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UCC: A TALE OF THREE PROMISES

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MACRON WEAKENED BY UNREST IN FRANCE

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INVESTORS BECOME RICHER BY ₹7.90 LAKH CRORE IN 5 DAYS

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 5, 2023; PAGES 12-13



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Pawar-ful showdown today! Ajit, Sharad rallies to set NCP scene

Both factions trying to ensure maximum number of MLAs at their gatherings

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

For the first time after the vertical split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the two feuding factions — one led by party president Sharad Pawar and another by his nephew and breakaway group leader Ajit Pawar — will be flexing their muscles at parallel meetings of their leaders and supporters, convened by them at two separate venues here on Wednesday.

While the Ajit-led faction has called its meeting at the MET Institute of Management in Bandra, north-west Mumbai, at 11 am, the Sharad Pawar-led group has its meeting at the YB Chavan Auditorium in Nariman Point, south Mumbai, at 1 pm. Both factions have called their respective MLAs, MLCs, party leaders, and workers at various levels across Maharashtra.

Being seen as shows of strength put on by the Sharad and Ajit factions, Wednesday's parallel meetings will see both factions trying to ensure a maximum number of MLAs at their respective gatherings. This headcount of MLAs present at each of the two parallel meetings will prove whether Ajit has the necessary numbers to escape action under the anti-defection law.

More than the party patriarch Sharad, the onus will be on the breakaway group leader Ajit to ensure that at least 36 NCP MLAs are present at the meeting if he is to prove that the entire party has switched sides.

The NCP has 53 MLAs in the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. To prove



NCP chief Sharad Pawar in a meeting with Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Nana Patole in Mumbai on Tuesday



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar, NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal and others releases a booklet, in Mumbai on Tuesday

that he has two-thirds of the MLAs with him, so as not to attract the provisions of the anti-defection law, Ajit needs the support of at least 36 MLAs. On his part, Ajitdada — as Ajit Pawar is known in the State political circles — has chosen not to reveal how many MLAs are with him. However, the leaders supporting him have claimed that they submitted a letter to Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, claiming Ajit enjoys the support of more than 40 MLAs and six out of the nine MLCs. There is no confirmation as to whether Ajit indeed gave such a letter to the Governor.

On his part, Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar has gone on record saying that he does not know how many MLAs are supporting Ajit. He has said that he will not rush into the whole thing and will take an appropriate decision on how to proceed after he receives a formal letter from Ajit regarding the support base that he enjoys among the NCP MLAs.

Ahead of the parallel meetings scheduled for Wednesday, both factions were busy securing their MLAs.

On the face of it, Ajit seems to have a larger number of MLAs with him than his uncle Sharad. The moot question is:

Are the numbers that Ajit has with him sufficient to help sail through the rebellion drama in the coming days and weeks? NCP's working president Supriya Sule and Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil are leading the charge from the Sharad faction side, while Ajit and the party's erstwhile working president Praful Patel are in charge of the affairs in the rebel faction.

Jayant Patil, a close aide of Sharad Pawar, has gone to town saying, "The Ajit Pawar faction is a notional party." Patil said that as many as 44 NCP MLAs are with the Sharad Pawar faction, while the nine MLAs, including Ajit Pawar, who have switched sides, have become ministers in the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnis Government.

On the other side, Ajit has gone on record saying, "We have the numbers."

Sharad, who is currently on a tour of Maharashtra and will remain present at Wednesday's meeting, has been calling up his party MLAs since Sunday when the rebellion started, asking his party MLAs to return to the parent party.

Sr Pawar has also started a series of consultations with top lawyers on how to proceed further in the crisis that has rocked his 24-year-old NCP.

Cong not to claim Maha LoP post for Opp unity sake

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having decided to stand by its ally, the rebellion-hit Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Congress, which is one of the constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), dropped its plans to take up the issue of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Maharashtra Assembly. The post has fallen vacant after outgoing LoP Ajit Pawar joined the Shinde-Fadnis Government as the Deputy Chief Minister.

In the presence of the party in-charge of Maharashtra, HK Patil, who flew down from New Delhi for the meeting, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) met in the Vidhan Bhavan complex in south Mumbai. During the meeting, the party MLAs took stock of the situation arising from the

vertical split in the NCP, which has led to the vacancy of the LoP's post in the Assembly.

This development should be seen in the context of the fact that the Sharad Pawar-led NCP had named former minister Jitendra Awhad as LoP-designate after Ajit Pawar's exit from the party.

At the meeting, the Congress decided not to stake a claim for the LoP's post in the larger interests of Opposition unity.

Talking to media persons after the CLP meeting, HK Patil stated that the Congress was part of the MVA, comprising its own party, the NCP, and Shiv Sena, and it would remain united with the other two constituents in the Opposition alliance. The CLP meeting was attended by 39 of the 45 Congress MLAs of the party.

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Decisive action must be taken against terrorism: Modi

Don't hesitate to criticise countries aiding cross-border terrorism as policy: PM to SCO nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for "decisive action" against terrorism and urged leaders of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) nations in an apparent reference to Pakistan that the grouping must not hesitate to criticise countries supporting cross-border terrorism as an instrument of State policy. He also said there must not be any "double standards" in combating terrorist activities.

During a virtual summit of the SCO, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a resolute message in the presence of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russia's Vladimir Putin. Modi emphasised the necessity for "decisive action" to address terrorism and the financing of terrorist activities.

On the other hand, the Pakistan PM said the "hydra-headed monster" of terrorism and extremism whether committed by "individuals, groups or at State level" must be fought with full vigour and conviction, as he warned against using it as a cudgel for diplomatic point-scoring.

In his opening remarks, Modi said, "Terrorism remains



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the virtual SCO Summit on Tuesday

a major threat to regional and global peace. Decisive action is necessary to meet this challenge. Terrorism may be in any form, in any manifestation and we have to fight together against it. Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of their policies; give shelter to terrorists. The SCO should not hesitate to criticise such countries. There should be no room for double standards on such a serious issue," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also pitched for deeper mutual cooperation to deal with terror financing and noted that the SCO's RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure) mechanism has played an important role in this. "We should also take more active steps to prevent the spread of radicalisation among the youth of our coun-

tries. The joint statement being issued today on the issue of radicalisation is a symbol of our shared commitment," he said.

Chairing the summit, Modi talked about the growing importance of the SCO and said, "It is our shared responsibility to understand each other's needs and sensitivities and resolve all challenges through better cooperation and coordination." The remarks came amid the lingering border row between India and China.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the need for boosting connectivity, but asserted that it is essential to respect the basic principles of the SCO charter, especially the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states, while making such efforts.

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CAPSULE

TALIBAN BAN BEAUTY SALONS FOR WOMEN

Islamabad: The Taliban are banning women's beauty salons in Afghanistan, a Government spokesman said on Tuesday. It is the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment.

CLIMATE CHANGE: 12% FALL IN BIRD COUNT

New Delhi: A recent study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences warns that the warming climate caused by climate change is poised to have a detrimental impact on bird populations, with 12 per cent decrease in the songbird species. Researchers found the warmer climate will disrupt the breeding patterns of birds.

4 States get new BJP chiefs in pre-poll rejig

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

In a strategic move ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed new party chiefs for Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Punjab, with two of them having strong Congress backgrounds.

The announcement was made by BJP president JP Nadra following extensive brainstorming sessions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Council of Ministers, and party leaders. Several senior BJP leaders and Union Ministers interacted on Tuesday with Nadra here at BJP headquarters.

Ministers meeting Nadra included Nirmala Sitharaman, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kiren



File photo of senior BJP leaders (L-R) D Purandeswari, Sunil Jakhar, G Kishan Reddy and Babulal Marandi, who have been appointed as the new State chiefs of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana and Jharkhand respectively ahead of the Lok Sabha polls on Tuesday

Rijiju. The party is contemplating more organisational changes in other States like Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. A Cabinet reshuffle may relieve many senior leaders for party work.

A beginning has already

been made by appointing Union Minister G Kishan Reddy as Telangana BJP chief, they said.

Reddy replaced Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was perceived to have difficulty in uniting all party leaders in the State.

Sanjay Kumar, a BJP MP from Karimnagar, had completed his second term as BJP president.

Reports indicated that Sanjay Kumar may be re-designated as a Minister of State in the Union Cabinet.

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Order Speaker to take call on disqualification of Shinde, UBT Sena urges SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has approached the Supreme Court, seeking direction to the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to promptly resolve the disqualification petitions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other Sena MLAs.

These MLAs had formed a new government in alliance with the BJP in June 2022. The plea, filed by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhu, who serves as the chief whip of the party, alleges that Speaker Rahul Narwekar is intentionally delaying the adjudication process, despite the Supreme Court's verdict on May 11.

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Court seeks minor victim's response on police's final report on case against Brij

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sought a response from the minor victim and the complainant on the final report filed by Delhi Police seeking cancellation of a case against BJP MP and outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment, the lawyer

The police had recommended the cancellation of the complaint filed by the minor wrestler against Singh, citing "no corroborative evidence."

The police submitted a report based upon the statements of the complainant, who is the father of the minor, and the girl herself, a statement issued by Delhi Police had said.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) entails a minimum imprisonment of three years, depending on what section the crime falls in. However, the court may take a call on whether to accept the police's closure report or direct further investigation.

The Government had earlier assured the agitating wrestlers including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and fellow Olympian Vinesh Phogat that the charge sheet would be filed by June 15, following which they had suspended their stir.

SC defers oath taking of DERC chairperson

Court to hear plea challenging Centre's notification on July 11

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the face-off between Arvind Kejriwal Government and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena over the appointment of the Delhi electricity regulatory commission (DERC) chief, the Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred the oath taking ceremony of its chairperson-designate Justice (Retd) Umesh Kumar and sought responses from the Centre and the office

of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) on a plea of the Delhi Government challenging the law governing such an appointment.

It also took on record the Delhi Government's statement about deferring the oath taking ceremony of Justice Kumar, whose appointment has become yet another flashpoint in the turf war between the AAP Government and the Centre.

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Khalistanis set Indian Consulate in San Francisco on fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/NEW YORK

India's consulate in San Francisco was recently targeted by alleged supporters of the Khalistani movement, who vandalised the premises and attempted to set it on fire. The incident, captured in a video posted on Twitter on July 2, showed the act of arson at the Indian Consulate, accompanied by the words "violence begets violence" and news articles regarding the death of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada last month.

The US Government condemned the incident, terming it a "criminal offence." State Department spokesperson



Matthew Miller tweeted on Monday, "The US strongly condemns the reported vandalism and attempted arson against the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on Saturday. Vandalism or violence against diplomatic facilities or foreign diplomats in the US is a criminal offense."

Diya TV, a South Asian broadcast TV network in the US, reported that a fire was set

in the early hours of Sunday between 1:30-2:30 am at the San Francisco Indian Consulate.

The fire was quickly suppressed by the San Francisco Department, resulting in limited damage, and no staff members were harmed.

Local, state, and federal authorities have been notified of the incident.

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Canada Govt condemns 'Khalistan rally poster', calls it 'unacceptable'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TORONTO

A day after India expressed concern over threat to its diplomats by alleged Khalistani supporters in online posters and issued a demarche, Canada on Tuesday assured India of the safety of its envoys and termed the "promotional material" circulating ahead of a Khalistan rally "unacceptable."

The statement by Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly came after External Affairs

Minister S Jaishankar said India has asked its partner countries such as Canada, the UK and the US not to give space to "extremist Khalistani ideology" as it is "not good" for relations.

India summoned the Canadian High Commissioner to New Delhi and issued a demarche over increasing activities by pro-Khalistani elements in Canada, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

The High Commissioner was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday

and was issued a demarche, the people cited above said while referring to the release of the posters. The Indian High Commissioner to Canada also reminded the Canadian Government that extremists had lobbed two smoke grenades into the High Commission premises on March 23, 2023.

Stressing Canada's commitment to the safety of diplomats, Minister Joly highlighted the country's adherence to the Vienna Conventions.

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Mob tries to loot weapons from security camp; 1 killed

Assam rifles jawan shot at in Manipur

PTI ■ THOUBAL

A mob allegedly tried to loot weapons from a camp of the Indian Reserved Battalion (IRB) in Manipur's Thoubal district on Tuesday, leading to a clash with the security forces in which a 27-year-old man was killed and an Assam Rifles jawan shot at, sources said.

The mob tried to storm the camp of 3rd IRB battalion in the Khangabok area to loot arms and ammunition, they said. Soon, a clash with the forces broke out.

The forces tried to bring the situation under control and used teargas shells and rubber bullets at first. But as the armed mob opened fire, the forces shot back, sources said. The mob also blocked the roads leading to the camp at multiple locations to prevent reinforcements from reaching there, but the forces moved through, they said. The mob attacked a team of the Assam



Rifles that was on the way to the camp. They fired on the Assam Rifles personnel, in which a jawan was injured, and torched their vehicle, sources said. The jawan was shot in the leg, they said.

In the clashes, a man, identified as Ronaldo, was shot. He was first taken to the Thoubal district hospital, but later referred to a hospital in Imphal as his condition was critical. He died on the way to the state capital, sources said. Ten others were also injured in the clashes, they said. The situation is under control at present, they

added. Violence first broke out in the state after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. So far, more than 100 people have died and several hundred injured, besides thousands taking shelter in relief camps.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribal Nagas and Kukis constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

NGT panel to check air pollution around AIIMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a panel to monitor the implementation of the recommendations for checking air pollution in and around the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in a time-bound manner.

While entrusting the responsibility of adopting the measures required to reduce air pollution inside the campus to the medical institute's director, the tribunal has also constituted a separate panel to study identical issues at several other government hospitals in the national capital and issue appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The NGT was hearing a petition claiming failure of the authorities concerned to control air pollution in and around premier healthcare institutions, including AIIMS Delhi, to the detriment of the health of patients, their attendants, doctors and staff. The NGT had in March formed a seven-member joint committee comprising the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Deputy

Commissioner of Police (Traffic), area divisional or District Forest Officer (DFO), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the AIIMS director or his nominee and a nominee of the Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital to make recommendations to remedy the situation. It said the committee has to file an action taken report within four months.

A bench of Chairperson Justice A K Goel accepted the report of the joint committee filed on July 1, and said the measures suggested had to be implemented in a time-bound manner.

The bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel, said, "We also agree that a hospital complex being an environmentally sensitive area, an environmental management plan is required not only covering the campus but also the surrounding periphery. Prohibited and regulated activities need to be identified and

mentioned in such a plan..." Regarding the measures to be adopted outside the AIIMS campus, including control of traffic congestion, removing encroachments, congestion at gates, speeding of vehicles, improving road conditions, control of dust and other sources of pollution, the bench constituted an eight-member joint committee.

The committee comprising representatives of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Police, city traffic police, AIIMS, CPCB, and DPCC has to prepare an action plan in light of the recommendations of the joint committee and to monitor its execution in a time bound manner, the bench said.

"Ambient air quality in and around the campus be monitored and as and when it exceeds the laid down parameters within 500 meters of the boundaries of AIIMS, regulatory measures be taken in the light of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Sisodia's wife rushed to hospital again as health deteriorates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's wife Seema Sisodia, who is suffering from an autoimmune disorder, was admitted to a hospital on Tuesday. Sources said she was hospitalised after her condition deteriorated.

This is the third time in the past few weeks that Seema Sisodia, 49, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has been hospitalised. She was admitted to the neurology department of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in late April.

"As per the doctors, Seema Sisodia is slowly losing control over her body due to the progression of the disease. She has been admitted to the hospital for further treatment and management," sources said. According to reports, she has been suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, a chronic autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system. Her symptoms are reportedly worsening and her condition is



becoming critical. Multiple Sclerosis is a disease that causes the immune system to attack the protective covering of nerve fibres, resulting in communication problems between the brain and the rest of the body. Over time, this can lead to a gradual loss of control over the body.

According to sources, as a result of her condition, Sisodia's wife is currently showing symptoms which include reduced mobility, loss of balance with increased risk of falls, as well as bowel and bladder control problems. MS eventually leads to loss of muscle control, slowly taking away patient's ability to move, walk or talk.

NCST chairman resigns 8 months before term end

Cong alleges forced ouster

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Harsh Chouhan has resigned as the chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) eight months before the completion of his term, with Congress MP Jairam Ramesh claiming on Tuesday that he paid the price for confronting the Union Environment Ministry on the issue of forests and tribal rights.

However, sources said Chouhan's resignation follows the government's annual performance appraisal.

"He had been facing health issues and could attend only two hearings. The member (Ananta Nayak) conducted the rest," an official source told PTI. According to NCST rules, the chairperson is responsible for

presiding over the hearings in the commission. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson should conduct the hearings.

A senior NCST official said, "Chouhan resigned on June 26 and we received information about the President accepting his resignation on June 27." The Congress linked Chouhan's resignation to his stance on the new Forest Conservation Rules, 2022 allegedly encroaching on tribal rights.

In September last year, Chouhan had written to the Environment Ministry seeking the suspension of the rules. He had also urged the ministry to "reinstate, strengthen, and strictly monitor" compliance with certain provisions of the 2017 Forest Conservation Rules, including obtaining consent from gram sabhas before the diversion of forest land for any project.

Don't use my pics for your gain, Sr Pawar warns Ajit

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The rebel NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel set up its office near Mantralaya (State Secretariat) at Nariman Point in south Mumbai. "Today, we unveiled our new office of NCP in Mumbai, a symbol of our unwavering dedication to Maharashtra and its people. Join us as we embark on a journey of progress, unity, and prosperity for every citizen. Together, let's build a strong and inclusive Maharashtra," the rebel NCP faction's working president Praful Patel tweeted.

At the inauguration were Ajit Pawar, state rebel NCP state President Sunil Tatkare, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Mushrif, Dhananjay Munde and others who were sworn in as ministers in the Shinde-Fadnavis gov-

ernment on Sunday.

Meanwhile, hardening his stand against the party leaders who have joined the Eknath Shinde-Devedra Fadnavis government, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday warned his nephew Ajit Pawar and other rebel party leaders, who rebelled against him on Sunday, against using his photographs for any purpose.

In a development that came after the rebel NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar installed a huge photograph of Sharad Pawar at its newly-inaugurated office at Nariman Point in south Mumbai, Sr Pawar said: "I do not want all those who betrayed my ideology to use my photographs for propaganda or any other purpose."

The directive from Sr Pawar came after Ajit Pawar reportedly all his supporters who had gone to greet the lat-

ter to put up photographs of Sharad Pawar on the hoardings being erected to congratulate him on his becoming a deputy chief minister in the Shinde-Fadnavis government.

"These people (Ajit Pawar and other rebel leaders) have betrayed my ideology. I am against them using my photographs (in their offices and on hoardings). It's my right to decide who can use my photographs when I am alive. Barring the NCP led by me, nobody else has the authority to use my photo without my clearance," Sr Pawar said.

Tuesday's development is akin to the one witnessed during the Eknath Shinde-led rebellion in the Shiv Sena in June last year, when Uddhav Thackeray had asked the rebel Shiv Sena faction not to use the photographs of late Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray.

Decisive action...

From Page 1
There has been increasing global criticism of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India has been severely critical of the BRI as the project includes the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK).

On Afghanistan, Modi said the situation there has a "direct impact on the security of all of us" and it is important to ensure that Afghan territory is not used to destabilise neighbouring countries or to encourage extremist ideologies.

The theme of the SCO meeting was "SECURE". It stands for S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and E: Environmental protection.

The Prime Minister also touched upon the global food, fuel and fertiliser crisis, highlighted the need for reform of the SCO and welcomed Iran as the new permanent member of

the SCO. The virtual summit under India's presidency was attended by leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran as well. On the situation in Afghanistan, Modi said India's concerns and expectations regarding that country are similar to those of most of the SCO countries. Modi said ensuring humanitarian assistance to Afghan people, formation of an inclusive government, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking and ensuring the rights of women, children and minorities in that country are "our shared priorities".

The Prime Minister also favoured boosting regional connectivity and said, "Better connectivity not only increases mutual business but also increases mutual trust. But in these efforts, it is essential to respect the basic principles of the SCO Charter, especially the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states."

"After Iran's SCO membership, we can work for bet-

ter utilisation of Chabahar Port. The International North-South Transport Corridor can become a safe and easy way for the landlocked countries of Central Asia to reach the Indian Ocean," he said. "We should realise its full potential," he added. India has been pushing for the Chabahar port project to boost regional trade, especially for its connectivity to Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Sharif said "the hydra-headed monster of terrorism and extremism - whether committed by individuals, societies or states - must be fought with full vigour and conviction. Any temptation to use it as a cudgel for diplomatic point-scoring must be avoided under all circumstances," he said.

"Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, must be condemned in clear and unambiguous terms. There can be no justification for the killing of innocent people regardless of the cause or pretext."

4 States get new BJP..

From Page 1
Reddy, who was promoted to Cabinet rank and currently serves as the Minister of Culture and Tourism, enjoys the confidence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. With Telangana heading for assembly polls later this year, Reddy is expected to play a pivotal role in the BJP's campaign in the State.

D Purandeshwari, daughter of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao, has been appointed as the BJP's State president for Andhra Pradesh. This move aligns with the BJP's efforts to form an alliance with TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu. Incidentally, Purandeshwari is also Naidu's sister-in-law. She was previously elected as an MP from Visakhapatnam and had been associated with the Congress, serving as a Minister in the Manmohan Singh Government.

With her political legacy, Purandeshwari is expected to expand the party's political base, particularly in Northern Andhra Pradesh. Former Chief

Minister Babulal Marandi has been appointed as Jharkhand's State party president, while Sunil Jakhar is the new State party president for Punjab, according to a statement from the BJP. Marandi replaces Deepak Prakash to bolster the BJP's presence among tribal communities in the face of a strong coalition of alliances consisting of JMM, Congress and RJD, led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who hails from a tribal background.

In Punjab, Sunil Jakhar has been appointed as the State party president, replacing Ashwani Sharma. Jakhar, who quit the Congress last year and joined the BJP, had previously served as the chief of the Congress's Punjab unit from 2017 to 2021.

The BJP aims to revitalize the party and expand its organization in the border State, primarily at the expense of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the opposition Congress. Jakhar is considered an adept organizational leader with a deep grassroots connection and a substantial electoral following.

Cong not to claim Maha LoP post for Opp unity sake

From Page 1

"No ruling has come on the unconstitutionality of the Shinde-Fadnavis Government ruling the State. In such a situation, the BJP has once again indulged in politics of breaking other parties.

