OPINION 6

STRAY DOGS: POUNDS

WILL NOT HELP

WORLD 9

US FOR REGIONAL TENSIONS

N KOREA'S ENVOY BLAMES

MONEY 10

'NO INCOME TAX FOR PEOPLE EARNING UP

TO ₹7.27 LPA UNDER NEW TAX REGIME

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DJOKER ENTERS 9th WIMBLEDON FINAL MATCH

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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CAPSULE

INDIAN STUDENT ATTACKED BY KHALISTANIS IN OZ Melhourge A A CO Melbourne: A 23-year-old Indian

student was beaten up with iron rods by Khalistan supporters in Australia for opposing the activities of extremist elements, a media report said on Friday. The student was on his way to work when he was attacked by assailants chanting "Khalistan Zindabad" in Sydney's western suburb of Merrylands, The Australia Today news portal reported. "Today, morning at 5.30 am when I was going to work, some 4-5 Khalistan supporters attacked me," the student, who preferred anonymity, was quoted as

BALASORE TRAIN MISHAP:

3 RLY STAFF SENT TO JC Bhubaneswar: A Special court here on Friday sent the three accused railway officials in the Balasore triple train accident to judicial custody after the end of their CBI remand period.

YOGI SHOWERS FLOWER PETALS ON KANWARIYAS

Meerut: Amid the auspicious month of Sawan, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath showered flowers on the Kanwariyas or Friday. Yogi reached the Delhi Meerut highway from Saharanpur, where he showered flowers on thousands of Shiva devotees gathered there. according to an official release

NO MISMANAGEMENT IN 8 CHEETAHS DEATH: MIN

Bhonal: Male cheetah Surai translocated from Africa, died at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on Friday. forest officials said. It took the number of cheetahs that have died at the park in Sheopur district since March this year to eight. Suraj was found lying stil in Palpur East Forest Range's Masavani beat by a monitoring team on Friday morning.

Takes cognisance

disqualification

petitions against

Shinde, others

PNS NEW DELHI

on plea to adjudicate

The Supreme Court has

Taken cognisance of a plea seeking expedited adjudica-

tion of disqualification peti-

tions filed against Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde and

other Shiv Sena MLAs who

formed a new Government in

Maharashtra in June 2022 by

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud

issued a notice to the office of

the Maharashtra Legislative

Assembly Speaker, seeking

their response on the matter.

The plea was filed by Shiv Sena

(Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)

aligning with the BJP.

India's Chandrayaan 3 heads to Moon

Soft-landing on moon planned on Aug 23, says ISRO

PNS NEW DELHI

India achieved a significant milestone on Friday as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched Chandrayaan 3, the country's third lunar mission. With the primary goal of accomplishing a soft landing on the lunar surface, Chandrayaan 3 seeks to join the exclusive league of nations, including the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union, that have achieved this remarkable feat in lunar exploration.

"India's ambitious third lunar mission, Chandrayaan 3, was successfully launched on Friday by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with an eye on future interplanetary missions," reported S Vijay Karthik. "The technically challenging soft landing on the lunar surface, which Chandrayaan 2 could not achieve, has been planned for 5.47 pm on August 23."

The highly anticipated Chandrayaan 3, ISRO's third lunar expedition in 15 years, embarked on its month-long journey towards the moon from Sriharikota, piggybacking on ISRO's latest heavy lift launch vehicle, 'Fat boy' LVM3-

"The mission cost was around an estimated Rs 600 crore," Union Minister of State

MLA Sunil Prabhu, who had

previously filed the disqualifi-

cation petitions against Shinde

and other MLAs in his capac-

ity as the chief whip of the

Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, stated, "We will

issue notice returnable in two

weeks." In the petition, Shiv Sena (UBT) has accused

Speaker Rahul Narwekar of

intentionally delaying the adju-

dication process, despite the

Supreme Court's May 11 ver-

dict, which directed the speedy

disposal of the petitions.

Continued on Page 2

The bench, consisting of

undivided Shiv Sena.

SC issues notice

to Maha Speaker



Sriharikota: ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) M4 rocket carrying 'Chandrayaan-3' lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, on Friday

for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh said.

"Chandrayaan 3 has started its journey towards the moon. Our dear LVM 3 has already put Chandrayaan 3 craft into the precise orbit around earth... And let us wish all the best for Chandrayaan 3 craft for its further orbit raising maneuvers and travel towards the moon in the coming days, expressed ISRO Chairman S Somanath from the Mission Control Centre (MCC).

Infusion of Chandrayaan 3 into the lunar orbit is planned from August 1 onwards,

according to S Somanath. 'The soft landing on the lunar surface has been planned

for 5.47 pm on August 23," he added. Mission Director S Mohana Kumar emphasised the reliability of the LVM3 rocket, stating, "We are in the process of increasing the launch frequency of this vehicle considering the national requirements as well as satellite demands.

"Today's event is a moment of glory for India and a moment of destiny for all those in Sriharikota. I think Chandrayaan has gone beyond the limit of the sky to explore the unexplored horizons of the universe beyond," thanked Singh, while acknowledging Prime Minister Narendra

support. Continued on Page 2

New chapter in India's space odyssey: PM

New Delhi: Minutes after India's third lunar exploration mission Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched into the orbit from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that it has "scripted a new chapter in India's space odyssey." He said the mission "soars high, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every

Cong likely to

The Congress is expected to make a decision on the contentious Delhi ordinance issue on Saturday in an effort to resolve the ongoing disagreement with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This comes ahead of the Opposition parties' meeting in Bengaluru on Monday, followed by the commencement of the

Monsoon session on July 20. AICC sources said the

meeting. The upcoming meeting will be the second discussion on the issue, with the first meeting held on July 1. At that time, the Congress refrained from announcing its stance on the ordinance despite pressure

Continued on Page 2

Modi hails defence ties between India, France

'India views France as natural ally in its quest to become developed nation'

PNS/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday hailed the enduring defense partnership between India and France, highlighting its significance as the cornerstone of their bilateral relations. Modi said India viewed France as a natural ally in its quest to become a developed nation

The Prime Minister's remarks come against the backdrop of proposed defense contracts, including the acquisition of 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets and the construction of three Scorpene submarines, collectively valued at over FRs 80,000

These deals align with India's "Make In India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, emphasising self-reliance and indigenous defense production.

The Defense Acquisition Council, led by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, recentPrime Minister Narendra Modi gestures during a joint Press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on Friday ly granted approval for mitment to meeting the

He lauded France's role in promoting the "Make In India" manufacturing of Scorpene submarines. and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" The formal announcement of these significant contracts campaigns, expressing a desire was anticipated during the for collaboration in various summit between Modi and sectors, including submarines

Government-to-Government

deals involving the procure-

ment of Rafale jets and the

President Macron. and Indian naval ships. Acknowledging the 25year strategic partnership between the two nations, Modi underscored the importance of France as a vital partner in India's defense industry and gy transition. highlighted their joint com-

Modi welcomed the long

term agreement between Indian Oil and France's Total company, emphasising its contribution to India's clean ener-

defense requirements of not

only India but also other

friendly countries.

Continued on Page 2

decide on Delhi ordinance issue before Opp meet

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi has called for a meeting of the Parliamentary Strategy Group on Saturday to discuss various issues. This will be the first CPP meeting in 14 years that will not be attended by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi. Rahul was disqualified as a Lok Sabha MP during the Budget Session in March, and although he is fighting to retain his Wayanad Parliamentary constituency through the courts, he will not be present at this

from the AAP.

PM attends Bastille Day Parade in France

PNS/AGENCIES **NEW DELHI/PARIS**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India will always be grateful to France for being a trusted partner and joined French President Emmanuel Macron for the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour in Paris.

An Indian tri-services marching contingent took part in the parade and Indian Rafale jets participated in the flypast on the occasion along with the French air force. Modi saluted the Indian contingent as it passed the dais where Macron, he and other dignitaries were seated. Throughout the parade, Macron was seen animatedly explaining to Modi the nuances of the tra-

"India, inspired by its centuries-old ethos, is committed to doing everything possible to make our planet peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable.

ditional parade.

"1.4 billion Indians will always be grateful to France for being a strong and trusted part-

"May the bond deepen even further!" Modi tweeted. "A giant in world history, with a decisive role to play in the future, a strategic partner, a friend. We are proud to welcome India as our guest of honour at the 14 July parade," Macron tweeted.

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron during

Modi honoured with France's highest award

New Delhi/Paris: France has honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi by conferring him with its highest civilian and military award, Grand Cross of the Legion. President Emmanuel Macron gave this award to Modi in a ceremony in Paris late Thursday. Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister

Modi was also the Guest of Honour for this year's French National Day on Friday also

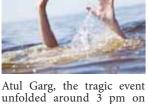
called the Bastille Day.

3 children drown while bathing in floodwater STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Three children between the ages of 10 and 13 lost their lives by drowning while taking bath in floodwater in a waterlogged area near northwest Delhi's Mukundpur Chowk. The incident took place when they accidentally fell into a water-filled ditch at a metro under-construction site on

The young victims, identified as Piyush (13), Nikhil (10), and Ashish (13), all residents of H-block in Jahangirpuri, met their unfortunate fate in what marks the

first reported drownings during the ongoing Delhi floods. According to the Director of Delhi Fire Service (DFS),



unfolded around 3 pm on Friday when a distress call was received reporting that children had drowned in a ditch. The fire department team promptly responded and rushed to the location near Mukundpur Chowk in Jahangirpuri.

"Despite immediate rescue efforts, they could not be declared deceased at BJRM hospital," shared Garg.



revived, and all three were



In the first-ever Cabinet re-jig carried out by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde twelve days after the rebel Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) joined his government, the breakaway NCP group leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday walked away with the plum Finance and

planning portfolios.

In the portfolio allocation exercise undertaken by the Chief Minister after the hectic bargaining indulged by the breakaway NCP faction, Ajit Pawar's senior colleagues Dilip-Walse Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal, and Dhananjay Munde landed Co-operation, Food and Civil Supplies (& Consumer Protection) and Agriculture

portfolios respectively.

The portfolios allocated to five other NCP breakaway faction Ministers who had joined the Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJF alliance government on July 2, are: Hasan Mushriff (Medical education), Dharmarao Atram: (Food and drugs administra-



tion), Aditi Tatkare (Women and child welfare), Anil Patil youth welfare).

newly inducted NCP Ministers. While Ajit has replaced Devendra Fadnavis as the Finance Minister, Munde took over the portfolio of Agriculture held earlier by

(Relief and rehabilitation) and Sanjay Bansode: (Sports and In the portfolio distribution exercise, the BJP lost out

six of its Ministries to the Ministers from the Pawar-led NCP faction, while the Eknath

Shinde- led Shiv Sena conceded three of its portfolios to the

Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Sattar has been given Minority Affairs and Waqf. Walse Patil has been vest-

ed with Cooperation portfolio in place of Atul Save of the BJP, while Save has been given Housing, OBC and Bahujan Kalyan portfolios, while Bhujbal has occupied Food and Civil Supplies held earli-er by Ravindra Chavan of the BJP who has been allocated (Other Public Undertakings).

Mushraf has taken over

the Medical Education portfolio from Girish Mahajan who has been allocated Rural development Panchayat Raj and Tourism portfolios, while Aditi Tatkare has got the women and children portfolio held earlier by Mangal Prasad Lodha.

On July 2, Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP MLAs were inducted into the State Cabinet, after they rebelled against NCP chief Sharad Pawar, broke away from the parent party and joined the Shinde Government. Continued on Page 2

to receive this honour.

Detailed report on Page 2

Yamuna inundates Delhi's key areas

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $F_{ ext{Yamuna}}^{ ext{loodwaters from the overflowing}}$ entrance of the Supreme Court in Central Delhi, as well as the areas of ITO, Rajghat, and surrounding areas on Friday. The situation was further exacerbated by damage to the Indraprastha water regulator, managed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department. To address the worsening waterlogging, the Indian Army was deployed to contain the damage

alert for moderate rain and thunder-

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level in the Yamuna River stood at 208.12 meters at 8 pm. Despite the receding water levels, several key areas in Delhi remained inundated. The weather office has issued a 'yellow



Repair works are underway at the regulator near the Indraprastha bus stand and the WHO Building on Drain No. 12, utilising sandbags, braces, and boulders.

The Indian Army's Engineering Corps has made significant progress

in restoring the regulator and the ITO Barrage following the collapse of the regulator on Thursday evening. This collapse led to the flooding of various areas, including the Ring Road at WHO, ITO, IP Metro Station, and IP Estate. The breach in the regulator allowed river water to enter drain no. 12 and cause damage. "With the dedicated efforts of the

Indian Army, including three officers, six JCOs, 45 jawans, and other workmen, approximately 80% of the restoration work on the Bund, which caused the breach, has been completed. The work is expected to be finalized by midnight, following which the restoration of the regulator at the mouth of the drain will commence. Encouragingly, the water flowing into the drain has already started reversing its course. Once the Bund is sealed, pumps will be utilized to redirect the overflowing water from the drain back into the river," sources stated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, currently in France, contacted Union Home Minister Amit Shah to inquire about the flood-like situation in parts of Delhi. Shah briefed PM Modi about the situation and informed him that the water level in the Yamuna is expected to recede in the next 24

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inspected the repair work at the Indraprastha water regulator. The LG has been present on-site throughout the day, overseeing progress and motivating the workmen. He even had lunch with them in the afternoon.

Earlier, Kejriwal and Revenue Minister Atishi directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to seek assistance from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the

Army to prevent the entry of flood waters into new areas of the national Due to the flooding, areas such as

Raighat and ITO have imposed traffic restrictions, causing hardships for commuters. Waterlogged roads, including the key stretch connecting East Delhi to Lutyens's Delhi, have made navigation difficult. Efforts have been made to ensure

the safety of residents and animals affected by the floods. The Delhi Police evacuated over 60 students from the Blind School in Kingsway Camp, and the NDRF team rescued 60 dogs, 50 cows, and around 375 other cows from inundated areas.

The flood-like situation has also impacted crematoriums in the vicinity of the Yamuna River.

The authorities continue to work to address the situation and mitigate the impact of the floods in Delhi.

Modi honoured with France's highest award

 $F^{\text{rance has honoured Prime}}_{\text{Minister Narendra Modi by}}$ conferring him with its highest civilian and military award, Grand Cross of the Legion. President Emmanuel Macron gave this award to Modi in a ceremony in Paris late Thursday. Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this honour.

Modi was also the Guest of Honour for this year's French National Day on Friday also called the Bastille Day. Indian Rafale jets participated in a flypast in Paris and a 270-strong tri-Service marching contingent led by a woman officer took part in the parade. President Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi wit-



"It is with great humility that I accept the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. This is an honour for the 140 crore people of India. I thank President @EmmanuelMacron, the French Government and people for this gesture. It shows their deep affection towards India and resolve for furthering friendship with our nation,"

The conferring of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor' on PM@narendramodi is a recognition of his commitment to India-France ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said

"It also reflects his international standing and contribution to addressing key global issues. Join in extending best wishes to PM@narendramodi whose leadership in world affairs is an inspiration for so many," Jaishankar, who is currently in Jakarta, Indonesia, tweeted.

"A warm gesture embodying the spirit of partnership. PM @narendramodi conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest award in President @EmmanuelMacron," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

TMC raps BJP for sending fact-finding team to WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Days after winning the violence-marred panchayat elections by a thumping majority the ruling Trinamool Congress on Friday renewed its attack not only on the BJP and the Centre but also the judi-ciary and the media for "maligning Bengal's image around the world.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP for sending fact-finding-team to visit the violence-hit areas of Bengal, TMC national general secretary and its second in command Abhishek Banerjee asked, "how many fact finding teams have been sent to Manipur which is burning for the past so many weeks ... and on how many occasions Ravi Shankar Prasad (who is leading the BJP central team) visited Bengal during the

War of words continues between



Prasad had earlier said that in terms of perpetrating vio-lence the TMC had far outweighed the Marxist regime that ruled the State for more than three decades.

"That the BJP team is visiting the interior areas of Bengal and that they are able to make such false and adverse comments is a proof of the level of democracy in our State which is being squarely maligned by a section of the media, judiciary at the instance of New Delhi" he said wondering whether such teams could have visited corruption and violence ridden Madhya Pradesh or for that matter

Uttar Pradesh "where people are shot dead in front of the camera and nothing is done." He said, "if you had asked

questions against the Yogi rule then you would have faced the consequence they would have set ED and CBI after you and you would have landed in

On Union Home Minister

Amit Shah's claims that the BJP had gained in Bengal in the panchayat elections Banerjee who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "it is for Amit Shah to explain whether 22 percent votes that they have polled this time round is higher than the 38 percent votes which his party got in 2021 Assembly elections ... The country's understanding of simple arithmetic makes it clear as to why India is suffering during their

Balasore train accident: 3 accused railway officials sent to judicial custody by court

A Special court here on Friday sent the three accused railway officials in the Balasore triple train accident to judicial custody after the end of their CBI remand period. The three - Senior Section Engineer (signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, Section Engineer Mohammed Amir Khan and Technician Pappu Kumar - who have been placed under suspension by Railways were produced in the CBI Special court here after the end of their remand period.

The accused were arrested by the CBI on July 7.

The Bhubaneswar Special CBI Court had granted 5-day remand of the accused to the CBI, which is investigating the case, on July 7. Later, on July 11, remand period for 4 more days at the request of the investigating agency.
While sending the accused

persons to judicial custody, the court has scheduled the next date of hearing of the case

on July 27. The three accused were booked under IPC Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) and under Section 153 of the Railways Act.

