

OPINION 6

INDIA MUST WIN OVER GEORGIA TO PIP CHINA

WORLD 9

200 EX-AFGHAN OFFICIALS KILLED SINCE TALIBAN TAKEOVER: UN

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE FLAT

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



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INDIA REACHING MOON

Soft landing may be put off to Aug 27 if lander health abnormal: ISRO

PTI ■ BENGALURU

ISRO's ambitious third Moon mission Chandrayaan-3's Lander Module (LM) is all set to land on the lunar surface on Wednesday evening, as India eyes to become the first country to reach the uncharted south pole of Earth's only natural satellite.

The LM comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), is scheduled to make a touch down near the south polar region of the Moon at 6:04 pm on Wednesday.

If Chandrayaan-3 mission succeeds in making a touch-down on moon and in landing a robotic lunar rover in ISRO's second attempt in four years, India will become the fourth country to master the technology of soft-landing on the lunar surface after the US, China and the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 and its objectives are to demonstrate safe and soft-landing on the lunar surface, roving on the Moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.



Students create a sand art on ISRO's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 on Puri beach on Tuesday

PTI

However the space agency may postpone the touchdown to August 27 in the event that health parameters of the lander module are found to be "abnormal", a senior official has said.

Chandrayaan-2 had failed in its lunar phase when its lander 'Vikram' crashed into the surface of the Moon following anomalies in the braking system in the lander while attempting a touch down on September 7, 2019.

The ₹600 crore Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched on July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) rocket, for a 41-day

voyage to reach near the lunar south pole.

The soft-landing is being attempted days after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the Moon after spinning out of control.

After the second and final deboosting operation on August 20, the LM is placed in a 25 km x 134 km orbit around the Moon.

The module would undergo internal checks and await the sunrise at the designated landing site, ISRO has said, the powered descent — to achieve soft-landing on the Moon's surface — is expected to be initiated around 5.45 pm on Wednesday.

A day before the scheduled touch-down, ISRO on Tuesday confirmed that the Chandrayaan-3 mission is on schedule. "Systems are undergoing regular checks. Smooth sailing is continuing," it said.

ISRO's Space Applications Centre Director Nilesh Desai said, "If any health parameter (of the lander module) is found abnormal on August 23, then we will delay the landing by four days to August 27."

The critical process of soft-landing has been dubbed by many including ISRO officials as "17 minutes of terror", with the entire process being autonomous when the lander has to fire its engines at the

right times and altitudes, use the right amount of fuel, and scan of the lunar surface for any obstacles or hills or craters before finally touching down.

After checking all the parameters and deciding to land, ISRO will upload all the required commands from its Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu near here, to the LM, a couple of hours before the scheduled time touchdown.

According to ISRO officials, for landing, at around 30 km altitude, the lander enters the powered braking phase, and begins to use its four thruster engines by "retro firing" them to reach the surface of the moon, by gradually reducing the speed. This is to ensure the lander doesn't crash, as the Moon's gravity will also be in play.

Noting that on reaching an altitude of around 6.8 km, only two engines will be used, shutting down the other two, aimed at giving the reverse thrust to the lander as it descends further, they said, then, on reaching an altitude of about 150-100 metres, the lander using its sensors and cameras, would scan the surface to check whether there are any obstacles and then start descending to make a soft-landing.

ISRO Chairman S

Somanath had recently said the most critical part of the landing will be the process of reducing the velocity of the lander from 30 km height to the final landing, and the ability to reorient the spacecraft from horizontal to vertical direction. "This is the trick we have to play here," he said.

"The velocity at the start of the landing process is almost 1.68 km per second, but (at) this speed (the lander) is horizontal to the surface of the Moon. The Chandrayaan-3 here is tilted almost 90 degrees, it has to become vertical. So, this whole process of turning from horizontal to vertical is a very interesting calculation mathematically. We have done a lot of simulations. It is here where we had the problem last time (Chandrayaan-2)," Somanath explained.

After the soft-landing, the rover will descend from the lander's belly, onto the Moon's surface, using one of its side panels, which will act as a ramp.

The lander and rover will have a mission life of one lunar day (about 14 earth days) to study the surroundings there. However, ISRO officials do not rule out the possibility of them coming to life for another lunar day.

Continued on Page 2

26/11 mastermind Rana's deportation to India 'halted'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Overriding the Biden administration's appeal, a US court has ordered a stay on the extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India where he is facing a trial for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Rana, 62, has appealed before the Ninth Circuit Court against the order by a US District Court in the Central District of California that denied the writ of habeas corpus.

District Judge Dale S Fischer of the US District Court in Central California in his latest order said Rana's "ex parte application" seeking a stay on his extradition is granted.

"The extradition of Rana to India is stayed pending the conclusion of his appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit," Judge Fischer said in the order issued on August 18.

In doing so the judge overrode the Government's recommendations that there should be no stay on Rana's extradition.



Rana faces charges for his role in the Mumbai attacks and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

While the court does not find that Rana "has made a strong showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits" — otherwise the court would have ruled in his favour in the first instance — he has certainly raised serious legal questions going to the merits, the judge wrote.

"The proper meaning of 'offence' in Article 6(1) of the extradition treaty is not clear and different jurists could come to different conclusions. Rana's position is certainly colourable and could very well be found to be correct on appeal," the judge noted.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Govt shuts offices, schools from Sept 8-10 for G20 Summit

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has approved a proposal to declare a holiday from September 8 to 10 due to the G-20 summit in the national Capital. The order to this effect is expected to be issued soon.

Top sources said a proposal from the General Administrative Department has been approved by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. During the G20 summit, offices and schools of the Delhi Government, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will be closed.

Earlier, in view of planned security and traffic arrangements for the G20 summit, the Delhi Police has suggested declaring a public holiday and closing of commercial establishments located mostly in the New Delhi area.

In an August 18 letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, Special Police Commissioner Madhup Tiwari mentioned there will be arrangements of huge scale during G20 summit.

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by the Indian community upon his arrival at Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg on Tuesday. Modi is on a three-day official visit during which he will attend the 15th BRICS summit and hold bilateral meetings with a number of world leaders

PTI

Rules to curb vulgar OTT content soon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has assured the Delhi High Court that its policy governing social media platforms and intermediaries will incorporate necessary rules to ensure the space occupied by them is free from vulgar language and profanities.

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, in an affidavit showing compliance of the high court's earlier directions, said it has taken note of the concerns expressed by the HC in its earlier orders.

The HC had earlier said framing rules and guidelines to regulate the content on social media and OTT platforms need urgent attention.

It had underlined the need for taking seriously the use of vulgar language in public domain and on social media platforms which are open to children of tender age.

"It is stated that it is a policy decision and having taken note of the concerns of this court expressed through its directions, the concerned Ministry, while undertaking

its regular exercise of policy making, will incorporate rules/regulations to regulate the social media platforms, intermediaries for making it safer from the use of vulgar language including profanity, bad words, etc. as per the judgment of this court," Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said in an order on August 17.

Considering the submission of the Ministry, the HC disposed of the matter, saying it is a sufficient compliance of its previous orders.

"This court takes note of

the fact that it is a policy decision which is to be undertaken by the Ministry and the legislature, it is sufficient compliance of the order of this court.

"This court has been assured that the concerns of this court expressed through the said judgment will be incorporated in the future rules and regulations which will be shortly undertaken," the HC said.

The HC came down heavily on the language used in TVF web series 'College Romance'.

Continued on Page 2

India unveils car crash testing programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a historic step, the Centre on Tuesday launched the national transport crash testing programme Bharat NCAP aimed at improving road safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes.

To be implemented from October 1, 2023, the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is cheaper than tests conducted abroad, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

"Bharat NCAP is India's own crash testing programme. This is a very important programme....The cost of testing from abroad is ₹2.5 crore and in India (under) Bharat NCAP it comes to ₹60 lakh. So there can be a good market..." Gadkari said.

The programme is applicable to type approved motor vehicles of M1 category less than 3.5T GVW. This is a voluntary programme in which the base variants of a given model will be tested based on

Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.

According to the MoRTH statement, the programme aims to create an ecosystem of competitive safety enhancements leading to increased awareness among consumers. Consumers can take an

informed decision by making a comparative assessment on vehicle performance under crash test conditions.

"NCAP brings the opportunity to the OEMs to manufacture vehicles of global safety standards. The programme will be anchored by Central

Institute of Road Transport (CIRT). This programme has been evolved based on stakeholder consultations," the Ministry statement said.

"Today is a very important day in the history of the Indian automobile industry but it is also important for society. I really appreciate the way in which the Indian automobile industry cooperates and because of their cooperation today it is a time for all of us that we are launching the Bharat NCAP programme," Gadkari said addressing the gathering at the event.

He also said there is a huge demand for higher star rating vehicles. "People are cautious about safety, pollution. People want to use different types of fuel. If anywhere there is a new alternative available then they are ready to use," he said. Gadkari also highlighted that India is facing two important challenges — one is road accidents and another is air pollution, and "in some way our Ministry is responsible for that."

Continued on Page 2



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari with Minister of State General (Retd) VK Singh, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Secretary Anurag Jain and others during the launch of Bharat New Car Assessment Programme' (Bharat NCAP) in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Tendulkar new 'national icon' to educate voters

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary cricketer and Bharat Ratna awardee Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar is set to embark on a new journey as a "National Icon" for promoting voter awareness and education in collaboration with the Election Commission (EC).

As the EC's next face, Tendulkar finds himself in the company of former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, former Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni, actor Aamir Khan and former boxing world champion Mary Kom.

Kalam was EC's first

"National Icon" in 2010.

The EC hopes to leverage Tendulkar's popularity among the Indian youth to increase voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In an event in Delhi, the EC will sign a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Tendulkar in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel.

The signing ceremony will take place on August 23.

Continued on Page 2

22 more CAPF companies for Manipur likely

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is likely to deploy about 20-22 more companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in violence-hit Manipur after withdrawing these personnel from the security details of Amarnath Yatra, which is coming to a close soon.

These companies will be in addition to the 125 companies of already deployed in the northeastern State since the outbreak of ethnic violence in the first week of May.

A typical CAPF company

comprises about 100 personnel. Roughly 20-22 companies of CAPFs, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will be deployed in Manipur to strengthen the security grid in the State, according to officials.

These units are being withdrawn from Amarnath Yatra duty in Jammu & Kashmir due to the temporary suspension of the Yatra for pilgrims starting Wednesday."

Continued on Page 2

Pragg's first final game draw, still in reckoning

PTI ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa held his own against World Number 1 Magnus Carlsen to secure a draw in the first classical game of the final of the FIDE World Cup Chess here on Tuesday.

The 18-year old GM held his own against a fancied and higher-rated opponent and forced a stalemate in 35 moves playing white pieces.

In the middle of a major time crunch, Praggnanandhaa was able to hold Carlsen for a draw in an objectively equal position with white pieces. The Indian played a solid game and agreed to a draw on move 35. "I don't think I was in any



Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa and Norway's GM and World Number 1 player Magnus Carlsen during the final match of the Chess World Cup 2023 in Baku in Azerbaijan on Tuesday

PTI

trouble at all," Praggnanandhaa said after the game.

However Carlsen will have the advantage of playing white

in the second game of the two-match classical series on Wednesday.

Continued on Page 2

Rajasthan 'Sankalp Patra' based on development: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Convener of the BJP's election manifesto committee for Rajasthan and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Tuesday said "development and good governance" will be the basis of the party's "Sankalp Patra" for the Assembly elections in the State.

Meghwal, who was given a key portfolio of Law Minister by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has now been entrusted with the task of drafting the BJP's manifesto for Rajasthan. The State, which will go to polls later this year along with Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, is expected to witness a keen electoral battle between the ruling Congress and the BJP.

Continued on Page 2

IED detected near Nagrota along Jammu-Srinagar NH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Security forces averted a major tragedy along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Nagrota, with the timely detection of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) past Monday midnight.

The traffic was halted on the busy highway as teams of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) and other technical experts were rushed to the spot to defuse the IED.

According to police, the IED was planted near S Morh, ahead of Ban Toll Plaza, in the Nagrota area on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The Indian Army's White Knight Corps is located only a few kilometers away from the spot. SSP Jammu Chandan



Kohli in a statement said, "The suspicious object found at Panjgrain Nagrota Jammu was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). It has been destroyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) through a controlled mechanism. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigations have been launched.

Meanwhile, the security forces have launched search operations in the nearby areas

and also checked CCTV footage related to any suspicious movement in the area.

The presence of sleeper cells and active over-ground workers (OGWs) is a cause of concern as repeated incidents of IED detection, and drone dropping of weapons/narcotics have been reported across different areas of the Jammu region in recent months. On Tuesday, a suspicious object was also found lying along the highway in Rajouri prompting the authorities to divert the traffic in the Niali Manjakote area.

According to reports the local traffic was diverted through a link road and around seven kilometres of Highway stretch was closed down for carrying out thorough searches in the area.

'Agencies are harassing my family by conducting raids'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the central agencies for harassing her family members by conducting raids without notice. Banerjee's attack on the central agencies comes a day after the Enforcement Directorate raided companies and workshops owned by Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee who also happens to be her nephew.

Stopping short of naming any specific agency but dropping sufficient hints as to which agency she was meaning Banerjee said, "it is strange that while the Prime Minister talks about cooperation from all sides he attacks the opposition-ruled States as a political vendetta," adding how they (central agencies) are harassing



my family members everyday ... I don't know that he has done but just a day after the boy (junior Banerjee) returned (to India) they have started conducting raids in our houses... even if a small ant bites they will conduct a probe ... this is a clear act of political vendetta."

The Chief Minister who was speaking at a public programme alleged that the agency officials "entered the private premises without serving any notice ... and more importantly they would turn out the

inmates from the premises and conduct searches ... but who knows whether they are planting some explosive or any gun or bags of money that might bring with them to falsely implicate the people whose premises they are raiding."

The ED had on Monday raided various locations related to Abhishek including the premises of Leaps and Bounds of which a number of members of the Banerjee family including the Chief Minister's nephew himself functioned as managing directors or some other top officials.

In one such premises of Leaps and Bounds at Alipore in South Kolkata the ED officials recovered a number of digital evidences including "dubious transaction details," sources said adding about 1000 pages of important documents have been seized.

Biden to visit India for G-20 Summit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will travel to India from September 7 to 10 to attend the G-20 Leaders' Summit, the White House said on Tuesday.

President Biden and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including on the clean energy transition and combating climate change, mitigating the economic and social impacts of the Ukraine conflict, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Increasing the capacity of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, to better fight poverty,



including by addressing global challenges will also be discussed, the official added. While in New Delhi, President Biden will also commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership of the G20 and reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation, including by hosting it in 2026, Jean-Pierre added.

Sarore toll plaza, a new battleground in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A toll plaza located at Sarore in the Samba district has become a new battleground in the Jammu region. Not only different political parties and social activists, but the Bar Association of Jammu and Kashmir High Court (Jammu wing), Chamber of Commerce and Industry have also thrown

their hats in the ring to put pressure on the Union Territory Administration to address the genuine grievance of the commuters.

Since July 19, 2023 passengers have been facing hardships due to the suspension of traffic on the bridge over Tarnah Nallah along Jammu-Pathankot National Highway.

Flash floods caused damage to three pillars of the 580-meter-long bridge located between Dayalchak and Chadwal Morh stations on the Jammu-Pathankot-Delhi National Highway.

Since then, the traffic has been operated via the border route from Chadwal Morh-Sanjli Morh-Chaktra-Londirajpura-Ghagwal. Sensing the mood of the angry commuters, a campaign was launched to suspend the collection of toll fees at the Sarore toll plaza. In the absence of any plausible solution, the UT administration failed to address the grievance

of the commuters. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Sunday, said that he has taken up the issue of the Sarore toll plaza in Samba with the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India.

"People are facing problems due to damage caused to (Tarnah) bridge. The NHAI is sending its team and hopefully, the issue will be resolved," he added. Ironically, the National Highway Authority of India has failed to provide any alternative to the commuters. Though several attempts were made to construct a temporary diversion, the same could not be executed as the construction material was washed away on many occasions.

To lend support to cause, leaders belonging to different political parties including Bharatiya Janta Party, Congress, National Conference, APNI party issued statements demanding immediate suspension of toll plaza at Sarore.

Woman's intoxication doesn't give licence to man to take undue advantage, says court

New Delhi: A sessions court has observed that a woman's intoxicated state "does not give licence to her male friend to take undue advantage of her condition", as it upheld an order convicting a man who tried to kiss the victim and slapped her when she spurned his advances. Additional Sessions Judge Sunil Gupta was hearing an appeal filed by accused Sandeep Gupta against his conviction by a Mahila Court on February 5, 2019 under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt).

"The prosecution has proved that the appellant (Gupta) has used criminal force against the complainant knowing that he will thereby outrage her modesty by trying to kiss her and also voluntarily caused hurt to her by slapping her," the judge said in a recent order.

I give money to Imams as they prevent riots: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Offering a bizarre clarification on why she showered bounties on the Muslim clerics, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that though people criticise her for helping Imams and Muezzims she actually did so because they control riots and carry out public awareness programmes.

"Often my critics accuse me of helping Muslim clerics but I do so because they contribute immensely to social causes... they prevent riots during such situations, they carry out public awareness campaigns and they also help in polio eradication programmes," Banerjee said prompting Sate BJP leadership to wonder as to what her police were doing.

India...

From Page 1

The lander will have the capability to soft-land at a specified lunar site and deploy the rover which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. They both have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.

"After powered descent on to the landing site, there will be deployment of ramp and rover coming out. After this all the experiments will take place one after the other — all of which have to be completed in just one day on the moon, which is 14 days," Somnath said.

Noting that as long as the sun shines all the systems will have its power, he said, "the moment the sun sets, everything will be in pitch darkness, and temperature will go as low as minus 180 degree Celsius; so it is not possible for the systems to survive, and if it survives further, then we should be happy that once again it has come to life and we will be able to work on the system once

again, and we hope like that to happen." Polar regions of the moon are a very different terrain due to the environment and the difficulties they present and therefore have remained unexplored.

All the previous spacecraft to have reached the Moon landed in the equatorial region, a few degrees latitude north or south of the lunar equator. The Moon's south pole region is also being explored because there could be a possibility of presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.

The LM has payloads including RAMBHA-LP which is to measure the near surface plasma ions and electrons density and its changes, ChaSTE Chandra's Surface Thermo Physical Experiment — to carry out the measurements of thermal properties of lunar surface near polar region — and ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity) to measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

The rover, after the soft-landing, would ramp down of the lander module and study the surface of the moon through its payloads APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer - to derive the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance understanding of the lunar surface.

The rover also has another payload Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) to determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.

Somanath has said instead of a success-based design in Chandrayaan-2, the space agency opted for a failure-based design in Chandrayaan-3, focused on what all can fail and how to protect it and ensure a successful landing.

