THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025



NATION 3

Neither Parl nor executive, Constitution is supreme: Sibal hits back at Dhankhar



WORLD 6

Harvard sues US' Trump to stop freeze of more than \$2 billion in grants

DELHI AGE 9

S.S. Rajamouli tops the list of India's highest-paid directors, earns ₹200cr for every movie



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Rafael Nadal celebrates after receiving the Laureus Sporting Icon award at the 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Madrid on Monday.

After backlash, Maha cancels order making

Hindi must in schools Mumbai: Faced with a huge backlash in the state, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday finally withdrew its decision to make Hindi mandatory as a third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and Englishmedium schools. state school education minister Dada Bhuse made it clear that the state government has stayed its order to make Hindi com-pulsory in primary schools. Hindi language will not be made compulsory. We are withdrawing the word 'mandatory' Hindi language (from the government resolution) and a fresh GR would be issued in this matter. The third language in Marathi and English medium schools will

be optional," he said. Full report on Page 3 Atishi gets security cover downgraded to 'Y' category

New Delhi: The ministry of home affairs has directed the Delhi police to down-grade the security cover provided to former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi from 'Z' to 'Y' category, police sources said on Tuesday. Full report on Page 2

IAF officer booked for

assault over road rage Bengaluru: An FIR has been registered against an IAF officer on charges of attempt to murder based on a counter-complaint by a man, who was previously arrested on the officer's complaint in a road rage incident, police said on Tuesday. — PTI
Full report on Page 4



Chain snatchers will starve... people have stopped wearing gold due to its exorbitant prices!





Max: 41°C Min: 21°C **RH:** 13% Rain: Nil

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Vishwavasu: Uttarayana Tithi: Chaitra Bahula Dasami till 4.37 pm Star: Dhanishta till 12.02 pm Varjyam: 6.51 pm to 8.22 pm Durmuhurtam: 11.49 pm to 12.39 pm Rahukalam: 12 pm to 1.30 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.52 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.47 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.21 AM MOONSET TODAY 2.04 PM





28 killed as terrorists open fire on tourists in Pahalgam; scores hurt

Over two dozen tourists were killed and injured in a deadly terror attack at Baisaran, a hilltop green meadow about 5 km from Kashmir Valley's premier tourist resort Pahalgam, on Tuesday. Condemning the terror attack on tourists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that those behind the heinous act will be brought to justice. The Prime Minister also spoke to Union home minister Amit Shah fol-lowing the attack and asked him to take all suitable steps to deal with the situation.

Even as the administration counted dead bodies and injured, one report said that 27 people have been killed and several others injured in the worst terrorist attack of the past several years in Jammu and Kashmir, where a separatist campaign burst into major violence in 1989-90. Among the dead are two locals and three foreigners -- one reportedly from Italy, another from Israel and a Nepali, though the Israeli embassy in New Delhi said it has no information of any of its citizens being among the victims. The remaining vic-

Cong did not flag

abnormal voting

in Maha polls: EC

on Rahul's claim

Commission (EC) officials on Tuesday rub-

bished the claims made

by Congress MP and

Leader of the Opposition

Rahul Gandhi regarding discrepancies in voter data in the Maharashtra

state Assembly elections

last year. The officials stated that all Indian

elections are held as per law, and the scale and accuracy with which

elections are conducted in India are widely

acclaimed globally. They

termed Mr Gandhi's

plaints were raised dur-

ing or after the elections.

party representatives.

rule of law."

Election

VINEETA PANDEY

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22



Security personnel rush to the spot after terrorists attacked a group of tourists at Pahalgam in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

tims are mainly domestic tourists, the police and hospital sources said.

Another report, yet to be confirmed by the authorities, puts the death toll at 28, including 26 tourists (25 men and one woman) and two local Kashmiris. According to this report, among the victims are Navy Lt. Vinay Narwal and his wife Himanshi, Shalinder Kalpiya from Gujarat and businessman Manjunath Rao, a resident of Shivamogga district of Karnataka. A police officer said that Shalinder Kalpiya died on

J&K bandh today over terror attack

Srinagar: Amid widespread anger over a deadly terror attack at Baisaran, various political, social, religious and trade organisations and leaders of Jammu and Kashmir have called for a shutdown across the UT on Wednesday.

the head from point-blank

An Intelligence Bureau officer posted officer posted in Hyderabad too was killed

during the attack. The officer, Manish Ranjan, a native of Bihar, was on a leave travel concession (LTC) visit with his family when the attack occurred. He was killed point-blank in front of his wife and children. Manish Ranjan worked in the ministerial section of the Intelligence Bureau's Hyderabad office for the

last two years. Several others injured in the attack succumbed on the way to hospital.

Turn to Page 4 ■ US and Israel condemn

Perpetrators won't be spared: Shah rushes to Srinagar

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday evening rushed to Srinagar following a deadly terror attack at Pahalgam to hold a highlevel security review meet ing soon after his arrival. Mr Shah's urgent visit comes after reports suggested several casualties and injuries to others in the terror incident.
Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, currently on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam and said that those behind this heinous act will be brought to jus-

Mr Shah also vowed to come down heavily on the perpetrators of the terror attack on tourists at Pahalgam.

"Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Jammu and Pahalgam, Kashmir. My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased," The Union minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday.

Modi cuts short Saudi visit, on way back home

India, Saudi Arabia sign 4 MoUs as PM, MBS hold bilateral talks

KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Following the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short his visit to the Saudi port city of Jeddah after a bilateral meeting with Crown Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the Prime Minister of the influen-

tial Gulf nation. During

the meeting, four MoUs were inked between the two nations, including in the fields of space, health and anti-doping efforts.

This is the first time ever in the past 11 years in power that Mr Modi has cut short his visit abroad due to such a situation. Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia Suhel Ajaz Khan said the terror attack had been discussed during the meeting between the two lead-

ers and that the Saudi

Crown Prince strongly condemned the attack and offered any help that

THE INDIAN ambassador to Saudi Arabia said the terror hit was discussed during the meeting and the Saudi Crown Prince strongly condemned the attack

India needed on this mat-

Besides the four MoUs between the two nations, there was also broad agreement on taxationrelated issues to give an impetus to Saudi investment, the Indian envoy said at a special MEA briefing in Jeddah.

The Prime Minister and the Saudi Crown Prince also co-chaired the bilateral Strategic Partnership Council and decided to expand it to include two more subincluding committees, one on defence coopera tion, the Indian ambassador further said. A discussion on the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) also took place at the meeting,

■ Turn to Page 2

Shakti Dubey tops UPSC exam: 3 women in top 5

Harshita Goyal 2nd, Archit Parag 3rd

AVINASH PRABHAKAR NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Shakti Dubey has topped the civil services examination 2024, with Harshita Goyal and Dongre Archit Parag getting the second and third ranks, the Union Public Service Commission announced on Tuesday.

Ms Dubey, who is among the three women in the top five, cleared the prestigious exam in her fifth attempt with political science and international relations as her optional subjects.



UPSC on Tuesday.

■ More on Page 2

Vatican secretary of state Cardinal Pietro Parolin prays in front of the body of Pope Francis inside his private chapel at the Vatican on Monday.

India-US trade deal roadmap ready: End non-tariff barriers, says Vance "Ties will define 21st century, good for Indo-Pacific stability"

■ US V-P pitches for US oil, weapons ■ 'PM tough negotiator'

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

India and the United States have finalised the terms of reference for negotiations to ink a bilateral trade pact and this is a vital step to realise the vision of both US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards a final trade deal, US vicepresident J.D. Vance "officially announced" on Tuesday in Jaipur at an address on India-US ties.

statement as "unsubstantiated allegations" and "an affront to the Speaking at the Rajasthan International EC sources said the Centre, the US vice-presivoting progressed in front of 27,000 boothdent also urged India to "drop non-tariff barriers" level agents of the Congress, and no comand said the matter had been discussed during the 'very good" talks with the Prime Minister in New They emphasised that Delhi on Monday evening. Rejecting criticism that the US President had started a trade war, Mr elections are held transparently with the involvement of government staff and political Vance said Mr Trump is only seeking to "rebalance" global trade for a More on Page 3



US vice-president J.D. Vance along with his wife Usha and their children visit the historic Amber Fort in Jaipur on Tuesday. Rajasthan chief minister Bhajanlal Sharma and deputy CM Diya Kumari arealso seen.

shared future for all and that the US is looking for "balanced, open, stable and fair" trade partners. He added that "rebalancing would produce great benefits" for the people of

both nations. The comments come in the wake of the US imposing "recipro-cal tariffs" on a number of nations, including India, earlier this month and then quickly rolling it back substantially for a 90-day period with the exception of China. Terming India and the US as "friends", Mr Vance said the 21st century will

Turn to Page 4

A native of Naini in Uttar Pradesh, she holds a

degree in biochemistry from the University of Allahabad. Haryana's

Goyal and Maharashtra's Dongre Archit Parag got the second and third ranks respectively in the exam, the results of which were announced by the

Pope Francis' funeral Saturday 10 am

■ Trump, Melania to attend ■ Public viewing from today ■ Conclave to start May 5-10

Vatican City, April 22: Pope Francis will be laid to rest Saturday after lying in state for three days in St. Peter's Basilica, where the faithful are expected to flock to pay their respects to history's first Latin American

cardinals met Tuesday in the Vatican's synod hall to chart the next steps before a conclave begins to choose Francis' successor, as condolences poured in from around the world. According to current norms, the conclave must

begin between May 5 and

The cardinals set the funeral for Saturday at 10 am in St. Peter's Square, to be celebrated by the dean of the College of Cardinals, cardinal Giovanni Battista Re. US President Donald Trump said he and First Lady Melania Trump plan to attend, and Argentine President Javier Milei is

also expected. The Argentine pope died Monday at age 88 after a stroke put him in a coma and led his heart to fail. He had been recover▶ THE POPE died Monday at age 88 after a stroke put him in a coma and led his heart to fail. He had been recovering in his apartment after being hospitalised for five weeks with pneumonia.

ing in his apartment after being hospitalised for five weeks with pneumonia. He made his last public appearance delivering an Easter blessing and greeting fol-lowers from his Popemobile,

where he was introduced to the world as the first Pope from the Americas on March 13, 2013, was a fitting bookend to a 12year papacy that sought to shake up the church and return it to its Gospel-mandated mission of caring for the poorest. Vatican officials remember Francis "He truly gave

around St. Peter's Square.

from the same loggia

His Easter appearance

everything he had, up to the end," said Sister Nathalie Becquart, one of the highest-ranking women at the Vatican.

SHORT TAKES

1 die, 2 hurt in fire in **Ghaziabad building**

Ghaziabad: One worker of an embroidery unit was killed, and two sustained severe burn injuries after a fire broke out in a three-storey residential building in the Shanti Nagar Colony of Loni here, officials said on Tuesday. The fire broke out around 10 pm on Monday in a room on the first floor of the building where firecrackers had been stored illegally. The house owner has been taken into custody, the officials said. Assistant commissioner of police (ACP), Ankur Vihar, Ajay Kumar Singh said the deceased has been identified as Mushir alias Rehan (24), a resident of Nayi Basti on Nidora Road. He worked with a small embroidery unit operating on the ground floor of the building. The injured workers, Mohammad Shad (21) and Sarfaraz (22), both

3 members of Gogi gang arrested

residents of Prem Nagar, are

undergoing treatment at the

condition is stated to be criti-

GTB Hospital in Delhi. Their

cal, the officer said.

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested three members of the notorious Gogi gang, who were reportedly planning to commit a robbery in south Delhi, an official said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Abhimanyu alias Abhi (22), Amarjeet alias Bholu (27) and Shamsher Singh (27), a senior police officer said, adding that all three had past criminal records and were allegedly involved in multiple cases of armed robbery, attempt to murder, and murder. The accused were also wanted in an armed robbery case registered in Gurgaon in January this year, where they allegedly looted around ₹6 lakh along with other associates, the officer said. "The arrests were made on Monday evening fol-lowing a tip-off about the gang's plans to commit a robbery in south Delhi," he said.

4 juveniles held for stabbing 19-vr-old

New Delhi: The Delhi police has apprehended four juveniles for stabbing a 19-yearold youth in northeast Delhi's Yamuna Vihar over an old dispute, an official said on Tuesday. They said the victim, Krishna, was stabbed in a deserted area at around 5.25 pm on Monday. The police rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. They said an attempt to murdei case was registered and an investigation launched Scanning of CCTV footage and gathering of local intelligence led to the identification of four juveniles, aged between 15 and 17 and hailed from Gokalpuri. They were apprehended from their homes on Monday night, three to four hours after the incident. The police said they have recovered three knives used in the

HEALTH CARDS TO ROLL OUT FOR ELDERLIES APR 28

New Delhi: The Delhi govt is all set to start the distribution of cards under the 'Vaya Vandana Yojana' for citizens above the age of 70 from April 28 April. In a bid to setting up of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and the effective and implementation of the 'Vaya Vandana Yojana' in the city, Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday held a highlevel meeting with health minister Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh, law minister Kapil Mishra, commissioner MCD, DDA V-C, and officials concerned from the health department. After the meeting, the Delhi chief minister said. "Distribution of cards under the 'Vaya Vandana Yojana' for citizens above the age of 70 will commence on 28 April from Thyagaraj Stadium. The process of registration will start on 28 April from every district office and at locations identified by public representatives." She asserted that Delhi government aims to provide every citizen in the capital with the right to quality healthcare and to expedite the setting up of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. All district magistrates have been directed to identify suitable

locations and submit a list

by tomorrow. Officials con-

cerned have been instruct-

ed to conduct field visits.

■ Harshita Goyal, Dongre Parag secure 2nd, 3rd rank respectively

Shakti Dubey is UPSC 2024 topper without coaching

Among the top five candidates who topped the civil services examination 2024, three are women, including the first and second ranks that were secured by Shakti Dubey and Harshita Goyal, as per the results announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday.

The top ranker, Ms Dubey, who holds a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from the University of Allahabad, chose political science and international relations as her optional subject.

The second topper, Ms Goyal, a commerce graduate from the MS University of Baroda, also opted for the same subject. While the third rank went to Dongre Archit Parag, a B.Tech from Tamil Nadu's Vellore Institute of Technology, the fourth position went to Shah Margi Chirag, an engineering graduate in computer science from Gujarat Technological University.

