

**OPINION 6**  
ANOTHER BIRTHDAY  
SPENT BEHIND BARS

**WORLD 9**  
600 HELD, 200 COPS HURT  
IN FRANCE UNREST

**MONEY 10**  
SENSEX, NIFTY SCALE FRESH  
ALL-TIME HIGHS

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COZ IN  
CHARGE  
OF 2ND TEST  
12 SPORT

## Biren shelves plan to quit

Under fire for Manipur riots, CM decided not to quit after supporters tore up his resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who had been facing criticism for his handling of ethnic violence in the State for nearly two months, was on the brink of resigning on Friday but ultimately changed his mind due to public pressure.

The Government spokesperson and Minister Sapam Ranjan Singh said Biren was saddened by the events and decided to resign then. "The Chief Minister felt very sad about what had happened. He felt he had lost the trust of the people," he said.

Biren Singh had started his journey towards the Governor's House but turned back after witnessing a massive show of support outside his residence in Imphal, the Minister stated.

Hundreds of women gathered near Singh's residence and formed a human chain, expressing their desire for him not to resign. When two Ministers emerged from his residence with a copy of his resignation letter, it was torn up in a symbolic gesture.

Later in the day, Singh clarified that he had no intentions of resigning from his post, putting an end to the day-long speculation surrounding the issue. Prior to his clarification, thousands of protesters blocked the Chief Minister's convoy from proceeding to Raj Bhavan. Biren Singh took to Twitter, stating, "At this crucial juncture, I would like to clarify that I will not be resigning from the post of Chief Minister."

Women leaders who met with him came out of the Chief Minister's residence and reas-



A photo of the torn resignation letter

## 'Will do all to contribute to peace-building in Manipur'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met with Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on Friday and appealed to all sections of society for peace in Manipur, emphasising that violence is not a solution. Describing the events in Manipur as a tragic and painful ordeal for both the State and the country, Gandhi expressed his commitment to assist in bringing peace to the region. Addressing the media outside the Raj Bhavan, Gandhi said, "Peace is the way forward, and it is crucial that everyone engages in discussions about peace and takes steps towards achieving it. I am here and will do everything I can to contribute to peace-building in this State." He further expressed his empathy for the people of Manipur, calling the situation a "horrible tragedy" that has deeply saddened both Manipuris and Indians nationwide.

During his visit, Gandhi toured various relief camps in Imphal, Churachandpur, and Moirang, where he engaged with individuals from diverse communities.



Continued on Page 2

## Govt may table UCC Bill in Parl Monsoon Session

U'khand may be first State to apply code as its draft is complete

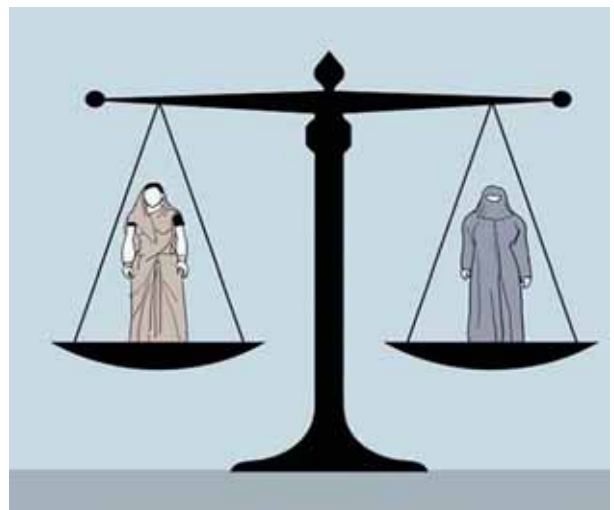
PIONEER NEWS SERVICES ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government is considering to introduce the contentious Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill during the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament. The Government is hopeful that it can secure the necessary support in the Rajya Sabha, with parties such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on their side.

Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction), and the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) have openly expressed their support for the UCC. The BJP is also hoping for the backing of Naveen Patnaik's BJD and Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress, although Reddy's stance on the matter is yet to be clarified.

However, a significant number of Opposition parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress (TMC), Janata Dal United (JDU), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Samajwadi Party (SP), and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), have described the UCC as a "diversionary tactic" employed by the Modi Government with an eye on the Lok Sabha polls. They have voiced their opposition to the Bill, while other parties like the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) have called for "wider consultations" on the issue.

Commenting on the mat-



ter, BJP General Secretary Dushyant Gautam stated on Friday, "The Uniform Civil Code has been part of the BJP's manifesto since the inception of the party, and its implementation is therefore a priority." Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent endorsement of the UCC suggests that the Government intends to expedite the process and present the Bill during the Monsoon Session, ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections.

The real challenge for the BJP lies in the Upper House, where they require the support of 119 members to pass the Bill in the current strength of 237 MPs, accounting for eight vacant seats. Currently, the BJP has 92 members, and with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) holding 109 seats, they are relying on the support of the nine seats held by both the BJP and the YSR Congress. However, since the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSR Congress has not yet clarified their stance on the UCC, the BJP could potentially be sup-

ported by Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, which holds ten crucial seats in the Upper House.

The election for ten Rajya Sabha seats is scheduled for July 24, where the BJP is expected to secure an additional seat from West Bengal at the expense of the Congress.

Following Modi's strong endorsement of the UCC, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has summoned representatives from the Law Commission and the Law Ministry to deliberate on the issue on July 3. The committee aims to gather views on the UCC and review personal laws.

As per the standing committee's schedule, representatives of the law panel, legal affairs, and legislative departments of the Law Ministry will present their views "on the public notice issued by the Law Commission of India on June 14, 2023, inviting views from various stakeholders on the Uniform Civil Code, under the subject 'Review of Personal Laws.'"

Continued on Page 2

### CAPSULE

#### MARY KOM NAMED GLOBAL INDIAN ICON

London: Sporting legend Mary Kom, has been honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor. Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, behind Oscar-nominated "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the field of cinema across both nations and the Nehru Centre in London, the cultural wing of the Indian High Commission, won the UK-India Award for Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations.

#### XI, SHARIF TO TAKE PART IN SCO MEET

New Delhi: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday confirmed their participation in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in the virtual format on July four hosted by India. India holds the rotating presidency of the organisation this year. P4

#### DELHI GOVT MOVES SC AGAINST ORDINANCE

New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Friday moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's ordinance over control of services in the national Capital. Earlier in the day, the AAP had announced that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will burn copies of the Centre's ordinance at the party office in central Delhi on July 3. P3

#### CONG PREZ MEETS PARTY WORKERS

New Delhi: The much-needed and awaited engagement with the party workers and volunteers was kickstarted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday where he invited a several partymen irrespective of their posts and positions to interact and take a feedback to strengthen the grand old party across the country. This kind is exercise was in great demand by the party workers and supporters who had little access to the high command for years. P4

## 'More Indian varsities in QS ranking now'

At DU, Modi draws parallels between univ and ancient institutions of Nalanda, Taxila

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the significant impact of futuristic policies and decisions in the education sector over the last few years, leading to increased global recognition for Indian universities.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of Delhi University's centenary celebrations, Modi noted that the number of Indian universities featured in the latest QS global ranking has soared from 12 in 2014, the year he assumed office as Prime Minister, to an impressive 45. In



(Left) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the valedictory ceremony of Delhi University's centenary celebrations on Friday. (Right) The Prime Minister who took a metro to the function, speaks with students on the way to the University. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer/PTI



his address, Modi emphasised the rise in the number of prestigious educational institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and NITs across the country, describing them as the building blocks of the new India. Modi arrived at the event via Delhi Metro and took the opportunity to interact with students during the journey.

Reflecting on his recent state visit to the United States, Modi highlighted how India's global respect and prestige have grown due to its increasing capabilities and the world's faith in its youth.

He reiterated that futuristic policies in the education sector have played a pivotal role in boosting global recognition for

Indian universities. Modi further discussed the agreements signed during his visit to the US, stating that they will open new opportunities for Indian youngsters in various fields, including earth sciences, space exploration, semi-conductors, and Artificial Intelligence.

Continued on Page 2

## Opp asks Prez to sack Ravi

TN Gov slammed for dismissal of Min sans Stalin's nod

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Opposition parties came together on Friday, demanding the immediate removal of Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi over the "outrageous" episode involving the dismissal of Tamil Nadu Minister Senthil Balaji. They condemned the Governor's actions as unconstitutional and accused him of interfering in the affairs of the State Government.

Prominent parties, including the Congress, CPI(M), Trinamool Congress, and NCP, joined forces with the DMK in strongly criticising Governor Ravi's decision. They expressed solidarity with Chief Minister MK Stalin and raised concerns about the lack of consultation before the dismissal, which was subsequently put on



hold following the advice of Home Minister Amit Shah.

Governor Ravi's initial justification for the move, citing Minister Balaji's arrest and expressing concern about his potential influence on the ongoing investigation, was met with strong opposition.

Senior Congress MP Manish Tewari lambasted the Governor, saying, "The President should immediately remove the Governor as he does not know the limits of his office. He shouldn't have taken such a step, and it has now been exposed that he does not know the Constitution."

Congress member MP Karti Chidambaram tweeted,

"The position of Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan (Governor) is completely untenable!"

The CPI(M) also demanded Ravi's removal, stating, "This is a totally unconstitutional act as the Governor has no right to appoint or remove Ministers, except on the advice of the Chief Minister."

"Ravi has been taking a series of steps, which amounts to interference in the politics of the State and in the running of the State Government. The latest outrageous move to dismiss a Minister, though kept in abeyance, makes it amply clear that he is not fit to hold the Constitutional post of Governor. The President of India should recall him forthwith," the statement added.

NCP Working President Supriya Sule criticised the Governor's actions as "ridiculous" and contrary to the Constitution. She said, "The stand taken by Stalin opposing the Governor's decision to dismiss Balaji was correct."

Continued on Page 2

## PM supports Putin on handling of rebels during phone chat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MOSCOW

India and Russia on Friday discussed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties during telephonic talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin. Both the leaders also reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership, the Kremlin said, adding they also discussed the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

The Kremlin statement also said Prime Minister Modi has expressed support for the actions taken by the Russian leadership in connection with the short-lived armed rebellion by the Wagner mercenary group last week.



"In connection with the June 24 developments, Modi expressed understanding and support for the resolute actions by the Russian authorities to defend law and order, and ensure stability in the country and security of its citizens," it said. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in New Delhi

said Modi reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy to find a solution to the Ukraine conflict as he spoke to the Russian President over phone.

In their talks, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, the PMO said, adding that Putin informed Modi about the recent developments in Russia.

"While discussing the situation in Ukraine, the PM reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy," it said. Russia has been engaged in a conflict with Ukraine for over a year, with the western world rallying against Putin over the war.

Continued on Page 2

## Metro says 'cheers' to tippers

DMRC now allows passengers to carry 2 sealed bottles on all lines, except for Airport Express one

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has revised its guidelines, allowing passengers to carry two sealed bottles of alcohol on all metro lines, except the Airport Express Line.

The decision comes after a committee review and relaxation of the previous ban on carrying alcohol. However, consuming alcohol inside the metro remains prohibited. The announcement has sparked



concerns among activists regarding women's safety measures. One woman activist demanded the rollback of the decision, expressing apprehension that it may lead to incidents of nuisance. The police, on the other hand, assured strict vigilance and action against anyone causing disturbance. A senior officer of the

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), responsible for metro security, stated that the decision was made to establish uniformity in rules across the entire metro network. Having separate rules for the Airport Express Line and other routes was deemed undesirable. The official Twitter handle of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

(DMRC), in response to a now-deleted query from a user, confirmed the allowance of two sealed bottles of alcohol in the Delhi Metro. The statement released by DMRC clarified, "Two sealed bottles of alcohol per person are allowed to be carried on the Delhi Metro, similar to the provisions on the Airport Express Line."

Previously, alcohol was prohibited on all metro lines except the Airport Express Line. The committee comprising officials from CISF and Delhi Metro reviewed the earlier order, leading to the relaxation. However, drinking alcohol within the metro premises remains strictly prohibited. Delhi Metro has emphasized the importance of maintaining decorum and responsible behavior during travel.

Continued on Page 2



# Clear WB dues or will jam Delhi: Abhishek to Centre

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress second in command Abhishek Banerjee on Friday warned the BJP Government saying if it did not clear Bengal's legitimate dues then he would lead 10 lakh people from the State and jam the national capital.



Mamata Banerjee is working day and night for the poor people introducing poor-friendly schemes on regular intervals and there they are trying to starve the poor people of Bengal ... but this will not be allowed to continue for long and soon after the panchayat elections I will lead 10 lakh people to Delhi and will not move out till our demand is met," Banerjee who is also the nephew of the Chief Minister said.

to request him to release the funds. Following this, the TMC MPs met Union Minister Giriraj Singh to request the same, but nothing moved forward."

The leader said that he would stage a continuous sit-in in front of the Krishna Bhavan to get the State's demand cleared.

Reacting to Banerjee's dharna call in Delhi, Bengal BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya said that the TMC leader should ask his aunt, the Chief Minister to first account for the earlier funds received by the State Government.

Addressing a panchayat election rally in West Burdwan district Banerjee said that the Centre had held up thousands of crores that belonged to Bengal. "Despite repeated reminders they are not clearing the money which belongs to Bengal and its people ... if our dues are not cleared soon then I will assemble 10 lakh people in Delhi and will not leave the Capital till our demand is met," he said.

Earlier addressing another rally in Nadia, the TMC national general secretary said, "The BJP-led Centre has halted funds under Awas Yojana and 100-day work scheme. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met Prime Minister Narendra Modi

# ED gives another shock to TMC, grills youth prez in teachers' recruitment scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

In yet another embarrassment for the ruling Trinamool Congress its women youth wing chief Saayoni Ghosh considered close to TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was on Friday subjected to a marathon grilling by the Enforcement Department investigating the money-laundering angle of the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam that has seen former Education Minister and a number of MLAs and senior officials including a sitting vice-chancellor going to jail.



"I have been called while I was in the midst of election campaign and have appeared here at the CGO complex ... and will cooperate with the ED officials to the best of my capacity," Ghosh, also a known Bengali actress, said, before entering the ED office at about 11.30 in the morning. She was still being questioned when reports last came in at 9 pm.

Ghosh who had succeeded Banerjee as the Trinamool Youth Congress president was apparently summoned to explain her connections and mobile chats with arrested TMC State general secretary Kuntal Ghosh who had reportedly raised at least Rs 100 crore through the teachers' recruitment scam.

Ghosh and Kuntal had extensively participated in the Tripura election campaign for the TMC.

# Kerala's Christian alliance declares support to Centre's move on UCC

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The ongoing debate on Uniform Civil Code took a new turn in Kerala as the Christian Association And Alliance for Social Action (CASA) came out with a declaration on Friday extending "overwhelming support" to the Central Government's move to introduce a common civil code.

Church and plays a significant role in moulding the opinion of the members of the community.

Kevin Peter said that having a common civil code would be the right attempt to openly discuss and bring the required inclusivity and neutrality of all societal groups.

"It is a right attempt from a governance perspective. Such an effort will help to create a common platform for law implementation and to have equitable rights leading to further national integration," he said.

Interestingly, the CASA's statement comes a day after Archbishop Joseph Pamplany aired his displeasure over the BJP Government's failure to put a stop to the carnage in Manipur where members of the Christian community and churches have come under attack from Sangh Parivar elements.

"There is every sign of the Manipur riots have turned out to be a genocide. The governments at the Centre as well as in Imphal have failed miserably to save the lives of hundreds of

Christians," said the Archbishop who had hinted of a possible support to the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024 provided the Central Government assures reasonable price to rubber cultivators. But Swalahuddeen, the veteran lawyer in Kozhikode sounded cautious about the move on UCC. "No doubt, it is a good idea on paper.

The founding fathers of the constitution had wanted us to have a common civil code for the people. But what is a matter of concern is that our people's minds are not conditioned for such an eventuality.

Customs and traditions evolved over hundreds of years could not be wiped out overnight by introducing a law. Unfortunately for us, no efforts have been taken by those who ruled us for the last 75 years to bring in a cultural integration in the country.

They were more interested in appeasement and vote-bank politics. Hence the move to bring in UCC is likely to end up as a disaster," said Swalahuddeen.

# Patole: Maha regressed by 10 yrs in one year due to misgovernance

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Charging that the first year in office of the Shinde-Fadnavis Government was marked by treachery and dishonesty with the people of the state, the Maharashtra Congress said here on Friday that the state regressed by ten years during the period and that the self-respecting people does not want the "unconstitutional, insensitive and corrupt mis-government" to continue in the state.

ing the year, the state Congress chief said: "When the farmers are in distress due to heavy rains and hailstorms, this government merely announces help but not a single penny reaches the farmers. Soybean, onion, cotton, any farm produce have no price. Soybean, cotton is lying in the farmer's house due to massive drop in prices.

"During the seven months of the Shinde government from July 2022 to January 2023, 1023 farmers committed suicide in the state, which is one suicide every 10 hours," Patole said.

Maintaining that the law and order situation in the state had deteriorated during the past one year, Patole said: "Riots have taken place in 20 places in the last four months. Women are not safe in the ED government, Mumbai was known as a safe city for women in the country but girls are being abused, killings of women have increased, more than 4000 women and girls have disappeared in the state, even in cities like Pune, girls are attacked in broad daylight"

Singling out deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the state home portfolio, for an attack, Patole said: "The state does not have a full-time home minister, he is in charge of six-seven departments, and has the guardianship of six districts and so he is unable to pay attention to home department" "Not only MLAs of ruling party but also Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister are now publicly threatening opposition.

Pillorying the Shinde-Fadnavis dispensation on the competition of one year in office, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said: "It has been a year since the Mahavikas Aghadi Government was overthrown by a conspiracy and the Shinde-Fadnavis government was formed. This year has been marked by treachery and dishonesty with the people of the state and the regression of the state by at least 10 years, all this at the behest of Delhi".

Mincing no words in his criticism for its "unconstitutional, insensitive and corrupt mis-governance", Patole said: "All the decisions taken during the formation of this government have been termed wrong by the Supreme Court.

The government was formed by misusing the Raj Bhavan, giving 'Khoke' (money bags) to the MLAs and under the fear of ED, CBI action. This government itself is unconstitutional but even after the Supreme Court decision, the ED (Eknath Devendra) government is clinging to the chair." Averring that the ED not taken any welfare decision dur-

# Services pay homage to Sam Manekshaw

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ COONOOR

The sleepy town of Coonoor in The Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu woke up on Tuesday to the sounding of Last Post by the buglers of Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington, as the nation paid homages to Field Marshal S H F J Manekshaw, whose 15th death anniversary was observed on Tuesday.



of them remember the Filed Marshal driving through the by lanes of Coonoor in his Sunbeam Rapier car which still adores the garage of Stavka, his bungalow built atop a hill. Lt General Virendra Vats, commandant, DSSC, laid a wreath on behalf of the tri-services fraternity. Manekshaw took over as Chief of Army Staff on January 8, 1969.

The Amritsar-born Sam Manekshaw, India's first Field Marshal, had breathed his last in the high ranges of Coonoor on 27 June 2008, where he was interred as per his wish. The Coonoor residents consider him as the son of the soil. Many

# First batch of Amarnath Yatris flagged off in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The first batch of 3488 pilgrims embarked on the 'spiritual' journey under unprecedented security cover from Jammu-based yatri niwas in the wee hours of Friday. The convoy of the pilgrims, comprising 164 light and heavy motor vehicles, was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha soon after performing traditional prayers here at the base camp.

It is the path of humility, compassion and awareness. Shiv Sutra says the spiritual endeavor is Bhairava, the first step to experiencing the divine. It is the journey of inner transformation.

The UT Administration has made elaborate arrangements for the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji, the Lt Governor said. Lt-Gov Sinha is scheduled to perform 'pratham pooja' inside the holy cave shrine on day one of the yatra. The 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra begins on July 1 from the twin routes of Pahalgam in south Kashmir and the Baltal route in Central Kashmir Ganderbal district.

The Lt Governor wished all the devotees a safe and spiritually-fulfilling journey and prayed for peace, prosperity, and happiness to all. "The holy pilgrimage is the ultimate bliss.

# 'I will do...

From Page 1

Reflecting on his interactions, he highlighted the need for improved basic amenities, food, and medical supplies in the camps. "I urge the government to address these concerns and take necessary steps to enhance the conditions in the camps. We have received complaints regarding these issues," Gandhi told reporters.

Congress officials revealed that the Governor assured them of ongoing efforts to restore peace in the state, which has been plagued by ethnic strife. Prior to the meeting with the governor, Gandhi met with members of Manipur's civil society organizations to listen to their grievances. Notable organizations included the Coordination Committee on Manipur Integrity (CoCoMI), representatives of the United Naga Council (the apex body of the Naga community in Manipur), and the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee. He also held discussions with prominent personalities, including JNU professor Bimol A.

