent

The death risk was found to

be doubled (2.7 per cent) per

a 10 microgram per cubic

metre increase, when the

researchers restricted their

analysis to observations

below Indian standards of air

higher daily mortality.

"I know that law and order is expressed a State subject ... I don't recommend dismantling of an elected Government ... Let the Mamata Banerjee Government complete its full term and continue till 2026 ... my only appeal is to the take police administration from the of the hands State Government under Article 55 so that the law and order situation can be restored and the innocent people can be saved from falling victims of the TMC goons," he said adding "the State is in a situation where the people the State should take in constitutional posts immediate steps and write to should act" so as to establish



rule of law and democracy external aggression and internal disturbance and to the ensure that the Government Constitution says "It shall be of every State is carried on in the duty of the Union to accordance with provisions

Constitution," implying thereby that the Centre in the case of internal disturbance (read deteriorating law and order situation) can take control of the police administration. Curiously the Opposition Leader's statement comes close on the heels of the Governor himself writing to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking action against three senior bureaucrats of the State including Chief Secretary BP Gopalika. In his letters to the Home

Minister a few weeks ago Bose wrote, "Governors do send reports to the Centre.... But I haven't seen anything like this in 20-plus years in service. It is unprecedented." Writing against the Chief

the

this

Secretary, Kolkata Commissioner of Police and another Deputy Commissioner of Police the wrote, "the course of conduct adopted by a senior member of the Indian Administrative Service, who is presently working as the Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, and two officers of the Indian Police Service working as the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, and the Deputy Central Commissioner, Division, Kolkata, clearly reveals how these officers have been brazenly violating the provisions of the Constitution and the Conduct Rules in particular.

In case no action is taken

against these erring officers it could send a wrong signal down the line resulting in further deterioration of the Services and consequentially harm the interests of the

Nation.' The relationship between the Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State secretariat) had hit its nadir with the Governor filing a defamation suit against the Chief Minister for allegedly making disrespectful remarks against him. The case is likely to be heard on Friday. Meanwhile, the Calcutta High Court has granted permission to the Leader of Opposition to hold a daylong dharna in front of the Raj Bhavan pressing for his demands

Dhirendra Ojha appointed principal spokesperson of Government PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Hathras stampede... From Page 1

From Page 1 the stampede had occurred to find the bodies of their in store for him as upon near and dear ones but all in return he got to know that vain. his wife and his nine-year On the day of tragedy,

From Page 1 daughter had also lost their bodies were stuffed in vans

India script cricket history...

milestone for deaf cricket in testament to their hard work India, showcasing our and determination." capability to compete and Dr. Himanshu Singh, and inspire, showcasing the succeed at the highest levels Director of CRC Lucknow immense talent within our of the sport. We are thrilled under PDUNIPPD, DEPwD, country. This win is also hailed the victory, noting that such achievements reflect the hidden talent among these individuals. "Given the opportunity, the sky is the limit for them despite their physical limitations. Our department is undertaking various programs to boost the morale of the sector and help challenge societal perceptions, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity in sports," he added. Similarly, a wheelchair-bound Meenu Mani of the NGO 'Yes We Can,' who has cerebral palsy, termed such moments as an inspiration not only to people with disabilities but to everyone. shows "This that determination and hard of work can lead to success, no of matter the obstacles," she said while Roma Balwani, CEO of IDCA, emphasised, "This victory underscores our team's resilience and

Cricket Team's incredible commitment to excellence victory over England! A true in cricket. It gives me immense pride to highlight the power of sports to unite remarkable, as the team played in a new environment and succeeded with immense guidance from their coaches and skipper, Virender Singh.

CBI files first **FIR**...

From Page 1

The complainant alleged that his brother Koshinder has been implicated in a false NDPS case and he was arrested on 23.05.2024 by Narcotics Cell, Maurice Nagar. Koshinder is currently in judicial Custody at Tihar Jail. The complainant alleged that the NRX medicines has been falsely shown in the ession of his brother Koshinder poss The complainant told the CBI that medicines have been falsely shown in the possession of his brother Koshinder. Dhaka and Saini allegedly demanded the bribe to provide the details of the NRX medicines to the complainant for preparing fake bills and to submit the same before the competent Court, which subsequently would be verified as genuine by them and it would help in release on bail of his brother from his judicial custody, the CBI has alleged. During verification proceedings, the CBI sent the complainant with concealed recorder to ascertain the claims. Dhaka allegedly told the complainant that IO of the case would settle for Rs 2.50 crore.

protect every State against "It marks a significant

of

355

 $S_{\text{Service}}^{\text{enior Indian Information}} \\ \text{Service} (\text{IIS}) \quad \text{officer} \\$ Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha was on Thursday appointed the principal spokesperson of the central government. Ojha, a 1990-batch officer, will also hold the charge of the principal director general, Press Information Bureau, an official order said.Ojha succeeds Sheyphali B Sharan, who has been appointed as the director general of the Publications Division. Sharan, also a 1990batch IIS officer, was given the charge of principal director general, PIB on April 1 this vear.

Ojha served as the director general, Central Bureau of Communications (CBC)

PIB Director General YK Baweja succeeds Ojha in the CBC, which looks after the advertising of all central government organisations and acts as an advisory body to the government on media strategy.

the tragedy and while sharing his grief. Even recovering the bodies was a traumatic experience for the kin as mortal remains of the victims were sent to hospitals in different

neighbouring towns with the family members being unaware of the exact locations.

"My mother's body was in Agra, my daughter's in Aligarh and that of wife's in Hathras," he said in between sobs, explaining how difficult it was to even get how their bodies. His elder son of 20 years remembers how he went to find his grandmother's body in Hathras' district hospital but found his mother's body instead. No officials have yet come to meet the grieving

family or extend any support to them. Locals tell how many still come to the location where

sent to different "Barbad hogya mai." were hospitals. People narrate the few words he could utter how bodies were lying hospitals. People narrate around in the hospitals in large numbers, making that day the most horrific for them. Meanwhile, in the Sikandra Rao district hospital only a

few injured are left to be discharged. Among them was also a five-year-old boy Lovey who had gone to the satsang with his grandmother, who too suffered injuries to her

stomach and chest. Police deployment was skeletal despite the huge size of the crowd gathered. Among them was also a UP Police constable Sheela Maurya who was on duty. She suffered injuries to her back, making her unable to walk, while trying to save women and children during the stampede. Her son told how many stepped on his mother as she was trying to

save others.

From Page 1

patients

victims'

to see our team's hard work and determination pay off, and we look forward to continuing our journey of excellence in deaf cricket." Felicitating the team, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice Empowerment, and remarked, "This victory is a moment of pride for the entire country. The team's determination has turned the impossible into possible, and this win belongs to the entire nation. Our deaf players have proven that given the opportunity, they can always rise to the occasion, inspiring us to overcome the harshest circumstances."

in Bengal.

Article

Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary of Department Department Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry expressed, "Immensely proud and happy to see the Indian Deaf

The accomplishments of the deaf cricket team also help raise awareness about the need for better support and opportunities for athletes disabilities, with highlighting the importance of providing equal opportunities and resources of for all sportspeople, emphasised Rajeshwari Iyer, a well-known mental health professional. For instance, in this case, partners like Serum Institute of India, KFC India, Hero MotoCorp Ltd., APL Apollo Tubes Ltd., Shiv Naresh Sports Pvt. Ltd. Impact Measurement, and Kaizzen, played a crucial role in supporting the Indian deaf cricketers to achieve their remarkable feat.

Jaishankar for isolating...

From Page 1

As regards boundary dispute In Ladakh, India and China vowed to redouble efforts to resolve the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at the earliest and "stabilise and rebuild" ties during the meeting between the two foreign ministers on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

In the talks, Jaishankar underlined the need for fully abiding by relevant bilateral agreements and protocols reached between the two sides in the past for the management of the border. In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Jaishankar and Wang had an in-depth exchange of views on finding an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh to "stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations.

In the meeting, the external affairs minister also reaffirmed India's persistent view that the relations between the two sides must be based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

"Met with CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi in morning. Astana this Discussed early resolution of remaining issues in border areas. Agreed to redouble efforts through diplomatic and military channels to that end," Jaishankar said on 'X'. "Respecting the LAC and ensuring peace and

tranquillity in the border areas is essential. The three mutuals mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest will guide our bilateral ties,' he said. India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. "Both Ministers agreed to

continue and step up meetings of the diplomatic and military officials of the two sides to take forward their discussions to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the MEA said. "To that end, they agreed that the Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) should hold an early meeting, it said. The MEA said Jaishankar reiterated that the India-China relationship is best served by observing the three mutuals -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.

It said the two ministers agreed that the prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side.

"The external affairs minister highlighted the need to redouble efforts to achieve complete disengagement from the remaining areas in eastern Ladakh and restore border peace and tranquillity in order to remove obstacles towards the return of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

BJP vs Cong over Rahul's...

From Page 1

"We had Jaguar, Mig 29, SU-30, Mirage 2000....We had nuclear bombs, missiles like Agni, Prithvi, Aakash, Nag, Trishul and later Brahmos, he said.

Tagore also dubbed as "factually incorrect" Thakur's remarks that Prime Minister Modi has not taken a single holiday and asked which category of leave is taken for election campaigns.

After Rahul's speech on Monday on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rijiju accused the Congress leader of making "untruthful" claims about a host of issues, including the Agnipath

scheme and the compensation paid to locals in Ayodhya. Under Direction 115 of the Speaker, a member wishing to point out any mistake or inaccuracy in a statement made by a Minister or any

other member can, before referring to the matter in the House, write to the Speaker pointing out the particulars of the mistake or the and inaccuracy seek permission to raise the issue. today. The member may place before the Speaker such reduce her chest pain and evidence that she or he has in her BP is not coming down support of the allegation. The from 200. In this situation, why are they asking us to Speaker can bring the matter to the notice of the minister or the member concerned to ascertain the factual position. leave? In fact some people deteriorated. W who were discharged her to the h yesterday didn't look well to mother stated.

Victims rue medical...

me and still were sent. If they The lack of proper care and can't take care of us in government hospitals, why the hasty discharge of patients have left the don't they let us know," he said. When asked about the families feeling abandoned and deeply frustrated during this difficult time.Son of 80monetary assistance promised by the government of 50,000 rupees to the injured, Singh said no one year-old Maya Devi, who has offered him anything yet. has been experiencing 20 year old Shikha was the severe pain in her chest and has high BP, Dharam Singh, only person in her family who works as a rickshaw who got injured in the stampede. While she was brought to the hospital, doctors discharged her later the same day. However, her puller, expressed his anguish with the government. He stated that despite being in severe pain and high BP doctors are telling them to get his mother discharged condition became worse in the night at home and her family had to rush her to the "They have been unable to hospital again. "She got discharged at night

the same day. At night while we were sleeping and lights went off, her condition deteriorated. We had to rush her to the hospital," her

Naidu bats for raise in Andhra's Central...

From Page 1 The PMO confirmed the meeting between Naidu and Modi via social media.

The Andhra Pradesh chief minister's two-day Delhi visit included meetings with several Union Ministers. He discussed national highway projects with Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and praised the "spirit of cooperative federalism" after talks with Minister Piyush Goyal. Naidu also met Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan to discuss statespecific issues.

The visit is seen as crucial for securing Central support for Andhra Pradesh's development following its 2014 bifurcation. Naidu's 2014 bifurcation. Naidu's powered by ample central engagements in the capital assistance," said Jha.

underscore the TDP's importance as an NDA partner and the state's push

for accelerated growth. In regards to his party stand, JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha on rubbished Thursday speculations that the party's push for grant of special status to Bihar could lead to a confrontation with the NDA government at the Centre.

'The resolution has also made it clear that we want help, be it in the form of special status or special package. The prime minister is sensitive towards our concerns. In the next five years, Bihar would be among developed states, the



Team India gets rousing welcome at IGIA STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

After being stuck in Barabados since winning the T20 World Cup, courtesy Hurricane Beryl, Team India finally landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and greeted by a rousing recepand greeted by a rousing recep-tion as they stepped out of the airport. Hundreds of fans, holding placards congratulat-ing their favourite players and waving the national flag, gath-ered outside the IGI airport to welcome the victorious players welcome the victorious players. Frenzied crowds shouted "India, India" after they land-ed at the Delhi airport.

Whistles and wild cheers greeted the players as they walked out from the arrivals area with gold medals around their necks, some giving a thumbsup to their fans. Vice-captain Hardik Pandya who emerged first wearing a Caribbean hat, and the crowd erupted when captain Rohit came out carrying the glittering trophy, which he hoisted into the air.

Rohit and Player of the Final Kohli, were among the last to come out of the VIP exit. Rohit raised the coveted trophy for the fans to catch a glimpse before boarding the bus. Kohli,

on his part, gave a thumbs up to acknowledge the support. Star batsman Virat Kohli, whose hometown is Delhi, was given some of the loudest cheers as he waved to hundreds

of fans. There was dancing, there were multiple cakes, and there were fans on streets showing just why cricket is the most pas-

on the weary players, who

joined in the fun after arriving at the hotel from airport to complete the party atmosphere. "We have waited for this moment for the past 13 years. The team has made us proud

by winning the World Cup," a fan, who claimed to have been waiting since 4:30am in the morning said, referring to sionately followed sport in the country. The energy rubbed off umph which came back in

2011.

"It's a dream for me to witness India return home from a World Cup," said a shirtless fan with a Kohli tattoo emblazoned on his chest.

The Air India special charter flight AIC24WC -- Air India Champions 24 World Cup -arrived in Delhi at 6am (IST) on Thursday after a 16-hour non-stop journey. Heavy secu-rity was deployed to keep the

Gandhi International airport but that did little to dampen the spirits as fans cheered enthusiastically holding up posters of star batter Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid.

Two buses were stationed outside the T3 Terminal to ferry the players to ITC Maurya Sheraton, where they were greeted by dhol and tradition-al Bhangra dancers. Most of them, including skipper Rohit Sharma, all-rounder Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Vaday Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav and Rishabh Pant, shook a leg with the assembled dancers, giving them a memory that would last a lifetime. Anmol Chadha, a fan expressed happiness and said, "...We came to T3 because we are very excited. We came to the airport at 3 am.

Even the on-duty security personnel had smiles on their faces as the players let their hair down after the long journey, shook hands with everyone who wanted to and moved into their rooms after cutting yet another cake, this time in the shape of the trophy they had brought back.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Governor}(\text{LG})\text{Vinai}}^{\text{elhi}}$ Kumar Saxena has lauded the Delhi Development Authority(DDA)for its efforts in constructing the Airport Drain, as a result of which, despite the recent record downpour, the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport remained free of water-logging

Giving details here on Thursday, officials said right after taking over, Saxena had taken up the task of con-structing the Airport drain from ICL Airport to PWD from IGI Airport to PWD Trunk Drain No.2, on the southern side of the Airport in a mission mode. The Airport had faced flooding even during the floods in the Capital last year.

After the infamous flooding of the Airport Runways and Terminal in 2019, that had brought international disrepute, IGIA had approached DDA, which in turn had started construction of the drain connecting the Airport to TD-



free of water-logging for the first time in several years. Similar intervention by the DDA in East Delhi, helped large areas in Trilokpuri and MayurVihar, etc., prone to flooding every year, remain largely flood-free this year. 2 in 2020. However, the same had gotten stuck due to lack of permissions by the GNCTD

for more than 02 years. After taking over, the LG had

Thereafter, the DDA working

in mission mode under direct

supervision of the LG, who

visited the site on 20 occasions,

completed the works in a

record time of 15 months,

with the drain getting inau-

gurated in December, 2023.

In a recent review, the LG was

informed that the drain flowed

to its maximum capacity of 80 cumecon the day of the heavy

on July 1 that no teacher should

be transferred solely because he

has spent more than 10 years in

The minister emphasised the

crucial role these teachers play

in the lives of their students, par-

ticularly those from impover-

"These children are mostly first-

generation learners with no

academic support at home. For

them, their teachers are their

a particular school.

ished backgrounds.

2022.

In his visit to the area last year, the LG had instructed DDA to construct channels from the asked DDA to move the Delhi Highway, from where water High Court which in turn had directed GNCTD to give used to flow down into the residential localities, into the the required permissions, which finally came in August, Sanjay Lake owned by DDA, in the neighbourhood.

downpour i.e. on 28.06.2024 and successfully carried the water discharged from the

Airport and its neighbouring areas, which helped the

Airport and the areas remain free of water-logging for the

capital 03

He had also asked for large pipes to be positioned by making large holes in the boundary wall of the neighbouring residential areas, so as to ensure water flows from these areas into the Sanjay Lake. This served the dual purpose

of not only draining out water from the areas suffering from flooding for years together, but also recharging the Sanjay Lake with fresh rainwater.

PWD has become hotbed of corruption: BJP **AAP** urges LG to revoke school

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

D^{elhi} BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Thursday charged that Public Works Department of Arvind Kejriwal Government has become a hot bed of corruption while the non performing Health Department has totally failed Delhiites.

Making this assertion, Sachdeva said it is shocking to see that even as the PWD and Health Department have failed Delhiites, the concerned Ministers keep themselves engaged in dirty blame game politics and they have time for doing everything except improving the performance of

their Department. The LNJP Hospital Extension chief claimed. cost rise scam is a well thought over scam planned by the then PWD Minister Satvendra Jain. LNJP Hospital extension is a steel based structure and our inquiry shockingly reveals that charged.



Satyendra Jain instead of giving Manish Sisodia and Atishi, a fixed tender gave a tender on rate contract basis, Delhi BJP who have been PWD Ministers after Satyendra Jain, were very well aware of the scam as every As a result of tender being time price got escalated the rel-

evant file was put up before the PWD Minister, he said. given on rate contract basis, every time price of steel and other building material goes up the rates go up, Sachdeva Thereafter, the completion date of LNJP Hospital Extension was repeatedly extended to allow further cost hikes, he added.

Added. Atishi needs to explain why Satyendra Jain allowed a tender for a hospital on rate contract basis and why despite escalat-ing cost the completion date was allowed to be extended, Sachdeva said Sachdeva said.

Delhi BJP President said it is surprising that the PWD is in bad news for several reasons including water logging and hospital cost escalation but Minister Atishi is least bothered about it.

Atishi is raising teachers transfer issue to divert attention from her Public Works Department's Rs. 670 crores scam in LNJP Hospital, he said.

Delhi BJP President said even as on one hand we here of PWD's construction scam on the other hand we hear that one third of operation theatres in Delhi Government hospitals are dysfunctional.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has called on the Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena to revoke the transfer orders of teachers in Delhi government schools. Delhi Education Minister Atishi has instructed the chief secretary to immediately stop the mandatory transfer of 5,000 teachers who have been teaching in Delhi government schools for more than 10 years, following allegations of corruption in the

transfer process. At a press conference, Atishi highlighted the detrimental impact of the transfer order on the education system.

"This order is absolutely wrong and anti-education. It undermines the hard work of teachers who have transformed Delhi's government schools



over the last 10 years," she said.A circular was issued by the DoE on June 11, titled "Online requests for transfer of teaching staff of the Directorate of Education", wherein, vide Clause 16, it was directed that all teachers who have served for more than 10 years in the same school shall compulsorily apply for transfer, failing which they will be transferred to any school by the DoE. Atishi had ordered

placement is essential for maintaining the quality of education, especially for vulnerable student populations, she said.

Tĥe Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader also raised serious concerns about "corruption" in the transfer process.

"There are worrying reports that bribes have been taken to stop the transfers. This is extremely concerning as cor-ruption within the education department threatens the future of our children," she said.

The minister called for an immediate investigation into these allegations and strict action against any officials found guilty of accepting bribes.

HC castigates MCD Commissioner over illegal constructions in city



construction remains," the

bench said. The court said, "The

floods in Delhi are because out-

lets of water are blocked. Drains

are choked. This is because of

unauthorised constructions.

Houses and buildings have

been constructed on public

lands and drains so there is no

It questioned the MCD offi-

cials for turning a blind eye to

unauthorised constructions

coming up in the city and said

it is not possible without the

complicity of MCD offi-

way left for water to flow."

extort money from the prop-erty owner. If we don't take against unauthorised con-

Religious structure demolished

teachers' transfer orders sole academic guides," she said. The minister also referred to the National Education Policy (NEP), which discourages frequent or large-scale transfers of teachers. Stability in teacher

Delhi High Court or Thursday castigated the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) commissioner over illegal and unauthorised constructions in the national capital and said courts were being used as "pawns" in the process. It said one of the reasons for flooding in Delhi is that water outlets are blocked due to unauthorised constructions and asked the civic body chief to take stern action against erring officers.

The bench said it has noticed that some lawyers are also blackmailing and extracting money in unauthorised construction matters and the court process was being misused.

'We are being used as a pawn in the entire thing. We want to break this nexus, it is a big nexus. The system is collapsing. You do something and take drastic action against your offi-

cers," the bench told the MCD commissioner.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela apprised Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, who joined the proceedings virtually in pursuance of the court's direction, about filing of motivated petitions which cannot be ignored as the we take action, they tend to

fact of illegal and unauthorised constructions is not in dispute. "Courts are being used as a strategic tool by both the petitioner and the officials of MCD for their ulterior purposes and for extracting money. Professional persons are filing

cials.Responding to the con-cerns raised by the bench, the commissioner assured the court that strict action will be taken against erring officials, they will be sensitised, and a a number of petitions on unaustrong message will be sent out that such activities are not thorised constructions. We are stuck in a strange situation. If going to be tolerated.

He assured the court that the

and they removed. The court was hearing a petition filed by a 20-yearold woman seeking directions to the authorities to stop and demolish an illegal and unauthorised construction being carried out on a land in Paharganj here.

During the hearing, the MCD counsel contended that the petition was motivated.The high court had earlier said though it was prima facie in agreement with the contention that the petition seemed to be motivated, it does not take away from the fact that the construction was illegal and unauthorised.

"This court has been dealing with a number of similar matters where the bonafide of the petitioner is suspect, but the factum of unauthorised and illegal construction is not in dispute," it had said.

amid protests in Rohini area

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T^{\rm he \ Municipal \ Corporation \ of \ Delhi}_{\rm (MCD) \ carried \ out \ a \ demolition \ drive}$ at a religious structure in North West Delhi's Rohini area, sparking protests by some locals.