Aakash Garg, a B.Tech graduate in computer science from Guru Gobind

'Deadline over':

Signature View

residents urged

to vacate flats

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Development Authority

(DDA) has served a

notice asking residents

of the Signature View

Mukherjee Nagar to vacate their flats at the

earliest, as the deadline

for evacuation, March

The DDA had classified

the 336-flat residential

complex as a "dangerous

building" due to struc-

An e-tender for its dem-

olition was issued on March 17, shortly after

the authority released

standard operating pro-

cedures for the residents

and the resident welfare

association (RWA) to coordinate the evacua-

In the notice dated

April 15, the DDA stated,

'The high court had mandated that all the

occupants vacate their

flats between December

23, 2024 and March 23,

2025. That period has

The DDA urged residents to vacate their

flats at the earliest for

their safety and to

allow for the demolition

and reconstruction of

the building. It has asked the RWA to coor-

dinate with all the resi-

dents for a timely evac-

Further information

on the reconstruction schedule and procedures

for claiming the facilita-

tion amount will be

said 111 residents have

already vacated their

flats but have not received the promised

rent compensation.

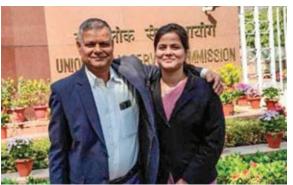
shared in due course. RWA president Amrendra Singh Rakesh

now lapsed.

tural safety concerns.

Apartments

23, has passed.



In this undated image, Shakti Dubey, who topped the civil services examination 2024, with her father Devendra Dubey outside the UPSC in New Delhi.

Indraprastha dates — 725 men and 284 University, Delhi, stood fifth in the results announced on Tuesday.

The 2024 preliminary exam was held on June 16, with a staggering 9.92 lakh candidates applying. Of these, 5.83 lakh appeared for the test. Following that, 14,627 candidates qualified for the written main examination in September. From there, 2,845 candidates were shortlisted for the final stage — the per-sonality test — conducted between January 7 and April 17 this year.

A total of 1,009 candi-

Rahul: Serve with integrity & compassion

New Delhi, April 22: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday congratulated the successful candidates of the UPSC civil services exam and urged them to carry the responsibility of serving people with integrity, compassion and commitjustice. 'Congratulations' to all the candidates who have successfully cleared the

UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024. 'You now carry both the honour and the responsibility of serving the people of India. May you do so with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to justice. My best wishes as you embark on this important journey of public service," he said in a post

on X. A total of 14627 candidates qualified for the main examination, which was held in September

Atishi's security to Y category AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Union home ministry has directed the Delhi police to downgrade the security cover provided to former Delhi chief minister and AAP leader Atishi from 'Z' to 'Y' category. The decision came after a review of Ms Atishi's

threat perception by Central security agencies, which concluded that there was no fresh or significant threat that warranted the continuation of 'Z' category security cover, the sources in the security establishment

said on Tuesday.
They also said that the directive was issued recently after the Delhi security unit sought guidance from the Union home ministry on the status of Ms Atishi's security cover.

It had earlier flagged the security status of AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, currently under 'Z-plus'



'No fresh threat': MHA lowers

Atishi

category, asking if it

should be continued. "Though the ministry initially advised against making any changes to the security arrangements in place for both Kejriwal and Atishi, it later instructed the Delhi police to scale down Atishi's cover to 'Y' category," the official said. Under the 'Y' category security protocol, Ms Atishi will now be guard-ed by a team of around 12 personnel, including two commandos from

The security downgrade also means the removal of

accompanied her convoy when she briefly held the chief minister's post.

In March, the Delhi police proposed to withdraw the Y' category security cover provided to ex-deputy chief minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia, AAP MLA Ajay Dutt, and former Delhi Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, the official said.

Security for political leaders is granted or modified based on threat assessments conducted periodically by Central intelligence and security agencies on the Union home ministry's instructions.

Ms Atishi was provided 'Z' category security soon after assuming the role of chief minister.

Following the AAP's defeat in the February 5 Delhi polls, she was elected as the Leader of Opposition Assembly after being chosen as the legislative party leader by the AAP MLAs.

Govt is stalling pension of widows and divorced: AAP

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The AAP on Tuesday accused the Delhi BJP government of discontinuing pensions for widows and divorced women, alleging that payments have been stalled for the past two months.

Addressing a press conference, AAP's Delhi unit Saurabh chief Bharadwaj "Widows and divorced women have not received their pensions for the last two months. The BJP government is plotting to

cut the pension of thou-

sands of women who rely

on this support. He alleged that the BJP's move is a deliberate attempt to dismantle social welfare schemes implemented by the previous AAP government. "The whole country is fed up with listening to the unnecessary speeches of the leaders of the Bharatiya

Janata Party," he added. The confrontation between the BJP and the AAP has intensified ever since the saffron party stormed to power in Delhi in February

'Bharat's destiny is changing, our duty to give right ideals'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Giving lessons to the Bhartiya Parishad's Akhil Vidhyarthi (ABVP) members on how to turn "chhatrashakti" into "rashtrashakti," RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said that the "destiny of Bharat is changing and the whole world is looking towards Bharat for guidance" and said it is "our duty to present the right ideals to the whole world.' Mr Bhagwat, who inau-

gurated the ABVP's new office 'Yashawant,' mainly for the ABVP karyakartas from the northeastern states, asked them to follow a middle path and not too overly showy or lacking in what is required. Striking a word of caution, Mr Bhagwat said if any organisation is neg-

lected, there are chances that it may change its character and direction. vidyarthi the parishad, most of the people are students. Although the vidyarthi parishad

education family in the

field of nation building as



Mohan Bhagwat

a part of a big task, therefore, professors and other types of people are there However, the main work is done by the students," Mr

Bhagat said. 'In a place like Delhi, building a good office in an important place is a very difficult task for organisations. In such a situation, to build such an office will be considered an achievement, and we are entitled to that happiness," he added.

He further said that the ABVP needs to be different as it is the largest student organisation, having 58 lakh members. The RSS chief highlighted works with the idea of an achievements of the ABVI and also the students' role in nation-building.

Man stabbed to death as he refuses to give beedi

women - have been rec-

ommended for appointment across different

services. This includes 335

candidates from the gener-

al category, 109 from eco-

nomically weaker sec-

tions, 318 from other backward classes, 160 from

scheduled castes, and 87

The top 25 candidates

reflect a rich diversity in

educational backgrounds,

holding degrees in fields

humanities, commerce,

medical science, and

as engineering,

from scheduled tribes.

such

architecture.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A youth was stabbed to death after he refused to give a beedi to two men in the Pul Prahladpur area of southeast Delhi, the police said on Tuesday.

The youth's elder brother and a friend were injured in the incident that took place late on Monday night. Three people have been arrested in connection with the incident, the police said.

On Monday, Sohaib was slapped in a park by two local men, Munna and Sunny after he refused to give them a beedi, officials

Sohaib went home and told his mother, Sabukta, about it. Then Sabukta. along with Sohaib and his elder brother Mohsin, went to confront the two men. Sohaib also called his friend Akram there,

Teen held for killing youth in **Shahdara after row over drugs**

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A teenage boy allegedly stabbed a 22-year-old youth to death using a knife belonging to the victim in Delhi's Shahdara area after the latter reportedly refused to supply drugs to him, the police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night, and the victim has been identi-

they said. The confrontation turned violent as Munna (26), along with his broth-Imtiyaz (30) and nephew Sunny allegedly attacked Sohaib and those accompanying nım with knives, the

police said. The injured were

Indian Youth Congress members burn an effigy during a protest outside the IYC

office in New Delhi on Tuesday against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey over his remarks

fied as Sajan, a resident of Rashid Market, DCP (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said. Local intelligence and CCTV camera footage from

the area helped the police arrest the accused, who has been identified as Rohit (17). During questioning, Rohit said he contacted Saian to procure drugs but he refused and also reportedly assaulted him.

rushed to ESI Hospital where doctors declared Sohaib, who was stabbed multiple times and collapsed on the road, brought dead. Mohsin was later shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in a critical condition. Akram sustained minor injuries,

PM cuts short Saudi visit

■ Continued from Page 1 with both sides endorsing the benefits of the proposed connectivity project, he

Earlier in the day, Mr Modi also held an interac-tion with the Indian community in Saudi Arabia.

But the shadow of the heinous Pahalgam terror attack hung heavy on Tuesday over the PM's visit to the Saudi port city of Jeddah that was to have lasted over Wednesday as per the initial schedule.

After the terror attack in Pahalgam, Mr Modi "strongly condemned the terror attack and vowed that those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice. It may be recalled that even in 2019 after the Pulwama terror

attack and India's retalia-tion at Balakot in Pakistan against terror targets, the Saudis are believed to have spoken with both the Indian and Pakistani leadership to avert a full-fledged conflict between the two nations. It remains unclear whether the Saudis will play a similar role now in the face of continued Pakistani-sponsored cross-border terror-

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister landed in Jeddah. "This visit will strengthen the friendship between India and Saudi Arabia. Eager to take part in the various programmes today and tomorrow," Mr Modi posted on X.

As a special gesture, the PM's aircraft was escorted

by F15s of the Royal Saudi Air Force in the Saudi airspace. The foreign minister said Mr Modi described Saudi Arabia as "a trusted friend and strategic ally" emphasising the significant expansion of bilateral relations since the creation of bilateral Partnership Council in 2019. In his departure statement ahead of the visit in the morning, the PM said, "Today, I embark on a twoday state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister... India deeply values its long and historic ties with Saudi Arabia that have acquired strategic depth and momentum in

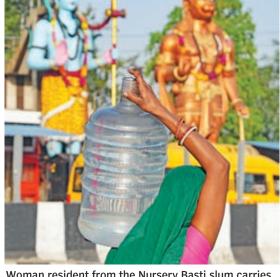
Delhi sees sharp dip in minimum temp

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The national capital witnessed a sharp dip in the minimum temperature on Tuesday, which was recorded at 20.9°C, 5.3 notches below normal, according to the India meteorological depart-ment (IMD). In comparison, the minimum temperature on Monday was recorded at 26.2°C, the highest in the last six years for this time of the year. A similar temperature was last observed in 2022, the IMD said.

The maximum temperature on Tuesday was recorded at 39.9°C, which is 2.2 degrees above nor-

Humidity levels fluctuated between 17 and 26 per cent during the day. Several weather-monitoring stations in the city



Woman resident from the Nursery Basti slum carries drinking water collected from a tanker at Geeta Colony in east Delhi on Tuesday.

also recorded high day- Ridge reported 41.7°C, time temperatures. The Aya Nagar logged 41.1 degrees, Narela reported 40 degrees, and Palam recorded 40.5°C, according to the weather office. For Wednesday, the IMD has forecast clear skies with sustained surface winds blowing at speeds between 10 to 20 kmph. The maximum and

- PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 41 and 23°C, respectively. Meanwhile, the air quality

remained in the 'poor' category on Tuesday, with the air quality index (AQI) at 227 at 4 pm, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). An AQI between zero

and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500

EXTENSION OF SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 02393/02394 Rajender Nagar-New Delhi-Rajender Nagar Superfast Special Train as per details given below:

Days of Run Period of Extension Trips 02393 Rajender Nagar New Delhi 6 Days (Exp-Thu.) 30.04.25 02.05.25 to 30.06.25 52 02394 New Delhi Rajender Nagar 6 Days (Exp-Fri.) 01.05.25 03.05.25 to 01.07.25 52 Note :- Rest of the instructions will hold good. For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of other stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No

139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App. RailMadad NORTHERN RAILWAY Helpline No. www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Your Convenience - Our Concern 139

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/24-25/G/11 following changes are made: bmission Date Opening Date In Vivo Animal Imaging Central Anima 21.04,2025 07.05.2025 22.04.2025 08.05.2025 Professor In-Charge (EP)

SHORT TAKES

Forest land scam: ED

raids at 16 locations

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday raided multiple locations in Jharkhand and Bihar as part of an alleged Bokaro forest land scam linked to a money laundering investigation. Officials said that about 16 locations in the two neighbouring states were searched on Tuesday. The alleged scam involves the "fraudulent" acquisition and illegal sale of 103 acres of protected forestland at Mauja Tetulia in Bokaro. These raids were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the agency's sleuths also searched the hideouts of some businessmen located at Lalpur in Ranchi. Apart from Ranchi, the agency also conducted raids at Bokaro and Ramgarh and a few places in Bihar.

SC dismisses plea

over HC's powers

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed power of the top court under Article 142 of the Constitution to be granted to the high courts, saying the petition was completely misconceived. The extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 142 empowers the top court to pass "any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it" within the country. A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan won-dered how it could allow such a plea and said: "How can we grant such prayer? It requires an amendment to the Constitution. You go to Parliament. Prayer made in this petition is completely misconceived. Power conferred under Article 142 of the Constitution is only on this court and not the high courts. Therefore, we cannot allow the high court to exercise power of this court under Article 142."

Pegasus row: SC to hear pleas April 29

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed next week to hear a clutch of pleas seeking a probe into the alleged unauthorised use of Pegasus spyware for the surveillance of journalists among others. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh posted the hearing on April 29 for want of time. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for some petitioners, said the top court earlier directed for supply of reports of a technical panel but no such report was shared. "This court will have to pass some directions because we have not received the reports. Kindly hear it urgently," Mr Divan said. The bench directed for listing the matter next week. On March 7, the top court fixed April 22 for hear-

SC TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST BJP MP DUBEY NEXT WEEK

ing the pleas.

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a plea which flagged recent disparaging remarks by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against the top court and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, and sought removal of derogatory videos from social media platforms. The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Augustine George Masih. The counsel quoted Mr Dubey as saying that the CJI was responsible for "civil wars" in the country and after the video of his remarks went viral, derogatory phrases were being used on social media for the top court. "This is a very serious issue," the lawyer said. "What (do) you want to file? You want to file a contempt petition?"

Justice Gavai asked. Contending that he has already filed a petition in the matter in the apex court, the counsel said the government was not taking action against the MP. He said one of his colleagues wrote to attorney general R Venkataramani seeking his consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Mr Dubey but there

was no outcome. "The issue is, at least give directions

today to the social media

platforms to remove these

videos," he said.

■ 'Will file review petition in SC for those who have lost jobs'

SSC office siege continues; Didi asks teachers to return to work

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, APRIL 22

As the siege by hundreds of thousands of jobless school teachers of West Bengal continues at the School Service Commission (SSC) office in Salt Lake over the release of "eligible" candidates list, chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday appealed to them to return to their workplace.

She also assured them of providing salaries and saving their jobs legally by fighting the verdict of the Supreme Court that recently cancelled their appointments, totalling 25,753, in a 2016 recruitment scam.

The CM further informed that she would visit Murshidabad next month The list to identify the eligible and ineligible teachers remains with the government and the

court. We assure that your jobs are safe for now. You will get your salaries. We are with you. Mamata Banerjee,

West Bengal CM

in wake of the communal riots during the anti-Waqf Act agitation at Jangipur. Ms Banerjee said at an event in Goaltore of West Midnapore, "You don't need to worry about who is eligible and who is not. You only need to worry about

whether you have your job

and whether you are getting your salaries on time." The list to identify the eligible and ineligible teachers remains with the

government and court," she added.