The people have not taken kindly to the 'Operation Latus' practiced by the BJP. In Karnataka, the people showed the door to the BJP. In Maharashtra, the BJP engineered a split in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, and now the Sharad Pawar-led NCP," Patil said.

"We — Congress, NCP, and Shiv Sena (UBT) — together are fighting against the BJP. We will continue to do so," Patil added. Patil, State Congress President Nana Patole, Working President Naseem Khan, CLP leader Balasaheb Thorat, former Chief Ministers Prithviraj Chavan and Ashok Chavan were

among others present at the CLP meeting.

After the meeting, senior state Congress leaders, including Patole, Khan, and Thorat, later called on NCP chief Sharad Pawar and extended their support to his party in the wake of the rebellion engineered by his nephew Ajit Pawar and others.

Speaking to media persons, State Congress President Nana Patole clarified that no discussions were held on the issue of Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly.

"We are on a wait-and-watch mode. After the meetings of both the factions of the NCP scheduled for Wednesday, the position will be clear," Patole said. "We will strengthen the MVA and the Congress. We have supported Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. We will wait and watch how developments unfold in the coming days," Patil said.

'Criminal offence': US on arson...

From Page 1

A poster circulating on social media announces a "Khalistan Freedom Rally" scheduled for July 8, starting in Berkeley, California, and ending at the Indian embassy in San Francisco.

This is the second time within months that the Indian Consulate in San Francisco has been targeted by Khalistani supporters. On March 19, a group of pro-Khalistan protesters attacked and damaged the consulate, raising pro-Khalistan slogans and placing Khalistani flags inside the premises, which were later removed by consulate personnel.

Ajay Bhutoria, an Indian community leader, strongly condemned the attack on India's consulate in San Francisco and expressed deep concern. He emphasized the importance of providing a safe and secure environment for consulate staff and members, as well as maintaining diplomatic relations between India and the United States. Bhutoria urged the San Francisco Police Department to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated that India has requested partner countries such as Canada, the UK, and the US not to provide space for "extremist Khalistani ideology" as it is detrimental to relations. The Minister indicated that the issue will be raised with the Government of Canada in response to reports of Khalistani posters naming senior Indian diplomats in the country.

Jaishankar stressed that the radical and extremist Khalistani ideology is not beneficial for India or its partner countries, including the US, Canada, the UK, and Australia. He called for a united front against violence and the promotion of peace, understanding, and harmonious relations.

SC defers oath taking of DERC chairperson

From Page 1

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said it wanted to deal with the plea challenging the Centre's notification appointing Justice Kumar as the DERC chairperson in a "non-controversial" manner on July 11 and so the administration of oath to him be deferred.

"Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner (Delhi Government) states that the administering of oath in pursuance of the notification of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs dated June 21, 2023 to the former Judge of the Allahabad High Court shall stand deferred presently," the order, uploaded on the apex court's website, said.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for Centre while senior advocate Sanjay Jain appeared for L-G. The Court also issued notice to attorney general of India R Venkataramani to assist in the matter. The top court also issued notices to the Centre

and the office of Lieutenant Governor Saxena on the plea of the Delhi Government which also challenges the June 21 notification of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs appointing Justice Kumar as the DERC chairperson.

Mehta told the Court that the oath is to be administered by the Delhi Government which it has been delaying since June 21. He referred to the chain of events pointing out that despite several communications, the former judge has not been administered oath.

When the counsel for the Centre objected to the deferment of oath taking of the former judge, the bench comprising Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justice Narasimha observed that it was rather inclined to stay the MHA notification.

Observing that since the matter involved a "pure question of law", the bench sought the assistance of attorney general Venkataramani and fixed the plea for hearing on July 11. "Issue notice."

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shekhar Arora, Son of Shri Om Prakash Arora, R/O-H.No-R-154, Gali No-06, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my son's name from Aarush Arora to Arush Arora for all future purposes.

PD(091)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Ms. Preeti Saini & Mr. Ramkishan Saini is in process to purchase the built-up property area measuring 10.5 Sq. Yds. out of 117 sq. yds. comprising One Shop on Ground Floor and First and Second Floor above the Shop Part of Property bearing No. 186 pertaining to the Kharsa No. 1489/1097, situated in the abadi known as Hari Nagar Ashram, in the area of Village Kikolari, New Delhi from Mrs. Anuradha, who inherited the said property by virtue of regd. will dated 15/5/2009 (Document No. 3144) executed by her husband Late Vinod Kumar Kaushik. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. **Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)** Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower, Sec-4, Vaidhata, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810083251

Order Speaker to take call ...

From Page 1

The plea filed through advocates Nishanth Patil and Amit Anand Tiwari states, "The petitioner is compelled to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, due to the respondent Speaker's deliberate delay in adjudicating the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against the erring members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly." According to the plea, the Speaker has not conducted a

single hearing, even though the Supreme Court had clearly directed in its May 11 judgment that the pending disqualification petitions must be decided within a reasonable period.

The plea further mentions that the petitioner has sent multiple representations requesting a hearing in the disqualification matters but the Speaker, in disregard of his constitutional duties as a neutral arbiter, has chosen to delay the adjudications. This delay allows Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, against whom the dis-

qualification petitions are pending, to continue in his position unlawfully. In his petition, Prabhu emphasizes the need for the court to direct the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to promptly decide the disqualification petitions filed against the erring members. He specifically seeks direction for expeditious resolution of disqualification petitions filed by him on June 23, 2022, June 25, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 3, 2022, and July 5, 2022, against MLAs loyal to Eknath Shinde.

Canada...

From Page 1

"Canada takes its obligations under the Vienna Conventions regarding the safety of diplomats very seriously," she said in the statement on her Twitter account. "Canada remains in close contact with Indian officials in light of some of the promotional material circulating online regarding a protest planned for July 8, which are unacceptable," July said.

She also emphasised that the actions of a few individuals "do not speak for an entire com-

munity or Canada." India on Monday had taken strong exception to alleged Khalistan supporters naming and threatening Indian diplomats in Canada and a planned protest march by them to Indian embassies in Toronto and Vancouver on July 8.

The extremists put up posters for the rally naming Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and Counsellor Apoorva Srivastava with their photographs. The protesters will take out the march named "Khalistan Freedom Rally" after trying to blame Indian diplomats and

security agencies for the killing of designated terrorist and chief of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Jaishankar, when asked about reports of Khalistani posters in Canada naming Indian diplomats, said the issue will be raised with the government of that country.

The "radical, extremist Khalistani ideology" is not good for India or its partner countries such as US, Canada, the UK and Australia, he told reporters on the sidelines of a BJP outreach campaign in New Delhi on Monday.

G'gram flooded in just 2 hrs of rain

PARVESH SHARMA
GURUGRAM

Just two hours of rain on Tuesday caused heavy waterlogging and a flood-like situation on multiple stretches and areas in Gurugram, which led to traffic jams at several places. As the rain submerged various parts of Gurugram, people at places were seen struggling with their vehicles to move on waterlogged roads.

According to the district administration, the Gurugram district recorded 230 mm of rainfall till 4.30 pm on Tuesday. The residents were seen helpless and multiple stretches across Gurugram turned into a river.

Vehicle movements on several stretches were moving bumper to bumper. The resident took to social media to describe their anger and held responsible the local authority due to this huge mess.

They share their experiences and posted photos of waterlogging and traffic jams. Gurugram court complex was also submerged in the water logging advocates were seen leaving the court premises knee-deep water. Meanwhile, Once again infamous



Narsinghpur Chowk on the Delhi-Jaipur expressway witnessed heavy water logging. Here at the Narsinghpur Chowk vehicles piled up in queues for almost 1 kilometre and the motorists blamed the local authority for waterlogging. However, officials claimed that efforts are on to clear waterlogging.

"Vehicle flow is smooth in larger parts of Gurugram so far though there is vehicle slowdown reported at some locations. Our traffic personnel has been directed to put all efforts into smooth traffic movements. There is no jam-stuck of vehicles reported so far," said a senior traffic police officer said. Apart from this, certain pockets received heavy

rainfall and waterlogging was reported on a few sites such as Mayfield Garden, near the court complex, Artemis Road, Sheela Mata Road, one side carriageway of Hanuman Chowk, Narsinghpur and Hongkong Bazaar on SPR stretch.

"Teams have been deployed for clearing of water chutes and road Gullies at all locations. Pumps have been activated at Sheela Mata Road, Rajiv Chowk and Narsinghpur to address the waterlogging," a GMDA said. The rain started at around 3.20 pm on Tuesday and it turned into a heavy downpour till 5.00 pm. Traffic movement on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway highway was hit due to waterlogging.

Magenta Line services hit tracks waterlogged

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water logging on a portion of the tracks of the Delhi Metro on Tuesday led to curtailment of its Magenta Line for several hours between Dabri Mor and Janakpuri West segment, officials said.

The Magenta Line connects Janakpuri West in Delhi to Botanical Garden in Noida. "Train services on Magenta Line (Line-8 from Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden) were regulated today owing to waterlogging between Dabri Mor and Janakpuri West section on the upline track (trains going towards Janakpuri West)," the DMRC said in a statement.

Train services were provided through single-line operation between Janakpuri West and Terminal-1 IGI Airport stations via the downline track from 10 am to 3:35 pm. As a result, trains were available at a lesser frequency in the section during this period, it said. Services on the remaining sec-



tion of the Magenta Line, from Terminal-1 IGI Airport to Botanical Garden, were running normally during this period through, both the up and down line tracks, it said. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation also shared the information on Twitter to alert commuters.

"Magenta Line Update Delay in services from Janakpuri West to Terminal-1 IGI Airport. Normal service on all other lines," the DMRC said in a tweet at 10:40 am. Commuters travelling from Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden or vice versa can also travel by the Blue Line, it wrote in another tweet. Botanical Garden station is an interchange station between Blue Line and Magenta Line.

LG, NGT chief inspect Yamuna's ISBT to ITO Barrage stretch

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor DVK Saxena along with NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, conducted an inspection of the navigable stretch of the Yamuna river between ISBT and ITO Barrage. The inspection took place on a recently brought Indian Navy Boat, following its assessment of the stretch's navigability last month, as per the LG's request.

Accompanied by senior officials from stakeholder departments such as DDA, I&FC, MCD, and DJB, the LG and NGT Chairperson also assessed the progress of cleaning works on the river's floodplains, under the guidance of the High-Level Committee (HLC) established by the NGT on January 9.

The visiting team was joined by priests representing different faiths. The HLC has been monitoring the rejuvenation of the Yamuna river through eight distinct implementation parameters, including the cleaning and restoration of floodplains, as well as desilting of accumulated sewerage



in the river and its banks. The first phase of restoring the floodplains from Wazirabad Barrage to ITO Barrage began in February this year and has since been completed, while cleaning operations in the stretch between ITO Barrage and Okhla are currently underway. During the occasion, the LG highlighted the successful completion of cleaning works along the 11 km stretch until the ITO Barrage, visible for everyone to witness. He reiterated the need to involve the common residents of Delhi in any long-term solution for Yamuna's rejuvenation. Once

the waterway becomes fully navigable, citizens can actively engage with the river, fostering a sense of belonging towards the Yamuna, according to Saxena.

The LG emphasized that efforts to rejuvenate the river have gradually begun to yield encouraging results, evident in physical appearance of the ghats and improved water quality when compared on a year-to-year basis. Saxena specifically highlighted the extensive endeavors to clean Najafgarh Drain through desilting and diversion of drains to Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).



Mahila Congress workers protest against BJP over rising prices of essentials, at the BJP office in New Delhi on Tuesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

1K cops, 300 CCTVs, drones to secure Kanwar Yatra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up security measures for the forthcoming Kanwar Yatra, the Delhi Police's Northeast unit on Tuesday said it would deploy around 1,000 personnel and install over 300 CCTV cameras in temples and along the routes that would be taken by devotees in Shravan. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Joy Tirkey said the Kanwar Yatra commenced on Tuesday. "The number of devotees is expected to rise from Wednesday and Thursday."

The devotees will offer holy water on July 15 and 16," he said. "We have deployed 1,000 police personnel and as many civil defence volunteers. We have also asked for 15 companies of central forces and we have 25 drones that will be used strategically," he said.

Pak woman, kids held for staying in India illegally

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

A Pakistani woman, Seema Aghulam Haider, who has been arrested for illegally entering India in May and staying in Greater Noida without valid documents was on Tuesday sent to 14-days' judicial custody by a local court, which also ordered her four children to stay with the mother in the jail, police said. The woman's Indian partner Sachin Meena, who lives in Greater Noida and sheltered her, and his father the Netrapal Meena, who knew of the whole episode, have also been remanded in custody. Central agencies, including the Bureau of Immigration, and the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad have been informed.

A senior officer said the woman arrived in India on May 13 with her four children without valid documents to stay with a Greater Noida man, whom she had befriended through online game PUBG in

2019. Over the course of the time, the duo played online games together and chatted over text and phone calls on Whatsapp and Instagram.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan told reporters, "The Pakistani woman's four children — aged seven and below — will be produced in court here and further action would be taken on its direction." An FIR in the case has been lodged at the local Rabupura police station under provisions of the Foreigners Act, the Passport (Entry into India) Act and Indian Penal Code sections 120B (party to criminal conspiracy) and 34 (act done by several people with common intention), he said.

Seema left Pakistan in May for Nepal where she arrived on a tourist visa with her children. She stayed there in Pokhara city and took a bus to Delhi via Kathmandu after which she reached Greater Noida.

'BJP couldn't solve MCD salary crisis in 15 yrs, AAP has done it in 3 mnths'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Tuesday said salaries of Municipal Corporation of Delhi's sanitation workers for the month of June were credited on July 1. She also claimed this never happened during the BJP's 15-year rule in the Corporation.

Addressing a Press conference at the Civic Centre, Oberoi said there are around 30,500 full-time sanitation workers in the MCD and about 16,000 daily wagers. Terming it a "big achievement", Oberoi claimed this is the "first time" that the salaries of sanitation workers in Delhi have been credited on the first day of the month.

In another press conference later, AAP MLA and its MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak hailed Arvind Kejriwal, saying what the BJP could not solve in 15 years, the Kejriwal-led AAP has done in "three months". He termed the crediting of salaries of sanitation workers in Delhi on the first day of the month a "big thing".

"In the last 15 years, when the BJP was ruling the corporation, they failed to pay salaries on time and they were delayed by two-three months," she alleged. Even when the salaries were credited, it would be towards the end of the month, she said. "Sanitation workers are the backbone of the MCD. We want to congratulate



our sanitation workers as their salaries for the month of June were credited on the first day of July," the mayor said.

Taking a dig at Mayor Oberoi and Pathak, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has said that it is the responsibility of the Mayor and the MCD administration to pay salaries to the municipal workers and only the leaders of propaganda based party like the Aam Aadmi Party can hold press conferences to claim paying salaries to employees as their achievement. Leader of Opposition in MCD and former Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh also slammed the AAP for making misleading statements.

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Cong protests, asks Centre to address issue of skyrocketing food prices

Saying that prices of ginger, garlic, tomatoes, spices are rising because these are seasonal items is wrong: Shrinate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday attacked the Centre over rising prices of vegetables and other essential food items, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Mehengai Man' and demanding immediate steps from his Government to address the issue.

The women's wing of the party also held a protest outside the BJP office here, demanding relief for people from rising inflation of essential food items.

Addressing a Press conference where the party had kept a basket of tomatoes, garlic, ginger and green chillies, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said this could be a good gift option given that it costs over Rs 1,070 because of the rising inflation.

Narrating the story of a "king" whose followers used to mislead people over rising

prices, Shrinate said, "The king whose name is 'Mehengai Man' is Narendra Modi." "Does the Government care? Does the man who has brought the onslaught of rising prices care? Is the Government taking any steps to reverse the situation, is the Government doing anything possible within its rights to bring people relief? I think the answer to all of that is a big 'no'," she said.

The reality is that unemployment in the country is at a two-year high, Shrinate said, alleging that the Government has continued to look away.

Referring to the rising prices of vegetables, Shrinate said tomatoes are being sold for Rs 160, coriander at Rs 200, ginger at Rs 400 and chilli at Rs 400.

"The reality is that the prices of spices have gone up. Zeera has gone up to Rs 800 per kg, and pulses as common as tur or arhar daal are costing anywhere between Rs 160 to Rs 170.



AICC spokesperson S Shrinate addresses the media on price rise at Cong HQ, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Prices of rice and wheat have gone up. What about the common man, what about the middle class," she asked.

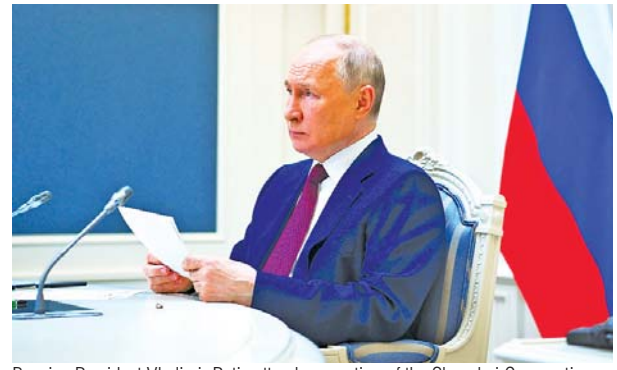
The contention that the Government cannot do anything as these items are seasonal is wrong, Shrinate said, citing

the examples of Congress Governments in Rajasthan and other States providing relief to people from rising prices.

The Congress leader also alleged that the Government was busy profiteering as crude prices have stayed at around \$65 per barrel but the benefit has not been transferred to the people. "We ask the Government to take immediate steps so that some relief can be brought to the people of this country. We expect the Government to rationalise fuel prices. We expect the Government to reduce prices so that diesel prices come down so that prices of vegetables can come down," she said.

"We expect the Government to stop profiteering through taxes...And people who are really reeling under price rise will be given some fiscal help," Shrinate added. Prices of everyday use items such as biscuits, tea leaves and chocolate have gone up too, she further said, adding that the packets of these products often carry the same price tag as before but have lesser quantity.

Russians united against attempted armed rebellion: Putin at SCO



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of State Council via videoconference at the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia. AP/PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after a mercenary group launched a short-lived mutiny, President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday said the Russian society is uniting against the attempted armed rebellion and the people have demonstrated their responsibility to protect the country.

Referring to the Ukraine conflict in his address at the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in the virtual format, Putin blamed external forces for meddling into his country's affairs to jeopardise Russia's security. It was Putin's first participation at a multilateral summit after last week's armed rebellion.

"The Russian people are more consolidated than ever. The unity and high responsibility for the fate of the country was clearly demonstrated by the Russian political circles and the whole of society in uniting against the attempted armed rebellion," he said.

Without naming anyone, the Russian president alleged that "external forces have been implementing a project near our borders to create from our neighbour, Ukraine, a de facto hostile state."

"They funnelled weapons into it for eight years, condoned aggression against the peaceful population of Donbass and indulged in every way in planting neo-Nazi ideology," he claimed.

"And all this was done in order to jeopardise Russia's security and stifle our country's development. We are now, in fact, being subjected to a hybrid war, with illegitimate anti-Russian sanctions that are unprecedented in scale," he said. Putin stressed that Russia is confidently resisting it and will continue to resist "external pressure, sanctions and provocations".

The rebellion by mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and the forces loyal to him marked the most serious challenge to Putin in more than two decades of his rule and triggered questions over his leadership.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the SCO member states who have expressed their support for the Russian leadership in defending the constitutional order, lives and security of its citizens," he said. The virtual summit was joined by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other SCO leaders.

Putin said Russia's trade with the SCO member states has increased by over one third, or 37 per cent, reaching a record high of USD 263 billion last year. From January to April this year, it went up by another 35 per cent, he added.

"We are making wider use of national currencies for mutual settlements. In particular, over 80 per cent of commercial transactions between Russia and the People's Republic of China are made in rubles and yuan," he said.

"The share of the Russian national currency in export transactions with all the SCO countries exceeded 40 per cent in 2022," he noted.

Putin said the SCO is strongly committed to creating a "truly just" and "multipolar world order, an order based on international law and common principles of mutually respectful cooperation between sovereign states with the central, coordinating role of the United Nations".

"Our organisation plays an increasingly important role in international affairs and brings a substantial contribution to maintaining peace and stability, ensuring sustainable economic growth of its member states and developing ties between peoples," he said.

SC seeks Centre's response on three NHRC vacancies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking directions to fill three vacancies at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). A Bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha issued notice to the Government returnable within three weeks. The top court noted the existing seats fell vacant on September 11, 2021, January 4, 2023 and April 4, 2022.

"The petitioner in-person submits that there are three vacancies in the National Human Rights Commission, namely — Judicial Member, who has to be a Judge or a former Judge of the Supreme Court, Judicial Member, who is or was a Chief Justice of the High Court and a seat for a woman member. Issue notice, returnable in three weeks. Liberty to serve the Central Agency, in addition," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing



a plea filed by lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy seeking directions to fill the vacant posts at the NHRC. "The failure of the Government in appointing three members in the NHRC has been affecting the functioning of the commission, which has a direct bearing on the rule of law and administration of justice. "The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 as amended in 2019, mandates a Chairperson and another five members to be appointed in the Commission. Keeping vacant posts of three members in the NHRC in accordance with the Act (Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993) despite availability of eligible candidates is arbitrary, unreasonable," the plea said.

EMPLOYMENT OF RESEARCHERS WORKING ON PROJECTS OR PURSUING PHD

Scientists protest against AIIMS' proposal to limit job tenure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists associated with the Society of Young Scientists (SYS) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, have expressed their concerns over the administration's proposal to restrict the tenure of employment for researchers working on various projects or pursuing PhD at the institute.

With over 1,100 scientists voicing their opposition to the proposed regulations, the SYS members have taken a peaceful stand against the new rules. They conducted a silent protest march on Tuesday and have indicated their intention to escalate the agitation if their demands are not addressed.

In a letter addressed to the director of AIIMS, Delhi, SYS raised objections to the proposed guidelines, particularly the provision that limits researchers to working on only two projects. The scientists argue that such restrictions are an attempt by the administration to phase out research employees engaged in multiple projects.

Calling it a "horrifically unpropitious" to prevent the researchers who have decided to devote years of their professional life not only to the scientific domain but to this specific institution, thereby promoting AIIMS-New Delhi on a global platform, from continuing their research at the institution, they said merely because the policymakers feel it is time to introduce new



rules that make pursuing a career in science in this country even more taxing than it already is.