The MCD carried out the demolition drive following a court order to take action against unauthorised construction of a religious structure encroaching upon a park in the area.

The removal of the unauthorised construction/encroachment was scheduled on various occasions but could not be carried out due to non-availability of police force, said a civic body official.

The MCD along with a team of local police and paramilitary forces on Thursday morning reached the spot at Rohini sector 22 and carried out the demolition drive against the the unauthorised structure from the site.

illegal construction.

The religious structure was built adjoining a park in the residential colony of Pocket 6 of Rohini sector 22.

The action sparked protests by some locals but the situation was made under control, a police officer said.

The demolition was undertaken by the MCD's Horticulture department following a High Court order to remove the illegal encroachment adjoining the park in Pocket 6 of Rohini Sector-22. For the said work, the police force was provided by the Aman Vihar police station.

There was a demand for the police force to remove the encroachment for a long time. It was removed when the police force arrived," the civic body official said.

The High Court in response to a petition directed the MCD on March 27 to remove

Delhi-Meerut RRTS to get last mile transport services DMRC signs MoU with RVNL

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T_{\rm Corporation\,(DMRC)\,and}^{\rm he~Delhi~Metro~Rail}$ Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday to collaborate and jointly work as a Project Service Provider for Design, Construction and Consultancy Projects in India and Abroad.

The MoU was officially signed by Dr.P.K.Garg, Director (Business Development) DMRC and Mr. Rajesh Prasad, Director Operations, RVNL in the presence of other senior officials. This partnership aims to synergize the joint efforts of DMRC and RVNL in the upcoming projects in India and aborad as Project Service Provider for Metro/Railways/High Speed Rail/ Highways/Mega-

Bridges/Tunnels/Institutional



tise and capabilities as they Buildings/Workshops or have a strong track record of Deports/S&T works/Railway Electrification. delivering complex infra-The MoU covers a wide range structure projects. This colof infrastructure projects. The laboration between DMRC two organisations will work and RVNL will help to develtogether to develop new proop new projects in India and jects by sharing their experabroad

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

n a bid to improve last mile connectivity, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) on Thursday said that it will make rental two-wheelers, cab services, autorickshaws and feeder bus services available at all RRTS stations from Delhi to Meerut. In a statement, the NCRTC also said that passengers at Sahibabad and Ghaziabad stations will get a 10 per cent discount on Rapido bike taxis.

With the start of operations of Namo Bharat trains, the NCRTC is also making efforts to provide the facility of rental two-wheelers, rental bicycles at the stations so that people get last mile connectivity, the statement said.

Currently, Namo Bharat trains are running in the 34-km section of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) from Sahibabad to Modi Nagar



North over eight stations. Electric buses of Ghaziabad City Transport Services Limited have been made available to all these operational stations for last mile connectivity. These electric buses are available at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, DPS Rajnagar Guldhar, Duhai, Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar South, and Modi Nagar North stations, it said.

Apart from this, passengers using Rapido bike taxi are being given a 10 per cent discount for those travelling in Namo Bharat trains at Ghaziabad and Sahibabad sta-

tions, the statement said. Soon this facility will be available for passengers at other stations as well, it said. The NCRTC has now invited open expressions of interest from

service providers to improve last mile connectivity in the entire corridor, the statement said.

Service providers for electric/CNG powered shuttle-bus service, pre-paid electric/CNG powered taxi services, appbased electric/CNG powered cab service, prepaid/metred electric/CNG powered autorickshaw service, electric/CNG powered sharing service, sharing e-rickshaw service, two wheeler bike taxi service for point to point mobility from stations, two wheeler rental service, rental cycle service from stations, electric/CNG rental car service from stations etc. Are being sought, it said. Additionally, expression of interest has also been invited to set up at least one battery swapping station for feeder erickshaw service operation at all stations of the corridor. Battery swapping station will not only promote electric vehi-

cles but will also provide last

mile connectivity to the people, the statement said.

The NCRTC has been working from the very beginning to provide last mile connectivity to maximum number of people so that people living far from the stations that may be operational in future can also reach RRTS and Meerut Metro stations without any hassle, it said. It said that there will also be provision of rental twowheelers and rental bicycles around the stations to help passengers complete short-term tasks. The passengers will be able to avail this facility by paying on hourly basis and after the work is over, they can park their vehicle or bicycle back at the vehicle/cycle point built in the stations and travel further by Namo Bharat trains. These efforts of NCRTC will

create a better and friendly transport system, which will not only reduce pollution but will also reduce road accidents, it added.



2024 winners' average vote share down by 2 per cent

PNS NEW DELHI

The winners of Lok Sabha l elections 2024 won an average of 50.58 per cent votes, down by 2 per cent as com-pared to the last general elections, according to an analysis by the poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms(ADR).

Among the elected MPs with declared criminal cases, 42 per cent won with a vote share of 50 per cent and above, the ADR report said.

The ADR and National Election Watch (NEW) have released a comprehensive analysis of the vote share in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, examining 542 out of 543 constituencies. The Surat constituency in Gujarat was excluded from the analysis as its candidate was elected unopposed.

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Winners in the 2024 elections secured an average of 50.58 per cent of the total votes polled, a decrease from 52.65 per cent in 2019

Notably, 279 winners (51 per cent) achieved more than half of the total votes in their constituencies, while 263 winners (49 per cent) failed to reach the half-way mark.

Among the major parties, the BJP had 75 out of 239 winners (31 per cent) securing less than 50 per cent of the vote share. For the Congress, 57 out of 99 winners (58 per cent) won with

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less than 50 per cent votes. Among regional parties, 32 out of 37 winners (86 per cent) from Samajwadi Party, 21 out of 29 winners (72 per cent) from All India Trinamool Congress, and 14 out of 22 winners (64 per cent) from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won with

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less than 50 per cent of the vote of the vote share.

share. Out of the 251 winners with declared criminal cases, 106 (42 per cent) won with a vote share of 50 per cent and above, while 173 out of 291 winners (59 per cent) with clean backgrounds secured more than 50 per cent

Among the 503 crorepati winners, 262 (52 per cent) won with a vote share of 50 per cent and above, while 17 out of 39 noncrorepati winners (44 per cent) achieved the same.

The winners of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024 represent, on

PUBLIC NOTICE

average, 33.44 per cent of the total electorate, down from the 35.46 per cent in 2019.

This indicates a decrease in the representativeness of elected candidates when compared to the number of eligible voters. Five winners had a margin of victory of less than 2,000 votes. and another five won with more than a 50 per cent margin of victory.

Notable victories include Shivraj Singh Chouhan (BJP) from Vidisha, with a 56.43 per cent margin, and Shankar Lalwani (BJP) from Indore, with a 64.54 per cent margin. Among the 542 winners, 74 were women. Kriti Devi Debbarman (BJP) from Tripura East secured the highest vote share among women winners, with 68.54 per cent of votes and a 42.92 per cent margin of victory

Modi to visit Russia, Austria next week: MEA

Indian Prime Minister to

Austria in 41 years. He will call

on President of Austria

Alexander Van der Bellen and

hold talks with Chancellor of

Prime Minister Modi and

Chancellor Nehammer will

also address business leaders

from India and Austria. Modi

will interact with members of

the Indian community in

Moscow as well as in Vienna.

Modi last visited Russia in

economic conclave in the Far

The annual summit between

the Prime Minister of India and

the President of Russia is the

highest institutional dialogue

mechanism in the strategic

partnership between the two

So far, 21 annual summits have

taken place alternatively in

The last summit was held on

December 6, 2021, in New

Delhi. President Putin had vis-

ited India to attend the summit.

The summit saw both sides

countries.

India and Russia.

East city of Vladivostok.

Austria Karl Nehammer.

PNS 📕 NFW DFI HI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay an official visit to Russia and Austria on July 8-10 July, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Thursday. This will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Austria in 41 vears, it said.

Giving details about his schedule, MEA said Prime Minister will be in Moscow on 8-9 July 2024 at the invitation of the President Vladimir Putin to hold the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit.

The leaders will review the entire range of multifaceted relations between the two countries and exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest.Prime Minister Modi, will thereafter travel to Austria during 9-10 July.

This will be the first visit by an 2019 when he attended an

PUBLIC NOTICE LOSS OF ID CARD This is to bring to the notice of the general public hat one load of Mr. Bharat Kumar issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 2405591 has been found missing and/or lost on 04-07-2024. Anyone, who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 7, Community Centre, S.D. Tower, Sector-8, Rohini, N. Delhi-85. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 2405591. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall

sealing 28 MoUs and agreenot be bound and/or responsible for any ments, besides coming out with a joint statement titled Date: 04.07.2024 ---Sd------Sd--"India-Russia Partnership for Place : Delhi

सार्वजनिक सूचना

payment.

आदेशानुसार कार्यालय सब रजिस्ट्रार बल्लेंबगढ़, जिला फरीदाबाद । अतदद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि श्री सुमित बोहरा (आधार न० 2495—5161—8402) पुत्र स्व० श्री रविन्द्र कुमार बोहरा वल्द श्री रामरिछ पाल बोहरा, निवासी मैन मार्किट, बल्लबगढ़, तह० बल्लबगढ़, जिला फरीदाबाद ने एक दरखास्त बराये पंजीकरण वसीयत मरणोउपरान्त अपने पिता स्व० श्री रविन्द्र कुमार बोहरा वल्द श्री रामरिछ पाल बोहरा की वसीयत दिनाक 10.11.2022. इस कार्यालय में पेश की है। यह कि स्व० श्री रविन्द्र कुमार बोहरा वल्द श्री रामरिछ पाल बोहरा की मुत्यु दिनाक 21.04.2023 को हो चुकी है। अतः सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि किसी व्यक्ति को इस वसीयत या इस वसीयत को पंजीकरण बाबत किसी व्यक्ति को किसी प्रकार का कोई ऐतराज मुतनाजा हो तो वह खद असालतन या वकालतन इस कार्यालय में इस सचना के प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिन के अन्दर अन्दर मय सबूत पेश होकर अपने एतराज दायर करे. अन्यथा 30 दिन की अवधि के पश्चात स्व0 श्री रविन्द्र कुमार बोहरा वल्द श्री रामरिछ पाल बोहरा निवासी मैन मार्किट, बल्लबगढ, तह० बल्लबगढ़, जिला फरीदाबाद की वसीयत दिनाक 10.11.2022 को उनके मरणो उपरान्त

कानून अनुसार पंजीकृत कर दी जायेगी | कार्यालय सब रजिस्ट्रार / संयुक्त सब रजिस्ट्रार बल्लभगढ़

the audit. We also:

Modi and President Putin last held bilateral talks on the margins of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022.

nation 04

In the meeting, Modi had famously pressed Putin to end the conflict in Ukraine saying "today's era is not of war". "I know today's era is not of

war. We discussed this issue on phone several times that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue touch the entire world, Modi had said.

Since the Russian military action in Ukraine in February 2022, Modi has held several telephonic conversations with Putin and Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In reflection of its strong friendship with Russia, India has refrained from condemning Moscow's military action in Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy

and dialogue. India's import of Russian crude oil has also gone up significantly notwithstanding the G7 price cap and increasing disquiet over the procurement in many Western countries.

In December 2022, the G7 grouping and its allies announced a cap on the price of Russian oil as part of a series of punitive measures against Moscow in view of its invasion of Ukraine.

The price cap restricts countries to pay more than USD 60 a barrel. Russia has been a longstanding and time-tested partner for India. Development of India-Russia relations has been Peace, Progress and a key p Prosperity".Prime Minister policy. a key pillar of India's foreign

PM pays tribute to Vivekananda on his death anniversary

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Swami Vivekananda on his anniversary on said. death

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism througho

Thursday and said that "we reiterate our commitment to fulfill his dream of a prosperous and progressive society".

In a social media post, Modi said."I pay homage to Swami Vivekananda on his Punya Tithi.

His teachings give strength to millions.

His profound wisdom and pursuit of relentless knowledge are also very motivating." "We reiterate our commitment to fulfill his dream of a prosperous and progressive society," he

PUBLIC NOTICE **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank LTD Office Number 201-B, 2ND Floor, Road No 1 Plot No -B3 , WIFI IT PARK,Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400604 The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA) A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice. Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice Name of the Borrower/Co-Description of Secured Asset to be enforced Date Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address Karunesh Dwivedi/ Divya Pandye/ (LBBHP00005296889) F-134, Flat No. A-9, 3rd Floor, Jawahar Park, Khanpur, Near Dena Bank, Deoli, Delhi- 110062 Khasra No. 338/2/2, Ward No. 52, Ph No. 42, Village Bawadia Kalan, Tehsil Huzur, Near Vasundhara Garden, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal- 462040 29/05/2024 & 31/05/2024/ 30-01 2024 2,94,35,825.01/-May 22,2024

Flat No. 401, 4th Floor, Rani Sati Appartment, Plot No. 2B, Prem Nagar Colony, Manik Bagh Road, Part- A. Madhya Pradesh, Indore-452007 Sandeep Singh/ Jaspreet Kaur Saluja/ Mahinder Kaur Saluja/ (LBIND0005240188/ LBIND00005321642) 79, Gurunanak Colony, Annex, Madhya Pradesh, Indore- 452007 Sunny Balkrishna Pawar/ Aditee S Pawar/ (LBMUM00005125865) 2/79, Tata Nagar, Maharashtra Housing Board, V.N Purav Marg, Sion Chunabhatti, Mumbai-400022 Flat No. 701, 7th Floor, A Wing, "Ameeya Apartments Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd", V. N Purav Marg, Near Tata Nagar Bus Stop, Cts No. 455, 455/1 To 17, 456/1 To 20, Village Kurla III, Sion Chunabhatti, Mumbai- 400022 07-04 2024 May 30, 2024 Rs. 59,23,142/-Sanjay Kumar/ Babita/ (LBNMU00005983528) Flat A/201, Kaypee Plaza Chs, Plot No. 14, Sector No. 04, Kopar Khairane, Near Lokmanya Tilak Eng Collge, Navi Mumbai- 400709 Flat No. 608, 6th Floor, Building A-2, Sai Shrushti Valley Phase II, Ramchandra Complex, Near By Diva Shil Road, Diva East, Survey No. 132, Hissa No. 2/B, Village Dawale, Thane- 400612 May 14, 2024 Rs. 20,42,823.06/-04-03 2024 These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: July 05, 2024 Place: Delhi Sincerely, Authorised Signator For ICICI Bank Ltd.

nodified as unde NIT HEADER Field Name Advertised Value (INR) NIT SCHEDULE Code Field Name Schedule-01 Basic Value Item-01 04-03 2024 NEW ITEMS ADDED Rs. 24,36,916/-

S. No **Document Description** File Name Corrigendum File to be FSR Section I and II and Draft CA Schedule G and other modification uploaded 1.pdf NEW ITEMS ADDED CORRIGENDUM NO. 2 S. No Document Description File Nam FSR Section II Para 2 Scope of Work Rela tension of relayroom_1.pd Room Extension NEW ITEMS ADDED CORRIGENDUM NO. 3 6. No Document Description File Name Joint Procedure Order for supply installation TRD JPO for AT testing and commissioning of Au Transformer by SNT1.pdf Provision General Manager (S&T), Maliga MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

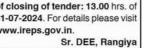
Serving Customers With A Smile

work: At Rangiya Division:- Petty repairing of electrical installation over Rangiya division for a period of two years. Tender Value: ₹2,38,01,865.52/-. Earnest Money: ₹2,69,000/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 13.00 hrs. of 31-07-2024. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DEE, Rangiya NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

wher of above said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company havin-CORRIGENDUM NO. 1, 2 & 3 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO. N_2_HQ_2024-25 AGAINST TENDER NO.

PETTY REPAIRING OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION OVER RANGIYA DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. RNY-EL-T-02-2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Manoj Kumar Verma has acquired Plot No. 49 and 50, area 38 sq. yrds., Khasra No. 43/11, situated in the area of Vilage Hastsal, Dehit, colony known as Mohan Garden, in Block-B, Extn. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi vide GPA dated 30.06.2011 along with ATS & Will executed by Mr. Arvind Kumar Verma, Now Mr. Manoj Kumar Verma is the undisputed owner of above said property.



N_2_HQ_EPC_ABS_2024-25 DTD. 11-06-2024 Corrigendum against Tender No.: N_2_HQ_EPC_ABS_2024-25 has been CORRIGENDUM NO.1 Existing Value Modified Value ₹ 2517338111.32 ₹ 2513058771.51 Modified Value **Existing Value** ₹ 2513058771.51 ₹ 2517338111.32

PUELIC NOTICE "It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Parvinder Kaur Chadha has acquired Third Floor Built- on property bearing WZ-38, Piot No. 98. area 83 sq yrds., Khasra No 26. situated at village Nangil Jalib, Colony known as Krishna Park, Gali no 6 & 7. New Delhi vide Sale Deed dt 03.10.2011 executed by Mr. Kulvinder Pal Singh. Now Mrs. Parvinder Kaur Chadha is the undisputed owner of above said property. 0R Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of interitance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated nulland, void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. AJAY GIR (ADVOCATE) H. NO. 26/161, Basement, any claim or right in respect of the said Propert by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreemen lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share of claim, if any, with all supporting documents below mentioned address. After expiration notice period, the claims, if any, of such perso shall be treated null and void and also treated a aived and not binding on our client AJAY GIRI (ADVOCATE) H. NO. 26/161, Basement Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, N. Delhi-110024 AJAY GIRI (Advocate) 26/161, LGF, Vikram Vihar Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi-110024

Ummeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Toll Free :1800 – 212- 6127

JAMIA CO-OPERATIVE

NK Ltd. IRBI LICENSE No. ND. 1179 P.

Administrative Office: 2/30, Okhla Road, Sarai Jullena, New Delhi-110025, Tel.: 011-26322236, 64558232

For Complete Annual Report, Please Visit: Website: www.jamiacoopbank.com											
Balance Sheet As at 31st March, 2024 (Amount in Rupees)											
	Particulars	Schedule No.	As at 31st March, 2024	As at 31st March, 2023							
A.	Capital & Liabilities										
1.	Capital	1	73,182,200	71,266,100							
2.	Reserve & Surplus	2	403,794,353	373,177,460							
3.	Deposits and Other Accounts	3	3,037,056,204	2,794,452,163							
4.	Borrowings										
5.	Other Liabilities and Provisions	4	457,779,793	385,251,713							
	TOTAL		3,971,812,550	3,624,147,436							
B. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Assets Cash and Balances with Reserve Bank of India Balances with Banks and Money at Call & Short Notice Investments Advances Other Assets Fixed Assets NON- BANKING ASSETS ACQUIRED IN SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS TOTAL	5 6 7 8 9 10	283,308,881 545,234,232 1,463,790,296 1,336,962,042 319,347,241 23,169,858 3,971,812,550	248,507,725 504,369,109 1,347,141,316 1,255,490,684 243,175,843 25,462,759 3,624,147,436							
C.	CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	11	27,520,858	23,165,628							
D.	Significant Accounting Policies	12									
E.	Notes on Accounts	13									
	Mohammad Adil Rajesh Gupta Rehar	Sd- 1 a Mishra rector	Sd- Chetan Sharma Vice-Chairman	Sd- M.Q.H. Beg Chairman							
Profit & Loss Account For The Year Ended 31st March, 2024 (Amount in Rupees)											
		0.1.1.1.	Mana Fastad	Very Fridad							

Schedule Year Ended Year Ended Particulars 31st March, 2024 31st March, 2023 No A. INCOME Interest Income 14 278,439,092 267,960,077 18.060.394 22,661,938 Other Income 15 296,499,486 290,622,015 TOTAL EXPENDITURE B. 102,324,449 104.833.777 16 Interest expenses 142,598,107 121,954,124 Operating expenses 17 35,282,035 20,576,741 3. Provisions and Contingencies 18 259,560,608 268,008,625 TOTAL C. Net profit/(loss) for the year 22,613,390 36,938,878 Profit/(loss) brought forward TOTAL 36.938.878 22.613.390 D. Significant Accounting Policies 12 E. Notes on Accounts 13 Sd Sd-Sd Sd-Mohammad Adil Rajesh Gupta Rehana Mishra Chetan Sharma M.Q.H. Beg Managing Director Director Director Vice-Chairman Chairma As per our Audit Report of even da For M/s AKLR & CO. LLP Place: New Delh Ankit Karnani, (Partner) Date: 21.06.2024 M. NO.528113 UDIN: 24528113BKBNHM7020

REPORT ON AUDIT OF THE STANDALONE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF JAMIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED

The Board of Directors / The Members of Ban Jamia Co-operative Bank Limited, New Delhi,

1. We have audited the accompanying Standalone Financial Statements of Jamia Co-operative Bank Limited ('the Bank') which ended and notes to Financial Statements including Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information in which are fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls included returns for the year ended on that date of 8 branches audited by us. 2. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid Standalone Financial conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India and give true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Bank as at disclosures made by management March 31, 2024, and its Profit and its Cash Flows for the year ended on that date. **Basis for Oninion** 3. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Standalone Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the code of ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India together with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the Standalone Financial Statements under provision of the Act and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements Emphasis of Matter 4. Refer to Note no. 25 of Notes on Accounts, where in two accounts with outstanding of Rs. 86.60 lakhs, end-use of funds for the purposes stated in the loan agreements have not been confirmed by the bank and some deficiencies of temporary nature have been However, our opinion is not modified in respect of the matters stated above **Key Audit Matters** Key audit matters are those matters that in our professional judgment were of most significance in our audit of the financial in forming our opinion thereon and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditors Report thereon 6. The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Management report but does not include the Standalone Financial Statements and our Auditor's report thereor Our opinion on the Standalone Financial Statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of In connection with our audit of the Standalone Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and in doing so consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Standalone Financial Statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regar Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Standalone Financial Statements 7. The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible with respect to the preparation of these Standalone Financial Statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position financial performance and cash flows of the Bank in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India including the Accounting Standards issued by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and provisions of Section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 and circulars and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India purposes of our audit and have found them to be satisfactory ('RBI') from time to time. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safe guarding of the assets of the Bank and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and 11. We further report that accuracy and completeness of the accounting records relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that necessary for the purpose of our audit; give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the Standalone Financial Statements, the management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless nanagement either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so. sible for overseeing the Bank's financial reporting process. The Board of Directors are also respo Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements material misstatement whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material lf, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Standalone Financial Statements

· Identify and assess the risks of ma perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024, the Statement of Profit and Loss and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error as · Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are approp Statements give the information required by the Banking Regulation Act 1949 ("the Act") in the manner so required and are in • Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related · Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the aud evidence obtained whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or if such disclosures are inadequate to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events o conditions may cause the bank to cease to continue as a going concern and the code of ethics. We believe that the audit evidence obtained by us is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our • Evaluate the overall presentation structure and content of the standalone financial statements including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the Standalone Financial Statements that individually or in aggregate makes i probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the Standalone Financial Statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the Standalone Financial Statements We communicate with those charged with governance regarding among other matters the planned scope and timing of the audi and significant audit findings including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole and We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and where applicable related safeguards. From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the Standalone Financial Statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements 9. The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account have been drawn up in accordance with Section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949: 10. Subject to the limitations of the audit indicated in paragraph 6 above and as required by sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, we report that: a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the b) The transactions of the Bank which have come to our notice have been within the powers of the Bank;
 c) The returns received from the branches of the Bank have been found adequate for the purposes of our audit. d) the profit and loss account shows a true balance of profit for the year then ended. design implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls that were operating effectively for ensuring the a) we have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were b) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as it appears from ou examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from branches c) the Balance Sheet, the statement of Profit and Loss and the Statement of Cash Flows dealt with by this report are in agreemen with the books of account d) In our opinion, the Balance Sheet, the statement of Profit and Loss and the Statement of Cash Flows comply with the applicable 8. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Standalone Financial Statements as a whole are free from accounting standards to the extent they are not inconsistent with the accounting policies prescribed by Reserve Bank of India. For M/s AKLR & CO. LLP FRN: 319237E/N500083

> Place: New Delhi Date: 21.06.2024

Ankit Karnani, (Partner) M. NO.528113 UDIN: 24528113BKBNHM7020

Please Contact Your Home Branch to activate **Mobile Banking Service**

will lead to the

rehabilitation of slums in a

phased manner across the

state, significantly improving

the living standards of the

people there," Adityanath

INFORMATION

We (Vinayak Hospital, Noida

Sec-27) are going to discard

Our In-patient file record

from Jan 2018 (VH-32106)

to Dec 2019 (VH-1902367)

as per the protocols. If

anyone required their

related records then you

them.

