OPINION 6

CRIME PAYS HEFTY

DIVIDEND IN POLITICS

WORLD 8

PHILIPPINES SUMMONS CHINESE

AMBASSADOR

the pioneer

MONEY 10

EQUITY MARKETS EXTEND RALLY,

SETTLE HIGHER FOR 2ND DAY

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.33 Issue 218 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

INDIA'S TOP-ORDER UNDER 2 SPORT

PRESSURE

www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY AUGUST 8, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

Delhi Services Bill sails SC sets up 3-judge panel through Upper House

Kejriwal calls it 'black law' aimed to belittle authority of elected Govt in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P_{\text{session as the Government}}^{\text{arliament witnessed a fiery}}$ of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023. was passed in the Rajva Sabha with 131 votes in favour in the 245-member Upper House. The Opposition MPs fell short with only 102 votes.

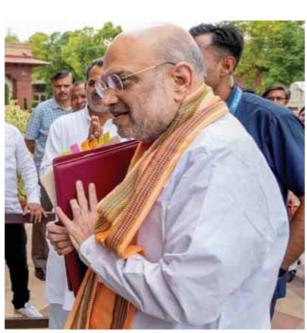
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was present for voting, was seen in

The Opposition demanded a division of votes on the services Bill, and due to a technical error in the automated voting machines, the voting was conducted using paper slips. The bill, which had already been passed by the Lok Sabha last week, has become a point of contention between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), governing Delhi, and the Centra Government. It aims to replace the existing Ordinance of the Central Government on the transfer and posting of officers, which was introduced shortly after the Supreme Court granted executive powers to the Delhi Government in service

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal strongly criticised the Bill, expressing that the Central Government's move aims to make the national capital their "Ghulam" or slave. "It's a humiliation to the voting rights of citizens," Kejriwal said in his immediate response following the Bill's late evening passage in Parliament. He labeled it a "black law" aimed at undermining the authority of the elected government in Delhi.

He alleged that the BJP resorted to backdoor tactics to gain control of the Delhi government after facing defeat in the last four elections to the AAP. "PM Modi does not heed the Supreme Court's orders. The public has unequivocally expressed their disapproval of the Centre's interference in Delhi by defeating them, but the PM appears unwilling to heed the public's voice," accused

During the voting process, a dramatic situation unfolded



Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrives at Parliament House complex during the

in the Upper House when some members, including BJD MP Sasmit Patra and BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi, claimed that their names were included in the motion moved by AAP MP Raghav Chadha without their consent.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who presented the Bill in the Rajya Sabha and replied to the motion, stated, "Now it is a matter of investigation how the motion was signed." Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh assured a probe would be ordered into the complaints of

some Rajya Sabha MPs regarding the inclusion of their names without consent.

The Opposition strongly criticised the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, during the debate in the Rajya Sabha, terming it "retrogressive, political fraud," and "uncon-stitutional." They repeatedly accused the Bill of being a "constitutional sin," raising questions about the support from BJD and YSRCP for the proposed legislation.

to monitor Manipur relief

SC brings in ex-IPS officer to monitor probe, **42 SITs to probe** cases not being handled by CBI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday proposed to set up a committee comprising three former High Court judges to The Supreme Court on address rehabilitation and other crucial issues in the strife-torn Manipur in addition to investigating the cases related to the ongoing violence. The court also ordered the formation of 42 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) that will specifically look into cases not transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation

"Our efforts are to restore a sense of confidence in the rule of law. We will constitute, at one level, a committee of three former HC judges. This committee will be looking at things apart from the investigation - including relief, remedial measures, etc," said the three-judge bench headed Chief Justice DY Chandrachud.

The three esteemed members selected for the committee are Justice Gita Mittal (former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court), Justice



Bombay High Court), and Justice Asha Menon (former judge of Delhi High Court).

In addition to this com mittee, the court has designated former IPS officer Dattatray Padsalgikar to oversee the CBI probe into the incidents of violence. "There will be five officers of at least the rank of DySP, brought into the CBI from various States. These officers will also be functioning within the four corners of infrastructure and administrative structure of CBI," the court clarified.

"There will be 42 SITs looking at cases that have not been transferred to CBI. These SITs should be supervised by DIG-ranked officers from outside Manipur. Each officer will monitor six SITs to see that the investigation is going correctly," the court added

During the hearing, the Manipur Director General of

to answer queries on the ethnic violence and the administration's actions thus far. The court's order also includes the segregation of cases to facilitate effective and targeted investi-

gations.
"Without allowing any external investigation, let SITs be formed at district levels," Attorney General Venkataramani suggested.

In cases where there are more than 11 First Information Reports (FIRs) related to crimes against women being probed by the CBI, these will be handled by district-level SITs headed by women superintendents of police rank officers. "The CBI team, which will be investigating this, has two lady SP officers. CBI has officers from all across the country. We have taken that balance," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said.

The court proceedings

involved various eminent lawyers presenting their suggestions and concerns. Senior advocate Indira Jaising sug-gested a two-fold approach, focusing on both investiga tions and preventing further crimes, Advocate Nizam Pasha lauded by the Supreme Court previously for his valuable sug gestions, urged the transfer of 16 FIRs related to crimes against women to the CBI and stressed the importance of an impartial selection process for

Advocate Bhushan underscored the necessity of an independent body to investigate the supply of arms and ammunition However, the Centre argued that it may not be appropriate to distrust the police with the probe. "It may not be appropriate not to trust the police officers. For the proposed committee to be constituted by the Supreme Court, let judicial officers alone be included, not the civil society groups," SG Mehta said.

The Supreme Court's proactive measures come in response to the complete breakdown of law and order and the constitutional machinery in Manipur, as highlighted on August 1. The State police were criticised for a "tardy" and "lethargic" probe into incidents of ethnic violence, particularly those targeting women. As part of its efforts to restore order and justice, the court summoned the DGP to

answer its queries on August 7. *Continued on Page 2*

Back in LS, Rahul to lead Opp's no-trust charge

With his reinstatement as a member of the Lok Sabha on Monday morning, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will now lead the Opposition charge during the No-Confidence Motion in the

Lower House on Tuesday. Changing his Twitter bio from "Dis'Qualified MP" to "Member of Parliament," Rahul signaled his reinstatement.

In a wave of excitement, Congress workers and members of the newly-formed INDIA alliance bloc celebrated Rahul's reinstatement. Both Congress members and Opposition MPs exchanged sweets in Parliament chambers and corridors. The suspension of Congress member Rajni Patil in the Rajya Sabha was also revoked during this time, adding to the jubilation.

After paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue, Rahul briefly attended the Lok Sabha proceedings, which were



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi being greeted on arrival at Parliament House complex on Monday PTI

soon adjourned. Speaking to the media outside Parliament, he jokingly remarked, "*Bhaiya* aap log bhi khush lag rahein ho, ye kya ajeeb si baat hain? (Brothers, you too look happy,

what's happening?)." As the Lower House gears up to discuss the No-Trust

Motion, Rahul's return to Lok Sabha is considered crucial While Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge confirmed Rahul will speak during the dis-cussion, party MP Manickam Tagore announced Rahul will lead the Opposition show.

Continued on Page 2

Cong took anti-India fund from China, BJP cites NYT report

Oleader Rahul Gandhi returned to the Lok Sabha after his membership was restored following relief provided by the Supreme Court in a defamation case, the BJP attacked the Congress for allegedly "hobnobbing" with China. The Congress has

denied the charges BJP Lok Sabha member Nishikant Dubey cited a report by the New York Times (NYT) in the Lok Sabha to claim that the Congress leaders and news portal NewsClick had received funds from China to create an "anti-India" atmosphere. The NYT article was published on

August 5. In a letter to the Speaker, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury called Dubey's allegations "libelous" and "defamatory", and demanded that the BJP MP's remarks be expunged from records.

Dubey said the story has mentioned



Enforcement Directorate's (ED) raids on NewsClick in 2021.

In February 2021, the ED conducted raids on the residences of several officials and journalists associated with NewsClick, including owner Prabir Purkayastha and editor Pranjal Pandey.

The raids were allegedly linked to a probe related to for-eign remittances and charges of money laundering.

Dubey said that NewsClick part of an "anti-India gang, Tukde Tukde gang" that wants to break India.

He alleged that NewsClick and its owner are helping these

and Swati Chaturvedi to create an atmosphere against India' for which "they have been given Chinese money", he said.

Rohini Singh denied charges against her in a Twitter post and their names were reportedly expunged from the records. "Between 2005 and 2014,

whenever there was a crisis, the Congress received money from China. In 2008, they invited Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. In 2017, they were talking to the Chinese during the Doklam crisis," Dubey said.

Dubey made his charges after the House resumed its proceedings at 12 PM following the first adjournment in the morning, the House witnessed bedlam with Treasury Benches also countering the sloganshouting by Opposition members as Dubey stood and made allegations against Rahul and the Congress.

Will fight Guj polls in ties with Cong: AAP

In a significant move, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that it will join hands with Congress for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Gujarat. AAP Gujarat chief Isudan Gadhvi said both parties, as part of the Opposition bloc INDIA, have agreed to contest the polls on a seat-sharing basis.

Gadhvi told the media,

Both AAP and Congress are part of the INDIA alliance. This poll alliance will also be implemented in Gujarat. Though the talks of a tie-up are still at the primary level, it is sure that both AAP and Congress will fight the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Gujarat under a seatsharing formula.... If everything goes as planned, I guarantee that BJP will not be able to win all 26 seats in Gujarat this time.

The AAP leader revealed gress. that his party had already begun researching potential

Congress spokesperson, Manish Doshi, asserted that the final decision on seat-sharing rests with the central leadershi \bar{p}

of the party. He said, "I have just learned about his announcement. Seat-sharing agreements with other parties are finalised by the central leadership. Gujarat Congress will follow the directions of our national leaders in this regard."

The BJP seemed unper-turbed by the prospect of the AAP-Congress alliance. Gujarat BJP spokesperson Rutvij Patel brushed off the alliance's impact, dismissing AAP as a "B team" of Congress.

"The Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not scared of any such alliance. We are confident of winning the polls. With this announcement, it has now come to the fore that AAP is a B team of Congress." In 2022, Congress and AAP contested against each other.

CAPSULE

PM'S DEGREE: KEJRIWAL ON DEFAMATION TRIAL

Ahmedahad: A sessions court here rejected applications moved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh for interim stay on trial against them in a criminal defamation

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN AIIMS-DELHI LAB

New Delhi: A fire broke out in the endoscopy room on the second floor of the old OPD building of AIIMS here on Monday. All patients were safely evacuated, officials said

1 DEAD AS CAR CRUSHED **BETWEEN TRUCKS**

New Delhi: A 22-year-old makeup artist died after the car in which she was travelling was crushed between two trucks in north Delhi's Civil Lines area



A team of ASI arrives to conduct scientific survey at the Gyanvapi mosque complex, in Varanasi on Monday

HC stops demolition in Nuh, seeks Govt's reply

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{
m he}$ Punjab and Haryana High Court has stepped in to halt the ongoing demolition drive in Nuh, which was initiated in the aftermath of communal clashes in the region. A Bench led by Justice GS Sandhawalia took suo motu cognisance of the matter and issued a notice to the Haryana Government, seeking an explanation for their actions.

The court raised concerns about the Government's demolition drive, which involved tearing down structures without serving prior notices to the affected parties.

In response to the court's intervention, the Deputy Commissioner, Dhirendra Khadgata, immediately instructed the concerned teams to halt the demolition drive and prevent further illegal construction on ongoing for five days, during which



Shopkeepers look at the debris of their shops demolished by the administration in a drive against illegal construction, in Nuh district, on Monday

encroached land. The demolition drive had been

the district administration had razed over 750 buildings and structures. Continued on Page 2

PM's degree: Guj court nixes Kejriwal, Sanjay pleas on stay of libel case trial

Next date of hearing in defamation case set as August 21 by sessions court

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

sessions court here reject-Aed applications moved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh for interim stay on trial against them in a criminal defamation case.

The court of sessions judge AJ Kanani rejected the pleas of the AAP leaders for interim stay on trial by the metropolitan court in a criminal defamation case filed by Gujarat

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt

Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till									
	vehicle owner:								
	e company's of								
	ue of the vehic								
all these vehicles will be scrapped in the									
next three day									
DL8CH9222,	HR55FT8071,	DL4CAV1567,							
DL2CAD6722,	MH12DE7346,	HR26BR9529,							
DL10CB3051,	MA3EVB11	DL2CAP8447,							
DL12CA0553,	S01010912,	RJ27CC1680,							
DL9CN4329,	DL3CAY2459,	DL3CAF8198							
DL3CBF1877,	DL3CBZ0123,	DL9CD9521,							
DL3CBD0676,	DL1LH6644,	DL9CC6942,							
DL9CC0575,	DL3CAW8998,	DL4CNC0722,							
DL3CH1820,	DL9CL3754,	DL9CR1603,							
DL9CM0498,	RJ14CD2906,	DL3CAY3113,							
DL9CN9224,	DL4CAF2933,	DL4SP5388,							
DL4CND4557,	DL9CF6819,	DL8SU5655,							
GJ219773,	DL9CR5994,	DL6SAB9476,							
DL1LJ7239,	UP80AF6729,	DBI83,							
DL1LH9467,	DL3CAQ7647,	DL3CBE1387,							
DL1LJ0586,	HR26J9480,	DL2CR6290,							
DL1LH4511,	JH10B1988,	DL3CAG2928,							
DL1LF6382,	TN38L4354,	DL9CL1632,							
HR678853,	HR26J4040,	DL4CN2815,							
DL1LJ5258,	DBD9138,	DL9CS0316,							
HR55M9569,	HR51H6693,	DL9CQ6012,							
DL6CC4735,	DL7CJ2538,	DL1T6476,							
DL9CG6136,	MH02BD7972,	BR01BL5392,							
DL2CK4540,	DL3CAG9844,	MAKGD852							
DL3CBV4058,	DL3CAJ7823,	D6N343887,							
DL3CAL1715,	DL4CAE7508,	MA6AB6G76							
DL1YC2807,	DL3CAJ2157,	6HD34478,							
DL3CAW7839.	DL11CA0166.								
DL3CAW7639, DL3CAB8592,	DL8CX9015,	DL1LE5816, HR26Z2128,							
DL3CAB6392, DL2CAF7436,	DL3CAT0555,	UP16E9599,							
DL3SAZ2560,	DL6CK2964.	HR10P0760,							
HR26E4505,	DL8CR2964, DL3CBA0691,								
		MALAA51HR							
DL1LH5890,	DL9CR6362,	6M938379,							
DBL310,	DL9CQ4208,	DL7CF0207,							
32751,	DL4CAH2683,	DL2CZ7265,							
DL1LF4426,	DL2CP6446,	KA04P8570,							
DL1LF7670,	DL3CAK6156,	DL4CAG6881,							
DL9CZ3656,	GJ1AR4942,	DL4CAH5776,							
HR26Y9847,	DL9CM8876,	DL2CP2156,							
DL3CAF9951,	UP32AF7575,	DL3CAA4260,							
DL3CAK2981,	DL3CAK1907,	DL9SN4363,							
DL2CS2457,	DL1CL1314,	DBW7050,							
DL9CC5866,	DIC6158,	DL1SA2496,							
DL3CD2491,	DL3CBA1094,	UP15AF1658,							
MH03AM7109,	DL3CAJ2134,	DL3SX4752,							
DL2CAB0684,	DL4CNB5911,	HR26T9138,							
SB308IN	DL9CN3251,	DL3SAB3661,							
2084532,	HR26BL3143,	DL3CAD8244,							
DL4CAE1990,	DL7CN3481,	UK04X2136,							
PB02AX6939,	UK06Y1488,	MA6NF196							
DL3CN7633,	DL3CAJ1226,	T4H307456,							
AP28AY9330,	DL9CZ2791,	MH24G0079,							
DL8CK9635,	DL3CAP6195,	DL3CAZ1721,							
612123,	DL1RF2456,	DL2CAA5130,							
DI 20A 19569	DI BCO2041	CH03M3015							

DL3CAJ8568, DL8CQ3041,

DAV6379.

DL1LD1405

DL1LJ3842,

DL1LJ5014.

HR51AN3550

HR26AP0894

DL3CZ3649.

DL7CJ3004.

HR30E1107.

DL1ZZ1109.

CG08P4536.

DL1LC2904.

DL1LJ6118,

HR39C1617,

DL3CY4942.

DL3CZ9040.

DL3CQ1126.

DL9CL0343.

HR51T1811.

DL3CC6094,

DL4CNA6773

DL9CQ1455.

DL3CBB1262.

DL9CC4556,

DL3CAA6112, DL9CJ1052

DL1LG2116, DL3CBA1240,

DL4CAB9450. DL2CAH8038.

DL9CR4748

DL9CU5452.

KA20N4979

DL5CF0343,

DI 9CT4057

DL9CZ3652

DL9CQ5415,

DL3CAM1265

DL6CD5368

DL2CR4815

DL2CAB0973,

HR26AB1994

DL1LH7190.

HR26K0370

HR29Q0203

HR51AN0303.

DL8SAH7866.

DL4SBF1161

DL6SC1603.

DL9CR8066

DL3CAP3269.

DL4CAE4696, DL1CD9400, DL3CAZ4205

DL1K4981

DL1CQ0398

JH01E6951

HR26AN1411

DL1K1262

DL9CR6666

CH01AG3746

HR26AK7148,

DL13C2993,

DL1K4574.

MH03AM7376 DL9CS1536,

DL3CAW6436, HR26AK7437.

DL6CE8544, DL9CT0122,

DL3CAB9926,

HR26AP9650

UP12AA6649

NOREG89.

DL9CN4320

DL3CAJ7560

DL9CQ3458

UP16P4688

MH04DN21

DL2FCT0660

DL2CAC622

DL2CH4582

DL3SBA2754

AP36H6191

DL4SBD120

MH12DZ626

RJ075M992

WB16T4119

MP04AP505

DL5SL0444.

UP32CF5591

DL4SBF0633

DL9CS1968

DI 4CAG844

DL3CAL3408

DL3CH6952

DL1K5222

7M202157

IN396283.

DL4CAJ2444

PB898750.

DL9CM6035

DL3CAA1100

DL3CM8800

DL8CT9984

DL8CDA500

DL4CN6518,

CH03W2372



and "derogatory" statements in connection with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree. The court passed its order on Saturday and kept the matter for next hearing on August 21, after respondent Gujarat University sought time, their lawyer Punit Juneja said on Monday.

Kejriwal and Singh had filed a revision application in the sessions court challenging the metropolitan court's summons in the defamation case

from the sessions court during the pendency of their main application, which was reject-

ed by the court, Juneja said. The metropolitan court has directed the two leaders to remain present in the court on August 11 in response to summons issued to them in this connection.

'We had moved an application in the sessions court for interim stay on trial in criminal defamation case sessions going on in the metropolitan

court here. The court on Saturday rejected our plea and kept the matter for August 21, Juneja said.

The court refused to grant them interim relief in the matter on the ground that the two leaders had told the metropolitan court that they will remain present before it on August 11. Juneja said they will seek relief before the Gujarat High Court.

The metropolitan court has summoned the two leaders after observing that prima facie there appeared to be a case against them under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code

Gujarat University Registrar Piyush Patel had filed a defamation case against Kejriwal and Singh over their comments after the Gujarat High Court set aside an order of the Chief Information Commissioner on PM Modi's

They made "defamatory" statements in press conferences and on Twitter handles targeting the university over Modi's degree, the complainant

Their comments targeting Gujarat University were defamatory and hurt the prestige of the university which has estab-lished its name among the public, as per the complainant.

Their statements were sarcastic and intended to intentionally hurt the prestige of the university, he said.

The comments quoted by the complainant and attributed to Kejriwal are:"If there is a degree and it is genuine, then why is it not being given?", "They are not giving degree because it might be fake,"and "If the Prime Minister studied at Delhi University and Gujarat University, then Gujarat University should celebrate that its student became the country's PM," etc.

Singh said that "they (GU) are trying to prove the PM's fake degree as genuine".

Their statements would make a person believe that GU issues fake and bogus degrees, the complainant said.

Longest-surviving commander of Hizbul gunned down in J&K

One of the longest surviving terrorist commanders belonging to the pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorist outfit was gunned down by the joint team of the Indian army and the Jammu and Kashmir police in Degwar Treva area of frontier Poonch district in the wee hours of Monday.
The killed terrorist com-

mander has been identified as Muneer Hussain hailing from Bagyladra, Poonch.

As per police records, Hussain operated as a selfstyled Division Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and masterminded several attacks on security forces.

Muneer Hussain was also a close associate of Maulana Dawood Kashmir (TuJ), who in turn worked closely with Syed Salahuddin (HM).

In a written statement, Defence Spokesman Lt-Col Suneel Bartwal said, "At approximately 2.00 a.m, during the night of 06/07 August 2023, alert troops deployed on the Line of Control in the Poonch Sector observed a suspicious movement of a

group of two individuals trying to sneak across the Line of Control.

Troops deployed in the area kept the movement of the infiltrating group under continuous observation through new-generation electro-optical devices, and as both the infiltrators moved towards the side of the Line of Control, the ambushes challenged the infiltrators. On being challenged, the infiltrators opened fire on the troops. In the ensuing firefight, one terrorist was shot dead and another injured. The injured terrorist managed to sneak into the forest close to the Line of Control, taking advantage of the thick foliage, rain, and rocky outcrop."

According to the J&K police records, "In 1993 Muneer Hussain first went to PoK, then came back in 1996 and again returned to PoK in 1998. His two wives along with their children are resi-

dents of Surankote, Poonch. According to intelligence reports, Muneer Hussain had recently attended a crucial meeting with the Hizbul Mujahideen group where he was entrusted with the responsibility of reviving terrorist outfits in the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch. He was reportedly directed to recruit youth from the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to revive terrorist outfits in the South of Pir Panjal region."

Cong reviews party's preparation in Haryana for Lok Sabha elections

 $T^{\mathrm{op}}_{\mathrm{Monday}}$ discussed the party's preparedness in Haryana for the Lok Sabha elections next year in the presence of senior leaders from the State. Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Haryana's ex-Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda attended the meeting.
The State, which has 10

Lok Sabha seats, has been in news for last week's violent clashes in Nuh. Kharge wished that peace and harmony prevail in the State and all communities must live together. Other leaders who were

also present at the meeting included party general secretary Randeep Surjewala, Deepinder Hooda, Congress' Haryana unit chief Udai Bhan this." AICC in-charge Deepak Babariya.

