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Yamuna inundates Delhi

Commuters rue mile-long jams, police issue traffic advisories

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

As water from the Yamuna spilled onto the roads of the national Capital on Thursday, traffic movement was hit hard with passengers getting stuck for hours at several routes and many roads got waterlogged.

Besides, traffic diversions also led to chaos on the road. In many areas, people were seen driving knee-deep in water on the streets of Delhi. According to the police advisory, traffic movement has been impaired on Mahatma Gandhi Marg — between the IP flyover and the Chandgi Ram Akhara and the Kalighat Mandir and the Delhi Secretariat — and on the Outer Ring Road between the Wazirabad Bridge and the Chandgi Ram Akhara.

There is no restriction on vehicles carrying essential services such as food items and petroleum products.

The commuters have been advised to avoid the roads



Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer Photo

and plan their journeys accordingly, it said.

The rainwater has spilled onto the Ring Road from Majnu Ka Tila up to Rajghat and adjacent areas, affecting traffic on the Ring Road. Interstate buses from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand will stop at the Singhu border instead of the ISBT-Kashmere Gate, the police said.

The entry of heavy goods vehicles has been banned from the borders in Singhu, Badarpur, Loni and Chilla as a precautionary measure, they said, adding that traffic from Ghaziabad will be diverted to Road Number 57.

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Delhi stares at drinking water shortage

The national Capital is staring at a drinking water shortage as the Delhi Government decided to cut down supply by 25 per cent following the closure of three water treatment plants due to the rising level of the Yamuna. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who visited the Wazirabad water treatment plant, warned of rationalising water supply to deal with 'acute shortage'. "The decision was taken due to an increase in the Yamuna water level.

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4 kanwariyas killed in road accident



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two trucks collided head-on in outer Delhi early Thursday, leaving five people, including four 'kanwariyas', dead while 14 others injured, police said.

A call about the accident at Siraspur GTK road was received at 12.44 am, they said.

The truck driver of the offending truck who fled the spot was later held from Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, Samaypur Badli, they added.

The deceased pilgrims have been identified as — Sandeep Kumar (32), Rajat (24), Aryan (19), Jagminder Bahara (56). Truck driver Raju (37) who was referred to LNJP hospital died during the treatment, police said.

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Modi gets red carpet welcome in France

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to France on Thursday, where he held fruitful meetings with French counterpart Elisabeth Borne and Senate President Gerard Larcher. The discussions aimed to revitalize and strengthen India's longstanding and proven strategic partnership with the prominent European nation. Upon his arrival earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi received a special gesture from Prime Minister Borne at the airport. A ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour were extended to him as a mark of respect.

During his first engagement, Modi had a productive meeting with Senate President Larcher. The leaders deliberated on various issues of mutual interest and reached an agreement to enhance India-France cooperation in multiple areas, as stated by the Prime Minister's Office. The PMO reported, "PM @narendramodi held fruitful talks with PM @elisabeth_borne in Paris. The leaders reviewed various facets of the India-France partnership as well as discussed measures to further strengthen the ties between both countries."

The Prime Minister's two-day visit also includes extensive discussions with President Emmanuel Macron and his participation as the Guest of Honour in the French National Day celebrations. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi interacted with children and members of the Indian diaspora upon his arrival at the hotel in Paris. The enthusiastic Indian community members chanted 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' as they greeted the Prime Minister, showcasing their admiration and support.

Expressing his appreciation for the Indian diaspora, Modi said, "A warm welcome by the Indian diaspora in Paris! Across the world, our diaspora has made a mark for themselves and are admired



for their diligence and hardworking nature."

The Prime Minister's packed schedule in Paris includes a series of engagements with French leadership, the Indian diaspora, CEOs, and prominent personalities.

As he embarked on his visit, Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that this trip would provide renewed energy to the bilateral strategic partnership.

In his first engagement, Modi had a "productive meeting" with Senate President Larcher and the two leaders deliberated on a range of issues of mutual interest and agreed to work together to deepen India-France cooperation in a number of areas, the Prime Minister's Office said.

BJP leader dead during Patna stir, party blames police caning



PNS ■ PATNA

A BJP leader in Bihar on Thursday died while taking part in a "Vidhan Sabha march" against the State's Nitish Kumar Government, evoking allegations from senior party leaders that he was "killed in a brutal lathi charge".

The party's Jehanabad district general secretary Vijay Singh was brought in an unconscious state to the Patna Medical College and Hospital where he died, PMCH Superintendent Dr IS Thakur said. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, a former State BJP president, told reporters that the death of Vijay Singh during the protest march was a "sacrificial offering".

Besides, thousands of BJP workers have been injured, some of them seriously, while lending their voice to the State's students and youngsters. The injured include many women and members of Parliament and the state legislature, alleged Rai, who represents the Ujjiyarpur Lok Sabha seat.

Officials were tight-lipped about the cause of the death of Singh, who was said to be in his 40s, though the district administration in Patna came out with a brief statement asserting that "no injury marks" were found on his body.

The statement claimed Singh was found "in an unconscious state on the roadside in Chhajju Bagh locality" from where he was taken to PMCH, the state's largest government hospital.

"He was admitted to the ICU but died during treatment," the PMCH superintendent said. The cause of the death could not be ascertained till post-mortem examination is conducted, another PMCH official said.

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Cong to launch padyatra in U'tkhand against Agniveer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress party has announced its plan to launch a dedicated padyatra (footmarch) in Uttarakhand against the Agniveer and Agneepath recruitment scheme introduced by the Central Government.

The padyatra will be led by party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. The Congress aims to make this issue a focal point of their campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in the State. If successful, similar padyatras may be organised in neighbouring States such as Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, where people are seeking uniform employment opportunities.

The Congress has already announced State-specific padyatras to be conducted by local leaders in States where elections are due.

The party's central leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat, Rahul, and other top leaders, have discussed the strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

In the previous Assembly



elections, the Congress had lost in Uttarakhand, and internal conflicts within the party gave an advantage to the BJP to retain power in the state. Uttarakhand has five Lok Sabha seats, and the Congress failed to win any in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

The State unit of the Congress has been instructed to prepare a roadmap for the padyatra and focus on raising issues such as atrocities against women, including the Ankita murder case, as well as various scams, to confront the BJP.

Rahul said in a social media post that the Congress aims to establish a dialogue with the people of Uttarakhand through the padyatra and raise a voice against injustices like the Agneepath scheme for the state's youth and crimes against women.



sonable doubts.

It had on November 20, 2014 refused to accept the closure report submitted by the CBI in the case and directed the federal probe agency to investigate it afresh, stating that the former MP had "misrepresented" facts in letters written to the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, who held the coal portfolio.

The court said Vijay Darda, the chairperson of the Lokmat Group, had done so to secure the Fatehpur (East) coal block in Chhattisgarh for JLD Yavatmal Energy Pvt Ltd.

The Lokmat Group is a multi platform media company based in Maharashtra. The court said the offence of cheating was committed by private parties in furtherance of a conspiracy hatched between them and public servants.

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PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the apex body to approve procurements by the armed forces, on Thursday cleared the anticipated proposals to buy 26 Rafale Marine jets and build three Scorpene in India.

These mega deals worth over ₹ 80,000 crores are likely to be announced after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron on Friday in Paris.

Giving details of the approvals, the Defence Ministry said here a DAC meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave the nod for three proposals.

The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale

DAC OK's procurement of 26 Rafale jets, 3 Scorpene submarines

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Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French Government based on Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA).

The price and other terms of purchase will be negotiated with

the French Government after taking into account all relevant aspects, including comparative procurement price of similar aircraft by other countries.

Further, integration of Indian designed equipment and establishment of Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) Hub for various systems will be incorporated into the contract documents after due negotiations.

The delivery of the aircraft will begin within three years of signing of the contract, sources said, adding it may take close to one year to seal the final deal as detailed price negotiations are to be undertaken.

The DAC also granted the AoN for procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under Buy (Indian) category which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

The procurement of additional submarines, with higher indigenous content, will not only help in maintaining required force level and operational readiness of the Indian Navy, but also create significant employment opportunities in the domestic sector.

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Coal scam: Ex-RS MP, media baron, ex-Coal Secy convicted

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday convicted seven accused, including former Rajya Sabha MP and media baron Vijay Darda and ex-Coal Secretary HC Gupta in a case related to irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Chhattisgarh.

In the 13th conviction in the coal scam, the scandal which rocked the erstwhile Manmohan Singh Government, Special Judge Sanjay Bansal also convicted Darda's son Devender Darda, two senior public servants KS Kropha and KC Samra, M/s JLD Yavatmal Energy Pvt Ltd and its Director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal.

The court held the accused guilty of criminal conspiracy (punishable under Section 120-B of IPC) and cheating (punishable under section 420 of IPC), and under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The judge will hear argument on the quantum of punishment on July 18. The court accepted the submissions made by senior Public Prosecutor AP Singh that the CBI was able to prove its case beyond all rea-



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EU Parl raps India over Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The European Parliament has passed a resolution calling on the Indian Government to act promptly to halt the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities. The resolution also calls on the authorities to grant unhindered access to the area by journalists and international observers and to end the internet shutdown.

The resolution was passed by a show of hands on Thursday after a debate on the issue on Wednesday evening. India's Foreign Secretary had categorically stated on Wednesday that they had reached out to the European

Parliamentarians and had conveyed to them that this was India's internal matter and needed no intervention. The EP resolution has asked the Indian Government to pre-empt any further escalation. It also calls on authorities to grant unhindered access to the area by journalists and international observers and to end the internet shutdown.

The EP resolution also asked the Government to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in line with the recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review.

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Countdown for launch of Chandrayaan 3 mission begins

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The countdown leading to the launch of the LVM3M4-Chandrayaan-3 mission has commenced, as announced by ISRO in a social media post. The launch is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, July 14, at 14:35 hrs.

If successful, India will become the fourth nation to achieve a successful lunar landing, joining an elite club that includes the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union.

ISRO has extended an invitation to people to witness the launch from the Launch View Gallery at Sriharikota.



Speaking about the mission, ISRO Director S Somanath stated, "If everything goes well, it will land on the moon on August 23. The chosen date is based on the

timing of the lunar sunrise. However, in the event of a delay, the landing will be scheduled for the following month, in September."

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Pawar, Praful meet Shah amid tussle over portfolios

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst a stand-off over portfolios between the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the latter being a new entrant in the Maharashtra coalition Government, NCP leaders Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and senior BJP leaders late on Wednesday night to discuss the issue.

The tussle over key portfolios has persisted since the swearing-in of Ajit and eight other NCP legislators as Ministers in the Maharashtra Government on July 2 after a split in the Sharad Pawar-led party.

The NCP has been insisting on the finance and water resources portfolios, which the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) strongly opposes. The stalemate over the allocation of portfolios continues.

Ajit, along with senior leaders Praful, Chhagan Bhujbai, and Sunil Tatkar, left the NCP with a significant number of MLAs and MLCs, staking a claim to the party's name and



election symbol.

Patel clarified that the meeting with Shah and other BJP leaders was a "courtesy call" since he and Ajit Pawar had not formally met them since joining the ruling alliance in Maharashtra.

He mentioned that there might be some issues in the allocation of portfolios, as they were distributed by the BJP and Shiv Sena when they formed the government last year.

"Now each of them will have to give up some portfolios to accommodate us," he told reporters on Wednesday night.

The crossover of the senior NCP leader to join the BJP-Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) government has not only created a new political alignment in Maharashtra politics but has also left the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) anxious about potential sidelining by the BJP in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls.

Shah underlines threats emanating from cyber criminals

PTI ■ GURUGRAM
Warning the global community about security challenges which have evolved from "dynamite to metaverse" and "havalas to crypto currency," Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday urged G20 countries to rise above conventional boundaries to act against such crimes.
Speaking at the 'G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI & Metaverse', he underlined the threats emanating from cyber criminals using darknet, metaverse, deepfakes, ransomware and toolkit-based misinformation campaigns and strategic targeting of critical information and financial systems.
Without taking names, Shah said some anti-social elements and global forces are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments.

"The G20 has so far focused on digital transformation and data flow from an economic perspective, but now it is important to understand the aspects of crime and security, and find a solution," he said.
Shah said such activities are a national concern as they directly impact national security, law and order, and the economy. If such crimes and criminals have to be stopped, we have to think and act by rising above the conventional geographic boundaries, he noted.
"Although technology is a positive development in bringing human beings, communities, and countries closer, there are also some anti-social elements and global forces that are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments," he added.
The home minister suggested a slew of measures to act

against cyber criminals operating across borders like bringing uniformity in laws of all countries, developing a response mechanism under different laws of the countries, harmonising benchmarks, best practices and regulations, and greater coordination among cyber agencies of all countries.
"An integrated and stable approach to cyber security policies will facilitate interoperability, increase trust in information sharing, and reduce the agency protocol and resources gaps. The need of the hour is to share 'real-time cyber threat intelligence' among member countries with active support from industry and academia to secure the nation's critical infrastructure," he said.
Cooperation in the investigation of cross-border cyber crimes through joint efforts to build a 'peaceful, secure, deterrent and open' information



and communication technology environment is extremely necessary today, the Home Minister said.
Shah said our internet vision should neither be one of excessive freedom threatening the very existence of our nations nor one of the isolationist structures such as digital firewalls.
"Many countries have become victims of cyber attacks and this threat is hovering over all the major economies of the world. According to World Bank estimates, cyber attacks could have caused losses of around USD 5.2 trillion to the world during 2019-2023. The use of crypto currency by malicious threat actors further complicates its detection and prevention," he said.
The home minister also suggested that in line with the United Nations Convention on the Criminal Use of Information and Communication Technology, speedy preservation, investigation and co-ordination of evidences is essential.
He said Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) must be strengthened to deal with emerging technologies.
"There should be a 24x7 cyber security mechanism in place for an effective 'predictive - preventive - protective and recovery' action. Time has come to build a 'Transparent and Accountable AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Emerging Technologies Governance Framework' to ensure responsible use," he said.
Shah said given the rise in cyber crime involving digital currency, there is a need for a "dedicated common channel" among the nations to prevent such financial irregularities.
He said third-party verification of NFT (non-fungible token) used by block chains and crypto currency platforms will increase trust and curb criminal activities.
Citing the country's steps to counter cyber criminals, Shah said India has set up certain open-access digital infrastructure models which have become examples in the world today.
"India has developed Aadhaar Model for digital identity, UPI mode for real time fast payment, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), and Open Health Service Network, among others. The world today needs a new model for digital public infrastructure to facilitate the flow of information and finance. This will facilitate the countries of the world to digitally empower their citizens," he said.
The home minister said the Indian government under Narendra Modi has worked towards outlining a uniform cyber strategy, real-time reporting of cyber-crimes, capacity building of LEAs (law enforce-

ment agencies), designing analytical tools and setting up a national network of forensic laboratories, ensuring cyber hygiene, and spreading cyber awareness to every citizen.
"The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) has been implemented in all police stations of the country. The Government of India has established the Indian Cyber-Crime Coordination Center (I4C) to ensure a comprehensive response against cyber crime," he said.
Shah added that India has created world's largest training programme in cyber security through massive open online courses platform called the 'Cy Train' portal.
"We aim to create a 'Cyber Success World and not a 'Cyber Failure World'. Together, we can harness the potential of these technologies while ensuring a secure and prosperous digital future for all," he said.

'IT Rules against fake news sort of diktat' It does not give opportunity to justify or defend content: HC

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Thursday said the recently-amended Information Technology Rules that empower the Centre to act against fake, false and misleading information on social media was "sort of a diktat" as it does not give an opportunity to justify or defend the content.
A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale sought to know what constitutes a government business under the amended rules as it referred to the recent political developments in Maharashtra where "one party is moving to the other". The bench also questioned as to why under the amended rules, the government has taken the 'loco parentis' (regulation or supervision by an administrative authority) only for content

pertaining to government business and not for every information or content posted on social media.
The court was hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the amended IT rules. Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India and the Association of Indian Magazines filed petitions in the high court against the rules and termed them as arbitrary, unconstitutional and that it would have a chilling effect on the fundamental rights of citizens.
The bench while hearing arguments being made by advocate Shadan Farasat for the Editors Guild of India, asked what constitutes a government business under the rules.
"Take for example the present political climate in Maharashtra...one party moving to the other...is that gov-



ernment business?" Justice Patel asked.
"What is true...what is false...these are matters of perception. With regard to misleading and fake content, the Union government is saying we need to do this (take action against fake content) only for content on government business. Why not do it for every misleading and fake content then," the court questioned. It added that the internet was a fertile ground for misuse and said everyday messages are received warning people not to use certain apps or not to open any unknown links.
"I find it remarkable that the effect of the rules kicks in without any show-cause notice or opportunity to justify or defend the content. This itself removes the safe

harbour provided. It is sort of a diktat," the court said. On a lighter vein, Justice Patel said, "The government has a mobile app Kavach which is supposed to provide citizens security cover. This (amended IT rules) is removing your Kavach (protective cover)...that is what is happening."
The court further questioned if the amended Rules are limited to digital media and social media intermediaries and does not extend to the print media.
Does such a Fact Checking Unit, as prescribed to be set up under the amended Rules, exist for the print media? If it has not been done for the print media until now, how can it be done for the digital media? What is the government intending to do?" Justice Patel said.
The bench said if a newspaper has its own digital web-

site and the contents used in print are the same as those being uploaded on its website then would the amended rules apply to the content printed in the print medium too. Farasat told the court that there was a dichotomy on this issue.
The court would continue hearing the matter on July 14. On April 6 this year, the Union government promulgated certain amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, including a provision for a fact-checking unit to flag fake, false or misleading online content related to the government.
The three petitions sought the court to declare the amended rules unconstitutional and direct the government to refrain from acting against any individual under the rules.

3 labourers from Bihar shot at in Shopian



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU
Three nonlocal laborers received bullet injuries after they were targeted by two masked terrorists in the Gagran area of South Kashmir's Shopian district late Thursday evening.
The injured laborers were immediately rushed to the hospital.
The area has been cordoned off and a massive man-hunt has been launched by the security forces to track down the footprints of the 'unidentified' terrorists.
Confirming the incident Kashmir zone police tweeted, "Terrorists fired upon three outside laborers in Shopian. Injured persons have been identified as Anmol Kumar, Pintu Kumar Thakur and Hiralal Yadav, all residents of Distt Supaul, Bihar, being shifted to hospital. Cordon is being launched."

Yamuna inundates...

From Page 1
Oncoming traffic from the Wazirabad Bridge to Majnu Ka Tila will be diverted towards Mukarba Chowk. Traffic from Boulevard Road to ISBT will be diverted towards Shamnath Marg and Mahatma Gandhi Marg, the police said. The commuters have been advised to postpone travel plans to low-lying areas in view of the high alert issued by the administration. In case travel is unavoidable, the police have asked commuters to adhere to the advisory.
Siddhart Srivastav, an advocate, said he managed to cover a mere four to five kilometres in three hours. "I left my home in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh around 8.30 am for Tis Hazari Court. It took me three hours to enter Delhi through GT Road where traffic was chock-a-block. Now, I am looking for a U-turn to go back home," he said.
Delhiites also took to Twitter to lament the traffic woes. The traffic was heavy at Maujpur Babarpur near Azadpur, where a commuter claimed to have been stuck for almost two hours, near GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Vivek Vihar and Anand Vihar.
The visuals on social media also depicted heavy snarls on NH-24 and Sarai Kale Khan. Water from the overflowing Yamuna reached ITO, a key route for commuters from east to central Delhi and Connaught Place. There was also heavy traffic congestion at Vikas Marg.
In a tweet, the Delhi Police said, "Due to the rising water levels of the Yamuna river, the traffic coming from Shahdara on GT Road towards ISBT, Kashmere Gate, has been diverted from Seelampur T-point via Keshav Chowk - Karkardooma Court - Road No 57 - NH-24."

"Movement of traffic is restricted on both the carriageways from ISBT towards Majnu Ka Tila and vice-versa due to rise in the Yamuna river water. Kindly avoid these stretches," it said in another tweet.
According to the police, traffic movement has been affected on Outer Ring Road (Rohini to ISBT) — movement is being allowed only towards GTK Road. On GTK Road to ISBT (Sonepat side), traffic movement is closed and diverted to the other side. From GTK Road to Azadpur under Mukarba Chowk flyover, traffic is being diverted towards Rohini.
Similarly, traffic movement has been affected near the Singhu border and is being diverted to Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway. At Mukarba Chowk, vehicles are being diverted to Peeragarhi Chowk and the Narela side.
At Bhalসা, traffic is being diverted to Peeragarhi and the Narela side while passenger buses from Haryana and Punjab will terminate at the border, the police said.
"Due to the rise in water level of the Yamuna river, traffic on Pusta Road from Shamsaahn Ghat, Geeta Colony to Old Iron Bridge, Gandhi Nagar, has been diverted towards Raja Ram Kohli Marg or Master Plan Road to reach Swami Dayanand Marg and then to GT Road, Shahdara," it said.
It also tweeted that the traffic will remain heavy at the Kalindi Kunj red light and Road No 13A, Jasola Vihar, due to restrictions in movement of traffic by the Uttar Pradesh Police on the carriageway from Kalindi Kunj towards Noida for the Kanwar Yatra. The traffic at Jasola was also heavy.

EU Parl raps India over...

From Page 1
Through the resolution, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) called on the E.U. to make human rights prominent in its dialogue and relationship with India — a point that was repeatedly raised during the pre-vote debate.
The process brought together an unlikely mix of left and right parties which also approved two other resolutions on rights in Venezuela and Kyrgyzstan. "Nobody is proposing breaking off relations with India. It is a great democracy, but it has to be a better democracy," said MEP, Pierre Larratourou (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats). He also recommended that EP demand that respect for human rights is included in the India-EU trade partnership. The Indian government has yet to respond to the EP resolution.
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4 kanwariyas... Coal scam...