"We assure that your jobs are safe for now. You will get your salaries. Please return to your schools and resume classes. We are with you. I called our people in Kolkata at least 10 times since last evening. If I were there, I could have solved the issue in a sec-

ond, "the CM asserted. "I had talks over the

phone till midnight. What I understand is that some people are still adamant for a list to mark who is 'eligible' and who is 'ineligible'. Don't believe those who snatched your jobs. Trust me. I don't want to see any unemployed person in my state. They have filed another case on primary teachers' recruitment," the CM said.

She asserted that a review petition for the Group-C and Group-D employees, who lost their jobs, would be filed at the SC.

Referring to "similar developments in Uttar Pradesh and Tripura", the West Bengal chief minister said, "People have lost jobs in those states in huge numbers and never got them back. Don't let

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Joint Parliamentary

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

EC rejects Rahul's claims on electoral rolls in Maha

'Spreading misinformation sign of disrespect towards law'

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The Election Commission officials on Tuesday rubbished the claims made by Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with regard to discrepancies in voter data in

Maharashtra state Assembly elections last year. The EC officials said all Indian elections are held as per law, and the scale and accuracy with which elections are held in India are widely acclaimed across the world. They termed Mr Gandhi's statement as "unsubstantiated allegations" that are "an affront to the rule of law".

Sources said the voting progressed in front of 27,000 booth-level agents



Rahul Gandhi

of the Congress, but they raised not a single complaint both during and after elections. "You (Congress) had your agents on the ground. No one noticed any abnormality or sudden spike in voter turnout. So all such allegations fall flat," sources in EC said.

"The entire nation is aware that each election process, including the preparation of electoral rolls, polling, counting,

etc., is all held by govern-ment staff and that too in the presence of authorised representatives formally appointed by politiparties/candidates from polling stations up to constituency level. Any misinformation being spread, by anyone, is not only a sign of disrespect towards law but also brings disrepute to the thousands of representatives appointed by their own political party. Such a statement demotivates lakhs of election staff who work untiringly and transparently during elec-tions. After any unfavourable verdict by the voters, trying to defame the Commission by saying that it is compromised is completely

'Neither Parl nor Executive, Constitution is supreme'

Sibal, V-P engage in war of words over judiciary tirade

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A war of words once again ensued between vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar and Rajya Sabha MP and Supreme Court Bar Association president Kapil Sibal. Addressing a Delhi University event, Mr Dhankhar, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, said every word spoken by a constitutional functionary is guided by the supreme sublime interest of the nation. Once again taking on Mr Dhankhar, Mr Sibal said neither Parliament nor the Executive but the Constitution is supreme. "I find it conceivably intriguing that some have

stitutional offices can be ceremonial, ornamental. Nothing can be far distanced from a wrong understanding of the role of everyone in this country — constitutional func-tionary or a citizen," Mr

Dhankhar said. Mr Sibal's remarks in posts on X came soon after Mr Dhankhar said that every word spoken by a constitutional authority was guided by the supreme national interest.

In a post on X, Mr Sibal "Supreme Court: Parliament has the plenary power to pass laws. The Supreme Court has the obligation to interpret the Constitution and do complete justice (Article 142)." "Everything the court constitutional values and guided by national interest," the Rajya Sabha MP

In another post, Mr Sibal said, "The law: Neither Parliament nor the Executive is supreme; the Constitution is supreme. The provisions of the Constitution are interpreted by the Supreme Court. That's how this country has understood the law so far!"

Mr Sibal had slammed Mr Dhankhar last Friday for questioning the judici ary over the timeline set for the President to take decisions, saying that he never saw any Rajya Sabha Chairman make "political statements" of such nature.

Committee (JPC) examining one nation, one election (ONOE) held its meeting on Tuesday, during which it heard the views and presentations of legal experts. BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj attended the meeting holding a bag with "National Herald ki loot"

written on it to hit on the

Congress MPs, particular-

ly Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

who is part of the JPC.

However, instead of get-ting instigated, Mrs Vadra said she liked the bag. "Mujhe toh mazedaar laga (I found it interesting)... I asked her (Bansuri Swaraj) about the bag, which had 'National Herald ki loot' written on it. She just smiled," Ms

Vadra said.



ONOE: JPC to start visit to states May 17

Bansuri brings 'National Herald's loot' bag to meet on polls

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj carrying a bag with "National Herald Ki Loot" printed on it arrives to attend a meeting of the JPC on one nation, one election in New Delhi on Tuesday. -PTI

As for the meeting, among those who made presentations before the committee on Tuesday were former judge of the Supreme Court Justice Hemant Gupta; Justice S.N. Jha, former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir high court; Dr

Justice B.S. Chauhan, former Supreme Court judge and Chairman of the 21st Law Commission of India; and prominent lawyer and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi. The JPC will now begin

visits to different states to gather opinion on ONOE starting from Maharashtra on May 17, followed by Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Punjab. Besides, the JPC will also seek public opinion through emails.
"The committee believes

that it should visit all states and hear their opinions, which is why the tour is being organised. Maharashtra will be covered first on May 17-18, then Uttarakhand between May 19 and 21. Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh (Punjab and Haryana) will be covered in June, according to different categories. Everyone will be heard, whether a celebrity, a sports person or anyone else, to know the thoughts of the people, and will this be beneficial for the counsaid P.P. Chaudhary, the BJP MP, who heads the committee.

Maha rolls back order on Hindi must in schools

Raj Thackeray welcomes decision

BHAGWAN PARAB and SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, APRIL 22

Faced with a huge backlash in the state, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday finally withdrew its decision to make Hindi mandatory as a third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and Englishmedium schools. x made it clear that the state government has staved its order to make Hindi compulsory in primary

"Hindi language will not be made compulsory. We are withdrawing the word 'mandatory' Hindi language (from the government resolution) and a fresh GR would be issued in this matter. The third language in Marathi and English medium schools will be option-

al," he said. The move comes days after the Maharashtra government's language consultation committee

Youth should

become active

stakeholders'

STATE EDUCATION minister Dada Bhuse Bhuse clarified that those who are interested in Hindi will be given the option of Hindi

urged chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to revoke the decision. Committee chairperson Laxmikant Desĥmukh had written a letter to Mr Fadnavis urging the government to scrap the move. Mr Bhuse clarified

that those who are interested in Hindi will be given the option of Hindi. "We had taken Hindi only because it is compatible Marathi and has the Devanagari script. The next revised government decision in this regard will be issued soon," he added. chief

Thackeray welcomed the decision saying the government should have acted much earlier on the issue.

Uddhav 'very on Sena-UBT,

Mumbai, April 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday said his cniei Uddnav Thackeray is "very posi tive" about rapproche ment with estranged cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray Talking to reporters here, Mr Raut claimed after the reunion buzz even people and parties associated with the Ambedkarite movement are in touch with him and have shown interest to be a part of the new political alignment that

is taking shape.
The Rajya Sabha MP recalled Constitution framer B R Ambedkar had also taken lead in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement and made efforts for unity of "Marathi manoos" (Marathi-speak-"Marathi

ing people).
"There is no need for anyone to be in the discussion between the two (Uddhav and Raj) Uddhav is very positive His stand is very positive for the betterment of Maharashtra," Mr Raut

positive': Raut **MNS patch-up**

Modi to open WAVES

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said that the youth must become active stakeholders in building a strong and self-reliant India. Mr Birla called upon the youth to engage themselves proactively in nation building, inno-vation, and global lead-

ership. Lok Sabha Speaker also called upon the youth to contribute meaningfully to India's growth story by participating in democracy, research, law-making, technological advancement.

with mega stars May 1

SHASHI BHUSHAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Top-notch stars of the tinsel world, Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Amir Khan and Mohanlal, besides top guns of global tech giants, including Netflix, Instagram and YouTube, will grace the inaugural edition of the World Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) slated to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on May 1.

The four-day event will bring together a kaleidoscope of global giants and innovative minds, celebrating the dynamic

essence of India's creative landscape.
Other notable person-

alities like A.R. Rahman, Hema Malini, Deepika Padukone Chakraborty Mithun Anupam Kher, Anil Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor, among others, will be attending the WAVES.

Film producers Bhushan Kumar of T-Series and Ekta Kapoor of Balaji Films will also participate in the inaugural gural session of WAVES. Kavita Vinod Khanna, founder of the and Khanna Foundation, is also scheduled to witness the event.

On the occasion of Autism Awareness / Acceptance Month All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Child Neurology Division, Department of Pediatrics Presents

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Neurodiversity for Sustainability:

Different Minds, One Future

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Dr. (Prof.) M. Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi Dr. (Prof.) Pankaj Hari, HoD, Pediatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi

Moderator

Dr. (Prof.) Sheffali Gulati, Faculty I/C, Child Neurology Division Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi

Speakers & Panelists

Sh. Yutaro Setoya (WHO), Dr. Vivek Virendra Singh (UNICEF, India) Sh. Paras Arora (Neurodivergent Researcher, Standford University) Dr. Biswaroop Chakrabarty, Dr. Prashant Jauhari, Dr. Gagan Hans

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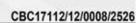
All are cordially invited

(Please take your seat by 2:45 PM) Programme will also be live streamed on YouTube AlIMS Channel



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SHORT TAKES

8 of family die after **SUV** falls off bridge

Bhopal: Eight members of a family, including four women and two children, were on Tuesday killed when the SUV in which they were travelling fell off a bridge onto a dry river bed in Damoh district, police said. The incident took place near Simri village under the Nohata police station at around 11 am. According to Damoh district superintendent of police (SP) Shrut Kirti Somvanshi, the driver of the vehicle lost control over the steering, leading it to veer off a bridge and fall into the dry bed of the river Sunar. Eight passengers died and six others injured in the incident, the police officer said. The injured were admitted to the district hospital at Damoh. The victims, all residents of Bhita Fuller village in Jabalpur district in Madhya Pradesh, were returning home in the ill-fated SUV from a pilgrimage to Jatashankar Dham.

SC orders inspection of industries near Tai

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the National Environmental **Engineering Research** Institute to conduct an assessment of the glass industries impacting the iconic Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh. A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuvan directed Neeri to file an affidavit indicating the timeline for the completion of the assessment. The SC said, "We want to know the extent of pollution caused by these industries. If we find that these industries are causing pollution, we won't hesitate to order shifting of these units. Some examination has to be made about the extent of pollution." "After completing study of five industries, the pollution control board shall submit the interim report so that appropriate directions can

ED summons Mahesh

Babu in fraud case

be issued." it said. The SC

should assist Neeri in the

said all government agencies

New Delhi: The Enfo-rcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Telugu actor Mahesh Babu for questioning in a money laundering case linked to an alleged real estate fraud case perpetrated by some local groups. He has been asked to depose on April 28 at the Central probe agency's office at Hyderabad and get his statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the official sources said. This case pertains to Sai Surya Developers, a prominent real estate firm based in Vengal Rao Nagar, the Surana Group and some others. The ED had conducted searches in the case on April 16 at premises located in Secunderabad, Jubilee Hills and Bowenpally. The actor is not being probed as an accused at

■ Minister briefed by J&K DGP, likely to visit Pahalgam today

Shah rushes to Srinagar, says perpetrators won't be spared

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA

Union home minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar to review the security situation in Kashmir following a deadterror attack in Pahalgam in which 28 people were killed, officials said. Hours after the attack on tourists, Mr Shah rushed to Srinagar and drove straight to the Raj Bhavan from the air-

Director-general of Jammu and Kashmir police Nalin Prabhat briefed the home minister Lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha, chief minis-ter Omar Abdullah, Union home secretary Govind Mohan and director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka were present



Members of the Bajrang Dal stage a demonstration after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday.

attack on tourists.

bers of the deceased.

Those involved in this das-

at the time of the briefing. The officials had earlier said Mr Shah was scheduled to chair a high-level meeting of security offi-

The home minister is likely to visit Pahalgam on Wednesday, they added. Mr Shah vowed to come

down heavily on the perpetrators of the terror He posted on X: "Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. My thoughts are with the family mem-

chief were present.
The incident comes

not be spared, and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences. Briefed PM Shri @narendramodi Ji about the incident and held a meeting with the concerned officials via video conferencing. Will shortly leave for Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with all the agencies.'

Soon after the attack took place around 3 pm, the home minister held a virtual meeting with J&K CM Omar Abdullah and L-G Manoj Sinha. During the meeting, the Union home secretary, J&K DGP and Intelligence Bureau

when Kashmir is witnessing a surge in tourist arrivals after facing terrorism for decades.

■ Recent ruling didn't cover it: Centre counsel SC to examine if TN verdict on bills covers Kerala issues

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would examine on May 6 whether the recent apex court judgment on a plea of Tamil Nadu, fixing timelines for the grant of assent to bills passed by state Assemblies, covers similar issues raised by the Kerala government in its petitions.

A bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi agreed to hear the pleas of the Kerala government against the governor over the delay in approving bills passed by the State Assembly. "We will look into that judgment and see whether issues raised here are covered," the bench said, when attorney-general R. Venkataramani and solicitor-general Tushar Mehta,

KERALA GOVERNMENT seeks similar directions in its case. Kerala government counsel K.K. Venugopal said the pleas of the state were covered by the SC's recent iudament

appearing for the Centre and the governor's office, said the recent verdict delivered by a bench headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala did not cover the issues raised by the Kerala government.

On April 8, a bench comprising Justices Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan delivered a landmark verdict on the plea of Tamil Nadu government and set aside the reservation of the 10 bills for President's consideration in the second round, holding it as illegal and erroneous in law. In a first, the Justice Pardiwala-led bench also

President should decide on the bills reserved for his/her consideration by the governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received.

The SC had also exercised its plenary jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution to make the bill re-presented to the TN governor, as deemed to have been passed.

The Kerala government seeks similar directions in its case. On Tuesday, Kerala government's counsel K.K. Venugopal said the pleas of the state were covered by the judgment urged the bench to allow the pleas of the state government in terms of the Tamil Nadu judgment.

The solicitor-general, however, said the case of Kerala was not covered by the TN judgement.

Cheetah brothers make 1st kill in new MP home 'Felines feed fully on adult deer'

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, APRIL 22

Around 36 hours after they were relocated to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandsaur Madhva district Pradesh from Kuno National Park in the Pradesh from state, the two male chee-Pavak and Prabhas — made the first kill in their new home early Tuesday morning.

The two South African cheetahs, a coalition, chased an adult spotted deer for around one and half km before success-fully hunting it, a forest officer said.