This

said

Karnataka CM rejects BJP demand |Yogi reviews progress of various for CBI probe into MUDA scam

PTI BENGALURU

rarnataka Chief Minister Karnataku Siddaramaiah on Thursday rejected the BIP's demand for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) even as the opposition party

NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | JULY 5, 2024

intensified its protests against "fraudulent" allotment of sites to land losers. The BJP has alleged that

alternative sites were also allotted to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been acquired by the MUDA, and sought his resignation. The MUDA had allotted plots

to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of over three acres of her land, which the authority had acquired for developing a residential layout.

The controversial scheme envisages allotting 50 per cent of developed land to the land loser in lieu of undeveloped land acquired for forming layouts. The BJP has alleged that irregularities to the tune of Rs 4,000 crore had taken place in distribution of sites to land losers by MUDA. "Apparently 4,500-5,000 sites were allotted by flouting norms," a BJP leader claimed. The Chief Minister on Wednesday said housing sites allotted by MUDA under the scheme to land losers have been put on hold pending an investigation into the alleged irregularities.

The BJP staged a protest in Mysuru -- the Chief Minister's home district -- on Thursday and tried to lay siege to the MUDA office there, but the police detained them and whisked them away in a bus. "Have they (BJP) given any case (to CBI) during their tenure? I have



given seven cases (including his earlier tenure as CM). This is not a case that is to be given to CBI ... We too had demanded, did they give (any case to CBI for probe), Siddaramaiah said on Thursday in response to a question on BJP demanding

for a CBI probe. Urban Development Minister B S Suresha (Byrathi Suresha) has ordered a probe by a fourmember committee. Siddaramaiah on Wednesdav

the pioneer

said he wouldn't resign "What role do I have in the case?" he had asked. Home

Minister Parameshwara said the alleged irregularities in the allotment of residential sites by MUDA are being probed, and noted that the Chief

PUBLIC NOTICE lotice is hereby given to the genera ublic at large that Happy Bhasin is th wner of Entire Second Floor without roc owner of Entire Second Floor without roo rights, built on property bearing No. 1, ir Block-UU, area measuring 126 sq. mtrs. situated at Pitam Pura Delhi known as said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 13.01.2016 executed by Neelam Jain ir favour of Happy Bhasin in respect of the said property, duly regd, as doc. no. 1669 Now Happy Bhasin is the undisputed owner of the said property. ICICI Bank Ltd. is intending to create a registered/equitable mortgage over the said property. In case any person Financial Institute/Bank/Authority/Board or any other entity has any objection vested interest over the said property ey may contact the undersigned with

14 days of this publication. It may urther noted that after the lapse of the aforesaid period no claim in any mann shall be entertained and the same will

New Delhi, Dated: 04.07.2024 Mohd, Gulfam, Advor D/8779/201 Office: Gadi & Associates,A-4, Westend Col

onsidered as waived or abandoned.

Minister has already given clarification. On BJP demanding CBI probe, he said, "if everything is given to CBI, then there is



I have changed my name from Shaily to Shaily Malik. In future I shall be known and recognised with new name G Shaily Malik. Shaily Malik W/o Vikas Choudhary Flat No- D-403, Vinavak CGHS LTD, Plot No-36,Sector-10, Dwarka, South West Delhi,

> Delhi-110075 PD(569)C

LOST & FOUND

I Rani Ranjan W/o Sh. Pramod Ranjan Lost Sale Deed Certificate of Possession S-4/724 Shalimar Garden Extn- 1, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, U. P. Vide @ FIR Whose No.1839722/2024 Regn. No. Particular Docs No.-1592 Book No.1 Vol No.1690 Page- 61-84 Dated 24-2- 2003 Finder may Contact 8800842070 This is the correct one.

PD(570)C



be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on 02.03.2022, for recovery of Rs. 23.87,890 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only) as on 14.11.2021 plu rest & other expenses till realization of the dues to the Indian Bank. Noida Sector 63 (Secured Creditor), fro M/s. A One Traders, and its Smt Ruksana (Proprietor/ Mortgagor) W/o Mr. Yasin Saifi, R/o Main Road-Dadi Road, Near Petrol Pump, Greater Noida, GB Nagar, UP-201009 and Jabal Colony, Near Barahi Mandir, Surainur, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, UP-201009, & 2) Mr. Yosin Saifi (Guaranter) Sig Ali Shar Rio Villago,

planning to raise the MUDA irregularities issue in the coming Legislature session, Parameshwara said: "whatever issues they raise the Emphasising government will respond to PUBLIC NOTICE them effectively, without any My client Sh. Hitesh Rana s/o Sh. Krishan Rana is Registered owner of Built-up Property measuring 320 sq. yds. out of Khasra no. 52, situated in Old Lal Dora abadi of hesitation. 1908-09), Village Nangli Poona, Delhi-110036 Vide egistered Sale Deed as Doc no.7951 Dated 06.07.2007 xecuted by Sh. Rishi Prakash Rana s/o late Sh. Jaipal PUBLIC NOTICE ingh Rana in favour of Sh. Hitesh Rana s/o Sh. Kris Agna at SR-VI B DELH1, the Original Registered Sale Deed as Doc no.7653 Dated 15.12.1999 executed by Sh. Krishan Rana s/o Sh. Tek Chand in favour of Sh. Rish

is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Manj evi Wo Laxman Jha Who is Recorded Owner le Freehold Land area measuring 36 sq. yds., i kuharpur, in the abad of known as Gall No. 2 ukandpur, in the abad of known as Gall No. 2 ukandpur Extin, Part-II, Delhi-110042. vide G ued 18.01.2019. AlongWith ATS & WILI inchased by Mr. Naresh Sharma & Inlended agd. Gill Deed to her Son Mr. Gautam Sio N xman Jha and same to be finance & mortgagel Interesting (Herling). To common Interesting (Herling). reakash Rana has been lost and in this regard NCR LR no. 1867769/2024 has been filed. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Limited Any Person/bank/financial Institution gd. Git Deeg to now Certine Certine Certine Company and Same to be finance & mortgage, thoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL), To com) requirements of BANKNBFC, we give blic notice that if any Person having any typ im/right/tile/interest/creating mortgage over id property, may inform in writing, at the add entoned below, about his objections, with two from today, failing which it shall be presu naving any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in egard to above property, should notified to the egard to above property, should notified to the indersigned/**Adv. Vishal Mehan**, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence inder address through registered a/d within 7 days from said property is free from all type i rances, lien etc. LUCEM LEGAL LI the date of publication of this notice failing which any

nothing to do here. They (BJP) are asking for a CBI

probe for everything...." To a question on the BJP

PUBLIC NOTICE large that Poonam Arora is the owner tire Second Floor, without roof rights eehold Property bearing No. 143, are asuring 181.05 Sq. yds, situated in th yout plan of Public Sector (P&T) employee tral Co-operative House

Central Co-operative House Building Society Ltd. presently known as "Sandes" (Vhar" Pitampura, New Delhi known as saic property by virtue of Relinquishment Deer dated 28.01.2020 executed by (1)Sanjeen Kumar Arora, (2)Sunidhi Arora, (3)Abhishel Arora, (4)Sumeet Sikka (5) Ashish Sikka ir favour of Poonam Arora (all Legal heirs o Late Raj Rani) in respect of the said property. Now Poonam Arora is the undisputed owner of the said property. L&T Finance Limited. is intending to create a registered/equitable mortgage over the said property. In case any person/Financial Institute/Bank/Authority/Board or any other entity has any objection or vested interesl ntity has any objection or vested in ver the said property, they may contact the indersigned within 07 days of this publication may be further noted that after the lapse e aforesaid period no claim in any mann all be entertained and the same will b

w Delhi, Dated: 04.07.2024 Mohd. Gulfam, Advo fice: Gadi & Associates,A-4, Westend Color New Delhi-110021, +91-8800002;

Rid

Identification

No.

RWCCESNG

04 of 2024-25

O-87

1. Type of the Work:

2. Class of Contractor

3. Time of Completion:

4. Detail Projects:

5. Estimated Cost

6. Other details:

rocurement Officer

Chief

Construction Engineer, Rural Works

Circle,

Sundargarh Irther details can be

OIPR-25133/11/0006/242

developmental projects in UP PTI LUCKNOW rehabilitation of slums, he The market developed in should also be given to

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the progress of various projects at a meeting with the Urban Development Department on Thursday. the

or objection shall be deemed to have be

ived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, Mobile No. # 9811215181

directed officials to identify one slum in each municipal corporation and prepare a plan for the development of a residential multi-storey complex with basic facilities like schools, markets, parks, etc nearby.

PUBLIC NOTICE

dispute over the property.

UNBOXING MY PARTNER

ON YOUTUBE

Hi, I am Joy & I invite you all to join the

Come and join India's one-of-a-kind

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unboxing of my new partner.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH

e-Procurement NOTICE

As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure

As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure

As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure

To

05.08.2024

5:00 PM

Last Date &

Time of Seeking Tender

Clarificatio

03.08.2024

5:00 PM

AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 04 of 2024-25, Letter No 1469

Buildings (DMF)

As per Annexure attached

Availability of Tender

on-line for bidding

15.07.2024

11:00 AM

seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.ir

Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001

/Dtd. 02.07 2024

Date & Time of opening

Financia

Bid

Will be

intimated

separately

of tender

(Design & Quality Control)

Technical

06.08.2024

11:00 AM

Bid

indargarh@yah

these complexes should be allotted to the families living in the slums, the chief minister said.

According to an official statement, he added that the responsibility for managing the parks in these areas

PUBLIC NOTICE reby is informed that Sh.Sobers Sethi S/o Public here Public hereby is informed that Sh.Sobers Sethi S/o Sh. Ram Kaur Singh Sethi R/o 402 Tower no. 4, Sec-tor-53 Vipul Belmount's Golfcourse Road, Gurugram -122002 now lost the Original Provisional Allotment letter no. JCNBMR011401 dated 15.05.2013, Original Payment Receipt No. 2300001093 & 2300003726 dated 01.05.2013 and 15.07.2013 of Rs. 30,00,000/-and 26.24.34/r espectively issued by Japirakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing no. BMR00111401 in project situated at Jap Pee Greens Noida/Greater Noida/Sports City on dated 10.01.2019. An NCR Dated 10-01-2019 with LR no.173913/2019 to this effect has been lodged. All people are hereby Notice is hereby given that Late Mr Harish Chander Sethi owner of Flat 12E, Pocket K. Sheikh Sarai Phase 2, New Delhi 110017, expired on 06/09/2019. The ownership of the property has been transferred to his legally surviving family members- Smt Vijay Šethi, Mr Manish Sethi and Mr Manav Sethi vide a mutation document issued by South this effect has been lodged. All people are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing docu Delhi Municipal Corporation, dated 28/02/2022. The three surviving members declare that they have no Vaibhav Suri (Advocates) 103. Ashoka Estate.

with anyone on the basis of the said missing docu-ments. If any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the above mentioned address within 30 days, from the date of publication of this notice. ROHIT YADAV (Advoccate) Ch. 402 Civil Wings Tishazari, Delhi-54 can collect records from the Medical Record Department within 15 days 🟡 Indian Overseas Bank

ROOP NAGAR BRANCH (ADDRESS - 2/7, ROOP NAGAR, NEW DELHI Phone : 011-23844108 & E-mail : iob0349@iob.in

(APPENDIX IV) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

signed being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bar inder the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 27.02.2024 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Mr. Mustakim Qureshi S/o Shri Abdul Aziz Residential Address: E-17/15, Taj Colony, New Seelampur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 (Hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 15.76.326/-(Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred and twenty six Only) as on 13.02.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charge etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the sai notice

(1)The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this day of 2rd July of the year 2024.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to he charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 15,76,326/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred and twenty six Only as on 13.02.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed charges, costs etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice til date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Dema Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs16,32,523/-(Rupees Sixteen Lakhs thirty Two Thousand Five hundred and twenty Three only) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charg etc., till date of payment.

(3) The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the ction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem

Description of the Immovable Property

PRIME SECURITY Flat No. 301 U, Ilnd Floor, L.I.G Flats with roof rights, Plot No. B-274, Block-B Shalimar Garden, Main Habdast, Gram Pasonda Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Measuring 37.16 Sq. Meter

Boundaries South: Road, 30 Feet North: Service Lane East: Plot No.B-275 West: Plot No.B-273 Date : 02.07.2024 Sd/- Authorized Office Place : Delhi Indian Overseas Bank

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD HATTA-DIST DAMOH (Second Call)

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.



Surajpur, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, UP-201009 & 2) Mr. Yasin Saifi (Guarantor) S/o Ali Sher R/o Village-			Notice Inviting e-Tenders				Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044 E-mail: legel@kangrabank.com, legalT@kangrabank.com, Website: www.kangrabank.com				and a state of the second		
Surajpur, Pargana Dadri, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, UP-201009 The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below :			NIT No. 390 Dated: 03.07.2024						APPEN	DIX I [See rule 4 (1)]			
state and the second	All the part and parcel of Residential property bearing Khata no 248. Khet No	0.2000	전쟁	nder "ehm (u) - 20	" (octimate					PANCHNAMA			
Property	217.situated at Village Surajpur, Pargana Dadri, Distt and Tehsil Gautam Budh	Online lumpsum bids for the following works under "sbm (u) - 2.0" (estimated on uadd issr (w.e.f- 02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria.				Heroi deb, Tro							
risporty	Nagar , U. P., admeasuring 83.61 Sq Mtr (100 Sq. Yd.) in the name of Smt	100.2110.200.0100	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				1976 (910526 10 10)		Name of Panch and Father's	Address	Age	Occupation	
	Ruksana W/o Shri Yasin Saili. East : Plot of Momin, North : Other Plot, West :15	Tender ID	Scope of the work	Probable	Earnest	Cost of Bid	Time of	No.	/Husband's Name				
	feet Road, South : Plot of Noor Mohammad			amount of contract	Money		Completion including	1	Sh.Vishnu Pant S/o.Sh.Govind		47 years	Service	
Encumbrances on Property	Not known to the Bank			(Rs. In Lacs)	Deposit (EMD) (In Rs	(In Rs)	rainy season		Pant	Railway Colony,			
Reserve Price	Rs.28,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty eight lakhs and forty thousand Only)				P 7.1					Mandawali, Delhi-110092			
EMD Amount	Rs.2,84,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh eighty four thousand Only)		1. Design and build sewage treatiment plant of insta		345373/-	20000/-	12 months	0			2014	0	
Bid incremental amount	Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)	_355110_1	capacity 3.60 MLD and all appurtenant structures an					2	Sh. Kartar Singh S/o. Late	RZ/27/203, West	58 Years	Service	
Date and time of e-auction	24.07.2024 between 11.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M		allied works: 2. Survey, review the designs, redesign						Sh. Kirlu Ram	Sagarpur, Delhi			
Property ID No.	IDIB6466446281		necessary, and diversion works of Nallahs with inter						above mentioned Panch on being				
	the website(www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi) of our e auction service		sewer of about 1.10 Km length including survey, de	esign,					ra Co-operative Bank Itd., Head				
	pate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-		construction of 2 No. of Pumping stations and all appurtenant structures and allied works; and						kpuri, Delhi-110058, under The S Enforcement of Security Interest (
23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For			3. Operation & maintenance of the complete works	of					r section 13 (4) of the said [Ar				
Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com.			sewage treatment plant, Intercepting sewer and/or						agdish Chander at H.No. 273, Gali				
	For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://bapi.in		interception & diversion works of Nallahs and pump	ning					anded the payment of the dues m				
and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.			stations for a period of 05 years after completion of						ect of Membership account no.				
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website			including defect liability period (DLP) of 5 year, start	2013 C 10 C 2014					0068190004726, and its on its				
with https://ibapi.in and www	mstcecommerce.com		from the date of commission of the project.						erty as detailed in the inventory att nd :5.00 pm in our presence.	ached to this Panchnam	a between the	e nours PM.3:3	
Date : 05.07.2024		1 Interes		w motondore govi	in and wave	mnurban	aov in		borrower's attention is invited to p	envisions of sub-cashie	n (B) of cectiv	on 12 of the Ar	
Place : Noida	Authorised Officer		sted Bidder can view the NIT on website www						spect of time available, to redeem				
			d Document can be purchased only Online fron				20-07-2024		L-1ZC-0522.	in access a accel we	1001010101	and the grant and	
इंडियन बॅंक 🚲 In	dian Bank Noida Sec-63 Branch : H-1A/18, Sector-63,	Contraction and the second	dment to NIT, if any, would be published on w	web site only, and n	not in News	paper.			iso hereby state that during take of	ver of possession of the	vehicle no un	ntoward incider	
	Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301	4. GST s	4. GST shall be payable extra as per Govt. rules.						had occurred as known to the knowledge and belief of the Authorised Officer of the Bank.				
🛕 हलाहाबाद 💋	ALLAHABAD Tele-0120-2427115 Email- N615@indianbank.co.in				CHIEF MU	NICIPAL OF	FICER	Then	efore, we declare that the fact of th	he Panchnama mention	ed herein are	true and correct	
	ANNEXURE- A			NA	GAR PALIN	A PARISH	AD HATTA	to the	e best of our observations and know	wledge.			
APPENDIX- IV-A" [Se	e proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties				DIS	T DAMOH			gnature Date 02-07-2024 Time:				
	Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of								e: Sh.Vishnu Pant S/o, Sh.Govin	d Pant, 230/298, Railv	ay Colony, Ma	andawali, Deih	
Financial Assets and Enfo	orcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the	M.P. ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED					110092.						
Security Interest (Enforcer								2. Signature Date 02-07-2024 Time 3:30 am.					
	public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below	(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)						Name: Sh. Kartar Singh s/O. Late Sh. Kirlu Ram, RZ-27/203, West Sagar Pur, Delhi					
	rties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which orised Officer of Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 Branch (Secured Creditor), will be	45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal - 462011, Madhya Pradesh, CIN: U45203MP2004SGC016758 MPRDC Ph. : 0755-2527290/2765205. Fax : (EPBX) : 0755-2572643, Website : www.mprdc.gov.in						Drawn before me					
	"As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on 24.07.2024, for recovery of	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·										Meenakshi Vat thorised Office	
Rs.1582079.00 (Rupees Fit	fteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand and Seventy Nine only) as on 01.08.2022 plus	NIT No. : 3854/649/MPRDC/Procu/2024 Bhopal, Date : 03.07.2024											
	realization of the dues to the Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 (Secured Creditor), from	NOTICE INVITING TENDERS						APPENDIX II [See rule 4 (2)					
M/s R. R. Construction Co	ompany, at GF-23, Durga Chamber, RDC Complex, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar									INVENTORY			
Saniav Nanar Sector 23 G	ri Hemant Pratap Singh (Partner) S/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh R/o M-73A, haziabad, Uttar Pradesh – 201001 and Smt. Lakshmi Devi (Partner) W/o Shri Ram	Madhya	Pradesh Road Development Corporat	ation Limited (MF	PRDC) BI	nopal invit	es online		ntory of movable secured asset ing no. MV/2/862,Membership N				
Niwas Singh R/o C-102, San	ijay Nagar, Sector 23, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh – 201001.	tender fo	r following work.					1.11.11.11.1					
And Guarantors - 1.Smt. L	Jrmila Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh R/o M73A, Sanjay Nagar, Sector	S .	Name of Work D	AC Bid	Cost of DE	P Assianm	ant Davied		tory of the movable secured asse				
23, Ghaziabad, Uttar Prades									Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd. Vs ecuritisation and reconstruction of				
Also at: Residential Proper 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziaba	ty situated at Flat no. N 452A, First Floor without roof rights, GDA Flat Block N, Sector	N.			Document	(MO	nths)		, 2002 (54 of 2002) and the Secu				
	perties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below :		INR	Cr.) INR Lakhs)	(in Rs.)				ra Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head				
		1. Indepe	endent Engineer Services for 18.	3.00 10.00	30,000	48 M	lonths		kpuri, New Delhi-110058, under th			the second second	
			ruction of Western Bhopal Bypass		00,000					the second s		om to 5:00 pm.	
Property	Floor without roof rights GDA Flat Riock N. Santor 23 Saniau Nanar Charlahad II	Conet		I		(Deve	onment				Disco		
	Floor without roof rights, GDA Flat Block N, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sg. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt.						opment	e	Description of articlash	obicle Fellm		where kept fo	
	Floor without roof rights, GDA Flat Block N, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmia Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows –	as 4-	ane with paved shoulder along			period-6	months,	S.	Description of article/		ated sale o	where kept fo custody (Nam	
	Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmila Chauhan Wlo Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows – East : Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor, West : Flat no.	as 4-1 with s	ane with paved shoulder along ervice road starts from Km. 424			period-6 Const	6 months, truction	S. No.	Description of article/ DL-1ZC-0522, km.15		ated sale of th	where kept fo custody (Nam ne person	
	Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmila Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows – East : Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor, West : Flat no. N419A, South : Flat no. N451A	as 4-1 with s of Jat	ane with paved shoulder along ervice road starts from Km. 424 palpur-Bhopal road (NH-46) and			period-6 Const period-2	6 months, truction 4 months	No.	DL-12C-0522, km.15	4076, Val	ated sale c ue of th neces	where kept fo custody (Nam te person isary)	
Encumbrances on Property	Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmia Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows – East : Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor, West : Flat no. N419A, South : Flat no. N451A Not known to the Bank	as 4-1 with s of Jat	ane with paved shoulder along ervice road starts from Km. 424 palpur-Bhopal road (NH-46) and			period-6 Const period-2	6 months, truction 4 months	No.	DL-12C-0522, km.15 Original RC dt. 02-08-2018,	4076, Val	ated sale c ue of th neces	where kept fo custody (Nam te person isary) lanakpuri,	
Reserve Price	Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmia Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows – East : Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor, West : Flat no. N419A, South : Flat no. N451A Not known to the Bank Rs.11,21,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty one Thousand only)	as 4-1 with s of Jat end a	ane with paved shoulder along ervice road starts from Km. 424 palpur-Bhopal road (NH-46) and t Km.21 of Bhopal-Dewas Road			period-6 Const period-2 O&M p	6 months, truction 4 months eriod-18	No. 1. 2.	DL-12C-0522, km.15 Original RC dt. 02-08-2018, All India Permit UP TO 01-08-2	4076, Val 2027 2,25,0	ated sale of the neces i. J Noo/- Near .	where kept fo custody (Nam te person isary) Janakpuri, Janak Cinema	
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Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid incremental amount	Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mtrs. standing in the name of Smt. Urmia Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as follows – East : Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor, West : Flat no. N419A, South : Flat no. N451A / Not known to the Bank Rs.11,21,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty one Thousand only) Rs.1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand only) Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)	as 4- with s of Jal end a (SH-20 the St	ane with paved shoulder along ervice road starts from Km. 424 palpur-Bhopal road (NH-46) and t Km.21 of Bhopal-Dewas Road 3) (Design length-40.90 km) in ate of Madhya Pradesh on Hybrid			period-6 Const period-2 O&M p	6 months, truction 4 months eriod-18	No. 1. 2. 3.	DL-12C-0522, km.15 Original RC dt. 02-08-2018, All India Permit UP TO 01-08-2 Fitness Certificate upto 01-08 Original Insurance Policy Val	4076, Val 2027 2,25,0 -2024.	ated sale of the neces i. J Noo/- Near .	where kept fo custody (Nam te person isary) Janakpuri, Janak Cinema	
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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Litmus test