"A meeting was held

today with senior leaders of the Haryana Congress for the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections. The doubleengine governments of the BJP have given nothing but betrayal to the 2.5 crore peo-



"The Congress party is constantly raising issues related to the public in Haryana. We are alert of the welfare of every section of Haryana farmers, jawans, youth, farmlabourers, women, Dalits and backward classes, and small businessmen," Kharge said on Twitter.

The Congress president also said, "May harmony and peace prevail in Haryana. All communities should live

This state should again move towards progress, every Congress leader and common worker is fighting for

Rahul Gandhi said, "Today, a meeting was held with the leaders of Haryana Congress under the leadership of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge ji. The Congress Party is dedicated to raising the voice of the people of Haryana and giving every citizen their rights."

ICAI announces CA foundation exam results



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Monday announced the results of Chartered Accountants Foundation Examination held in June, 2023. Out of a total of total 1,03,517 candidates who appeared for the examination at 500 examination centres across the country, 25,860 students cleared it which is 24.98 percent pass rate, the ICAI said in a statement.

As many as 55,573 male students who appeared for the examination, 14,448 candidates passed. The pass percentage of male students stood at 25,99 percent, it said.

Likewise, 11, 412 girl students out of a total of 47,944 percentage of girl students is 23.80 percent.

A total of 1,17, 068 candidates were admitted of which 1,03, 517 students appeared for the examination. The result and the details of marks of the Foundation Examination have been hosted on the website

Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 OK'd in LS

PTI NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed an amendment Bill to decriminalise the offences committed in carrying out the coastal aquaculture activities and ensure ease of doing business. Union Minister Parshottam K Rupala said that the fishermen community of the country will welcome the He said that through this,

we can send a message from Parliament that we stand with the fishermen". The Bill was passed by voice vote. The Coastal Aquaculture

Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was introduced in the lower house on April 5, also seeks to expand the scope, remove regulatory gaps and reduce the compliance burden without diluting environmental protection rules in the coastal areas.

To decriminalise the offences, the bill seeks to remove the jail term of up to three years and impose only a also seeks to fine-tune the operational procedures of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority to make it more responsive to the needs of the stakeholders, promote newer forms of environment-friendly coastal aquaculture like cage culture and seaweed culture, and usher in global best practices in this sec-



zonation of aquaculture areas, quality assurance and safe aquaculture products. The bill also seeks to

encourage the establishment of facilities in areas having direct access to seawater to produce genetically improved and disease-free broodstocks and seed for use in coastal aquaculture besides preventing the use of antibiotics and pharmacologically active substances, which are harmful to human health in coastal aquaculture.

Rupala said that after its introduction in the Lok Sabha, it was sent to the standing committee. The ministry has committee out of 56.Citing data, he said that there was an expenditure of only Rs 3,680 crore for the sector during 1947 and 2014. But the Modiled government has the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore in fisheries sector.

Delhi Services. From Page 1 in framing legislation. In response to the debate, Initiating the debate,

Home Minister Amit Shah emphasised that the Bill, in no way, violates the Supreme Court's judgment and is aimed at ensuring effective and corruption-free governance in the national capital. He defended the Ordinance, alleging that the AAP-led Delhi Government transferred officers of the vigilance department as it held files related to the 'excise policy scam' and 'sheesh-mahal'

Taking a dig at Congress for aligning with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shah asserted that AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal would quit the opposition bloc once the Delhi services bill is passed. He clarified that the bill was not brought to impose "Emergency" or curtail the rights of the people.

Shah also urged the Opposition to set aside their arrogance and discuss the Manipur crisis in Parliament, indicating his willingness to engage in discussions on August 11.<AAP MP Raghav Chadha vehemently criticised the bill, terming it a "political fraud, constitutional sin, and administrative logjam." He accused the BJP statehood to Delhi, thereby undermining the hard work of leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishan Advani.

Former Chief Justice of India and nominated member Ranjan Gogoi defended the bill, asserting its "perfectly legitimate" nature and dismissing doubts about parliament's power

Congress member Abhishek Manu Singhvi criticized the bill, referring to it as "retrogressive," control freak," and anti-federal. He pointed out flaws in the bill, emphasizing its potential to eliminate the accountability of the bureaucracy and weaken the elected chief minister's authority.Participating in the debate, senior Congress member P Chidambaram emphasized the duty of the Rajya Sabha to protect the rights of states. He argued that the BJP had no moral right to bring such a bill, given their failure to win elections in Delhi. Chidambaram further stated that the proposed legislation takes away the rights of people and grants them to bureaucrats.

V Vijaysai Reddy (YSRCP) criticized the AAP as the "Absolute Anarchy Party," accusing them of adding fuel to the confusion. He also charged the INDIA combine with opposing the bill for political gains and misleading the public, questioning AAP's fitness to rule the national capital.

Defending his party, Sasmit Patra (BJD) asserted that partence in this matter and clarified that his party maintains equal distance from the BJP and Congress.

Šanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) described the bill as "dangerous' and an insult to the country, considering it an attack on the federal structure and murder of

Cong took anti-India fund...

From Page 1 When the Lok Sabha met at noon, Congress MPs entered the House with Rahul, shouting slogans of "Bharat Jodo, Bharat Jodo" and "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad, Zindabad".

Immediately after that, Dubey was on his feet alleging that an article in the NYT has "exposed the "tukde, tukde gang" and "some media" which joined external forces to indulge in anti-India activities. Amid loud protests, the BJP MP sought a probe into the

charges made by him against Rahul and his party. The house was adjourned till 2 PM by Kirit Solanki who

was in the chair. After the House reassembled, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury registered his protests with the chair against the charges lev-

eled by the BJP MP. "Low-level and baseless allegations are made against our leader Rahul. The comments are made to damage his image", said Chowdhury and

sought it be expunged. Solanki said it will be looked into later as currently, a Bill is under consideration. Congress MPs thereafter staged a walk-out.

Amid Opposition protests on the Manipur issue, the House passed four Bills with a voice vote.

Outside the House, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar claimed a nexus between China, Congress, and NewsClick against India.

At a press conference at BJP headquarters here, Thakur charged that China, NewsClick, and the Congress are linked to an "anti-India umbilical cord" as he cited the NYT report which alleged that Chinese companies were funding the

He charged that "Chinese goods are being sold in Rahul's ake 'Mohabbat ki Dukan'".

"If you see the funding network of NewsClick, it was funded by a foreigner Neville Roy Singham and he gets funds from China. This Neville Roy Singham has direct contact with the propaganda arm of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese media company Maku Group," he said.

He said "foreign hands" behind the news portal were revealed in 2021.

They present fake news in

the name of free news Congress and other parties are supporting them," he alleged.

The NYT article claimed that an American millionaire, Neville Roy Singham, works closely with the Chinese Government media machine to finance its propaganda worldwide.
"From a think tank in

Massachusetts to an event space in Manhattan, from a political party in South Africa to news organisations in India and Brazil, NYT tracked hundreds of millions of dollars to groups linked to Singham that mix progressive advocacy with Chinese Government talking points," the report said.

Earlier, Rahul was accorded an enthusiastic welcome by Congress and other Opposition MPs on his arrival in Parliament after his Lok Sabha membership was restored.

The Congress MP reached

the Parliament House complex

around 12 noon and headed

straight to the Mahatma

Gandhi statue and paid floral tributes. MPs of the Congress the Opposition India bloc welcomed him at gate number one of Parliament, raising slogans.

Back in LS, Rahul to... From Page 1 Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

Congress general secretary, welcomed her brother's return to Lok Sabha, stating that "the voice of the real issues of the people" will once again resonate in Parliament.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Ýadav expressed hope that the membership of party leader Mohammad Azam Khan and his son Abdulla Azam in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly would also be

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah welcomed

Rahul Gandhi's presence in the House, expressing hope for a stronger India and solutions to the country's problems. The Lok Sabha Business

Advisory Committee has allocated three days for the No-Trust Motion discussion. Modi will respond to the motion on Thursday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also participate in the discussion on Wednesday

With the BJP's strength at 301 and with the NDA allies' support, the ruling party is expected to pass the No-Confidence Motion comfortably. The BJP has issued a three-line whip to its Lok Sabha MPs, requiring their presence in the House from August 7 to

HC stops demolition... From Page 1

The drive was initiated after communal clashes erupted on July 31 in Nuh, triggered by an attack on a Hindu religious procession organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal. The violence subsequently spread to other parts of Haryana, resulting in the

loss of six lives. On Sunday, Jawahar Yadav, the officer on special duty to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, had said that the demolition would continue until all houses and properties of the suspects involved in the clashes were demolished. He expressed that those responsible for disrupting

peace and harmony would have to bear the consequences of their actions, particularly for attacking a Hindu yatra that

included women and children. According to officials, the demolished structures included residences, shops, and unauthorised constructions in Nuh, all built on Government property and allegedly utilised by individuals suspected to have participated in the communal clashes. The Superintendent of Police confirmed that 56 First Information Reports (FIRs) had been filed in connection with the communal violence, leading to the arrest of 147 individuals thus

SC sets up 3-judge panel to...

From Page 1

The Centre had suggested that instead of the two FIRs related to a video showing women being paraded naked by a mob, 11 out of 6,523 FÍRs related to violence against women and children should be transferred to the CBI and tried outside Manipur, emphasizing its commitment to ensuring a

fair and impartial investiga-

The ongoing hearing in the court involves around 10 petitions seeking remedies, including a court-monitored probe and measures for rehabilitation and relief, for the violence in Manipur.

The formation of the committee and the SITs marks a significant step towards

addressing the pressing issues surrounding ethnic violence in the region.

"Without allowing any external investigation, let SITs be formed at district levels," AG Venkataramani suggested.

In cases where there are more than 11 First Information Reports (FIRs) related to crimes against women being probed by the

Central Bureau Investigation, these will be handled by district-level SITs headed Superintendents of Police rank officers.

"The CBI team, which will be investigating this, has two lady SP officers. CBI has officers from all across the country. We have taken that balance," SG Mehta said.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed

Services Bill sin, renders Delhi's Fire at AllMS: Patients safe, elected Govt powerless: AAP

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Raghav Chadha on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Delhi Services Bill, labeling it as a "political fraud," a "constitutional sin," and an "administrative logiam." Taking part in the debate on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Chadha strongly criticised it, asserting that it was the most "undemocratic, unconstitutional, and illegal" legislation ever presented in the House.

Referring to a recent Supreme Court ruling, Chadha emphasised the court's unanimous reaffirmation on May 11, 2023, that civil servants in the Government of NCT of Delhi are accountable to the elected Council of Ministers, led by the Chief Minister. He stressed that this accountability is fundamental for a democratic and responsible form of governance.

However, Chadha argued that the newly-introduced Ordinance undermines this accountability structure by transferring control from the elected complex during the Delhi, on Monday



AAP MP Raghav Chadha at Parliament House

LG. He accused the Bill of diluting the power of the Delhi Government, rendering it a mere symbolic representation of a people's mandate but lacking the governing mechanism to fulfill that mandate. In his analysis of the constitutional implications, Chadha outlined five key points that render the Bill unconstitutional.

He argued that the Bill represents an abuse of ordinance-making powers, directly challenges the Supreme Court's authority, erodes federalism, and dismantles the triple chain of accountability. Moreover, he contended that the Bill hands over the authority of an elected government to bureaucrats under the LG, symbolizing the dominance of unelected officials over elected repre-

Taking a dig at the BJP's perceived inconsistency, Chadha accused the party of adopting a "Nehruvian" stance when it suits their agenda. He urged the BJP to adopt a "Vajpayeewadi" or "Ádvaniwadi" approach for Delhi, referencing the historical struggle for statehood by veteran leaders. Continuing his speech, Chadha highlighted the significance of the statehood demand in elevating the BJP's political profile and acknowledged the efforts of veteran leaders in this pursuit.

He revealed that former Deputy Prime Minister, Shri LK Advani, had even introduced a State of Delhi Bill in 2003. Displaying manifestos and copies of the Bill, Chadha underscored BIP's commitment to Delhi's statehood from 1977 to 2015.

He criticized the current ruling party for not honoring the legacy of its veterans by disregarding their struggle when the opportunity arose, saying, "Please fulfill the wishes of Advani ji."

In a thought-provoking analogy, Chadha drew parallels between the historic war of Mahabharata and recited famous lines from Ramdhari Dinkar's writings, highlighting the gravity of the situation and the need for principled

The session witnessed passionate exchanges as the debate on the Delhi Services Bill continues.

emergency services reinstated

A fire broke out in the endoscopy room on the second floor of the old OPD building of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Monday. However, all patients were safely evacuated, officials said.

No casualties were reported in the fire, the cause of which is still to be ascertained.

Hospital sources said the fire forced the suspension of endoscopy, emergency and diagnostics services in the old OPD building. However, in the evening they said "emergency services are in the process of being restored". Visuals from the spot showed black smoke billowing out of the windows at noon.

In a statement, AIIMS said security and fire control rooms were informed when information about the blaze out on the second floor of the old Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur OPD in the main AIIMS building was



floor of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in New Delhi on Monday,

received at 11.35 am. "The fire was controlled immediately by AIIMS Fire Services. Subsequently, fire tender staff of the Delhi Fire Services arrived. They supported the cooling off the area," the state-

Fire department officials, however, said the blaze erupted around 11.55 am. Thirteen water tenders were pressed into service and the fire was brought under control around 1 pm. AIIMS sources said water from the hospital's underground tank was also used to douse the flames. Police teams also arrived at the spot after receiving information about the fire and cordoned off the area.

A senior doctor said, When the fire broke out, two patients were undergoing a procedure in the endoscopy room. These two patients along with around 80 others in the waiting area were evacuated." Another senior doctor added that 31 other patients, including six in the ICU, were shifted from the AB 2 ward to others in the building.

Doctors, nursing staff and guards also broke some of the glass windows on the second floor to allow the smoke to escape. Around 70 patients from the paediatric and adult emergency wards on the ated as smoke filled the area. Some of the patients were shifted to the Safdarjung Hospital nearby. According to the sources, the second floor orthopaedic operation theatre was functional at the time and patients had to be evacuated from there as well.

"All the surgeries in the operation theatre had been completed except in operation theatre 2 where a surgery was underway. Extra manpower was called in to help in the timely completion of the surgery and all the patients were evacuated on time," the source said.

The fire broke out in the store area of the endoscopy room but the cause is not immediately known, the hospital sources said. A safety audit will be conducted to assess the damage. The AIIMS statement said no casualties or injuries were reported and that efforts are underway to restore normality in medical services at the earliest.

Police and fire services teams inspected the spot and found that the blaze originated in the store room on the second floor. The room had been closed for a long time, a senior officer said. The response by police and other emergency services contained fire without any injuries or casualties, the

Govt nod to increase in circle rates of farmland

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday approved an increase in circle rates of agricultural land and those adjacent to the Yamuna barrage, Revenue Minister This is the first increase in

circle rates of agricultural land since 2008, she said at a press

In a statement later, the government said that since assuming power in 2013 and 2015, the Arvind Kejriwal government has been persistently striving to elevate the circle rates of agricultural land. The process faced obstacles due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously, agricultural lands across Delhi had uniform circle rates and they have now been delineated on a district basis. Moreover, they have been categorized into Green Belt Villages, Urbanized Villages and Rural Villages, the statement added.

In South Delhi and New Delhi districts, the circle rate of agricultural land will peak at Rs al will now be forwarded to the lieutenant governor (LG) for his approval, the minister said.

Kejriwal tweeted on the development and said, "The farmers of Delhi have been demanding for a long time that the rates of their agricultural



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reacts on the passage of the Government of National Capita Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill. 2023 by the Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi,

land be increased. A few years ago, we also increased them, but due to some reasons, they could not be implemented at that time. Today, I am happy to inform all farmers of Delhi that your demand has been ful-

Addressing the press conference, Atishi said the circle rate of agricultural land in Delhi has remained stagnant at Rs 53 lakh per acre since 2008.

"This lack of revision deprived farmers of fair com-Moreover, these agricultural lands are frequently acquired in Delhi for crucial infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, universities, or hospitals.

Yet, when farmers sold their lands for these projects, they received compensation

based on the outdated circle rate, resulting in inadequate compensation," she noted. The minister said that, until now, Delhi farmers had been receiving compensation based on a circle rate of Rs 53 lakh per acre, which significantly falls short of the prevailing market

"Consequently, both farmers and the government have suffered losses. In cases where farmers do not receive equitable rates for their lands through government projects, the situation often escalates into legal disputes, leading to protracted court battles that can span years. This, in turn, causes delays

in the implementation of various government infrastructure projects," she stressed. Following the revision of the circle rate, farmers will now receive rightful compensation for their lands, she said.

To address this issue, the Kejriwal government has introduced different circle rates for agricultural lands in different districts," she said.

The new circle rates of agricultural land in Delhi are Delhi and New Delhi, Rs 5 crore per acre for North Delhi, West Delhi, North West, and South West Delhi, Rs 2.5 crore per acre for Central and South East Delhi and Rs 2.25 crore per acre for Shahadra, North



Congress supporters celebrating outside 10 Janpath after restoration Lok Sabha membership of party leader Rahul Gandhi, in

Optimise LINAC machine use: LG to LNH chief

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi VK Saxena on Monday made a surprise visit to Lok Nayak Hospital (LNH) to assess the recently installed Linear Accelerator & CT Simulator Machine (LINAC) for cancer treatment.

cured at a cost of Rs 38.7 Cr. from the Government of India, aims to provide state-of-the-art Radiotherapy to cancer patients. However, it has been facing operational challenges, leading to a low patient count of just 18 in the last month



since its installation, despite having the capacity to serve 10-15 patients per shift. During his visit to the Dilli Gate-JLN Marg-Asaf Ali Road area on foot, the LG instructed the LNH Director to optimize the machine's utilization by run-

ning it in multiple shifts. The LINAC employs targeted lasered to a Tertiary Care Centre guided beam Radiotherapy, ensuring precise treatment of cancer cells without harming surrounding healthy tissues. To address the teething

problems, Saxena directed the LNH to train more technicians for operating the machine and sonnel to Mumbai for a twomonth training program. He emphasized the need to expedite the treatment process for cancer patients who have been waiting in the queue for Radiotherapy. The LNH's ed to a Tertiary Care Centre (TCC) under the National Programme for Preservation & Control of Cancer Patients, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS), with 100% funding from the Government of India.

The grant of Rs. 38.7 crore and installation of two machines - a Modern Linear Accelerator and CT simulator. The state-of-the-art Modern Linear Accelerator (True Beam) at LNH offers precise and accurate Radiotherapy

including brain tumors, head and neck cancers, breast cancer, gastrointestinal tumors, genitourinary cancer, and pediatric tumors.

The availability of these advanced machines at Lok Nayak Hospital will greatly benefit economically disadvantaged cancer patients, as hospitals costs around Rs two lakhs or more.

This free-of-cost advanced treatment facility is a significant step towards providing highquality care to cancer patients and filling the gap in government hospitals in Delhi.

Atishi checks Sarai Kale Khan flyover work

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\mathrm{WD}\ \ \mathrm{Minister}.\ \ \mathrm{Atishi}}_{\mathrm{inspected}\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{ongoing}\ \mathrm{construction}}$ struction work of the flyover at the Sarai Kale Khan T-junction on Monday and expressed her dissatisfaction with the one-month delay in the project.

She reprimanded the officials responsible for the delay and issued a clear ultimatum that the remaining work must be completed within one month, or they will face appropriate action. Highlighting the significance of the flyover project in decongesting the busy Sarai Kale Khan T-junction and Ring Road, Atishi direct-



pending work and provide regular progress reports to ensure tolerate delays in such importimely completion. During the tant projects. Therefore, every

ed the officials to expedite the inspection, Atishi said, "The Kejriwal government will not

to complete the work within the newly set timeline, ensuring that the flyover is opened for public use at the earliest."

According to the officials, over 90% of the construction work has been completed, and they assured the Minister that the remaining work will be finished soon, with the flyover scheduled to open to the public in September. Sarai Kale Khan is already

one of the busiest areas in terms of traffic, and with the upcoming construction of the Rapid Rail Transit System, the traffic load is expected to increase further.

NGT panel to rectify G'gram polluted pond issue **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $The \ {\it National} \ {\it Green} \ {\it Tribunal} \\ has \ {\it set} \ {\it up} \ {\it a} \ {\it panel} \ {\it to} \ "verify \ the \ {\it factual} \ position \ and \ take$ appropriate remedial action" over a polluted three-acre pond in Gurugram's Sector 47 area.

The tribunal was hearing a petition that claimed the water body had been encroached upon and was being used as a dumping ground. "Due to waste dumping, the pond has become a breeding place for mosquitoes and other insects resulting in unhygienic and unsanitary environmental hazards," the petition said, seeking directions to the authorities



concerned for its restoration. A bench of Judicial

Member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Expert Member A Senthil Vel said, "Prima facie, the averments made in the

relating to environment ... We consider it appropriate that a joint committee be constituted to verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action." The joint committee Pollution Control Board, the bench said in an order passed last week. The tribunal directed it to "meet within one week, under-

trict magistrate and represen-

tatives from the Haryana State

take visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant, verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action by following due course of law". The committee had to

submit the factual and actiontaken report within two months, the tribunal said. The matter has been posted to November 10 for further pro-

Delhi court convicts 2 for attempt to murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

court here on Monday Aconvicted two accused in an attempt-to-murder case, noting the nature of injury was such that the victim's death was a distinct possibility.

The court also convicted the duo under the Arms Act for possessing a button-actuated knife without a valid licence.

The court was hearing a case against Dinesh and Alok, accused of causing grievous stab injuries to Rahul Das on May 26 last year. "The nature of injury caused by the accused

persons was such that the death of the victim was a distinct possibility. Accused Dinesh and Alok are, therefore, held guilty of attempt to commit murder of the victim punishable under Indian Penal Code sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention," Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Singh said.

"The sentence shall be announced after hearing both sides and completion of the

requisite procedure," he added. Noting the evidence before it, the court said it was "proved" that the duo inflicted "grievous stab injuries" on the victim's lumbar (lower back) and thorax (chest) region with the "prohibited knife." The intention of the accused to kill the victim was palpable from their utterances made on the spot while inflicting the injuries, it

According to the prosecution, Dinesh said "Aaj iska kaam tamam kar denge (we will finish him today)" while stabbing Das. The court also convicted the pair under provisions of the Arms Act for carrying a button-operated knife

without a valid licence.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Monday announced that subsidy benefits under the existing Électric Vehicle Policy will continue till a new one gets notified.