"It has been brought to our notice that a rule limiting the maximum number of consecutive projects any individual may join at AIIMS-New Delhi may be introduced within the next few days. With due respect, we find it imperative to convey to you that such a decision will not be positively received not only by the researchers of this institution," the letter read. "It is unprecedented and unjust to prohibit any candidate from applying to a post they are eligible for, as per the norms set by the Government of India for the said post in any institution,

including AIIMS-New Delhi, regardless of how many past projects they may have been employed in," the letter read.

Lastly, "we find it imperative to speak for the non-research project staff for whom there is rarely any opportunity to apply for higher posts since they are limited by their eligibility criteria (educational requirements), as opposed to the candidates applying for scientific posts, who automatically become eligible for higher posts with increasing work experience," it added.

The SYS also demanded that one of its representatives be included in the major meetings before passing the final rules or policies in this regard.

NIA files chargesheet against 2 ISIS men

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against two hardcore ISIS members involved in promoting the proscribed outfit's terrorist activities.

The NIA filed the chargesheet against Md. Saddam alias Mohammad Saddam and Abdul Rakib Qureshi alias Qureshi in the ISIS STF Kolkata case before the NIA Court in Kolkata.

They have been chargesheeted under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The duo was arrested by STF Kolkata on January 6 this year for hatching a conspiracy against the Government of India by amassing arms, ammunition, and explosives, and recruiting Muslim youth for carrying out terrorist activities for the ISIS in India and abroad.

STF Kolkata had initially registered an FIR. The NIA took over the case a month later on February 6.

"A large quantity of incriminating materials, used for propaganda and radicalisation on behalf of the ISIS, was seized from the two accused. They had been using this material to recruit and train



impressionable Muslim youth into the ISIS fold, as the investigations by NIA have revealed. Abdul Rakib Qureshi was also convicted earlier for life in a UAPA case for his acts of terror and association with SIMI, another proscribed organisation," the NIA said in a statement.

Md. Saddam entered into a criminal conspiracy with Abdul Rakib Qureshi to recruit people, target prominent personalities and also to send the recruits abroad for executing ISIS-led terror actions and activities. The duo used various encrypted social media platforms for communication, in order to hide their terror related activities and evade detection by the law enforcement agencies, the agency added.

House of 2 brothers attached in narco-terror case by NIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has attached the house of two brothers, accused in a Pakistan-sponsored narco-terror case, in Amritsar district of Punjab. The residential property of the brothers, Bikramjit Singh alias Bikram Singh and Maninder Singh alias Mani, has been attached under Section 25(1) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after its designation as 'proceeds of terrorism'.

The two brothers were earlier arrested by the NIA in the case. The NIA has already filed four chargesheets (including three supplementary chargesheets) against 13 accused under the relevant sections of the UAPA, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Indian Penal Code in the case registered on May 8, 2020.

The case relates to a conspiracy hatched by a narco-terror module to smuggle large quantities of drugs into India from Pakistan. "The drugs were being smuggled in the garb of rock salt imported from across the border. The sale proceeds of the smuggled drugs were being used to create movable and immovable properties in Punjab, besides being channelized to fund terrorists of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in the Kashmir Valley," a NIA statement said.

SC tells Madras HC to place Balaji's habeas corpus plea before judges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Madras High Court to place the habeas corpus petition of arrested Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji before three judges "at the earliest" in view of a split verdict pronounced earlier in the day. A Bench of justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta also told the Madras High Court Chief Justice that Balaji's petition should be decided by the new bench expeditiously.

Earlier on Tuesday, a Madras High Court division bench of justices J Nisha Banu and D Bharatha Chakravarthy pronounced the split verdict on the habeas corpus petition filed by

Balaji's wife against her husband's "illegal detention". The high court bench also directed the registry to place the matter before the Chief Justice for assigning it to a three-judge bench.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, told the top court bench that since a split verdict has been pronounced by the high court, the matter be transferred to the apex court for final adjudication. "My difficulty is that every day there would be tampering of evidence. There is a pure question of law and none of the facts are disputed. Only question is whether a habeas corpus petition can be filed on a judicial remand," Mehta said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Balaji, said that after a split verdict by a division bench, the matter was placed before a three-judge bench and opposed Mehta's request. How can the High Court be bypassed, he asked, adding, "There is a difference of opinion between two judges on an issue and the natural corollary is that it will go to a three-judge bench." Sibal further said that the court under the present circumstances cannot direct the matter to be brought to the apex court. The bench said it would request the High Court for adjudication of questions of law at the earliest and posted the matter for further hearing on July 24. It added, "This is a question of law. We will decide it and if there is a view of three-judges, it will only help us."

Climate change to result in 12% fall in bird populations

Mismatch between early spring and birds' readiness to breed is expected to worsen as global temps rise: UCLA study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A recent study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) warns that the warming climate caused by climate change is poised to have a detrimental impact on bird populations, with an estimated 12 per cent decrease in the average songbird species. Researchers have found that the warmer climate will disrupt the breeding patterns of birds, leading to fewer chicks being produced.

The study, conducted by scientists from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Michigan State University in the United States, highlights

that the mismatch between an early spring onset and the birds' readiness to breed is expected to worsen as global temperatures continue to rise.

The research reveals that birds experience reduced breeding productivity when they initiate breeding either too early or too late in the season. This phenomenon contributes to the projected 12% decline in the average songbird species.

"By the end of the 21st century, spring is likely to arrive about 25 days earlier, with birds breeding only about 6.75 days earlier," said the study's first author, Casey Youngflesh, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State.

For birds, timing matters

when it comes to raising their offspring. The harsh weather while breeding too early or late could harm their eggs or newborns. What also matters is timing regarding food sources — looking for food before or after they're naturally available could mean the birds do not have the resources to keep their young alive.

In this study, the researchers calculated the timing of breeding and the number of young produced for 41 migratory and resident bird species at 179 sites near forested areas throughout North America between 2001 and 2018, using data from a large-scale collaborative bird banding program.

Then, using satellite imag-



ing, they determined when vegetation emerged around each site.

They found that the majority of birds were adversely affected by variations in the start of spring, even as some non-migratory bird species — the northern cardinal, Bewick's wren and wrenit among them — were found countering the trend.

However, the scientists said they were exceptions to the rule, because most non-migratory species couldn't keep up with earlier spring onsets.

For migratory species, earlier spring onset conditions meant even shorter breeding timeframes as after arriving at their breeding sites, birds need time to establish territories and

prepare physiologically for egg-laying and offspring-rearing, before they start breeding.

The authors stressed that conservation strategies should address bird species' responses to climate-driven shifts.

"North America has lost nearly a third of its bird populations since the 1970s," said Morgan Tingley, a UCLA associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and the study's senior author.

"While our study demonstrates that the worst impacts of timing mismatch likely won't occur for several decades yet, we need to focus now on concrete strategies to boost bird populations before climate change takes its toll," said Tingley.

Yogi reviews preparations for Modi's visit on July 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrived in the city here on Tuesday on a one-day visit. By road from Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport, Babatpur, he first reached Wajidpur located on Harhua-Sarnath Ring Road and reviewed the preparations for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme to be held here on July 7. He directed the officers that all the preparations should be completed on time. There should be no shortage on the spot. Keeping in view the possible rains, he specially emphasised on proper preparations being done with utmost importance.

After that, during the meeting with the officials at Circuit House, the CM said that it is a matter of good fortune that the PM is coming to Varanasi in the month of Shrawan itself. "It is the responsibility of all of us to make the programme successful," he said. Describing the need to pay special attention to the cleanliness of the city, he said that a campaign for 'Plastic-free Kashi' should be launched for the next two days. Directing the engineers of the Public Works Department, Municipal Corporation, Varanasi Development Authority and National Highway Authority of India, he said that all the roads should be pothole-free by campaigning on a war footing.

Along with the PM's programme, he gave strict instructions to the engineers of the Electricity department to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the city during the month of Shrawan. He said that special attention should be paid to the safety and convenience of the beneficiaries



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting preparations at Wajidpur venue in Varanasi on Tuesday.

coming from other districts to participate in the PM's programme and added that there must be security personnel and workers in every vehicle. Yogi also directed the officers of PWD, Fire Safety and Fire Brigade to ensure that safety standards are followed at the venues at all costs. "Do not be negligent in any case," he said, emphasising that it is the rainy season, there should not be any open electric wire at the venue, only fresh electric wire should be used.

Yogi instructed the officers to make lighting decorations on the occasion of the PM's arrival, similar to the electrical decorations done in the city during the G-20 programme. Instructing the high officials of the police, he said that strict and adequate security arrangements should be ensured at the

venues. Along with this, while giving instructions to keep the city's traffic system foolproof, he said that information about route diversions during the programme should be made available to the general public on time so that they do not have to face any kind of problems. "Cattle and stray animals should not be seen roaming freely on the roads," he said, instructing the officers not to allow encroachment on the roads to facilitate the traffic system of the city and wherever there is encroachment, it should be removed immediately. He also said that the image of Kashi should be visible as per the intention of the PM.

In the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma and police officers gave detailed information about the preparations made so

far related to the PM's visit by making a digital presentation. The CM appeared satisfied with the administrative arrangements made so far.

UP Ministers Anil Rajbhar, Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, district BJP chief and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, MLA Saurabh Srivastava, city BJP president Vidya Sagar Rai, District Magistrate S Rajalingam and many other senior officers were also present. Later, Yogi reached Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) and offered prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple on the first day of Shrawan. He also inspected the preparations of the Shrawan month. Prior to this, he also offered prayers at Kal Bhairav Temple.

Shrawan: Devotees get 59 days to worship Lord Shiva in 19 yrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The holy month of Shrawan has started from Tuesday. This time after 19 years, Shiva devotees will get full 59 days to worship Lord Mahadev. Devotees thronged the pagodas of Sangam city on Tuesday. A large number of devotees were witnessed at the ancient Mankameswar temple built on the banks of Yamuna in the Sangam area, Koteswar Mahadev on the banks of the Ganga in Shivkuti, Pandeshwar Mahadev in Pandila, Shiv Kachari located in Shivkuti area here, Sujavan Dev Temple, Dashashveth etc..



Naini Someswar Mahadev mentioned in Agnipurn, has its own glory. Chandradev had established this Shiving here after getting curse from Gautam Rishi. It is a belief here that leprosy can be cured by performing 'jalabhishek' and 'darshan' of this Shiving continuously for one month in the month of Shrawan. On the Pratipada of Krishna and Shukla Paksha of every month, the trishul on the top of the temple automatically changes its direction. Apart from this, Dashashvamedh

Ghat established by Lord Brahma, Sujavan Dev located in Bhita of Ghurpur, Mankameswar Dham in Lalapur, Takshakeswar Mahadev in Daryabad have regional recognition.

Filling water from the Dashashvamedh Ghat, devotees go out to perform 'jalabhishek' in pagodas like Mankameswar Mahadev, Pandeshwar Mahadev. Slogans like 'Bol Bam', 'Harhar Mahadev' are also raised. There was a gathering of devotees in the Mankameswar Mahadev temple since 4 am. Slogans of

abhishek' and worship of Someswar Mahadev in the month of Shrawan has its own importance. It is believed that Chandrakund Ghat is in front of Someswar Mahadev Ghat where the moon used to bathe and perform 'jalabhishek' here. Here 'bhandara' runs on every Monday of the month of Shrawan. Police force is also deployed for security.

According to the Commissionerate's traffic police, the left lane of the Prayagraj-Varanasi National Highway will be reserved for Kanwariyas for 58 days in view of the month of Shrawan. This system will be effective from July 4 to August 30 on National Highway-2.

Heavy vehicles going from Lucknow to Varanasi will be sent via Rae Bareilly, Unchahar, Pratapgarh and Jaunpur. Vehicles going from Rewa to Varanasi will have to go via Ghurpur, Gauhania via Mirzapur.

Heavy goods vehicles going from Varanasi to Kanpur will go from Handia to Kanpur via four-lane bypass via Kokhraj. Vehicles going from Mirzapur to Kanpur-Lucknow will have to go via Aurai, Bhadohi.

Founder of Jiva Ayurveda gets doctor degree

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Founder of Jiva Ayurveda Dr Partap Chauhan has been awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa degree at the inaugural convocation of Mansarovar Global University, Bhopal, for his significant contributions to the field of Ayurveda. The degree was conferred by Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel in the presence of Dr. Bharat Sharan Singh, Chairman of M.P. Private University Regulatory Commission.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Chauhan said it is truly inspiring to witness an increasing number of young individuals exploring Ayurveda and demonstrating their reverence for our

traditional wisdom. Jiva Ayurveda was founded by Dr. Partap Chauhan in 1992 and is accredited by NABH as well as gained recognition by the Ministry of AYUSH.

With a network of over 80 clinics across India and a growing global presence, Jiva Ayurveda is extending the benefits of Ayurveda to individuals in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. This expansion is made possible through its online platform and strategic collaborations with local companies. A standout feature of Jiva Ayurveda is its Telemedicine platform, enabling remote consultations with Ayurvedic doctors.

Through a user-friendly online appointment system,

patients can connect with doctors via phone or video calls, making Ayurvedic healthcare accessible worldwide, said a Press release from the organisation.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in and <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

- 05/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2023-24, Internal/External Water & Sewer Scheme in Sector-163 (P/L Water Line in Sector-163), Noida, **Cost Rs. 65.02 Lac**
- 02/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of W/s (P/F Non Clog Water Pump and panel at Underpass Sector-71), Noida, **Cost Rs. 46.77 Lac**
- 03/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Cleaning and Repairing of SPS Well and Repairing of Boundary Wall, Pump House and other Civil works at SPS-20), Noida. (Part-A), **Cost Rs. 45.67 Lac**
- 05/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2023-24, Internal Development of Various Tw's & W/W Compound (Repair and Maintenance Work of Tw's and UGR in Network Sector-52, 53, 61), Noida. **Cost Rs. 51.58 Lac**
- 06/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Replacement of Old Choked Sewer Line of Police Station Sector-71, Janta Flat Sector-71, A-Block, Sector-22 and C-415 to C-430 and B-54 to B-61 in Sector-22), Noida, **Cost Rs. 78.16 Lacs**

Which can be uploaded by date 18.07.2023 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 19.07.2023 at 11:00 AM.

(B)

- 04/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of W/s (Maintenance of Office, Plumbing work & Other miscellaneous work in Division Jal-I Compound, Sector-5), Noida. **Cost Rs. 82.19 Lac**
- 28/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2022-23, Water Chlorination (Two Years Annual Repairing, Operation and Maintenance of Chlorination Plants at GH-110, UGR/OHT-110, UGR-58, UGR-Salarpur and UGR-Hazipur), Noida. **Cost Rs. 70.14 Lac**
- 01/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Desilting of Deep Sewer Line by Super Sucker Machine in Network Sector-70, 71, 72, 73 & Basai, Sarfabad), Noida. (For 03 Years). **Cost Rs. 49.39 Lac**
- 59/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2022-23, Internal/External Water Supply in Sector-164 Noida, (Erection of New Boring for 03 nos. of Tube Wells) (Part-D), **Cost Rs. 47.33 Lac**
- 62/DGM/A.O./S.M.(Jal-O.A.)/2022-23, M/o (Two year Maintenance of Irrigation Line from UGR, STP-50 to J-Block, Sector-41 and Golf Course to Botanical Garden), Noida. **Cost Rs. 35.76 Lac**
- 63/DGM/A.O./S.M.(Jal-O.A.)/2022-23, M/o STP (Supply and Fixing of Light Arrangement, LT, HT armored Cables and other related Electrical works at STP-50 Compound), Noida. **Cost Rs. 34.95 Lac**
- 64/DGM/A.O./S.M.(Jal-O.A.)/2022-23, O/M of STP (Two year Maintenance of Irrigation line in Zone 2B from STP-168), Noida. **Cost Rs. 39.77 Lac**
- 03/SM(Jal-O.A.)/2023-24, M/o STP (Supply and Fixing of Light arrangement, LT, HT armored Cables and other related Electrical works at STP-54 Compound), Noida. (Two Year) **Cost Rs. 46.94 Lac**
- 04/S.M.(Jal-O.A.)/2023-24, O/M of Sewer line and MSPS/IPS at Expressway (Annual Cleaning of Sewer line and Sewer manhole between IPS/MSPS LHS along Noida-Greater Noida Expressway Green Belt Ch.-0.00 to 10.00 Km.), Noida. **Cost Rs. 41.89 Lac**

Which can be uploaded by date 11.07.2023 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 12.07.2023 at 11:00 AM.

Office : Water Works Compound, Sector-5, Noida **Dy. General Manager (Jal) Noida**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Modi to inaugurate rail projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate several rail projects of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) including Ghazipur City-Aunrihar section from Varanasi, doubling of Aunrihar-Jaunpur section and electrification of Bhatni-Aunrihar rail section during his visit to this holy city on July 7. These projects will increase the speed of trains on this railway section apart from greatly benefiting the local commuters.

The construction of a metre gauge rail line from Ghazipur Ghat to Aunrihar was completed in 1903. In view of the problems faced by long distance passengers in changing trains due to the multi-gauge system being in vogue, the policy of Uni-gauge was adopted on Indian Railways. In the year 1997, gauge conversion of Ghazipur City-Aunrihar section (40 km) was completed.

The doubling of this section was approved by the



Aunrihar-Jaunpur electrification project waiting for inauguration.

Ministry of Railways in view of the pressure of traffic due to increase in the number of trains and a project of Rs 360 crore for doubling the tracks up to Aunrihar, Nandganj, Taraon, Ankushpur and Ghazipur City stations was sanctioned. With the completion of this project, the traffic pressure on Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Junction-Prayagraj section will be reduced. At the same time, connectivity to Sarnath and Varanasi will improve, as a result of which

tourism in Aunrihar, Sarnath and Varanasi areas will get a boost.

The doubling and electrification of Aunrihar-Jaunpur railway section (60 km) was completed at a cost of Rs 482 crore. Passing through Ghazipur and Jaunpur districts, this doubled section has Aunrihar, Faridha, Dudhonda, Dobhi, Kerakat, Gangauli, Muftiganj, Yadvendra Nagar and Jaunpur stations. With the completion of this doubling project, the

traffic pressure on Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Junction-Prayagraj section will reduce. The passengers going to Eastern India, especially Northeast India, Bihar and West Bengal will be greatly benefited. With the electrification of this section, there will be reduction in diesel consumption along with movement of fast trains, which will result in saving of foreign exchange spent on diesel import. Besides, the electrification of Bhatni-Aunrihar section (125 km) was completed at a cost of Rs 238 crore. This section passes through Deoria, Mau and Ghazipur districts including stations of Pivkol, Salempur, Lar Road, Turtipar, Belthara Road, Govindpur Dubowli, Kediharapur Chakra Road, Indara, Mau, Paniyara, Pipridih, Nayakdih, Dullahpur, Jakhania, Hurmuzpur Sadat, Mahpur and Aunrihar stations and will be operated on this section also.

Modi surname case: J'khand HC exempts Rahul Gandhi from personal appearance

PTI ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Tuesday exempted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from personal appearance in a Ranchi court in the Modi surname case.

Justice S K Dwivedi also ordered that no coercive steps be taken against Gandhi.

The senior Congress leader had moved the high court challenging the Ranchi MP-MLA court order that had directed him to appear in person in a defamation case.

The case will be heard again on August 16.

A person named Pradeep Modi had filed the defamation case against Gandhi for his alleged comment "why all



thieves share the Modi surname" made at an election rally in April 2019. He had also filed a separate suit for defamation, seeking Rs 20 crore as damages from Gandhi.

Gandhi had earlier moved the high court to quash the criminal proceedings, but his petition was not entertained and dismissed on July 5, 2022.

In a similar case earlier, the metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat on March 23 sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail after holding him guilty for this remark. The conviction led to his disqualification as the MP from Wayanad in Kerala.

The Congress leader was released on bail by the Surat court to enable him to challenge the verdict.

K'taka Youth Cong to stage demo in front of BJP office for denying rice for State scheme

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress (KPYC) will stage demonstration in front of the BJP state headquarters here on Wednesday against the Centre for allegedly scuttling the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme by denying rice to the state government.

In a statement, KPYC president Mohammed Harris Nalpad said the ruling government wants to make the state hunger-free by providing free 10 kg of rice per month to each BPL (Below Poverty Line) family member, under 'Anna Bhagya' scheme.

However, the BJP led Central government refused



to give rice to the State government, though they were ready to pay for it, he charged.

Nalpad said the party will stage demonstration at the BJP state headquarters on Wednesday afternoon.

Anna Bhagya scheme is one of the five poll guarantees of the Congress. It had promised to give an additional five kg rice a month along with five kg given by the Centre for free for BPL ration card holders. However, the Centre citing inadequate stock refused to give rice to the state government. According to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the state requires 2.28 lakh tonne of rice every month to fulfill its promise.

BJP MPs from Bengal never take up State's issues with Centre: Abhishek

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee Tuesday blamed BJP MPs of West Bengal of never taking up the state's issues with the higher-ups at the Centre and accused the Narendra Modi government of stopping all central funds to it.

None of the BJP MPs, including party vice-president Dilip Ghosh ever took up the issue of non-release of MGN-REGS fund to Bengal with the Centre since the 2021 assembly election, in which TMC had emerged victorious, Banerjee said at a rally at Kesari in Paschim Medinipur district ahead of the July 8 panchayat poll in the state.

"Dilip Ghosh is the MP from here (Paschim Medinipur). May I ask what he did in these four years? The Modi government has stopped the funds for 100 days' work and squeezed PM Awas Yojana money. Has Dilip Ghosh, who is the former BJP state president, raised the issue? No BJP MP has ever taken up the cause of the poor," Banerjee said.

The "vindictive" action of the Centre of withholding Rs 7500 crore to the state has affected the livelihood of 17.82 lakh poor families which solely depend on 100 days' work, he said.

The Centre has also stopped funds for the PM Awas Yojana fund for two years, depriving the state of its dues of Rs 8,000 crore, Banerjee said.

"The state is yet to get its Rs 1.5 lakh crore due from the Centre for several schemes," he said.

A sit-in will be organised in Delhi in a month's time in which around 10 lakh people from Bengal will participate to lodge their protest against the Centre for not releasing funds for the implementation of cen-

tral schemes, Banerjee said.

Ghosh, busy on the campaign trail for the July 8 rural poll in Bengal, could not be contacted for his reaction.