From Page 1
According to police, a team from Alipur police station along with all senior officers reached the spot, where it was found that two trucks had collided in which a truck, en route Haridwar, was carrying kanwariyas from Mianwali Nagar (near Nangloi).
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North), Ravi Kumar Singh said a truck bearing Haryana registration crossed the central divider of GT Karnal road and rammed into the other truck carrying kanwariyas (devotees of Lord Shiva).
The accused driver works for Maa Jagdamba Road Lines situated in SGT Nagar, Samaypur Badli.
He had loaded rice from Kaithal in Haryana and unloaded them at Hamidpur village in Delhi. The driver was going to Azadpur for refuelling when the accident occurred, he said.
Those injured were rushed to different hospitals including Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra (SRHC) Hospital in Narela and Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial (BJRM) Hospital in Jahangirpuri, he said.
From Page 1
JLD Yavatmal Energy Pvt Ltd was allotted Fatehpur (East) coal block by the 35th Screening Committee.
The CBI had alleged in its FIR that JLD Yavatmal had wrongfully concealed previous allocation of four coal blocks to its group companies in 1999-2005, but the agency later filed a closure report, saying no undue benefit was extended to JLD Yavatmal by the coal ministry in allocation of coal blocks.
The CBI had said nothing substantial emerged to establish cheating and criminal conspiracy among officials of the Ministry of Coal and JLD Yavatmal Energy Ltd's directors.
A major scandal had rocked the Manmohan Singh government in 2012 after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) panned the government for inefficient allocation of 194 coal blocks to public sector enterprises and private companies between 2004 and 2009 for captive use in a non-transparent way. It said instead of allocating the valuable natural resource, the government should have gone for competitive bidding.

DAC OK's procurement...

From Page 1
It will also help the MDL in further enhancing its capability and expertise in submarine construction.
In addition, the DAC approved the proposal to lay down guidelines for achieving the desired indigenous content in all categories of capital acquisition cases. It will help in achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in critical manufacturing technologies and life-cycle sustainability of defence platforms and equipment through indigenous manufacturing.
It was also learnt France also agreed to arm the air independent propulsion (AIP) equipped Scorpene submarine with a naval cruise missile, which has double the range of SCALP air to ground missile carried by Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale fighters.
Upgraded from the SCALP missile, the naval version has a range of over 1,000 kilometers when launched from a submarine and goes up to 1,400 kilometers when launched from a warship. The turbojet powered cruise missile is sub-sonic and remains sub-surface before taking to the skies while approaching the target and then annihilating the potential enemy threat on ground.
The missile is being used by the French Navy on board its frigates since 2017 and onboard its Barracuda class submarines from 2022. The missile can also be used on Scorpene class submarines after slight technical modifications of the torpedo tubes.
The *Pioneer* earlier this week reported the Scorpene submarines will be constructed at the Mazagon Docks, Mumbai where the two countries earlier built six Scorpene class submarines now named Kalvari class of submarines. It will be a government to government deal like the naval version of Rafale jets.
The three additional Kalvari class submarines will be fitted with air independent propulsion (AIP), which has been designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) but will be tested and validated by the French Naval Group. The AIP gives longer endurance to a normal diesel attack submarine and allows it to remain submerged for over a week without the need to surface to charge its batteries.
As regards the Rafale Marine jets, they will be deployed on aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. The proposed Rafale deal includes 22 single-seater and four double-seater trainer versions.

Countdown for launch...

From Page 1
The spacecraft will be launched using the GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle. Known as the 'Fat Boy' for its ability to carry heavy payloads, the LVM3-M4 rocket will carry the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The Chandrayaan-3 mission comprises an indigenous propulsion module, a lander module, and a rover. Its objective is to develop and demonstrate new technologies required for interplanetary missions. Chandrayaan, which means "moon vehicle" in Sanskrit, was built with a budget of just under \$75 million.

Cong to launch padyatra...

From Page 1
During the meeting, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and all party secretaries for the hill state were present. In a message to the state unit, Mallikarjun Kharge emphasized the Congress' commitment to environmentally friendly development in Himalayan states. He stated that the party is dedicated to working for flood victims and will continue to raise the concerns of the people of Uttarakhand. Karan Mahara, the Uttarakhand Congress chief, mentioned that Kharge and Rahul provided guidance on the party's plans for 2024.
The padyatra will focus on highlighting the dashed dreams of youth who aspired to join the armed forces but were affected by the Agniveer scheme. Rahul himself will participate in the padyatra for a few days, and Priyanka Gandhi and other leaders will also join.
Yashpal Arya, the Leader of the Opposition in Uttarakhand, emphasized the importance of the 2024 elections and stated that various pressing issues in the state would be raised. He noted a changing atmosphere and expressed the party's commitment to reaching out to the people, communicating with them, and raising their concerns to hold the Government accountable.
Regarding the demands for a judicial inquiry into paper leaks and scams, the Congress party has called for an investigation supervised by a sitting judge of the high court. However, the government seeks to suppress these cases.

BJP leader dead during Patna stir, party blames police...

From Page 1
Scores of BJP workers, including senior leaders like former Deputy Chief Ministers Sushil Kumar Modi and Renu Devi, were rounded up by the police and taken to a police station after they tried to cross the barricades put up at the Dak Bungalow Crossing in the State capital.
The "Vidhan Sabha march", which was organised in support of agitations against the state government's teacher recruitment policy, commenced from the Gandhi Maidan and was stopped a couple of kilometres away from the assembly premises. The Mahagathbandhan government is attacking democracy to save the citadel of corruption. To save the person who has been charge-sheeted, the chief minister of Bihar has even forgotten his morality," he said. Without naming Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, the RJD which is part of the ruling Mahagathbandhan, however, came out with a statement mocking BJP leaders for "keeping their attention focused on getting photographed". It also alleged that many of the protestors had hurled "chilli powder and pebbles" at the police personnel on duty. The BJP is accusing Tejashwi Yadav of going back on the promise of "10 lakh jobs" made during the 2020 assembly elections. Besides, the saffron party has been seeking the resignation of the young RJD leader following a fresh CBI charge sheet in the land for jobs scam. Leader of the opposition in the assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha, who had walked out during the Question Hour after a couple of BJP MLAs were evicted by marshals for unruly behaviour, sat on a dharna outside the assembly premises during the post-lunch procession. "I kept pleading with the police that let me allow to take part in the debate on the supplementary budget. But I was let off too late."

Lost everything: Flood-hit people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In March, her home was demolished in an anti-encroachment drive and now, her shanty on the bank of a swollen Yamuna is underwater. "Everything is lost again," says Beena Devi, who has been moved to a relief camp along with her family from a slum in the Rajghat area.

Some utensils, essentials and quilts was all the 57-year-old, her husband, three children and daughter-in-law could carry out of their house as authorities raced to evacuate them and hundreds of families on Tuesday as the water levels in the river rapidly started rising, above the danger mark.

Sitting at the ITO relief camp, Devi recalled how in March bulldozers razed her pucca house and those of others



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel rescue a resident from the flood-affected in New Delhi on Thursday

in the Rajghat area to make way for beautification project ahead of the G20 Summit in the national Capital. "Everything is gone again. We are not sure whether we will be able to return," said Devi, whose family ekes out a living

by growing vegetables on small piece of land, now submerged in the waters of the Yamuna. "We moved from low-lying areas to upper areas after we saw the water levels rising. However, on July 11, government officials asked us to evacuate

so we packed whatever we could and left," said the 57-year-old, who to supplement the family income ran a roadside shop, which too has been swept away by flood waters.

She said not only her family but many have lost their source of livelihood and income. The Delhi government has set up relief camps - tents supported by wooden poles -- on roadsides in areas along the Yamuna, and around 7,500 people have been evacuated to these camps.

However, many complained of poor facilities and arrangements. In a camp near the Yamuna Bridge, Tarawati, who has a farm at the Yamuna floodplains, said the flood has destroyed both her farm and her 'juggi' (shanty). "We get food twice a day but there is no toilets here. We have to find places and have to sometimes go behind trees to relieve ourselves," said the 50-year-old, who was evacuated four days ago. Sangeeta, who was evacuated three days ago with her family, also complained of lack of toilets and explained the difficulties women have to face. At the ITO camp, Devi said, "We are not getting proper food and water at the relief camp". She also claimed that women are forced to go outside due to lack of toilets.

Omprakash (35), who is staying at the Yamuna Bridge camp along with his mother, wife and four children, said he and many others have been living near the Yamuna river for years and farming is their only source of livelihood. "We can't leave, everything is here. Our fields are here. If we don't farm how would we earn money? We haven't faced many problems in the camp, at least we get food two times a day," he said.

Red Fort closed due to swelling Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Yamuna waters also reached the walls of the Mughal-era Red Fort, a UNESCO world heritage site prompting the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to close for visitors for the second half. The Red Fort will remain closed on July 14 in view of the flood-like situation in parts of Delhi.

The area around iconic Red Fort was also submerged by floodwaters around 3 PM on Thursday, with drone footage capturing the incident going viral on the internet.

The entire area behind the Red Fort has submerged in water overflow from Yamuna, with strong currents of water flowing on the Ring Road and people were seen navigating through waist-deep and in some places neck-high water.



Severe waterlogging was also reported in Rajghat and Purana Qila areas. "In exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 5 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, hereby direct that the Red

Fort, Delhi, shall remain closed for the public and general visitors from the second half of July 13 to July 14, 2023, due to heavy monsoon and rainfall," stated an ASI order on Thursday. Built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, the celebrated fort is located near the Yamuna river in old Delhi.

Yamuna bank metro station closed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro has temporarily shut down Yamuna bank metro station and reduced speed of metro trains on four Yamuna bridges amid rising water levels in the river. Delhi Metro said that as a precautionary measure metro trains are crossing the four Yamuna bridges with a restricted speed of 30 kmph due to rising water level of the Yamuna.

"Due to rising water levels of the Yamuna, trains are passing through all the four Metro bridges on the river with a restricted speed of 30 kmph as a precautionary measure. Normal services on all corridors," the Delhi Metro Rail



Corporation (DMRC) tweeted. Delhi Metro officials are "closely monitoring" the metro bridges over the Yamuna amid rising water level of the river. "Due to the escalating water levels of the Yamuna River, the approach road leading

to Yamuna Bank Metro Station is currently inaccessible. Kindly plan your journey accordingly and consider alternate routes. However, interchange facility is available," the DMRC said in a tweet on Thursday.

Nigambodh Ghat flooded

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The flood-like situation in Delhi has not only interrupted life in the national Capital but also inundated crematoria located near the raging Yamuna making it difficult for people who have lost their loved ones to conduct funerals.

Nigambodh Ghat, a place preferred by many for the last rites, is flooded as waters from the swollen river have rendered the places practically dysfunctional.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Wednesday had issued an advisory asking people not to go to Nigambodh Ghat to carry out last rites. The crematorium in Geeta Colony too was closed



due to the rise in Yamuna water levels. The Delhi civic body has advised people to take

the bodies to other cremation grounds at Panchkuian Road, Sat Nagar, Punjabi Bagh, Green

Park, Dakshinpuri or preferably in their neighbourhood.

On Thursday, visuals emerged on social media of some people performing rituals on a raised platform outside Nigambodh Ghat as the inside of the cremation site and the road outside are flooded with river waters.

Many had come to collect mortal remains left after cremation but the waters have submerged them all in the premises of the crematorium. According to Suman Gupta of Nigambodh Ghat Sanchalan Samiti, which manages operations at the crematorium, there are about 120 conventional platforms, six CNG-based platforms and six Mokshda platforms. Nigambodh Ghat is

considered a pious place and many people prefer to cremate their loved one at this site next to Yamuna river, he said.

On Tuesday, only a portion of the site had been submerged. When he was asked if there were any alternative measures planned in case the water level will rise above, Gupta had replied, somewhat in a poetic manner, saying, "The mighty Lord Shiva will protect it ('Bhole baba sab dekh lenge')."

Roads turned into rivers and water gushed into houses, medical facilities, crematoriums and shelter homes, impairing normal life and causing immense hardship for the people as the water level in the Yamuna river level rose to a record high.

Efforts on to open 5 jammed ITO bridge gates, says Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As people in Delhi suffer from the flood caused by an overflowing Yamuna river, five gates of the ITO barrage are jammed, spelling more trouble. According to the AAP Government, preparations are being made to pry them open with a gas cutter.

Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj visited the ITO barrage on Thursday and said the efforts are on to open the five gates jammed by silt under the ITO bridge. The Delhi Government said the ITO Barrage belongs to the Haryana



government, and it has been informed about the situation. There are 32 gates at ITO barrage. Bhardwaj explained that on one side, the water is flowing rapidly due to the open gates, while on the other side, the water is unable to flow due to the closure of five gates.

These five gates have become jammed due to the accumulation of silt, preventing the water from Wazirabad from flowing out beneath the ITO bridge. Bhardwaj said they are making continuous efforts to open these gates. "To remove the silt accumulated around the gates, a compressor has been brought from the Kondli plant.

The silt will be cleared using the compressor, and then attempts will be made to open the gates. If the gates still do not open, they will be cut using gas cutters to facilitate the water's faster exit from Delhi. This will be highly beneficial," he said.

40 patients shifted to LNJP Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As water began to enter the premises of a Delhi government-run trauma centre in north Delhi, authorities began shifting about 40 patients to the LNJP Hospital on Thursday. Three ICU patients were among those being shifted from the Sushruta Trauma Centre located opposite Chandiram Akhda in north Delhi, a senior official said. "The main gate of the trauma centre has got flooded as water has entered its premises," another official said.

Doctors said about 40 patients, including three patients, are being shifted to the city government-run Lok Nayak Jai Prakash hospital



(LNJP) in central Delhi. "One ICU patient was shifted by 2:30 PM and others were being

shifted in ambulances," a senior doctor said. The Sushruta Trauma Centre was established in 1998 for providing critical care management as an annex of the LNJP Hospital under overall administrative and financial control of medical superintendent of the hospital, according to official website of the centre. Subsequently, the trauma centre was declared an independent institution.

Top cop visits Old Iron Bridge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora on Thursday visited the Old Iron Bridge at Gandhi Nagar and took stock of the situation as parts of the national capital were inundated by water from the Yamuna river that spilled onto the streets.

Arora visited the bridge and other places with Special Commissioner (Law and Order) Dendendra Pathak, Joint Commissioner (East) Chhaya Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Shahdara) Rohit Meena, Deputy Commissioner (Northeast) Joy Tirkey and other officers.

Delhi has become gutter. Nothing for free, this is price: Gambhir

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP sharpened its attack on the Kejriwal government with party MP Gautam Gambhir saying the city has become a "gutter" which was a price for the freebies as swelling Yamuna water entered areas like ITO and Civil Lines on Thursday.

Gambhir asked the people of Delhi to "wake up" as nothing is "free", apparently referring to the free electricity and water supply schemes of the AAP-led city government. "Wake up Delhiites. Delhi has become a gutter. Nothing is for free, this is the PRICE!!,"



he tweeted. The cricketer-turned-politician had also lashed at the Kejriwal government on Wednesday during his visit to meet people evacuated from flood plains, alleging the AAP did not do spend "single penny" on infrastructure in nine years. "Aam Aadmi Party has been only doing politics of accusations for

the last nine years. They didn't spend a single penny on infrastructure in Delhi, only did politics of freebies and fooling the people," Gambhir had charged. The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that he is the only chief minister without any accountability.

Bidhuri also demanded a special session of Delhi Assembly to discuss the issue. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva lashed at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and accused him for "missing in action" for the last six days and visiting the Wazirabad water treatment plant for a "photo-op" only.

Schools up to Class 12 to remain shut in Noida

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The Gautam Buddha Nagar Administration on Thursday ordered that all schools up to Class 12 will remain closed across Noida and Greater Noida on Friday on account of the Yamuna crossing the danger mark and chances of rain.

The Yamuna crossed the danger mark of 200.60 metres downstream of Okhla Barrage around 11.45 am Thursday, according to the Irrigation Department. District

Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, who himself went on an inflated boat to inspect low-lying areas submerged in water along the river, issued the order for the closure of schools. "Due



to the high level of water in the Yamuna after heavy rains and in view of chances of rain, the district magistrate has ordered closure of all schools of all boards on July 14," District Inspector of Schools Dharmveer Singh said. The Irrigation Department, in a statement, said the Yamuna has crossed the danger mark of 200.60 metre and there is a "possibility that the level would only increase further". The Okhla

Barrage is currently discharging water at 3,48,765 cu sec, which is more than its envisaged capacity, it noted. Meanwhile, senior administration and police officials inspected the flooded low-lying areas along the Yamuna in Noida and Greater Noida on Thursday morning, even as firefighters and personnel of the National Disaster Response

Force and the State Disaster Response Force helped evacuate stray animals. Taking stock of the situation, DM Verma instructed the officers of the NDRF, the SDRF and the police department to keep a close watch on the situation. "People and cattle trapped in water from flood-affected villages are being rescued by NDRF and SDRF teams.

Pragati Maidan tunnel opens after 4 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Pragati Maidan tunnel here has been opened for vehicular traffic after remaining closed for four days due to waterlogging following heavy rainfall in the national capital, police said on Thursday.

With many parts of the city under water on Thursday, restrictions were imposed on vehicular movement on some roads, leading to traffic congestion including around Pragati Maidan. "Pragati Maidan Tunnel is now open for vehicular traffic. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly," the Delhi Traffic Police said in a



tweet. Earlier on Wednesday, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena visited the Pragati Maidan tunnel to assess

the water logging and resolve the issue. The closure of the Pragati Maidan tunnel led to slowing down of traffic in cen-

tral Delhi. Mathura Road and the India Gate circle faced the brunt of the slow traffic. The main tunnel of the Pragati

Maidan integrated transit corridor, which was inaugurated in June last year by the Prime Minister, has been shut for four days now due to waterlogging as well for cleaning and maintenance work after the torrential rain over the weekend caused heavy flooding at the entrance and exit points on Purana Qila Road.

The tunnel has digital signage, smart lighting, ventilation and firefighting systems, CCTV cameras, and telephone and public announcement systems. The smart lighting system helps drivers avoid blinding effect while entering tunnel. It also has 12 large German-make fans for ventilation.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Golden Opportunity for Street Vendors

All street vendors are hereby informed that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is conducting a survey of street vendors so that they can receive the benefits of Government Schemes that are available for them. For the survey, street vendors can register themselves on the online portal (<https://mcdonline.nic.in/stvendor/web/citizen/info>) of MCD.

All street vendors are advised to be available for the Survey with proof of work and identity card. For resolution of problems related to the survey, you can contact the Administrative Officer on telephone no: 011-23227124, 98713 81382.

Deputy Commissioner
Central Licensing & Enforcement Cell, MCD

R.O. No. 28/DP/MCD/2023-24

India for peaceful resolution of differences: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India has always stood for peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue and diplomacy and expressed concern over the impact of the ongoing Ukraine conflict especially on the countries of the Global South.

He asserted that the conflict must end. In an interview to French newspaper *Les Echos*, he also said India has always stood for respecting sovereignty of all nations while replying to questions about an "aggressive" China. Modi on Thursday left for France where he will be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day celebrations. To a query on China and if its massive investment in its defence capabilities is threaten-



PM Narendra Modi being welcomed by Indian community members upon his arrival in Paris, France, on Thursday PTI

ing the security of the region, Modi said while peace is necessary for the future India seeks to build, it is far from assured. "Our interests in the Indo-Pacific region are vast,

and our engagement is deep. I have described our vision for this region in one word – SAGAR, which stands for Security and Growth for All in the Region. While peace is necessary for the future we seek to build, it is far from assured," he said. India stands for respective international laws and the rules-based international order, he said.

"This is more important than ever for maintaining mutual trust and confidence. We believe that it is through this that a positive contribution can be made towards lasting regional and global peace and stability," Modi added.

On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the prime minister said he has spoken several times with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine to underscore India's willingness to support all genuine efforts that can help bring this conflict to an end. "India's stand has been clear, transparent and consistent. I have said that it is not an era of war. We have urged both sides to resolve issues through dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

With the West nudging India to take a stronger stand against Russia over the conflict, the prime minister reiterated that all countries have an obligation to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, to abide by international law and to adhere to the UN charter.

"We are also deeply concerned about the impact of the conflict on the wider world, especially the Global South. Countries already suffering from the impact of the Covid

pandemic now face energy, food and health crisis, economic slowdown, inflation and rising debt burden. The conflict must end," he said. To a question about India's expectations from France in terms of strategic support in the stand-off with China, Modi said the partnership between the two countries, including in the Indo-Pacific region, is not directed against or at the expense of any country.

India and France have a broad-based and comprehensive strategic partnership that encompasses political, defence, security, economic, human-centric development and sustainability cooperation, he noted. "When countries with similar vision and values work together, bilaterally, in plurilateral arrangements or in regional institutions, they can deal with any challenge. Our partnership, including in the Indo-Pacific region, is not directed against, or at the expense of any country," he said. Our aim is to safeguard our economic and security interests, ensure freedom of navigation and commerce, advance the rule of international law in the region, the prime minister said.

"We work with other countries to develop their capabilities and support their efforts to make free sovereign choices. More broadly, we aim to advance peace and stability in the region," he asserted. The prime minister's comments came amid rising global concerns about China's aggression. The ties between India and China have been strained following the Glawan clashes in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

G20 Summit in India opportunity to take action on debt crisis: Guterres

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

With several countries facing "crushing debt crisis," United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said the G20 Summit to be hosted under India's Presidency provides an opportunity to take action on debt relief and reform the global financial system.



Speaking at the launch of a UN report 'A World of Debt' late Wednesday, Guterres said, "Some 3.3 billion people – almost half of humanity – live in countries that spend more on debt interest payments than on education or health." He also said "Half our world is sinking into a development disaster, fuelled by a crushing debt crisis," he said.

Guterres said that because most of these unsustainable debts are concentrated in poor countries, they are not judged to pose a systemic risk to the global financial system. "This is a mirage," he warned, adding that 3.3 billion people is more than systemic risk.