The Delhi Electric Vehicle

Policy, introduced in August 2020, aims at increasing the EV share in total vehicle sales to 25 per cent by 2024. According to official data, over 1.12 lakh electric vehicles have been sold under the policy.

"Today, we complete three years of Delhi's landmark EV policy that has propelled Delhi to becoming India's electric vehicle capital. "Since the formulation of a new electric



Picture for representation purpose only

process, the subsidy benefits of the existing policy will continue till the new policy gets notified," Gahlot said in a tweet. Delhi's electric vehicle policy has so far achieved around 86 per cent of its measures and targets, the transport department said in May. The transport department and Delhi Electric Vehicle Cell also held a stakeholder consultation in May as part of the process of drafting a revised 'Delhi EV Policy 2.0'. In June this year, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said

Delhi has become the country's electric vehicle capital with highest number of such vehicles being bought in the city.

Unconstitutional, political fraud: Opp on Services Bill

The Opposition on Monday termed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (amendment) bill 2023 as "retrogressive, political fraud" and "unconstitutional" during the debate on it in the Rajya

While the treasury benches strongly defended the bill moved by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Opposition repeatedly also said it was a "constitutional sin" and "control freak." They also questioned the BJD and YSRCP for backing the proposed legislation.

Former Chief Justice of India and nominated member Ranjan Gogoi said the bill is "perfectly legitimate" and power of parliament in framing legislation is not in question. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill.

Initiating the debate, Congress member Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the bill was "retrogressive" and "control freak" besides anti-federal. Pointing flaws in the bill, he said it eliminates accountability of the bureaucracy and make the elected chief minister powerless. Claiming the bill was an attempt to grab power from the backdoor, Singhvi also said it was an insult of the



Members participate in the debate on the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday

people of Delhi. Attacking the government, Raghav Chadha (AAP) said the BJP lost successive elections in Delhi in the last 25 years and will face the same fate in future. He also said the bill was an attempt to gain control and termed it as a

political fraud. Chadha said the bill was a "constitutional sin" adding it will lead to administrative logjam. Questioning the BJD and YSRCP for backing the bill, he said these parties may be having their constraints and considerations in doing so. The AAP member also said the two parties could face the same matter and clarified that his

fate in their states including Odisha and Andhra Pradesh but his party will always stand

It drew sharp reaction from V Vijaysai Reddy(YSRCP)who said the AAP was 'Absolute Anarchy Party' which added fuel to fire to this confusion.

He also charged the INDIA combine for opposing the bill for their political gains and misleading the public adding the AAP was not to fit to rule the national capital. Defending

Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) termed it as a "dangerous bill" his party, Sasmit Patra(BJD)said parliament has and an insult to country besides legislative competence in this an attack on federal structure and murder of democracy.

Data protection Bill | EAM lashes out at passed by voice vote in LS amid din

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, which details rules for handling and processing data as well as the rights of individuals.

The Bill proposes a maxi-mum penalty of Rs 250 crore

and minimum of Rs 50 crore

on entities violating the norms. Piloting the Bill for consideration and passage, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Opposition members had little concern for issues such as public welfare and the protection of people's personal data, and hence, they were raising slogans. He also urged the House to pass the Bill unani-

Earlier on August 3, Information Technology Minister introduced Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 in Parliament. He said it is not a money Bill and all issues raised by the Opposition will be answered during the debate. The bill was passed by a voice vote. The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill or data protection Bill provides for the processing of digital personal data recognising the right of individuals to safeguard their information and the need to process personal data for lawful purposes. It defines a



personal data breach as unauthorised processing of personal data or accidental disclosure, acquisition, sharing, use, alteration, destruction of, or loss of access to personal data, that compromises the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of personal data.

The Bill norms will apply to personal data collected within India from data principals online, and personal data collected offline, but subsequently digitised.

It will also apply to such processing outside India if it is for offering goods or services to individuals in India. The provisions of the Act do not apply to personal data processed by an individual for any personal or domestic purpose, personal data caused to be made publicly available by data principle.

Personal data can be processed only for a lawful purpose for which an individual has given consent and for certain legitimate uses. The Opposition members had said that the ill violates the funda-



Underlining that the Government has always given priority to improve border infrastructure, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday hit out at the Opposition over their criticism on matters of national security, including the border issue with China.

Making this assertion here in an interaction with a group of reporters, Jaishankar took a dig at the Opposition and said those who neglected border infrastructure cannot claim they were concerned about the border situation with China.

"When people in the political domain have an opinion and say they have a strong opinion, it is not about how loudly you speak, but what have you done on the ground," he said. "The big effort has been to push our border infrastructure much more than what we have done," he added.

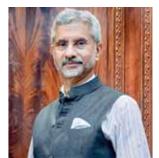
Jaishankar said China had developed the border infrastructure by 2000. He said if the Galwan clash had happened in 2014, India would have been at

a huge disadvantage. "In 2020, we were able to reach sooner when Galwan (clash) happened. If it happened in 2014, we wouldn't have done so. When you go head to head, you need logistics. Earlier, we were at a great disadvantage but now our deployment (of our troops) is much faster," he said.

Bilateral ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the clash in June 2020, which marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.India has made it clear to China that until there is peace and tranquillity in border areas, the relationship between the two countries cannot progress.

Jaishankar said the armed forces were now better placed to quickly deploy troops and counter-movement of the Chinese military effectively. "If you ask whether, after 2014, the Indian military and the deploy and counter any Chinese movement better, the



answer is "'yes, absolutely'," he said. Jaishankar said the overall mobility of both the armed forces and the civilian population in the border areas has increased tremendously in the last few years because of the government's focus on rapid enhancement of infrastructure in the frontier areas.

"The capability is growing year after year," he said. The minister said the infrastructure push along the Northern border is going to determine India's response to national security challenges.

Jaishankar said India and

China made progress in five to six friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh through talks in the last three years and efforts were on to resolve the remaining issues. Slamming the Opposition for their criticism on the border issue, Jaishankar said complexities were involved and both sides are engaged in finding solu-

"It was said that we will not be able to do anything, talks will not be successful, there will be no progress, disengagement cannot take place, but solutions were found in some of the focal points in the last three years," aishankar said.

"There were five to six areas that were very tense. There has been progress (there)," he added. Jaishankar said no "full resolution" on the border issue has been found so far, asserting that "diplomacy takes time" and terming it a "complicated" matter.

On the issue of China border villages, the minister said the government's priority was to ensure the people stay in those areas and not abandon their villages in the border areas. "Our concern is that if we do not provide services to our locals at border — last inhabitation — they will start moving out, which is not a scenario

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

GICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the other freeign to 6th period and 10 to 10 to

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in genera that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	_ /.	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch					
	Praveen Verma/ Bharat Verma- LBKOT00005355110	House No Ma 1/513, 5th Floor, Partap Apatment, Sector 29, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302001/ 04 August, 2023	March 28, 2023/ Rs. 13,66,723.00 /-	Gurgaon/ Jaipur/ Delhi/ Kota					
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.									

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E),

Mumbai 400051

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Plot No.7, Community Centre S.D. Tower, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi (UT)- 110085 A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said both

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Out- standing as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	LVGHZ00043365183/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035/PRO 6035/UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 25,83,888/-	21-De 2022
2.	LVGHZ00043365203/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 /aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,48,840/-	21-De 2022
3.	LVGHZ00043365205/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 /aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1103	31-May-23 Rs. 24,95,684/-	21-De 2022
4.	LVGHZ00043365216/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 /aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,41,960/-	21-De 2022
5.	LVGHZ00043365229/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 /aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,51,205/-	21-De 2022
6.	LVGHZ00043463606/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,50,384/-	21-De 2022
7.	LVGHZ00043282457/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 / Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,32,426/-	21-De 2022
8.	LVGHZ00043282505/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,40,227/-	21-De 2022
9.	LVGHZ00043282521/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,40,227/-	21-De 2022
10.	LVGHZ00043282804/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 / Aditya Coporate Hub/rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT0811	31-May-23 Rs. 24,66,104/-	21-De 2022
11.	LVGHZ00043283931/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,24,256/-	21-De 2022
12.	LVGHZ00043283944/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,37,577/-	21-De 2022
13.	LVGHZ00043284013/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT0818	31-May-23 Rs. 24,66,794/-	21-De 2022
14.	LVGHZ00043284032/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT0820	31-May-23 Rs. 24,66,794/-	21-De 2022
15.	LVGHZ00043284053/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 / Aditya Coporate Hub/rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT0815	31-May-23 Rs. 24,69,825/-	21-De 2022
16.	LVGHZ00043284067/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1105	31-May-23 Rs. 24,70,087/-	21-De 2022
17.	LVGHZ00043365190/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1102	31-May-23 Rs. 24,57,104/-	21-De 2022
18.	LVGHZ00043365199/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1104	31-May-23 Rs. 2,27,126/-	21-De 2022
19.	LVGHZ00043463613/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704/ Aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	PRO 6035PRO 6035UP14KT1101	31-May-23 Rs. 24,51,092/-	21-De 2022
20.	UVGHZ00041813670/ Krv Carriers India Private Limited/ Virendra Carriers Private Limited/ 8th Floor F-704 /aditya Coporate Hub/ Rdc Raj Nagar/ Ghaziabad- 201002	EICHER PRO 6031EICHER PRO 6031HR38X2107	31-May-23 Rs. 10,14,872/-	21-De 2022

outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Sd/- Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd., Date : August 08, 2023 Place : Delhi

Illegal mining: Multiple ED raids in Delhi, Hyr

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has conducted searches under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act at various locations in Delhi, Hisar, Bhiwani, Karnal and Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) belonging to Govardhan Mines and Minerals, Sunder Marketing and Associates and their partners in an illegal mining case. The ED initiated money-

party maintains equal distant

from the BJP and Congress.

Participating in the debate,

senior Congress member P

Chidambaram said the Rajya

Sabha is duty bound to protect

Claiming the BJP has no moral right to bring such a bill as it has failed to win elections

in Delhi, he also said proposed

legislation takes away rights of

people and give it to bureau-

rights of states.

laundering investigation as per the provisions of the PMLA based on the Prosecution Complaint or chargesheet filed by the Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Bhiwani before Special Environment Court, violated the conditions of illegal mining done by these Environment Clearance under firms violating the environ-

PNS NEW DELHI

Branch.

The CBI has registered a case against a private company

based at Ahmedabad and its

directors as well as other

unknown public servants on

the allegations of causing loss

of Rs 46.79 crore to the Union

Bank of India, Ahmedabad

"It was alleged that the accused had diverted/siphoned

off funds disbursed to them through falsification of infor-

mation/documents and had

committed the offence of crim-

inal breach of trust, cheating,

misappropriation of public

Case filed against Ahmedabad

biotech firm for ₹46 cr fraud



Environment (Protection) Act,

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Delhi has also imposed a penalty of Rs 65 crore on Sunder Mining and Associates and Govardhan Mines and Minerals for doing illegal and unscientific mining, causing large scale damage to the environment, the ED said.

"During the search operations by ED, various incriminating documents have been

them leading to acquisition of proceeds of crime to the tune of hundreds of crores (of rupees)," the agency said in a Further, documents found

and seized also reveal that the manipulations in getting mining contracts by Sunder Marketing and Associate and others. Freezing orders in respect of bank lockers and bank accounts of the group were issued during the search operations under provisions of PMLA.

During the searches, a Mercedes car having acquisition value of approximately Rs 1.25 crore, cash of Rs 26.45 lakh and incriminating documents including digital evidence, hard disks and mobiles among othtigation is under progress, it

another," the CBI said in a state-Following registration of the case, searches were conducted at different locations in Ahmedabad at the premises of the accused, including the bor-

Several leaders from Jammu & Kashmir joined the Congress Party in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal in New Delhi on Monday. AICC J&K in-charge Rajani Patil and Congress J&K president Vikar Rasool Wani

Parl panel moots law for mandatory disclosure of assets by judges

rower company which led to

recovery of incriminating doc-

Those named as accused in the FIR are Greendiamz Biotech Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad,

Champat Rikhabchand Sanghavi, Deepak Champat

Sanghvai, Ashwin R Shah and

unknown public servant(s) and

private person(s).

uments.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary committee On Monday recommended bringing a law to make it mandatory for Supreme Court and High Court judges to disclose their assets annually to an appropriate authority.

The standing committee on Law and Personnel said there is a need to institutionalise the mechanism of regular filing of assets by the judges and putting it in the public domain.

It observed that such a declaration by judges of the higher judiciary will bring more trust and credibility into the system. The committee said the last resolution of the Supreme Court on the decla-

ration of assets by judges on a voluntary basis is not complied with."...The Committee recommends the government to bring about appropriate legislation to make it mandatory for judges of the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) to furnish their property returns on an annual basis to the appropriate authority," the committee headed by the BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi said.

"The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" adopted by a full court meeting of the Supreme Court on May 7, 1997, lays down certain judicial standards which are to be followed by the apex court and high court judges, it said. This resolution made it mandatory for every top court and high

court judge to make a declaration of their assets and liabilities at the time of appointment and thereafter, at the beginning of every year. Later, the full bench in its meeting on August 26, 2009, decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted by judges to the public by putting it on the Supreme Court website, the panel noted. Again, the full court in its

meeting on September 8, 2009, resolved to put the declaration of assets in the Supreme Court website on or before October 31, 2009, purely on a voluntary basis. "Presently, the website of the Supreme Court shows that 55 judges have so far uploaded their assets and declaration with last updation done on March 31, 2018.

Raids conducted in Raj question paper leak case by ED

Enforcement **I** Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted fresh searches at a coaching institute as part of its ongoing money laundering probe into the alleged question paper leak of the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers,

The agency searched the premises of the Sikar-based institute as part of its exercise to collect more evidence in the case. The money laundering case filed by the ED in April stems from two FIRs lodged by the Special Operating Group (SOG) of the Rajasthan Police

in connection with the alleged REET paper leak. In June, the ED arrested Ram Kripal Meena, the owner of a Jaipurbased private school, in connection with this case. The agency had conducted

searches at 27 locations in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Dungarpur, Barmer, Sikar and Jalore on June 5 as part of this probe and a similar case of the senior teachers Grade-II recruitment examination held in 2022.

As many as 62 persons, including Meena, were arrested by SOG of the Rajasthan Police, which subsequently filed three charge sheets against

Lakhs of devotees throng **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**

Despite tight security arrangements in view of ongoing archaeological survey in Gyanvapi premises on the court's order, there was no decline in the faith of devotees as lakhs of devotees including thousands of saffron-clad kanwariyas thronged one of the dwadasa jyotirlingas Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) temple on the occasion of fifth Monday as this year, due to 'adimas' (extra month), the auspicious Shravan is of two months long in which there will be eight Mondays. Throughout the day, the sprawling premises of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) was echoed with the slogans of 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Bol Bom'.

On this Monday, in shringar, Lord Shiva was seen in Parvati Swaroop (form) as in the last four Mondays, the Almighty was decorated in Chal Pratima, Gauri Shankar, Amrit Varsha and Bhagirathi forms. As expected the rush of devotees was in lakhs as even during the midnight hours, there were more than long lines of devotees from Dashaswamedh ghat via Godowlia side and Maidagin. As the water level of river Ganga was at a high level, the devotees faced it tough to have a holy dip in this sacred river.

In view of the heavy rush, elaborate security arrangements were made and no vehicles were allowed to move between Godowlia and Maidagin throughout the day. To maintain law and order, the



KVT officials showering flowers on devotees at corridor premises in Varanasi on Monday

devotees were checked at many places through metal detectors. Senior administrative and police officers were present there to keep watch on the stock of situation in KVC premises. All the activities were also watched through various CCTV cameras. To avoid congregation the devotees were asked to move towards Gvanvapi only through barricading and Rapid Action Force (RAF), para-military and PAC jawans were deployed both inside and outside of the

Right from the early wee hours after Mangla aarti, the devotees started thronging the temple and there were continuous lines of devotees on both sides of the temple including Maidagin and Godowlia as well as Lalita Ghat. A large

number of saffron-clad kanwariyas turned out this year from Prayagraj and other places. For the conveniences of the devotees, at several places big LED screens were installed to display the activities of garbhagriĥa (sanctum sanctorum) as the devotees were not allowed to touch the Shivling and they offered jalabhishek through big metal structure from outside the garbhagriha.

Besides, heavy rush of devotees was also seen at Markandey Mahadev Temple located near Varanasi-Ghazipur highway about 25 kms from here near the confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti at Kaithi apart from all famous Shiva temples including Mahamritunjya Mahadev

(Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandey Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath) and many others in the city In the outskirts, a heavy

rush of devotees was also seen

at all the Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg including Karmdeshwar Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadey, Panch Pandaya and Kapildhara. Apart from these famous temples, heavy rush of devotees was also seen at Vishwanath temple in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) premises and Shool Tankeshwar Mahadev and scores of all others as the city is famous for having the replicas of all the dwadasa jyotirlin-

Rivers rising at alarming speed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Tf the water level of the Ganga and the Yamuna continues to rise with the existing speed, the Bade Hanuman temple near the Sangam will get inundated by Tuesday morning. The Ganga reached Bade Hanuman temple every year to bathe him. When the twin rivers swelled in the month of July owing to flash floods in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and the over flowing barrage of Haryana, flood waters had receded without touching the temple boundary.

This time the rivers are rising at an alarming speed and there is every possibility that the flood water will enter the temple by Tuesday.

Though the red mark of both the rivers read 84.734 metres at Prayagraj, flood level of the Ganga read 81.20 metres at Phaphamau and 80.27 metres at Chhatnaag, while the Yamuna read 80.94 metres

During the past 24 hours both the rivers recorded a rise of over one metre owing to moderate showers all over but



Flooded Yamuna in Prayagraj

because of no rains since water is approaching towards merging the roads and park.

the rising trend slowed down Sunday evening, but the flood the Hanuman temple after sub-

activist carrying reward held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Samajwadi Party (SP) Asamajwaan rany (31) activist with a criminal record Mohammad Javed alias Pappu Ganjia has been arrested by the STF from Ajmer in Rajasthan. He was close to slain mafia don Atiq Ahmad and just a couple of days ago the reward on him was doubled from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000.

The STF team and the NOIDA police on Monday nabbed Pappu Ganjia from Ajmer. He was wanted in a number of cases, including one in Naini for extortion under Sections 386, 323, 504, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Mohammad Javed alias Pappu Ganjia, son of Hifazat Ali alias Fateh Mohammad of Jahangirabad was an active member of Gang IS 227 and over 40 cases of different nature, including murder, loot, extortion are pending against him. He was initially lodged at Ajmer and process for bringing him here on transit remand had been initiated.

The police was making all out efforts to send Pappu Ganjia behind bars but he gave a slip every time. Immediately after doubling the reward to Rs. 50,000 information was received regarding his Ajmer hideout and this time the police succeeded in their mission.

BOMB ATTACK CASE: He had designed the bomb attack on himself in Kareli a couple of days ago to frame charges against his inlaws.

Sensation had prevailed in Pillar Colony, Kareli a few days ago when two masked motorcycle- borne youths had lobbed bombs on Ashu alias Mohammad Amaan, son of Mashook Ansari. Ashu had escaped the attack and had lodged an FIR with the Kareli police in this regard. The police started the investigation and went through the CCTV footage of the cameras installed in the locality to identify those who had hurled crude bombs. Footage showed that the miscreants threw the bag on the spot in which they had been carrying the bombs. The bag was recovered and to the surprise of the police address printed on it was of Korba in Chhattisgarh. Further investigation revealed that a maternal aunt of the complainant Ashu lived in Korba and she had arrived here about a month ago. The police got suspicious and started working on the the-

ory that Ashu had planned this

attack. When Ashu was grilled

he spilled the beans and told

the police that he had a rift with

his second wife Zainab who

had married another man.

When he objected Zainab's father and other relatives had humiliated him so he decided to take revenge by framing criminal charges against them. He contacted Rahil and explained him the whole plot.

Another CCTV footage showed Ashu sitting at a nearby place with a friend and when the bike riders arrived on the spot he reached a safe place where he could protect himself from bomb explosion. Two bombs were lobbed there but Ashu came out unhurt.

In his statement Ashu accepted that he had planned this attack on himself and had given bombs and cloth in the above bag to Rahil for covering his face. He wanted to see father and other relatives of Zainab in jail. The police have initiated action against Ashu and launched a manhunt for

Ganga crosses warning level in Ballia

The water level of river I Ganga has crossed the warning level of 56.615 metres in downstream Ballia on Monday where the level is expected to reach at 57.3 metres at 8 am on Tuesday as the water level was increasing there by five cm per hour dur-ing the day and it speed will increase further as the river was recorded rising at 14 cm per hour at Ghazipur. With this, the low-lying areas of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) are facing serious flood threats. For the last many years, this region has been facing flood in almost every rainy season and due to authorised or unauthorised colonies come into existence in the banks of river Ganga and Varuna in the city, they face a lot of problems when river water enters there.

The speed of rising trend of river Ganga, which was increasing at an alarming pace of 10 cm per hour a day ago, has been slowed down in Varanasi as it was recorded rising at four cm per hour during the day as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC). During the 24 hours, the water level has increased by 1.34 metres, rising from 66.52 metres to 67.86 metres as recorded at 8 am on Monday.



Water level of river Ganga continues to rise in Varanasi on Monday.

The river continued rising right from Phaphamau to Ballia including Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. The river was recorded at 56.46 metres in downstream Ballia at 8 am while 60.54 metres at Ghazipur against the warning level of 62.105 metres and in upstream city Mirzapur at 73.45 metres (warning level 76.724 metres).

However, the residents of several villages of Daab area surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti have heaved a sigh of relief increased as the rising 28 mm, Chopan in Sonbhadra 28 mm and Ghazipur 22.6

trend of Gomti was recorded steady at Jaunpur but as the level of river Ganga in Varanasi has inched close to 69 metres mark, it has increased the heartbeats of residents of dozens of colonies located on both sides of river Varuna because if the rising trend continues, it may cause reverse flow of Varuna. During the last 24 hours, several areas of the region have received moderate to heavy rains. Jaunpur received 69.2 mm rain, Varanasi

In the city, as the water level of river Ganga continued to rise, it entered the Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged into the water. The venue of famous regular Ganga Aarti had already been shifted upstairs. Dozens of low lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged into the water fully or partially.

Watchman challenges robbers, killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

One person was killed and several others injured when armed robbers targeted jewellery shops in Hetapatti vilstation late on Sunday night The watchman of the market challenged the robbers but was attacked brutally by them and

he died on the spot.

District police commissioner Ramit Sharma reached the spot in the morning and formed five teams to nab the robbers. Forensic team and sniffer dogs have been pressed to gather clues for reaching the criminals.