Cautioning disgruntled TMC leaders and party workers whose candidates were not given tickets for the panchayat election, Banerjee said, the selection was on the basis of consensus decision. "If the decision is not liked by some, it can't be helped. We want candidates who are popular among people and who will deliver."

Besides, there will be review of the working of the panchayats every three months. "Those who will fail to give service will be removed," he asserted.

Trashing allegations by BJP about opposition parties not being allowed to file nominations, Banerjee said of the 2,32 lakh nominations filed for three-tier panchayat polls in the state 80,000-82,000 were filed by TMC, which meant about 1.5 lakh nominations were filed by them.

At another public meeting in Chakda in Nadia district, Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said several central social welfare projects are not being allowed to be implemented in West Bengal by the TMC government.

"People are not getting quality food grains in PDS as TMC leaders are siphoning off rice from it to the open market and are replacing it with poor quality," he alleged.

He claimed that the TMC government has failed to give employment to 45 lakh labourers, who have been forced to migrate to other states.

"The BJP-run panchayats will be the precursor of Ram Rajya and susashan (good governance) when the party helms Bengal," he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A disturbing trend

The attack on Indian consulate in San Francisco shows how emboldened the Khalistanis have become

The recent attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco by individuals suspected to be Khalistani separatists is an incident that demands serious attention from the international community. This brazen act of violence highlights the growing boldness of Khalistani groups and raises legitimate concerns for India's national security. It is imperative to analyse the reasons behind this escalation and recognise the potential threat it poses to peace and stability in the region. Khalistan, a proposed separate homeland for Sikhs, has been a contentious issue in India for decades. While the majority of Sikhs in India live peacefully and contribute to the nation's progress, a small faction of radical elements has sought to achieve their goals through violence. The attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco is a stark reminder that these extremist elements continue to exist and have become emboldened. This incident marks a disturbing expansion of their geographical reach. By targeting Indian diplomatic missions abroad, these extremists aim to undermine India's diplomatic efforts and spread fear among its diaspora communities. Attacks on diplomatic missions are not only assaults on the country being represented but also undermine the principles of international diplomacy. The attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco threatens the relationship between India and the United States.

Besides, the Indian diaspora, particularly in countries with a significant Sikh population, is now at a heightened risk due to the growing audacity of Khalistani elements. The attack in San Francisco should be a wake-up call for countries with Indian communities to enhance security measures and ensure the safety of their citizens. The attack in San Francisco may be an isolated incident, but it serves as a stark reminder of the potential for further violence and the need for proactive measures to counter such threats. Sikhism is a religion of peace and harmony, and the majority of Sikhs reject the radical ideology promoted by Khalistani extremists. The actions of a few tarnish the reputation of the entire Sikh community, leading to unfair stereotypes and discrimination. India must work closely with countries affected by Khalistani extremism, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, to share intelligence and counter the growing threat. Collaborative efforts to identify and apprehend individuals involved in such attacks are crucial. Engaging with the Sikh community, both in India and abroad, is vital to counter the divisive narrative propagated by Khalistani elements. Promoting dialogue, and understanding, and emphasising the importance of unity will help isolate the extremists and ensure the peaceful coexistence of all communities. Indian diplomatic missions worldwide must assess their security infrastructure. Close coordination with host countries' law enforcement agencies is essential to ensuring the safety of diplomatic personnel and Indian citizens. The vandalism by Khalistani extremists signifies a dangerous escalation in their activities.



A group of people gathered outside a building, some holding flags.

PICTALK



A security personnel keeps a vigil during monsoon rain at the Taj Mahal, in Agra. PTI

India is ready to produce solar panels

The current Indian environment is very congenial to produce solar panels as we have competence and a huge demand for solar panels

The Indian economy has essentially grown keeping agriculture and services as pillars. At the same time, the manufacturing sector remained largely absent. Moreso, when it comes to hi-tech manufacturing like semiconductors, robotics automation etc. India, having grown tremendously in past decades, now requires the manufacturing sector to come to the forefront of economic growth. Also, India aims to become carbon neutral by 2070. It requires a mammoth task of electrification and installation of renewable energy sources. Currently, India majorly imports solar panels from China, for the domestic panel manufacturers have limited updated capacity. Also, the production capacities of upstream products like cells, and wafers are very limited. Therefore, with our dependence on foreign supplies, the net zero mission along with the GDP growth will be dependent on the vagaries of foreign equipment suppliers. In a nutshell, heavy reliance on imports for strategic products like renewable equipment and major upstream products is something we



should not accept as this may severely limit our targets. Moreover, this robs us of India's capabilities to further develop high-efficiency equipment and restricts our abilities to foray into ancillary and equipment manufacturing streams, which are critical growth enablers for an economy. Needless to state that these imports would lead to a huge chunk of foreign capital moving out of India, thus increasing the CAD (Current Account Deficit) of India. Currently, Indian solar equipment manufacturing is not cost-competitive if we compare it with the manufacturing of Chinese players. The government of India acknowledged this shortcoming and levied numerous tariff and non-tariff barriers. E.g. BCD (Basic Customer Duty) of 25% and 40% on Solar cells and modules

respectively. However, the gap can be fundamentally filled only if India achieves scale in production, and develops the supply chain of raw materials and R&D infrastructure. To achieve scale, the Government of India made an appreciative effort to launch the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Solar manufacturing, under which the bidders were required to bid based on the extent of integration, technology, and local sourcing. The PLI - tranche 1 of INR 4500 cr. was concluded in 2021 with an accumulative winning capacity of ~ 9 GW, while the PLI - tranche 2 of INR 19500 cr. is recently concluded with a cumulative winning capacity of ~ 40 GW. The scheme prefers high-efficiency solar panel manufacturing. The rolling out of the PLI scheme demonstrates the government's focus on developing the full supply chain of high-efficiency solar modules, including the ancillary supply chain. However, based on the PLI scheme rollout, a full-blown ecosystem with a meaningful scale will take up to 3 years to get developed

and start production. In the meanwhile, for India to be aggressive in the solar energy installation targets, it must rely heavily on imported solar modules. The current Indian regulatory environment is very congenial to produce solar panels domestically as the competence gap is addressed along with a huge forthcoming solar demand in India and other major economies. There will, however, be reliance on imports for more technical products like robotics, equipment for production, and technologically advanced raw materials like silver paste, diamond wire etc. Once the required downstream infrastructure is developed, India Inc. will have the scale and motivation to develop these elements of production to further reduce the cost of the solar panel. With this development, India can step up its R&D activities, which would build products in other economic streams thus drastically reducing dependence on overall imports. (The writer is General Manager-Strategic Initiatives, Amp Energy India)

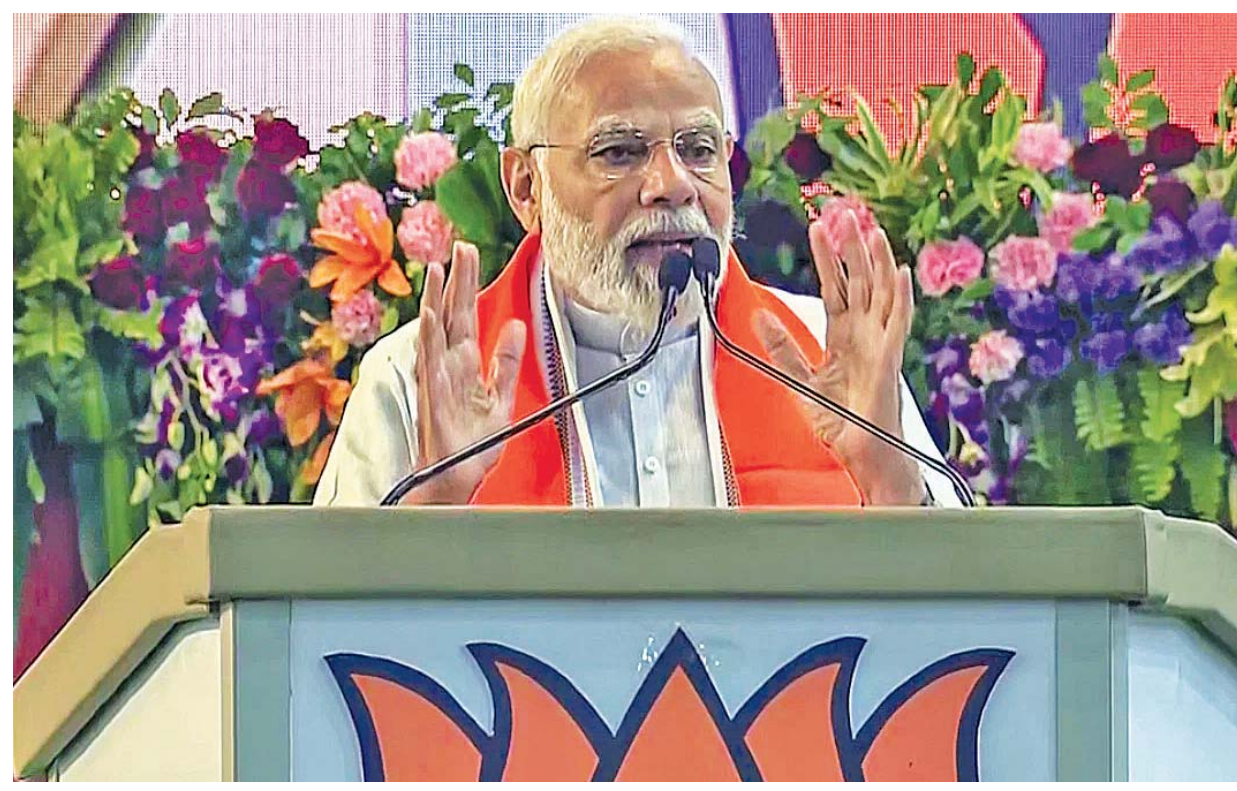


KUNAL SAXENA

UCC: A tale of three promises

Is Prime Minister Narendra Modi trying to complete all the three core agenda of the Sangh Parivar?

He had overseen the other two issues in the past nine years of his regime- building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and revoking Article 370. Implementing a uniform civil code remains on the table. The moot question is whether India needs such a law and whether this is the time to push it. Despite the codification of Hindu laws in 1956, a consensus on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is yet to come in India. Many religious communities at present abide by their own distinct personal laws. The UCC is a complex issue. It has several angles, such as political, legislative, religious, gender and Constitutional perspectives, to the question. The UCC is prevalent in many countries like France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia. However, some countries like Kenya, Pakistan, Italy, South Africa, Nigeria, and Greece do not have it. Analysts see Modi's raising the issue again during his address to the BJP workers in Bhopal last week as not an off-the-cuff remark. He had measured every word. Significantly, Madhya Pradesh is a poll-bound state. The origin of the UCC dates back to colonial India. The British government recommended uniformity in the codification of Indian law in 1835. The UCC intends to unify all personal religious laws, including marriage, divorce, property rights, inheritance, and maintenance. Article 44 of the Indian Constitution stipulates the state shall endeavour to secure a Common Code throughout India for citizens. One of the Principles of State Policy states that the UCC is essential. Goa is the only Indian state that follows a uniform civil code. The Portuguese law of 1867 remained the same even after India annexed Goa. The Constituent Assembly debated the issue. India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, postponed a decision claiming, "I do not think that at the present moment, the time is ripe for me to try to push



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a podium.

it (UCC) through". If only the framers of our Constitution had decided on the issue, the problem would not exist today. The Law Commission of India began to examine UCC afresh and sought suggestions from the public. The UCC has become more political than legal. Supporters and opponents argue on both sides. Supporters believe, sooner or later, there must be a common law that applies to all religious communities. The BJP believes in the UCC. Prime Minister Modi, while making a strong pitch for the UCC, said in Bhopal the Constitution mentions having equal rights. "If there is one law for one member in a house and another for the other, will the house be able to run? So how will the country be able to run with such a dual system?" the prime minister asked. He argued that passing the Uniform Civil Law would provide benefits despite many differences and conflicts. It would provide gender equality and one law for all. Modi

THE SUPREME COURT HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF UCC IN 1985. THE APEX COURT NOTED THAT IT WOULD MAINTAIN NATIONAL UNITY

urged Muslims to see how the Opposition provoked and exploited them. Further, The Supreme Court highlighted the importance of a (UCC) in 1985. The apex court noted that it would maintain national unity. In 1995, the Court recommended a single law governing all citizens. In 2019, the Modi government expressed its commitment to the UCC to the Apex Court. Earlier, the Supreme Court outlawed the Triple Talaq providing gender justice. The Opponents, led by Congress and other secular parties, oppose it. Muslims and other minorities do not favour it although some Islamic countries have adopted a common law for all, Modi's call for Uniform Civil Code has provoked sharp criticism from opposition parties. They allege Modi was trying to divert the attention from bread-and-butter issues such as rising prices, unemployment and violence in Manipur. They note that without a consensus on the subject, there could be no UCC. The opponents point out that Muslims perceive the UCC as infringing on their religious freedom. In a secular country like India, UCC is significant to provide one law for all. Seventy-five years have passed, and it is time to consider it seriously in a country where 65 per cent are youth. However, it is the political will that is required. Uttarakhand has received a report from a commission led by a former Supreme Court recommending UCC for the state. Perhaps the BJP intends to replicate this in other states. Modi would like to face the 2024 Lok Sabha elections after UCC legislation. It is a question mark whether he could push it through. The Prime Minister must convene an all-party meeting to mobilise support for the UCC. With Assembly elections in some states and the General elections scheduled for next year, there is some urgency to implement UCC. (The writer is a well-known columnist. Views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BENGAL POLL VIOLENCE Sir — As per analysts the ongoing bloodshed in West Bengal over the July 8 rural polls has once again brought the issue of political violence into focus. This has long been entwined with state politics due to factors like economic conditions and prolonged single-party rule. In the run-up to the three-tier panchayat polls, 10 lives have so far been lost and several others injured, as clashes among political parties and attacks on rivals have become all too common, indicating the close association between politics and violence in the state. The 2003 panchayat polls gained notoriety for its death toll of 76, with more than 40 killed on the day of the elections. The 2013 rural polls, held under the supervision of central forces, and the 2018 elections recorded casualty figures of 39 and 30 respectively. The panchayat elections are not just about victory or defeat. These polls are about livelihood and the economy that keep the pot boiling. In the rural polls held five years ago, the ruling TMC won 99 per cent of the panchayat seats and all 22 zilla parishads. The elections were marred by widespread violence, with the opposition alleging that they were prevented from filing nominations in several seats across the state. If you are on the opposite side, you are excluded from the list of beneficiaries. This trend is still on. Around 5.67 crore electorates will exercise their franchise on Saturday to choose representatives for nearly 74,000 seats in zilla parishads, panchayat samiti and gram panchayats. With this bloodshed in Bengal during the elections has become routine. Bhagwan Thadan | Mumbai

EID-UL-ADHA AND SACRIFICE Sir — Eidul Adha is the most important practice of Islam, known as sacrifice which is celebrated by the Muslim community worldwide as this joyous occasion commemorates the profound act of sacrifice by the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) a.s. And his willingness to offer his apple of eyes Ismail (Ishmael) an s as an act of obe-

Political tremours in Maharashtra



Ajit Pawar's alignment with the BJP including 9 MLA, underlines how the ruling party is reaching out to allies to rebuild the NDA and better its 2019 showing. Affaire NCP shows yet again that politics in India is rapidly degenerating into a purely mathematical exercise. It also demonstrates the cynical use of enforcement agencies to achieve political ends-for nothing else can explain why charges are dropped against politicians joining the national political hegemon. It is worth repeating both because these often tend to get lost in the narrative-and both lie at the core of democracy and the democratic process. Allies will be important to the BJP in 2024. It will be difficult even for the party, with its efficient and powerful election machinery, and also the biggest political brand in the country, Narendra Modi, to better its 2019 performance. Sunday's events indicate that the party is keenly aware of this. Tauqueer Rahman | Hyderabad

dience to Allah (God). The tradition associated with Eidul- Adha has deep meaning and significance, emphasising the values of faith, selflessness and gratitude for the total submission of man and woman. It's considered seeking forgiveness and spiritual purification as well. As a result, It encompasses obedience to Allah, trust and faith, gratitude, selflessness, generosity, atonement, unity and the embodiment of important moral values. IL Mazahiri | Hyderabad

SUNAK'S CRICKET LOVE Sir — Maybe the British Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak is a keen cricket fan and attended the fourth day of the Lord's test on Saturday but that does not mean I do agree with his accusation that Australia breaking the spirit of cricket over the controversial dismissal of England's Jonny Bairstow at Lord's Test. Actually, off the last ball of the over, Johnny Bairstow avoids a bouncer which is clearly taken by the wicketkeeper (WK). As soon as WK Carey takes the ball, within seconds he throws it at the stumps before Bairstow has started to leave the crease. When the ball hits the stumps, and the third umpire does not hesitate to declare him out. Absolutely nothing wrong with the dismissal. The ball was still alive and Carey was sharp enough to realise that Bairstow was walking out of his crease too quickly. Let's be clear — there was absolutely nothing wrong with that dismissal, nor any question of it being against the spirit of the game (as PM Sunak believed Australia's actions were not in keeping with the spirit of cricket). Stokes was wrong to bring that up in his post-match interview. Even the dismissal triggered long and loud booring from the Lord's crowd and saw Australian players (Ushman Khawaja and David Warner) verbally abused by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) members in the stadium's usually staid Long Room. As a result, MCC has suspended three members, and PM Sunak thinks it is right that MCC have taken swift action. Once again England's downfall was largely their own fault. Bairstow is the major culprit. Though the Bairstow controversy is unlikely to spark a diplomatic incident between the UK and Australia. Even that due to Bairstow cricket lost its gentleness. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

CREATING A BETTER OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

To stay away from the negativity bug, one has to live an awakened life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us spend nearly a third of our life at work and so the quality of our life is greatly connected to our experiences there. That is why it is very important to have a wonderful workplace that can enrich our lives, provide a sense of purpose, and accomplishment, and be a source of friendships and social connections. But, very few of us are lucky to get such an environment at our offices, because today with so much competition around, offices are becoming a crazy place to be in, as a result of which we spend more time working under a highly stressful environment which is taking a negative toll on our overall well-being.

Research done over the past few years shows that positive environments at the workplace produce positive benefits specifically to engagement, relationships and health. Conversely, one of the biggest downsides to a negative or fear-based environment is higher healthcare costs due to workplace stress and lower engagement. According to a popular analytics company, disengaged workers had 37% higher absenteeism, 49% more accidents, and 60% more errors and defects. All these figures call for a higher need to create a positive and employee-friendly environment at offices, because a positive workplace leads to increased productivity, better employee morale and the ability to keep skilled workers. However, before introducing any changes at the workplace, one needs to do a reality check first. To start with, let us see what a typical office day is like.



So, as soon as the day begins, ask someone a customary 'How are you?' and the usual reply that comes in is 'Life's just going on' as if they are just dragging through it. Many old timers who are always late, order tea as soon as they arrive in the office. The newness of the day is no kick start to them as they are always in their self-created world. As tea is served, they lavishly splurge on all the messy information of the day before and blame those who are not present there. Many employees soon pick up a distaste for such colleagues for "not doing their job properly". They are just too burdened to peacefully manage with them and succumb to being judgmental, adding more load to their already burdened minds. While criticizing things that they have little control over—the sad ways of the world, the corruption at all levels and the wrongs done by other people—they circulate so much waste and negative energy that the atmosphere in the office is hardly left with any zeal and goodwill to make a difference in areas where they really can. Amidst this whole negativity, some honest employees, bubbling with creative energy, do put in a great effort but are often disappointed for yet being reprimanded or not being recognized through gestures or perks.

On the other hand, over-ambitious and over-smart employees who are always on their toes, sneak into political discussions and play games of jealousy, hatred and animosity to win over in the race, making the air around them stink with insecurity. As a result of all these, while some employees return home tired from the sheer monotony of life, or are stressed out for never getting their due, others are drained out while climbing up the ladder by hook or crook. It is quite strange that a place that is buzzing with action should have a positive and zealous environment rather than a negative or polluting environment. The reason for this is that very few of us today are driven by simply the joy of working. It requires no external input, not even anyone's recognition. To stay away from the negativity bug, one has to live an awakened life. A life where one consciously creates happiness and pledges to secure it even when situations and people turn adverse. At our workplace, which ought to be a place of creativity and healthy social exchange, one must practise tolerance and forgiveness and turn over a new leaf each day. Remember! workplaces have the potential of becoming an extended family if relations are nurtured with respect and the dignity of a human being is not compromised irrespective of his performance at work.