Gandhi's visit to Moirang in the Bishnupur district involved a visit to two relief camps, housing approximately 1,000 people, where he met with affected individuals and listened to their plight. Accompanying Gandhi were former Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, party General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal, PCC President Keisham Meghachandra Singh, and former MP Ajoy Kumar.

As part of his visit, Gandhi paid his respects at the INA war memorial, where he offered floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the freedom fighters who hoisted the tricolour there in 1944. Dr. Kumar, providing details of the visit, stated, "We visited Moirang and went to two relief camps.

# Biren shelves plan to quit

From Page 1

There were strong rumours circulating in Imphal throughout the day that the Chief Minister was contemplating his resignation following renewed violence in the State on Thursday, which resulted in three more fatalities and five injuries. The toll from the exchange of fire between security forces and suspected rioters in Kangpokpi district the previous day rose to three on Friday, as one more person succumbed to injuries in the hospital. Armed rioters had opened fire without provocation in Haraoeth Village on Thursday. The Army stated that security forces responded in a measured manner to address the situation. Members of the community to which two of the rioters belonged collected their bodies and organised a procession to the Chief Minister's residence.

# 'More Indian varsities...

From Page 1

He expressed optimism that Indian youth would gain access to technologies that were previously beyond their reach, thereby enhancing their skill development. Modi also mentioned that companies like Micron and Google are planning significant investments in the country, reflecting the promising future of India.

Recognising Delhi University's substantial contributions to various aspects of life, Modi hailed it as not just a university but a movement. He drew parallels between Delhi University and ancient Indian institutions like Nalanda and Taxila, which were renowned for their prosperity and scientific advancements that guided the world in ancient times. Modi emphasised that India's rich education system has historically played a crucial role in its overall progress and prosperity.

# Opp asks Metro...

From Page 1

Passengers found behaving indecently or under the influence of alcohol will face legal consequences. The decision aims to cater to passengers' needs while ensuring a safe and comfortable journey for all on the Delhi Metro.

# PM ...

From Page 1

Both leaders agreed to remain in touch and continue to make efforts to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Putin described Prime Minister Modi as a "big friend" of Russia and said his 'Make in India' campaign has had a "truly impressive effect" on country's economy and urged his country to emulate this example.

On the latest round of parleys between Modi and Putin on Friday, a statement from the Kremlin said "The conversation had a meaningful and constructive character. The leaders reiterated mutual commitment to strengthening privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and agreed to continue communication," it said. The talks took place days ahead of Shanghai Co-operation Organisation(SCO) summit on July 4 in virtual format hosted by India.

NOTICE  
To, The Dongguan Longchen Electronic Pvt. Ltd.  
In the matter pertaining to the First Floor at Plot No. B-12, Sector-80, Noida filed by M/s Acquaiva India Pvt. Ltd. Whereas the matter titled as M/s Acquaiva India Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Dongguan Longchen Electronic Pvt. Ltd., Arbitration Petition No. 27 of 2023 seeking appointment of Arbitrator with regards to the disputes between the parties. Whereas the aforesaid case is fixed for 05.07.2023 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by the Order dated 08.05.2023. This notice is issued in terms of the service to the respondent company Dongguan Longchen Electronic Pvt. Ltd.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS  
CHANGE OF NAME  
I, Dinesh Chansra Gupta  
S/o Mahendra Pal Gupta  
R/o D-24, Sector-12, Noida (U.P.), 201301, have changed my name to Dinesh Chandra Gupta for all future purpose.  
PD(084)A

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय  
मध्य प्रदेश भोपाल  
क्रमांक-विशा/स्टोर/2023-25 ( 187 ), दिनांक 27.06.2023  
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र  
(Corrigendum)  
विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2023-25 (129), Bhopal Dated 10.05.2023 द्वारा Installation CCTV Surveillance System at Hon. CM House Bhopal के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा अंतर्गत निर्धारित समय-सारणी में किये गये संशोधन के संबंध में शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।  
सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक,  
विशेष शाखा ( जी ), म.प्र. भोपाल  
दूरभाष क्र.- 0755-2443654  
Email: sec24-ab@mppolice.gov.in  
G-15780/23

# Pramanik gets Z-plus security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Ahead ongoing violence ahead of the panchayat elections the Central Government is known to have elevated the security status of junior Union Home Minister Nisith Pramanik who is also the Member of Parliament from Coocbehar district in North Bengal bordering Assam.

According to sources the security ring around Pramanik whose convoy had on a number of occasions been attacked by alleged TMC men is going to be elevated to Z-plus level. Besides, the Centre has also decided to provide additional security personnel to all the BJP MLAs from North Bengal, sources said.

The decision comes days after the Centre following a Calcutta High Court order provided security cover to the lone Indian Secular Front MLA Naushad Siddiqui.

# Govt may table UCC...

From Page 1

The Law Commission has received nearly 8.5 lakh responses to its public notice as of Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhnd, which was the first state to establish a committee to examine the UCC, is making significant progress on the task. The committee has already prepared a report to frame a bill based on its recommendations.

Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai, the head of the committee of experts appointed by the Uttarakhnd government last year, stated, "The draft of the proposed Uniform Civil Code for Uttarakhnd is complete and will be submitted to the state government in July itself."

Addressing a press conference, the committee highlighted that it had considered various opinions and examined different statutes and uncodified laws, including the legal frameworks in select countries, while drafting the code. The committee also aimed to understand the diverse customary practices prevalent in different parts of Uttarakhnd.

# Opp asks Metro...

From Page 1

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale condemned the governor's decision, stating, "The dismissal of the minister without even consulting the Chief Minister is nothing but an absolute violation of the Constitution. The fight that all opposition parties are fighting today is the fight to save our Constitution, and we are together with the DMK in this fight."

The growing chorus of opposition voices demanding the removal of Governor Ravi highlights the escalating political turmoil triggered by the dismissal of Minister Senthil Balaji. The situation in Tamil Nadu remains tense as opposition parties continue to raise concerns over the governor's actions and emphasize the imperative of upholding constitutional principles.

# Opp asks Metro...

From Page 1

Among the items prohibited in the Delhi Metro are sharp objects, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals, firearms, and offensive items.

The revised list of permitted items carried on trains has been reviewed by a committee consisting of officials from CIFS and DMRC, as stated by Delhi Metro.

According to the revised list, passengers are allowed to carry two sealed bottles of alcohol per person on the Delhi Metro, aligning with the provisions on the Airport Express Line. The DMRC requests metro passengers to maintain proper decorum while traveling.

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# Delhi Govt to move SC against Ordinance

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's ordinance over control of services in the national capital.

Earlier in the day, the AAP had announced to burn copies of the Centre's ordinance at the party office in central Delhi on July 3 but later the programme was cancelled. "AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and the senior leadership of AAP will neither burn nor participate in the protests and agitations against the Delhi Ordinance on July 3 as proposed earlier since the matter is now sub-judice in the Supreme Court. July 3 program is cancelled," the AAP said in a statement.

In its plea filed through advocate Shadan Farasat, the Delhi government has said that the ordinance, which came days after the apex court verdict, is a plain attempt to "override" the top court and the basic structure of the Constitution itself vide executive fiat.

Seeking quashing of the ordinance, the plea alleged that it is an "unconstitutional exercise of executive fiat" that violates the scheme of federal, democratic governance entrenched for the NCTD in Article 239AA and is manifestly arbitrary.

"Article 239AA of the Constitution is a sui generis provision in that it constitutionally trenches for NCTD a Westminster-style democracy, to fulfill the popular, regional, and democratic aspirations



of the people of Delhi. The impugned ordinance directly violates this scheme of federal, democratic governance incorporated in Article 239AA and, specifically, the principle of 'collective responsibility' incorporated in Article 239AA(6)," it said. The plea said the ordinance "completely sidelines" the elected government, that is, the GNCTD, from control over its civil service.

"The Impugned ordinance wrests control over civil servants serving in the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD), from the GNCTD to the unelected Lieutenant Governor (LG). It does so without seeking to amend the Constitution of India, in particular Article 239AA of the Constitution, from which flows the substantive requirement that power and control in respect of Services be vested in the elected government," it said.

"The plea said the ordinance, by seizing control over civil servants posted in the GNCTD and vesting it in the hands of the Union's nominee, in effect attempts to hand over the administration of the GNCTD to the Union of India. "In doing so, the impugned

ordinance erodes not only the premise of democratic governance but also the regional will of Delhi's electorate. The impugned ordinance violates Article 239AA on both counts," it said.

"This attempt to withdraw and erode the democratic, federal voice guaranteed to the people of Delhi after over 30 years of its recognition, could not have been done via constitutional amendment, let alone through the impugned ordinance," it said.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj has announced copies of the ordinance will be burned across the 70 assembly constituencies of the national capital. Dilip Pandey, Jarnaal Singh, Gulab Singh, Jitender Tomar, Rituraj Jha, Rajesh Gupta, and Kuldeep Kumar, the seven vice presidents of the party were present at the press conference where the announcement was made.

The opposition BJP has slammed the Kejriwal government's decision to burn the copies of the ordinance saying this shows AAP has no respect for Constitution of India.

# LG distributes 849 appointment letters to new Govt recruits

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday distributed 849 letters of appointment to the newly recruited employees in different departments and agencies of the Delhi Government.

This was the third such event, the Raj Niwas said adding 17,000 such vacancies that have been filled during the last one year. Moreover, 4,500 positions will be advertised and an additional 6,000 more jobs will be created in Delhi Police, it said. Of the 849 appointments made on Friday, 391 was PGT/TGT of the Education department, 274 Jr. Secretarial Assistant in MCD, 50 Jr. Assistant in DTC, 40 Lab Attendants in TTE, 13 Jr. Engineers in DUSIB, 11 Principal Assistant in DJB, 03 Assistant Engineer in Irrigation and Flood Control Department and 67 Assistant Public Prosecutors in the Directorate of Prosecution.

Addressing the new recruits at Vigyan Bhawan, Saxena said in the past one year, more than 17,000 permanent jobs have already been given and more vacancies will be filled soon. In last six months alone, 1,495



people have been recruited for the Education Department.

Saxena further announced that very soon vacancies for 4,500 positions will be advertised and an additional 6,000 more jobs will be created in Delhi Police. "On February 24 and April 19, 2023, in this very Vigyan Bhawan, I had distributed 1,071 and 1,505 appointment letters to the youth," the LG recalled and thanked the Chief Secretary and the Services Department for their efforts to bring-in reforms by introducing speed and transparency in the recruitment process.

Congratulating the new recruits, Saxena said they are fortunate to work for the people in the national capital and they should appreciate the dignity attached to their jobs. This job will not only help them grow

individually but it will also help their families, the society and the nation as a whole.

Complementing the youth for their success in getting recruited through a process of examination and selection, the LG underlined the fact that there were many in the government, who have been appointed in an ad hoc manner that raised doubts of favouritism and objectivity in their appointment.

He lamented this practice of appointing individuals on contract basis against permanent vacancies in government and assured that such appointments will be quashed at the earliest and the vacancy will be filled through the due selection process, which would ensure permanent employment to deserving candidates.

# Govt framed policy for development of 26 industrial areas: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said his government has framed a policy for the redevelopment of 26 notified non-conforming industrial areas. He met with industrialists of the non-conforming areas to initiate the layout planning of these areas.

Addressing the industrialists, Kejriwal highlighted acknowledged the unplanned nature of development in Delhi. He said there are no sewer networks, water and electricity availability. "Everything in such areas runs on jugaad or makeshift improvisation. Eventually these areas were given the title of non conforming industrial areas, he said.

The Chief Minister explained that if the industries did not comply with the DDA's order then it was directed that such units and areas would be closed down.

The government's solution is the Redevelopment of Non Conforming Industrial Areas policy, which will be



implemented in three phases, the CM announced.

The redevelopment of non-conforming industrial areas will be carried out in three phases. The initial phase will focus on the development of layouts, followed by the construction of necessary infrastructure in the second phase. The third and final phase will involve the establishment of essential public facilities to cater to the needs of the transformed zones. To ensure the successful execution of the project, a panel of consultants will be formed, with 90 percent of the consultancy cost being borne by the Delhi Government and the remaining 10 percent shared by the industry associations.

# Waterlogging leads to death of auto driver in Harsh Vihar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rains lashed Delhi on Friday, leading to waterlogging in several areas, traffic snarls and the death of an autorickshaw driver who fell into a ditch. According to police, the autorickshaw driver was identified as Ajit Sharma, 51 years old, a resident of Nandanagri. He drowned in a ditch filled with rainwater after his vehicle accidentally fell into it in northeast Delhi's Harsh Vihar area.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said a PCR call was received around 3.30 pm about a man drowning in a ditch near the service road alongside Wazirabad Road. The officer said the ditch, which was dug up near an under-construction flyover, was filled with rainwater. Preliminary enquiry suggests the man did not realise the depth of the ditch, and tried to drive over it and drowned accidentally, Tirkey said.

His autorickshaw was found stuck in the ditch and his body was found stuck to the front wheel of the vehicle, the DCP added. Police said there were no injury marks on the body. They added that the body would be handed over to the family after post-mortem examination even as further investigation was in progress.

Meanwhile, rainwater also entered the Delhi Secretariat premises. A video shared by a Twitter user on the microblogging site showed



some people wading through ankle-high water at the Delhi Secretariat with their shoes in their hands.

Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to inform people about the waterlogged routes and urged them to plan their journeys accordingly.

Delhi registered the highest number of 'good to moderate' air quality days this year since 2016, barring COVID-19 affected 2020, the environment ministry said on Friday.

"The number of 'Good to Moderate' Air Quality Days for the first half-year period (January to June) was 30 in the year 2016; 57 in 2017; 65 in 2018; 78 in 2019; 126 in 2020; 84 in 2021; 54 in 2022; and 101 in the current year 2023," the ministry said in a statement.

# 1st kidney transplant under PM scheme done in Gzb



STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

The first kidney transplant was successfully done in Uttar Pradesh under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana at the Yashoda Hospitals in Kaushambhi area of Ghaziabad.

Under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, complete treatment of Nazish was possible without any expense. After kidney transplant, Nazish also reached his family on Bakrid.

The team of Dr. Prajit Majumdar from the Department of Nephrology and Dr. Vaibhav Saxena, Dr.

Niren Rao and Dr. Kuldeep Aggarwal from the Department of Urology performed the kidney transplant.

Dr. Upasana Arora, MD and CEO of Yashoda Super Specialty Hospital, said that this has been possible only by joining the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. With this scheme, there will be no problem for the poor to get expensive treatment. We are feeling proud by doing the first kidney transplant in the state. This has been possible only because of our expert team of doctors, she said.

Sangeeta Singh, CEO of the State Agency for Comprehensive Health and

Integrated Services (SACHIS), told that Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been made for the common man. Ayushman card is lifeline for the poor people who cannot afford the expenses of the disease. He told that so far 2.9 crore Ayushman cards have been made in Uttar Pradesh. So far 22.8 lakh people have been benefitted by this. Till now, the government has distributed an amount of more than Rs 2,700 crore under the head of treatment. This amount has been given in 80% private hospitals and 20% government hospitals.

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# Xi, Shehbaz confirm virtual participation in SCO summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BEIJING/ISLAMABAD

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday confirmed their participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the virtual format on July 4 hosted by India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the high-profile event. India holds the rotating Presidency of the organisation this year. The theme of the summit is 'Towards a SECURE SCO'. The SECURE acronym was coined by Prime Minister Modi at the 2018 SCO summit and it stands for Security; Economy

and Trade; Connectivity; Unity; Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; and Environment. These themes have been highlighted during India's chairmanship of the SCO. In September, India will host the G20 summit for which it is going to invite Xi and Putin, besides other leaders of the bloc. Last year, the in-person SCO summit took place in the Uzbek city of Samarkand that was attended by all top leaders of the grouping including Prime Minister Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. He is expected to attend this year's summit also. Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend next week's virtual summit of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India, an official announcement in Beijing said. At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Xi will attend via video conference in Beijing, the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads meeting of the SCO on July 4 and deliver important remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a brief press release. This was the first official announcement about Xi's participation in the SCO summit hosted by India. In a similar statement, Islamabad on Friday said Prime Minister Sharif will participate in a virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit



held in video conference format on 4th July 2023," it said. "The invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the SCO-CHS was extended by the Prime Minister of India in his capacity as the current Chair of the SCO," the statement said. At the summit, the leaders will deliberate on important global and regional issues and chart the future direction of cooperation among SCO Member States. This year, the SCO CHS will also welcome Iran as a new member of the organisation, it said. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced in May that India will host the annual summit of the SCO in a virtual format on July 4. The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. Ahead of the summit to be held for the first time under India's Presidency, India on Tuesday inaugurated an exquisitely designed 'New Delhi Hall' at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing. While the SCO's six founding members, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have their halls highlighting their cultures and unique features, India is the first to add its own. Virtually inaugurating the hall, External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar in his address said the New Delhi Hall, is conceived to be a "mini-India" showcasing various facets of Indian culture. "To make you visualise the depth of India's artistic tradition and cultural identity, the Hall has been designed with exquisite patterns and motifs representing the rich architectural craftsmanship found throughout India," he said.

# India dismayed over delay in UNSC reforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Expressing its dismay over delay in reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India has termed it as "yet another wasted opportunity." This reaction was in response to the UN General Assembly deciding to roll over the Inter-Governmental Negotiations on Security Council reform to its next session. India also said the process could well go on for another 75 years without achieving genuine progress. The UN General Assembly late Thursday adopted a draft oral decision to continue the intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reform at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly that will commence in September. The rollover decision marked the end of the IGN for the current 77th session. India's Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj



underscored that the roll-over decision of the IGN simply cannot be reduced to a mindless technical exercise. "We see this technical rollover decision as yet another wasted opportunity to instil a breath of life into a process that has shown no signs of life or growth in over four decades," Kamboj said adding that India joined the consensus in the adoption of the draft presented, simply to acknowledge the personal efforts of Csaba Korosi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly. Kamboj stressed it is now apparent that the IGN could well

go on for yet another 75 years without any progress whatsoever in the direction of genuine reform in its current form and modalities - that is, without application of the GA Rules of Procedure, and without a single negotiating text. "As a responsible and constructive member of the United Nations, India will, of course, continue to engage in this process alongside our reform-minded partners, and persist with our efforts to move from repetitive speeches to text-based negotiations. However, for those of us who truly wish to fulfil our lead-

ers' commitment towards an early and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, looking beyond the IGN looks increasingly to us as the only viable pathway to a future UN Security Council that would better reflect the world of today," she said. Referring to the roll-over decision, Kamboj said as the only formal General Assembly outcome that emerges from this process each year, it must also evolve and reflect the progress achieved during Member States' deliberations during the year. She said India was encouraged by the PGAs efforts to introduce in the decision a small reflection of this evolution, with regard to webcasting and the beginning of a digital repository. "I must say though that even with these so-called changes, there has been no breakthrough whatsoever, that may be described as progress. This state of affairs is clearly in the interest of those who seek a status quo, to keep this process frozen in repetitive cycles," she said.

In his remarks, Korosi noted that for the first time in the history of these negotiations, the first segments of the IGN meetings are now webcast and a dedicated website on Security Council reform has been established as a repository for the IGN process. Korosi said ultimately, the intergovernmental negotiations are driven by Member States and it is therefore up to the 193 nations of the UN General Assembly to show "political will for the reform you want to see." "The eight billion people outside these walls do not see the UN as a conglomerate of separate bodies. They see the UN as one. Amid these unprecedented crises, their expectation for us to deliver is at its highest. Let us work in good faith to meet that expectation. We do not have the luxury to spend another 17 years on this issue," he said. India has been pitching for a permanent seat in the expanded membership of the UNSC, arguing that the existing body does not truly reflect the contemporary world realities.

# Kharge meets workers, volunteers, take feedback to strengthen Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The much needed and awaited engagement with the party workers and volunteers was kick started by the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday where he invited a several party men irrespective of their posts and positions to interact and take a feedback to strengthen the grand old party across the country. This kind of exercise was in great demand by the party workers and supporters who could had negligible access to the high command for years during the rotational presidency of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Kharge is the first non-Gandhi party chief after almost three decades. After the feedback and interactive session, Kharge said Congress is soul of the country and every representative of the grand old part is guardian of the Indian constitution.



"Congress is the soul of India. Every worker of Congress represents our constitution. We are all ready to face any challenge," Kharge conveyed to the workers in his chamber at Akbar Road AICC office. "The cycle of such meetings will continue," Kharge later tweeted referring to the open discussion where he got feedback by our workers. Most of the workers requested the party chief to allow an open session at every State party headquarters from time to time, particularly where

the Congress is strong and can make a possible difference in the Lok Sabha 2024 elections. While Sonia rarely visited the AICC headquarters on Akbar Road and even if it happened it was just a customary type, the visit by Rahul Gandhi too was rare occasion. He had given access to only a select leaders and his close confidants to discuss party related issues at his Bungalow at Tughlaq Lane which has been now surrendered by him after his disqualification as MP over conviction in a defamation case by Surat court.