The LM of Chandrayaan-3 had successfully separated from the Propulsion Module on August 17, which was 35 days after satellite was launched on July 14.

26/11 mastermind...

From Page 1

"The final two factors "merge when the Government is the opposing party." There is value in compliance with India's extradition request, but Rana's extradition proceedings have been going on for more than three years, which suggests that the process has not been rushed so far. Otherwise, the public interest, if anything, favours Rana," the judge wrote.

"The public has a strong interest in the proper interpretation of extradition treaties, particularly in the interpretation of provisions that provide important individual protections like the one at issue here."

Further, there is a strong public interest in definitive, binding interpretations of treaties. District courts cannot provide those rulings; courts of appeals can," the judge wrote, throwing the legal battle to the Ninth Circuit Court now.

The US court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has asked Rana to submit his argument before October 10 and the US

Government has been asked to submit its response by November 8. Judge Fischer wrote that Rana has shown that he is likely to suffer significant irreparable harm absent a stay.

He will be extradited to India for a trial on serious crimes with no hope for a review of his arguments or hope for his return to the United States.

The Government admits this, but then argues that because "this claimed irreparable harm applies categorically to any fugitive who seeks a stay of extradition pending appeal," it does not count, the judge said.

Earlier the US attorney John J Lulejian appealed before the District Court to deny Rana's ex parte application for a stay of extradition pending appeal and argued that the stay would cause "unwarranted delay" in the United States' fulfillment of its obligations to India and this will damage its credibility in the international arena and impair its ability to obtain the cooperation of foreign nations in bringing United States fugitives to justice.

Rana, he argued, cannot show a likelihood of success on the merits of his claims or otherwise meet his burden of justifying a stay. "Accordingly, the United States respectfully requests that the Court deny his ex parte application," the US attorney wrote.

Rules to curb vulgar OTT content soon

From Page 1

It had said the use of obscenities in the form of foul language degrades women so they may feel victims as the expletives and obscenities refer to women being objects of sex.

The HC's March 6 verdict had come while upholding an order of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) asking the Delhi Police to register an FIR against TVF, the show's director Simeon Singh, and actor Apoorva Arora under the Information Technology Act.

It had clarified that the direction to register FIR does not include a direction to arrest any of the accused or petitioner. The court had said the challenge faced by India, as by many other countries, for enacting appropriate law, guidelines and rules to regulate the content on social media and OTT platforms needs urgent attention.

After watching a few episodes of the series, the court had found excessive use of 'swear words', 'profane language' and 'vulgar expletives'. The judge had said she had to watch the episodes with the aid of earphones in the chamber, as the profanity of language was such that it could not have been heard without shocking or alarming the people around.

22 more ...

From Page 1

About 10-15 more companies, deployed for the Amarnath pilgrimage protection duty, could be further moved to Manipur later when the Yatra officially comes to a close on August 31.

Violence in Manipur erupted in early May after a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The sectarian strife has taken a toll of over 160 persons and injuries to several hundred people from the two communities in Manipur.

About 20 CAPF companies withdrawn from the Amarnath Yatra are also being moved to Delhi for their deployment in the security grid of the September 9-10 G20 Leaders' Summit being held under India's presidency here.

On Sunday, the Jammu and Kashmir administration had declared that the Amarnath Yatra will remain temporarily suspended from August 23 in view of reduced pilgrim footfall and also for undertaking track restoration work of the path that leads to the cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

However, the "Chari Mubarak" (the holy mace of Lord Shiva) shall proceed via the traditional Pahalgam route marking culmination of Yatra as scheduled on August 31, the administration had said.

India unveils...

From Page 1

He said every year 5 lakh accidents and 1.5 lakh deaths take place in India. "Every day, 1,100 accidents and 400 deaths and every hour 47 accidents and 18 deaths. 70 per cent death is of 18 to 34 years and loss of GDP is 3.14 per cent," he said. "Head on collisions killed 27,000 people, while 18,000 died due to side collisions, said the Minister.

Emphasising on saving lives, Gadkari said "this is the time we have highest priority for how we can save the lives of the people and road safety is the most important thing for that."

"But it is not that only the automobile industry is responsible, somewhere road engineering is a big problem," he said.

"Now the most important thing which I feel is that the market is not cost-centric, but it is quality-centric. The automotive market in India has been changing lately with consumer's focus shifting from being cost-centric to quality-centric," he said.

"The dream of Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) to make India a 5 trillion economy is the basic backbone of the automobile industry, which is one of the largest employers, biggest export and biggest tax payer sector for the government. This industry is giving maximum GST to the State and the Central Government.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
(Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/2213/2022
Exh No.: 17243
[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
SURANDER TANWAR

To,
(1) SURANDER TANWAR D/W/S/O. BEER SINGH HOUSE NO 89 SFF IP COLONY SECT 30-33/ AMAR NAGAR FARIDABAD, HARYANA FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121003
Also At:
GANPATI CABLE TV NW HOUSE NO 1560 RAJIV NAGAR FARIDABAD, HARYANA
(2) SUNITA WIFE OF SH SURANDER TANWAR HOUSE NO 89 SFF IP COLONY SECT 30 AND 33, AMAR NAGAR, FARIDABAD, HARYANA
(3) MS FERROUS INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LTD., PLOT NO 34, BEHIND DEVENDER VIHAR SECTOR 56 GURGAON, HARYANA

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/2213/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 18/03/2023.
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 32,38,192/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and approval of the Tribunal.
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 25/08/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 18/04/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons.

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 23.08.2023

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
GMC/BR/23-24/RB/CR/SS/1156	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING 23M X 10M, PTFE FOUNDATION, EQUIPMENTS FOUNDATIONS & ALLIED WORKS AT 66/11 KV GRID, G-5 DWARKA.	2.23 Crore	4.46 Lakhs	12.09.2023 15:00 HRS	12.09.2023 15:15 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com.

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 | Web Site : www.bsesdelhi.com

Rajasthan 'Sankalp Patra'...

From Page 1

BJP has excluded former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vijay Raje from the election manifesto panel. The Central leadership is keeping cards close to chest on its choice of potential Chief Ministerial candidate in the State. Speaking to news persons before the first meeting of the poll manifesto committee at the BJP's State headquarters in Jaipur, Meghwal accused Chief

Minister Ashok Gehlot of indulging in the politics of appeasement. "Our 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) will be prepared on the basis of development and good governance," he said. BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh is also in Jaipur to chair meetings of the party's election management and manifesto committees, which were announced last week.

Tendulkar new 'national icon' to educate voters

From Page 1

In a statement, the EC said, "This collaboration would mark a significant step towards leveraging Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth demographic for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in General Elections 2024."

The EC has been associating itself with renowned Indians from various fields by designating them as its "National Icons" to motivate voters for participation in the electoral process. In 2022, the EC nominated Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi as the icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, stalwarts such as MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the EC's national icons. Tendulkar is widely regarded as one of the finest batters to have played the game. He is the only player to have scored 100 centuries.

Pragg's first final game draw...

From Page 1

Pragnanandhaa said later in an interaction posted on the "X" (formerly Twitter) handle of FIDE: "Rb8, I felt I should have done something there. But maybe this position is just solid and I don't have anything. What I played there was not the best try but I could not find anything."

About tomorrow's second game against Carlsen, he said, "It'll be a fight. He'll definitely push very hard. I'll try to rest and come fresh, I think that's the best I can do."

Carlsen, who has been under the weather due to food poisoning said that even though he had a break, he wasn't in best physical shape.

"Normally, I would just probably have a bit of an advantage having a rest day while he had to play a tough tie-break yesterday but I've been in a pretty rough shape the last couple of days.

Vigilance Dept's plea to indict AAP MLA: LG refers to Speaker

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (LG) VK Saxena has referred the Vigilance Department's request to Delhi Assembly Speaker, seeking prosecution sanction against Akhilesh Pati Tripathi, Model Town MLA from the AAP in a bribery case, a Raj Niwas official said. Tripathi is accused of demanding Rs 90 lakh bribe for securing an AAP ticket to a woman aspirant in the 2022 MCD elections. A complaint in this regard was lodged by the woman's husband, following which the ACB registered a case. The incident came to light after Gopal Khari, who claimed to be an active AAP worker since 2014 approached the ACB with the complaint.



constitutional propriety and allow prosecution of the MLA. Three people, including the MLA's brother-in-law Om Singh, Shiv Shankar Pandey alias Vishal Pandey (Personal Assistant of Tripathi) and Prince Raghuvanshi were arrested on November 16, last year in the matter. In November 2022, Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court had granted bail to Shiv Shankar Pandey, who is Tripathi's personal assistant. Pandey was arrested from the complainant's residence

and confirmatory statements by the other accused. "The CCTV footage at the house of Wazirpur AAP MLA Rajesh Gupta at about 1.30 AM on November 12, 2022 shows the complainant leaving. The CCTV footage also indicates the arrival of Tripathi at Gupta's residence and his presence there for a while," he said. All the accused confessed during the investigation that Tripathi gave Rs 33 lakh in cash to return to the husband of the aspirant. Saxena, while referring the matter to Goel, noted that the Speaker is the competent authority to grant prosecution sanction in the case as the accused is a sitting MLA. The Supreme Court verdict in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI (1998) case also held that the Speaker's sanction is needed for prosecution of MPs and MLAs for offences made under the Prevention of Corruption Act as they are public servants for the purpose of the law, the officials added.

1 day judicial custody for officer, wife Politics, says DCW as bid to meet victim fails; NCPCR chief let in

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Tuesday sent to one day judicial custody suspended Women and Child Development (WCD) department officer Premoday Khakha who allegedly raped a minor girl several times and impregnated her. His wife Seema Rani, who is accused of giving the girl medicine to terminate her pregnancy, was also sent to judicial custody for a day. Both were produced separately before the duty metropolitan magistrate, Katyayani Sharma Kandwal. In a related development, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Tuesday requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to direct the Delhi Police to allow her to meet the girl. In a letter to Shah, she also urged him to order an inquiry into the delay in arresting the accused and to shift the 16-year-old girl to AIIMS for better treatment. "In case the survivor and her family do not want to be shifted to AIIMS, a team of doctors from AIIMS should be sent to examine her and oversee her treatment," the



DCW chief wrote. A police officer said the girl's mother did not want to meet anyone since her daughter is still under observation. Maliwal, who began her dharna on Monday morning, left the hospital on Tuesday afternoon after failing to meet the survivor. Maliwal, said while the police and hospital authorities prevented her from meeting the girl and her mother, they allowed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson to interact with the mother. "It is extremely unfortunate that even though I waited for over 24 hours outside the hospital and even slept there, the Delhi Police and the hospital authorities disallowed my meeting with the survivor or her family. Despite my repeated requests, I was not allowed to meet with the survivor or her family, which is an illegal act, both by the Delhi Police and the private hospital (sic)," the letter read. She alleged that the police and the hospital authorities "misused their power" to stall the DCW's functioning. In a post on X, Maliwal said

in Hindi, "Had I not come to meet the girl, they would have said that I didn't bother to see her. Now, when I am here, they are saying it's a drama. Politics has fallen to such levels that politicians cannot speak the truth." Khakha, was recruited as a Welfare Officer in the Delhi Government in 1998. He has worked in the WCD and social welfare departments for the last 25 years. He also dealt with rights and welfare of vulnerable groups and children, according to his social media profiles and official documents. In his work profile on LinkedIn, Premoday Khakha says he aims at "building relationships to protect humanity." His LinkedIn profile says he was a resource trainer on child protection, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. He was also the superintendent of the juvenile home where the minor accused in the Nirbhaya case was detained. He has a 21-year-old son and a 22-year-old daughter.

On Atishi's order, CS sets up panel to inspect SDM offices

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Delhi Vigilance Minister Atishi directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to take action against Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) officials allegedly asking for bribes and submit a report within a week, Kumar who is also the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), formed a committee of senior officials from various departments to inspect the offices of the SDM, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Tahsildar and the Engineering Department. The committee will recommend how to improve the functioning of these offices keeping in mind the procedural changes required for the 'Ease of Doing Business (EODB)' and simplification of processes and applicable laws.

The committee members are AK Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, Dilraj Kaur, Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Ashok Kumar, Secretary, Education Department and Buniyad Singh, Assistant Director, Vigilance Department. The committee will inspect the process followed by these offices and submit its report in the next 20 days. "The committee will study the processes followed in the above-mentioned offices, and make recommendations for identification and implementation of systematic improvement measures like procedural changes required in these departments for EODB and simplification of processes and applicable laws, leveraging of information technology to make the processes faceless in a time-bound manner, including introduction of blockchain technology in such processes, effective implementation of e-Courts, effective monitoring processes, including mechanism for inspections of such offices along with frequency and level of such inspections, capacity building programs and any other suggestion the

Committee would like to make to improve the transparency and efficiency in these offices," the order said. It further added that the committee may co-opt any other officer of the GNCTD for this purpose and secretariat assistance to the committee will be provided by the Vigilance Department. The committee will submit its recommendations to the CS-cum-CVO by September 11. On Monday, Vigilance Minister Atishi in a communication to Kumar, asked that a team be formed comprising senior IAS and DANICS officers to inspect the SDM offices. "This team should visit all SDM offices within the next week and conduct an on-site inspection to uncover any instances of corrupt practices," she said. Atishi added that people complained during public hearings that some officials were demanding bribes to expedite their work related to various certificates issued by the Revenue Department.

5 more Mohalla Clinics inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated five Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMCs). These mohalla clinics are located at Keshopur Vegetable Market, Shahbad Dairy, Govindpuri and Kalkaji Market. The Government said that similar facilities will soon come up in Gazipur, Murga Mandi and Okhla Mandi, just like the Keshopur Mandi. At present, a total of 533 AAMCs are functional in Delhi. Kejriwal asserted that even rich people are seeking treatment at these medical facilities as doctors and services there are good. In a veiled attack on the BJP, Kejriwal alleged that "these people conspired" against Delhiites and "tried to stop" development works, but asserted that he would not allow any such move. The AAP national convenor made the comments on the microblogging site 'X' after inaugurating five new mohalla clinics, including a women-only facility fully staffed by women. In a post in Hindi on 'X', Kejriwal said, "These people hatched big conspiracies against the people of Delhi and tried to stop the work of the people of Delhi. But I assure every Delhiite that I will not let any work be stopped." "Five new mohalla clinics started in Delhi today. In the last one year, more than two crore people got themselves treated at all the mohalla clinics of Delhi. People have benefited a lot from Mohalla Clinics," he added. There was no immediate reaction



Chief Minister Kejriwal inaugurates new Mohalla Clinics, in New Delhi. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

from the BJP. After inaugurating the new clinic, Kejriwal said the footfall at AAMCs in 2022-23 was over two crore while more than 10 lakh tests were conducted in this period. Mohalla clinics are one of the flagship initiatives of the Kejriwal Government to boost the primary healthcare system in Delhi. The project was started in 2015-16. In his address, Kejriwal said that five Mahila Mohalla Clinics are operational in Delhi and there demand is demand for more such facilities.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, Environment Minister Gopal Rai and Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh were among those present on the occasion. "Once Saurabh Bharadwaj, who is an MLA from Greater Kailash, asked me that a mohalla clinic be opened in his constituency too. I was wondering if it was needed in that area where the rich and well-off live," Kejriwal said. Now, there are 11 AAMCs in Greater Kailash, he said.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, Environment Minister Gopal Rai and Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh were among those present on the occasion. "Once Saurabh Bharadwaj, who is an MLA from Greater Kailash, asked me that a mohalla clinic be opened in his constituency too. I was wondering if it was needed in that area where the rich and well-off live," Kejriwal said. Now, there are 11 AAMCs in Greater Kailash, he said.

Closure of Gargi College molestation case miscarriage of justice: HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court (HC) has voiced its "unease" over the impending closure of a case of alleged sexual harassment of girl students during a cultural festival at the Gargi College of Delhi University (DU) in February 2020 in which the police have filed an "untraced report" before a trial court. The court said media reports alluding to the detention and subsequent release of certain individuals necessitate a comprehensive follow-up, and asked the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) concerned to personally look into the matter and supervise the investigation in the criminal case lodged in the incident. The HC, which was

informed by the police that none of the witnesses have come forward to make a statement, said the law enforcement agencies must instill confidence in victims and witnesses, and help them to come forward to make necessary disclosures about the incident. While the order was passed on August 17, it was made available on the HC's website on Tuesday. "The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, ought to be leveraged to fortify the investigation and safeguard witnesses. It is crucial to scrutinise all available footage, especially those capturing the vehicles, given the evidence suggesting their significant role in the incident," a Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula said in its

five-page order. "This court voices its unease regarding the impending closure of a grievous incident without holding any individual accountable. While some testimonies have been collected, the lack of definitive evidence under Section 164 of CrPC poses challenges," the HC said. The Bench said such hesitancy on part of the witnesses to come forward to make a statement needs to be addressed. It noted that according to the newspaper report on record, the accused arrived in the campus vicinity in trucks and said that such CCTV footage must be thoroughly examined to identify the vehicles used, which in turn can lead to the offenders. On February 6, 2020, a group of men had broken into



the all-women college during the 'Reverie' festival and allegedly groped, harassed and molested women, who claimed that security personnel stood mute spectators to the incident. The incident came to light after some students took to Instagram to narrate their ordeal and alleged that security personnel did nothing to control the unruly groups. The Bench noted that media reports indicate that certain individuals were apprehended but were later released on bail

and said to let go of such potential leads without meticulous scrutiny will be a "miscarriage of justice". To ensure prevention of any recurrence of such incidents, the high court said a two-pronged approach is required. "First, the Commissioner of Police, in conjunction with the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, is directed to bolster police visibility and surveillance during college events. Secondly, both the college and Delhi University administrations must work in concert with the police to establish protective protocols, ensuring students' safety," the bench said. The court's order came while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a court-monitored CBI investigation into the incident.

During the hearing, the counsel for Delhi Police submitted that the city police have filed an "untraced report" before the trial court as not even a single girl identified anyone who sexually harassed them. An untraced report is filed when an accused does not join investigation or police are unable to arrest an accused in a case. The students said they were molested but none of them came forward for recording their statement before a magistrate as they have moved on in their lives and their families do not want to pursue any criminal, police said. The Delhi police's counsel also said they have scanned the CCTV footage of the camera installed outside the college gate but could not identify who all

indulged in alleged acts of sexual harassment. Regarding the criminal investigation, the bench said since the proceedings are pending before a magisterial court in Saket, the high court deems it apt to refrain from any further monitoring and no further orders are required to be passed in the PIL. According to the police, a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

Court nod for Sisodia to use MLA funds for Patparganj's development

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court has granted permission to former Deputy Chief Minister and MLA from Patparganj Manish Sisodia to utilise his MLA fund. He had filed an application before a city court to give him permission to release funds for development work in his Patparganj constituency. Sisodia's plea came after the residents of Patparganj wrote to him asking him to complete pending work, including development of local roads, society gates, barriers, water coolers, and cleanliness of community centers among others. Reacting to the permission granted by the court, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressed pride over Sisodia's dedication. He said, "Even in jail, Manish Sisodia is concerned about the welfare of the people of Delhi and his Assembly constituency." According to a statement issued by the AAP, Sisodia who is in jail in connection with the alleged liquor scam was continuously receiving letters from the people of his constituency regarding development projects. "In response, Manish Sisodia filed an application in the Rouse Avenue Court seeking permission to withdraw funds from his MLA fund for the development of the area," the AAP said.