With the UK deeply divided on key issues, the outcome of this election could alter its direction and shape its future

he UK voted yesterday to elect 650 representatives to the House of Commons who in turn would elect its next prime minister. The UK is at a crucial juncture. It is battling myriad issues ranging from economic downslides, healthcare and post Brexit hardships. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made a fervent appeal to voters, urging them to put an end to what he describes as Labour's dominance in British politics. Interestingly, for the last 14 years, the Conservative Party has been in power but has not delivered on its promises in full measure. The centre-right Conservatives took power amid the global financial crisis. However, their tenure has been plagued by economic stagnation, declining public services, and multiple scandals, leaving them vulnerable to criticism from both the left and right. The general election marks a pivotal moment in UK politics, with the Conservative Party, led by Rishi Sunak, pitted against the Labour Party under the leadership of Keir Starmer. The two parties have diametrically opposite views on



tackling the country's problems. The UK is still coming to terms with Brexit which did not go well for it and led to many hardships for the Government and the people. Besides, once a world power, the UK is reduced to just another ally of the US in the world arena seriously jeopardizing its international standing. So the battle is not just for seats in Parliament but for the very direction of the nation.

Rishi Sunak's campaign has centred on themes of stability and continuity. He has emphasised the need for a steady hand to navigate the complex challenges facing the UK, including economic recovery post-COVID-19, ongoing trade negotiations, and maintaining nation-

al security. Sunak's message to voters is: build a stronger, more prosperous Britain together. Sunak has vehemently criticised Labour's policies, which left the country vulnerable and economically fragile. He has positioned himself as the leader capable of delivering a balanced approach that protects jobs, supports businesses, and ensures a sustainable path to growth. The Conservative manifesto promises tax cuts, increased investment in infrastructure, and a commitment to maintaining a firm stance on immigration and national security. This of course is a litmus test for Rishi Sunak himself. He became the first Prime Minister of colour itself speaks volumes about his calibre as a politician. But right now the biggest challenge for him is to manage the economy and relieve people of tax burden. On the other side, Keir Starmer's Labour Party is campaigned for change and renewal. Starmer has highlighted the need for comprehensive reform of the welfare system and has promised to tackle the cost-of-living crisis through targeted support for low-income families and significant public sector pay rises. For Rishi Sunak, the election is a chance to solidify his leadership and set a course for a post-Brexit Britain that he believes can thrive globally. The results of this election will not only determine the next government but will also shape the trajectory of the UK for years to come.



The rise of radical rebels in Pakistan



BHOPINDER SINGH

This alarming rise in extremism has prompted Pakistan to initiate Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, an ambitious effort aimed at eradicating terrorism

lergy has always played a pivotal role in the Pakistani narrative. The indelible impact of the 'Mullahs' has historically cut across institutions of power like the Military 'establishment', political parties, civilian society, academia et al. Each has, in their own way succumbed to puritanical displays and appropriations to posture alignment befitting the "land of the pure" or Pakistan. However, it must be said that many of these institutions have also privately harboured the exact opposite instincts and prefer-ences, from what has been prescribed by the clerical order. These institutions have pandered to religiosity only to tick in the box their own false, and publicly fronted sense of piety to legitimise their relevance, whilst indulging in vices, degeneracies, and excesses.A cursory look at the long list of the Pakistani infamous in the Pandora Papers or Panama List is a veritable who's-who of the Pakistani elites, who posture simplicity, austerity, and god-fearing honesty in the public sphere. This has led to the elites leading notoriously duplicitous lives with ill-gotten properties and excesses across the world, whilst injecting toxic-religiosity and religious extremism back home.

The bunny of religion is essentially for public consumption to be invoked whenever everything else fails e.g., beseeching Arab Sheikhs or Turkey for life-sustaining aid in the name of a "brotherly muslim nation". The personal lives of the ruling Sharif fami-ly and the feudal Bhuttos are hardly the modicum of religious idyls, and the same discomfort applies to the Westernised Generals who are increasingly facing the wrath of the angry, long-bearded, armed, and madrasa-educated tribals. Today, it seems the ability of Pakistan's ruling elite to successfully play the patented double game has run its course. Not only have the radicalized masses (generously fanned



project between the wily politicians, amoral Generals, and unhinged clergy, simply refuse to take orders from their progenitor. The product i.e., Taliban, which was made for the export market, is getting unwantedly imported back to its original source.

The elite finally realise that it cannot differentiate between "Good Taliban" and "Bad Taliban", for at the end of the day it is "Taliban", an unhinged outcome of affording extra generous space to religion in governance. Terrorism has gripped Pakistan with elements 'within', going rogue. Elites now sense that not only must they take on the terror elements directly (as they have done multiple times, still terrorism worsened), but it must also snuff out the oxygen that breeds and nurtures the terror industry i.e., religious insistences and outreach, in every sphere of Pakistani reality. Pakistani dispensation has come up with Operation Azmi-Istehkam which seeks to eradicate terrorists, and religious extremism, and deradicalize society, in a holistic and comprehensive man ner. It is easier said than done.

given the deep-rooted grip of religiosity.

role of Islamist political parties like Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), or even the various militias and formations of sectarian denominations who have contributed to the morass. Such parties have not only imported strains of alien Wahhabism or Salafism but have been instrumental in ensuring that the Pakistani 'establishment' goes slow on anti-terror oper-

THE ELITE FINALLY ations in restive areas. Caught between offering perfunctory platitudes towards the integrity of Pakistan and the safety of its citizens – they **REALISE THAT IT** CANNOT DIFFERENTIATE are also simultaneously offering mealy-mouthed sugges-**BETWEEN 'GOOD** tions to not partake in militaristic operations. They are truly caught between the devil TALIBAN' AND 'BAD and the blue sea, for their TALIBAN', FOR AT wishy-washy stand will neither THE END OF THE DAY endear them to the frustrated Pakistani Government (which IT IS 'TALIBAN', they are no longer a part of the ruling coalition), nor to organ-AN UNHINGED isations like Tehreek-e-Taliban OUTCOME OF Pakistan (TTP) who would want them to be bolder and AFFORDING EXTRA indulge in plain-speak in **GENEROUS SPACE** favour of religious and radical bodies. TO RELIGION IN

Nonetheless, these religious parties are mulling putting together an ostensible 'resis-GOVERNANCE tance movement' against instincts. peration Azm-i-lstehkam, and they are unlikely to find too many partners to go along with them.Forces that are key to bailing out Pakistan eco-

nomically from sure 'failedstate' status e.g., China, inter-national multilateral agencies (IMF, World Bank etc), Western Powers or even Arab Sheikhdoms are pitted against the agendas and outcomes of religious parties.

The so-called 'iron brother' Chinese have invested over \$62 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) and they cannot allow the religio-extremist Baluch insurgents to attack Chinese interests as part of their 'sacred' duties. Middle Eastern countries too have had their own tryst with the likes of the Muslim Brotherhood and their offshoots from Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, and have clamped down on the same. Now with the Taliban Government in Kabul thawing relations with outsiders and no longer surviving on Pakistani doles, Afghans also cock a snook at historical equations and madrasa-fed ranks from Pakistan. All this diminishes the relevance of religious parties in Pakistan and if the Pakistanis grasp the opportunity, they may just be able to overcome their history and

y the elites in Olive Green or Servants) refused to take orders, (though time will tell if it is sinbut far worse, they have turned on their begetters! Creations like the 'Taliban' which was a joint For starters, it will diminish the

This refreshing acceptance cere or posturing) of religious overload needs to be unloaded.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views *expressed are personal)*

Balancing motivation and misuse in India's research landscape



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Many students opt for PhD programme for reasons unrelated to research. This hinders the nation's intellectual progress

knowledge.

Earning a doctorate requires

extensive study, self-suffi-

ciency, and intellectual

development, which are

priceless assets to the com-

munity. Even in a highly lit-

erate society like Kerala,

many women, even after

getting a PhD degree, are

forced to stick to societal

norms and move away from

active research. Many stu-

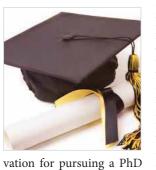
dents with PhD degrees ulti-

mately land in job sectors

where their research has no

role, like clerical jobs in

A higher academic degree like a PhD is often considered a symbol of quality. PhD training emphasizes innovation and the ability to tackle complex problems. Graduates are expected to think independently, identify gaps in existing knowledge, and propose novel solutions, making them valuable assets in both academic and industry settings.The more PhD holders a country produces, the more productive a country will be. Countries with more PhD holders tend to produce more scientific publications and patents. This intellectual output can lead to technological advancements and improvements in various industries, driving innovation and economic growth. Despite having the advantages of higher enrolments for the nation, the current system of registering for PhD as an escapism will not reap any benefits for the student or the country. Many students register for PhD as a stop-gap arrangement before their marriage, a permanent government job, or as a fashion to be called 'Dr.'. They never assess their moti-



degree. Are they passionate about the research topic? Or Have they reflected on their career goals? If the alignment is strong, it might justify pursuing a research degree that is highly demanding and time-consuming. The most successful PhD candidates are often driven by intrinsic motivations such as intellectual curiosity, passion for their field of study, and a desire to contribute new knowledge. These motivations sustain them through the challenges of research work.Recently, it has been observed that many scholars registering for PhD through national-level competitive fellowships like CSIR, UGC etc, try to prolong their study for the sake of fellowship amount.

In many colleges in Tamil government sectors, banks, Nadu, college teachers work or even as a school teacher. for a salary as low as Rs. to cite a few.

4000- 8000 per month. To change people's minds, Qualifying for a national we must keep fighting for equal rights for women, test will at least provide a spreading the word that eduscholar with a decent salary for 3 to 5 years. The sole cation should be accessible motive of the scholar is to everyone and dispelling financial support. For some, myths about women's abilithe academic environment ties and goals.It's essential for prospective PhD candidates may provide a refuge from societal expectations of marto carefully consider their riage, family responsibilimotivations and the potenties, and other traditional tial impact of their research. roles. Unfortunately, even Pursuing a PhD solely for recognition or prestige, withtoday, female students are not provided the freedom to out a genuine commitment to contribute meaningful make decisions. Our society gives a girl's marriage more research or knowledge, offers little benefit to society or the importance than acquiring nation. People who do

research for name sake are involved in many unethical practices, like outsourcing the work and outsourcing their thesis writing and paper writing to other agencies. Unfortunately, these people reach higher posi-tions through their influence, overtaking genuine researchers who have toiled their lives for research.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM'S REMARKS ON MANIPUR

Madam — The Congress has strongly criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks in the Rajya Sabha, where he claimed that the situation in Manipur was returning to normal. The Congress argues that this statement is far from the reality on the ground, pointing out that the Prime Minister has yet to visit Manipur since violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki communities in May of the previous year.Congress MP Jairam Ramesh accused the Prime Minister of making light of the situation and not acknowledging the continuing violence and tension in Manipur.

Despite more than 200 deaths and thousands of people displaced due to ongoing ethnic violence, the Prime Minister's comments suggested a lack of serious engagement with the issue. The Congress also criticized the Prime Minister for not listening to voices from Manipur and for focusing more on political jabs than addressing the concerns of those affected by the violence. The party emphasized that the Prime Minister's response is insufficient given the severity of the crisis in Manipur and accused him of turning a blind eye to the plight of the state's residents.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

HATHRAS TRAGEDY

Madam — The recent stampede in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, resulting in numerous deaths, is a tragic reminder of the consequences of poor crowd management. A stampede, or crowd crush, occurs when an area becomes dangerously overcrowded and mismanaged, leading to fatal accidents. If crowd densities exceed four to six people per square meter, the risk of such incidents significantly increases. Authorities must not downplay their role in these tragedies by labeling them as mere accidents.

Effective crowd management requires meticulous planning, including venue pivotal part of the Indian cricket sup-

Bowing to elders is a sign of respect



ecently, political strategist Prashant Kishore criticized Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for touching the feet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing it as a "sale of dignity of the people of Bihar." While Kishore's comments reflect a certain perspective, it's important to recognize that showing respect to elders, even political rivals, is a personal choice deeply rooted in Indian culture. Touching the feet of elders is a gesture of humility and respect, irrespective

selection, emergency response preparation, and public awareness initiatives. The lack of a culture of safety among authorities is evident in such incidents

Learning from this tragedy, it's imperative to adopt a proactive approach to safety and crowd management to prevent future incidents. This includes mandatory safety provisions and increased public awareness to ensure the well-being of participants at public events. Authorities must prioritize the safety of citizens to avoid repeating such devastating outcomes.

K VChandramouli |Mysuru

UNSUNG HEROES IN INDIAN CRICKET

Madam — Last Saturday, Indian cricket fans witnessed the celebration of Team India's T20 World Cup victory in Bridgetown, Barbados. Among the jubilant players, a lesser-known figure, Raghu Raghavendra, stood out. Known affectionately as Raghu, he has been a

of the individual's public standing or knowledge. It's a tradition that underscores the significance of age and wisdom. Such practices are part of a cultural ethos that teaches younger generations to respect their elders. In a recent incident, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi criticized Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, for bowing before Prime Minister Modi, claiming it compromised the dignity of the Speaker's office. Gandhi cited Mahatma Gandhi's views on the impartiality and dignity of the Speaker. However, the gesture by Birla was a personal one, reflecting respect for an elder, not a political statement. It's crucial to separate personal respect from political actions. In Hindu culture, it's customary for the younger to show respect to the older, irrespective of their positions. Rahul Gandhi's criticism may stem from a place of political rivalry, but it overlooks the cultural context of such gestures

K V Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

port staff since 2011, specializing in throwdowns to help batsmen practice against fast bowling.Raghu's ability to deliver balls at speeds exceeding 150 km/h using a sidearm device has been instrumental in preparing Indian batsmen for international challenges. While his name may not be widely recognized, his contributions to the team's success are immense.

Raghu represents the behind-the-scenes dedication and skill that supports every win by Team India. His work exemplifies the importance of support roles in sports, highlighting how essential unsung heroes are to the success of prominent athletes and teams. As India celebrates its cricketing triumphs, it's important to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of individuals like Raghu, who play a crucial role in these victories

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

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FIRSTCOLUMN STRATEGIC DYNAMICS AT THE SCO SUMMIT

As China asserts its influence within the SCO, the interplay of geopolitics becomes increasingly visible



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he Shanghai Cooperation Organisation or SCO held its 24th meeting for heads of State this week. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, otherwise known for promoting Bharat to crucial allies at bilateral and multilateral forums, skipped this regional dialogue citing parliamentary responsibilities back home. However, many also point out that, the frosty relationship with Pakistan and China both of whose top leadership were present for the SCO summit, was one of the reasons PM Modi avoided travelling to Astana in Kazakhstan. India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the summit, where he held separate bilateral meetings with several SCO Central Asian member countries

The SCO as a Eurasian intergovernmental group was announced in China in June 2001. India and Pakistan joined the SCO as full members in 2017. Currently, SCO has 9 member states, 3 observer states and 14 dialogue partners, which represent an entire swathe of emerging economic geographies, that occupy the theatre of current geopolitical developments. Russia and China along with four neighbouring Central Asian states form the founding members. However with Iran later joining in as a member state along with Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bahrain, Myanmar, and Maldives as dialogue partners, one can see why, SCO is an important platform for shaping the current geo-political landscape. Russia is engaged in a long war with Ukraine, while much of Middle Eastern and West Asia nations are intimately engaged in the Israel-Hamas war. China has been trying to dominate the dialogue since its inception and could be seen by many, as one of the diplomatic extensions of its sovereignty-threatening foreign policy. In the past few years, it has managed to bring a weakened Russia under its wings and is portraying SCO as an alternate multilateral dialogue platform challenging the US control of world affairs. In the run-up to the Astana SCO summit, the Chinese state mouthpiece Global Times carried a few reports extolling the virtues of the summit. "It sends a message to the Western world that there are many different voices from the emerging economies that need to be heard and represented, and the mainstream trend of global cooperation won't



be reversed by their obstruction," wrote Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China ."Chinese President Xi Jinping also clubbed the SCO summit with two state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, thereby, expanding its footprints in the Central Asian states. State media reminded global audiences that Kazakhstan, was where China's Belt and Road initiative was proposed in 2013., which in the past decade managed to get China to secure strategic infrastructure footprints in landlocked Central Asia. Quoting a few analysts Global Times reported "Central Asia, as one of the key areas in the implementation of the BRI, offers a vivid example of how the Chinaproposed global public good has been transforming the landlocked region into a land-linked region, transforming it into a bridge connecting the Eurasian continent." Central and West Asia has been PM Modi's focus in the past decade. Even though PM Modi avoided the Astana summit, he is expected to travel to Russia for a 'post-Ukraine' bilateral meeting with President Putin, followed by a stopover in Austria, a first in nearly four decades. The meeting with President Putin and PM Modi, both of whom have returned to power after elections would be closely followed, since, it would be one of the first face-to-face meetings post Russia's isolation by Western countries following the Ukraine war. It will also be the first, where regional issues including the ongoing Israel offensive on Gaza and, the evolving geo-political situation in a conflict-ridden, post-COVID world are likely to be taken up From a regional platform perspective, India China and Russia, also interact closely at BRICS. The unfolding engagement in the next few weeks will be closely followed.

Railway accidents expose neglect, systemic failures



analys \$ 07

SHIVAJI SARKAR

The latest report from the CAG highlights a troubling decline in funding for crucial track renewal projects amidst an alarming rise in train accidents



ailway accidents not only cause R significant loss of lives and severe financial setbacks but also under-mine public confidence in the system. A recent incident near New Jalpaiguri, where a train collided with another, resulting in eleven fatalities and 40 injuries, has once again highlighted the issue of signal failures. The railways have received less scrutiny since the decision to discontinue the presentation of a separate Railway Budget. This change has allowed many faults within the rail-ways, including outdated equipment and complex signal failures, to go unnoticed. While accidents draw attention, derailments are equally frequent and damaging.

The full extent of the losses is challenging to estimate, as they not only impact the railways but also disrupt the movement of goods and people, with farreaching consequences. The CAG audit found that while the Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 15,000 crore had been con-

responsible for derailments in the selected cases/accidents. The total damages/loss of assets in these cases was reported as Rs 32.96 crore. The report adds that nearly 75 per cent of the consequential train accidents between 2017-18 and 2020-21 were caused by derailments. Out of 217 consequential train accidents, 163 (around 75 per cent) were due to derailments. The goods train ramming into the Kunchenjunga Express between Rangapani and Chattar Hat, off New Jalpaiguri, has almost the same pattern as the triple train accident near Balasore that killed 296 persons and injured 1100 people a year back. Like the Balasore, this one is also blamed on manual failure at the initial stages.

It was routine for Rail Board chairman Jaya Varma Sinha and BRINGING THE TRAINS TO A two zonal chief public relations officers to blame it on the

rendering the automatic signals defunct since 5.50 am.