While the CBI was yet to submit its report on the case, the inquiry report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), South Eastern Circle, stated that the accident took place due to "lapses" in the signalling circuit alteration at the North Signal Goomty (of

Army makes progress in restoration of I&FC regulator, ITO barrage

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Indian Army's Engineering Corps has made substantial progress in the restoration works at the I&FC regulator and ITO Barrage following the collapse of the regulator on Thursday evening, which resulted in the flooding of several areas including the Ring Road at WHO, ITO, IP Metro Station, and IP Estate. The breach in the regulator led to river water entering drain no. 12 and damaging the regulator.

With the dedicated efforts of the Indian Army, including three officers, six JCOs, 45 jawans, and other workmen, approximately 80% of the restoration work on the Bund, which caused the breach, has been completed. The work is expected to be finalized by midnight, following which the



In addition, another unit of



the Indian Army successfully cleared the silt and sludge that had blocked the five gates of the ITO Barrage, preventing their opening. Instead of cutting through the gates, as initially planned, the gates will now be hydraulically opened.



accusing it of being responsible for the Delhi flood by releasing water in the city from its Hathnikund barrage while the BJP hit back, with its Delhi unit chief alleging that the AAP government was "evading responsibility" and blaming other states, as it did during the Covid period.

The BJP's Delhi unit chief Sachdeva alleged no work was done by the city government agencies to desilt the Yamuna river and the drains which led to waterlogging The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also said the people of Delhi are suffering the consequences of the negligence of the AAP gov-



ernment at every sensitive turn. Addressing a press conference, Singh said that the BJP MPs in Delhi "could have negotiated" with the Haryana government to tackle the flood situation here, but they chose not

"Haryana released water from Hathnikund barrage towards Delhi only and this has caused the flood situation here. The Chief Secretaries of three states - Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana should have coordinated to tackle it," Singh, also a Rajya Sabha member, claimed. He alleged that the



water from Hathnikund barrage was released only in the Yamuna canal of Delhi and not towards the east and west canals of Uttar Pradesh and

"Since July 10, the Haryana government has been releasing water in one direction, whereas it could have been distributed evenly in all three states. The Delhi flood is an organised plan. The BJP has purposely pushed the national capital into this situation and made people suffer because of political reasons," he alleged.

Modi hails defence ties...

From Page 1

He also announced the launch of India's unified payments interface in France and discussed plans to establish a new Indian Consulate in Marseille. The Prime Minister invited French universities to establish campuses in India and expressed enthusiasm for Indian athletes participating in the forthcoming Paris Olympics.

President Macron highlighted the mutual objective of strengthening educational ties,

aiming to send 30,000 French students to India by 2030. He emphasized the need for a conducive visa policy to facilitate the pursuit of higher education by young Indians in France. Both leaders emphasised the shared commitment to enhancing cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, and digital technology. They stressed the importance of democratizing technology supply chains and extending support to nations

affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regard to the Indo-Pacific region, Modi underscored the joint responsibility of India and France in ensuring peace and stability. He advocated for peaceful conflict resolution through dialogue and diplomacy while emphasizing the need to counter cross-border terrorism. The Prime Minister also encouraged the development of startups and innovation between the two countries.

PM attends Bastille Day Parade in...

This 14 July, soldiers and Rafale aircraft from India are marching and flying alongside our troops," he wrote.
"We honour the memory of those who

fought with the French in the First World War. We shall never forget," the French President said in another tweet.

Marching to the tune of 'saare jahan se achcha', the 269-member Indian tri-services contingent par-

ticipated in the parade and joined the flypast. The contingent was led by Cdr Vrat Baghel. He was followed by his deputies, Lt Cdr Disha Amrith, Lt Cdr Rajat Tripathi and Lt Cdr Jittin Lalitha Dharmaraj.

The French President arrived in an open vehicle with soldiers in horses, jeeps and bikes marching along with him. He also waved at the people who had gathered to witness the parade on France's National Day. Champs-Elysees was coloured in red, blue and white - colours of the French Flag.

French First Lady Brigitte Macron and France's Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne received Prime Minister Modi to the Bastille Day Parade. Modi arrived at the Champs-Elysees in a traditional off-white kurta and pyjama paired with a navy blue



Army successfully cleared the silt and sludge that had blocked the five gates of the

KEY CORP LIMITED

CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547 Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, email: keycorpltd@gmail.com Ph.0512-3013416

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that 37th Annua General Meeting of the Company will be held on Saturday the 12th August, 2023 at 10.00 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company at 16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur. The notice is hereby also given that in pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 06th August, 2023 to the 12th August, 2023 (both days inclusive)

(G.D. MAHESHWARI) Executive Director SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Parul Sharma w/o Mr. Rohit Sharma owner of Freshold Residential Plot admeasuring 100 Sq. Yd. or Say 84 Sq. Mt. Part of Khasra no. 517, situated in Ward no. 13, Mohalla Indira Nagar Garhmukteshwar Village Garh Bangar, Pragna & Tehsil Garhmukteshwar pistt. Hapur, U.P. aborett Pocaruments Sale deed as yecuted Mantion Proporty Documents Sale deed as yecuted Mention Property Documents Sale deed executed by Mr. Janardhan s/o Mr. Ramnandan in favour o Mr. Shriram Gupta s/o Mr. Pramanand Gupta, ir espect of the said Property, duly registered with the office of SR- Garhmukteshwar, vide Doc. No. 5467 n Book no. 1, Vol. no. 1340 Page no. 136/139, or dated 29.09.2009 has been lost/ misplaced 8 Present owner of the above Property Mrs. Parul Sharma w/o Mr. Rohit Sharma and same Property to be Loan financed by M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.

Corporation Lto.

If any person(s) have any objection(s) or Claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i. e. Mis Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. 2nd Floor, Commercial Market, Sanjay Vihar, Awas Vikas, Opp. Prachin Shiv Mandit, Hapur-245101 U.P Shall probable held responsible in any manner whatspever. of be held responsible in any manner whatsoever

Arun Goswami (Advocate) Ch. No. 119, 1* Floor, Main Road Tehsi Compound Distt. Ghaziabad, Mob. 9997806112

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred

under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of

powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the

below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Spurious pesticide manufacturing unit

busted in Bawana

elhi Police has busted a spurious pesticide manufacturing unit in Outer Delhi's Bawana areas and registered a case under section 420 IPC and 103/104 Trade Mark Act against Hari Om, a resident of Rohtak, Haryana.

Delhi police conducted the raid on information provided by Paramjeet Singh, who works at a private company and registered the complaint on behalf of its various clients including Dhanuka Agritech, Bayer Crop Sciences and Corteva Agriscience among others.

"In the complaint, the petitioner alleged that the accused was engaged in packing and supplying counterfeits of a few brands, thereby cheating farmers and misusing trademarks of different companies," the FIR registered by Bawana Police

SC issues notice...

The petition, filed through advocates Nishanth Patil and Amit Anand Tiwari, invoked of India, highlighting the Speaker's deliberate delay in adjudicating the disqualification petitions. It stated, "The petitioner is constrained to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court... due to the respondent Speaker's conduct in choosing to deliberately delay the adjudication of the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against the delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly."

The petition further highlighted that despite the Supreme Court's clear direction to decide the pending disqualification petitions within a reasonable period, the Speaker has not conducted a single hearing. It mentioned the petitioner's multiple representations to

convene hearings in the disqualification matters, emphasizing the Speaker's disregard for his constitutional duties as allowed Eknath Shinde to continue serving as Chief Minister while the disqualification petitions remain pending.

Therefore, the petition urged the court to direct the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to expeditiously decide the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against the delinquent members within a timebound manner. The petitioner specifically sought a direction to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petitions filed on June 23, 2022, June 25, 2022. June 27, 2022, July 3, 2022, and July 5, 2022, under the provisions of the 10th schedule of the Constitution. The petitioner requested that the Speaker make a decision preferably within two weeks.

Maha Cabinet rejig: NCP's Ajit bags...

From Page 1

The current strength of the Maharashtra Cabinet is 29, 14 short of the stipulated 43 Ministers — a number that accounts for 15 percent of 288 members in the State Assembly.

Sfter the induction of nine NCP MLAs, including Ajit Pawar, in the State government, there was intense clamour both within the Shinde Sena and BJP for ministerial berths. However, Shinde has kept his Cabinet expansion on hold for the time being since such an expansion would lead to discontentment within the Shinde-led Shiv Sena and BJP where there are more ministry aspirants than the ministerial vacancies cur-

Cong likely to decide on...

However, Sonia has per-

sonally extended a dinner invitation to the AAP on the occainvolving 24 parties, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited the AAP to participate in the Bengaluru meeting.

The AAP, led by Arvind Kejriwal, has set a precondition for its attendance in any future opposition meetings, demanding clarification from Congress on the ordinance issue.

A senior Congress leader stated that with Sonia's attendance at the July 17-18 meeting, the party is unlikely to escalate the matter and risk an AAP boycott, which would create negative optics. Sonia's presence has increased the significance of the opposition meeting, but Congress has not indicated how it intends to resolve the stalemate. The previous meeting in Patna was

convened by JDU leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and it was attended by 17 opposition parties, includdissatisfaction with the Congress's demand for parlia-

mentary support. Reportedly, Kharge assured Kejriwal in Patna that Congress cannot support any unconstitutional actions and would announce its stance at the appropriate time. However, Kejriwal urged Congress to make its stand public soon after the meeting. The Congress is torn between supporting Kejriwal as it faces strong opposition from its Delhi and Punjab units, where AAP is the main opponent. Leaders from Delhi and Punjab are also pointing out how Rahul Gandhi himself closed the doors to an alliance with the BRS in Telangana, and they want a similar approach with

of a dream Vikram Sarabhai saw six decades ago. He might have been short of resources but never short of confidence. Sarabhai and his team had faith in themselves, in India's potential, and its acumen," Singh added, speaking about the late Vikram Sarabhai, hailed as the Father of India's space programme.

Earlier, every announcement from the MCC on the successful "separation" of the respective modules was received with cheers and applause. Singh and a host of former ISRO chiefs were present to witness the launch. "The LVM3 rocket is a

composite of three modules –

propulsion, lander, and rover,"

Veeramuthuvel. "Following the separation from the launch vehicle, the propulsion module along with the lander would proceed for an over a monthlong journey towards reaching the orbit of the moon until it goes 100 km above the lunar surface." "We are in the process of increasing the launch frequency of this vehicle considering the national requirements as well as satellite demands," stated Mission Director S Mohana Kumar.

parameters, including power generation in the propulsion module and lander module. were normal," assured Project Director P Veeramuthuvel.

Singh, lauded ISRO's achievements, saying, "I think

explained Project Director P Chandrayaan has gone beyond the limit of the sky to explore the unexplored horizons of the universe beyond."

> of a dream Vikram Sarabhai saw six decades ago. He might have been short of resources but never short of confidence. Sarabhai and his team had faith in themselves, in India's potential, and its acumen," Singh added. The LVM3 rocket, known as 'Fat boy' for its heavy-lift capability, soared majestically from the spaceport, leaving a trail of thick

Today's event is a moment of glory for India and a moment of destiny for all those in Sriharikota," Jitendra Singh expressed. The mission aims to develop and demonstrate new

technologies required for interplanetary missions, according to ISRO. Chandrayaan 3's significance lies in its payload, the SHAPE, which is an experimental instrument to study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the Earth in the near-infrared wavelength

The soft landing on the lunar surface is planned for August 23 or 24, with the lander module expected to descend on the moon's south pole region. "The moon's south pole region has been chosen for the exploration because it remains much larger than that at the North pole. There could be a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it."

module, and rover, is expected

to support future interplanetary missions. ISRO officials have put meticulous effort into ensuring a successful landing in August, and the LVM3 rocket has already demonstrated its reliability in previous missions.

proved its versatility to under-

"The launch vehicle has

take the most complex missions, including injecting multi-satellites and interplanetary missions," said ISRO. The earlier missions of Chandrayaan were held in 2008 and 2019, and the launch window Chandrayaan-3 was fixed during the month of July to take advantage of the closer proximity between the earth and the moon. The mission holds immense promise for India's space exploration endeavors and will contribute

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India's Chandrayaan 3...

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This day is an indication

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explained ISRO officials. The Chandravaan-3 mission, with its indigenous propulsion module, lander

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NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | JULY 15, 2023

LG, WATER MIN LOCK HORNS OVER FLOOD

Delhi's Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday came to verbal blows over the deployment of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team during a media interaction following a joint inspection of a dysfunctional regulator which has triggered waterlogging in the heart of the capital.

 $\bar{\text{Saxena}}$ said said this is not the time to resort to a blame game or point fingers at each other as he along with chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj inspected an inundated stretch near Vikas Bhawan, ITO, where a drain regulator was damaged.

"I would like to tell you that this is not the time to resort to a blame game or point fingers at each other. Right now, we



can say a lot of things but this isn't what we should do at this time," Saxena told the reporters as Kejriwal and Bharadwaj

stood to be highly upset with the state's Irrigation and Flood Control Minister, Saurabh Bhardwaj, for engaging in

politically motivated behavior," particularly during times of flooding in the capital city. Sources in the LG Secretariat

ministerial responsibilities with greater seriousness and refrain from engaging in such behavior. The sources also criticized him for a tweet that appeared to exploit the "Ordinance" with the intention of manipulating public opinion.

The responsibility for addressing this serious issue lies with the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and DJB, under the Kejriwal Government, specifically with Minister-in-charge, Saurabh Bhardwaj. Despite having their own

dedicated engineering wings comprising numerous officers ranging from Chief Engineers to Junior Engineers, both I&FC and DJB failed to carry out the necessary works even after a lapse of more than 12 hours.

To urgently tackle the engineering challenges, the Lieutenant Governor proactively intervened and mainMinister Amit Shah since early morning. With the support of the Government of India, the Indian Army's Engineering Core was deployed to the site with two main objectives:

A providing immediate and interim measures to halt the flow of water from the river into the drain. B. Restoring the collapsed Regulator. The Army initiated the work in the morning, and by the time the Lieutenant Governor and later the Chief Minister visited the site, significant progress had been made in stemming the backflow into the drain due to the Army's efforts.

Sources in the LG office claimed that during their visit, while the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, Minister-incharge Saurabh Bhardwaj, and Minister Atishi Marlena were addressing the media, Bhardwaj displayed inappropriate and unwarranted behavior. In front of the media, he

been continuously contacting the Divisional Commissioner since the previous night to deploy the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for repairing/restoring the collapsed Regulator.

However, it was clarified by the Divisional Commissioner in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor and Atishi Marlena that this was not the case.

Sources in the LG office said that it was crucial for Bhardwaj to understand that the role of the NDRF is specifically focused on carrying out relief and rescue operations during disasters, as they have been doing in Delhi since the recent flooding began.

Regular engineering works are not within the scope of the NDRF's responsibilities. A simple review of the NDRF's mandate on their website would have clarified this for Bhardwaj. To set the record

cers of the Delhi Government and Delhi Police, alongside the NDRF teams, have been diligently working day and night to address the pressing situation.Bhardwaj should recall that in the early hours of July 13, 2023, when water started inundating the Wazirabad WTP, the Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner, and relevant Principal Secretaries were present on-site until 3:45

In the presence of the L-G, Bharadwaj claimed that despite reaching out to the officers, asking them to deploy NDRF teams to fix the damaged water regulator that caused flooding in the ITO area on Thursday night, and "there was no response from them". Bharadwaj also claimed that despite repeated requests to Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar on Thursday night, NDRF teams were not

Floodwater submerges Rajghat, commuters face hardship



Yamuna river inundates Rajghat in New Delhi on Friday. The flooding has led the authorities to impose curbs on movement of RANJAN DIMRI I PIONEER

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The movement of traffic I remained disrupted while it was closed in many areas across Delhi on Friday due to the overflowing of drains and the flooding of the Yamuna River. Vikas Marg, one of the important stretches connecting east and Central Delhi, has been closed for traffic even as the vehicular movement went havwire and commuters got stuck for hours in traffic jams as the Yamuna floodwaters submerged the busy ITO intersection and Rajghat in central Delhi. The Delhi Traffic Police alerted people to plan their journeys in view of the flood-like situation in many parts of the city.

More than 4,500 traffic personnel have been deployed on the ground in affected areas of Delhi to decongest traffic and help navigate commuters in case they get stuck in jams amid floodwater, police said, adding depending on how the water level recedes in the affected areas, traffic restrictions would be removed to allow vehicular movement.

According to officials, traffic movement has been closed for all vehicles on Vikas Marg on both the carriageways from Laxmi Nagar T-point to A point (ITO) and vice-versa due to

overflow of flood water. So, commuters have been advised to avoid this stretch and take alternative routes such as NH 24 via Akshardham - Nizamuddin.

Due to overflow of drain water, vehicular movement has also been restricted on Mahatma Gandhi Marg on both the carriageways from Sarai Kale Khan towards Rajghat and vice-versa.

Traffic movement has also been restricted on both carriagewaysof IP road from under IP flyover to W point and vice versa due to overflow of sewer water near IP flyover. So, commuters have been advised to avoid the stretch and take alternative route. "The road from Geeta Colony to Shanti Van and stretch. vice versa has been closed due

to waterlogging. General public is requested to avoid this stretch and plan journey accord-ingly," the police said in a tweet. According to officials, movement of traffic has been restricted from Shanti Van towards Geeta Colony Flyover due to the rise in water level of the Yamuna river. Vehicular movement has been also restricted from Geeta Colony Flyover towards Rajghat and ISBT, Kashmere Gate.