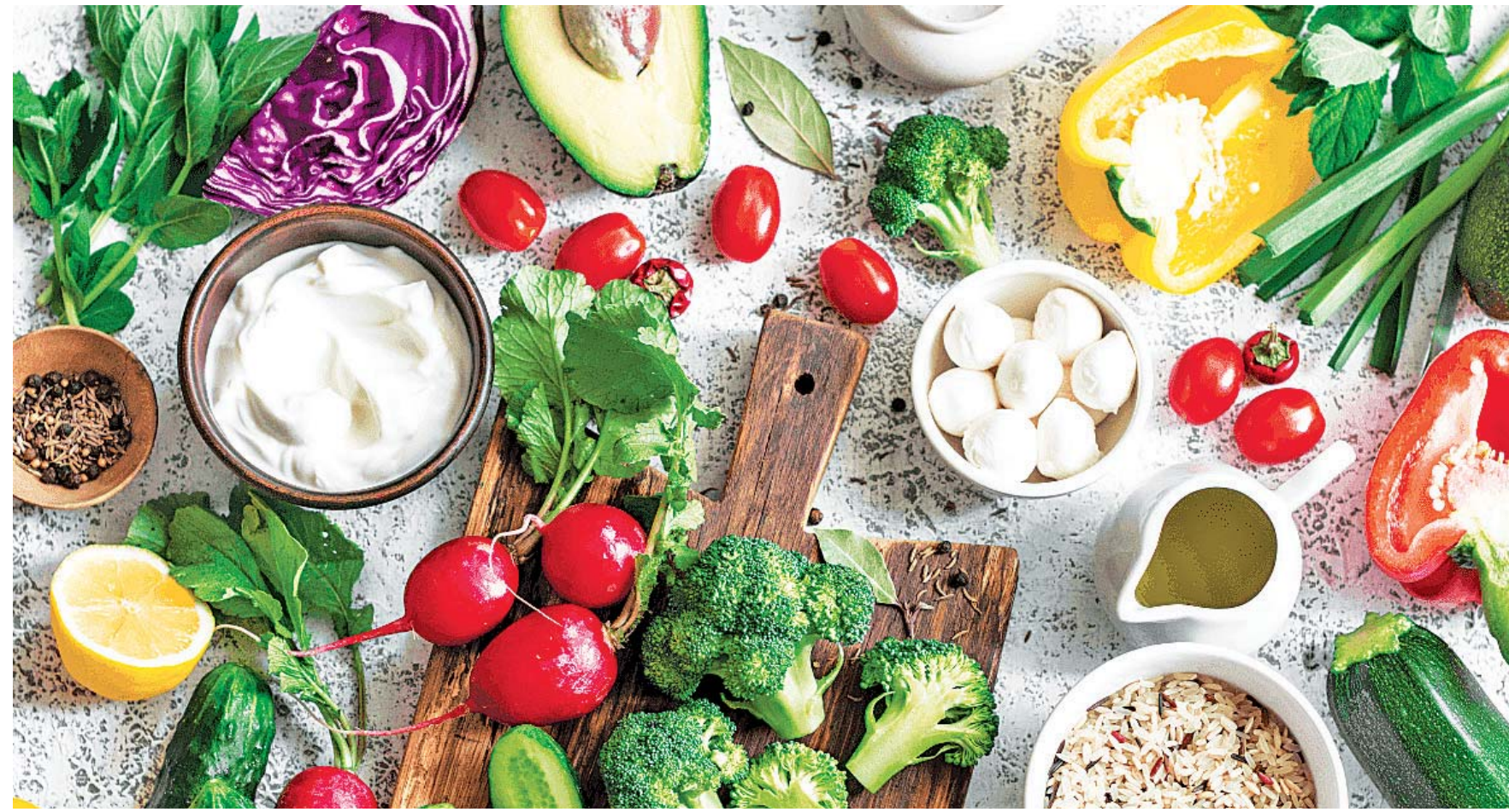
(Writer is a spiritual educator & a popular columnist)

Nutrition could ensure wholesome well-being



DINESH SOOD

An integrated approach to nutrition that focuses on health, wellness, immunity and fights malnutrition in the country is the need of the hour



Nutrition and health is an essential part of modern life. However, holistic nutrition is India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes, especially for malnourished children, women and the elderly. In the first category, the economically disadvantaged population is more vulnerable to malnutrition. Maintaining a healthy balance to prevent malnutrition has become more challenging for the underprivileged.

The second category is well-to-do people who have excesses or imbalances in intake of nutrients that have been rampant across all age groups in India. Due to a lack of knowledge, excess or unbalanced nutrition leads to metabolic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart diseases. The double burden of malnutrition has turned India's attention to nutritional development as a national priority. Personalized, targeted or stratified nutrition for healthcare and well-being is the need of the hour.

In recent years, India has started to gain self-sufficiency in crop production and growing steadily. Despite progress, malnutrition in the country has not diminished. The 2020 National Family Health Survey shows that child malnutrition is on the rise and the situation is alarming. According to the National Comprehensive Nutrition Survey conducted by UNICEF in 2019, nearly 50% of children under the age group of five were short in height.

According to the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21, health and nutrition have not improved significantly in India, the world's most populous country. Available data show that 7.7% of children were severely underweight, 19.3% were wasted and 35.5% were stunted. Meanwhile, 3.4% of children were overweight. Anaemia among children under-5 has become significantly worse with the current prevalence as 67.1% compared to 58.6% according to



IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE CONCEPT OF PERSONAL NUTRITION. WE NEED QUALITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND SKILLED FRONTLINE WORKERS

(The writer is co-founder and MD, of Orane International, a training partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), a Network Member, of India International Skills Centre)

the NFHS-4th series and 57% of women of reproductive age are anaemic in the country.

Dietetics and nutrition have attracted attention, especially in India in recent years. Due to the rise of lifestyle-related diseases, there is a growing awareness of the importance of proper nutrition and health. To stay away from these diseases, healthy eating habits have become the norm. This has resulted in a surge in demand for the services of nutritionists and dietitians.

Nutrition-conscious Indians don't have enough nutritionists to consult for a healthy diet. A comprehensive study on the shortage of nutritionists and dietitians conducted by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and submitted to the Union health ministry says that there is a shortage of nearly 5.5 lakh professional nutritionists in India. The International Federation of Dietetic Societies says there is one dietitian for every 2 lakh people in India. This is comparable to 35 to 40 nutritionists per one lakh people in Denmark and Israel, and 66 per one lakh people in Japan.

Dietitians and nutritionists play an important role in promoting health and preventing malnutrition or lifestyle-related diseases. Nutritionists apply nutrition and health systems to individuals, communities and organizations to change the pattern of food, lifestyle and behaviour to meet needs for well-being.

Social media and cross-border, digital or e-commerce are developing some of their strengths as they impact the next generation of consumers. But the personalized nutri-

tion can help prolong health and reduce the healthcare costs associated with ageing. The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has published nutritional guidelines, but few people know what their recommendations are. Experts say that nutritionists did not receive enough attention until a decade ago, but now their presence is crucial.

In addition to India's government programs and campaigns such as "Poshan" to reduce malnutrition among the poor, the world is making the personalised nutrition service industry worth an estimated \$15 billion by 2023 and is expected to reach \$37.3 billion by 2030. India's share should be at least 4 per cent about \$1.48 billion or Rs 12,150 crore.

The future of dietitians and nutritionists in India is changing with many careers in dietetics and nutrition in the public and private sectors. India has the largest workforce in the 18-24 age group requiring a range of skills such as proven expertise, knowledge of food and food products to deal with chronic diseases.

A qualified, experienced and certified crew of nutritionists is needed to nurture nutrition as holistic at hospitals, dispensaries and gyms, personalised or corporate wellness. In the private sector as clinical nutritionist who works in health clinics, wellness centres, and food and nutrition-related industries are booming. In the public sector, general well-being nutritionists and dietitians can work in government hospitals, health departments, and research institutes. Sports nutritionist manages explicit sustenance

necessities and rules of sports players, which are needed for sports preparation, exercise centres and wellness centres.

As a nutritionist serving the wider community, there are some obvious reasons to serve, and there are also some key reasons why the area is gaining so much attention. To develop the necessary financial, social and technical tools to manage the dietary and nutrition problems facing the country.

The government is trying to create more programs to educate people about the importance of health. Judging by all the ideas provided by the government, the field of nutrition does not seem far from being one of the most important fields in India.

It is essential to establish the legal framework for the realization of the concept of personal nutrition. We need quality health and nutrition services, skilled frontline workers, and the ability to improve exercise, outreach and delivery. The lack of professional nutritionists and dietitians in government hospitals and dispensaries is disappointing and needs improvement in the quality of food for all citizens, especially children, women and the elderly.

The overall aim is to use a strategic, integrated approach to promote nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with a renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity towards various diseases and malnutrition in the country. The goal is to have a collaborative effort to improve the health and nutrition index.

The Modi doctrine is for the global good

The Modi doctrine calls for a strong India through the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. It works for making world a better place through reconciliation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a tectonic shift in India's bilateral relations with the US. His summit with US President Joe Biden had the global community glued to television screens as they witnessed history unfolding in Washington DC. Heads of the states of two equal partners discussed ways to work out the good for the global community. They firmed up their resolve to work together as partners to shape the century.

PM Modi also presented democracy as a solution for the host of global challenges. Democracy runs in the veins of India, said PM Modi during a press conference with President Biden. Dialogue is the lifeline of democracy. PM Modi by underlining that dia-



TARUN CHUGH

logue, not war, is the way out of conflicts in his speech to the US Congress once more allowed American Congressmen and senators to witness a statesman in their midst.

There emerged a consensus view among the Republicans and Democrats that PM Modi wasn't just speaking for India or the benefits of his country, but he was giving voice to the cause of the global community. They once more understood the significance of the Indian philosophy of Vasudhev Kutumbkam, that the world is one village and in the common good lies the wellbeing of all.

Democracy delivers, said PM Modi. He asserted the thriving Indian democracy breathes in over 250 political parties in India and 20 of them

ruling states. Such diversity is not to be found elsewhere. The Americans sought endorsement for their diversity by bonding with India. The Americans also found to their great satisfaction that PM Modi is a champion of human values.

"Indian democracy functions on the Constitution, and the statute book provides for access to all the programmes and schemes run by the government without discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, age, and regions. This is stated in the mantra of SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas, SabkaPrayas," said PM Modi, as he spoke of the inclusive nature of the Indian democracy during the joint press conference with President Biden.

The leadership of the US accorded PM Modi a place of eminence with unprecedented reception to him at the White House. The Indian diaspora made a strong presence in the backyard of the White House to witness the unfolding of history. During the tech summit attended by PM Modi and President Biden, several CEOs of well-known American corporate giants were people of Indian origin. The 3.5 million strong Indian diasporas in the US have been the brand ambassadors of India. They are the vital organs of the American economy. This was evident during the visit of PM Modi to the US and richly acknowledged by the Biden administration.

"When I came here last,

India was the 10th largest economy of the world. Now, India is the fifth largest economy in the world. Soon, India will be the third largest economy of the world," PM Modi told the US Congress. The US, the largest economy in the world, laid the red carpet for the prime minister of India, who is scripting rapid economic growth of his country with eyes set on the target to become the third largest economy in the world. This is significant because India and the US bilateral trade has crossed \$190 billion, which was also stressed by President Biden.

This set up the vast scope of collaborations unveiled during PM Modi's visit to the US. From the Artemis agreement for the cooperation between

NASA and the ISRO, the deal for the production of jet engines by GE in India and setting up a manufacturing plant for semiconductors in Gujarat, besides India procuring the predator drones revealed the beginning of an era of strategic cooperation between the two democracies working for the global good.

The Modi doctrine calls for a strong India, which is being fulfilled through the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. In the defence sector, the collaboration between the US and India promises to accelerate self-reliance in the production of defence goods. Not only gaining self-reliance but India must also be armed with weapons, assets and technology to gain an edge. This again is in the interest of

global good, because India is looked upon by several nations in the immediate neighbourhood of South Asia, the Indian Ocean, Indo-Pacific, and elsewhere as a source of security and strength. This has been affirmed recently by the Indian Coast Guard crackdown against the trafficking of drugs through the sea routes.

Indian and the US, PM Modi said, are partners also for the clean energy transition as the global community looks upon the two countries to fight back against climate change. This is befitting the leadership role of India in climate mitigation efforts. India alone has acted decisively on Paris Accord to demonstrate the Modi doctrine for global good in action.

Russia foils Ukraine's counteroffensive

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian air defences on Tuesday foiled a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow that prompted authorities to briefly close one of the city's international airports, officials said, as a Western analysis said that Russia has managed to slow Kyiv's recently launched counteroffensive.

The drone attack, which follows previous similar raids on the Russian capital, was the first known assault on the city since an abortive mutiny launched 11 days ago by mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin. His Wagner troops marched on Moscow in the biggest — though short-lived — challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin in more than two decades of his rule.

Authorities in Ukraine, which generally avoids commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether it launched the drone raid.

The Russian Defence Ministry said that four of the five drones were downed by air defences on the outskirts of Moscow and the fifth was jammed by electronic warfare means and forced down.

There were no casualties or damage, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin



A Ukrainian soldier prepares a drone on the frontline in Zaporizhzhia region on Saturday. Agencies

said. As with previous drone attacks on Moscow, it was impossible to verify the Russian military's announcement that it downed all of them.

The drone attack prompted authorities to temporarily restrict flights at Moscow's Vnukovo airport and divert flights to two other Moscow main airports. Vnukovo is about 15 kilometers (nine miles) southwest of Moscow. In May, two daring drone attacks jolted the

Russian capital, in what appeared to be Kyiv's deepest strikes into Russia.

Tuesday's raid came as Ukrainian forces have continued probing Russian defences in the south and the east of their country in the initial stages of a counteroffensive.

Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's Security and Defense Council, said that the military was currently focusing on destroying Russian

equipment and personnel, and that the past few days of fighting have been particularly "fruitful". He provided no evidence and it wasn't possible to independently verify it.

The Ukrainians are up against minefields, anti-tank ditches and other obstacles, as well as layered defensive lines reportedly up to 20 kilometers (12 miles) deep in some places as they attempt to dislodge Russian occupiers. The UK Defence Ministry said on Tuesday the Kremlin's forces have "refined (their) tactics aimed at slowing Ukrainian armored counteroffensive operations in southern Ukraine".

Moscow has placed emphasis on using anti-tank mines to slow the onslaught, the assessment said, leaving the attackers at the mercy of Russian drones, helicopters and artillery.

"Although Russia has achieved some success with this approach in the early stages of Ukraine's counteroffensive, its forces continue to suffer from key weaknesses, especially overstretched units and a shortage of artillery munitions," the assessment said. Western analysts say the counteroffensive, even if it prospers, won't end the war, which started with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Russia, meanwhile, has continued its missile and drone bar-

rage deep behind the front line.

Russian shelling of Pervomaiskiy, a city in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, wounded 31 civilians, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said on Tuesday. Nine children, including two babies, were among the wounded, he said.

Oleksandr Lysenko, mayor of the city of Sumy in northeastern Ukraine, said that three people were killed and 21 others were wounded in a Russian drone strike on Monday that damaged two apartment buildings.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the attack also damaged the regional headquarters of the Security Service of Ukraine, the country's main intelligence agency. He argued that the country needs more air defense systems to help fend off Russian raids.

In all, Ukraine's presidential office reported on Tuesday, at least seven Ukrainian civilians were killed and 35 others injured in the fighting over the previous 24 hours. Putin referred to the recent mercenary rebellion that rattled the Kremlin during a video call on Tuesday with leaders of the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, or SCO, which is a security grouping dominated by Moscow and Beijing.

Pak SC: Toshakhana case against Imran Khan inadmissible

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a relief to embattled Imran Khan, a top Pakistani court on Tuesday overturned the ruling of a sessions court and declared the Toshakhana corruption case against the former prime minister inadmissible.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Khan, 70, was indicted in the Toshakhana case on May 10 by Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar, who rejected objections about the admissibility of the case.

The PTI chief then approached the Islamabad High Court, which had stayed the criminal proceedings on the case till June 8.

Following the resumption of the hearing in June, Justice Aamer Farooq on June 23 reserved his verdict on the petition, saying that he would look into the matter after Eid ul-Adha.

On Tuesday, the IHC Chief Justice Farooq pronounced the verdict on a petition filed by the former prime minister, challenging the Toshakhana trial proceedings. The verdict came a day after the PTI chief petitioned the court for Justice Farooq's recusal from the bench, Dawn newspaper reported.

The Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the former premier for making "false statements and incorrect declaration".

Khan is facing more than 140 cases across the country and faces charges like terrorism, violence, blasphemy, corruption and murder.

Khan was accused of misusing his 2018 to 2022 premier-



ship to buy and sell gifts in state possession that were received during visits abroad and worth more than Rs140 million (USD 635,000). The IHC asked the sessions court to consider the former prime minister's plea as pending and decide it afresh within seven days.

"The application in question shall be deemed to be pending and decided afresh by the learned trial court within seven days from the receipt of this judgment, keeping in view the law in question and observations made above," the court order reads.

The IHC also observed that the sessions court had left the "issue undecided and dismissed the application of the petitioner with scanty reasons which left the main legal issues undecided or unresolved".

It added that it would be only proper for the trial court to decide the application afresh after hearing the parties with detailed reasons, the report added.

In the petition, the former prime minister — who was removed from power via a no-confidence motion in April last year — sought the transfer of the two Toshakhana cases to another bench in the interest of a "fair and impartial" trial.

The petition has also named the district election commission as the respondent. Meanwhile, the PTI chief's lawyer, Gohar Khan, has termed the verdict a "victory".

"An appeal was filed against the decision of the session judge in the Toshakhana case," he said, adding that the wrong person filed the complaint.

Belarus oppn leader alleges husband died behind bars

AP ■ TELINN (ESTONIA)

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said on Tuesday that she received an anonymous note alleging that her imprisoned husband, also an opposition figure, died behind bars.

Siarhei Tsikhanouski, 44, a popular blogger and opposition activist, was arrested in 2020 after announcing plans to run against Belarus' authoritarian leader, Alexander Lukashenko, in presidential elections that year. His wife ran against Lukashenko in his stead after the arrest, rallying large crowds of people in her support across the country.

Official results of the election named Lukashenko his sixth term in office but were denounced by the opposition and the West as fraudulent. Amid unprecedented protests



that broke out in the aftermath of the vote, Tsikhanouskaya left the country under pressure from the authorities.

Her husband was later sentenced to 19 1/2 years in prison on charges of organising mass riots. Tsikhanouskaya told The AP that she hasn't received any news from her husband since early March — letters to him are no longer being delivered, and his lawyer hasn't been allowed to see him.

Kremlin open to talks over prisoner swap

AP ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Tuesday held the door open for contacts with the US regarding a possible prisoner exchange that could potentially involve jailed Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, but added that "the lawful right to consular contacts must be ensured on both sides."

The US Ambassador to Moscow, Lynne Tracy, on Monday was allowed to visit Gershkovich for the first time since April. The US Embassy did not immediately provide more information. The 31-year-old Gershkovich was arrested in the city of Yekaterinburg while on a reporting trip to Russia. He is being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions. A Moscow court last week upheld a ruling to keep him in custody until August 30. Gershkovich and his employer deny the allegations, and the US government declared him to be wrongfully detained.

with reporters. "They must be carried out and continue in complete silence." He didn't offer any further details, but added that "the lawful right to consular contacts must be ensured on both sides."

The US Ambassador to Moscow, Lynne Tracy, on Monday was allowed to visit Gershkovich for the first time since April. The US Embassy did not immediately provide more information. The 31-year-old Gershkovich was arrested in the city of Yekaterinburg while on a reporting trip to Russia. He is being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions. A Moscow court last week upheld a ruling to keep him in custody until August 30. Gershkovich and his employer deny the allegations, and the US government declared him to be wrongfully detained.

"We have said that there have been certain contacts on the subject, but we don't want them to be discussed in public," Peskov said in a conference call

Journo, lawyer attacked in Russia's Chechnya

Moscow (AP): Masked assailants in the Russian province of Chechnya attacked and beat a journalist and a lawyer on Tuesday, an assault that highlighted a violent pattern of rampant human rights abuses in the region.

Novaya Gazeta journalist Elena Milashina and lawyer Alexander Nemov had just arrived in Chechnya to attend the trial of Zarema Musayeva, the mother of two local activists who have challenged Chechen authorities.

Just outside the airport, their vehicle was blocked by several cars and they were beaten by several unidentified masked assailants, who put guns to their heads and broke their equipment.

Novaya Gazeta said that Milashina sustained a brain injury and had several fingers broken, and Nemov had a deep cut on his leg. They were taken

to a hospital in Chechnya's main city, Grozny, and later to Beslan in the nearby region of North Ossetia. The newspaper said that Milashina repeatedly lost consciousness. Officials were considering their medical evacuation to Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a conference call with reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin was informed about the incident. Peskov added that "it was a very serious assault that warrants energetic measures" from law enforcement agencies.

Russian human rights ombudsperson Tatyana Moskalkova asked investigators to look into the attack on Milashina and Nemov.

The Russian Ministry for Digital Development and Mass Communications denounced the "monstrous assault" on Milashina and Nemov and said it will offer them the necessary

NATO again extends Stoltenberg's mandate

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg will stay in office for another year, the 31-nation military alliance decided on Tuesday. Stoltenberg said in a tweet that he is "honoured by NATO Allies' decision to extend my term as Secretary General until 1 October 2024".

"The transatlantic bond between Europe and North America has ensured our freedom and security for nearly 75 years, and in a more dangerous world, our Alliance is more important than ever," he said.

Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian prime minister, has been NATO's top civilian official since 2014. His term had been due to expire last year but was extended then to keep a steady hand at the helm after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

US President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts had been due to name a successor when they meet in Vilnius,



Lithuania, on July 11-12. But the world's biggest security organisation makes decisions by consensus, and no agreement could be found on a new candidate.

Stoltenberg's fellow countryman, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, welcomed the news, saying that it was "good, important and reassuring".

"It is also important that this was now clarified before the summit in Vilnius next week," Gahr Store was quoted as saying by the Norwegian news agency NTB. He said that

NATO's unity "is particularly crucial in a troubled time of war in Europe".

Most NATO countries had been keen to name a woman to the top post, and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was thought to be a favourite after a meeting with Biden last month.

The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, ruled out her candidacy. Other possible names floated, but never publicly named as in the running, were Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.

It's the fourth time Stoltenberg has had his mandate extended. He's the second-longest serving NATO secretary-general after former Dutch foreign minister Joseph Luns, who spent almost 13 years at the helm from 1971.

Quizzed repeatedly in recent weeks over whether he would agree to have his term renewed, Stoltenberg said that he was not seeking to stay and

had no plans other than to continue to carry out his duties and wrap his time at the helm in September.

NATO secretaries-general are responsible for chairing meetings and guiding sometimes delicate consultations between the member countries to ensure that compromises are found so that an organization that operates on consensus can continue to function.

They also ensure that decisions are put into action and speak on behalf of all nations with one voice. Stoltenberg has managed to tread a very fine line, refraining from criticizing members led by more go-it-alone presidents and prime ministers, like former US President Donald Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

With NATO's historical adversary, Russia, locked in a war with Ukraine, the process of naming a new secretary-general has become highly politicised.

Lanka receives first tranche of World Bank budget support

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka has received USD 250 million as the first tranche out of a USD 500 million World Bank budgetary and welfare support, an official statement said on Tuesday, as part of the efforts to revive the bankrupt island nation's economy.

The World Bank last week announced that they approved USD 700 million in budgetary and welfare support to debt-ridden Sri Lanka, which is going through its worst economic crisis since independence from the British in 1948. "We are pleased to confirm that the first disbursement of USD 250 million for budget support from the World Bank has been received," Shehan Semasinghe, the state minister of finance, said in a statement.

This was the biggest multilateral funding approved for since the island nation struck a bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund

Pak govt makes overnight changes in anti-graft laws

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's government has made overnight changes in the anti-corruption laws to make them more stringent, hours before former premier Imran Khan's appearance before the country's apex anti-graft investigation agency on Tuesday in a corruption case.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, who is working as acting president in the absence of President Arif Alvi, who is away on pilgrimage, issued an ordinance to empower the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to arrest a suspect during inquiry period and also allow the NAB court to remand a suspect for 30 days in custody after arrest instead of earlier 15 days. The ordinance was issued at the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "The prime minister's advice in para 6 of

the summary is approved. The National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, is signed and promulgated," a notification signed by Sanjrani stated.

