SWATI MALIWAL ASSAULT CASE:

ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S AIDE BIBHAV

KUMAR REMANDED IN FOUR-DAY

JUDICIAL CUSTODY



NEW DELHI • CHANDIGARH • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • MAY 25, 2024 • VOLUME 14, ISSUE 8 • Rs 5

BANKING & FINANCE

SENSEX HITS NEW ALL-TIME HIGH; NIFTY BREACHES 23,000-MARK FOR FIRST

pressure" on everyone in the

"Yesterday I got a call from a big leader of the party. They

told me how there is a lot of

pressure on everyone, they

have to say bad things against

Swati, they have to break her

by leaking her personal photos.

It is being said that anyone

who supports her will be ex-

pelled from the party," the

Rajya Sabha MP said in a post

"Someone has got the duty

party to malign her.



CANNES: MEERUT GIRL GIVES UNITED KINGOM FILM SCHOOL CAUSE FOR CHEER

Swati Maliwal assault case: Kejriwal wants fair probe, justice as incident has two versions

In his first reaction on AAP MP Swati Maliwal's alleged assault at his official residence, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal on Wednesday said

he expects a fair investigation

into the matter and justice

should be served. Maliwal has alleged she was "assaulted" by Kejriwal's mar when she went to meet the chief minister on May 13. The police have registered a case and arrested Kumar in connection with it.

In an interview to promi- should be served. There are

nent news agency, the chief personal assistant Bibhav Ku- minister said the matter is currently "sub-judice" and his comment might affect the proceedings.

"But I expect there will be a fair investigation. Justice

two versions of the event. Police should investigate both versions fairly and justice should be done," Kejriwal said.

His aide Kumar is currently in five-day police custody in connection with the case.

of doing press conference and someone has got the duty of tweeting. It is someone's duty Earlier Wednesday, Maliwal to call the volunteers sitting in

alleged that there is a "lot of America and get something out against me," she added.

On Tuesday, Kumar was taken to Mumbai for the discovery of data from his phone which he had allegedly formatted before his arrest.

Police suspect Kumar formatted his phone after transferring its data to some person or device in Mumbai.

Kumar's phones and laptop as well as CCTV recordings from Kejriwal's house have been sent for forensic examination, an officer said. As Kumar's police custody is ending on Thursday, investigators are trying to collect all evidence related to the case, he said.

in Q3 of FY24. Sinha attributed the high growth rates in Q1 and Q2 to the low base effect from the

previous year. However, he noted the divergence between GDP and GVA (Gross Value Added) growth in Q3, with the former accelerating to 8.4 per cent while the latter stood at 6.5 per cent. This wedge, Sinha explained, stemmed from higher tax collections during the quarter, a phenom-

India Ratings and Research Forecasts GDP Growth at 6.7% for Q4 FY24

NEW DELHI: India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), a leading domestic credit rating agency, has projected the country's GDP growth rate for the fourth quarter (January-March 2024) of the previous fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.7 per cent.

For the full 2023-24 financial year, Ind-Ra anticipates the GDP growth to range between 6.9 to 7 per cent, according to Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, Ind-Ra, as reported by PTI.

The government is scheduled to release the official GDP figures for Q4 FY24 and provisional estimates for FY24 on May 31st. In the preceding three quarters, India's economy exhibited robust expansion, clocking 8.2 per cent in Q1, 8.1 per cent in Q2, and a surprising 8.4 per cent

enon unlikely to recur in Q4.

"When we analyse the data, then what is visible is the wedge between the GVA and GDP. A large impetus to Q3 GDP has come from higher tax collection, but this phenomenon is unlikely to be repeated in the fourth quarter,"



The wedge between the GDP and GVA is unlikely to be repeated in the fourth quarter," he added.

For the current fiscal year 2024-25, Ind-Ra projects the GDP growth at 7.1 per cent, with the services sector expected to maintain its momentum, led by construction and electricity. However, mining and industrial output may lag behind. Sinha highlighted that a potential revival in rural demand, contingent on the IMD's forecast of an above-normal monsoon, could support broad-based consumption growth. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its April monetary policy review, had pegged the GDP growth for FY24 at 7 per cent

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry's recent monthly economic review cited resilient growth, robust economic activity indicators, price stability, and steady external sector performance as factors underpinning India's promising economic trajectory amid global uncertainties.

International organisations and the RBI have issued positive assessments of India's growth outlook for the current financial year, reinforcing the nation's status as the fastestgrowing major economy

LS Pols 2024: Delhi LG Saxena urges voters to cast their votes



OUR CORRESPONDENT New Delhi

On the eve of the Lok Sabha polls in the national capital. Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena reminded Delhiites that Saturday is a "day of duty" and not a holiday, urging voters to exercise their franchise. In a video message, Saxena advised people to cast their votes early in the morning due to the intense summer heat in the city.

Voting for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi will take place from 7 am to 6 pm on Saturday. "We are going to celebrate the festival of democracy on May 25. Festivals like Holi, Diwali, Eid, and Christmas come every year, but this biggest poll festival comes only once in five years," said the LG in his message. He called the Lok Sabha polls a "golden opportunity for the people to decide the future direction of the country and shape it socioeconomically and politically as

per their wish".

Indian Companies Explore Agriculture Opportunities in Africa



NEWDELHI: With several African nations like Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Cote d'Ivoire looking to diversify foreign investment in agriculture beyond China, India is pushing to secure economic and diplomatic ties in the sec-

During a recent delegation visit to Uganda and Kenya led by India's Ministry of External Affairs and Agriculture Ministry, the two African nations offered to lease land to Indian agricultural businesses.

About 35 Indian company Biogas Energy, and ment has agreed to lease land with a condition that 20 per cent of revenue should be paid as an export tax," an official stated. "Ûganda agreed to provide a minimum of 100 acres to each investor", reported

The driving factor appears to be a need for agricultural development to boost food security and economic growth. Key opportunities exist in cultivating crops like rice, wheat, millets, livestock, biogas and fertilisers.

"Both countries want the world's best seed varieties in maize, paddy, millets and horticulture crops to improve domestic production. Indian investors can put money here with guaranteed returns," an industry source said.

Animal husbandry is also representatives attended, in- promising given abundant cluding from DCM Shriram, cattle feed. The two sides could collaborate on developing local

egates explored immediate export-import prospects, the term agricultural investments between India and the African nations over the coming

RBI Predicts 7.5% Growth for India in April-June Quarter

NEW DELHI: According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) May 2024 Bulletin, India's economy is likely to sustain its strong growth trajectory, with projections indicating a 7.5 per cent expansion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This bullish outlook is un-

derpinned by rising aggregate demand and a resurgence in non-food spending in rural areas, signalling a broadening of the economic recovery. The RBI's analysis, based on

the Economic Activity Index

(EAI) – a composite measure derived from 27 high-frequency indicators – suggests that economic activity rebounded in April 2024, supporting the 7.5 per cent growth estimate

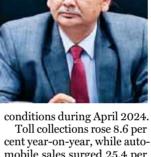
Former Congress President

Rahul Gandhi during poll



for the April-June quarter. The Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience amid global supply chain disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions.

High-frequency indicators corroborate the sustained momentum in domestic demand



mobile sales surged 25.4 per cent, driven by robust growth in the two-wheeler and threewheeler segments, with passenger vehicles recording their highest-ever monthly sales.

Rahul assured to scrap Agniveer scheme & waive farmer debts if Cong comes to power PARVESH HANDA Sonipat (Haryana) Former Congress President Gress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to scrap the wrong," says Delhi CM Kejriwal

promotion rallies in support of Congress candidates While some Indian del-

Sonipat, Rao Daan Singh contesting polls for Bhiv others. "The Kenyan govern- hybrid bovine species as well. Mahendergarh and Varun Mullana in Panchkula said that Prime Minister Narender Modi has lost his reputafocus was on facilitating long- tion allegedly the government was being run by billionaire Gautam Adani and Ambani. Pointing out at Modi government Rahul said that loans

of value worth Rs 16 lakh crore taken by as many as 22 millionaires have been waived, whereas on the other hand loans against farmers have not been waived by their government. He said, after

India said "Since the launch

government will constitute a 'Maafi Commission' to prepare a list of all families below poverty line burdened under loans and waive off immediately.

rallies in Haryana, Con- not get this.

launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to scrap the Agniveer Scheme for recruitment to Armed forces besides to waive farmers' debt if voted to waive farmers debt... to power. Addressing the Agsaid that Mr. Modi had for the first time converted India's soldiers into labourers and created two kinds of martyrs, one will be those who will get the martyr's status, pension and all facilities and the others.

Addressing his election the sons of poor families will Priyanka directs farmers to push them out from Delhi, who had stopped their entry in Delhi



SATISH HANDA Panipat

Congress National General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of not understanding the pains of farmers, labourers and the poor people, alleging that his government frames favourable policies only for his billionaire friends. After holding a Road Show at Sirsa in support of Congress candidate Kumari Shelja contesting Lok Sabha polls she addressed a rally in Panipat in support of Divyanshu Budhiraja contesting against the former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Addressing a Lok Sabha poll rally in Panipat Priyanka Gandhi announced that once the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) forms its government at the Centre, farmers

will get a legal guarantee on

the minimum support price (MSP) for crops and their debts

will be waived.

Priyanka said, one thing that has become clear in past 10 years is that Modiji does not understand the pain of farmers, the poor, middle class, women and youngsters, whereas the loans of amount worth Rs 16 lakh crore availed by rich and 'karabpati' (Billionaire) friends were waived by his government. She made an appeal to farmers to wipe those out of Delhi who had stopped their entry in Delhi. Former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Deepender Hooda Rajya Sabha member were also present at Priyanka Gandhi's rally. She said the Modi government does not care about the farming community aiming 'Kisano ko peesne do, gareebi ke daldal mein rehne do' (let the farmers suffer in poverty) and the situation has been created by him (Modi). She pointed out how protesting farmers were treated at Delhi's borders and that more than 600 of them lost their lives.



OUR CORRESPONDENT New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted that excise policy case is wrong, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday claimed and said everyone arrested in the matter should be released.

Addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said the BJP has been screaming that there has been a scam.

"They are screaming for two years that there is a liquor scam claiming it was to the tune of Rs 100 crore, but not

1 in the case. "Yesterday, the PM was asked in an interview that

out on interim bail till June

Kejriwal was saying that no evidence has been found in the case. The PM said no money was found because Kejriwal is an experienced thief. He accepted that no recovery was made," he added.

"To hide it, he said Kejriwal is an 'anubhavi chor'. This is just an excuse to prove the wrong arrests right. When you have accepted that excise scam is wrong, please release those who have been arrested," said even a penny has been recov- the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ered," said Kejriwal, who is national convener.

Wheat Procurement Surpasses Last Year's Mark, Ensuring Food Security

NEW DELHI: The procurement of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2024-25 is progressing smoothly across the country's major procuring states.

As of now, the Central Pool has already procured 262.48 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of wheat, surpassing last year's total procurement of 262.02 LMT. This vear's procurement has benefited 22.31 lakh farmers, with a total Minimum Support Price (MSP) outflow of Rs. 59,715 crores. The significant contributors to the procurement are the states of Punjab (124.26 LMT), Haryana (71.49 LMT), Madhya Pradesh (47.78 LMT), Rajasthan (9.66 LMT),

and Uttar Pradesh (9.07 LMT). Furthermore, the rice procurement for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2023-24



MSP outflow of approximately Rs. 1,60,472 crores. With the combined stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool exceeding 600 LMT, the country is well-positioned to meet its food grain requirements under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes, as well as for market interventions.

More younger people getting cancer, 20% cancer cases in India are below the age of 40 years: Study

New Delhi

National Cancer Study done by Cancer Mukt Bharat Foundation highlighted that in India 20% of the cancer cases are those patients who are below the age of 40 years in which 60% were male and 40% were female, indicating that the incidences of cancer is rising among younger generatio. In the United States, the American Cancer Society also recently reported that the demographics of cancer patients are increasingly shifting from older individuals

National Cancer Study by Cancer Mukt Bharat Foundation was conducted across 1368 cancer patients across India who called on its Cancer Helpline Number from 1st March 2024 to 15th May 2024 . The most number of calls were from Hyderabad then Meerut, Mumbai and New Delhi.

to middle-aged people.

Recently Under Cancer Mukt Bharat Campaign a free of cost National Cancer Helpline Number 93-555-20202 was launched which is operational from 10am to 5 pm from Mon-national India data. The Study day to Saturday. Cancer patients can call on this number to speak to leading Oncologists directly or even do a video call to discuss about the cancer treatment without paying any fees. This helpline number offers a free

opinion from leading oncologists, providing crucial guidance to patients navigating the complexities of cancer diagnosis and treatment. The helpline is accessible to anyone and promises to be a game-changer in the fight against cancer. The Study also found that

the most prevalent cases were of Head and Neck cancer 26% of patients, closely followed by GI cancers 16% and breast cancer 15% and then blood cancers 9% of patients. These data are in line with Globocan also found that 27% cases diagnosed in India are in stage 1 and 2 of cancer whereas 63% were Stage 3 or 4 cancer. The most common question of the Cancer patients who called at Cancer

ond opinion and to confirm whether their cancer treatment is correct and upto date and check availability of any latest treatment or medicine to treat their respective cancer as in cancer treatment. New medicines are approved almost every week so this is an important reason to get another opinion. The second most common question we found was patients asking what stage their cancer is in indicating the importance of education to cancer patients and thirdly patients commonly asked regarding their family

and awareness Dr. Ashish Gupta, Principal Investigator and Senior On-Helpline number was for sec- cologist who is heading Can-

members, what they can do to

prevent cancer highlighting the

importance of cancer screening

of free of cost National Cancer Helpline Number 9355520202, it is proving to an support system for cancer patients across India and we are getting almost hundreds of calls every day from across all the Indian states. This study helps us make more targeted cancer approach towards cancer treatment and make India Cancer Mukt. We found head and neck cancer was most prevalent which is nearly entirely preventable by lifestyle modification, vaccinations and screening strategies. Breast and colon cancers we have very effective screening strategies for which find cancer in the early stages. Unfortunately as is representative of the population at large in India we found nearly 2/3rds of cancers were detected late likely due to low adoption of proper screening. Cancer Mukt Bharat campaign aims to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer on individuals and communities through education and early detection." Further it showed that 67%

of The cancer patients who took help of National Cancer Helpline number (93-555-20202) were those patients who are taking treatment from private hospitals and 33% of the cancer patients were those who are being treated at government

Metro services start from Our'dhakad' govt brought down wall of Article 370, Pak earlier 4 am on polling day had bombs but now have a begging bowl in hands: PM Modi 4 am on polling day



NEW DELHI: Metro rail services will commence at 4 am on the day of the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi, scheduled for May 25, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said on Wednesday. The decision was made to ensure convenient transportation for the staff deployed for elec-

tion duty, Principal Executive Director of Corporate Communications at DMRC, Anuj Dayal said. The trains will run with a frequency of 30 minutes on all lines from 4 am to 6 am. Subsequently, normal metro train services will resume and continue throughout the day.

Ambala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing a rally in support of BJP Lok Sabha candidate Banto Kataria in Ambala on Saturday made an attack on the Congress saying it was his 'dhakad' government that brought down the Article 370 and as a result Kashmir is now moving ahead on the path of development. Modi said the history of the Congress has been of betraying India's forces and soldiers, but BJP"s 'dhakad' government have changed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to Harvana contributing a sizable number of soldiers in the armed forces, Modi said when the Congress was in power, mothers in Haryana were a



worried a lot thinking about their children's safety. PM said, in August 2019, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government had withdrawn provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution that had bestowed special rights on Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing Prime Minister Modi said, patriotism runs in the veins of Haryana and the State understands anti-national forces, therefore, each house in Haryana is saying 'Phir ek baar Modi sarkar'. He added when there is a dhakad government in the country, the enemy thinks hundred times before doing anything. He said, Pakistan, which earlier had bombs in its

hands, now has a bheekh ka

tactics the INDI alliance used for the country have all been defeated by the public itself. Haryana is a state which has patriotism in its veins. Haryana knows anti-national forces very well, Haryana recognises antinational forces very well, since patriotism runs in the veins of Haryana", Modi said, adding that the state understands antinational forces, therefore each house in Haryana is saying - phir ek baar and the crowd responded, saying 'Modi sarkar'. Modi accused the Congress party of a history of deceit and corruption involving the armed forces.