Praying for successful landing of Chandrayaan, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As India looks to become the first country to reach the uncharted south pole of the Earth's only natural satellite, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said he is praying for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander module on the Moon along with the entire country. Kejriwal said it is a matter of joy that the ISRO's ambitious Chandrayaan-3 lander module is going to land on the surface of the Moon on Wednesday. "I pray to God for the successful landing of Chandrayaan. The whole country is eagerly awaiting the landing," Kejriwal said on the sidelines of an event. The landing module comprising

the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) is scheduled to make a soft-landing near the south polar region of the Moon at 6:04 PM on Wednesday. If the Chandrayaan-3 mission succeeds in making a touchdown on the Moon and in landing a robotic lunar rover in ISRO's second attempt in four years, India will become the fourth country to master the technology of soft-landing on the lunar surface after the US, China and the erstwhile Soviet Union. Chandrayaan-2 had failed in its lunar phase when its lander 'Vikram' crashed into the surface of the Moon following anomalies in the braking system in the lander while attempting a touchdown on September 7, 2019.

BJP launches mobile awareness campaign on need for Services Act

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday launched a public information campaign through seven mobile vans to explain to the people of the national Capital why the central Government needed to bring the Delhi Services Act. BJP national vice-president and incharge of Delhi, Bajjayant Panda, State president Virendra Sachdeva, MPs Dr Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Bidhuri and Pravesh Singh flagged off the campaign from the State office. The vans will go to all 70 Assembly constituencies to help Delhiites understand the need for the Delhi Services Act to provide development and clean administration. On this occasion, State General Secretary Harsh Malhotra, Yogendra Chandolia and Kamaljit Shrawat, BJP leaders Pawan Sharma, Ashish Sood, State vice-president Gajendra Yadav, Vishnu Mittal,



BJP vice-president Bajjayant Panda and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva during the launch of mobile vans for the party's campaign. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Yogita Singh and Sunita Kangra and other officials of the State along with prominent workers were present. Gajendra Yadav will coordinate the 10-day mobile van campaign.

Panda said that the Kejriwal Government is anti-people. Comparing the Chief Minister to a film villain, Panda said, "Many of the Chief Minister's Cabinet Ministers are tainted.

Two of them are in jail in connection with a scam worth hundreds of crores, a former Minister is accused of rape and today, the name of a Minister has come to the fore in the form of Kailash Gahlot, who had selected a person who exploited a minor girl as his OSD." "Kejriwal always says that he gets coverage in foreign countries but the reality is that he is running a Government steeped in corruption," he said. Panda said Kejriwal has been promoting them as part of his success story in the country by publishing sponsored news in foreign media, but now the people of Delhi and the country have understood his false game and will not be confused. Virendra Sachdeva said that the direct answer to why the Delhi Services Act is necessary is that it has been brought to stop the arbitrary and false propaganda of the chaotic Kejriwal Government and to provide justice to Delhiites.

Seema Haider sends rakhis to 'brothers' Modi, Shah, Bhagwat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Pakistani national Seema Haider on Tuesday said she has sent 'rakhis' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and others ahead of Raksha Bandhan. Haider, who entered India illegally via Nepal earlier this year, said she has also sent rakhis to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "I have posted these (rakhis) in advance so that they reach my brothers, on whose shoulders this country's responsibility lies, well in time. I am very happy. Jai Shri Ram. Jai Hind. Hindustan Zindabad," Haider said in a purported video that surfaced on social media on Tuesday. In another clip, the 30-year-old woman from Sindh province

of Pakistan is purportedly seen along with her children packing rakhis, with the song "Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan ko Nibhaana" playing in the background. Haider had illegally entered India through Nepal to live with her lover Sachin Meena who stays in Greater Noida. She had come along with her four children — all below the age of 7 years — in May and lived in Rabupura area in a rented accommodation secretly. Haider and Meena, who claimed to have got in touch over online game PUBG in 2019-20, were arrested on July 4 this year, but a local court granted them bail on July 7. The duo has been living together in Greater Noida ever since, even as the local police and the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad continue separate investigations into the case.

Free medical bodies from NMC curbs: IMA to Health Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has expressed concern over the regulations which bar doctors from attending conferences sponsored by pharma companies saying such a prohibition warrants reconsideration.



Members of the Indian Medical Association and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance on Monday had met Mandaviya and expressed their concerns over the NMC regulations. The National Medical Commission (NMC) in its 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners' stated that all doctors must prescribe generic drugs, failing which they will be penalised and their licence to practice may also be suspended for a period. "It is a matter of concern for IMA since this directly impacts patient care and safety. It is believed that less than 1 percent of the generic drugs manufactured in India are tested for quality. Patient care and safety are nonnegotiable for both, the government and the medical profession," the IMA said in its letter.

The quality assurance mechanism in our country is very weak, the association pointed out. India has more than 3 lakh batches of 70,000 drug formulations, the quality assurance mechanism in our country can ascertain the quality control of only 15753 drugs annually, it said. In 2023, only around 12000 tests were conducted by CDSCO and State Drug Control Department together. If we consider one sample from each batch tested, the minimum required number of tests was around 3,00,000," the IMA stated. According to the NMC regulations, "Registered medical practitioners and their families must not receive any gifts, travel facilities, hospitality, cash or monetary grants... Access to entertainment or recreation from pharmaceutical companies or their representatives, commercial healthcare establishments, medical device companies, or corporate hospitals under any pretext."

Also, registered medical practitioners should not be involved in any third-party educational activity like seminar, workshop, symposia and conference, which involves direct or indirect sponsorships from pharmaceutical companies or the allied health sector, the regulations stated. On this, the IMA said that rather than assuming that sponsorships affect the educational process, the focus should be on ensuring transparent and unbiased presentations, enabling healthcare professionals to make informed judgments.

Ladakh trip is continuation of Bharat Jodo Yatra: Jairam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday said their party leader Rahul Gandhi's Ladakh Yatra is a continuation of the Bharat Jodo Yatra as his trip to the Union Territory was in fulfilment of a commitment made to a delegation from there during his cross-country march.

It is to be held in the next few months. Jairam said Rahul's visit to Ladakh this week is in fulfilment of a commitment made to that delegation, which had wanted him to come and hear the people's perceptions of the border challenges with China, and also their views on empowerment of local elected bodies.

detailed tour of Ladakh. I came to Pangong and am going to visit Nubra and Kargil," he had said. In a post on Instagram, he said 'Bharat Jodo' is deeply rooted in every Indian's heart and mind. "The resonating chant of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' echoing through the streets of Leh serves as a strong example of this unity. No power can suppress this voice, brimming with affection and camaraderie," he said and posted pictures from his visit to the Leh main market. Rahul also rode a motorcycle from Leh to Pangong Lake in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Ramesh said, "On 24th January earlier this year, Rahul Gandhi had met with a delegation from Ladakh during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu."

Rahul reached Leh on a two-day visit on Thursday, later deciding to extend his stay in the region by four more days to cover Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley and Kargil district. In one his interaction in the Union Territory, the former chief had said he was planning to visit Ladakh during his Bharat Jodo Yatra but had to abandon the plan due to some "logistical reasons". "So I thought let me come and do a

Peaceful Future". "Terrorism is borderless. It can happen anywhere, anytime. United Nations needs to pull its weight on some of these matters which globally affect all of us," Kang said at a special virtual event organised by the UN to mark the 6th commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.



Canada-based bizman held in Defence spying case: CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested a Canada-based businessman in connection with a Defence espionage case in which a journalist and a former Navy Commander were held in May.



the case earlier this year. In May, the CBI took over the probe from the Delhi Police's Special Cell which was tracking Raghuvanshi since September last year. The CBI took over the case following a directive from the Union Home Ministry. Raghuvanshi and his kinsfolk purportedly received Rs 3 crore originating from foreign shores, according to the CBI.

'Won't fight LS polls, will serve India through films'

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor and Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol has announced that he would not contest next Lok Sabha poll and instead give his "service" to the nation as an actor.



duced a special screening of the film in London. Organised by the Indian High Commission in London and its cultural wing, the Nehru Centre, the packed screening at Vue cinema Leicester Square on Monday night brought together diplomats, community leaders as well as artists such as filmmaker Shekhar Kapoor.

Terrorism is borderless; UN, world must end it: 26/11 attack survivor

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Underlining the challenge posed by terrorism, survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks Karambir Singh Kang has said terrorism is borderless and the United Nations (UN), as well as the international community, need to put their weight behind ending the scourge.



India, Philippines' coast guards ink MoU to enhance relations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to bilateral ties between the two countries, Director General Coast Guard Rakesh Pal and Coast Guard Admiral Artemio M Abu, Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) inked a Memorandum of Understanding here on Tuesday. It relates to enhanced maritime cooperation.



CBI raids GTL Infra office in ₹4,000 crore loan fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has conducted searches at the office of Mumbai-based GTL Infrastructure Ltd (GTL) after registering an FIR against it and unidentified officials of banks in a loan-fraud case of over ₹4,000 crore.

India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Andhra Bank, Bank of India, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, United Bank of India and Dena Bank, they said.

said. The lender banks decided to invoke Strategic Debt Restructuring in 2016, in which out of the total loan of 11,263 crore, a debt of Rs 7,200 crore was converted into equity shares, leaving an outstanding amount of Rs 4,063 crore, which was payable by GTIL to the consortium, according to the said.

Traditional medicine use on rise globally: WHO study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Signifying that the reach of Traditional medicine is on the rise across the globe, initial findings of the latest Global Survey on Traditional Medicine by the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that 97 out of 157-member States of the global health agency have national policies regarding the alternate system of medicine.



emphasis on the importance of Traditional Medicine for attainment of UHC and WHO's commitment to work toward it through evidence generation and policy support to member states. Among others, the most widely used traditional medicine systems today include those of China, India, and Africa.

Parl, Assemblies now hotbeds of disturbance: Dhankhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ UDAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Parliament presiding officers on Tuesday regretted that the dignity of legislatures have come on a decline nowadays. While Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said Parliament and legislatures have turned into "hotbeds of disturbance" and "fast surging into irrelevance", leaving the country in a "cliff-hanger-like" situation, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla expressed concern over decline in dignity and decorum in legislatures.



monsoon session of Parliament earlier this month when crucial bills were passed by both the Houses amid repeated protests and disruption by opposition parties over the situation in Manipur. Birla observed that dignity of legislatures depends on how law makers behave in the House to improve people's lives. In this regard, the lower house presiding officer highlighted the role of legislators in finding solutions to present and future challenges.

Rajasthan gets 5th tiger reserve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts on Tuesday with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal in this regard. This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills and Ramgarh Vishdhari.



Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav wrote on the microblogging site X. The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6 per cent, according to government data. With a 50 per cent increase in the last four years, Madhya Pradesh has maximum number of tigers in the country (785), followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).

also cautioned against the doling out of freebies by political parties and called on elected representatives to check such instances of misgovernance.

Presiding Officers of 23 States and Union Territories participated in the Conference. Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative

Assembly of Rajasthan also graced the occasion. Dhankhar, also Chairman Rajya Sabha, said if parliamentarians, representatives of the people don't occupy public space in Parliament, other people will occupy it outside. "The temples of democracy meant for dialogue, deliberation, debate and discussion are, these days, because of the legislators, representatives of people, hotbeds of disturbance and disruption," he said.

The valedictory session of the two-day conference was attended by Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C P Joshi. Dhankhar's remarks have come against the backdrop of the near wash-out of the

G20 CWG meeting begins today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This ancient city is, once again, ready to host yet another G20 meeting. The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting will begin on Wednesday culminating in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM) on August 26. The delegates from G20 member nations, invitee countries, and various international organisations will attend the meeting.

In 2020, under the Saudi Arabian presidency, the Culture Ministers' met for the first time on the sidelines of the G20. In 2021, Culture was formalised as a working group during the Italian presidency, leading to the inaugural G20 CMM and the consequential Rome Culture Ministers' Declaration. The 'Bali Declaration' of 2022 under the Indonesian presidency further stressed the role of culture in sustainable development. In Varanasi, this would be the fourth time that the Culture Ministers of the G20 members and invitee countries would be meeting.

Building upon the success of the previous three CWG meetings in Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar and Hampi, as well as the four Global Thematic webinars, the 4th CWG meeting in Varanasi, from August 23 to 25, aims to arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy making.

The insights and recom-



Varanasi ready for G20 CWG meeting commencing from Wednesday.

mentations from the expert-driven Global Thematic webinars on the priority areas of the CWG have been collated in a comprehensive report titled 'G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth'. This insightful report,

by India's G20 presidency's CWG, will be launched in Varanasi as a part of the CMM.

The 3rd CMM in Varanasi will be an opportunity to catalyse collective actions for accelerating progress on the four priority areas articulated by the

Indian presidency- protection and restitution of cultural property, harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future, promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy, and leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture.

The CWG, under India's G20 presidency, had launched the 'Culture Unites All' campaign to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism based on peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures and communities. The CWG is releasing a special stamp to commemorate the campaign on August 26. The 'Culture Unites All' postage stamp has been crafted as a distinctive emblem combining the ideas of connectivity, communication, and journey representing a cultural exchange and establishing cultural context.

The delegates will have the opportunity to experience world-renowned Ganga Aarti on the banks of the river Ganga, and explore the beautiful history of the lion capital of Sarnath.

The G20 Global Orchestra performance titled 'Sur Vasudha' celebrating the rich musical knowledge and heritage of G20 member nations and invitee countries will be presented in the city. The delegates will also witness cultural performances including Indian classical music and dance forms during their time in Varanasi.

People believe in PM Modi's leadership: Anupriya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and national president of Apna Dal (Sonelal) Anupriya Patel said her party "has been associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 2014, and would contest the 2024 parliamentary polls as an alliance partner of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)".

She said "we had contested many elections jointly and registered victory". Anupriya, who was in the city on Monday to meet party leaders and workers, said, "The NDA government has not only worked for the poor, but also created a massive infrastructure in the country in the past nine years. People of the country believe in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and NDA will do a hat-trick in the forthcoming parliamentary polls."

Targeting Samajwadi Party (SP) national president and ex-chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, the union minister said the people of the state had rejected the SP in many elections, and asserted that the SP

will not be able to get any place in the forthcoming parliamentary polls.

On being asked about senior Congress party leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi contesting elections from UP, Anupriya said: "Everyone has the right to contest elections from anywhere. It's their party's decision."

EXAM DATE: Staff Selection Commission has announced the exam date for four recruitments to be held in October, November and December. There will be Tier-2 exam for all the four recruitments. The Tier-1 examination of Combined Graduate Level (CGL)-2023 organised by SSC has been conducted from July 14 to 27. Its result is likely to come in September.

After that Tier-2 exam will be held on October 25, 26 and 27. The Tier-1 examination of Combined Higher Secondary Level (CHSL)-2023 has been conducted from August 2 to 17. Its result can come in

September or October. After that its Tier-2 exam will be conducted on November 2.

The online application process for Junior Engineer (JE) Recruitment Exam-2023 has been completed on August 16. Its Tier-1 exam will be conducted on October 10 and 11. After that Tier-2 exam will be conducted on December 4. The Tier-1 examination of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) sub-inspector recruitment will be conducted from October 3 to 6. The Tier-2 exam will be held on December 22.

The tentative answer key for Tier-1 examination of Combined Higher Secondary Level (CHSL)-2023 conducted by SSC has been released. The examination was held from August 2 to 17 at 70 centres in 19 cities of UP and Bihar.

The attendance in the examination conducted for recruitment to 1,600 posts in Central government departments and ministries was 41.66 per cent.

INDIA coalition strongest option: Sumaiya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Sumaiya Rana, daughter of noted Urdu poet Munawwar Rana and national vice president of Samajwadi Mahila Sabha has said the opposition bloc INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) would win all 80 Lok Sabha seats of Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 parliamentary elections.

"The INDIA coalition comprising 26 political parties, including Samajwadi Party, Congress, AAP and others is the strongest option (majboot vikalp). It would win all 80 seats in the state in parliamentary polls," said Sumaiya, who was in the city on Monday to attend SP's mahila sabbha meet.

She also there has been rising cases of atrocities on women and incidents like Manipur are shameful for the country. "Since the BJP-led NDA government came to power at Centre, communal harmony has been disturbed. NDA grabbed the power by coining the slogan 'sabka sath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas' but people of the country are now fed up with them. There has been increasing incidents of violence in the name of caste and religion across the country. The union government has failed to control it," she said.

Rana asked members and office-bearers of mahila sabbha to knock at every door and apprise people about the policies of INDIA and the achievements of former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav's government among the masses.

WATER CRISIS: Unscheduled power cuts since Sunday night has led to water crisis in areas like Rasoolabad, Shila Khana, Badri Awas Yojana and adjoining areas on Tuesday.

UPCC general secretary and senior Congress leader Mukund Tiwari said: "Residents of about half a dozen localities faced water crisis due to unscheduled power cuts since Sunday night. The areas have been getting erratic power supply for the past 48 hours causing water crisis in many households."

These areas come under Teliyananj power sub-station. "A delegation of locals on Monday handed over a memorandum to chief engineer and sought proper power supply as well as removal of defunct

transformers and electric poles and wires in the localities," he said.

Meanwhile, officials of power department claimed that due to revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS), the work of removing frayed electric wires and poles was being carried out in the area. For removal of frayed wires and poles, Power department has ordered load shedding from 11am to 5 pm (five to six hours) daily and this has affected the power supply in Govindpur, New MES and Teliyananj localities.

"The objective is to improve the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers through a sustainable and operationally efficient distribution sector," the official said.

13 dengue patients found so far

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 13 dengue patients have been found so far in the district this year and, all of them have been recovered after treatment. Giving this information, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that the risk of mosquito-borne disease dengue increases due to water logging during the rainy season and appealed to the people do not allow water to stagnate in the houses and its surrounding areas for more than a week, because Aedes, the dengue mosquito, thrives in clean water.

"This mosquito is identified by white stripes and it bites during the day. According to the data received from the District Malaria Office, not a single dengue patient was found in the district till July this year, but 13 dengue patients have been confirmed so far in this month. That's why it is necessary to pay attention to cleanliness once a week by eliminating accumulated and stagnant water," he said.