The injured have been rushed to SRN Hospital of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College. Around 1.00 am robbers reached Hetapatti village market and targetted the shop-cum-residence of Santosh Kesarwani and Rajendra Kesarwani who run clothes and jewellery shops there. When the family members got up they raised an alarm but the robbers attacked them to make a successful escape from the spot. On hearing the screams of women and children, watchman Ram Kripal Pal (60) challenged the

District police commissioner Ramit Sharma reached the spot in the morning and formed five teams to nab the robbers. Forensic team and sniffer dogs have been pressed to gather clues for reaching the criminals.

robbers reportedly four in number but was attacked brutally by them. He died on the spot while his wife also sustained serious injuries when she tried to intervene and save her husband. All the injured persons are undergoing treatment at SRN Hospital. Villagers claimed that the watchman was attacked with sharp-edged weapons as deep cuts were visible on his head and face but the police termed it as lathi blow injuries. Yet another jeweller of the market Ram Babu Soni found the shutter of his shop broken in the morning.
The police commissioner

instructed the teams to nab the robbers as early as possi-

CME ORGANISED: A Continuing Medical Education (CME) on the topic 'Practical approach to diagnosis and management of thrombocytopenia in 2023' was organised under the presidentship of senior vice-president, AMA, Dr JV Rai, at the AMA Convention Centre here on Sunday. Speaker Dr Fahima Hasan, Assistant Professor, Department of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, SGPGI Lucknow, said thrombocytopenia is a condition characterised by low platelet count in the blood and an important health concern that requires public awareness. Platelets play a crucial role in blood clotting and a decreased platelet count can lead to serious complications and needs to be investigated by a hematologist. Mild reduction of

platelets may not show any

signs or symptoms but severe

reduction in them are mostly symptomstic and include reddish rashes over the skin, bleeding from gums, nose, dark black or red stools and urine, excessive menstrual and prolonged even after minor injuries. There are many causes of

thrombocytopenia, the common causes being ITP where platelets are consumed by our own antibodies, especially after infection.

Autoimmune diseases, viral infections, dengue and certain medications can cause low platelets too.

AMA Senior Vice-President Dr JV Rai felicitated the speaker and Chairperson Dr GS Sinha, Dr Radharani Ghosh and Dr Kachnar Verma. AMA Honorary Secretary Dr Ashutosh Gupta was the convenor of the meet. He pro-

posed the vote of thanks.

Dr Kamal Singh, Dr
Ashok Agrawal, Dr Sujit
Singh, Dr Yuganter Pandey, Dr Rajesh Maurya, Dr Subhash Verma, Dr Sapan Srivastava, Dr Atul Dubey, Dr Anoop Chauhan, Dr Utsav Singh, Dr Abhinav Agrawal and others were present.

Gyanvapi: ASI continues survey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The Archaeological Survey ▲ of India (ASI) on Monday continued its scientific survey of Gyanvapi premises and appealed to both Hindu and Muslim sides to maintain the confidentiality of the on-going

The ASI 42-member team continued its survey of Gyanvapi premises in a scientific way on the fourth day in succession on Monday after the Allahabad High Court cleared the way for the same. The ASI team started its survey at 10 am which lasted till 5 pm except the lunch time and time of namaz.

The ASI team expressed its displeasure over the statements made by the both Hindu and Muslim sides regarding the survey outside the Gyanvapi premises and appealed to them to maintain the confidentiali-

ty of the on-going survey. As there was fifth Monday of the suspicious month of shrawan and the devotees in large number turned up at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple

The ASI team expressed its displeasure over the statements made by the both Hindu and Muslim sides regarding the survey outside the Gyanvapi premises

to have darshan and offer prayers of Baba Vishwanath, the district administration and police paid extra caution during the survey. The tight security arrangement has been made particularly at Gate No-4, the main entry point of the

MGKV STUDENTS BAG TWO AWARDS: In a great achievement, the students of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV) bagged two awards of 'Best Delegate' and 'Special Mention' in Youth Parliament held in Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

The Youth Parliament was held in BHU on Sunday in which the students of MGKV proved their talents by participating in it and bagged the awards of 'Best Delegate' and 'Special Mention'.

The Activity Club of AGKV extended its congratulations to the students for their achievement and said that with the encouragement by the V-C Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi, the students of the university are showing excellent talents in the events such as Youth Parliament, Mock UNO, etc.

Earlier, the students of the university Namit Singh and Laiba Siddiqui won the award of the Best Delegate in the Lok Sabha Committee of Youth Parliament and United Nations Human Right respectively, while the student Shailushi Singh won the award of Special Mention in the meeting of All

India Political Parties. MAN HELD FOR KILLING FATHER: The rural FOR police on Monday claimed to have arrested the son who

killed his father for the sake of money. The police also recovered the spade used in the

Talking to the newspersons the DCP, Gomti Vikrant Veer informed that a case was lodged at Badagaon police station on Sunday that one Rajkumar Saroj, resident of Gopalpur village killed his father Ramji Saroj over money.

On the basis of the FIR, the Badagaon police led by SHO Rajkumar Pandey started an investigation into the matter and succeeded in rounding up the named accused Rajkumar Saroj on Monday. The police also recovered the spade used in the crime by the accused.

During the interrogation, the accused informed the police that he had exchanged heated words with his father on Sunday over the money issue and in anger, he killed the father with a spade. After killing the father, he had hidden the spade near a tube-well in the village and shirt stained with blood in a place, the DCP informed, adding that the accused was sent to jail.

One arrested for molesting girl work. According to the village pradhan, Amit Singh allegedvention of Vishwa Guru

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Madihan police on Sunday arrested an accused of molesting a girl and making her objectionable photos and videos as viral. One person had lodged a named FIR at Madihan police station on July 31 this year alleging that the accused had molested his daughter and made her objectionable photos and videos viral. After registering the case the police arrested the accused belonging to Birohiya village under Madihan police station and sent him to jail. Meanwhile the Vindhyachal police on Sunday arrested an accused of enticing away a minor girl and raping her. A man had lodged a named complaint on July 5 this year alleging that his minor

After registering the case the police started the investigation and it also came to light that girl was also raped by the accused. The police added the relevant sections along with the POCSO Act. After the case was registered the accused was at large and was arrested a resident of Mahuari Kala under Vindhyachal police station on Sunday. In another incident the construction of garbage collection centre was going on in Akorhi village under Vindhyachal police station. The village pradhan said the land had been identified by revenue officials but Amit Singh of the same village was objecting to the construction. However, the construction was on and Jai Narain Singh (42) of the same village was looking after the

ly came to the site along with four other accomplices on Saturday night and assaulted Jai Narain Singh with iron rods and sticks. Jai Narain Singh was brought to divisional hospital in an injured condition from where he was referred to trauma centre Varanasi and died during treatment. Jai Narain Singh died at Varanasi. After being informed about the incident the police authorities visited the spot and heavy police force has been deployed in the village. CO (City) Parmanand Kushwaha the main accused Amit Singh was a historysheeter and a case has been registered against him and his four other accomplices.
CONVENTION:

Mahanth Yoganand Giri while

Shankaracharya Dashnam Goswami Samaj on Sunday has exhorted the people to work to keep the entire society intact. Addressing the valedictory session he said Dashnam Goswami Samaj has contributed a lot to the society and in view of the present situation it is the need of the hour that we do more to strengthen the culture as well as nation. The programme was presided over by national president of the organisation Kamlesh Giri, convened by Om Shankar Giri and his team and conducted by Chandra Prakash Puri. The vote of thanks was proposed by the state president Chandra Prakash Puri. Bhakti Kiran Shastri, Dharmendra Giri and others were present.

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Restive Pak

Imran's arrest sends shockwaves through Pakistan and deals another blow to its fragile democracy

■ n a surprising turn of events, former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested yesterday in Pakistan, sending shockwaves through the country's political circles. The arrest has raised significant questions about the stability of Pakistan's political environment and its potential ramifications for the nation's future. Imran on Saturday was sentenced to three-year imprisonment by an Islamabad court in the Toshakhana case pertaining to the improper acquisition of state gifts. This ruling means that Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief is disqualified from politics for the next five years. Despite his absence during the court proceedings, Imran was arrested shortly. The case complaint was initially filed against Imran on October 21 last year and he was formally indicted on May 10. Imran has been ousted from power after losing a no-confidence vote in April 2022. Afterwards, he mentioned that a total of 76 cases had been filed against him. Imran, a former cricketer and charismatic leader, has been a key figure in Pakistani politics for



over a decade. He rose to power in 2018 after a fiercely contested general election, promising to bring about transformative changes in governance, economy and foreign relations. His arrest comes amidst a backdrop of escalating tensions between his PTI party and the ruling party which has accused him of electoral manipulation and mismanagement.

The implications of Imran's arrest are multi-faceted. It is likely to deepen the existing political divide in Pakistan. Khan's supporters view him as a symbol of hope and reform, while his opponents criticise his administration for failing to deliver on many of his promises. The arrest could potentially fuel more intense

and confrontational politics between the PTI and the government. Democratic Backsliding Concerns come calling with Imran's arrest. Though Imran had anticipated this arrest but not the manner in which it was done; some 200 armed policemen took him away to an undisclosed location. The very operation smacks of government's unease and nervousness. The arrest raises concerns about the state of democracy in Pakistan. Critics argue that using legal measures against prominent political figures could undermine democratic institutions and processes. This situation highlights the importance of upholding democratic norms and ensuring transparent legal proceedings. It could indeed be a turning point in the country's politics should the higher court fail to give him relief in the Toshakhana case. The arrest could galvanise Opposition parties to unite, potentially leading to a more coordinated effort to challenge the government. In the wake of Imran's arrest, Pakistan finds itself at a critical juncture in its political journey. The coming days will likely see heightened public discourse, calls for accountability and demands for transparency in the legal process. The nation's ability to navigate this situation while upholding democratic principles will play a significant role in shaping its political trajectory in the years to come.



Lord Shiva devotees 'Kanwariyas' carry holy water from the Narmada river, in Jabalpur

Crime pays hefty dividend in politics



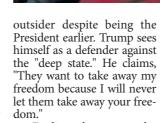
Even in democratic countries like India and the United States, it is often surprising that politicians with controversial pasts get elected

or instance, multiple or illistance, many filed against ex-President Donald Trump. Does a leader have the right to use lies to stay in power, even if the people vote against them? The main question has arisen due to the recent indict-ment of the ex-President. The Department of Justice alleges that he tried to steal the 2020 election and undermine democracy, despite knowing he had lost. Trump is charged with possessing classified documents in Florida, paying off a pornographic actor in Manhattan, and trying to manipulate the election results in Georgia.

Last week's third indictment of the year had caused a significant split among voters. Democrats see it as a necessary act of justice for an attack on American democracy, while Republicans view it as evidence of partisan meddling in the legal system. Although there have been misconduct accusations, Trump has consistently denied them. Playing the victim card, he claims he is unfairly targeted for political reasons. The talking points of President Trump revolve around how the establishment and the 'deep state' are working against him. Trump has successfully pushed a politics of grievance, where the system is out to get you,

Many Republican voters continue to support the ex-President, despite facing numerous indictments. GOP officials were backing Trump's claim that the charges were politically motivated. Recent opinion polls show that Trump is leading the race against President Joe Biden. Many Trump supporters are willing to donate generously to his legal defence and campaign. After all, running for the presidency requires a significant war chest.

Discrediting his prosecutors, Trump has expressed doubts about why the charges were not brought up earlier. At a campaign rally in Pennsylvania on July 29, Trump asserted, "They're not indicting me; they're indicting you. I happen to be standing in in India. However, examining their way." Trump's strategists the situation can shed light on plan to use his recent indictment to strengthen his defence. He portrays himself as a Washington the Philippines, are grappling



Earlier this year, the Trump campaign claimed that the charges against him were similar to those in Nazi Germany during the 1930s. Trump's power within his party has remained since his victory in the 2016 election as President of the United States. It's still being determined how the trials will affect the 2024 election, even though many people have made contradicting predictions. So far, the indictments have hurt Trump with independent voters but strengthened him with the Republican voters who decide primaries. There is no clarity on whether what happens to Trump — whether he's found guilty, not guilty, or the jury can't decide — will impact the

Unlawful conduct and corruption are not just issues the difficulties that other democracies, like Pakistan and

Sir — With former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi eventually winning on the 'Modi surname' front that led to his disqualifica-

tion as a Parliamentarian within 24 hours

of the verdict, sentencing him to two years

in prison, came. The Apex Court's categor-

ical rejection of the High Court approving

of the ujrat court's order that originally sen-

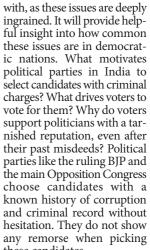
tenced Mr Rahul has paved way for the

Congress' towering leader's reinstatement

that remains merely a fait accompli, even as all eyes are on Lok Sabha Secretariat for

the formal order coming in this regard now.

RAHUL GANDHI IS BACK



these candidates. India has a political system with three tiers and three million positions available. Campaigning for office requires a lot of resources. Unfortunately, many local political parties are controlled by influential indi-viduals and clans who have complete control over their respective regions. These parties function like personal fiefs and often lack inner-party democracy. Wealthy candidates have an advantage in aining a foothold. Parties also seek self-financed candi-

expensive. Unfortunately, a candidate's wealth determines their likelihood of winning. Will Indian democracy be

affected by a Parliament made up mostly of wealthy representatives in a mainly impoverished country? Over 80% of Parliament members are millionaires. As a result, many qualified and knowledgeable people in India do not view politics as a career choice. It's the same analogy in the US. It is possible to contest and win elections if you are a multi-millionaire or supported by wealthy people. Coming back to India, although she had a questionable track record, the former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, J. Jayalalitha, even after conviction, has succeeded in winning multiple elections. Other notable politicians include BJP leader Y.S. Yediyurappa and the late Gujarat Chief Minister Chiman Bhai Patel. Establishing a transparent and honest method of fighting elections is crucial to promote democracy and fairness in countries like the US and India. It will pave the way for a more equal and just

(The writer is a popular



MISCONDUCT ACCUSATIONS. TRUMP HAS CONSISTENTLY **DENIED THEM**

columnist. Views are

Trafficking: No end in sight



Despite best efforts by various governments and international agencies, the scrouge of trafficking is showing up no let up

n July 30 World Day Against Trafficking was observed. It has been observed every year to raise awareness in human trafficking aiming to put pressure on governments, law enforcement agencies and civil society to strengthen the prevention of trafficking.

Observing the seriousness of the problem, UN noted, "Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

Human trafficking, one of the worst forms of human rights violations. It is nothing but exploitation of vulnerability, and mostly of those who expose their vulnerability. Human trafficking, as an organised crime, is growing at a rapid pace. No country, irrespective of whether they are part of G20 or not, can claim to be trafficking free. In India the situation is graver. According to the report, the top three states with highest number of human trafficking incidents based on number of cases reported are West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat



and the top three states with highest number of human trafficking incidents based on crime rates are West Bengal, Daman and Diu and Goa. Assam had the highest rates of crime against women in India in 2021 with about 168 crimes reported for every 100,000 women. Among the union territories, Delhi had a crime rate against women of

Goa has the highest rate of human trafficking cases per lakh population, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2021 revealed. According to the data compiled by the NCRB, Goa records case of human trafficking per lakh population as against the national average of 0.2cases. US is also not behind. California witnessed the largest number of human trafficking cases (1,334), making it the worst state for human trafficking. Particularly, Los Angeles is

regarded as a high-intensity

child exploitation area. Human trafficking in India, is a grave issue. It involves the illegal trade of women and girls for various exploitative purposes, such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and even organ selling. This criminal activity violates basic human rights and has a devastating impact on the lives of

the victims. Several factors contribute to the prevalence of women trafficking in India. Economic disparities and lack of education push vulnerable individuals, particularly women and girls, into vulnerable situations, making them easy targets for traffickers. Gender Inequality is another deeprooted discrimination in Indian society lead to the devaluation of women's lives, making them more susceptible to exploitation and trafficking.

Limited access to education, especially for girls in some regions, exacerbates their vulnerability, as they are less aware of their rights and the dangers associated with trafficking.

Moreover, inadequate implementation and enforce-

ment of anti-trafficking laws contribute to the growth of trafficking networks. Internal migration in search of better opportunities can expose women to risks, making them susceptible to trafficking net-

The Indian government and various NGOs are actively working to combat women trafficking. Legislation like the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) aim to protect women and children from trafficking and sexual exploitation. Additionally, initiatives such as rescue operations, rehabilitation centers, and awareness campaigns play a crucial role in addressing this issue. However, despite these efforts, women trafficking remains a persistent problem in India. It requires continued commitment from the government, civil society, and international community to address its root causes and protect the rights of women and girls.

(The writer is business consultant and writes on developmental issues. Views are personal)

On the contrary, Shiv Sena(Udhav) leader Sanjay Rawat has taken exception to the inordinate delay in reinstating Mr Rahul. This decision has, however, come across as a big boost for the grand old party ahead of the assembly polls in the states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh(Congress-

> Mizoram going to polls in a couple of months ahead of the much-hyped Grand finale due in next year On the face of it, all this political ragmattaz has actually helped the former Congress president emerge as a non-controversial face of the United Opposition

ruled), besides Madhya Pradesh and

driving at taking on the formidable BJP in the next year's Lok Sabha polls, unitedly. Interestingly, taking a leaf from Samajwadi book, the Congress has tweeted 'Jannayak' for Mr Rahul Gandhi who will protect democracy in the Parliament the way 'Loknayak'JP (Jaya Prakash Narayan) would do. The political air is

abuzz with curiosity as to which way this

political cookie crumbles! Azhar A Khan | Rampur

FOUR YEARS WITHOUT ARTICLE 370

Sir — It is said "better to be late than to become late". But for Article 370, 35 and 35A, better it became late though it is late. Four years have passed after the demise of Article 370, 35 and 35A. It marks the total integration of that part of Jammu and Kashmir with India which is under Indian administration. Kashmir is the dividing line

THE EDITOR

dates who tend to be more

competitive during elections.

Running for office can be

Imran under arrest

ormer cricketer and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, who has vowed to change the system of Pakistan under the banner of Tehreek-e-Insaf Pakistan, is looking bleak today. On August 5, he was sentenced to 3 years in the Toshakhana case. The biggest thing is that there is a world of difference between the arrest of this time and the arrest of Al Qadir Trust scam in the month of May last.

In the first one, people came on the streets. His workers started attacking military bases. But this time, despite Imran Khan's appeal to the people to protest in the video message before his arrest, no news of protest is coming from anywhere. This is an alarm bell for his future. Because Pakistan is a country whose democracy was mortgaged to the hands of the army since its birth. The result of which is that, not only politics but whatever is necessary to run the system, it is run by the army even indirectly. Even the events with which Imran Khan became the PM were also behind the hand of the army. But later Imran started feeling that maybe the people there are with him, so he doesn't need the army anymore. Because of this misunderstanding and overconfidence, today he is in jail. Perhaps his political

career is over here as well Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

People were clueless when security forces were stationed and patrolling as a reemptive measure to prevent the possible disturbance. Article 370, Ram Mandir and Uniform Civil Code (UCC) are the core issues in the Indian political milieu. This discrimination and gross injustice have been removed by rescinding Article 35 and 35A. There is demand for statehood in Jammu and Kashmir. The centre is not averse to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Lok Sabha election is round the corner. If statehood is the aspiration of the people, the centre should accord it. After abolition of Article 370, there is a perceptible downslide in the terrorist activities. KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

CARBON CREDIT TRADING FRAMEWORK Sir — Carbon Credit Trading Framework is a system that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by giving incentives to individuals or organizations that reduce or avoid emitting carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. A carbon credit is a certificate that represents the right to emit one of relationship between India and Pakistan. tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e).

The framework sets a limit or a cap on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are allowed for certain sectors or entities. Those who emit less than their cap can sell their surplus carbon credits to those who emit more than their cap. This way, the framework creates a market for carbon credits, where the price is determined by supply and demand. The framework also encourages innovation and investment in low-carbon technologies and projects.

Some examples of carbon credit trading frameworks are: The European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), which is the world's largest carbon market, covering more than 11,000 power plants, factories, and airlines in 31 countries. The Indian Carbon Market (ICM), which is a proposed domestic carbon market that will set GHG emission intensity targets for selected entities in line with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for climate action.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribag

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

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

FIRST COLUMN BENEFITS OF MEDITATION

Attain the 3Es, of equilibrium, equipoise and equanimity with meditation



 \boldsymbol{D} is passion is the key to meditation. In such a state the mind is not hankering after materialistic goals. As Lord Krishna said, "An authentic yogi is one who drops all desires and hankerings and reposes in the self." QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION: "Oh, Monarch of Zen, I have been privileged to listen to your lectures for several years," a disciple remarked during the question-answer time, "however I am not wise enough to imbibe the nuggets of wisdom that you have imparted. Therefore, I would be truly beholden if you can encapsulate the essence of Buddhism in a single sentence." The Zen Master cogitated on this comment. As silence descended in the monastery, he said that the truth of life is that everything is undergoing constant transformation therefore everything in life is impermanent. **IMPERMANENCE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE:** Among the various aphorisms in Buddhism is the singular hypothesis that everything in life is impermanent. The Zen Master deftly and tactfully referred to the concept of impermanence by stating that everything in life is ever changing. An individual could contemplate and muse upon this truth for hours together and yet be unable to grasp the pivotal tenet of impermanence.

This is a formational aspect of life as it teaches us the art of detachment. In such a state one learns to become a witness or a spectator to the events unfolding around us without getting emotionally involved. The mind is in deep rest and ripe to meditate. Thus, a true seeker assimilates this exemplary knowledge and is discerning enough to treasure the value of impermanence. The practice of mindfulness and awareness are twin characteristics to delve into meditation.

SO, WHAT IS MEDITATION AFTER ALL?: Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, incisively captures the phenomenon and practice of meditation. The Master has elucidated that effort is an act of the body, while meditation is essentially a state of no-mind, an act where there is no striving or assay by an individual. It is primarily an act of doing nothing.



BENEFITS OF MEDITATION: The skill of being able to consciously relax through the practice of the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya, Kriya Yoga, Sahaj Samadhi meditation or Vipassana helps one to slip into deep meditation. It must be appreciated that meditation is not concentration, but is primarily an act of de-concentration as demonic thoughts and cobwebs get purged.

It is interesting to note that while awareness and mindfulness help in enhancing the quality of meditation, paradoxically the reverse of this is true too. Continuous practice of meditation helps an individual to develop greater awareness and mindfulness. With enhanced awareness comes the ability to discover oneself and improve interpersonal relationships.