The cheetah-duo fed on their prey fully. "Pavak and Prabhas hunted and killed an adult spotted deer early on Tuesday morning. This was their first kill in their new home", Sanjay Raikher, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, told this newspaper.

The cheetah pair was relocated to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary from the KNP at around 5:30 pm on April 20.

The two big cats were released in a special enclosure around 50 sq km after they were shifted to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, chosen as the second home of cheetahs after the Kuno National

"The two cheetahs explored the entire enclosure within 12 hours of tuary", Mr Raikher said. According to him, the

two cats were doing well and appeared to be adapting to the new environ-

FIR against IAF officer in **B'luru road** rage incident

M.B. GIRISH with agency inputs BENGALURU, APRIL 22

An FIR has been registered against a 40-year-old IAF officer on charges of attempt to murder, criminal intimidation and voluntarily causing hurt based on a counter-complaint by a food delivery agent, who was previously arrested on the officer's complaint in a road rage incident, the police said.

Vikas Kumar (26), who was released on station bail, said in a video statement on Tuesday that he will not let go of the case. He also expressed concerns about losing his job because of the incident.

Mr Kumar has alleged that Wg Cdr Shiladitya Bose (35) assaulted him and tried to strangle him during an altercation in Bengaluru city Monday.

On Monday, Wg Cdr Bose made an allegation in a video he shared that he was attacked and verbally abused by a group of Kannada-speaking individuals who chased him on a bike. Terming it a case of road rage, the police arrested Vikas.

Both parties attacked each other and some purported showed the IAF officer roughing up Vikas, creating a scene for the

Taking note of the incident, CM Siddaramaiah Tuesday said he has instructed Bengaluru commissioner of police B. Davanand to initiate action as per the law.

onlookers.

Bandh in J&K today amid danger over **Pahalgam hit**

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Amid widespread anger over and condemnation of Tuesday's terror attack in the Baisaran meadow, various political, social, religious and trade organisations and leaders of Jammu and Kashmir have called for a shutdown across the Union Territory to be observed on Wednesday.

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti took to microblogging site "X" to endorse a bandh call issued by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Jammu High Court Bar Association and asked the people of the Kashmir Valley to support it.

"This isn't just an attack on a select few it is an attack on all of us. We stand together in grief and outrage & strongly support this shutdown to condemn the massacre of innocents," she asserted.

The ruling NC also supported the shutdown call. "On the instruction of the party president, JKNC joins the collective call for a bandh... We appeal to the people of J&K to ensure the hartal called by religious and social leaders is a com-

plete success," it said. Mutahida Majlis Ulema, an amalgam of Muslim religious organisations headed Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, asked the people



US, Israel condemn attack, Putin writes to Prez, Modi

Trump says US stands strong with India, may dial PM

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

The deadly terror attack targeting tourists in J&K on Tuesday drew strong condemnation from several countries, including the US, Israel, Russia and Ukraine. US President Donald

Trump said his country stands with India against terrorism. "Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir... We pray for the souls of those lost, and for the recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Modi and the incredible people of India have our full support and deepest sympathies. Our hearts are with you all," Mr Trump said. There were also reports that Mr Trump may speak to Mr Modi in the wake of the

Jaiswal also confirmed in "Kindly accept the sincere Jeddah that several world leaders had sent condolencemessages to India. "Usha and I extend our

condolences to the victims of the devastating terrorist attack... Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack," US vice-president J.D. Vance posted on social media platform X. Israeli ambassador to India Reuven Azar said that he was sad and

appalled following the ter-

rorist attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin con-demned the attack and wrote President Droupadi Murmu and Mr Modi to express his condo-The Russian President also said the perpetrators of heinous crime should be

ic consequences of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam whose victims were civilians — citizens of various countries. This brutal crime has no justification whatsoever. We expect that its organisers and perpetrators will face a deserved punishment. I would like to reiterate our commitment to further

increasing cooperation

with Indian partners in

fighting terrorism. Ukraine also expressed "deep concern" over the attack and demanded that the "perpetrators should be held accountable". The Ukrainian embassy said. 'Ukraine is deeply concerned over the attack on tourists... We endure the loss of life from terrorism daily and firmly condemn

'You spoilt atmosphere of court': SC fines lawyer ₹5L

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Irked over the nature of averments in a plea, the Supreme Court on Tuesday imposed ₹5 lakh costs on a lawyer for filing the petition as a peti-tioner and said he spoiled the atmosphere

of the court". A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeen Mehta asked advocate Sandeep Todi to deposit the amount within four weeks in the accounts of the National atmosphere of this court, as no prudent lawyer will file such a frivolous petition under Article 32 of the Constitution," Justice Nath said. 32 of the Article

Constitution guarantees the right to constitutional remedies, ensuring individuals can approach the SC to enforce their fundamental rights if they are violated "If we allow the simpliciter withdrawal of the petition then it will send the wrong message, the bench said, imposing the cost on the lawyer and

Legal Services Authority. "You have spoiled the to "peacefully protest this heinous crime". brought to book. President Putin wrote, horrific attack. MEA terrorism in all its allowing him to withdraw Randhir spokesperson 28 killed as terrorists open fire on tourists Vance pitches for US oil, weapons

■ Continued from Page 1 ship between the two countries, which could make it the greatest-ever century. He tough warned of a dark time globally if the bilateral ties faltered. "If we fail to keep pace, consequences for the Indo-Pacific region

will be dire," he said. Terming India as a "major defence partner" the US vice-president also urged India to buy more state of the art military equipment from the United States that he said was the best globally, pointing out that US F-35 (stealth aircraft) can help the Indian Air Force to protect Indian skies and "deter foreign aggressors", a comment seen as a veiled reference to

China. The US vice-president also mentioned the close bilateral defence ties including the Javelin missiles and the Stryker infantry combat vehicles and plans for co-production of munitions by the two nations. He also flagged the launch of the "Joint launch of the Systems Autonomous Alliance" between both nations which he said will "develop state of the art maritime systems" and (Indo-Pacific) that the "region must remain safé from hostile powers that

seek to dominate". The US also wants to sell more energy (oil) to India, Mr Vance said, pointing out that strides in advanced fields such as artificial intelligence (AI) are based on energy security. He also spoke about how ethanol from the finest corn produced by American farmers could also boost energy security for India.
The US vice-president

also welcomed the Modi Government's move amend the nuclear liabilities law and said the existing law had been a barrier to US companies exporting small nuclear reactors and building larger ones in India. He spoke about the bilateral ties benefitting sectors such as pharma, under-sea cables and other critical goods.

Mr Vance pointed to the American advancements in AI hardware and India's corresponding advancements in its start-up infra-

structure Describing the Modi government as arguably the most popular in the democratic world (after 11 years of being in power continuously), Mr Vance hailed the PM as a "serious leader" and a "tough negotiator who drives a hard bargain"

to protect India's interests. 'Î don't blame Mr Modi, but I blame American leaders in the past who failed to protect American workers," he said, also remarking in jest that he is "jealous" of Mr Modi's domestic approval ratings.
The US vice-president

also mentioned how the two nations are working togeth-Quad mechanism and indicated that the Quad Summit will be held in autumn this year (in India, which Mr Trump is expected to attend).

Mr. Vance said a stronger India-US relationship will lead to greater stability in the Indo-Pacific. He also slammed the attitude of previous US governments towards India and other countries, which he said was "preachy", adding that Mr Trump "rejects failed ideas" and wants both nations to grow together.

"Our partners need not look exactly like us (America). America has a friend in India," Mr Vance said but added that there have to be certain shared objectives for both sides.

On a lighter note, as his Indian-origin wife Usha was seated in the audience. the US vice-president mentioned "two leaders" globally liked by his three children and said Mr Trump and Mr Modi are these two leaders. He also thanked the Prime Minister for the hospitality during the visit. The Vance family will visit Agra to see the Taj Mahal on Wednesday.

■ Continued from Page 1 The police sources and wit-

nesses said that the holidaymakers mostly from Maharashtra. Guiarat. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Odisha were enjoying horse-riding or engaged in other recreational activities in the meadow situated at a height of 2,400 meters (7,874 feet) and dotted with dense pine forests and surrounded by snowcapped mountains when a group of terrorists targeted them with automatic firearms. According to reports, around 2,000 tourists were present in the meadow when the attack took place. After committing the terror act, the gunmen fled back into the woods, the witnesses told the police.

A purported video of the attack site emerged showing many people bleeding and lving motionless on the ground while women tourists were wailing and looking for their near and dear ones.

Some of the witnesses said that the assailants were dressed in military fatigues and that they entered the meadow from the surrounding woods and opened fire without warning. The authorities pressed a

chopper into service for the

evacuation of the injured

persons, the officials said,

adding some of the injured

were brought down from

the meadows by local people on their ponies.

J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah, in a post on X, said that the death toll is still being ascertained. He, however, 'Needless to say, this attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the police officials suspect that either LeT or JeM or one of their shadow groups could be involved. However, a section of local media late on Tuesday reported that The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group of proscribed LeT, claimed responsibility.

These reports quoting unnamed officials also said that possibly the group of terrorists involved in the attack could have crossed over from Kishtwar in Jammu and reached Baisaran through Kokernag in south Kashmir.

The officials said that columns of the Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the CRPF, joined J&K's police's counterinsurgency pecial Operations Group (SOG) to launch a hunt for the attackers while the wounded were rushed to

The Union home minister, who reached Srinagar from

New Delhi late Tuesday have lost their loved ones. I evening to hold an emergency security review meeting with the top-ranking security and civil administration officials at Raj Bhavan and oversee the response to the terror attack, said that he had been directed by the Prime Minister to ensure swift and decisive action to address the incident.

Northern Army Commander Lt. Gen. M.V. Suchendra Kumar, who was in New Delhi for a military conference, is rushing to Srinagar to oversee the security forces' operation against the terrorists involved in the attack, the defence sources here said, adding that he will be briefed by senior local commanders at the headquarters of the Army 15 Corps, also called Chinar Corps, at Srinagar's Badami Bagh Cantonment before leaving Pahalgam

Wednesday morning. The bloody incident has shaken the nation, with the who had reached Jeddah earlier during the day on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, strongly condemning it and vowing to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"I strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Condolences to those who pray that the injured recover at the earliest," Mr Modi posted on X.

The PM added: "All possible assistance is being provided to those affected. Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice...they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and it will get even stronger.'

J&K lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha expressed deep sorrow, offering condolences to the victims' families and stating, "The targeting of innocent tourists is an unforgivable crime. We will ensure that those responsible face justice swiftly.'

Condemning the attack, Mr Abdullah said that he was shocked beyond belief. He said, "This attack on our visitors is an abomination. The perpetrators of this attack are animals, inhuman and worthy of contempt. No words of condemnation are enough. I send my sympathies to the

families of the deceased." The J&K CM further stated that he has been in constant touch with senior officials and has spoken to the minister of health Sakina Itoo, who immediately rushed to the hospital to oversee treatment and support arrangements for the iniured.

Earlier, Mr Shah had spoken to Mr Abdullah over the phone about the "tragic sources said.

Pahalgam, about 90 km southeast of J&K capital Srinagar, is a basecamp of the annual Amarnath yatra, which is scheduled to begin on July 3 simultaneously from both traditional Pahalgam and shorter Baltal routes. The terror attack has taken place at a time when the scenic Kashmir Valley is witnessing a surge in tourist

Citizens of J&K took out candle marches across the UT and a bandh has been called on Wednesday. The shutdown call has been given by Chambers of Commerce and Industries Kashmir, JK Hoteliers Club, civil society groups, etc.

multiple Meanwhile, emergency control rooms have been established in Pahalgam, Anantnag and Srinagar to assist tourists. In a post on X, J&K's department of information and public relations said these include: Emergency control — Srinagar 0194 room 2457543, 0194-2483651 Adil Fareed, ADC Srinagar -7006058623 helpline "for the assistance on Pahalgam terror incident.



THE ASIAN AGE

23 APRIL 2025

World in flux: India must see bigger trade picture

rade deals are the flavour of the season as Donald Trump's tariffs play ducks and drakes with the global players of the world economy. As nations bend in their avidity to sign deals to get off the tariff merry-go-round, a miffed China is holding out threats to those who are keen to sign deals with the US at the expense of its interests.

It is against this background of trade deals to thwart Trumpian tariffs that the visit of his deputy J.D. Vance to India with his Indian American wife Usha and children with Hindu and Christian names assumed a greater significance. The voice of Trump's deputy must also count with his boss who has myriad other advisers, of whom one is the richest man in the

The optics of the meeting with Mr Vance and his family could not have been more congenial as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi took delight in interacting with their young kids too and projecting a softer image in the process. And the Vance family will also be having a run of picture postcard-like Indian tourist destinations.

In most recent times, India has sought to make its ties with the United States a pillar of its foreign policy strategy just as the USA looked to India

Considering the interests of Indian traders and farmers, the cost of computing the sacrifices, including a big cut in tariffs on high-end motorcycles like the Harley Davidson, and bourbon whisky, might be a slippery slope

to counterbalance China. The strength of those ties is reckoned to be as important as the \$41.18 billion trade surplus that India enjoyed with the United States last year and because of which it was one of the countries targeted with reciprocal tariffs that have been put on hold for 90 days

to July.

The importance of pleasing Trump to avoid altogether or soften the proposed tariffs at 26 per cent or higher can never be stressed too much. And the India-US trade deal, titled BTA, is taking aim at being mutually beneficial while focusing on the welfare of the people of the two countries.

Considering the interests of Indian traders and the country's countless farmers, the cost of computing the sacrifices, including a big cut in tariffs on high-end motorcycles like the Harley Davidson, and bourbon whisky, might be a slippery slope. Even then India is bent upon delivering an interim trade deal before the threatened tariffs kick in. Only time will tell what the real costs will be, especially on dairy farmers if the dairy sector were to be thrown open to the US.

The one thing that Indians cannot lose sight of is the price of concentrating hugely on pleasing Trump with a trade deal and through that attempting to preserve the strategic ties that have developed so well. While a favourable surplus in India-US trade seems such a tricky issue to be addressed now, imagine the problem of a huge trade deficit, as in trade with China that, at 99,2 billion, is nearly \$100 bn and rising.

It is vital that India looks at the bigger picture and considers responding to overtures from China's envoy regarding his country being willing to look at the burgeoning trade surplus and do something about it, like buying higher quality Indian goods. When the world is in turmoil with the Trump tariff threats, India would be doing itself a favour if it looks at containing the China surplus. After all, this is the time of the big reset in global trade and India must look at world trade in a comprehensive way

Gold prices: Stability needed

ongratulations to Indian women, whose native ingenuity in financial management has once again been demonstrated to the world. Gold \prime has long been an object of envy and has triggered many battles over millennia. But in the last few decades, investment gurus have derided it as a dead investment. However, Indian women continued their bets on gold, which have now paid off, with the price of the yellow metal crossing ₹1,00,000 per 10 grams.