Floodwaters of the overflowing Yamuna reached the entrance of the Supreme Court in Central Delhi on Friday while the busy ITO intersection and Rajghat were submerged as a regulator of the Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control Department suffered damage, exacerbating the already dire situation.

"Traffic is affected on NH-48 in the carriageway from Dhaula kuan towards Mahipalpur in view of movement of Kanwad on the National Highway and break-down of an MGV on Gurgaon Road Flyover opposite Subroto Park. Kindly avoid the stretch," the traffic police tweeted. Traffic movement was also closed on Bhairon Road due to overflow of drain water near railway underbridge and commuters

have been advised to avoid the

According to traffic police, vehicular traffic has been closed on Bhairon Marg, Ring Road-IP Depot to IP flyover to Majnu Ka Tilla, Old Iron Bridge Pusta to Shamshan Ghat, Salim Garh Bypass, Vikas Marg from IP flyover towards Lakshmi Nagar, Chandgi Ram Akhara to IP College both carriageway, Majnu ka Tilla to ISBT both carriageway, Shanti Van Chowk to Geeta Colony both carriageway and Mukarba Chowk to Wazirabad, Outer Ring Road.

Bhairon Marg - Ring Road T-Point to Gate No. 3 of Pragati Maidan, Ring Road from Majnu Ka Tilla - Yamuna Bazar Mandir Shanti Van Chowk- IGI Stadium, Boulevard Road from ISBT T-Point to Gate No. 5, Kashmiri Gate Metro Station and area under IP Flyover are flooded. Road traffic control (direct-

ing vehicular and pedestrian traffic) is being carried out on Wazirabad Bridge, Signature Bridge, Vikas Marg towards ITO, Shastri Park to Khajuri Chowk to Khajuri Pushta, Mori Gate Red Light to Tis Hazari Court, Bhikhu Ram Jain Marg from Tis Hazari Court to MCD Chowk, Mall Road to Velodrome Marg and Boulevard Road from Tis Hazari Court to Yudhisthir Setu towards Shastri

Plants at Wazirabad, Chandrawal to resume if water level recedes: CM



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the water treatment plants at Wazirabad and Chandrawal will resume functioning by Saturday morning if the Yamuna water level recedes to 207.7 metres.

Visiting the ITO barrage, where five of the 32 gates are jammed, obstructing the drainage of water from Delhi, he said, "The Navy is working to open them but it cannot be said when these will be opened." "The Haryana government is responsible for their maintenance but they have no interest. We will surely begin the process to take control of

the barrage," Kejriwal told reporters. Three water treatment plants were shut down on Thursday due to the rising Yamuna water level, the chief minister said, adding the Okhla water treatment plant resumed operation on Friday. Due to the closure of the plants, many areas in the national capital were facing a water short-age."The Wazirabad and Chandrawal water treatment plants will be started by Saturday morning if the water levels recede to 207.7 metres," he added.

Stressing that everyone should work together towards mitigation of the flood crisis, Kejriwal said this is not the time for a blame game.

Construction of bridge halted due to rising water level in Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The construction work of a new 560-metre-long bridge, the first-ever metro bridge over the Yamuna to be built using cantilever construction technique, has been halted due to the rising water level of the river.

Delhi Metro at present has four bridges across the Yamuna, and in view of the rising water level of the river, trains are crossing these bridges with a restricted speed of 30 kmph as a precautionary mea-

The four bridges are at Yamuna Bank (698.8 m on Blue Line), Nizamuddin (602.8 m on Pink Line), Kalindi Kunj (574 m on Magenta Line), and Shastri Park (553 m on Red Line). The swollen river has crossed the danger mark, breaching the all-time record of 1978, flooding low-lying areas near the banks.

Although the Yamuna water level remained stable for three hours on Thursday, it started rising again to reach 208.66 by 7 pm, three metres above the danger mark of 205.33 metres.

Crematoria located near Yamuna waterlogged **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, Šat 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 waters have submerged them all in the premises of 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.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India







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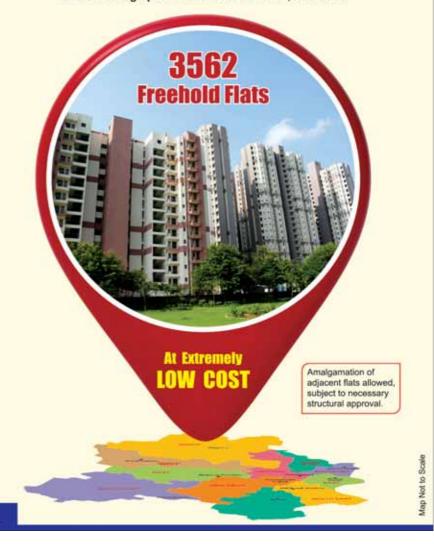
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66 A house is not only four walls, but a place where the power to dream comes and aspirations are fulfilled. 99

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Actual Photographs of Narela Sector A1-A4, Pocket 1C



Shah stresses on using modern agri methods to attract youth

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has emphasised the importance of adopting modern methods of agriculture to attract youth and ensure the prosperity of marginal farmers. He also highlighted the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Farmers Produce Organisations (FPOs) as viable tools for agricultural transfor-

Speaking at a National Mega Conclave on 'PACS as FPOs' organized by the Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC), Shah called for a hybrid model that integrates PACS and FPOs.

He suggested designing a complete system for information exchange, profit sharing, and marketing based on the collaboration between PACS and FPOs. "It is crucial to instill confidence in the 12 crore farmers of the nation that



agriculture is a profitable business and should be practiced in a modern way with proper marketing. This will not only increase agricultural production but also contribute to the GDP," Shah stated.

He emphasized the need to revive and advance the cooperative movement in India, particularly in the agricultural sector. Strengthening agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries through cooperatives

would not only boost employment opportunities but also contribute to the GDP. Shah acknowledged the steps taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the welfare and prosperity of farmers, including the promotion of FPOs. He mentioned the scheme 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' launched in 2021 to sup-

port the sector. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers

tional blocks to NCDC to form and promote 1100 FPOs in the cooperative sector through strengthening of

"PACS should increasing-ly transform into FPOs with the assistance of NCDC and District Cooperative Banks. There is no limitation on PACS converting to FPOs," Shah explained, while discussing various measures taken by the government to encourage cooperatives to thrive in the open market.

Integrating PACS into the FPO scheme will enable them to expand their business in the areas of supply of production inputs, agricultural equipment, and processing. Additionally, PACS will be able to undertake high-income generating activities such as bee-keeping and mushroom cultivation.

Under the FPOs Scheme, each FPO receives financial assistance of Rs. 33 lakh, with an additional Rs. 25 lakh provided to Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for promoting and supporting FPOs. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation BL Verma, and officials from the Ministries of Cooperation and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare were present at the event, along with representatives from PACS and FPOs across the country.
Shah emphasized that if

PACS transition into FPOs, all farmers associated with PACS will benefit from the FPO model. He highlighted the potential of FPOs formed through PACS in uplifting farmers' prosperity. To support the segment

the government has provided loans of over Rs. 127 crore to FPOs, in addition to Rs. 6,900 crore. Notably, 922 FPOs have been formed for work related to forest produce in tribal districts. Shah praised the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Punjab for their excellent work in the field of FPOs.

Electoral bond scheme designed to favour ruling party, says Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress on Friday alleged that the electoral bond scheme was designed to favour the ruling party and demand-ed a transparent system of electoral funding.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said more than 52 per cent of the BJP's political donations of Rs 5,271.97 crore between FY 2016-17 and FY 2021-22 came from electoral bonds as against Rs 1,783.93 crore received by all other national parties according to a new report by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

'This effectively implies that the Modi government's controversial, corrupt and contrived electoral bonds scheme is a money whitening scheme, which converts black money to white," Khera said at AÍcC press conference.

"Cash, crony capitalism and corruption is the new 'chal, charitr and chehra' of the BJP," Khera alleged. The Congress has been opposing the electoral bond scheme and alleging that it has brought opacity in elec-

toral funding. The electoral bond scheme was introduced through a money bill in January 2017 for the purpose of electoral funding and was passed in Parliament without the Rajya Sabha having the power to

reject or amend it. "This was an assault on the spirit of the Constitution," Khera alleged. According to the amendments brought through the Act, political parties are not required to mention names and addresses of those contributing by way of electoral bonds. This had made electoral funding even more opaque, the Congress has alleged.

The electoral bonds scheme has since been challenged in the Supreme Court by several people including ADR and some others, but the apex court is yet to give a final view on the matter. The Congress, Khera said,

wants a transparent system of electoral funding. "We will keep on exposing the corporate money greed of the Modi government and the BJP," he added.

He said earlier a company could not donate more than 7.5 per cent of its net profit for three years. But the BJP gov-ernment removed this limit. Now there is no need for any company to tell how much amount was given to whom.

"When such huge benami money comes into the account of a party, it becomes clear how black money is converted into white. PM Modi and Amit Shah ji, You ended the limit on corporate donations under electoral bonds. Didn't this act legalise crony capitalism? Congress wants a transparent system of this election funding,"

Khera claimed that these bonds made electoral funding non-transparent and the Election Commission, Supreme Court, RBI all had objections against these bonds. But it was passed like a money bill. Through this one money bill, BJP did the work of buying MLAs and toppling governments," he alleged.

Khalistan backers

beat Indian student

in Australia

East Asia Summit must be committed to free, open Indo-Pacific: EAM

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/JAKARTA

▼n light of China's increasingly Lassertive stance in the Indo-Pacific region, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasised the importance of a free, open, inclusive, and rulesbased Indo-Pacific during his visit to Jakarta on Friday. Speaking at the East Asia Summit, he called for a commitment to respect sovereign-ty and territorial integrity in the region.

He also met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken there and discussed issues like Ukraine, Myanmar and Indo-Pacific. "Pleasure to meet Secretary Blinken. Followed up on PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US. Also exchanged views on Ukraine, Myanmar and Indo-Pacific," the minister, who is here in the Indonesian capital, tweeted. Speaking at the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS), Jaishankar

said India firmly supports the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and its implementation through EAS. "EAS must be committed to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

"There is great synergy between the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) proposed by India and AOIP," Jaishankar said. "Quad will always complement ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms. AOIP contributes to the vision of the Quad. India affirms ASEAN centrality in Indo-Pacific and advocates strengthening of EAS," he said.

The Indo-Pacific is a biogeographic region, compris-ing the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including South China Sea. The US, India and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open, and thriv-

ing Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resourcerich region.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea. The minister is visiting

Indonesia for the Foreign Ministers' Meetings under the ASEAN framework in the format — ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum. After Jakarta, Jaishankar

will travel to Bangkok in Thailand to participate in the 12th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Cooperation Mechanism on July 16 and also attend the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat on July 17.

Nadda sets up 4-member body for fact-finding police action in Bihar

As the BJP president JP Nadda on Friday constituted a four-member committee headed by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das to visit Bihar and do 'fact-finding' over incidents in the state, Union Minister of state for home Nityanand Rai, demanded resignation of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy-Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav for the alleged 'brutalities' against the protesting "peaceful BJP workers." The BJP has alleged that its

Jehanabad district general secretary Vijay Singh, lost his life and many have been injured in the police lathi charge on Thursday. Union Minister Nityanand Rai told reporters here that the death of Vijay Singh during the protest march was a "sacrificial offering". He alleged Bihar police has behaved like colonial British



and the lathi-charge was akin to attack on the Simon Commission during the freedom struggles. As the BJP sought to queer the pitch over the police action, BJP Chief setup a commiee to probe the

Former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das will be the convenor of the "highlevel probe committee" and Vishnu Dayal Ram, Manoj Tiwari and Śunita Duggal will be its other members, the party said in a statement.

Noting that BJP president Nadda has strongly con-demned the police's "barbarity" and the state government's

"dictatorial" mindset, it said the committee will soon visit Patna and submit its report to party's national president. The BJP earlier said the

death of Vijay Singh, allegedly in a police lathi charge, in Patna was "a pre-planned con-spiracy" of the Nitish Kumar government to stop people of the state from demanding their rights and justice. The district administration in Patna had issued a statement, asserting that no injury marks were found on his body.

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

Politics is hotting-up in Bihar between the BJP and the RJD-JDU-Congress-left alliance as Lok Sabha poll-2024 are closing by. Bihar has total 40 LS seats which may play a significant role in government formation at centre.

Swamy slams TDP, JSP leaders for spreading lies about TTD



New Delhi: BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Friday accused TDP leader Chandra Babu Naidu, JSP leader Pawan Kalyan for spreading lies and fake propagandas against Tirupati Temple administration to hurt sentiments of Hindus.

Addressing media here, Swamy said that both Opposition leaders telling blatant lies about the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) and its trust Srivani Trust and making false charges of swindling money to State Government headed by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan

ed, failed and trying to hurt Hindu sentiments by accusing that TTD and Jagan led Government are supporting Christian conversion kind lies. Pawan Kalyani is also doing same kind of malicious propaganda. I am appearing for TTD in a defamation case against Andhra Jyothi newspaper and they are facing criminal and civil cases. These leaders will also face the same fate," said Swamy.

'Naidu must limit himself to political works. While associating with Sonia Gandhi in the last election, now he is pretending as champion of Hindus. He must prove his allegations against TTD and its Srivani Trust or otherwise desist from fake propagandas," added Swami.
Srivani Trust is formed by

TTD few years ago to route the money received for VIP Darshan by fixing Rs.10,500 from devotee As per the whitepaper issued by TTD, Rs.10,000 is used for rebuilding, rehabilitation of old temples and temples in socially depressed areas. Srivani Trust was created to avoid brokers making money for VIP darshan

PNS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/MELBOURNE In yet another incident of alleged Khalistan supporters indulging in violence, a 23-

year-old Indian student was beaten up with iron rods by them in Australia for opposing the activities of extremist elements. According to a media report from there on Friday, the student, who also works as a driver, was on his way to work when he was attacked by assailants chanting "Khalistan Zindabad" in Sydney's western suburb of Merrylands, The Australia Today news portal reported. "Today, morning at 5.30 am when I was going to work, some 4-5 Khalistan sup-porters attacked me," the stu-

dent, who preferred anonymi-ty, was quoted as saying. "As soon as I sat in my dri-ving seat, these Khalistan supporters came out of nowhere. One of them opened the left side door of my vehicle and hit me with an iron road on my cheekbone under my left eye," then dragged out of the vehicle and beaten with iron rods adding two of the assailants also video-recorded the attack.

"They were repeatedly raising the slogan "Khalistan Zindabad" the whole time," he was quoted as saying in the

"Everything happened within 5 minutes, and they left saying this should be a lesson for me for opposing the Khalistan issue. If not, they are ready to give me more lessons like this," he said. The New South Wales (NSF) Police were informed about the incident, and the Indian student was taken to Westmead Hospital with major injuries to his head,

leg, and arm, the report said. "Police have been told a 23year-old man was walking along Rupert Street before he was assaulted by four men armed with a metal pole," a police spokesperson was quoted as saying in the report. 'The 23-year-old was allegedly kicked, punched, and hit with the metal pole repeatedly before the four men left the scene in a grey sedan," the spokesperson added.

to meet emerging security challenges'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said here international geo-politics is in flux and the national security strategy should aim to absorb the changes in such a way that it meets the challenges and

exploits the opportunities.

Making this point while inaugurating the annual twoday Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Directors' conclave, he also stressed the need to perform, reform, transform, inform and conform to meet the emerging challenges.

Referring to the "Technology Requirements emerging from Theaterisation", he said superiority in technology and tactics is the need of the hour and Indian Armed Forces are investing in new technologies to win engage-

Highlighting the princi-ples of jointness, integration and theaterisation, General Chauhan said in the national security realm, the concept of theaterisation is a fundamental change that is on the anvil.

It is one of the most ambitious changes with far reaching implications attempted postindependence. The start on this journey depends on the right steps being taken first towards jointness and integra-

'We need to reform | three PFI men get lifer in 2010 case

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Friday that a Special Trial Court in Ernakulam, Kerala has sentenced three out of the six Popular Front of India (PFI) members to life imprisonment in the 2010 case of attempted murder involving the chopping off of a professor's

According to the NIA, the convicted individuals Sajil, Najeeb, and MK Nazar have been given life sentences along with a fine of Rs 50,000 each. The remaining three individuals convicted on Thursday, MK Nausha, PP Moideenkunu, and PM Ayoob, have been sentenced to three years in prison.

The court also ordered that a compensation of Rs 4 lakh be provided to the victim from the fines collected from the convicts. "All six accused

were found guilty under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), (Prevention) Act, and the Explosive Substances Act. They were convicted of promoting enmity between different religious groups and engaging in terrorist acts," stated the agency in a press release.

The NIA is currently

searching for a chargesheeted accused named Savad, who was involved in the brutal attack and is currently absconding. Savad is also a member of the banned organization Popular Front of India

(PFI), the statement added.
The accused had conspired to kill Professor TJ Joseph by chopping off his right palm, allegedly in response to deroga-tory remarks he made about Prophet Mohammed in a question paper prepared for B.Com students at Newman College in Thodupuzha, Idukki district.

Post SOPs for bringing back | CJI administers mortal remains of Indians who die abroad, SC to MEA

The Delhi High Court has directed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to prominently post on its website and widely circulate the standard operating procedure (SOP) followed for bringing back the mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.

A bench headed by Justice Najmi Waziri said such guide-lines, including information about a welfare fund created for this purpose, should be widely circulated in the public domain, and asked airlines operating from the country to consider hosting the SOP on their websites for Indians flying abroad.