"Congress did the first scam of the country with the armed forces. Congress continued this track record with new scams as long as it remained in power. Bofors scam, Submarine scam,

kept the armed forces of India weak. Do you know why? So that they can make earnings in the name of importing weapons from outside. They took no note of the requirements of our jawans," Modi alleged, the iawans didn't even have good rifles. They were given batons and told to face the bullets of terrorists. Among those present at the rally were former Haryana chief minister and the BJP's Lok Sabha poll candidate from Karnal, Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Transport Minister Aseem Goel, the former Home & Health Minister Anil Vij the party's Ambala and Kurukshetra candidates, Banto Kataria and

Swati Maliwal assault case: Arvind Kejriwal's aide **Bibhav Kumar remanded** in four-day judicial custody



on Friday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's close aide Bibhav Kumar to four-day judicial custody in connection with the alleged assault on AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. Kumar, the personal assistant to Kejriwal, allegedly assaulted Maliwal at the CM's official residence on May 13. He was in police custody since Saturday. Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal allowed the prosecution's plea seeking Kumar's judicial custody for four days. The Delhi Police had arrested Kumar on May 18.

Water crisis in Delhi : Anil Vij says Why Delhi's AAP not getting water from Punjab?

SATISH HANDA Chandigarh

Former Home Minister of Haryana, Anil Vij said that only the Aam Aadmi Party engages in acts like making statements that create a water crisis in Delhi by Haryana. However, according to court orders, we are providing water to Delhi. He questioned the Aam Aadmi Party, saying that they can see their own troubles but why are they not providing water from Punjab to Haryana, even though decisions regarding this have already been made. He said that despite keeping our fields in Haryana thirsty, we are still providing water to Delhi according to court orders. Vij was responding to a question asked by media persons today regarding a statement made by Delhi's Cabinet Minister Atishi, claiming that Haryana could try to mislead voters by creating a water crisis in Delhi.

Vij said, the people of India will not tolerate attacks on Sanatan Dharma. In response to a question about the statement by the Congress-supported AAP candidate from Kurukshetra that Bageshwar Baba is mad and his father is also mad, Vij said that the INDI alliance is systematically attacking Sanatan Dharma. Whether it is the Aam Aadmi Party or leaders from other parties, they are conmaking such attacks. But the people of India will not tolerate attacks on Sanatan Dharma and will show what the people are capable of.

In response to a question about his meeting with farmers, the former Home Minister said that these are the people of my constituency and my state, so why shouldn't I listen to them? You know that I have listened to the problems of the people of the state until 2 AM. If someone stood in my way and wanted to say something, I stopped the car, talked to them, and listened to their issues. After that, they offered me tea and water, and they told me about their personal matters.

7 members of family from UP on way to Vaishno Devi killed, 10 severely injured I don't accept Calcutta HC's OBC certificate



PARVESH HANDA

Seven members of a family from Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh on way to holy Vaishno Devi shrine lost their lives in a road mishap on Delhi-Ambala highway. The victims were rushed to different hospitals Pradesh to Vaishno Devi to in Ambala and Kurukshetra. pay obeisance.

According to police information, a tempo traveller in which the pilgrims were travelling crashed into a truck on Delhi-Ambala National Highway near Mohra village close to Ambala Cantt early Friday morning. The victims were on their way from Bulandshahr in Uttar

According to the passengers travelling in the vehicle there were nearly 30 people and the accident happened after the traveller collided with a truck from rear side. According to the passengers, three persons had died on the spot whereas others succumbed to their injuries on way to hospitals. After the accident, the victims were rushed

to different hospitals in Ambala and Kurukshetra. SHO Parao Police station Dalip Kumar said, most of the victims travelling in ill-fated vehicles were relatives and were on their way to holy Vaishno Devi temple. The exact cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. The victims have been shifted to

cancellation order: Bengal CM

Naveen Jindal, besides large

number of other senior BJP

KOLKATA: Launching a scathing attack against the Calcutta High Court's order nixing OBC certificates issued in the state after 2010, West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, on Wednesday said that her government would not accept it and would challenge it in a higher court.

"I do not accept this order of the Calcutta High Court. Recently the Calcutta High Court also cancelled around 26,000 jobs in state-run schools. I did not accept that order as well.

"I will not take any names. Whoever passed it, but I must say that this order favours the BJP. Hence we will not accept it. The reservation for OBCs will continue, "CM Mamata



Banerjee said while addressing an election meeting at Hardaha in North 24 Parganas District on Wednesday afternoon.

The Division Bench of Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Rajasekhar Mantha had passed the order on OBC certifithe Calcutta High Court's order with the recent statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Congress and other allies of the Opposition INDIA bloc, if voted to power, have plans to reduce the quota for OBCs and

PM compliments Baramulla voters for high voter turnout



FW DESK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended his praise to the people of Baramulla for their substantial turnout during the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections.

"Compliments to my sisters their unbreakable commitment to democratic values. Such active participation is a great trend," said PM Modi in response to a post by Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, who also lauded the high voter

mentary Constituency, is very Pandurang K Pole.

encouraging and shows the unwavering faith in democracy. I congratulate and thank the people of Baramulla for joining the Maha Kumbh of our democracy in large numbers," wrote the LG.

"Anticipate a fractional and brothers of Baramulla for adjustment in the percentage figure, as voting persisted beyond 6 pm at certain polling stations, with several polling teams vet to reach the reception center. This noteworthy engagement signals a fresh chapter of peace and civic involvement in these districts," said a communiqué released "High voter turnout, over last evening by the office of 58% in Baramulla Parlia- J&K Chief Electoral Officer,

Naxalism will return to Bihar if CPI(ML) wins: Amit Shah

PATNA: Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, on Friday said that Naxalism would resurface in Bihar if the CPI(ML) won Lok Sabha elections in the state.

The CPI(ML) is contesting in the three Lok Sabha constituencies of Arrah, Karakat and Nalanda as an ally of the Grand

While addressing a rally in Ramna ground in Arrah city in

Bihar on Friday, HM Shah said, "Lalu Prasad Yadav has fielded CPI(ML) in Arrah and if its candidate wins even by mistake then Naxalism will resurface and bullets will be fired again.' "I want to ask the people of

Arrah if they want farmlands to be occupied, kidnapping, and looting here. If the CPI(ML) wins, all this will happen here again," HM Shah said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Naxalism was wiped out from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Bhau gang's shooter Ajay killed in police encounter

SATISH HANDA Rohtak

The shooter Ajay Singroha alias Goli, a resident of village Ritoli in Rohtak district associated with Portugal based gangster Himanshu Bhau, spreading terror while sitting abroad was killed in a police encounter by special police cell from Delhi. On information that Ajay was coming to village Khera Khurd at outer Delhi laid a trap since ber of criminal cases and police looking for his arrest had also visited his village a few days ago and took his several friends in

their possession. "We received information that Ajay alias Goli, a sharpshooter of Himanshu Bhau's gang, was to come to Khera Khurd village in outer Delhi, subsequently, a team was formed and a trap was laid," a senior police officer said the



day and he was signalled to stop, but the accused opened fire indiscriminately on the police team. According to police information Ajay received injuries in the firing, had two gunshots in his Honda City car, was rushed to the hospital, where he was declared dead by doctors.

at a second-hand luxury car showroom in Tilak Nagar Delhi injuring seven people in firing . After leaving behind a handwritten note bearing the names of three gangsters: Himanshu Bhau, Neeraj Faridkot and Naveen Bali. He had made a call to the owner of the showroom demanding Rs 5 crore ransom money from him. The accused was involved in sev-On May 6, the accused along eral cases related to murder,

attempt to murder, cheatings, ransom demand and the Arms Act. He was also involved in a businessman Gulshan's murder in Murthal in Sonipat district on March 10. The victim was dragged out of his car outside the 'dhaba' and he managed to flee to save himself but was shot dead. Himanshu alias Bhau also

a resident of village Rivoli in Rohtak district was operating a gang along with two other Naveen Bali and was wanted by Haryana police in large number of cases including Murders, attempt to murder, ransom demand and was most wanted by Jhajjar police in Haryana and in a case registered against him in Delhi, and was absconding since 2020. Bhau managed to flee abroad on the basis of a fake passport and started running a criminal racket from abroad.

state. Hooda said, the BJP is losing grip over the state. Congress

As soon as the Congress comes to power, we will provide to Haryana youths lakhs of government jobs: Hooda

If the AAP has links with terrorists; being thoroughly checked, the country will not forgive such individuals, says Anil Vij

Ambala

Haryana's former Home Minister Anil Vij today targeted the Aam Aadmi Party, saying, "If the Aam Aadmi Party has links with terrorists, the country will not forgive such individuals." Taking a jibe at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, he said that AAP members do not trust Parliament or the Judiciary because they do the opposite of what they promised to do when they came to power.

Vij was replying to the questions asked by the media persons here today and said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has revealed that AAP received millions in funding from the USA, Canada, and Arab countries. Commenting on this, Harvana's former Home Minister Anil Vij said that if AAP has connections with terrorists, it is being thoroughly checked, and agencies are working on it. The



individuals.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in one of his addresses, said that the PM has launched "Operation Jharu," where AAP leaders' bank accounts will be frozen. Responding to this, Harvana's former Home Minister Anil Vij said that spreading rumors in the country is the job of AAP and Arvind Kejriwal. They do not trust Parliament or the Judiciary and have made their

own rules, claiming that whatever they say is correct. What they used to say before coming to power is now being reversed.

"Temples are built for everyone; a temple is God's house" Vij said and condemned the statement by Congress Lok Sabha candidate Vikramaditya Singh from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi, who said that the temples Kangana visits need to be cleaned. Vij said that temples have been built for everyone and are God's

The INDI alliance is like a vehicle without an engine, and their government cannot be formed. They have entered the election field only to disrupt peace in the country"

house, and any such remarks should face legal action.

Responding to Sharad Pawar's statement that if the INDI alliance gets a majority, they will choose the Prime Minister like Morarji Desai, former Minister Vij said that the INDI alliance is like a vehicle without an engine, and their government cannot be formed. They have entered the election field only to disrupt peace in the country.

among youths in Haryana, the leader of opposition in Vidhan Sabha and the former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda made an appeal to youths not to leave their homes for petty labour jobs in other countries and promised that if his party comes to power, it will provide them government jobs. Congress leaders Bhupinder Hooda during the 'Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh' and 'Jai Bharat Satyagraha' programme at Jagadhari grain market in Yamunanagar assured youths. He said, under the Khattar regime the state has climbed to the top in the country

PARVESH HANDA

Yamunanagar

ployment, crime and inflation. Speaking to youths, Hooda said that they should stay back,

since BJP government is wiped out of the state and as soon as the Congress government comes to power, we will provide permanent employment to youth in Haryana itself and provide them lakhs of government jobs within the state. He further said there has been a

in three major sectors: unem-



cut of 1.82 lakh permanent jobs in the state and the ruling government is acting like a contractor rather than ending contract system, as promised.

The former CM Hooda also claimed that Haryana is among few of states, where debt is more than the actual budget. He said, the state's budget is Rs 1.83 lakh crore and they have accepted the fact that the debt is more than that at Rs 2.85 lakh crore, whereas actually it's more than Rs 4 lakh crore and he has data to corroborate the same, and will disclose the details in a press conference in Chandigarh in a day or so.

Hooda said, Yamunanagar is popular for its plywood and



largely grown in the belt apart from other traditional crops. But due to present ruling government erratic policies, industries are shifting to neighbouring states. Many plywood and metal

industries have already shifted to Moradabad and other places from Yamunanagar and Jagadhari which was popular in the country in maufacturing plywood and metal utensils in past now has lost the charm, Hooda said.

The Congress rally was attended by nearly two dozen party MLAs, large number of former ministers and scores of its leaders and workers in the

National President Mallikarjun Kharge in his address strongly condemned Prime Minister Narender Modi in the habit of often abusing Congress, rather should explain achievements by his party in poll rallies, instead of creating terror among people if Congress comes to power. He raised a question, what excesses have been made by Congress government while ruling over the country for a period about 55 years. Kharge said, voters are going to give reply to BJP government in present polls as regard lathees, gun shots on farmers, increasing unemployment to youths, their conspiracy to finish constituency and repeatedly making false assurances to the people in Haryana state like to bring back black money in the country, credit amount worth Rs 15 lakh in the bank account of every citizen, to develop 100 smart cities, introduce Bullet trains, double the farmers income, provide residential house to every family below povery line, apart from large number of other fake assurances made to the people time to time, which remained unfulfilled in their past 10 years rule.

Congress & AAP alliance is corrupt, have no ideology and *anti-Sanatan coalition*

National President Bharatiya Janata Party, J P Nadda addressing public meeting 'Prabudh Jan Sammelan' in Karnal on Sunday when Harvana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP Lok Sabha Candidate from Kurukshetra Navin Jindal, Former Haryana CM and BJP Lok Sabha candidate from Karnal Manohar Lal Khattar and several other leaders were present said that in the past 10 years, due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only Haryana but also the definition and culture of politics have changed in the country, and people now believe that we are advancing towards Viksit Bharat. Nadda said that there was a time when politics was based on caste, religion, region, and nepotism, but under the leadership of Modi Ji, politics in the country is now

Sabka Prayas'. Politics no longer revolves around the vote bank but has shifted its focus towards assessing performance through report cards.

Nadda expressed gratitude to have witnessed the BJP emerging as the world>s largest political party. BJP>s commitment to transparency in its manifesto, outlining factual targets and detailed expenditure plans for any proposed schemes, which has led to a significant improvement in last-mile delivery without the need for recommendations, as the process has become entirely digital which also include doorto-door delivery was undertaken, Ayushman cards and Ujjwala gas connections were provided in every village with the aim of achieving 100% saturation, which reflects the visionary and administrative strength of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Nadda stated that PM Narendra Modi has



given to women and the way he has worked to enhance women>s development, this means not just empowering women, but development through women. He has very clearly stated that when an individual becomes empowered, they are empowered alone, but when a woman becomes empowered, she empowers the entire family. He said, In the previous Lok Sabha, out of 88 women MPs, 41 were from the BJP.