# NIA announces establishment of mechanism for real-time info sharing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), in collaboration with the Police Forces of Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh, on Friday announced the establishment of a collective institutionalised mechanism for real-time as well as regular information sharing and coordinated action as also operations against the gangster ecosystem in the northern region. They also decided to set up a 'Joint Listing Committee', with representative officers from the NIA and the three police forces, to list out and map the entire network of the various criminal syndicates active in the northern states and Union Territory, the NIA said in a statement. It was further decided to hold monthly meetings of all the stakeholders to address the issue of organised crimes and criminals in these areas. "These decisions were taken at a high-level Inter-State coordination meeting held in



Panchkula, Haryana, under the chairmanship of NIA Director General Dinkar Gupta. The meeting discussed the activities of leaders and members of organized criminal syndicates/groups operating in the northern states, and also the ongoing investigations in the various criminal cases connected with them," the NIA said. This was the second such meeting steered by the NIA DG for tackling the menace of the organised criminal terror syndicates. The DG had initiated these meetings to collectively deal with such syndicates through sharing of findings and inputs among the various

police agencies and forces. Underscoring the need for collaborative action in combating organised crime, Gupta called for enhanced cooperation and information sharing among the NIA, Punjab Police, Chandigarh Police, and Haryana Police to effectively address the growing threat posed by these criminal syndicates, particularly in the northern region. NIA, which is investigating three such cases against criminal terror syndicates, shared its findings and observations on the methodology adopted by the syndicates operating from jails.

# Entry in cockpit: DGCA tells airlines to strictly follow rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued an advisory asking airlines to strictly follow rules as well as sensitise pilots and cabin crew to prevent incidents of unauthorised entry of people into the cockpit. The move comes against the backdrop of two back to back cases of Air India pilots-in-command inviting friends over to the flight deck. In an advisory, DGCA has asked the heads of operations of all scheduled airlines to "prevent any unauthorised entry in the cockpit through appropriate means". Any non-compliance with the applicable regulation, dealing with unauthorised cockpit entry, shall be dealt with strictly and may also invite stringent enforcement action, it said. The advisory clearly specifies the authorised persons who can enter an aircraft cockpit and occupy the jump seat. Any unauthorised entry will be



dealt with strictly and may also invite stringent enforcement action it said. "As per the Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 17 of 2019, it includes only the crew members, an officer of the Civil Aviation Department, an officer of the India Meteorological Department, an officer of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the rank of Joint Secretary and above, an employee of the aircraft operator, officials of the airline, any flight crew member of the aircraft operator or a duly authorized representative of the manufacturer of the aircraft," stated the advisory. Also, all the authorised persons are required to comply with the mandatory pre-flight

and post-flight breath analyser test requirement. The DGCA, in its advisory, further asked all airlines to sensitise their flight crew to strictly comply with the rules. This latest advisory, that reminds airlines of the existing rules, comes after two recent incidents of 'unauthorised entry' of passengers into the aircraft cockpit of the Air India flight. In the first instance from February 27, the pilot of the Delhi-Dubai flight was suspended for three months after he let a lady friend enter the flight cockpit and stay there till the flight landed. In this case, Air India also was fined a, 30 lakh for not taking the initial complaint by its alert cabin crew seriously. In the latest instance from a Chandigarh-Leh flight on June 3 the pilot-in-command has been suspended for a year, and his co-pilot's license has been suspended for a month for "not being assertive in preventing and non-reporting of the violation."

# Indigenous Tejas LCA completes 7yrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) completes seven years of service in the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday, IAF is expected to get deliveries new variant of the aircraft Tejas MK-1A from February next year. It will be capable of firing a plethora of weapons, including beyond visual range missiles. Stating this on Friday, the defence ministry the aircraft and its future variants will form the mainstay of IAF. In February 2021, the ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF. At present, more than 30 Tejas jets are in service. Tejas is a single-engine multi-role fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments. Egypt, Argentina, the US, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are among

the countries showing keen interest in procuring Tejas aircraft. The LCA, christened Tejas in 2003, is a multi-role platform that ranks amongst the best in its class. It has been designed to undertake air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike roles. The aircraft offers carefree handling and enhanced manoeuvrability. This capability is further enhanced with its multi-mode airborne radar, helmet mounted display, self-protection suite and laser designation pod. The first IAF Squadron to induct the Tejas was No 45 Squadron, the 'Flying Daggers'. Over the years, the squadron progressed from Vampires to Gnats and then onto the MiG-21 Bis, before being equipped with its current steed. Each of the aircraft flown by the Flying Daggers has been manufactured in India - either under license production or having been designed and developed in India. In May 2020, No 18 Squadron became the second IAF unit to operate the Tejas.

# Modi to address 17th Indian Cooperative Congress today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of International Day of Cooperatives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress at Pragati Maidan here on Saturday, majorly highlighting the steps taken by his Government to boost the cooperative sector in the country. Driven by the belief that cooperatives can help the country to achieve 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi' and make India a USD 5 trillion economy, Modi's address comes at a time when the new National Cooperative Policy is being formulated by a committee, under the chairmanship of former Union cabinet minister Suresh Prabhu. The 17th Indian Cooperative Congress main objective is to discuss various



trends in cooperative movement, showcase best practices being adopted, deliberate challenges being faced and chalk out future policy direction for growth of India's cooperative movement. On the occasion, Modi will also launch an e-commerce platform NCUI Haat for cooperative products and unveil a cooperative extension and advisory services portal, focusing on a 'learning management system' that provides information and services for cooperative members, leaders, managers and the general public.

# Rising global temp could fuel domestic violence: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

That rising global temperatures and subsequent heat waves could fuel domestic violence against women in South Asian countries, particularly India, followed by Nepal and Pakistan, said a study published in the medical journal JAMA Psychiatry. The heatwave could see an increase of 23.5 per cent in family abuses against women in India. The researchers have linked a 1-degree Celsius rise in the yearly average temperature with a 4.5 per cent increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) in the study -- 'Association of Ambient Temperature With the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among Partnered Women in Low and Middle-Income South Asian Countries' of almost 1,95,000



ever-partnered women across three South Asian countries including India. Ever-partnered women are defined as those who have had sex, been married or been in a romantic relationship. The authors of the study, said, "Given the higher prevalence of IPV in South Asia compared to the global level, and the region's recent history of more frequent and intense heat waves, we conducted this study to evaluate the association of ambient temperature with IPV prevalence, including its types --

physical, sexual, and emotional -- among partnered women." The cross-sectional study included ever-partnered women in the 15-49 age group from India, Nepal and Pakistan and used self-reported data from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Programme, collected from October 1, 2010 to April 30, 2018. Active in more than 90 countries, the DHS Programme is responsible for collecting and disseminating accurate, nationally representative data on health and population in low and middle-income countries, routinely conducting surveys at intervals of 3-5 years. Among the women surveyed, the study found, physical violence to be the most prevalent at 23 per cent, followed by emotional at 12.5 per cent and sexual at 9.5 per cent.

# Second-hand tobacco exposure could increase lead in children's saliva

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Second hand tobacco exposure not only increases severity of asthma attacks, respiratory infections, cancer, sudden infant death syndrome and behavioral problems among kids but also heavy metals such as lead in children's saliva. This could cause biological malfunctioning, leading to health and behavioural problems, warned researchers at the Pennsylvania State University, US, after they measured cotinine levels, along with metals, in children's saliva. Cotinine, a nicotine metabolite present in children's blood or saliva, is measured to assess their exposure to tobacco smoke, or their environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). The researchers also said that metals have also been found in vapours of common products used for vaping, cast



as a healthier alternative to tobacco-based products, indicating that these products too are capable of being transmitted as second- and third-hand smoke. A total 238 (7.5 years of age and under) out of 1,300 children born in 2003 and 2004 and growing up in the rural areas of Pennsylvania and North Carolina in the US, originally recruited for childhood developmental studies, were investigated for the study published in the Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology. Lead researcher Lisa Gatzke-Kopp and her team found significant associations

between salivary cotinine and salivary levels of essential trace metals such as copper and zinc and of non-essential metals such as lead. Metals such as copper and zinc in trace amounts are necessary for healthy bone development and general metabolism in humans. Children with higher levels of cotinine were also found to have higher levels of heavy metals in their saliva. "We were surprised by the levels of heavy metals in children at this age," said Gatzke-Kopp, professor of human development and family studies. "Our findings suggest that environmental tobacco smoke exposure may be one source of increased children's exposure to heavy metals," she said. "Tobacco smoke contains thousands of chemical compounds, most of which are harmful to humans," said Gatzke-Kopp.



# Yogi gives keys of 76 flats built on land freed from Atiq

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handed over the keys of 76 flats built on the land freed from the possession of slain mafia Atiq Ahmed in Lukarganj to the beneficiaries here on Friday.

During this the chief minister interacted with 20 beneficiaries. He said, "Our government stands with the poor. Earlier governments used to stand with the mafia. Earlier, the government-protected mafia used to occupy lands. Now this cannot happen in our government."



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also dedicated and laid the foundation stones of 226 projects worth Rs 768 crore.

Earlier, the chief minister along with Prayagraj Development Authority officers inspected the construction of the flats. After this the chief minister met the children who had come with their parents and gave chocolates to them.

During this, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' were present with the chief minister.

The chief minister said at the Leader Press Ground, "Before 2017, anyone used to occupy the land. Now houses for the poor are being built on the same land. Now no one bothers businessmen and the poor. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 54 lakh people have got houses. Earlier the state government did not want to provide houses to any poor. Soon 10 lakh people are going to get new houses."

The chief minister said, "Under projects worth Rs 768 crore, houses are being given to the poor after freeing the land from the notorious mafias. To say, these are 76 houses, but there is a feeling behind it that they are being freed from the mafia."

"Prayagraj is a mythological city. It has been the land of education and justice. Today, I would like to tell all the development authorities of the state that they should also build houses for the poor on the land occupied by mafia in their district," he said.

The chief minister said, "A convention centre should also be built here. Prayagraj Development Authority should prepare a DPR (detailed project report). In February, we held a global investors' summit. We received investments worth Rs 36 lakh crore. Had there been mafias in the state, it would have been difficult to get this investment. The Maha Kumbh to be held in 2025 in Prayagraj will be grand and divine."

Yogi Adityanath said, "If we maintain the speed with which India's economy is growing, then in 2027 India's economy will become the third largest economy of the world. This country will not run by slogans. It will run by the work done. Today India and the image of Uttar Pradesh has changed."

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "There can be no greater happiness than if the land freed from the mafia becomes the home for the poor. The Bharatiya Janata Party's double-engine government is working for the poor. Pressing the lotus button means house to a poor person. Pressing the lotus button means sending the mafia to jail. That is why it is necessary to press the lotus button in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections."

The deputy chief minister said that soon 10 lakh new houses would be given to the people. "The previous government used to give houses only to a particular class," he added.

Cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' said, "Seventy-six houses are being given today in a fair manner. Had there been a Samajwadi Party government, only people of a particular caste would have got these flats. Now everyone can see what 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' means. Earlier, jobs were also given to members of a particular caste."

In 2021, the chief minister had announced plans to build flats on the land freed from the illegal occupation of Atiq Ahmed. In December 2021, the chief minister had come to Prayagraj to perform bhoomi puja of these flats. The Prayagraj Development Authority completed this project in one and a half years and built 76 flats on the land freed from Atiq. A total of 6,071 people had applied for 76 flats built on 1,731 square metre.

PDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh Chauhan said the flats had been allotted to the eligible through lucky draw.

an alliance between Samajwadi Party, JD (U), Rashtriya Lok Dal and the Congress are also doing rounds. Officially, the RLD is already a part of the SP alliance.

Though the JD (U) has an insignificant presence in Uttar Pradesh, the party's state unit office is likely to remain abuzz with activities as the Lok Sabha elections draw near, especially because Nitish Kumar is playing a key role in putting up a united stand against the incumbent BJP.

Party sources said that a meeting of the district unit office-bearers would be held on July 15 to discuss the strategy for the Lok Sabha polls. The district unit leaders will give feedback on the political scenario in the various regions of the state and the plan of the party to strengthen the organisation. Senior JD (U) leader and minister in the Bihar government, Shrawan Kumar, will also be present in the meeting.

JD (U) state unit convenor Satyendra Patel said: "The party has started preparation for the Lok Sabha elections. As the party is playing a lead role in forging the unity of the opposition parties, the party cadre is motivated and soon a series of meetings will be organised across the state to gear up the workers for the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections."

# Nitish may contest LS election from Phulpur

JD(U) starts refurbishing the party office in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the successful Patna conclave of the opposition parties on June 23, the Janata Dal (United) of Bihar has stepped up its activities in the state and officially focusing on Uttar Pradesh for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. JD (U) top leader Nitish Kumar is the Bihar chief minister and is spearheading the campaign for the unity of the opposition parties to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



an alliance between Samajwadi Party, JD (U), Rashtriya Lok Dal and the Congress are also doing rounds. Officially, the RLD is already a part of the SP alliance.

The JD (U) has started a massive renovation of its office in Lucknow, right behind the Babu Bhawan housing the state secretariat. The state office of the JD (U) here had been lying in a state of neglect for the past several years. A large group of labourers were seen laying new tiles on the floor, removing the old paint from the wall and putting a coat of fresh paint on the walls of the office.

Nitish Kumar, from the dominant Kurmi Other Backward Classes community, is likely to contest the Lok Sabha election from Phulpur parliamentary constituency, a Kurmi dominated seat. Presently Kesri Devi Patel of the BJP is the MP from this seat in Prayagraj district.

The Bihar JD (U) leaders have also started visiting the Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency for firming up the organisation at the grassroots level.

"Soon, the office will be refurbished and have new decor," said a JD (U) leader.

The renovation work at the JD (U) office in Lucknow gives an indication of the emerging political scenario in Uttar Pradesh. Speculations of

# District jail inspected

District Judge AK Vishwesh and DM S Rajalingam coming out after inspecting the District Jail at Chaukghat in Varanasi on Thursday.



District Judge AK Vishwesh and DM S Rajalingam coming out after inspecting the District Jail at Chaukghat in Varanasi on Thursday.

District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishwesh, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and DIG Santosh Kumar Singh jointly conducted a surprise inspection of the District Jail here on Thursday. During the inspection, a thorough inspection of barracks, mess, jail premises etc was done. During it the officials interacted with prisoners and inquired about their problems as well as facilities in the jail premises. They directed the Jail officials that under no circumstances should any banned material be allowed inside the jail and they should discharge all the proceedings in a complete and correct manner. According to the jail manual, all valid facilities should be made available to the prisoners. Special attention should be paid to their lifestyle and food habits. Timely medical facilities should be provided to the prisoners according to their needs. The jail personnel were also directed regarding cleanliness of the jail premises etc.

# Navy signs contract worth ₹2,725 cr for sub's MRLC



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, the defence ministry on Friday signed a contract worth Rs 2,725 crore for Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of Sub-Surface Killer (SSK) Class of Submarine "INS Shankush" with public sector Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

Shankush is a SSK Class of Submarine to be re-fitted at MDL, Mumbai. Delivery of Submarine post MRLC will be in 2026. After completion of MRLC, INS Shankush will be combat ready and will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with upgraded combat capability, officials said here.

This project is an important step towards development of MDL as a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Hub for supporting the industrial ecosystem of India. The project will involve more than 30 MSMEs and would lead to employment generation of 1,200 man days per day for the project duration. The project will be a proud flag bearer of Atmanirbhar Bharat in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of Government of India, officials said.

# MPs apprise NER officers of local needs



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The presence of a good number of senior MPs representing different parliamentary constituencies of Purvanchal (eastern UP) and adjoining Bihar, especially served by Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) at a meeting with the senior NER officers, including General Manager (GM) Chandra Vir Raman and Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey here on Thursday, indicates how the public representatives realise the importance of Indian Railways in the overall development of their areas. They not only participated representing different areas but also gave their valuable suggestions as per needs and aspirations of their parliamentary areas apart from praising the NER works. The attending of the meeting by several MPs themselves, including former Union Minister Rajeev Pratap Rudy (MP from Chhapra Lok Sabha seat), Janardhan Singh Sikriwal (Maharajganj, Bihar), Virendra Singh 'Mast' (Ballia), Ramesh Chand Bind (Bhadohi), Vijay Kumar Dubey (Kushinagar), Sangeeta Azad (Lalganj, Azamgarh) and Shyam Singh Yadav (Jaunpur) just hinted at that how these MPs gave importance to the meeting prior to the 2024 parliamentary elections as undoubtedly, the Railways has changed the face of this once known as one of the backward regions of the country. Besides, the physical presence of these MPs, the representatives of almost all

other MPs, including Ramapati Ram (Deoria), Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' (Azamgarh), Ravindra Kushwaha (Salempur), Dr Alok Kumar Suman (Gopalganj, Bihar), Kamesh Paswan (Bansgaon, Gorakhpur), Ravindra Shyam Narayan Shukla 'Ravikishan' (Gorakhpur), Union Minister Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey (Chandauli), Union Minister Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur), BP Saraj (Machhalishahr, Jaunpur), Atul Kumar Singh (Ghosi), Pankaj Chaudhary (Maharajganj, UP) and Rajya Sabha MP Sakal Deep Rajbhar (Ballia) also attended the meeting. Listening to the issues raised by the MPs and their representatives, the NER GM thanked the former for apprising the meeting of the aspirations and needs of the common people. "We've taken substantial steps in our railway functioning in all areas, including enhancement of line capacity, upgradation of passenger amenities, safe operation of

trains, employee welfare, green initiatives for protection of environment and many more," he said, adding that our careful planning, hard work and efficient and better utilisation of available assets have resulted in many encouraging achievements with marked improvement in safety over NER. "During the financial year 2022-23, maximum commissioning work was done in doubling and gauge conversion, which is the highest during the last 10 years. Besides, 145.7 km of doubling work

was done by the construction organisations and 92.92 km of doubling work was commissioned by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). In gauge conversion, the work of commissioning of 34.7 km in Indaradohrih section was done. The total doubling work of 193.34 km has been done in Varanasi division during FY 2022-23 which is the highest commissioning done in any division in Indian Railways," Raman claimed.

# Pishach Mochan Kund to be rejuvenated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The mythological Pishach Mochan Kund of this holy city of Kashi will be rejuvenated with the change of dirty water before the forthcoming Pitruapaksha, which will be observed this year from September 29 to October 14. During Pitruapaksha this pond witnesses a heavy rush of people come here from different far flung areas to offer 'pind daans' to their forefathers. A good number of people also come here to offer rituals for those family members who met unnatural or untimely deaths.

Along with development, the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is also reviving things related to social and religious beliefs.

Keeping in mind the faith of those who offer 'pind daan' for their ancestors, the government will also clean the water of the Pishach Mochan

Kund of Kashi while rejuvenating it. Varanasi Smart City is seeking ideas from people for it. Those who give the best

idea will be honoured and will also be given preference in participation during the technology used in the cleaning of Pishach Mochan Kund.