The gold price remained largely stable until 2020 at ₹40,000. From ₹10,000 in 2006 to ₹40,000 in 2020, the price rose by 10.41 per cent annually. However, since the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020, gold has outperformed almost every other asset class. It took five years — from January 2020 to January 2025 — to add another ₹40,000. This period was marked by global conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the West Asian crisis. tion of Donald Trump as the US President and his actions. ated unprecedented uncertainty in the world, making gold almost the only

The rise in the gold price, nevertheless, has been mainly driven by fear and, therefore, may not be sustainable. The latest available production cost for gold is \$1,456 per ounce (28.35 grams), or ₹43,748.40 per 10 grams. However, it is currently selling at a 128 per cent premium to its cost at ₹1,00,000, which is unsustainable in the long run.

Gold is merely an investment avenue for the superrich investors in the West, who are parking billions of dollars in gold, driving its price up to the stratosphere. For Indians, however, it is an invariable part of their lives, from birth to death, and such a high price is unsettling. For the greater good of the world, and Indians, therefore, let us hope that peace returns and makes the yellow metal relatively more affordable.

THE ASIAN AGE

KAUSHIK MITTER

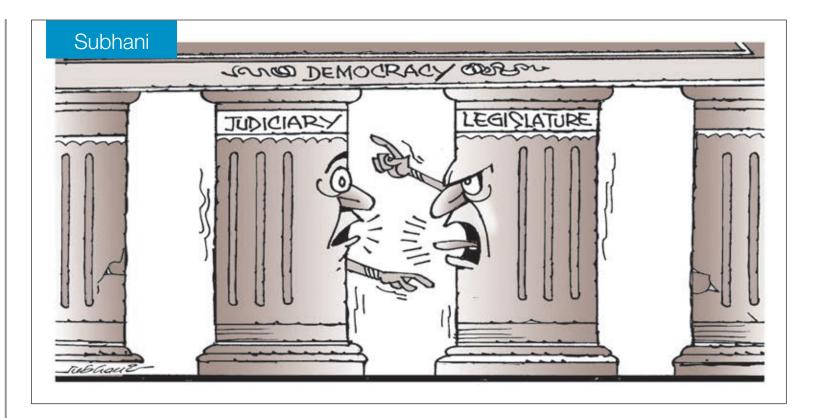
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Will new pontiff continue Pope Francis' glasnost?



Venkateshwar Rao Jr

the world mourns death of Pope Francis, Latin American head of the Roman Catholic Church, who died on April 21, Easter Monday, at the age of 88, the Catholic Church's top prelates in the Vatican will be busy in the next few weeks with the election of the new Pope. The Church has its time-honoured bureaucratic procedures of electing the successor to Pope Francis through the members of the College of Cardinals below the age of 80. Interestingly, Pope Francis has created 30 cardinals from Asia and Africa, making the important assembly of cardinals even more representative. So, the speculation about the successor of Francis is whether it would be another outsider like him — an Argentine though his migrated to Argentina after the First World War to seek a better life compared to the straitened economic status in Turin. He was also the first

Jesuit to become the Pope. This has its own symbolism. The Jesuits, known as the Society of Jesus, had spearheaded the Counter-Reformation in the face of German Augustan monk Luther's Protestant rebellion. The Jesuits have been known to be the defenders of the Roman Catholic Church, reputed for their shrewdness and cunning. Pope Francis was shrewd in many ways but in a benign sense. His liberal views on the issue of gay priests — his famous riposte "Who am I to judge" — and his attempt to reach out to the Islamic world at the time of rising Islamophobia have their element of cunning too. But he made

these issues more than a matter of policy and strategy

The openness he displayed was rooted in his moral commitment. And here comes the interesting complication of his world-view. Even as he adopted the name of Francis after St Francis of Assisi, he showed his commitment to the Franciscan vows of poverty, compassion. Pope Francis cared for the poor, and one of his declared commitments on becoming the Pope was to keep the Church poor and to care for the poor. This awareness of the poor can be traced back to his own growing-up years in Buenos Aires in a neighbourhood of immigrants. And he was also drawn to the famous Liberation Theology movement of the Roman Catholic priests in Latin America. He recalls in his autobiography, Hope, that he grew up among people of other faiths, who included Jews and Muslims. This is a dimension that shaped his views about religions and approach the issue.

how the church should The general view of Pope Francis has been that he has been a liberal and progressive pontiff, and the Roman Catholic Church was in need of a man like him after the pronounced conservatism of his predecessor Pope Benedict XV and of Pope John Paul II, who was hailed as the man who contributed to the downfall of Communism starting with his native Poland. That was a formidable legacy. John Paull II was the Pope from 1978 to 2005, and Benedict XVI from 2005 to 2013. So, Pope Francis' papal term of 12 years seems to have just opened the windows to winds of change if they are to be called that.

The conservatives in the

Pope Francis reached out to create saints from outside the Western realm — Kolkata's St Teresa in 2016, Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th century English Catholic priest, and also from Argentina and Brazil

Roman Catholic Church remain entrenched, and Pope Francis had to brush them aside. He did not always consult the College of Cardinals, and formed his own small, select committee of nine cardinals to advise him. He appointed many women to key positions in the Roman Curia, the administrative setup of the Vatican.

The other revolutionary and conservative — yes, this is indeed the mix of irreconcilable features aspect of Francis' papacy has been his canonisation policy. He has reached out to create saints through the well-laid out process of Roman Catholic Church from outside the Western realm Kolkata's St Teresa (of the

Missionaries of Charity) in 2016, Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th century English Catholic priest who is known for his famous essay *The Idea* of a University. And also from Argentina and Brazil. The little noticed canonisation was that of 800 Catholics who had been massacred by the Turks in 1480 and known as the Italian martyrs of Otranto. The total number of those canonised by Francis rises to a phenomenal 912. Among those canonised were three of his predecessors, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II. Canonisation is a way of strengthening the Roman Catholic Church. It can be rationalised as a way of remembering the people who have done much for the faithful. And he would have most likely defended

Pope Francis had adopted a nuanced stance of

it as such.

being rooted in religion and the traditions of the Church even as he reached out to the poor people of all faiths across the world. And he derived his compassion and concern from his own religious beliefs. To remain rooted in religion and faith in a time of both existential and political uncertainties is a matter of both integrity and courage. It is in this act of commitment that Pope Francis becomes an ideal, and it is not surprising that people across the world and across faiths

admire him. So, can the papal conclave elect a man to succeed Pope Francis who can combine the many gifts, talents and commitment that Francis had brought to his high office? There is little doubt that the Roman Catholic Church is mired in controversy — moral and financial — and there is need for a man with a clear moral vision to be at the helm. It is not an easy task for members of the conclave. The eyes of 1.3 billion Roman Catholics will be focused on the Vatican even as they mourn the passing of a charismatic Pope Francis.

There are millions who are disgusted with the Catholic Church, and they are mainly from among the Roman Catholics. But they also realise the importance of preserving the historical edifice with its centuries-old traditions because it offers hope and sustenance of its own. It might be easy to dismiss the Roman Catholic Church as a humongous superstition. But to millions it is an edifice of solace. And it is from the many who are dedicated to the Church that men like Pope Francis emerge. Around the world, political leaders have turned out to be more than shallow and diabolical. It is in this vacuum that the importance of individuals like Pope Francis in a position of leadership seems so

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

Not many Popes in history have had the courage of conviction on a host of tricky issues, castigating the developed West for their treatment of immigrants to concern for the LGBT+ and condemnation of Israel over the Gaza attacks. Born Jorge Bergoglio. he was elected Pope on March 13, 2013, and died on the day after Easter in 2025 after a prolonged illness. Pope Francis carried the concerns of the people all through his papal tenure. Even when in physical pain he never lost his cheerful demeanour. It is a sad day for not just the Catholics of the world but to all who cherish Christian values. The fond hopes of the Catholics of India that he would visit us have remained unfulfilled.

> **Anthony Henriques** Mumbai

JAIL RAMDEV NOW

THE DELHI high court on Tuesday came down heavily on Patanjali founder and yoga guru Ramdev for his controversial "Sharbat Jihad" comments allegedly aimed at Hamdard's popular drink Rooh Afza, comment "indefensible and something that "shocks the conscience of the court". This is a case of creating communal divide, akin to hate speech. He must be awarded a jail sentence.

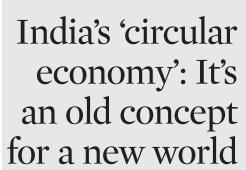
Sankar Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal

READ PRINTED BOOKS

ON APRIL 23, World Book Day, we should wake up from our indifference to the demise of libraries. Library books remain in sleep mode and over dependence on digital books coupled with the AI onslaught has marred true research and the pleasure of reading. This trend must reverse. Though he was a mathematician, Dr S.R. Ranganathan, known as the father of library science in India, gave us Five Laws of Library Science: "Books are for use", "Every book its user", "Every user his book", "Save time of the reader" and "Library is a growing organism" 100 years back. Tagore, too, donated a good part of his Nobel Prize money to establish libraries on Kolkata's outskirts. **Brij Bhushan Goyal**

Ludhiana

Pradeep S. Mehta



n India, the circular economy is not a borrowed idea — it is a cultural legacy. Woven into our traditions, values, and daily practices, circularity has long been a way of life rather than a policy. Long before terms like "circular economy" or "sustainable consumption" entered the global discourse, Indian households have lived these values without fanfare, but with conviction.

Sustainability wasn't strategy, it is a way of life. It was *sanskar* (culture) — part of how we were raised

Old saris became quilts. Oil tins turned into storage boxes. Clothes were mended by neighbourhood tai-lors, often shared across siblings, and rarely wasted. Leaving behind uneaten food in the plate was blasphemous. These weren't acts of altruism but acts of reverence. Our ancestors practiced what the world now preaches — respect for resources, minimisation of waste, and living in harmony with nature. Circularity ran through our festivals, rituals and rural economies, echoing philosophy rooted in

regeneration and restraint.

What looked like thrift was a deep ecological worldview. While industrial economies raced ahead with the linear "take-make-dispose" model, India retained its cultural ethic of renewal.

But even we haven't been immune to the pull of hyper-consumerism. Aspirations have shifted. Global supply chains have shortened product life cycles, advertising has redefined needs as wants, and durability has given way to disposability. Even those striving to make responsible choices find themselves caught in a dilemma, as sustainable alternatives,

when available, are often expensive. From Cultural Memory to Climate Mission: In this

landscape, where conscious choices are difficult and traditional wisdom is fading, India needs a new path one that reconnects with its roots while aligning with global climate goals.

It is in this context that Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2022 alongside UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, becomes highrelevant. Framed as a global mass movement, Mission LiFE calls for shifting from wasteful consumption to mindful, purpose driven living. It identifies individual behaviour as the core of climate action, urging people to make small, impactful

We have had Ecomark, the environmental labelling scheme, in India since 1991, but it has hardly been successful because of lack of political will. Very few products qualified under that which were also not marketed with the environmental attributes. A few years ago, Mr Modi reviewed the scheme and suggested that it should be revived and to begin with, products made from waste be promoted under the Ecomark scheme. This step would have pushed our circular economy in a big way. Alas, there was little traction then and even today. However, many such

products are being promoted by businesses. The transformative potential here is vast. Even without Ecomark, campaigns now promote energy efficient appliances, electric mobility, and responsible e-waste disposal. A working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

estimates that a circular economy path could reduce India's greenhouse gas emissions by 23 per cent in 2030 and by 44 per cent in 2050 compared to current

Making Sustainability Default, Not the Privilege: But real transformation demands more than individual resolve. The burden of sustainability cannot rest solely on consumers, especially when eco-friendly choices remain a luxury. If organic food, renewable energy and ethically produced goods are costlier and less accessible than their polluting counterparts, sustainability risks becoming an elite pursuit. The challenge, therefore, is systemic — how do we make sustainable consumption the default — affordable, aspirational, and available to all? This is where policy and industry must lead. Green innovation needs investment. Circular businesses must be incentivised. Sustainable goods must enter mainstream supply chains. Urban planning must support zero waste models, shared mobility and walkable cities. Subsidies must move from fossil fuels to renewables and regenerative agriculture.

India is already making bold moves. The Green Credit Programme, launched in 2023, aims to create a market where eco-positive actions earn tradable credits, offering economic incentives for sustainabil-

ity. Still, much remains to be done. Recent reports indicate that several leading electronics companies are resisting India's e-waste rules under EPR, calling them overly strict, expensive and hard to comply with. Sustainability cannot be optional, especially by those who have long profited from a linear, extractive economy driven by planned obsolescence and unchecked consumption.

To overcome resistance, we need not just regulate, but affirm circularity as the way ahead. A contemporary reflection of this ethos lies in the global secondhand trade. In many regions, markets for pre-owned garments and used cars support livelihoods, offer affordability, and slow the production waste cycle. Yet, these markets are unfairly stigmatised as symbols of underdevelopment rather than tools of sustainability. Instead of discouraging them, policy must dignify and strengthen such markets.

Religious traditions can play a transformative role. Research from the UK finds that Hindus in India exhibit the highest concern about the environmental impact of their consumption. This cultural capital, rooted in values of restraint and interdependence, can become a powerful lever for change, if activated with care and inclusivity.

India stands at a unique juncture. It has the policy momentum, the cultural heritage and the demographic energy to lead a truly transformative circular economy model. Success will depend on how well we bridge past and future, tradition and innovation. In doing so, India can offer the world not just climate solutions, but civilisational wisdom — reminding us that the circular economy isn't just about managing materials but about reimagining our relationship with the planet.

The writer is the secretary-general of CUTS International, a 40-year-old leading global public policy research and advocacy group. He is also a founder member of the GoI's Ecomark scheme.











VAN PLUNGES INTO RAVINE IN

PAK, 16 KILLED Karachi, April 22: A speeding van fell into a ravine in south-ern Pakistan, killing at least 16 people, including women and children, and injuring 30 others, authorities said.

The accident took place in Jamshoro district in the Sindh province on Monday.

According to details, the accident took place in the hilly region when the driver of the van lost control of the vehicle due to over speeding and the van fell into a ditch, killing 16 persons on the spot and injuring 30 others, Dunya News

EVACUATIONS AS PLANE CATCHES FIRE AT AIRPORT

Orlando, April 22: A Delta Air Lines airplane caught fire on Monday before it was supposed to take off at a central Florida airport, forcing the evacuation of passengers, airport officials

There were no reports of any injuries during the fire on the plane at Orlando International Airport, Delta said. A recent spate of aviation disasters and close calls in the US has stoked fears about air travel, though flying remains a safe way to travel. On-the-ground accidents included a plane that crashed and flipped over upon landing in Toronto.