Nadda stated that while countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Syria do not practice triple talaq, it was still prevalent in India, when Modi Ji ended triple talaq, granting

freedom to Muslim women. Nadda said the BJP government has included women in every sector, increasing their participation in MSMEs by 28%. Women have been empowered in all areas of development.Our

esteemed Prime Minister has created a new class in the country, called the <beneficiary class,> by ensuring that the benefits of BJP government schemes reach the very last person. Nadda remarked that follow-

ing the COVID-19 pandemic, nations such as the United States, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan are all confronting economic difficulties. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has ascended from the 11th to the 5th position in the global economy. In India, it took 28 years for tuberculosis medicine to arrive, 30 years for tetanus medicine, and 100 years for Japanese fever medicine. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, under the leadership of Narendra Modi India developed two vaccines within 9 months and administered 220 crore double doses of the vaccine, ensuring the safety of 140 crore people in

cations Jairam Ramesh said the INDIA bloc was set to defeat the BJP during present Lok Sabha polls in the country as well as in Haryana. Addressing a press conference, Ramesh campaigning for the Congress candidate Kumari Selja as former Union Minister as well as a former State President said that the IN-DIA bloc will sweep all the 10 parliamentary constituencies in Haryana, besides winning maximum number of seats in assembly elections which are scheduled to be held after the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress general secretary said that the people

of the country have realised

that Prime Minister Modi

was spreading an 'epidemic

of lies' in the country repeat-

edly, as such he has already

lost the trust of the people of

Congress general secretary

and in-charge for Communi-

SATISH HANDA

Sirsa

the country. Repeating the history after 20 years, recalling the events of 2004 general elections, the BJP had fought on the theme of 'India Shining' under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Ramesh said that nobody that time believed that the BJP will lose, but the Congress led UPA made that happen and it is going to make that happen now again, he added that reports after 428 seats in five phases of the elections suggest that the INDIA bloc was headed

Strong wave in favour of condolences on the demise of Iranian President Dr **INDIA bloc: Jairam Ramesh** Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi

tory this time. Jairam said

that the BJP was against the

reservations and wanted to

change the constitution. He

referred to the UP Chief Min-

ister Yogi Adityanath's write

up published on his official

website, where he had strongly

Mentioning some of the

guarantees the Congress has

promised in its poll manifesto,

Jairam said that the farm-

ers' debt will be waived off,

besides they will be provided

legal guarantee for the mini-

mum support price (MSP) of

their crops, besides in case of

any damage or loss to their

crops, they will be compen-

sated within 30 days. Jairam

said, the poor will be given a

10 kgs ration instead of 5 Kg

being given by the present

ruling government and every

poor family will also receive

a monthly cash assistance of

Rs 8500 to be deposited in

their bank accounts. While

addressing press conference

Jairam said, the Congress in

its poll manifesto has prom-

ised to hold the caste census,

reserve 50% jobs for women

in government departments,

increase the daily minimum

wages from Rs 250 to Rs

400 MNREGA workers and

increase salaries of ASHA

opposed reservations.

KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi

JIH President Syed

Sadatullah Husaini extends

The President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind extended his condolences to the people of Iran on the tragic demise of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran - Dr Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and accompanying officials in the tragic helicopter accident

in Varzagan. In a statement to the media, the JIH President offered glorious tributes to the late Iranian President saying, "Dr Raisi's passing away marks a profound loss not only for all Iranians but also for the entire Muslim Ummah. We stand with the people of Iran in their moment of grief. Dr Ibrahim Raisi was a resolute leader and a statesman who made many tough decisions to uphold the interests of the people in everyday governance and statecraft. His Presidency was marked by admirable resistance to Western powers who desire to arm-twist other countries into submission for economic exploitation. He will also be remembered for his resolute support to the Palestinian cause and their resistance against the Zionist settler colonialism and atrocities in

Palestine.' Praising the role played by the former President of Iran, Syed Sadatullah averred, "Dr Raisi made a stellar contribution to strengthening the India-Iran bilateral relationship. He played a leading role in sealing the 10year agreement with India to develop and operate the Chabahar port. The deal has taken the infrastructure and trade partnership with the Islamic Republic to the next level and will prove to be a boon to the people of both countries as well as the entire region. He will be

Priyanka Gandhi to hold roadshow for Ajay Rai in



guided by the mantra of 'Sabka

NEW DELHI: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will campaign and hold a roadshow in favour of Ajay Rai, the party's state president and candidate in Varanasi, on May 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term from Varanasi. Ajay Rai said on Wednesday, "Yes, Priyanka Gandhi will campaign and hold a roadshow in Varanasi on May 25." Rai has been camping here for the past few weeks. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is one of the Congress's star campaigners. She along with her brother Rahul Gandhi and other senior party leaders, has been campaigning in different states. Priyanka camped in Rae Bareli to campaign for party candidates -- Rahul Gandhi in Rae Bareli and her family loyalist K.L. Sharma in Amethi -- from May 6 till the end of campaigning there on May 18. Polling in Varanasi will take place in the seventh and final phase of

THAKEN

essence of the ground? Are Ram

Mandir, Dhara 370 and Hindu-

Muslim slogans not working in

the Ram Mandir, Dhara 370

and Hindu-Muslim slogans

do not seem to be giving much

positive results for the party and

issues of 'Kisan-Jawan Pahlwan'

(Farmers- Soldiers and Wres-

tlers) have eroded these 'Ram

Baan' (Medication for every

disease) slogans of BJP. And

That is why, now he is focus-

ing more on 'Farmers- Soldiers

and Wrestlers' and denying any

discrimination with the Muslim

Hindu-Muslim (in politics) will

be the day I lose my ability to

lead a public life," Modi said,

speaking in Hindi. "I will not

resolve." PM Narendra Modi

made these remarks in an inter-

Modi had to clarify his stand?

What he had said? If he had

said nothing provocative and

hatred spreading, then why did

poisonous hate speech at Ban-

April 2024. SKM had alleged

as 'intruders' without any sub-

tution that ensures separation of

Narender Modi?

"The day I start talking about

community.

Political thinkers analyze that

the desired direction?

smelt the

Bhupinder Hooda only focused on making his son MP, Nadda says in Haryana **ROHTAK**: Taking a jibe at

two-time Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, BJP President J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday that the Congress leader is only focused on making his son an MP, but Rohtak desires 'Teesri Baar, Modi Sarkar' (Modi government for a third

The Congress has fielded Bhupinder Hooda's son Deepender Singh Hooda as its candidate from the Rohtak Lok Sabha

Conducting roadshows in Rohtak and Jind in support of BJP Lok Sabha candidates Arvind Sharma and Mohan Lal Badoli, respectively, amid slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai',

'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi-Modi', Nadda said, "Congress and the INDI Alliance are living examples of corruption, dynastic politics, and appeasement.

"The massive public support for the roadshows clearly indicates that the BJP is receiving overwhelming public endorsement, and Narendra Modi will

become the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time with more than 400 seats.'

He also said that along with Rohtak and Sonipat, the lotus will bloom with more than 50 per cent of vote share on the remaining eight Lok Sabha seats

"The entire INDI Alliance,

including the Congress, is attempting to divide people and the nation. While the previous Congress-led governments kept issues like 'One rank, One Pension' hanging for 40 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

resolved them in his first term. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says they speak for the welfare of farmers, but the Congress insulted Jat farmer leader Jagdeep Dhankhar who sits in a constitutional position. Also, the Congress-led UPA government sent only Rs 41, 000 crore to Haryana in 10 years, but the Modi government provided Haryana with Rs 2.70 lakh crore in the past 10 years, "the BJP

for a clear and decisive vic-Ratna vandar key takes a centrestage in the campaign

ARABINDA MOHAPATRA

Bhubaneswar

The war of words between top BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJD star campaigner and chief minister Naveen Patnaik's Man Friday VK Pandian over the issue of missing keys of Puri Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar (treasure room) is escalating and heating up the



Cuttack on May 20 following his roadshow in Puri the Prime Minister had launched a scathing attack on Pandian who joined the BJD a few months ago after taking voluntary retirement from IAS. Takin Addressing rallies at Angul and a dig at Pandian, who hails from

"Congress worked to insult

the Vice President and son

of a Jat farmer Shri Jagdeep

Dhankhar who holds a consti-

Shah stated that the Congress

only talks about the poor but

does nothing for their welfare.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

talks about farmers but insulted

Shri Jagdeep Dankar, a farmer's

son who is a representative

But, whatever PM Modi or

Amit Shah claim, the ground

reality seems anti-BJP and

the political observers con-

clude that the 'Kisan- Jawan-

Pahalwan' issue is playing its

major role to abstain the BJP

from returning to power a third

time. During farmers' agitation

death of more than 700 farm-

ers, women wrestlers' insult

and curbing the employment

chances for farmers', especially

the ex-servicemen's, (as most

of them prefer to send their

wards in the Indian forces), next

generation, the most affected

areas of adjoining Rajasthan,

Haryana and Punjab are giving

People who watch political

games eagerly state that Raj-

asthan, which gave 25 out of

25 Lok Sabha seats to BJP in

2019 elections, presently seems

to be snatching 8 to 10 seats

from BJP. Haryana, where

BJP won all the 10 seats in

2019, now indicates a reverse

trend. In Punjab, where BJP

got only 2 seats out of 13 Lok

Sabha seats in 2019, now may

dash to ground without any

This is the picture of today,

political situations change day

to day, what shall be the final

figure will come out on June 4.

share of seats.

a bigger jolt to the BJP.

leader for the Jat farmers.

tutional post."

are saying that the keys have gone to Tamil Nadu. Who has taken it? The people will not forgive this. I assure you the mystery of the "key' will be resolved. Those involved in cheating and fraud will not be spared. This is Modi's guarantee." A day later Pandian hit back

Tamil Nadu, Modi said, "People

saving the Prime Minister Narendra Modi should find out the keys to the Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath temple in Puri if he has any knowledge about it.

INDIA bloc affected by communalism, casteism and nepotism -- diseases worse than cancer: PM Modi SHRAWASTI (UP): Prime for the country than cancer,

Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the INDIA bloc is afflicted with diseases like communalism, casteism and nepotism that are "worse than cancer" and can destroy

of India if they spread. These tic -- can be more destructive



The INDI Alliance has three diseases -- of being exdiseases worse than cancer. tremely communal, extremely They can destroy the whole racist and extremely nepotissaid PM Modi while addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Shravasti. Seeing the massive gather-

ing, the Prime Minister said that the love and enthusiasm of people "clearly shows" that the INDI Alliance of SP-Congress has "completely collapsed" and

Will 'Kisan- Jawan- Pahalwan' Barricade BJP's Win Path?

KAVITA SHARMA

the outrageous and blasphemous remarks by the Bharatiya Janata party National Spokesperson and party's candidate from Puri parliamentary constituency, Sambit Patra, about Lord Jagannath that he was a 'Modi-bhakt'.

The party demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must tender an apology to people for the hurt caused to their

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here today, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate rejected the apology tendered by Patra, saying it was just an eyewash done only after the Congress raised the matter.

part of the propaganda plan of the BJP. She pointed out, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has been describing himself as God's Messenger with divine powers in various television interviews. The Congress spokesperson

said, it was not for the first time that the BJP leaders had made such outrageously blasphemous remarks. She quoted many past examples where the BJP leaders had described Modi as Vishnu's Avtar' She showed the pictures posted on BJP's official media handle where Prime Minister Modi was shown to be holding the finger and leading of Lord Rama, who was made to look like a kid, and taking him to the temple. She said, Modi's cutouts during the Pran Pratishta cer-

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) attached seven immovable properties linked

The properties, including Sq ft in Kisarigam, Pulwama 1967, following orders from the

Mantoo was apprehended on January 31, 2020, with a significant cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives. Charged on July 27, 2020, he currently faces trial under various sections of the Arms Act, IPC, Explosive Substances Act, UA (P) Act, and Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. Investigations have revealed his co-accused JeM members, in



transporting newly infiltrated terrorists into the Kashmir vallev. JeM, established in 2000 by Maulana Masood Azhar, has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in India, particularly in J&K. The group was designated as a "Designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation" by UNSC Resolution 1267.

Moreover, in 2019, the UNSC designated JeM's leader, Maulana Masood Azhar, as a "Global Terrorist." The move by the NIA comes on the heels of its attachment of six immovable properties associated with another senior JeM militant in Kashmir, further intensifying its crackdown on terrorist operatives in the region.



state and religion in governance. Whether PM Modi is really following his words expressed in the News-18 interview? Has PM Modi has got this point. he softened his words and not voicing in the manner in which he expressed himself in Rajasthan? Yes, some changes seem there. Now he is not directly bursting against any community, as was alleged earlier, but using the words -- those doing

On May 18, addressing a rally in Haryana, PM Modi alleged do Hindu-Muslim. That is my that Congress is solely focused on appeasement politics. The manifesto crafted by Congress view with CNN-News18. Why resembles the entire Muslim League manifesto. Congress claims that they will conduct an X-ray of the publics assets and then distribute those assets to those doing 'vote-jihad'.

the Samyukta Kisan Morcha had to demand the removal and For wooing 'Farmers- Solprosecution of Prime Minister diers and Wrestlers', PM Modi has started to preach the steps Samvukta Kisan Morcha taken by the BJP govern-(SKM), an umbrella body of ment for the benefit of these farmers' unions in India, in a segments, who are annoyed press release on April 23,2024, with the party due to barbaric had demanded removal from behavior of BJP government the PM post and prosecution during farmers' movement and dragging the wrestlers on Delhi of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his alleged highly roads.

PM Narendra Modi, while swara in Rajasthan on 20th addressing public meetings in Ambala and Sonipat, Harythat the Prime Minister had acana on May 18, criticized the cused all members of the main previous Congress government minority group of the country and highlighted various beneficial schemes for farmers in stance is nothing but insanity Haryana, initiated by the BJP

that violates the secular consti- government. Modi highlighted that be-

fore 2014, the Congress-led government had purchased grains from farmers at MSP worth only Rs 7.5 lakh crore. In contrast, during the 10 years of the Modi government, agricultural produce worth Rs 20 lakh

crore has been procured from farmers at MSP. Previously, farmers often faced delays in receiving payments, but now the funds are directly deposited into their bank accounts. Congress has only betrayed sugarcane farmers. Presently, the FRP for sugarcane stands at nearly Rs 350 per quintal, while the Congress government used to offer around Rs 210 per quintal.

Modi divulged that in 2014, when the BJP took office, the pending dues for sugarcane were approximately Rs 60,000 crore. Contrastingly, this year, the government has cleared payments amounting to Rs 1 lakh 14 thousand crore. Over Rs 650 crore have been directly transferred to the accounts of farmers in Ambala, Karnal and Kurukshetra under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

To show his government's affinity towards sports and sportspersons, PM Modi claimed that after forming the government in 2014, the BJP government increased the sports budget threefold, encouraging the youth to play more and win more medals. Whether its building top-notch training centers in India or sending athletes abroad for training, the Modi government spares no hardly making any significant pecially the 'Jats', Union Home

under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) from the government. It is because of such initiatives, India has won the most Olympic medals to date, enhanced its reputation in the Asian Games and set records in university games. India is now striving to host the 2036 Olympics and soon, the nation will witness the first Olympics in India, with Haryana and Sonipat youth winning gold medals. To fetch the votes of ex-ser-

vicemen from congress basket, PM Modi alleged that Congress betrayed our ex-servicemen. For fourteen years, they made empty promises about «One Rank One Pension,» and when they realized that Modi posed to be a significant challenge in 2013. Rahul Gandhi allocated a budget of Rs 500 crores for it and held meetings with exservicemen in Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, spreading confusion. "But we implemented 'One Rank One Pension'. Their habit of lying is deeply ingrained. Our government fulfilled the promise of 'One Rank One Pension' with flying colors when given the opportunity to serve by the people. Everyone should know how Congress lies. Congress allocated Rs 500 crores for OROP, but when the BJP government implemented it, more than Rs 1

lakh 20 were allocated." But has the people forgotten the death of more than 700 farmers, stating the farmers as terrorists, dragging the wrestlers on Delhi roads and dashing the hope of unemployed youths, who were preparing themselves

for joining the Indian forces, by implementing Agni Veer scheme? Dr. Inderjeet Singh National Vice-President of All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) says, "BJP election rallies being addressed

by Modi and Amit Shah are

expense in supporting athletes. impact in the given isolation of Minister, Amit Shah during Currently, thousands of athletes BJP from the electorate in genhis visit to Haryana on 20th There are reports that Modi>s President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

moderately attended rally in Gohana two days ago failed even to boost the BJP workers morale let alone woo the farmers. It was only a gathering of people mobilized with the misuse of power with the help of private school buses In the backdrop of excesses

done during farmers movement and the women wrestlers as well as other sections including police repression meted out to Sarpanches, scheme workers etc. in the recent past have not faded from the memories of people. Visit of Modi-Shah and other BJP leaders is not cutting ice and deter the electorate suffering from unemployment and acute price rise from punishing BJP cutting across caste /com-

munity considerations. R. C Punia, an RTI activist, career counselor and a former Gramin Bank Manager, who himself belongs to a farmer family, expresses, "As much as I have been able to know and have heard and talked to the farmers, based on their anger it can be said that most of the farmers in Haryana are now anti-BJP. In Bhiwani and Dadri, all the farmer organizations are campaigning against BJP in their own way. They are protesting vocally in Sirsa and Fatehabad. Protest is also going on in Bhiwani-Dadri. Ex-servicemen have also come together and announced their support to the Congress. The employees are separately causing harm to BJP. Thus, I do not think that the Modi-Shah duo will be able to do any magic. Everyone has made up their mind for change. The real situation will be known on June 4."