**CORRIGENDUM**

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

DEMAND NOTICE PUBLICATION UNDER SARFAESI ACT FOR LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 629405042934 NAME OF THE BORROWER MECHSHOT ENGINEERS, Manoj Kumar (Partner), Riya Rani, Rajnish Singh (Partner), Rajnish Singh, Avantika Kushwaha WERE PUBLISHED IN DEMAND NOTICE DATED August 21, 2021 AND PUBLISHED DATED 08 October, 2021 AT THE PIONEER (HINDI), & THE PIONEER (ENGLISH) RESPECTIVELY AND SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE DATED December 17, 2021 IT'S PUBLISHED DATED December 22, 2023 THE PIONEER (HINDI), & THE PIONEER (ENGLISH) AND PHYSICAL POSSESSION DATED MAY 25, 2023 IT'S PUBLISHED DATED MAY 31, 2023 THE PIONEER AND MORNING INDIA (ENGLISH) & THE PIONEER AND SANMARG (HINDI) RESPECTIVELY WE WISH TO MENTION THAT INADVERTENTLY AND UNINTENTIONALLY A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR HAS OCCURRED IN THE SAID THE BORROWERS NAME IN 13.2 & SYMBOLIC NOTICE & physical possession notice and ITS PUBLICATION Commercial Space No. 405 A 4th Floor, Commercial Complex Known as Orbit Plaza Plot No C-2, Crossings Republik Dandahera, NH-24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009 INSTEAD OF Commercial Space No. 405 A 4th Floor, Commercial Complex Known as Orbit Plaza Plot No C-2, Crossings Republik Dandahera, NH-24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009 THEREFORE, REQUEST YOU TO PLEASE READ THE SAME AS Commercial Space No. 405 A 4th Floor, Commercial Complex Known as Orbit Plaza Plot No C-2, Crossings Republik Dandahera, NH-24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009

Date: July 01, 2023  
Place: Delhi/ NCR  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

IN THE COURT OF SH. GAURAV RAO, LD. ADJ-03, PATIALA HOUSE DISTRICT COURTS, NEW DELHI

SUMMONS/NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT IN A NEWSPAPER (Order V, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

DATE OF ORDER	21/01/23	CS No.	725/2019
DATE OF ISSUE	05/04/23	Next Date of Hearing	02/08/23

(Title)

Kavita Sahni ..... Plaintiff  
Versus  
Vikram Joglekar & Ors. .... Defendant

To,

- Sh. Vikram Joglekar, S/o Sh. V.S. Joglekar, R/o I-703, Som Vihar, New Delhi-110022 Defendant No. 1
- Sh. Pradeep Kumar Gupta, Prop. of M/s Paras Investments, H-11/A, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 Defendant No. 3
- Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Mehta, 71B, Gali No. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sitaram Mansion, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 Defendant No. 4
- Sh. Yash Pal, C2, C/2-227, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 Defendant No. 5
- Sh. Bipin Kumar Agrawal, Mahavirpuram, Near Springer School, Post Gorakhnath, Industrial Area, Gorakhpur, U.P. Defendant No. 6
- Sh. Sanjit Kumar Sutrathar, FAB, Maint, Rolling Mills, HINDALCO, P.O. Renukoot, Distt. Sonbhadra, U.P.-231217 Defendant No. 7
- M/s Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (Formerly known as "Hindustan Lever Ltd.") Regd. Office at: Unilever House, B.D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400099 Defendant No. 11

WHEREAS plaintiff has instituted the above Petition filed an application in the Suit for Declaration and Mandatory Injunction.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader on the 02<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2023 at 10.00 O'clock, to answer the same, failing which the suit/ application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 06<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023. Sd./ (Judge) ADJ-03/PHC/ND/ New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (an underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses, however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Hanuman Sahay Meena/ Sanjay Devi Meena- (00900015239- QZJNV0000499837)- National Security Guard, AC-1/G2, Hanuman Sahaymeen, CSQM12, Srg Msq Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana -122051	Plot No.14, Shivnath Colony, Khasra No.109/ 1, Gram Jugalpurka kalan, Newwai, Tonk, Rajasthan- 304021	May 16, 2023 Rs. 9,47,793/-	08-02-2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower(s) and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : July 01, 2023  
Place : Gurgaon  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Almora**  
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 2764/ Nivida-01/2023-24 Dated : 30/06/2023

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

The superintending Engineer, 1<sup>st</sup> Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 06/07/2023 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of work (Rupee in lakh)	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Under the Honourable chief minister announcement No. 550/2018 assembly constituency Kapkot of district Bageshwar in saneti Bakori sangar motor Road (X-Sec 5/40 to 10/13) new Construction Work. Second Phase Stage-II	₹ 179.00 Lac with GST	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.58 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking
2	Under the state Disaster mitigation fund the protection work of the motor road for the prevention of landslides occurring in km 15 to 18 of Kapkot Pindari glacier motor road of kapkot assembly constituency of district Bageshwar.	₹ 268.00 Lac with GST	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.36 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	-Do-
3	Under the state Disaster mitigation fund the protection work of the motor road for the prevention of landslides occurring in km 1 to 3 of Ason Baskuna motor road of kapkot assembly constituency of district Bageshwar.	₹ 267.00 Lac with GST	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.34 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	-Do-
4	Under the Honourable chief minister announcement No. 101/2020 assembly constituency Kapkot of district Bageshwar in Harsila to Seema Kumtira Jalthakot motor Road new Construction Work.	₹ 230.00 Lac with GST	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 4.60 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	-Do-

नोट- क्रमांक 1 से 4 तक के कार्यों की निविदाएँ स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।

# Alumni are rich assets: MLC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Samajwadi Party (SP) MLC Ashutosh Sinha said that the alumni of any institution are their rich assets as they help their alma mater with their resources. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Old Students' Conference 2022-23 at Harishchandra Post Graduate College (HPGC) here on Friday. The function was organised under the auspices of Bharatendu Harishchandra Old Students Union. "The alumni empowered by the college have made immense progress through their contributions in various fields of the society. Their knowledge, experience and perspective are significant assets with rich resources," said

Sinha, assuring the college of all possible cooperation. Presiding over the programme, Principal Prof Rajneesh Kumar, explaining the importance of the conference, said that the concept of this conference is an important sign of the progress of our old student society. "Our alumni have achieved great success in various fields and this conference is an opportunity where current students get an opportunity to learn from seniors along with mentoring their progress," he said, adding that the capital of any institution is its alumni who promote the efforts of progress, development and uplift in the society. Programme coordinator Dr Anil Kumar said 50 alumni have participated in the conference.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Dismissal & after

Since Balaji was on probe agencies' radar, he should have resigned on his own

Politics and cinema are two factors that are intertwined in Tamil Nadu. Since 1967, when the DMK formed the first non-Congress Government, cinema and politics rule the roost of Tamil politics. It all started with CN Annadurai, the DMK chief, who became the first non-Congress chief minister of the State. After his two-year-long tenure was cut short by terminal illness, Muthuvel Karunanidhi was anointed as chief minister. Karunanidhi used cinema and dramas to propagate his style of politics embellished with bribery and freebies. No DMK representative in the Union Cabinet (1996-98, 1999-2004 and 2004-2013) was free of corruption charges which earned the party the unprecedented reputation of an outfit with "DNA of corruption in its genes". The Justice Ranjit Singh Sarkaria Commission of Inquiry, appointed by the Indira Gandhi regime in 1976 to probe corruption charges against Karunanidhi, found out that there were "cogent, convincing and reliable" pieces of evidence against him and described Karunanidhi as an expert in scientific corruption. Propensity to corruption was the basic requirement to get admission to Karunanidhi's heart, said MG Ramachandran who was ousted from the DMK for questioning the impropriety of the K-clan members. Though MGR's tenure as CM was bereft of any charges of corruption, his successor Jayalalitha was embroiled in a series of such cases and the Supreme Court itself upheld the verdict sentencing her to four years' imprisonment.



It is at this juncture that Senthil Balaji, a minister in the MK Stalin Cabinet, has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on charges of cash for jobs and money laundering. Balaji, an AIADMK activist till the demise of Jayalalitha in 2016, was no stranger to misuse of office. Hundreds of people had complained to Jayalalitha against Balaji, who was the transport minister during the 2011-2015 Government. Jayalalitha dropped him from the Council of Ministers and even Stalin, now the chief minister, had demanded Balaji's arrest. Interestingly, the same Stalin received Balaji in DMK with open arms, got him elected as MLA and made him the minister of the money-spinning departments of electricity and prohibition. There was no dearth of corruption charges against Balaji and finally law caught up with him.

In normal circumstances, the chief minister should have dropped him from the Council of Ministers till the conclusion of the probe. But Stalin was adamant that Balaji would remain with him and took strong objection to Governor RN Ravi's action of dismissing him. Though the Governor took back his order, the damage has been done. The requirement that "probity should be the hallmark of public life" is alien to Tamil Nadu. Since the State and Central agencies were probing the charges against Balaji, he should ideally have tendered the resignation on his own. If his honesty and integrity are proved beyond doubt, the stock of DMK, Stalin and Balaji himself would go up. Public life is not a bed of roses, it needs boldness.

### PICTALK



J&amp;K Police's mountain rescue team and SDRF personnel during a mock drill near Shri Amarnath Cave Temple

# Another birthday spent behind bars

A symbol of aspirations for freedom and democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi has reportedly been kept in 10 ft by 10 ft concrete cell with two windows



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Unnoticed by the world at large, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the symbol of Myanmar's aspiration for freedom and democracy, spent her 78th birthday on June 19 in Naypyidaw Prison. Mohinga Matters, an important source of information about developments in Myanmar, cites those released from the same prison as saying that she has been kept in a 10x10 feet small concrete building with two small windows. If any of the heads of state and governments demanded her release on the occasion of her birthday, it was not audible enough to be heard. The overwhelming majority of the Myanmar diaspora, including her younger son, Ko Htein Lin Kim Aris, rallied in her support for the restoration of democracy in that country.

In a video message released on the eve of her birthday, and carried by an independent news agency, he appealed to Myanmar's ruling junta to release her and all other political prisoners and agree to a ceasefire while opening negotiations for handing power back to the democratically elected government. He also said that he had not been granted any contact with her since her arrest and subsequent internment. All his efforts to know about her whereabouts and the conditions in which she was being kept, fetched no response.

The statement touched upon matters on which there is a wide global consensus—the utter illegality of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest and internment, the sheer mockery of the trials she is facing, and the savage repression the Junta has unleashed on the country. In addition, he made two noteworthy points. The first is that the world should put meaningful pressure on Myanmar's military to end its brutal attacks on its own people. Also, the British government and all other countries should regard Myanmar (he used the original name of Burma) as a pariah state, withdraw all its diplomats and citizens from there, and open negotiations with the National Unity Government (formed on April 16, 2021, by some leaders



of the National League for Democracy — the party led by Daw Suu Kyi — activists and representatives of several insurgent ethnic organisations and minor parties). The second is that the military would not win the current civil war in the country; the people will not allow their freedoms to be taken away.

As to the first, the United States and the European countries have taken measures like sanctioning the generals and others involved in the coup on February 1, 2021, which prevented the NLD, which had swept the general elections held on 8 November 2020, from assuming power, and the subsequent atrocities. As late as June 22, 2023, the US Department of Treasury imposed new sanctions on Myanmar's Ministry of Defence and two junta-owned banks. Unfortunately, such measures have not deterred the junta because sanctions do not deliver and it is supported by China and Russia.

Given their preoccupations with the Ukraine war, the US and the European countries are unlikely to provide the kind of support needed to tilt the balance in favour of the NUG and its military wing, the Peoples' Defence Force,

which, and their allies, will have to fight the junta on their own.

Prima facie, the odds are against them and the Sit-Tat which (and not Tatmadaw), is what the Junta's armed forces should be called, is a much bigger and better-armed force compared to that of the PDF and its allies. The United States Institute of Peace, however, featured a piece by Ye Myo Hein, datelined May 4, 2023, which gives a very different estimate. According to it, while the Sit-Tat's headcount was widely thought to total 300,000-400,000 before the coup, "Extensive interviews with military deserters and defectors, analysis of internal military directives and meeting notes, historical records of troop movements and sizes, and casualty counts from primary conflict data and military hospital records," show "that the military currently has about 150,000 personnel. Roughly 70,000 are combat soldiers. At least 21,000 service members have been lost through casualties, desertion and defection since the coup. At this troop level, the Sit-Tat is barely able to sustain itself as a fighting force, much less a government."

Not surprisingly, a brief

released on September 5, 2021, by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar, a group of international experts supporting the country's struggle for democracy, said that the junta had stable control over only 72 out of the country's 330 townships, constituting only 17 per cent of Myanmar's land area. The NUG and ethnic resistance organisations effectively controlled over 52 per cent of Myanmar's territory and 23 per cent was contested.

The Junta has lost further ground since then. In most parts of the country, its forces do not venture out of their fortified camps. It is finding it increasingly difficult to find recruits. In a piece (June 27) in the NIKKEI, Gwen Robinson, its Asia editor-at-large, cites a World Bank report saying that the intensifying crisis since the coup will leave Myanmar's economy permanently scarred. It will, however, be a long time before the junta is ousted. The PDF and its allies, the ethnic militias, lack heavy weaponry and air support. Myanmar will continue to burn in the interim.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)



THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THEM AND THE SIT-TAT, WHICH (AND NOT TATMADAW) IS WHAT THE JUNTA'S ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE CALLED, IS A MUCH BIGGER AND BETTER-ARMED FORCE COMPARED TO THAT OF THE PDF AND ITS ALLIES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### AKALIS OPPOSE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Sir — Former BJP ally Shiromani Akali Dal opposes Uniform Civil Code (UCC), saying that the UCC is 'anti-minority'. BJP's history has witnessed that whenever it won election fighting people fought each other on the name of religion, or caste. It has no strategy for the 2024 general election, that's why it wants to divert people's attention from extended inflation, unemployment, mob lynching, and violence. Bypassing the UCC act in Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha respectively.

Diversity is the beauty of India. The Indian constitution ensures "justice, social, economic and political" to all citizens. It has adopted measures for the protection of the rights of all religious and ethnic minorities and all socially and economically disadvantaged classes such as the scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) etc. One country one law is not possible here.

Tauqueer Rahmani | Hyderabad

#### PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS IN BENGAL

Sir — In West Bengal, TMC MLA Madan Mitra threatened Governor C V Anand Bose to "book a ticket for July 11 to leave the state". Taking a jibe at CV Anand Bose, he said, "The governor is blind Dhritarashtra. Why didn't he go to violence-hit Manipur?"

What is happening in West Bengal #Kolkata? How can a leader of any party speak like this despite being a part of the country itself? By speaking like this I get to think that these people consider themselves a part of this country. They don't believe or they are not able to handle it after getting the power of their pride and power! Strict action should be taken against them so that they realize that no one is above the law in this country.

MT Farooqi | Hyderabad

#### GOVERNOR REVERSES DECISION

Sir — Saying that Minister Senthil Balaji is being sacked. Not only aam aadmi, but all Opposition parties

### Today is the best day



In our calendar, there are 365 days and almost all days are remarkable and they all carry some type of Celebration with them. As of today's date that is 1 JULY is somewhat more unique. This is the day when we serve our people, to enhance humanity with our respective professions like Doctors, CA and Postal workers. These people from their

respective domains always have a target to serve more and more people, to help them and to contribute to the growth of our Nation. Apart from these three special contributions we also have two important days with us.

One is GST day to have one single tax for all, and the other is International Joke Day, as we all are human creatures and we have some moments with us which carry some sorrows too but we have some people around us who help us to cope with every situation. They just make us laugh with their jokes to heal our pain. Joke therapy which makes people laugh is also one way to serve people and surprisingly this is not the thing that only certain people have with themselves but this is the skill that we all have: "To make people laugh and to make the atmosphere healthy". The basket is full of Thanks to all the Serving Souls.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

including affected Tamil Nadu's ruling party DMK criticised the move. However, the governor sent a communication to the Chief Minister's (CM) office that the sacking of Senthil Balaji is being kept in abeyance.

The startling without advice from the CM and the expeditious climbdown is actions possibly unprecedented in modern Indian political history. People wonder (even after reversing his decision to sack a controversial minister) if the actions of the Governor are also against the principle of natural justice. It is a well-established principle of law that a person is deemed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law, where both parties, prosecutor and defendant, are provided opportunities of being heard. Further, the Governor of the State is in a gubernatorial position, and he is required to be guided by the advice of the Council of Ministers. He, being an appointed person, cannot override the elected body of the legislature. Everyone knows that the ED is a tool

obstruct by the Modi Government, to obstruct the smooth functioning of opposition-ruled states. The Governor's action of dismissing a Minister without even consulting the CM of the State, who is an elected representative, is a demonstration of gross abuse of power by an appointed functionary, the Governor.

It has been happening everywhere, including in Delhi, West Bengal and others. Hence, people hope that the President of India should take serious note of this development, and she should instruct the Governor to abide by the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister, failing which she should 'dismiss' the erring Governor, to set the example for all states. But the big question is does she have enough courage to take such a bold decision?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## A case for regulating Artificial Intelligence

There is an urgent need to tap the potential of AI for accomplishing national objectives and fulfilling the aspirations of Indian citizens

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new buzzword in the town and is making too much flutter and scoop around. AI and Machine Learning are being widely discussed and claimed across the board to bring about a revolution in the way things will be performed and looked at in future. AI has revolutionised the method of performing various tasks through its algorithm-based software and has made future predictions possible and accurate. With the use of AI, many tasks have become easier to perform with more efficiency. It is expected that the way AI is advancing it will develop various applications that will be able to do acts the doing of which seem humanly impossible at present.



The invention of AI applications and tools has made it possible to answer questions and write code and poems and books with human-like sensitivity. It is also expected that AI shall become an indispensable tool for carrying out numerous industrial activities. AI has developed and is in the process of developing such tools that will be immensely beneficial in business operations. Against this backdrop, it is not an exaggeration to say that the manner of growth and popularisation of AI would have made it seem like a one-stop solution for all human problems.

However, AI tools also have limitations and can generate untruthful and toxic comments and can spread misinformation, and spam, and can write misleading

academic literature. At present, India does not have a law on AI. The government of India has already expressed its intention some time back that it is not considering any law to regulate AI. The government had conveyed its position that AI is useful for the digital and innovation ecosystem, but had ethical concerns and associated risks. Various government agencies have started efforts to standardize responsible AI development and are drawing up a blueprint for the development of AI for India.

Despite the position taken by the government, successful use of AI technology would require the enactment of legislation that will prevent the misuse of AI in situations that involve, loss to or, infringement of the rights of people. Such a law may permit only authorized persons to utilize the govt recognized AI Platforms, allow limited access to the usage of "Smart AI", and may have penal provisions to cover cases of malicious use of AI such as blackmailing, morphing and creating false evidence etc.

Moreover, such a law may require programmers to take

reasonable care and caution while creating AI systems in order to prevent harm to AI users. Businesses using AI ought to alert end users against any potential danger and must attach strong technical safeguards and technological measures of protection with every AI application to minimize their misuse. Failure in complying with such stipulations must entail legal liability for creators, intermediaries and commercial dealers.

There is a need to tap the potential of AI positively in order to use this technology for accomplishing national objectives and fulfilling the aspirations of Indian citizens. AI should be used to serve the interests of our created social institutions and economic, legal, and administrative machinery. There can be no doubt that AI has enormous potential to revolutionise many facets of society but to maximise its advantages and minimise its downsides, serious deliberations over ethical/legal frameworks should be initiated.

(The writer is Sr Assistant Professor Faculty of Law University of Delhi)



SIDDHARTHA MISHRA





## FIRST COLUMN

## TRAIN YOUR MIND TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT

Yoga, pranayama and meditation can help you live in the present moment



RAVI VALLURI

The Bengali siblings were my close companions; their staple diet was a fish curry with rice. The older one was a dreamer while the younger one was pragmatic in his dealings. Their father died of Alzheimer's and their mother succumbed to abdominal cancer. Though they seemed to have recovered from the double whammy and proceeded with their lives, they could never realise their full potential as their minds swayed between the past and the future.

Marketing lexicon talks of the 4Ps- product, place, promotion, and price. I choose to add a few more to the cocktail that impinges on the human mind. These are our past impressions, partaking of food and the path of time. Human talent spans from the ordinary to the exceptional. This is the product available. Now, the product can be harnessed and developed through tapas. Resolute sadhana and breathing techniques embellish and burnish the product to reach an exalted state.

Let us envisage a house enveloped with positive and negative auras. This is the place where the mind resides. The quality of the mind to be in the present moment would appreciably increase when impacted by positive thoughts, incantations, meditations, inspirational speeches, or soulful singing. The same mind becomes unsettled and distraught through provocative speeches or squabbles. How does one promote the mind? The mind loves challenges, however daunting these may be! Maj DP Singh runs with a prosthetic leg. During the Kargil conflict, he lost his limb but resolved to acquit himself with every activity that those with normal limbs can undertake.



The price of the mind is directly proportional to the quantum of sacrifice the body is willing to undertake. Both mind and body are conjoined in this endeavour. The mind may be willing, but the body may not submit to its authority. Incidentally, Stephen Hawking despite suffering from motor neuron disability unraveled the mysteries of the universe. Past impressions have a profound impact on the mind and its performance. Impressions or karmas are impacted by our thoughts, attitudes, acts, and actions which others undertake under our orchestration and administration. As per Hinduism, there are three types of karmas or impressions, namely Sanchita (accumulated karma - which we cannot bear all in one lifetime), Prarabdha karma (fruit-bearing karma) and Kriyamana karma (this can change our destiny). The first is carried on forward to the next lifetime. Prarabdha karma can be mitigated through meditation and yogic techniques, while proper action (Kriyamana karma) can reduce suffering.

Partaking of food has a consequential impact on our thoughts and thereby minds. Thoughts are opinions or conceptions. We can have brooding or glum thoughts, celebratory ones, or meditative ones. The human vessel consumes three kinds of food, namely satvik, rajasic and tamasic. Satvik food is easily digestible, generally consisting of fruits, nuts, and vegetarian fare. Disciplined practitioners of yoga consume this food. Rajasik food is neither overtly beneficial nor harmful. It includes oily and starchy food, aerated drinks, caffeinated products and overtly salty and sugary items which make us excitable or irritable.

Tamasic food consists of meat, alcohol, tobacco, onions, garlic, fermented and canned food items. These take a long time to digest. The trajectory path of time traversed has an expansive influence on the mind. Incidents, and events occurring shape the thought processes, alertness, and decision-making capabilities of our minds. The human mind through the practice of yoga, pranayama and meditation can live in the present moment. This has a profound impact on the mind.