We begin to see a mirror image of ourselves in fellow human beings. This enables us to metamorphose from animal instincts to more compassionate ones. Studies have revealed that meditation also helps in managing cholesterol levels by reducing LDL levels and increasing HDL levels.Regular meditation helps in reducing blood pressure and various coronary ailments too. The human mind attains the 3Es, of equilibrium, equipoise and equanimity. In such a state, it is not agitated and is always positive in thought process. Efficacious thoughts spring to the mind. With high levels of intuition, open mindedness clears channels in our system and enhances our aura.

Buddha was once questioned as to how he had profited from meditation. He replied, "I have gained nothing!" However, Buddha went on to say, "Let me tell you what I lost: anger, anxiety, depression, insecurity, fear of old age and death."

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway and is a faculty of the Art of Living)

Bring more life into Insurance sector

The middle-income segment needs health insurance more than ever before. It is the time for insurers to improve insurance penetration, writes Nirjhar Majumdar

he juggernaut of the life insurance industry of India continues to grow. The sector managed to grow at an inflation adjusted rate of 8.5% in 2021-22 while the global life sector could grow only at 4.5%. Even in the advanced markets, the growth was 5.4%. Insurance Penetration, defined as the life premium amount underwritten (new and renewal taken together) as a proportion of GDP, reached 3.2 which is a shade higher than the global average of 3. The customers continue to have the same issues about insurance intermediaries. Even though people continue to buy life insurance (as there is no substitute to this product), they do it mechanically and without much emotional involvement. The personalisation which they get in other products and services are awfully missing in insurance in general and life insurance in particular. Is there any way out for the life insurance industry to rejuvenate itself? Let's

Life insurance has always been seen by the people as a product that benefits only the dependants, not the policyholder. This concept was okay when the members of a family were more dependent on each other financially and emotionally. But we are living in a more individualistic society today. This is a global phenomenon and India can no longer maintain a separate identity on this globalised planet. What happens in the insurance markets of the west west also happens here, maybe with some time lag. The preferences of the people seen in the western world are very much the preferences here also, especially among the younger cohorts. People want more personalisation and more instant gratification. Life insurers have to change value propositions to accommodate changing preferences of the insuring public. They are using technology to modernise the processes. But they must first understand what the customers look for in a life insurance product and then see how technology can aid in developing products and offering value added services.

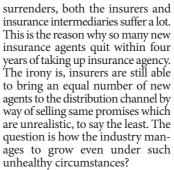
What are the Indian insurers doing now? They are focusing on high end customers living in the metros and adjoining areas. 74% offices of the private insurers are in metro areas only. All insurers are encouraging the agents to chase affluent customers with products that promise high returns quickly. More than 37% of premium incomes of the private insurers come from ULIPs only and we all know that ULIPs carry considerable market risks. The agents are enticed into the business with a promise that selling a few high value insurance policies to the NRI and HNI customers will catapult them into a league of

The agents (especially the younger ones) hope that they can become rich and famous by selling a few high value insurance products to the affluent class. This model has some serious flaws. The products (mainly ULIPs) which are touted as $high\ return\ fetching\ products\ hardly\ bring$ high returns in the short run or even in the long. The customers who understand the false value proposition made by the insurers lose interest in life insurance products (with very little insurance component in any case) and surrender such products shortly after the lock-in period. This is also one reason why policy persistence (defined as proportion of policies that stay in the books of insurers as in-force policies) is so poor for most of the insurers.

When so many customers leave the [(The writer is insurance insurance contracts by way of lapsations or



MORTALITY **BENEFITS TO** PROVIDER OF HEALTH AND **WELLNESS** BENEFITS. **CONCERN OVER** MORTALITY RISK IS FAST DIMINISHING



Reason is, the mass market and the middle market of the country served predominantly by LIC are still savings minded as people under these segments neither have high purchasing power nor risk-taking ability to go for risky linked products. Stock market or Mutual Fund investments are not yet sufficiently popular in sub-urban and rural areas. Another reason is, high level of churning of policies (meaning selling of new policies by making customers surrender the existing ones) ensures that money remains in the insurance industry even after surrenders. But this is not the right way to develop the industry in a country where there still exists an 83% life insurance protection gap. While insurers manage to grow at an impressive rate, they still fail to generate the desired interest and enthusiasm among people about insurance.

Insurers still live under the hypothesis that the rich only want to be richer very quickly. They forget a simple fact that the people including the rich also want to protect their hard-earned money through conventional yet personalised insurance products. Life expectancy is on the rise everywhere. A person retiring today from active working life may have to live for another twenty-five to

him from becoming dependent on others financially. Even if he gets some pension either from the State or from his employer, the pension falls short of the amount he needs to maintain a desirable standard of living. Even in the western world (except perhaps the Netherlands and Spain), the proportion of salary replacement after retirement is falling rapidly.

The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) is encouraging the insurers to develop Pan European Personal Pension (PEPP) products to help people live comfortably in their post-retirement years. Indian insurers have pension products too but these have to be made more attractive by including various other benefits allied to post-retirement liv-

address the current problem which is a combination of declining pensions and absence of state healthcare expenditure for the greater number of people. In India, the affluent have no problem in combating rising healthcare expenses, even after retirement. The poorer households get generous insurance cover from the nationwide scheme of Ayushman Bharat. It's the middleincome segment which contains no less than 80 crores of Indians, who are in trouble. This is an opportunity for insurers to improve insurance penetration.

What can insurers do, to stay relevant to the customers? First of all, life insurance can be bundled with health insurance, retirement and wealth management, to remain more useful to the customers. As the customer becomes older, he should have the option to reduce risk cover and increase critical illness cover. After all, it is a globally acceptthirty years. His self-respect prevents ed trend that as customers grow

older, their risk appetites shift from mortality to health and long-term care. Life and disability insurance is most relevant to early years of life. At older ages, people seek coverage for chronic illness and long-term healthcare. Unless insurers develop more flexible and useful products, life insurance will not look attrac-

Insurers are either building or harnessing ecosystems that provide multiple services, not necessarily allied with insurance. That increases customer touchpoints. Indian insurers will soon get the permission to sell services incidental to insurance. That will make insurance more useful to all segments of the market. That can possibly make life insurance more attractive.

Indian insurers should move from age-old hierarchy-based struc-Insurers have to properly ture to skill-based structure. This can recognise the special skills of employees. This also enables inno vations to flow freely within the organisation. If the industry wants to get the best of the talents, organisational culture has to undergo a sea change. The best talents available in the country can make the industry more attractive.

> Insurers have to move from provider of mortality benefits to provider of health and wellness benefits. Concern over mortality risk is quickly diminishing. The emphasis has to be on living benefits. Life insurers can help customers switch over to healthier lifestyles. 71% of deaths now occur due to lifestyle related diseases like diabetes, heart diseases and lung cancer. Life insurers have an opportunity and also responsibility to help people embracing healthier lifestyles. If Indian insurers start following the best global practices, they can make life insurance a pull product in



'Design your degree' program is pathbreaking

'Design Your Degree' program of Jammu University has message for those who want better standards of higher education

uring 2012-2014 Delhi University (DU) had made many landmark experiments, in the true spirit of autonomy of universities - to experiment with innovative ideas. One of those ideas was Four Year Degree Program (FYUP) where students could decide on their own courses including skill courses while studying. This could lead to self-employment during and after completion of the degree program. The man behind this idea was Professor Dinesh Singh, the then Vice Chancellor of Delhi University and the implementer was Professor Umesh Rai the then Director South Campus, DU. Somehow this very innovative scheme was withdrawn in

Now Rai is the Vice-



(The writer is Professor of

Education and a Trustee of

the India Policy Foundation.

Views expressed are personal)

Chancellor of Jammu University (JU). Jammu University has launched a similar experiment by the name 'Design Your Degree'(DYD), in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which has recommended four year degree program as well and made it mandatory to do skill courses to qualify for the 'multiple entry, multiple exit' provision of the NEP 2020. Till the Eighteenth Century every individual contributed to the economy by doing some productive work. It was only after the invasions, in the last one thousand years, and the destruction of the Bhartiya education system that Bharat became a poor country. Since the Macaulay's policy of education, of 1835, the educated

became job seekers and not self-employed entrepreneurs.

The NEP 2020 for the first time reverses the trend and the DYD is a landmark initiative in that sense. The NEP 2020 is a vision (Darshan) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is the man behind this idea, the idea which will once again help Bharat regain the position of ViswaGuru. Globally undergraduate programs are of four year duration and in fact the Radhakrishnan Commission, had mentioned that even the United States has a four year degree program but our nation is not ready for it right now.

Finally the NEP 2020 also approved a four year degree program and universities are now in the process of implementing the four year degree

program. Jammu University (JU) will be considered a frontrunner as it has gone a step further by giving the choice of selection of courses to the students. The essence of the recommendation of Design Your Degree (DYD) is to create job givers rather than job seekers. The JU, DYD is based on the philosophy that students must be allowed to choose courses of study on their own volition so that they can give their best into it, and finally make it their life-long passion and profession. Students would be allowed

to choose academic courses along with skill courses from across disciplines and departments. Teachers and students from different departments, disciplines and streams would

the creative ideas of each individual learner. The major criticism of our institutions has been that they work in silos and the findings of research in one department is not even shared with the department across the wall. Through DYD teachers and students will form groups of individuals with common interests and come up with very novel and innovative ideas. As the program visualises

the courses would not be only classroom based but students can work at any location with members of the society or even industry, with a view to find solutions to their problems. The university teachers instead of being just classroom teachers would do hand holding and become mentors. Once work in collaboration to foster the DYD gets going true inter-

disciplinary practice would emerge. Students would be admitted under the DYD from 2023 academic year. Admission would be through a process keeping Senior Secondary Board result (10%), Entrance test (60%), Group activity (20%) and Personal Interview (10%) into consideration. The admission criteria clearly shows domain knowledge is not being tested for admission but attitude and aptitude for exploration is being tested for admission. During the program the group of students along with the mentor teacher will spend a semester on ground and work

problems. Some of the courses that the university has planned for Semesters I to IV are Discove-

and find solutions to real life

ring the Self, Exploring the Surroundings, Marvels of the World, Expressing Creativity, Life Skills, Art and Science of Communication, Understanding the World through Data, Decoding the World through Data, Digital Humanities etc. From the courses it would be apparent the program will give opportunity to learners to explore and innovate unlike the content based courses presently prescribed in the universities. The motto of the pro-

gram is: 'Teach to Transform'; Educate to Empower'; and 'Learn to Lead'. Autonomy to universities should not be seen as an undue favour. Institutions can experiment and innovate leading to new and great ideas only if they are provided autonomy.

Philippines summons Chinese ambassador

The Philippine government summoned China's ambassador on Monday and presented a strongly worded diplomatic protest over the Chinese coast guard's use of water cannons in a weekend confrontation with Philippine vessels in the disputed South China Sea, officials said.

The tense hours-long standoff occurred Saturday near Second Thomas Shoal, which has been occupied for decades by Philippine forces stationed onboard a rusting, grounded navy ship but is also claimed by China. It was the latest flareup in long-seething territorial conflicts in the South China Sea involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam,

Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. The United States, the European Union, Australia and Japan expressed support to the Philippines and concern over

Chinese actions. Washington renewed a warning that it is obliged to defend its longtime treaty ally if Philippine public vessels and forces come under armed attack, including in the South

China Sea. Philippine coast guard and diplomatic officials held a news conference on Monday at which they showed videos and photographs which they said showed six Chinese coast guard ships and two militia vessels blocking two Philippine navychartered civilian boats taking supplies to the Philippine forces at Second Thomas Shoal. One supply boat was hit with a powerful water cannon by the Chinese coast guard, the Philippine military said.

Only one of the two Philippine boats managed to deliver food, water, fuel and other supplies to the Philippine forces guarding the shoal, the officials said.

USE OF WATER CANNON ON BOAT IN DISPUTED SEA

During the confrontation, two Philippine coast guard ships escorting the supply boats were also blocked by the Chinese coast guard ships at close range and were threatclose range and were threatened with water cannons. Three Chinese navy ships stood by at a close distance at one point, Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said.

"This was like a David and Goliath situation," Jonathan Malaya of the National Security Council said.

Malaya emphasized that the Philippines would not withdraw its forces from Second

Thomas Shoal.Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Teresita Daza said China's ambassador to Manila, Huang Xilian, was summoned and

Theresa Lazaro. In it, the Philippines told China to stop its illegal actions against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea, stop interfering in legitimate Philippine activities, and abide by international laws, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Seas, Daza said.

handed a diplomatic protest by

Philippine Undersecretary

In Beijing, the Chinese coast guard acknowledged its ships used water cannons against the Philippine vessels, which it said strayed without authorization into the shoal, which Beijing calls Ren'ai Jiao. the grounded Filipino warship from the shoal.

"In order to avoid direct blocking and collisions when repeated warnings were ineffective, water cannons were used as a warning. The on-site operation was professional and restrained, which is beyond reproach," the Chinese coast guard said. "China will continue to take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territo-

rial sovereignty." China has long demanded that the Philippines withdraw its naval personnel and tow away the still-commissioned but crumbling ship, the BRP Sierra Madre. The ship was deliberately marooned on the shoal in 1999 and now serves as a fragile symbol of Manila's territorial claim to the atoll.The disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest

It accused the Philippines of sea lanes, have long been reneging on a pledge to remove regarded as a potential flashpoint and have become a fault line in the rivalry between the United States and China in the

> China claims ownership over virtually the entire South China Sea despite an international ruling that invalidated its claims in 2016 by an arbitration tribunal set up under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. China rejects that ruling and continues to defy it.

The US State Department said in a statement on Sunday that by "firing water cannons and employing unsafe blocking maneuvers, (Chinese) ships interfered with the Philippines' lawful exercise of high seas freedom of navigation and jeopardized the safety of the Philippine vessels and crew." It added that such actions are a direct threat to "regional peace

UK PM banks on tech to crack down on illegal migration

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a voluntary partnership between social media companies and the UK government to accelerate action to tackle people smuggling content online, such as criminals sharing information about illegal English Channel crossings.

In an announcement over the weekend, Sunak said the move would help meet his "stop the boats" target of clamping down on illegal migrants being charged large sums by human traffickers to make dangerous crossings across the high seas.

The online content being targeted by the new partnership would cover discount offers for groups of people, free spaces for children, offers of false documents and false claims of safe passage - all of which the government says target vulnerable people for profit and put people's lives at risk through dangerous and illegal journeys.

"To stop the boats, we have to tackle the business model of vile people smugglers at source," said Sunak in a statement released by 10 Downing Street.

"That means clamping down on their attempts to lure people into making these illegal crossings and profit from putting lives at risk. This new commitment from tech firms will see us redouble our efforts to fight back against these criminals, working together to shut down their vile trade," he said.Figures from the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) claim that over 90 per cent of online content linked to people smuggling is taken down when social media companies are notified. The new partnership between tech firms and the UK government is aimed at driving forward efforts to further crackdown on the tactics being used by criminal gangs who abuse the internet to lure people into paying crossings."Heartless people smugglers are using social media to promote their despicable services and charge peo-ple thousands of pounds to



Braverman. "This strengthened collaboration between the National Crime Agency, government and social media companies will ensure content promoting dangerous and illegal

Channel crossings doesn't see the light of day," she said.

Under the new initiative, social media companies will look to increase cooperation with the NCA to find and remove criminal content and step up the sharing of best practices both across the industry and with law enforcement. Alongside the partnership, the government will also set up a new centre led by the NCA and Home Office to increase the capacity and capability of law enforcement to identify this content on social media plat-

Known as the "Online Capability Centre", backed by 11 million pound state funding, its work will focus on undermining and disrupting the business model of organised crime groups responsible for illegal crossings and using the internet to facilitate these journeys by intensifying efforts to combat their online activity.

The move comes as UK media reports indicate that the first set of migrants will begin being housed on a barge docked in Portland, south-west

Multinational force fights Cyprus wildfire

Nicosia (Cyprus): A multinational force is helping Cyprus fight stubborn wildfires in the summer heat, with Lebanon joining Greece and Jordan in sending aircraft to fight a blaze that has scorched miles of mountainous terrain, officials said Monday

Cyprus Foreign Ministry spokesman Theodoros Gotsis told The Associated Press that neighboring Lebanon is expected to send a pair of choppers as the wildfire continues to reignite on several

Two Greek Canadair aircraft have been dispatched to help douse the fire in the mountains about 11 miles (17 kilometres) north of the coastal town of Limassol.

Jordan has sent three aircraft of its own, including two Super Puma helicopters and a Russian-made Mi26 helicopter. The multinational effort is battling a blaze that according Agriculture and Environment Minister Petros Xenophontos scorched around 3.2 square miles (8.5 square kilometres) of land.

Environment Ministry Secretary Andreas Gregoriou, who is coordinating firefighting efforts, told state-run Cyprus News Agency that talks are ongoing with Israel for additional air support if need-

Greece's Civil Protection Ministry said 20 tons of fire retardant is also on its way to

Xenophontos said the fire had been largely contained overnight but had rekindled along several areas early Monday, forcing air and ground crews to again mobilize. Because of strong winds, fire crews would remain at the scene for as long as needed to

counter any flare-ups.

"Fires are here, climate change exists and unfortunately it won't go away," Xenophontos told reporters at a fire coordinating hub near

'Populist party, member of outgoing admn may form next government'

AP ■ BANGKOK

rhailand's populist Pheu Thai party announced on Monday that it will form a coalition with a party from the outgoing military-backed administration to try to end nearly three months of politi-cal deadlock after the progressive party that won national elections was excluded from the formation of a new govern-

Thailand has struggled to break the impasse and select a new leader after the progressive Move Forward Party became the surprise winner of the May elections but was blocked by the conservative elite from tak-

Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat had assembled an eight-party coalition with 312 seats in the 500-member lower house. But under Thailand's military-enacted constitution, a new prime minister must receive a majority in a vote by both the elected House and



Leader of Bhumjaithai Party Anutin Charnvirakul, left, and Leader of Pheu Thai party Chonlanan Srikaew greet each other after a press conference announcing a coalition party at the Thai Party headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand on Monday.

250-member appointed Senate, selected by a previous military

Pita's initial bid last month fell short by more than 50 votes, largely because only 13 senators backed him. He was barred from a second attempt the following week when Parliament voted that he could not be nominated again.

Members of the Senate said they opposed Pita because

AP ■ NIAMEY (NIGER)

TA7est Africa's regional bloc

meet on Thursday to discuss

their next steps after Niger's

of his party's call for the reform of a law that makes it illegal to defame Thailand's royal fami-

Critics say the law, which carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison, has been abused as a political weapon. The Senate's members, like the army, see themselves as guardians of traditional royalist values.

Pheu Thai, the second

known for cutting deals with parties on both sides of the political divide, was part of the outgoing military-backed coalition government of Prayuth Chan-ocha, who as army chief toppled a Pheu Thai government in a coup in 2014 and returned as prime minister after 2019 elections.

with the Bhumjaithai Party,

which finished third in the

election with 71 seats in the

lower house. Together with

Pheu Thai's 141 seats, the two

Bhumjaithai, which is

parties hold 212 seats.

West African leaders to meet after Niger's

junta defies key deadline, shuts airspace

UK triples fines for employing

 $F_{
m and\ landlords\ who\ allow}^{
m ines\ imposed\ on\ employers}$ illegal migrants to work or

penalty for employers will be raised to GBP 45,000 per illegal worker for a first breach from the previous GBP 15,000,

For landlords, the fines will increase from GBP 80 per lodger and GBP 1,000 per occupier for a first breach to up to GBP 5,000 per lodger and GBP 10,000 per occupier. Repeat breaches will be up to GBP 10,000 per lodger and GBP 20,000 per occupier, up

respectively. "Making it harder for illegal migrants to work and operate in the UK is vital to deterring dangerous, unnecessary small boat crossings," said Robert Jenrick, UK Minister for Immigration.

'Unscrupulous landlords

and employers who allow ille-

gal working and renting enable with no right to stay in the country. Employers and landlords are expected to check the

eligibility of anyone they

employ or let a property to in

the UK, including through a

Home Office online checking

2 shot during Cape Town protests

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

Two people were fatally shot on a fifth day of violent protests in the South African city of Cape Town on Monday sparked by a dispute last week and authorities. A person was killed and three others were wounded in a shooting near the Cape Town International Airport after a group of protesters pelted a car with stones and the driver responded by firing shots at them, police said. The shooting happened while min-ubus taxis blockaded a road near the airport, police said.

Police said the shooter would be investigated for murder and attempted murder. A man died of multiple gunshot wounds in a separate shooting that police said they believed was also related to the protests. The unrest on the outskirts of South Africa's secondlargest city followed an announcement last Thursday of a weeklong strike by minubus



A minibus taxi driver wearing a face musk looks on during his journey in Kwa-Thema east of Johannesburg, South Africa on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Two people were fatally shot on a fifth day of violent protests in the South African city of Cape Town on Monday sparked by a dispute last week between minibus taxi drivers and

taxi drivers, who are angered at what they call heavy-handed tactics by police and city authorities in impounding some of their vehicles.

The taxis' national union has said its members aren't instigating the violence and others are using the strike as an excuse to launch their own

protests.A community safety officer was killed Friday night, with city authorities also linking that officer's death to the protests. Vehicles have been set alight in numerous areas around the outskirts of Cape Town, where large, impoverished townships are often the scene of violent protests.

military junta defied the bloc's deadline to reinstate the country's ousted president while its mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack.State television reported the junta's latest actions Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by regional bloc ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum isn't returned to power.A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Mai. Amadou Abdramane, noted

until further notice. Any have said they would consider entry point by land. Nigeria's attempt to fly over the country any intervention in Niger as a Senate has pushed back on the will be met with "an energetic "declaration of war" against plan to invade, urging Nigeria's

The junta also claimed that two central African countries were preparing for an invasion, but did not name them, and called on Niger's population to defend the nation.

International airlines have begun to divert flights around Niger's airspace, which the United States and others had seen as the last major counterterrorism partner in the vast Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, where groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are expanding their influence.

Also Monday, Mali said it and Burkina Faso, both neighbours of Niger run by military juntas, were sending a delegation of officials to Niger to show support. Both countries several security officers from Burkina Faso at a hotel in Niger's capital.

Regional tensions have mounted since Niger's coup nearly two weeks ago, with the mutinous soldiers detaining Bazoum and installing Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, former head of the presidential guard, as head of state.