Will 'Kisan- Jawan- Pahalwan' resentment darken the BJP's fate? To provoke the farmers

Jag Mohan Thaken against Congress Party and is a Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political get sympathy of farmers, es-Analyst, views are personal

Let us wait for the day!

Congress condemns Patra's blasphemous remark that Lord Jagannath is Modi-bhakt

The Congress party condemned

religious sentiments.

She observed that this was a emony were made bigger than Lord Ram's.

NIA attaches property of JeM terrorist in Kashmir **FW DESK**

to a prominent member of the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) organization Sartaj Ahmed Mantoo.

land spanning 19 Marlas & 84 district, were seized under Section 33 (1) of the UA (P) Act, NIA Special Court, Jammu.

involvement, along with five





India's strategic gamble with Chabahar port

ndia's recent 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port is a bold step forward in strengthening its infrastructure and trade partnership with the Islamic Republic, despite the geopolitical tensions in West Asia. This commitment, involving a \$120 million investment and a \$250 million credit facility, aims to further develop the terminal in Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port and related projects. Historically, the Chabahar project has been hindered by global sanctions on Iran. Conceived in 2003, it remained stagnant due to U.S. and UN sanctions over Iran's nuclear program. It wasn't until 2015, following eased sanctions, that India signed a memorandum of understanding, and a year later, the project gained momentum during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran. However, the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions raised uncertainties about the project's future. Despite these challenges, the Chabahar port is crucial for India's connectivity strategy. It provides an alternative route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan, thus enhancing trade opportunities in the region. Moreover, its expected connection to the International North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC) will facilitate a faster and more cost-effective trade route to Europe through Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia. This corridor could significantly reduce the reliance on the Suez Canal, thus streamlining intercontinental trade. Geopolitically, Chabahar offers India a strategic vantage point, especially in proximity to Pakistan's Gwadar port, developed by China under its Belt and Road Initiative. This positioning allows India to extend its influence in Central Asia, countering Chinese and Pakistani interests. It is imperative now for India to remain steadfast in its commitment to Chabahar, focusing on enhancing its trade and connectivity projects with Central Asia. India must balance its strategic interests with diplomatic finesse, ensuring that the Chabahar port project not only thrives but also serves as a linchpin for broader regional connectivity and economic

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THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. DELENG/2011/38860

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA
ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA

PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD
D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI,

PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA

OWNER: FW MEDIA

PUBLISHED AT: BUILDING NO-23, NEHRU PLACE

NEW DELHI 110019; PHONE: 9888040061

PUNJAB 160059

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APAR GUPTA DELVES INTO THE REASONS BEHIND ATTACKING THE JUDICIARY

Judiciary's role in a democracy

ee recent judicial decisions have led to attacks on the Supreme Court's legitimacy. On February 15, the Court declared electoral bonds unconstitutional, stating that the "right to know supersedes anonymity." Or May 10, the Court granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying, "We... reject the argument that the reasoning... results in grant of privilege or special status to politicians." On May 15, the Court granted bail to Prabir Purkayastha, founder and Editor-in-Chief of NewsClick, holding that "communication of the grounds of arrest in writing was not provided... which vitiates the arrest." These judgments, based on legal merit, challenge state excesses and also harm the ruling party's interests. The BJP undeniably benefited from electoral bonds, Mr. Kejriwal's arrest, and the suppression of

These decisions are healthy outcomes for any constitutional democracy where institutions have autonomy and there is a working system of checks and balances. However, they have been perceived by many as breaking a pattern. Legal scholars and even practitioners have been criticising the Court over the last few years for judicial abdication, acquiescence, avoidance, and, in some instances, for working hand-in-glove with the executive. Hence, the recent decisions, especially during an election year, have been seen as an unexpected but welcome display of courage.

A sustained campaign

a critical media platform.

In our digital media ecology, each hearing on subjects of public importance, especially those with political implications, receives immediate online commentary. The Supreme Court and High Courts have facilitated this by enabling live tweeting and streaming of proceedings. Legal reporting platforms have further brought the court into our social media streams.



However, a disturbing trend has surfaced: abuse of the judiciary. Many believe that institutions are colonial impositions or are rooted in western liberalism and are therefore in conflict with the social norms of "new India". When this authoritarian world view is challenged, its proponents seek to subvert the legitimacy of the court. Digital campaigns against the court exploit public frustration over the decades it takes for citizens to obtain justice, anger regarding judicial nepotism, and the lack of diversity in the higher judiciary, and even conjure up fantasies of a secret society of senior lawyers influencing the court. Such attacks masquerade as suggestions for reform. But the proposed "solutions' are not based on evidence. The masked objective seems to be to achieve absolute

executive control.

This clever subterfuge has been brought forth by Joyojeet Pal and Sheyril Agarwal, who gathered data from X over four months and highlighted spikes in comments on five days when the Chief Justice of India took positions antithetical to the

BJP-led government or its supporters. They concluded in their study that the "Chief Justice's liberal leanings in several judgments rankle many who lean right. But the more significant issue is that purging the Supreme Court of similarly liberalleaning justices represents an existential thorn in institutional capture by the politi-cal establishment." They also noted that "attacks are more strongly tied to digital influencers who are highly polarised in favour of the BJP." While the study did not capture this clearly, many online influencers with large followings enjoy official patronage. Nowadays, high-ranking advisers and cabinet ministers devote significant time to participating in podcasts and YouTube interviews and often comment on the need for judicial reforms and even a repeal of the Constitution. Critics may dismiss this study as biased and point to instances where "liberal" and "left leaning" users have engaged in similar practices. However, the study notes distinctions in how the Opposition and wider civil society organise and conduct campaigns online

— by appealing to the Court to follow its constitutional role.

Today, each judgment and slip-up is put up, ridiculed, and delegitimised through coordinated campaigns. For example, the Juvenile Justice Board recently granted bail to the minor son of a builder who was allegedly driving the car that crashed into two people killing them. Juxtaposed against news reports of the grant of bail are captions such as "the Indian judiciary is a joke". This ignores the role of the police and politicians in the initial procedure. These drip campaigns are part of the long game of organised partisans calling for direct control by the Prime Minister.

The way forward

Television and social media play a crucial role in shaping norms. So, we must publicly acknowledge the threats facing the independence of the judiciary, carefully scrutinise proposals disguised as judicial reforms, and take urgent but careful remedial action on issues such as the collegium system. Public trust is the judiciary's greatest ally, and it must be restored by improving service delivery, increasing diversity in appointments, and improving the Court's counter-majoritarian spine. The judiciary and the wider legal fraternity must counter online threats by dispelling misinformation and exposing bad faith propaganda. This requires reasoned, consistent, and honest public communication about the judicial process. Finally, we the people must recognise the Court as an imperfect ally, sometimes even a negligent guardian, but nonetheless a protector of our constitutional rights. Our civic vision has to be broader than the narrow framing of a powerful Prime Minister or a dominant political party, regardless of the election results.

> Apar Gupta is an Advocate based in New Delhi. Views are personal.



The vegetable triumvirate's impact on inflation



nflation is a critical indicator of an economy's health, reflecting the changes in the general price level and the cost of living. In India, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to measure price inflation which is largely based on the Laspeyre's price index and measures the economy's cost of living. The CPI basket comprises 299 items of which vegetables account for a weight of 6.04% in the total basket.

Within vegetables, the three vegetables — tomato, onion, and potato (TOP) — hold a weightage of 2.2% in the overall CPI basket for an average Indian household. The significance of TOP goes beyond its numerical representation. These three commodities have historically played a pivotal role in influencing both food and beverages inflation as well as headline CPI figures. One notable fact is that the TOP group constitutes 3.6% of the total consumption basket in urban areas while it constitutes 5% of the total consumption basket in rural India for the bottom 5% of the consumption classes, respectively, as per the CPI basket classification.

In FY2023-24, vegetable prices in India soared by about 15% (year-on-year). Vegetable prices have exhibited significant volatility, shifting dramatically from a fall of 0.7% in June to a substantial rise of 37.4% in July. Though vegetables have a weight of only 6% in the total CPI basket, their contribution to inflation was as high as about 30% in February and March 2024. Tomato prices soared by 202% in July 2023 and contributed to 18.1% of the total headline inflation despite the weight of tomatoes being only 0.6% in



the CPI basket. During the same month, the contribution of vegetables to headline inflation was a high 31.9%, and of TOP was 17.2%.

Price volatility

One of the striking features of TOP is its price volatility (chart). The coefficient of variation (CoV) of inflation is a key measure of volatility. The inflation volatility of TOP has been measured using the coefficient of variation (CoV) for the period January 2015 to March 2024, yielding a value of 5.2. It is significantly higher than the volatility of the vegetables sub-group (CoV=3.0), the food group (CoV=0.6) as well as the volatility of headline inflation (CoV=0.3). This exercise reveals that

TOP's CoV surpasses not only the food and headline group but also the vegetables subgroup. This heightened volatility underscores the sensitivity of these commodities to market forces, weather fluctuations, and supply chain dynamics.

The chart shows the inflation trend for the three commodities, i.e., tomato, onion and potato, as well as for the constructed TOP group. The inflation rate for the TOP sub-group has remained quite volatile ranging from a minimum value of -36.6% in September 2021 to 132.0% in December 2019 (The writer's calculation uses data from the National Statistical Office).

Aiding the farmer

The volatility and importance of TOP

the need for effective policy interventions and a nuanced understanding of agricultural supply chains. These are perishable crops and are subject to a number of biotic and abiotic stresses. As these crops do not have Minimum Support Price and are mostly sold to private traders by farmers, this volatility in prices also hurts farmers, the majority of whom are net buyers of these crops. The possible solutions to reduce the volatility of inflation for these crops include an overhauling of agricultural value chains and improvement in the cold storage facilities, better prices for farmers to incentivise the production in the cultivation that can be achieved by reducing the exorbitantly high input prices of fertilizers and pesticides used in the production of these crops.

in shaping inflation trends highlight

The abrupt changes in lifting the export bans on onion ahead of the Maharashtra elections also show that we are still using short-term measures to deal with the price volatility in these crops as against measures that are demanded by the farmers. The memorable Kisan Long March from Nashik to Mumbai in March 2023 and continuous protests by farmers have time and again raised the demand for Minimum Support Prices for onion. This demand seems to be continually ignored by the government.

Prachi Bansal is Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana. Views are personal.



Book tells multigenerational saga of Korean resilience

wang Sok-yong is one of Korea's most celebrated authors, and his latest work, "Mater 2-10," is a testament to his literary prowess. This multigenerational saga seamlessly connects the exploitation faced by Koreans under Japanese rule with the mistreatment of industrial workers in post-independent Seoul. Expertly translated by Sora Kim-Russell and Youngjae Josephine Bae, "Mater 2-10" is a strong contender for this year's International Booker Prize.

The novel opens with the everyday routine of Yi Jino, a recently laid-off worker in his mid-50s, who stages a protest by living in a factory chimney against the employer's oppressive mandates. Hwang uses "mindam realism" a narrative technique similar to magical realism but rooted in oral

history—to transition smoothly between different historical periods. As Jino gazes at the "sea of clouds surrounding the chimney" and steps into the air, he finds himself transported to Joseon, the period under Japanese rule, where we meet his 'Big Grandfather' Yi Baekman.

Throughout the novel, Hwang employs rich myth and folklore traditions, notably through the recurring appearances of Baekman's deceased wife, Juan-daek, at crucial junctures. The distinct personalities of Baekman's two sons, Ilcheol ('One Steel', Jino's grandfather) and Icheol ('Two Steel'), symbolize the divergent paths ideologies can lead one down, echoing the influences of literary classics like "Moby Dick" and "Don Quixote."

Hwang constructs moral dilemmas through concrete historical

events, notably the construction of the Gyeongbu Line railroad, built from "the blood and tears of the people of Joseon," as noted by Foreman Min. This railroad serves as a powerful metaphor for the sacrifices and suffering of the Korean people during the Japanese occupation.

The idea for "Mater 2-10" was sparked by Hwang's chance meeting in 1989 with an elderly gentleman who had been a locomotive engineer during the Japanese occupation. This novel, thirty years in the making, is enriched with stories passed down through generations and encompasses the harsh realities of the time, such as the forced prostitution of women. Hwang skillfully uses metaphors like the slaughtering of pigs to draw parallels with the butchering of a nation.



Mater 2-10 Hwang Sokyong, trs Sora Kim-Russell and Youngjae Josephine Bae Scribe; 474 pages; Rs 699

A close reading of "Mater 2-10" reveals several parallels between Indian and Korean literature. The translators' note highlights the challenges of translating a polyphonic work like "Mater 2-10," where the storytelling is hyper-local, and the regions' and characters' names change frequently. Hwang centralizes themes of ownership, nationalism, and duty in the face of adversity, often through dialogue.

For instance, consider the conversation between Ilcheol and Kim, both Koreans working on the Gyeongbu Line for the Japanese. Ilcheol ponders, "who the railway belongs to," and Kim responds, "I mean, you

This conversation ends with Ilcheol's assertion: "We may be serving others at the moment, but we're still the owners. Let's not forget that." This dialogue mirrors arguments often made in favor of British colonialism in India, such as, "They built us the railways, didn't they?" While such rebuttals are absent in Indian fiction, "Mater 2-10" channels these conversations to create an archive of a lost time, home, and country.

know, we don't have a country...

Hwang Sok-yong's "Mater 2-10" is a masterful exploration of historical and contemporary struggles. Through its rich, multilayered narrative and deeply human characters, the novel not only offers a poignant reflection on Korea's past but also resonates with broader themes of exploitation, resilience, and the quest for justice. The deft translation by Sora Kim-Russell and Youngjae Josephine Bae ensures that the novel's nuances and cultural specificity are accessible to a global audience.

BEL Achieves Impressive 34% Growth in PAT for FY 2023-24

Bengaluru

Défense PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has achieved a remarkable turnover of Rs. 19,819.93 crore for FY 2023-24, reflecting a 14.35% increase compared to the Rs. 17,333.37 crore recorded in the previous fiscal year, As per statement issued by BEL. In the 4th quarter of FY 2023-24, BEL's turnover surged to Rs. 8,335.01 crore, up from Rs. 6,327.48 crore in the corresponding period

The company's Profit Before Tax (PBT) for FY 2023-24 reached Rs. 5,334.56 crore, representing a significant growth of 33.87% over the PBT of Rs. 3,984.88 crore from the previous year. In

of the prior year.



the 4th quarter, PBT rose to 1,781.49 crore in the same Rs. 2,385.61 crore from Rs. period last year.

Varthana Secures INR 27 Crores Funding from Triodos Investment Management

Bengaluru

Varthana, a leading Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) in the affordable education sector, has successfully secured 3 million Euros (INR 27 crores) funding from Triodos Investment Management through Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD). This funding marks a significant milestone in Varthana>s mission to empower the education sector in India.