Guterres said governments can agree to scale up development and climate finance by increasing the capital base and changing the business model of Multilateral Development Banks. "They can enable much stronger coordination between the banks, to transform their approach to risk without losing their triple-A credit rating, so that they can massively leverage private finance at an affordable cost to developing countries," he added.

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"It is a systemic failure. Markets may seem not (to) be suffering – yet. But people are. Some of the poorest countries in the world are being forced into a choice between servicing their debt or serving their people," the Secretary-General

Jaishankar holds talks with ASEAN leaders

Minister reviews progress in areas like fintech, food security and maritime domains

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/JAKARTA



He is in the Indonesian capital to attend a meeting of the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers. He also met Singapore's Indian-origin Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and noted the

progress in implementing our comprehensive strategic partnership. Discussed greater focus on digital, fintech, food security and maritime domains.

Exchanged views on the situation in Myanmar," Jaishankar tweeted. Myanmar has been witnessing widespread protests demanding the restoration of democracy since the military seized power in a coup in February 2021.

Myanmar's military has been using airstrikes targeting its opponents and those carrying out armed struggle against the ruling regime. Jaishankar also met his counterpart from Brunei. "Good meeting with

Exit test for MBBS 2019 final year deferred

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) on Thursday said that the National Exit Test (NExT) examination for final year MBBS students of 2019 batch has been deferred till further directions on the advice of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, it was not announced whether the mock NExT, scheduled for July 28, will still be held. "All the stakeholders are hereby informed that the National Exit Test (NExT) examination is deferred on the

advice of the Ministry, dated 11.07.2023, till further directions from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare," NMC in an official notice said. Taking to the Microblogging site Twitter, Dr. Yogender Malik, a member of the NMC Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) shared the NMC's official notice. The Government released a gazette notification on National Medical Commission (NMC)'s National Exit Test Regulations 2023 for the upcoming NExT examination on June 28. AIIMS Delhi was entrusted with the job of

conducting the mock test. The NMC had recently issued NExT regulations 2023 stating the exam will be conducted in two phases with the NExT Step 1 and NExT Step 2 exams being held twice a year.

"We welcome the decision as there were some confusion regarding the implementation process," said Dr Sarvesh Pandey, general secretary of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) which had been urging the Union Health Ministry to look into the students' concerns and sought out clarifications regarding the same.

CBI files 2nd chargesheet against director of Chariot Productions, three others

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday filed the second supplementary charge sheet in Delhi excise policy case against the Director of Chariot Productions Media Pvt. Ltd. Rajesh Joshi, two employees of the company, an employee of India Ahead News and a private person.

The supplementary charge sheet has underscored the alleged role of these accused in respect of transfer of ill-gotten money amounting to Rs 44.54 crore to Goa through hawala channel. Besides Joshi, two employees of Chariot Productions Media Pvt. Ltd.-- Damodar Prasad Sharma and Prince Kumar, Arvind Kumar Singh, employee of India Ahead News and private person Chantpreet Singh Rayat have also been named as accused in the chargesheet, officials said.

A case was registered on August 17, 2022 against Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others including then Commissioner (Excise), then Deputy Commissioner (Excise), then Assistant Commissioner (Excise), all of Delhi government, 10 liquor licensees, their associates and unknown others on a reference from Union Home Ministry related to alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of the excise policy.

It was further alleged that irregularities were committed including in modifications in Excise Policy, extending undue favours to licensees, waiver/reduction in licence fee, extension of L-1 license without approval among others.

"It was also alleged that illegal gains on account of these acts were diverted to concerned public servants by private parties by making false entries in their books of accounts," the CBI said in a statement.

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NIA court sentences IM's 4 operatives to 10 years in prison

New Delhi: The NIA Special Court here on Wednesday sentenced four persons to 10 years of imprisonment in the Indian Mujahideen (IM) conspiracy case relating to the plot hatched by Pakistan-backed terrorists to trigger bomb blasts across India.

The accused, identified as Danish Ansari (Darbhanga, Bihar) Aftab Alam (Purnea, Bihar), Imran Khan (Nanded, Maharashtra) and Obaid-Ur-Rehman (Hyderabad, Telangana), were convicted on July 7 under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the NIA case. They had been arrested between January and March 2013.

Under the quantum of sentence pronounced on Thursday, the Special Judge also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on accused Danish Ansari and Rs 10,000 on Aftab Alam. The Special Court had earlier framed charges against the four, along with seven others, on March 31, 2023. The other seven have been identified as Yasin Bhatkal, Asadullah Akhter, Zia-Ur-Rehman, Tehsin Akhter and Hyder Ali. The trial against them is continuing, the agency added. **PNS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Vaibhav Pal Singh is intending to sell Apartment No. 801 on 8th Floor having super area of 545.22 Sq. Mtrs. (5873 Sq. Ft. approximately), in Block No. J in the multi-storied buildings 'Lagan' residential apartments complex at 'Ambience Island' integrated township on National Highway (NH-8) Situated on the revenue estate of Village Natpur, Tehsil & District Garhwal/Haryana, to Mrs. Shreya, to be financed & mortgaged by my client, M/s. Axis Finance Limited. The Original Will dated 08.12.2006, & Will dated 13.06.2008, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint bearing NCR No. 322 was registered on 27.06.2023 with Uttar Pradesh Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original documents, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid will shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 800, Patila House Courts,
New Delhi - 110011 Mob. :- +91-9676186326

Nadda slams Nitish for police action

New Delhi: BJP president JP Nadda on Thursday lashed-out at the Bihar Government over the police action on party workers in Patna, saying Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has forgotten his "mortality" in his bid to save his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, against whom a charge sheet has been filed by the CBI in a land-for-job scam. The BJP chief reacted after police used tear gas shells and water can-

nons to disperse BJP workers, including senior leaders, who tried to march towards the Bihar Vidhan Sabha in protest against the government's teacher recruitment policy.

"The lathi charge on BJP workers in Patna is the result of the failure and nervousness of the state government," Nadda said in a tweet in Hindi. "The grand alliance government is attacking democracy to save



the citadel of corruption. The Chief Minister of Bihar has even forgotten his morality in order to save the person who has been charge sheeted," he charged.

Earlier, a controversy broke out over the "death" of a Bihar BJP leader following a police lathi charge during the party's march towards the assembly here on Thursday.

The BJP alleged that its Jehanabad district general secretary succumbed to injuries suffered in a "brutal" lathi charge by the police. The local administration has denied the charge. **PNS**

Terrorist conspiracy case: NIA conducts another round of searches at premises of OGWs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing investigations in the Jammu and Kashmir terrorist conspiracy case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted another round of raids at the premises of hybrid terrorists and Overground Workers (OGWs) of the outfits and affiliates of Pakistan-backed banned terrorist organisations.

Some of these newly-floated outfits, The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJK), Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda among others.

"Several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data were recovered by the NIA during the latest round of searches, which have once again put the spotlight on OGWs as an important part of the terror ecosystem in the Valley, which is being dismantled on a continuous basis, the NIA said in a statement.

These outfits are affiliated to various banned Pak-based organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda among others.

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FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, 600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

Dated:- 23.05.2023

(Summons to defendants under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993).

Original Application No. 1174 of 2022

ICICI Bank Ltd.

V/s

Vaibhav Agarwal & Others

To,

1. Vaibhav Agarwal
...Defendant No. 1

S/o Shri Sudhir Kumar Agarwal R/O- Flat No. 17B, Dhalwalgiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida (U.P.)-201301

2. Suchita Agarwal
...Defendant No. 2

W/o-Shri. Vaibhav Agarwal R/O-Flat No. 17B, Dhalwalgiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida (U.P.)-201301

3. M/s Gayatri Developwell Pvt. Ltd.
...Defendant No.3

Registered office at -1, 5th Floor, Raman Tower, Sanjay Place, Agra- 282002 Through its Authorized Signatory

In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 14/12/2023 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammad Azeem Ashraf Qureshi, R/o. 202, 1st Floor, Ashraf Apartment 58/29, Saqlain Road, Jogabai Extn., Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my son's name from Mohammad Azam Azeem Ashraf to Azam Azeem for all future purposes.

PD/098/A

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Hemlata W/o Mr. Kailash Babu who is/are purchasing the Entire 2nd Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 30 sq. yards, of property No. 1446-B/1, Gali No. 13, Kharsa No. 600/23, situated at Govindpuri, Malviya, New Delhi-110017, to Mrs. Sushama Garg S/o Late Mr. Ramesh Garg, who is owner/attorney holder of the aforesaid property by virtue of notary General Power of Attorney, Special Power of Attorney, Agreement to sell & Will dated 01.03.2019, and intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. The original ID Sale Deed dated 29.10.2010, registered vide Document No. 19428, registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar-New Delhi, are/is not available/missing. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFO, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, etc.

Lucern Legal LLP
Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park,
New Delhi-110049; Contact# 011-40946316

MoD inks MoU to promote use of millets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote use of millets and healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces and ensure availability of safe and nutritious food was signed here on Thursday between the Defence Ministry and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Giving details of the event, the defence ministry said both ministers also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence' to promote the consumption of Shree Anna (millets) and its health benefits. The MoU was signed by Director General (Supplies and Transport) Lieutenant General Preet Mohindera Singh on behalf of Ministry of Defence (MoD) and CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) G Kamala Vardhana Rao.

It aims to create awareness about the nutritional benefits of diet diversity and millet-based



food products among the personnel. The MoU will also pave the way for the introduction of millet-based menus in mess, canteens and other food outlets under the MoD. This collaboration will also ensure training of food handlers and chefs of mess, canteens of the Armed Forces and other food outlets on food safety and hygiene as per the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

It signifies a shared commitment to the health and well-being of the Armed Forces to enable them to remain strong and resilient in their service to the nation.

NIA court sentences IM's 4 operatives to 10 years in prison

New Delhi: The NIA Special Court here on Wednesday sentenced four persons to 10 years of imprisonment in the Indian Mujahideen (IM) conspiracy case relating to the plot hatched by Pakistan-backed terrorists to trigger bomb blasts across India.

The accused, identified as Danish Ansari (Darbhanga, Bihar) Aftab Alam (Purnea, Bihar), Imran Khan (Nanded, Maharashtra) and Obaid-Ur-Rehman (Hyderabad, Telangana), were convicted on July 7 under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the NIA case. They had been arrested between January and March 2013.

Under the quantum of sentence pronounced on Thursday, the Special Judge also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on accused Danish Ansari and Rs 10,000 on Aftab Alam. The Special Court had earlier framed charges against the four, along with seven others, on March 31, 2023. The other seven have been identified as Yasin Bhatkal, Asadullah Akhter, Zia-Ur-Rehman, Tehsin Akhter and Hyder Ali. The trial against them is continuing, the agency added. **PNS**

Kashi's soft stone products attract world markets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The traditional soft stone products are attracting the global markets today as their trade exports have reached close to around Rs 12 crore, courtesy to this one of the Geographical Identification (GI) products from this holy city by the government. The beauty of this masterpiece was seen when one of its items was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the Wajidpur public meeting last week. Everyone saw that by seeing the beauty, the curious PM had asked about the product from the CM.

GI expert Padma Shri Dr Rajnikant said that the traditional soft stone craft art was struggling for its survival as it was virtually reached on the verge of its extinction once but due to supporting policies of central and state governments, the business of this art has increased from Rs 10 to Rs 12 crore today. "In the early times, the artisans of Ramnagar got patronage from the royal family. Over time, this traditional art, which has reached the verge of extinction, got a boost from the Modi-Yogi government, so this art is now gaining ground in the world market," he said, adding that the demands for this traditional art product have increased not only in the markets of Europe and Gulf countries but also in the different Buddhist nations and even in America. "About 500 to 700 artisans are engaged



PM Narendra Modi receiving a gift of soft stone artwork from CM Yogi Adityanath at Wajidpur in Varanasi last week.

in this traditional industry today," he said.

"Carving stones to a structure by hand and give another shape inside the same and then the third form exactly inside it that too without any joint is a unique artistry of the artisans of this ancient city," said Dr Rajnikant, adding that the specialty of this tradition art is that unique artefacts are made from undercut work in a single piece of stone without any joints with the help of pipes. For example, inside an elephant made of the same stone, another elephant, or any other animal, bird or figure is

engraved inside it.

"The skill, which is becoming famous in the world by the name of Varanasi soft stone jail (lattice) work, has got a new identity after the formation of the central and state governments led by Modi and Yogi respectively, helping the artisans, who had turned their backs on this age-old art, involve themselves in GI products once again," he said and added that the Yogi government is engaged in giving a global platform to the crafts of the state.

State award winner Dwarka Prasad said that the

Yogi government is giving new identity to this hundreds of years old art by keeping it alive. "There was a time when the artisans were leaving this work due to the problem of electricity, no market and other problems. The Yogi government's free tool kit distribution, skill development programme etc have enhanced this skill. Its fame has reached across the world, especially because of branding by the government and gifting it to foreign guests. "Its demand is increasing in the country as well as abroad, due to which the artisans are now getting new orders," he added.

Health department alert to dengue cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Health department is alert though no dengue cases have been reported in the district so far. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said as soon as the rainy season approaches, the danger of many infectious diseases starts looming due to accumulation of water and dirt at various places. "In such a situation, everyone needs to be alert and careful and in view of this, July is celebrated as Dengue Awareness Month," he said.

He directed the health workers to go door-to-door to check people suffering from fever and inform the positive patients compulsorily to the District Malaria Unit. "Along with this, the community is being made aware about communicable diseases like dengue, malaria, chikungunya, filariasis etc under the Communicable Disease Control Campaign. The Health department is fully alert for this," he said, adding that the special thing is that this year so far not a single dengue patient has been found in the district.

He asked the health workers to completely destroy mosquito breeding sources. "For sprinkling and fogging, seek cooperation from the Urban Development department in urban areas and Panchayati Raj department in rural areas. Government hospitals and block level CHCs/PHCs have been directed to reserve



A Health department team creating awareness towards dengue and other communicable diseases in Varanasi.

required beds. Spraying and fogging should be done actively in high risk (hot spots) areas of rural and urban areas," he said.

ACMO and nodal officer for communicable diseases Dr SS Kanojia said that the Health department is on full alert mode to control communicable diseases and in this direction, during the Dastak Abhiyan starting from July 17, fever, TB and filariasis patients will be identified and treated by door-to-door visits. All ASHA workers have been trained for rapid test kits and vector surveillance. Rapid Response

Teams (RRTs) have been formed at each CHC/PHC, he added.

The District Malaria Officer said that dengue is a deadly infectious disease which is spread by the bite of infected female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. "A single infected mosquito can infect many people with dengue. The risk of dengue starts increasing only during the rainy season. Dengue spreading mosquitoes bite only during the day. Its mosquitoes thrive in stagnant and clean water such as cooler water, clogged drains and drains. Dengue can easily occur

in people with low immunity. That's why there is a need to be very careful, alert and aware about it," he said, informing that since January 2023 till date, about 1,500 rapid tests for dengue have been conducted in the district in which none was found positive.

On the other hand, he said that about 67,564 people were tested for malaria with blood slides, in which 12 were found positive. All these patients have recovered. The facility of testing for dengue, malaria etc is available at all the government hospitals and urban and rural health centres of the district.

Take action against contractors who show laxity in work: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam has directed the officers to take action against the contractors who show laxity in completing the works on time. Otherwise the accountability of the officers will be fixed, he cautioned and sought clarification from the executive engineer and assistant engineer of the Rural Engineering Service on the delay in the completion of works. Reviewing the works being carried out under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) at Rifle Club here on Tuesday along with the Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, the DM expressed annoyance over the much delay in the completion of work and sought clarification from the executive



engineer and assistant engineer of the RES regarding this. The officers and engineers should go to the work sites to verify the works, he asked. Issuing strict instruction to the officers and engineers of the implementing departments and agencies such as RES, UP SIDCO, C&DS, UPDIC, NEDA and Jal Nigam, the DM emphasised on the quality and time bound of the works and directed to complete the works as per estimate, rendering and completion date. Install the plaques at the time of starting the works and get the laying of foundation stones

and unveiling of the works by the local public representative, he directed. Later, while reviewing the development works with the departmental officers at Rifle Club, the DM directed the officers to get the benefits of the development schemes to the people. Reviewing the Dairy Development department, he directed deputy dairy development officer to attach the maximum milk producers and dairy owners to the dairy committees to benefit them with the government schemes. During the review of the hor-

ticulture & food processing, the district horticulture officer apprised the DM that a total of 202 applications have been sanctioned and there are 400 farmers in the district who grow langra mango and of them, as many as 55 farmers have applied. Reviewing the works of the Social Welfare department, the DM sought clarification from the district social welfare officer for not lodging an FIR against the contractor on the charge of showing negligence in the work. He directed the DPRO to get construction of toilets at all the PM Houses and Anganwadi centres and ensure the payment to caretakers of toilets on time. He directed to seek clarification from the assistant engineer of the Minor Irrigation department for being absent without prior information.

BJP extends campaign till July 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In an attempt to achieve the set target of two lakh missed calls after issuing a unique number in mahanagar area limits, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership have extended the campaign till July 30. Till now BJP mahanagar leadership has managed to record around 65,000 calls to make Narendra Modi as PM for the third consecutive term.

Party spokesman Rajesh Kesarwani told reporters, "In the run-up to the fast approaching parliamentary polls, the party has launched a unique 'missed call' campaign with a special number and asked its leaders to record at least 50,000 calls in each and every assembly constituency of the district. Prayagraj has a total 12 assembly seats (two parliamentary seats - Allahabad and Phulpur) and we expect at

least five lakh miss calls from the district."

He, however, said this initiative was to expand the party's support base among eligible voters. Additionally, party workers are carrying out a missed call campaign across over 4,000 booths urging voters to give a missed call to link them to the party's database.

Under the 'Sampark Se Samarthan' (contact for support) campaign, booth workers are reaching out to 10-15 families in each booth and connecting with eligible voters. Kesarwani, meanwhile, said party's 'missed call' campaign, coupled with its extensive outreach efforts, highlights the party's determination to expand its support base and secure a strong support in the upcoming general elections.

However, some callers said they have noticed support for UCC (Uniform Civil Code) message on their mobiles when

they dialled the unique number.

ADMISSION IN AU: Candidates registering through online mode for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Allahabad University (AU) will have to create an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) ID. Filling up this 12-digit unique ID in the online form, during registration, has been made mandatory by the university.

Students will be able to create ABC ID through their Digi Locker. The candidate, who appeared in the CUET exam, will be able to register for the admission through this system. This year AU administration has introduced six courses and ABC ID is required for admission in these courses.

Director of admissions at AU Prof JK Pati said that ABC ID will have to be compulsorily mentioned in the registration form in graduate courses. The

online portal for registration commenced on Wednesday.

"Under multiple entry and multiple exit system, if a student leaves studies midway, certificate, diploma and degree will be awarded on basis of credits earned during that time period and same ID can be used if he or she continues studies in any other institution," said Prof Pati.

Prof Pati explained, "When the student opens and enters his or her Digi locker, click at the education section and then click on ABC ID. Thereafter, verify the same with the aadhar number". Once it is verified, one has to select an institution and those aspiring to study at University of Allahabad should click on the same and create their ID by clicking the word 'create', he added. After following these steps, a 12-digit unique ID would be created which will have to be filled in the registration form.

Sangam city 1st to launch scan & share module of online OPD registration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Sangam city has become the first district of the state to launch scan and share module of online OPD registration at eight tehsil level community health centres via ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) which can made by every citizen of India via Aadhaar or driving license via OTP. After making ABHA ID-patient will scan the QR code at registration counter of hospital - then patient will get token number - he/she will ask the registration counter person to generate the OPD slip and online OPD slip will be handed over to the patient there by reducing the waiting time at registration counter to the minimum and simultaneously digitalising the health record of that particular patient for the future references

Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) from Wednesday itself. With this the generation of ABHA ID facility is now available at 12 medical centres, including all four prominent hospitals, including SRN, TB Sapru, Colvin and Dufferin hospital in city areas and eight CHCs in trans-Ganga and trans-Yamuna pockets of the district.

Dr Utsav Singh (Nodal Officer) of ABDM and HMIS told mediapersons, "Prayagraj district has become the first to implement the ABHA facility at all tehsil level CHCs in UP. He

adds, "The Scan and Share Module of online OPD registration works via ABHA ID which can be made by every citizen of India via Aadhaar or driving Licence via OTP. After making ABHA ID-patient will scan the QR code at registration counter of hospital - then patient will get token number - he/she will ask the registration counter person to generate the OPD slip and online OPD slip will be handed over to the patient there by reducing the waiting time at registration counter to the minimum and simultaneously digitalising the health record of that particular patient for the future references

via ABHA ID. Dr Singh, however, said, "This ABHA number (a 14-digit unique health ID) allows users to share their health records digitally with hospitals, clinics, insurance providers and others. A senior health official said health authorities are helping patients to get OPD tickets without standing in queues for hours and enable them to get medical record in any hospital all over the country. Moreover, patients who don't have their mobile numbers linked with their Aadhaar card can also avail ABHA number through the new initiative by using biometric devices.

Commissionerate officials find new destination at old PHQ

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Finally, officials posted at the office of Commissionerate of Police (Prayagraj) have found a new destination at the old Police Headquarters' (PHQ) building to get their working functional.

The DGP headquarter (Lucknow) has allotted two of the prominent offices including ADG (34 Prayagraj zone) and Commissionerate of police (Prayagraj) will be operating from main building of old police HQ. In fact, office of the ADG (Prayagraj zone) is already functional at old PHQ building.

A senior cop said that DGP Headquarter has allocated adequate space/rooms to two main offices including ADG (Prayagraj zone) and Commissionerate of police at old police HQ building.

He added, "Apart from legal cell, all the units currently functioning at old PHQ building would be shifted to old building of SSP office". The entire shifting work would be done within a week under the

supervision of ADG (Prayagraj zone).