(The writer is an author and a spiritual teacher)

## Serendipitous moment in Indo-US relations



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The US and India have a lot to share with each other as approximately five million Indians are contributing to the US economy



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US has up a sense of reverence and serenity leading to the harmonic chord of touch in the Indo-US relationship. It is also a sheer display of the hidden prowess of India's soft power diplomacy creating an international environment of positivity and evoking dazzling serendipity in international relations winning applause all the way. PM Modi's recent address to the joint meeting of both the houses of American Congress showcased how positive leadership and dynamism can be a game changer in a web of power struggles in International Politics.

The MoU between GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics to facilitate the production of 99 leading F414 engines has enhanced the chances of technology transfer. In addition to this, an agreement on the production of Jet engines for Mk2 (combat aircraft) and MQ-9B Hale UAVs (drones) would facilitate the smooth process of sophisticated technology transfer. This would enhance defence strategies via intelligence gathering to encounter security challenges from China and Pakistan and any terrorist group. Besides, cooperation in Artificial Intelligence can be of immense use. Traditionally, the foreign policy of any country used to be influenced by myriad factors but primarily determined by the dynamism of National Interest based on economic and security concerns which keep changing with situations and circumstances as being highly dynamic in nature.

The recent visit of PM Modi has been a game changer in the sense that now India has demonstrated the importance of ideology, cultural heritage, morality and good



THE RICHNESS OF INDIAN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL IDEAS SUCH AS 'VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM' HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THE WORLD OVER

(The writer, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award is a Professor and an Expert on Strategic Affairs)

deeds alone can lead to intimacy between the countries despite a few differences. The warmth in the diplomatic endeavour between India and the US provides enough food for thought to write a new Theory of International Politics. The richness of Indian historical and cultural ideas such as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth, One Family) and Jan Bhagadari (larger people participation)

have been acknowledged the world over. These are not mere ideas but have emerged as major catalysts for transformation in thinking to view politics among nations, a major departure from Hans J. Morgenthau's Realist Approach to studying International Politics. This will provide a new perspective on looking at different concepts in IR by displaying the importance of promoting peace, harmony and cooperation. India's services-driven industry prowess and its institutional stability, deeply interwoven in pluralism and democracy have already brought it tremendous inner strength and won more friends. Recently, there has been a revolution in the process of opening up of start-ups as they have crossed the landmark of more than ten thousand providing a huge impetus to employment generation during the last five years alone.

According to a recent report by economic analysts, the robust strategy of start-ups has created more than one lakh of both

direct and indirect jobs. The strategy to enhance its operational and support network, ranging from rural to urban areas, India ensured a much higher rate of return on assets. India also made magnificent strides in a number of areas, including knowledge and skill-based intensive services in telecommunication and scientific and technological innovation. India is also emerging as the first choice for foreign investors who are gradually pumping in a huge amount, more than \$60 billion in the Indian stock markets with about 260 new foreign investors having registered with the stock market regulating body (SEBI) during the last two decades or so.

The stupendous progress of India in the IT industry has opened a new era of Indian companies aggressively capturing overseas markets, even the US has begun to realise this. The ambit of compliance and regulatory authorities also provide economic security as nothing gets undetected and is something to learn from. Foreign investor sentiments can further be enhanced by creating permissible ease in the tax rates and the existing protocols without compromising on security. On the other hand, further cementing Indo-US ties will be quite helpful in developing international cooperation for fighting the new tentacles of transnational terrorism and provide much-needed impetus to work out a new security road map

in dealing with a most obnoxious form of modern terrorism. Myriad security and defence cooperation in Communication, Information Security Memorandum, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreements and Initiatives for Critical and Emerging Technologies between India and the US are based on mutual coordination and lead to stupendous aggrandizement towards communication capability and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat. This would help in generating prudence to anticipate the forebodings about a possible threat from either any state or non-state actors. Besides, this would be helpful in opening new avenues for Communication Compatibility and Security Agreements to facilitate cooperation between the security and defence establishments of the two largest democracies of the world.

The US and India have a lot to share with each other as approximately 5 million Indians are contributing to the US economy directly or indirectly either being employed there or studying in different US Universities. Besides, there has been a huge investment done by numerous companies in each other's countries creating new trade partnerships between both countries and accelerating mutual growth. This augurs very well for future diplomatic endeavours between the two largest democracies of the world.

## National Doctors' Day: Who will be the doctor for doctors?

It is incumbent upon all stakeholders in the healthcare system to recognise and prioritise the well-being of medical professionals

In the noble pursuit of healing and saving lives, doctors selflessly dedicate themselves to the well-being of others. They work tirelessly, often under immense pressure, to provide the best possible care to their patients. However, in this journey of compassion and service, we must pause to ask a vital question: Who will be the doctor for the doctors? In India, according to a report, more than 1.2 million doctors are registered with the Indian Medical Council in 2020 which was only 5,77,000 back in 2001. On the other hand, the population of India remains to be the largest one in the entire world. Despite the gap in the standard ratio of doctors and patients, they



NITIN DEWAN

(The writer is the Director of Primus Super Speciality Hospital)

fearlessly managed the havoc that the pandemic wreaked on the country.

Behind the white coats and stethoscopes, doctors face a range of occupational stressors that put their physical and mental health at risk. On this National Doctor's Day, it is essential to shed light on the challenges faced by our medical professionals and the urgent need for their own care and well-being.

## HIDDEN STRUGGLES

Within the demanding realm of medicine, doctors find themselves exposed to numerous occupational hazards that significantly impact their well-being. The toll of their profession extends beyond the physical and

mental demands, as they face heightened risks of occupational stress, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), addictions, direct or indirect aggression, and infections. As doctors grapple with the challenges of their profession, they are also susceptible to being exposed to various infectious diseases in the course of their work, putting them at a higher risk of infections. This highlights the pressing need for comprehensive support systems and measures to address these challenges.

## IMPROVING SELF-CARE

The combination of long working hours, constant patient care, and administrative responsibilities leaves lit-

tle room for their personal healthcare needs. As a result, doctors unintentionally place their own well-being on the back burner, jeopardizing their ability to provide optimal care in the long run. It is crucial to recognize the importance of self-care and ensure that doctors have access to the healthcare services they require to maintain their own health and well-being. By promoting a culture of self-care and providing resources that facilitate effective access to routine healthcare, we can support doctors in caring for themselves while caring for others.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

Recognizing the immense challenges and pressures that doctors face in their profession, it becomes

essential to focus on enhancing their resilience through educational methods and practice-based interventions. By providing doctors with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively cope with stress and adversity, they can be empowered to navigate the demanding landscape of medicine while safeguarding their well-being.

Educational methods like resilience training programs can equip doctors with strategies to manage stress, enhance emotional intelligence, and promote self-care. These programs can help them develop a deeper understanding of their own mental and physical health needs, fostering a proactive approach towards well-being.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

Beyond individual efforts, organizations must proactively provide the support systems that doctors need. Attention must be given to flexible resources for healthcare and workload management, aimed at preventing the psychological consequences faced by doctors. Cultivating a culture that promotes work-life balance and reducing administrative burdens are essential steps in nurturing the well-being of our medical professionals.

## ASSISTANCE TO DOCS

In addition to organizational support, dedicated confidential services should be established,

offering doctors a safe and confidential space to seek assistance without fear of judgment or repercussions. These services not only provide an avenue for doctors to disclose their struggles but also play a vital role in reducing the loss of valuable professionals from the workforce.

## BOTTOMLINE

By addressing the challenges, they face and providing the necessary support, it can be ensured that the doctors remain resilient, healthy, and capable of delivering the highest standard of care. Let us celebrate our doctors by committing to be the ones who will stand beside them with empathy, understanding, and genuine care.



# Pak strikes \$3 bn bailout deal with IMF

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a major relief to cash-strapped Pakistan, the IMF has agreed to inject USD 3 billion into the country's ailing economy after months-long negotiations that pushed it to the brink of default.

The Pakistan government and the Washington-based global lender reached a nine-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) on Thursday to support the authorities' immediate efforts to stabilise the economy from external shocks.

Pakistan's is facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1947. The country's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Staff-Level Agreement with the International Monetary Fund would help strengthen



Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and enable the country to achieve economic stability.

"I am pleased to announce that Pakistan has reached a Staff-Level Agreement with the IMF on a nine-month USD 3 billion Stand-By Arrangement," he wrote on Twitter. The deal, which still needs to be approved by the IMF's board, comes after an eight-month delay. Earlier, Nathan Porter, the IMF's Mission Chief to Pakistan, said a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on a nine-

month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of SDR 2,250 million (about USD 3 billion or 111 per cent of Pakistan's IMF quota) has been signed.

"The new SBA builds on the authorities' efforts under Pakistan's 2019 EFF-supported programme which expires at the end-June. This agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board, which is expected to consider this request by mid-July," the statement added.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar shared the IMF's press release

on Twitter accompanied by a message: "God may be praised", Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal called it "good news" and urged them to use the opportunity to turn around the country.

The USD 3 billion funding, spread over nine months, is higher than expected for Pakistan. The country was awaiting the release of the remaining USD 2.5 billion from a USD 6.5 billion bailout package agreed in 2019, which expires on Friday.

"The new SBA will support the authorities' immediate efforts to stabilise the economy from recent external shocks, preserve macroeconomic stability and provide a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral partners," the statement said.

The full and timely implementation of the programme will be critical for its success in light of the difficult challenges, it said.

The statement said that Pakistan's Parliament approved the FY24 budget "in line with the goals of supporting fiscal sustainability and mobilising

revenue, which will enable greater social and development spending".

Pakistan had to bend back to limits to get the loan as the fund put forward tough conditions and refused to budget until the government fulfilled them.

Ultimately Prime Minister Sharif had to intervene who had several interactions with IMF Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva to persuade the lender to approve the deal. Pakistan's annual inflation rate hit a fresh record high in May of almost 38 per cent. Deadly clashes between supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and police have also rattled financial markets.

Pakistan had been barely managing its external liabilities as its foreign reserves hovered around USD 4 billion while experts warned of default in coming months. With the IMF approving its policies, the country will get access to multilateral and bilateral loans to build its reserves and plan for a long time.

# SL's oppn party to oppose govt's debt restructuring plan

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's main opposition party on Friday said it will vote against the government's domestic debt restructuring (DDR) plan as it is concerned over its implications on the cash-strapped country's banking and finance sector.

The Cabinet approved the debt restructuring plan on Wednesday which was to be referred to the public finance committee in parliament and finally for parliament's approval on Saturday.

Sri Lanka's banking and finance sector feared for the worse as the government set about restructuring the local debt of USD 42 billion, which is more than its external debt component.

"We will vote against it as there is no clarity on it", Ranjith Madduma Bandara, General Secretary of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party told reporters.

Harsha De Silva, another lawmaker from the SJB, who heads the public finance com-

mittee said, "Based on the Governor's explanation, the banking and insurance sectors as a whole won't be affected. But through the international sovereign bonds and the Sri Lanka Development Bonds the banks could get affected".

The opposition said they were looking forward to seeing the final proposal that will be presented in Parliament at the special session.

The parallel negotiations with the external creditors are ongoing in terms of the International Monetary Fund's bailout conditions for a nearly USD 3 billion bailout over 4 years.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, hopes to reduce USD 17 billion out of the total external debt of USD 41 billion.

Explaining the implications of the domestic debt restructuring on the local banks, the governor of the central bank Nandalal Weerasinghe said on

Thursday that the banking sector would be totally safe from any adverse effects of the DDR.

He said the Central Bank holdings will be restructured, "the treasury bills will be exchanged for treasury bonds, with a longer-term grace period of 5 years and with maturity extensions, the treasury bonds held by banks would be excluded.

More consultations by the parliament's public finance committee are billed to take place today and the final form of the parliamentary motion would be known thereafter.

Sri Lanka, which announced its first-ever sovereign default in April 2022, has negotiated with the IMF for a bailout of USD 2.9 billion. The island nation is facing its worst economic crisis in history due to a shortage of foreign exchange reserves.

An imperative in the IMF bailout is to restructure external debt, which needs to be completed by September.

# 17 prisoners escape from Balochistan jail

PTI ■ KARACHI

Seventeen prisoners escaped from Pakistan's Chaman jail in the restive Balochistan province during Eid ul-Adha prayers while one inmate was killed in firing by the prison guards. The Balochistan Inspector General of Prisons, Malik Shuja Kasi said some police guards and inmates were injured in the violence and firing. The incident happened when Eid prayers were being offered on Thursdays inside the jail in an open space, Kasi said.

"Apparently these prisoners had planned the escape and executed it during Eid prayers. After they were let out of their barracks for Eid prayers, they violently attacked the police guards," he said.

Kasi said that in the ensuing violence and chaos, one inmate was also killed in the firing by prison guards while 17 others managed to escape. "They appear to have had help from outside in mak-



ing their escape a successful one," he added.

Kasi said a list of the escaped prisoners was prepared and some of them were in jail for terror activities.

The Chaman jail is located close to the border town with Iran and security forces fear the prisoners might have crossed the border with help from accomplices.

Separately, in a suicide bomb attack, a female suicide bomber hit a Frontier Corps vehicle in Balochistan's Turbat city killing one police officer.

# Bilawal to visit Japan

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is set to make his official maiden visit to Japan from July 1 to 4 to revive the bilateral relations after a considerable hiatus. Pakistan has tried to maintain a fine balance while pursuing ties with its all-weather ally China and its rival Japan. During the visit, Bilawal will be calling Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and will hold a meeting with the National Security Advisor Takeo Akiba, the Foreign Office said.

"The Foreign Minister's visit signals the revival of leadership level contacts with Japan after a considerable hiatus," it said in a statement, adding that Bilawal will hold delegation-level talks with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi. He will deliver a lecture at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), which is a renowned think tank in Japan. Bilawal is also expected to interact with senior officials and executives representing prominent business houses and entities related to the import of Pakistani manpower to Japan.

# Mossad discovers Pakistan involvement in murder plot

Jerusalem (PTI): Israel's spy agency, Mossad, has announced that it has thwarted an Iranian plot to attack Israeli business people in Cyprus with a detailed probe hinting at Pakistan's involvement in the assassination bid.

In a counter-terrorist operation on Iranian soil, the Mossad apprehended the head of the cell, Yusef Shahabzadeh, who gave his investigators a detailed confession bringing about the dismantling of the attack cell in Cyprus.

Abbasalilu received detailed instructions and weapons from senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards personnel in Iran. During questioning, parts of which were shared with the media, he admitted to his involvement in an attempted attack and described how he tried to carry it out.

In the wake of the information that he gave to the Mossad investigators, the cell was dismantled in an operation by the Cypriot security services, the announcement said.

# UN nuclear agency chief to visit Fukushima plant

Tokyo (AP): The chief of the UN nuclear agency will visit Japan next week to meet with Japanese leaders and see final preparations for the release of treated radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean, officials said Friday.

Japan's government hopes the visit by International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Mariano Grossi will add credibility to the discharge plan. It has been strongly opposed by local fishing groups and by neighboring South Korea, China and some Pacific Island nations over safety concerns. Grossi will visit Japan July 4-7, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said.

He is expected to meet with Hayashi, Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and visit the Fukushima plant, which was damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

"Japan attaches great importance to the efforts of the IAEA, which serves an important role in promoting nuclear nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We hope to further strengthen ties between Japan and the IAEA through this visit," Hayashi said.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, has completed construction of the equipment needed for the planned release, and Japanese regulators were finishing their final inspection on Friday. If everything goes well, TEPCO is expected to receive a permit in about a week to begin the discharge, though the starting date is still undecided, according to the Nuclear Regulation Authority.

Environmental activists in Seoul, South Korea, protested on Friday outside the Japanese Embassy against the plan. To ease overseas concerns, Grossi is expected to visit South Korea, New Zealand and the Cook Islands after his visit to Japan, during which the IAEA is expected to release its final report on the wastewater release plan.

# 'Haiti youths face staggering levels of gender violence'

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Close to half of Haiti's people, 2.2 million adults and 3 million children, need humanitarian aid and thousands of youngsters face "staggering levels" of gender-based violence, the head of the U.N. children's agency said Thursday.

"Haitians and our team, they're telling me it's never been worse than it is now — unprecedented hunger and malnutrition, grinding poverty, a crippled economy, resurgence of cholera, and a massive insecurity that creates a deadly downward spiral of violence," said Catherine Russell, the executive director of UNICEF.

Russell said what was clear during her just-completed visit was that the police don't have the capacity to secure the country and protect the population from violent gangs and "something needs to change."

"We have to, as an international community, say we can't watch this country completely fall apart," she said. "And so my job is to try to bring some attention to that problem and to make sure people understand how terrible the humanitarian crisis is, what kind of impact that's having on children."

Russell repeated at a news conference some of the stories she heard at a center for survivors of gender-based violence in a dangerous part of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

An 11-year-old girl who was eight months pregnant recounted how five men had grabbed her on the street and raped her, Russell said. The girl gave birth days after their talk, she said.

Also at the center, Russell heard from a woman who described how men barged into her home and raped her. And when her 20-year-old sister resisted, they killed her by setting her on fire and then burned down the house.

"I was told this is part of a new strategy by the armed groups — they rape girls and women and they burn their homes to make them more vulnerable and more easily controlled," Russell said.

Russell spoke a day after William O'Neill, who was appointed in April by the U.N. human rights chief as the U.N. expert on Haiti, said at the end of a 10-day visit to the beleaguered Caribbean nation that a specialized international force is needed to fight gang violence and that a weapons embargo should be implemented immediately.

"I found a country bruised by violence, misery, fear and suffering," O'Neill said Wednesday, adding that all types of human rights are being violated. "It is urgent to take action. The survival of an entire nation is at stake."

An understaffed and under-resourced police department has been struggling to fight against warring gangs that have grown more powerful since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. The violence has led to an increase in starvation, with people unable to leave their homes and trucks unable to deliver goods.

The surge in killings, rapes and kidnappings has led to violent reprisals, with civilians killing nearly 200 people since April in attacks on suspected gang members.

Since October, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been urging the immediate deployment of an international armed force to stem the gang violence and Haiti's worst human rights crisis in decades. He warned in April that insecurity in the capital "has reached levels comparable to countries in armed conflict." Neither the United States, which has been criticized for previous interventions in Haiti, nor Canada have shown any interest in leading such a force.

# Wiener Zeitung ends daily print edition after 320 years

Berlin (AP): One of the world's oldest newspapers, the Vienna-based Wiener Zeitung, ended its daily print run Friday after more than three centuries. First published under the name Wienerisches Diarium, the paper set out to provide a sober account of the news "without any oratory or poetic gloss" when it was launched on August 8, 1703. "320 years, 12 presidents, 10 emperors, 2 republics, 1 newspaper," the print edition's final front page read. The Wiener Zeitung, which is owned by the Austrian government but editorially independent, suffered a sharp decrease in revenue after a recent law dropped a requirement for companies to pay to publish changes to the commercial registry in the print edition.

# Boris' ally resigns as min in Sunak Cabinet

PTI ■ LONDON

An ally of former British prime minister Boris Johnson on Friday resigned as an environment minister, highlighting the "apathy" of the current government led by Rishi Sunak and accusing it of being "simply uninterested" towards climate issues.

Lord Zac Goldsmith, 48, who was a minister in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), was the only serving minister to be criticised by the cross-party committee.

"This government's apathy in the face of the greatest challenge we have faced makes continuing in my current role untenable," reads his resignation letter uploaded on social media.

However, Downing Street soon released Sunak's response to Goldsmith which revealed that he had been asked to apologise to lawmakers for trying to



undermine the House of Commons Privileges Committee investigating whether Johnson lied to Parliament over the partygate scandal, or COVID law-breaking government parties during the pandemic.

"You were asked to apologise for your comments about the Privileges Committee as we felt they were incompatible with your position as a minister of the Crown. You have decided to take a different

course," Sunak's response reads. The response indicates that Goldsmith's decision was influenced largely by the call for an apology.

In the rest of the letter Sunak commends Goldsmith for his work as a Minister for the Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment and goes on to defend the government's environmental record.

"We can be proud of the UK's record as a world leader

on net zero. We are going far beyond other countries and delivering tangible progress whilst bringing down energy bills.

The Government is also committed to leaving the environment in a better state than we found it, as set out in our Environmental Improvement Plan," reads Sunak's letter.

Earlier this month, the Privileges Committee found that Johnson did mislead Parliament, and recommended a 90-day suspension from Parliament, though he preempted the report and stepped down ahead of the report being officially released.

This week, the committee also said that Goldsmith and the other Johnson allies put "improper pressure" on committee members and mounted "vociferous attacks" on the committee on social media, radio and television.