In such a situation absolute block comes under restriction. When signals are not operational it is covered with paper or a piece of cloth.Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav had told Rajya Sabha on July 21, 2023, that the rear collision at Balasore was due to lapses in the signalling-circuit alteration carried out in the past and during the execution of the sig-nalling work related to the replacement of the electric lifting barrier for a level-crossing gate. Two months before this, the Railway Board had flagged the issue of signalling staff resorting to short-cut methods.

Referring to five alarming incidents where trains entered the wrong path due to short-cut methods adopted by the signalling staff, the Railway Board in a letter Railways expressed "serious con-cern" that despite repeated instruc-tions the ground situation was not to General Managers of Zonal improving and "signalling staff continue with short-cut methods for clearing signals". In another incident of collision between two passenger trains, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has found the Indian Railways administration at fault for not implementing, and harmonising safety norms and protocols, the lack of which led to the collision of two passenger trains in Andhra Pradesh on October 29, 2023. The collision claimed 17 lives including three crew members. The CRS noted that senior officers continuously overlooked such violations in the recent past. The CRS found five flaws in the safety system: 1. Officials Overlooked Multiple Violations Earlier,

2. Employees in Crucial Safety Posts are Incompetent, and not aware of basic safety rules, and assistant loco pilots should be trained on simulators even on brake use,

3. Mismatch of Two Sets of Rules - general rules peg speed at 10km in case of signal failure and subsidiary rules at 15 km,

4. Every Passenger Train's Last Worthy Features, 5, Record Walkie-Talkie Conversations Between Station Masters and Loco PilotsIn yet another incident the South Western Railway Zone official wrote: "on 08.02.2023 the loco pilot of Up Train No: 12649 Sampark Kranti Express, had stopped the train before Point No: 65 Å, while observing that the point was set to down main line (wrong line), while as per PLCT, the train was supposed to pass through Up main line. An audit report of the last year flagged serious lapses in rail safety. In a 2022 report focusing on derailments within Indian Railways, the CAG sought to investigate how preventive mea-sures were implemented by the railway ministry against derailments and collisions. The Kavach system of bringing the trains to a halt has a cost of Rs 50lakh per km and Rs 70 lakh per locomotive. It may take longer than the railway has planned. The eastern region alone needs Rs 3000 crore.Even if Kavach implemented the railways to improve on signal and track maintenance, accidents would not be easy to prevent. Even now it is not too late to divert funds from station demolitions to safety aspects.

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

ibuted, the Kallways internal resources fell short of the target for funding the remaining Rs 5,000 crore per year to Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK), set up in 2017. The report highlighted a decline in the allotment of funds for track renewal works, from Rs 9,607 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 7,417 crore in 2019-20. The railways' Rs 2.55 trillion budget is self-generated.Ignoring critical signal and track safety issues it has allocated Rs 24470 crore to be spent for 508 of the 1300 stations planned to be demolished and rebuilt in 16 states.

The buildings may need some repairs and refurbishing but demolition is outrageous under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Many stations are already on the block though these hardly need demolition. The railways should have prioritised its operational safety issues and utilised the station rebuilding funds for safety.According to the CAG report 2022, an Analysis of 1129 'Inquiry Reports' of derailment accidents in 16 Zonal Railways (ZRs) revealed 24 factors

HALT HAS A COST deceased train driver for "disregarding" signals and speed lim-OF RS 50LAKH its.The signal failure in both PER KM AND RS cases is responsible for the accidents as scrutiny of the system 70 LAKH PER reveals. The Rangapani goods train was issued a manual autho-LOCOMOTIVE. IT risation paper chit signal, called MAY TAKE a paper-line clear ticket (PLCT). It allowed goods train drivers to LONGER THAN pass all inoperative automatic signals.

THE KAVACH

SYSTEM OF

THE RAILWAY HAS PLANNED

As per procedure the driver should have stopped for a minute at each signal and restricted speed at 10 to 15 km. Now it is being told that restriction should have been imposed on each of the trains in the section. The document of the railways says that all trains had the PLCT issued suggesting major signal failure. The rail officials said that the track circuits had failed due to the lightning and thunderstorms,

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

Women suffer in silence as violence against them keeps increasing

Despite the high prevalence of such crimes, many women are unable to report these incidents due to societal pressures and lack of support

⊤iolence against women remains a critical issue in our society, hindering both their physical devel opment and mental wellbeing. According to the 2022 annual report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against women increased by four per cent in 2022 compared to 2021. Over 5.8 million cases of crime were registered across the country in 2022, with nearly 450,000 involving crimes against women. This translates to an alarming average of around 51 FIRs registered every hour for violence against women. The report highlights that the highest number of cases of violence against women were recorded in Delhi, the capital city, while Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan,



KAVITA DHAMEJA

was listed as the fourth most unsafe city for women. Rajasthan is the third state with the highest number of cases of violence against women in 2022. Notably, Rajasthan had the

highest number of recorded rape cases, with over 31,000 incidents reported across the country and 5,399 cases registered in the state. The report also reveals that most incidents of violence or discrim-

perpetrated by their husbands or close relatives. Genderbased violence encompasses physical, mental, sexual, and economic abuse, with inti-

mate partner violence being the most widespread form. Women often experience sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Despite the prevalence of vio-

lence, many women do not report these incidents due to several factors. First, the burden of the family's honour is disproportionately placed on women, instilling fear and preventing them from reporting the abuse, even to close family members. Second, many women lack access to support groups where they can confide and seek help. Third, ination against women are and perhaps most crucially,

there is a widespread unawareness of the support systems and legal frameworks established by the government to aid women affected by violence. However, some women - who are a little aware and have found support groups raise their voices against the violence they face and report it to the police. One example of this courage is

found in Baba Ramdev Nagar Kachhi Basti in Jaipur, Rajasthan, where gender discrimination and violence are prevalent. Meena Devi (name changed), a 38-year-old resident, shared her experience: "I collect trash, and my husband works as a laborer. We have six children, including four daughters. Our financial situation is dire, and my husband sometimes does not find work.

To contribute to the household income, my two daughters and I collect trash daily, and I had to stop their schooling." She further revealed, "My husband used to beat me after getting intoxicated, which also affected my daughters. One day, I gathered the

courage to call the police, and since then, he has significantly reduced the violence."This settlement, predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is located about 10 kilometres from the city in the Gurjar Ki Thadi area

With a population of over 500 people, many residents engage in occupations such as blacksmithing, scavenging, drumming at weddings, bam-boo crafting, and daily wage labour.

Meena mentioned that it is so common for women to be subjected to violence by their husbands that it does not bother anyone in the settlement. Most men indulge in substance abuse and mistreat their wives.

Although several non-government organizations are working in the area to raise awareness among women to stand up against this violence, the problem has not been completely eradicated. Another woman, who preferred to remain anonymous, recounted her story: "My husband works as a scrap dealer, while I stay busy with house-hold chores." She explained that her husband gets intoxi-cated every day and abuses her. Her hands bore burn marks, evidence of the physical vio-

lence she endured. She said that other women in the settlement often protect her from her husband's violence and have advised her to seek help from the police, but she does not wish to do so.Such control by partners leaves women without access to a safe space to share their experiences and seek advice.

Social worker Akhilesh Mishra, who has been working on the health of women and children in this area explains, "The government has enacted several laws to protect women from genderbased violence and women can file complaints against the violence they face. Various NGOs are also working here to raise awareness among women about gender discrimination and violence."

This effort has started showing results, as women in the settlement have now started to stand up against the violence and seek support from the police. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach. Cultural norms that place the burden of family honour on women must be challenged and redefined.

Efforts to increase awareness of support groups and governmental resources must be intensified, ensuring that all women have access to the help they need. Only through collective societal effort can we hope to build a capable, equal, and violence-free society for all women. (The author is a social work-

er; views expressed are personal.Charkha Features)



Hezbollah fires over 200 rockets into Israel

AP 📕 BEIRUT

The Lebanese Hezbollah group said it launched over 200 rockets on Thursday at several military bases in Israel in retaliation for a strike that killed one of its senior commanders. The attack by the Iran-backed militant group was one of the largest in the monthslong conflict along the Lebanon-Israel border, with tensions escalating in recent weeks.

The Israeli military said "numerous projectiles and sus-picious aerial targets" had entered its territory from Lebanon, many of which it said were intercepted. There were no immediate reports of casualties. It said about 200 "projectiles" were launched toward the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and over 20 drones into Israeli territory, but that it had intercepted some of them

Israel after Hezbollah's attack struck various towns in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah's



"military structures" in the southern border towns of Ramyeh and Houla. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported an Israeli drone strike of Houla killed at least one person. Israeli jets also broke the sound barrier over

the Lebanese capital and other areas in the country. Israel on Wednesday acknowledged that it had killed Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who headed one of Hezbollah's three regional divisions in southern Lebanon, a day earlier.

Hours after the killing, Hezbollah launched scores of Katvusha rockets and Falaq rockets with heavy warheads into northern Israel and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. It launched more rockets on Thursday and said it had also sent exploding drones into several bases

Nasser was of great importance to Hezbollah, which said he took part in battles in conflicts in Syria and Iraq from 2011 until 2016 and fought in the group's last war with Israel in 2006. Two other senior Hezbollah commanders have also been killed.

The US and France are continuing to scramble to prevent the skirmishes from spiraling into an all-out war, which they fear could spillover across the region. Washington in its shuttle diplomatic efforts initially hoped for calm along the Lebanon-Israel border in a deal that is not linked to the war in Gaza. However, since the US has called for Hamas to agree to a cease-fire proposal

presented by President Joe Israel, 16 soldiers and 11 civil-Biden, it has said that an end to the war in Gaza would lead to calm in Lebanon and northern Israel as well.

The relatively low-level conflict erupted shortly after the outbreak of the war in Gaza. Hezbollah says it is striking Israel in solidarity with Hamas, another Iran-allied group that ignited the war in Gaza with its October 7 attack into southern Israel. The group's leadership says it will stop its attacks once there is a cease-fire in Gaza, and that while it does not want war, it is ready for one. Israeli officials, meanwhile, say

they could decide to go to war in Lebanon if efforts for a diplomatic solution fail Hezbollah's retaliation comes a day after a senior adviser to US

President Joe Biden, Amos Hochstein, met with French President Emmanuel Macron's Lebanon envoy, Jean-Yves Le Drian, in Paris. The fighting has displaced tens

of thousands of people on both sides of the border. In northern

ians have been killed. In Lebanon, more than 450 people — mostly fighters but also dozens of civilians — have been killed. Israel sees Hezbollah as its most direct threat and estimates that it has an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles, including precision-guided missiles. In 2006, Israel and Hezbollah

fought a monthlong war that ended in a draw. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Thursday that the Palestinian death toll from nearly nine months of war has surged past 38,000.The ministry said that in the last 24 hours, the bodies of 58 people had been brought to hospitals, bringing the overall death toll to 38,011. It said more than

87,000 people have been wounded in the fighting. The ministry does not distinguish between fighters and noncombatants in its count, but many of the dead are said to be women and children.

booths officially close at 10 pm

'Stop Labour's supermajority'

local time.

Israel weighs Hamas' latest response to Gaza cease-fire proposal

AP TEL AVIV

ments surrounding the nego-tiations. The official, who was-Tsrael's Cabinet was set to convene Thursday to discuss Hamas' latest response to a US-backed proposal for a phased cease-fire in Gaza, as diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the nine-month war stirred back to life after a weekslong hiatus

Fighting, meanwhile, intensified between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, with the militant group saying it fired more than 200 rockets and exploding drones into northern Israel to avenge the killing of a senior commander in an Israeli airstrike the day before. The relatively low-level conflict has literally set the border ablaze and raised fears of a potentially even more devastating war in the Middle East. Hezbollah has said it will halt its attacks if there is a ceasefire between Hamas — a fellow Iran-backed ally — and Israel. The United States has rallied world support behind a plan that would see the release of all of the scores of hostages still held by the militant group in return for a lasting truce and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. But until now, neither side appears to have

fully embraced it. Hamas suggested "amendments" to the proposal last month, some of which the US said were unworkable, without providing specifics. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has confirmed that the original proposal was an Israeli one, but has raised doubts over whether it would end the war — a key Hamas demand. Hamas confirmed Wednesday that it had sent another response to Egypt and Qatar, which are mediating the talks, without providing details. A US official said the Biden administration was examining the response, calling it constructive but saying more work needed to be done. The official, who wasn't autho-

rised to comment publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity. Israeli troops withdraw from An Israeli official said Netanyahu would convene a Cabinet meeting Thursday to

discuss the latest develop-

n't authorised to discuss the meeting with media, spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel would likely hold additional consultations before making a final decision on any amend ed proposal. As cease-fire talks appeared to be gaining new steam, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run

world 08

Gaza said the death toll in the war had climbed past 38,000 Hamas political official Bassem Naim said that the group has neither accepted nor rejected the American propos al, and has "responded with some ideas to bridge the gap" between the two sides, without elaborating. Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' top political leader, has shared suggestions with Egyptian, Qatari and Turkish officials, the group said in a statement late Wednesday.

US officials have said the lat est proposal has new language that was proposed to Egyp and Qatar on Saturday and addresses indirect negotiations that are set to commence during the first phase of the three-phase deal that US President Joe Biden laid out in

a May 31 speech. The first phase calls for a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all densely populated areas of Gaza and the release of a number of hostages, including women, older people and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian pris-

oners. The proposal called for the parties to negotiate the terms of the second phase during the 42 days of phase one. Under the current proposal, Hamas could release all of the remaining men, both civilians and

soldiers, during the second phase. În return, Israel could free an agreed-upon number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The releases wouldn't occur until "sustainable calm" takes effect and all

Gaza The third phase would see the return of the remains of hostages.

Suspect in attempted assassination of Slovakia's PM now faces terror charges

Bratislava (Slovakia)): The suspect in the attempted assassination in May of Slovakia's populist prime minister, Robert Fico, is now facing terror charges as part of an investigation by authorities, the country's prosecutor

general said Thursday. Maros Zilinka said in a state ment that the suspect identified only as JC, who was originally charged with attempted murder, now faces the additional charges. Zilinka said the change is based on evidence the investigators obtained, but didn't immediately give further details.

The government officials originally said they believed it was a politically motivated attack committed by a "lone wolf," but announced later that a "third party" might have been involved in "acting for the benefit of the perpetrator."Fico has currently been

tiple wounds he suffered in the assassination attempt on May 15 when he was shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters after his government's session in the town of Handlova

The assailant was immediately arrested and a court ordered him to remain behind bars.

Fico has long been a divisive figure in Slovakia and beyond, He returned to power for the fourth time last year after his leftist party Smer, or Direction, won the parliamentary election last September, after campaigning on a pro-Russia and anti-American message. His critics worry that Slovakia could abandon its pro-Western course and follow the direction of Hungary under Prime

Minister Viktor Orbán. Thousands have repeatedly rallied in the capital and across Slovakia to protest Fico's policies recovering at home from mul-

Rishi Sunak as PM hangs in balance PTI LONDON

The future of Rishi Sunak as Britain's Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party hangs in the balance as polling booths opened across the UK on Thursday, with the British Indian leader and the man who wants his job - Keir Starmer - out early to cast their votes along with millions across the country

Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty walked hand-in-hand to their local polling booth on a sunny day in his constituency of Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire, northern England. A little later, Starmer and wife Victoria were at their polling station in Camden, north London, sporting Labour red colours.

As is customary, there is no campaigning or party political canvassing on polling in the UK.

Sunak, 44, is up against voter angst towards the incumbent Tories after 14 years in power and has had to contend with

Voting begins in UK polls; Future of

trailing far behind 61-year-old Keir Starmer-led Labour Party throughout the six-week campaign

Both leaders wrapped up their poll pitches with contrasting messages - Sunak urging voters not to hand "tax-raising" Labour a "supermajority" and Starmer playing down the prospect of a landslide win for fear of a low turnout impacting the final outcome.

Candidates are being fielded for 650 constituencies across England, Scotland, Wales, and

their local councils if pending. Northern Ireland, with 326 required for a majority in the Once the votes are cast and the first past the post system. Besides the two main parties, local time, the focus shifts to the

voters will be choosing from a list of candidates representing the Liberal Democrats, Green Party, Scottish National Party (SNP), SDLP, Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Sinn Fien, Plaid Cymru, the antiimmigration Reform Party and contesting as

Around 40,000 polling booths opened across the country at 7 am local time as an estimated 46 million registered voters began turning out to mark a cross next to their chosen can-

Since this year, carrying an identification document to the polling booth has become compulsory in UK elections, which are open to all registered adult voters resident in the UK including Indians as Commonwealth citizens. Several voters have already cast their vote in a postal ballot,

definitive exit poll soon after which gives a fair snapshot of what can be expected UKwide. Counting commences up and down the country right away, with the first results expected just before midnight

several Independent.

team's strategy in the final hours was to canvas their tra-

ditional voters to narrow the gap of a widely expected defeat after clear Tory majorities in the last three general elections. which can also be handed in to

The UK's historic general election on

Cost of living could trump pride in Sunak for British Indian voters

PTI LONDON

of the British Future think tank. "There'll be a sense, I think, of regret and ing since Sunak took office in October for Rishi Sunak as there was great pride... but people aren't going to make their voting choice on that basis. And that's why I think, more British Indian voters are going to vote for change than vote for keeping Rishi Sunak, even though they appreciate his historic achievement in being the first British Prime Minister of Indian heritage," he noted. Against this backdrop, the issues that would influence British Indian voters would echo wider concerns such as the cost-of-living crisis, the National Health Service (NHS) waiting lists and getting a grip on illegal migration. While Sunak did meet his pledge to bring down inflation from the soaring levels he inherited in the aftermath of the chaotic terms of predecessors Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, it may not prove enough to get him over the line at the ballot box. "I don't know why he's not going around to every single member of the Tory party inside of the government saying, 'I told you so'... We've now reduced inflation down from the high of 11 per cent down to 2 per cent. We've seen the underlying

economic outlook for the country improvpeople have long memories of a time when we forgot what it was to be a Conservative," Andrew Boff, Tory Chair of the London Assembly, said during an election debate hosted by 'Eastern Eye' earlier this week. "Rishi Sunak, at one level, was a breath of fresh air because he's clearly an extremely bright, decent man attempting to do his best... [but] not much has changed since he became Prime Minister," said Lord Richard Newby, Leader of the Lib Dems in the House of Lords, during the event. For Anneliese Dodds, Labour Party chair and shadow secretary of state for women and equalities, Sunak's term marked a "huge amount of continuity" with his embattled predecessors.

defeat in the general election. "Labour will put up your taxes. didate on a paper ballot. Again and again and again, posted Sunak on social media as the catch-all message to wind up the campaign trail. The British Indian leader and his

is the central message British Prime Minister Sunak was trying to drive home as he wrapped up his campaign, even as most of the incumbent Conservatives all but conceded

 ☐ roofs in Jamaica, jumbled fishing boats in Barbados and damaged or destroyed 95 per cent of homes on a pair of islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines before rumbling toward the Cayman Islands and taking aim at Mexico's Caribbean coast after leaving at least seven dead in its wake. What had been the earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic, weakened slightly but remained a major hurricane. Its eye was forecast to pass just south of the Cayman Islands overnight.

AP PLAYA DEL CARMEN

T Turricane Bervl ripped off

Mexico's popular Caribbean coast prepared shelters, evacuated some small outlying coastal communities and even moved sea turtle eggs off beaches threatened by storm surge, but in nightlife hotspots like Playa del Carmen and

more night on the town. Mexico's Navy patrolled areas like Tulum telling tourists in Spanish and English to prepare for the storm's arrival. Early Thursday morning, the storm's centre was about 500 miles (800 kilometres) eastsoutheast of Tulum, Mexico. It had maximum sustained winds



Hurricane Beryl roars toward Mexico

after leaving destruction in Jamaica

Tulum tourists still took one mph (32 kph). Beryl was forecast to make landfall in a sparsely populated area of lagoons and mangroves south of Tulum in the early hours of Friday, probably as a Category 2 storm. Then it was expected to cross the Yucatan Peninsula and restrengthen over the warm Gulf of Mexico to make a secof 125 mph (205 kph) and was ond strike on Mexico's northmoving west-northwest at 21 east coast near the Texas borshown its destructive potential southeastern Caribbean.

der. The storm had already

Beryl's eye wall brushed by Jamaica's southern coast Wednesday afternoon knocking out power and ripping roofs off homes. Prime Minister Andrew Holness said Jamaica had not seen the worst of what could possibly happen."

'We can do as much as we can do, as humanly possible, and we leave the rest in the hands of God," Holness said

Several roadways in Jamaica's interior settlements were impacted by fallen trees and utility poles, while some communities in the northern section were without electricity according to the government's Information Service. The worst perhaps came earlier in Beryl's trajectory when it smacked two small islands of the Lesser Antilles.

Thursday marks the first real test at the ballot box for Rishi Sunak when pride in Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian heritage might be trumped by the cost-of-living crisis and sheer fatigue with 14 long years of a Conservative Party-led government. Exactly how the votes stack up will start to unfold only once polling closes but YouGov's final large-scale poll for 'The Times' on the eve of the election suggests the Opposition Labour could be handed a so-called "supermajority" - indicating a 212-seat parliamentary majority and the highest in decades. But whatever the final outcome, this pattern is more a reflection of the political turmoil that ultimately brought Sunak into 10 Downing Street than a vote against his own leadership. "I think for British Indian voters, in particular, this election is similar to the rest of the electorate; they've been given a chance to choose to keep or remove the government and after 14 years of a Conservative government, the mood is much more for change than for maintain-ing it," reflected Sunder Katwala, Director

However, if the outcome of the election indicates a definitive shift among British Indian voters towards Labour, it would be seen more as a vote in favour of change rather than a decisive ballot in favour of party leader Keir Starmer – who is simply being viewed as a "choose-able alternative", according to poll analysts.

Indian-origin schoolgirl chess prodigy to be youngest in England team

PTI LONDON

Bodhana Sivanandan, a nine-year-old Indian-origin schoolgirl is set to make chess history after she became the youngest person selected to represent England internationally in any sport. Bodhana, from Harrow in north-west London, will join the England Women's Team at the Chess Olympiad in Hungary, Budapest, in September. The others in her team are all in their 20s, 30s or 40s."I found out yesterday after I came back from school when my dad told me. I was happy. I hope I'll do well and I'll get anoth-er title," she told the BBC on Wednesday.