In February, a proposal to additional DG (general staff officer/administration), DGP headquarters, Lucknow was sent to allot rooms for commissioner of police (CP) Prayagraj and other senior officials at the building of old police headquarters. Currently, the CP operates from a small room near his official residence.

Earlier, Commissionerate of police office had sought at least eight rooms on the ground and first floors of the old police headquarters (PHQ) building. Claiming that old police headquarters building has enough space and a better spot to take up routine work and activities for Prayagraj Commissionerate, officials had also sought six rooms at first floor for commissioner of police (CP) and his office room, public grievances cell, commissioner staff room, additional DCP/ACP rooms and CP staff rooms, head clerk office, accountant office room and visitors room. Currently, the ground and first floor of old police headquarters has many offices, including additional

SP staff office, ADG zone, Gopniya Karyalaya, head clerk (zone), steno room, store prabhari karksh, cyber cell, abhisuchana vibhag (mandal akhikari), office mandal akhikari, SP intelligence, legal cell, election cell, meeting hall, store zone office, complaint cell (zone), deputy SP (legal cell), accounts, public grievances and additional PHQ camp, IG (PAC), CBCID, DIG office (home guard), ATS field unit, SP (vigilance), STF room, satarkta adhisthan and others.

As enough rooms are available at old police headquarters building (once the police headquarters got shifted to DGP office Lucknow from Prayagraj), the allotment of rooms would help to take up routine activities and work more effectively.

YOUTH BEATEN TO DEATH: A 25-year-old youth who had gone to attend a wedding procession was beaten to death in Soraon area on Wednesday night. His body was found about 500 metres away from the village. It is being said that the murder was committed due to old

enmity. The police have detained three accused from the village itself.

The angry relatives of the deceased did not allow the body to be sent for the post-mortem. The relatives demanded immediate arrest of the accused and compensation. On the receipt of information, the police administration reached the spot and pacified the family members.

Awadhesh of Sarai Datta (Dalikapura) village under Soraon police station of Ganganagar, was married to Anjali Devi. He has a one-and-a-half-year-old son. Presently his wife is pregnant. Awadhesh used to work in a private company. Mother Kalui Devi said on Wednesday Awadhesh had gone to attend the marriage procession along with Anoop, Alok and Sandeep. On Thursday morning a blood-soaked body was found 500 metres away from the village. When the villagers saw it they informed the relatives. The police arrived and tried to take the body into possession but the relatives were demanding the arrest of the accused.

Revenue collection reviewed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Sansadiya Evam Samajik Sadbhav Samiti of UP Legislative Council visited the district and reviewed the revenue collection and progress in the developmental works on Wednesday. The chairman of the committee MLC Ashutosh Sinha directed the officials to achieve the target. While reviewing the progress the committee took the official of the Excise department of Bhadohi to task for not producing the booklet on time. The officer was directed to appear before the committee in Lucknow along with complete reports. Besides commercial tax revenue related points of Bhadohi were also reviewed and necessary directions were given. About revenue through excise it was reported that Mirzapur stood third in the state in the first quarter of the year. Reviewing all points of welfare schemes the committee directed the CDOs of the division to spend all available fund on eligible beneficiaries and ensure that all types of pension reached the accounts of beneficiaries. The committee directed to take all steps to check illegal trading of liquor and in coordination with the police and Excise department under the supervision of the administration. For criminals involved in illegal trade of liquor the police was asked to take all the possible action against them, including booking them under the Gangster's Act. The Mirzapur SP apprised the committee about the action taken against the liquor mafia.

To check overloading and evasion of revenue the DM Mirzapur was asked to form a three member committee for a month. The meeting was attended by the Mirzapur DM Divya Mittal and other officials. **BLOOD DONATION:** Director, Ghanshyam Binani Academy of Management Sciences (GBAMS), Dr Zeeshan Amir while addressing a blood donation camp organised at the blood bank located at the divisional hospital on Wednesday said it is the need of the hour that we donate blood so that the demand could be met. She praised the spirit of students who came forward for a positive cause and

appreciated the blood bank staff who were making the people aware of blood donation.

Former principal GD Binani PG College Dr Rajeev Agrawal and trader Swaroop Gupta were also present to encourage the blood donors. Swaroop Gupta also donated blood. PRO blood bank Ram Kumar Gupta proposed the vote of thanks.

STONE PELTING: Policemen were injured when villagers pelted stones on Wednesday. SP Santosh Kumar Mishra said a land dispute related to Muskira village had been brought in the Thana Samadhan Diwas and the team had been formed to solve the matter. He said that on the day Lallan Sharma started ploughing the field on which the other side Veerendra Singh Patel informed the police. Lallan's side allegedly started stone pelting in which SO Santnagar Arvind Saroj and two other cops got injured. On information the force of other police station along with authorities reached the spot and controlled the situation. The SP said after registering the

case, 10 accused had been arrested and NSA will be invoked against them. Tension prevailed in the village but the situation was under control, last reports received here said.

FCI'S ROLE: Divisional manager FCI Varanasi Sunil Kumar while was addressing media recently said the role of the organisation is very important not only in the interest of farmers but also to keep prices of grain under control and make available fortified rice to ration consumers. He said to control prices the organisation is making available the grain to small traders from the buffer stock on reasonable price and it was helpful to check exorbitant increase in the prices. About supply of fortified rice at ration shop he said after receiving it from the millers FCI was mixing iron, folic acid and B12 to make the grain nutritious. For millers he said the organisation was making available seeds and such grains also had been brought under MSP. AGM Subhash Kumar, Deputy Regional Marketing Officer Dhananjai Singh and others were present.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A bloody win

Charges of rigging and violence in Bengal panchayat polls put a question mark on the electoral process

In time with the Calcutta High Court's directive for the West Bengal State Election Commission as well as the state and Union governments to address allegations of violence and malpractices, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has emerged triumphant in West Bengal panchayat elections. The election results reveal that the TMC remains dominant, securing over 35,000 panchayat seats out of the total 63,229 seats. In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main contender, could only secure around 10,000 seats, while the CPI(M)-Congress alliance managed to win approximately 6,500 seats. The BJP, as the primary Opposition party in the Assembly, has suffered a setback and is unlikely to win any Zila Parishads. The Left and Congress, who formed an alliance for the election, have performed slightly better compared to their complete defeat in the 2021 assembly elections. The TMC's landslide victory in the rural body elections, viewed as a test for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, is expected to significantly boost the confidence of the party. The election, held on July 8, has been marred by violence, allegations of rigging, and judicial intervention starting from the announcement of the polling date to the nomination filing and vote counting. Several cases have been filed by opposition parties, accusing the West Bengal State Election Commission (WBSEC) of electoral malpractices and bias.



While the TMC considers the verdict a triumph for the rural people of Bengal, Opposition leaders have raised doubts about the results and alleged malpractices at the counting center. Numerous incidents of malpractice have been reported, including the violence, and intimidation of opposition counting agents by TMC supporters. For BJP, the performance in the panchayat elections raises questions about their mission to win 35 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal in the general election. In the previous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the BJP emerged as the main Opposition in West Bengal. However, this time, the party performed poorly in the strongholds of several prominent leaders. Not only the BJP but also the other opponents of the TMC, the Left and Congress, struggled to achieve success. Nevertheless, this victory comes at a heavy cost, casting doubt on the democratic process itself. The panchayat elections have been among the bloodiest, resulting in the loss of at least 40 lives. The state election commission and administration faced criticism for their failure to prevent malpractices. In many areas, ballot papers were dumped in drains, and opposition agents were subjected to physical assault and threats by TMC workers, often with the assistance of the police, at the counting centers. Many Opposition candidates and counting agents lodged complaints of harassment, intimidation and violence while numerous ministers, MLAs and leaders were observed inside the counting centers. Widespread allegations have been made against the WBSEC, accusing them of operating in a biased manner.

and intimidation of opposition counting agents by TMC supporters. For BJP, the performance in the panchayat elections raises questions about their mission to win 35 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal in the general election. In the previous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the BJP emerged as the main Opposition in West Bengal. However, this time, the party performed poorly in the strongholds of several prominent leaders. Not only the BJP but also the other opponents of the TMC, the Left and Congress, struggled to achieve success. Nevertheless, this victory comes at a heavy cost, casting doubt on the democratic process itself. The panchayat elections have been among the bloodiest, resulting in the loss of at least 40 lives. The state election commission and administration faced criticism for their failure to prevent malpractices. In many areas, ballot papers were dumped in drains, and opposition agents were subjected to physical assault and threats by TMC workers, often with the assistance of the police, at the counting centers. Many Opposition candidates and counting agents lodged complaints of harassment, intimidation and violence while numerous ministers, MLAs and leaders were observed inside the counting centers. Widespread allegations have been made against the WBSEC, accusing them of operating in a biased manner.

PICTALK



Children swim in the swollen Ganga river during the monsoon rains, in Varanasi

PTI

To be successful become God conscious

God is most pleased if we try to follow 'dharma' in our activities. We must strive hard, after all, we are aiming to please the creator of universe

It is not so difficult to become God-conscious, even though it is rare to become one. Why? Because we don't even try. What is so difficult to accept that there is God? How else does this large creation function for millions of years? Who made such a creation, in which the human body is such a marvel that medical research over centuries has discovered only a small part of its functioning? Yes, God is incomprehensible, because the human brain is not equipped to fathom what God is like; we are limited to knowing about God from what God has stated about Himself in His incarnations. Anything beyond that is simply speculation and must never be done. God is very different from us, but so are millions of species. Don't we accept them? Then why not accept God? We don't because that will force us to admit that we are helplessly small and extremely limited. We will always be no matter how big or powerful we think we have become, just because we have established superiority over lower species. God is prepared to help us and remove our deficiencies but



our 'ahankar' will not let us; we have to take His shelter; we have to become God-conscious.

I can go on but let me refer to the Bhagavad-Geeta to learn more about the benefits of becoming God-conscious. What excites me is verse # 18.58 in which Lord Krishna states, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace." What more can we ask for when troubles and problems are forever coming in this place of misery, i.e. our planet Earth? Once someone gets a taste of what all God can do for us, there will be no way one will not pursue God's consciousness more seriously. The next benefit which should appeal to everyone is gaining real happiness (sukha) by becoming God-conscious. Lord Krishna has

spoken about it in several verses of the Geeta. In verse # 6.27, He informs, "One, who is of divine consciousness, achieves real happiness." And, "Those having My consciousness and having surrendered their lives to Me, while making one another aware about Me and always speaking about Me, get satisfaction and enjoy;" (10.9) And, "He, having consciousness linked to the Brahman, experiences eternal bliss." (5.21)

For all these, our consciousness has to go higher, then the sky is the limit. Lord Krishna has assured, "By whom the consciousness of self has been conquered by self, his consciousness is a friend only. Otherwise, his consciousness remains as an enemy of self in enmity;" (6.6) One will even attain God - the highest achievement. Lord Krishna assures, "Be in My consciousness; become My devotee; be My worshipper; and offer obeisance to Me. This way, having linked the soul to Me and being dependent upon Me, you will attain Me only." (9.34)

Let us learn more about how to achieve God's consciousness. The starting point



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

has to be a reinforcement of the mode of goodness in ourselves. It is important to know that all material bodies are made up of the three modes of material nature. These are goodness, passion and darkness. They are forever competing to gain ascendancy. (14.10) If we embrace the quality of being good in all our activities, this will happen nicely. The next target is to become dutiful, which of course should be done simultaneously. This is not too difficult to do; we just have to assess what is most appropriate at a particular time and a particular place and the existing circumstances. Easier said than done is not true but not so difficult either. We just have to become disciplined enough. After all, we are aiming for the top prize of pleasing God - the owner of the creation. And God is most pleased if we try to follow 'dharma' in our activities because dharma is the principle upon which the creation is founded. All these will begin to purify our bodies, minds and words. (The writer is a spiritual teacher)

(The writer is a spiritual teacher)

The nationalist writer par excellence

Through his writings, Bankim championed the nationalist imaginations and reiterated the greatness of the nation when it was most needed



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Born on June 27, 1838, into a Brahmin family, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (Chatterjee) was the face of the Bengal Renaissance, an exemplary novelist, and the man who gave India, her National Song, 'Vande Mataram'. Chattopadhyay was, in fact, the pioneer of Bengali literature that blossomed later through laureates like Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mahashweta Devi and many others. He is also often hailed as the father of the modern Indian novel. His works, crafted during the colonial era, reveal a deep exploration of socio-political themes that played a significant role in shaping Indian nationalism and fostering social consciousness. Chattopadhyay's writings not only depicted the struggles and aspirations of the Indian people but also served as a clarion call for unity, self-empowerment, and cultural resurgence of a sleeping nation, that much needed to be awakened.

One of his early works 'Bangadarshan' a monthly literary magazine became what Bankim Chandra wanted, a medium of communication between the educated and uneducated classes. 'Bangadarshan' stopped publication in the 1880s, but was revived in 1901 and Rabindranath Tagore - who was 23 years younger than Bankim - became its editor.

It was Rabindranath Tagore who later wrote that "Bankim Chandra had equal strength in both his hands, he was a true 'sabyasachi' (ambidextrous). With one hand, he created literary works of excellence; and with the other, he guided young and aspiring authors. With one hand, he ignited the light of literary enlightenment; and with the other, he blew away the smoke and ash of ignorance and ill-conceived notions." The colonial rule had profoundly impacted Indian society, leading to a sense of cultural subjugation and disillusionment. Chattopadhyay's writings emerged as a response to this, providing a voice to the aspirations of the people and nurturing a spirit of resistance against the British Raj.

Chattopadhyay's literature



celebrates the rich cultural heritage of India and explores the complexities of Indian identity. His works, such as "Anandamath" and "Durgeshnandini," vividly portray the country's historical past, replete with valour, heroism, and pride. Through his characters, he emphasizes the need for Indians to reconnect with their roots, embrace their native traditions, and reclaim their sense of identity, thereby fostering a deep sense of nationalism. His novels expose the exploitative nature of British rule, the economic oppression faced by the Indian peasantry, and the cultural erosion inflicted upon the nation. "Anandamath," set in the background of the 'Sanyasi Rebellion' (late 18th century) - when Bengal was facing a famine - too unveils the atrocities committed by the colonial regime and instills a fervent desire for independence among readers, igniting the flame of nationalism.

One of the striking elements of Bankim Chandra's literature is also his progressive portrayal of women, where the female characters challenge societal norms and stereotypes, advocating for the empowerment and liberation of women. Novels like "Kapalkundala" and "Devi



BY WRITING IN BENGALI, HE NOT ONLY MADE LITERATURE ACCESSIBLE TO THE MASSES, BUT ALSO REVITALIZED REGIONAL LANGUAGES, CHALLENGING THE DOMINANCE OF ENGLISH AS THE LANGUAGE OF INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE

Chaudhurani" feature strong, independent women who assert their influence in the nationalistic movement, as he depicted women as catalysts of change, which in turn helped in shaping social consciousness regarding women per se.

Through his writings, Bankim championed the nationalist imaginations and reiterated the greatness of the nation. He would scornfully remark that even if we yawn, the act should be acknowledged as one of the immortal glories of this world and hence duly recorded.

Chattopadhyay also laid great emphasis on vernacular literature. By writing in Bengali, he not only made literature accessible to this section of the masses, but also revitalized regional languages, challenging the dominance of English as the language of intellectual discourse, and simultaneously addressed the pivotal role of education in shaping a nation's destiny. "Vande Mataram" - the National Song - from the book "Anandamath" on which a 1952 popular film was made - became a rallying cry for freedom fighters and a symbol of national unity. Chattopadhyay's writings inspired countless individuals to join the struggle for inde-

pendence, infusing the movement with a sense of purpose, determination, and cultural pride.

Historians, psychologist and theorists like R S Sharma, Romesh Chunder, Dipesh Chakrabarty, and Ashis Nandy respectively, has emphasized Chattopadhyay's contribution in shaping Indian nationalism. While Nandy argues that Chattopadhyay's literature presented an alternative narrative to British colonialism and offered a sense of cultural pride and identity to the Indian people, Sharma points to how they shed light on the economic exploitation faced by the peasantry and the oppressive nature of British rule. Scholars have also explored the influence of Chattopadhyay's writings on Mahatma Gandhi, who in his autobiography "The Story of My Experiments with Truth," acknowledged the impact of Chattopadhyay's novel "Anandamath" on his political philosophy and the concept of Satyagraha. Chattopadhyay's literature, with its depiction of sacrifice and devotion to the cause of freedom, resonated deeply with Gandhiji's ideals of peaceful resistance.

(The writer is a programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAKISTAN'S PROBLEMS

Sir - No matter how much your neighbour bothers you. Be your enemy But still, if there is a situation of mourning at his place, then definitely you will not be able to celebrate at your place. These days our neighbour country Pakistan is going through its worst economic troubles after independence. Where inflation is above 29 per cent at present. On top of that the foreign exchange reserves have become empty. The country has become unable to repay the loan. In every case, the country which has become a victim of bankruptcy, it seems very difficult for that country to recover from this situation. After all, how much will Saudi Arabia help Islamabad? They had already given \$ 3 billion in December 2021. Then on Tuesday this week, Riyadh announced that they had transferred 2 billion dollars to the State Bank of Pakistan. UAE also gave 1 billion dollars. Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund, after dragging its feet for the last six months, has finally approved a stand-by arrangement of US\$ 3 billion for Pakistan by its Executive Board. Following in the footsteps of the Sri Lanka, tough economic measures will have to be taken which will be painful for the common Pakistanis of the country.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jameshedpur

CONGRESS PROTEST

Sir - Congress leaders including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar staged a protest on 12/07/2023 in Bengaluru city's freedom park against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as an MP. Congress has dubbed the disqualification of Gandhi as vindictive politics. The disqualification of Gandhi is very much by the law following conviction by the court in a defamation suit filed against him. Gandhi brushed all the Modis including Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a single brush by calling them thieves. PM Modi took the utterances in a lighter vein. Peeved by the slur cast on Modis, a Gujarat MLA Purnesh Modi filed a

Infighting in BJP's Delhi unit



All is not well for the BJP's Delhi unit. On Wednesday they removed Neha Shalini Dua as its spokesperson for allegedly violating the official party line while expressing her views on various issues, including GST. Hitting back, Dua charged a section of the BJP's Delhi unit leaders with 'chauvinism' and urged the party's central leadership to take note of the action against her. Delhi BJP has with immediate effect relieved Neha Shalini Dua from the post of spokesperson of Delhi BJP for repeatedly violating (the) party line," a statement from the Delhi BJP's media depart-

ment said. The statement also added that "all media channels and newspapers are informed that Neha Shalini Dua's views should not be taken as (the) party line". The news channels have been requested to not invite Ms Dua as the Delhi BJP spokesperson, it said.

Earlier this month, the Delhi BJP issued Ms Dua a show-cause notice to explain her violation of the party line. Dua said on Twitter that some men at the party thought they could stop her from speaking, which was their fault. In another tweet, she said that four notices were sent to her in the last two years, revealing a "cheap chauvinist" mindset, and urged the BJP's central leadership to take cognizance of the action against her. She also uploaded a video on her Twitter handle in which she defended her views on the GST, saying it was not in violation of the party line. It is high time the BJP must investigate the matter before taking any action against Dua.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

defamation case against Gandhi. The law took its course resulting in the conviction of Gandhi. If Gandhi had paused a little before letting loose his tongue, he would not have landed in trouble. He became a victim of his follies. When Lord Rama killed the demon king Ravana, Rama's mother asked Him if he killed Ravana. Rama said, "No. Ravana is a great devotee of Lord Parameshwara. Because he swerved from right path, he became the victim of his own sins". Gandhi courted trouble for himself.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

MISUSE OF ED

Sir - The Supreme Courts' decision to hold and saying illegal for the third extension of the ED chief is a slap on the face of the Government. It is disgusting to note that the Modi Government has extended the tenure of the ED chief three times as if there are no "eligible "

persons for the post of ED director. Under the BJP government, all the investigative agencies have become a puppet to Government and have become a "caged parrot". Mainly ED is used to destabilize the opposition Governments. There 95% of cases are booked by ED only on opposition leaders. It is a known fact that with the help of ED, the BJP government has carried a relentless vendetta against political opponents. It has become common for the Centre an arbitrarily use its Central agencies like ED and CBI to arrest and institute criminal proceedings against opposition leaders. Now Government repeatedly extends the tenure of the ED Director and the Supreme Court says it is illegal proving that how ED director is acting on the dictates of the Government.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN IS SCO GOING RUDDERLESS?

Has SCO lost its direction in the wake of changing geo-political realities

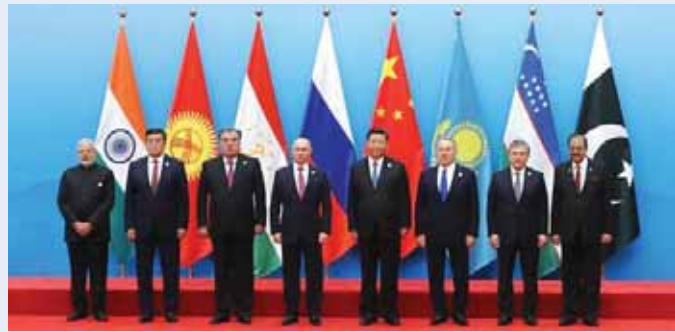


KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting held last week, virtually hosted by India reflects the analogy of humans with elephants in a dark room. Each of the major partners constituting SCO, China, Russia and India decided to have its take on the beast in the room, with very little convergence. India hosted the summit virtually, lasting only for two hours, which drew sharp responses from Chinese academia and think tanks. Chinese President Xi Jinping during his video speech was quoted as saying "We should truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and firmly support each other's endeavor for development and rejuvenation. We should keep in mind the overall and long-term interests of our region, and make our foreign policies independently. We must be highly vigilant against external attempts to foment a new cold war or camp-based confrontation in our region. We must resolutely reject any interference in our internal affairs and the instigation of 'color revolutions' by any country under whatever pretext."