Office of the Superintending Engineer  
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh  
Email : sepwdp@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 3708 / 984C-03(Yata 'A')/2023 Dated : 30/06/2023

## National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 05-07-2023 at 5.00 Pm onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (₹)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Two Bid System</b>						
1	PD, PWD, Pithoragarh Maintenance work of Chupkote bend Jamrari Motor Road transferred from PMGSY (One time maintenance)	3.09	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	09	Category B & higher for road works, in state Govt./ Govt. of India
2	PD, PWD, Pithoragarh Maintenance work of Salla Motor Road from km. 5 of Gurana Gogina motor road transferred from PMGSY (One time maintenance)	4.14	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	09	-do-
3	TD, PWD, Berinag Maintenance work of Dasaithal to Agron Motor Road transferred from PMGSY (One time maintenance)	3.60	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	09	-do-
4	PD, PWD, Champawat Maintenance work of Dhunaghat Bhingrada to Kharahi motor road transferred from PMGSY Lohaghat (One time maintenance).	6.10	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	09	Category A & higher for road works, in state Govt./ Govt. of India

## ONLINE NEWS LAW

# Google to remove news links in Canada

AP ■ OTTAWA (ONTARIO)

Google has said it will remove links to Canadian news on its platforms across Canada over a new law that will require digital giants to compensate media outlets for content they share or otherwise repurpose.

The tech giant Thursday said it will remove Canadian news links from Google News — a personalised aggregator service available by web or app that highlights local news — and from Google Discover, a feature on mobile phones that helps people find content.

Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez accused Google of trying to bully Canadians, but added that "big tech isn't bigger than Canada".

"Big tech would rather spend money changing their

platforms to block news from Canadians instead of paying a small share of the billions they make in advertising dollars," Rodriguez tweeted.

Google said it informed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government of its decision. It did not say exactly when it would begin to remove news, but indicated it would happen before the law takes effect by the end of the year. That law was passed last week.

Only Canadian news will be blocked, so Canadian users will still be able to see content from outlets like Fox News or BBC, for example.

Meta made a similar announcement last week, saying it would remove news from its social media platforms Facebook and Instagram before the law comes into force. It is also ending existing deals with local publishers. Meta is already

running a test to block news for up to 5 per cent of its Canadian users. Google ran a similar test earlier this year.

Kent Walker, president of global affairs for Google and its parent company, Alphabet, said the law is "unworkable".

In a blog post published to Google's website Thursday, Walker said the bill creates a price on links, resulting in an uncapped financial liability "simply for facilitating Canadians' access to news from Canadian publishers".

"We don't take this decision or its impacts lightly and believe it's important to be transparent with Canadian publishers and our users as early as possible," Walker wrote.

The Online News Act requires both Google and Meta to enter into agreements with news publishers to pay them for news content that appears

on their sites if it helps them generate money.

Google had been seeking assurances about how much that could cost it and how the bargaining process would unfold. Those details are likely to become clear after the bill's regulatory process is complete.

Legacy media and broadcasters have praised the bill, which promises to "enhance fairness" in the digital news marketplace and help bring in more money for shrinking newsrooms. Tech giants including Meta and Google have been blamed in the past for disrupting and dominating advertising, eclipsing smaller, traditional players. Rodriguez had previously expressed hope the government could come to a positive resolution with both companies to prevent them from removing news. He also said the government would



# 600 held, 200 cops hurt in France protest

AP ■ NANTERRE

Protesters erected barricades, lit fires and shot fireworks at police who responded with tear gas and water cannons in French streets overnight as tensions grew over the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old that has shocked the nation.

More than 600 people were arrested and at least 200 police officers injured as the government struggled to restore order on a third night of unrest.

Armoured police vehicles rammed through the charred remains of cars that had been flipped and set ablaze in the northwestern Paris suburb of Nanterre, where a police officer shot the teen identified only by his first name, Nahel.

On the other side of Paris, protesters lit a fire at the city hall of the suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois and set a bus depot ablaze in Aubervilliers.

In several Paris neighbourhoods, groups of people hurled firecrackers at security forces.

The police station in the city's 12th district was attacked, while some shops were looted along Rivoli street, near the Louvre museum, and at the Forum des Halles, the largest shopping mall in central Paris.



Riot police officers patrol as smoke billows from burnt vehicles on the third night of protests sparked by the fatal police shooting of a 17-year-old driver in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, France, on Friday

AP/PTI

In the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, police sought to disperse violent groups in the city center, regional authorities said. Some 40,000 police officers

were deployed to quell the protests. Police detained 667 people, the interior minister said; 307 of those were in the Paris region alone, according to

the Paris police headquarters. Around 200 police officers were injured, according to a national police spokesperson. No information was available

## Macron urges parents to keep teens at home

Nanterre (France): French President Emmanuel Macron is urging parents to keep teenagers at home to quell rioting spreading across France and says social media are fueling copycat violence.

After a second crisis meeting with senior ministers, Macron said Friday that social media are playing a "considerable role" in the spreading

unrest triggered by the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old. He said he wants social media such as Snapchat and TikTok to remove sensitive content and said that violence is being organised online. Of young rioters, he said: "We sometimes have the feeling that some of them are living in the streets the video games that have intoxicated them."

about injuries among the rest of the population. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on Friday denounced what he called a night of "rare violence."

His office described the arrests as a sharp increase on previous operations as part of an overall government effort to be "extremely firm" with rioters.

The government has stopped short of declaring a state of emergency — a measure taken to quell weeks of rioting around France that followed the accidental death of two boys fleeing police in 2005.

President Emmanuel Macron left early from an EU summit in Brussels, where France plays a major role in European policymaking, to return to Paris and hold an emergency security meeting Friday.

The police officer accused of pulling the trigger Tuesday was handed a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide after prosecutor Pascal Prache said his initial investigation led him to conclude "the conditions for the legal use of the weapon were not met."

## Mexico acknowledges 112 heat-related deaths so far

Mexico City (AP): Mexican health authorities say there have been at least 112 heat-related deaths so far this year, acknowledging the deadliness of a recent heatwave that the president previously said was being overblown by alarmist journalists.

The report, released late Wednesday, also shows a significant spike in heat-related fatalities in the last two weeks. So far this year, the overall heat-related deaths are almost triple the figures in 2022. The Health Department normally issues a report on heat-related fatalities each week, but in June — at the height of the heat wave — it skipped a week, for reasons that remain unclear.

The deaths reached a peak in the week of June 18-24, with 69 deaths in one week nationwide, an unprecedented number. Temperatures in some parts of Mexico have risen to over 105 degrees Fahrenheit

(40 degrees Celsius) in recent weeks. The week of June 11-17 was also unusually bad, with 31 deaths across the country.

So far this year, the largest number of deaths from heatstroke and dehydration have occurred in the northern border state of Nuevo Leon, home to the industrial hub of Monterrey. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador claimed last week that mounting reports of heat deaths were untrue, and were part of a media campaign against his administration. "There is an alarmist, yellow-journalism trend," López Obrador said, citing lower death figures that were already outdated at that time. The high number of heat-related deaths appeared to be due in part not only to high temperatures, but to a delay in the onset of seasonal rains that normally come to Mexico in mid-June and tend to cool things off a bit.

## Judge rejects Trump's request to toss out defamation claims by columnists

AP ■ NEW YORK

Former President Donald Trump's claims that absolute presidential immunity and free speech rights shield him from the defamation claims of a New York columnist were rejected Thursday by a federal judge.

The writer, E. Jean Carroll, can continue to press claims that Trump owes her at least \$10 million in damages for comments he made before and after she won a \$5 million sexual abuse and defamation verdict against him last month, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan said in a written opinion. Trump tried to dismiss the lawsuit on grounds that he is entitled to absolute presidential immunity, his statements were not defamatory and that his statements were opinion protected by free speech rights.

Kaplan said Trump surrendered absolute presidential

immunity as a defense by failing to assert it years ago when the lawsuit was filed. The lawsuit was delayed until recently as appeals courts considered legal issues surrounding it.

Trump countersued Carroll this week, claiming that she has libeled him by continuing to insist that he raped her even after a jury found otherwise. After a jury returned its verdict last month in Manhattan federal court, Trump made comments on a CNN town hall that prompted Carroll to assert new defamation claims in a 2020 defamation lawsuit.

The jury award resulted from a sexual abuse and defamation lawsuit filed last November after New York state temporarily enacted a law allowing sexual assault victims to sue for damages resulting from attacks that occurred even decades earlier. Trump's claims in the CNN

broadcast mirrored statements he made while president in 2019 when Carroll published a memoir in which she claimed Trump raped her in the dressing room of a luxury midtown Manhattan department store in spring 1996. Within hours of excerpts from the book being published in a magazine, Trump denied a rape occurred or that he ever knew Carroll.

"Mr. Trump did not merely deny Ms. Carroll's accusation of sexual assault," Kaplan wrote. "Instead, he accused Ms. Carroll of lying about him sexually assaulting her in order to increase sales of her book, gain publicity, and/or carry out a political agenda."

The judge said the main purpose of presidential immunity was to avoid diverting the president from public duties, but it was not a "get-out-of-damages-liability-free card that per-

mits the president to say or do anything he or she desires even if that conduct is disconnected entirely from an official function."

Kaplan said he took into consideration that Carroll is now 79 years old and has pursued claims against Trump for 3 1/2 years. "There is no basis to risk prolonging the resolution of this litigation further by permitting Mr. Trump to raise his absolute immunity defense now at the eleventh hour when he could have done so years ago," he said.

In rejecting claims that Carroll's lawsuit was about protected speech, Kaplan explained how libel and slander are handled in the courts and why Trump's statements could be construed to fit the legal definition for defamation, including that a jury had already found it so.



Thousands of Muslim pilgrims circumbulate the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Friday

## US flies nuclear-capable bombers in a fresh show of force against N Korea

Seoul (AP): The United States flew nuclear-capable bombers to the Korean Peninsula on Friday in its latest show of force against North Korea, days after the North staged massive anti-US rallies in its capital.

The long-range B-52 bombers took part in joint aerial drills with other US and South Korean fighter jets over the peninsula, South Korea's Defence Ministry said in a statement. The bombers' flyover is the latest in a series of temporary US deployments of strategic assets in South Korea in response to North Korea's push to expand its nuclear arsenal. Two weeks ago, the US deployed a nuclear-powered submarine capable of carrying about 150 Tomahawk missiles to South Korean waters for the

first time in six years. The USS Michigan's arrival came a day after North Korea resumed missile tests to protest previous US-South Korean drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

The South Korean Defence Ministry said the B-52 bombers' deployment boosted the visibility of US strategic assets to the peninsula. It said the allies have been demonstrating their firm resolve to strengthen combined defense postures and will continue joint drills involving US strategic bombers.

On Sunday, more than 120,000 North Koreans participated in mass rallies in Pyongyang to mark the 73rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

## SC rejects Biden's plan to wipe away \$400 bn in student loans

Washington (AP): A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled on Friday that the Biden administration overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loans for millions of Americans.

The 6-3 decision, with conservative justices in the majority, effectively killed the USD 400 billion plan, announced by President Joe Biden last year, and left borrowers on the hook for repayments that are expected to resume by late summer.

The court held that the administration needs Congress' endorsement before undertaking so costly a program.

The majority rejected arguments that a bipartisan 2003 law dealing with student loans, known as the HEROES Act,

gave Biden the power he claimed. "Six States sued, arguing that the HEROES Act does not authorise the loan cancellation plan. We agree," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent, joined by the court's two other liberals, that the majority of the court "overrides the combined judgment of the Legislative and Executive Branches, with the consequence of eliminating loan forgiveness for 43 million Americans."

Loan repayments are expected to resume by late August under a schedule initially set by the administration and included in the agreement to raise the debt ceiling.

## UN votes to establish independent body to clarify fate of over 130,000 Syrians

The UN General Assembly will establish a resolution that will establish an independent body to determine what happened to more than 130,000 people missing as a result of the conflict in Syria.

The resolution, an important response to appeals by their families and loved ones, was adopted Thursday by the 193-member world body on a vote of 83-11 with 62 abstentions. Among those opposing the resolution was Syria, which said it will not cooperate with the new institution. Russia, China, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba and Iran also voted no.

The resolution, spearheaded by Luxembourg, noted that after 12 years of fighting in

Syria "little progress has been achieved in alleviating the suffering of families by providing answers as to the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons."

It authorises the establishment of an Independent Institution of Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, under UN auspices, "to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons ... and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing."

It says victims, survivors and the families of the missing should be represented in the new body, which will be guided by principles including "do no harm," impartiality, transparency and the confidentiality of sources and information. Under the resolution, UN

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres must present terms of reference for the new institution within 80 working days and take steps to speedily establish the body and put it in operation. It requests the UN chief to report on implementation of the resolution within 100 working days.

Luxembourg's UN ambassador, Olivier Maes, told the General Assembly before the vote that "every day families, especially women, face administrative and legal difficulties, financial uncertainties and deep trauma as they continue to search for their missing loved ones". He noted that Guterres recommended in a report last August that UN members consider establishing an independent institution to clarify the fate of the missing.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the General Public that MRS. LAAMI DEVI is the owner of the property bearing No. A-421, part of out of plot of measuring 13.34 sq. mtrs. situated at village Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, Gail No. 6, A-Block, Gauri Extn., Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110075. The said property is being sold by virtue of a sale deed dated 28/09/2006. All persons are hereby notified that if any person has any objection or claim in the said property or any kind of dispute, he/she should inform the undersigned in writing at the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that, my client JAI PRAKASH SAINI S/O SHRI SHER SINGH SAINI R/o FLAT No.605, NUI C.G.H.S. LTD., PLOT No.408, SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 has lost/misplaced all documents i.e. SHARE CERTIFICATE, ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, RECEIPT OF Rs.110/-, CONVEYANCE DEED dated 28/09/2006, SALE DEED dated 09/10/2006, SALE DEED dated 18/03/2009 etc. of his FLAT No.605, NUI C.G.H.S. LTD., PLOT No.408, SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075, and an N.C.R./F.I.R. has already lodged on Delhi Police online portal vide LR No:594784/2023 dated 26-06-2023. Founder please inform the undersigned within 15 days, after that the founder/user will be responsible for the use of the same in all respect, whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE: My client, HERO HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED is mortgaging property bearing No. A-421, part of out of plot of measuring 13.34 sq. mtrs. situated at village Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, Gail No. 6, A-Block, Gauri Extn., Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110075 currently owned by Shri. Akash Singh S/O Sh. Shyam Singh vide of sale deed 02.09.2021 doc. no. 2244. This property is now transferred to legal heir of Smt. Phoolwati Devi W/o Late Sh. Ram Svarth who became owner by virtue of a relinquishment deed executed by (1) Grijesh Kumar S/O Late Sh. Ram Svarth (2) Sh. Navroet Kumar S/O Late Sh. Ram Svarth & (3) Sh. Lokesh Kumar S/O Late Sh. Ram Svarth doc. no. 1726, dated 28.07.2021. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien or any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehra, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered AD within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

PUBLIC NOTICE: To be known to all that my clients, Mr. RATAN LAL GARODIA, son of Shri Jodhra Garodia, and Mrs. SUMITRA DEVI GARODIA, wife of Mr. Ratan Lal Garodia, both resident of H.No C-161, Westend Heights, DLF Phase 5, Gurugram, Haryana have lost/misplaced the original i.e. Allotment Letter, Apartment Deed, Possession Letter, and all Payment receipts in respect of Property No. MM TW-C04/2202, M3M Merlin, Sector 67, Gurugram, Haryana. That a Lost Property Report to this effect has been lodged in Police Station Sector 65, Gurugram, Haryana vide Application Number: 132271102300251. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address or through phone no.9810221449 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

ACHIN SHARMA (ADVOCATE) G-2/210, Tulsi Tower, Alaknanda Main Shopping Complex, New Delhi-110019

## US colleges seeking new ways to promote diversity after SC move

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court has sent shockwaves through higher education with a landmark decision that struck down affirmative action and left colleges across the nation searching for new ways to promote student diversity.

Leaders of scores of universities said on Thursday that they were disappointed by what they see as a blow to diversity.

Yet many also voiced optimism that they would find new ways to admit more Black and Hispanic students, despite evidence that eliminating the practice often leads to steep enrollment decreases among them. President Joe Biden said he disagreed with the decision and asked the Education Department to explore policies that could help colleges build diverse student bodies.

He also pushed against policies like legacy preferences — admissions boosts given to the children of alumni — that tend to help white, wealthy students. "We should never allow the country to walk away from the dream upon which it was founded," Biden told reporters.

"We need a new path forward, a path consistent with the law that protects diversity and expands opportunity."

Yet evidence from states that previously outlawed affirmative action show it will be a daunting challenge. As an alternative to affirmative action, colleges from California to Florida have tried a range of strategies to achieve the diversity they say is essential to their campuses. Many have given greater preference to low-income families. Others started admitting top students from every community in their state. But years of experimentation — often prompted by state-level bans on considering race in admissions — left no clear solution.

In states requiring race-neutral policies, many colleges saw enrollment drops among Black and Hispanic students, especially at selective colleges that historically have been mostly white. At Amherst College, officials had estimat-

ed going entirely race-neutral would reduce Black, Hispanic and Indigenous populations by half. "We fully expect it would be a significant decrease in our population," said Matthew McGann, Amherst's director of admission, earlier this year. Facing a conservative Supreme Court that appeared skeptical from the start, colleges have been preparing for a roll-back. Some were considering adding more essays to get a better picture of an applicant's background, a strategy invited in Thursday's Supreme Court ruling.

"Nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected the applicant's life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court's conservative majority.

Other colleges were planning to boost recruiting in racially diverse areas, or admit more transfer students from community colleges. The court took up affirmative action in response to challenges at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.

Lower courts upheld admission systems at both schools, rejecting claims that the schools discriminated against white and Asian American applicants.

But at Supreme Court arguments in late October, all six conservative justices expressed doubts about the practice, which had been upheld under Supreme Court decisions reaching back to 1978, and as recently as 2016.

Nine states already have banned affirmative action, starting with California in 1996 and, most recently, Idaho in 2020. Michigan voters rejected it in 2006, the University of Michigan shifted attention to low-income students.

It sent graduates to work as counselors in low-income high schools. It started offering college prep in Detroit and Grand Rapids.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client BBL Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Aseem Agrawal is the owner of Flat Bearing No. 118, on First Floor, situated at Mukherji Nagar, Delhi. The said property, by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 08.06.2023, Registration No. 9470, executed by Mrs. Seema Agrawal and Mrs. Anam Agrawal. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property and someone want to purchase the same by taking Home loan from our client, if anybody has any objection/s in the said property, and its ownership / its Title / sale and mortgage/any litigation, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 206, Indr Floor, 23 Shivalaj Marg, Mayapuri, New Delhi-110016 Ph: 9111228278, kumar@ksaonline.com

BPHIT BHAGWAN PARSHURAM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (A UNIT OF BHARTIYA BRAHMIN CHARITABLE TRUST) PSP-4, Sector-17 (Opp. Sector-11) Rohini, New Delhi-110089, www.bphitindia.ac.in Tel # - 011-27571080, 27572900

NOTICE FOR ADMISSIONS UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA Application are invited from the eligible students, who fulfill the eligibility conditions as stipulated by GGSIP University for provisional admission in B. Tech (CSE/IT/ECE/EEE/ CSE-DS), LE -B.Tech (CSE/IT/ECE/EEE/ AI&DS), BBA (Shift I & Shift II) & MBA for the Academic Session 2023-24. Criteria for admission and Reservations shall be followed as per the GGSIP University Directives. Admission Notice containing the information about the place, date and time from where admission form will be available & manner of submission of completed application form with schedule of counselling shall be displayed on Institute's website on release of admission schedule by GGSIPU. Institute's website may be visited for the latest information.

KSOLVES KSOLES INDIA LIMITED (CIN: L72900DL2014PLC26902) Regd. Office: 317/276, Second floor, Lane no.3, Mehrauli Road, Saldulajab, Saket, New Delhi, South Delhi-110030, IN Corp. Office: Pareex, B-4, 1st Floor, B-Block, Sector 63, Noida 201301 Tel No: +91-8962699996, E-mail: cs@ksolves.com, Website: www.ksolves.com

NOTICE OF 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE is hereby given that the 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Ksoles India Limited (the Company) for financial year 2022-23 will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 11:00 AM through Video Conference facility (VC)/or Other Audio Visual Means (OVAM) in compliance with the General Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 22/2020, 33/2020, 39/2020, 10/2021, 20/2021, 3/2022, 11/2022 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020, June 15, 2020, September 28, 2020, December 31, 2020, June 23, 2021, December 8, 2021, May 5, 2022 & December 28, 2022 respectively issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA Circular), Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI Circular) and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules made there under. The Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2022-23 along with Notice convening the AGM will be sent in due course only through email to all those Members whose email address is registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA)/Depository Participants (DP), in accordance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. The aforesaid documents will also be made available at www.ksolves.com, stock exchange websites at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Bighshare website at https://vite.bighshareonline.com/landing. The instruction for attending the AGM through VC/OVAM and the manner of participation in the remote e-voting for AGM through e-voting is provided in the Notice convening the AGM. The Notice also contains instructions with regard to login credentials for shareholders, holding shares in Physical form or in electronic form, who have not registered their email address either with the Company or their respective DP. Members participating through VC/OVAM facility shall be counted for the purpose of quorum u/s 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The board of the company has also recommended for approval of a final dividend of Rs.8 per share to equity shareholders of the company. The record date for reckoning the members eligible for dividends shall be Friday, July 14, 2023. The members holding shares in physical form are requested to consider converting their physical shares into dematerialized and eliminate all risks associated with the physical shares. Procedure for registration of email addresses and bank details: Members holding shares in demat form and who are yet to register/update their email IDs are requested to approach NSDL/CDSL (Depository Participant) in case of dematerialized shares. Similarly, the Members may reach out to Bighshare Services Private limited at bhagwan@bighshareonline.com for updation of Bank account details with Request Letter, ID Proof & a copy of cancelled cheque. In case of any query you may write to Investor Services at investors@ksolves.com or bhagwan@bighshareonline.com. For Ksoles India Limited Sd/- Manisha Kide Company Secretary Date: 01.07.2023 Place: Noida



D-STREET PARTY CONTINUES

# SENSEX, NIFTY SCALE FRESH ALL-TIME HIGHS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices scaled fresh all-time closing highs on Friday, propelled by intense buying in index heavyweights Infosys, HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and TCS amid healthy macroeconomic indicators.