Netherlands-based Triodos Investment Management, known for its commitment to sustainable and impactful investments, recognizes Varthana>s dedication to providing accessible financing solutions to educational institutions across India. The funding – provided through Triodos Fair Share Fund - will enable Varthana to further expand its reach and support more

varthana

schools and students in upgrading their infrastructure, facilities, and educational foundation.

Steve Hardgrave, Co-Founder

and CEO of Varthana, stated, "We are thrilled to have Triodos Investment Management on board as a partner in our journey to transform education financing in India. The funding provided to Varthana reflects a shared vision of driving positive social impact and the importance of innovative financing solutions in addressing the challenges faced by the education sector. This investment reaffirms our commitment to making quality education accessible to all and

more educational institutions across the country." Varthana has been at the

forefront of revolutionizing the education financing landscape in India since its inception. It has played a crucial role by financing more than 11,000 affordable private schools and facilitating over 16,500 loans for school expansion and renovation. With a presence in 16 states/union territories and 40 branches, Varthana also extends its services to Tier III and Tier IV cities, significantly contributing to fostering accessible education in India.

Dorian Marquer stated "We are very pleased to add Varthana to our financial inclusion portfolio. This investment shows that financial inclusion also plays a role in addressing other pressing issues, such as access to affordable quality education, which is seen as a key pillar to alleviate will fuel our efforts to empower poverty. Education is an em-

Varthana plays a very important role to equip children across India with the qualities and skills to shape and build their future."

Varthana- Varthana is a pioneer in the affordable education sector, headquartered in Bengaluru. It is the largest education Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) in India. Established in 2013, the organization has a presence in 16 states and union territories, through 40 branches and 150 spokes. Varthana aims to transform affordable education in India by catering to the needs of affordable private schools through financial assistance and academic support. It is also committed to serving domestic students attending college, technical training/short-term courses, and postgraduate studies by providing them with loans to continue education.

Tata Power Seeks \$1 **Billion Loan for Clean Energy Projects**



a major Indian power generation firm, is in talks to raise up to USD 1 billion in an Indian rupee-denominated loan to fund clean energy investments.

The planned borrowing would be the largest such loan in India so far this year.

The Tata Group Company is discussing the loan with banks including State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, and ICICI Bank, according to people familiar with the matter.

The funds would go towards Tata Power's previously announced USD 1.6 billion investment into pumped hydro storage projects.

OTC Markets Group Introduces New Overnight Trading Product



NEW YORK: OTC Markets Group Inc. operator of regulated financial markets for 12,000 U.S. and global securities, today introduced OTC Overnight, a new offering that will make OTC equity securities available for trading Sunday through Thursday between 8 PM and 4 AM

Active securities across the OTC market tiers, including global brands like Roche, Adidas, Air Canada and Techtronic Industries, will be eligible for trading in an overnight session by broker-dealer subscribers in U.S. dollars. OTC Markets expects that OTC Overnight will be available in the second quarter of this year on the OTC Link NQB Alternative Trading System. This will allow investors to track and trade thousands of global equity securities during Asian market hours, at European market open and overnight in the U.S.

Altium Boosts Investment in India's **Electronics Innovation and Education**

Altium's investment and expansion in India will contribute to the country's growing electronics indústry.

ARUN KUMAR RAO

Bengaluru

Altium, a global leader in electronic design systems, is significantly expanding its presence in Bangalore, India. This includes a major investment in additional technical and sales personnel and a new premium office space in the city's heart. This expansion aligns with

India's Make in India initiative, enhancing the country's impact on the global electronics market.



"Altium is fully committed to positioning India at the center of the electronics industry. By establishing a dedicated team that covers all aspects of customer engagement from Pre-Sales to Sales & Marketing and Customer Support, we can better address local market needs. This marks an important step for Altium as it continues to grow and expand its reach into new markets," said Pelle Chiari, General Manager & Head of India's electronics sector is

projected to become a \$300 billion industry by 2026. Altium's investment will enhance its collaboration with India's electronics industry by providing solutions that drive innovation, accelerate production, and reduce costs. The expanded physical presence will enable Altium to work closely with its growing customer base in India, helping the industry adopt efficient and sustainable practices while speeding up innovation cycles.

WhatsApp working on several new features to enhance user experience



NEW DELHI: Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on several new features to enhance the user experience on the chatting platform.

The feature, which the company presently working on includes -- locked chats on linked devices, status updates of up to 1 minute, explore new channels, autoplay animated images, and hidden community group chats, according to WABetaInfo.

Currently available to some beta testers, the "locked chats on linked devices" feature will let users protect their conversations from their linked devices. However, users will be required to create a secret code to open the locked chats folder from their linked

Another feature -- "status updates of up to 1 minute" will allow users to share videos of up to 1 minute in length via status updates. Earlier, the limit to share videos on status updates was 30 seconds. The feature is presently available to some beta testers and will roll out to more people over the coming weeks, the report

Further, WhatsApp introduced a new shortcut to "explore new channels", with an aim to make it promptly visible and accessible. According to the report, making the ability to explore channels more visible offers the advantage of improving user engagement with content discovery.

The explore new channels

Wheels India logs Rs 67.9 cr PAT, dividend Rs 7.39 per share





growth in the bus market," said Srivats Ram, Managing Director, Wheels India. "We have been able to profitably ramp up the machining of windmill castings and will continue to grow this business. Another area with a lot of promise for growth, both in the domestic and export markets, is The company's air suspension hydraulic cylinders," he added.

Ixigo receives SEBI nod for IPO as Oyo withdraws papers Ixigo, run by Le Travenues

NEW DELHI: Travel booking platform ixigo has received the nod from markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), for its initial public offering (IPO) while hospitality major Oyo has withdrawn its draft IPO papers.

Ixigo had refiled its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator to raise Rs 120 crore worth of fresh issue and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 66, 677, 674 equity shares.

Technology Ltd, clocked Rs 491 crore in revenue from operations with a profit of Rs 65.7 crore for the nine months ending December 2023. Meanwhile, as per the SEBI website, Oyo's parent company Oravel Stays has withdrawn the IPO paper. Oyo will refile its IPO papers with the markets regulator after refinancing its existing \$450 million Term Loan B (TLB) at a lower interest rate.

MEITY Secretary Advocates Broader Al Adoption in Food Processing Industry

NEW DELHI: The Indian government is planning to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) tools across the nation's vast food processing industry, top officials stated on Wednesday.

The move aims to bolster efficiency, augment farmer incomes, and mitigate environmental impacts.

During a conference organised by NIFTEM (National



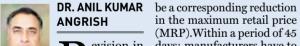
agement) on leveraging frontier technologies in the sector, senior bureaucrats and government advisers underscored Institute of Food Technology the pressing need to chart Entrepreneurship and Man- a comprehensive roadmap Technology (MEITY).

for deploying AI solutions, which remain in nascent stages within India's food processing

"As an industry, we need to create a roadmap. The MEITY secretary has come on board and I am confident he will provide substantial support in this endeavour," remarked Food Processing Secretary Anita Praveen, referring to the Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information

feature is available to some beta testers.

Inflation and Pharmaceutical Products: A Global Concern



evision in uled formulations

on yearly basis in India seeks to reimburse manufacturers for the increase in input costs due to inflation. Any hike in 2013 empowers government prices of medicines prompts debate on price control of crease in the ceiling price or pharmaceuticals, and linkage of inflation with pharmaceuti- may be, irrespective of ancal prices. Manufacturers of nual wholesale price index its in previous two years, i.e., the USA rose to 7.5% which scheduled formulations have been allowed an increase of is for fixation of ceiling price (+) 0.005551% during the of a drug under certain circalendar year 2023 over the cumstances, i.e., extraordinary corresponding period in 2022 through Office Memoran- in July 2021, the NPPA had dum dated March 27, 2024 allowed a one-time increase by National Pharmaceutical of 50 per cent in the ceil-Pricing Authority (NPPA). Hike in prices of scheduled formulations is allowed as per namely ibuprofen, carbamazethe paragraph 16 (2) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. Scheduled formulation forcing the public to switch to means any formulation which is included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013. National List of Essential Medicines low-priced drugs. It was an ex-(NLEM) which is published ceptional measure as advised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as updated and revised from time to time is included in the First Schedule of the DPCO, 2013. Annual invoked extraordinary powers hike in prices is based on the in public interest under Para Wholesale Price Index (WPI) 19 of the DPCO. The Governdata which is provided by the ment also monitors the MRP Office of the Economic Advi- of all the drugs, including mained the top concern for sor, Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Ministry of Commerce and DPCO, 2013 the government Industry. Paragraph 16 of the ensures that no manufacturer DPCO provides for revision of increases the MRP of a drug their own mechanism to the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations as per the annual MRP during preceding twelve WPI for preceding calendar year on or before April 1 of every year. It is not that only

in the maximum retail price (MRP). Within a period of 45 days; manufacturers have to the prices ensure the compliance of the of sched-notification regarding the revised ceiling price. This provision essentially covers impact of inflation. Paragraph 19 of DPCO.

to allow an increase or dethe retail price, as the case for that year. This provision circumstances. For example, formulations of three drugs pine, and ranitidine, to ensure their availability thereby not costly alternatives. Upward price revision was allowed as these formulations were by the Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP). For this purpose, the NPPA the non-scheduled formulamore than ten per cent of the months.

The WPI rate of (+) increase is allowed. In case of fiscal is the lowest in last six in the U.S.A. in recent years.



12.12 per cent in 2022 which came into effect on April 1, 2023, 10.7 per cent in 2021 which came into effect on April 1, 2022. For the year 2020, 2019 and 2018, it was 1.88 per cent, 4.26 per cent, and 3.43 per cent respectively. ing prices of nine scheduled Like any other industry, the pharmaceutical industry has to face price rise in raw materials, packaging cost, transportation cost, and increase in manufacturing costs. Essentially, it is a reimbursement for the increase in input costs. If the price does not cover inflation then it has implications for the quality of products as well as steady supply of essential medicines in the country. From the regulatory perspective, it is pertinent that drug price ceilings are not violated, and even non-scheduled drugs remain affordable. For 2023, inflation re-

the pharmaceutical industry tions. Under Paragraph 20 of as per a poll of executives that was conducted by GlobalData Healthcare. Countries have factor inflation in pricing of pharmaceutical products. The Americans who are above the U.S.A. is the largest pharma- age of 65, or those who are ceutical market in the world. 0.005551% for the current Inflation became a concern

was the highest year-on-year rise since February 1982, i.e., highest in 40 years. In the U.S., the Inflation Reduction Act that came into effect on August 16, 2022 had specifically provided for pharmaceutical products. A report authored by Arielle Bosworth et al. (2022, September 30) tracked drug price changes from 2016-2022. From July 2021 to July 2022, the prices of 1,216 medications in the U.S. exceeded the inflation rate of 8.5 per cent. The average price increase for these 1,216 medications was 31.6 per cent. Not only that, there were some drugs for which the increase was of more than 500% in 2022. In this background, the Inflation Reduction Act introduced a new requirement for manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare for Part D drugs whose price increases exceeded inflation, starting from October 1, 2022. Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit, is the part of Medicare which covers most outpatient prescription drugs. Medicare offers coverage for

conditions. Europe is also facing simi-

younger with specific health

lighted the concern through writing to Health Council that Ministers for Health. In an Open Letter dated June 9, 2022, it expressed the concern inflation' on the secure supply of essential medicines for European patients. Medicines for Europe represented the supplied close to 70 per cent tions had demanded a hike of prescription medicines at very low cost to EU healthcare systems. In the letter, it highlighted higher inflation rate (over 7 per cent) in Europe, a level which has not been seen for decades along with external factors which exacerbated cost inflation for pharmaceuticals. External factors cited included 'energy costs and supply' due to the war in Ukraine (65% increase in gas prices and 30% increase in electricity), logistics (increase of up to 500% due to the bottlenecks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine), inputs and raw materials (rise between 50-160%), and skilled human resources (skill shortage for specialist science-based inindustry representatives expressed inability to operate in an environment combining rampant cost inflation with policies that continuously lower prices. They asked for adopting measures so that the government to abolish DGDA chose not to raise companies should be able to adjust prices to the level of

In Pakistan, our neighthe government approved a 14 per cent increase for es-

prices. Medicines for Europe move caused the shortage and Executive Committee high- disappearance of over 200 medications which included life-saving and essential drugs. the value of their currency has affected pharmaceutical industry as well as patients over the impact of 'rampant' in Pakistan. In March 2023, annual inflation in the country was 35%, and the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) along pharmaceutical industry that with other industry associa-39% across-the-board. Sri Lanka faced economic

crisis in 2022 and in April 2022, the Sri Lankan government was not left with any option other than to increase the prices of antibiotics, certain painkillers and medications for heart conditions by almost 40 per cent. Prices of certain drugs rose by 97%. In April 2023, inflation was 25.2% in Sri Lanka, and with and easing of economic crisis, Sri Lanka could reduce prices of 60 essential drugs by 16% from June 15, 2023. At present, price cap in Sri Lanka is imposed by the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) on 60 medicines cines available in the country. Prices of other medicines have seen an increase of 600-800%. In March 2024, All-Island price controls on 60 specific medicine prices. Depreciation medicines and also, to adopt a unified pricing mechanism US dollar (from \$=TK84 to based on the Cost, Insurance, \$=TK130) also contributed bouring country which is the and Freight (CIF) values. In to increase in prices as 97% fifth-most populous country, Sri Lanka, the price of all of raw materials are imported. medicines have been revised thrice since 2021, i.e., 9% in- of potential shortages and a

tion and impact on medicine drugs in September 2023. This Revision was mainly attributed to drastic devaluation of to economic crisis, devaluation of currency and inflation, comprises European Union Ongoing inflation and fall in pharmaceutical prices have remained higher in Sri Lanka. In April 2024, inflation rate in the economy was just 1.5 per cent as per the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) but prices of pharmaceutical products remained higher as Sri Lanka heavily relies on imports. By October 2022, Sri Lanka relied on imports for about 85% of its pharmaceutical requirements and about 80% of its medical supplies.

In Bangladesh, the Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB) filed a petition change in the existing ceiling in April 2024 with the High Court for seeking direction to the Secretary of Health Services Division and the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) in 'not fixing the price of all drugs' under little reduction in inflation Section 30 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2023. The CAB cited a media report published on March 11, 2024 which said that medicine prices rose 7 manner as inflation is likely to 140 per cent in two weeks. In January 2024 too, representatives of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical dustry). Through this letter, only out of about 1,200 medi- Industries (BAPI) conveyed to countries need to strengthen government authorities that drug production costs had increased by up to 30% in ately through pharmaceutical 2023 in addition to increase Private Pharmacy Owners' As- in gas, transportation, and move can bring transparency sociation (AIPPOA) had urged operational costs, and still, in compensating the increase of domestic currency against They expressed apprehension sential medications, and a 20 crease in 2021, and revision decline in the quality of drugs decline in the WPI, there shall years. Hike was in double dig- In January 2022, inflation in lar concerns regarding infla- per cent hike for non-essential of 29% and 40% in 2022. in absence of hike in drug

drug brands across 20 genertheir currency in 2021. Due ics were raised in the range of 13% to 75% by the DGDA in 2022. In Bangladesh, 308 pharmaceutical companies produce allopathic medicines with more than 27,000 brands of more than 1,500 drugs. 219 drugs are categorized as 'essential', and the government regulates prices of 117 of these essential medicines.

> Lower hike in prices for scheduled formulations for 2024-25 has provided some relief for patients in India. At present, the ceiling prices on 923 medicines are effective. If WPI factor is considered for 2024 then there will be no prices for 782 medicines till March 31, 2025. It is worthwhile to note that manufacture of pharmaceuticals; medicinal chemical and botanical products have overall 1.99 per cent weightage in WPI. Due to lower WPI in India, manufacturers of scheduled formulations can cater to overseas demand in a competitive to remain elevated in many economies across the globe. To conclude, pharmaceutical pricing authorities in different their pricing mechanism so as to factor inflation approprisector specific indices. This in input costs.