There were tons of references to India being pulled into Western camps by the US. The Chinese national mouthpiece Global Times carried a quote from Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University where he expressed concerns regarding "the US is using its Indo-Pacific strategy to drive a wedge between China and its neighbouring countries; and Washington is moving to pull over India, trying to dilute the organization's cohesion." PM Modi's state visit to the US was mentioned, as one more attempt by the US and as a threat to China since it aimed to prop up India in the Indo-Pacific region. Another Chinese mouthpiece the China Daily carried a long piece praising several initiatives of President Xi Jinping. An Uzbek expert on international relations was quoted showering praises on China's Belt and Road Initiative which is fostering closer infrastructure, and economic and trade ties among Asian, European and African countries.

India has long contested the opaque funding of the Belt and Road



Initiative and has refused to be part of it. PM Modi in his remarks at the SCO summit said "Strong connectivity is crucial for the progress of any region. Better connectivity not only enhances mutual trade but also fosters mutual trust. However, in these efforts, it is essential to uphold the basic principles of the SCO charter, particularly respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Member States. Following Iran's membership in the SCO, we can work towards maximizing the utilization of the Chabahar Port. The International North-South Transport Corridor can serve as a secure and efficient route for landlocked countries in Central Asia to access the Indian Ocean." The emphasis on respect for territorial integrity without mentioning BRI didn't go down well with the Chinese.

Meanwhile, India stuck to the new pillars of cooperation for SCO members, it created under its presidency on startups and innovation, traditional medicine, youth empowerment, digital inclusion and shared Buddhist heritage. India has a leadership position in almost all of these areas, except, the startup innovation space where China may have a lead.

At a median level, filtering the observations from either camp along the fault lines it seemed SCO has lost its relevance as a regional body, given the changed dynamics of the member countries. Some may point out that the inclusion of Iran in the group makes SCO bigger and has now got itself a strong member in West Asia. However, the big three, Russia, China and India have much to reconcile. India would not be in a position to have any meaningful dialogue with China, till the military situation on its borders is resolved and ground forces retreat from combative positions. An economically weakened Russia may not be the best bet for India, especially, given the closer ties Beijing seems to have with Moscow. The changed dynamics are sure to impact SCO and its members.

(The writer is a policy analyst. Views expressed are personal)

Reassess the efficacy of the PLI scheme



AS MITTAL

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) could pave the way for a self-sustaining manufacturing ecosystem but exports should not be based on imported products



Make in India" was introduced in September 2014, which could not boost the manufacturing sector in the six fiscal years FY15-FY20. Further to push 'Make in India' to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme was introduced on 21 March 2020, to speed up production, increase exports and curb imports. But does it work? An outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for 14 sectors, including automobile, telecom and textile, is to be released. Historically, the first disbursement under PLI came only in September 2022 - as approved by the "Empowered Committee" under NITI Aayog. More than half of the time of this five-year PLI scheme has been covered, now it is time to look at the impact and effectiveness of the scheme.

National account statistics show that manufacturing value added was 17.3% of gross value added (GVA) in FY2015, which increased slightly to 17.7% in FY23. Over the past nine fiscal years since FY2015, it has increased value added in production by 6% on average compared to 5.6% of GVA's. At this rate of contribution and value-added growth, manufacturing is not driving economic growth in any significant way. In addition, the share of manufacturing jobs is declining - from 12.1% in 2017-18 to 11.6% in 2021-22. Contrary to the promise to create 6 million new jobs in five years, there are no official figures to show how many jobs have been created. There is no post facto study to measure the impact or effectiveness of the PLI.

Initially, PLI was offered into three sectors, but it has expanded to 14 sectors, and the three new sectors - leather, e-bikes and toys - are expected to occu-



NATIONAL ACCOUNT STATISTICS SHOW THAT MANUFACTURING G VALUE ADDED WAS 17.3% OF GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA) IN FY2015, WHICH INCREASED SLIGHTLY TO 17.7% IN FY23

(The writer is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board. Views expressed are personal)

py a total of 17 sectors. Although expanding to new sectors is a holistic and inclusive approach, it is an empirical truth that incentives have an extraordinary impact on shaping economic behaviour and must be designed for the public good. The inefficiency may not serve the purpose.

ONLY 1.5% OF THE FUND WAS PAID OUT

After more than three years, a recent PLI review by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that out of Rs 1.97 crore allocations, only Rs 2,900 crore (1.5% of allocations) has been disbursed by the end of FY23 for eight sectors such as large-scale electronics manufacturing, IT hardware, bulk drugs, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and network products, food processing and drones and drone components. The bulk of the incentives went to only three sectors - large-scale electronics, pharmaceuticals and food products. There are zero disbursements in 6 sectors - steel, textiles, batteries, white goods, solar panels and automotive.

CLAIM GAME

Following the review, the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said, "India's flagship PLIs have attracted investments worth Rs 62,500 crore in sectors such as mobile manufacturing, pharmaceuticals,

medical devices and food processing, resulting in incremental production/sales of over Rs 6.75 lakh crore; creating 3.25 million new jobs and increasing exports by Rs 2.56 lakh crore by March 2023.

The ministry's statement also said that "sectors for which the PLI scheme exists have seen increased FDI inflows between FY22 and FY23 - pharmaceuticals and pharmaceuticals (46%), food processing (26%) and medical devices (91%) and that the PLI scheme has 'transformed' India's export basket from traditional commodities to high value-added products such as electronics and telecommunication goods, processed food products, etc.'

PLI FOR MAKE IN INDIA OR ASSEMBLE IN INDIA?

While the DPIIT says PLI "has led to an increase in value added in the electronics sector and manufacturing by 23% and 20% respectively, no study or data analysis supports this. Ideally, it should be genuine 'Made in India', not 'Assembled in India'.

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan recently revealed in one of the articles, "Has India become a mobile phone manufacturing giant?", which claims that there is no value addition in India, just assembling smartphones. Rajan claimed that "net exports" were "still very negative" and had not increased substantially since 2018.

An analysis of India's trade data shows that exports of electronic goods have grown in recent years, but imports have grown much more, widening the trade deficit for such goods from -\$30.6 billion in FY15 to -\$53.7 billion in FY23.

INSUFFICIENT MONITORING

After the previous round of PLI review, the NITI Aayog, tasked with evaluating publicly funded projects and schemes, was to provide real-time progress and monitor the PLI. In its 2021-22 annual report, the Aayog said it was "developing a PLI dashboard to monitor PLI scheme". Since the PLI is listed on increased investment, production, exports and employment generation, this dashboard was meant to track changes in these areas. However, the dashboard is still unavailable.

THE WAY FORWARD

The PLI system is rightly intended to create scope for improving competitiveness. However, exports should be produced through local resources rather than imports to make the payoff seem worthwhile. To strengthen India's manufacturing capacity and reduce import dependence in key sectors, it is time to reassess the effectiveness and impact of the PLI scheme in practice, which could be closely monitored. If supported by effective implementation, PLI could pave the way for a self-sustaining manufacturing ecosystem.

Risk mitigation is a must for the success of PPP

Risk assessment and management is the key to the long-term sustainability and bankability of PPP projects to ensure their profitability

Public Partnership (PPP) projects are both capital-intensive and long-term projects. There are good possibilities that these projects may not progress as planned i.e., these are risky projects. The reasons may or may not be under the control of project heads. The likelihood and impact of each event are different and together these two factors dictate the level of delay or cost over-run which may have to be planned for. Thus, the project risks are a function of the likelihood of the occurrence of that event and the level of its impact on the project. The project will be considered risky whenever the likelihood and impact of various risks is more or at least one of these is of high-



NARESH BANA

(The writer is an International PPP Consultant and a contributor to the UN Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) policy planning effort)

er level. For example, a project will be considered risky even when the risk likelihood is very less, but the risk impact is human fatalities or big financial loss.

It is prudent therefore to analyze the entire project and identify the factors which can influence the outcome of a project. Such influencing factors when further appreciated for their likelihood and impact are called risk. There are numerous risks in a project ranging from internal risks (assumption risk, design risk and technical risk) to external risks (government action, Interest rates, demand). Project risks are primarily identified inter alia from analysis of historical project data about the conception

and development of the project, work breakdown structure of the project, process flow charts of the project, network diagrams, brainstorming and Delphi techniques. Once the risks are identified, risk assessment is undertaken. It is based on a meticulous analysis of the likelihood and impact of each risk. The risks are then prioritized, consequences studied, and mitigation measures planned. The top three risks are quite ubiquitous in all infrastructure projects.

The first and foremost risk is the Financing Risk. The PPP projects are capital-intensive projects, and the concession period usually runs into decades. Many of these need support through 'Viability Gap Funding' (VGF)

to make them 'bankable' as they have to earn a 'Return on Investment' (ROI). To arrive at the quantum of finance needed detailed financial modelling is prepared keeping minimum assumption risk. A credible 'Detailed Project Report' (DPR) is thus essential as it will minimize the assumptions by undertaking various project-specific studies and leave little scope for speculation. This risk is normally owned by a private partner. A suggested mitigation plan could be based on incorporating mezzanine debt or preferred equity.

The second important risk is Demand Risk. Also called traffic risk, it has been the bane of many transportation projects turning into non-performing assets.

Correct estimation of the current traffic and credible projections for the future are important to estimate the need for VGF today and the profitability of the project in future. There are well-established and mature techniques available today for traffic study and fair statistical modelling can be undertaken. It is advisable that not only the study outcomes be retested for ascertaining the need for VGF but also for possibilities of revenue growth. Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) be estimated after due study of the target population for impact on economic activity, travel demand and behaviour patterns. Usually, this risk is shared between the public authority and private partner

but in certain countries, it is fully assumed by the public authority thereby making the project more sustainable and attractive to private investors i.e., Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in India.

The third key risk is MAGA Risk (Material Adverse Government Action Risk) which arises due to political, regulatory, monetary policy and change of law events. For a specific PPP project, there will be many more angles of MAGA risk and a holistic analysis must be undertaken and necessary safeguards be built into the concession agreement. The likelihood of this risk is medium, but the impact is always severe and could be detrimental to the project's

profitability. It is thus essential to have an elaborate concession agreement duly supported by a sound legal framework and smooth dispute-resolution mechanism of the host country.

Once identified and prioritized, the risk mitigation planning is undertaken by way of either transferring the risk to the party who can handle it best, drawing insurance against a specific risk or changing the project plan to avoid/reduce the risk or making contingency plans after accepting the risk. All the time be careful to plan for the risk involved in managing the risk i.e., have a contingency plan for a particular contingency plan which you may make for mitigating that particular risk.

Pak receives \$1.2 bn from IMF: FM

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The IMF has transferred USD 1.2 billion to Pakistan, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Thursday, a day after the global lender approved a USD 3 billion bailout programme for the cash-strapped country.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had signed a Stand-by Agreement at the end of June to provide Pakistan a short-term loan for a period of nine months and its executive board formally approved the USD 3 billion bailout programme on Wednesday to support the government's efforts to stabilise the country's ailing economy.



row. The state bank will give the exact numbers," he said.

The IMF deal has effectively averted the threat of default.

The development came two weeks after the two sides reached a staff-level agreement over the stand-by arrangement.

The global lender on Wednesday said that the programme would focus on the "implementation of the FY24 budget to facilitate Pakistan's needed fiscal adjustment and ensure debt sustainability".

"The arrangement comes at a challenging economic juncture for Pakistan. A difficult external environment, devastating floods, and policy missteps have led to large fiscal and external deficits, rising inflation, and eroded reserve buffers" in the fiscal year 2023, Washington-based IMF said in the statement.

Dar said that Pakistan went for a "smaller" SBA with the global lender instead of the ninth review of the loan programme.

"This (programme) has been limited to nine months so that whichever government comes into power after the elections can make its own decisions," the minister said.

Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

Pakistan had been struggling to arrange enough foreign exchange to satisfy the IMF, which refused to provide the remaining USD 2.5 billion out of a USD 6.5 billion loan programme signed in 2019 and expired on June 30 this year.

It said that the board approved the bailout package for the country for an amount of USD 2.25 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) - reserve funds that the institution credits to the accounts of its member nations, which amounts to about USD 3 billion.

On Thursday, Finance Minister Dar announced that the global lender had transferred USD 1.2 billion to the State Bank of Pakistan.

Addressing the media, Dar said when the Standby Arrangement (SBA) was finalised, it was decided that USD 1.2 billion would be given upfront while the "balance amount" of USD 1.8 billion would be handed over after two reviews in November and February.

"I want to share the information that the upfront payment of USD 1.2 billion, the IMF has transferred it to the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) account," he said.

The finance minister said that the IMF's Executive Board had approved the SBA with Pakistan and noted that this was a nine-month programme under which Islamabad would receive USD 3 billion.

He said that the funds would shore up Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, noting that this would also include the USD 1 billion transferred by the United Arab Emirates a day earlier.

Dar said that the foreign reserves increased by USD 4.2 billion during the week after Saudi Arabia and the UAE provided USD 2 billion and USD 1 billion respectively. "So I am expecting that our forex reserves will close at USD 13-14 billion by tomorrow," he said.

12 soldiers die in separate attacks in Pak's Balochistan

Islamabad (PTI): At least 12 Pakistani soldiers were killed and five injured in separate encounters with militants in the country's Balochistan province, the Army has said, the heaviest single-day loss suffered by the military in the restive region.

The attacks occurred on Wednesday in the Sui and Zhob areas of the province, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the Army's media wing - said in a statement.

At least seven militants were also killed in the two encounters. Unidentified gunmen attacked security forces conducting an operation in Sui, killing at least three soldiers and injuring five.

The Army said that two terrorists were also killed in the shootout, for which no group has claimed responsibility.

The Sui attack followed a raid by terrorists on a military installation in Zhob Garrison early on Wednesday, wherein nine soldiers and five militants were killed.

Soldiers countered an initial attempt of terrorists to sneak into the facility, and in the ensuing heavy exchange of fire, terrorists were contained into a small area at the boundary.

The intense shootout in Zhob also resulted in the death of a female passerby and left five other civilians injured, the ISPR added.

"A clearance operation by Security Forces is underway to apprehend remaining two terrorists as well," the statement said, adding that the security forces were determined to thwart all such "ghastly attempts at destroying peace" in Balochistan.

A little-known militant group - Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan - claimed responsibility for the Zhob attack in a statement without providing any details.

This is the heaviest single-day loss suffered by the military in Balochistan, as before this, in February 2022, ten personnel were killed in a fire raid in the Kech district.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo condemned the attack on the Zhob garrison and paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for thwarting it by taking swift action. He offered his condolences to the families of the dead and said, "Pakistan Army is the guarantor of peace and security in the region."

Pakistan has been facing an uptick in attacks by the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch separatists in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Pita falls short in parliamentary vote for PM

AP ■ BANGKOK

The head of the progressive Thai political party that outpaced its rivals to a surprise first-place finish in May's general election failed on Thursday in his initial bid to have Parliament name him the country's new prime minister.

The vote of a joint session of the 500-seat House of Representatives and 250-seat Senate saw Pita Limjaroenrat win 324 votes in the first round of balloting, short of the majority of 376 needed to become prime minister.

His Move Forward Party finished first in the May 14 election and afterward assembled an eight-party coalition that together had won 312 seats, a healthy majority in the lower house.

But strong opposition in the Senate, whose members are overwhelmingly conservative and generally opposed to the reformist platform of Pita's party, seemingly doomed his chances in the first vote. Only 13 senators supported Pita's bid, while 34 voted against him and 159 abstained.

Pita told reporters afterwards that he "accepted" the



vote but was not giving up. He said the result was below expectations and thanked those senators who voted for him.

The biggest area of disagreement between the liberals backing Move Forward and the deeply conservative Senate is the campaign pledge of Pita's party to amend a law that makes defaming the royal family punishable by three to 15 years in prison.

The monarchy is sacrosanct to members of Thailand's royalist establishment, and even minor reforms that might improve and modernise the monarchy's image are anathema to them. Move Forward's coalition partners also have not endorsed the proposed legal change, and other parties ruled

out joining the coalition because of the idea.

Much of the debate that preceded Thursday's vote concerned the lese majeste law, also known as Article 112, which critics say is abused for political purposes.

The inconclusive finish to Thursday's voting sets the stage for another ballot, which is expected next week. Whether Pita will make a second effort, or step aside to let a nominee from another party in his coalition try their luck was not immediately known.

Some opponents explicitly said his party's stand on the 112 issue was the reason they would not vote for a government led by Pita. The Pheu Thai Party, the second biggest in the coalition holding 141 House seats, could step up and try to win support from enough senators.

Pheu Thai used to be the royalist establishment's top rival. The party is closely affiliated with former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a billionaire populist who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, in part because his popularity rubbed royalists the wrong way. But the party is anxious to

get back into power, and less strident in supporting a reformist agenda that conservatives deem radical, though it would be considered moderate in Western countries.

Should Pheu Thai fail to successfully push through a prime minister candidate, the coalition would have to consider taking on new members.

Pita, regardless of how the prime minister issue is settled, faces additional challenges.

On Wednesday, the state Election Commission said it concluded there was evidence that Pita had violated election law, and referred his case to the Constitutional Court for a ruling. If the court accepts the case and finds him guilty, he could lose his House seat, get kicked out of politics and face a prison sentence.

There had been fears since even before the election that Thailand's conservative ruling establishment would use what its political opponents consider to be dirty tricks to cling to power.

For a decade-and-a-half, it has repeatedly utilised the courts and supposedly independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to

issue controversial rulings to cripple or sink political opponents.

The alleged violation involves undeclared ownership of media company shares, which are banned for Thai lawmakers. Political scientist Thitinan Pongsudhirak describes the charge and other legal complaints against Pita as "bogus" and something many people, especially voters who backed him, would be unwilling to tolerate.

"It all depends on how far the royalist conservative establishment wants to go after Pita and prevent a democratic outcome," he said. Depending how they are resolved, the efforts to block Pita and Move Forward could prove dangerous and cause Thailand unnecessary pain, said Michael Montesano, a Thai studies expert who is an associate senior fellow at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

"At the end of the day, the political system and those who would dominate need to move into closer correspondence with the realities of Thai society and with the aspirations of its younger, well educated members," Montesano said.

Sunak: UK visa fee hike to meet higher costs

PTI ■ LONDON

The fees and health surcharge paid towards the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) by visa applicants from around the world, including Indians, are set to rise "significantly" to meet the country's public sector wage increase, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Thursday.

The British Indian leader, who was under pressure to accept the recommendation of an independent review of pay for teachers, police, junior doctors and other public sector workers, confirmed a hike between 5 and 7 per cent across the board. However, he stressed that this would not be met with higher government borrowing for fear of further stoking high inflation and therefore the costs would need to be found elsewhere.

"If we're going to prioritise paying public sector workers more, that money has to come from somewhere else because I'm not prepared to put up people's taxes and I don't think it would be responsible or right to borrow more because that would just make inflation worse," Sunak told reporters at a Downing Street press conference. "So, what we have done are two things to find this money."



The first is, we are going to increase the charges that we have for migrants who are coming to this country when they apply for visas and indeed something called the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which is the levy that they pay to access the NHS," he said. "All of those fees are going to go up and that will raise over GBP 1 billion, so across the board visa application fees are going to go up significantly and similarly for the IHS," he added.

Sunak reiterated this was "entirely right" as these fees have not been increased recently and the government believes it is appropriate given that the costs have risen since the last hike. The second action to meet the country's higher wage bill is about asking government departments to "reprioritise". He

insisted this would not mean cuts to jobs and services but a re-focusing on different priorities.

The IHS, which applies to long-term migrants to the UK including a discounted rate for students, starts from around GBP 470 for a year and rises to thousands of pounds for multiple-year visa applications.

The full details of which categories of visas will face hikes and when the new higher rates come into force are expected to be laid out by the UK Home Office in the coming months.

The Sunak-led Conservative Party government has been under intense pressure with disputes over the public sector pay, leading to a series of strikes over the past year hitting schools and hospitals. In fact, junior doctors in England began yet another five-day strike on Thursday after their demands for a 35 per cent pay hike were rejected.

In his wage announcement, Sunak warned that his offer was "final" and further industrial action would not change that decision.

"There will be no more talks on pay. We will not negotiate again on this year's settlements and no amount of strikes will change our decision. Instead, the settlement we've reached today gives us a fair way to end the strikes."

UK government offers workers pay raises in bid to end strikes

AP ■ LONDON

The British government has agreed to offer millions of public sector workers pay raises in a bid to end an array of strikes, including a five-day walkout from doctors in the early part of their career in Britain's publicly funded health service.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed Thursday that the government was accepting the recommendations from pay review bodies, that will see police get a 7% rise, 6.5% for teachers and 6% for the junior doctors, who commenced their strike early Thursday.

He said the offer is "final" and that there will be "no more talks on pay."

In what is being described as the longest-ever strike in the National Health Service, many of the tens of thousands of doctors in England are making the case for a 35% pay bump.

So-called junior doctors, those who are at the early stages of their careers in the National Health Service in the years after medical school, started their latest strike at 7 am, with many of them making their case for a 35% pay rise in picket lines outside hospitals across England.

The British Medical Association, the doctors' union, has asked for a 35% pay rise to bring junior doctors' pay back to 2008 levels once inflation is taken into account. Meanwhile, the workload of England's 75,000 or so junior doctors has swelled as patient waiting lists for treatment are at record highs in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "Today marks the start of the longest single-walkout by doctors in the NHS's history, but this is still not a record that needs to go into the history books," said BMA leaders Dr Robert Laurenson and Dr Vivek

Trivedi. They urged the British government, which oversees health policy in England, to drop its "nonsensical precondition" of not negotiating while strikes are in progress. Britain, like other countries, is grappling with high inflation for the first time in years. Price rises were first stoked by supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic and then by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent energy and food prices soaring. Though inflation has come down slightly from its peak to 8.7%, it remains far above the 2% level the Bank of England is tasked to target.

The doctors' strike will cause huge disruption for the already embattled NHS, with operations and consultations postponed or even cancelled.