Health department team searching for mosquito larvae in Varanasi.

According to him, the Health department along with Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) and Panchayati Raj department is making efforts at every level for the prevention and effective action of mosquito-borne disease dengue. "For this, the public also needs to be aware and alert," he added.

ACMO and Nodal Officer Dr SS Kanaujia said that anti-larvae spraying and fogging work are being done continuously with the help of VMC in the

city and Panchayati Raj department in the villages to check the positive patients of dengue. Along with this, people suffering from fever etc are being identified by the ASHA workers.

"Continuous action is being taken for prevention and control of the dengue in the district apart from making the people aware," he said.

District Malaria Officer (DMO) Sharat Chand Pandey also confirmed that 13 dengue patients have been found in the

district so far this year. "All these patients were found positive in ELISA tests. Out of this, 12 patients were found in urban areas like Chhatnipur (Shivpur), Ramna, Adharnipur (Lohta), Jalalipatti (BLW), Khojwan, Dafu, Sagra and Samne Ghat, while one patient was found in Bhabhiya Amba village under Chiraigaon block in rural area.

"All the patients have been treated and none is in critical condition. They all have been recovered fully," he said, adding that apart from this, 31,092 houses have been monitored so far by domestic breeding checkers.

"Larvae were found in a total of 561 utensils, out of which mosquito larvae were found in 144 coolers, 37 fridges, 45 water tanks, 96 pots, 101 drains and 138 other tires and unsuitable utensils. All these sources were destroyed with immediate effect. Apart from this, notices have been given to 286 houses in the last two months after larvae were found in the water stored in the houses," he informed.

Properties of Zainab, others to be attached

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The properties of Zainab Alias Ruby, shooter Sabir and Armaan, who have been declared absconders in connection with the murder of Umesh Pal and his two government gunners, will now be attached. The Dhoomanganj police have started preparations for this.

Efforts are being made to confiscate the property by tightening the legal noose on all three.

In this sensational murder case, a reward of Rs 5 lakh has been declared on the shooter Sabir, a resident of Mariyadhi, Armaan Bihari of MG Marg Civil Lines. Zainab, wife of Ashraf, has also been accused of involvement in the conspir-

acy of murder. Recently on the orders of the court, the police had pasted notices under Section 82 of the CrPC at their homes.

Sources said in search of the accused, the police, along with the SOG, the Special Task Force team is also raiding the suspected hideouts, but no clue is being found.

CHAKKA JAM: After the body of a minor girl who had committed suicide being distressed by harassment was taken home on Monday evening after post-mortem, family members and villagers became enraged and resorted to chakka jam by placing the body at Sehra intersection. They accused the police of not filing a case of kidnapping and

wrote a case of suicide because of harassment. Angry with the police villagers took the body to the village and kept it at the Sehra intersection late on Monday evening after the post-mortem. Due to this the traffic on Karchhuna-Jari road was disrupted. When some policemen reached, a demand was made to call the SDM. The relatives said that they will not perform the last rites of the body without the protection of the family, arms license, arrest of accused and increasing the section of gang-rape in the case. The policemen of Kaundhiyara police station convinced the family members by assuring them to fulfil all demands, including the arrest of the accused, at the earliest.

After this the police changed the written complaint of kidnapping and rape and

Prayers offered for Chandrayaan-3 success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The activists of Namami Gange along with a group of Batukas (Sanskrit students) of Maharishi Ved Vidyalaya offered prayers at Scindia Ghat here on Tuesday for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3, which is on the threshold of creating a new history. After separating from the vehicle, the Vikram lander is moving towards the lunar surface. They performed aarti of Lord Bhaskar (Sun) and Maa Ganga and sought blessings for the success of Chandrayaan-3. They also offered dugdhahishkek (milk) to river Ganga on the occasion.

The participants prayed to Lord Vishwanath (Shiva) to make the Chandrayaan-3 mission a success and prove the



Namami Gange activists offering prayers for success of Chandrayaan-3 Mission in Varanasi on Tuesday.

space expertise of the country to the world as the Indian scientists have made Chandrayaan-3 with special technology. The Batukas performed prayers for the success-

ful landing of Chandrayaan-3 amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras by hoisting the national flag. Regional convener of Namami Gange (Kashi region) Rajesh Shukla said that India's

Chandrayaan-3 is on the threshold of creating a new history by setting a milestone.

"For the success of Vikram Lander, along with the Batukas, we have prayed to Baba Vishwanath, Bhagwan Bhaskar and Maa Ganga," he said, adding that so far only America, Russia and China have succeeded in achieving soft and successful landing on the lunar surface. "With Vikram landing on the lunar surface, India will become the fourth country in the world to do so," he said.

Maharishi Ved Vidyalaya in-charge Sunil Srivastava, Acharya Pt Rakesh Mishra, city Namami Gange co-ordinator Sarika Gupta, Pankaj Aagrahari, Shrimant Sai and many others were also present on the occasion.

MLA lays foundation stone for smart school

VARANASI (PNS): The junior school located at Piplani Katra (Kabirchaura) in Varanasi City South assembly constituency will be developed as a smart school soon. A new building will be constructed on the campus, whose foundation stone was laid by former minister and MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari here on Tuesday. A few days back, Tiwari had inspected the school and promised to make it smart as the students will be imparted education through smart schooling system. Later, he instructed the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) to prepare the project in this direction and now the foundation stone of the smart school



building was laid. The bhoomi puja of the foundation stone was done in the presence of nine women. On the occasion, the MLA interacted with the children studying in the school and inquired about the facilities being provided to them. He also distributed chocolates to them. About 50 lakhs will be spent on the construction of the said building for the smart

school, which will be borne from the Purvanchal Vikas Nidhi (Development Fund). Six rooms will be made in the two-storey building, where children will be taught through the smart schooling method.

In the past, two other schools, Machhodari Smart School and Rajhat Vidyalaya have been developed into smart schools in City South areas and

this will be the third school. Tiwari directed the concerned officers to complete the construction work in three months and also asked the BSA to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) to make all the government schools of his constituency smart. The function was also attended by BSA Arvind Pathak, block education officers Akhilesh Srivastava and Shalini Srivastava, principal Madhu Singh, Suresh Chaurasia, Gopal Gupta, Sandeep Chaurasia, Ambarish Singh Bholia, Sanjay Keshari, Vivek Jaiswal, Indresh Singh, executive engineer of Rural Engineering Services (RES) Dilip Shukla and many others.

High-lifting capacity crane installed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In order to provide advanced technology in the maintenance work of trains, a high capacity crane with a lifting capacity of 140 tons was successfully tested at Mau Coaching Depot of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER). With the availability of this high capacity crane in Mau, it will be very useful in relief operations in the sections up to Shahganj, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Chhapra. These types of high capacity cranes are available only at NER Headquarters in Gorakhpur apart from Lucknow of Northern Railway (NR) and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn of East Central Railway (ECR) in this region.

With the availability of this crane, there will be immense convenience in lifting of coaches/wagons, accident relief and other works in the nearby areas of Mau. This crane was successfully tested under the supervision of Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer Anubhav Pathak. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME)



have congratulated all concerned officers on this achievement.

Meanwhile, the commissioning of Automatic Coach Washing Plant at Chhapra Coaching Depot of this Varanasi Division area of NER has also been done. The washing capacity of this plant is 70 to 80 machines per hour and 300-350 machines per day. Through this plant, the entire rake (24 coaches) can be washed in just seven to eight minutes. It uses only 300 litres of water for washing one coach, whereas the conventional washing system consumes about 1,500 litres of water per

coach. This plant will save about 1,200 litres of water per coach. The chemical used by the plant for washing is eco-friendly. The facility is equipped with an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Water Softening Plant (WSP) which helps in reusing and recycling water. It uses only 20 per cent fresh water and the remaining 80 per cent water is used by recycling dirty water. With reduced water usage and recycling, an ACWP (actual cost of work performed) coach consumes 96 per cent less water than conventional methods of washing. Thus it also helps in

reducing excessive groundwater exploitation. It uses high pressure soap solution and water jets along with vertical and horizontal rotating nylon and cotton-tipped brushes to clean the entire exterior of the coach, ensuring high quality cleaning and saving water as well. It also saves the time taken in cleaning and greatly reduces the human labour.

According to the DRM, an automatic mud washing plant was started at Banaras Coaching Depot of Varanasi Division and after which it has been installed at Aunrihar and Chhapra respectively. Along with an automatic coach washing plant, ETP of 30,000 litres capacity has also been installed. This treatment plant will recycle the waste water after cleaning, so that the water can be used again. He said that the traditional method of washing takes more time to clean the trains and also consumes a lot of water. Despite this, the cleaning of train coaches is not done in a hygienic manner but now 80 per cent of the water used for cleaning can be recycled and used again, Srivastava added.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Landing that'll lift India

With Chandrayaan-3, India displays courage and capability to reach for the moon at a shoestring budget

As the nation and the world wait with bated breath, ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 is on course to make a soft landing and history today evening on the lunar South Pole. The ISRO scientists must be a bit anxious after Russia's Luna-25 Moon mission encountered problems over the weekend and crashed on the Moon's surface, ending in failure its first Moon mission in 47 years. India's Chandrayaan-2 had also crash-landed when it developed a glitch just before landing. But failures are an essential part of the learning curve and lead to developing better and more robust strategies for improved missions. Keeping this in mind, ISRO is taking all precautions and has even contemplated August 27 as an alternative date. Plan B has been necessitated with the remote possibility of encountering certain unfavourable set of conditions when the soft landing is attempted today. The health of Chandrayaan-3 is being continuously and vigorously monitored. ISRO has gone to the length of even incorporating the 'failure-based

design' that focuses on potential failure scenarios and how to protect the mission against adversities to ensure a successful and safe landing.

The Indian spaceship, however, will not be alone on the lunar surface. China's Chang'e-4 has been operating flawlessly since it landed on the far side of the moon in January. Its arrival was followed by the appearance of Beresheet, a probe built by the Israeli non-profit organisation SpaceIL. It had reached the moon in April but crash-landed. At the same time, the US has pledged to set up lunar laboratories shortly, while Europe and Russia have also unveiled plans to launch complex missions. Suddenly, everyone's



going to the moon. The lunar mission is not just about demonstrating technical capabilities but also about the prestige of the nation and the achievement of geopolitical goals. Indeed, the interest in lunar missions has been inexorably rekindled as the Moon has a lot to offer. The race to explore and develop the moon's resources has begun. The countries that develop capabilities to go to the moon would, needless to point out, have an edge in space exploration. There are other reasons to return to the moon apart from scientific experiments, however. Moon exploration and the usage of its hitherto untapped resources are necessary if we are to take the next giant step in space. And India has made the right move. If Chandrayaan-3 is successful, it will highlight how space is becoming more accessible, and demonstrate India's continued perseverance and tenacity in achieving difficult missions. It also bodes well for India's participation in the new space race to build permanent infrastructure on the Moon. With Chandrayaan, India has shown the courage and the mettle to reach for the moon, and that too at a shoestring budget. So here's wishing the very best to ISRO scientists and our fellow countrymen, and all space aficionados across the globe in fact, a historic moment in history. May the glory be yours!

PICTALK



A man in the Tricolour near Atal Bridge ahead of Chandrayaan-3's landing on Moon's surface, in Ahmedabad

India must win over Georgia to pip China

Georgia contains strategic geography and the Indian government must become alive to it, considering PM Modi's ensuing visit



ASHOK K MEHTA

Georgia has a rich history - from being independent for centuries to off and on under Soviet Union/Russian rule. It is a love-hate relationship: from the older generation still nostalgic about that era to the current hatred for Russia among younger people. Now, proudly Georgian and EU flags flutter together and graffiti reads "F*** Russia". I am quite a globe-trotter and like in the old days, you could find a Sikh in any of the 193 UN-recognised countries and even notionally, on the moon. Today, Gorkhas from Nepal have assumed that distinction. But in Georgia, you can't find a Nepali, though they are next door in Russia where they have obtained visas for education but have joined Russian Army to fight in Ukraine. There is evidence that Gorkhas have joined the Ukraine army and some have reached the frontlines and could end up fighting fellow Gorkhas in Russia. Such is their love and madness for combat and adventure.

Wine is a real symbol of Georgia, the art of wine-making going back 6000 years. One of the brands is Modi Wine reflecting how India is becoming Vishwaguru. Georgia is an Orthodox Christian country dotted with historic churches located on steep mountain tops covered with fortresses and forts. The country earned its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The country is landlocked by Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is a candidate for EU and Nato but joining either has not fructified. Russia which still calls the shots, does not want it to become a member of Nato. 3.5mn Georgians enjoy a per capita income of USD 22,000 which is the same as the Chinese. Social welfare programmes ensure pension varies from USD 170 to USD 120 and the minimum salary prescribed is USD300.

In 2008 Russia bombed and annexed Abkhazia and South Ossetia. You can meet refugees from these parts in the capital Tbilisi. In the heart of Tbilisi is Freedom Square with a statue of St George riding a horse slaying evil. Behind him on a hillock is



Mother of Georgia, sword in one hand and a cup of welcome wine in the other. Old and new Tbilisi are separated by the river Mtkvari. At this time of the year, unseasonal visitors among whom are throngs of Indians mainly from Kerala, visit Georgia, some of whom come from UAE which entitles them to visa on arrival. Other interesting places are Batumi, Kazbegi and in Telavi especially Eka and Sofi's Mala gardens.

No marks for guessing that the Chinese have made inroads through BRI. Last month Prime Minister Garibashvili met President Xi Jinping in Beijing and signed half a dozen agreements. Soon China will become Georgia's largest trading partner. En route to Kazbegi near the ski resort town of Gudauri, the Chinese are tunnelling into the north Caucasus mountains. On this road, several open tunnels were constructed by German PsOW under Stalin's orders. The road is the only lifeline to Russia where thousands of tankers and heavy trucks are lined up for passage impeding normal movement. Armenia, which like Georgia is an orthodox Christian country and excels in winemaking has to use this road for exports, especially wine to Russia as



IN 2008 RUSSIA BOMBED AND ANNEXED ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSETIA. YOU CAN MEET REFUGEES FROM THESE PARTS IN THE CAPITAL TBILISI. IN THE HEART OF TBILISI IS FREEDOM SQUARE WITH A STATUE OF ST GEORGE RIDING A HORSE SLAYING EVIL

wine is a go in Iran which borders it.

China has also seduced Georgia into joining its Global Security Initiative which is a Chinese-style solution to governance and states that the security of one country should not come at the expense of the security of another country. Georgia signed a strategic partnership agreement with the US in 2009 but has said that the country is free to sign agreements with any country of its choice. Beijing is negotiating hard to win the contract for building a deep sea port at Ankaia in the Black Sea which will change Georgia's fortunes. The Georgians have many balls in the air but none is Indian. The Embassy of India is located in Armenia.

Georgia hosts roughly 10,000 Indians, many of whom are medical students and many who quit Ukraine and joined studies in Tbilisi. Georgia supports Ukraine and has hosted its refugees but abstains from voting in the UN on Ukraine. While the Tbilisi government makes pro-Euro noises, it is pro-Russia. The Georgian Church is very powerful and also favours Russia. In the Caucasus, like in the Central Asian Republics, China is playing its Great Game with Russia along with the US as the third

player. On 15 August, an Indian tri-colour flag hoisting ceremony was held outside Tbilisi, attracting Indian residents who are located there. Veteran Indians in Georgia date back two decades and more as many Punjabis from Jalandhar came in droves and bought up land dirt cheap which they could not register as the Georgians got wise. Still, as one Indian married to a Georgian said: "You can buy property here in all of 15 minutes". There is no Indian investment here, except marginally in steel he added

Unless I got it wrong, India's asset here is the fading nostalgia for Raj Kapoor and Mithun Chakrabarty which too is courtesy of Georgia's Russia connection. India's flag has to be planted not hoisted annually outside Tbilisi, Georgia where Mama is father and madloba thank you. Georgia contains strategic geography and the Indian government must become alive to it considering PM Modi is visiting Greece the day after.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INADEQUATE RELIEF FOR HIMACHAL

Sir — The recent heavy rains have caused widespread destruction of homes and property, both public and private. To compensate the affected people, the Union government on Sunday approved the release of an additional Rs. 200 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as advance assistance to undertake relief measures for those affected by the rains. The Centre had earlier approved the advance release of Rs. 360.80 crore on July 10 and 17 and also released Rs. 189.27 crore of the State's past dues on August 7. The Himachal Pradesh government has estimated that the disaster resulted in losses surpassing Rs. 10,000 crore. The state government had been utilizing its limited resources to help the impacted population, but the present help given by the Union government in installments is inadequate. Given the gravity of the situation, the Union government should provide adequate financial relief, regardless of whether the calamity is declared a national disaster.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

CONSUMER PRICE STRUCTURE

Sir — A small example: A daily-use electronic item, the "washing machine," is available in a range of just Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 8,000. Observe that there are many manufacturers of washing machines in India, and most of them are making decent profits. Because the population is high and demand is proportionately high as well. Thus, the Indian government must assemble a team of relevant experts to conduct research, create a checklist, discuss, and establish an optimal price structure for each good or item. This could be beneficial for both consumers and producers (as well as sellers). Proper pricing linked with correct production according to demand (without overproduction and underproduction) can prevent wastage and products lying idle in storehouses and shops. The same method may be

Spanish women win FIFA World Cup



The Women's World Cup Football 2023 will go down in history as one of those rare tournaments where a country reached the summit despite internal disputes and rebellion amongst its players for over a year. Even such unforeseen circumstances could not dampen their spirits as

they huddled together like a cohesive unit. Spain has won its first-ever F.I.F.A. Women's World Cup final in a thrilling encounter with their European counterpart, England. Captain Olga Carmona scored the solitary goal in the first half itself. The day belonged to them as they showed remarkable resilience to bounce back from their early defeat against Japan 4-0 in the tournament. Spain also scripted history by becoming the first European team to win the Women's World Cup since Germany in 2007. After months of turmoil and internal dissensions, securing the number one position and bringing laurels to the country demonstrates its unity and integrity at a crucial time when it mattered most. It is hoped that they replicate the same spirit in the future as well.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

applicable to all types of goods (agriculture, industry, or even services) in every country around the world. This approach can benefit all three players: producers, sellers, and consumers, and prevent business failures and shop closures. A live-and-let-live attitude.

Madhu Nirvriti PS | Secunderabad

PREPARATIONS FOR THE POLLS

Sir — With next year's much-hyped Lok Sabha polls slowly approaching, both the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition Alliance, the I.N.D.I.A., have become busy strengthening their respective positions for the upcoming elections. The Congress, amidst the celebration of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary, recently revamped its highest decision-making body, the CWC (Congress Working Committee), under the guidance of party president Mallikarjun Kharge. The event was attended by his predecessors, including PM Manmohan Singh, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi.