Malcolm Pein, manager of the England chess team, described the schoolgirl as one of the most remarkable British chess prodigies he has ever seen. "It's exciting - she's on course to be one of the best British players ever," he said. Her father, Siva Sivanandan,



says he remains mystified about where his daughter got her talent. "I'm an engineering graduate, as is my wife, but I'm not good at chess," he said. Bodhana first picked up chess during the pandemic lockdown when Siva's friend was going back to India and gave her a few bags which also had a chess board. "I was interested in the pieces, so I started playing," she recalls. Last December, Sivanandan won the European Blitz Chess Championship in Zagreb,

Croatia, and was dubbed "super talented" at the time. Soon after, she was among a group of young chess enthusiasts invited by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to 10 Downing Street to mark the government's major new GBP 1 million investment package for the game. The package has since been in place to support children attending schools in disadvantaged areas across England to learn and play chess, improve the visibility and

availability of the game, and fund elite playing. As part of the package, the UK's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said it would invest GBP 500,000 in the English Chess Federation (ECF) over two years to develop the next generation of world-class talent. Funds will support expert coaching, training camps and cuttingedge computer analysis for inter national events to assist current grandmasters and up-and-coming players.

Verdict expected for Iranianborn Norwegian man charged in Oslo LGBT+ festival attack

Copenhagen (Denmark) (AP): A verdict is expected on Thursday in the case of an Iranian-born Norwegian man who is charged with terrorism in a 2002 attack at an LGBTQ+ festival in Oslo, Norway, in which two people were killed and nine seriously wounded at three locations. The Oslo District Court is to rule on whether Zaniar Matapour fired 10 rounds with a machine gun and eight with a handgun into the crowd, chiefly outside the London Pub, a popular gay bar, on June 25, 2022

Prosecutors said Matapour, 45, a Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, has sworn allegiance to the Islamic State group.Extensive video material of the attack was presented in court. The verdict will not be read in court but will be sent out electronically. Matapour will have the verdict read to

him in prison, the court said. Matapour was overpowered by bystanders after the attack and arrested. Following the attack, a Pride parade was cancelled, with police saying they could not guarantee security. The shooting shocked Norway, which has a relatively low crime rate but has experienced a series of "lone wolf" attacks by individuals in recent decades, including one of the worst mass shootings in Europe. In 2011, a right-wing extremist killed 69 people on the island of Utoya after setting off a bomb in Oslo that left eight dead. Six days before the attack,

Norway's external intelligence agency, E-Tjenesten, learned from an undercover agent that a possible action was expected in a Nordic country and the information was passed to the domestic security service.

Keir Starmer: Human rights lawyer turned Labour Leader

party's fortunes from one of its

worst poll performances in

the 2019 general election to the

The other turnaround Starmer

worked on was to try and re-

build Labour's connect with

the Indian diaspora, alienated

under former leader Jeremy

Corbyn over a perceived anti

India stance on Kashmir.

edge of government.

PTI 📕 LONDON

eir Starmer, the human Krights barrister turned Labour Party Leader, has made it a manifesto pledge to pursue a "new strategic partnership" with India, including an FTA, if handed a mandate to form a Labour-led government in Thursday's general election. Sir Keir, who was knighted by the late Queen Elizabeth II for his services to law and criminal justice, spent much of his career in the legal profession before stepping into the world of politics, first elected as Labour's member of Parliament from London in 2015.

The 61-year-old father of two teenage kids, who he and his National Health Service (NHS) employee wife Victoria have chosen to keep out of the political spotlight, has been credited with reversing the



"What my Labour govern-ment will seek with India is a relationship based on our shared values of democracy and aspiration. That will seek a free trade agreement (FTA), we share that ambition, but also a new strategic partnership for global security, climate security, economic security," he said.

This approach has been entrenched in the party's 2024 election manifesto, which commits to seeking a "new strategic partnership with India, including a free trade agreement, as well as deepening cooperation in areas like security, education, technology and climate change".



Putin, Xi among others attend SCO summit



From left, front row, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani pose for a photo at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) plus summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Thursday

AP MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday attended the summit of a security grouping created by Moscow and Beijing to counter Western alliances.

Putin and Xi joined the lead ers of other countries that are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at its annual meeting in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana.

The grouping was established in 2001 by China, Russia and the four ex-Soviet Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to promote regional security and economic coop eration. It was later joined by India, Pakistan and Iran Russia's western neighbour and ally, Belarus, joined the SCO on Thursday.

Observer states and dialogue partners include Turkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Addressing the summit, Putin emphasised the group's focus on ensuring security of its members and said the SCO will form a dedicated centre that will coordinate response to various security challenges. He added that the group's members will also endorse a special program to fight separatism and extremism.

Xi called on the SCO members to show solidarity in the face "the real challenges of intervention and polarisation," according to a readout of his speech by the official Xinhua news agency.

"In the face of the real threat of the Cold War mentality, we

account. Moscow has hailed a have to safeguard the security peace plan for Ukraine offered bottom line," he added. Besides Putin and Xi, and by China last year that was rejected by both Ukraine and summit host Kazakh President the West for failing to call for Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, attending Thursday's meeting Russia to leave occupied parts are Prime Minister Shehbaz of Ukraine. At a meeting with Xi on Wednesday, Putin hailed the Sharif of Pakistan, President Shavkat Mirzivovev of SCO as "one of the key pillars Uzbekistan, President Emomali Rakhmon of Tajikistan, President Sadyr Zhaparov of of a fair, multipolar world order," and said ties between Moscow and Beijing are "expe-Kyrgyzstan and President Alexander Lukashenko of riencing the best period in Belarus. Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India has their history." It marked their second meeting

sent his foreign minister S Jaishankar. Iran is still choosing a successor to President Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash in May, with a runoff election Friday, so acting President Mohammad Mokhbar is

attending. Other guests of the SCO include President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan. Also present is UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who is visiting Central Asia. For

and wants to further promote Putin, the summit offered another venue to demonstrate China as an alternative to the the failure of Western efforts to US and its allies. For host Kazakhstan and the isolate Russia over its 2022 invasion of Ukraine. other Central Asian nations, Speaking Thursday at the sumthe meeting is a way to further their cooperation with bigger,

mit, Putin mentioned his statement in June that the hostilities could end if Ukraine withdraws its troops from the four regions that Moscow annexed in 2022 and abandons its bid to join NATO. Kyiv and its allies have rejected the idea Putin also thanked SCO mem-

the summit, Tokayev hailed the SCO as "one of the most bers for their proposals for a peace settlement, adding that Moscow will take them into authoritative and influential international structures.

Shehbaz raises terror concern

PTI ASTANA

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday raised the issue of terrorism as a major concern for member states at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and called for "meaningful" engage-ment with the Afghan Taliban government.

Šhahbaz, who arrived in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana on Wednesday for a two-day official visit, represented Pakistan at the SCO meeting where leaders and diplomats from countries including China, India, Turkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan have gathered to discuss economic and security cooperation. The prime minister, during his address, emphasised the importance of maintaining peace in the region as a precondition for economic development, Dawn News reported. "Achieving lasting peace in Afghanistan is a lynchpin to this common objective," he said, adding that the international community "meaningfully engage with the Afghan government to meet their genuine economic and development needs". Sharif also said the Afghan Taliban must also "take concrete measures" to ensure its soil is not used for terrorism against any other state. Terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations, including state terrorism, must be condemned in clear and unambiguous terms," he said, adding that there was "no justification for killing innocent people or using the bogey of terrorism" for political point-scoring.

He also touched on the topic of globalisation and highlighted that leaders had the responsibility to rise above partisan geopolitics and join hands to secure a prosperous future for our people. Regarding Pakistan's role in

regional trade connectivity, the premier said the country's location made it an "ideal trade conduit" for the region and added that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

supplemented "SCO's vision interaction with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the of regional connectivity and sidelines of the summit, called economic interaction" Shehbaz also advocated for the for overcoming financial and

promotion "of national currencies for mutual settlements within the region" to avoid global financial shocks".

He said alternative funding mechanisms would "give impe-tus to different development projects in the SCO region". The prime minister said Pakistan would do "its utmost to provide impetus to collective efforts to raise living stan-dards in the SCO region" while talking about the rise in polit-ical and military conflicts across the globe and consequent hike in food and fuel prices, which have "seriously affected members' ability to address poverty'

Pakistan and India became a member of SCO in June 2017 at a summit in Kazakhstan. Recalling how Pakistan and Russia used to have a bilateral trade and a barter system in the 1950s and 1960s, Shehbaz, on Wednesday, during his

Sweden protests against death penalties to 3

world 09

Sweden's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it will summon the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Stockholm to protest against death sentences received by Swedes in Iraq. Last month, Stockholm protested over a death sentence given to a Swede. On Thursday, two more cases were confirmed, bringing the total to at least three Swedes who have been sentenced to death in Iraq in recent weeks. All were related to a deadly

Putin said both countries could enhance their cooperation in Foreign Ministry said. energy and agriculture and expressed his readiness to promote cooperation with cash-strapped Pakistan in the field of food security. Meanwhile, Shehbaz also pro-

posed to establish tripartite institutional mechanisms, particularly in economic and investment areas to strength-Pakistan-Turkiye en Azerbaijan economic and commercial cooperation.

banking issues between the

two countries by renewing

and expanding trade under a

"I think today is the time we

can overcome financial and

other banking issues by renew-

ing our trade and expanding our trade under a barter," Shehbaz told Putin. "That will

be very beneficial to Pakistan

and we will be able to over-

come many problems."

barter system.

Copenhagen (Denmark):

shooting earlier this year, the

The ministry said it has also received information that a fourth Swedish citizen has received a death sentence that could be drug related. However, "there are certain uncertainties regarding the person's identity, which is why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot confirm the sentence at the moment", it said. "We are acting to ensure that the sentences are not carried out," the ministry said.

Floated rise in gasoline prices may spark new protests in Iran

AP DUBAI

in as many months following

Putin's visit to China, which

underscored Beijing's political

support for Moscow amid

role as a top market for Rusisan

'bridges of communication'

between countries last week

more powerful neighbours.

Kazakhstan, for instance, fre-

quently engages with both neighbouring Russia and

China, while also pursuing

Speaking in opening remarks at

links with the West.

A s Iran's runoff presidential election nears, comments by an official in the campaign of reformist Masoud of reformist Masoud Pezeshkian raised the possibility of his government increasing government-set gasoline prices — a move that has sparked nationwide protests in the past.

Western sanctions and China's While still tentative, economists long have warned Iran needs to oil and gas. Russia also has overhaul its system of subsidies, relied on Beijing as a main estimated to cost the Islamic source of high-tech imports to Republic tens of billions of dolkeep its military machine run-ning. The SCO helps China lars a year. In 2019, a similar hike triggered mass demonstraproject its influence, especialtions and a bloody crackdown across Central Asia and the that grew even more intense Global South. Xi called for after the 2022 protests over the death of Mahsa Amini.

On Saturday, Pezeshkian campaign head Ali Abdolalizadeh told journalists that his possible presidency would see price hikes for fuel and other items handled without any outcry. "Don't worry, petrol at any price, you will see that it would be allowed with calmness and cooperation by the people,"

Abdolalizadeh said. Hard-liners immediately accused Pezeshkian of planning to increase fuel prices by a factor of eight. Pezeshkian's camp claimed the price under Saeed Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator Pezeshkian is facing in Friday's election, would be 12

times higher, based on remarks by those close to the hard-liner. That official, Majid Karimi, suggested Iranians should be paying the "world price" at the

carried a sign warning against any price hike, saying: "We do not want petrol at price of 250,000 Rial" a litre. That would be 40 cents a litre, or

it is likely Iran will see fuel price hikes

Iran raised minimum gasoline prices by 50 per cent to 15,000 rials per litre in 2019 — or 12 cy crashing since then, that's now 2 cents a litre, or 9 cents a gallon.

After a monthly 60-litre quota, it costs 30,000 rials a litre. That had been nearly 24 cents a litre or 90 cents a gallon then, but now is nearly 5 cents a litre, or 18 cents a gallon. By comparison, an average gallon of reg-ular gas in the US costs USD 3.50, according to AAA. Iran spent USD 52 billion on oil

subsidies in 2022, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency, the most of any country in the world. Iran spent 36 per cent of its overall gross domestic product, or USD 127 billion, that year on oil, electricity and natural gas



Reformist candidate for the Iran's presidential election Masoud Pezeshkian AP/PT clenches his fists during a campaign rally in Tehran, Iran

subsidies. Though it costs the stations and banks burned Iranian government tens of down. The crackdown that folbillions of dollars in subsidies, lowed included at least 321 cheap gasoline is practically considered a birthright in the people killed, according to Amnesty International. Thousands were detained. country, home to the world's fourth-largest crude oil reserves During the 2022 protests over despite decades of economic woes since its 1979 Islamic the death of Amini, after she was arrested for wearing her Revolution. Gasoline there hijab not to the liking of securemains among the cheapest in rity forces, over 500 people the world, in part to help keep were killed and 22,000 locked costs low for its underem-ployed, who often drive taxis to up — part of a pattern of widening unrest in the Islamic make ends meet.

Republic. The 2019 hikes led to demon-On the streets of Tehran, peostrations across some 100 cities ple have grown increasingly anxious about the price of fuel and towns across Iran, with gas

rising. "Do you know what that

means? I may buy fuel to set fire to everything," said taxi driver, Rasoul Kashani, 45. "I will not vote at all. Both plan to slaughter ordinary people." Shahrooz Imani, a 41-year-old mother of three, said she

planned to vote for Jalili as she believes he cares more about the poor given Pezeshkian's apparent plan to raise prices. "This will deprive us of our daily needs — even vegetables and bread — if price of fuel

hikes up," she said. A bookseller on Tehran's famed Enghelab - or "Revolution" -Street also worried about the poor. "We cannot tolerate this

again, maybe we need to flee to neighbouring countries to work," said Abbas Irani. Mahdi Robati, a business analyst and CEO of an Iranian bro kerage firm, warned that Jaili's economic policies and hard-line positions could bring about

economic damage on the scale of China's Mao Zedong. "The output of this thinking is the complete destruction of the rial, the spread of absolute poverty throughout the country, the deprivation of all political and social freedoms, famine and the complete couponisation of the economy and many other nightmarish consequences," he wrote on the social media platform X.

Ukraine army retreats, Russia | Hasina to travel to | Sri Lanka strikes private China next week closer to seizing Chasis Yar debt restructuring deal

pump. People gathered at a Jalili rally USD 1.55 a gallon.

But no matter who is elected,

cents a litre, or about 50 cents a gallon. But with Iran's curren-

Kyiv (AP): A spokesperson for Ukraine's military said its army has retreated from a neighbourhood in the outskirts of Chasiv Yar, a strategically important town in the eastern Donetsk region which has been reduced to rubble under a months-long Russian assault. Chasiv Yar lies a short distance west Bakhmut, which was captured by Russia last year after a bitter 10-month battle. For months, Russian forces have focused on capturing Chasiv Yar, a town which occupies a strategic, elevated location.

Its fall would put nearby cities in jeopardy, compromise critical Ukrainian supply routes and bring Russia closer to its stated aim of seizing the entire Donetsk region.

The Ukrainian army retreated from a northeastern neighbourhood in the town of Nazar

Press in a written message on Thursday.

Ukraine's defensive positions in the town were "destroyed," he said, adding that there was a threat of serious casualties if troops remained in the area and that Russia did not leave "a single intact building?

Months of relentless Russian artillery strikes have devastated Chasiv Yar, with homes and municipal offices charred, and a town that once had a population of 12,000 has been left deserted.

The intensity of Russian strikes the area of Chasiv Yar has increased over the last month, Voloshyn said.

In the past week alone, Voloshyn said Russia has carried out nearly 1,300 strikes, fired

Voloshyn, the spokesman for the Khortytsia ground forces formation, told The Associated Other Russian attacks in recent weeks have focused on capturing nearby settlements that would allow them to advance to Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, the biggest cities in the Ukrainiancontrolled part of the Donetsk

> region. Ukrainian commanders in the area say their resources remain stretched, largely due to a months-long gap in military assistance from the United States which threw Ukraine's military onto the defensive. In June, members of the artillery brigade in Chasiv Yar reported

that supplies of American on Ukraine's defensive line in ammunition had started to arrive.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, the governor of the northern Chernihiv region, Viacheslav Chaus, said Russia launched 22 drones over Ukraine last night

divisive.

Beijing (PTI): China on Thursday announced that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Beijing early next week and meet China's top leadership, including President Xi Jinping, which will facilitate political mutual trust, and push bilateral relations to a new level.

Hasina's visit from July 8 to 10, days after her India visit, is being seen as an apparent attempt to balance ties between India and China, one of Dhaka's biggest investors.

'This is her (Hasina's) first visit to China since she started her new term. It is also her second visit to China in five years," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here. During her visit, she will meet President Xi, Premier Li Qiang and attend the signing ceremony of cooperation documents together, Mao

said. The leaders of the two countries will have an "in-depth exchange of views" on deepening traditional friendship, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation and international and regional issues of common concern, the spokesperson said, adding that Hasina will also attend the China-Bangladesh Business Trade and Investment Conference.

'The visit will facilitate political mutual trust, strengthen the development strategies, promote high-quality joint construction of the 'Belt and Road, accelerate the implementation of the three major global initiatives, and push China-Bangladesh relations to a new level," Mao said. Hasina's China visit was expect-

ed to focus on more Chinese investments in Bangladesh under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

PTI COLOMBO

 $S^{\rm ri\,Lanka\,has\,reached\,a\,debt}_{
m restructuring\,deal\,with\,the}$ international sovereign bondholders after protracted negotiations, state finance minister Shehan Semasingher said on Thursday, calling it a "crucial step" in the cash-strapped country's efforts to restore debt sustainability.

In a statement, State Minister of Finance Semasinghe said that an agreement on restructuring terms was reached on Wednesday, completing Sri Lanka's debt restructuring rocess. "ISBs (International Sovereign

Bonds) account for USD 12.5 billion out of the total external debt of USD 37 billion. This agreement is a crucial step in our efforts to restore debt sustainability," Semasinghe said.

He added that the agreement with private bondholders was subject to the approval by the official creditor committee of nations, including India.

"This marks another kev milestone in our journey towards economic revival and strengthening," he said. Officials said the expected haircut agreed upon would amount to 28 per cent, with an upfront payment to ISB holders commencing from

September this year. Officials said this completes Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process, which came as a prerequisite for debt sustainability in the ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout of USD 2.9 billion extended in March 2023 over a period of four years. It follows the finalisation of debt restructuring agreements

news sites themselves to give

the impression of authenticity.

Other posts redirect to original

sites controlled by the the cam-

The redirects shifted focus for

the European elections and continued after Macron called

the surprise legislative elec-

tions with just three weeks to

spare. Three-quarters of posts

from the week ahead of the June

30 first-round legislative vote

that were directed toward a

French audience focused on

either criticising Macron or

boosting the National Rally,

antibot4navalny found in data

shared with The Associated

Press. One post on a fake site

purported to be from Le Point,

a current affairs magazine, and

the French news agency AFP,

dubbed

itself,

paign

Doppelganger.

with bilateral lenders, including India and China, in Paris on June 26, which President Ranil Wickremesinghe described as a "significant milestone" for bolstering international trust in the debt-rid-

den economy. Sri Lanka declared its first-ever sovereign default in mid-April 2022, having run out of its foreign exchange reserves.

The halt to the debt services meant that the multilateral creditor nations and commercial lenders could not extend fresh financing to the country The government faced criticism from the main Opposition after last week's announcement on bilateral debt restructuring, who claimed that the government had failed to achieve the best solution for the country.

Russian-linked cybercampaigns put bullseye on France

AP PARIS

Photos of blood-red hands on a Holocaust memorial. Caskets at the Eiffel Tower. A fake French military recruitment drive calling for soldiers in Ukraine, and major French news sites improbably registered in an obscure Pacific territory, population 15,000. All are part of disinformation campaigns orchestrated out of Russia and targeting France, according to French officials

and cybersecurity experts in Europe and the United States. France's legislative elections and the Paris Olympics sent them into overdrive.

More than a dozen reports issued in the past year point to an intensifying effort from Russia to undermine France, particularly the upcoming Games, and President Emmanuel Macron, who is one of Ukraine's most vocal supporters in Europe.

Kremlin official. "You have to see this as an The Russian campaigns sowing anti-French disinformation ecosystem," said a French milbegan online early last summer itary official, who spoke on conbut first became tangible in dition of anonymity to reveal October 2023 when more than information about the Russian

effort. "It's a hybrid strategy." 1,000 bots linked to Russia The tags and the vandalism had relayed photos of graffitied Stars of David in Paris and its no direct link to Russia's war in suburbs. A French intelligence Ukraine, but they provoked a report said the Russian intellistrong reaction from the French gence agency FSB ordered the political class, with denunciatagging, as well as subsequent tions in the legislature and public debate. Antisemitic vandalism of a memorial to those who helped rescue Jews attacks are on the rise in France, from the Holocaust. and the war in Gaza has proven

Photos from each event were amplified on social media by fake accounts linked to the Russian disinformation site RRN, according to cybersecurity experts.

Russia denies any such campaigns. The French intelligence report says RRN is part of a larger operation orchestrated by

Sergei Kiriyenko, a ranking small proportion of the French population.

În March, just after Macron discussed the possibility of mobilising the French military in Ukraine, a fake recruitment drive went up for the French army in Ukraine, spawning a series of posts in Russian- and French-language Telegram channels that got picked up in Russian and Belarusian media, according to a separate French government report seen by The Associated Press.

On June 1, caskets appeared outside the Eiffel Tower, bearing the inscription "French sol-The Stars of David could be diers in Ukraine."

interpreted either as support for The larger disinformation Israel or as opposition. The efforts show little traction in effect was to sow division and France, but the Russian audiunease. French Jews in particence may have been the real tarular have found themselves get, officials said, by showing unwittingly thrust into the that Russia's war in Ukraine is, political fray despite, at just as Putin has said, really a war 500,000 people, making up a with the West.