The changes were made around midnight and just hours before Khan was set to appear before the NAB.

Khan, 70, left with his wife Bushra Bibi from Lahore to Islamabad as both were to appear before the NAB in the Al-Qadir Trust case, his media team announced in a WhatsApp message.

The Al-Qadir Trust case alleges that the PTI chief and his wife obtained billions of rupees and land from a real estate firm for legalising Rs 50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the previous government led by Khan.

Vietnam bans 'Barbie' movie

Hanoi (AP): Vietnam's state media have reported that the government banned distribution of the popular "Barbie" movie because it includes a view of a map showing disputed Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The newspaper Vietnam Express and other media said posters advertising "Barbie" were removed from movie distributors' websites after Monday's decision.

With Margot Robbie playing Barbie opposite Ryan Gosling's Ken in Greta Gerwig's comedic look at their "perfect" world, "Barbie" was supposed to open July 21 in Vietnamese theaters.

The reports cited Vi Kien Thanh, director general of the Vietnam Cinema Department, as saying the National Film Evaluation Council made the decision. It said a map in the film shows China's "nine-dash line", which extends Beijing's territorial claims far into waters that fall within areas claimed by Vietnam and other countries.

The "nine-dash line" is an arcane but sensitive issue for China and its neighbours that shows Beijing's maritime border extending into areas claimed by other governments and encompasses most of the South China Sea. That has brought it into tense standoffs with the ASEAN nations of Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines, with Chinese fishing boats and military vessels becoming more aggressive in the disputed waters.

Asked about the issue at a daily briefing on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "China's position on the South China Sea issue is clear and consistent."

"We believe that the countries concerned should not link the South China Sea issue with normal cultural and people-to-people exchanges," Mao said. However, China is exceedingly sensitive when it comes to how its national image and border claims are portrayed in entertainment and by businesses.

Meta looks to target Twitter with Threads

AP ■ LONDON

Meta is poised to unveil a new app that appears to mimic Twitter — a direct challenge to the social media platform owned by Elon Musk. A listing for the app, called Threads, appeared on Apple's App Store, indicating it would debut as early as Thursday. It is billed as a "text-based conversation app" that is linked to Instagram, with the listing teasing a "Twitter-like microblogging experience."

"Threads is where communities come together to discuss everything from the topics you care about today to what'll be trending tomorrow," it said.

Instagram users will be able to keep their user names and follow the same accounts on the new app, according to screenshots displayed on the App Store listing. Meta declined to comment on the



app. Musk replied "yeah" to a tweet from Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey saying, "All your Threads are belong to us," along with a screenshot from the App Store's privacy section showing what personal information might be collected by the new Meta app.

Threads could be the latest headache for Musk, who acquired Twitter last year for USD 44 billion and has been making changes that have unnerved advertisers and turned off users, including new daily limits on the num-

ber of tweets people can view. Meta has good timing because Twitter users are growing frustrated with Musk's changes and looking for a viable alternative, said Matt Navarra, a social media consultant.

Threads presents the "opportunity to jump to a platform that can give them many of the things that they want Twitter to continue to be that it no longer is," he said.

Allowing Instagram users to port their profile to Threads could give the new app more traction with potential users by providing a ready-made set of accounts for them to follow, said Navarra, former director of social media at tech news site The Next Web and digital communications adviser for the British government. Twitter has rolled out a series of unpopular changes in recent days, including a requirement for users to be

verified to use the online dashboard TweetDeck. The policy announced Monday takes effect in 30 days and appears to be aimed at raising extra revenue because users need to pay to have their accounts verified under Musk's changes.

TweetDeck is popular with companies and news organizations, allowing users to manage multiple Twitter accounts.

It comes after outcry over Musk's announcement this weekend that Twitter has limited the number of tweets users can view each day — restrictions that the billionaire Tesla CEO described as an attempt to stop unauthorized scraping of potentially valuable data. Still, some users might be put off by Meta's data privacy track record, Navarra said. And would-be Twitter challengers like Mastodon have found it a challenge to sign up users.

UN council to hold first meeting on AI threats

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council will hold a first-ever meeting on the potential threats of artificial intelligence to international peace and security, organised by the United Kingdom which sees tremendous potential but also major risks about AI's possible use for example in autonomous weapons or in control of nuclear weapons.

UK Ambassador Barbara Woodward on Monday announced the July 18 meeting as the centerpiece of its presidency of the council this month. It will include briefings by international AI experts and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who last month called the alarm bells over the most advanced form of AI "deafening," and loudest from its developers. "These scientists and experts have called on the

world to act, declaring AI an existential threat to humanity on a par with the risk of nuclear war," the UN chief said. Guterres announced plans to appoint an advisory board on artificial intelligence in September to prepare initiatives that the UN can take.

He also said he would react favourably to a new UN agency on AI and suggested as a model the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is knowledge-based and has some regulatory powers. Woodward said the UK wants to encourage "a multilateral approach to managing both the huge opportunities and the risks that artificial intelligence holds for all of us," stressing that "this is going to take a global effort." She stressed that the benefits side is huge, citing AI's potential to help UN development programs, improve humanitarian aid operations,

assist peacekeeping operations and support conflict prevention, including by collecting and analysing data. "It could potentially help us close the gap between developing countries and developed countries," she added.

But the risk side raises serious security question that must also be addressed, Woodward said. Europe has led the world in efforts to regulate artificial intelligence, which gained urgency with the rise of a new breed of artificial intelligence that gives AI chatbots like ChatGPT the power to generate text, images, video and audio that resemble human work. On June 14, EU lawmakers signed off on the world's first set of comprehensive rules for artificial intelligence, clearing a key hurdle as authorities across the globe race to rein in AI.

Macron weakened by unrest in France

AP ■ PARIS

Even in normal times Emmanuel Macron needed allies' help governing France.

To get some things done he worked with the traditional right. The center-left helped the French president accomplish others. The challenge was bigger than any a French leader had faced in more than two decades: He had to convince politicians across the country's national assembly to support even a minor domestic project.

Now, governing his allegedly polarized country has gotten close to impossible for Macron because a suburban police officer stopped a yellow Class A Mercedes and fired one fatal shot into the 17-year-old driver's chest, setting off six days of tumult across the country.

Macron's centrist Renaissance party and its close allies had merely 251 seats out of 577 after Macron won his second five-year term last year with 58% of the votes in a runoff with far-right leader Marine Le Pen. Macron

dreamed big despite the close victory. His first big goal was raising the retirement age from 62 to 64, which he had to force through parliament. He then hoped to re-industrialize France, improve working conditions and finalize a new immigration bill. Abroad, Macron championed European sovereignty and independence in fields ranging from the economy and energy to defense.

But all that has had to fall by the wayside.

Macron shortened a visit to a European summit in Brussels last week for a crisis meeting with his government. This week, he called a last-minute delay in a visit to Germany that had been meant to show the strength of the binational friendship despite disputes on energy, defense and the economy, among other issues.

The changes in his agenda echo another uncomfortable situation for the French leader three months ago, when the planned state visit of King Charles III to France was postponed due to violent protests



against the pension changes.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he was watching France's situation with concern.

"I hope very much, and I am convinced, that the French president will find ways for this situation to improve quickly," he told ARD television. "I don't expect France to become unstable, even if the pictures are of course very depressing."

The US, the UK and China were among those that called on citizens to exercise caution when travelling to France.

Last month, after a climate summit, Kenya's president

William Ruto praised Macron's deep involvement. "You have run this like Kenya do ... like a marathon," he told Macron. The question now for Macron is whether he can marshal enough endurance to face the political situation at home.

"The problem is that he still has four more years ahead," said Luc Rouban, a senior researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS).

He noted that Macron has faced a succession of protests and street unrest, starting with

the yellow vest movement against social injustice that broke out in 2018.

An increasing proportion of the population "rejects institutions" as part of a broader criticism of "a social order that involves inequities, that is ... basically quite hypocritical, with school in particular not allowing people to succeed as it once did," Rouban said.

Schools, city halls, police stations and other public institutions have been attacked. Macron "doesn't have much leeway except for distributing subsidies," which is also difficult because of France's heavy debt burden, Rouban said. Last month, Macron hosted the global summit on climate and finance that brought over 50 heads of state and government and leaders of international organizations in the French capital, highlighting his international leadership.

Macron then travelled to Marseille last week to promote government efforts to inject billions into schools, housing and security and improve lives of residents of low-income neighbourhoods in France's

second largest city.

Macron is to meet Tuesday at the presidential palace with the mayors of over 220 towns and cities that have been concerned by incidents and damages in recent days.

Le Pen appears to be one coming out of the situation in a stronger position, Rouban said. She keeps positioning herself as the main political opposition to Macron, and continues her strategy of scrubbing the image of her far-right National Rally party, he said.

"These appalling events bring our leaders back to reality," Le Pen said last week in a video posted on a social media account. "I intend to stick to our line of conduct, which is to do nothing to prevent or challenge the action of the legitimate authorities in charge of public order." On Paris' Champs-Elysées Monday, workers were preparing Bastille Day festivities, setting up seating and barriers for crowds expected to attend the traditional military parade on July 14th with guest of honor Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

Taliban ban beauty salons for women

Islamabad (AP): The Taliban are banning women's beauty salons in Afghanistan, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. It's the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment. A spokesman for the Taliban-run Virtue and Vice Ministry, Mohammad Sidik Akif Mahajar, didn't give details of the ban. He only confirmed the contents of a letter circulating on social media.

The ministry-issued letter, dated June 24, says it conveys a verbal order from the supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada. The ban targets the capital, Kabul, and all provinces, and closes salons throughout the

country a month's notice to wind down their businesses.

After that period, they must close and submit a report about their closure. The letter doesn't give reasons for the ban.

Its release comes days after Akhundzada claimed that his government has taken the necessary steps for the betterment of women's lives in Afghanistan. Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since seizing Afghanistan in August 2021 as US and NATO forces were pulling out. They have barred women from public spaces, like parks and gyms, and cracked down on media freedoms.

Israel intensifies West Bank hunt as death toll reaches 10; civilians flee

AP ■ JENIN

Israeli troops pressed ahead with their hunt for Palestinian militants and weapons in a West Bank refugee camp Tuesday, after military bulldozers tore through alleys and thousands of residents fled to safety. The two-day Palestinian death toll rose to 10.

The large-scale raid of the Jenin camp, which began Monday, is one of the most intense military operations in the occupied West Bank in nearly two decades. It bore hallmarks of Israeli military tactics during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s and came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces growing pressure from

his ultranationalist political allies for a tough response to recent attacks on Israeli settlers, including a shooting last month that killed four people.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli paramedics said at least four people were wounded when a car careened into pedestrians on a sidewalk. Police spokesman Eli Levi told Kan public radio that the incident was a deliberate attack, and that a civilian shot and killed the driver at the scene.

The Hamas militant group praised the attack as "heroic and revenge for the military operation in Jenin."

Earlier in the day, rubble littered the streets of Jenin and there were reports of damage to shops. Columns of black smoke periodically punctuated

the skyline over the camp in the northern West Bank city, long a Palestinian militant stronghold.

Jenin Mayor Nidal Al-Obeidi said that around 4,000 Palestinians had fled the Jenin refugee camp, finding accommodation in the homes of relatives and in shelters. Residents said there was no water or electricity in the camp.

Across the West Bank, Palestinians observed a general strike to protest the Israeli raid. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Tuesday that the two-day death toll rose to 10, with two more deaths reported overnight. The Israeli military has claimed all were militants, but did not provide

details.

During Tuesday's operations, the military said it had seized weapons and demolished tunnels beneath a mosque in the Jenin refugee camp.

A spokesman for the Israeli military, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Monday that Israel had launched the operation because some 50 attacks over the past year had emanated from Jenin.

The Jenin camp and an adjacent town of the same name have been a flashpoint since Israeli-Palestinian violence began escalating in spring 2022. It was also a hotbed of Palestinian military activity in the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s.

'No evidence to back Syrian claim of 2017 gas attack'

AP ■ THE HAGUE

The global chemical weapons watchdog said Tuesday it found no evidence to support a claim by Syria that its forces were attacked using toxic gas in 2017.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said that its fact-finding mission concluded that "there are no reasonable grounds to determine that chemicals were used as a weapon" in two incidents in July and August 2017 in Massaneh, a village in the central province of Hama.

Syria asked the OPCW to investigate after reporting a "mortal attack with poisonous gas" on its army in the town in fighting with rebels. The watchdog sent a team to Syria three times to investigate and interview witnesses but they found no evidence of a gas attack, according to the Fact-Finding Mission report.

Gunman kills 5 in Philadelphia

AP ■ PHILADELPHIA

A heavily armed gunman in a bulletproof vest opened fire on the streets of Philadelphia on Monday night, seemingly at a random, killing five people and wounding two boys before surrendering, police said.

The shootings took place over several city blocks in the southwestern neighbourhood of Kingsessing. Responding officers chased the suspect as he continued to fire, and he was arrested in an alley after giving himself up, Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said at a news conference. "Thank God our officers were on the scene and responded as quickly as they did. I can't even describe the level of bravery and courage that was shown, in addition to the restraint that was shown here," Outlaw said. No connection was immediately known between the victims and the shooter, she said. He had a bulletproof vest, an "AR-type rifle," multiple magazines, a handgun and a police scanner. Officers were flagged down at about 8:30 pm, and multiple calls of shots fired came in



from Kingsessing. Police found some gunshot victims, and as they were attending to them, they heard more gunfire, Outlaw said.

Police later told Fox 29 that a fifth victim was found. He was chased into his home and shot to death. Bullet casings were found outside the home.

The suspected shooter was identified as a 40-year-old man. A second person was also taken into custody who may have returned fire at the suspect, but police did not know whether there was a connection between the two people, Outlaw said.

The chief said dozens of shell casings were found across an eight block area. "You can see there are several scenes out here," Outlaw said. "We're can-

vassing the area to get as much as we can, to identify witnesses, to identify where cameras are located and to do everything to figure out the why," Outlaw said.

Three of the dead were 20 to 59 years old, while the fourth, who had not yet been identified, was estimated to be between 16 and 21. The victim found in his home was 31 years old. All were male.

The two hospitalised victims are boys, ages 2 and 13. They were in stable condition, Outlaw said.

The shooting occurred a day after gunfire erupted at a holiday weekend block party in Baltimore, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the southwest, killing two people and wounding 28 others. The wounded in that shooting ranged in age from 13 to 32, with more than half minors, according to officials.

The Philadelphia violence is the country's 29th mass killing in 2023, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University, the highest on record by this time in the year.

Husband jailed for life for killing Kerala nurse, two kids in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

A 52-year-old man, who pleaded guilty to the triple murder of his nurse wife from Kerala and their two children, has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 40 years behind bars by a UK court.

Saju Chelavale, also from Kerala, appeared at Northampton Crown Court in eastern England on Monday, having previously admitted to killing his wife Anju Asok, 35, and children Jeeva Saju, 6 and Janvi Saju, 4.

Justice Edward Peppercall referred to an audio recording taken at the time of Anju's death, which was played to the court during the sentencing hearing. "While you were squeez-



ing the life out of your wife, your children can be heard crying in the background for their mummy. It is clear that they heard what was going on and knew that she was being hurt by you," the judge noted in his sentencing remarks. The court heard that on December 15, 2022, emer-

gency services were called to the Indian family's home in Kettering, Northampton, to report that a woman and two children had suffered serious injuries.

Northamptonshire Police said its officers broke the door down in order to gain entry and found Saju Chelavale

holding a knife. Despite repeated calls for him to put the knife down, he continued to wield it whilst shouting: "You shoot me", resulting in him being Tasered and arrested.

Anju was declared dead at the scene and both children were also declared dead a short time later. Forensic post-mortem examinations, which took place at Leicester Royal Infirmary following their deaths, concluded that all three died as a result of asphyxiation.

"The life of Anju's parents and siblings back in India will never be the same without her. She came to this country with a lot of expectations and dreams. She was not expecting a tragic death from her husband, whom she trusted," a family spokesperson told the court this week.

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Notice Inviting Tender Date: 05.07.2023
SIIDCUL invites online bids for tender of "Empanelment of firms for hiring of vehicles" for One year. The tender document will be available from 05/07/2023 till submission date, i.e., 19/07/2023 upto 12:00 hrs. Tender document can be downloaded from <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> or www.siidcl.com.
Note: Manual bids shall not be accepted. The bid shall be submitted online at <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>
Managing Director

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.: CE/HW-II-W/23/149 Date: 30.06.2023
Name of the Work: Development of Plot near CD area adjacent to ATBK-2 inside Harbour area at Paradip Port. Estimated cost: **Rs. 5,61,27,187/-**. Last Date & time of submission: **21.07.2023 upto 17:00 Hrs.** Refer our Website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Sd/-Executive Engineer, HWD-II
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/29/2023-24 dtd.04.07.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information to the general public through this Notice that my client Mr. Iqbal S/o Munir & Mrs. Israt Jahan W/o Iqbal both R/O A-73, Jhuggi Basti Goyla Dairy, New Delhi-110071, has disowned, debarred and disinherited his son Mohd. Afzal alias Sher and his wife Mrs. Soni, from their moveable & immovable property because the above said is out of control of my client. Anyone dealing with them, may do so at his/her risk, cost and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for their act whatsoever. The above named Mohd. Afzal and his wife Soni have no title, right or interest in property of my client whether it is moveable or immovable.
Sd/- KHALID WAHID (Advocate)

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Ph: 0120-2412294, 2412445, Fax: 0120-2412397
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NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF PARTIES FOR AIR / RAIL TICKETING AND HOTEL BOOKINGS IN INDIA AND ABROAD
For details, visit website: www.nationalfertilizers.com
Last date: 04.08.2023 (03.00 PM).
Note: For any corrigendum, in future, refer to our website.
Chief Manager (HR)
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AU Block, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Admission Notice for Management Quota (2023 - 24)
Applications are invited for admission under Management Quota seats (10% of the sanctioned intake as approved by GGSIP University) for following courses:
B.Tech (Computer Science Engineering), B.Tech (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning), B.Tech (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science), B.Tech (Industrial Internet of Things), B.Tech (LE), B.A.L.L.B., B.B.A.L.L.B., B.B.A (G), B.Com (H), B.A.(JMC), B.A.Economics (H), B.A.English (H), B.C.A, M.C.A, MCA (LE), MA (Mass Communication), LL.M (Corporate Law and ADR), & MA (English), MA (Economics).
Application forms are available at the Reception (Block - A) of the VIPS-TC from 10:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. w.e.f. 13.07.2023. Last date of submission of application form at the Reception (Block - A) is 31.07.2023 up to 4:00 P.M. Candidates aspiring for admission under Management Quota shall come in person at the institute to fill up the form in his/her own handwriting.
i) The admission under Management Quota is purely in accordance with the merit of the candidates in their qualifying examination. In addition to the above, candidate shall also be required to qualify JEE Main Paper - 1 2023/CLAT /NIMCET / CET / CUET (if, CET list is exhausted).
ii) Reservations as per the rules will be observed and Seat matrix and schedule of counselling will be notified on the website of the Institute.
iii) The admissions under Management Quota shall be subject to and in accordance with the provisions of Delhi Professional Colleges or Institutions (Prohibitions of Capitation fee, Regulations of Admissions, fixation of non-exploitative fee and other Measures to ensure Equity and Excellence) Act 2007 (Delhi Act 8 of 2007) Govt. of NCT Delhi and GGSIP University directives.
iv) The fee structure for the course will be as decided by the State Fee Regulatory Committee.
v) The candidates may refer University Brochure 2023 - 24 and also visit the website of the University & Institution regularly.
vi) Any kind of communication regarding Management Quota Seats sent via E-mail/Post/Fax will neither be entertained nor binding on the Institute.
*Proposed programmes to be introduced in the Academic Session 2023 - 2024. Principal

Boost for Japan's plan to release treated radioactive water into Pacific Ocean

AP ■ TOKYO

The UN nuclear agency gave its endorsement on Tuesday to Japan's planned release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, saying it meets international standards and its environmental and health impact would be negligible.

The plan is opposed by groups in South Korea, China and some Pacific Island nations because of safety concerns and political reasons. Local fishing organisations are worried that their reputation will be damaged even if their catch isn't contaminated. Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, submitted its final assessment of the plan to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday. The report is a "comprehensive, neutral, objective, scientifically sound evaluation," Grossi said. "We are very confident about it."

The report said IAEA recognises the discharge "has raised societal, political and environmental concerns, associated with the radiological aspects." However, it concluded that the water release as currently planned "will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment."

Japan's plan and the equipment for the discharge are "in conformity with the agreed international standards and its application," Grossi said.

He said the dilution of treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater for gradual release into the sea is a proven method widely used in other countries,

including China, South Korea, the United States and France, to dispose of water containing certain radionuclides from nuclear plants.

Much of the Fukushima wastewater contains cesium and other radionuclides, but it will be filtered further to bring it below international standards for all but tritium, which is inseparable from water. It then will be diluted by 100 times with seawater before it is released.

But Haruhiko Terasawa, head of the Miyagi prefectural fisheries cooperatives, said they will continue to oppose the release while concerns remain.

"The treated water is not a problem that ends after a single time or a year of release, but lasts as long as 30-40 years, so nobody can predict what might happen," he told TV Asahi.

Japan has sought the IAEA's support to gain credibility for the plan. Experts from the UN agency and 11 nations have made several trips to Japan since early 2022 to examine preparations by the government and the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings.

Some scientists say the impact of long-term, low-dose exposure to radionuclides remains unknown and urge a delay in the release. Others say the discharge plan is safe but call for more transparency in sampling and monitoring. Kishida, after meeting with Grossi, said Japan will continue to provide "detailed explanations based on scientific evidence with a high degree of transparency both domestically and internationally."