RUSSIA HACKERS TARGET DUTCH **PUBLIC FACILITY**

The Hague, April 22: Russian hackers targeted a Dutch public facility last year in the first such an attack on the lowlands country's infrastructure, its military intelligence services

said on Monday. The Netherlands remained an "interesting target country" for Moscow due to its ongoing support for Ukraine, its Haguebased international organisations, high-tech industries, and harbours such as Rotterdam, the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD) said.

Last year, the MIVD "saw a Russian hacker group carry out a cyber attack."

12 CHILDREN DIE IN I. COAST BOAT CAPSIZE: MIN

Abidjan, April 22: A boat overturned during a church outing for Easter on a lagoon near the city of Abidjan in Ivory Coast, killing 12 children and teenagers, a government minister told AFP on Tuesday.

"Twelve bodies have been recovered and are being taken to the morgue," said sports minister Adje Silas Metch, who went during the night to the site of the accident.

The bodies are "of children and adolescents", he added, saying one was a youngster who was not from the church but had joined the boat cross-

COALITION RIFT: THAI PM SAYS NO **CABINET SHAKEUP**

Bangkok, April 22: Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra has ruled out an imminent Cabinet shakeup amid reports of a growing rift between her ruling party and its biggest coalition partner.

Paetongtarn, who became Thailand's youngest leader in September last year, while talking to reporters on Tuesday said that she was happy with the performance of her first Cabinet so far.

There was no plan to oust Bhumjaithai Party led by Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul from the ruling coalition, she said.

UN AGENCY HALTS FOOD AID FOR 6.5L ETHIOPIANS

Addis Ababad, April 22: The World Food Programme said Tuesday that it was suspending aid for 6,50,000 malnourished women and children in Ethiopia because of a lack of funding.

The United Nations agency warned that they were among 3.6 million people in Ethiopia who would no longer have access to food aid in the coming weeks without urgent new

funding.
"WFP is being forced to halt treatment for 650,000 malnourished women and children in May due to insufficient fund-

PNG's first saint was Pope's unfulfilled wish

Sydney, April 22: In one of his final acts, Pope Francis cleared the way for Papua New Guinea to get its first saint — an anti-polygamy preacher who died in prison during Japan's World War II occupation.

The late pontiff confided to religious leaders in the Pacific nation that he wanted to personally oversee the canonisa-"martyr" Peter tion of To Rot.

Now, that honour will fall to his successor.

"He told me that he wanted to canonise Peter To Rot himself," said Tomas Ravaioli, an Argentine missionary in Papua New Guinea who met with the Pope when he visited in September last year.

'He said that To Rot is the kind of saint that people need in this moment. You know, he's not a priest or a bishop — he's a normal man, Ravaioli told *AFP*.

"It's very sad for us because we were expecting him to canonise Peter To Rot." To Rot was formally cleared for sainthood on March 31 when the Vatican issued decrees for the "causes of saints". His canonisation will take place during a mass in the Vatican at a time yet to be decided, at the discretion of Francis's successor. "We don't know who is going to do it,' Ravaioli said.

"And of course, we love the next Pope without knowing him yet. But it will not be the same." To Rot's supporters travelled the country for decades collecting evidence to convince the Vatican of his eligibility for sainthood.

"He's a layman. He was 33 years old. He was a married man with three children," said Ravaioli, who has worked for To Rot's elevation for years.

"He was not a superhero, but he was a normal man of a village," he said.

To Rot, born in 1912 in Rakunai — 800 km (500 from Moresby — was a spiritual guide for Catholics in the area during World

War II, the Vatican says. He fought against polygamy and practised even as religious leaders were detained by

Japanese occupiers. To Rot was imprisoned by Japanese authorities and died of poisoning in July 1945, according to the Vatican.

Pope John Paul II beatified To Rot in 1995, setting him on the path to sainthood. The final step is canonisation.

Ravaioli said he hoped sainthood for the local preacher would rekindle the "flame of faith" in the devoutly Christian country. But Papua New Guinea also suffers from poverty, rampant domestic abuse, witch hunts and tribal violence in which thousands have been killed and tens of thousands displaced.

For many in Papua New Guinea, the church is synonymous with healthcare, education and welfare that the state does not provide.

An estimated 98 per cent of Papua New Guineans are Christian and about 25 per cent are

ISRAELI STRIKES

KILL 26; CAIRO

SET FOR TALKS

Gaza City, Palestinian

Territories, April 22: A

Hamas delegation dep-

arted for Cairo to discu-

ss "new ideas" aimed at

securing a ceasefire in

Gaza, an official from

the group said, as Israeli

air strikes killed 26 peo-

ple across the territory

The renewed effort fol-

lows Hamas's rejection

last week of Israel's lat-

est proposal to secure the release of hostages

Talks have so far failed

to produce any breakthr-

ough since Israel resum-

ed its air and ground

assault on Gaza from March 18. "The delega-

tion will meet with

Egyptian officials to dis-

cuss new ideas." — AFP

still held in Gaza.

on Tuesday.

world's most larised societies.

have a Swedish pope but I think it's pretty unlikely. Highly unlikely,"

op since the Protestant Reformation more than 500 years ago, was appointed as the Scandinavian country's first

Souvenirs with images of Pope Francis are displayed next to St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

GLOSSARY IN PAPAL

VATICAN CAMERLENGO: The cardinal in charge of formally verifying the Pope's death. The current one is the Irish-born American Cardinal Kevin Farrell.



COLLEGE OF CARDINALS: There are 252 cardinals worldwide, and as a body, they are in charge of the Holy See's affairs in-between Popes,

CARDINAL ELECTORS: THE CONCLAVE: This 135 in number, who will be gathering in the Vatican to choose the new Pope.

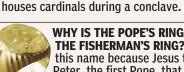
is the closed-door meeting of the cardinal electors to choose the new Pope. THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF **CARDINALS:** The current dean is

Italian Cardinal Giovanni Battista

Re, who is the head of the

College of Cardinals. **DOMUS SANTA MARTA:** This Vatican guesthouse specifically





WHY IS THE POPE'S RING CALLED THE FISHERMAN'S RING? It bears this name because Jesus told St. Peter, the first Pope, that he would be a fisher of men.

GENERAL CONGREGATIONS: This is the name given to the gathering of all members of the College of Cardinals after the Pope's death and before the start of the conclave to discuss major church affairs.

THE REVISERS: These are the three cardinals, chosen by random drawing from the electors, who are charged with reviewing the ballots

during the conclave. A ROGITO: This is the document, or deed, listing key details of the Pope's life and papacy that is placed in his coffin.

THE SCRUTINEERS: These are the three cardinals, chosen by random drawing from the electors, who are charged with reviewing each ballot and announcing it to the assembled conclave.

'HIGHLY UNLIKELY' TO BE NEXT POPE, SWEDISH CARDINAL SAYS

Stockholm, April 22: A Swedish cardinal considered to be among the potential favourites to succeed Pope Francis said on Tuesday that he did not expect to be elected at the conclave.

"It would be fun to Anders Arborelius, 75,

Arborelius, the first Swedish Catholic bishcardinal in 2017.

licism at the age of 20 in the overwhelmingly Protestant country but also home to one of the

Arborelius confirmed he would take part in the conclave to elect the next pope but told SVT that he had asked Francis to release him from his duties as cardinal, because he wants to return to live in his monastery in Sweden.

He said the pope had approved his request but no date had been set for the end of his

Harvard sues US admin over \$2bn grant freeze

As controversies pile up, Trump allies turn on one another

Boston, April 22: Harvard University announced Monday that it has filed suit to halt a federal freeze on more than \$2.2 billion in grants after the institution said it would defy the Trump administration's demands to limit activism on campus.

In an April 11 letter to Harvard, the Trump administration had called for government and leadership reforms at the university and changes to its admissions policies. It also demanded the university audit views of diversity on campus and stop recognising some student clubs. Harvard President Alan Garber said the university would not bend to the demands.

Hours later, the govern-ment froze billions of dollars in federal funding. "The Government has not — and cannot — identify any rational connection between antisemitism concerns and the medical, scientific, technological, and other research it has frozen that aims to save American lives, foster American success, preserve American security, and maintain America's position as a global leader in innova-

in Boston federal court. "Nor has the government acknowledged the significant consequences that the indefinite freeze of billions of dollars in federal research funding will have on Harvard's research programmes, the beneficiaries of that research, and the national interest in furthering American innovation and progress," it added.

tion," said the lawsuit, filed

Harvard's suit called the funding freeze "arbitrary and capricious," saying it violated its First Amend-



President Donald Trump stands with the Easter bunny as he participates in the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House, on Monday.

Trump endorsement for next Arizona Gov

Phoenix (US), April 22: Again" movement. President Donald Trump A former chair of added another endorsement in next year's Republican primary for Arizona governor, saying on Monday that he was backing US Rep. Andy Biggs in addition to his previously announced endorsement of housdeveloper Karrin Taylor Robson.

Trump's endorsement of Robson late last year angered some of his biggest allies in the state, who are suspicious of her longstanding ties to the Republican business establishment and preferred a candidate with deep roots in Trump's "Make America Great

ment rights and the statutory provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Within hours, the White House lashed back. "The gravy train of federal assistance to institutions like Harvard,

A former chair of the US House's hard-right Freedom Caucus and former state Senate president, Biggs has long been a close ally to Trump and supported his false claims about the 2020 presidential election being stolen.

Biggs represents a deep red district including cities like Queen Creek and Gilbert, and has ties to the party's grassroots.

Biggs has had no problem with defying party leadership — such as when he and seven other House Republicans helped oust Kevin McCarthy as House Speaker in 2023.

which enrich their grossly overpaid bureaucrats with tax dollars from struggling American families is coming to an end," White House spokesman Harrison Fields said in an email.

MAN NABBED AS **HE WAS INSIDE NY TRUMP TOWER**

New York, April 22: Police arrested a 30-year-old person inside Trump Tower on Monday after getting a report of a disorderly person on an "elevated surface" inside the building,

authorities said. New York City Police responded at around 4.30 pm to the skyscraper where President Ďonald Trump keeps a penthouse. The tower also houses private condominiums, restaurants, shops, and a soaring public atrium that is open to tourists. Independent journalists on the scene posted video of security officials evacuating people from the atrium.

WALMART RACIST ATTACK GUNMAN PLEADS GUILTY

El Paso (US), April 22: Maribel Hernandez and her husband, Leonardo Ca-mpos, were shopping at a Walmart in a Texas border city in 2019 when a gunman opened fire, killing them

and 21 others. On Monday, Hernandez's daughter, Yvonne Loya Gonzalez, spoke directly to the gunman, Patrick Crusius, after he pleaded guilty to capital murder in the El Paso massacre: "Their absence in my life has left a deep void in my heart." The statements by victims' relatives and survivors that began Monday afternoon

HINDU'S DEATH: **B'DESH REJECTS INDIA'S CHARGE**

Dhaka, April 22: Bangladesh has rejected New Delhi's charge that the recent killing of a Hindu leader was part of a pattern of systematic persecution" of minorities in that country. Body of Hindu commu-

nity leader Bhabesh Chandra Rov. 58. a resi dent of Basudebpur village of Dinajpur district in north Bangladesh was recovered on Thursday night. His son has claimed Roy was allegedly abducted from his home in the village, about 330 km northwest of Dhaka, and beaten to death. "It is unfortunate that the death of Mr Bhabesh Chandra Roy has been described as part of a 'pattern of systematic persecution' of Hindu minorities under the interim government," interim government chief Muhammad Yunus' press secretary Shafigul Alam told the staterun Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) news agency on Monday.

Alam, who is currently accompanying Yunus to an international conference in Qatar, said Bangladesh is not a country where one would find government-sponsored systematic discrimination.

US envoy to visit Moscow as US pushes for ceasefire

Moscow, Kyiv, April 22: US envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to visit Russia this week, a Kremlin aide said Tuesday, as US President Donald Trump seeks a speedy deal to end the three-year Ukraine conflict as Russian drones battered the Ukrainian port city of Odesa in a nighttime attack, local authorities said on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after a purported Easter ceasefire unilaterally declared by Moscow ended and just over a day before Ukrainian, British, French and US officials are due to meet in London to discuss the war.

Anticipation is building over whether diplomatic efforts can stop more than three years of fighting since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour as Russia is ready to consider a proposal by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyv for a halt to attacks by both sides on each other's civilian infrastructure, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitrv Peskov said it was a complex topic that President Vladimir Putin was ready to discuss. But he also told reporters there were no concrete plans at the moment for talks between Russia and Ukraine. — Agencies



A car burns near a residential building damaged by a Russian strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, on Tuesday. -AP

Russian court cuts jail term for US man

Moscow, April 22: Russian court on Tuesday ordered that the jail sentence of a US citizen convicted of drug trafficking be reduced to 9-1/2 years from 12-1/2, the man's lawyer told *Reuters*.

Robert Woodland was found guilty in July 2024 of attempting to sell drugs after he was arrested while transporting about 50 grams of mephedrone, a stimulant drug in the same class

as amphetamine, to a safe cache in Moscow, prosecutors said. His lawyer, Stanislav Kshevitsky, previously told Reuters that Woodland had partially admitted guilt. It was not immediately clear why his sentence was lowered.

Born in Russia in 1991 and adopted as a toddler by US parents, Woodland returned to his birth country as an adult to meet his biolog-

Technology companies are struggling to keep up with Al's online disruption

floods Amazon with strange political books

Toronto, April 22: Canada has seen a boom in political books created with generative artificial intelligence, adding to concerns about how new technologies are affecting the information voters receive during the election campaign. Prime Minister Mark Carney was the subject of at least 16 books published in March and listed on Amazon.com, according to a review of the site on April 16. Five of those were published on a

single day. In total, some 30 titles were published about Carnev this year and made available on Amazon — but most were taken down from the site after inquiries from Bloomberg News.

One author, James A. Powell, put his name to at least three books about the former central banker, who's now leading the Liberal Party and is narrowly favored to win the election.

Among the titles that Amazon removed: Carney's Code: Climate Capitalism, Digital Currencies, and the Technocratic Takeover of the Global Economy — Inside Mark Carney's Blueprint for the Post-Democratic World." Another book by Powell called 'Mark Carney: The Unelected Power Broker of

the 21st Century,' which is still available, begins with

an error, falsely claiming

Queen's University in Kin-

graduated from



Carney was the subject of at least 16 books published in March and listed on Amazon.com, according to a review of the site on April 16. -AP

gston, Ontario.