'The court is of the view that .. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the 'Guidelines on Indian Community Welfare Fund

Missions/Posts Abroad' should be accessible and widely circulated in the public domain. Therefore, the MEA is directed to prominently post and make accessible the said SOP and Guidelines on its website, if not already available, within one week from the date of receipt of copy of this order," said the bench, also comprising Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, in

an order dated July 13.

The court's order came on a plea dealing with issues arising from the death of an Indian man in the Maldives. The central government counsel said the SOP for transportation of mortal remains of both Indian tourists and workers are already in place. The court noted in case of Indian tourists, ordinarily, all Indian Missions coordinate with the family of the

oath of office to two new judges

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Friday administered the oath of office to Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice S Venkatanarayana Bhatti as judges of the Supreme Court. With the swearing-in of Justices Bhuyan and Bhatti, the working strength of judges in the apex court has risen to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI. The CJI administered the oath of office to the two new judges in a swearing-in ceremony held at the apex court's auditorium

The Government had cleared the names of Justice Bhuyan, who was the chief justice of the Telangana High Court, and Justice Bhatti, his counterpart in Kerala, for elevation as judges of the top court on July 12. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had announced elevation of two judges on Wednesday.

Artificial sweetener possibly carcinogen, safe if consumed in moderation: WHO Islands, while the highest was

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{he \quad World \quad Health}_{\text{Organisation (WHO) on Friday formally labelled artifi-}$ cial sweetener aspartame as a "possible carcinogen" specifically used in diet drinks, chewing gum, gelatin and ice cream. But it remains safe to consume in moderation and at already agreed levels, said the global health body.

Aspartame is an artificial (chemical) sweetener widely used in various food and beverage products since the 1980s. It is also used in dairy products such as yogurt, breakfast cereal, toothpaste and medications such as cough drops and chewable vitamins. The assessment of the

health impacts of the nonsugar sweetener aspartame was released by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). Citing "limited evidence" for carcinogenicity in humans, IARC

carcinogenic to humans and JECFA reaffirmed the acceptable daily intake of 40 mg per kg body weight. "Cancer is one of the leading causes of death Every year, 1 in 6 people die from cancer. Science is

classified aspartame as possibly

continuously expanding to assess the possible initiating or facilitating factors of cancer, in the hope of reducing these numbers and the human toll," said Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety,

Plastic pollution on coral reefs alarming: Study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $R^{\rm esearchers\; have\; uncovered}_{\rm the\; alarming\; extent\; of\; plass}$ tic pollution in coral reefs, with fishing gear plastic accounting for nearly three-quarters of the plastic debris found in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic

In a study published in the journal Nature, an international team of researchers from the California Academy of Sciences, the University of Sao Paulo, the University of Oxford, and other collaborators conducted over 1,200 visual surveys across 84 shallow and mesophotic reef ecosystems in 14 countries.



30 and 150 meters deep, also known as the 'twilight zone.'The study revealed that debris increased with depth and was correlated with proximity to marine protected areas. The researchers have called for immediate management plans to conserve these unique and ecologically important ecosys-

water counterparts. Of the total debris found, 88% consisted of macroplastics larger than five centimeters. Human-derived debris was present in almost all locations surveyed, including remote and pristine coral reefs near uninhabited islands in the central Pacific. The lowest density of plastic pollution was

The study found that coral reefs were more contaminated by plastics compared to other marine ecosystems evaluated, and contamination increased with depth, reaching its peak in mesophotic zone. Luiz Rocha, senior author of study and curator of ichthyology at the California Academy of Sciences, noted, "It was surprising to noted, "It was surprising to find that debris increased with depth since deeper reefs, in general, are farther from sources of

plastic pollution."

recorded at Comoros, an island

chain off the southeast coast of

Africa, with nearly 84,500 items

The study found that coral

per square kilometer.

Jasra. People said the police had

Flood: Govt in alert mode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Although the water level of Ganga and Gomti rivers in the district is still far below the warning mark, the state government is in alert mode in view of the possibility of flood as it is expected that the water level of Ganga will increase sharply when the flood water arrives here from Prayagraj, especially through Yamuna river. Its possibilities have increased after heavy rains in the Himalayan regions, especially in the northern states and torrential rains in various districts of the state. According to the local office of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), water levels of Ganga and Gomti which was rising a few days ago slightly was recorded steady at 8 am on Friday and the level of Ganga was 61.57 metres against the warning mark of 70.262 metres in Varanasi and of Gomti, which merges into river Ganga about 25 kilometres from the city at Kaithi (near famous Markandey Mahadev Temple), was 67.71 metres against the warning level of 73.066 metres at Jaunpur. However, it is certain that when the water from the northern states arrives the level of Ganga will increase sharply within a few days. Seeing this scenario, the Yogi government



NDRF personnel keeping a watch in Ganga in Varanasi district

concerned in view of the dangers of possible floods. Varanasi's 11 Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is gearing up to deal with flood hazards. The NDRF has prepared its teams by pre-positioning. Varanasi-based 11 Battalion NDRF undertakes rescue and relief work in 42 districts of UP. In view of the rain mountains, the state govern- ical team and water ambulance

ment has also alerted the flood relief agencies in UP. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of 11 NDRF Manoj Kumar Sharma said NDRF is fully prepared for rescue work in any circumstances during floods. "Flood prone areas have been identified in Varanasi. For this, four teams of NDRF (one team consists of 35 to 40 trained personnel) are and natural disaster in the ready. Along with this, a medhave also been deployed," he said. The NDRF DIG said there are 35 rescue members in one team and each team has four boats or outboard motors (OBMs) for rescue.

In each team, two deep divers (divers) have been deployed with all equipment, including oxygen cylinders. Along with this, life jackets, lifebuoys (tubes) etc are available in sufficient quantities.

Cops maintaining strict watch on ghats

Rising water levels of Ganga and Yamuna have prompted district authorities to step up security measures at all ghats, especially Dashashwamegh Ghat and Sangam nose, which are frequented by a large number of kanwariyas for taking a dip and collecting water to be offered to Lord Shiva in the

Hindu holy month of Shrawan.
Additional jal police jawans, PAC (flood operations), SDRF and divers have been pressed into service to ensure safety of kanwariyas. The water level of Ganga and Yamuna has risen at Phaphamau, Chatnag and Naini by 24, 29 and 28 cms respectively in the past 24 hours. ACP (Jhunsi) Chirag Jain told mediapersons that cops are maintaining a strict watch on ghats and no one is allowed to enter deep water

Deep water barricading on Ganga banks will be reset as per the water level. We are maintaining that there should be at least four feet depth on the ghats, he said. Besides, the department has also sought cooperation from swimmers and boatmen to ensure safety of devotees. Patrolling on motorboats has also been intensified.

WATER **CRISIS:** Drinking water crisis in some blocks of trans-Ganga and undertake the survey for iden-

which worsens every summer is all set to end by 2025. Firms from Hyderabad and Rajasthan have bagged tenders for setting up water purification plants through which potable water will be supplied to households of 18 development blocks of the parched rural areas of the district as part of the ambitious 'Har Ghar Nal' Scheme.

In the villages of Meja, Manda and Koraon develop-ment block, the water of Ganga will be filtered by a purification plant. Likewise, for supply of potable water to households in the villages of Shankargarh and Jasra development blocks, the water of Yamuna will be filtered and supplied. For this, the work of providing water to every house by borewell pump method in 18 development blocks of the district has begun. The tender has been bagged by Gaja Engineering Pvt Ltd of Hyderabad and the survey work has begun to find a suitable site on the banks of Ganga for setting up the plant, said officials of Jal Nigam who are overseeing the project. Likewise, for supply of potable water to households in villages of Shankargarh and Jasra development blocks, the work has been awarded to Rajasthan-based firm Pungalia Limited. A team that will

tifying the site for the proposed plant has reached the region, they added. Surveyor engineer of Gaja Engineering Pvt Ltd Om Prakash said the survey work is going on for a suitable site on the banks of Ganga. "The plant will have the capacity to supply 90 megalitres of purified drink-

ing water per day," he added.
Officials said as compared to the purification plant of Ganga, the unit to come up on the Yamuna will be of lesser capacity.

Assistant engineer of the Jal Nigam Prayagraj Rishikesh Kumar said an estimated cost of ₹1,754 crore will be required for the completion of the Ganga project and ₹934 crore for the Yamuna

ACTION TAKEN: Police Commissioner took major departmental action on Thursday night. After receiving report of the month-long investigation against the Ghurpur police in the case of animal cruelty, action was taken against nine policemen, including SHO. Besides six police station incharges found guilty on various charges were sent to Lines.

The workplaces of 35 policemen, including 7 inspectors, 22 S-Is and six constables were changed. The police commissioner was continuously receiving complaints against those against whom action has been taken. On June 6 a truck

buried the dead cows but left the injured ones there. The truck was also abandoned and no paper work of any kind was allegedly done. There was a complaint about it and the investigation of which was being done at DCP level. After the investigation report came on Thursday night, Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma has sent the SHO Ghurpur Dinesh Kumar Maurya, outpost incharge Gauhaniya Tarachand, sub- inspector Harnarayan Singh, constables Amit Yadav, Rakesh Yadav, Sameer Singh, Vimal Rawat, Rakesh Pal and driver Vashishtha Yadav to the Lines with immediate effect. Police Commissioner Ramesh Sharma sent the Colonelganj police station in-charge Ram Mohan Rai to the Reserve Police Line. S-I Janardan Prasad Sahni, posted in the Traffic Police Line, has been made Jail police in-charge. Besides Bahria police station SHO Ramesh Kumar Singh has been sent to Reserve Police Lines. The Industrial Area police station in-charge Sanjeev Kumar Choubey has been entrusted with the responsibility of Ghurpur police station. Similarly, subinspector Amit Kumar Singh has been posted as the second officer of Dhoomanganj police

Take action against illegal hookah bars, spas: Sinha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

has alerted all the departments

rhe chairman of Social Harmony Committee of the Legislative Council Ashutosh Sinha directed the Commissioner of Police (CP) Varanasi to take action against the illegal hookah bars and spas operating in this holy city and submit the month's progress report in this direction before the committee in Lucknow. He was addressing a review meeting of the committee at Circuit House here on Friday. Apart from chairman Ashutosh Sinha, who is local Samajwadi Party (SP) MLC, the other members present were MLCs Lal Bihari Yadav, Annapurna Singh and Surendra Chaudhary. During the review of the Excise department of Varanasi district, the committee asked the officers conof recovery from the defaulters. In reply, a senior Excise department officer informed that during the last three months, a total of 3,859 raids were conducted in connection with illegal liquor.

During the review of business tax, the traders were ordered to correct the errors in registration. The panel asked the transport commissioner to take confinuous action against vehicles involved in overloading and submit the report before the committee soon. During the review of revenue and city development, the pending cases were ordered to be disposed of in time. Regarding the waterlogging on the road going from Jaitpura to Pilikothi, it was informed by the municipal commissioner that the repair work on the said road is going on and 80 per



Legislative Council Committee reviewing progress of works in Varanasi on Friday

cent of which has been completed while the rest of pending work will be done soon as work is going at a fast pace.

Earlier, in the beginning the committee reviewed the Excise department work in Chandauli and in reply, the District Magistrate (DM) Chandauli said a total of 2,331 raids were conducted in the last three months, in which a total of 1,349 litres of illicit liquor was seized and 122 cases were filed. Expressing satisfaction over the campaign against illegal liquor, Ashutosh Sinha directed the department officers to run the campaign continuously so that the revenue of the government could increase.

Committee member Lal Bihari Yadav asked the Basic and Secondary Education department to take action mittee that out of the 32 child

Contribution of Maharshi Sushruta

in field of plastic surgery recalled

against the schools running illegally and taking admissions more than the norm. He also asked the schools to ensure that 25 percent admissions are made under Right to Education

The committee also sought information regarding incidents of harassment with Scheduled Castes families, exploitation of women, harassment, dowry, rape, murders, illegal betting business and action taken on them. The committee also directed to run a special campaign on illegal betting business going on in Varanasi. Regarding the employment of child labourers in the industrial/ small scale/handicraft industries, the District Magistrate Varanasi S Rajalingam informed the com-

labourers identified, 16 child labourers were given educational rehabilitation in the district basic education schools. The committee praised the Varanasi DM for the campaign launched against begging. The details of providing benefits to construction workers registered under the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board were placed before the committee.

Information was also given to the committee by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) regarding the installation of lights and barricading or iron mesh on the highways and construction of public toilets etc. In the end District Magistrate S Rajalingam proposed the vote of thanks.

Workshop for teachers to be held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Vivek Sanjivani, an initiative for healthcare and education unit of Ramakrishna Mission Home of Service (Varanasi), will organise a workshop for teachers and inaugurate a biology book for Class X in Hindi as a foundation course for NEET at Vivekanand Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Home of Service (Luxa) here on Saturday at 10.30 am. Deputy VP, Tata AIG General Insurance Mumbai, Devang Pandya will be senior guide of Vivek Sanjivani Team and Prof Awadhesh Pradhan, department of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will be the chief guest for the programme. A total 30 teachers from 15 schools of Varanasi will participate in the programme.

the reason of his death. If we

The atmosphere in Allahabad University (au) is still tense over Ashutosh Dubey's untimely death case. After the vandalism and violence on the campus during the 'Aakrosh March' on Wednesday, a candle march was taken out from the campus to the Gandhi statue at Balsan Crossing on late on Thursday evening. Students alleged Ashutosh's life could have been saved if an ambulance had been provided on time or security guards of the university had allowed e-rickshaws to enter the campus. Student leader Ajay Yadav Samrat said Ashutosh was a promising student of AU. "I do not go after

had got the ambulance on time or e-rickshaw had been allowed to come inside, then his life would have been saved. This is the negligence of the university administration. When compensation was demanded from the university administration, it was said to give ₹10,000 only", he added. Another student Dinkar Vikram Singh said is the cost of the life of a promising student only ₹10,000 only?. We demand that the family members be given ₹50 lakh as compensation and a report be lodged against the chief proctor and DSW. Student Harendra Kumar alleged the university administration is try-

preparations are being made to operate the electric auto. Electric buses will start operating in the city in the coming days. Passengers have got a lot of relief after the operation of electric buses has started. Electric vehicles are being promoted by the Ministry of

After e-rickshaws and ebuses now it has been decided to start operation of e-autos in the city. Plans are underway to run e-autos on a priority basis in four cities of the state, which include Prayagraj, Lucknow, Varanasi and Noida. In the first phase, 350 to 500 e-autos will be operated. Experts say that it will cover ing to divert the fight.

ELECTRIC AUTO: Now

a distance of about 150 kilometers on full charge at one go. It is expected that this year the showrooms for e-auto will be operational so that people do not have to travel to other cities to buy it.

Meanwhile (Administration) Rajeev Chaturvedi said preparations are on to start the operation of electric autos soon. It will operate inside the city and will connect Naini, Jhunsi and Phaphamau. This will provide relief to passengers along with environment protection. The sound of the e-auto will be negligible. It is not clear what will be its cost, but many companies are working towards making it. According to some companies, its price will be fixed from ₹1 lakh to

Intensive Mission Indradhanush 5.0 to run in three phases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

the Intensive Mission The Intensive Intensive Indradhanush 5.0 campaign for children up to five years and pregnant women who have been left out of the regular vaccination programme will be run in the district in three phases. Its first phase will be conducted from August 7 to August 12, second from September 11 to September 16 and third from October 9 to October 14. For the success of the campaign, a District Level Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was organised at a hotel in the Kakarmatta area here on Friday. The workshop was presided over by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary in which district level medical officers and urban and rural level CHC /PHC medical superintendents, in-charge medical officers, health education officers, AROs etc were present. In the workshop along with discussing in detail about head count survey and micro plan, detailed information was given about the strategy of the campaign. Speaking on the occasion, the CMO said regular vaccination sessions are being conducted in the district on every Wednesday and Saturday but due to some



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary addressing a workshop on IMI 5.0 in Varanasi on Friday.

reasons, many children and pregnant women miss vaccination. For this the intensive Mission Indradhanush 5.0 campaign will be run in three phases in the months of August, September and October. In this campaign, special emphasis will be laid on covering the left out children and pregnant women with vaccination in an integrated manner. The CMO directed all superintendents and incharge medical officers to lay special emphasis on the campaign in high risk, slums and remote areas. "Door-to-door survey (head count survey) should be conducted through ASHA workers. Children up to five years and pregnant women who have been left out of vacci-

nation should be identified and uploaded on the e-Kavach portal. Special emphasis should be laid on the first-second dose of Measles-Rubella and booster dose of OPV and DPT for children aged two to five years," he said, asking the officers to make the beneficiaries aware and motivate them to attend the vaccination session. He said that a daily review meeting of the campaign should be held. While ensuring public participation, cooperation of public representatives, religious leaders and influential persons should be taken, he added. District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma said coverage of children and pregnant women vaccinated under the campaign would be entered on the e-Kavach portal. Vaccination sessions will also be organised at Health and Wellness Centres, VHSND sessions, private hospitals, railway stations, voluntary health institutions.

Cooperation of ICDS Department, Mahila Arogya Samiti and Municipal Corporation will also be taken. The campaign will emphasise on 'five years-seven times' vaccination. In this, no child should be deprived of 11 vaccines including BCG, Hepatitis-B, Penta, Measles-Rubella, PCV, Rota virus, Polio from birth to five years. Technical cooperation of WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, TSU organisation will be taken in the campaign, he added.