French military official said, was a long-term and steady effort to sow social discord, erode faith in the media and democratic governments, undermine NATO, and sap Western support for Ukraine. Denigrating the Olympics, from which most Russian athletes are banned, is a bonus, according to French officials monitoring the increasingly strident posts warning of imminent unrest ahead of the Games.

On June 9, the French far-right National Rally trounced Macron's party in elections for the European Parliament. The party has historically been close to Russia: one of its leading figures, Marine Le Pen, cultivated ties to Putin for many years and supported Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. And its leading contender for prime minister, A click on the top of the fake

page redirects back to the real Among the broader goals, the Jordan Bardella, has said he opposes sending long-range weapons to Kyiv.

In more than 4,400 posts gathered since mid-November by antibot4navalny, a collective that analyses Russian bot behaviour, those targeting audiences in France and Germany predominated. The number of weekly posts ranged from 100 to 200 except for the week of May 5, when it dropped near zero, the data showed. That week, as it happens, was a holiday in Russia.

Many of the posts redirect either to RRN or to sites that appear identical to major French media, but with the domain – and content – changed. At least two of the more recent mirrored sites are registered in Wallis and Futuna, a French Pacific territory 10 time zones from Paris.

ordinary French people live but are ready to destroy France in the name of aid for Ukraine, read the headline on June 25. Another site falsely claimed to be from Macron's party, offering to pay 100 euros for a vote for him – and linking back to the party's true website. And still another inadvertently left a generative AI prompt calling for the re-write of an article "taking a conservative stance against the liberal policies of the Macron administration, according to findings last week from Insikt Group, the threat research division of the cybersecurity consultancy Recorded Future.

They're scraping automatically, sending the text to the AI and asking the AI to introduce bias or slants into the article and rewrite it," said Clement Briens, an analyst for Recorded

criticizing Macron. "Our leaders have no idea how Future.



Sensex, Nifty hit new lifetime highs

PTI MUMBA

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ticked higher to scale fresh all-time high levels on Thursday, following buying in market heavyweights ICICI Bank, Infosys and TCS amid a largely positive trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 62.87 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 80,049.67. During the day, it rallied 405.84 points to hit a fresh all-time high of 80,392.64.

The Nifty rose 15.65 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at a record closing peak of 24,302.15. Intra-day, it surged 114.5 points to hit a fresh lifetime high of 24,401.

Among the Sensex pack, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Tata Services, Consultancy Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Mahindra and



Mahindra were the gainers. In contrast, HDFC Bank, Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the positive territory, while Shanghai closed in the red. Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, European markets were UltraTech trading in the green territory Cement and IndusInd Bank were among in mid-session deals. US markets ended higher on the laggards. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Wednesday

shortened trading session. Stock exchanges will remain closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day. Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.52 per cent to USD 86.89 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,483.63 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. On Wednesday, the 30-share index hit the historic 80,000 mark for the first time intra-day trade. It surged 632.85 points or 0.79 per cent to a record intraday high of 80,074.30. The index later closed near the 80,000 level at 79,986.80, up by 545 35 points or 0.60 up by 545.35 points or 0.69 per cent over the last close. The Nifty climbed 162.65 points or 0.67 per cent to end at an all-time high of 24,286.50. During the day, it zoomed 183.4 points or 0.76 per cent to hit a fresh intraday record peak of 24,307.25.

Sebi mandates institutional mechanism for fraud prevention in stock broking

PTI NEW DELHI

Sebi on Thursday issued a brokers to establish an institutional mechanism for prevention and detection of fraud or market abuse in a bid to protect the interest of investors in securities market. The circular mandates the implementation of systems for the surveillance of trading activities and internal controls, introduction of a whistle-blower policy, among

other obligations. These requirements are part of Sebi (Stock Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, which aim to ensure higher standards of market and integrity investor protection.

The standards for implementation of the same, including operational modalities will be formulated by the broker's Industry Standards Forum (ISF), in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the regulator said in the circular. The implementation will be based on the size of the stock brokers. Brokers with more



obligation/ requirement on

the stock brokers to follow the

standards adopted by the ISF,

and issue a joint notice which

indicates the date of

applicability of the circular to

various stock brokers based

The provisions of this circular

shall come into force in a risk-

based, staggered manner to

ensure smooth adoption, and

effective implementation for all the stock brokers by

providing enough time for

stock brokers, based on their

size, for making necessary

changes, Sebi said

on the criteria.

than 50,000 active Unique on their websites. It also directed them to Client Codes (UCCs) are amend their bye-laws, and required to comply by January 1, 2025. ensure that brokers notify the

Further, those with 2,001 to 50,000 active UCCs have to comply by April 1, 2025, and brokers with up to 2,000 active UCCs must comply by April 1, 2026.

In addition, qualified stock brokers must comply with these requirements by August 1, 2024, considering their existing obligations for and client governance behaviour surveillance.

Sebi directed the stock exchanges to bring the provisions of this circular to the notice of stock brokers and also disseminate the same

Coal recorded 10.2 per cent growth among eight key infra sectors in May

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The coal sector has registered a growth of 10.2 per cent among all eight core industries of the economy in May, the government said Thursday.

The index of coal industry has reached 184.7 points during May as compared to 167.6 points during the same month last year. "The coal sector has demonstrated highest growth

of 10.2 per cent (provisional), following the electricity industry among the eight core industries for the month of May, 2024 as per the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)) (Base Year 2011-12) released by Ministry of Commerce & Industries," the coal ministry said in a

statement. The driving force behind growth can be attributed to a considerable rise in coal production during May.

This increase in production underscores the sector's capacity to meet growing demand of energy and manufacturing industries.

SBI announces initiatives to mitigate risks in agri loan portfolio

PTI NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ country's \ largest \ lender \ SBI \ on}_{Thursday \ announced \ 11 \ new}_{initiatives \ -- \ including \ enhancement \ of}$ its digital banking features and opening of 35 new Agricultural Centralised Processing Cells -- to mitigate risks in its agricultural loan portfolio.

On the occasion of the 69th Foundation Day, State Bank of India announced these initiatives to widen the bank's accessibility to address the banking needs of its potential customers, the

experience, with the introduction of two exciting features like tap-and-pay on the BHIM SBI PAY app and end-to-end digital loans against mutual funds on the YONO app, it added. The bank has also announced an

during the

initiative, which is a fully digital end-to-end journey for SBI Surya Ghar Loan, it said, adding that the users can opt for credit to install solar rooftops under the central government's PM Surya Ghar Scheme, offering loans for up to 10 KW capacity.

The entire process will be managed on lender said in a statement. SBI's digital platform from applicant registration on the MNRE/REC portal to



loan disbursement.

Acknowledging the significant contributions and global presence of the Indian diaspora in shaping the nation's growth story, SBI opened a second Global NRI Centre (GNC) in Patiele Pariel significant Patiala, Punjab.

To enhance its service to NRI clients, its Chairman Dinesh Khara inaugurated the second Global NRI Centre (GNC) in Patiala on Bank Day. SBI's dedicated GNCs reflect the bank's unwavering commitment to strengthening its ties with the global Indian community.

Bright future for air cargo

turnaround time: Official

sector; need to ensure faster

excellence, providing specialised services to NRI customers. With a network of 434 specialised NRI branches in India, foreign offices in 29 countries, and partnerships with 45 exchange houses and 5 banks in GCC countries, SBI is well-equipped to offer comprehensive services to its NRI clientele worldwide," the statement said.

In another move, SBI has launched comprehensively redesigned High Court branches aimed at enhancing services for the legal community.

This initiative underscores SBI's Indian community. commitment to providing tailored 'These centres serve as hubs of financial solutions that cater specifically

to the unique needs of lawyers and legal

professionals, it added. The redesigned branches are equipped to offer top-tier services, including financial management, transaction facilitation, and personalised financial advice.

With regard to home loans, the bank has made processing such loans more transparent. Home loan borrowers will now receive automated email and SMS notifications regarding the status of their loan application at various processing stages. This initiative aims to enhance customer satisfaction and convenience, it said

Rupee falls 1 paisa to close at 83.50 against US dollar

PTI MUMBA

The rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day on an almost flat note at



Nifty scaled a fresh lifetime high. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day 62.87 points, or 0.08 per cent, up at its all-time high of 80.049.67 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 15.65 points, or 0.06 per cent, higher at a fresh peak of 24,302.15 points. Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Wednesday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 5,483.63 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, according to an official of S&P Global Ratings, a sovereign rating upgrade for India in the next 24 months is possible if the central government is able to prudently manage its finances and bring down the fiscal deficit to 4 per cent of GDP. Global Ratings S&P Director, Sovereign Ratings, YeeFarn Phua, said the trigger for an upgrade would be the government (Centre + states) deficit falling below 7 per cent of the GDP, and a lot of this would have to be driven by the Central Government

India among most active countries for Meta's Threads

PTI NEW DELHI

To tap the potential of the country's air cargo sector, the focus should be on further improving processes as well ensuri ster furnaround



Kolkata office leasing absorption in April-June jumps 33 per cent

PTI KOLKATA

 $\bigcap_{ab}^{\text{ffice}}$ space leasing 2024).

Real Estate: Residential and (January-June Office"

the US dollar on Thursday, resisting pressure from elevated crude oil prices.

Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities, wherein benchmark indices touched all-time high levels and significant foreign fund inflows supported the rupee and restricted the fall.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.52 and hit the intraday high of 83.48 and a low of 83.56 against the American currency during the session.

It finally settled at 83.50 (provisional) against the dollar, 1 paisa lower than its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee settled 1 paisa lower at 83.49

against the US dollar. 'We expect the rupee to

trade with a slight positive bias on softness in the US dollar amid weak economic data and rise in risk appetite in global markets," said Anuj

Choudhary Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. "However, elevated crude oil

prices may limit the gains. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the US non-farm payrolls report tomorrow," Choudhary said, adding that USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.80.

— Research Meanwhile, the dollar index, the which gauges greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies,

was trading 0.15 per cent lower at 105.24. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.47 per cent lower at USD 86.93 per barrel. In the domestic equity market, Sensex breached the historic 80,000-mark and

time, a senior government official said on Thursday. The government is working on developing logistics hubs. Piyush Ŝrivastava, Senior Economic Advisor at the Ministry of Civil Aviation,

said the air cargo sector has a

bright future and the number of freighters in the country is expected to rise. Currently, Indian carriers have around 18 freighters.

There will be a focus on further improving the ease of doing business and faster turnaround time in the air cargo sector, he said while speaking at the conference organised by the ACFI (Air Cargo Forum India) in the

national capital. While passenger traffic has recovered after being hit by the coronavirus pandemic, air cargo is yet to fully recover to the pre-Covid levels. 2023-24, the air cargo In

handled in the country was a little over 3.36 million tonnes.

Surendra Kumar Ahirwar, Ioint Secretary at DPIIT, a lot of movement is happening on the logistics side, including the skilling of people.

He also said there is suboptimal utilisation of existing air cargo facilities and emphasised the need for developing hubs as part of the logistics infrastructure.

According to ACFI President Yashpal Sharma, the air cargo sector accounts for nearly 10 per cent of domestic carriers' revenues.

market research Citing reports, he said the country's air freight market is estimated to grow to USD 16.37 billion by 2027.

Also, the plans to establish air transport shipment hubs at major airports are expected to drive the industry's growth, he added

surged 33 per cent year on year to 0.4 million square feet in the April-June quarter of 2024, according to the CBRE India Office Figures Q2 report. The key sectors driving absorption in Q2 2024 were technology (40 per cent), BFSI (21 per cent), and flexible space operators (10

per cent). "The office space leasing absorption in April-June 2024 was 0.4 million square feet against 0.3 million square feet in the YoY period, a

CBRE official said. Another real estate consultant, Knight Frank India, also said that Kolkata's office market saw а significant increase in office leasing volume, with 0.7 million square feet of office space transacted in H1 2024 (January-June 2024).

This represents a 23 per cent growth compared to H1 2023, according to Knight Frank India's report "India increased by 6 per cent yearon-year (YoY) during H1 2024, it said. Knight Frank also reported that Kolkata's residential

real estate market strong experienced homebuying demand, with 9,130 residential units sold in H1 2024, marking a 25 per cent YoY growth in sales volume.

The continued stamp duty rebate and new launches across various price segments contributed to the market's sustained upward sales momentum. However state government the withdrew the stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate in circle rate effective July.

According to CBRE, pan-India office leasing remained robust, with gross office leasing reaching 32.8 million square feet during Jan-Jun'24, a 14 per cent increase year-on-year across nine cities.

Healing hands, caring hearts



PNS NEW DELHI

On the occasion of national Doctor's Day Anil Agnihotri RH (Delhi South) visited Lady Harding the occasion of Medical College and met with Dr Sarita Beri, director of institute, Rajeshwar Lal, Dy Director (Ádmin), Dr Anupam Parkash (CMO) many other doctors, greeted them with a flower bud and a small gift as a token of love.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

ndia is one of the most active countries for Threads, which has notched over 175 million monthly active users globally, according to social media giant Meta. update The assumes

significance as it marks the completion of nearly one year since Meta officially launched rival to Twitter (now X)

"With a 175 million actives, Threads we're seeing become a place where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas. India is one of the most active countries for Threads globally," Meta said

popular tags and topics on Threads are centred around film, TV and OTT content, celebrity-related

conversations and sports. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that Threads has over 175 million monthly active users as the social media giant asserted that Threads was launched with the belief that "everyone has something valuable to say". "It's been a year now, and we're seeing it become a place where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas. In fact, India is one of the most active countries for Threads

globally," the release said. Among the other major takeaways are creation of 50 in a release. million topic tags on In India, some of the most Threads till date, globally.



"Cricket has been reigning former cricketers like Akash Chopra and Suresh Raina, on Threads in India, with experts like Ridhima Pathak players from the current Indian squad like Rishabh and international cricketers Pant and Ravindra Jadeja, to like AB de Villiers sharing

their passion for the game," Meta said.

The T20 Cricket World Cup, IPL, and Women's Premier League 2024 have been some of the moments that have sparked cricket conversations on Threads this year, it further said, adding that over 200 creators shared updates about the concluded IPL season on Threads. Threads scaled highs immediately after it was unveiled in July 2023 — it snapped up 100 million user sign-ups within a week of its launch.

The initial euphoria, however, wore off and according to industry watchers, the app struggled subsequently with steady decline in engagement metrics compnay.

Al-powered ROI calculator introduced

Office leasing in Gurugram PNS New Delhi

real

Ldeveloper M3M has leased

220,000 sq ft in Gurugram's to

Flexible workspace provider

estate

eading

PNS Mumbai

Taro Education, a name in online higher education and upskilling, recently introduced a game-changing tool: The AI-powered ROI (Return on Investment) calculator for upskilling. This innovative feature is designed to help working professionals make informed choices about their upskilling journey. This is one of the first innovations of its kind launched by any online education higher and upskilling company in India. In todays fast-paced world, staying updated with the latest skills is more important than ever, according to the

Incuspaze in their boutique office project - M3M Urbana Premium on the Golf Course Extension Road, people aware of the deal said. "M3M is looking at Office leasing as a major drive this year and aims to lease 20 lakh sq ft of Grade-A office space in the most sought after locations in Gurugram. As part of this focus, we have signed a mega deal with Incuspaze - a leading flexible workspace provider where 2,20,000 sq ft space has been provided on lease to them,"

said Sudeep Bhatt, president

M3M.



RONALDO VS MBAPPÉ: CLASH OF GENERATIONS AT EURO 2024 HAMBURG (GERMANY) doing the rounds on social He said he was driven to tears saved in extra time. eight straight matches at

A clash of generations. A clash of generations. They'll go head to head when Portugal plays France in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals on Friday, and this heavyweight

"It is, without doubt, my last European Championship," the 39-year-old Ronaldo said after his tearful, emotionally charged performance in Portugal's penalty-shootout victory over Slovenia in the last 16 last 16

That may have just confirmed what many were presuming anyway. Still, there's now a definitive specter of finality to Ronaldo's long, headline-grabbing Euros adventure that could be brought to an end by Mbappé, the heir apparent to Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after their long-time

dominance of the sport. Mbappé grew up with pictures of Ronaldo on his bedroom wall. A photo is inevitably

against Slovenia not at the prospect of elimination but media of what is apparently their first ever meeting, at Real Madrid's training ground because his main motivation at Valdebebas in 2012 when a 13-year-old Mbappé stood beside Ronaldo after a visit to the Spanish club where his

sporting hero was the star olaver. In 2020, Mbappé posted on Twitter, now X, that Ronaldo was his "idol."

was his idol. And only a few months ago, Ronaldo reacted to Mbappé clinching a highly anticipated move to Madrid by writing on Instagram: "Excited to see you

light up the Bernabeu." That Mbappé can now end European Ronaldo's Championship career - who knows, it might even be his last ever major tournament adds an intriguing subplot to a match that will be watched

around the world. "Let's go, let's go to war," Ronaldo said of the match against France, whom he considers as the top contender at Euro 2024 along with Spain.

"I'm moved by all that football means - by the enthusiasm I have for the game, the these days is "making people enthusiasm for seeing my happy" and he had a penalty supporters, my family, the

affection people have for me. "It's not about leaving the world of football. What else is there for me to do or win?"

major Portugal's last four at the 2022 World Cup and its four games Ronaldo heads into Friday's at Euro 2024 - and with game having failed to score in growing



whether he deserves what appears to be a guaranteed spot in the team under Roberto Martinez.

tournaments

concerns about

Things haven't been straightforward for Mbappé, either, at Euro 2024. He sustained a broken nose in France's group opener against

Austria and has since been wearing a vision-limiting protective facemask during games. Mbappé has scored one goal and that was from the penalty spot against Poland — it's the only goal Poland — it's the only goal scored by a France player at these Euros. "He will have to get used to it," France coach Didier Deschamps said of Mbappé and his mask, "because, to protect (his nose), he will have to wear it for a few weeks - or even a few months." Few would have predicted the top scorer at the last World Cup (Mbappé) and the record scorer in men's international soccer (Ronaldo) to have just one goal between them heading into the quarterfinals. But no one will be surprised if But no one will be surprised if

they come alive in Hamburg with the pressure on and the occasion so big.

sports 11

Mbappé, remember, scored a hat trick in the World Cup final and has been logging Ronaldo-esque scoring numbers in the first part of his career. He's already on 48 goals for France at the age of 25, and is also on 48 goals in the Champions League from 73 appearances 73 appearances.

He is chasing down Ronaldo's scoring records at both international (130) and Champions League (140) level and will likely only succeed by showing the same undimmed passion and desire as the player he used to copy as a kid. As their countries' respective captains, they'll shake hands and embrace before kickoff. You can bet they'll do the same after the match.

By that time, one of them will be on his way home. For Mbappé, there will surely

be more European Championships down the road.

Germany star Kroos aims to disappoint Real Madrid teammates at Euro 2024

AP BERLIN

ermany great Toni Kroos hopes the

Inext game isn't his last. Heavyweights Germany and Spain clash at the European Championship on Friday, when the winner will advance to the semifinals.

Kroos is ending his playing career after Germany's last game at Euro 2024. He hopes that will be the final in Berlin's Olympiastadion. But he knows it could be as soon as Friday if Spain - the most impressive team so far a knocks out the impressive team so far - knocks out the host nation in Stuttgart.

"I'm not nostalgic at all," Kroos said Wednesday at potentially his last press conference as a player. He said he wasn't assuming Spain "will be my last game. So, I think we can all look forward to seeing each other again." Kroos has played a key role in lifting the

pre-tournament gloom surrounding the German team and turning it to optimism that the hosts can go on to win Euro 2024. It would be a fitting sendoff for a player who has already signed off on a glittering club career by winning the Champions League and Spanish league with Real Madrid. "It's pretty difficult to plan a European



Championship title but having it as a goal is of course the case," Kroos said. "I think it will be really difficult to finish

Indian-origin schoolgirl chess prodigy

already in 2021, after Germany lost to England in the last 16 of the pandemicdelayed Euro 2020 tournament. But one of the first things Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann did after his appointment in September 2023 was ask the cool-headed midfielder if he'd consider returning to help Germany's title bid in it home tournement

its home tournament. Fortunately for Germany - which was really struggling with two defeats and a draw from Nagelsmann's first four

games - Kroos said yes. It's arguably the single biggest factor in the team's upturn as Kroos' experience

and calmness under pressure gave confidence to the players around him. The 34-year-old returned to help Germany beat France and the Netherlands in friendlies in March, and Greece before Euro 2024, then he helped Germany progress from the group stage with wins over Scotland and Hungary, and a draw with Switzerland.

Kroos maintained a calm, assured presence in a turbulent win over Denmark in the last 16, helping Germany get further than it had in the last edition. "We're now finally in the stages of the

tournament that we really wanted to be in, and we can be happy with that," Kroos said. "We're motivated, however, in the team and in the locker room, to get much further. And we're convinced we can manage that."

Kroos will face former Real Madrid teammates Dani Carvajal, Nacho and Joselu on Friday. The latter said he wants to send him into retirement, but Kroos took it with good humor.

"I know him very well, I know how he meant it," Kroos said. "So, I'll let him wish and do everything I can so that it doesn't come true?

Kroos said his future involves kids, both Kroos said his future involves kids, both his own and young players at an academy he plans to open in Madrid. Seemingly unflappable on the field, Kroos appeared at peace with the fact that Friday's game could be his last, comforted because the decision is not dependent on the whims of anyone else. "There will never be anything I can do as well as playing football. And this phase will be over," Kroos said. "On the other hand, I'm really looking forward to this new phase, because at some

to this new phase, because at some point this day comes for every active player. And I'd rather pick this day out for myself



I am going to Olympics at 14, all sacrifices were worth it: Swimmer Dhinidhi

PTI BENGALURU

At times, she misses the carefree pleasures her peers enjoy and occasionally experiences a sense of solitude, but all of that has been worth it for 14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu, who is gearing up to fulfil her dream made her the top-ranked

swimming as none of the swimmers were able to breach either the 'A' or 'B' qualification time. But Dhinidhi has been on a roll, winning medals at the National Games and the senior National championships last vear.