Others veer into the surreal: One sports the title 'Mark Carney Biography: The Rise Of The Tin Man Who Deserve Respect For Building A Better World For All' and an image of a man who isn't the leader.

The episode underscores that even the world's biggest technology companies are struggling to keep up with how AI is accelerating disruption of media

and public affairs online. Canadian election officials have been worried about the potential for foreign interference and the impacts of fake and manipulated news articles, social media posts and other materials ahead of the

April 28 vote. Facebook and X have hosted scam advertisements that are made to look like political news stories. Bloomberg

Australians start voting in elections ct for the late pontiff.

Melbourne, April 22: Australians began voting Tuesday in general elections as the death of Pope Francis led to a cancellation of campaign events.
Polling stations opened

to voters who, for a variety of reasons, will be unable to vote on May 3.

Around half the votes are expected to be cast then. Prime before Anthony Minister Albanese and opposition leader Peter Dutton cancelled events out of respe-

Flags were flown at halfstaff at government buildings across the country, where a 2021 census found 20% of the population was Catholic. Albanese, who has described himself as a "flawed Catholic," attend-

ed Mass in honour of the pope in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral. "I try not to talk about my faith in public," he said. "At times like this, I think what people do is, they draw on who they are.'

ing," it said in a statement.



E FINANCIAL

NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | 23 APRIL 2025

INDICATORS 0.24 79,595.59 Nifty 50 24,167.25 0.17 S&P 5003 5,258.28 1.94 Dollar (₹) 85.20 0.07 Pound Sterling (₹) 113.91 -0.15 97.89 -0.41 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 1,01,600 ▲1,800 1.65 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 66.90 0.97 IN 10-Yr bond yield 6.326 0.006 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 4.401 -0.004

Airtel to acquire spectrum from Adani Data

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Bharti Airtel said the company along with its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom will acquire rights to use entire 400 megahertz (MHz) spectrum of Adani Data Networks. Adani arm had acquired 400 Mhz spectrum in 26 gigahertz band for about ₹212 crore in 2022. "The spectrum are in Gujarat (100 MHz), Mumbai (100 MHz), Andhra Pradesh (50 MHz), Rajasthan (50 MHz), Karnataka (50 MHz) and Tamil Nadu (50 MHz)," it said.



Flipkart to shift domicile to India from Singapore

Walmart group e-commerce firm Flipkart on Tuesday said it will shift its domicile to India from Singapore- a move that can be seen as a step towards a potential public listing in the country. At present, Flipkart is headquartered in Singapore. "As a company born and nurtured in India, this transition will further enhance our focus and agility in serving our customers, sellers, partners," the company said.

Devyani Int'l has plans to acquire Biryani by Kilo

Devyani International, which operates quick service restaurant chains such as KFC, Pizza Hut through franchise agreements, has announced its plan to acquire homegrown chain 'Biryani by Kilo'. Though it has not disclosed the number of shares or the acquisition price. the company stated that its board is scheduled to meet and approve the proposal on April 24. Started in 2015, BBK has over 70 dine-in outlets.

Rabi Sankar's term extended till May 2026

The government has extended the term of RBI deputy governor T. Rabi Sankar for another one year till May 2026, according to sources. This is the second one-year extension granted to him. The appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment of Rao for a period of one year with effect from May 3, or until further orders, sources said quoting a government order dated April 21.

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Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

quick SAFE HAVEN GOLD PRICE HITS ₹1.01L

LATEST RALLY IN YELLOW METAL STARTED IN 2022 WHEN ECONOMY WAS IN BAD SHAPE AFTER COVID

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, APRIL 22

Gold prices in the Indian spot market moved into six-digit numbers after crossing ₹1 lakh per 10 gm on Tuesday – 20 years after it entered the fivedigit territory.

Since 2005, gold has appreciated by 1,200 per cent and seen the highest yearly gain of 33 per cent so far in 2025, the highest gain since the 1980s.

In the Delhi bullion market, gold opened at ₹1,01600 per 10 gm after falling short by ₹50 to get to the six-digit level on Monday. In the MCX, prices touched a high of ₹99.358 and in the international market prices made a high of \$3,498 per troy

Gold was priced ₹10,000 in May 2006. It took 14 years for gold to climb ₹50,000-level by 2020. The latest bull-run that started in 2022 saw gold rising 80.5 per cent from ₹55,000 to over ₹1 lakh in three

Compared to other asset classes, gold has given the highest return since 2005. While gold has appreciated 1,200 per cent from ₹7,638 per 10 gm on MCX, compared to 814 per cent gain in Sensex and 648 per cent return in silver.

"Similar to other asset classes gold also has seen corrections but has not seen any free-fall till now," said Ajay Kedia, managing director, Kedia Commodities.

Gold has gained 33 per cent so far in 2025, the biggest rally since 1980s. The second biggest yearly gain was witnessed in 2007 – 31 per cent, followed by 29 per cent in 2010 and 27 per cent in 2024. Years like 2002, 2006, and 2009 delivered 24 per cent returns, highlighting a mini bull era during

that decade. The latest rally started in 2022 when the economy was in bad snape. Apart from the Russia-Ukraine de-dollarisation, gold-buying by central banks, buying by goldbacked ETFs and interest rate cuts supported gold," said Kedia.

THE PERFORMANCE OF GOLD OVER time highlights that the Indian housewife is the smartest fund manager in the world. Governments, central banks, economists, who support pump priming, high deficit funding, may need to take a leaf from India, a net importer of store of value forever!

- UDAY KOTAK, Founder and director, Kotak Mahindra Bank

Homemakers get math right, amass 25,900 tonne gold worth ₹256L-cr

SANGEETHA G.

Around 25,900 tonnes of household gold stocks in India have seen their value going up to a whopping ₹250 lakh crore with the yellow metal prices rising beyond ₹1 lakh per 10 gm. Further, the value of 31 tonnes of yellow metal deposited undthe Gold

Monetisation

scheme has gone up to over ₹30,700 As per World Gold Council, the household gold stock could be 23,925 tonnes to 25,925 tonnes. With prices crossing ₹1 lakh per 10 gm, the value of these stocks would range from ₹236 lakh crore to ₹256

lakh crore. According to WGC and Metal Focus, which have come out with the estimate of the gold stocks,

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Tracking global market wor-

ries emanating from the

overnight US market fall

after Trump's rate cut jibe

against US Fed chief Powell.

domestic markets traded with caution. The Nifty-50

closed 0.17 per cent or 41.70

per cent up at 24,167.25 while

the Sensex gained 0.24 per

cent or 187.09 points to close

Indian equities managed

to close in the green despite

cautious cues from the glob-

MUMBAI, APRIL 22

at 79.595.59.

the primary component has been imports since the 1990s when the Gold Control Act was repealed. Imports have remained around 700 -800 tonnes in the past two decades.

It also includes part of the gold lying idle with temples, religious trusts and other organisations, which could come around 4,000 tonnes. There are around 700

temples which own

gold, including ones like Sri P a d m a n a -bhaswamy in Thiruvananthapuram, Tirumala, Vaishno Devi and Siddhi Vinayak temples," finds Metal Focus. As per reports, Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple owns around 1,300 gold and

Tirumala 10.3 tonnes. However, a large majority of the gold stocks is owned by Indian house-holds. The legacy gold

Sensex, Nifty continue to rise

al markets, backed by con-

tinued buying interest and supportive RBI policy, said

Siddhartha Khemka, head -

Research, Motilal Oswal

coverage

(LCR) guide-

by 600 basis points at the sector level," said Bajaj

Nifty bank index made a

are expected to boost LCR

lines. The new norms

"Banking stocks saw

strong buying inter-

est following the RBI's release of the

liquidity

ratio

Financial Services.

lying with them prior to 1990s and for centuries under-caratage issues. A large part of them would have come out into the market as recycled gold. Besides, the RBI holds over 850 tonnes of gold as reserves.

However, the real stocks of gold could be even higher as prior to the repeal of the Gold Control Act, gold was smuggled into the country. Smuggling was rampant during the periods with high import duties.

The Gold Monetisation Scheme was introduced in 2015 to cut the gold imports by paying interest for the gold deposited under the scheme. The scheme has received 31,164 tonnes of gold deposits till November 2024. The value of this may have gone up to ₹30,763 crore with the prices moving up, finds WGC.

new all time high of 55,961.20 and closed at

ออ,งอ1.20 and closed at 55647.20 up 0.62 per cent. IT

stocks fell in line with

ogy stocks and weak Q\$

performance so far.

Sensex and Nifty-

50 closed higher for

the sixth consecu-

tive session led by

gains in safe haven

stocks

FMCG, realty, healthcare

Foreign investors were net

buyers of equities worth

₹1290.43 cr. Domestic insti-

and consumer durables

overnight fall of US technol-

GOLD AT NEW HIGH GOLD WAS PRICED ₹10,000 IN MAY 2006. IT TOOK 14 YEARS FOR YEL-LOW METAL TO CLIMB ₹50,000 LEVEL BY 2020. **GOLD WAS COMPARED PRICED** ₹55,000 in 2022 to other asset classes, and it has now gold has moved to over given the ₹1lakh in just highest return three years. since 2005. **HEAVY DEBT** on US economy has diminished trust on US treasury bonds and the dollar.

TARIFF WAR, which triggers infla-

THE LEGACY gold lying with them prior to 1990s and for centuries have undercaratage

VALUE OF GOLD held by households range from ₹236 lakh cr to ₹256 lakh cr.

tion risk and consequent recession-

ary concerns, are currently fueling sky-rocketing of gold prices.

IN MCX, prices touch high of ₹99,358. In international market, prices high of \$3,498 per troy ounce.

SIMILAR TO OTHER asset classes gold also has seen corrections in between, but the prices have not witnessed any free-fall till now, which makes the vellow metal a reliable asset class. - AJAY KEDIA, MD, Kedia Commodities

Time right to up share of silver in portfolio

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, APRIL 22

With gold prices remaining sky-high, investors should wait for the next correction to buy the yellow metal. Instead, they should look at accumulating its cheaper cousin silver as the goldsilver ratio supports the

white metal. Silver offers opportunities investors. Silver at the MCX was priced at ₹95,600 per kg on Tuesday. The gold-silver ratio has gone up above 100. Gold-silver ratio - the number of ounces of silver needed to buy one ounce of gold has earlier gone up above 100 only once to 126 during the pandemic.

Usually, the gold-silver ratio remains around 65-70 levels, moving between 32 and 85. Once the ratio moves up, there will be pressure on silver prices

Further, the usage of silver as an industrial metal, in solar and EV equipment is increasing, supporting prices.

SGB REDEMPTION TO COST ₹6,100 CR tonnes of gold will be redeemed this year, as per the data of the World

Gold Council.

could be ₹ 6141.5 crore.

Of this, 2.2 tonnes of gold have

been already redeemed. The remain-

ing 6.19 tonnes will be redeemed this

year. At the current gold rates, the redemption cost of these bonds

Recently for the SGB Series III

2017-18, the RBI had announced

the pre-mature redemption

price of ₹9,221 per bond. The issue price of the bond was

₹2,964. The absolute return

on the bonds was 211 per

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, APRIL 22

tutions were

net sellers by

entered an

bought zone.

regained

₹885.6 cr as mar-

ket seems to have

"Markets had a volatile

momentum and

start following sharp overnight losses in the US

markets. Benchmarks soon

extended gains, supported

by strong gains in the bank

stocks after RBI further

eased norms helping liquid-

ity," said Satish Chandra

Aluri, analyst,

Markets Desk.

After the redemption of 2.2 tonnes of sovereign gold bonds so far this year, another 6.19 tonnes are up for redemption this calendar year. This would cost around

₹6,100 crore to the government at the current gold prices. SGB investors waiting for redemption could see a return of 270 per cent on their investments. Bonds issued in 2017 under 14

tranches are up for redemption year after completing tenure

However, with the gold prices going up, the redemption eight years. price of the subsequent series would higher.

COST **TRENDS** 2020 2006

Value in rupees

RBI BRINGS BANK.IN DOMAIN TO MIGRATE BANKS' DIGITAL INFRA

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, APRIL 22

After launching its own WhatsApp channel, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday directed banks to start migration of their existing domains to the '.bank.in' domain and complete the process by October 31 this year. aimed at combating increasing instances of

fraud in digital payments. Earlier, the RBI rolled out an official WhatsApp channel to make financial information more accessible to people across the country. It aims to deliver banking updates and financial news in easy-tounderstand format.

Domestic growth, macros make India resilient: RBI

Broking Research.

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, APRIL 22

India's economy is relatively less vulnerable to global headwinds and calibrated policy support can help the country turn global volatility into an opportunity, said the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) April Bulletin released on Tuesday.

The RBI said that India is poised to benefit from chain realigndiversified FDI sources, and engagement with global investors seeking resilience and scale, given its already established trade linkages. Moreover, India's consis-



tent strength in services exports and remittance inflows continues to provide a vital buffer for the current account, said the central bank in an article on 'State of the Economy' in the bulletin.

"Although the dampening global economic outlook could impact India's economic growth through weaker external demand. domestic growth engines

ment, are relatively less susceptible to external headwinds," the RBI said. Strong domestic growth impulses and sound macro-fundamentals have sound helped the economy stay resilient despite global trade tensions, it said,

adding that prospects for

the farm sector have been

boosted by above-normal

monsoon forecast. The article also noted that a decline in global commodity prices, however, could ease pressure on inflation in commodity importing countries, although currency pressures could partly offset such benefits.

INDIA, U.S. FINALISE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BILATERAL PACT

FC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

India and the US have finalised the terms of reference (ToR), outlining the roadmap for negotiations of proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA). India and the US said that they made significant progress in negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade pact.

US Trade Representa-tive (USTR) Jamieson Greer said that these ongoing talks will help achieve balance and reciprocity by opening new markets for American goods and addressing unfair practices that harm US workers.

EoDB priority for govt, says Nirmala

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that over the last decade India has undertaken several structural reforms, rationalising over 20,000 compliances, decriminalising business laws and digitisdecriminalising ing public services to reduce friction.

"Our experience with implementing the business reform action plan by different state governments has demonstrated that deregulation is a powerful catalyst for industri-al growth. The objective is to strengthen trust-based economic governance and take transformational measures to enhance ease of doing business," she said, while addressing Hoover Institute in California.

Over the past decade, Sitharaman also highlighted several achievements of the government, saying that a significant thrust on infrastructure development has also created a strong foundation manufacturing-led growth by bolstering investor confidence. "This has been enabled by a fourfold than more increase in the Union government's capital expenditure between 2017–18 and the 2025–26 Budget,"

the finance minister said. On small and medium businesses, she also said that a vibrant and thriving network of small and

medium enterprises

essential for domestic manufacturing to grow. "The government has undertaken numerous initiatives to support Msmes, from easing access to credit, redefining size thresholds, facilitating prompt payments from large buyers and simplifying compliance burdens, the finance minister said.