Students go on industrial tour

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

bout 60 students of Class AXI of the Commerce Section of Glenhill School, Manduadih, went on an industrial tour to Annagar in the city in which they were accompanied by their teachers. During the visit Depot Manager of Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chakrapani Siddharth and Manager Daya Shankar Prasad Maurya informed the school students about the working of the FCI and gave details about the National Food Security Act (NFSA).



They said through NFSA, vided free food grains every 80 crore people of the country month. Students were made are getting five kg per ration aware about the grains distribcard under Targeted Public uted by the FCI, especially Distribution System (TPDS) as fortified rice. Along with this, the beneficiary person is prothe importance of commerce in

FCI was also highlighted. Giving further information to students in this regard, it was told that many innovative steps are being taken by the corporation to make the work easy and smooth, in which online portal for purchase and receipt of food grains, Depot Online System through which inte-gration of Dharamkanta (weighing machine), FAP for accounting, AI grain analyser to measure the quality of grains and modern moisture measuring instruments etc are included so that transparency can be promoted.

At a local leading plastic surgery centre, GS Memorial Hospital, which received world

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

This 'karmbhoomi' of great

■ Maharshi Sushruta, who

performed first plastic surgery

about 2,600 years ago on the

banks of holy river Ganga here,

celebrated the World Plastic

Surgery Day here on Friday.

fame operating maximum number of cases suffering from cleft and palate deformities by birth and a documentary 'Smile Pinki' shot at this centre in 2008 received Oscar Award in 2008. the contribution of Maharshi Sushruta in the field of plastic surgery was recalled.

Leading plastic surgeon Dr Subodh Kumar Singh said that around 600 BC, Maharshi Sushruta's surgery ashram located in Kashi was famous in the entire Aryavarta and Gulf countries. "Students and doctors from far and wide used to come to learn the modern method of surgery from him as Maharishi disseminated the knowledge gained from here in his own areas and also used to treat patients," he said, adding that Sushruta was a modern surgeon. "On the banks of river Ganga in Kashi, when the dead bodies got wet with water, Maharashi and his disciples studied their anatomy, muscles, blood vessels, nerves, internal organs, bones and bone joints with wooden tools and brushes and also let the students practice the same," he said.

According to him, there were also modern instruments and tools whose names were often kept on the mouth or beak of animals and birds. "Even today many surgical instruments match Sushruta's instruments. The method of surgery was science compatible then, and was based on the

adding that Maharishi Sushruta is also considered to be the son of Vishwamitra. "In addition to surgery of eyes, skin, internal organs, Maharishi was wellversed in reconstructive or reconstructive surgery, which is nowadays called plastic surgery," he said, adding that the reconstruction of cleft nose is one of them. "Today Maharshi Sushruta is consid ered the father of plastic surgery or father of plastic surgery in the whole world. There is no single opinion about his birth. Some people also believe that Sushruta was one of a series of surgical gurus who lived in Kashi in India from 1,200 years before Christ till the birth of Christ," he added. The function was also attended by several senior plastic surgeons and others of the

study of deep anatomy and

principles of surgery," he said,

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Three cheers!

Chandrayaan-3 is yet another remarkable milestone in India's space odyssey

he successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 heralds a new chapter in India's space odyssey, one that reflects the nation's coming of age in the field of space exploration. ISRO's growth from a fledgling organisation to a globally recognised space agency is a testament to India's scientific acumen and unwavering determination. Through its lunar missions, ISRO has not only expanded our knowledge of the moon but has also ignited the imagination of millions, inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. As India continues to reach for the stars, the world eagerly anticipates the remarkable discoveries and advancements that will undoubtedly follow in the wake of Chandrayaan-3. On the global stage of space exploration, India has emerged as a force to reckon with, continually pushing boundaries and surpassing expectations. The muchawaited launch of Chandrayaan-3, the third lunar mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), marks another giant leap forward for India's space programme.

> With each mission, India is not only expanding its scientific knowledge but also solidifying its position as a trailblazer in the realm of space exploration.

> To fully appreciate the significance of Chandrayaan-3, it is essential to trace the remarkable journey of ISRO. From its humble beginnings in 1969, the Indian space agency has come a long way, overcoming challenges and achieving unprecedented success. ISRO's perseverance and dedication have been instrumental in transforming India's space aspirations into reality. ISRO's initial milestones, such as the launch of Aryabhata, India's first satellite, in 1975, laid the foundation for future endeavours. Over the years, the organisation has

earned a reputation for its cost-effective yet technologically advanced missions, most notably with the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) in 2013. By successfully reaching the Red Planet on its first attempt, ISRO demonstrated its prowess in space exploration. In 2008, ISRO achieved a significant breakthrough with the launch of Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission. Chandrayaan-1 showcased India's scientific capabilities and marked the country's entry into the elite club of lunar explorers. Building upon this success, ISRO took a leap forward with Chandrayaan-2 in 2019. Despite a challenging landing attempt, the mission achieved several milestones, including the successful insertion of the orbiter into the moon's orbit and the release of the Vikram lander. Although the lander encountered difficulties, the orbiter continues to orbit the moon, collecting valuable data and imagery. Chandrayaan-3 represents a continuation of India's lunar exploration programme and a testament to ISRO's unwavering commitment to space research. The mission aims to build upon the accomplishments of its predecessors, focusing on soft landing and deploying a rover to explore the lunar surface. Chandrayaan-3 holds immense symbolic value for India. It showcases the country's determination to become a key player in space exploration, not just for national pride but also for the betterment of humanity.



An Indian Army contingent marches past during the Bastille Day Parade, in Paris

Stray dogs: Pounds will not help



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

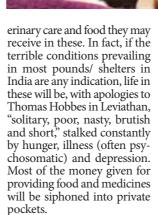
These will inflict horrendous cruelty on stray dogs without reducing their numbers. Besides, they will be a big drain on the resources

he disarmingly benev-olent air about the proposal to herd all stray dogs in India into pounds, is the result of two contentions. First, the move will end their presence in neighbourhoods without the savagery of killing them wholesale. Second, it would ensure shelter, medical care and regular meals which they lack now. The first will replace the death sentence by imprisonment for life without parole. The second reflects wishful thinking, contrary to what the existing real-

In the case of all living beings, the quest for freedom is the central driving force behind the unfolding of life, which depends on the progressive realization of a growing corpus of freedoms beginning with those to live, grow, subsist and move. To elaborate, there can be no life without the freedom to live, find and consume food, shelter from the elements, and move. The essence of freedom is the

autonomous exercise of will, which, in turn, is a function of one's autonomous existence. Imprisonment is a denial of this autonomy; life in jails is controlled by officials who impose restrictions on the lives of the inmates. It is no different in the case of stray dogs. Humans, no doubt, have a higher level of consciousness, cognition and articulation; no other living species has developed languages. Besides, they are the only species to consciously cherish and utilize the freedoms of thought and expression. Nevertheless, it would be wise to recall Desmond Morris' words in The Naked Ape: A Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal, "As I have stressed throughout this book, we are, despite all our great technological advances, still very much a simple biological phenomenon. Despite our grandiose ideas and our lofty selfconceits, we are still humble animals, subject to all the basic laws of animal behaviour."

The urge for freedom is the defining component of the psyches of both numans and stray dogs with the latter's free-roaming lives. The agony of the loss of freedom in the pounds will not be compensated by the shelter, vet- the Lok Sabha on August 2,



Clearly, the two contentions accounting for the air of benevolence around the proposal to confine stray dogs in pounds/shelters, are not valid. Hence, that air is misleading. If implemented the proposal will inflict the most horrendous sufferings on the stray dogs impounded. This, of course, will not be a consideration with those who hate all stray dogs and want them killed. Even they, however, have to face the fact that the proposal is utterly impractical and almost impossible to implement. For one thing, the existing pounds will not be able to accommodate even a tiny fraction of India's stray dog pulation which, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, told



A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND A HUGE ORGANIZATIONAL **INFRASTRUCTURE** WILL BE NEEDED TO BUILD AN **ADEQUATE** NUMBER OF **POUNDS AND** RECRUIT AND TRAIN ENOUGH PEOPLE TO RUN 2022, numbered 1.53 crore in 2019 against 1.71 crore in

A large amount of money and a huge organizational infrastructure will be needed to build an adequate number of pounds and recruit and train enough people to run them. The question is: who will do all this? A venture of this magnitude is beyond the capacity of animal welfare NGOs to implement. The Union and State governments, as well as large municipalities and corporations, will have to undertake it through their public works departments. Not many of the latter, if any, have any experience in setting up pounds, which require specialized planning and implementation. This will increase the time taken to complete constructions and, in the process, push up costs.

Even if, by a miracle, the pounds are built and made operative, the problem of catching stray dogs will remain. The present personnel with NGOs and govern-ment/municipal bodies are too few in number and poorly trained. They struggle to catch even the small numbers that are taken for sterilization. The street canines are sharp and flee at the sight of these

Finally, putting stray dogs into pounds will not reduce their numbers. Guidelines for Dog Population Management, released by World Health Organization and World Society for the Protection of Animals, in May, 1990, states, "Removal and killing of dogs should never be considered as the most effective way of dealing with the problem of surplus dogs in the community: it has no effect on the root cause of the problem, which is over-production of dogs." Further the Eighth Report (WHO Technical Report Series 824) of the WHO's Expert Committee on Rabies, has stated, "The population turnover of [stray] dogs may be so high that even the highest recorded removal rates (about 15 per cent of the dog population) are easily compensated by survival

Ferocious, dogs that bite, doubtless, pose a problem. They should be dealt with according to the procedure detailed under Section 16 of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which is numane and comprehensive. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views

expressed are personal.)

Embarking on a journey to explore new lunar frontiers

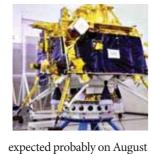


Chandrayaan-3 success is yet another step in India's bid for space exploration and opens up possibilities of further lunar research

he first phase of India's third mission to the moon Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully done on 14th July from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota using the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3). If everything goes as planned the Pragyan rover in the Chandrayaan-3 will land softly on the south pole of the lunar surface. The Pragyan rover, equipped with six wheels, will carry two payloads aimed at discovering materials from the ancient lunar crust through the use of spectrometers. Furthermore, one of the payloads, called the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE), will analyze spectral and polarimetric radiation to gain insights into the potential signatures of habitable Earth-like planets. Over the past 65 years, six nations have undertaken 70 missions to the Moon, both successful and partially successful. While a significant number of these missions involved orbiting Earth's sole natural satellite, only a fraction of them involved successful lunar

landings. If Chandrayaan-3

achieves a soft landing as



23 or 24th, India will become the fourth country, after the United States, Russia, and China, to achieve the feat and emerge as a leader in space explorations.

Even though the previous Chandrayaan missions failed to achieve soft landing considerable data regarding the lunar environment has been gathered, a commendable one being the first report of the presence of water on the lunar surface. But why is it that every nation is vying for space on the moon? The Moon is Earth's natural satellite, a celestial body that orbits around our planet. It is the fifth-largest moon in the Solar System and is approximately 1/6th the size of Earth. The Moon is located at an average distance of about 384,400 kilometres (238,900 miles)

which means that it always shows the same face to us. The side facing Earth is called the near side, while the opposite side is the far side or the "dark side" (though it receives sunlight just like the near side). The Moon has a rocky surface covered with impact craters, mountains, valleys, and plains.

The Moon plays a significant role in Earth's dynamics. It affects our planet's tides through gravitational interactions, which in turn influence coastal ecosystems and other natural phenomena. The Moon has been a subject of fascination and exploration for centuries. Human missions, such as the Apollo program in the 1960s and 1970s, have landed astronauts on the lunar surface, allowing us to gather samples, conduct experiments, and gain a better understanding of our closest celestial neighbour. Nations are going back to the Moon due to the scientific, technological, economic, and strategic benefits it offers. The Moon is believed to contain valuable resources, such as

from Earth. The Moon is in the permanently shad-tidally locked with Earth, owed regions of the Moon. Scientists are interested in studying these volatiles to assess their availability for supporting human activities and to learn more about their origin and potential uses. Accessing and utilizing

these resources on the Moon could reduce the costs and logistical challenges associated with long-duration space exploration. It could act as a transit point for long-distance space travels when space colonies will become a reality. The Moon provides a stepping stone for future space exploration and offers numerous opportunities for collaboration, resource utilization, and human space settlement, which can have farreaching implications for both scientific knowledge and also helps in establishing humans as a multi-planet species, thereby saving the species from an imminent extinction. Being at the forefront of space research will give nations an advantage in surviving the perils of the space colony era, and India is sure to excel as a

global leader. (The writer is a science water ice and other volatiles *communicator and columnist*)

EU RAKES UP MANIPUR ISSUE

Sir — Shortly before Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi arrived in Paris on a State visit, in another French city, Strasbourg, the European Parliament (EP) called on the Indian government to act "promptly" to halt the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities. The joint motion moved by five groups was voted in by a show of hands in a fairly full house at the EP. The resolution passed by the European Parliament urged Indian authorities to halt ethnic and religious violence, protect religious minorities, conduct independent investigations, and encourage conflicting parties to rebuild trust and play an impartial role in mediating tensions. As usual, India strongly condemned the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution regarding recent clashes in Manipur, asserting that such interference in India's internal affairs is unacceptable.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi emphasised that the Indian authorities, including the judiciary, are fully aware of and addressing the situation in Manipur to ensure peace, harmony, and law and order. India advised the European Parliament to focus on its internal matters instead. However, more than 150 Indians have died in Manipur violence. Adding to the problem, the Modi governments both at the state as well as the centre seem to be not in control of the situation for too long. While the foreign affairs group of the Indian government needs to deal with these EU actions in the most appropriate ways, internally within India, Indians need to see that things get better in the Indian state of Manipur as soon as possible.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee |Faridabad

PROMISING CRICKETER

Sir — Yashasvi Jaiswal, a promising young cricketer, achieved a magnificent century in his debut Test match against the West Indies in Dominica. It was a day of triumph and celebration as the talented cricketer left a lasting mark in the

Sweden to join NATO



he Vilnius Summit of 2023 will be going historic for world history as one of the most neutral nations of the world; sided its geo-political neutrality to join as a NATO member, a grouping of bipolar values. It was definitely to the world's surprise that Turkey who is creating the barrier for Sweden itself surprisingly sided its halt for Sweden as a NATO countries member.

The attempt of Sweden to deliberately alter its stand for being neutral for world issues had finally ended for the completion of its national interest. Of course, it has been a great challenge to be a neighbour nation to Russia. And considering the current circumstances, Sweden wanted to play save for at least itself vis-a-vis Russian power. Everybody knows that although not officially. Sweden was always with NATO on unofficial terms for the last 30 years. Utilising the Russia-Ukraine war as an opportunity, Sweden is trying to manage its unofficial play with official agreements. However, all this in the end will be going to raise bitterness more being the Baltic, Norwegian and Russian states. Europe is burning with more and more ignites together. The war is not going to end by any chance in this way. We need to pave peace and dialogue for cooperation and harmony.

The need of the hour is to think about global peace, not national peace.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

ry. The story of his remarkable achievement unfolds through his heartfelt celebrations. Filled with excitement, Jaiswal removed his helmet, leapt into the air, and screamed in sheer joy. Following his personal tradition, he then humbly bowed down towards the Indian dressing room. His teammates showered him with applause, and he sought the approval of his mentor, Rohit Sharma, who warmly embraced him. Virat Kohli, wearing a wide grin, expressed his pride in Jaiswal's accomplishment. This heartwarming moment beautifully exemplified the unity and camaraderie within the Indian

Md Imdadullah | Patna

MEDIA FEST — The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Tumkur University will host a National Conference and media fest on July 20th and 21st. It is important to address conrecord books with his exceptional centu- cerns regarding one of the invited

speakers, Ajit Hanamakkanavar, a former editor at a regional News Channel in Kannada. Attendees perceive the speaker as having a rightist inclination, which has generated mixed reactions. The conference aims to discuss diverse aspects of the media industry and therefore requires speakers representing varied perspectives. The individuals chosen must demonstrate a commitment to fair and unbiased journalism,. Concerns have been raised about the speaker's past statements promoting divisive ideologies and fostering a hostile environment. The conference will unite professionals, academics, and aspiring journalists, and it is crucial to maintain a high standard of unbiased discourse. Finally, such efforts will transform the conference into a platform for meaningful exchanges that benefit all participants Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

CONTROL YOUR MIND, CONTROL YOUR LIFE

Like iron corrodes with its own rust, so can your own mind destroy you



 $\boldsymbol{O}_{\text{all}}$ mind is a multi-dimensional consciousness. As humans, we all have a unique set of beliefs, values and opinions that make an individual distinct and different from others. It's the thoughts and beliefs that decide perception towards anything in life and thus by empowering them, one can guide their inner self and control the feelings, fears, hopes and thinking patterns. These beliefs and opinions shape our personality and how we perceive the world around us. Thus, it becomes important to mould individual thoughts and point their attention in a particular positive direction to achieve peace of mind.

One of the biggest advantages of mind control is the potential to create positive change in the world. If an individual could influence the thoughts and actions of others, he/she could use this power to effect change on a global scale. Working on mental models such as practising critical thinking; strengthening the vision and leverage; learning big ideas and studying big disciplines helps an individual think and act differently.

When a person is in total control of themselves, everything falls into place. One needs to learn how to select thoughts just the same way an individual selects clothes every day. Learning to be optimistic, trying to tell self and reminding that one will succeed over the mind as intended are some of the ways to keep oneself away from negative thoughts and be positive.