Analysts say the coup is believed to have been triggered by a power struggle between Tchiani and the president, who was about to fire him.It was not immediately clear what ECOWAS leaders will do now. The region is divided on a course of action. There was no sign of military forces gathering at Niger's border with Nigeria, the likely

chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOW-AS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member states.Guinea and neighbouring Algeria, which is not an EČOWAS member, have come out against the use of force. Senegal's government has said it would participate in a military operation if it went ahead, and Ivory Coast has expressed support for the bloc's efforts to restore constitutional order.

The junta does not appear interested in negotiation.

An ECOWAS delegation

sent to Niger last week for hours of talks was not allowed to leave the airport and met only with Tchiani's representa-

Stormy weather across Europe delays flights

AP ■ COPEHNAGEN

Ctormy weather across the Baltic Sea region Monday caused airport delays, suspend ed ferry service, minor power outages and lots of rain. Ferries linking Poland to Sweden, two German islands to mainland Germany and Norway to Denmark remained in har-

Ferries and water taxis to the German islands of Hiddensee and Ruegen were cancelled for Monday and Tuesday morning, and vacationers were asked to change their travels plans to Wednesday.Latvian television reported trees getting knocked over in wind gusts of up to 108 km per hour (67 miles per hour). Meteorologists in Latvia also reported golf ball-sized hail in Apgulde, a village southwest of Riga, the capital.

The Baltic News Service said the storm caused extensive

damage in the nearby Dobele

Posts on social media showed one of the affected properties was a park in Tervete, a popular recreational area that includes a children's play area inspired by Latvian In Denmark, police in the

northeastern part of the country said on X, the platform for-merly known as Twitter, that "the weather is still harsh". The fire department for

greater Copenhagen urged people to stay away from parks and forests, saying "the combination of rain-soaked ground and storms increases the risk of trees falling".

In southern Norway, authorities raised the extreme weather warning alert to its highest due to heavy rain, mudslides and flash floods.

On Sunday, thousands of lightning strikes were reported

Elon Musk may need surgery before 'cage match' with Zuck

"the threat of intervention

being prepared in a neigh-

bouring country," and said

Niger's airspace will be closed

Elon Musk says he may need to get surgery before a proposed "cage match" with Mark Zuckerberg. The two tech billionaires seemingly agreed to an in-person face-off in late June. It's unclear if a physical fight will actually end up hap-pening, but Musk and Zuckerberg have continued to fuel interest in the potential match through online jabs at one another — most recently on Sunday, when Musk said the fight would be live-streamed on his social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

Musk added that the fight's proceeds would go to a charity for veterans. On his Threads social media account, Zuckerberg responded: "Shouldn't we use a more reliable platform that can actually raise money for charity?" In a follow-up post, the the CEO of Facebook's parent company who owns X, responded to a

Meta said he wasn't "holding

his breath" for a fight. "I'm

ready today. I suggested August 26 when he first challenged, but he hasn't confirmed," wrote Zuckerberg, who is actually trained in mixed martial arts and posted about completing his first jiu jitsu tournament earlier this year. "I love this sport and will

continue competing with people who train no matter what happens here." Earlier on Sunday, Musk

said was training for the fight by lifting weights. He later addressed the timing of the fight — noting the date "is still in flux" due to a scheduled MRI and the potential of surgery. "I'm getting an MRI of my

neck and upper back tomorrow," Musk wrote on Sunday night. "May require surgery before the fight can happen Will know this week. Talk of an in-person fight all started in June, when Musk,

tweet about Meta preparing to

release a new Twitter rival

called Threads. He took a dig about the world becoming exclusively under Zuck's thumb with no other options" but then one Twitter user jokingly warned Musk of Zuckerberg's jiu jitsu training. "I'm up for a cage match if

he is lol," Musk wrote. After Zuckerberg appeared to agree to the proposal, Musk proposed the Vegas Octagon. Whether or not Musk and

Zuckerberg actually make it to the Las Vegas ring has yet to be seen - especially as Musk often tweets about action prematurely or without following through. But, even if their cage match agreement is all a joke, the banter gained attention. An endless chain of memes and posts to "choose your fighter"

sprung up in response.
The Associated Press reached out to Meta, X and Ultimate Fighting Championship, which owns the Octagon, for statements Monday morning.

S'pore ex-Indian-origin min submits application to qualify for presidential election **PTI** ■ SINGAPORE chief Ng Kok Song, 75, told the

Singapore's Indian-origin for-mer senior minister

Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Monday submitted his application for eligibility to contest the upcoming presidential election due next month. Shanmugaratnam, 66, formally launched his presidential campaign last month with a pledge to evolve the country's culture to keep it a "shining spot" in the world.

The 2023 presidential election is due in September, as President Halimah Yacob's sixyear term ends on September 13. Tharman, 66, has submitted his application for a certificate of eligibility, The Straits Times reported.Apart from Shanmugaratnam, three other potential hopefuls, all of Chinese origin, have announced their own submissions.Former GIC investment

media that he had submitted the forms on August 2 to be considered eligible via the public sector deliberative track. Entrepreneur George Goh,

63, submitted his eligibility form on August 4.

Former presidential candidate Tan Kin Lian, 75, said he has submitted his application for a certificate of eligibility for the upcoming presidential election but has not decided if he will contest, according to The Straits Times report.

Tharman, who stepped down from active politics after 22 years in June, during his campaign launch, had cautioned against judging candidates based on past affiliations rather than their track record. Singapore has stringent

criteria for candidates wishing to stand for the post of

or housing illegal workers

rent from them are to be tripled from early next year, the UK government announced on The UK Home Office said from the start of 2024, the

and to GBP 60,000 for repeat breaches from GBP 20,000.

from GBP 500 and GBP 3,000

the business model of the evil people smugglers to continue. There is no excuse for not conducting the appropriate checks and those in breach will now face significantly tougher penalties," he said. According to official statistics, since the start of 2018, almost 5,000 penalties have been issued to employers with a total value of GBP 88.4 million for employing illegal workers. Meanwhile, landlords have been hit with over 320 civil penalties worth a total of GBP 215,500 in the same period for housing illegal migrants

Imran's party files plea in SC, seeks retrial

the pioneer

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Monday launched a legal battle to secure the release of its chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, with a petition in the Supreme Court seeking his retrial in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in jail on Saturday by Additional and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun Dilawar who found him guilty of not declaring the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The petition was filed under Article 184(2) of the Constitution and sought to have the Toshakhana case be heard again, on the grounds that the former cricketerturned politician had not been given a fair trial.

"A fundamental right under Article 10A, The Right to a Fair Trial, has been denied to Mr Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, in relation to his conviction in the Toshakhana case," the petition

The petitioner argued that not only was the judgement passed in haste, it was also declared in Khan's absence and was "in complete disregard" of the directions of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

It is not clear when the petition would be taken up for hearing by the apex court.

Apart from knocking at the doors of the highest court of the country, Khan's lawyer, Naeem Haider Panjotha, filed a petition in the IHC to get better facilities in the jail, also called A-Class.

The move comes after the party's acting chief, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, claimed that Khan was currently given B-Class status and inferior

Dawn newspaper reported that according to jail rules, convicted prisoners are classified into superior class, ordinary class, and political class. Superior class includes A and B-Class prisoners. Ordinary class comprises prisoners other

TOSHAKHANA CASE

'Nawaz will be next premier if PML-N returns to power'

will be Pakistan's next premier if the ruling PML-N returns to power after the country goes to polls in November, his brother and the country's current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said.

Shehbaz Sharif's remarks came at a public meeting in Kasur, some 50kms from Lahore, on Sunday evening.

Nawaz Sharif, 73, has been living in self-imposed exile in the UK since November 2019. He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018. He was serving a seven-year imprisonment at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in the Al-Azizia Mills reférence before he was allowed to proceed to London on "medical grounds". "Nawaz Sharif will be the

Superior class prisoners are entitled to books and newspapers, a 21-inch television, a table and a chair, a mattress, personal bedding and clothing and food. The prisoners have to pay for all this themselves. The government is only obligated to provide them security in a high-security ward where they will be kept away from

Rooms are supplied with a cot, one chair, one teapot, one lantern if there is no electric light, and necessary washing and sanitary appliances.

er prisoners.

A-Class prisoners may supplement the furniture by other articles within reasonable limits at their own cost, at the discretion of the superintendent.

Meanwhile, Panjotha in the petition also requested that Khan be allowed to regularly meet with his legal team, family members, personal doctor Dr Faisal Sultan and political aides. He also provided the lists

Lahore (PTI): Nawaz Sharif next prime minister of Pakistan. He will serve the people as he had done before," Shehbaz Sharif, 71, said.

He said his elder brother (Nawaz) would be the prime minister of Pakistan for the fourth time and would 'change the country's destiny' by boosting agriculture, industry, and infrastructure.

He said Pakistan saw phenomenal progress in Nawaz Sharif's last tenure 2013-17 and improved relations with countries like China, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye while former premier Imran Khan had damaged Pakistan's relations with these countries.

Shehbaz said he would dissolve the assemblies on August 9, and the people of Pakistan would elect their government through a vote in November 2023.

The plea said that Khan had been "confined in a 9x11 feet cell with an annexed dirty bathroom". It further said that the room was a "dirty cell which has traditionally been reserved for terrorists".

He accused that the authorities have been treating the former premier like a criminal and have lodged him in a 'small and squeezed barrack" due to "malafide reasons and under the pressure of the polit-

The lawyer in petition also claimed that it was not determined under which law Khan was taken to the Attock Jail when the arrest warrant by the trial court showed that he should be kept at the Adiala

Panjotha later told the media that he met Khan at Attock Jail for 1:45 minutes and discussed various issues with him. He said Khan was in good spirits though kept in bad

Pakistan authorities to inspect site of railway accident that killed 31



Workers repair a railway track at the site of train derailment near Nawabshah, a district of Pakistan's southern Sindh province, on Monday

Pakistan's railway depart-ment will conduct an inspection at the site of a major accident in Sindh province where an express train derailed and killed at least 31 people and injured 130 others. The Hazara Express train travelling from Karachi to Rawalpindi derailed on Sunday in Nawabshah district near the Sarhari Railway Station, 275 kilometres from the provincial capital Karachi.

Ten bogies went off the track and they were removed while repair works were underway. The administration of the People's Medical College Hospital in Benazirabad - the district home to Nawabshah, said that over 120 injured had been shifted to the facility and most of them have been discharged after treatment while 30 people are currently undergoing treatment, Geo News reported. Also, a total of 29 bodies were claimed and taken by family members while the bodies of two deceased women who could not be identified are still at the hospital.

The railway department will conduct an inspection of the site of the Hazara Express derailment in district Sanghar's Nawabshah Monday to gather evidence.

The train operations on the affected up-track have been halted after the crash. However, the down-track was

restored nearly 18 hours after the accident and the departures of trains facing delays at different stations began.

Railways Inspector Ali Mohammad Afridi said that the up-track will be restored entirely in four to five hours.

The official said that a site inspection will be done on Monday, while the inquiry will be initiated in four to five days after recording statements of the related individuals. Meanwhile, Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique stated that the possibility of sabotage or a mechanical fault in the Hazara Express tragedy cannot

be ruled out. During the ongoing rescue operation at the site, the Karachi-bound Khyber Mail also encountered an accident near Bahawalpur. Half of its coaches got separated from the rest and the locomotive. The driver promptly stopped the train and, with staff assistance, reconnected the detached portion with the rest of the train, Dawn newspaper

The official sources in the Pakistan Railways termed the derailment of the Havailianbound Hazara Express as a result of the breaking of the railway line, and hot axle, which jammed movement.

'The possibility of sabotage, mechanical fault, or anything else cannot be ruled out," Rafique was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Russia blasts S Arabia talks on ending war in Ukraine

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday chided efforts by international officials meeting in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine, saying the talks don't have "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited.

Senior officials from around 40 countries gathered Sunday in Jeddah for a two-day meeting that aims to agree on key principles about how to end the conflict that has raged for more than 17 months.

But without Russia's particpation and without taking into account Moscow's interests, the meeting was pointless, a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. It repeated previous assurances that Russia is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that ends the war and is ready to respond to serious proposals. But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to

previous demands that would give Russia time to dig in deeper in the parts of Ukraine it has occupied.

He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no Kyiv compromise on that.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Security Service announced Monday it had detained an alleged Russian informant who gathered intelligence about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's trip to the southern Mykolaiv region last month. It claimed the woman "was collecting data for an airstrike during Zelenskyy's visit." The woman attempted to establish Zelenskyy's route, times and visits in the region. She was detained when she tried to pass the information to the Russians, the statement said, without providing

Zelenskyy has been a prime target for the Kremlin since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when he refused to leave Kyiv as Moscow's forces approached.

He has been one of Ukraine's unexpected trump cards in the war, playing a key role in rallying public morale, including a nightly video address, and becoming a recognizable face across the world as he presses allies and others to help Ukraine. Also Monday, Russian shelling struck a ninestory residential building in the city of Kherson, killing one person and wounding four others, according to regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. He said Kherson had endured a "tough night" as the Russians "covered the central part of the city with fire." A 57-year-old woman was killed and four people were wounded in the Russian shelling of a village in the northeastern Kharkiv province, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

HK govt to appeal against court's refusal to ban popular protest song

Hong Kong government said Monday it was seeking to appeal against the court's refusal to ban a popular protest song at its request, renewing worries over further erosion of freedom of expression in the city. The court's decision on July 28 was a setback for Hong Kong leaders who are trying to crush dissidents after a massive prodemocracy movement four years ago pushed hundreds of thousands of people into the

Drama ensued after the popular "Glory to Hong Kong" — written during the 2019 protests with lyrics calling for democracy and liberty — was mistakenly played as the city's anthem at international sporting events instead of China's "March of the

The Department of Justice said in a statement that its secretary, who acted as "a guardian of public interest", pressed for the ban on the basis of safeguarding national security. The court can decide whether to review or dismiss the request for an appeal. The department did not share further its legal grounds for the appeal in the

Critics have warned that it the broadcast or distribution

Beijing launched a crackdown following the 2019 protests.

They said granting the court order might disrupt the operations of tech giants and hurt the city's appeal as a business centre. The government went to the court in June after Google resisted pressure to display China's national anthem as the top result in searches for the city's anthem instead of "Glory to Hong Kong".

The proposed injunction would target anyone who uses the song to advocate for the separation of Hong Kong from China. The government also would also seek to ban any actions using the song to incite others to commit secession and insult the national anthem,

Pak army chief concerned about safe havens for militants in Afghanistan

Vows to dismantle terrorist networks

PTI PESHAWAR

midst a spike in terror strikes in Amidst a spike in terror sure Asim Pakistan, Army chief General Asim Munir on Monday voiced concern over banned militant groups enjoying safe haven in neighbouring Afghanistan and asked them to submit to the writ of state or get decimated. Terrorism has no place in Pakistan

and the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist incidents in Pakistan is detrimental to regional peace, stability and deviation from the Doha Peace Agreement by the interim Afghan government," he said. During a visit to the headquarters of

the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Frontier Corps (FC) here, he said: "Pakistan has concerns over sanctuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil. Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens at all costs.'

His visit came days after a powerful



blast triggered by a suicide bomber killed at least 63 people and injured nearly 100 others at a rally of a hardline Islamic party in a restive tribal district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan. The banned terrorist group Islamic State (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the suicide attack.

"The surge in terrorism in the recent past is a futile effort on the part of terrorists to get the talks re-initiated; However, there is no option for these terrorists except to submit to the writ of state of Pakistan before they are decimated, if they persist

on their wrong path," he said. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks fol-lowing the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

newly merged districts (NMDs) of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province leading personalities from all walks of life and reiterated: "With the unflinching resolve of the nation, Pakistan is success fully countering terrorism to enable a stable and peaceful environment for socioeconomic development in the area."

The tribal elders assured that Tehreek e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its ideology will never be acceptable to any tribe and that the tribal people will continue to stand with the State through thick and thin. "The Pakistan Army stands with our tribal brothers and will never leave them alone as over the years they have given innumerable sacrifices for the peace and prosperity of the motherland. It's time to develop all tribal areas and concentrate on youth," the army chief said.

He reiterated the resolve of the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and other law enforcement agencies in their fight against terrorism until the elimination of this menace from the country.

Cambodia's king appoints army chief Hun Manet as successor to his father

AP PHNOM PENH

└Monday formally appointed army chief Hun Manet to succeed his father and long-ruling Prime Minister Hun Sen as the nation's leader later this month after their party sealed victory in a one-sided election last

The royal decree signed by King Norodom Sihamoni and shared to the public by state social media means the 45-year-old Hun Manet is officially the incoming leader and will take office Aug. 22 when the new National Assembly adopts the new cabinet.Hun Manet thanked the king for his trust and said in a Telegram post that it was his life's highest honor to serve the nation and its people. He added that he was determined to fulfill his duties and promised to keep raising Cambodians' living standards and the nation's prestige.

His appointment came after Cambodia's electoral body on Saturday announced the final results of last month's election. The polls that gave Hun Sen's party a mandate for cized by Western governments and rights groups as neither free nor fair because the main credible opposition party was barred from participating. Hun Manet won his first seat in Parliament in the election, and the handover from his father is part of a larger, generational shift: Many younger lawmakers are expected to take up ministerial positions, including Hun Sen's youngest son and others related to older party members. Many were educated in the West, like Hun Manet, who has a bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a master's degree from

doctorate from Bristol

University in Britain, all in economics. After the royal decree was seamless transition," it said. announced, Hun Sen posted on Telegram and the X social media platform that he was "chance to the successors to

Hun Sen, who turned 71 on Saturday, noted that he took office at age 32 as the youngest prime minister in the world at the time. He added that stepping down as prime minister "is not the end yet" and he would serve in other positions at least until 2033, which would bring him to a half-century in office.

Hun Sen is expected to retain a large amount of control as president of his Cambodian People's Party and as the Senate president.

"I will still have the ability to serve the interests of the people and help the government oversee the country's security and public order, as well as joining them in guid-ing the development of the country," Hun Sen said on July 26, the day he announced the widely expected succession plan. Cambodia under Hun Sen has ushered in a free-market economy that raised living standards, but the gap between Cambodia's rich and poor has widened and land grabs by Hun Sen's domestic allies and foreign investors are widespread.

After a strong election challenge from the opposition in 2013 that the CPP barely overcame, Hun Sen targeted the opposition's leaders and the main party was dissolved by Cambodia's sympathetic courts. The pattern of crushing any serious opposition followed this year when the main challenger was banned on a technicality before the vote. The European Union said the election was "conducted in a restricted political and civic space where the opposition, civil society and the media were unable to function effectively without hindrance?

The US went further, imposing visa restrictions on individuals it considered responsible and pausing forof the song would add to a decline in civil liberties since To be known to all that my client, Smt. Rashmi Sehgal Thukral wife of Dr. Jatin Thukral and daughter of Late Smi Brij Mohan Sehgal, resident of Flat No. 358, Pocket-D, Narmada Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019, have lost/misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (i.e. Alloment-Gum-Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip and NDC for Water and Electricity, etc.) in respect of Freehold, DDA, SFS, Category-II, First Floor Flat No. 358, Pocket-D, with Scooler Garage on Ground Floor situated at Narmada Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019, issued by DDA An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No. 722829/ 2023 dated 02/02/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest over documents or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 8102/21449 or to Dy. Director (H)-I, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given inform that Shri 11/1 Shakti Nagar Delhi-110007 original allottee of Industrial Plot No. E-14. Sector 7, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP, n the name of M/s Chawla offset Printers and their partner Shri Vimal Choudary S/o Late Bhagwan Das Choudhary died on dated 21.10.1999, after that they closed this firm. That is the above Industrial Property through C.I.C. in favour of original alottee Shri Madan Chawla.

In case any one has got any objection to this, please file your objection if any with proof to Industrial Department Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Shri Madan Chawla

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given inform that Shri

Vimal Choudhary S/o Late Bhagwan Das Choudhary Executed GPA & Will of Industrial Plot No. E-14. Sector-7. Noida Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP, on dated 20.08.1999 in favour of Shri Madan Chawla S/o Shri G.D. Chawla R/o 11/1, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 but the GPA and will is unregistered. Shri madan Chawla will have the full right to take any decision regarding the above mentioned Industrial Plot E-14 Sector-7, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh In case any one has got any objection to

this, please file your objection if any with proof to Industrial Department Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice Shri Madan Chawla

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has

organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE** 1) ASHOK LEY AL2518CBG REG. NO. RJ09GC8560-YOM-2020

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE-742262.4 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 1: DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E ON OR BEFORE 23-08-2023 (PI FASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF HOLIDAY).

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR 125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313 OR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 07798988481 EMAIL-Abhinav.lal@kotak.com

Further should contact us only. BEFORE SH.PITAMBER DUTT:

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, MCD ROOM

NO.29, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

Appeal No 270/ATMCD/2022 Next date of hearing 13.09.2023 Title of appeal Shri Arun Khanna

Versus Municipal Corporation of Delhi Property No.39/71, Punjabi Bagh West,

Respondent No.(3) to (7) 3) Smt. Rekha Khanna R/o 39/71 unjabi Bagh West, New Delhi- 110 026

Ground Floor) (4) Shri Anand Deep Singh & Prarthana Mahendru, R/o 39/71, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110 026 (First Floor)

(5) Shri Sagar Kohli R/o 39/71, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 (Second Floor) (6) Ms. Monika Khanna D/o Sh. Vinod . Khanna, R/o 39/71, Ground Floor, Punjabi

Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 (7) Shri Ajay Kapur, S/o Sh. Bhushand lumar Kapur, R/o 18/78, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026

COURT NOTICE TAKE NOTICE that the above noted appea

copy attached)

s pending for disposal in this Court and is ixed for status report/further proceedings. The Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 23.03.2023 has directed you to attend the Court on the next date of hearing 13.09.2023

f you fail to comply with the order, you will be ubject to consequences of non-compliance. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 06th day of June, 2023.

Appellate Tribunal MCD, Delhi

vets candidates - disqualifying any seen as disloyal to the Islamic Republic - and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the final say on all major policies. Iran saw months of nationwide protests sparked by the

country last year.