Dr Simon Steddon, chief medical officer at Guy's and St Thomas's hospital trust in south London, urged both sides to get back to the negotiating table amid concerns over the impact on patients.

He said that 55,000 appointments and nearly 6,000 planned procedures have already been cancelled or rescheduled at the hospitals he oversees as a result of previous strikes. "Thousands more will need to be cancelled over the next couple of weeks adding to the significant delay, inconvenience and the inherent risk of further delay to diagnosis and treatment," he added.

The doctors taking the strike action say they know the impact of their walkout on the health service, but insist that they have been left with no alternative.

"This isn't a celebration, this is years of declining pay, declining conditions, frustration, and this is what has culminated as a result," Alex Gibbs, a striking 31-year-old doctor said outside University College Hospital in north London.

Iran prez welcomed in Zimbabwe

AP ■ HARAR

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was welcomed in Zimbabwe on Thursday by people singing songs criticizing the West as he arrived on what's expected to be the last stop of his three-nation Africa trip. Raisi was greeted at Harare's international airport by Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who thanked the Iranian leader for showing "solidarity." Both countries are under US sanctions and Raisi's trip to Africa, which has already included stops in Kenya and Uganda, highlights Iran's efforts to build new partnerships



in a bid to soften the impact of those heavy economic punishments. Iran and Zimbabwe already have a joint permanent commission on political and trade relations. They also share historical ties and Mnangagwa

thanked Raisi for Iran's help in a liberation war in the 1970s that eventually led to the southern African nation breaking free of white minority rule. "When we went to war, Iran was our friend. I am happy you have come to show solidarity," Mnangagwa said in brief remarks on the tarmac at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport named after the late Zimbabwean leader Mnangagwa helped oust in a coup in 2017. Dozens of supporters came out to see Raisi arrive, with some waving Zimbabwe's and Iranian flags, and some holding placards with Raisi's face on them.

Twitter seeks end to US oversight of data use

AP ■ NEW YORK

Twitter wants a federal court to end an order imposed by the Federal Trade Commission that limits its data security practices. The FTC has been watching the company for years since Twitter agreed to a 2011 consent order alleging serious data security lapses. But the agency's concerns spiked with the tumult that followed Elon Musk's Oct 27 takeover of the company.

In March it was disclosed that the FTC was investigating Musk's mass layoffs at Twitter and trying to obtain his internal communications as part of ongoing oversight into the social media company's privacy and cybersecurity practices, according to documents described in a congressional report.

Twitter paid a \$150 million penalty in May 2022, about five months before Musk's takeover, for violating the 2011 consent order. An updated version established new procedures requiring the company to implement

an enhanced privacy-protection program as well as beefing up information security. X Corp, now Twitter's corporate name, has filed a motion with the US District Court for the Northern District of California, for a protective order and relief from the consent order.

In the filing, Twitter asks the court to "rein in an investigation that has spiralled out of control and become tainted by bias, and to terminate a misfit consent order that no longer can serve any proper equitable purpose."

The filing states that the FTC has issued 16 demand letters to X Corp. since Musk's takeover of Twitter, in comparison to approximately 28 demand letters it issued in the decade-plus period it oversaw Twitter's compliance with the prior consent order.

The order seeks a stay that would prevent the FTC from depositing Musk. "X Corp has responded to this avalanche of demands as best it can, responding promptly to FTC inquiries and producing more than 22,000 documents to date," the filing states.

AP ■ LONDON

There's no evidence a BBC presenter who allegedly paid a teenager for sexually explicit photos committed a crime, London police said on Wednesday as the broadcaster's wife publicly identified him for the first time as veteran news anchor Huw Edwards.

Metropolitan police decided to take no further action after speaking with the alleged victim and that person's parents. The parents told The Sun newspaper last week that the presenter had been allowed to remain on air after the mother complained to the BBC in May that he had paid the youth 35,000 pounds (\$45,000) starting in 2020 when the person was 17. As the story topped the news in Britain all week and embroiled the BBC in scandal,

speculation swirled about the identity of the presenter. Some of the BBC's biggest on-air personalities publicly said it wasn't them and others called on the unnamed presenter to come forward. Edwards' wife, Vicky Flind, named her husband late Wednesday and said he was hospitalized with serious mental health issues.

After "five extremely difficult days for our family," Flind said she was naming him "primarily out of concern for his mental well-being and to protect our children."

"The events of the last few days have greatly worsened matters, he has suffered another serious episode and is now receiving in-patient hospital care where he'll stay for the foreseeable future," she said.

Edwards, 61, is one of Britain's best-known and most

authoritative news broadcasters, lead anchor on the BBC's nighttime news and the face of its election coverage. He led BBC coverage of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in September. He's among the broadcaster's best-paid stars, with an annual salary of at least 435,000 pounds (\$565,000).

The father of five said in a 2021 documentary that depression had left him bedridden for periods over two decades.

The BBC said it would continue its investigation into the matter. The UK's publicly funded national broadcaster had scrambled to deal with the crisis after the claims were first published by The Sun over the weekend. It said it became aware of a complaint in May but "new allegations were put to us on Thursday of a different nature."

| Sl. No. | Folio No. | Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant) | Cert.No. | Dist.No. (from) | Dist.No. (to) | Last Shares |
|---------|------------|--|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | R0001274 | SANDHYA UMESH MUNSHI (Claimant) | 1138955 | 296638834 | 296639029 | 196 |
| | | | 14401 | 1707176 | 1707200 | 25 |
| | | | 74909 | 3540258 | 3540265 | 8 |
| | | | 139953 | 5700246 | 5700261 | 16 |
| 2 | SRF0109755 | SANTOSH KUMAR GUPTA (Holder) | 553768-71 | 25769544 | 25769562 | 19 |
| | | | 1136154 | 296078710 | 296078985 | 276 |
| 3 | S 0002447 | SRINIVAS THUNUGUNTALA (Claimant) | 18529 | 1824426 | 1824450 | 25 |
| | | | 78386 | 3594755 | 3594762 | 8 |
| | | | 144221 | 5803276 | 5803291 | 16 |
| | | | 339269-72 | 16505714 | 16505742 | 29 |
| 4 | SRF0118640 | AMEETA KATHURIA (Claimant) | 1133535 | 295541018 | 295541445 | 428 |
| | | | 424358-59 | 18223252 | 18223276 | 25 |
| | | | 424848 | 18239273 | 18239322 | 25 |
| 5 | SRF0155373 | S VATHSALA (Holder) | 573358-59 | 26243044 | 26243068 | 50 |
| | | | 1132451 | 295316614 | 295317013 | 400 |
| | | | 367232-33 | 17002048 | 17002072 | 25 |
| | | | 516232-33 | 25021840 | 25021864 | 25 |
| 6 | SRF0138343 | HEMANT NAVINCHANDRA SHAH (Claimant) | 90065785 | 8926306 | 8926325 | 20 |
| | | | 1138755 | 296601118 | 296601517 | 400 |
| | | | 90189898 | 14928530 | 14928559 | 30 |
| | | | 674929-34 | 54876685 | 54876984 | 300 |
| 7 | SRF0138344 | HEMANT NAVINCHANDRA SHAH (Claimant) | 1138263 | 296491994 | 296493193 | 1200 |
| | | | 587349 | 31495842 | 31495891 | 50 |
| | | | 1137003 | 296234466 | 296234665 | 200 |
| | | | | | | |

Any person having any claim/objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

For SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram
Date: 13-07-2023

Kim vows to boost North Korea's nuke capability

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further bolster his country's nuclear fighting capabilities as he supervised the second test flight of a new, powerful intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the mainland United States, state media reported Thursday.



A TV screen shows an image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Thursday. AP

Kim's statement suggested North Korea would ramp up weapons testing activities to expand its arsenal in response to recent US steps to enhance its security commitment to ally South Korea.

On Thursday, in an apparent show of force against North Korea, the US flew a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber to the Korean Peninsula for joint aerial exercises with other US and South Korean fighter jets.

(Kim) clarified again that there will be no change and vaccination in the strategic line and policy of (the North Korean) government to steadily accelerate the development of more developed, effective and reliable weapon system," the Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim said North Korea is compelled to bolster the country's "nuclear war deterrent" because the security environment on the Korean Peninsula "is being seriously threatened by the hostile forces every moment."

The Korean Central News Agency reported Kim's comments a day after the launch of the Hwasong-18, which was first test-fired in April and which Kim has called the most powerful weapon of his nuclear forces.

The road-mobile ICBM has built-in solid propellant, which makes it more difficult to detect in advance than liquid-fuelled missiles.

Kim said the launch was meant to reconfirm the technical credibility and operational reliability of the missile. Kim called the launch "another important stride" in efforts to boost the North's strategic forces, KCNA said.

According to KCNA, the missile was launched at a high angle to avoid neighbouring

countries. It flew 74 minutes and a distance of 1,001 kilometres (622 miles) at a maximum altitude of 6,648 kilometres (4,130 miles) before landing in a targeted area in the open waters off the North's east coast. The missile's flight time is the longest recorded by any weapon launched by North Korea.

If launched on a standard trajectory, the missile could fly to the mainland US, though some experts say North Korea still has some technologies to master to acquire functioning nuclear-armed missiles. South Korea, Japan and the United States criticized North Korea over the launch that they said posed a threat to regional and international peace.

Adam Hodge, a spokesperson for the US National Security Council, said in a statement that the US will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of the American homeland and South Korean and Japanese allies.

The United Nations Security Council scheduled an open meeting late Friday afternoon to discuss the ICBM launch at the request of the United States, Albania, France, Japan, Malta and the United Kingdom. Wednesday's launch violated UN Security Council resolutions that ban any North Korean launches using ballistic technologies. But it's unclear if the council can impose new sanctions on North Korea because China and Russia, both

veto-wielding permanent members, had blocked the US and others' previous attempts to do so over North Korea's other recent ballistic launches.

South Korea's military said Thursday it maintained a firm readiness to repel potential provocations by North Korea and was pushing to achieve "peace through strength," based on the strong military alliance with the United States.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson, Lee Sung Joon, said the South Korean and US authorities agreed to maintain a solid joint defense posture after the North Korean launch.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said that Thursday's South Korea-US training involving the US bomber improved the allies' joint operational capabilities and demonstrated Washington's resolve to implement its "extended deterrence" commitment, a promise to use full US capabilities, including nuclear, to protect its allies.

North Korea has been focusing on reinforcing its nuclear capability after Kim's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019 due to disputes over US-led sanctions on North Korea.

Thursday's KCNA dispatch accused the US and South Korea of recently taking "frantic confrontation attempts" and bringing "a new chain of nuclear crises" to the Korean Peninsula.

Ukraine repels large Russian missile, drone attacks

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian officials said air defences shot down 20 Iranian-made drones fired by Russia mostly at the Kyiv region early Thursday, but wreckage fell on four districts of the capital, wounding two people and destroying several homes.

The latest barrage by the Kremlin's forces began shortly after midnight, and explosions shook different parts of the city. Two people were hospitalised with shrapnel wounds, authorities said. In the capital, rescuers extinguished a fire in a 16-story building, as well as in a non-residential building, the Interior Ministry said. Debris also smashed into the frontage of a 25-story apartment building, it said.

Russian strikes have become a grim part of everyday life in Ukraine over the almost 17 months of the war.

Meanwhile, a senior officer leading Russian forces against Kyiv's recent counteroffensive in southern Ukraine, Lt. Gen. Oleg Tsokov, was reportedly killed by a Ukrainian missile

strike. Tsokov died when the Ukrainian military struck the city of Berdyansk on Tuesday with UK-supplied Storm Shadow missiles, according to retired Gen. Andrei Gurulev, who commanded the 58th Army in the past and currently serves as a lawmaker.

Russia's Defense Ministry hasn't reported Tsokov's death. In the aftermath of the night-time attack on Kyiv, Volodymyr Motus, a 22-year-old resident of the 25-story building, carefully picked his way across the floor of a destroyed apartment, his footsteps crunching shattered glass. The mangled furniture was coated in a thick layer of dust. "I was in my apartment and suddenly I heard a boom, that's all. Then the alarm went off and I went down to the shelter." He said that some people were injured, but they were all alive. In May, Russia launched dozens of drones and missiles at Kyiv almost every night, forcing its residents to spend their nights in shelters.

During the summer,



attacks came less frequently, but they still strike unpredictably across the country.

Ukraine's human rights chief Dmytro Lubinets wrote on Telegram, "It should be explained that each air alarm in Ukraine is like playing Russian roulette... It's unknown the number of people who could be affected, and it is uncertain from which part of Ukraine bad news about the strike of an enemy drone or missile will come."

defense forces," the regional administration wrote on Telegram.

Recently, a Russian cruise missile struck an apartment building in the western city of Lviv, resulting in a death toll that reached 10, and leaving dozens injured.

And in the southern and eastern regions of the country, where heavy fighting is taking place on front lines, the intensity of missile attacks has remained high since the beginning of the war.

At least three civilians were killed and 38 more sustained injuries in Ukraine over the past 24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office reported on Thursday morning.

In the partially occupied Donetsk region, Russian forces targeted 13 cities and villages under Ukrainian control with aviation, missiles and heavy artillery. In the partially occupied Zaporizhzhia region, the number of wounded by drone debris on Wednesday rose to 21, and fires broke out in the city of Kherson after Russian shelling.

Biden closing out Europe trip by showcasing new NATO member

AP ■ HELSINKI

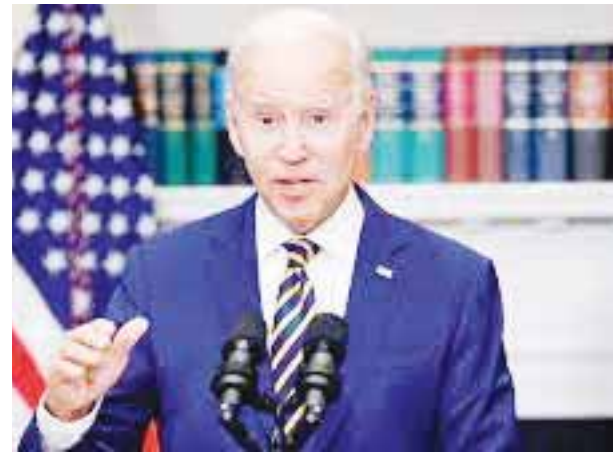
President Joe Biden is closing out a five-day trip to Europe on Thursday standing alongside Nordic leaders in an effort to show NATO's expanding power and influence against a burgeoning Russia. The brief stop in the shoreline Finnish capital is the coda to a Biden tour that was carefully sketched to highlight the growth of the military alliance that the president says has fortified itself since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Finland joined as NATO's newest member earlier this year, an entry that effectively doubled the alliance's border with Russia. "I've been doing this a long time," Biden said as he opened a meeting with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö at the presidential palace in Helsinki. "I don't think NATO has ever been stronger."

Indeed, Biden arrived in Helsinki after what he deemed a successful annual NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, where allies agreed to language that would further pave the way for Ukraine to also become a member.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the summit's outcome "a significant security victory" for his country but nonetheless expressed disappointment Kyiv did not get an outright invitation to join NATO.

Biden and other administration officials also held what



aides said were pivotal conversations with Ankara shortly before Turkey reversed course and dropped its objections to Sweden joining NATO.

"I'm feeling good about the trip," Biden told reporters Wednesday before the flight to Finland. "You know, we accomplished every goal we set out to accomplish."

And despite Zelenskyy's expressed frustrations, Biden — who met with the Ukrainian leader Wednesday afternoon in Vilnius — said Thursday that Zelenskyy "ended up being very happy."

The US president's trip this week — a meticulously choreographed endeavour meant to showcase international opposition to Russian leader Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine — played out nearly five years to the day since then-President Donald Trump

infamously stood alongside Putin in Helsinki and cast doubt on his own intelligence apparatus.

That was just days after Trump tore through a NATO summit where he disparaged the alliance and from which he threatened to withdraw the United States. In contrast, Biden has heartily embraced the tenets of multilateralism that Trump shunned, speaking repeatedly of having to rebuild international coalitions after four tumultuous years led by his predecessor.

The garrulous former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman is in his element at summits abroad, and speaks of how his background in international policy is proof positive that decades of experience on the world stage has mattered for the presidency.

Harris makes history with tie-breaking votes in Senate

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris has set another record in US history when she matched a 191-year-old record of casting tie-breaking votes as a vice president and backed the nomination of Indian-origin Kalpana Kotagal to be a member of a federal agency.

Harris, who made history as the first woman or person of colour in 2020, equaled the record held by Senator John C Calhoun, a Democratic-Republican who served as vice president to John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson from 1825 to 1832.

On Wednesday, Harris, 58, cast her vote on cloture for the nomination of Kotagal, a diversity, equity, and inclusion expert to serve as a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, colour, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. Harris broke a 50-50 tie on

a vote in the Senate on the nomination of Kotagal, to bring her total of tie-breaking votes cast as vice president since she assumed office to 31.

That matches the record set by Calhoun, a Democratic-Republican and an avowed proponent of states' rights and slavery. Under the Constitution, the role of the vice president is to preside over the Senate and break ties in case of a deadlock in the upper house. In the current 118th Congress, Democrats hold 51 seats and Republicans have 49 seats.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer hailed Harris's accomplishment on the floor on Wednesday evening. "I want to note that this is a history-making moment for the United States Senate," he was quoted as saying by the Hill newspaper.

"When it mattered most, Vice President Harris has provided the decisive vote on some of the most historic bills of modern times, from the American Rescue Plan to the Inflation Reduction Act to so many federal judges who now preside and provide balance on the federal bench. "She's carried out her duties with supreme excellence," he added.

UN says mass grave with at least 87 bodies found in West Darfur

AP ■ CAIRO

The bodies of dozens of people allegedly killed by Sudanese paramilitary and allied militia have been uncovered in a mass grave in West Darfur, the United Nations said Thursday.

According to "credible information" obtained by the UN Human Rights Office, the bodies of the 87 people, some of whom belong to the ethnic African Masalit tribe, were dumped in a one-metre (around three-foot) grave just outside the West Darfur city of Geneina. The first 37 bodies were buried on June 20, the UN

agency said in a statement from Geneva. The next day, another 50 bodies were dumped at the same site. Seven women and seven children were among those buried.

Sudan has been rocked by violence since April 15 when tensions between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces erupted into open fighting.

Darfur has been at the epicentre of the 12-week conflict, morphing into ethnic violence with RSF troops and allied Arab militias attacking African ethnic groups.

The RSF and allied Arab militias rampaged through the

western region, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee their homes, rights groups say.

Just over 238,000 people have crossed the border from Darfur into neighbouring Chad, according to recent figures from the International Organisation for Migration. Amid the pillaging, entire towns and villages in the province of West Darfur have been burned to the ground and looted.

News of the mass grave comes just days after Human Rights Watch called for the International Criminal Court to investigate atrocities in Darfur.

Fire kills nearly every animal at Florida wildlife centre

Madeira beach (US): An early morning fire on Thursday killed nearly all the animals at a wildlife centre in Florida, officials said. News outlets reported the fire broke out around 3 am Thursday at the Alligator and Wildlife Discovery Centre in Madeira Beach, near St Petersburg on Florida's Gulf Coast. "We suffered from a tragic fire last night. Nearly all of the animals are gone. We are devastated," a post on the wildlife centre's Facebook page said. Sonny Flynn, who owns the centre, told WTPS that all of the mammals inside the building died and many of the reptiles were injured. Small mammals, lizards, amphibians, turtles and tortoises, fresh and saltwater marine life, and alligators were among the 250 animals at the center.

"They didn't deserve this. This is my whole life," Flynn said. "They all have names, they all have personality, I come in every morning and talk to them like Dr Dolittle." Flynn said about 95% of the animals at the centre were "pet surrenders because people didn't know how to take care of them, or they weren't able to take care of them."

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

WALK IN INTERVIEW

It is proposed to fill up the following Group 'A' posts at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi on contract basis for a period of one year or till the post is filled up on regular basis whichever is earlier. Accordingly applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates fulfilling the qualifications for the posts mentioned below. Applications on plain paper either typed or handwritten along with two passport size photographs, photocopies of the certificates of educational qualifications, experiences etc., may be submitted to the undersigned on or before 05.08.2023. After submission of application candidates have to turn up alongwith their original certificates on the date of interview. No interview letter will be issued separately.

The interview shall be held at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006, Jharkhand, on 08.08.2023 at 09.30 a.m.

| Sl. No. | Name of post | Consolidated pay per month in 1 st year | No. of post |
|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry | Rs.95,000/- | 12 (UR-7, EWS-1, OBC-3, SC-1) |
| 2. | Asst. Prof. of Neurology | Rs.95,000/- | 3 (UR-3) |
| 3. | Asst. Prof. of Neurosurgery | Rs.95,000/- | 2 (UR-2) |
| 4. | Asst. Prof. of Radio-diagnosis | Rs.95,000/- | 2 (UR-2) |
| Total | | | 19 |
| 5. | Prof. of Clinical Psychology | Rs.1,14,000/- | 2 (UR-2) |
| 6. | Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology | Rs.98,000/- | 1 (UR-1) |
| 7. | Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology | Rs.82,000/- | 4 (UR-3 & OBC-1) |
| 8. | Prof. of Psychiatric Social Work | Rs.1,14,000/- | 1 (UR-1) |
| 9. | Associate Professor of Psychiatric Social Work | Rs.98,000/- | 1 (UR-1) |
| 10. | Assistant Professor of Psychiatric Social Work | Rs.82,000/- | 2 (UR-2) |
| 11. | Assistant Professor of Neuro Psychology | Rs.82,000/- | 1 (UR-1) |
| Total | | | 12 |

Details of qualifications and age limit of the above posts are available on our website www.cipranchi.nic.in Sd/- Director

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(CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779)
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Email: info@kamaholdings.com; website: www.kamaholdings.com

INFORMATION REGARDING TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

23rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. IST, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and the Listing Regulations and Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, Circular No.17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, Circular No. 2/2022 dated May 5, 2022 and Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022 (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars') and SEBI circulars dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021, May 13, 2022 and January 5, 2023 (collectively referred to as 'SEBI Circulars') and other applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to transact the business set out in the Notice calling the AGM. Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC at www.evoting.nsdl.com Members participating through the VC facility shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In compliance with the relevant circulars, electronic copy of the Annual Report for financial year 2022-23 and Notice of the AGM will be sent to all the Members of the Company whose email addresses are registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents will also be available on the Company's website at www.kamaholdings.com and on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of NSDL, the e-voting agency at <https://evoting.nsdl.com>.