Dr. Anil Kumar Angrish,

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Sensex hits new all-time high; Nifty breaches 23,000-mark for first time

indices Sensex and Nifty hit their fresh all-time peaks in early trade on Friday amid buoyant investors' sentiment days ahead of the results of the Lok Sabha polls announcement and fresh foreign fund

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 164.24 points to hit its all-time high of 75,582.28 in early trade. The NSE Nifty went up by 36.4 points to breach the 23,000 mark for the first time ever. It hit its lifetime peak of 23,004.05.

From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were the major gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Thursday after days of offload-



ing equities. They bought equities worth Rs 4,670.95 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data

The results of the ongoing general elections will be declared on June 4

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower.

Wall Street ended in negative territory on Thursday.

"Yesterday, Nifty neared the 23,000 mark, driven by investor optimism about the current regime's continuation in the upcoming general elections," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

With nearly a fortnight left for the results of Lok Sabha polls, benchmark stock indi-Global oil benchmark Brent ces Sensex and Nifty zoomed crude climbed 0.05 per cent to more than 1.6 per cent to

Yesterday. Nifty neared the 23,000 mark, driven by investor optimism about the current regime's continuation in the upcoming general elections"

close at lifetime high levels

Regaining the 75,000 level, the BSE Sensex ended at an all-time peak of 75,418.04, up by 1,196.98 points or 1.61 per cent. The NSE Nifty inched closer to the 23,000 mark during the day on Thursday. The 50-issue index went up by 369.85 points or 1.64 per cent to 22,967.65

Full Budget Likely to be presented around July 10-12 NEW DELHI: With the gen-

eral elections entering the final phases, ministries and departments of the Union government have begun the internal exercise to firm up proposals and expenditure plans for the full Budget 2024-25, which is likely to be presented around July 10-12, sources told to media. In 2019, the budget was

presented on July 5, a month and five days after Narendra Modi was sworn in on May 30. This time election results will be announced on June 4 and the swearing-in of the new government will likely happen before June 10. Given the paucity of time, only around a month will be available for the budget consultation with industry and other stakeholders before the Budget is presented in Parliament. Modi continues to express supreme confidence that his government will secure a straight third term in the ongoing general elections, even as the leaders of the opposition INDIA alliance see a tide in their favour



up our proposals and recommendations now as there will not be much time after the government formation as the Budget has to be approved at the earliest for faster execution of proposals," a senior official said. Recently, a meeting of all financial advisers of all departments was held to sensitize to states by 15 per cent to Rs 1.5 them about the upcoming Budget. The Centre's expenditure so far has been as per the plans envisioned in the interim budget but will see at boosting economic activity acceleration only after June.

ture size of Rs 47.65 trillion presented in the interim budget in February for FY25 may see some changes depending on the new ideas included by the government, key ratios such as the fiscal deficit are unlikely to vary. The government may top up the 50-year interest-free capex loans trillion in 2024-25 from Rs 1.3 trillion provided in the interim budget due to increased demand for the liberal loan facility aimed across the country

Interview to select SBI chief put off till Lok Sabha poll



owned banks and financial institutions — in an unexpected move has deferred the scheduled interview to select a suitable candidate for the post of SBI chairman. The last-minute postponement comes hours before the scheduled interview, sources said. The exact reasons for postponement could not be ascertained immediately. However, sources said, the new date for the interview will be decided after the formation of the new government after June 4. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) will schedule the interview well in advance to select a replacement for Dinesh Khara, who will be superannuating on August 28, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI chairman. The chairman is appointed from a pool of serving managing directors of SBI. FSIB will recommend the name and the final decision would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi.

RBI Poised to Provide Substantial Dividend to Govt Coffers: Reports



NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is reportedly planning to transfer a significant dividend payment to the government, potentially amounting to around Rs 1 lakh crore. Such a transfer would substantially bolster the central government's financial resources, according to a recent report by media. In a parallel development last week, the RBI announced a substantial reduction in the government's borrowing through treasury bills, slashing the amount by Rs 60,000 crore. This decision effectively curtails the funds that the central government would have raised through these shortterm debt instruments. Furthermore, the central bank has implemented measures to facilitate the success of an upcoming debt management operation, in which the government plans to prematurely repay Rs 60,000 crore of its previous borrowings. These actions are widely perceived as strategic moves to to strengthen the rupee. tilise government funds that

is relatively high, based on the

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

house in urban areas is approxi-

Delayed Subsidies, Land Encroachments Stifle Indore's MSME Sector Paytm posts Rs 550 crore

MSME

INDORE: The industrial sector in Indore, a major hub for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), is grappling with challenges posed by delays in the release of government subsidies and rampant encroachment on industrial lands.

Industrialists have urged authorities to intervene and address these impediments that are stifling growth.

At a meeting held on Monday with the MSME Commissioner, Dr. Navneet Mohan Kothari, members of the Association of Industries Madhya Pradesh (AIMP) highlighted that encroachments on industrial plots

ated, disrupting operations in

several industrial pockets across «Numerous cases of pending dent Yogesh Mehta.

and green belts have prolifer- subsidy dues, some dating back over two years, have burdened industries with debt and interest liabilities,» stated AIMP Presi-

«MSMEs operate with limited resources, and delays in disbursing subsidies adversely impact day-to-day productivity,» Mehta added.

Industrialists called for coordinated efforts from the district administration, municipal authorities, and the District Industries Centre to clear encroachments from industrial areas. They cited the newly constructed convention center on Sanwer Road Sector E as an example, where encroachments have undermined its intended purpose of providing a platform for MSMEs to showcase their

loss in Q4, hints at job cuts

NEW DELHI: One 97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of Paytm, clocked a net loss of Rs 550 crore in the January-March period of FY24, a 3.2 times jump compared to the same period in the last fiscal year. Paytm's revenue was down by 20 per cent compared to the previ-

Its quarterly result took beating after the Reserve Payments Bank (PPBL). The

company posted a 3 per cent decline in its revenue for the fourth quarter of FY24 to Rs

This comes as the company plans to achieve significant cost efficiencies through artificial intelligence (AI)led capabilities. The digital payments major is planning "leaner organisation structure" and the "pruning of non-core businesses", in-Bank of India's (RBI) ban on dicating there may be job some of the services of Paytm redundancies at the company in the near future

forward holdings, can now

cover more than 11 months

of imports, which is a two-

RBI Governor Shaktikanta

Das recently referred to the re-

cord foreign exchange reserves

as a reflection of the strength

"It is our prime focus to

build a strong buffer in the

form of a substantial quantum

of forex reserves which will

help us when the cycle turns.

ing the first monetary policy

of the Indian economy.

year high.

0YO may raise equity at \$4 billion valuation



NEW DELHI: Travel tech platform OYO, which is preparing to launch its maiden public issue, is likely to raise equity funds from institutional investors at a valuation of USD 3-4 billion, its founder Ritesh Agarwal told employees on Wednesday, according to

The IPO-bound firm had its maiden net profitable year in FY24 when it posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 99.6 crore registered a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 100 crore in the

India's forex reserves soar to lifetime high of \$648.7 billion

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$4.55 billion to touch a new lifetime high of 648.7 billion mark during the week ended May 17, according to the latest data released by the RBI

This is the third consecutive week during which the in the market to buy dollars to country's forex kitty has expanded which augurs well for the macroeconomic fundamentals of the economy as an ample supply of dollars helps

recorded \$3.66 billion rise for the week ended May 3.

India's foreign exchange reserves had earlier touched a lifetime high of \$648.562 billion in April after which they had declined for three weeks in a row by \$10.6 billion as the RBI actively intervened stabilise the rupee.

An increase in the foreign exchange reserves gives the RBI more headroom to stabilise the rupee when it turns volatile.

are currently dormant due to had increased by \$2.56 billion intervenes in the spot and constraints on spending related to \$644.15 billion during the forward currency markets prevent the rupee from going to the recent electoral process. week ended May 10 and had by releasing more dollars to into a free fall.

Indians are ignoring Inflation in a political narrative



of crude oil increased globally

placed on both the export of agricultural products and their

ability to be stored in order to

Conversely, a declining forex to intervene in the market to

review of the current financial Household Savings in India Show Signs of Rebound: Crisil

NEW DELHI: According to a report released on May 21 by Crisil, a prominent rating agency, India's household savings, which had been declining since the COVID-19 pandemic due to higher borrowings, may have rebounded in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24).

the National Statistical Office mated to have narrowed to (NSO) is still awaited, early indicators suggest that household savings may have revived the previous fiscal year. Howin FY24, and the growth in household liabilities is likely to have moderated, as stated by Crisil. The report, titled Trends in Household Savings and Debt After the Pandemic,'



While official data from count deficit (CAD) is estiaround 1 per cent of GDP in FY24, down from 2 per cent in ever, investments rose to about 33.7 per cent of GDP from 32.2 per cent in the preceding year. "Amid low CAD, increasing domestic savings are likely to have financed rising invest-

estimate that total domestic savings likely grew stronger in fiscal 2024, compared with 10.7 per cent on-year in the previous fiscal," the report states. Crisil highlights that bank deposits, which constitute the largest portion of gross financial savings, grew 13.5 per cent in FY24, compared with 9.6 per cent in the previous vear, outpacing the 9.1 per cent nominal GDP growth in FY24.

Additionally, mutual fund investments by households grew at a faster rate in FY24 compared to recent years, with investments through systematic investment plans (SIPs), primarily opted for by individuals, continuing to rise.

India's Trade Imbalance with Russia **Swells Amid Rising Energy Imports**

NEW DELHI: India's trade deficit with Russia has surged to USD 57.18 billion in the fiscal year 2023-2024, marking a 33 per cent annual increase, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

This substantial imbalance is primarily driven by India's heightened imports of discounted Russian crude oil in the wake of Western sanctions imposed on Moscow following the invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry's figures reveal that India's imports from Russia reached USD 61.44 billion in the fiscal year 2023-2024, a 33 per cent year-over-year rise. In contrast, exports to Rus-



sia stood at USD 4.26 billion, reflecting a more modest 35 per cent annual increase. Notably, crude oil imports from Russia climbed to USD 46.49 billion during the same period, surging by nearly 50 per cent compared to the previous fiscal year. India's trade deficit with Russia has steadily expanded

since the fiscal year 2020-

2021. However, the past two fiscal years, 2023-2024 and 2022-2023, have witnessed a substantial surge in this imbalance, primarily attributed to India's increasing purchases of discounted Russian crude oil.

Between the fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2023-2024, the trade deficit with Russia has multiplied by over eight times, while exports have risen by approximately 32 per cent during the same period. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, India's trade deficit with Russia stood at USD 6.62 billion, with exports amounting to USD 3.23 billion and imports totalling USD 9.87 billion.

DR PS VOHRA 'ndians must have felt that Lvegetable prices had not decreased throughout the last winter. Vegetables and fruits are generally more expensive in summer than in winter. India's internal inflation rate has been anticipated to be 5.4%, which

for the years 2023-2024. It is important to note that different commodities and substances 2023–2024, which significantly increased the average person's needed in the daily lives of an food budget expenditures and average person are separated into a total of six components ultimately raised the yearly rate when calculating inflation us- of inflation above 5%. It is also ing the Consumer Price Index. somewhat unexpected that Of these, the variety of foods many Indian states—which and drinks utilised for food are also the top producers of pulses—saw quite substantial is the most significant. These items include vegetables, fruits, inflation in their pulse prices. milk, pulses, spices, sugar, meat For instance, the prices of pulsand fish, oil etc. In the calculaes rose from 1.9 percent to 21 tion of Consumer Price Index, percent in the most recent year which presents the rate of infla-2023-24 compared to the year tion, food and food items have a 2022–23 in Madhya Pradesh, 5.7 percent. In the remaining weightage of about 46 percent the state that produces the most in the day-to-day or monthly pulses. It increased in price by almost 20% in Karnataka, expenses of a common man. In rural areas, food and food 18% in Maharashtra and Gujaitems account for 54 percent rat, and, in Uttar Pradesh and of the day-to-day expenses of Chhattisgarh by 15 percent. a common man. Whereas in It is also often heard that In-

urban areas, it is 36 percent. dia's economy is always plagued The main reason behind this by inflation and unemployis that the cost of living in a ment. Although every effort is made to manage them, it is a mately 22 percent, which is zero harsh reality that they are both in rural areas. Therefore, it is constantly out of control. Even almost always discussed that as the nation emerges from the inflation rate is controlled election season, the public's by the fluctuations in the price attention shifts away from economic concerns and towards a The cost of pulses skyrocket- variety of other concerns, which

If we understand this from the figures, then in four out of the ten states of the third phase of the current central government elections, the inflation rate on the basis of consumer price index is running higher than the inflation rate of the country. Bihar is at the top among these four states, where the inflation rate is 5.84 percent. Then there are Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat where the inflation rate is more than six states, except Maharashtra, the inflation rate in all has been four percent or less during the year 2023-24. Although this rate is above five percent in Maharashtra, but the average inflation rate of the country is definitely less than 5.4 percent. It is also important to mention here that in all these states, inflation has been recorded to

income in rural areas is much lower than in urban areas. It is also frequently argued that domestic inflation rises ed in the most recent fiscal year seems even more unexpected. sometimes due to major global

be higher in rural areas which

is an indicator of a very dire

situation because per capita

due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, the cost of maintain the control of food transportation increased due to the increase in the price of petrol and diesel in the domestic market and due to that almost everything became expensive in the Indian market. recent fiscal year. This also included food items, vegetables and fruits etc. However, during that time there was a double blow of inflation because the cost of petrol and diesel affects financially both directly and indirectly. In this era of globalization, it is justified to be helpless in front of all these things, but when the price of food items, vegetables, pulses etc. increases on the domestic front without any global reasons, then it seems incomprehensible and it is very important to discuss it for its solution. However, governments focus on all these through a social welfare scheme, under which on one hand, if we talk about the lives of farmers, then increasing the price of MSP and purchasing the crop with guarantee etc. are also included. On the other hand, distributing food grains to the poor for free is also commendable. But it is also very important to understand that all these are not permanent options to control inflation. In the context of India, it

has also been observed that the previous fiscal year saw significant setbacks in the agriculture sector as a result of climate change, leading to somewhat lower agricultural output. Subsequently, on the home front, restrictions were

prices. As a result of all of this, India's agricultural exports were worth roughly 15 billion US dollars in 2022-2023 but were extremely low in the most It is also important to note that in order to curb inflation, everyone is looking on the RBI to cut interest rates, which will allow society to regulate the Indian Rupee's liquidity. The

average person's purchasing power declines and financial loans become more expensive, even though this has no direct impact on inflation. However, the higher cost of bank loans also reduces a company's ability to expand, which results in a negligible gain in employment possibilities. In addition to all of this, it is a fact of the modern world that the Central Bank of India cannot make any kind of judgement without considering the circumstances across the world. For instance, the likelihood of a rate cut in India appears remote if the US Federal Reserve does not. In addition, the prospect of changes in the world market price of crude oil adds to the uncertainty. Consequently, it's important to recognise that inflation is a problem whose solution the nation's economic policies fail to recognise and instead attempt to overlook by treating it as a normal part of daily life.

Dr PS Vohra is Writer, $columnist\ and\ financial$ thinker, View are personal

Haley will vote for Trump, triggers Vice President slot talk

ning a spirited primary chal-

lenge to former US President

Donald Trump, Nikki Haley,

the former Ambassador to the

UN, said on Wednesday that

"I will be voting for Trump,

the Indian-descent politician

said in a speech at Hudson

Institute, a think-tank where

"She went on to explain her

reasons. As a voter, I put my

priorities on a President who's

going to have the backs of our

allies and hold our enemies to

account. Who would secure

the border, no more excuses.