AP DUBAI

 \mathbf{I} ran on Monday began registering candidates for parlia-

mentary elections in March,

which will be the first since

nationwide protests rocked the

idential and parliamentary

elections since the 1979 Islamic

Revolution. But a clerical body

Iran has held regular pres-

death of Mahsa Amini, a 22year-old woman who was being held by the morality police for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code. The protests escalated into calls for the overthrow of the ruling clerics, marking one of the biggest challenges to their four-decade

Registrations open for candidates

in next year's Iran election

The protests largely died down after authorities launched a fierce crackdown in which more than 500 protesters were killed and nearly 20,000 were detained. Last month, the morality police returned to the streets in a renewed campaign to force women to wear

the mandatory headscarf,

known as the hijab. Candidates for the 290-seat parliament have a week to preregister online, the first step in a monthslong process. But each will eventually have to be approved by the Guardian Council, a 12-member clerical body, half of whom are directly appointed by the supreme

Over 7,000 candidates were disqualified ahead of the last elections in 2020 — about half of those who had tried to run. The turnout for that election

was the lowest since 1979, with just over 42% of eligible voters casting ballots.

Iran has been mired in a severe economic crisis since then-President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from a nuclear deal with world powers and restored crushing sanctions. The currency's value has plummeted, erasing many Iranians' life savings and driving up prices. With so many struggling to meet basic needs, analysts say there is little energy left over for protests or politics.

had abided by the 2015 nuclear deal before the US withdrew, is now galloping ahead with its nuclear program. It is openly exceeding the deal's limits on uranium enrichment and stockpiling, and it is building a new nuclear facility so far underground as to likely be impervious to US weapons.

Iran's government, which

Vaibhav Taneja named Tesla CFO

New York (PTI): Indian-origin Vaibhan Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down, the automaker said in a company filing on Monday.

Taneja, 45, was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major on Friday after Kirhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post. Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure

dous expansion and growth" in the company filing.
"Tesla thanks Mr Kirkhorn for his significant contributions. Mr Kirkhorn will continue to serve Tesla through the end of the year to support a

with the Elon Musk-led

American EV giant was

described as one of "tremen-

the next five years were criti-New York University and a

eign assistance programmes.

statement. The announcement came after multiple pro-Beijing lawmakers urged the department to file an appeal. The government's move has renewed concern over possible ramifications caused by the ban.

granting the request to prohib-

including online.

We , Rabindra Bisht S/o Sri Manbar Singh

Kanwali, Uttarakhand- 248001 is owners of residential property bearing No. S3-0502 at 5th Floor, Project - Supertech Eco Village-1 Allotment letter with respect to the above said property, if anybody found that or i any objection in this regard, please may

contact and return to Transfer Team at M/s

Supertech Limited, office - Plot No. C-2, Secto 96, Noida 201303 (U.P.), within eight days. DIWAKAR IHA (ADVOCATE)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that M/s. Windview Windows is a partnership firm which was reconstituted on 7th August 2019 due to the retirement / expulsion on the partner intends to retire from the partnership firm w.e.f 31st Dec 2021 by virtue of a deed of retirement executed amongst us on 14th Jan 2022. By this notice, we M/s. Windview Windows inform the public in general that, we

1) Mr. Subhash Kansal and 2) Ms. Shweta kansal, are the only partner of M/s. Windview Windows and who are having any transactions with the above said firm now and ir

Equity markets extend rally, settle higher for 2nd day

enchmark equity indices ended with Bgains on Monday, extending their previous day's rally, unfazed by a weak trend in global markets amid buying in Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance

However, continuous foreign fund outflows prevented markets from registering a sharp rally.
The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed

232.23 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 65,953.48. During the day, it jumped 346.65 points or 0.52 per cent to 66,067.90.

The NSE Nifty advanced 80.30 points or 0.41 per cent to end at 19,597.30.

From the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra jumped over 4 per cent, emerging as the biggest gainer. Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finsery, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Wipro, Maruti, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra and ICICI Bank were the other major gain-

State Bank of India, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Nestle and HDFC Bank were the

"The Indian market began the data-centric week with modest gains, primarily propelled by strong performances in pharma

TOP LOSERS ELLIP 18 ELLIP Teta Memora

and IT sectors. Global markets portrayed a mixed picture, with US futures exhibiting positivity in response to a moderation in bond vields, while European markets experienced declines due to weak economic data. Caution prevailed in the market due to the anticipation of upcoming inflation data and the RBI's monetary policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.26 per cent.

Among the indices, healthcare jumped 1.61 per cent, telecommunication climbed 1.28 per cent, IT (1.07 per cent), teck (0.91 per cent), realty (0.63 per cent), auto (0.32 per cent) and commodities (0.28 per cent).

Utilities, bankex, metal and power were the laggards. In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the

green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended

lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.73 per cet to USD 85.63 a bar-

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,892.77 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. After five months of sustained buying, for eign investors have turned net sellers and pulled out over Rs 2,000 crore from the Indian equities in the first week of August.

After three days of decline, the BSE benchmark on Friday climbed 480.57 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at 65,721.25. The Nifty advanced 135.35 points or 0.70 per cent to end at 19,517

Sebi's refund to Sahara investors reach to ₹138.07 crore in 11 yrs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi has made refunds of Rs 138.07 crore to investors of two Sahara companies in 11 years, while the amount deposited in specially-opened bank accounts for the repayment has surged to more than Rs 25,000

These disclosures have been made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in its latest annual report.

In the absence of claims from a majority of the bondholders of the two Sahara companies, which were asked to return the money to nearly 3 crore investors along with interest in August 2012 through a Supreme Court order, the total amount refunded by Sebi inched up by just about Rs 7 lakh during the last fiscal, 2022-23, while the balance in Sebi-Sahara refund accounts rose by Rs 1,087 crore during the year.

In its annual report, Sebi said it received 19,650 applications involving 53,687 accounts as on March 31, 2023. Of these, "refunds have been made with respect to 17,526 applications involving 48,326 accounts for an aggregate amount of Rs 138.07 crore including the interest amount of Rs 67.98 crore."

The remaining applications were closed either due to their records not being traceable in the data provided by two Sahara Group firms — Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd (SIREL) and Sahara

Housing Investment Corporation Ltd

In its previous update, Sebi had put the total amount refunded by it as of March 31, 2022 at Rs 138 crore concerning 17,526 applications.

Further, Sebi said pursuant to various orders passed by the Supreme Court and the $\,$ attachment orders passed by the regulator, an aggregate amount of Rs 15,646.68 crore has been recovered by it as of March 31,

"This amount along with the accrued interest after due refunds to the eligible bondholders, was deposited in nationalised banks in terms of the judgment dated August 31, 2012 of the Supreme Court. As on March 31, 2023, the total amount deposited in nationalised banks is around Rs 25,163 crore," Sebi said.

This amount stood at Rs 24,076 crore. Rs 23,191 crore and Rs 21,770.70 crore as of March 31, 2022, March 31, 2021 and

March 31, 2020, respectively. Sebi had ordered SIREL and SHICL in 2011 to refund the money raised from investors through certain bonds known as Optionally Fully Convertible Bonds (OFCDs) after the regulator ruled that the funds were raised by the two firms in violation of its rules and regulations.

After a long process of appeals and cross-appeals, the Supreme Court on August 31, 2012 upheld Sebi's directions asking the two firms to refund the money collected from investors with 15 per cent interest. Sahara was eventually asked to deposit

an estimated Rs 24,000 crore with Sebi for further refund to investors, though the group has been maintaining that it had already refunded more than 95 per cent of investors Last month, the Centre started the

process to refund Rs 5,000 crore of depositors whose funds are struck in four cooperative societies of Sahara Group.

On March 29, the government had said money will be returned to 10 crore investors of the four cooperative societies within 9 months. The announcement followed a Supreme Court order directing transfer of Rs 5,000 crore from Sahara-Sebi refund account to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS).

Zuckerberg takes to Threads to post on cage fight with Elon Musk

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Meta co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg took to Threads on Monday to post about his 'cage-fight' with Elon Musk, the owner of X (formerly Twitter). The development comes as Musk on Sunday said that his potential in-person fight with Mark Zuckerberg would be streamed on his social media site

Sharing a screenshot of Musk's X post on Threads, Zuckerberg said, "Shouldn't we use a more reliable platform that can actually raise money for charity?" On Musk's post about preparing for the fight, Zuckerberg replied on Threads, saying "I am ready today. I sug-gested Aug 26 when he first challenged, but he hasn't confirmed. "Not holding my breath", the

Meta top boss added. The two tech billionaires

purportedly agreed to a "cage match" face-off in late June. Zuckerberg is trained in

mixed martial arts (MMA) and belt in the Brazilian self martial art and combat sports jiu-jitsu. Musk posted on X Monday

morning that he would choose the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) format for the fight. "Am going with @WWE as my fighting style," the Tesla chief and richest person on the planet, said. The banter between



Musk and Zuckerberg has gained social media attention, especially after Zuckerberg launched Threads, which is seen as a rival to the Musk-owned Twitter (now X)

about the world becoming jiu-jitsu training.

"I love sport and will continue competing with people who train no matter what happens here," Zuckerberg posted on Threads Monday. In fact, the Meta top boss has been using updates, ever since the social media giant launched Twitter's rival last month.

With Musk's record of tweeting about action prema-turely or without following through, it is yet to be seen whether or not the two social media owners actually make it



It all started when Musk, who owns X, responded to a tweet about Meta preparing to release the purported 'Twitterkiller' Threads. He took a dig exclusively under Zuck's thumb" with no other options" — but then one Twitter user jokingly warned Musk of Zuckerberg's

to the ring in Las Vegas.

Sebi looking to introduce 'MF Lite' regulations for passive funds Lite' for such entities

Capital markets regulator Sebi is engaged with the mutual fund industry to introduce 'MF Lite' regulations for passive funds, a move that will reduce the compliance burden and foster innovation. A passive fund is an invest-

ment vehicle that tracks a market index or a specific market segment. These funds include passive index funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), and Fund of Funds investing in ETFs. "Since the current MF reg

ulatory framework was built around active fund management, Sebi is planning to introduce Mutual Fund Lite regulations for passive funds, where in investment decisions are not discretionary, but tied to changes in the underlying benchmark index," the regulator said in its annual report for 2022-23, which was released on Monday.



expected to significantly reduce the compliance requirements of passive funds and foster innovation in the passive fund ecosystem, it added.

The regular mutual fund schemes, which raise money from the public, have to comply with a number of regulations. In regular mutual funds,

investment decisions are at the discretion of the fund manager and since lakhs of small investors trust mutual funds, these have stringent requirements, including high Asset Management

experienced investment team, among others, Sebi said. However, if a mutual fund

desires to offer only passive investment products such as ETFs and index funds — where investment decisions are not discretionary, but are tied to changes in the underlying benchmark index — then there is a case to provide them a regulatory framework with fewer compliance requirements, it added. Accordingly, Sebi is currently engaged with the mutual fund industry to introduce 'MF

with mutual fund light regulations for passive funds. In its annual report, Sebi

said the current regulatory rules applicable for fees and expenses charged by mutual fund schemes will be reviewed to encourage new participants, discourage cross-subsidisation across schemes, and curb mal practices

Earlier in May, Sebi Whole-

Time Member Ananta Barua said the regulator will come out

The regulator in May came out with a consultation paper proposing sweeping changes to mutual funds' total expense ratio, which accounts for the fees and expenses charged by AMCs. Sebi is also considering

allowing them to sell credit default swaps for the purpose of taking exposure in synthetic corporate bonds to provide additional investment products for mutual funds

Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 82.76 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee gained 5 paise to close at 82.76 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking positive domestic equities. However, sustained foreign fund outflows and a stronger American currency in the overseas market dented investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.73 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.71 to 82.77 in the day trade. The rupee finally settled 5

paise higher at 82.76 (provisional) against the previous close of 82.81 on Friday. The Indian rupee began the week on a positive note, adjusting Friday's weakness in the dollar index and lower crude oil prices, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. The nearterm focus will remain on the RBI monetary policy decision scheduled on Thursday. The



market is already pricing in the status quo and don't expect any cut this year following inflation worries, Parmar said. The RBI monetary policy

announcement on Thursday is the key event this week. The RBI Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) meeting is scheduled for August 8-10. The policy decision will be announced on August 10 by Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Sebi mandates FPIs to carry 10% of corp bonds trades via RFQ platform

■Sebi on Monday mandated foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to place at least 10 per cent of their trades in corporate bonds through the Request For Quote (RFQ) platform of stock exchanges.

The requirement will come into force from October 1, the Securities and Exchange Board

RFQ platform and enhancing the transparency and disclosures pertaining to investments in corporate bonds, which in turn will encourage investment by FPIs in the corporate bond seg-RFQ, which was launched

on BSE and NSE in February 2020, is an electronic platform tralised online trading platform with straight-through processing of clearing and settlement to complete the trade. A wide variety of debt securities are available for trading on the RFQ plat-

form.
"With a view to increase liquidity on RFQ platform vis-a-vis trading in Corporate Bonds by FPIs, it is decided that FPIs shall

of India (Sebi) said in a circular. that enables multi-lateral nego- undertake at least 10 per cent of secondary market in corporate The move is aimed at tiations to take place on a centheir total secondary market bonds. trades in corporate value by placing/seeking quotes on the RFQ platform of stock exchanges, on a quarterly basis," Sebi said.

The regulator said it has been taking steps to increase the liquidity on the RFQ platform of stock exchanges and to enhance the transparency and disclosure pertaining to trading in the

provided a similar mandate for other intermediaries such as alternative investment funds (AIFs), portfolio management services (PMS) and stock bro-

The framework came after the capital markets regulator issued a consultation paper in this regard last month.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has given a one-year post-retirement extension to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya - a rare event for anyone on board of a

period of one year beyond the with effect from September 1, 2023, till August 31, 2024, or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest," an official order dated

August 4 said. Vaidya, who took over as chairman of IOC on July 1, 2020, turned 60 on Monday and as per the rules was to superannuate from service at the end of the month. But now, he will continue for one more year as the head

This is one of the very rare occasions when a director on the board of a PSU has been given an extension of service beyond his retirement age.

ratna PSU has been given an extension beyond 60 years in recent years. In fact, the govern ment had earlier this year denied Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra an eight-month extension as director (human resources) of IOC

Gold falls ₹100 to ₹60,200/10 gm; silver declines ₹200

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by Rs 100 to Rs 60,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs

60,300 per 10 grams. Silver also declined by Rs 200 to Rs 74,800 per kg. In the international market,

gold and silver were down at USD 1,938 per ounce and USD 23.50 per ounce, respectively. Gold resumed trading on a negative note on the back of strength in the dollar index, and hawkish remarks from an

possible, Saumil Gandhi, Senior

Analyst — Commodities at

HDFC Securities, said.

FOMC member suggested that additional rate hikes would be

BUSINESS



Tndividuals reporting annual Itotal income of over Rs one crore have doubled to 1.69 lakh in the two-year period ending March 2022, the income tax department data showed.

As per the tax return data filed in assessment year (AY) 2022-23, relating to income earned in fiscal 2021-22), 1,69,890 individuals have shown total income of above Rs 1

This is higher than 1,14,446 individuals who had shown similar income in AY 2021-22.

The number has doubled since AY 2020-21, wherein 81,653 individuals had declared an income of over Rs 1 crore.



During AY 2022-23, over 2.69 lakh entities, including individuals, companies, firms and trusts, have shown total income of above Rs 1 crore.

This includes filings by 66,397 companies, 25,262 firms, 3,059 trusts and 2,068 Association of Persons.

In AY 2022-23, the total number of ITR filed stood at over 7.78 crore, higher than nearly 7.14 crore filed in AY 2021-22 and 7.39 crore filed in AY 2020-21

SBFC Finance IPO subscribed 75.80 times on last day of subscription

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of non-banking finance company SBFC Finance got subscribed 75.80 times on the last day of subscription on Monday, helped by an over-whelming participation from institutional buyers.

The Rs 1,025 crore-initial

share sale received bids for

7,98,38,68,100 shares against 10,53,25,317 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed a whopping 192.89 times while non-institutional investors quota received 49.09 times subscription. The portion

10.99 times The IPO had a fresh issue

meant for Retail Individual



aggregating up to Rs 600 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 425 crore.

Price range for the offer was Rs 54-57 a share. The company's IPO was fully subscribed on the first day

subscription on Thursday. SBFC Finance Ltd on Wednesday said it has raised a little over Rs 304 crore from

anchor investors. The company will utilise the net proceeds from the issue towards augmenting the company's capital base to meet its

Investors (RIIs) got subscribed future capital requirements arising out of the growth of its business and assets. Quality Council opens Kolkata office,

plans to have more regional centres Raj told PTI that QCI used

have its regional presence through associated organisa-



GCPL Q1 net profit down 7.6% to ₹318 cr

PTI NEW DELHI

 $F_{
m mer}^{
m MCG\,major\,Godrej\,Consu-}$ Monday reported a 7.62 per cent decline in consolidated net prof it to Rs 318.82 crore in the June quarter due to expenses incurred on exceptional items.

The company, which had posted a net profit of Rs 345.12 crore in the April-June period last year, said its board on Monday approved a capital expenditure of Rs 900 crore for setting up new manufacturing sites in Tamil Nadu and Madya Pradesh. However, revenue from the sale of products of Godrej group's FMCG arm was up 10.45 per cent at Rs 3,417.86 crore during the first quarter of the current fiscal against Rs 3,004.31 crore a year ago. Godrej 3,094.31 crore a year ago, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL)

said in a BSE filing.

"Consolidated sales grew
10 per cent, led by a 10 per cent growth in volume and constant currency growth of 15 per cent year-on-year," GCPL said in its

quarter because of the expens-

es on exceptional items of Rs 81.78 crore comprising Rs 77.52 crore on account of the acquisition of Raymond Consumer Care Business and Rs 4.26 crore on account of other restructuring costs. "Consolidated net profit

(without exceptional items and oneoffs)," it said. GCPL's total expenses during the quarter were up 9.64 per cent to Rs 2,956.36 crore, while its revenues were Rs 3,518.02

grew 19 per cent year-on-year

GCPL's India revenue rose 8.43 per cent to Rs 2,005.48 crore during the quarter from Rs 1,849.41 crore a year ago.
This was led by of 12 per

crore, up 11.6 per cent.

cent volume growth in its India business, GCPL said. Its home care segment, consisting of household insecti-

cides and air fresheners, grew 14 per cent, while the personal care vertical, having hair colour and personal wash categories, rose 2 er cent.

Vaidya gets one-yr post-retirement extension

state-owned company. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for re-employment on a contract basis of Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for a date of his superannuation ie

of India's largest oil company.

No chairman of a Maha-

till his superannuation age.

SRM TECH PICKS MANIVANNAN AS CEO CHENNAI: SRM Technologies, a prominent provider of digital and product engineering

services, has appointed Manivannan S as the Chief Executive Officer. Building on his extensive experience as the Managing Director, he will now take on additional responsibilities to lead the organisation into an exciting new phase of growth

GOLD REMAINS FLAT; SILVER FALLS ₹100

NEW DELHI: PFC Director (Finance) and CMD (Addl Charge) Parminder Chopra has been conferred with the "Finance Leader of the Year" award during the felicitation ceremony of the "ET Prime Women Leadership Awards' 2023, held in Mumbai



The Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has inaugurated its regional office in Kolkata and has plans to open a number of more such offices

across the country. QCI Chair-

person Jaxay Shah said that the

Kolkata office inaugurated on

office after the one opened in Bangalore. The next in line is the Ahmedabad office, while more will be opened subsequently in Mumbai, Chennai and other strategic locations depending on requirements, National Board for Quality Promotion (NBQP) CEO A Raj said. NBQP is one of the constituent boards of the QCI, a New Delhi-based body.

Sunday is the second regional

tions. "Now, the QCI felt it necessary to have its own offices in various regions for better coordination," he said. The Kolkata office will cater to the entire eastern India, including the northeastern states and also neighbouring countries-Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

earning statement.

The company reported a decline in net profit in the June

Revenue from the Indonesian market was up 19.7 per cent to Rs 450.69 crore compared to Rs 376.51 crore in the year-ago period.

ENGLAND 'SHOOT-OUT' NIGERIA

ngland scraped into the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup when they beat Nigeria 4-2 on penalties in Brisbane on Monday.

Despite Nigeria having the better of the chances, the European Champions reduced to 10 players after 87 minutes — snuck home in front of 50,000 spectators after the match had finished 0-0 at the end of extra time England held on after play-

maker Lauren James received a red card for a needless stamp and will know they have to improve if they want to add the World Cup to their European

They will face Colombia or Jamaica on Saturday for a place in the semi-finals.

England got off to a terrible start in the penalty shootout when Georgia Stanway fired wide, but Desire Oparanozie couldn't take advantage and missed with an almost identical

Beth England made no mistake, but Nigeria's Michelle Alozie shot way over top to give England an advantage they never surrendered, sealing the win when Chloe Kelly calmly converted.

"The first thing is we really stuck together as a team," said England coach Sarina Wiegman. "It was a very, very hard game, then we had a red card but

we made it through extra-time and then won on penalties.

"How we did that, and how



the team just kept going, I'm so proud of them.

"It says so much about this team. Not one game has been easy and we knew and knew before this game it will not be easy." The Lionesses, who last year won the European Championship at a packed Wembley Stadium in London, were expected to win comfortably against the world's 40th ranked

The Nigerians, however, have shown in this World Cup that they have the game to challenge anybody.

They stunned hosts Australia in the group stage, taking advantage of their speed in the transition to score a 3-2 win.

And they employed the same tactics against England, whose back three were regularly exposed by the Nigerian 'We were unlucky

"They're very organised, very transitional, very physical and that's exactly what we saw,' said Wiegman of Nigeria. "But we made it through

and I'm really happy.' Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum was proud of his side.

"To come in here and play the way they did tonight, l though we were every bit as good (as England)," he said.

"We had every opportunity to get the result and unfortunately we didn't get it done.

"Obviously we didn't execute on our penalties and when it gets to that point, it's anyone's game. "We had the best chances, we hit the crossbar twice in regulation play. We were a bit unlucky not to get something

"But credit to England, they

Penalty practice makes perfect for England, says Kelly

AFP ■ BRISBANE (AUSTRALIA)

England's Chloe Kelly said plenty of penalty practice had paid off after scoring the winning spot-kick to send the Lionesses into the World Cup quarter-finals after a nervy 0-0 draw against Nigeria.

The European champions had to survive extra-time a player down after Lauren James was sent off towards the end of 90 minutes for violent conduct.

Georgia Stanway then fired England's first penalty wide, but Bethany England, Rachel Daly, Alex Greenwood and Kelly found the net to prevail 4-2 in the shootout and prevent a huge upset in Brisbane.