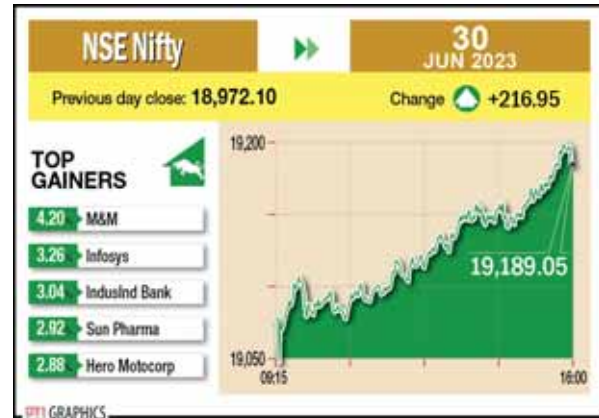
Besides, foreign fund inflows and a firm trend in the global markets further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

Rallying for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 803.14 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at its lifetime closing high of 64,718.56. During the day, it zoomed 853.16 points or 1.33 per cent to reach its record intra-day peak of 64,768.58.

The NSE Nifty climbed 216.95 points or 1.14 per cent to end at a record high of 19,189.05. During the day, it rallied 229.6 points or 1.21 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 19,201.70.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,739.19 points or 2.76 per cent this week, and the Nifty climbed 523.55 points or 2.80 per cent.

“Investors remain positive about the long-term prospects of the domestic market due to healthy macroeconomic indicators while global cues are also improving as concerns over a



recession in the US eases.

“The US economy showed much stronger-than-expected growth in the first quarter than previously thought, according to a big upward revision Thursday

from the Commerce Department,” said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the best performer in the Sensex

pack, rising over 4 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries.

“Domestic equities continued their northbound journey after a day’s break, supported by positive global data, healthy FII buying and strong progress in monsoon,” Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.67 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.51 per cent.

Among the indices, IT jumped 2.34 per cent, teck rallied 2.13 per cent, auto (1.82 per cent), capital goods (1.73 per cent), industrials (1.31 per cent), financial services (0.94 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.85 per cent) and energy (0.76 per cent).

Commodities emerged as the only laggard.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai ended in the green, while Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading with gains.

The US markets ended largely with gains in the overnight trade on Thursday. “The lack of global support

had restrained the Indian indices from pursuing their record highs earlier, despite the presence of a resilient domestic macroeconomic background.

“With positive surprises assisting buoyancy in the global market and the advance of the southwest monsoon, the domestic market succeeded in marching to new highs with renewed strength. Global investor sentiments were uplifted by a favourable revision in Q1 GDP, a fall in jobless claims, and the positive outcome of the Fed’s US bank stress test,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.61 per cent to USD 74.79 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 12,350 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Markets were closed on Thursday on account of Eid al-Adha also known as Bakrid.

“Next week the market will take cues from economic data to be released locally as well as globally. Investors would also watch out for FOMC minutes to get insights into the US Central Bank’s future course of direction. The auto sector is expected to be in the limelight, as companies would release monthly sales data,” Khemka said.

## Centre’s fiscal deficit at 11.8% of annual target till May: CGA data



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The central government’s fiscal deficit stood at Rs 2.1 lakh crore or 11.8 per cent of the full-year budget estimates at May-end 2023, according to official data. The fiscal deficit was 12.3 per cent of 2022-23 BE a year ago.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowings that are needed by the government. In actual terms, the deficit was Rs 2,10,287 crore at May-end 2023, as per the data of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

In the Union Budget, the government aimed to bring down the fiscal deficit during the current financial year 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The deficit was 6.4 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent. Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first two months of 2023-24, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 2.78 lakh crore or 11.9 per cent of the BE.

Its total expenditure was Rs 6.25 lakh crore or 13.9 per cent of the estimates presented in the Union Budget for the current fiscal. Commenting on the CGA data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, Icria said that while tax revenues reported a contraction of 9.6 per cent, non-tax revenues surged by 173 per cent, boosted by the RBI dividend, amidst a 4.3 per cent decline in revenue expenditure, and a 56.7

## RBI: India’s external debt at \$ 624.7 bn at end-March 2023

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s external debt rose marginally to USD 624.7 billion annually at end-March 2023, although the debt-GDP ratio declined, as per a Reserve Bank data released on Friday.

The external debt rose by USD 5.6 billion from USD 619.1 billion at end-March 2022. “The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.9 per cent at end-March 2023 from 20 per cent at end-March 2022,” said the Reserve Bank’s data on India’s External Debt as at end-March 2023.

Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the US dollar compared to the Indian rupee and major currencies such as yen, SDR, and euro were placed at USD 20.6 billion.

“Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by USD 26.2 billion instead of USD 5.6 billion at end-March 2023 over end-March 2022,” the central bank added.

At end-March 2023, as per the data, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at USD 496.3 billion, recording a decline of USD 1.1 billion over its level at end-March 2022. The share of short-term

debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt increased to 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023 from 19.7 per cent at end-March 2022.

Similarly, the ratio of short-term debt (original maturity) to foreign exchange reserves increased to 22.2 per cent at end-March 2023 (20 per cent at end-March 2022).

RBI also said US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India’s external debt, with a share of 54.6 per cent at end-March 2023, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (29.8 per cent), SDR (6.1 per cent), yen (5.7 per cent), and the euro (3.2 per cent).

Loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.5 per cent, followed by currency and deposits (22.6 per cent), trade credit and advances (19.9 per cent) and debt securities.

As per the central bank, debt service (principal repayments and interest payments) increased marginally to 5.3 per cent of current receipts at end-March 2023 as compared with 5.2 per cent at end-March 2022, reflecting higher debt service.



## Forex reserves dipped \$2.9 bn to \$593.19 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s forex reserves dropped USD 2.91 billion to USD 593.198 billion in the week ended June 23, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

The overall reserves increased by USD 2.35 billion to USD 596 in the previous reporting week.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country’s forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused major-

ly by global developments.

For the week ended June 23, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 2.212 billion to USD 525.44 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves dropped USD 745 million to USD 44.304 billion, the RBI said.

## Gold rises ₹80; silver tumbles ₹550

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 80 to Rs 59,030 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid gains in overseas precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal

had settled at Rs 58,950 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver, however, tumbled Rs 550 to Rs 70,700 per kilogramme. “Gold slightly recovered from three-month lows on Friday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at Rs

59,030/10 grams, up by Rs 80 per 10 grams,” Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, gold was trading higher at USD 1,906 per ounce while silver was down at USD 22.46 per ounce.

## Government okays 27th tranche of electoral bonds; sale from Monday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday approved the issuance of the 27th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on July 3. The decision comes ahead of assembly elections of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. Poll dates are likely to be announced in a couple of months.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency to political funding.

State Bank of India (SBI), in the 27th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from July 3-12, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened on March 1-10, 2018. The authorised SBI branches include those in Bengaluru, Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur and



Mumbai. SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment will be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period, the statement said.

Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country. Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

## Twitter’s move to challenge Govt notice formed part of fiction that Dorsey had put out: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Twitter moving to a court against the government notice to block some accounts was “part of the fiction” that company’s former CEO Jack Dorsey had put out, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Monday.

Dorsey, who had quit as Twitter CEO, has claimed that the Indian government “pressured” the company with threats of a shutdown and raids on employees if it did not comply with requests to take down posts and restrict accounts that were critical of the government over the protest by farmers against new agri laws in 2020 and 2021.

In response to views on the Karnataka High Court order rejecting Twitter’s appeal, the minister said that the order

clearly lays down non-compliance to government order is not an option and all platforms, big or small, need to comply with Indian laws.

“In this particular case as you remember they (Twitter) were given a large number of directions under the law which they did not comply with and then when they were sent a legal notice they chose to go to the courts. This is part of the fiction that Mr Dorsey had also put out,” Chandrasekhar told PTI on the sidelines of a Broadband India Forum event.

Karnataka High Court dismissed a petition filed by Twitter last year in which the social media firm challenged several blocking and take-down orders issued by the Ministry of Technology. The court ruled that the company’s plea was “devoid

of merits”. The single-judge bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit which dictated the operative portion of the judgement also imposed a whopping cost of Rs 50 lakh on Twitter and ordered it to be paid to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within 45 days.

“I am very glad that the court has today laid down very clearly that non-compliance is not an option regardless of where your jurisdiction is, or who you think your owner is. The platforms in India, all platforms big or small, Indian or foreign have to comply with the Indian law and the rules that are enacted under the law,” Chandrasekhar said.

He said that government’s relationship with platforms is not adversarial and Meity only insisted that laws be followed and laws be complied with.

## Govt: tomato prices will cool down in next 15 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tomato prices are expected to cool down in the next 15 days with increase in supplies from producing centres and reach a normal level in a month, a top government official said, as retail prices of the kitchen staple shot up over Rs 100 per kg in major cities.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh, in a media briefing, also said the retail prices of tomato in the national capital will come down immediately on improved supplies from Solan and Sirmour districts of Himachal Pradesh. “The phenomena of price rise in tomato happens every year at this time. Every agriculture commodity in every country goes through a seasonality in the price cycle. In June, prices reached a high level,” he said.

Tomato is also a highly perishable commodity and weather vulnerability, which has become prevalent in the recent times due to climate change and other issues, has disturbed



the supplies, he added. The secretary further said, “You cannot store tomato for a long time and transport it for a long distance. There is an inherent vulnerability in the commodity. Transportation is also a big issue.”

June-August and October-November are also lean production seasons and prices in this period normally see a sharp increase, he said.

All India average retail price of tomato on June 29 was ruling at Rs 49 per kg as against Rs 51.50 per kg in the year-ago same day, he said, and added, “I am not justifying the rate. This also proves seasonality.”

Stating that it’s a complex problem, the secretary said, however the government is handling it and finding a solution to streamline the supplies throughout the year. For this, a Grand Tomato Challenge was launched on Friday.

It is like a hackathon where ideas are being invited from students to industry stakeholders on primary processing, storage and valorisation of tomato, he said.

According to the data maintained by Department of Consumer Affairs, the average retail price of tomato on an all-India basis is Rs 56.58 per kg on June 30.

## Agri Ministry told to give incentive to kharif onion: Consumer Affairs Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Consumer Affairs Ministry has asked the Agriculture Ministry to give more incentive and impetus to kharif onion during the festival period in the winter season to avoid any spike in prices, a top government official said on Friday.

Normally, onion prices shoot up during the winter season, as stored rabi onion gets exhausted and fresh kharif onion cannot be stored. Currently, the sowing of kharif onion is underway. Briefing media, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said the kharif onion plays a critical role during the festival period in winter.

“To ensure availability during that time, we have requested the agriculture ministry to give more incentive and impetus to kharif onions. This point was emphasised in the meeting of the cabinet secretary yesterday,” Kumar said.

The country’s onion production is estimated at 319 lakh tonne in the ongoing 2023 calendar year, slightly lower than 324 lakh tonne in the previous year, he said. Onion is produced in two seasons — rabi and kharif/late kharif seasons. The rabi crop of 219 lakh tonne has already arrived, the remaining 100 lakh tonne will come in kharif and late kharif, which will meet the onion demand in the winter season, he added.

“Out of 319 lakh tonne, a big supply of 219 lakh tonne from rabi season is already with us. From this, the government has procured 3 lakh tonne for buffer stock.

## Rupee closes at 82.03 against US dollar as rate hike worries cap gain

PTI ■ MUMBAI

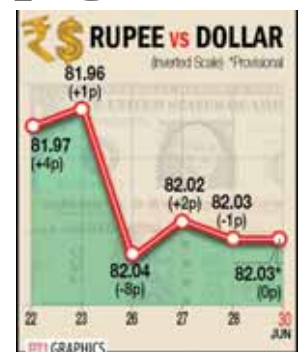
The rupee closed flat at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar in a restricted trade on Friday amid a rally in the domestic equities and firm crude oil prices. While FII inflows into equities supported the rupee, a firm US dollar in global markets and gains in crude oil prices capped its gains, analysts said.

The rupee opened weak at 82.05 at the inter-bank foreign exchange market due to firm crude oil prices in the Asian trade. It moved in a tight range of 82.00 to 82.07 in the day trade. The local unit settled flat at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar. The rupee closed at the same level on Wednesday.

Forex markets were closed on Thursday on the occasion of the Bakrid holiday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, firmed up by 0.09 per cent to 103.43 on growing expectations of further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

Traders expect the US Federal Reserve to raise interest rates further after a pause in June following a strong set of US economic data. According to data released on Thursday, the US economy grew stronger than anticipated at 2 per cent in the first quarter of this year while fewer jobless claims that the job market remains solid despite much higher interest rates meant to slow the overall economy.

Global oil benchmark Brent Crude was trading 0.61 per cent higher at USD 74.79 per barrel. In the domestic equity market, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high on Friday.



## India to import 35% more tur dal at 12L tons to check prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Facing a sharp rise in tur prices amid lower production, India will import 12 lakh tonne of the pulse in the current fiscal, up by 35 per cent from the last year, to boost domestic availability and contain price rise.

“Tur is giving us trouble. All-India average retail price of tur is up by 25 per cent to Rs 128.66 per kg, when compared to last year’s level. But it will start cooling down after import begins,” Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said in a media briefing.

The issue in tur (pigeon peas) is lower domestic production. The country’s tur production remained lower at 30 lakh tonne in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) against 39 lakh tonne last year. “We consume around 44-45 lakh tonne in India.



# WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

## SL continue march towards qualification with 21-run victory over the Netherlands

PTI ■ BULAWAYO

Dhananjaya de Silva hit a career-best 93 while Maheesh Theekshana took three important wickets to ensure Sri Lanka's pole position in the Super Six leg of the ICC ODI World Cup qualifiers here on Friday.

Sri Lanka now have six points from three games and are likely to finish among top two and qualify for the October 5 to November 19 tournament proper in India.

On the day, Dhananjaya's 111-ball knock studded with eight fours and two sixes helped Sri Lanka recover from 96 for six to post a below-par 213 in 47.4 overs.

Theekshana then took three wickets in the space of two overs to derail the Dutch chase as they were all out for 192 in 40 overs. Wanindu Hasaranga took 2 for 53.

During the Sri Lankan innings, it was Dhananjaya-Theekshana pair that added 77



runs for the eighth wicket after the islanders had slumped to 131 for 7 due to an inspired opening spell by West Indies

victory hero Logan van Beek (3/26).

A target of 214 was certainly within reach for the Dutch,

even on a tricky wicket for the batters.

Their cause was not helped by both openers falling for

ducks, Lahiru Kumara removing Vikramjit Singh and Dilshan Madushanka accounting for Max O'Dowd.

However, a 77-run partnership between Wesley Barresi (52) and Bas de Leede (41) got the chase back on track. It was ended by some sharp work in the field by Dasun Shanaka, with Barresi short of his ground while trying to steal a single.

Teja Nidamanuru then became the third Dutch batter to go for a duck, bowled by Hasaranga. In came Scott Edwards, and the skipper quickly settled in alongside De Leede, the pair adding 36 in six overs.

Sri Lanka were in desperate need of a breakthrough and it came from Theekshana, who snuck one through the defences of De Leede. He added two more in his next over, including the vital wicket of Van Beek, before another run-out saw Shariz Ahmed depart for two, leaving the Netherlands on 151 for eight.

The final pair were left to get 38 from 17 overs and the in-form Edwards helped them get close, but the skipper was left stranded unbeaten on 67 when Aryan Dutt was clean bowled by Shanaka.

In the other game of the day in Harare, Ireland eased to victory in the 7th place play-off semi-final, beating the USA by six wickets.

### BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka 213 all out in 47.4 overs (Dhananjaya de Silva 93, Logan van Beek 3/26, Bas de Leede 3/42). Netherlands 192 in 40 overs (Scott Edwards 67 not out, Wesley Barresi 52; Maheesh Theekshana 3/31, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/53)

USA 196 all out in 42.4 overs (Sushant Modani 55, Saiteja Mukkamalla 55; Craig Young 3/35, Andy McBrine 2/19). Ireland 197/4 in 34.2 overs (Paul Stirling 58, Andy Balbirnie 45\*; Nosthush Kenjige 2/41, Nisarg Patel 1/20).



## Oman fined 40 per cent match fee for slow over-rate

IANAS ■ BULAWAYO

Oman were on Friday fined 40 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against Zimbabwe in their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier match.

Muhammad Javed of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees on Thursday imposed the sanction after Oman were ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

Captain Zeeshan Maqsood pled guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, the ICC informed, in a release on Friday.

Meanwhile, Oman player Kaleemullah has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the same match.

Kaleemullah was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

## Djokovic could face Kyrgios again at Wimbledon

AFP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic will begin his quest for a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title against Argentina's Pedro Cachin, with a potential rematch of last year's final against Nick Kyrgios looming in the quarter-finals.

Djokovic could face Andrey Rublev or Felix Auger-Aliassime in the last eight should Kyrgios not make it, with his projected semi-final to come against Jani Sinner or Casper Ruud, who he beat in the French Open final earlier this month.

Top seed and world number one Carlos Alcaraz has not been beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon in two appearances, but is finding his feet on the grass after winning at Queen's Club last week.

Alcaraz starts against Frenchman Jeremy Chardy, but has a tricky path through to the latter stages with the prospect for a rematch of the Queen's final against Alex de Minaur in the fourth round and world number six Holger Rune in the quarter-finals.

Fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas takes on former US Open champion Dominic Thiem in the tie of the men's first round with the winner potentially facing two-time champion Andy Murray, who takes on wild card Ryan Peniston.

Top seed Iga Swiatek --



who had to withdraw from the Bad Homburg semi-finals on Friday due to suspected food poisoning -- has been handed the kinder side of the women's draw.

Swiatek begins against China's Zhu Lin and is projected to face Coco Gauff in the quarter-finals and Jessica Pegula or Caroline Garcia in the last four.

The bottom half of the draw is stacked with defending champion Elena Rybakina, world number two Aryna Sabalenka and last year's finalist Ons Jabeur.

Five-time winner Venus Williams will take on a fellow wild card Elina Svitolina in one of the ties of the first round.

The third Grand Slam of the season gets underway on Monday, July 3.

## Swiatek makes first grass-court semi-final

AFP ■ BERLIN

World number one Iga Swiatek made the first time by beating Anna Blinkova in Bad Homburg on Thursday.

Swiatek defeated the Russian ninth seed 6-3, 6-2 in the first meeting between the two players. The four-time Grand Slam champion is yet to get past the fourth round of Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, although she was junior champion at the All England Club in 2018.

On Thursday, the Pole broke Blinkova once in the first set and twice in the second. Throughout the match she demonstrated a notable improvement to her serve compared to when she crashed out to Alize Cornet in the Wimbledon third round last year.

"I'm happy that I can play such solid tennis," said Swiatek, who is using the extra week before Wimbledon after a schedule change to play on grass for the first time this season.

"Usually there's not much time to play on grass."

"I'm pretty happy that I used that time 100 percent between Roland Garros and Wimbledon..."

"Hopefully I can play like that for the next two weeks."



The 22-year-old has won three of the past five Grand Slams but has never won a tournament on grass, despite claiming 14 trophies in her young career.

"I wouldn't put myself close to being an expert on grass but I'm making progress and that's the most important thing for me," Swiatek said. "The time here really helped me. Every year I feel like it's easier to get used to the conditions."

World number 39 Blinkova made the final herself at the Wimbledon junior tournament eight years ago, but has never got past round two as a senior.

Swiatek will next face Italian Lucia Bronzetti, who defeated French eighth seed Varvara Gracheva 6-4, 6-3 earlier on Thursday.

## Verstappen snatches sixth pole position of season at Austrian GP

AFP ■ SPIELBERG BEI KNITTELFELD (AUSTRIA)

World champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull snatched a sixth pole position of the season at his team's home track for the Austrian Grand Prix on Friday.

Charles Leclerc will join the world championship leader on the front row ahead of his Ferrari team-mate Carlos Sainz who qualified third-quickest and starts alongside Lando Norris of McLaren on the second row.