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Vishal is owner of Property Bearing No. 8/65 (Plot No. 65, Block No. 8), area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 786, Situated in the area of Village Chandrawali @ Shahdara, in the abast of Ram Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi. The said property by virtue of Three Sale Deeds dated 27.07.2016, 20.02.2017, and 23.02.2017, having Registration No. 5361, 748, & 8594, but SMC Certificate stating legal heirs of late Mr. Radehy Shyam is not available with him. All persons including surviving members and legal heirs of late Mr. Radehy Shyam are hereby informed if anyone has any objection with respect of Title/Ownership of Mr. Vishal, with respect of the said property, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)** 200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph. 011-4112927-29. legal@kmalga.com

LOST & FOUND
I, RAJAT KANT S/o Shri Roshan Lal R/o Flat No. 35, Plot No. 15, Deshbandhu Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092. Inform that I am the owner of Property No. 126, Gali No. 13, Balbir Nagar Extn., Shahdara, Delhi-110092. That the Original Previous Paper of above said Property has been lost/misplaced and is not traceable vide NCR No. 617686/2023, Dated:-03-07-2023.
Rajat Kant

PUBLIC NOTICE
For kind attention of allottees of the real estate project "Sovereign Park (Phase-I)" developed by M/s Vatika Sovereign Park Pvt. Ltd.
1. The above-mentioned project was registered with the Interim RERA Panchkula vide registration no. 285 of 2017 dated 10.10.2017 and the registration was valid upto 08.04.2023 (including 6 months of COVID 19).
2. The promoter has made an application with the request to the authority that instead of revoking the registration on its expiry, the authority may permit it to remain in force subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose in the interest of the allottees, and any such terms and conditions so imposed shall be binding upon the promoter.
3. The Authority is considering an application of the promoter to permit the continuation of the registration certificate under section 7(3) of the Act for this project to remain in force and hereby invite objections from the allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general in this regard.
4. Those objections shall be filed in the registry of the Authority before 19.07.2023 and appear in the Authority on 24.07.2023 at 2.00 PM for considering the objections received, failing with the Authority will consider present application for continuation of the registration under section 7(3) of the Act.
Secretary
For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram
Dated: 05.07.2023

Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Technology & Management
Approved by AICTE, DTTE, DHE, BCI & Affiliated to GGSIPU, Delhi
FC-26, Shastra Park, New Delhi - 110053.
Website: www.adgitmdehli.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE
UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA For Academic Year 2023-24
B.Tech. (F/T - 4 Yrs.) & B.Tech. (LE) (2nd Yr - F/T - 3 Yrs.)
MBA (F/T - 2 Yrs.) B.A.L.L.B. (F/T - 5 Yrs.) & B.A.L.L.B. (F/T - 5 Yrs.)
BBA (F/T - 3 Yrs.)
Applications from Qualified candidates fulfilling the Educational Qualifications and eligibility criteria laid down in the "Admission Brochure for the Academic Session 2023-24" issued by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), Delhi for "Management Quota" & respective guidelines of BCI/DTTE/DHE Govt. of NCT Delhi as prescribed by GGSIPU Notification No. 19/2023, are invited for Admission under Management Quota under various categories of seats in the following Courses*:
B.Tech. (1st Shift) (Course Code - 131)
Computer Science & Engineering
B.Tech. (2nd Shift) (Course Code - 131)
Computer Science & Engineering
B.Tech. (Lateral Entry) (Course Code - 128 & 129)
Computer Science & Engineering
Computer Science & Technology
Information Technology
Information Technology
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
Information Technology
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
Electronics & Communication Engineering
Electronics & Communication Engineering
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
Civil Engineering
Civil Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
MBA - 2 Yrs. (F/T) (Course Code 101)
BBA - 3 Yrs. Programme (F/T) - 1st Shift - Course Code 125
BBA - 3 Yrs. Programme (F/T) - 2nd Shift - Course Code 125
Integrated B.A.L.L.B. (Hons.) - 5 Yrs. (Full Time) (Course Code 121)
Integrated BBA LL.B. (Hons.) - 5 Yrs. (Full Time) (Course Code 121)
Application Forms (hard-copy only) can be obtained from Admission Cell of the Institute between 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. from 8th July 2023. The last date to apply & submission of Application Forms along with all requisite documents/certificates for management quota seats is 31st July 2023 (up-to 3.00 P.M.). Course-wise Seat Matrix of Management Quota Category of Seats is available on the Official Website of the Institute. Incomplete Application Forms/Documents/Certificates will not be considered. Admissions shall be on the basis of Merit list based on marks attained in qualifying exams. The schedule of Admission Process at the Institute Campus: Display of Merit List (As per GGSIPU Notification - 19/2023)-3/8/23, Reporting for verification of Eligibility between 10.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M./1st Round of Counseling/list of provisionally admitted candidates/Display of Vacant Seats - 6/8/23, 2nd Round of Counseling - 7/8/23, Last date of Provisional Admission under Management Quota Seats-9/8/23. The Candidates thus provisionally selected shall be required to complete all the Admission Formalities on the same day of allotment as per the Provisions of GGSIPU University.
Candidates must ensure to follow the latest COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Govt of India during Counselling & Reporting at the Institute.
DIRECTOR

Investors become richer by ₹7.90 lakh cr in 5 days

BSE-listed firms' valuation hits new peak of ₹298.57 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors' wealth went up by Rs 7.90 lakh crore in five days of rally in the BSE Sensex, which is on a record-breaking run helped by unabated foreign fund inflows and largely bullish investor sentiments.

Rallying for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 274 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 65,479.05 on Tuesday. During the day, the benchmark surged 467.92 points or 0.71 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 65,672.97.

Investors' wealth climbed Rs 7,90,235.84 crore in five days of rally. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms also reached an all-time high of Rs 2,98,57,649.38 crore on Tuesday.

Sensex gained over 2,500 points in the past five sessions.

Bajaj Finance was the biggest gainer in the Sensex chart, climbing 7.17 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv which rallied 5.76 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Titan, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak



Mahindra Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India and ITC were the other major gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

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

Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note in the mid-session deals. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.43 per cent to USD 75.72 a barrel.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) bought equities worth Rs

2,134.33 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

FPIs pumped Rs 47,148 crore in the Indian equities in June, making it the highest inflow in 10 months.

"Buoyancy in the markets continued as benchmark indices touched new highs in spite of mixed Asian cues and weak European markets in early trades. The cushion provided by Indian markets on the back of its strong fundamentals are offsetting some of the negative catalysts seen in key developed economies, and strong backing by the FIIs in recent weeks is a testimony to it," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Govt will be facilitator for startups, not regulator: Goyal

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

The government will always act as a facilitator to strengthen the startup ecosystem and not act as a regulator, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

He said that stakeholders of this ecosystem will do self-regulation.

Addressing the Startup20 summit here, the minister said, the message that should go out from here is the joint commitment of all the 22 nations, who have participated, that the governments will not be looking at impeding the progress of the work that startups are doing.

The best way is to be out of the startups ecosystem, he said, adding the government is not expected to start regulating or dictating or micro-managing the ecosystem.

"Our role will always be that of a facilitator and I do not see the government becoming an administrator or a regulator of this sector," he said.

He added that the job of the government is to give an initial push or early stage finance to budding entrepreneurs.

The minister also said that India provides a unique opportunity to the world of startups.



India has the advantage of skilled talent, affordability, growing startup culture, and aspirational population, Goyal said.

He invited the startups of the world to come and explore opportunities in India.

The Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, kicked off on Monday here.

If at all there are issues, there are problems we would like to look at finding solutions to them through possibly self-regulation, he said, adding, "let them (startups) create their ecosystem that will ensure orderly growth, orderly way of accounting, way of financing, way of reporting," Goyal said.

"I would personally like to commit myself not to interfere in the startup world," he said.

Goyal also said that the kind of policy recommendations that have come from the deliberations here will lay the basic foundation for this startup journey moving up from "startup India to startup world".

The Startup20 communique, he said, "can truly be the new dawn of global startup ecosystem".

The communique agreed by the Startup 20 group has urged the G20 leaders to raise the joint annual investment of G20 nations in the global startup ecosystem to USD 1 trillion by 2030.

It has asked the leaders to facilitate the flow of public and private capital into the startup ecosystem by promoting various mechanisms such as Fund-of-Funds, Corporate Venture Funds, and University Endowment Funds.

Startup20 India Chair and Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog, Chintan Vaishnav said that Saudi Arabia has committed to be the first partner in attaining this goal.

It has also called for considering the communique recommendations, policy directives, and actions in five areas for harmonizing the global startup ecosystem while retaining the autonomy of the national ecosystems.

FM to meet chiefs of public banks to review financial performance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet chiefs of public sector banks (PSBs) on Thursday and review their financial performance.

This is going to be the first review meeting after the 2022-23 financial results. In the last fiscal, PSBs together posted a record profit of Rs 1.04 lakh crore, with market leader State Bank of India (SBI) accounting for nearly half of the total earnings.

From posting a total net loss of Rs 85,390 crore in 2017-18, the PSBs have come a long way as their profit touched Rs 1,04,649 crore in 2022-23.

Besides the review of financial performance, sources said, the meeting is going to take stock of the progress made by banks in achieving targets set for the various government schemes, including Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Stand-Up India, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) to help businesses affected by Covid-19.

Heads of the banks would also apprise the finance minister



about the performance during the first quarter of the current financial year.

According to the sources, the finance minister is likely to impress upon bankers to focus on the areas highlighted by the Budget, including credit flow to productive sectors.

The finance minister would review credit growth, asset quality, and capital raising and business growth plan of banks for the next financial year, the sources said, adding non-performing assets (NPAs) of Rs 100 crore and the recovery status would also be discussed.

As per the latest Financial Stability Report (FSR), the gross non-performing assets ratio for banks fell further to a ten-year low of 3.9 per cent as of March 2023. The central bank said the GNPA are expected to improve further to 3.6 per cent in the baseline scenario.

'Govt plans to double turnover of automobile industry to ₹15L cr'

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The government intends to double the turnover of the automobile industry to Rs 15 lakh crore from Rs 7.5 lakh crore at present, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a public meeting in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district to highlight achievements of the central government in the last nine years, Gadkari also targeted Congress saying that in the name of removing poverty, Congress leaders eliminated their own poverty.

"The turnover of the automobile industry is Rs 7.55 lakh crore, and four and a half crores have got jobs in the sector. This industry gives maximum GST to the government. We have decided that we will make this industry of Rs 15 lakh crore," he said, adding that the industry will generate ten



crore jobs.

He also said that India has beaten Japan in automobile manufacturing and has come in number 3 position globally after China and the US.

Laying emphasis on the importance of education, he said, "Knowledge is a great power, and converting knowledge into wealth is our future".

He said that farmers today are not only food providers but also energy providers by producing ethanol and solar electricity. From auto rickshaws to

cars, vehicles will run on ethanol and India's import will reduce and farmers will prosper.

The minister said that in the last nine years, the Modi government has taken several steps to make progress.

The minister also targeted Congress in the programme. He said that Congress ruled for nearly 60 years and the slogan of eliminating poverty was given, but in place of removing poverty, Congress people got their "poverty" eliminated.

BJP state president CP Joshi, former minister Sri Chand Kriplani and other leaders also addressed the programme.

Earlier, in another programme, Gadkari virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 highway projects worth Rs 5,625 crore.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also addressed the foundation laying and inauguration programme through video conference from his residence in Jaipur.

The chief minister urged the Union Minister to issue a gazette notification soon regarding the declaration of 50 roads in Rajasthan as National Highways. The development of the area will accelerate with the formation of a national highway, he said, adding that construction work should be started soon on the prepared DPR of Jodhpur elevated road worth Rs 2,000 crore.

He also urged to complete the remaining works of the ring road at the earliest. Gehlot said the 9-million-tonne refinery at Pachpadra will increase traffic between Jodhpur-Pachpadra, and it should be connected with Amritsar-Jamagar Expressway to ease the movement of vehicles.

The chief minister said that along with the construction of new roads, strengthening works are being done in the state. About 1.32 lakh kilometres of roads are being constructed in the state. In this, 61,000 km of roads have been constructed and construction on 71,000 km is in progress.

While presiding over the function, he said that the state government has left no stone unturned for a strong road network. Economic and industrial development has gained momentum due to better road connectivity in the state. Now, Rajasthan has joined the leading states of the country with a strong road network.

Rupee falls 11 paise to close at 82.02 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

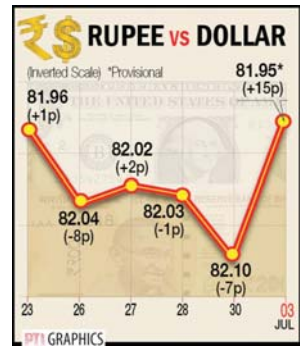
The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day lower by 11 paise to close at 82.02 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid bargain buying from oil importers and hedgers.

However, a positive tone in domestic markets, wherein benchmark indices witnessed record high levels and steady foreign fund inflows, supported the rupee at lower levels.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.90 against the dollar and settled at 82.02 (provisional), down 11 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee touched a high of 81.87 and a low of 82.03 against the greenback.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 81.91 against the dollar.



and hedgers. The speculative activities and inflows remained limited due to the closure of US markets," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

Spot USDINR has been oscillating around the 200-day simple moving average since June 16, lacking a directional movement, Parmar said, adding, "We believe the pair is expected to consolidate between 81.60 to 82.30 in the coming weeks."

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 274.00 points or 0.42 per cent higher at a lifetime high of 65,479.05 points. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 66.45 points or 0.34 per cent to its all-time high of 19,389.00 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market on Monday as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,995.92 crore, according to exchange data.

FM reviews progress of implementation of Budget schemes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday reviewed progress of implementation of Budget schemes with secretaries of finance ministry and Corporate Affairs Secretary.

The meeting was attended by Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi, Corporate Affairs Secretary Manoj Govil and other senior officials.

Smt. @nsitharaman chaired a review meeting on the implementation of various Union Budget announcements with Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, @SecyDIPAM, Secretary @DFS_India, Secretary @MCA21India and senior officials of the @FinMinIndia, New Delhi, today, a finance ministry tweet said.

Besides the review of implementation of various schemes of Union Budget, the minister underlined the importance of continuous assessment of progress to ensure that the schemes are implemented in a time bound manner.

Hiring rises 12% in January-May this year: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The hiring in India grew 12 per cent year-on-year in January-May this year, led by professional services, manufacturing, BFSI, e-commerce and IT/ITES sectors, a report said on Tuesday.

"The current global instability has had a significant impact on industries worldwide. Over the past few months, we have seen companies tightening their belts, but India's hiring prospects have improved from the past year," Allsec Technologies (a Quess Company) CEO Naozer Dalal said, quoting the report.

Quess Corp, business services provider, on Tuesday released employment trends insights in a report, based on payroll distribution data col-



lated by its subsidiary Allsec Technologies.

Dalal stated that several global bodies have affirmed that India will maintain its position as the fastest-growing economy in the world.

"The increase in headcount growth (12 per cent) from January-May 2023, compared to the same period last year proves that Indian businesses are holding steady and looking to tide the global economic storm. We anticipate

that India's continued investment in crucial sectors like energy and infrastructure will catalyse employment growth in the years ahead," he added.

The data revealed that compared to last year, the professional services industry has doubled its headcount, registering the highest growth.

This directly corresponds to companies increasingly seeking external expertise to expedite business operations while looking to tide over global turbulence, the report noted.

This is especially predominant in areas such as taxation, business consulting, risk advisory, deal advisory, technology services, and environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) services, it said.

The manufacturing sector

also exhibited nearly a 50 per cent increase in headcount, with companies experiencing a strong uptick in sales for Indian products, both locally as well as internationally, it said.

This in turn paved the way for an increase in production and employment, it added.

The BFSI and e-commerce sectors witnessed robust growth too at 16 per cent each, the report stated.

The BFSI sector in India has remained steady due to Indian banks holding their ground amidst challenges faced by banks worldwide due to factors, such as strong domestic demand, enhanced credit conditions for borrowers, and strengthened solvency and funding, it noted.

The e-commerce sector

is also doing well due to the widespread adoption of smartphones, increasing internet penetration, growing access to digital payment systems and the government's push towards digital transactions.

The government's efforts to create a more business-friendly environment and promote foreign investment in the country have also contributed to the sector's growth.

The growth in the IT/ITES sector is muted compared to the previous year (just coming out of Covid) and reflects the industry's sentiment of treading carefully amidst an uncertain economic scenario and global challenges like inflation, recessionary concerns and geopolitical events impacting the global markets, the report added.

States' debt cost continues to rise, nears 7.5%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

States continue to pay higher interest rates to investors for their debt, with the latest weighted average cost rising to 7.46 per cent at Tuesday's auctions wherein nine states raised Rs 16,200 crore.

The weighted average cut-off/yield on state government securities (SGS) rose by 5 bps to 7.46 per cent in the auction held on Tuesday, from 7.41 per cent in the last weekly auction, despite a stable weighted average tenor of 16 years and the money raised was in line with the amount indicated for this week in the auction calendar, according to a note by Aditi Nayar, the chief economist at Icria Ratings.

PRAHAR writes to Fin Min over violation of advertisement norms by insurance brokers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Civil society organisation PRAHAR has written a letter to finance ministry expressing concern over misleading advertisements by some insurance broking firms.

Public Response Against Helplessness and Action for Redressal (PRAHAR) in a letter written to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman alleged that some of the new-age insurance broking firms selling policies online are alluring customers by indicating Rs 1 crore amount by investing a small amount for certain number of years.

Advertisements (2019). Specifically, Clause 3.4.1.3 of the Master Circular strictly prohibits insurers from projecting future performance based on past financial results.

"Where attention is drawn to insurer's past financial performance, it should indicate that the past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance," as per the Master Circular.

The organisation requested the finance ministry and sector regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to direct these entities to stop such misleading advertisements.

Such deceptive advertisements could lead to mis-

selling of insurance products and also hurt interest of many policyholders.

The letter alleged that some brokerage firm including Policybazaar and InsuranceDekho are guilty of violating the master circular.

However, these entities have clarified that there are no violations of direction and in case the regulators point out any discrepancies, they would abide by their direction.

Adani Electricity's technical and commercial losses shrink to 5.93%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Power discom Adani Electricity Mumbai on Tuesday said that its aggregate technical and commercial losses have reduced to 5.93 per cent in FY23 as against 6.55 per cent recorded a year ago.

The Adani Group entity said it upped monitoring on the power theft side, which resulted the key ratio coming down to what it claimed as one of the lowest in the industry across the country.

It registered 774 first information reports with the local police for power thefts in FY23, more than double from 391 registered in FY22, as per an official statement.

There were over 18,542 raids in FY23 as against 10,458 in FY22, while the irregularity



assessed went up to Rs 38.48 crore in FY23 from Rs 21.75 crore in the year-ago period.

Raids against power thefts resulted in seizing of over 72.25 tonnes of wires and other equipment as against 73.58 tonnes seized in the previous year, the statement added.

The power demand in certain slum clusters is already high, and new network development is not feasible due to acute space constraints. Power theft overloads the network. This increases the cost of servicing as cables and transformers are more prone to failures, adding to a surge in repair and maintenance costs, it said.

A company spokesperson said it has identified certain pockets in the city, where the menace of power theft is "rampant" and it will be upping efforts to bring down the ratio further.

Nova Agri, Netweb Tech India, EMS get Sebi's approval to float IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agri-input manufacturer Nova Agritech, server maker Netweb Technologies India and sewerage solution provider EMS have received capital market regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings.

The three companies, which filed their preliminary papers with Sebi between March and April 2023, obtained the regulator's observations during June 26-30, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Tuesday.

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observation means its go-

ahead to float the initial share sale.

As per the draft papers, Nova Agritech's initial share sale comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 140 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) component of up to 77,58,620 equity shares of shareholder Nutralapati Venkatasubbarao.

The proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilised for investment in its subsidiary Nova Agri Sciences for setting up a new formulation plant, Rs 10.49 crore for funding capital expenditure by Nova Agritech and towards the expansion of its existing formulation plant.

9-TIME CHAMPIONS

GURPREET SHINES AS INDIA BEAT KUWAIT IN FINAL TO BECOME SAFF CUP CHAMPIONS

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu made the difference once again as he saved a crucial penalty kick in the summit clash to help India beat Kuwait 5-4 in the shootout and clinch SAFF Cup Championships title for the ninth time here on Tuesday.

After five rounds of penalty kicks, the scoreline remained 4-4 and sudden death rule was applied.

Mahesh Naorem scored but a diving Sandhu saved Kuwait captain Khaled Hajjah's shot to the wild celebration of the home fans and at the India dug out.

In the regulation time, Shabaib Al Khaldi had put Kuwait in the lead in the 14th minute before Lallianzuala Chhangte equalised in the 39th minute.

Defending champion India and Kuwait had also played out a 1-1 draw in their last group match.

This was the second time India won in the penalty shootout. They had made it to Tuesday's summit clash after beating Lebanon 4-2 in penalty shootout in the semifinal on July 1. Sandhu had also made a crucial save in the shootout then.

For India, captain Sunil Chhetri, Sandesh Jhingan, Chhangte, Subashish Bose and Mahesh converted while Udanta Singh missed.

Before the shootout drama, Kuwait held a slight edge as they pressed forward for goals often in the first half.

The relentlessness fetched the desired result in the 14th minute.



Mobarak Al Faneeni released Abullah Al Bloushi on the left wing with a deft pass. Al Bloushi found Shabaib Al Khaldi inside the box with an accurate cross which the latter slotted past India custodian Sandhu to give Kuwait 1-0 lead.

India could have levelled the scores within a minute but Kuwait goalkeeper Abdul Rahman blocked Chhangte's long ranger.

But Chhangte, who was named AIFF Men's Player of the Year on Tuesday, was not to be denied a second time in the 39th minute.

After a lovely exchange of passes between Sahal Abdul Samad and captain Chhetri, the latter found an unmarked Chhangte deep inside the box. Chhangte, India's energetic No. 12, had little trouble in beating Abdul Rahman to find the equaliser.

It atoned for Chhetri's failure to score during the regulation time for the second match in a row to an extent. In the second half, the action continued to flow thick and fast as both India and Kuwait searched for the winner.

Both sides came close to scoring their respective second goals, but unable to do that, as the match moved towards the extra time for the second successive time for both the teams.

The extra time too witnessed frenetic action from both the sides. There were couple of injuries, yellow cards to players and officials of both sides and a slew of corners. But that the decisive goal did not come through, making a penalty shootout mandatory to pick the winner.

BCCI appoints Ajit Agarkar as chairman of senior men's selection

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar has been appointed as chairman of senior men's selection panel on recommendations of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced on Tuesday.

That Agarkar will become chairman of the selection committee was first reported by PTI earlier last week.