Controlling the mind is a realistic idea that can very well take place in the future. The availability of numerous devices and smartphones along with the experiments are devoted to creating the idea of taking over someone's mind. With the help of increased technology and unbelievably available devices and smartphones, this may be able to happen sooner than anyone can expect. Controlling the mind takes over the ability to create an individual's thoughts and interrupts the mindfulness imagination.

Practising the art of mindfulness meditation, in particular, can help an individual become more skilled at focusing on things as they happen. Meditation is the key to nourishing the soul and blooming the divinity within. As an individual becomes more mindful with time, they will notice that they no longer need to constantly pull their awareness back from troubling or distracting thoughts. Also, spending time with others and on others can increase happiness and well-being. Happiness and well-being can increase an individual's self-image and reduce negative feelings that make self-control more difficult.

In the words of Idowu Koyenikan, "The mind is just like a muscle - the more one exercises it, the stronger it gets and the more it

Both the mind and body are deeply connected. It's the mind that can make the body stressed and physiological stress in the body can lead the mind to feel stressed. If an individual cannot control their thoughts, they cannot control their actions. The thoughts of an individual are a mixed baggage of past, emotions and fears. They are so much powerful that they are capable of turning a dream into reality. The greatness of a man does not lie in how much wealth they acquire but, in the integrity and the ability to affect those around them positively. Unwanted thoughts can cause plenty of frustration and

(The writer is an educator)

Judicial overreach: Is it going too far?



SANJEEV SHARMA

The issue of judicial overreach, or judicial activism, has cast a shadow over our constitutional framework and interferes with the governance which is a different domain

Since its enactment in 1950, the Constitution of India has undergone numerous amendments to address the changing aspirations of society. While some of these amendments went unnoticed initially, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Bill passed during the internal emergency in 1975 brought significant changes that impacted the functioning of the executive, legislature, and judiciary. It modified the division of powers between the states and the Union by expanding the concurrent list. Despite these changes, the Constitution and the nation were ultimately pre-

DIVISION OF POWERS OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF **GOVERNMENT**

The Constitution distinguishes between justiciable and non-justiciable actions, setting clear roles for the three branches of government: the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. These branches are designed to be mutually complementary, with the Executive relying on the strength derived from the Legislature and Judiciary for the effective fulfilment of its functions. However, in recent years, there has been a growing debate on the issue of judicial overreach, also known as judicial activism.

DEFINING THE BASIC STRUCTURE: THE KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE

The 24th Amendment to the Constitution of India, enacted in 1971, introduced changes related to Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. It modified Article 368, which deals with the amending procedure. The amendment expanded Parliament's power to amend any provision, including those relating to fundamental rights. It also added a clause to Article 13, stating that constitutional amendments under Article 368 would be outside judicial review and not open to challenge on the grounds of violating fundamental rights.

The 24th Constitutional Amendment aimed to counter the Supreme Court's judgments in Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967) and Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973). These judgments affirmed the basic structure doc trine, which limited Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court partially nullified the 24th Amendment in the Kesavananda Bharati case. The Court established the doctrine of the basic structure and further restricted Parliament's amending

The Kesavananda Bharati judgement, delivered by the Supreme Court on April 24, 1973, ruled that Parliament did not have unlimited powers to amend the Constitution under Article 368. It held that certain core principles and features of the Constitution, known as the "basic structure," were inviolable and could not be amended. Although the judgement did not provide an exhaustive list of what constitutes the basic structure, it outlined essential features such as the Supremacy of the Constitution, Republican and democratic forms of government, Secular character, Separation of powers, Federal character, Judicial review, and Rule of law.



ACTIVISM

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FUNDAMENTAL

Suresh Kumar is a

retired Punjab-cadre

CITIZENS'

BEING

RIGHTS

Over the years, the term "basic structure" has expanded to include the notion that if citizens' rights are not being fulfilled, even without a violation of fundamental rights, it becomes the responsibility of the executive to ensure their delivery. This expanded scope of justice delivery is encompassed by Public Interest Litigation (PIL), which extends the jurisdiction of constitutional courts to non-justiciable functions. The interpretation of the basic structure has also brought actions or decisions initially outside judicial scrutiny under judicial review.

JUDICIAL OVERREACH

In the process of safeguarding the basic structure of the constitution, the judiciary has assumed powers that were not originally intended for it, allegedly encroaching upon the domain of the executive. This encroachment can be motivated by various factors, including the lure of post-retirement benefits that may even influence some decisions. Such overreach casts a shadow on the judiciary's integrity and raises concerns about the balance of powers.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND **JUDICIARY**

There have been instances where the judiciary, through its pronouncements, has directed or coerced the executive to frame laws and rules in a specific manner. the issue arises as to how one can

enced by the ideology of the elected government, remains outside the scope of review.

BRIDGING THE POLICY GAP BY THE JUDICIARY Instances of conflict between

the legislature, executive, and judiciary arise when policies and legislation are ambiguous or still evolving. The National Judicial Appointments Commission NJAC) case is one such example. In 2015, the Supreme Court struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, which sought to establish the NJAC as responsible for judicial appointments and transfers. The court deemed the legislation unconstitutional, as it violated judicial independence and the principle of separation of powers.

The issue of judges appointing judges and transferring judges has also been critiqued. The confrontation between the executive and judiciary becomes evident when recommendations for elevation or transfers of judges are kept pending for years. While no system is perfect, improvements are needed.

Similarly, the Aadhaar Card case highlighted differences between the judiciary and executive regarding the mandatory use of Aadhaar for government services. Despite court-imposed restrictions and emphasis on privacy rights, the executive continues to mandate the furnishing of Aadhaar data without adequate privacy protection laws.

Conflicts have also emerged over the disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) in cases of criminal convictions. While the judiciary upholds provisions for disqualification upon conviction, the executive sometimes refuses to act as per the law.

Reservations in educational institutions and government jobs have also witnessed conflicts between the legislature and judiciary. The judiciary seeks to ensure fair implementation, while the executive faces challenges in meeting these requirements. A unified law at the state and central levels could reduce friction.

The three organs of governance have also clashed over environmental issues and regulations. The judiciary's interventions, such as banning certain industries or activities in ecologically sensitive areas, have sometimes been perceived as an overreach by the executive. At the same time, the laws made by the legislature leave loopholes, which the executive either turns a blind eye to or actively permits their exploitation. The judicial interventions sought in such cases become necessary to ensure fair and just governance. Even the policy gaps are bridged or rectified through judicial pronouncements.

The Constitution of India

though amended quite often, has met the aspirations of society. However, the issue of judicial overreach, or judicial activism, has cast a shadow over this otherwise noncontroversial subject. While the judiciary plays a crucial role in safeguarding the basic structure of the country, it is essential to maintain a balance between the powers of the three branches of government—the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. This balance allows each branch to fulfil its specific functions without compromising the integrity of the constitutional framework. Éffective governance can be achieved by ensuring that the executive formulates policies backed by constitutionally mandated legislation, reducing the burden on the judiciary, upholding the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and maintaining the balance of



IAS officer and was chief principle secretary legislate as directed. This comproto Punjab CM & mises the independence of the legislature, which should propose leg-Sanjeev Sharma is Senior Advocate, islation and be subject to judicial Punjab and Haryana review to identify any unconstitu-High Court

While the executive may comply, tional provisions. The intent or objective of the legislation, influ-

UCC: Abide by the wish of the Constitution makers

The Supreme Court has held the view that there is no necessary connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society

¬he Constituent Assembly appointed the Drafting Committee on August 29, 1947. The Committee was chaired by Dr BR Ambedkar. Draft Constitution was submitted on 21.2.1948 to the Constituent Assembly. The Draft Constitution contains 315 Articles and 8 Schedules. Article 35 in the Draft Constitution was the direction to the State to legislate Uniform Civil Code (in short "UCC" i.e. "35. Uniform Civil Code for the citizen.- The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of

HISTORICAL BACK-**GROUND**

Article 35 of the Draft Constitution was debated in

(The writer is Advocate Supreme Court of India)

the Constituent Assembly on 23 November 1948. Mohamad Ismail Sahib moved a motion to add a proviso i.e. "Provided that any group, section or community or people shall not be obliged to give up its own personal law in case it has such a law." Muslim Members namely Ismail Sahab, Pocker Sahib Bahadur, Naziruddin Ahmed, and Mahboob Ali Baig Saheb Bahadur supported the Motion. It was their stand that (1) Law of succession, inheritance, marriage and divorce of Musalmans are completely dependent on their religion., (2) Britishers carried out the administrations of this country for the last 150 years and over, for the reason that they have given a guarantee of following own personal laws to each of the various

communities in the country. (3) Mr Hussain Imam argued that our country is so diverse that it is not possible to have uniformity of Civil Law. On these arguments, Muslim members wanted a proviso in Article 35 'that, it may not affect their personal laws'. Mr Naziruddin Ahmed submitted that Article 35 would undo what had been given in Article 19 as it will encourage the State to break the guarantee given in Article 19. However, he expressed the view that the stage would come when the civil law would be uniform. Mohammed Ismile Sahib submitted that for creating harmony it is not necessary to compel people to give up their law. The motion was opposed

by Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, K.M. Munshi, Suresh Chandra Majumdar, Ananathasayanam Ayyngar etc. Sri Suresh Chandra Majumdar argued that submissions of Muslim Members are in direct negation of Article 35 and cannot be taken as an amendment. Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyngar said that marriage in Muslim is a contract. Mr KM Munshi submitted that nowhere in the advanced Muslim country the personal law of each minority has been recognized as so sacrosanct to prevent the enactment of the Civil Code. Mr Munshi argued, when

Shariat Act was passed by the Central Legislature, certain Muslim members, Khoja and Cutchi Memon were unwilling, but had to surrender.

Where were the rights of minorities then? He argued that if the personal law of

inheritance succession etc. is a part of religion, then there cannot be equality for women. It was argued that the attitude of mind perpetuated under the British rule that personal law is a part of religion. Mr. Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer argued in European countries there are Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Christians and Jews. In France, Germany, Italy in all the continental countries of Europe, they have not perpetuated personal laws. It was argued that Article 35 not invading the domain of religion. On the above logic, it was asserted that the motion may be negated. Babasaheb argued that we have Uniform Criminal Code. Civil Code in its contents applies to the whole of the country. Up to 1935 North-

West Frontier Province was not subject to Shariat law, Hindu law in the matter of succession and other matters were being followed. North following Malabar Marumakkathyam law. Dr Ambedkar opposed the motion contending that Muslim law was not immutable. Dr. Ambedkar opposed the Motion.
PRESENT SCENARIO

In John Vallamattam Vs. UOI reported in (2003) 6 SCC 611 Supreme Court held that "it is a matter of regret that Article 44 of the Constitution has not given effect to. Common code will help the cause of nation national integration."

The Hindus along with Sikh, Buddhists and Jains have

integration, some other community would not, though the Constitution enjoins the establishment of a common civil code for the whole of India.' Article 14 is the guaranteed fundamental right to equality. Article 13 provides all the laws that include custom or usage to the extent of inconsistency shall be void. The right of religion is guaranteed subject to public order and morality. The Supreme Court time and again regretted 'why the Parliament had not given effect to the Article 44 of the Constitution despite having the direction by the Constitution maker. There is no justification whatsoever for delaying indefinitely with the introduction of uniform forsaken their sentiments in personal law in the country.

the cause of national unity and

NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | JULY 15, 2023

'Wagner mercenaries had option to stay as a single unit'

 $R^{ussian\, President\, Vladimir\, Putin}_{said\, he\, offered\, mercenaries\, from}$ the Wagner private military company the option of continuing to serve as a single unit under their same commander when he met with them after the group's brief revolt last month that posed the most serious threat to his 23-year rule.

Putin's comments, published Friday, appeared to reflect his efforts to secure the loyalty of Wagner mercenaries, some of the most capable Russian forces in Ukraine, while the fate of their chief, Yevgeny Prigozhin, remains unclear.

They also came amid new cracks appearing in the Russian military as the war grinds through its 17th month and Ukraine conducts a counteroffensive against the invad-

In remarks to the business daily Kommersant, Putin for the first time described a Kremlin event attended by 35 Wagner commanders, including Prigozhin, on June 29, five days after their armed rebellion.

He said he praised their efforts in Ukraine, deplored their involvement in the mutiny — which he previously denounced as an act of treason — and offered them alternatives for future service.

option would see Wagner keep the same commander who goes by the call name "Gray Hair" and has led the private army in Ukraine for 16

"All of them could have gathered in one place and continued to serve," Putin told the newspaper, "And nothing would have changed for them. They would have been led by the same person who had been their real commander all along."

Putin said many Wagner troops nodded in approval at the proposal, but Prigozhin, who was sitting in front and didn't see their reaction, quickly rejected the idea, responding that "the boys won't agree with such a decision.

Putin didn't mention where and in what numbers Wagner could be deployed under his offer, or say what proposal the forces eventually accept-

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to elaborate on Wagner's future in Friday's conference call with reporters. Putin has previously said Wagner troops had to choose whether to sign contracts with the Defense Ministry, move to neighbouring Belarus or retire from

Speaking to Kommersant, Putin emphasised that "rank-and-file sol-Putin told Kommersant that one diers of Wagner have fought honor-



Russian President Vladimir Putin answers journalists' questions about the grain deal in Moscow,

ably" in Ukraine, adding that "it's a cause for regret that they were drawn" into the mutiny.

Putin's remarks came in an interview with a Kommersant reporter who has special access to the presi-

They appeared to be part of efforts to denigrate Prigozhin while trying to maintain control over Wagner mercenaries and secure their loyalty. The Russian president, posted videos and photos of

who previously denied any links between the government and Wagner, acknowledged after the mutiny that Prigozhin's company has received billions of dollars from the state and noted that investigators would probe whether any of the funds had been stolen, a warning to Prigozhin that he could face financial crimes.

State-controlled media have

Prigozhin's opulent mansion in St. Petersburg, including stacks of cash, gold bars and fake passports.

The images appeared to be part of a smear campaign against the Wagner chief, who has portrayed himself as an enemy of corrupt elites even though he owes his wealth to Putin. Putin also said Wagner has operated without legal basis. "There is no law on private military organizations. It simply doesn't exist," he told Kommersant, adding that the government and the parliament have yet to discuss the issue of private military contractors. In the revolt that lasted less than 24 hours on June 23-24, Prigozhin's mercenaries quickly swept through the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and captured the military headquarters there without firing a shot, before driving to within about 200 kilometres (125 miles) of Moscow

Prigozhin called it a "march of justice" to oust Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov, who demanded that Wagner sign contracts with the Defense Ministry by July 1. The mutiny faced little resistance and fighters downed at least six military helicopters and a command post aircraft, killing at least 10 airmen.Prigozhin ordered his mercenaries back to their camps after strikexchange for an amnesty for him and his men, and permission to move to

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who brokered the deal, has said Prigozhin was in Russia while Wagner's troops were in their field camps.

He didn't specify the camps' location but Prigozhin's mercenaries fought alongside Russian forces in eastern Ukraine before their revolt and also have bases in Russia. Lukashenko said his military could benefit from the private army's combat experience, and Belarusian state TV broadcast video Friday of Wagner instructors training Belarusian territorial defence forces at a firing range near Asipovichy, where a camp offered to Wagner is located. A Belarusian messaging app channel said Prigozhin spent a night at the camp earlier this week and posted a photo of him inside a tent.

While the fate of Prigozhin remains cloudy, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday that Wagner was handing over its weapons to the Russian military. That appeared to show attempts by Russian authorities to defuse the threat posed by the mercenaries and also seemed to herald an end to the group's opera-

1 killed, 2 hurt in stabbing at aid centre in Dutch city of Leide

The Hague (AP): One man was killed and two people injured, one seriously, in a stabbing on Friday at a church-run center that houses several aid organisations in the Dutch university city of Leiden, police said. A man entered the centre, a former bakery in the historic heart of the university city, just before 9.30 am and "for as yet unclear reasons stabbed the victims and then fled," police said in a statement.A 66-year-old man was so badly injured that he died at the scene, two others were taken to a hospital," police said.The chairman of the centre, Bert Verweij, told regional broadcaster Omroep West that the three wounded people were a staff member, a volunteer and a worker at one of the organisations that uses the centre.The centre houses organisations that offer help to people including homeless people, migrants and asylum-seekers. Police appealed for assistance in tracking down the suspect, but warned members of the public not to approach him.

SA deploys army after unrest

South Africa deployed the army in four of its provinces on Friday after at least 21 trucks carrying goods were set on fire in various parts of the country in the span of five days.

The move came amid concerns of more violent unrest over a court decision that could send former president Jacob Zuma back to jail, although authorities denied the two issues are connected. The deployment of sol-

diers to support police in some parts of the country came a day after South Africa's apex Constitutional Court ruled that Zuma's early release from prison on medical parole in 2021 was invalid.

The Department of Corrections has not said if it will order Zuma back to jail to serve the remainder of a 15month prison sentence for contempt of court, but his initial jailing two years ago sparked a week of violent protests that left more than 350 people dead in some of the worst violence South Africa had experienced in 30 years.

Police said they had no evidence that the torching of trucks was connected to the 2021 unrest or Zuma, but the

decision in Zuma's court case official news agency. clearly put the country on

The truck burnings appear to have started on Sunday, the second anniversary of the start of the 2021 protests., 81, was not in South Africa and had traveled to Russia for medical treatment for an undisclosed illness, Mzwanele Manyi, a spokesperson for the former president, said in a statement on Friday. Manyi gave no date for Zuma's return.