"Very happy being on pole," said Verstappen.

"We know that this is a different weekend with the whole format, but very happy with today. At least the car is quick and that's the most important."

For the second time this year after Baku, a sprint race will take place on Saturday before the Grand Prix on Sunday.

Friday's qualifying sets the starting grid for Sunday, while



Saturday's shootout session sets the grid for the sprint in the afternoon.

There will be six sprint races in total this season.

"It was very difficult because of all the track limits," continued the Dutch driver.

"With these speeds and high-speed corners it is very difficult to judge the track limits."

"A lot of people were being caught out, including me. It

takes out the joy a little bit but still a very good lap."

Red Bull's Sergio Perez failed to make the top 10 for a fourth straight race as he struggled with track limits.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes qualified in fifth followed by the Aston Martins of Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso.

Nico Hulkenberg (Haas), Pierre Gasly (Alpine) and Alex Albon (Williams) complete the top 10 on the grid.

"It feels good to finally have a clean qualifying again and to be back on the front row," said Leclerc, who was just 0.048sec behind Verstappen.

"The feeling has been a bit better in the last few races. It was all about building up to the last lap and I managed to put everything in. Very close to the Red Bulls. I don't think we expected to be that close."

Dutchman Verstappen is chasing a seventh victory this season.

## Mexico into Gold Cup knockout stage after win over Haiti

AFP ■ MIAMI

Mexico secured their spot in the CONCACAF Gold Cup knockout stage with a game to spare, after beating Haiti 3-1 in Glendale, Arizona, on Thursday.

The win, with all the goals coming in the second half, means Mexico lead Group B with six points from two games, with Haiti three points behind.

Qatar and Honduras both have a point each, drawing 1-1

earlier on Thursday after a stoppage-time leveller from the Central Americans.

Mexico dominated the opening 45 minutes but were unable to find a way past Haiti keeper Alexandre Pierre.

Pierre almost gifted El Tri an opener in the fourth minute when he fumbled a low cross but Edison Alvarez, with the goal at his mercy, struck the post.

Haiti came close when a counter-attack down the right



ended with Carless Arcus finding an opening but his shot,

from a promising position, flashed into the side-netting.

Mexico wasted another opportunity three minutes before the break when a defensive slip-up left Henry Martin unmarked but his shot was poor, straight at Pierre.

Whatever Mexico interim boss Jaime Lozano said at half-time delivered instant results, however, with Henry Martin finding the target just 41 seconds after the restart.

A Ricardo Ade own goal made it 2-0, after the Haiti defender's attempt to intercept

a low cross from Jesus Gallardo ended up in his own net.

But Haiti remained determined and gave themselves a lifeline with a 78th-minute header from Danley Jean Jacques from a Derrick Etienne Jr corner.

With the Caribbean side pushing forward, Mexico exploited the space to settle the game -- Uriel Antuna's great low ball across the area turned in at the back post by a full-stretch Santiago Gimenez.

## Gauff beats Pegula to reach Eastbourne semis



AFP ■ EASTBOURNE (UNITED KINGDOM)

Coco Gauff secured her first win over a top-ten player in 10 months by beating doubles partner Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the Eastbourne International on Thursday.

The 19-year-old American won the last six games of the match from 3-0 down in the second set to snap a seven-match losing streak against top-10 opposition.

The world number seven will face another compatriot in the semi-finals of the grass court tournament -- 2014 champion Madison Keys, who beat Petra Martic 6-4, 6-1.

After an early exchange of breaks, Gauff pounced in the

sixth game. A clever drop shot enabled her to move up 4-2 and she maintained her lead for the rest of the opening set.

World number four Pegula struck back at the start of the second set, taking advantage of a series of forehand errors from Gauff to break and then coming up with a fine lob to hold for 3-0. Gauff turned the tide, producing a series of deftly executed volley winners to level the set, going on to wrap up her victory in style.

"I'm really happy with how I played. I obviously know Jess very well, she's one of the best players on the tour for a reason," Gauff told the BBC.

Ninth seed Daria Kasatkina reached the last four when second seed Caroline

Garcia retired with a right shoulder injury. Kasatkina was leading 6-2, 2-1 at the time.

In Friday's semi-final, Kasatkina will face Camila Giorgi, who also advanced via retirement.

Giorgi won the first set against Jelena Ostapenko on a tie-break before Ostapenko retired from their big-hitting clash.

In the men's tournament, Australian Open semi-finalist Tommy Paul beat fellow American J.J. Wolf 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2).

"It was a tricky one. A lot of breaks, breaks back," said Paul, who said grass is his favourite surface.

"In the third, I thought I played a really good tie-break in the end. I thought the level throughout the whole match was good and I'm happy to get through."

Paul will face Gregoire Barrere on Friday after the Frenchman beat Serbian eighth seed Miomir Kecmanovic 7-5, 7-6 (7/2).

Argentine fourth seed Francisco Cerundolo advanced to his first tour-level semi-final on grass with a 6-2, 6-3 win against Zhang Zhizhen.

American Mackenzie McDonald beat Mikael Ymer of Sweden 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

PNS ■ BENGALURU

India skipper and mercurial striker Sunil Chhetri on Friday played down the talks about his retirement saying he has not put any timeline for himself to bid adieu to the game.

Chhetri is 38 but still continues to be the spearhead of Indian attack, evidenced by the five goals he netted in the ongoing SAFF Championship from three matches.

"I don't know when my last game for the country is going to be. It derives from the fact that I have never had long-term targets, I think about next match, next 10 days. It (retirement) may come at a day when probably I don't want to, as there are a lot of things, and I will be done. Till that time, I never think about it," Chhetri said on the eve of India's semi-final against Lebanon.

Chhetri, the second highest goal-scorer from Asia with 91 goals, said he has set some parameters for himself to determine about hanging his boots.

"Generally, there are some parameters that I think about... whether I am contributing to the team or not, whether I am able to score goal or not, training as hard as I

## I Don't Know When Will Be My Last Game For India: Chhetri



want or not. These are some of the markers that will tell me whether I am good for this team or not. The day I see that it is not there, I am done, I am gone because there is not any other motivation for me to play.

"But sadly, I can't tell whether it (retirement) is in one year or six months. Fortunately or unfortunately my family is also guessing this, and whenever they mention this, jokingly, I tell my stats to them. The day I am finished

with my petrol or diesel or electric or whatever I am done," said Chhetri.

Chhetri said Lebanon are a tough side and taking them for granted might backfire. He did not read too much into India's 2-0 victory over Lebanon in the recent Intercontinental Cup final.

"Lebanon is a tough side. We have already played them twice. I'm pretty sure they have the same feeling about us and trying to stay calm. We did

our best to recuperate after so many games in such short time," said Chhetri.

India's assistant coach Mahesh Gawli said the team is motivated and ready for the big test against Lebanon.

"Lebanon is a good side and we are prepared for the fight. The boys are motivated, focused and will continue to show the same metal which we showed in the previous matches," said Gawli.

## India beats Iran, becomes Asian Kabaddi champion

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

India reclaimed the Asian Kabaddi Championship title after beating Iran 42-32 in the final here at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center on Friday.

This was India's eighth title in the last nine editions played so far while Iran won the title once, in 2003.

India trailed Iran in the first five minutes of the game. However, a couple of tackle points by the defenders and successful raids from Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar handed Iran their first All-Out of the match in the 10th minute.

India kept building pressure on the Iranians and produced another All-Out and at the end of the first half, India led the final period by 23-11.

All rounder Mohammadreza Chiyaneh tried to make a comeback for the Iranian side in the second half with a two-point raid followed by a super raid that helped inflict the first All-Out on India in the 29th minute.

The two teams were giving it their all in this high-voltage encounter but India held on to eke out a 42-32 win.



# AUS IN COMMAND OF 2ND TEST

AP ■ LONDON  
Australia stretched its lead to 172 runs against England for the loss of David Warner's wicket by tea on day three Friday of the second Ashes test.

With a first-innings lead of 91, Australia crawled to 81-1 in its second innings.

Usman Khawaja was on 45 and Marnus Labuschagne on 8 after overturning a leg before decision against him on 3.

Until Warner was leg before wicket to Josh Tongue, Lord's had grown quiet after lunch as he and Khawaja handled difficult batting conditions superbly.

The floodlights could only partly leaven the gloomy skies as the wind picked up with a threat of drizzle.

The stickability of Khawaja and Warner in a stand of 63 from 24 overs was in stark contrast to England's performance in the morning, when only Jonny Bairstow and Stuart Broad scored more than 10 runs of the seven batters on show.

England slumped from 278-4 overnight to 325 all out before lunch. But the home bowlers couldn't make the same breakthroughs that Australia's did in the morning.

England thought it had Warner trapped lbw for 5 by James Anderson but burned a review when video showed ball hitting bat.

Warner was content to bat out of his crease against the medium-pace of Anderson, Stuart Broad and Ollie Robinson but struggled to score.

Meanwhile, Khawaja was scoring, and the only nick he conceded flew through a gap between second and fourth slip.

Tongue's extra pace made him the biggest threat. He could have had Khawaja on 19 but the crack through midwicket passed between Anderson's fingers.

Tongue took out both openers among his first three Ashes wickets in the first innings and got Warner again when he made one nip in to the front pad.

After making 25 from 76 balls, Warner reviewed, but the ball would have hit leg stump.

Labuschagne was also given out to Tongue, who struck his back pad, but the batter's review showed the ball was missing the off stump.



## Smith Gives Major Update On Lyon's Injury

NEW DELHI: Australia were dealt with a major injury scare on Thursday when premier off-spinner Nathan Lyon limped off the field while fielding during day two of the second Ashes Test against England at Lord's. Now updates from Steve Smith have worried fans more.

Lyon, who is playing in his 100th consecutive Test, was running in to take a catch of Ben Duckett off the bowling of Cameron Green in the leg-side after tea when he pulled up sharply while



running towards the ball. The injury looked so serious that Lyon had to go off the field by taking the support of a member of the Australian team's medical staff and shook off in pain while clutching the calf region of his right leg.

A statement from Cricket Australia confirmed Lyon has suffered a right calf injury and would be further assessed after the close of day two play. "A further update, if available, will be shared in the morning," it further said.

**Steve Smith On Nathan Lyon's Injury**  
"It doesn't look ideal for the rest of the game. I'm not sure how he actually is, but if he is no good, it is obviously a big loss for us. Fingers crossed he is okay but it didn't look good obviously," Smith said in a media interaction.

"Todd has been bowling beautifully in nets and bowled really well in India when he got his opportunity. I would be confident if he came in that he would do a terrific job for us," Smith said.



## 'Absolute Stupidity': Vaughan Blasts Eng's Bazball Style

PNS ■ LONDON

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has once again blasted England's relentless-attacking batting style known popularly as Bazball as "absolute stupidity" after the hosts lost three quick wickets to needless shots in their attempt to score quick runs.

The host lost Ollie Pope (42), Ben Duckett (98) and Joe Root (10) to rash dismissals in the middle of England's 45-minute Bazball blitz at the Lord's that saw them slump from 188/1 to 222/4. They eventually recovered to 278/4 at stumps on the second day, still 138 runs behind Australia's first innings score of 416.

Vaughan was among the former England greats

left growling again -- for the second day running after Wednesday's insipid bowling performance.

Vaughan was absolutely livid with the way the England batters went about their job going for quick runs as the Aussie players tried short-stuff against them.

"What came for the next hour or so was absolute stupidity," boomed Vaughan on the BBC as he panned the fairly headless spell that followed England having moved effortlessly to 188/1.

"That is not entertaining. I'm sorry, that is stupid Test match cricket and Australia will be delighted with that method because when the ball is not swinging over the next few weeks, guess what they are going to do?"

# North closer to semi finals of Duleep Trophy

FIANS ■ BENGALURU

Riding on superb bowling performances, North Zone took a mammoth lead of 406 runs against North East Zone on Day 3 of their Duleep Trophy quarterfinal at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and moved closer to win and reach the semi-finals of the tournament, here on Friday.

Despite taking a huge lead after bowling out North East Zone for just 134, North Zone batted again instead of enforcing follow-on to declare at 259/6, with half centuries coming from the bats of Prabhsimran Singh, Ankit Kumar and captain Jayant Yadav.

The bowlers came back into the picture again to leave North



East Zone at 58/3, with the side trailing North Zone by a massive 607 runs. North Zone now need seven wickets to register a thumping victory.

Resuming from 65/3 in 20 overs, Siddarth Kaul and Pulkit Narang ran through North East

batters to take three wickets each and bowl them out for 134 in 39.2 overs, with Nilesh Lamichaney's 44 being the only notable effort with the bat.

North East Zone showed signs of bouncing back in the game by dismissing openers Prashant Chopra and Dhruv Shorey quickly in 5.1 overs. Prabhsimran and Kalsi joined forces for a vital 83-run partnership for the third wicket, before the latter fell for 49.

Prabhsimran would eventually make 59 before being castled by Imliwati, followed by Nishant Sindhu falling cheaply. Jayant and Kumar then stitched a 113-run partnership to swell North Zone's lead.

Once Kumar was stumped for 70 just one over after tea

break was over, the declaration came from the North Zone, with Jayant being unbeaten on 55.

In defence of a huge total, Harshit Rana and Baltej Singh took out Kishan Lyndoh and Kishan Lyndoh respectively before Langlonyamba M was run-out by Chopra to leave North East Zone in tatters at stumps.

**Saurabh Kumar leaves East Zone in tatters**

Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar picked four quick wickets on day three's play in the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal, leaving East Zone in tatters at 69/6 in a chase of 300 and put Central Zone in pole position to reach the semi-finals, here on

Friday. The day began with Central Zone having a batting collapse, going from 124/0 to 239 all out, giving East Zone a target of 300 to chase at the Alur Cricket Ground. But Saurabh spun a vicious web around the East Zone batters, taking 4/39 and leaving them in a precarious position at stumps.

East Zone still need 231 runs, but have only four wickets in hand to achieve an improbable victory.

Resuming the day from 64/0 in 25.1 overs and leading at 124, Vivek Singh (56) and Himanshu Mantri (68) took their opening partnership to 124, before Ishan Porel castled the former.



## BCCI To Grant ₹50 Cr To Each WC Stadium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New floodlights and corporate boxes in Mumbai, a new pitch in Lucknow, overhauled dressing rooms in Kolkata, a new outfield with imported grass in Dharamsala, a brand-new, temporary roof in Pune, and improved toilets and ticketing system in Delhi. These are a few of the upgrade plans for the venues that will host ICC ODI World Cup matches in October-November.

Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Dharamsala, Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Lucknow, and Kolkata are the official venues of the upcoming World Cup. Meanwhile, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram will be hosting the warm-up games.

As per a report from Indian Express, each ODI World Cup 2023 stadium will be granted Rs 50 crore to upgrade their respective infrastructures. Over Rs 500 crore has been allocated among the ten World Cup venues by the Indian cricket board.

"We relaid the whole surface of the stadium and we did a makeover of VVIP and hospitality boxes too. We hired the best expert for the relaying process. We wanted to ensure we have good drainage facilities and got grass from abroad.

"We changed a few seats and painted the stands. There was a leakage problem, we

fixed that too. We wanted to ensure that after rain, the game should start as soon as possible," Arun Dhumal, an HPCA member told The Indian Express.

"The process of infrastructure upgradation has already begun including a new outfield, upgrading to new LED lighting, renovation of the corporate boxes, and renovated new toilets," said Mumbai Cricket Association president Amol Kale.

"We will see if we can have a few stands which can be covered, as three-quarters of the stadium doesn't have a roof. We want to provide basic facilities like clean toilets, good roads and ample parking space.

"If any seats are in bad shape we will be replacing them. We will see whether the fencing metal is ok, the ticket readers are working or not. Our drainage system is fine, so are the floodlights," Maharashtra Cricket Association president Rohit Pawar told about the renovation of the Pune Stadium.

"The floodlights at the stadium are of good quality, so we don't have to change them. However, the seats are being changed and the toilets renovated. The software at the turnstiles will also be upgraded so the entry process for fans is smooth," said Delhi and District Cricket Association joint secretary Rajan Manchanda.

# WI Announce Preparatory Squad For Indian Test Series



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The West Indies announced an 18-member squad for the preparatory camp ahead of the two-match Test series against India on Friday.

Kraigg Brathwaite team will begin their camp at CCG in Antigua on Friday. The opening Test begins on July 12 in Dominica. The second Test will be played on July 20 in Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval.

As the West Indies are currently engaged in the ICC World Cup qualifiers, most of the senior members, like Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, and Kyle Mayers, are not part of the squad for the camp.

"CWI Men's Selection Panel today named the 18-member squad for the preparation camp ahead of the two-match Cycle Pure Agarabathi Test Series against India in the Caribbean. Camp starts at CCG in Antigua on Friday, June 30. The team travels to Dominica on Sunday, July 9," Cricket West Indies said.

**SQUAD:** Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Alick Athanaze, Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, Tagarine Chanderpaul, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Kavem Hodge, Akeem Jordan, Jair McAllister, Kirk McKenzie, Marquino Mindley, Anderson Phillip, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Jemel Warrican.



# Agarkar Set To Become BCCI's Chief Selector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Ajit Agarkar is set to become the new BCCI chief selector and will fill the position of BCCI Chief Selector which has been vacant. Former chief selector Chetan Sharma resigned in February this year, since then BCCI has been looking for a new chief of selectors for the men's cricket team.

Agarkar, who was the assistant coach of the Delhi Capitals stepped down from the post and will now take over as chairman of the selection committee.

According to a report by PTI, the BCCI is expected to eliminate the zonal process and appoint Ajit Agarkar as a member of the selection committee.

"The CAC has the mandate to pick a selector who can stand up to the high profile team management in case there are differences," a BCCI official told PTI.

Whereas according to reports in Indian Express Agarkar is promised by BCCI to increase the annual salary which is currently Rs 1 crore.



Agarkar left Delhi Capitals On Thursday Delhi Capitals announced that assistant coaches Ajit Agarkar and Shane Watson left the side right after 2023 IPL season ended.

"You will always have a place to call home here. Thank You, Ajit and Watto, for your contributions. All the very best for your future endeavours," DC tweeted.

Agarkar joined the franchise as an assistant coach in February 2022, with Watson coming in a month later. During their time at Delhi, the franchise didn't manage to make it to the playoffs in the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

The 45-year-old has played 26 Tests, 191 ODIs and 4 T20s for India. He was a part of the Delhi Capitals' support staff in the recently held IPL.

# Dhawan Likely To Lead In Asian Games 2023

ANI ■ NEW DELHI

India's opener Shikhar Dhawan is likely to lead team India and Former Indian batter VVS Laxman to coach at Asian Games 2023, however, the decision is not finalised, according to BCCI sources.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had agreed to send the men's and women's teams first time to the Asian Games 2023 which will be held in China. Apart from Dhawan, the Former Indian batter VVS Laxman can also join the Indian team as a head coach for the tournament.

Asian Games don't come

under International Cricket Council (ICC) and will not be recognised in International cricket.

Notably, Asian Games could collide with the events like Asia Cup and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. The World Cup will be hosted by India from October 5 to November 23 while Asian Games 2023 will be held in Hangzhou, China, from September 23 to October 8.

Meanwhile, Apart from domestic cricket, the India Women's Cricket Team won't have any other commitments in September. The Indian women's team participated in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

# He deserves to be treated properly: Ex-Ind star on Pujara

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the squad announced by the Men's Selection Committee for the upcoming two-match Test series which also marks the beginning of India's 2023-25 World Test Championship cycle, a decision was made to drop veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara. However, the decision was heavily criticised on the social space by both fans and former cricketers.

There are no places for Cheteshwar Pujara, Umesh Yadav, and Mohammed Shami, with call-ups given to Gaikwad and Jaiswal seen as a potential start of transition in the Indian Test batting line-up. Former Indian cricketer WV Raman addressed this and said that Pujara deserved a better exit.

**WV Raman On Pujara's Exit**  
"The problem is that they have picked four possible open-



**There are no places for Cheteshwar Pujara with call-ups given to Gaikwad and Jaiswal seen as a potential start of transition in the Indian Test batting line-up.**

ers, and they have dropped Pujara, which is another bone of contention. A cricketer like Pujara has done a lot for Indian cricket, and he has been instrumental for India winning both at home and abroad on quite a few occasions," Raman told former India opener Aakash Chopra on the latter's Youtube channel.

"He is a gritty customer. He was even elevated to vice-captaincy quite recently but a failure in the WTC final, he

finds that he is left out in the cold. I think this is one decision that has not gone down well with many people, and I, personally, as well, I am not for it," he added.

"He deserves to be treated properly. In the event, if they think it's the end of Pujara, he could have been given a better exit, but that's how things happen sometimes, and this is not the first case again. There are a lot of precedences as far as this

kind of treatment is concerned," Raman concluded.  
**India's Test squad vs West Indies:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), KS Bharat (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, Navdeep Saini.