"The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of Ms Sulakshana Naik, Mr Ashok Malhotra, and Mr Jatin Paranjape, interviewed applicants for the position of one selector in the Men's Selection Committee. The three-member CAC has unanimously recommended Mr Ajit Agarkar for the said position," Shah said in a media release.

"The committee further recommended Mr Agarkar for the role of Chairperson of the Men's Selection Committee based on seniority (total number of Test matches)."

Agarkar has played 191 ODIs apart from 26 Tests and 4 T20s. He was a part of the 1999,



2003 and 2007 ODI World Cup squad and also featured in the 2007 World T20 winning Indian team.

He has a Test hundred at Lord's and played a big part in India's Test victory in Australia, back in 2004, with a six-wicket haul in Adelaide game.

He still holds the record for the fastest half-century by an Indian batter in ODI, achieved with a 21-ball fifty against Zimbabwe in 2000. He also held the record for being the fastest to reach 50 ODI wickets for nearly a decade, accomplishing the milestone in just 23 matches.

Agarkar is expected to get a better remuneration compared

to current paycheck of Rs 1 crore earmarked for the chairman of selectors. The remaining members of the committee get Rs 90 lakh each.

It is understood that BCCI wants to get done with formality of appointment as Agarkar, after taking over, will chair the selection committee meeting for the T20I squad that will play five games in the West Indies later this week.

"Agarkar is the only candidate who appeared for interview. It was a virtual one as he is currently abroad on a family break," a BCCI source informed PTI.

According to sources, there aren't any notable name from North Zone, who is big enough in stature to take over the coveted post.

That is the reason why BCCI will be breaking its age-old convention of appointing one selector from each of the five zones.

Agarkar's appointment will mean that West Zone will have two selectors with Salil Ankola being the other one. The others are Subroto Banerjee from Central Zone, S Sharath from South and SS Das from East.



Brentford splash club record fee for Wolves defender Collins

AFP ■ LONDON

Brentford signed Republic of Ireland defender Nathan Collins from Wolves for a club record £23 million (\$29 million) fee on Tuesday.

Collins agreed a six-year contract with the Premier League club after spending just one season at Molineux.

The 22-year-old, who previously played for Stoke and Burnley, will be the "perfect" Brentford player according to Bees boss Thomas Frank.

"He's a very talented centre-back and still young. He has a lot of very good abilities that we value a lot," Frank said.

"His heading in both boxes is a big thing, both in open play

and from set-pieces, which is massive in the Premier League.

"His character is really good. He will fit into our culture, I have no doubt about that."

"I see leadership potential in Nathan. He's a perfect Brentford player, hungry and ambitious with a desire to learn."

Brentford are looking build on their highest-ever league finish after they ended the 2022-23 campaign in ninth place.

"It's a club on the rise and I can see where they want to go. It's exciting to be here," Collins said.

The arrival of Collins comes after Brentford signed goalkeeper Mark Flekken from Freiburg, with Kevin Schade's loan from the Bundesliga side made permanent.

Dhull named India A captain for Emerging Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ignored for Duleep Trophy after a poor first-class season, talented Yash Dhull got a massive boost on Tuesday after being named as captain of the India A team for the Emerging Asia Cup One Day tournament in Sri Lanka from July 13 to 23.

The team comprised primarily U-23 players as requisite for the Emerging tournaments and Dhull's deputy would be Punjab Ranji captain Abhishek Sharma.

All the selected players have represented their senior state team in either of the three formats and a few like Prabhsimran Singh have already scored an IPL hundred.

The keeping gloves will be shared by Prabhsimran and Dhruv Jurel, who impressed as a finisher in the few opportunities he got as an 'Impact Player' for Rajasthan Royals.

One of the good picks was Delhi pace bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana, whose speed impressed one and all during IPL. He recently scored his maiden first-class hundred on Duleep Trophy debut.

Dhull, the 2022 U-19 World Cup winning India captain, had a dismal second Ranji season in which he scored 270 runs in 6 games and before that another 191 runs in seven Vijay Hazare games.

However, it is understood that the senior selection committee, which doesn't only check the quantum of runs but also looks at the long-term talent and potential of a player, didn't want



the 20-year-old Delhi Capitals batter to just drop off the radar of national selection.

Ditto for Riyan Parag of Assam, who flattered to deceive despite numerous chances given to him by Rajasthan Royals in the IPL but selectors are going purely by talent quotient.

Dhull's deputy Abhishek has been in good form both for Punjab as well as Sunrisers Hyderabad, while selectors have also rewarded domestic performers like Kerala's Nikin Jose, Haryana's Nishant Sindhu, Tamil Nadu's Pradosh Ranjan Paul and the most exciting talent of them all — B Sai Sudharsan.

As far as fast bowlers are concerned, the focus has been more on pace with bowlers who can hit upwards of 135 clicks and touch 140 clicks.

Accordingly Rana, Lucknow Super Giants pacer Yuvraj Singh Dodiya, CSK left-armer from Jharkhand Akash Singh, fast but erratic Maharashtra man Rajvardhan Hangargekar have made the cut.

Alcaraz launches Wimbledon bid in style

AFP ■ LONDON

Top seed Carlos Alcaraz made a flying start to his Wimbledon campaign on Tuesday as defending women's champion Elena Rybakina recovered from a set down to reach the second round.

On a soggy day at the All England Club, most of the action took place on the covered Court One and Centre Court, where the retired Roger Federer was the main attraction.

Tennis's new golden boy Alcaraz raced through the first set against French veteran Jeremy Chardy in just 22 minutes before breaking twice in the second set.

Chardy, who had previously

announced that Wimbledon would be the final tournament of his career, drew first blood in the third set to lead 4-2 but Alcaraz hit back strongly, sealing a 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win with an ace.

"I like to play battles and I am really happy to have played a great level, both of us, in the third set," said the superstar Spaniard.

"I am really happy to get through this first round." The US Open champion is seen as one of the few credible threats to Novak Djokovic, who is targeting an eighth Wimbledon crown to equal Federer's men's record.

Wimbledon's Centre Court paid tribute to the Swiss great



"The double fault said it all at the beginning of the match. I'm really pleased to get to another round."

MATCHES CANCELLED

Later on Tuesday, two-time champion Andy Murray, who plays with a metal hip, takes on fellow British player Ryan Peniston, 10 years after his career-defining first title win at Wimbledon.

Despite winning two events on the second-tier Challenger Tour last month, the 36-year-old missed out on a seeding for Wimbledon and has not been beyond the third round of a Grand Slam since 2017.

But the 40th-ranked Murray still believes he has what it takes.

"I do believe I'm one of the best grass-court players in the world, and I'm physically feeling really good," he said. "I prepared well, so there's no reason why I can't have a good tournament."

Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, last year's beaten finalist, is facing Poland's Magdalena Frech.

Sixth seed Jabeur, who became the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam women's singles final, said she wanted to learn from her run at the All England Club last year.

As a result of the wet weather, 28 matches were cancelled by mid-afternoon including those featuring third seed Daniil Medvedev and 19th seed Alexander Zverev.



Defending champion Rybakina survives Wimbledon scare

AFP ■ LONDON

Defending champion Elena Rybakina survived a Centre Court scare to reach the Wimbledon second round on Tuesday. Rybakina saw off experienced Shelby Rogers of the United States 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 in front of the watching Roger Federer, the retired eight-time champion who was a special guest in the royal box.

The 24-year-old Kazakh arrived in London under a cloud after struggling with a virus which saw her suffer an early loss in Berlin before pulling out of Eastbourne.

"I'm feeling much better although it wasn't easy to get back to fitness," said Rybakina.

"I'm happy to get the win and it gives more confidence

for the next round."

Rogers, 31, had defeated Rybakina on grass at 's-Hertogenbosch last year and initially she was in charge again under the roof of Centre Court as the All England Club was deluged by torrential rain.

The champion double-faulted on the first point on her way to being broken.

That was enough to give the 49th-ranked Rogers the foundation to claim the opening set.

Suddenly, Rybakina was looking at becoming the first defending champion to lose in the opening round since Steffi Graf was beaten by Lori McNeil in 1994. However, she steadied the ship, racing into a 5-0 lead in the second set before levelling the tie.

Federer wows Wimbledon crowd from royal box

AFP ■ LONDON

Wimbledon paid tribute to Roger Federer on Tuesday as the eight-time champion returned to the scene of his some of his greatest triumphs.

The Centre Court crowd gave the Swiss great a prolonged standing ovation interspersed with cheers as he entered the royal box.

Federer, fresh from appearing on stage with Coldplay in Zurich at the weekend, was visibly moved before taking his seat next to Catherine, the Princess of Wales.

The 41-year-old has mostly stayed



away from tennis since bowing out in emotional scenes at the Laver Cup in London in September but was similarly honoured at the grass-court event in Halle, Germany, last month.

The celebration under the closed roof

of Centre Court threatened to upstage the first match of the championship for Elena Rybakina, the defending women's champion, who started her campaign against US player Shelby Rogers.

Federer, who ended his career with 20 Grand Slam titles, won his first Wimbledon title in 2003 and a record eighth men's crown in 2017.

He played his final match at the All England Club in 2021, losing in the quarter-finals to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz.

Novak Djokovic is the hot favourite to equal Federer's Wimbledon mark this year and secure his 24th Grand Slam title.

SCOTLAND INCH CLOSER TO WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

PTI ■ BULAWAYO

Scotland ended hosts Zimbabwe's dreams of qualifying for the ODI World Cup as they won a crucial Super Six encounter by 31 runs to inch closer towards the tournament proper in India starting October 5. Put in to bat, Scotland managed a modest 234 for 8 in 50 overs with none of the batters getting to a half-century. It was all-rounder Michael Leask's brisk 48 off 34 balls with three fours and two sixes that gave the total some semblance of respectability.

In reply, Zimbabwe lost four of their top order batters for only 37 runs inside the first Powerplay with medium pacer Chris Sole taking three wickets in his opening spell.

The home team was all-out for 203 in 41.1 overs despite a fighting 83 off 84 balls by Ryan Burl and his 54-run fifth wicket stand with Sikandar Raza (34) and another 73 with Wesley Madhevere (40).

All Zimbabwe needed from their last two games was one win but a heavy defeat against Sri Lanka followed by another against Scotland have reduced



their net run-rate to -0.099. With six points after four games, Scotland are on a healthy NRR of +0.296.

This is second edition in a row that Zimbabwe have failed to reach the main tournament

having last played the 50-over World Cup back in 2015.

"It's a very difficult pill to swallow. Throughout the tournament, we played some extremely good cricket. It's always nice to put those demons from 2018

behind us and had we gotten over the line today, nobody would have been asking about that but unfortunately, we didn't," skipper Craig Ervine said after the match.

Sri Lanka have already qual-

ified with eight points and all Scotland need to do is to beat the Netherlands on Thursday in their final Super Six game and grab one of the first two spots.

The Netherlands (-0.042) are currently on four points from four games and need to win by at least 32 or more runs to cross Scotland's net run-rate if they are to have any chance of qualifying for the main tournament.

On the day, Zimbabwe just blew it away with their own hands after a good bowling performance, courtesy all-rounder Sean Williams' (3/41) left-arm spin. He got able support from Raza, who went wicketless but gave only 34 runs in his 10 overs.

When Zimbabwe batted, Sole bowled a very quick opening spell and picked up three wickets with his first four overs to give the Scots the decisive upper-hand. He got young Joylord Gumbie (0) with a fast delivery pitched back of length and it climbed to take an edge on to keeper Matt Cross' gloves.

He then bowled a fine nip backer to castle seasoned Craig Ervine (2) and another yorker got rid of veteran Sean Williams (12).

Pak to tour Eng next year

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan will tour England next year to play a four-match T20 series in preparation for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the United States and the West Indies. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Tuesday that besides the men's squad, the national women's team will also tour England in May next year for three T20Is and three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 fixtures.

Pakistan will also play three T20 internationals in the Netherlands and a similar series against Ireland before reaching England. Pakistan were beaten by England in the final of the last T20 World Cup while Pakistan also made the semi-finals of the 2021 World Cup where they lost to Australia. The matches against England will be played at Leeds (May 22), Birmingham (May 25), Cardiff (May 28) and The Oval in London (May 30).

England is ranked second on the ICC T20I team rankings, while Pakistan is ranked fourth.

The women's team tour will commence with the first T20I in Birmingham on May 11 with the remaining two matches in Northampton (May 17) and Leeds (May 19). Derby, Taunton and Chelmsford will stage the three ODIs on May 23, 26 and 29 respectively.

Harmanpreet, Mandhana drop a place each in ODI batting chart

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana dropped a place each to sixth and seventh respectively in the latest ICC rankings for batters in ODIs released here on Tuesday.

Swashbuckling batter Harmanpreet has 716 rating points while Mandhana has 714. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu topped the chart with 758 points, the first player from the island nation to achieve the feat. In bowling, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (617 rating points) and senior off-spinning all-rounder Deepti Sharma are placed eighth and tenth respectively in the list headed by England's Sophie Ecclestone, who has accumulated 751 points.

As far as the all-rounders are concerned, India's Deepti is placed sixth with 322 points.

In T20Is, Mandhana is static on third place with 722 points, while Deepti moved a place up to fourth in bowling with 729 points, leaving Renuka Singh on ninth place with exactly 700 points. Deepti, however, continued to hold on to the third place in the all-rounder's list with 393 points.



Meanwhile, Athapaththu has become the first player from her country to top the women's ODI player rankings after starting in a 2-1 series win over New Zealand in the ICC Women's Championship. The left-handed opener thus emulated Sanath Jayasuriya, who is the only Sri Lanka player to top the ODI batting rankings for men, for 181 days between September 2002 and May 2003.

Athapaththu's two centuries in three matches have lifted her six places, overtaking the likes of Harmanpreet, Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt and displacing Australia's Beth Mooney, who was at the top of the batting charts since May 10. Athapaththu won player of the match awards for her 108 not out off 83 balls in the first match and 140 not out off 80 in the final match. She was also named player of the series, making a rapid rise from seventh position, her previous career-best ranking.

Injured Ollie ruled out of Ashes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the Ashes 2023 due to a shoulder injury he picked up during the second Ashes Test at Lord's. Pope, who has had a history of shoulder injuries, has suffered two dislocations in the past. The batter will undergo surgery and will miss the final three Tests of the series before starting rehab under the guidance of England and Surrey medical teams.

Pope exaggerated his injury on Day 3 after he was forced to take the field by the umpires. England spin bowling coach Jeetan Patel was upset with the call and said that England would have had to field with 10



players had Pope not filled in, praising the batter for his dedication.

"It's a pretty tough situation when you nearly bust your

shoulder and you're told it was an external [injury]," Patel said. "It was always going to happen. He's so committed to this team. He was always going to fall on

something. And now he's back off."

No Replacement For Ollie Pope, Confirms ECB

Meanwhile, the ECB has confirmed that the team will not name Pope's replacement. "He will work closely with the England and Surrey medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation," the ECB said. "England will not call up a replacement for the third Ashes Test, which starts at Headingley on Thursday."

Reserve batter Dan Lawrence is most likely to replace Pope in the team. Another option could be to introduce Moeen Ali back into the team or even Harry Brook can be considered to fill up the vacant slot.

Mukesh Kumar reveals life changing advice from MS Dhoni

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Mukesh Kumar have earned maiden Test call-ups after BCCI announced the squad for India's upcoming tour of West Indies, starting from July 12 in Dominica.

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, there are no places for Cheteshwar Pujara, Umesh Yadav, and Mohammed Shami, with call-ups given to Gaikwad and Jaiswal seen as potential start of transition in the Indian Test batting lineup.

For the three-match ODI series which follows the Test series, Ruturaj and Mukesh



will also be a part of the squad, with Sanju Samson joining in as the second wicketkeeper-batter option. India are also scheduled to play five T20Is and the squad for the same will be announced later.

Mukesh impressed everyone with his bowling in domestic cricket and the recently concluded edition of the Indian Premier League. He grabbed 7 wickets in 10 matches while playing for Delhi Capitals. The pacer

revealed the advice he received from MS Dhoni in IPL 2023.

Mukesh Kumar Reveals Advice From MS Dhoni

"I always wanted to meet Dhoni bhैया and ask him a couple of things. This happened because of the IPL. I met him and the first thing I asked him — 'What exactly do you tell your bowlers as a captain and wicketkeeper?'" said Mukesh in a conversation with Times of India. "He put his hands around my shoulders and said, 'I tell this to every bowler that till the time you won't try, you won't learn.' He said - 'You need to do exactly what you want to do. If you won't, you will not learn.' He said to forget the outcome, and just go and try. He explained this thing really well to me," he added.

JONNY BAIRSTOW: MOST CONTROVERSIAL DISMISSAL IN THE HISTORY OF ASHES

Mark Taylor's brutal reply on Bairstow's dismissal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

England star Jonny Bairstow's dismissal is one of the most controversial incidents in the history of the Ashes. During the final day of the second match of the Ashes 2023, Bairstow was ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking out of his crease.

Every expert, former cricketer, and even fan has their own opinion on the incident, and the internet is flooded with different points of view. Even prime ministers of both countries got involved in the matter; UK PM Rishi Sunak backed Ben Stokes, whereas the Australian PM appreciated the move.

Ex-Australian skipper Mark Taylor expressed his views and reiterated that a batter's duty is to remain behind the crease. He further appreciated the dismissal and called it legit.

"The batsmen have to remember there are 10 ways to get out in Test cricket. One of them is by being stumped, and it doesn't say in the laws it has to be off a slow bowler. If you're going to wander out of your



crease doing whatever you want to do, be mindful that you can be stumped. So your job as a batsman is to get back in your crease until the ball is dead," wrote Taylor in his column for Sydney Morning Herald.

"I've got no issue at all with what Pat Cummins and the Australian team did during the last day of the Lord's Test when they stumped Jonny Bairstow. It's a legitimate form of dismissal and has been as long as I've known the game of cricket. I've

seen many wicketkeepers throwing the ball towards the stumps to try and claim an unsuspecting batsman's wicket," he added.

Long Room Controversy

The second Test had fair share of controversies as well and during the final day play a bizarre incident took place at the iconic Lord's when a few MCC members abused two Australian players.

Few MCC members abused the players when the team was

on the way back to the dressing room after the first session of the final day. After Australia requested MCC to investigate the matter, MCC issued an apologetic statement to the Australian team where they revealed that the three members are suspended till further investigation and that they will not enter the venue till the end of the inquiry.

Talking about the incident Taylor expressed his disappointment on the controversy. He further appreciated MCC for sus-

pending all three accused till further investigation.

"I'm disappointed with the way the Australian players were treated after completing this entirely legitimate dismissal, particularly in the Long Room (at Lord's). I will congratulate Guy Lavender, CEO of the MCC, for getting onto it reasonably quickly, calming down the MCC members and suspending three of them. However, I think that's the minimum amount they need to do at this stage."

UK PM backs Stokes says don't want to win in the manner Australia did



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia beat England in the second Ashes Test at Lord's by 43 runs on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series. During the match England's wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow was run-out under controversial circumstances which led to drama at the iconic venue.

Bairstow, who got out when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease, Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after

catching the delivery and fired an accurate throw towards the stumps.

There have been a lot of speculations about his dismissal; on the one hand, some believe that the umpire made the correct decision, whereas others believe that it was not a fair call. England star Ben Stokes, who played an incredible innings and smashed 155 runs, expressed his disappointment and revealed that if this incident happened in Australia, he would withdraw the dismissal.

"If the shoe was on the other foot I would have put

more pressure on the umpires and asked whether they had called over and had a deep think about the whole spirit of the game. Would I want to win a game in that manner? The answer for me is no," Stokes had said in an interview with BCC moments after the defeat.

UK PM Backs Ben Stokes

UK PM Rishi Sunak also shared his views on the Bairstow's dismissal controversy. When asked if the British PM also believes that Australia's act was not within the spirits of the game, his spokesman said yes. "The prime minister agrees with Ben Stokes. He said he simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did," the spokesman added.

"But the game did provide an opportunity to see Ben Stokes at his best and it was an incredible test match. He has confidence that England will bounce back at Headingley (in the Third Test)," the spokesman added.

Ben Stokes hit back at Australian newspaper's crybaby taunt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia beat England in the second Test of Ashes 2023 which was played at Lord's by 43 runs on Sunday (July 2) to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. During the final day of the Lord's Test, England's wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow was run-out in bizarre manner which lead to a controversy.

Bairstow who was batting at 10 ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease. Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching the delivery and fired an accurate throw towards the stumps.

There were alot of speculations, while some believed that run out was unethical whereas the others considered it as a right move.

England star performer Ben Stokes



who played an incredible innings and smashed 155 runs expressed his disappointment and revealed that if this incident happened in Australia, he would withdraw

the dismissal. "My thoughts around it is, when is it justified that umpires have called 'over'? Does the square leg umpire making some movement justify that? Jonny Bairstow was in his crease and then came out to have a chat in the middle. I'm not disputing if it was out, it was," Stokes said.

"If the shoe was on the other foot, I would've had to think about the whole spirit of the game. But it has happened, it was out. We have to move on... Do I want to win in that manner? No", he added.

After his statement, a leading Australian media outlet hit back with a 'crybabies' poster where Stokes can be seen in nappies. This poster went viral on social media.

In reply, the English batter hit back at his trollers and wrote, "That's definitely not me; since when did I bowl with the new ball".

'Same old Aussies': Aus PM reacts after UK prime minister's comment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jonny Bairstow's dismissal is one of the most controversial incident that took place in the Ashes 2023. On the final day Bairstow who got out when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease.

Many experts, former cricketers, and even fans expressed their different opinions on the incident. Even the prime ministers of both countries shared their different views. On the one hand, UK PM Rishi Sunak agreed with England star Ben Stokes when he said he simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did.

"The prime minister agrees with Ben Stokes. He said he sim-



ply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did," the spokesman added.

"But the game did provide an opportunity to see Ben Stokes at his best and it was an incredible test match. He has confidence that England will bounce back at Headingley (in the Third Test)," the spokesman added.

England." "Same old Aussies, always winning! look forward to welcoming them home victorious," he added.

Aussie Will Lock Horns With England In The Third Test

Despite a heroic performance from Australia's captain Ben Stokes, England defeated England by 43 runs in the second Test of the ongoing Ashes series. The home team fell short as Australia took a commanding 2-0 lead in the series. Both teams will lock horns once again in the third Test match of the Ashes series. It will be a must-win match for England, as if they lose, then Australia will be declared the winner of The Ashes in 2023.