'It's amazing, anything that's thrown at us we show what we're capable of," said the Manchester City forward, who

England started the match

They also controlled posses-

But it was the Nigerians who

strongly and rattled Nigeria in

the opening skirmishes as the

Lionesses found plenty of space

sion, completing 173 passes in

looked the most dangerous and

they gave the European cham-

pions a real fright on a number

the first half to Nigeria's 83.

year's European Championship final. "We've been practising a lot and it's working. Sarina Wiegman's side will face Colombia or Jamaica in the

scored the winning goal in last

last eight and are among the favourites to win the Women's World Cup for the first time. But they were fortunate not

England-born Ashleigh

Plumptre had two golden chances to open the scoring, the

first coming in the 16th minute when a strike from outside the

box crashed into the crossbar.

fine diving save from Mary Earps.
The Nigerians had eight shots at goal in the first half,

three more than England, whose

best chance fell to Alessia Russo

A minute later she forced a

the crossbar through Ashleigh Plumptre in the first half. This team is special,"

to follow the likes of Germany

and United States from crash-

ing out early as Nigeria enjoyed

the better of the game and hit

added Kelly. "We keep pushing forward. There is more to come

from this special team." in the 23rd minute.

The second half followed the same pattern, but England had a golden chance to seal the match with 15 minutes left only for Chiamaka Nnadozie to pull off a fine save from Rachel Daly's powerful header. In extra-time, Nigeria again

looked most likely, Michele Alozie and Oshoala both going close, but neither team could

Players ignored over 'dangerous' added time rules: Varane

AFP MANCHESTER (UNITED

Manchester United defender Raphael Varane said on Monday that players' views have been ignored on new guidelines that will see more time added on at the end of matches. Competitions around the

world have been instructed to more accurately calculate time lost to stoppages this season, including goal celebrations and VAR checks. Football's lawmakers IFAB

said in March that the approach to calculating added time was "positively received" when it was first tested at the men's World Cup in Qatar last year and would be rolled out worldwide. Arsenal equalised in the

end of Sunday's Community Shield against Manchester City and went on to win on penalties

City manager Pep Guardiola criticised the move for putting extra strain on players as he mocked the "big brain guys who decide these things.

Guardiola has been backed up from the other side of the Manchester divide as Varane said players were not being lis-



tened to. "From the managers and players, we have shared our concerns for many years now that there are too many games, the schedule is overcrowded, and it's at a dangerous level for playbeing," the Frenchman posted on social media.

"Despite our previous feedbacks, they have now recommended for next season: longer games, more intensity, and less emotions to be shown by players. "We just want to be in good condition on the pitch to give 100 percent to our club and fans. Why are our opinions not being

Varane retired from international football at the age of 29 earlier this year, likening the slog of the top-level game to being in the cycle of a washing machine.

The new guidelines on duced to tackle time-wasting and increase effective playing time. However, the impact of the extra added time on players over a sustained period has already been highlighted by global union FIFPRO, which reported earlier this year that the changes would amount to the equivalent of up to three extra games per season for players with the highest existing workloads.

Rangers, Marseille set sights on Champions League as Faroese dream

out wide.

nagers and Marseille launch Their bids to qualify for the Champions League group stage this week as rank outsiders KI Klaksvik of the Faroe Islands attempt to prolong their fairytale adventure. Former European champi-

ons PSV Eindhoven also enter the competition in the third qualifying round, with six slots still to be filled in what will be the final season with 32 clubs in the group phase.

The winners of the 10 ties advance to the play-off round,

for which the pairings will be drawn on Monday. Belgian champions Antwerp and Swiss champions Young Boys join

Rangers endured a miserable return to the Champions League's elite last year, finishing without a single point in their first group stage campaign since 2010. Michael Beale's side began the new Scottish season with a surprise 1-0 loss at Kilmarnock, underlining the size of the task ahead as they prepare to host Swiss side Servette on Wednesday.



"It's bitterly disappointing for the players and staff but ultimately for the fans who have been excited in the summer, so there's a bit of realism in the air with that result," said Beale.

"There's a lot of work to do moving forward but we'll bounce back."

Marseille also finished bottom of their Champions League section last term. An abject run

at the end of the season cost them a shot at automatic qualification and saw coach Igor Tudor depart. Marcelino is Marseille's sev-

enth full-time coach in eight years and the club have been busy in the transfer market, bringing in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Geoffrey Kondogbia and Ismaila Sarr.

'It's an ambitious project in

mindset," said Kondogbia, who is reunited with Marcelino after playing under the Spaniard at

"Going through the qualifying rounds didn't put me off. The important thing is the intent and I've seen that in what's been said and done.

Kondogbia could be handed his Marseille debut away to Greek side Panathinaikos, the 1971 European Cup runners-up whose last group stage appearance came 13 years ago.

Klaksvik made history last week as the first Faroese club to secure a place in the group stage of a European competition.

They knocked out Swedish champions BK Hacken on penalties to assure themselves of at least a spot in the Conference Klaksvik, based in a town

which boasts just 5,000 inhabitants, face Norwegians Molde on Turkish giants Galatasaray

meet Olimpija Ljubljana of Slovenia, with FC Copenhagen up against Sparta Prague and AEK Athens playing Dinamo

PSV rub shoulders with Sturm Graz of Austria as Portugal's Braga take on Serbian newcomers Backa Topola, with the losing sides dropping into the Europa League.

Starting next season, the Champions League will expand to 36 teams using the so-called 'Swiss system" model for the group stage in which each side will play eight matches.

AFP ■ FRISCO (UNITED STATES)

ionel Messi scored twice, including La brilliant late equaliser, as Inter Miami advanced past FC Dallas to the quarter-finals of the Leagues Cup on penalties after an enthralling 4-4 draw. A trademark curling free-kick in the

85th minute, Messi's seventh goal in four games for Miami, took the game to a shootout after the Argentine's side had trailed 4-2 with 10 minutes to go. Dallas exposed Miami's defensive

weaknesses, in Messi's first game away from home, and kept Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets relatively quiet for long stretches but the World Cup winner still made the difference. "It's obvious that for him a free-kick

around that area is like a penalty kick for another player," said Dallas's Spanish coach Nico Estevez of Messi's superb strike. Dallas began brightly before Messi put Miami ahead in the sixth minute with a precise side-foot finish from a pull-back from Jordi Alba, the former Barcelona full-back who was making his first start for the club.

It was initially ruled out for offside but the decision was reversed after the referee, on review, ruled that Miami forward Josef Martinez had not blocked the view of the goalkeeper.

through Argentine Facundo Quignon, who swung home a cross from overlapping full-back Marco Farfan. They went ahead on the stroke of

Dallas drew level in the 37th minute

half-time through Bernard Kamungo, who rounded Miami keeper Drake Callender. Another Argentine, Alan Velasco, made it 3-1 in the 63rd minute with a free-kick from the left which flew

untouched into the far corner. Teenage substitute Benjamin Cremaschi took only a minute to reduce the deficit but an own goal from

Messi magical again as Miami move past Dallas after shoot-out



Robert Taylor restored the two-goal

cushion for Dallas at 4-2. Messi then chipped a free-kick into the box and Farfan, unchallenged, inexplicably headed into his own goal

to keep Miami alive. Five minutes from the end Messi strode up and slotted home a free-kick from 20 yards to take it to penalties.

The Leagues Cup, the tournament for clubs from Major League Soccer and Mexico's Liga MX, does not feature extra-time, with drawn games going directly to penalties.

Messi converted the first penalty in things have changed in this club, how the shoot-out, Paxton Pomykal missed we were willing to fight until the last

for Dallas and the 18-year-old Cremaschi secured Miami's place in the last eight with the final spot-kick.
"It's amazing what (Messi) can do,"

said Miami-born Cremaschi, whose parents are Argentine.

"He scored twice in almost every game and it's just impressive."

Miami were without a win in 11

games in Major League Soccer before Messi's arrival, but have triumphed in every game with him and Busquets in the team. 'You can see our mentality, how

second, especially with the quality players that we have," said Cremaschi. We know that we could be down by a bunch of goals and still come back

in a matter of seconds. Miami's Argentine coach Gerardo Martino said that Messi's magic and the result should not disguise the clear deficiencies in his team.

"Obviously being 4-2 down in the 80th minute and then coming back like that, we are very happy with the result.," he said. "But the fact that we have gone through, shouldn't let us lose sight of the

things that we have to improve.



Pak remain in semi race post win over China

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Goals from Muhammad Khan and Afraz helped Pakistan eke out a 2-1 victory over China to stay in the race for the semifinals in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Monday.

However, the defeat meant that China were knocked out of contention for the last-four

The opening quarter happened to be a quiet one in terms of goal-scoring activities.

Pakistan earned a couple of penalty corners but failed to convert them. It was followed by a field goal chance from both sides, but to no avail, as it was goalless at the end of the first ond quarter, Pakistan earned a penalty corner and Muhammad Khan successfully converted it to give his side the lead. While China challenged the

Five minutes into the sec-

goal through video referral for dangerous height, the TV umpire ruled it in favour of Pakistan. After a couple of more

chances for Pakistan, including a penalty corner, it led 1-0 at the half-time break.

Two minutes following the restart, China showed some urgency and earned a penalty corner in the process, which was converted into a goal by Jiesheng Gao to draw level.

At this time, Pakistan's Ahtisham Aslam received a yellow card, while Abdul Rehman

Nevertheless, in the 39th

minute, Pakistan restored their lead, thanks to some passing game through skipper Umar Bhutta and Abdul Rana before Afraz angled it into the goal. With Pakistan up 2-1 at the

end of the third quarter, China upped their ante and switched to more possession and passing, while Pakistan began to press But the tactics didn't seem

to work for the Chinese, as the Pakistanis managed to hold on to the slender lead to take home the three points at full-time.

Pakistan take on hosts and arch-rivals India on Wednesday in a potentially high-voltage match, while China face Japan in their last fixture.

INDIA'S TOP-ORDER UNDER PRESSURE IN MUST-WIN GAME

ndia will need to bat with the fearlessness they often talk ▲about as they look to avoid a series defeat in the third T20 International against the West Indies here on Tuesday.

The slow pitches on offer have not been the best for batting but as skipper Hardik Pandya pointed out after the loss on Sunday, India should have a found way to score additional 10-20 runs.

India, who last lost to the West Indies in a bilateral T20 series back in 2016, trail 0-2 in the five-match series.

The shortest format demands the batters to go hard from ball one and that is something India's top-order, comprising Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav, have not been able to do. The top-order's failure has

put extra pressure on the likes of . Sanju Samson and rookie Tilak Varma, who has taken to international cricket like fish to

With focus on ODIs in a World Cup year, Gill, Kishan and Suryakumar would want to be amongst runs ahead of the Asia Cup beginning August 31.

"Batters need to take more responsibility," Hardik's message was clear to the batters fol-lowing the two-wicket loss here on Sunday.

India have been playing with a long tail with Axar Patel batting at seven to maintain the balance of the side and it is unlikely to change in the next



India's in-form spinner Kuldeep Yadav missed Sunday's game due to a sore thumb and it remains to be seen if he is

available for selection. The bowlers, especially the spinners, need to find a way to contain a rampaging Nicholas Pooran. The southpaw has been batting with disdain against the likes of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravi Bishnoi. Left-arm spinner Axar was not even used in the plans.

last game. Hardik and Arshdeep Singh were able to swing the new ball in the second game and would be looking to repeat that on

Chahal, playing after a gap of two months, has been impressive in the series. Bishnoi's frequent googlies were not able to put pressure on the opposition, forcing him to rethink about his

Pacer Mukesh Kumar has leaked most runs for India and there is a possibility that he could be replaced with Avesh Khan or Umran Malik.

West Indies are in an ideal position for their first series win over India since 2016.

Like the opposition, West Indies' top-order too has not been amongst runs with Pooran left to do the heavy lifting. The hosts would want to change that.

The likes of Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer will once again be looking to take the attack to the Indian spinners.

The home team's bowlers have done well to keep India in check and will be keen to maintain that with series on the line.

"It's a very good position to be in. Since 2016 we haven't won T20 series (against India)," said West Indies skipper Rovman



Rohit bhai has always been my inspiration: Varma

Rookie batter Tilak Varma feels the constant guidance from his mentor Rohit Sharma has played a big role in his stellar start to international cricket. Varma has been the stand out batter for India in the fivematch T20 in the Caribbean. The visitors trail the series 0-2.

"He (Rohit bhai) has been a support system and always told me to enjoy the game. He always guides me how to play," Varma said after scoring his maiden T20 fifty albeit in a losing cause. "My inspiration from childhood is (Suresh) Raina bhai and Rohit bhai. I spend most time with Rohit bhai. In first IPL he said 'Tilak is an all format player' and it boosted

my confidence.' Varma hit 51 off 41 balls to guide India to 152 for seven in second T20, a target which West Indies overwhelmed in 18.5 overs riding on Nicholas

The wicket was slow and double paced. So first we though 150-160 would be a good score but I think we were 10 runs short. Credit goes to Pooran, he batted really well. We knew if we get one wicket we can save the match because the wicket was not easy, it was on the slower side," Varma said about the match.

"They (West Indies) bowled really good, they used slower ones and bowled hard lengths. They used the wind conditions really well. Credit goes to them." Varma dedicated his celebration after scoring his maiden fifty to Rohit's daughter Samaira with whom he shares a close bond.

"It was towards Sammy, Rohit bhai's daughter," he told reporters after the match.

"I am very close to Sammy. I had promised her that whenever I will score a century or a fifty, I will do a celebration for

her," he added. Talking about his nascent journey in international cricket, Varma said the

key to longevity is consistency. 'International cricket is not easy. To sustain you have to be consistent. You have to be disciplined off the field, on the field. You have to be disciplined in your work ethic. If you do all these things on a routine basis, you will get good results," he said. "The two IPL seasons I played was the turning point in my career. The performances there earned me India call and I am playing with that perfor-

Varma also has high regard for India coach Rahul Dravid.

"I have been talking to Rahul sir since U-19 World Cup. Rahul sir always says that follow your basics and spend as much time in the middle. He always tells me to 'enjoy the game'." The third T20I between the two sides will be played here

Rohits banks on home support to win ODI WC after 12 years

Skipper Rohit Sharma will be banking on the "massive" home support his team will get to win the ODI World Cup in India's last ODI World Cup

title came at home in 2011 when M S Dhoni and Co lifted the coveted trophy. "I've never seen it so close.

Even when we won in 2011, I was not part of the squad. But yeah, it looks beautiful, so many memories behind the trophy as well, the past, the history.

and hopefully we can lift it, fingers crossed," Rohit, who is currently in the United States, was quoted as saying by the ICC. The tournament beginning

October 5 will be played across 10 venues in India.

"I know for a fact that every ground, every venue that we will be travelling to will get massive support. You know, it's the World Cup, so everyone is looking forward to this and the World Cup coming back to India after 12 years.

'...You know 2011 was the last time we played a 50-over World Cup. We played a 20-over World Cup in 2016 but a 50-over World Cup after 12 years in the country, people are quite excited and we can see the buzz already back home. I'll be looking forward to playing in all

Talking about his memories of the World Cup, Rohit said: "In 2003, India played really well up



Sachin Tendulkar was amazing

"And then comes the 2007 World Cup where we didn't have a great time, didn't even qualify after the league stage, so that was quite unfortunate.

"2011 was a memorable one for all of us, I remember watching it from home, every single match, every single ball which was being bowled and that was being played.
"There were two kinds of

emotions, one was obviously I was not a part of it, so I was a little disappointed. I decided I was not going to watch the World Cup, but again, the second memory I remember was that India was playing so well, quarter-finals onwards.

Rohit had excelled in the 2019 edition in which he amassed five hundreds.

"And 2015 and 2019, I was a part of it, which felt really good to play the World Cup. We went to the semi-finals, tried

until the finals. You know, everything we could to go to the finals and play well in the finals, incident where we couldn't go through to the finals," he said.

"But hopefully, you know, we are back home again, so hopefully we can turn things around and it's still a long way to go. And you know you can't win the World Cup in one or two days. You got to play well for an entire month, month and a half, and be consistent," said Rohit.

Rohit feels the key to emerge victorious in the showpiece would be to start fresh in every

"I know every day is a fresh day. Every day is a fresh start, it's not like Test match cricket where vou have the momentum with vou and vou carry the momentum to the next day.

"One-day cricket, limited overs format is like that, that's where the challenge comes. You've to start fresh every day and you know that's where I was (in 2019)," he said.



Labuschagne dropped from Aus extended ODI WC squad

Marnus Labuschagne was on Monday left out of Australia's 18-man preliminary squad for the ODI World Cup in India in October-November.

Labuschagne was part of Australia's last ODI squad that played three matches in India earlier this year. The righthanded batter has featured in 30 ODIs since making his debut in January 2020.

Uncapped leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha and allrounder Aaron Hardie are the fresh faces in the Australia squad. The same 18-man extended squad, which will be trimmed later to 15 for the ODI World Cup, has been named for the series against South Africa and India in September ahead of the 50-over showpiece beginning October 5.

In a statement, Cricket Australia gave a fitness update

injured his left wrist during the fifth and final Ashes Test at the Oval. He will miss the T20s in South Africa but will be available for the ODIs against the Proteas as well as India.

"Pat has an undisplaced fracture of his left radius which requires six weeks rehabilitation," said Australia's selection chair George Bailey. "We view a period of enforced rest for Pat as a pos-

itive ahead of this important World Cup campaign. "There are still a number of games he could play before the World Cup which is more than

enough for him to have a strong preparation.' Seasoned all-rounder Glenn Maxwell will not be available for the ODIs in South Africa as he is expecting the

Sangha's selection has come as a surprise as he has not played any top-flight cricket

arrival of his first child.

on the other hand, also finds himself in the squad for the T20 series in South Africa from August 31 to September 3. Mitchell Marsh will captain the T20 side.

"This side has been extremely impressive for several years in limited-overs cricket. There is an enormous amount of skill and experience in the group, which you need in a World Cup," added Bailey.

Australia can make changes to the World Cup squad until September 28.

Australia ODI squad (to be trimmed to 15 for World Cup): Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam

Inzamam-ul-Haq as chief selector

PCB re-appoints



PTI KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday reappointed the legendary Inzamam-ul-Haq as its chief selector, bringing back the former skipper for the role for a second term.

Inzamam, 53, had earlier held the position of chief selector between 2016 and 2019.

The 1992 World Cup winner had given his consent last week to become a paid selector.

Inzamam has played 120 Tests, making 8830 runs at an average of 49.60 with 25 hundreds and 46 fifties.

From 378 ODIs, Inzamam amassed 11739 runs at 39.52 with 10 centuries and 83 fifties. He had also played a lone T20I for his country.

In his latest role as the chief selector, Inzamam will succeed Haroon Rasheed who stepped down last month.

Some very important assignments are in front of Inzamam as his primary task will be to name Pakistan squad for the 50-over World Cup to be held in India across October and November.

It may be recalled that Inzamam had picked Pakistan squad for the ICC World Cup 2019 as well. Now, the fate would have him drafting in the Pakistan squad for another World Cup four years down the

Apart from the World Cup, Inzamam will also have to pick Pakistan teams for Asia Cup, scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka between August 31 and September 17, and the threematch ODIs against Afghanistan, beginning in the island nation from August 22.

McGrath picks Australia, England, **India and Pakistan as**

The legendary Glenn McGrath on ■ Monday picked India, Australia, England and Pakistan as the semifinalists of the 2023 ICC World Cup, adding that playing in an ODI series here prior to the showpiece would help his country immensely in terms of preparation.

The tournament will be held in India in October-November.

With Australia and England dominating the ICC competitions lately, McGrath feels that the two sides have the best chance of making it to the last-four

stage of the showpiece. "Although the (Australian) Test team is quite different to the one-day one, I think they will do well. Australia is one of the top four teams to make it to the semis of the World Cup," he said during his visit to the MRF Pace Foundation

"They like competing in the big tournaments and big games. They perform

well and have got enough experience, and also have some younger guys coming through. Also, they have enough matches in the sub-continent to prepare for the tournament.'

"I put India and England as well. England has been playing some good one-day cricket lately. I will put Pakistan in there as well," he added.

Considering their performance in Pakistan, McGrath feels that Ben Stokes and Co could adopt the 'Bazball' approach on their tour of India as well.

They have proved it can happen in England and even in Pakistan. Bazball is quite an aggressive form of cricket. It's all about playing with freedom. Teams have even played such crick-

et in the past, like the West Indies and even Australia during the Don Bradman era. But, how England plans to go in the Indian conditions, we will have to wait and see. But I like the concept," he said.

"Undoubtedly, if you are scoring six/seven runs an over, it is quite lively



adjust as well. It's the first time they have come across such a thing in Test cricket to that extent.

"We have got to look after Test cricket. This is a new era, and you have got to play it like that. So, let's wait and see what the future has for Test cricket and see if it's sustainable," he wondered.

McGrath has been associated with

decade, being the academy's director

When asked if the bowlers primarily focus on learning the tricks of whiteball cricket or the red-ball, he said that the focus has always been on the longer

"I think they are more focused on learning for the longer version of the game. There are still a lot of people in India who focus on playing Test cricket and Ranji Trophy. If you perform and do well there, then obviously, there is IPL

"But here (in his academy), it's all about making them an all-round fast bowler who is physically fit, strong, and mentally tough, along with the skills and

'We will probably focus on white-ball bowling lately just to get their thought process clear ahead of the World Cup. But overall, it's about making them the best fast bowler," he signed off.

Don't judge India on basis of just two losses in West Indies: Kaif



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\,cricketer\,Mohammad\,Kaif\,asserted\,on}_{Monday\,that\,the\,Indian\,team\,has\,the\,capabil}$ ity to win the World Cup at home this year and it should not be judged on the basis of two T20I losses in the West Indies

India, after winning the two-Test series and ODIs in the Caribbean, are trailing 0-2 in the fivematch T20I series, leading to criticism over the side's preparations ahead of two major competitions -- the Asia Cup in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the ODI World Cup at home.

However, Kaif said at a function here that the fears of India under-performing in the World Cup were unfounded, although he indicated that pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah will have to be fully fit for the hosts to end the title drought.

"India has lost just two matches (T20Is against West Indies), so we do not need to get overly concerned. I am seeing a lot of negative reaction after the two losses. But I will only say that our team is extremely competitive.

"I am not going to judge (India) on two backto-back losses (in the West Indies). The only thing is that key players are missing.
"Bumrah missing is the biggest factor. If he

recovers fully... One aspect is to complete the recovery and the other aspect is to gain match fitness. If he regains that (match fitness), it will be a massive gain for Team India.

"If Bumrah is fully fit, we have a great chance winning the World Cup at home," said Kaif.

Bumrah will be staging a comeback during the T20 series against Ireland after being out of action for almost a year following a back surgery, and Kaif attributed the 29-year-old quick's absence for India's string of losses in major competitions during that period.