Authorities haven't established the motive for the truck attacks, nor if they are connected to each other as they took place in various parts of the

But Police Minister Bheki Cele said there is a possibility that the truck burnings are economic sabotage against South Africa and police are hunting for at least 12 people believed to be linked to the attacks. In many instances, armed

men have forced drivers out of their trucks and then set them alight in the middle of major roads, according to media

'These are organised and sophisticated operations," Cele said in a statement released by the South African government's ment.

Authorities haven't reported any deaths or serious injuries related to the torching of trucks.

Trucks have previously been burned in South Africa as a form of protest against the government for failing to provide basic services for people, although the number torched this week was unusually high. Zuma's case was back in the

headlines Thursday, when the Constitutional Court upheld a ruling that his early release from prison on medical parole was improper and the former leader should serve the remaining 13 months of his 15-month

With 2021 in mind, South Africa braced itself for more unrest over the decision. There was no sign of problems early on Friday.

The 2021 riots shook Africa's most developed economy, seen as a bedrock of democracy on the continent. It was the worst instance of civil unrest since the end of apartheid in 1994, with authorities still investigating two years later who was behind what appeared to be an orchestrated attempt to unsettle the govern-

Iraqi officials defend barter deal with Iran

Baghdad (AP): Iraqi officials defended on Thursday a deal inked this week to barter oil for gas with Iran, saying it does not violate US sanctions on Tehrar but will help alleviate a worsening electricity crisis in Iraq.The remarks come as the government in Baghdad struggles to balance between its two key allies Washington and Tehran. A previous arrangement in which Iraq was buying gas from Iran and paying dollars for it was held up because Washington declined to approve sanctions waivers. That in turn led Iran to cut the gas supply, triggering severe power shortages in Iraq.

After decades of electricity shortages because of war, corruption, oil-rich Iraq has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas to meet its electricity needs. The shortages in recent months are in part due to US restrictions on transferring funds to Iran. Imports from Iran are especially vital during summers when Iraqis are forced to pay for private diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that often exceed 50 degrees Celsius.

China flays German call for reducing dependency on Chinese products with self-governed Taiwan,

China on Friday criticised a German government call for reducing dependency on Chinese products and decreasing other potentially unstable factors in bilateral relations, calling it a form of protection-ism. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that a long-awaited German government strategy for relations with China that pointed to a "systemic rivalry" went "against the trend of the times, and will only aggravate divisions in the world."

Wang said the two countries were "partners rather than rivals," a typical ruling Chinese Communist Party formulation for dismissing criti-

"We believe that to engage in competition and protectionism in the name of de-risking and reducing dependency, and to overstretch the concept of security and politicise normal cooperation will only be counterproductive and create artificial risks," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing. Germany has Europe's

iggest economy and its strategy seeks to balance robust trade ties with China, its biggest single trading partner in recent years, against wariness over Beijing's growing assertiveness and refusal to criticise Russia's invasion of

The 64-page document opproved by Chancellor Olaf cholz's Cabinet builds on Germany's first national security strategy, issued a month ago.Scholz's three-party coalition had pledged when it took

a "comprehensive China strategy." In introducing the strategy, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that "for Germany, China remains a partner, competitor and systemic rival, but the aspect of systemic rivalry has in recent years increasingly come to the "Anyone who listens to China knows with what self-

confidence it will decisively influence the development of our world — more repressive at home and more offensive abroad," Baerbock said. "China has changed and so our China policy must change too." In its strategy, the govern-

ment said it is committed to ensuring that economic cooperation with China "becomes fairer, more sustainable and more reciprocal."

It noted that "whereas China's dependencies on Europe are constantly declining, Germany's dependencies on China have taken on greater significance in recent years."

The strategy also made clear that Germany wouldn't be deterred from doing business which Beijing considers its own territory to be diplomatically isolated and annexed by force if necessary.

"The status quo of the Taiwan Strait may only be changed by peaceful means and mutual consent," it said. "Military escalation would also affect German and European interests."

The document also called for cooperation across issues of global concern, particularly the climate crisis. The strategy was released a few weeks after Scholz and about half of his Cabinet hosted a delegation led by new Chinese Premier Li Qiang, whose visit to Berlin was his first foreign trip since becoming China's No. 2 official in March.

Both Scholz and Baerbock, making a solo visit earlier this year, have pushed China to use its close relations with Russia to advocate for an end to the war in Ukraine.

That has elicited a public Chinese commitment not to help arm Russia, but appears to have had no effect on Beijing's warm ties with Moscow.

thousands face

Hundreds of

US sets a grim milestone with new record | Scholz confident | for deadliest six months of mass killings

AP NEW YORK

Slain at the hands of strangers or gunned down by loved ones. Massacred in small towns, in big cities, inside their own homes or outside in broad daylight. This year's unrelenting bloodshed across the US has led to the grimmest of mile-stones: The deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least 2006.

From January 1 to June 30, the nation endured 28 mass killings, all but one of which involved guns. The death toll rose just about every week, a constant cycle of violence and

Six months. 181 days. 28 mass killings. 140 victims. One

"What a ghastly milestone,"

three children were in class at a private Christian school in Nashville on March 27 when a former student killed three children and three adults. "You never think your family would be a part of a statistic like that."

Leatherwood, a prominent Republican in a state that hasn't strengthened gun laws, believes something must be done to get guns out of the hands of people who might become violent. The shock of seeing the bloodshed strike so close to home has prompted him to speak out.

"You may as well say Martians have landed, right? It's hard to wrap your mind around it," he said.

A mass killing is defined as an occurrence when four or more people are slain, not months of 2023 doesn't auto-

nership with Northeastern University tracks this large-scale violence dating back to

The 2023 milestone beat the previous record of 27 mass killings, which was only set in the second half of 2022. James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northeastern University, never imagined records like this when he began overseeing the database about five years

"We used to say there were two to three dozen a year," Fox said. "The fact that there's 28 in half a year is a staggering sta-

But the chaos of the first six including the assailant, within matically doom the last six

year could be calmer, despite more violence over the July

Fourthholiday weekend. "Hopefully it was just a blip," said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, a psychiatrist who is the associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California,

"There could be fewer killings later in 2023, or this could be part of a trend. But we won't know for sometime," she

Experts like Barnhorst and Fox attribute the rising bloodshed to a growing population with an increased number of guns in the US. Yet for all the headlines, mass killings are statistically rare and represent a fraction of the country's over-

that surging far-right party will shrink again

Berlin (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed optimism Friday that support for a far-right party which has been surging in the polls lately will shrink to previous levels again by the time of the next national election in 2025. The far-right Alternative for Germany party received 10.3 per cent of the vote in the a slight decline from 2017, when it got 12.6 per cent in the wake of the European migration crisis. Recent polls have shown support for the party, known by its German acronym AfD, at around 20 per cent and ahead of Scholz's centre-left

Social Democrats. "I'm quite confident that AfD won't perform much differently at the next federal election than it did at the last," Scholz told reporters at his annual summer news confer-

The German leader said his strategy to achieve this is to pursue policies "that give citizens enough reasons to believe in a good future" — including by showing that the country is in control of its borders and can curb irregular migration.

Scholz also appealed to mainstream parties in Germany's 16 states to keep the consequences of their rivalry in

Some of those regions will hold state elections this year and in 2024, which are seen as key bellwethers for the next national election.

He argued that the "democratic parties" and their supporters make up a broad majority in every state and that there has been no "normalisation" of far-right ideology in

Acropolis midday closure leaves tourists in lurch

AP ■ NICOSIA (CYPRUS)

Disgruntled tourists bemoaned the temporary closing of the Acropolis in Athens on Friday as Greek authorities proactively shut the world monument's gates between midday and early evening amid a heat wave that continues to grip southern Europe.Red Cross staff handed out bottled water to tourists wilting in long lines hoping to beat the closure and scale the steps up to the gleaming Parthenon temple as temperatures were expected to peak above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in the Greek cap-

Some visitors were frustrated at being left in the lurch because they were unaware of Greek authorities' last-minute announcement of the Acropolis' closure at noon. One visitor said he was disappointed at losing the chance and that it would be unlikely he would come back any time

"I even bought a 50 euro ticket to skip the line to enter and I couldn't enter the place," the man, who didn't give his name, told The Associated Press.Others who beat the closing time like Sylvia from Colombia were elated despite the heat, saying she came prepared."We have water, we have some ventilators," she told the AP. "And I think it's always an amazing experience to be

Red Cross coordinator Ioanna Fotopoulou said paramedics on hand administered first aid to a number of tourists exhibiting symptoms of dehydration and experiencing fainting spells.In Spain, people



packed the beaches as the country enjoyed a short-lived respite from it's second heatwave of the summer.

Temperatures were still expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius in at least 12 of Spain's 17 regions on Friday, although lower from a high of 45 degrees (113 Fahrenheit) that scorched the southeastern town of Albox on Wednesday.

The Aemet state weather agency says another heatwave is expected to start Sunday with highest temperatures yet

In Italy, the country's health ministry on Friday warned residents of 10 cities from Bologna to Rome and of another five cities in Sicily, Sardinia and Puglia to avoid being out in the midday heat

due to extreme temperatures.

Temperatures in the country are expected to reach 12 degrees above average in some areas this weekend. On the southeastern island nation of Cyprus, people clustered under air conditioning units and cooling fans set to full blast, as midday temperatures inland were forecast to hit a high of 43 C (110 Fahrenheit).

disruption at London airport London (AP): Hundreds of thousands of British vacationers face potential disruption to their travel plans at the start of the school summer holidays, after almost 1,000 workers at London's Gatwick Airport voted to strike in a dispute over pay. The Unite union said Friday that members, including baggage handlers and check-in staff, who are employed by four private contractors will

walk out for four days from July 28 and again for a subsequent four-day stretch from August 4. The union said the action will "inevitably" cause disruption to flights at the height of the summer holiday season after the school year has ended. The airlines affected are British Airways, easyJet, Ryanair, TUI, WestJet and Wizz Air.

Gatwick, which is just south

of the UK capital, is London's second-busiest airport behind Heathrow, with a particular focus during the summer to Europe's beach resorts in the Mediterranean. A total of 4,410 flights are scheduled to depart Gatwick across all the strike days, equating to more than 840,000 seats, according to aviation data company Cirium. Those involved in the dispute are employed by ASC, Menzies Aviation, GGS and DHL Services, which conduct outsourced operations for airlines including ground handling baggage handling and checkin. Unite said it has been in negotiations with the four companies since January. "As part of Unite's unyielding focus on the jobs, pay and condition of its members, the union has drawn

a line in the sand and is committed to eradicating the scourge of

low pay at the airport," said Sharon Graham, the union's

general-secretary.



N Korea's envoy blames **US** for regional tensions

North Korea's UN ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the UN Security Council on Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war".

Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defence.

He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighbouring country", pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM - which flew at a steep angle - landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

South Korea's UN Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighbouring countries appear safe?"
Diplomats said Kim's

appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017.

Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons

Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine council members including the US and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters condemning the launch "in the strongest possible terms' and stressing that it was the



20th ballistic missile launch this year in blatant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions banning such tests.

In Pyongyang, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the UN Security Council for convening a meeting to "pick a quarrel with" her country's self-defence step while ignoring the US push to increase the danger of a nuclear war.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong called the council "a new Cold War mechanism totally inclined to the US and the West".

She also warned that the United States would pay a price for its hostility toward the North. "I do not conceal the fact that very unlucky things will wait for the US," she said without elaborating but reiterated her country's push to build up its nuclear deterrence

The Security Council imposed sanctions after North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years in a total of 10 resolutions seeking — so far unsuccessfully - to cut funds and curb its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

cil in December 2017, and China and Russia vetoed a US-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over a spate of intercontinental ballis-

The two veto-wielding permanent members have blocked any council action including statements to the media since

tic missile launches.

The statement by the 10 countries said the Security Council cannot remain silent in the face of so many North Korean provocations and must send a message to all proliferators "that this behaviour is unlawful, destabilising, and will not be normalised'

It also called on all countries to confront North Korea's illicit activities to generate revenue such as cybercrime.

But Russia and China remained opposed to any council action.

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun took note of the latest missile test but criticised the heightened US military pressure on North Korea and its deployment of strategic weapons to the Korean Peninsula.

He said the long-time view of the US and other countries that North Korea poses a security threat and their obsession with sanctions put North Korea under "existential pressure", while the country's own legitimate concerns "have never been addressed".

Zhang said history since the 1990s clearly shows that dialogue and negotiation are the only way to ease tensions, and he urged the US and North Korea to resume talks.

The statement from the 10 countries said they remain committed to diplomacy without preconditions. Song made no mention of talks, which China executes teacher who poisoned 25 students Acourt in central China said on Friday a Chinese months of treatment, the notice

kindergarten teacher who had poisoned 25 of her students, killing one, has been executed. A notice posted outside

the No. 1 Intermediate Court in the Henan province city of Jiaozuo said Wang Yun's sentence had been carried out on Thursday. Wang, 40, was convicted of putting toxic sodium nitrite in porridge served to children at Mengmeng Preschool Education on March 27, 2019, following an argument with a colleague identified only by the surname Sun over "student management".

While other students recovered fairly quickly, one student, identified only by the

tiple organ failure after 10 said. A high-school dropout, Wang had previously poisoned her husband with the same substance bought online two years ago. He survived with mild injuries.

While Wang's motivation was presented as revenge, it wasn't clear if she had intended to kill or merely sicken her husband and the students. She was initially sentenced to nine months in prison for deliberate harm, but the sentence was later converted to death. The court rejected Wang's appeal. She was taken to an execution ground and put to death. China is believed to exe-

cute more prisoners each year than the rest of the world com-



bined, although the actual figure is a state secret. Most sentences are carried out with a bullet to the back of the head. although lethal injection using mobile units has been employed in some cases.

Attacks on young students have become a disturbing trend in China in recent years, most carried out by knife-wielding assailants described as mental ly disturbed or bearing grudges against individuals or society.

gal in China, so knives and homemade explosives are primarily used in such attacks.

Ón Monday, a man with a knife killed six people and wounded one at a kindergarten in southeastern China.

A 25-year-old man was arrested following the 7:40 am attack in Lianjiang, a city in Guangdong province. A news outlet, Dafeng News, cited an unidentified witness as saying the attacker's child had been struck earlier by a car belonging to one of the people killed at the school. It also said one of the people killed was a teacher at the kindergarten, but other details were unclear.

The attacks have continued despite increased security presence at schools being ordered killed in 2010.2020, a school guard was accused of injuring people with a knife.

The violent crime rate in China's tightly controlled society remains relatively low, but some social scientists have blamed school attacks on the deficiencies of the health system in diagnosing and treating mental illness. With the formerly roaring economy slowing considerably, professional burnout and other economic factors are also beginning to come into play.

With a plunging birthrate and declining population, attacks on school children also take on an added weight, possibly accounting for the court's decision to sentence Wang to

New loan programme to help Pak stabilise ailing economy: IMF

said that the recently approved USD 3 billion loan programme will provide much-needed relief for Pakistan as it would anchor the cash-starved country's immediate efforts to stabilise its economy and ensure that the current balance of payments needs was fulfilled, a media report said on Fridav.

The Washington-based global lender signed a Stand-by Agreement with Pakistan at the end of June to provide the country with a short-term loan for a period of nine months. The IMF's executive board

formally approved the USD 3 billion bailout programme on Wednesday. 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, the IMF had said in a statement, adding that this amounts to about USD 3 billion, or 111 per

The programme was aimed at supporting the government's economic stabilisation plan and policies, with due protection for the most vulnerable, and providing a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral partners, the Dawn newspaper quoted IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack as saying. Earlier, on Thursday,

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that the IMF has transferred USD 1.2 billion to Pakistan. The remaining USD 1.8 billion would be handed over after two reviews in November and February. The IMF programme comes as a relief for the debttrapped nation and has strengthened the rupee and the stock market, the report said. The Dawn newspaper reported that the country's business community believed the approval of the nine-month arrangement would end a long-drawn-out period of economic uncertainty and

Pak PM launches USD 3.5bn nuclear energy project

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday launched the 1200-megawatt nuclear power plant being built with China's assistance in Punjab province which is seen as a sign of growing strategic cooperation between the two all-weather allies. Earlier, Prime Minister

Sharif had inked an agreement with China worth a whopping USD 3.5 billion under which Beijing would build the Chashma-V nuclear plant at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab. He had termed the nuclear

power plant agreement signing as a token of increasing economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and vowed to complete the project without any delay. "The Chashma-5 nuclear

energy project, which is by itself a huge milestone, a huge success story and a wonderful

cooperation to promote clean, efficient and comparatively cheaper energy is a gift of friendship between the two countries and a model for other countries to emulate," he He said that the new

power plant would be completed in the next seven to eight years, noting it would be a great favour to the people of Pakistan as the industrial and agriculture sectors consistently stress the need for cheaper and more efficient energy. The premier also expressed his gratitude to China for its longstanding

support saying, "Unless we mention the role of our great and most trusted friend China, the story will remain incom-Chashma power plants are considered a key in the pro-

duction of cheap nuclear

power. The installed capacity

of the existing four power

Singapore hotelier gets notice of arrest

Public Notice

Two other nuclear power plants are also operational in Pakistan. Karachi Nuclear Power Plants (KANUPP 2 & 3) have a capacity of 2,290. The prime minister on

according to the Pakistan

Atomic Energy Commission.

the occasion also spoke about the deal with the International Monetary Fund which averted the threat of default and highlighted the role of China in helping Pakistan in tackling the economic difficulties. 'The risk of potential

default has been completely averted through team efforts untiring efforts — from all the components of the government of Pakistan and all our institutions," he said. Sharif recalled that China rolled over more than USD 5 billion back to Pakistan in the past four months. "This is not a small contribution by a great friend at a time which was one of the most difficult times Pakistan

Southeast Asian nations renew alarm over Myanmar violence Pramudwinai told ASEAN

AP ■ JAKARTA

Southeast Asian foreign ministers renewed their alarm over - and condemnation of — air strikes, artillery shelling, and other acts of deadly violence in Myanmar, but struggled Friday to overcome differences on how to address the prolonged civil The Myanmar crisis was

high on the agenda when top diplomats of the Association of Tuesday and Wednesday in the parties, and the delivery of aid foreign minister Don

Indonesian capital of Jakarta. The 10-nation bloc includes Myanmar, but its foreign minister was again barred from attending this week's meetings due to the military government's failure to comply with a five-point emergency plan drafted to ease the violence. ASEAN has been trying to enforce the plan it forged with Myanmar's top general in 2021, which calls for an immediate end to the violence, the start of talks brokered by a spe-

to displaced villagers.