This announcement comes with an eye on the upcoming assembly elections

in five states: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, followed by the Parliamentary Elections.

The CWC comprises stalwarts such as P Chidambaram, Ashok Chavan, Digvijaya Singh, Meira Kumar, Ajay Maken, and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, along with two new entrants: Deepa Das Munshi and S Naseer Hussain.

Sachin Pilot, recently in the news for his rebellion against Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, has been given regular membership and is expected to be appointed as an Incharge for a significant state with Parliamentary Polls in mind. Youngsters like Alka Lamba, Supriya Shrinete, and Pawan Khera are special invitees, while Ajoy Kumar is Tripura's Incharge.

With all office-bearers ready to prove themselves worthy, the true test lies ahead. So, as the saying goes, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating!" Hence, let's wait and watch.

Azhar Ali Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Tamil Nadu, the state where everything is politics

The DMK's ire against Governor RN Ravi is a facade and an attempt to divert the attention of the state's people from real issues

Suicides are nothing new in Tamil Nadu as the people in the State have a propensity to commit suicides at the fall of a hat. Crop failure and the resultant debt trap make farmers resort to the extreme step. There were instances of youth committing suicide when the Sri Lankan Army battered the strongholds of the Tamil Tigers in Jaffna. When the then chief minister Jayalalithaa died in office, many persons committed suicide by self-immolation. Similarly, every year many youngsters end their lives when they fail to clear the matriculation and Two examinations. There were instances of post-graduate medical students from the State who got admissions to AIIMS and JIPMER committing suicides for their failure in communicating in Hindi. The national language is taboo for the Dravidian politicians.



of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who wanted all people in rural areas in the country to get public school education at affordable rates. According to the New Education Policy 1987 launched during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, each district in the country should have at least one Navodaya Vidyalaya where students selected from all over India would study together and would be taught to be the best teachers. The alumni from such schools always come out with flying colours in all competitive examinations.

The school syllabus in Tamil Nadu were planned and executed to benefit the management of private educational institutions while the young students end up as canon fodder! This is the

ground reality. Dravidian politicians are very particular about Tamil Nadu students staying away from Hindi and Sanskrit (they have offered on a platter the parentage of both languages to the Sangh Parivar!) and learning only Tamil. But there is a public school in Chennai owned by the daughter of a political bigwig where speaking any language other than English would attract punishment and a five-digit amount as a fine. Strange are the ways of the Dravidian politicians. They remained silent for nearly four decades after Indira Gandhi acceded the islet of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1976. It was only after Jayalalithaa took up the issue with the Supreme Court and the Centre demanding the retrieval of the islet that DMK jumped into the fray. The DMK was in power at the Centre from 1996-98 and during 1999-2013. On all occasions, the party was agitating for plum and cash-rich ministries instead of reasonable demands like sharing of Kaveri Water from Karnataka and making the Centre take up the Avinashi-Athikadavu River Water project which

would have made South West Tamil Nadu an eternal green garden.

At no point in time, the DMK took up the cause of the interlinking of peninsular Indian rivers which if implemented would have wiped out the issue of water scarcity in the State once and for ever.

The DMK's ire against Governor RN Ravi is a facade and an attempt to divert the attention of the people from real objectives. How many of us remember the walkout staged by Karunanidhi during the swearing-in ceremony of Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister in May 2004? The reason? The DMK was not allocated the ministry of shipping and surface transport which it had set as a condition to support and save secularism. Sonia Gandhi, the charismatic UPA chairperson had to plead with K Chandrasekhar Rao of the then TRS to part with the ministry to make Karunanidhi smile again. That much for socialism, secularism and pluralism!

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer. Views expressed are personal)



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

FIRST COLUMN

EDUCATION REFORMS
NEED OF THE HOUR

It is important to not just impart moral education, but be aware of the self too



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Mahatma Gandhi clearly expressed his views on educational policy when he said: "I know that there is a school of thought which believes in only secular instruction being given in public schools. I know also that, in a country like India, where there are most religions of the world represented, and where there are so many denominations in the same religion, there must be a difficulty in making provisions for religious instruction. But if India is not to declare spiritual bankruptcy, religious instruction of the youth must be held to be at least as necessary as secular instruction."

The Education system in India we all know, changes every five years when a new government comes to rule. It's a fact that we all have witnessed over the last few years specifically. It should also be noted that ever since India adopted the present Constitution, the word secularism has been bandied about wrongly to block all efforts to introduce moral and spiritual education. Even though one Education Commission after another has recommended the introduction of moral education, the Government continues to disregard their recommendations in the fancied interest of false secularism. The result is that things continue to deteriorate more speedily than before.



Sri Aurobindo had clearly said that "To neglect moral and religious education altogether is to corrupt the race. The notorious moral corruption in our young men, previous to the saving touch of the Swadeshi movement, was a direct result of the purely mental instruction given to them under the English system of education." Hence it would not be wrong to say that a person without moral and spiritual education, is a sub-human whose life is worth not a penny. One can quote the views of many other national leaders like Dr. Radhakrishnan, Vinoba Bhawe, etc. extensively in support of the above contention. But there seems to be no need for this because the policymakers very well know about all these views. Then where is the hitch? It's simply a lack of realisation of the need to formulate a consistent education policy in which moral education and the practice of meditation form a part of our educational system. However, if it is not realised soon, then it may lead to a moral vacuum which may further give rise to crime, corruption, cruelty, violence, and extremism.

The need of the hour is not just to introduce moral education, but there also is a need to know the nature of consciousness or the self because it is not enough to teach physics, chemistry, maths and science; Education must enlighten a person about the self or the Mind. Aurobindo has said: "The true basis of education is the study of the human mind. Any system of education founded on theories of academic perfection, which ignores (mind) the instrument of study, is more likely to hamper and impair intellectual growth than to produce a perfectly equipped mind". Today scientific research has established very clearly that Meditation has many benefits for the individual and society, so why does the Government not introduce it in schools and colleges? The answer to this question might, perhaps, be that there are so many systems or kinds of meditation in vogue and the government does not know which one to introduce. This, however, does not seem to be a sufficient reason to block the introduction of a very important and useful subject for all time. If the results are judged from the benefits which accrue to the practitioners in respect of their physical, mental, spiritual and social health, that should be sufficient ground to consider its introduction in some schools, to begin with on a trial basis at least. The other criterion could be whether the principles on which it is based are universal, scientific and psychologically correct. So, let us raise demand for education reforms and get rid of our laid-back attitude to move into the age of enlightenment

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)

Be wary of the future
of global economy

The future of world economy is anything but bright unless technologies and industries align with the laws of nature and become environment friendly



ATUL SEHGAL



The world economy is heading for a tailspin. There are limited resources on the globe and great greed pervading the humans inhabiting it. This greed for material resources, which connote wealth, is creating ever greater struggle, competition, and strife among the human population. Whether it is land or oil or gas or minerals, irrespective of their locations defined by national boundaries, the tendency to acquire more by individuals or institutions is creating incipient chaos and mayhem. This mayhem will be more and more visible in the times to come. Does it portend well for the future of the world economy? The answers are too obvious.

The economy of the world has traditionally depended upon three essential items for humans—food, clothing and shelter. There was significant commercial activity in material resources or services that went into the making of these items. And the long traditional period of world history is testimony to small human community-dwelling units called villages where such resources belonged. The economies of regions were built around village economies only. There was extensive trade of goods and services within and across villages and also across major economic regions. But the existence of wealth within villages was significant as these villages were the prime centres of economic activity. This meant that the scale of economic activity was low and limited. The population of the world was far lower than it is today.

With modern industrialization arrived rapid urbanization. Population growth increased due to a decrease in the death rate. The traditional methods of agriculture were changed by mechanized farming and inorganic fertilizer use. This was entailed by the burgeoning population.

Let us return to the basics of the economics of the global human community. There are limited resources on the planet. Today's massive population can-



ALL OUR CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES ARE CRUDE, CRUEL AND INFERIOR. THE TECHNOLOGIES NEED TO BE IN SYNC WITH THE IMMANENT SCIENTIFIC LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE AND NATURE

(The author is a Management Consultant based in New Delhi.)

not grow sufficient food for itself without the use of inorganic fertilizers, inorganic pesticides and genetic engineering applied to crops. Farming is local but the distribution of farm products is in the hands of corporate business houses which work on a gigantic scale in the capitalist mode. The same is the case with the other two basic human necessity items—clothing and shelter. Textile and clothing industries as also the real estate industry are largely in the hands of big corporate houses funded by banks and financial institutions. And corporatization of other human needs like education, travel, entertainment, healthcare etc. has created those much more big business entities. This has destroyed the age-old and stable rural closed economy model and propagated the open expansive urban model and this model is unstable and unsustainable. The reason is very simple—limited material resources on the planet and the urban model coupled with a modern technological perspective feel that economic growth can continue even by inflicting harm on the environment. Therefore, to expect that global GDP can and will rise, even with new technology, is naive, and rather foolish. And what are these new technologies? Digital computation and communication Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnologies.

The above technologies are only going to reduce the need for human services. Already Chat GPT has come to supplement digital computation and communication systems. These technologies will kill employment hugely by making humans increasingly ser-

vice providers rather than skilled producers and then gradually being replaced by robots and AI-based machines. Applied to wars, these technologies will bring the use of extremely lethal weapons delivered by robot soldiers and drones and will make wars long-drawn and protracted. Economic, military and political hegemonic designs have been in evidence throughout history. But humanistic systems and nature-friendly technologies can deliver economic benefits to all with the exploitation of none.

All our current technologies are crude, cruel and inferior. The technologies need to be in sync with the immanent scientific laws of the universe and nature and this is exactly what most of the present technologies lack. If they were in sync, they would cease to be environmentally unfriendly.

Environment-unfriendly and grossly reductionist technologies are going to take a heavy toll on the quality of industrial products. The effects of quality vitiation are becoming increasingly apparent.

The future of the world economy is anything but bright unless, as stated above, our technologies and industries begin to align with the laws of nature and become environmentally friendly. It's a humongous cost we are paying for environmental degradation and we are unable to see it fully well. Forced switchover to environment-friendly technologies due to nature's backlash in the form of climate change and its concomitant global physical effects is definitely on the cards.

In the above backdrop, it can be logically inferred that the future of the world economy is marked by—

- Heavy job loss
- Economic degrowth or contraction
- Massive inflation
- Crumbling of huge business corporate giants
- Failure of debt-based industrial and economic systems
- Dismantling of many capitalist institution units called banks
- Return to rural closed economies

The future of the world economy is going to be dictated by environmental factors rather than technology because the environment is a part of Mother Nature which is far more powerful than humans who develop incremental technologies. Unless the technologies are nature friendly and aligned with the ecosystem, they will bring more harm than good and will perform be ultimately discarded. The true meaning of economic growth is value and quality addition to human life but that cannot happen at the cost of the environment. Hence, in the ultimate analysis, what counts is systems, technologies and processes which are nature and environment-friendly.

We will, unfortunately, have to witness the spectre of nature's severe backlash on the global human population come true and alive in the years to come and that hardly forebodes well for the global economy. This honeymoon with new industrial technologies has lasted about 200 years or so. But their detrimental effects are only now beginning to show. Economics is all about quality and value addition to human life. And remember, Mother Nature has a great role to play in this. We must integrate Mother Nature into our economic planning and systems before it is too late.

The fight to tame malnutrition and save baby Tarush

The Rajasthan government's sincere efforts to provide succour to vulnerable communities like Sahariya are bearing fruit

At 8 am, the sun is already beating down on the local Anganwadi centre in Goverdhanpara village in Kishanganj block of Baran district, Rajasthan. Tarush, who is just over two years old, is restless in the sweltering summer heat. As his mother Vimla Bai Sahariya, calms him down and helps seat him on the weighing machine, she is hoping his weight will be normal.

Anganwadi worker (AWW) Sushila Bai Sahariya, who is in charge of recording his monthly growth parameters, allays her fears. She informs her that at 10.5 kg body weight, and measuring 13.9 cm on the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) score chart, Tarush had just made it to the normal category in the



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

anthropometric physical measurement scale used to assess nutritional status in children. Had his MUAC score, a diagnostic criterion to determine severe acute malnutrition in children between six months and five years, dropped to 13.5 cm or less, he would have been considered malnourished.

On hearing this, Vimla, her 75-year-old mother-in-law Surja Bai and Rajendra Kushwaha, the Foshan (nutrition) champion who accompanied them to the Anganwadi centre (AWC), breathe a sigh of relief. Tarush had just recovered from a bout of diarrhoea and all three were concerned that this may have caused a setback in his development. Underweight Undernourished It was not without reason that Vimla was anxious. Two

years ago when Tarush was born pre-term at seven months, he weighed just 2kg. Although this was nothing new for a state where one in three newborns are underweight, there was a high probability that poor maternal nutrition and improper child-feeding practices prevalent in the district, particularly among the Sahariya tribe (to which Vimla also belonged), would further exacerbate the situation.

If undernutrition is not tackled in time, it can cause irreversible damage to a child's physical growth and brain development. Further, underweight children are prone to wasting, that is, low weight relative to their height. According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 16.8

% of children in Rajasthan suffer from wasting. In the Baran district, where Tarush lives, 21.3% of children are wasted. Tarush, too, was a prime candidate. He could have quite easily become a part of these grim statistics as every baby weighing less than 2.5 kg at birth is considered at risk. Luckily for him, his mother had been enrolled on the RajPush programme just a month before his birth in 2020. This was key to enabling Vimla and Tarush to reap the benefits of RajPush's targeted interventions to improve maternal nutrition and child-feeding practices aimed to bring down the birth of underweight babies.

Hopes of reducing the high prevalence of low birth weight and wasting in

Rajasthan have soared primarily due to direct cash transfers to the women's account under RajPush to enable pregnant and lactating women to buy nutritious food for themselves.

Innovative Strategies
A collaborative initiative between the Rajasthan government, Children's Investment Fund Foundation and IPE Global, RajPush leverages maternity cash benefit schemes like the central government's Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the state-funded Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana (IGMPY). This is backed up by focussed individual attention to improving nutrition, knowledge and practice through a cadre of Roshan champions (PCs) or nutrition

field workers selected from the community and trained by Sanskar Seva Sansthan, the Baran-based civil society organisation. According to Laxmi Kahar, programme manager, SSS, there are 38 PCs, (27 men and 11 women) in Kishanganj block to coordinate with the 1618 Anganwadi centres. Each PC looks after about 40 AWCs. By working in tandem with AWWs, ASHAs and ANMs, the government's frontline health workers, and the specially trained PCs are making a difference in the lives of women and children.

Knowledge is Power
Together, these strategies have led to an improvement in women's nutrition knowledge by 38%. Even the husband's nutrition knowledge is now 19%. Additionally, until March

2023, over 1,50,000 women received cash benefits under IGMPY in the 33 districts, says Krishna Singh Gohil, Operations manager, IPE Global.

Both PMMVY and IGMPY provided conditional cash benefits of Rs 6000 each for the first and second child. But under IGMVP, currently implemented only in Rajasthan, an additional amount of Rs 2000 is given if the second child is a girl.

In Baran, a district dominated by the Sahariya tribe, classified by the government as a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), a total sum of Rs 18,181,000 has been given to 9274 women under the IGMPY during the period November 2020 to June 2023

To be continued...

Putin stays away as leaders of emerging economies meet in SA

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin will be notably absent when Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders from the BRICS group of emerging economies start a three-day summit in South Africa on Tuesday.

The bloc, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is holding its first in-person meeting since before the COVID-19 pandemic, but Putin will participate via video call after his travel to South Africa was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued for him in March over the abduction of children from Ukraine.

Xi, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will attend in person as the bloc — home to 40% of the world's population and responsible for more than 30% of global economic output — mulls a possible expansion.

That will top the agenda at Wednesday's main summit meeting in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton. More than 20 nations have applied to join the bloc, according to South African officials, including Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan will be at the summit, as will Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. The five BRICS countries will have to agree on the criteria for new members before any countries are admitted, but a bigger BRICS is seen as a policy favoured by China and Russia as a kind of coalition amid their deteriorating relations with the West. The BRICS group was formed in 2009 by



Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa was added in 2010.

Overall, around 1,200 delegates from the five BRICS nations and dozens of other developing countries are expected in Johannesburg, including more than 40 heads of state, according to Ramaphosa.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres also is expected to attend. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stressed that

Putin will fully participate despite appearing virtually and will make a speech. Russia will also be represented in person by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

At the summit, there will be calls for more economic cooperation and collaboration in areas such as health, education and climate change — but under a growing sentiment in the developing world that it is not being served by what it sees as Western-led institutions such as the UN, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Ramaphosa met with Xi in the capital, Pretoria, on Tuesday ahead of the summit. The South African leader said he was seeking "Chinese support for South Africa and Africa's call for the reform of global governance institutions, notably the United Nations Security Council". Africa and

South America have no permanent representatives on the Security Council despite being home to nearly 2 billion people.

Xi, who has gradually resumed foreign travel after the lifting of his country's strict COVID-19 restrictions, joined Ramaphosa to watch a ceremonial parade by soldiers at the Union Buildings, the official seat of the South African government. He then planned to travel 60 km (37 miles) through South Africa's most important economic province of Gauteng to the summit in Johannesburg.

Xi made brief comments, saying China was ready for more cooperation with Africa's most advanced economy "to take our comprehensive strategic partnerships to new heights".

BRICS officials have pushed back at characterizations that the bloc is taking an

anti-West turn under the influence of China and Russia, saying it is rather looking out for the interests of the Global South.

But the BRICS stance is at odds with the United States and its Western allies on a number of issues, not least over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The European Union called on Xi, Lula, Modi and Ramaphosa to use this week's gathering to condemn Russia and Putin for the war in Ukraine, but that's unlikely to happen. If anything, BRICS has been a forum for Russia to express its anti-Western rhetoric, with Lavrov using a BRICS foreign ministers meeting in June to lambast the West for its "hegemony" and using "financial blackmail" to serve its "selfish interests".

A small protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine was held Tuesday at a public

park more than 3 km (1.8 miles) from the summit venue.

The US and EU will be closely monitoring events in Johannesburg, with the long list of countries lining up to join BRICS suggesting that the bloc's calls for a reorganisation of the global governance structure might be hitting home with many.

Ahead of the meetings, the US stressed its close ties with India, Brazil and South Africa.

Not officially on the agenda but an issue for closed-door negotiations will be food security, with the developing world especially eager to use its BRICS ties with Russia to seek more grain shipments out of both Russia and Ukraine. Ramaphosa led a mission of African leaders to Russia and Ukraine in June, meeting Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to press

for more grain exports to Africa, with little result.

There's added urgency after Russia halted a deal allowing Ukraine to export through the Black Sea last month, exacerbating hunger and pushing food prices higher. Putin later announced free Russian grain shipments to six African nations and might offer more shipments this week, some analysts say, as a means of gaining favour among the dozens of developing nations represented at the BRICS summit.