"The open network for digital commerce (ONDC) launched in April 2022 has successfully onboarded more than 764 thousand vendors across 616 cities. Our next focus is reducing regulatory frictions, digitising approvals, and integrating Msmes into global value chains. Special support to women-led and rural enterprises will help enhance economic oppor-tunities and ensure more inclusive growth," Sitharaman added.

On digital public infrastructure (DPI), the finance minister also boasted the government's achievement, saying that some of the works done in India stand out and one such example is that of DPI and its success.

Add layers of global investments to portfolio



SHAH

n today's fast-changing world, growing wealth while keeping risks in check is a key goal for investors. One way to achieve this is by adding global investments to portfolio. By investing beyond home country, can tap into new opportunities, spread risk, and aim for steady returns. Here's why global

investments deserve a

spot in financial plan. **GLOBAL INVESTMENTS?**

Global investments, like international funds (MFs), Gift city AIF Funds, let diversify across the countries, sectors, and currencies. This reduces dependence on just one market. For example, if India's economy slows down, markets in the U.S. or Asia might still do well, balancing out losses. Plus. holding assets in different currencies - like the U.S. dollar - can protect you

when the rupee weakens,

offering a cushion against local setbacks. Emerging markets like China often grow faster developed promising higher returns. Mix of opportunities can boost portfolio's potential.

WHO CAN INVEST?

Global investments suit anyone looking to diversify and grow wealth over time. They're especially best for beginners or cautious investors who want exposure to international

markets. Before choosing, check fund's long-term performance and manager's track record

RISKS TO WATCH While global investments offer benefits,

Political unrest or economic dips in one region can hit returns. Currency swings can also work against if rupee strength-And many global markets are mature, their growth might not match

smaller, emerging firms at home. Weigh these factors and align vour choices with your goals and risk comfort - or chat with a financial advisor.

A SMART MOVE

Adding global investments is practical way to strengthen portfolio. With diversification, growth potential, and expert-managed funds, it is a step towards long-term success.

> (The author is head of products, Mirae Asset Investment Managers)



- Gujarat Titans)
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru
- Kolkata Knight Riders
- Delhi Capitals)
- Mumbai Indians Rajasthan Royals
- Punjab Kings Lucknow Super Giants



Sudarshan

Nicholas Pooran, LSG

Jos Buttler,

Noor Ahmad, CSK

PURPLE

Krishna, GT

Kuldeep

Yadav, DC

short takes

Shivam to provide ₹70k to 10 athletes

In a heart-warming gesture, India all-rounder Shivam Dube on Tuesday promised to provide ₹70,000 each to 10 budding athletes from Tamil Nadu.

Dube, who plays for Chennai Super Kings, made the touching decision during the Tamil Nadu Journalists' Association's awards and schol-

arships function here. Dube's reward was in addition to the scholarship of ₹30,000 given by the TNSJA.

"When I was travelling from the team hotel to this venue, Dr Baba (TNCA secretary), told me that it was an effort to help some of the youngsters over here. So, this is truly encouraging for all the young athletes," said Dube during the function which was also attended by CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan.

The cricketer, who was part of India's T20 World Cup 2024 winning squad, said such awards, however small in nature, will work as an inspiration for young athletes to bring laurels to the country.

Eoin says KKR failed to overcome failures

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders have struggled with batting issues throughout this IPL season and the changes made for the home game against Gujarat Titans were not effective, feels former captain Eoin Morgan, KKR's loss to Titans by 39 runs on Monday was their second consecutive defeat in the tournament, third in the last five matches and overall fifth in eight games. It has also been a season of struggle at home for KKR who have also lost three of the four matches at the Eden Gardens. "Kolkata Knight Riders has simply not bounced back as well as we would have liked them to. It's always a good sign for a strong team with a lot of character around, but they had the same failures that they've shown throughout the tournament," said JioStar expert Morgan.

"They made a couple of changes (against GT), mainly to try and gain some impetus in their batting line-up, and it didn't necessarily come off. Were the changes worth it? They'll sit

back and say no."

Morgan said KKR failed to forge partnerships in chase of 199 as they finished at an ordinary 159/8. "There was no rhythm, no substantial partnerships — almost the polar opposite of what Titans displayed," he added.

CLAPITALS!

Rahul knock leads charge, Delhi back to winning ways

Lucknow, April 22: Delhi Capitals slowly but surely inched closer towards play-off qualification, annihilating Lucknow Super Giants by eight wickets in an IPL match here on

Tuesday.
The win was powered by a near-perfect performance from their pace unit, aided by inexplicable tactics from rival captain Rishabh Pant.

The trio of Mukesh Kumar (4/33), Mitchell (1/25)Dushmantha Chameera (1/25 in 3 overs) used slower deliveries smartly as LSG could only manage a below-par 159/6 after being 87/1 at

the halfway mark. In the back-10, LSG could manage only 72 runs recording their lowest team total of the tournament so far.

It made matters only worse that Pant, with his bandaged right palm, came in at No. 7 and was dismissed for a two ball duck, while Abdul Samad wasted deliveries like a millionaire up the order.

The match as a contest was over at half-time

Young opener Abhishek Porel (51 off 36) set the tone before K. L. Rahul (57 not out off 42) and Axar Patel (34 not out off 20) saw DC home with 13 balls to spare, sealing their sixth win in eight games.

With Sanjiv Goenka in the stands, it couldn't have been sweeter for Rahul, whose third fifty of the season, was a nice little statement with willow, having endured the owner's public wrath during a game last season.
Pant's bowling changes

were unimaginative and ersistea with Bishnoi, who become a one-trick pony with only googly as his wicket-taking delivery isn't helping his cause

A couple of more wins in the next six games will take DC to 16 points, considered magic figure for play-off qualifica-

The wicket didn't have any demons but LSG, in terms of strategy, execution and intent, had their worst game of the season and skipper Pant, the record Rs 27-crore, recruit didn't seem to be there.
There were misfields,

sitters being dropped with Lucknow and its skipper cutting a sorry

At the toss, he said his injury isn't really serious but sending Samad and Ayush Badoni before himself left everyone perplexed whether he is playing at a fitness level below 100 per cent.



Delhi Capitals player Mukesh Kumar (second from right) celebrates taking the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants batter Abdul Samad with teammates during the Indian Premier League match in Lucknow on Tuesday. -PTI

KKR skipper laments top order woes

KNIGHT RIDERS ARE RUNNING

LOW ON CONFIDENCE: BRAVO

Kolkata, April 22: Kolkata Knight Riders batsmen are "low on confidence" right now, the team's mentor Dwayne Bravo conceded after the franchise slumped

to its fifth loss in eight IPL matches this season but

refused to blame the much-talked about Eden Gardens pitch for the side's woes.
"IPL is a tough tournament, and when you don't

start well, you know, batsmen go into a period where they lose confidence," Bravo said at the post-match

media interaction, summing up the mood in the

dressing room.

"That's what's happening at the moment. So like I said, we just have to keep backing them, and hopefully they come good...our batters, low in confidence

to be honest, don't have that confidence," he

- PTI "Form brings confidence. And we, at the moment,

Fielding too let KKR

down against "Fielding is something in

our control, if you can save 15-20 runs that's

against

210 or 200 would be good. they're improving."

and normally runs bring confidence.

We need to bat better, espe-

cially in the middle overs.

We need better opening

starts, no complaints from

our bowlers. Every game

SCOREBOARD

Lucknow Super Giants: Aiden Markram c Stubbs b Chameera 52, Marsh b Kumar 45, Mitchell Nicholas Pooran b Starc 9, Abdul Samad c&b Mukesh Kumar 2, David Miller not out 14, Mukesh Kumar 36 Rishabh Pant b Mukesh Kumar O. Extras (w-1) 1. Total (For 6 wickets in 20 Overs) 159.

Fall of wickets: 1-87, 2-99, 3-107, 4-110, 5-159, 6-159.

Bowling: Axar Patel 4-0-29-0, Mitchell Starc 4-0-25-1, Mukesh 4-0-33-4, Kumar Dushmantha Chameera 3-0-25-1, Vipraj Nigam 1-0-14-0, Kı Yadav 4-0-33-0. Kuldeep

Delhi Capitals: Abishek Markram 51, Karun Nair b Markram 15, KL Rahul not out 57, Axar Patel not out 34. Extras (lb-1, w-3) 4. Total (For 2 wickets in 17.5 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-

Shardul **Bowling:** 2-0-28-0 Thakur Digvesh Rathi 4-0-24-O, Prince Yadav 2.5-0-23-0, Aiden Markram 3-0-30-2, Avesh Khan 3-0-19-0, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-36-0.

Young opener Abhishek Porel (51 off 36) set the tone before K. L. Rahul (57 not out off 42) and Axar Patel (34 not out off 20) saw DC home with 13 balls to spare, sealing their sixth win in eight games.

always better. It's all about attitude, but the guys are

working hard. This format

is about being brave as a

batter, you can't think too

much about the past, just learn from the mistakes and take your chances, have a positive mindset,"

Meanwhile, Gujarat cap-

tain Shubman Gill was "very pleased" with his team's effort, which saw them consolidate their top

spot on the table. Gill led

from the front with a scintillating 90 off 55 balls.

"We spoke about these two matches (DC and

KKR) that they're going to

decide where we stand on

"We were ahead in the game, but it's important to

close the game. Good

teams close the game very

well. In this format it's

very difficult to have a

perfect game," he added.

the table," Gill said.

Rahane said.

N/R Points Net RR 12 +0.657 +0.472 +0.177 10 -0.054 +0.483+0.212-0.633 0 -1.217

Mumbai look for place in the Sun

MOSES KONDETY HYDERABAD, APRIL 22

It's a bottom half affair but there'll be plenty of upward glances when marauding Mumbai meet struggling Sunrisers at the Rajiv International Gandhi Cricket here Stadium Wednesday night.

Mumbai come into the match on the back of three consecutive victories — against Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai. One more win will take them into the top four on the points table — a coveted spot that places teams in contention for the Playoffs.

Sun would take solace from the fact that the game will be played on a belter, the same track on which their batting biggies had blasted IPL's second highest total of 286, against Rajasthan Royals in the season opener, and then made a mockery of Punjab Kings to chase down 245 with eight wickets in hand and an over-

Travis Head, Heinrich



Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad INDIANS Mumbai Sunrisers

189 90 Won 99 Lost

Their recent triumph, a crushing nine-wicket one against Chennai Super Kings, should boost the confidence and Blues' thrust wind under their newfound wings.

and-a-half to spare.

Abhishek Sharma,

Hyderabad Indians Overall in IPL 269 121 287/3 Highest Total 247/9 Head-to-Head in IPL Matches Played: 24 KBK Sports Graphics

Klaasen, Ishan Kishan and Nitish Reddy would be licking their lips in anticipation as would Mumbai's Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Hardik Pandya and Hyderabad's very own Tilak Varma in the opposite camp.
It will be a tough ask for

the bowlers, who will have to toil on a docile deck to keep the scoreboard in check. The runshungry fans should have a ball of a time.



trains during a team practice session at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, eve of their match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

INDIA ARE THIRD AT **SHOOTING WORLDS**

Lima (Peru), April 22: Indian shooters finished third at the ISSF World Cup after the pair of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Pragati Dubey failed to reach the medals round in the trap mixed team event, here on the final day.

Simranpreet Kaur Brar fetched India's final medal in the 25m pistol event on Monday, taking the country's tally to seven, including two gold, four silver and a bronze. While the USA also ended with

seven medals, they edged ahead of India to take second place, courtesy of a higher gold-medal count. China finished on top of the standings with four gold, three sil-

ver and six bronze medals. The standout performer for India was 18-year-old Suruchi Inder Singh, who claimed both of the country's gold medals. She bagged the 10m air pistol title before securing gold in the mixed team

Forest see off Spurs to boost CL hopes

London, April 22: Nottingham Forest beat struggling Tottenham 2-1 on Monday, bouncing back from two defeats to strengthen their push for a Champions League spot and heaping the pressure on Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou.

Forest came into the game at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in sixth spot in the table after losses to Aston Villa and Everton.

But early goals from Elliot Anderson and topscorer Chris Wood settled their nerves and they held on tenaciously despite a late goal from Richarlison to climb to third in the table.

Leaders Liverpool have one hand on the Premier League title and Arsenal are likely to finish second.



Nottingham Forest players celebrate after Elliot Anderson (right) scored during the English Premier League match against Tottenham in London on Monday.

But behind them the competition is fierce for the top five places that will guarantee qualification for the Champions League

Kolkata, April 22: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane admitted

that his team's struggles

at the top of the order this

season are proving costly, after yet another under-

whelming batting display

ended in a 39-run defeat to

Gujarat Titans here on

Monday. Chasing 199, KKR

batters stuttered to 159/8. "I thought 199 was

chaseable, we came back

into the game really well

with the ball. You expect

good opening starts, but

that's what we're strug-gling with throughout the

tournament. We need to

learn as quickly as possi-

ble," Rahane said at the

post-match presentation

ceremony.
While KKR bowlers have

shown steady improve-ment, Rahane admitted

the batting group hasn't

pulled its weight. "The pitch was a little slow, but

when we were bowling we

thought something below

Just three points separate Forest from Aston Villa in seventh spot, with five games remaining for all the contenders. Nuno Espirito Santo's

visitors took the lead in the fifth minute following a corner when Anderson's deflected Guglielmo Vicario. -AFP

Michael Slater was on Tuesday sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to multiple charges, including domes-tic violence, but will be allowed to walk free immediately after having served over a year in custody. According to a report in *ABC Sport*, his sentence

April

cricketer-

Sydney, Australian

was "partly suspended" due to the time served. The 55-year-old was charged with more than a as he warned the victim

domestic violence, unlawful stalking or intimidaturned-commentator breaking into a dwelling with intent at night, common assault, assault occasioning bodily harm and choking or suffocation. The prosecution told the

Ex-cricketer Slater gets jail

term for domestic violence

dozen offences including

Maroochydore District Court, that alcohol "was a repeating feature with his offending as his behaviour becomes more erratic"

"The court heard Slater made threats of self-harm not to report harassment and she felt extremely fearful and exhausted by Slater's behaviour," the report read.

The identity of the victim was not revealed in the report. She was being allegedly subjected to "assault, strangulation, burglary and stalking' since late 2023.

alcoholic and warned that his rehabilitation "will — PTI

Glen

described Slater as an

Judge

Cash

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