"I want to experience the feeling of staying at the Olympic village. What kind of races are being held there as the competit

"This is just the beginning and I have a long long way to go. I

am really excited to know what

more I can do in 2028 and

2032.

to be youngest in England team to assist current grandmasters and up-and-coming players. Alongside the support committed to elite players, the Olympics. across England to install 100 new chess tables in public parks and outdoor green spaces to nect, tackle loneliness, and develop problem-solving skills. In addition, the outgoing Sunakresidence. encourage more primary school children, particularly girls, to learn to play the game. The UK Department for Education offered grants of up to GBP 2,000 to at least 100 schools in disadvantaged areas

analysis for international events Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will provide GBP 250,000 to 85 local authorities allow more people to play, conled government set out plans to across England, subject to interest.

gies he has ever seen

 $B^{odhana\,Sivanandan,\,a\,nine-}_{year-old\ Indian-origin}$ schoolgirl is set to make chess history after she became the youngest person selected to represent England internationally in any sport.

Bodhana, from Harrow in north-west London, will join the England Women's Team at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, in September. The others in her team are all in their 20s, 30s or 40s.

"I found out yesterday after I came back from school when my dad told me. I was happy. I hope I'll do well and I'll get another title," she told the BBC on Wednesday

Malcolm Pein, manager of the England chess team, described the schoolgirl as one of the most remarkable British chess prodi-

chess," he said. Bodhana first picked up chess during the pandemic lockdown when Siva's friend was going back to India and gave her a few bags which also had a chess board. "I was interested in the pieces, so I started playing," she recalls. Last December, Sivanandan won

Croatia, and was dubbed "super talented" at the time. Soon after, she was among a

ent.

"It's exciting - she's on course to be one of the best British players ever," he said. Her father, Siva Sivanandan, says he remains mystified about where his daughter got her tal-"I'm an engineering graduate, as

is my wife, but I'm not good at

the European Blitz Chess Championship in Zagreb,

group of young chess enthusiasts



invited by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to 10 Downing Street to mark the government's major new GBP 1 million investment package for the game. The package has since been in place to support children attending schools in disadvantaged areas across England to learn and play chess, improve the vis-ibility and availability of the

rookie prospect, not just based

on what he showed in Saudi

Arabia but also through his

time developing his relationship with our team," Haas said. "I'm

personally excited to see how he

grows as a driver, and we look

forward to seeing him deliver for

(the) Haas F1 Team next season

Bearman's promotion means

there will be four British drivers

on the F1 grid next year, with

Lewis Hamilton (who is joining

Ferrari), George Russell

(Mercedes) and Lando Norris

(McLaren) the others.

and beyond?

game, and fund elite playing. As part of the package, the UK's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said it would invest GBP 500,000 in the English Chess Federation (ECF) over two years to develop the next generation of worldclass talent. Funds will support expert coaching, training camps and cutting-edge computer

of competing at the Olympics later this month.

The Bengaluru swimmer, who studies in class ninth, is set to be the youngest member of the Indian contingent at the Paris

"Sometimes I miss the fun generally kids of my age have. I do not go out much with friends and feel lonely. But then I wanted to swim and I wanted to go to the Olympics," Dhinidhi told PTI Bhasha in an exclusive interview at her

"I am the one who chose this path for me. With that comes a lot of sacrifices but I do feel different, extraordinary and proud. At 14, I am going to the Olympics, so all the sacrifices are worth it," she added.

The Olympic cycle has been an underwhelming one for Indian

Indian female swimmer with the Swimming Federation of India handing her one of the two Universality places and an opportunity of a lifetime. "I knew that I had a chance (of

making the Olympics) because I have been working really very hard but it was surprising that I got this chance so early in my career. Being the youngest one in the Indian contingent is a big honour."

"I am super excited to be a part of the Indian Olympic contingent as I will get a chance to meet the greatest athletes," said Dhinidhi, who will compete in the women's 200m freestyle event.

Having got the opportunity to compete at the Olympics at such a young age, Dhinidhi wants to soak in everything and gain experience.

totally different from what we get at international level. I want to see the dedication, the focus and the preparation of world class athletes. "I am not thinking about

performance as it is just about learning this time. I am sure whatever learnings I have here, that will make me a better athlete."

She is excited to meet her idol - seven-time Olympic gold medallist swimmer Katie Ledecky.

"I made a greeting card last year for her. I used to think that whenever I get a chance to meet her, I will give this to her. I looked up at her from a very young age and luckily, I got this chance. Hopefully I can give it to her in Paris. I will be on the seventh moon if I get a chance

to even see her," she said.

Haas F1 team signs teenage British driver Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Iga Oliver Bearman on multi-year deal from 2025 Swiatek and Coco Gauff lead the Olympics entry list Bearman signed for the presti-gious Ferrari academy in 2021 after being earmarked as a ris-AP KANNAPOLIS (US)

Oliver Bearman has been signed on a multiyear deal by the Haas Formula 1 team from 2025 onward.

Haas announced the signing in a statement Thursday, without giving more details. The 19-year old British driver will take the seat vacated by German driver Nico Hulkenberg, who is joining Sauber at the end of the year ahead of its rebranding to Audi for 2026.

"It's hard to put into words just how much this means to me. To say out loud that I will be a Formula 1 driver for (the) Haas F1 Team makes me so immensely proud," Bearman said. "To be one of the very few people who get to do the thing what they dreamed of as a child is something truly incredible." Bearman impressed with a stunning seventh-place finish at the

Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in March, when he stood in for Carlos Sainz Jr. He got the



unexpected F1 debut after Sainz was diagnosed with appendicitis and needed an operation. Bearman, who was 18 at the time, became the third-youngest driver in F1. He had only had

two practice sessions with Haas - in 2023 - yet produced a commanding drive on a tricky circuit that was way beyond his limited experience.

He is currently competing in the F2 championship and is a reserve driver for both Ferrari and Haas - which uses a Ferrari engine. He won the Austrian GP sprint race last weekend driving for Prema Racing in F2.

AP LONDON

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray all were included on "I wouldn't be here without you," he told Ferrari. "Thank you the entry list for tennis at the Paris for preparing me since F4 for this incredible opportunity and Olympics released by the International Tennis Federation on Thursday, as was know I will give it everything I Daniil Medvedev, who technically will be competing as a "neutral" athlete rather than representing Russia because Haas team owner Gene Haas has of that country's ongoing war in high hopes for Bearman. "He's undoubtedly an exciting Ukraine

Djokovic (Serbia) and Murray (Britain) are both 37, and Nadal (Spain) is 38, and all own multiple Grand Slam titles. Djokovic holds a men's record of 24 major trophies - but has never won a gold medal at the Olympics.

Nadal, next on the men's Slam list with 22, won golds in singles in 2008 and in doubles in 2016. He skipped Wimbledon, which is currently being played, to prepare for the Olympics. Murray won three major championships and is the only tennis player with consecutive singles gold medals at the Summer Games. He has said he plans to retire after the Paris Olympics, which will hold tennis



matches from July 27 to August 4 on the clay courts at Roland Garros, the site of the French Open - where Nadal is a 14time champ.

The leading women on the entry list are No. 1 Iga Swiatek (Poland), No. 2 Coco Gauff (United States) and No. 4 Elena Rvbakina (Kazakhstan). No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka decided not to go to the

Olympics; her nation, Belarus, aided Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. So she would have competed as a "neutral" athlete, like Medvedev.

Swiatek is a five-time Grand Slam champion - including at the French Open in four of the past five years - and Gauff and Rybakina have won one major apiece. Gauff made the US team for the Tokyo Games three years ago. But, she did not go because she tested positive for COVID-19.

There are 64-player draws for women's and men's singles, and 32 teams each in women's and men's doubles. The 16 entries for mixed doubles will be determined on July 24. The draw to determine the brackets will be in Paris on July 25.

Among the other players announced Thursday are three-time major champion Carlos Alcaraz - who will play doubles alongside Nadal for Spain No. 1 Jannik Sinner (Italy), Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev (Germany), 2008 doubles gold medalist Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland), four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka (Japan), 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu (Canada) and 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark).

Osaka lit the cauldron at the Toyo Olympics.

Lebanon will debut in Olympic tennis, with Benjamin Hassan entering in singles and also partnering with Hady Habib in doubles.





Rajawat stuns Gemke, enters

second round of Canada Open

his opening round match that

lasted one hour and 10 minutes

Rajawat, thus, remained the

only Indian surviving player in

the men's singles competition and will take on Takuma

Obayashi of Japan in the next

The two other Indians in the

fray, Ayush Shetty lost 14-21

11-21 to sixth seed Koki

Watanabe of Japan, while S

Subramanian was shown the

Muthusamy

on Wednesday night.

round.

Sankar

Moreeng appointed as USA women's cricket team coach



PTI NEW YORK

Former South Africa Cricketer Hilton Moreeng Africa has been appointed as the coach of USA's national women and Under-19 teams, the country's governing body announced.

Moreeng will take over from West Indian legend Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and will prepare the team for the T20 World Cup which will be held later

Hemanth and Anupama Upadhyay also progressed to this year in Bangladesh. The 46-year-old, who served as While Tanya beat Jackie Dent South Africa women's team of Canada 21-13 20-22 21-14, Anupama defeated Rachael coach for over a decade, said he wanted to contribute to the Darragh os Ireland 21-11 21growth of cricket in the USA. 11. Tanya will be up against 'I am eager to collaborate with both current players and Busanan emerging talent. My goal is to Thailand, while Anupama will play Canada's Michelle Li. methodically build competitive squad capable of

rivaling the best in women's cricket globally," said Moreeng, who stepped down as SA coach this March.

USA Cricket Chairman of the Board, Venu Pisike said Moreeng's vast experience will benefit the nation's progress at top-flight cricket.

a rich "Hilton brings background and vast experience to USA Cricket having been a critical part of the transformation of South

African women's cricket. USA women are also at the beginning of a transformative period with an Olympics in four years' time and we believe Hilton's successes, diverse experiences and understanding of challenges in an emerging cricket nation is well-suited for our program," he added

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag signs contract extension until 2026

door by France's Alex Lanier 16-21 17-21.

In the women's singles, Tanya

seed

Ongbamrungphan

the second round.

third

AP MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

PTI CALGARY (CANADA)

Priyanshu Rajawat stunned higher-ranked

Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in

a hard-fought three game

contest to advance to the

second round of men's singles

event at the Canada Open

World No.39 Rajawat had to

dig deep to get the better of eighth seed Gemke of Denmark 17-21 21-16 21-14 in

here.

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has signed a contract extension through to 2026, the Premier League club said Thursday.

The Dutchman has won backto-back trophies in his first two years at Old Trafford, but faced uncertainty over his position after leading it to its worst league finish in 34 years last

season. After a performance review, United decided to stick with Ten Hag and he has now agreed on a new deal, which is a one-year extension on his previous contract, which was due to expire at the end of the upcoming season. "Looking back at the past two

years, we can reflect with pride

on two trophies and many examples of progression from where we were when I joined,"

Ten Hag said. "However, we must also be clear that there is still lots of hard work ahead to reach the levels expected of Manchester United, which means challenging for English and European titles.

"In my discussions with the club, we have found complete unity in our vision for reaching those goals, and we are all strongly committed to making

that journey together." Ten Hag joined United from Ajax in 2022 and won the English League Cup in his first year in England. He followed that up last season with a victory over Manchester City in the FA Cup final.



of

He stays on in the face of a and technical director in a bid major overhaul of United's to return the 20-time English soccer operations by new cochampions to the top of European soccer. British billionaire Ratcliffe

"With two trophies in the past bought a 27.7% stake in the two seasons, Erik has club in February and has hired reinforced his record as one of a new CEO, sporting director the most consistently

successful coaches in European football. While the club's review of last season highlighted areas for improvement, it also reached a clear conclusion that Erik was the best partner for us to work with in driving up standards and outcomes," said United Sporting Director Dan Ashworth "This group of players and staff

have already shown they are capable of competing and winning at the top level; now we need to do it more consistently.

"With our strengthened football leadership team now in place, we are looking forward to working hand-inhand with Erik to achieve our shared ambitions for this football club.

them down.

raise the trophy. ARGENTIA VS ECUDAOR

opening quarterfinal due to a leg injury that sidelined him in the team's most recent match against Peru. Coach Lionel Scaloni said Messi's availability will be a game-time decision. "Depending on how he responds, we will decide," Scaloni said Wednesday before training. "There ramifications when Leo is not able to play. We'll try to make sure that he can play. If not, we'll try to find the best solution for the team. I will talk



Plenty of intrigue, even if Messi, Vinicius can't participate

AP LOS ANGELES

Lionel Messi's leg injury was the only major obstacle that fell into Argentina's path while it rolled through group play and into the Copa America quarterfinals.

Bigger challenges await the defending champions, and they're hoping Messi will be there to lead the way in perhaps his final international tournament.

The 15-time Copa America champion Albiceleste are still the undeniable favorites in the Americas' biggest soccer tournament when quarterfinal play gets underway, but the other 15-time Copa champs -Uruguay - top the list of challengers capable of taking

With the host Americans and Mexico eliminated in group play, the spotlight shifts firmly to the South American powerhouses determined to

In Houston, it's unclear whether Messi will play in the are

to him today. It's only fair that 26 consecutive matches after holding Brazil to a draw to win he can take his time and be able to train as much as he can.'

Argentina has been sturdy even without a goal from Messi in the tournament, winning all three group stage matches by a combined 5-0.

Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez has four goals in a spectacular effort despite coming off the bench twice, while Manchester City's Julián Álvarez got the other goal. If Scaloni decides to play both center forwards together, it could be more than enough to make up for Messi and a nightmare for underdog Ecuador, which earned its unexpected quarterfinal spot by holding Mexico scoreless last weekend

VENEZUELA VS CANADA In Arlington, Texas, it is a matchup of pleasant surprises. Venezuela has enjoyed an outstanding tournament so far, winning its three matches by a combined 6-1 with offensive leadership from Salomon Rondon and Eduard Bello.

Canada got out of Copa group play for the first time despite scoring just one total goal in three games before losing Inter Milan's Tajon Buchanan to a broken leg in training Tuesday. Reaching the semifinals would be a massive achievement for either of these teams

COLOMBIA VS PANAMA In Glendale, Arizona, the quarters move west for a pair of games held in airconditioned stadiums amid a continent-wide heat wave. Colombia is now unbeaten in

Bopanna-Ebden move

its group. Led by veteran star Rodríguez, James Los Cafeteros will be favored to eliminate Panama, which knocked off the host U.S. Team to advance from group play. BRAZIL VS URUGUAY The Sin City will host easily the most tantalizing matchup of the round, featuring a faltering powerhouse against a team known for perennially punching above its weight.

No quarterfinal team looked as shaky as Brazil, which stumbled into the next round with a thoroughly unimpressive effort. Colombia and Costa Rica both held the Seleçao to draws, and fan

discontent is roiling. Even worse, Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior is suspended for the quarterfinal after accumulating two yellow cards. Yet Brazil is still laden with individual talent that's barely touched the field in this tournament, so it's far too early to write off the five-time World

Cup winners. Uruguay looks just as good as advertised under brilliant coach Marcelo Bielsa, winning three times by a combined 9-1 in group play led by Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez.

After beating Brazil and Argentina in recent World Cup qualifying matches, La Celeste probably would be the tournament favorites if not for Argentina's similarly strong form - but Brazil has the pure talent to end those dreams in a hurry.

Spain face hosts Germany in quarterfinals | Tvesa T-24, Diksha T-46

with potential record on line

AP STUTTGART (GERMANY)

Championship in an eagerly-anticipated match between two of the best performing sides at the tournament.

There is also a potential record on the line as Spain and Germany have each won three European Championships, better than any other nation.

Two of the most exciting talents will be on show in Spain teenager Lamine Yamal and 21-yearold Germany forward Jamal Musiala

MATCH FACTS: The winner will advance to face France or Portugal in the semifinal in Munich on Tuesday.

□ Spain and Germany are the leading scorers at Euro 2024, having netted nine and 10 goals respectively in their four matches. They have also conjured the most attempts on target.

□ Spain has never eliminated a host nation, either at a European Championship or at the World Cup.

La Roja is the only team to have won all its matches at Euro 2024, beating Croatia, Italy and Albania in the group stage before thumping Georgia 4-1 in the round of 16. Germany beat Scotland and Hungary but drew against Switzerland before eliminating Denmark.

Germany hasn't beaten Spain in a major tournament since a group-stage victory at Euro

TEAM NEWS: Lamine Yamal, Nico Williams and Fabian Ruiz all missed Spain's training session on Tuesday, while Aymeric Laporte only jogged once around the field. However, all are expected to be fit for Friday's match.

Germany defender Jonathan Tah returns from suspension and coach Julian Nagelsmann has reported no injury concerns.

BY THE NUMBERS: Spain and Germany have only conceded three goals between them. The only time Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón had to pick the ball out of his net was against Georgia, while Germany conceded against Scotland and Switzerland.

□ The teams have met 26 times, with Germany winning nine to Spain's eight. Spain edges Germany slightly on goals scored with 32 compared to 31.

owner Jim Ratcliffe.

Three of the last four encounters have finished in a 1-1 draw with the exception being a 6-0 thrashing of Germany by Spain in a UEFA Nations League match in November 2020.

Germany has won all six of its European Championship quarterfinals. Spain has lost five of its nine.

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will likely make a national record 39th appearance in a major tournament, having matched Bastian Schweinsteiger's mark in the previous round. Germany has won the last six penalty shootouts it has been involved in, losing only its first in the 1976 final. Spain has won seven of its

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: "I am not at all nostalgic and I don't feel like this will be my lastever match." - Germany midfielder Toni Kroos, who will be retiring after the tournament.

'We're aiming for the trophy and even though it's been a pleasure playing with Toni Kroos because he's been a teammate (at Real Madrid) and a friend - I'd still like to retire' him on Friday!" - Spain forward Joselu.

"I don't know if Spain are all that happy having to face Germany; likewise, there could have been easier opponents for us. If you want to win this tournament, you have to go through Spain." Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich.

Both are amazing players, they are young talents who will be the best in the world in the future. The wrong thing that everybody does is compare players, I think we only have to enjoy them.

to second round in London Aramco Series PTI LONDON

PTI LONDON

Tvesa Malik Sandhu was unable to hold on to her early gains and finished at even-par 73 to be tied-24th at the end of the first round of the Aramco Team Series London here.

Fellow Indian Diksha Dagar, who will play in the Major Evian Championships next week, shot 2-over 75 to be tied-46 at the Centurion Club, while Pranavi Urs carded a disappointing 7-over 80 and looks unlikely to make the cut.

Tvesa, who lost a play-off last week and missed out on a maiden win on the Ladies European Tour (LET), began well from the 10th tee. She had a bogey on 12th but it was followed by an eagle, her third in her last three rounds. She

AP LONDON

oco Gauff likes No. 1 Court at Wimbledon. It's where she beat Venus Williams back in 2019 when Gauff made her Wimbledon debut at age 15. On Wednesday, Gauff beat qual-ifier Anca Todoni 6-2, 6-1 to advance to the third round at the All England Club.

"This is the court where I first started here at Wimbledon. Court 1 is always a special place for me to play on," the 20-yearold Gauff said in her on-court interview.

The victory also allows Gauff. the No. 2 seed, to move another step away from last year's firstround exit.

"Overall, I just learned about life a lot." the U.S. Open champion said when asked about putting



had eagles in the second and third rounds of last week's Swiss Ladies Open. She added a birdie on the 18th to turn in 2-under. She dropped three shots on the second, third and seventh but

got one back with a birdie on under par.

the eighth to close at 73. Diksha had three birdies, three bogeys and a double-bogey. Ireland's Leona Maguire led the individual standings, while her team comprising Solheim Cup winner, England's Liz Young, Spain's Marta Sanz Barrio and amateur Yana Wilson, was joint leader after day 1 at 14-under. Leona's team shared the lead with Team Nuria Iturrioz and Team Georgia Hall.

Leona sits at the top of the leaderboard after producing a bogey-free first round. The two-time LPGA winner rolled in back-to-back birdies on her fifth and sixth holes, before making three on the trot from holes 8 to 10 before adding further birdies on the 13th and 15th for her round of seven-

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden moved into the second round of the Wimbledon men's doubles event with a smooth win over Robin Haas and Sander Arends here.

Bopanna and Ebden sailed past their Dutch opponents 7-5, 6-4 in an hour and 11 minutes in a rain-interrupted match on Wednesday

The second seeds, who are the current Australian Open champions, will face Germany's Hendrik Jebens and Constantin Frantzen in the second round. The Indo-Australian pair had reached the semifinals of the season's third Grand Slam last year. Earlier on Wednesday, India's Sumit Nagal and his Serbian partner Dusan Lajovic were ousted in the first round by



Spaniards Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar.

Martinez and Munar won 6-2, 6-2 in one hour and seven minutes. India will have further representation in men's doubles first round through N Sriram Balaji and Yuki Bhambri later on Thursday.

Balaji will partner Britain's Luke Johnson and will face fourth seeds Mate Pavic of Serbia and Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador. On the other hand, Bhambri and France's Albano Olivetti will take on the Kazakh duo of Alexander Bublik and Alexander Shevchenko.

Coco Gauff and Carlos Alcaraz advance at Wimbledon. Naomi Osaka loses

that three-set loss to Sofia Kenin behind her.

"I just realized that, yes, what I do I'm very passionate about, but it's not ever that serious and sometimes the world can make you feel like there's so much pressure, there's so much expectation," she said. "At the end of the (day), it's a game. It's sport." The 19-year-old Todoni is from Romania and was making her

Grand Slam debut. "I do think I could have played cleaner at some moments,"

Gauff said. Five years ago, Gauff beat

Williams - a five-time Wimbledon champion - 6-4, 6-4 in the first round and eventually reached the last 16, all in her Grand Slam debut.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz trailed 6-5 in the first set Wednesday before coming back to beat Aleksander Vukic 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2, setting up a third-round meeting with No. 29 Frances Tiafoe after the American eliminated Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-3. When told by the on-court

interviewer that Tiafoe said he's

"coming after you," the 21-year-

old Spaniard replied with a smile: "I'm going for him." "We played a really good match in the U.S. Open," the No. 3 seed

said of their 2022 semifinal that Alcaraz won at Flushing Meadows.

In other results, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was eliminated in the second round by No. 19 Emma Navarro by a score of 6-4, 6-1, while No. 1 Jannik Sinner got past 2021 runner-up Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (4) at Centre Court in an all-Italian

contest.

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