The summit officially began with a business forum on Tuesday morning, and Xi, Lula, Modi and Ramaphosa were expected to arrive at the Sandton Convention Centre for the first meeting of the leaders in the afternoon. They will hold a retreat Tuesday evening at the luxury Summer Place estate in Johannesburg's plush Hyde Park suburb.

'Kyiv saboteurs behind drone attacks on Russian air bases'

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian saboteurs coordinated by Kyiv's military intelligence services carried out a pair of recent drone attacks that hit parked bomber aircraft at air bases deep inside Russia, Ukraine media claimed Tuesday.

The attacks on Russian airfields on Saturday and Monday destroyed two Russian bombers and damaged two other aircraft, according to Ukrainian Pravda, as the war approaches its 18-month milestone.

That newspaper and Ukraine's NV news outlet said groups of saboteurs were behind the strikes. It was not possible to verify the claims on the ground.

Ukrainian media attributed two attacks to the saboteurs: a strike Saturday on the Sot'sy air base in the Novgorod region in northwestern Russia, about 700 kilometres north of the Ukrainian border, and Monday's strike against the Shaikovka air base in the southwestern Kaluga region that is about 300 kilometres northeast

of the Ukrainian border.

Ukrainian military intelligence spokesman Andriy Yusov told the Ukrainian LIGA.net news outlet Monday that at least one Russian warplane was damaged in the attack on Shaikovka.

He said it was carried out by people who worked in close coordination with Ukrainian military intelligence but gave no further details.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the attack on Sot'sy damaged one aircraft. It didn't comment on the reported attack on Shaikovka, but Russian media did.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press showed what appeared to be 10 Tupolev Tu-22M long-range bombers parked on the apron of the Sot'sy air base on August 16. By Monday, two days after the attack, all those bombers had left the air base. A large black spot was visible on one of the aprons where one of the Tupolevs had been parked.

Photos purporting to be from the Sot'sy air base and published by Russian and

Ukrainian media showed a Russian Tu-22M bomber ablaze there after the attack. Ukraine has since early this year sought to take the war into the heart of Russia. It has increasingly targeted Moscow's military assets behind the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine and at the same time has launched drones against Moscow, most recently early Tuesday.

Kyiv is also trying to keep up the pressure on the Kremlin along multiple fronts, pursuing a counteroffensive at various points along the 1,500-kilometre front line, as well as diplomatically by obtaining pledges of more weaponry from its Western allies, including F-16 warplanes.

Some previous Ukrainian attacks on Russian air bases involved Soviet-designed drones powered by turbojet engines. They have a range of up to 1,000 kilometres. But the strikes in recent days apparently used primitive small drones, which would corroborate the possibility that they were launched by saboteurs. Also, a Russian pensioner

walking in a forest about 600km north of the Ukrainian border on Monday came across the remains of a drone painted in the blue and yellow colours of the Ukrainian flag.

Pictures shared on Russian social media channels show that the drone had "glory to Ukraine" inscribed on a broken wing and "glory to the heroes" written on the other wing, the Russian telegram channel Baza said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a recent spate of drone attacks apparently targeting Moscow continued early Tuesday but were thwarted by Russian air defence systems, Russia's Ministry of Defence said.

However, falling wreckage of one drone shattered an apartment building's windows and damaged vehicles in Moscow's western suburbs.

There were no reports of injuries in the latest drone attacks that Russia blamed on Kyiv.

Though the drone attacks on Russian soil have occurred almost daily in recent weeks, they have caused little damage and no victims.

Russia moving tactical nukes to Belarus: Duda

Warsaw (AP): Poland's President Andrzej Duda said Tuesday that Russia already is in the process of shifting some short-range nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus, a move that Duda said will shift the security architecture of the region and the entire NATO military alliance.

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko said last month that Moscow already had shipped some of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after announcing the plan in March. The US and NATO haven't confirmed the move.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Moscow's rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," but said in July that the alliance hadn't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture. Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles.

Russia said it would maintain control over those it sends to Belarus.

Zelenskyy meets Balkan leaders

AP ■ ATHENS

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met Tuesday with leaders of Balkan nations and the head of the European Commission on the sidelines of a meeting between European and Balkan leaders in the Greek capital. The leaders included Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, whose country has refused to join the international sanctions imposed on its traditional ally Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

"An open, honest, and fruitful meeting with the President of Serbia," Zelenskyy posted on the X social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "Good conversation on respect for the UN Charter and the inviolability of borders. On our nations' shared future in the common European home. On developing our relations, that is in our mutual interest. It was the first time Zelenskyy, who arrived in Athens on Monday afternoon, met with Vucic since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year.

Speaking to reporters, Vucic described the meeting as "good and open." "I repeated that Serbia respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine, unlike some who respect the territo-



rial integrity of Ukraine, but not Serbia," Vucic said, referring to Serbia's former province of Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008 and is recognised by most European Union states, but not by Russia and China.

Ukraine also does not recognise Kosovo's independence, but there were signs recently that it might because of Belgrade's pro-Moscow narrative over the war. Vucic said after the meeting with Zelenskyy that he was "almost certain" Ukraine will not recognize Kosovo.

The Serbian president, whose country seeks EU membership, said he "managed to ensure" that a formal declaration issued after Monday's meeting in Athens of the

Balkan leaders does not include a text on sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. "There are things for which we are not ready at this moment," Vucic said. "As much as we could, we protected our interests."

Zelenskyy also met with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, whom he said he thanked "for her efforts to normalise Ukraine's agricultural exports and transit." Von der Leyen said the two discussed "Ukraine's progress on the EU path as well as our continued support in the face of Russia's aggression." "We'll continue working together to bring Ukraine's grain to world markets and to provide economic assistance," she tweeted.

18 charred to death in Greece wildfire

Alexandroupolis (Greece): Greek firefighters found the bodies of 18 people in an area of northeastern Greece ravaged by a major wildfire burning for days, authorities said Tuesday.

Greek police activated the country's Disaster Victim Identification Team to identify the bodies, which were found near a shack in the Avanta area in the northeastern Alexandroupolis region, Ioannis Artopios, a spokesman for the fire department, said in

a televised statement. Given no reports of missing people had been filed in the area, authorities were examining the possibility that the casualties were migrants who had entered the country from the nearby border with Turkey, Artopios said. Hot, dry and windy conditions have seen dozens of wildfires break out across Greece, with the most severe entering its fourth day and encroaching on the northeastern port city of

Alexandroupolis. On Monday, two people died and two firefighters were injured in separate fires in northern and central Greece.

The fire risk level for several regions, including the wider Athens area, was listed as "extreme" for the second day Tuesday. Authorities have banned public access to mountains and forests in those regions until at least Wednesday morning and ordered military patrols. AP

TTP militants attack kill six soldiers in Pak

Peshawar (PTI): At least six Pakistani soldiers and four terrorists were killed on Tuesday when the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants attacked a convoy of security forces in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to the military. The attack occurred in the Asman Manza area of the South Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan when armed TTP militants opened fire at a convoy, killing six soldiers, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said.

The ISPR said that four terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire, while two were injured.

The banned TTP has accepted responsibility for the attack.

A "sanitisation operation" is underway in the area to eliminate any other terrorists, the statement said.

'Pak prez sacked secy amid controversy to clear his name'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Arif Alvi's decision to sack his secretary after a controversy erupted about the signing of two key bills was made to clear his name, media reports said on Tuesday, as the dismissed official claimed innocence and sought an inquiry.

President Alvi sacked his secretary Waqar Ahmed on Monday, a day after he said he did not personally sign the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and had instructed his staff to return them unsigned within the stipulated time to make them ineffective.

The President's Secretariat said in a statement that Alvi asked for the replacement of Secretary Ahmed, whose services were "no more required".

Ahmed's removal is being seen as a punishment for his alleged impudence, but there

was no direct reference to his involvement in the matter, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Meanwhile, Ahmed called his removal from the post "not based on justice" and, in a letter, asked Alvi to reconsider his decision to remove the secretary from his post.

Ahmed also urged the president to initiate an investigation into the matter through the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) or any other agency to uncover any misconduct, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"I want to set the record straight that I am not responsible for any irregularities regarding the bills," the former secretary stated in the confidential letter.

"The decision to surrender my services isn't based on justice," Ahmed stated, claiming that contrary to allegations of delay and insubordination, the documents pertaining to the bills are still present within the

presidential chambers. Ahmed said the files related to the Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill were not returned to the secretary's office until August 21.

Stressing that if any wrongdoing is proven, those responsible should be held accountable, Ahmed said, "I am prepared to testify before the Supreme Court or any other court. I will present a record to establish my innocence."

Ahmed clarified that the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was received by the Presidency on August 8 after the official hours, adding that it was forwarded to the president on August 9. "The President is fully aware of the facts surrounding both bills," he said. Under Article 75 of the Constitution, the president has to approve a bill within ten days, and under the same provision, he can send back a bill to the Parliament for reconsideration within the same amount of days.

Pak SC to hear Imran's appeal against IHC order today

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court is set to hear on Wednesday an appeal by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan against the order of the Islamabad High Court, which had rejected his petition seeking transfer of the Toshakhana corruption case to another court.

The IHC in its ruling on August 4 refused to grant a plea to transfer the Toshakhana case and sent back the matter to Judge Humayun Dilawar of Islamabad-based session court. The court had ruled that as per verdicts of the high courts in similar matters, a case could only be shifted to an alternative court on the basis of solid reasons. The court ordered that Judge Dilawar would hear the case who on the very next day held the hearing and convicted Khan and sentenced him to three years in jail.

Advertisement for Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, including contact information and website details.

Public Notice regarding a partnership dissolution for M/S Jagdish Construction Company, A-1/4 Paschim Vihar, Delhi.

Advertisement for Sunil Healthcare Limited, including office address and contact details.

Notice for Sunil Healthcare Limited regarding the 49th Annual General Meeting, including instructions for shareholders.

Paudel administers oath to new CJ

Kathmandu (PTI): Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to the country's newly-appointed Chief Justice Bishwambar Prasad Shrestha at a special ceremony held here on Tuesday.

President Paudel appointed 63-year-old Shrestha as the Chief Justice on Monday after the Parliamentary Hearing Committee unanimously endorsed his name for the top post of the apex court.

The oath-taking ceremony at Sheela Niwas, the President's Office, was attended by Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and speaker Devraj Ghimire, among others.

Shrestha is the senior-most justice in the Supreme Court and will lead the apex court for 14 months.

Born in 1959, Shrestha is a permanent resident of Dhangadhi city in Kailali district. He currently resides in Kuleshwar, Kathmandu.

Rescuers free 4 children from dangling chairlift

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Four children were rescued by the Pakistan Army after eight people were trapped 900 ft mid-air for more than 10 hours on Tuesday when the wires of a chairlift snapped in a mountainous area in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to Rescue 1122, the rescue operation by the special forces of the Pakistan Army is underway to save the rest of the people trapped in the dangling chairlift, Geo News reported.

The children were headed to school when the incident occurred at around 8 am in Battagram district's Allai tehsil.

According to Allai tehsil chairperson Mufitullah, the chairlift was privately run by locals for transportation across the river as there were no roads or bridges in the area, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.



A chairlift stuck at a height of about 900 ft midway due to breakage in one of its cables in Battagram. Eight persons, including 6 children, (are) stranded," the Geo News reported citing a statement from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Helicopters of Pakistan Army Aviation and Pakistan Air Force are participating in the rescue operation

along with the Special Services Group (SSG) troops, the report said.

The Express Tribune reported that a final helicopter rescue attempt was being carried out as a last resort as a chopper operation in the dark can be very risky and dangerous given the weather conditions and low daylight conditions as night time approaches.

Authorities have decided to continue the rescue operation from the ground with the help of the Pakistan Army so that the operation may be continued even in the dark of night.

Rescue workers on ground began the process of laying down nets to prepare for any mishaps, the report said.

Television footage aired around 4:45 pm showed a rescuer suspended from a sling being lowered and positioned adjacent to the chairlift, the Dawn News reported.

Ex-Thai PM goes to jail as party linked to him voted to power

AP ■ BANGKOK



Thaksin Shinawatra

A populist Thai party linked to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra won a vote in parliament to lead the country, hours after the divisive former leader returned from years of self-imposed exile and began an eight-year prison sentence.

Real estate tycoon Srettha Thavisin's victory ends months of suspense, legal wrangling and horse trading that followed the May elections. After the progressive Move Forward Party, which won the most votes in the national election, was blocked from taking power by conservative senators, the Pheu Thai Party entered a coalition with military parties linked to the coup that removed it from power in 2014.

Many observers say that Thaksin is betting that a friendly government will be able to cut his sentence short, although he has said his decision to return had nothing to do with the party's bid for

port, Thaksin prostrated himself before a portrait of Thailand's king and queen and left a flower wreath. He spent a moment greeting supporters and the media waiting in front of the terminal, but did not speak.

"I feel fulfilled that I travelled here today to pick him up. If possible I want to hug him. Everyone has tears, tears coming out of their eyes," said Makawan Payakkae, a 43-year-old from Maha Sarakham province, in Thailand's northeast. But others accused Thaksin and his party of turning their back on the democracy movement that began after the military removed him from power.

"From the past, the party was seen by the people as the most diligent in standing up for democracy," said Thanet Aphornsovan, a retired Thai professor of history. "Now, that sentiment is going to disappear." Thaksin and parties he backed struggled with the military for years. Thaksin left Thailand 15 years ago, a few

years after a 2006 coup that cut short his second term as prime minister and sparked years of upheaval. He was hit with corruption charges, which he dismissed as politically motivated, while in exile, and tried and convicted in absentia.

A Pheu Thai government led by Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra was ousted in 2014 by then-army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is now the outgoing prime minister.

Srettha will lead a coalition of 11 parties that includes two pro-military parties affiliated with Prayuth, while Move Forward was excluded from the coalition. Critics called the new government a betrayal of the election results, but Pheu Thai leaders said Move Forward's vow to reform of a law that forbids insulting the royal family had made it impossible to rally enough support from other parties and the unelected Senate. Both houses of Parliament vote together for the prime minister under the military-implemented constitution.

North Korean plane takes off from Beijing

Beijing (AP): A North Korean commercial flight has taken off from Beijing in a sign that Pyongyang is opening its borders again after almost three years of severe COVID-19 restrictions.

The Russian-made Air Koryo Tu-204 jet with capacity for 210 passengers reportedly landed in the Chinese capital Tuesday morning and was filmed taking off shortly after 1:30 p.m. local time (0530 GMT).

China has "approved the regular flight plan of North Korean Air Koryo Pyongyang-Beijing-Pyongyang and other passenger routes in accordance with the procedures," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

The specific flight is subject to the arrangement of the airline in accordance with the approval of the Chinese competent authority," Wang said.

China is North Korea's closest diplomatic ally and a key source of food and fuel aid for an economy beset by natural disasters and mismanagement.

Little is known about conditions inside the country due to the ruling Workers Party's complete control over information and its exclusion of most foreign diplomats, United Nations organisations and overseas media.

The flight follows a meeting between US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea, who agreed Friday to expand security and economic ties at a historic summit at Camp David just outside Washington.

Biden maintained, as have US, South Korean and Japanese officials, that the summit "was not about China" but was focused on broader security issues.

Yet, the leaders in their joint summit concluding statement noted China's "dangerous and aggressive" action in the South China Sea and said they "strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the waters of the Indo-Pacific."

11 killed in explosion at coal mine in China

AP ■ BEIJING

Authorities say 11 people have been killed in a coal mine explosion in northern China, in a reminder of the country's continued dependence on the energy source.

The blast occurred late Monday on the outskirts of the historic city of Yan'an in mountainous Shaanxi province, where mining has long been a key driver of the local economy.

A total of 90 miners were in the shaft at the time of the explosion, which is still under investigation, the provincial Department of Emergency Management reported on social media.

While swiftly adding wind and solar power, China remains dependent on coal for the bulk of its energy and is the world's largest producer and consumer of the fuel source. The accident was the deadliest since the February

collapse of an open-pit mine in the northern region of Inner Mongolia that killed more than 50. Officials as high as Chinese leader Xi Jinping have called for safety improvements, but that seems to have had a limited effect on mining operations that frequently cut corners while local officials turn a blind eye.

China has experienced a series of deadly industrial and construction accidents in recent months, often as a result of poor safety training and regulation, official corruption and corporate profit seeking.

Despite the high-profile incidents, the overall number of industrial accidents fell by 27% in 2022, when much of China's economy was shut down under its "zero COVID" policy, the Ministry of Emergency Management reported. The number of deaths fell by 23.6%, the ministry said.

Trump to surrender on Thursday

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump says he will surrender to authorities in Georgia on Thursday to face charges in the case accusing him of illegally scheming to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state.

"Can you believe it? I'll be going to Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday to be ARRESTED," Trump wrote on his social media network Monday night, hours after his bond was set at \$200,000. It will be Trump's fourth arrest since April, when he became the first former president in U.S. history to face indictment. Since then, Trump, who remains the leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, has had what has seemed like an endless procession of bookings and arraignments in jurisdictions across the country. His appearances in New York, Florida and Washington, DC, have drawn enormous media attention, with news helicopters tracking his every move.

Trump's announcement came hours after his attorneys met with prosecutors in Atlanta to discuss the details of his release on bond. The former president is barred from intimidating co-defendants, witnesses or victims in the case — including on social media — according to the bond agreement signed by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, Trump's defense attorneys and the judge. It explicitly includes "posts on social media or reposts of posts" made by others.

Trump has repeatedly used social media to attack people involved in the criminal cases against him as he campaigns to reclaim the White House in 2024. He has been railing against Willis since before he was indicted, and singled out Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp — a Republican who rebuffed his efforts to overturn the election — by name in a social media post Monday morning.

The agreement also prohibits the former president from making any "direct or indirect threat of any nature"

AU suspends Niger until constitutional order restored

AP ■ NIAMEY (NIGER)

The African Union on Tuesday suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities "until the effective restoration of constitutional order" following last month's coup. The council of the 55-nation bloc made the decision after mutinous soldiers overthrew Niger's democratically elected president last month and quickly entrenched themselves in power, rebuffing most dialogue efforts. President Mohamed Bazoum, his wife and son have been kept under house arrest in the capital, Niamey. This was the council's first public communication since it met earlier this month to discuss Niger's crisis. The Council called on all member states and the international community to reject the country's "unconstitutional change of government and to refrain from any action likely to grant legitimacy to the illegal regime in Niger."

The AU commission and the West African regional bloc, ECOWAS, were requested to urgently submit a list of members of the military junta and

their military and civilian supporters, including those involved in the violation of human rights of Bazoum and other detainees for targeted sanctions, it said.