Members who have not registered their E-mail address may temporarily get their E-mail address and mobile number registered with the Company's Registrar, by clicking the link: <https://ris.kfintech.com/clientservices/mobileereg/mobileemailreg.aspx> for getting the soft copy of the notice and e-voting instructions. In case of any query, member may send mail to info@kamaholdings.com or Einward_ris@kfintech.com along with request letter mentioning their folio number, complete address, email address to be registered along with scanned self-attested copy of the PAN and any document (such as Driving Licence, Passport, Bank Statement, AADHAR) supporting the registered address of the Member alongwith Form ISR-1.

Members may also update their details with the Depository Participant in case of shares held in electronic form and with the Company's Registrar in case the shares held in physical form.

The manner of voting remotely ("remote e-voting") has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The facility for voting through electronic voting system will also be made available at the AGM.

Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM.

Members are requested to register / update their complete bank details with - their Depository Participant(s), if shares are held in electronic mode and Company's Registrar by submitting (i) scanned copy of the signed request letter which shall contain member's name, folio number, bank details (Bank account number, Bank and Branch Name and address, IFSC, MICR details), (ii) self-attested copy of the PAN card and (iii) cancelled cheque leaf at Einward_ris@kfintech.com, if shares are held in physical mode.

For KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Sd/-
Ekta Maheshwari
Whole Time Director, CFO &
Company Secretary

Date : 13.07.2023
Place : Gurugram

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT
Ph: 01639-256232, 256236
Advt. No.BFU-23/11

VACANCIES
Online applications are invited on regular basis w.e.f 15/07/2023 to 07/08/2023 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment of post of Controller of Examination (UR-1) under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit website www.bfuds.ac.in
nll/12/21/2023/2580 Dated CHD - 7/13/2023 REGISTRAR

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref: i) Tender Notice No. 94/2022-23 dated 17.03.2023.
ii) Tender No. 15235019 due on 14.07.2023.

01. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 14.07.2023 to 17.08.2023.
02. In reference to above tender, Please refer the corrigendum for clarification of queries in Pre-Bid minutes to the queries. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. 2150/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPRIYA PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED
FACTORY PREMISES AT BHIWADI
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

| RELEVANT PARTICULARS | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/ CIN/ LLP No. | Supriya Pharmaceuticals Limited (CIN: U01100RJ1985PLC003363) |
| 2. Address of the registered office | Khazra No. 236/13, Ambient Education LLP, Gram Thada, Tehsil Tizara, Bhiwadi, Alwar - 301019 IN. |
| 3. URL of website | NA |
| 4. Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located | 1) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan 2) Okhla, New Delhi |
| 5. Installed capacity of main products/ services | Not Available |
| 6. Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year | NIL |
| 7. Number of employees/ workmen | There are no employees as on the date of issue of this Form G. |
| 8. Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors, relevant dates for subsequent events of the process are available at: | Details Can be sought by E-Mail @ corp.supriyapharmaceuticals@gmail.com |
| 9. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available as: | Details Can be sought by E-Mail @ corp.supriyapharmaceuticals@gmail.com |
| 10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest | 29th July, 2023 |
| 11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants | 3th August, 2023 |
| 12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list | 8th August, 2023 |
| 13. Process email id to submit EO | corp.supriyapharmaceuticals@gmail.com |

Mr Sanjeev Kumar Sharma
Resolution Professional
M/S SUPRIYA PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED (Corporate Debtor)
Rgn No:BBJ/IRA 001/JP-P01132/2018-19/11827
AFA No. AA1/11827/02/181223/105158
Registered Address: BE 149, Street No 5, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064
Email : corp.supriyapharmaceuticals@gmail.com

Date : 13.07.2023
Place : New Delhi

Sensex breaches record 66,000-mark

Nifty scales fresh lifetime high as IT, banking shares advance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices hit their record high levels in intra-day trade on Thursday, with Sensex breaching the historic 66,000-mark for the first time following a rally in global markets amid moderating US inflation data.

Buying in market heavy-weight stocks Infosys, ICICI Bank and Tata Consultancy Services also helped markets settle in the positive territory.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 670.31 points or 1.02 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 66,064.21. The barometer settled 164.99 points or 0.25 per cent higher at 65,558.89.

The NSE Nifty went up by 29.45 points or 0.15 per cent to close at 19,413.75. During the day, it rallied 182.7 points or 0.94 per cent to reach its lifetime high of 19,567.

Today's domestic rally was supported by the contra bet buying of the IT stocks which was supported by stable margins, new generation business



opportunities and increase in pricing power due to moderation in USD, as latest US inflation is fast approaching the Fed's target levels," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Wipro and Bajaj Finance were among the major gainers.

TCS climbed 2.47 per cent a day after announcing its June quarter earnings.

high in June on rising prices of kitchen essentials, while the factory output expanded at a faster pace of 5.2 per cent in May.

Retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to 4.81 per cent in June after declining for four months in a row but remained within the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank.

The broad market was trading positively at all-time high levels in anticipation of buoyant Q1 results and low volatility (VIX). However, a mixed start to bank earnings, coupled with ongoing concerns about domestic inflation, attracted bearish sentiment towards the latter half, Nair said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined by 0.64 per cent and the smallcap index fell by 0.54 per cent. Among the indices, IT climbed 1.75 per cent, teck jumped 1.45 per cent, realty (1.04 per cent) and metal (0.49 per cent).

However, among the lag-

gards power declined by 2.16 per cent, utilities fell by 2.09 per cent, oil & gas (1.20 per cent), energy (1.19 per cent) and auto (0.64 per cent).

"Markets traded volatile on the weekly expiry day but managed to end marginally higher. Initially, upbeat global cues triggered a gap-up start in Nifty, which was later followed by range bound move. However, a sharp decline in the second half trimmed the gains," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

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

Equity markets in Europe were trading with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.27 per cent to USD 80.33 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,242.44 crore on Wednesday after unabated buying, according to exchange data.

We are working with UK on IP rights, modernisation: Goyal

PTI ■ LONDON

There is work ongoing with a number of economies, including the UK, on intellectual property (IP) rights and modernisation in an effort to improve Indian protocols, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has said.

Responding to questions from a gathering of Indian-origin chartered accountants (CAs) from the UK Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at the conclusion of his London visit on Wednesday evening, the minister - a qualified CA - covered a range of topics including IP rights and corporation tax to environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG).

He said the process to harmonise with international standards is high on the government's agenda because integrating with world thinking on standards and IP is important for the fast-paced growth of the Indian economy.



"With the UK we are working on IP rights or IP modernisation. Our effort is to improve the Indian protocols around intellectual property rights and areas associated with it, but I feel it will have to be a little more gradual process," said Goyal.

"Similarly, we are working very actively on quality standards in India. The BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) for non-food products and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) on food products are trying to develop standards. Wherever it's possible, we are trying to harmonise also with international standards. But it's not

possible in everything.. We are roughly at about 90 per cent of our standards harmonised with what is generally accepted standards," he said.

"But I can assure you we are conscious that if we have to develop our economy at a fast pace, we'll also have to integrate ourselves with the world thinking on standards, on intellectual property. Though it may be a process, we are moving very rapidly and hoping to become a preferred destination for other countries. So, it's very high on our agenda," he added.

The minister forecast that over the next three or four years, Indian standards will be seen as world class and accepted over the world.

While he veered away from any direct reference to the ongoing India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) while "negotiations are on", the minister mentioned that the issue of transfer pricing was among the matters that had emerged as part of efforts to find wider solutions in the trade talks.

Unsecured lending products growth among highest, credit card NPAs shoot up: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Credit card non-performing assets rose 0.66 per cent to 2.94 per cent as of March 2023, a credit information company said in a report on Thursday.

The report, which comes amid heightened concerns on the riskier unsecured loans portfolios from the regulator, also said that such products like credit cards and personal loans grew the fastest, the report by Transunion Cibil said.

On the asset quality front, credit card balances unpaid for over 90 days stood at 2.94 per cent, which is a 0.66 per cent jump over the year-ago period, while the same for personal loans improved by 0.04 per cent to 0.94 per cent, it added.

From a loan growth perspective, outstanding balances on credit cards grew 34 per cent in the year to March 2023, and personal loans were up 29 per cent. Loan against property, a product typically used by small businesses for funding needs,



was the fastest-growing retail product with a 38 per cent rise, according to the report.

Interestingly, home loans - considered by many as the mainstay of retail lending - were the slowest at 14 per cent, which can be indicative of the impact of the rate hikes.

If one were to consider only the three months to March, home loans stayed flat by a value perspective, but were down 11 per cent by volumes, indicating an increasing propensity among home buyers for expensive properties where the loan ticket sizes are higher.

Lenders seem to vary about the potential impact on asset quality when it comes to retail loans, and seem to be keeping away from new-to-credit customers, the report said, pointing out that such customers accounted for only 16 per cent of the loans originated in the three months to March 2023 against 19 per cent in the year-ago period and 23 per cent in the first quarter of 2022.

Share of the youth seems to be growing, with those in the 31-45 age group, accounting for 45 per cent of the loan originations in the January-March 2023.

28% GST on online gaming to yield ₹20,000 cr annually: Revenue Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The exchequer would get an estimated additional revenue of Rs 20,000 crore annually following the decision of the GST Council to levy 28 per cent tax on full bet value on online gaming, said Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday.

The GST Council has unanimously decided to impose 28 per cent tax on online gaming, casino and horse racing etc, he said adding that the government will pursue all cases in the Supreme Court for recovery of erstwhile tax demands.

He said the online gaming industry is currently paying only 2-3 per cent GST which is even less than 5 per cent tax applicable on food items consumed by a common man.

"One of the members, in fact, in the GST Council pointed out that the way the online gaming companies are paying



the taxes on online games at 18 per cent of GGR, which works out to only about 2-3 per cent, even lower than the tax rate of 5 per cent levied on many of the food products consumed by the very common people," Malhotra told PTI in an interview.

The exchequer last year (FY2022-23) collected only Rs 1,700 crore GST which could have been Rs 15,000-20,000 crore had the tax been levied on the full value.

"But this (tax by online

gaming companies) is on a much lower rate which the online gaming companies are paying. Our estimate is that it should be at least about 8 to 10 times this amount. So, if that is true, it should be about Rs 15,000 to 20,000 crore annually, provided the volumes also sustain," he said.

These companies took refuge under the differentiation of game of skill and chance and paid 18 per cent GST on only platform fees or Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

The council earlier this week clarified that GST should be paid at 28 per cent on the full face value of bets. He further said that wherever there is tax avoidance or evasion those aspects will certainly be looked into and those taxes will be recovered, he asserted.

"As you may be aware we are also going to challenge the decision of the High Court in the Supreme Court. So, our decision to collect taxes at higher rates will of course also depend on the outcome of the judgement in the Supreme Court. Unless and until we have a judgement in our favour, we will not be in a position to recover the taxes at the higher rates," he said.

On whether the high tax rate would prompt undesirable entities to operate from off-shore, Malhotra said it would be a challenge but there are means available with the government.

For example, he said, "We can have regulations on payments and introduce provisions like TCS."

Whether this decision will be reviewed, he said, "The decision has just been taken. I really do not think. Of course, it is for the council to decide. I really doubt (it) because this decision has been unanimous and the decision has been taken as I mentioned after due consultation and deliberation. So, I don't think there is any chance of a review as early as this."

Following concerns expressed by the online gaming industry, Malhotra said, "The council was very unanimous. It has taken this decision after due deliberation. It has taken this

Sebi comes out 'stricter timeline' for disclosure of material events

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a "stricter timeline" for disclosure of material events or information by listed companies and introduced criteria for determining the materiality of events.

The new framework will become effective from July 15, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Under the framework, the regulator asked listed companies to disclose family settlement agreements, which can impact the management and control of such firms to stock exchanges. These agreements need to be disclosed within 12 hours in case a listed entity is a party and within 24 hours where the listed entity is not a party. Further, for material events or information which emanate from the listed entity, including those related to acquisitions, Scheme of Arrangement, consolidation of shares, and buyback of securities, the timeline for disclosure by the entity has been reduced from 24 hours to 12 hours.

In case of information that emanates from a decision taken in a meeting of the board of directors, the disclosure needs to be made within 30 minutes from the closure of such meeting.

Besides, the timelines have been fixed 24 hours from the occurrence of the event in case the information is not emanating from within the listed entity. This included a revision in rating, fraud or defaults by a listed entity, its promoter, directors; restructuring in relation to loans from banks, one time settlement with a bank and winding-up petition filed by any party / creditors.

With regard to criteria for determining the materiality of



events, Sebi said that one of the criteria is the omission of an event, whose value or the expected impact in terms of value, exceeds the lower of 2 per cent of turnover, or 2 per cent of net worth as per the last audited consolidated financial statements or 5 per cent of the average of absolute value of profit or loss after tax, as per the last three audited consolidated financial statements of the listed entity.

The regulator clarified that "average of absolute value of profit or loss is required to be considered by disregarding the 'sign' (positive or negative) that denotes such value as the said value is required only for determining the threshold for 'materiality' of the event and not for any commercial consideration."

If a listed entity does not have a track record of three years of financials, like in case of a demerged entity, the average may be taken for the number of years as may be available.

Sebi also came out with guidance on when information can be said to have occurred for disclosures under the LODR (Listing of Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) rules.

In certain instances, the disclosure would depend upon the stage of discussion, negotiation or approval and in other instances where there is no such discussion, negotiation or approval required - in case of natural calamities, disruptions etc, Sebi noted..

IIFL Securities says 80 companies have lined up initial public offerings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 80 companies, including India First Life Insurance, Snapdeal, Tata Technologies, Netweb Technologies and Go Digit Insurance, have lined up Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), brokerage firm IIFL Securities' President Nipun Goel said on Thursday.

According to him, the IPO market has been fairly active over the last three months. And was kick-started by Mankind Pharma with its Rs 4,326 crore offer that was very well received by investors and importantly, the shares traded strong post listing.

Since then, Goel said, five more IPOs have been successfully completed and there is an expectation for a number of IPOs to be launched in the next 4-8 weeks.

"As of date, there are



approximately 80 companies wherein draft offer documents have been filed with regulator Sebi and we expect several of them to tap the market over the next couple of months," Goel said.

He noted that capital raising is expected to be broad-based across multiple sectors, including financial services, healthcare and manufacturing.

As far as investment banking activity is concerned,

he said it is expected to be buoyant with significant capital raising in private and public markets over the next 9-12 months.

Last month, capital markets regulator Sebi had barred IIFL Securities, earlier known as India Infoline Ltd, from onboarding new clients for two years in a case of misutilisation of client funds.

Later, the order was stayed by the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).

Delhi-NCR 3rd largest city across APAC in flexible office space stock; Bengaluru at top: CBRE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR has emerged as the third biggest city in the Asia Pacific in having flexible office space stock beating Beijing and Seoul, while Bengaluru has retained the top spot, according to real estate consultant CBRE.

In its report, "H1 2023 Asia Pacific Flexible Office Market", CBRE mentioned that Delhi-NCR emerged as 3rd largest city among the 20 Asia-Pacific region (APAC) cities with a flexible office stock of 8.4 million square feet.

Bengaluru continues to top the list of APAC cities, having the highest flexible stock of 12.9 million square feet as of March 2023, followed by



Shanghai at 10 million square feet. Delhi-NCR overtook Beijing and Seoul in (Grade A) flexible office stock in the APAC region to become the third largest city in flexible office space stock.

The other Indian cities that made it to the top 10 were Hyderabad and Mumbai, with 6 million square feet and 4.7 million square feet of flexible office stock, respectively.

Hyderabad is at 7th place while Mumbai is at 9th.

"In an environment of ongoing economic uncertainty, businesses are recognising the value of portfolio flexibility and cost management. This has resulted in a heightened demand for flexible office solutions as occupiers seek agility and cost-effective options," Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India,

Domestic air passenger traffic rises nearly 19% in June

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's domestic air passenger traffic grew 18.78 per cent to around 1.25 crore in June compared to the year-ago period, according to official data released on Thursday.

In June, IndiGo, Air India, Vistara, AirAsia India and Akasa Air saw an increase in their respective market share amid the grounding of budget carrier Go First. However, SpiceJet's market share continued to decline and fell to 4.4 per cent last month whereas it stood at 7.3 per cent in January this year.

The data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that domestic carriers flew 124.87 lakh people in June compared to 105.12 lakh in the same period a year ago.

IndiGo, which carried around 79 lakh passengers in the previous month, increased



its market share to 63.2 per cent from 61.4 per cent in May.

Tata Group airlines -- Air India and AirAsia India (now rebranded as AIX Connect) -- flew 12.37 lakh and 10.4 lakh passengers, respectively in June. The market share of Air India stood at 9.7 per cent while that of AirAsia India was at 8 per cent, as per the data.

Full service carrier Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, had a market share of 8.1 per cent and flew 10.11 lakh passengers in June.

Launched in August last

year, Akasa Air's market share stood at 4.9 per cent as it flew 6.18 lakh passengers last month. SpiceJet, which has been put under enhanced surveillance by the DGCA, flew 5.55 lakh passengers in June and its market share dropped to 4.4 per cent.

In terms of On Time Performance (OTP) in June, Vistara topped the list at 88.3 per cent, followed by IndiGo and Akasa Air (both at 87.6 per cent). The OTP is calculated for four key airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, as per the data.

Turning jobseekers into job-givers key goal of Govt: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Turning jobseekers into job-givers is an important goal of the government and many steps have been taken in recent years to achieve this objective, said Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran.

"It relieves pressure on the job market. In terms of financing, the credit guarantee scheme that was launched during Covid, and continued until this year, has done a wonderful job in ensuring that the MSME space remains vibrant," he said at an event organised by Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) here on Wednesday.

Citing a study, he said the unified payments interface is helping create a credit ecosystem, as it provides information to banks about the granular behaviour of nano-entrepreneurs.

This information flow will encourage banks to increase their lending because the credit footprints created will help them take key financial decisions, he said.

"In the 2023-24 Budget, the government made a very important announcement: those small entrepreneurs who want to claim deductible business expenditures can only do so if they have actually made the payment, rather than on an approval basis," he said.

Vondrousova downs Svitolina to reach final

AP ■ LONDON

World number 42 Vondrousova came through 6-3, 6-3 and will face either second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus or last year's runner-up Ons Jabeur for the title on Saturday.

Left-hander Vondrousova will be playing in her second Grand Slam final after finishing runner-up at the 2019 French Open.

The 24-year-old was rewarded for her attacking approach, breaking serve six times and unleashing 22 winners to Svitolina's nine.

"I cannot believe it. I am very happy that I made the final. Elina is such a fighter and a great person. It was a tough match," said the Czech.

"I was crazy nervous. I was nervous the whole match. I was leading 4-0 in the second set and she fought back."

Reaching the final comes after a miserable time for the Czech -- she underwent a second surgery on her wrist last year, which ruled her out for



most of 2022. "I didn't play for six months last year and you never know if you can be at that level again," she said. "I'm so happy to be back out here."

Svitolina, taking part in her second successive Grand Slam semi-final since returning from maternity leave in April, dropped serve three times in the opening set.

She managed to retrieve the first to level at 3-3 but the Czech broke again in the seventh and ninth games to edge ahead in the tie.

An error-plagued Svitolina quickly fell 4-0 down in the second set.

However, Vondrousova, who had seen off four seeded players to reach the semi-finals, suddenly suffered mid-set jitters as she handed back the breaks to allow Svitolina to pull to 3-4.

Svitolina then undid all her hard work to be broken again in the eighth game before pushing a forehand long to hand her opponent a place in the final.



Bopanna-Ebden pair crashes out

PTI ■ LONDON

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden crashed out of the men's doubles competition at the Wimbledon, losing in straight sets to top seeds Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupsk in the semifinals here on Thursday.

Seeded sixth, Bopanna and Ebden battled for one hour and 26 minutes before going down 5-7 4-6. The 43-year-old Bopanna, the only Indian in fray at the Wimbledon, fell short of becoming the Open Era's oldest Grand Slam champion

across singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Bopanna and Ebden, 35, came back from a set down to beat the Dutch pair of Tallon Griekspoor and Bart Stevens 6-7(3) 7-5 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Bopanna had reached the Australian Open final with Sania Mirza earlier this year and won two ATP titles along with Ebden in men's doubles.

For Bopanna it was his third appearance in a Wimbledon semifinal and first since 2015.

Overall, Bopanna, a US Open runner-up in 2010, has made four Grand Slam semifinals in the men's doubles.

Alcaraz reaches first Wimbledon semi-final

AP ■ LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz saw off Holger Rune in straight sets on Wednesday to stay on course for a Wimbledon title showdown against defending champion Novak Djokovic.

The top seed won the key moments during the quarter-final on Centre Court to progress 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 6-4 and will play Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals.

The Spaniard faced just one break point in the entire match, which he snuffed out, hitting 35 winners against 13 unforced errors.

"Honestly, it is amazing for me," said Alcaraz after beating his friend. "It's been a dream since I started playing tennis."

The US Open champion, who now has 10 straight wins on grass, was delighted with his performance against

his fellow 20-year-old.

"I am playing at a great level. I didn't expect to play a great level on this surface," he said. "For me, it is crazy."

He said he found it tough at the beginning of the match, especially with Rune on the other side of the net.

"But once you get into the quarter-finals there's no friends," he added. "You have to be focused on yourself and I think I did great in that part."