A President who would sup-

she will vote for him.

she will hold a chair.

India abstains on UNGA resolution commemorating Srebrenica genocide

has abstained on a UN General Assembly resolution to create an annual day to commemorate the 1995 genocide in Srebrenica during the civil war that followed the break-up of Yugoslavia

The resolution sponsored by Germany and Rwanda was carried on Thursday with only 84 votes in the 193-member Assembly reflecting the deep divisions over it because most such motions are adopted by consensus. Nineteen countries voted against it, while 68 abstained and 22 altogether stayed away. India did not explain the reasons for the abstention.

With the passage of the resolution, the UN will commemorate every year on July 11 the killing of about 8,000 Bosnian Muslims by Bosnian Serbs, who were Orthodox Christians, as "The International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica".

The victims were men and

Biden asserts what's

happening in Gaza'is

WASHINGTON: US President

Joe Biden has rejected accusa-

tions against the Israeli leadership

that it is committing genocide in

its fight against the Palestinian

the Gaza Strip. "Contrary to alle-

We reject that, "Biden said on

Monday in the Rose Garden of

the White House at a Jewish

American Heritage Month event.

On Monday, International

Criminal Court (ICC) chief

prosecutor Karim Khan applied

for arrest warrants for Israel's

Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

tanyahu and Defence Minister

Joav Galant for alleged crimes

gations against

Israel made by

the Interna-

tional Court of

Justice, what's

happening is

not genocide.

not genocide



boys separated from the women in the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina by ethnic Serb fighters who overran it during the three-and-a-halfyear-long civil war when the ethnic communities fought for supremacy in the nascent nation after Yugoslavia splintered. Germany's Permanent Representative Antje Leendertse said her country was sponsoring the resolution to prevent a genocide like that perpetrated by German Nazis from recurring. Six million Jews were killed by Nazis during World War II.

was one-sided and was silent on the massacres of Serbians and people of other ethnicities, he added. Under the 1995 peace accord ending the civil war in Bosnia, it has a tripartite presidency shared by an ethnic Bosnian, a Serb, and a Croat. The Serb President of Bos-

nia, Milorad Dodik, and Vucic came to the UN to campaign against the resolution, which they said was directed against the ethnic Serbs. In the polarised UN, it was viewed through the prism of the confrontation between the West and Russia, making it appear as directed against Serbia, a Moscow ally, and ethnic Serbians in Bosnia, and as a Western attempt to show solidarity with Muslims, who are furious with the Western-backed Israel attacks on Gaza that have killed more than 34,000

The resolution introduced without a consensus and extensive consultations only ended up showing the rift in the UN.

Singapore Airlines Turbulence: 22 passengers suffered spinal cord injuries, 6 had head trauma

passengers from a Singapore Airlines flight that was hit by severe turbulence on Tuesday have spinal cord injuries and six others, including a twoyear-old child, have brain and skull injuries, according to media reports on Friday.

Geoffrey Kitchen, a 73-yearold British passenger, died likely due to a heart attack on the Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight SQ321, operating from London (Heathrow) to Singapore. Nearly 60 passengers were injured after the flight on May 21 encountered "sudden extreme turbulence over the Irrawaddy Basin at 37,000 feet about 10 hours after departure". The pilot diverted the Boeing 777-300ER carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew members to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, making an emergency landing.

Twenty people remained in intensive care, although none were life-threatening cases, reported The Straits Times, citing Dr Adinun Kittiratanapaibool, director of hospital after the incident. The their concerns.



Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital in Bangkok. The oldest patient at the hospital is 83-year-old, while the youngest is a twoyear-old child who suffered a concussion. A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury that affects brain function. Effects are often short-term and can include headaches and trouble with concentration, memory, balance, mood and sleep. Kittiratanapaibool said there were 40 patients at the

made an emergency landing in Bangkok.

Sixty-five passengers and two crew members were still n Bangkok, said SIA in a Facebook post on Thursday.

It added that SIA chief executive Goh Choon Phong has been meeting the affected passengers, crew, their family members and loved ones in Bangkok to offer his support personally and to understand

port capitalism and freedom. A President who understands we need less debt, not more debt.' "Trump has not been perfect on these policies. I have made that clear many, many times. But Biden has been a catastrophe." Haley's endorsement

triggered talk of joining the

Trump ticket as running mate. Trump, who has stoked nomination to run for the White House, she had called him "unhinged" and chaos fol-

She had even suggested a mental acuity test for candidates running for President citing some of his many fumbles, which included mistaking Haley for Nancy Pelosi, a former Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives. A key reason Trump could change his mind on Haley is her supporters in the Republican Party, who remain so deeply hostile to him that they have continued to vote for her in the ongoing

lowed him wherever he went.

SGPC President condoles demise of Iranian President Dr. Raisi & Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian

to honour the memory of the

victims of the Srebrenica mas-

sacre in Bosnia and was not

directed against Serbs, but only

against those who committed

the killings, Leendertse added.

dent of neighbouring Serbia,

questioned the standing of Ger-

many to make such a proposal

given its history and said it was

introduced for political reasons

and to stigmatise the Serbian

people. Those who carried out

the massacre have already been

tried, convicted, and sentenced

Aleksandar Vucic, the Presi-

Expressed his grief by sending a condolence message to Supreme Leader of Iran, Mr. Hojatoleslam Seyed Ali Khamenei

JAGMOHAN SINGH militant organisation Hamas in

Harjinder Singh Dhami, President of representative Sikh organization, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has expressed grief over the demise of Iranian President Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi and Iran>s Foreign Minister Mr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a helicopter crash.

Expressing condolence over the demise of Dr Raisi, Mr. Abdollahian and others on board in the tragic crash, Dhami has sent a condolence message to the Supreme Leader of Iran, Mr. Hojatoleslam Seyed Ali



Iran and the bereaved families. He also prayed to the Akal Purakh for the peace of the

departed souls. Dhami, as the president of SGPC, the representative organization of Sikhs, said in his condolence message that the relationship of Sikhs with the land of Iran has been connected since the time of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji>s travel and many Sikh families live there. He said that the demise of Iranian President Dr. Raisi. Foreign Minister Mr. Abdollahian and others in a helicopter crash are extremely sad.

community, the SGPC President paid tribute to the departed souls by expressing his condolences to the Supreme Leader of Iranian Gov-

It is extremely sad that Raisi and Foreign Minister Mr. Amir and other passengers died in a helicopter accident. On behalf of the entire Sikh community, he paid tribute to the departed souls by expressing his condolences the Supreme Leader of Iranian Government Mr. Hojatoleslam Sved Ali Khamenei, the bereaved families and the Iranian brotherhood. He further said that we recognize the seriousness of the Iranian Government towards the Sikh community of Iran with its 100 years of history and pray

Yoon, Sunak say Al global summit will discuss innovation & inclusivity



SEOUL: A global summit on artificial intelligence (AI), to be co-hosted by South Korea and Britain this week, will present global AI governance principles to foster innovation, safety and inclusivity, the two nations' leaders said on May 20.

In a joint opinion article, President Yoon Suk Yeol and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the upcoming AI Seoul Summit aims to build on the conversation from the first AI Safety Summit held in England last November to address risks and triumphs of the fast-evolving technology, reports Yonhap news agency.

Vietnam announces former Minister to Lam as new President

HANOI: Vietnam's National Assembly, on Wednesday morning, approved to Lam, the Minister of Public Security, as the country's next President following a vote at its headquarters in Hanoi. The appointment comes

nearly two months after Vietnam's former President Vo Van Thuong resigned amid a corruption crackdown. Lam has become the third President of Vietnam in less than 18 months, in a country that has a reputation for its stable politics. Lam, the third most power-

ful man in Vietnam besides the Party Chief and Prime Minister, is viewed as a hardliner when it comes to dealings with Vietnamese activists. Numerous dissidents and bloggers were jailed during his tenure as the Minister of Public Security.

Lam was handed the public security portfolio in 2016. In November 2021, To Lam



was widely mocked after a video emerged online showing him being hand-fed gold leaf steak worth thousands of dollars by celebrity chef Salt Bae during a trip to the UK, in which he also visited the grave of communist icon Karl Marx. On Sunday, a spokesperson

from the National Assembly announced to the media that Lam would also continue in his position as the Minister of Public

speculation about his running mate naming those in consideration, has ruled out Haley. But if Haley can change her mind about Trump, so and Trump about her. Running against him for the party's

primaries even though she is no longer in the race.

Cumulative difficulties of Indian students abroad



largest economy in the world

and is rapidly moving towards becoming the fourth largest economy in the world, yet there are not enough options and opportunities available in the country to get quality higher education, nor is the sound education system at tered in London with offices lower level available. Even, as per the qualification, employment is not available in the country, at the same time, there is no availability of basic facilities like roads, electricity, pure drinking water, Management category, while basic health facility etc., leading the Indian Institute of Manage-

After independence, many reare among the top 50 business forms have been made in the field of education, which have led to world. At the same time, in the significant improvement in em- university category, Jawaharployment and research scenario, lal University is one of the top literacy rate etc. Today, there are 20 universities in the world. more than 1,000 universities and 42,000 colleges across the country providing higher education, but they still lack adequate capital, skilled teachers and infrastructure. However, there has been a significant increase in institutions in the world. research work in recent years. For example, there has been a 54 percent increase in research work from 2017 to 2022.

dents pursuing higher education is only 13, whereas at the international level this percentage ranges between 28 to 90. According to the Worldwide Education for the Future Index, India was ranked providing quality education in

Even today, no college or university from India occupies the top 10 positions in lakh and in 2024 this number the world. According to the is likely to reach 24 lakh. Dur-University Rankings, 2024, ing 2020 to 2021, the number announced by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), which is a higher education analyst and More children from Tier 2 and services provider, headquar- Tier 3 cities of India are going to activities in the country would



study abroad, due to the social in Europe, Asia, and the USA, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad is among the top 25 management institutes in the world in the Business and to migration of youth from India. ment, Bengaluru and Kolkata management institutes in the hesitating even doing small jobs. To change such situation,

Despite continuous improvements in the higher education sector in India, QS's CEO Jessica Turner believes that the biggest Today, the percentage of stu-challenge India faces is providing quality education to students, which can be achieved by providing infrastructure, skilled

Savita Institute of Medical and

Technical Sciences, Chennai;

Ranked top 24th in the world

in dentistry category. Thus, no

higher education institution in

India is included in the top 10

teachers and capital. Due to large number of students pursuing education abroad, 33rd in the world in terms of there is flow of capital from India to foreign countries and along 2020, compared to 35th in 2019 with it there is also migration of and 40th in 2018. Obviously, this talent. According to the Ministry cannot be called an encouraging of External Affairs, by January 2023, 15 lakh Indian students were studying abroad, while in 2022 this number was 13 of students pursuing education abroad increased by 50 percent.

status symbol and the desire to live abroad. Only 20 percent of the students studying abroad want to return to India after completing their studies, while 80 percent of the students want to settle there. Some youth are taking admission in "B" and "C" category educational institutions just to live abroad and are not

branches of foreign universities have been opened in India for Indian students to stay in India and take education from renowned universities of abroad, but Indian students are not taking much interest in taking admission in them, because the priority of student is to settle abroad instead of getting education from a foreign institute.

Among the students taking education abroad, 35 percent of the students are getting education in USA. Today, 1 out of every 4 students in USA's educational institutions is of Indian origin. In 2024, these students can spend 75 to 85 billion dollars abroad. According to the Reserve Bank of India, Rs 5 billion was spent in foreign exchange in the financial year 2021-22. Before the start of the Corona pandemic, students studying abroad had spent \$24 billion in foreign countries, which was 1 percent of India's gross domestic product (GDP). This amount is expected to increase to 80 billion dollars in 2024. If Indian students had not gone to study abroad, then the foreign currency would have been used to meet the need of imports, economic

have accelerated, the economy would have strengthened, the education system of the country would have been strengthened, the country's talent would have been utilized in the country etc.

According to statistics, after China, India has the highest number of students going abroad to study. Indian students are going to countries like China, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia, Australia, England, France, Germany, USA etc. to obtain degrees and diplomas in higher education like medical, engineering, business manage-

Indian students have been going to countries like Russia, China, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Philippines etc. for almost 3 decades to obtain medical degree, because due to less medical seats in India, medical education here is very expensive. According to the National Medical Commission, there were only 596 medical colleges across the country in the financial year 2021-22, where the total number of medical seats was only 88,120. However, there are few examples of people going abroad to study engineering.

For the past many years, Indian students studying abroad have been being murdered and discriminated against, but after the Corona pandemic and the beginning of the war between Russia and Ukraine, there is more concern about the safety of students studying abroad. This was done because during this period thousands of students in many countries became victims of the Corona pandemic. At the

the Australian government had for the Indian students studying

Additionally, due to the on-

going war between Russia and Ukraine, more than 20,000 students were stranded in Ukraine in the early stages of the war. Even a few months ago, hundreds of Indian students were affected due to the closure of some colleges in Canada. A few days ago, some Indian students were attacked in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. In February 2024, Amarnath Ghosh, a student of Washington University in St. Louis, USA, was murdered. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, more than 400 students studying abroad have died since 2018, some of which were natural deaths, and some were murders. The highest number of deaths of students have occurred in Canada.

The government should increase the number of international treaties to improve the situation of murders or deadly attacks on Indian students abroad or racial remarks or discrimination. The number of seats in government medical and engineering colleges should be increased. Student insurance scheme should be started. Apart from this, there is a need for improvement at the grassroots level and greater investment in the field of education, promotion of innovation and research, better employment situation in the country, ease of doing business, good governance in the country and making the system transparent at every level.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swarai had once called Indian students studying abroad as brand ambassadors of the country, but today the lives of these Indian students are in danger. Hence, in this case, corrective steps need to be taken by the government.

Satish Singh, Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist, Views are personal

US confirms another human H5 bird flu case tied to dairy cow outbreak

man case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5 bird flu) virus infection in the US has been identified, health authorities said.

The case, identified in the state of Michigan, is the second associated with an ongoing multistate outbreak of H5N1 in dairy cows, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Wednesday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The infected individual is a worker on a dairy farm where the H5N1 virus has been identi-



fied in cows, according to the CDC. The patient only reported eye symptoms.

The CDC has been watching influenza surveillance systems closely, particularly in affected states, and there has been no sign of unusual influenza activity in people, including in the CDC.

agency said. Based on the information available, this infection does

not change the CDC's current

H5N1 bird flu human health risk assessment for the US general public, which the agency considers to be low.

People with close or prolonged, unprotected exposures to infected birds or other animals, or to environments contaminated by infected birds or other animals, are at greater

India & China Compete for Seabed Minerals Critical to EVs & Solar Panels

New Delhi: India and China are engaged in an underwater exploration race to secure access to critical mineral resources found on the seabeds of the Indian Ocean.

These minerals, such as cobalt and manganese, are essential components in the production of batteries for electric vehicles and solar panels, two rapidly growing industries, reported TOI.

Recent reports indicate that India has applied to the United Nations' International Seabed Authority (ISA) for licenses to explore the Carlsberg Ridge and Afanasy-Nikitin Seamount regions of the Indian Ocean.

Chinese interests have also been expressed in surveying the area for mineral deposits, heightening the strategic importance for India.

"We are aware that China and other countries are also eyeing these regions. So, for us, it is not only about mineral resources but also about strategic importance," stated M. Ravichandran, Secretary of India's Ministry of Earth

India currently holds two exploration licenses in the In-



dian Ocean, granted by the ISA in 2002 and 2016 respectively. The first permits surveying for polymetallic nodules in the central Indian Ocean, while the second allows for exploration of polymetallic sulphides at the Rodriguez Triple Junction near Mauritius.