People close to Bazoum say his electricity and water have been cut off and he is running out of food. Rights groups say they've been unable to access ministers and political elites who were detained by the junta after the coup.

Until now, Niger was seen by Western countries as one of the last partners in the Sahel region below the Sahara Desert that it could work with to counter a growing jihadi insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. France and the United States have some 2,500 military personnel in the country. ECOWAS, which has struggled to beat back a string of coups in recent years, has threatened the use of force if Bazoum is not reinstated.

But the deadline to reinstall him came and went with no action. An ECOWAS delegation was in Niamey on the weekend, but officials say talks have yielded little and the junta is ploughing ahead with its own plans,

saying it will restore the country to constitutional rule within three years.

The AU did not weigh in on whether it would support the use of military force.

The AU's Peace and Security Council could overrule a military intervention if it felt that wider stability on the continent was threatened by it.

Analysts say if it rejects the use of force, there are few grounds under which ECOWAS could claim legal justification. "While ECOWAS member states approved military intervention to reestablish Mohamed Bazoum into power, the AU remains divided and hesitant about the use of force.

There are countries that are opposed to a military intervention," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Centre for the New South, a Moroccan-based think tank.

The Council urged the military to place the interests of Nigeriens above all else and to immediately and unconditionally return to the barracks, and submit to civilian authorities.

Over 200 ex-Af officials killed since Taliban takeover: UN

Islamabad (AP): More than 200 extrajudicial killings of former Afghan government officials and security forces have taken place since the Taliban took over the country two years ago, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.

The groups most targeted by the Taliban have been former army, police and intelligence forces, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UNAMA documented at least 800 human rights violations against former Afghan government officials and security forces between August 15, 2021, when the Taliban seized power, and the end of June 2023.

The Taliban swept across Afghanistan as US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from the country after two decades of war. The US-trained and backed Afghan forces crumbled in the face of the Taliban advance and former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

"Individuals were detained by the de facto (Taliban) security forces, often briefly, before being killed. Some were taken to detention facilities and killed while in custody, others were taken to unknown locations and killed, their bodies either dumped or handed over to family members," the report said. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said in a press release issued alongside the report that it "presents a sobering picture of the treatment of individuals affiliated with the former government and security forces." "Even more so, given they were assured that they would be not targeted, it is a betrayal of the people's trust," Turk said.

Kim lambasts premier over flooding

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un severely rebuked his premier and other senior officials over their "irresponsible" response to recent flooding that inundated farmlands, state media reported Tuesday.

Summer floods in North Korea often cause serious damage to its agricultural sector due to poor drainage and deforestation. Observers say Kim's lambasting of top officials likely aims to shift blame for the country's worsened economic hardships and food insecurity to them, to ease public complaints.

Kim on Monday visited a western coastal tideland, where seawater recently destroyed the embankment, flooding more than 270 hectares of rice paddies. After inspecting the situation, Kim accused officials of "very irresponsible neglect of duties," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.



Kim criticised Premier Kim Tok Hun for showing "the attitude of an onlooker," KCNA said. He berated the vice premier for failing to perform his duties faithfully and playing "the role of a fuel supplier only" and said the director of the tideland reclamation bureau did nothing and concealed a large amount of fuel oil provided for

US commerce secretary to visit China

Washington (AP): US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will meet with Chinese officials and American business leaders next week amid efforts to stabilise relations that have sunk to historic lows.

Raimondo's Aug 27-30 visit to Beijing and Shanghai aims for "constructive discussions on issues relating to the US-China commercial relationship, challenges faced by US businesses, and areas for potential cooperation," the Commerce Department said in a news release posted on its website Tuesday. China's Ministry of Commerce said the visit came at the invitation of Minister Wang Wentao but gave no other details. Raimondo's visit follows the imposition of foreign investment controls by her agency that have stung numerous Chinese companies.

Raimondo last met with Wang in Washington in May to discuss trade issues. Trade tensions have only ramped up since then.

President Joe Biden signed an executive order on Aug 9 to impose blocks and regulations on US high-tech investment in China, reflecting the intensifying competition between the world's two largest economies.

The order covers advanced computer chips, micro electronics, quantum information technologies and artificial intelligence.

Senior administration officials said the effort is narrow in scope and related more to national security than economic interests. It seeks to blunt China's ability to use US investments to upgrade its military capabilities, while also preserving broader levels of trade that are vital for both nations' economies.

against witnesses or co-defendants, and from communicating in any way about the facts of the case with them, except through attorneys. The order sets Trump's bond for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations — or RICO — charge at \$80,000, and adds \$10,000 for each of the 12 other counts he is facing. Bond is the amount defendants must pay as a form of collateral to ensure they show up for required court appearances. Willis set a deadline of noon Friday for Trump and his 18 co-defendants to turn themselves in to be booked. The prosecutor has proposed that

arraignments for the defendants follow during the week of Sept. 5. She has said she wants to try the defendants collectively and bring the case to trial in March of next year, which would put it in the heat of the presidential nominating season. A Trump spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the filing. A phone message seeking comment was also left for an attorney for the former president. Trump's appearance in Georgia will come a day after the first Republican primary debate, which he has decided to skip.

'About 500 children died from hunger in Sudan since fighting erupted in April'

AP ■ CAIRO

About 500 children have died from hunger in Sudan — including two dozen babies in a government-run orphanage — since fighting erupted in the East African country in April, a leading aid group said on Tuesday. Save the Children also said that at least 31,000 children lack access to treatment for malnutrition and related illnesses since the country was forced to close 57 of its nutrition centres in Sudan.

Sudan was plunged into chaos after months-long tensions between the military and a rival paramilitary force exploded into open fighting on April 15. The conflict has

turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields. Many residents live without water and electricity, and the country's health care system has nearly collapsed.

"Never did we think we would see children dying from hunger in such numbers, but this is now the reality in Sudan," said Arif Noor, Save the Children's director for Sudan. "We are seeing children dying from entirely preventable hunger." The violence in Sudan is estimated to have killed at least 4,000 people, according to Liz Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN human rights office.

Activists and doctors on the ground, however, say the death toll is likely far higher. More than 4.4 million people were

forced to flee their homes either to safer areas in Sudan or cross into neighbouring countries, according to the UN migration agency.

Save the Children said that between May and July, at least 316 children, mostly under 5 years of age, died of malnutrition or associated illnesses in the southern White Nile province.

More than 2,400 more children have admitted to hospitals in the past eight months with severe acute malnutrition — the deadliest form of malnutrition, it added.

In the eastern Qadiri province, at least 132 children died from malnutrition in the government-run Children's Hospital between April and

July. And at least 50 children, including two dozen babies, died of starvation or related illnesses in an orphanage in Khartoum in the first six weeks of the conflict as the fighting prevented Save the Children staff from accessing the building to care for them, the charity said.

Save the Children also warned that special food supplies for treating malnutrition were running critically low at 108 facilities it still operates across Sudan.

Meanwhile, clashes have raged this week around a military camp south of Khartoum as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have attempted to seize the crucial facility, the warring sides reported.

Public Notice sections containing legal notices and information regarding property and business matters.

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN advertisement including contact information and details about an e-tender notice for selection of agency for conducting IEC/BCC activities.

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED advertisement including company details, annual general meeting information, and financial statements.

Sensex, Nifty close flat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat after a volatile trade on Tuesday as investors booked profits amid concerns over potential rate hikes in the US and persistent foreign fund outflows.

Amid profit taking in financial, IT shares



The BSE barometer eked out gains of 3.94 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 65,220.03. During the day, it climbed 146.82 points or 0.22 per cent to a high of 65,362.91.

seen in power and capital goods stocks, while IT stocks failed to deliver, despite a strong upsurge in the tech-heavy Nasdaq in overnight trades," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Sebi proposes body for administration, supervision of research analysts



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday proposed to recognise an entity designated as Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body (RAASB), which will be responsible for the administration and supervision of the research analysts.

In addition, it has been suggested to amend the rules to provide that membership of RAASB should be one of the eligibility criteria for consideration of the grant of registration certificate as RA.



PHDCCI for lowering housing sector interest rates to stimulate growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body PHDCCI has submitted several recommendations on issues related to the housing sector, banking and foreign trade to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Pyramid Technoplast IPO subscribed 18.29 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of packaging company Pyramid Technoplast received 18.29 times subscription on the last day of bidding on Tuesday.

and an offer for sale of up to 37.20 lakh equity shares. The price range for the offer was Rs 151-166 a share.

'Gen AI's impact on Indian jobs yet to become clear'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Generative Artificial Intelligence is likely to be a tool for augmentation of roles rather than replacement of jobs, although the specific impact on the workforce will become clear overtime, Nasscom Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Sangeeta Gupta.



We believe it's more a tool for augmentation than replacement," Gupta told PTI on the sidelines of the Nasscom Annual Technology Conference 2023.

"Given how fast technology is evolving, you cannot expect every use case to be built through this bill. Continuous evolution of the rules will happen as new use cases and challenges come up," she added.

Govt OK's extra 2 lakh tonnes sugar to mills for sales

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has allocated an additional quota of 2 lakh tonnes of sugar for sale during this month, over and above 23.5 lakh tonnes already allotted to mills, as part of its efforts to boost domestic supply and keep prices under check in the festive season.

the domestic market will ensure reasonable prices all over the country, it added. Despite a 25 per cent increase in international sugar prices in the last year, the food ministry said that the average retail price of sugar in the country is about Rs 43.30 per kilogram and is likely to remain in range bound only.

'GDP growth to be higher than RBI's estimate of 8 per cent for June quarter'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's real GDP growth in the first quarter will be better than the Reserve Bank's estimate of 8 per cent, economists said on Tuesday.



sector — which has continued to deliver higher growth — were also mentioned by SBI and Ica. They also hinted at widening profit margins in the corporate sector as a tailwind which is benefitting the growth prospects.

Footwear industry to record 11 per cent revenue growth this fiscal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Softening input cost and rising demand will help the footwear industry to record an 11 per cent growth in revenue this fiscal, says a report.

Last fiscal, exports grew as pent-up demand after the pandemic continued. Domestic revenue is seen rising 10 per cent, driven largely by higher selling prices.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. SS/CW/NESIDS/PH-II/1641/2022/302

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. SS/CW/NESIDS/511/2023/9

Total banking transactions at GIFT IFSC reach \$ 508 billion by July 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gandhinagar, Aug 22 (PTI) Total banking transactions at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) here reached USD 508 billion till July 2023, an official said on Tuesday.

Banking Units were operational at GIFT IFSC. Two more IBUs, which received licences before March 31, 2023, are expected to commence operations during FY 2023-24.

Rupee rises 19 paise to close at 82.94 against \$

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee recovered from its all-time low levels and settled for the day higher by 19 paise at 82.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels.

Leading bourses BSE, NSE impose fines on Dish TV over lack of board strength

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading bourses BSE and National Stock Exchange have imposed penalties on DTH operator Dish TV over composition and lack of quorum for its Board meeting, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

ARSENAL SINK PALACE TO EXTEND PERFECT START



AFP ■ LONDON
Arsenal shrugged off Takehiro Tomiyasu's red card to extend their perfect start to the Premier League season as Martin Odegaard sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace on Monday.
Odegaard's second-half penalty at Selhurst Park put Arsenal on course for their second successive win.
But Mikel Arteta's side had to dig deep to preserve the points after Japan defender Tomiyasu was controversially sent off for a second yellow card midway through the second half.
Tomiyasu had been booked

for taking too long over a throw-in before his dismissal for making minimal contact on Jordan Ayew.
Arteta was delighted with the way Arsenal refused to surrender their lead as they moved up to third place, behind leaders Brighton and second-placed Manchester City on goal difference.
"Great win. I'm so happy. To play 30 minutes away from home with 10 men is extremely difficult," Arteta said.
"Some players were suffering physically. The subs were magnificent, they knew what they had to do. Today we had a difficult one, we overcame it and it will make us better."

Frustrated by Tomiyasu's first booking for time-wasting, Arteta added: "This is the standard. I think it was eight seconds. We might have to play with a stop watch."
Expected to mount a sustained title challenge following last season's late collapse that gifted the trophy to City, the north Londoners look up for the fight after building on their opening weekend win against Nottingham Forest.
While they haven't played their most fluent football yet, this could prove a significant building block in their bid for a first title since 2004.
Arsenal had the best away record in the top flight last sea-

son and registered a division-best 10 clean sheets on their travels. Arteta's men looked like road warriors again as they repelled Palace's late flurry of pressure.
With new goalkeeper David Raya among the Arsenal substitutes after his loan move from Brentford, the spotlight was on Aaron Ramsdale as the England international fights to hold onto his place.
Ramsdale rose to the challenge with a confident display from the moment he turned away Eberechi Eze's long-range strike in the early stages.
Ice-cool Odegaard Emulating City boss Pep Guardiola's tactic of instructing a defender to advance forward

whenever they have possession, Arteta deployed Thomas Partey at right-back with a license to link up play from his preferred midfield role.
That allowed Arsenal to dominate possession but Eddie Nketiah, deputising for the injured Gabriel Jesus, failed to make their first-half pressure pay off.
The 24-year-old wasted a good chance when he nimbly turned away Joachim Andersen, only to scuff his shot against the far post with just Sam Johnstone to beat.
Palace were denied a penalty after William Saliba's sliding tackle on Ayew was ignored by VAR.

Chelsea defender Hall joins Newcastle on season-long loan

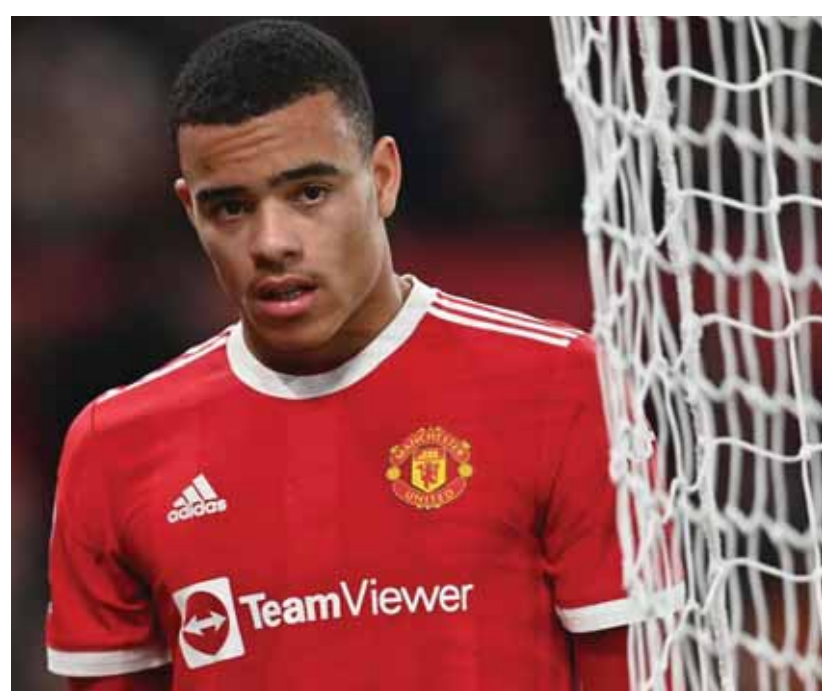


AFP ■ LONDON
Lewis Hall has joined Newcastle on a season-long loan from Chelsea with the option for a permanent deal for the defender, the northeast side announced Tuesday.
The clubs have been in talks over a move for the 18-year-old academy graduate,

with Newcastle reportedly offering £28 million (\$36 million, 33 million euros) to their Premier League rivals.
Hall signed a new six-year contract to stay at Stamford Bridge earlier in August but Newcastle's interest has led Chelsea to part with a defender who made 11 first-team appearances last season, including nine in the Premier League.
"Boyhood Newcastle fan Hall told the Magpies' website: 'I'm very proud. Me and my family are Newcastle fans, and for me and my brother growing up, it was drilled into us that we were Newcastle. It's a big club and I can't wait to get started. I got a lot of experience last year in some big fixtures and I was really proud of the way I progressed as a player and a person. To now be here at Newcastle, the club that I've supported since I was a kid, I'm honoured and very proud to wear this shirt.'
He added: "It's very exciting. When you look back on last season and the way the team performed — not just the results, but the performances the team were putting in — it was amazing."
"There's so many talented players and we've got the Champions League now as well so there's many different competitions that I know the team will be wanting to do well in, and hopefully get a trophy or two as well."

Greenwood to leave Man Utd after abuse allegations

AFP ■ LONDON
Manchester United and Mason Greenwood have mutually agreed for the forward to leave Old Trafford after he faced allegations of abuse involving a young woman, the club announced on Monday.
The 21-year-old forward has been suspended by the Premier League giants since January 2022 over the allegations after images and videos were posted online.
Prosecutors said in February they were dropping charges, including attempted rape and sexual assault, against Greenwood, after key witnesses withdrew and new evidence came to light.
On Monday, the club said that after a six-month internal investigation into his conduct, it was releasing Greenwood so he could attempt to rebuild his career elsewhere.
The club said Monday: "All those involved, including Mason, recognise the difficulties with him recommencing his career at Manchester United."
"It has therefore been mutually agreed that it would be most appropriate for him to do so away from Old Trafford, and we will now work with Mason to achieve that outcome."



Greenwood, whose contract runs until June 2025, said: "I did not do the things I was accused of, and in February I was cleared of all charges."
"However, I fully accept I made mistakes in my relationship, and I take my share of responsibility for the situations which led to the social media post."
He added: "The best decision for us all, is for me to continue my football career away from Old Trafford, where my presence will not be a distraction for the club."
"I thank the club for their support since I joined aged seven. There will always be a part of me which is United."
The club said: "Based on the evidence available to us, we have concluded that the material posted online did not provide a full picture and that Mason did not commit the offences in respect of which he was origi-

nally charged. "That said, as Mason publicly acknowledges today, he has made mistakes which he is taking responsibility for."
Greenwood was tipped for stardom at United after rising through the Old Trafford youth system and went on to score 35 goals in 129 senior appearances for the club.
"People will think the worst"
In his statement, he said: "I want to start by saying I understand that people will judge me because of what they have seen and heard on social media, and I know people will think the worst."
"I was brought up to know that violence or abuse in any relationship is wrong... However, I fully accept I made mistakes in my relationship, and I take my share of responsibility for the situations which led to the social media post."
He added he was "learning to understand my responsibilities to set a good exam-

ple as a professional footballer, and I'm focused on the big responsibility of being a father, as well as a good partner".
Manchester United chief executive Richard Arnold, who was criticised after suggesting this year that Greenwood might be reintegrated back into the first-team squad, wrote an open letter to United's fans.
He acknowledged that while "reintegration was one of the outcomes we considered and planned for," his view had "evolved as our process progressed".
Arnold added: "I am also mindful of the challenge that Mason would face rebuilding his career and raising a baby together with his partner in the harsh spotlight of Manchester United."
"The club will continue to offer its support both to the alleged victim and Mason to help them rebuild and move forward positively with their lives."