There was just a single break point created in the first set, which almost inevitably went to a tie-break.

The start of the breaker was tight but Rune's double-fault gave Alcaraz a 4/3 lead and he won the next three points to take the first set.

It was a similar story in the second set until Rune dumped a forehand smash into the net in the ninth game to give the Spaniard break point.



Alcaraz made no mistake, smoking a backhand down the line to break and holding with ease to move two sets up.

He broke again in the fifth game of the third set, giving Rune a mountain to climb.

The Danish star saved one match point on his own serve but was powerless to stem the tide as Alcaraz served out to reach the last four at the All England Club for the first time.

Alcaraz is the youngest semi-finalist at Wimbledon since Djokovic in 2007.

The Serbian faces Italian eighth seed Jannik Sinner in Friday's other semi-final.

Alcaraz is aiming to become the third-youngest player to win the Wimbledon men's singles crown in the Open Era.

If he captures his second major at the All England Club, he is guaranteed to remain as world number one.

Young becomes Everton's first summer signing



AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Ashley Young became Everton's first signing of the transfer window on Thursday as the 38-year-old penned a one-year deal with the Toffees.

The former Manchester United full-back joins on a free transfer after his contract at Aston Villa expired at the end of last season.

Young is reunited with Everton manager Sean Dyche, who was his captain when he made his breakthrough at Watford back at the beginning of his career.

"The manager was important in me signing," said Young.

"I know him and know what his passion and desire is like. His honesty, will to work hard and his hunger for the

game is second to none."

Everton have extended their 70-year stay in the English top flight by the narrowest of margins over the past two seasons.

Another relegation battle is expected next season with the club under significant financial strain due to the construction of a new stadium and financial fair play regulations.

"I know things haven't gone too well for Everton in the past couple of seasons but the manager's ambition, speaking to him and hearing what he wants to do and change the club around, was a key factor in my decision," added Young.

"The other is the size of Everton. It's a massive club and the fanbase is one of the best."

Henderson agrees to join Al-Ettifaq: Report

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jordan Henderson is reuniting with Steven Gerrard.

The Liverpool captain is set to join Gerrard's Al-Ettifaq after verbally accepting a lucrative offer to play in the Saudi Pro League, according to transfer insider Fabrizio Romano.

Henderson's transfer now hinges on Liverpool and Al-Ettifaq agreeing on a fee. Romano adds the Reds are expected to demand around £10 million, but Sky Sports' Melissa Reddy reports the price may be roughly double that amount.

Henderson reportedly made his decision after being given the green light from manager Jurgen Klopp during a discussion over the 33-year-old's future.

The deal would more than double the England international's current £200,000-per-week wages at Liverpool, according to Andy Hunter of The Guardian.

Henderson joined Liverpool in 2011, playing alongside Gerrard before the club legend's departure in 2015. He captained the Reds to a Champions League triumph in 2019 and was pivotal in their capture of the Premier League title the following year.



Mirabai to spearhead Indian campaign in World Weightlifting C'ships

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Two-time medalist Mirabai Chanu will once again spearhead the Indian challenge in the World Weightlifting Championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September.

Apart from Chanu (49kg), Commonwealth Games medalists Bindyarani Devi (55kg) and Achinta Sheuli (73kg), Shubham Todkar (61kg) and Narayana Ajith (73kg) will also compete in the world event.

The same squad will be competing at the Asian Games, barring Todkar. It will be Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Chanu's first competition since the Asian Championships in May, where she finished sixth.

Chanu and Bindyarani are currently in St Louis, USA for a 65-day camp under Dr Aron

Todkar wins 67kg gold at Commonwealth C'ships

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

India's Shubham Todkar clinched the 61kg gold but he wasn't the best lifter in the category as compatriot Sidhanta Gogoi, competing in the junior competition, out-performed him on day two of the Commonwealth Championships here on Thursday.

Shubham, who is in the Indian squad for the upcoming World Championships, heaved a total of 259kg (115kg+144kg), while Sidhanta had a best effort of 260kg (112kg+148kg) to be crowned the junior champion.

The senior, junior and youth events are being held simultaneously at the Gautam Buddha University here.

Shubham's tournament started on a bad note as he fluffed his first snatch attempt of 113kg. The lifter from Maharashtra looked a little off colour but successfully heaved the weight in his second attempt before lifting 115kg.

In the clean and jerk section, he succeeded in lifting 139kg and 144kg before faltering his 147kg attempt.

"I am very happy because it is my first international medal. This is my third international event. But I am not satisfied with my performance, it was not what expected it to be," Shubham said after the win.

"My hand slipped during that first snatch attempt and I



was not able to clean my third clean and jerk attempt, maybe cutting the weight took away some strength from my thighs," he added.

Sidhanta, on the other hand, was on a roll. The 19-year-old executed five of his six lifts perfectly. The only blip in his impressive performance being the final 152kg clean and jerk lift which he couldn't complete.

He beat compatriot Shankar Lapung, who lifted 249kg (110kg+139kg) by a massive 12kg margin.

The loudest cheer of the day, however, came from the Samoan camp as 35-year-old Commonwealth Games silver medalist Vaipava Nevo Ioane was crowned the 67kg champion.

The Samoan champion weightlifter, with a best effort of

280kg (120kg+160kg), was far ahead of silver medalist Madhavan T of India, who lifted 268kg (125kg+143kg).

Ioane had finished second to Jeremy Lalrinnunga at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games last year. The Youth Olympic champion is currently nursing a back injury and has thus skipped this tournament.

In the women's 59kg event, India's Popy Hazarika changed the shade of her silver from last edition to gold.

She lifted 84kg in snatch and 105kg in clean and jerk for a total of 189kg.

Malta's Tenishia Thorton won the silver with an effort of 186kg (82kg+104kg) while South African Anneke Spies bagged the bronze by lifting 185kg (80+105kg).

Martinez glad to join Barca after suffering against them

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona's new defender Dinigo Martinez said he was glad to join a team he has regularly suffered against, at his presentation on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Spanish centre-back arrived on a free transfer from Athletic Bilbao last week and admitted he has endured many difficult nights at Camp Nou against the Spanish champions.

"Honestly, I've suffered every time I've come to Camp Nou, there's no game in which I've not ended up knackered," Martinez told reporters at Barcelona's training ground.

"The style of Barcelona takes you into their territory bit by bit,

there are top quality players, whoever the opponent is pays a high price and feels it on the pitch.

"You end up looking at the scoreboard and the minutes aren't passing, the game feels eternal."

Martinez signed a deal with Barcelona until 2025 and said it was an easy choice, highlighting the appeal of working under coach Xavi Hernandez, despite the club's financial situation.

"It's not easy for anyone, but it doesn't matter, come on, this is Barcelona, the best team in the world," said Martinez.

"When they call you, it puts the shine into your eyes. You pack your bag quickly to come here."



"Seeing Xavi come was amazing, so having him as a coach, I can't even tell you."

Martinez only played 15 times in La Liga last season for Athletic because of a foot prob-

lem which continues to trouble him.

The defender has worked by himself this week in training, unable to link up with his teammates yet as he recovers from plantar fasciitis.

Martinez, who came through at Real Sociedad and played there for seven seasons in the top flight, moved to Athletic in January 2017.

Athletic paid his 32 million euro (\$35 million) buy-out clause, which remains a club record fee.

Martinez played 177 times for the Basques, scoring eight goals and winning the Spanish Super Cup in 2021, as well as reaching two Copa del Rey finals.

Kipchoge to make Berlin Marathon return

AP ■ BERLIN

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge will race the Berlin Marathon on September 24, a year after having set a new world record on the same course, his management team announced on Thursday. Kipchoge will be aiming to become the first athlete in history to win the race five times. He is currently equal on four victories with Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie.

Kipchoge, the first man to break the two-hour barrier in the marathon during the INEOS 1:59 Challenge, set the official world record in Berlin in both 2018 and 2022 and also took the title in 2015 and 2017.

"On my road to the Paris Olympic Games, I like to go back to the BWM Berlin Marathon, since to me this is the perfect preparation. I have great memories there and I look forward to running the streets of Berlin again, together with the thousands of runners that will join," said



Kipchoge. Kipchoge, who finished sixth in his most recent marathon in Boston, set the current world record of 2:01:09 a year ago in the German capital.

The 38-year-old, whose first global title was over 5,000m at the 2003 Paris world championships, will be eyeing a third successive Olympic marathon gold in the French capital next year after winning in both Rio and Tokyo.

Ceballos set to miss start of season injured

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos will likely miss the start of the season after his club confirmed he suffered a hamstring injury on Thursday. The 26-year-old Spaniard will be sidelined for up to six weeks according to reports in Spanish media, ruling him out of Los Blancos' pre-season tour and potentially the first two rounds of La Liga fixtures.

Ceballos renewed this summer but faces a tough battle to establish himself as a regular starter, with veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Toni Kroos signing new deals too.

Madrid lavished over 100 million euros (\$112 million) on England international Jude Bellingham.

India take control of 1st WI Test

PTI ■ DOMINICA

Debutant opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (62 batting) displayed perfect composure and admirable temperament with a well-compiled half-century as Indian openers were in control, taking the score to 146 for no loss at lunch on the second day of the opening Test against the West Indies here on Thursday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (68 batting, 163 balls) also curbed his natural stroke-making instinct for the better part to reach his 15th half-century in Test cricket as India are only four runs short of West Indies' first innings score of 150.

The Windsor Park pitch got even slower on the day with most of the deliveries stopping and coming onto the bat.

Only 66 runs were scored during the session as Indian batters didn't take any undue risks and batted in an unhurried manner against an insipid Caribbean attack that didn't score much on potency quotient.

The two spinners — offie Rahkeem Cornwall (0/22 in 11 overs) and left-arm orthodox Jomel Warrican (0/34 in 14 overs) bowled tight lines but didn't bowl too many wicket-taking deliveries. The lack of pace off the track also made it easier for Indian openers to defend.

Jaiswal, who started the day on 40, struck his first boundary on Friday that got him to his half-century, which was also a vindication of the team management's decision to promote him at the top on debut.



It was a pull shot off Alzarri Joseph (0/42 in 8 overs), whose bowling lacked sting during that first session. Jaiswal now have seven

boundaries in his knock so far with six coming in the first evening while Rohit has six fours and two sixes

The old Dukes ball also didn't offer much reverse swing and Rohit's flick off Joseph to get a six over mid-wicket was the best shot of the morning.

He also rocked on back-foot and hit a square cut off Jomel Warrican and punched his full-toss through the covers after a quiet first hour.

With so much time left in the match, the Indians are rightly aiming to bat West Indies out of the game as it will get very difficult to bat in the third innings on a worn out track.

Sindhu, Lakshya win US Open openers; Sai Praneeth out

PTI ■ COUNCIL BLUFFS

Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu defeated her American opponent of Indian origin Disha Gupta while Lakshya Sen began his men's singles campaign with a convincing win over Finland's Kalle Koljonen at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

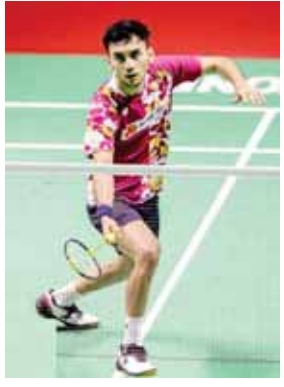
In another men's singles match, S Sankar Subramanian, who had entered the main draw of the tournament after two tough qualifying matches, defeated his tricky Irish opponent Nhat Nguyen 21-11, 21-16 in the first round.

However, B Sai Praneeth lost to 23-year-old world No. 7 Chinese player Li Shi Feng after a gruelling match that lasted three games.

Sindhu defeated Diksha 21-15, 21-12 in just 27 minutes to enter the second round, while Lakshya beat his Finnish opponent 21-8, 21-16 in less than 30 minutes.

Sankar though was tested by his Irish opponent Nhat Nguyen before winning 21-11, 21-16 in 44 minutes, while Praneeth gave a tough fight to second seed Shi Feng before going down 16-21, 21-14, 21-19 in one hour and 14 minutes.

In another women's singles match, India's 61-ranked player Ruthvika Shivani went down to Lin Hsiang Ti of



Chinese-Taipei 14-21, 11-21.

On Tuesday, former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap retired midway into his second match after trailing 21-23 7-11 against Koo Takahashi of Japan.

He had won his first match against England's Rohan Midha 21-19, 21-17.

Men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, however, couldn't cross the opening round losing 14-21, 14-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lin Yu Chieh and Su Li Wei.

The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300.

One other category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points.



Indian batters flop again as B'desh pull off consolation win

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Indian batters' struggles against spin bowling continued as Bangladesh held their nerve to pull off a four-wicket consolation win in the third and final women's T20I on Thursday.

India produced another underwhelming batting performance to end up with 102 for nine after getting to bat.

It seemed Bangladesh, who could not chase 96 in the previous game, had taken the self-destructing route again but managed to cross the line in 18.1 overs. Opener Shamima Sultana (42 off 46) held the innings together for Bangladesh.

India sealed the series 2-1 but their performance left a lot to be desired. The three-match ODI series between the two teams will begin here on July 16.

Batting on spin friendly wickets was the biggest let down as the batters lacked the firepower to put pressure on the slow bowlers. Barring skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, none of the batters could clear the fence in the three games.

The performance of rookie off-spinner Minnu Mani was among the few positive stories to have come out for India. When the new head coach takes charge of the team, he will have plenty of work to do before the side returns to play the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh next year.

The India skipper struck a solid 40 off 41 balls before a batting collapse in the death overs saw India lose their last six wickets for 11 runs.

Leggie Rabeya Khan was the standout bowler for Bangladesh with three wickets for 16 runs in four overs. Off-spinner Sultana Khatun was impressive in the powerplay, removing the star opening duo of Shafali Verma (11) and Smriti Mandhana (1).

The surface has proved to be "tricky" throughout the low-scoring series and considering that, Harmanpreet opted to bat first. Shafali and Mandhana once again failed to provide a good start to leave India at 27 for two in six overs.

Jemimah Rodrigues (28 off 26) and Harmanpreet stitched a 45-run stand to take the innings forward before the former was stumped off leg-spinner Shorna Akter. Unlike the previous game, Jemimah showed positive intent in her innings and made good use of her feet against the spinners.

"In the team rankings, right now we are closing in on the top 10, but the way we are playing as a unit, we can be a top five nation in table tennis," Sathiyam said.

"I see a lot of players who can break into the top 50, we have to have more Indians coming into the top 50 and going closer to that Olympic medal. This Paris Olympics will be a great chance to qualify as a team

Constant search for excellence has been incredibly draining: Ashwin

PTI ■ ROSEAU

The constant search for excellence has pushed R Ashwin to new heights but by his own admission, it has also been "incredibly draining".

Ashwin, the world's number one Test bowler, put the disappointment of being dropped from the World Test Championship final with a 33rd five-wicket haul in the first Test against the West Indies here on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old also became the third Indian to reach the 700-wicket milestone in international cricket and is only behind Harbhajan Singh (711 wickets) and Anil Kumble (956) in the all-time list. After the close of play on day one, the wily off-spinner, who also thinks deeply about the game, was asked about his long journey in international cricket and the ups and downs along the way, including the recent exclusion from the WTC final against Australia.

"There is no cricketer or human being in this world that has gone through the highs without the lows. When you have the lows, it gives you two choices, either you sulk or talk about it and then complain about it and go along with it and go down. Or you learn from it. So I'm someone who's constantly learnt from my lows.

"In fact the best thing that'll happen today after this good day that I've had is that I'll have a good meal, have a good conversation, talk to my family and go to bed and then forget about it.

"When you've had a good day, you know you've had a good day but there are areas you can work on and get better for tomorrow. This constant search for excellence has held me in good stead all the time, but it's also been incredibly draining. It's not a journey that's been very easy. For me, the journey has been draining, but I'm very thankful for all the lows because without the lows there are no highs," said Ashwin in the post day media interaction.



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VERY TOUGH AS A CRICKETER TO BE SITTING OUT OF WTC FINAL

PTI ■ DOMINICA

Considering the overcast conditions at The Oval last month, India made the tough call of leaving out Ashwin from the playing eleven for an extra pacer. The decision was widely debated before India came up short in their second successive WTC final.

Ashwin was naturally disappointed. "I've spoken about it. It's very tough as a cricketer when you have a shot at the WTC final and end up sitting out. But what is the difference between me and another person if I also end up sulking in the dressing room. "When we went to the WTC final, I was mentally prepared to play.

I had prepared physically and mentally, planned for the game, everything. But, I was also prepared to not play the game.

"If I'm not playing, how do I respond? How do I make sure the dressing room is really up and about. Winning the WTC final is the most important thing, it could be a very high point in my career and I would have played a good role in it. It was just unfortunate, it didn't pan out. The first day just left us too much behind in the shed.

"All I'd like to give to my teammates and Indian cricket as a whole is some understanding and my best efforts on the field and I'd like to leave it at that," he said.

India can be among top five nations in TT: Sathiyam

PTI ■ PUNE

Star player G Sathiyam feels India has the potential to be among the top five table tennis nations and the rapid growth of the game can be fuelled further with an elusive medal at the Summer Olympics next year.

Sathiyam said India's young players have the potential to do even better than he and his contemporaries have managed to achieve.

"In the team rankings, right now we are closing in on the top 10, but the way we are playing as a unit, we can be a top five nation in table tennis," Sathiyam said.

"I see a lot of players who can break into the top 50, we have to have more Indians coming into the top 50 and going closer to that Olympic medal. This Paris Olympics will be a great chance to qualify as a team

and get closer to that podium," said the world number 85.

Sathiyam, who was a member of the Indian team which won the gold medal in the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games, said mixed doubles will

be India's best chance to win a medal next year in the Paris Olympics. He will partner alongside Manika Batra.

"We work as a team, be it Manika's (Batra) coach or my coach. We share inputs on which

(aspect) can be beneficial, even if I am away. I do practice doubles a lot with other partners. Mixed doubles is the best chance for India in the Olympic games.

"We share a lot of data and ideas. There has been significant improvement but there is always the scope to get better," said Sathiyam, who reached a career high ranking of 24 in 2019.

The 30-year-old was particularly praiseful of the young Indian players, who have also brought about a change in mindset and approach.

"I could see that they (young players) do not stop in their dreams. The young ones are all fired up, they do not have restrictions now, they are not afraid of the Chinese or the Japanese or the Koreans.

"They are not afraid of the top world ranked players. I could see positivity in them, which is a great sign that even



if it is a top ranked player, they just go all out and exhibit their full talent," he said.

"Certainly, when you start winning... We do have some credit there. When you start beating the top players, the mindset completely changes that you are not looking at them as someone that you can never beat.

"Now, everyone is going against the Chinese and the Japanese. The mindset has certainly changed.

"It is about just competing on that day, skill to skill and go all out and play your heart out. I am sure with this kind of mindset and hard work we can go a long way."

Yarrajai wins 100m hurdles gold in Asian Athletics C'ships

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Jyothi Yarrajai opened India's gold medal account in the Asian Athletics Championships by winning the women's 100m hurdles race and clinching her maiden top finish in a major international event here on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Yarrajai clocked 13.09 seconds to win the final race ahead of two Japanese runners Terada Asuka (13.13s) and Aoki Masumi (13.26s) on a rain-drenched track at the Supachalasai Stadium.

Yarrajai's national record stands at 12.82 seconds. On Wednesday, Abhishek Pal had opened India's medal account with a bronze in men's 10,000m race.

Vidwath's four-wicket burst gives South Zone edge in Duleep Trophy final

PTI ■ BENGALURU

South Zone pacers were brilliantly bellicose while reducing West Zone to 129 for 7 and help their team regain some of the lost ground on the second day of the Duleep Trophy final here on Thursday.

West still trail South by 84 runs. Earlier, South were bundled out for 213 in their first innings.

Once Prithvi Shaw and Harvik Desai took West to 97 for 1, they were poised for a romp and the conditions too remained a tad sunny.

Shaw was quite a sight during that phase. The 23-year-old blunted the South pacers in his inimitable way, producing a slew of sparkling shots.

Vidwath Kaverappa pitched the ball on his driving arc, a wowing cover drive followed. Vasuki Koushik marginally overpitched a delivery and Shaw produced a straight drive that is now patented to the Mumbai school of batting carried over by Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar.

Vidwath's delivery that was slanted to Shaw's pads so slightly met with a delectable flick, an unclogging wrist giving it power and direction.

The three shots were enough to revalidate the class this young man possesses.

It was clear that the South bowlers will have to conjure something exceptional to snap the second-wicket alliance. Perhaps, the 65-minute rain break that arrived in the second session gave South a chance to take a step back and revisit their strategies. Their bowlers took to the field with a marked difference in approach post that break. Vysakh



Vijayakumar came from around the wicket and peppered both Shaw and Harvik with short-pitched balls.

West batters looked to have caught unawares and their reply was jittery.

Shaw, a reluctant player of the upper cut by his own admission, was forced to play precisely that shot by Vysakh. But the ball was too close to his body, and there was not enough room for its execution.

The rather half-hearted shot neither had elevation nor the distance and it ended in the hands of Vidwath at third man. He made a delightful 65 off 101 balls with 9 hits to the fence.

Vidwath was a beneficiary of this tactic at the other end as batters tried to score off him. Unlike his partner, Vidwath resorted to bowling fuller lengths. Suryakumar Yadav seemed to

have pre-programmed his mind to play the T20 brand of cricket here. Suryakumar could have got out to Vysakh but Sai Kishore failed to grab an uppish pull of him at mid-wicket.

However, his stay ended very soon. The Mumbaiikar could not negate a Vidwath delivery that reared from just short of the good length.

Vidwath soon trapped Sarfaraz Khan plumb in front for zero with a full delivery as the batter played all over it.

Once half of the batting unit was dismissed, it was left to Cheteshwar Pujara to hold the West innings together and get as close as to South's total.

But the man who has scripted several escape stories failed to enact one this time. R Samarth held on to Pujara's flick off Vidwath as West's ship sank further.