According to the National Institute of Oceanography, only about 300,000 square kilometers of the 71 million square kilometer Indian Ocean region have been comprehensively mapped since the 1980s.

These surveys have identified around 150,000 square kilometers containing polymetallic nodules rich in manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper, and iron hydroxide.

"In the 1980s, we recruited scientists to study polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean with the hope that one day there will be technology to explore these regions," said Sunil Kumar Singh, Director of the National Institute of Oceanography.

India has initiated preliminary test mining activities within an 18,000 square kilometer area of its Central Indian Ocean claim, developing extraction technologies while assessing potential environmental impacts.

Researchers estimate this area holds 380 million tonnes of polymetallic nodules, including 1.5 million tonnes of cobalt reserves.

Cannes: Meerut girl gives United Kingom film school cause for cheer

Mansi Maheshwari, representing the United Kingdom as a graduate of the National Film and Television School (NFTS), is in contention for a La Cinef prize at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

Maheshwari's "Bunnyhood", a nine-minute-long animated film, premiered here on Thursday, a day on which all eyes were on the world premiere of Payal Kapadia's highly anticipated "All We Imagine As Light", the first Indian title in Cannes Competition in 30

"Bunnyhood" is, in the filmmaker's words, "a horror comedy in which I tell a comingof-age story about me and my

She says: "The title refers combine fashion and animato the stage of transition that tion in the future. separates childhood and adultderstand why people feel the

wari passed out of NFTS this is why it has limited colours.' year after completing a course in Directing Animation.

Prior to enrolling in NFTS, Maheshwari was a Knitwear Design student at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi. During the course, she sharpened her artistic streak and took to making animated short films.

"I designed a fashion collection based on the animation about my choice of career, that I did," she says, adding they have been incredibly that she hopes to continue to supportive."

"In 'Bunnyhood', I used cel hood. The film seeks to un- animation, the oldest form of animation, and butter paper and frosted acetate," says "Bunnyhood" is the 25-year-old's graduation film. Mahesh-a vintage look and feel. That

> Growing up, Maheshwari was a voracious consumer of cartoon films. She recalls: "My elder brother would say to me: how will you ever grow up if you only watch cartoons?'

"My father is a businessman in Meerut," says Maheshwari. "I am the first artist in the family. Although my parents had some reservations initially



Superstar receives

Superstar Rajinikanth received the UAE's 'Golden Visa' from Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT), his office announced on Thursday.

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of the DCT, Abu Dhabi government, handed over the Emirates ID to the legendary actor during an in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

After receiving the Golden Visa, the superstar said: "I am deeply honoured to receive the prestigious UAE Golden Visa from the Abu Dhabi government. My heartfelt thanks to the Abu Dhabi government and also to my good friend Yusuf Ali MA, CMD of Lulu group for felicitating the Visa and all support."

Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE's Minister for Tolerance, called on Rajnikanth at his palace.

The Tamil Superstar also visited the newly constructed BAPS Hindu Mandir and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

The superstar recently wrapped up the shooting for his movie 'Vettaiyan'.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan discharged from Ahmedabad hospital after receiving treatment for heat stroke



AHMEDABAD: Actor Shah Rukh Khan, who was admitted to a private hospital in Ahmedabad after suffering from a heat stroke, was discharged from the facility on Thursday evening, a police official said.
"Khan has been dis-

charged from the hospita this evening. He left for the airport from the hospital, said Ahmedabad (Rural) Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Jat.

The actor was admitted to the multi-specialty KD Hospital here on Wednesday. The private hospital has not yet issued any statement on Khan's health condition.

The actor was in Ahmedabad on Tuesday to attend an Indian Premier League (IPL) match of his Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) team dium. Several parts of Gujarat have been reeling under a severe heatwave for the last couple of days.

As per a report by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Ahmedabad city was under "heatwave" on Tues-day and Wednesday when it recorded a maximum temperature of 45.2 and 45.9 degrees Celsius, re-

like doctors, engineers, MBA

etc., but most of them are not

skilled and knowledgeable. Such

people are not able to complete

any work efficiently, but there is

no dearth of employment for the

People with technical and

practical knowledge may be

behind in terms of degree and

knowledge of English, but

stupid. There is no doubt that

good marks obtained in schools

skilled ones

JANHVI KAPOOR'S big revelation: She believes in astrology

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor says she believes in astrology and has checked her zodiac compatibility "many

During the press conference for her upcoming film 'Mr & Mrs Mahi', Janhvi was asked if she believed in astrology, considering that her character Mahima's "kundali" is matched for an arranged

Janhvi told media: "I think we all have checked our zodiac compatibility. I have done it so many times. I do believe in astrology a lot but not to the extent where I stop talking to a person just because my zodiac sign doesn't match!' 'Mr & Mrs Mahi' also stars Rajkummar

Rao and is slated to hit the screens on 31. She then has 'Devara: Chapter 1' with star Jr NTR releasing. She revealed that her character Thangam

in the film is interesting.

The actress added: "I love working on



a film set where people do their work with love. The passion these guys have is amazing and their storytelling is beautiful. With conviction they showcase each character, it is very different. I am very lucky to get a chance to work (in the film

'at Kaur reflects on two decades in industry

started her acting career with the music video 'Tera Mera Pyar' in 2005, has reflected on her two decades of journey in the industry, sharing that she has tried to enjoy the moments, and not rest on past

The actress featured in Kumar Sanu's song 'Tera Mera Pyar' before doing a few commercials for television. She made her film debut with a small role in the English movie 'One Night with the King', before starring in the 2012 crime thriller 'Peddlers' directed by Vasan Bala. Speaking to media on her journey, Nimrat said, "So much has happened. I have learned so much. And I have enjoyed every bit of it. 'Tera Mera Pyar' was my first work on camera. I had just come to Mumbai... I was very fortunate that it came my way, and opened the advertising world before me. I did a lot of ads after that. Then I did a lot of theatre.

She added, "I have always been

MUMBAI: Nimrat Kaur, who a student of life as an actor, and tried to learn every medium that I have explored. When I did 'The Test Case', it was one of the few web series to be made in India. I enjoyed every turn of this journey. I have tried to enjoy the moments, and not rest on past laurels or ki wo experience jo tha wahi hona chahiye dubara'. 'The Lunchbox waisi thi, waise hi dubara ho'. No experience is ever repeated in life.'

Nimrat, who last featured in the movie 'Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video', said she enjoys life's reality, adding that everything comes with its own set of problems and excitement. "I don't feel like it's been 20 years... It feels like a lot, sounds like a lot. What happens with actors is when you are essaying a part, a part of your life and your years are gone. Time keeps passing by... It's very interesting when you look back, I just like to experience my life through people and their reactions, and understandings,



Sania Mirza continues association with Sony Sports Network as brand ambassador and Davis Cup player Purav share her invaluable expertise

The clay court spectacle will bring the Indian tennis fans closer to the action with the live broadcast of the prestigious tournament in English, Hindi. Tamil and Telugu.

KAVITA SHARMA Mumbai

Leading Sports broadcaster, Sony Sports Network is delighted to announce that Indian tennis great Sania Mirza has extended her association Garros, US Open & Australian Open amongst other tennis properties from the broadcaster's sports portfolio. Mirza will next be seen as the expert panellist on Sonv Sports Network's flagship studio show Extraaa Serve during the live coverage of Roland Garros.



tennis that includes Roland name. She is a recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Padma Shri as well as the Padma Bhushan. She will be next seen sharing her expert opinions and in-depth analysis for Roland Garros on Sony Sports Network. Along with Sania Mirza, Sony Sports Sania Mirza is one of the Network will have Olympian most successful Indian ten- & former India No. 1 and nis players in history with Asian Games & Common-



I am looking forward to being part of Sony Sports Network's mission of bringing fans closer to the sport and providing tennis the recognition it deserves in India"

wealth Games Gold Medallist Somdev Devvarman

Raja on the expert panel for Roland Garros.

Played on the toughest surface in tennis, one can expect surprises as the tournament comes into action on 26th May 2024, LIVE on Sony Sports Network. Roland Garros 2024 will be aired in four languages – English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu from the get-go, raising the excitement levels of the Indian tennis fans. Sony Ambassador for Tennis on Sports Network is the Home Sony Sports Network said-: out of four Grand Slams - Australian Open, Roland Garros & US Open, along with ATP Masters and Davis Cup in their

portfolio. On this occasion Raiesh Kaul, Chief Revenue Officer - Distribution & International Business and Head - Sports Business, Sony Pictures Networks India said that

"We are absolutely delighted to extend the partnership with Sania Mirza, who continues to

and insights of the sport as the Tennis Ambassador on Sony Sports Network. This partnership will help us maintain our stance as the Home of Tennis is India in its truest sense, with the broadcast of the most important tennis tournaments $complemented \ by \ unparalleled$ expert analysis.

Sania Mirza, former Roland Garros champion & Brand

unforgettable memories in Grand Slams, I am elated to stay with Sony Sports Network as the brand ambassador and expert panellist. The upcoming Roland Garros will be a special one as world tennis ushers into a new era of greats. I am looking forward to being part of Sony Sports Network's mission of bringing fans closer to the sport and providing tennis the recognition it deserves in

Legends Intercontinental T-20 League unveiled; marks a new era in modern-day cricket



The inaugural edition of the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League is to take place from August 15 to 29, 2024, at Moosa Stadium in Texas. USA

KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi

USA-based Brosid Sports LLC on Thursday announced the launch of the inaugural edition of the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League during a press event at Shangri-La in New Delhi. The league, featuring legendary stars from various continents, is scheduled to take place from August 15 to 29, 2024 at Moosa Stadium in Texas, USA.

Gracing the occasion were former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel and Australia's legendary pacer Bret Lee, who lend their esteemed presence as brand supporters of the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League.

The league's CEO and former Ranji player, Mr Vishal Sharma, unveiled the teams, tournament schedule and marquee players for what promises to be a cricketing spectacle.

Scheduled to kickstart on August 16, the tournament will see seven teams -Indo Kings, Asian Avengers, Euro Rangers, American Mavericks, Trans-Tasman Titans, African Lions and Caribbean Vikings- all vying for the inaugural title. The LIT-20 will be played in a single roundrobin format, with the top four teams at the end of the league stage advancing to the knockout stage. A total of 24 exhilarating matches will be played, with each day featuring double-headers. The semi-final will take place on August 27, followed by the grand finale on August 28.

Speaking about the newly formed League, Mr Vishal Sharma said, "We are thrilled to launch the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League, which

various continents putting on a spectacular cricketing show. Cricket has been growing at a rapid pace in the USA, and we believe this is an ideal time to introduce a legends league to the cricket fans present in the USA. The idea behind the league is to introduce this new market to the legendary stars who have achieved great things in their careers and made us fall in love with the game through their talent. This is the beginning of something special, and we are excited to embark on this journey with stars like Parthiv Patel, Brett Lee, TM Dilshan, and Graeme Swann present with us today on this special occasion.'

will feature legendary stars from

Expressing their excitement on being associated with the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League Dilshan said, "I think the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League is going to be amazing. We can share our memories. Those days we played together, we fought on the field and shared great rivalry. Still, people want to see legends playing. So, just excited and looking forward to competing in what will be a cricket extravaganza.

Lending his support to the league, former Aussie pacer Lee said, "It's always great for us to see guys that I've played against my whole career. I think that's great, seeing that sport does. It allows an opportunity for us to catch up again. And now with legends in front of our team, it's going to be a lot of fun. So looking forward to what is in store for the players and it's great."

Legendary players such as Graeme Swann, TM Dilshan and Liam Plunkett have confirmed their participation in the inaugural season of the Legends Intercontinental T-20 League. The full roster of players will be announced in the build-up to the tournament.

Criteria of being Intelligent and colleges indicate the com-

mitment of students towards At present there their studies, but it does not is no coordinait as proof of their being brilliant tion between education and skill developor not. On the basis of marks, ment. Skills should be developed no student can be considered through education, but this is brilliant or less intelligent. not happening in India. Lakhs of youth are coming out of our academic factories with degrees

student to have interest in every subject. The great scientist Thomas Alva Edison was interested only in physics. The story of the great scientist Albert Einstein is also similar. Lata Mangeshkar also had no interest in mathematics or science. Sachin Tendulkar or Mahendra Singh Dhoni may have had a very poor academic record, but they are great in their field. There are hundreds of examples of such geniuses in the society.

they can easily solve all kinds The second aspect is that a of problems including critical ones, because doing any work requires skill than degree. By developing skills, youth can do every work efficiently even without any degree. The school and college teachers of our country believe that the child who is continuously coming first in every examination can only be considered intelligent, the students who are unable to meet this criterion are considered to be of low intelligence or

mean that we should consider It is not necessary for every

student may fall ill at the time of examination or may not be interested in studies in the initial days due to wrong company. It is often seen that such students by working hard at the right time, beat the students who are always alert in the tests of life. Here formula does the work of 'When you wake up, then it's morning'. A student who has the desire to achieve success in life, despite passing third or second

division in every class, is success-

ful in securing a place in the top

20 or 50 in the IAS exam. The story of one such youth has been screened in the film "12th Fail".

Even if job is not considered a measure of success, a student who is determined to do something like this succeeds in touching new heights in life. We also cannot deny the philosophy shown in the film 'Three Idiots'. It is not necessary that every child becomes an engineer or doctor.

There are so many things to do in the world today that you cannot underestimate anyone. It just depends on your perspective as to who you consider talented.

If seen from the perspective of Indian Society, the scientists doing research on wild life are idiots of the highest order, while in reality they are very intelligent and committed to give something to the society, who are working with full dedication to complete their work. Apart from this, in India, only those children who are successful in getting the qualifying marks to apply for jobs by consistently scoring good marks till college are considered bright. Union Public Service Com-

mission (UPSC) had made public the marks of preliminary and main examination for the first time in the year 2013, in which 1004 candidates were declared successful and the top ranked candidate had secured 53 percent marks overall, while the last ranked had obtained 30 percent marks in the written examination. Earlier there was a belief that only the candidates who score more than 75 to 80 percent marks in the UPSC exam

ing aside the matter of UPSC, still many government agencies like State Service Commission, Bank, Railway, Staff Selection Commission etc. do not make public the marks of successful candidates.

On one hand, students are scoring 100 percent marks in the 10th and 12th examinations, while on the other hand, in the UPSC examination, a general category candidate gets finally selected by scoring only 30 percent marks in the written examination. It is natural to raise the question whether these days the students who have scored 100 percent marks in class 10th and 12th are not appearing in competitive exams or are they appearing but their talent has blunted.

If the matter is limited to UPSC then it would be understandable. The situation is so bad that the candidates who had scored 100 percent marks in 10th or 12th exams are not able to score even 60 percent marks in the competitive examination conducted for recruitment of employees in banks or other private and public sector institutions.

Engineering, medical, ITI and other employment related education has definitely been started in the country, but the significance of these courses is nominal, because even after studying them, most of the vouth are not skilled, whereas the skilled youth are responsible for the inclusive development of the country The skilled youth do not re-

main unemployed. He or she easily supports his or her family. Carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, electricians, masons, vehicle repair workers etc. never die of hunger. They also pay taxes to the government and keep the economic cycle of the country moving. Therefore, today instead of distributing degrees, the government should focus on making the youth skilled and should take further action towards providing employment as per their qualification & skill, because the level of knowledge of everyone is not the same, but everyone can do it with continuous hard work & perseverance.

There is also a need to verify the veracity of getting 100 percent marks in every subject even in litterateur in 10th & 12th exams. If this happens then the government and people will automatically give priority to skill development.

> Satish Singh, Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist, Views are personal