Emery wants to make 'new history' with Villa in Europe

AFP ■ LONDON
Unai Emery has urged Aston Villa to "write a new history" ahead of the Premier League club's first European campaign in 13 years.
Villa face Scottish Premiership side Hibernian in the first leg of their Europa Conference League qualifying play-off at the Edinburgh team's Easter Road ground on Wednesday.
Emery, a four-time Europa League winner as a manager, and said pictures of Villa's 1982 European Cup triumph on the walls of the Birmingham side's Bodymoor Heath training were an inspiration to him and his players.
"Everyday when I go to the training ground there is the '82 European Cup (picture)," Emery said on Tuesday. "It's good to have that memory. This is the history for Aston Villa and it's amazing. Of course we want to write a new history now, doing it our way and hopefully we can do something important here."
"Always when I go in my

office I am passing this (picture) and I am always watching the trophy," the 51-year-old added.
Emery won the Europa League with Sevilla three years running (2014, 2015 and 2016) and lifted the trophy again with fellow Spanish club Villarreal in 2021.
He was also a runner-up when in charge of Arsenal in 2019. "We play Hibernian and have to play two matches to try and get to the group stage and that is the objective," he said.
"I'm so happy about this and want to share my mindset with the players and the supporters because Europe always is something amazing for everybody."
"We have our experiences, the players and me as a coach. Playing in Europe always gave me a lot as a coach. In football, I'm so grateful for the possibility to play in Europe like I have."
He added: "Now with Aston Villa, I want to share with everybody the experiences and I want to share my competitive way. What I did before, I want to do here."

Man City manager Guardiola to miss two matches after back surgery



AFP ■ LONDON
16. A Manchester City statement said: "Pep Guardiola has today (Tuesday) undergone a routine operation on a back problem."
"The Manchester City boss has been suffering with severe back pain for some time lately, and flew out to Barcelona for emergency surgery performed by Dr Mireia Illueca. The surgery was a success, and Pep will now recover and rehabilitate in Barcelona."
"In his absence, assistant manager Juanma Lillo will oversee coaching of the first team on the training field and will assume duties on the touchline until Pep's return."
"He is expected to return after the forthcoming international break. Everyone at Manchester City wishes Pep a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing him back in Manchester soon."

Former football star Thierry Henry to coach France at 2024 Olympics

AFP ■ FRANCE
Thierry Henry was on Monday named as coach of France's Under-21s and will be in charge of the team competing at next year's Olympics in Paris.
The 46-year-old former Arsenal and France striker replaces Sylvain Ripoll and returns to management after leaving his role as Belgium assistant following last year's World Cup.
Henry, who won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 with France, has struggled to hit the same heights in coaching that he reached as a player.
He lasted barely three months as Monaco coach in the 2018-19 season and stepped



down at MLS club Montreal Impact in February 2021 after just over a year at the helm.
He has also worked previously with Arsenal's youth teams and twice served on the Belgium coaching staff, helping the country finish third at the 2018 World Cup.
Henry, scorer of 51 goals in 123 games for France, has been working as a TV consultant in recent times.
He could have a team built around Kylian Mbappé at the Olympics, with the France captain making no secret of his desire to play at the tournament, which is largely reserved for players aged 23 or younger.
Henry's first match as France Under-21 coach is a friendly against Denmark in Nancy on September 7, four days before his team's opening Euro 2025 qualifier away to Slovenia.

Pulisic strikes as Milan open well at Bologna

AFP ■ MILAN
Christian Pulisic netted one and helped set up another in AC Milan's hard-fought 2-0 win at Bologna on Monday in which the USA star made a big impression.
The 24-year-old is looking to give his club career a jump start at Milan after being sold by Chelsea and he was key to Stefano Pioli's side claiming the points in their opening match of the season.
Pulisic played the defence-splitting pass which led to Olivier Giroud's 11th-minute opener and then doubled Milan's lead 10 minutes later with a superb strike from the edge of the penalty area.
"We saw some really good things today and also some things on which we still need to work loads," Pioli told DAZN.
"I always knew Pulisic was a talent, it was never in doubt. When I spoke to him before he signed it was clear that he would bring quality to the team." Milan have brought in eight players in the summer transfer window after Sandro Tonali's big-money move to Newcastle United. And although they



looked vulnerable at the back there was enough to suggest that the business done in the close season has rejuvenated a team whose title defence went up in flames midway through the last campaign.
CREATIVE SPARK
Milan created enough promising attacking situations of which a sharper outfit could have made more, Rafael Leao not at his best on the left flank and unluckily not to score late on when a mazy run ended with the Portugal winger hitting the post.
It was two of Milan's new boys who combined brilliantly to set up Giroud for his first goal of the season at a packed, and roast-

ing hot Stadio Dall'Ara.
Left with space in front of the area Pulisic clipped over a lofted pass which the excellent Tijjani Reijnders managed to reach and flash back across goal for Giroud.
The France international made no mistake from close range to score his first ever right-footed Milan goal. It was then Giroud's turn to be the provider, exchanging passes with his former Chelsea teammate Pulisic who then strode forward and clattered in Milan's second of the night.
Bologna could have collapsed under the pressure and the oppressive late summer heat enveloping northern Italy, but to their credit Thiago Motta's side fought back.
On the hour mark Dan Ndoye did well to skip past Davide Calabria but, with a simple pass on to the wide open Riccardo Orsolini, the Swiss forward tried to squeeze in a finish at the near post and clipped the woodwork. And seconds later Mike Maignan unwittingly shouldered away Michel Aebischer's close-range drive, the hosts' last major opportunity of a happy, if sweltering evening, for Milan.

India to face Ireland in 3rd T20I

After dominating Ireland in the first two matches, India will aim for their third win

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Jasprit Bumrah will have to balance between adding miles to his legs and checking his team's bench-strength as India aim to complete a comfortable clean-sweep against Ireland in the three-match T20 series here on Wednesday.

The Indian skipper for the series has looked comfortable in the eight overs across two matches but will need to take an informed call if he intends to play a third consecutive game on the bounce in five days even though it is a T20 affair.

The more Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna bowl, the fitter they will get, better the rhythm will be and greater the pace in their deliveries -- ingredients that are a must to cook a perfect recipe to trouble Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup and the marquee World Cup.

However, the skipper along with stand-in head coach Sitanshu Kotak will also have to keep in mind that there is an Asian Games to be played and some of the reserve bench players might just be undercooked.

The inconsequential third



game gives this think-tank a chance to check out players like Avesh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed, who haven't yet got a game in the series.

In fact, Avesh, who was also with the team during the West Indies T20 series has been benched for seven straight matches and if he is

again kept on the sidelines, he will go into Asian Games without any game time, which might be detrimental for both him and the team.

It is unlikely that there will be any change in the batting order unless the team management decides to rest Sanju Samson and try out Jitesh before Asian Games.

However Samson, who is a senior player in this set-up, might not want to sit out as his place in the World Cup squad is far from assured and he would like to carry on from where he left in the second game when he scored 40 off 26 balls.

Arshdeep Singh has got a long rope and his has been a

mixed bag so far after he failed to show consistency in nailing the yorkers during the death overs in the past seven T20 games.

Avesh with his pace or Mukesh Kumar with subtle variations could be tried out at Malahide, which has been a reasonably okay strip for willow wielders although it does get slower towards the end.

With Rinku Singh announcing his arrival on international stage with a 21-ball-38 in the second game, India's T20 squad seems like getting that second finisher after Suryakumar Yadav in shortest format.

The likes of Rinku, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rituraj Gaikwad would like to stamp their authority as this will be the last bilateral T20 series before the next one against Australia which will be held in the month of November.

Teams (from):
India: Jasprit Bumrah (C), Rituraj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan.

Tilak confident of carrying List A form into ODIs

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Young batter Tilak Varma on Tuesday said he is confident of carrying his List A cricket form into one-day internationals, after receiving a maiden call-up in the Indian squad for the Asia Cup.

The left-handed Varma, who made his international debut for India in T20Is earlier this month on the West Indies tour, is the newest face in the 17-member extended India squad for the Asia Cup, starting August 30.

The same group is expected to be pruned further to 15 members for the World Cup starting on October 5.

Varma, who averages an impressive 56.18 in 25 List A games with five tons and as many fifties, told BCCI that he was confident of excelling in one-day cricket.

"I am really confident



would debut for India in ODIs. But it is a big thing for me," he said.

"I always dreamed of this, like debuting for India in ODIs that too in a single year. I got my T20I debut, and suddenly, in the next month, I'm just getting a call for the Asia Cup. So yeah, it is one of my dreams, and I'm just preparing for it," Varma added.

Varma recalled India and Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma's inputs during his IPL stint.

"Rohit bhai has always backed me. He used to come near me when I was playing in the IPL. I was a bit nervous in the IPL at the start. He only came near me himself, and talked about the game and said, 'always enjoy your game and always feel free'. Whenever you want to talk, you can come any time for me or text me, so I'll be there for you," Varma said.

playing one-day cricket. I have done well in List A cricket for my state and at U-19 (level) I have done well. I am confident that I can do well in ODIs," Varma said in a video interview.

"I never dreamed that I would be debuting directly in the Asia Cup - that too in the one-day side. I was always dreaming that I



Asia Cup will be big part of India's preparations for WC: Southee

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the World Cup less than two months away, New Zealand pace spearhead Tim Southee says the upcoming Asia Cup will be a big part of India's preparations for the showpiece, while admitting that scheduling of T20 competitions has made it difficult for teams to align resources.

India announced an extended 17-member squad for the Asia Cup starting August 30, including Sanju Samson as travelling stand-by player since KL Rahul - the preferred wicketkeeper-batter at No. 5 - has picked up a niggle to his original injury.

"I guess ideally you want to play as much as you can together and to lead into a World Cup. But I think you look at the Asia Cup, and what better place to have your team together around that?"

"I'd imagine that is going to be a big part of the Indian team's preparation at the Asia Cup," Southee told the media here on the sidelines of the Ceat Cricket Rating Award on Monday.

Southee also backed the Indian batters to have plans against left-arm pace, while acknowledging the role of compatriot Trent Boult and Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi in causing troubles.

"I don't know what it is, but it was always handy to have a left-arter - something probably people don't face a lot of. Those two guys that you mentioned, Shaheen Shah and Trent Boult, are quality bowlers and have caused a lot of players headaches over the years," said the Kiwi bowler.

"I do not think it is too much of an issue. I'm sure the Indian players - world class players - will have solid game plans to whoever bowler they come up against," he added.

The 34-year-old said New Zealand hope to have a

fit Kane Williamson in time for the World Cup. "Kane is doing everything possible to make sure he's alright for the World Cup. We won't know until we get closer to the World Cup, whether he will be available or not. I guess it is just wait and see with Kane," he said.

"(If) you look at us, with such a small cricketing nation, he's arguably one of our best ever cricketers. Any side that doesn't have him in it is going to miss him. We're hoping his recovery goes well and hoping that he's going to be okay, but if he doesn't, then it presents an opportunity for someone else to step up," Southee said.

"Over the last couple of years we've been able to build some depth from some players and I'm sure we'll find someone that can fill that role," he added.

The Kiwi bowler said all teams will look to have their World Cup players spending the coming weeks together in order to finalise their preparations for the mega event.

After an away bilateral series for four T20Is and as many ODIs, New Zealand will face England in the World Cup opener in Ahmedabad on October 5.

"It's been tough for all sides at the moment with T20 cricket and juggling the different formats and busy schedules to have your (players) started and living together for a long period of time, but I'd imagine that will change in the next couple of months in the lead up to the World Cup," he said.

Southee also hoped the New Zealand players who were part of IPL this year would use their experience of the pitches and conditions. "Every time you've come to these parts of the world, the guys that (are) from New Zealand that were involved in the IPL earlier in the year, would have gained as much knowledge as they can about the grounds and the surfaces that we'll be playing on," he said.

Won't try and reinvent the wheel at all: Marsh

PTI N MELBOURNE

Star all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is not looking to "reinvent the wheel" and would rather continue what regular skipper Pat Cummins and coach Andrew McDonald have been doing when he captains Australia in the upcoming white-ball tour of South Africa.

The 31-year-old will be leading the Australian T20 and ODI side in the absence of Cummins, who is nursing a fractured wrist, in the white-ball series against the Proteas.

"I probably won't try and reinvent the wheel at all. I think the most important thing I've learned about leadership is staying true to yourself," Marsh told cricket.Co.Au.

"Patty and Andrew McDonald have created an incredible environment around our group right now so hopefully I can continue that in the T20 format and create an environment where the guys come in and just enjoy playing cricket for Australia."

Australia are without a T20 captain since former skip-



per Aaron Finch announced his retirement and the series against the Proteas is the perfect opportunity for Marsh to prove his mettle as a leader.

The pacer hopes Cummins can "lean" on him during the World Cup in India.

"I think that's one of Pat's strengths, he leans on other people in the squad and other leaders in our team - he does an incredible job," Marsh said. "There's no doubt with his role as a bowler, playing every game in every format is near-impossible so for him to

have guys that he trusts, he leans on... we've got a great friendship first and foremost, and a great relationship professionally so I always know I can lean on him, and vice-versa."

The likes of spinner Tanveer Sangha and left-arm quick Spencer Johnson have made it to the 18-man squad for the ODI leg in South Africa. "We've got an extended squad, we've got some young guys coming in which is really exciting, seeing guys like Spencer Johnson, he'll definitely get a crack," Marsh said.

Bumrah, Krishna need more game time: India head coach for Ireland tour



PTI ■ DUBLIN

India head coach for Ireland Tour Sitanshu Kotak on Tuesday said fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna need more game time after making impressive comebacks from back surgeries.

Both Bumrah and Prasidh have made promising returns on the Ireland tour with two wickets each for the pacers in the two games so far, setting up India's unassailable lead in the three-match series.

"Not really (any) pressure, I would say. They were at the NCA for their RTPs (return to

play) and strength and all. They are very smart; they never looked like they did not get a game, or were out of practice. They looked ready in practice," Kotak told the media here.

"It is just that these guys need more game time before the World Cup. They will get three games in this series and (also) a few matches in the Asia Cup," he added.

Talking about his role on the tour, Kotak said: "I did two assignments with the Indian team last year, but as a head coach this is the first tour. Rahul bhai and they (other coaching staff members) are preparing for

the Asia Cup," he said.

"But because I have been looking after the India A team since 2019, more or less players were there in the A series apart from (Jasprit) Bumrah and Prasidh (Krishna). We have unbelievable talent; it is a great experience to work with them," he added.

Kotak said young batter Tilak Varma - dismissed for 0 and 1 in the two T20Is so far - had discussions about his game plan and approach during an optional training session.

"He just wanted to practice. He talked about his mindset, his shot selection and it was a normal discussion on what I think and what his plans are. On tours, if anything, we talk more about tactics. He spoke about how to build his innings and how he should approach the last game.

"We do not speak much on technical aspects unless the player requires it and provided there is enough time. I do not think you can change a player technically during a series, within a week or two-three days," he added.

England to host Zimbabwe for Test in 2025

AFP ■ LONDON

England will host Zimbabwe in a men's Test match for the first time in 22 years in May 2025.

The four-day Test will take place from May 28-31, with the venue for the one-off match to be confirmed at a later date.

Jimmy Anderson, England's leading Test wicket-taker, made his debut the last time his country faced Zimbabwe in 2003.

"We are delighted to be able to host Zimbabwe for a men's Test match for the first time in two decades," ECB chief executive Richard Gould said on Tuesday.

"Zimbabwe has a proud cricket history and have produced world-class players and coaches who have enriched the game across the world.

"We are committed to developing a closer relationship with Zimbabwe Cricket and the announcement of this Test against our England men's team is a step in that ambition."



England have played three two-Test series against Zimbabwe, drawing in 1996 and winning in 2000 and 2003.

"The significance and magnitude of this tour cannot be over-emphasised," Zimbabwe Cricket managing director Givemore Makoni said.

"The experience of playing a Test match against a top team like England is massive for the current generation of our players, coming at a time when our game as a whole is on an upward trajectory."

Reinvigorated by captain Ben Stokes and head coach

Brendan McCullum, England have breathed new life into Test cricket over the last two years through their aggressive 'Bazball' game-plan.

England fought back from 2-0 down to draw the Ashes series with World Test champions Australia earlier this year.

"This summer's Ashes series showcased all that is great about Test cricket and, while we must be mindful of the demands of world cricket's schedule, we also want to help grow Test cricket and find opportunities to play more nations where we can," Gould said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An annoyed Sunil Gavaskar pleaded with those questioning the Indian team selection for the upcoming Asia Cup and asserted that this 17-man squad should form the nucleus of the 15-member World Cup side.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was a notable omission from the squad, leaving India with only one wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja are the other spin bowling options in the squad that was named on Monday.

Few also wondered why senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who is also a very useful batter lower down the order, was not picked in the side.

"Yes, there are a few players who will believe that they are lucky. But the team is selected. So don't talk about Ashwin. Stop

creating controversy. This is our team now.

"If you don't like it, don't watch the matches but stop saying that he should have been picked or another should be there, this is a wrong mindset," Gavaskar told 'Aaj Tak'.

Both Jadeja and Axar have also proved their batting abilities across formats and will add depth to India's line-up.

KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer were also named in the team for the tournament beginning August 31 while highly-rated young batter Tilak Varma earned a maiden call-up to the one-day format.

Gavaskar believed the team selection was fair and expressed



optimism ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup.

"Yes, absolutely (this team can win the World Cup). Who

else would you have picked? I don't think any player can claim that there has been an injustice to him. The experienced and in-

form players have been selected in the 17-member Asia Cup squad," Gavaskar said.

Gavaskar also backed the decision to pick Rahul, who has developed a new niggles and might not be available for the first match of the continental tournament against Pakistan on September 2.

"Let's see what his injury is like. Winning the Asia Cup is important but the goal is the World Cup. So if the team management wants KL Rahul in the World Cup squad then I think it's right that they have selected him for Asia Cup despite a niggles."

"As far as India are concerned, there are 11 days to go. That's enough time to recover

from a niggle. And there are more matches as well, right till the middle of September. I think it will be fair to give KL Rahul (a chance) after all that he has done for India in the past, to give him the opportunity to recover," Gavaskar said.

Asked about the team's chances of winning the World Cup and Asia Cup, Gavaskar said it's a good side.

"The team that has been selected for the Asia Cup is a good team. We should have the 15 for the World Cup from this team only. When you play for India, every match is important. You should always strive to win every match.

"And Asia Cup is a big tournament. But winning the World Cup is totally different, that can't be replicated by an Asia Cup win. So you have to look at the bigger picture. If they win Asia Cup, very good but the goal is to win the World Cup," he said.