But Myanmar's military government has done little to enforce the plan, prompting ASEAN to ban its representatives from top-level meetings.

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed by the military government since it took power and more than 23,700 have been arrested, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a nongovernmental organisation that tracks killings and arrests.

counterparts that he met with ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kvi in detention over the weekend and that she encouraged dialogue to resolve the crisis gripping her nation.

Don is the only government official outside of Myanmar known to have met with Suu Kyi since she was detained along with other officials when the army seized power from her elected government on February 1, 2021. government authorised his legitimate leaders.

rare meeting with the democracy icon. ASEAN, however, did not authorise it. The regional bloc has been careful in taking steps that could be perceived as a recognition of the military government, which has been sanctioned by Western and European gov-

Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia are known to have taken a strong stand against any engagement that could be perceived as recognising

Singapore (PTI): Singapore Hotelier Ong Beng Seng has been issued a notice of arrest by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) and is cooperating with the anti-graft body to provide information in relation to his interactions with Transport Minister S Iswaran. Hotel Properties Limited said in a statement

to the Singapore Exchange at 7.30 am on Friday that no charges have been filed against Ong (77), who is the founder and managing director of the

Ong is known as the man who brought

over corruption probe involving minister Formula One to Singapore.

Race promoter Singapore GP, of which Ong is chairman, foots 40 per cent of the cost of staging the SGD135-million-night race. The Ministry of Trade and Industry and Singapore Tourism Board fund the remaining 60 per cent.

"He (Ong) will be traveling from July 14 and will be surrendering his passport to the CPIB upon his return to Singapore. He has been given notice of arrest and has posted bail of SGD100,000," The Straits Times reported, citing the statement.

'China has penetrated every sector, poses spy threat to UK'

China's size and ambition has enabled it to successfully penetrate every sector of the UK's economy, an influential parliamentary panel has said, warning that Beijing's national imperative continues to become a technological and economic superpower on which other countries are reliant, which represents the "greatest risk" to the UK. The House of Commons

Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) said in a wide-ranging report released on Thursday that the intelligence threat posed by China is compounded by a "whole-ofstate" approach with the use of state and non-state players for spying.
China's national imperative continues to be the dominance

and governance of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and at a global level, to become a technological and economic superpower on which other countries are reliant, which represents the "greatest risk" to the UK, it said. It cautioned that the level

of resources dedicated by the UK to tackling the threat posed by China's so-called "whole-ofstate" approach has been "completely inadequate". "Ćhina almost certainly maintains the largest state intel-

ligence apparatus in the world - dwarfing the UK's Intelligence Community and presenting a challenge for our agencies to cover," the report notes.

"As a result, our agencies'

targeted on

work has to be targeted on those aspects that are most damaging. However, the prob-



'whole-of-state' approach," it said. "In practice, this means that Chinese state-owned and non-state-owned companies, as well as academic and cultural establishments and ordinary Chinese citizens, are liable to be (willingly or unwillingly) co-opted into espionage and interference operations overseas: much of the impact that China has on national security is overt - through its economic might, its takeovers and mergers, its interaction with Academia and Industry – as opposed to the covert activity carried out by its intelligence

officers," it said. The ISC review is critical of the UK government approach, which until the pandemic readily accepted Chinese investments.

"China's size, ambition and capability have enabled it to successfully penetrate every sector of the UK's economy, and - until the Covid-19 pan-

readily accepted by HMG [His Majesty's Government] with few questions asked," it said.

China's ruthless targeting is not just economic: it is similarly aggressive in its interference activities, which it operates to advance its own interests, values and narrative at the expense of those of the West," The ISC called for tougher

action in the government's "robust" and "clear-eyed" approach to China, as it found that external experts believe it was singularly failing to deploy whole-of-government approach when countering the threat from China - "a damn-

If the Government is serious about tackling the threat from China, then it needs to ensure that it has its house in order such that security concerns are not constantly trumped by economic interest," the ISC said.

ing appraisal indeed".

70% child abuse victims from Jan-May in Pak's Punjab province are boys: Report

Lahore (PTI): Seventy per cent of child abuse victims in Pakistan's Punjab province during the first five months of 2023 were boys, an official report said on Friday. A report by the Punjab government's Home Department said that there has been a 'significant increase' in child abuse crime rate in the province of 120 million people, mostly against boys. During the first five months of this year, around 1,400 incidents of child abuse (rape) were reported in Puniab and of them 965 (70 per cent) victims were boys and 435 (30 per cent) girls, the report said.

It said that of the perpetrators facing trial in courts, 55 per cent are neighbours of the victims, 32 per cent are strangers, and 13 per cent are relatives.

"Child sexual abuse is influenced by a range of social factors in Pakistan, and patriarchal norms, power imbalances, poverty, illiteracy and social inequalities contribute to the vulnerability of the children," the Dawn newspaper said, citing the report. The report noted that a number of cases remain unreported due to fear and cultural taboos. Besides, the unwillingness of the parents to subject their children to the medico-legal process is also a deterrent in this connection. Lack of support from family members, friends and the community leads to the isolation of the victims, making them hesitant to share their experiences about the abuser. The victimblaming attitudes and a lack of awareness about child rights further compound the challenges faced in addressing and prevent-

ing this crime, the report said.

PUBLIC NOTICE The general public is hereby informed that M/s. The Building Solutions is a partnership firm which was reconstituted on 04th July, 2023 due to retirement of the partner Ms. Sunaina Singh. The said partner intends to retire from the partnership firm w.e.f 04th July, 2023 by virtue of a deed of retirement executed amongst us on 04th July, 2023. By this notice we M/s. The Building Solutions inform the public in general that, we (1) Vijay Kumar and (2) Sushil Kumar, are the only partners of M/s. The Building Solutions and who are having any transactions with the above said firm now and in further should contact us only.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That, Mr. Gaurav Bansal is seeking a loan from ICICI BANK LTD. the property bearing Entire Ground Floor & Entire First Floor with half roof rights of Property bearing No. 51, having area measuring 127.92 sq. meters (153 sq. yds.), part of Khasra No. 09 Killa No. 27 to 30, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Situated in the abadi of colony known as Shiv Purl, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi; Herein after referred to as the "said property". That (1) Mrs. Bina Gupta (wife), (2) Ms. Divya Gupta (daughter) & (3) Mr. Gaurav Bansal (son) is the legal heirs of libe Deceased Late Mr. Daular Ram Gupta. That there is no other legal heirs of the said persons. Now, I would like to ate Mr. Daulat Ram Gupta. That there is no other yeal heirs of the said persons. Now, I would like to nnounce to general public that any person who is aving any right, little or interest against that roperty/share or documents may come to our eithi Office within Ten days and render their claim thi documentary valid evidence. If any, else the ame would be treated as unclaimed and nrebutted and moved forth accordingly. M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES, LLP A-233, F.F., Shivailit, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116006

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Nighat Khatoon acquired the Residential Plot no 006, land area measuring 250 sq. mtrs. Block B Sector 108. Noida, District Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ultar Pradesh vide Transfer Deed dated 16.03.2023, Doc no. 1678 Above said owner have misplaced Doc no. 1878 Above said owner have misplaced the Original Lease Deed dated 30.12.2008 Doc No. 9545, SRO- Noida-II. Anyone who find the above said documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. 2nd floor Ambadeep Tower, Connaught Place, New Delhi, New Delhi 110001.Now, Mrs. Nighat Khatoon is intending to sell the above-said property to Mrs. Pramila Devi and Mrs. Babli Singh, and further Mrs. Pramila Devi and Mrs. Babli Singh, is mothacing the said property with Khalek and under Mrs. Pramila Devi and Mrs. Babil Single, is mortgaging the said property with Kotak Mahindra Bank & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawar/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 91 Floor, GD-TIL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818223636 (M).

www.verka.coop
e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-For Verka Bathinda Dairy
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Paneer
Milk Processing and manufacturing plant capacity 2 Tonne per shift.
For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy
Hiring of Diesel Car 01year, extendable for another one year/ 02 Half Yearly For Verka Patiala Dairy Rate Contract 1000 MT b) Leasing Out 02 no's of Verka Milkbooths situated at Civil Dispensary Tripuri, Patiala and Urban Estate Phase-2

For Verka Ludhiana Dairy

a) Pest control service and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, Lizards, rodent etc.

b) Supply, Testing & Commissioning of DG set Capacity One time purchase 02 no. 01 no. • 200 KVA Supply, Installation and Commissioning of time purchase GLC Machine
 RP-HPLC Machine 02 no. 01 no. Purchase of NDDB Adulteration Kit. One time purchase 900 no's e) Outsourcing the activity for preparation and serving of Food, Tea, in staff Canteen and Cleaning of Canteen and Utensils, For Verka Sangrur Dairy

a) For the design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of the steam generation system (Boiler)

b) For disposal off the unserviceable scrap material, machinery items etc. Annual Rate Contract As per NIT List rems etc.
 For design, supply, Erection, Installation and testing of the PCC and APFC panels. 01no For Verka Amritsar Dairy

a) Sealed tender for allotment of Verka Milk Booth through Draw
System at Sub Division Office Majitha & Primary Health Center b) Hiring of Vehicles for supplying of Milk Products in the Punjab and Other States. 01 and Other States.
c) Hiring of Vehicle for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products
Local Army 02 and Beas route 01.

For Verka Ferozepur Dairy
For supply of manpower Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled, High-Skilled & other categories & security personnals (Security Supervisor & Security Guards

For Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Ghania-Ke-Banger (Batala)
a) Hiring of Tankers for Transportation of Molasses
b) Wall/Shop painting in the state of Punjab Himchal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir(U.T). 03 Annual Rate Contract 2,00,000 Sqff Jammu & Kashmir(U.T). For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e

verka

Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

Incharge (Purchase)

*Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of my client, LICIC Bank Ltd., ("Bank"), that the original title deeds (hereinafter referred as "Lost Documents") listed herein below pertaining to the immovable property (More particularly described in "Schedule") of Mr. Ashish Kumar sto Teipal Singh rio M-Jol, Lifestyle Homes, 33A, Homes Avenue, Vatlka India Next, Gurgaon (Adhar-565815778060), which was kept with my client by way of security, have been misplaced from the custody of my client.

LOST DOCUMENTS

Conveyance deed dt. 13-12.2019 executed by VATIKA LTD (as VENDOR), in favour of Mr. Ashish Kumar & Mrs. Vishu Kuman (as VENDEE) duly registered with SRO-MANESAR as Document no. 7204 AND Deed of Apartment dt. 13-12.2019 executed by Mr. Ashish Kumar & Mrs. Vishu Kuman dty registered with SRO-MANESAR as Document no. 7205 in respect of Property, as mentioned in Schedule Below.

ADD AND SAR AS DOCUMENT OF A STANDAR OF

VIPUL KR. RAHEJA (Advocate) Chamber no. 55, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Mob-9873150663

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (S.D.) BELAPUR
AT BELAPUR
M.A. NO. 1375 of 2023
SMT. NEERA MAMPA

Aged about 62 years, Occ: House wife, Residing at 2154, Sector-D, Pocket-2, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070.Applica Vs 1. MR. MANINDER SINGH M. BATRA, Aged about 36 years, Occ. Service, Residing at 2154, Sector-D, Pocket-2, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 2. MR. NAMAN SINGH M. BATRA,

Aged about 31 years, Occ: Service, Residing at 2154, Sector-D, Pocket-2, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 Delhi-110070Opponents
Whereas the husband of the Applicant LATE Mr.
MANDEEP SINGH BATRA expired intestate on
10/10/2021 at Sector-D, Vasant Kunj, South West
Delhi, leaving behind Applicant and his heirs, legal
representative of his estate. The Applicant SMT.
NEERA MANDEEP BATRA is the wife of LATE Mr.
MANDEEP SINGH BATRA. The details of

mmovable SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY APILIFIAN NO. 102 on 1st Floor Building Known as 'NAYANTARA HILLS" Plot No. 159 Sector-44 area admeasuring about 97.12 Sq. Mtr. Built up, Village Karave, (G.E.S.) Seawood, Nerul, Nav Mumbal, Taluka & District Thane.

Mumbai, Taluka & District Thane.

Whereas the Applicant has made an application for Heirship Certificate in respect of the shares of above said flat/property of the Deceased in the court. If anybody has objection pertaining of title, rights and intersect in the all above said Flats/immovable property, then such objection should be raised in witting either by appearing personally or through his representative in the court, within 30 days from the date of issuance of this notice. Else the court will issue Heirship this notice. Else the court will issue Heirship Certificate in respect of the said flat/property in the Filed in the Thane court This 13 day of July 2023

Court

Sensex closes above 66,0000-mark NCLAT sets aside RIL order

Achieves feat for first time, Nifty settles at new record high

 $B_{\text{closed above the historic}}^{\text{enchmark BSE Sensex}}$ 66,000 mark for the first time while NSE Nifty hit a new alltime closing high on Friday driven by heavy buying in IT counters and fresh foreign fund

Optimism in global equity markets also helped the local markets maintain their winning momentum for a second

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 502.01 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at its new alltime closing high of 66,060.90. During the day, it rallied 600.9 points or 0.91 per cent to hit its



all-time intra-day peak of

The NSE Nifty went up by 150.75 points or 0.78 per cent to end at a new record high of 19,564.50. During the day, it reached its lifetime intra-day peak of 19,595.35, registering a jump of 181.6 points or 0.93

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services jumped over 5 per cent and Tech Mahindra rallied 4.51 per cent. Infosys, HCL Technologies,

Wipro, Tata Steel, Nestle, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever were also

among the major gainers. On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Titan, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, NTPC and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

The controlled inflation in the US has instilled optimism among investors that a 25-bps rate hike would be adequate to stabilise the US economy. This improved prospect has conIndian IT stocks despite muted Q1 earnings. "Furthermore, the broad-

tributed to the strong buying of

based rally in the domestic market was supported by India's consecutive third-month decrease in wholesale prices, along with the positive involve-ment of FIIs," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said that benchmark indices settled at their fresh record closing highs on Friday on gains led by shares of IT Positive global cues, amid

expectations that the US

Federal Reserve may pause rate hikes after July, also gave a fillip to domestic markets, he In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.14 per cent and midcap index jumped 1 per cent.

Among the indices, IT zoomed 4.30 per cent, teck

(1.37 per cent), realty (1.19 per cent), services (1.14 per cent) telecommunication (1.08 per cent) and commodities (0.81 per cent).

Utilities, consumer durables and power were the laggards. A total of 2,206 stocks

advanced while 1,212 declined and 149 remained unchanged. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading mostly with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. The wholesale price-based

inflation rate declined to (-) 4.12 per cent in June on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,237.93 crore after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

NCLT had directed RIL for stakeholders nod for transfer of RPPMSL's Digital EPC assets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday set aside the order of NCLT, which had directed RIL to get stakeholders' consent for the transfer of the Digital EPC Company on a going concern basis from RPPMSL into the company.

The NCLAT said the transfer of Digital EPC Undertaking from the wholly-owned subsidiary RPPMSL (of RIL) into the parent/transferee company RIL by way of the demerger is akin to the merger of the wholly-owned subsidiary with the parent company RIL.

"We set aside the Impugned Order dated 11.5.2023 and direct that the convening and holding of of Equity meetings Shareholders, Secured and Unsecured Creditors of the Appellant Company RIL is disATIONAL COMPANY LAV

pensed with and further consent affidavits of 90% of the total value of shareholders and secured creditors and all unsecured creditors will not be necessary at this stage," said NCLAT.

It further said: "The appeal is allowed and disposed of accordingly'

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on June 6, 2023, directed RIL to obtain consent affidavits of at least 90 per cent of the value of total secured creditors and equity

shareholders or to hold the meeting before the final hearing in view of huge credit exposure.

NCLT also directed RIL to serve notice to all their respective creditors with instructions that they may submit their representations before it within 30 days.

This was challenged by RIL before the appellate tribunal contending that RPPM-SL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL and accordingly no consideration is pro-posed to be paid by RIL to RPPMSL upon implementation of the Scheme.

The Scheme does not involve the issue of shares by RIL, it said.

Equity Shareholders of the RIL will not be impacted as there will be no dilution of their shareholding in RIL postimplementation of the Scheme,

Exports decline by 22% to USD 32.97 bn in June, steepest monthly fall in 3 years

India's exports contracted by 22 per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to USD 32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe.

According to the data of the commerce ministry, the trade deficit in June stood at USD 20.3 billion against USD 22.07 billion in the same month last year due to a fall in exports and

The inbound shipments during the month under review declined by a steep 17.48 per cent to USD 53.10 billion.

Exports in May 2020 contracted by 36.47 per cent when the world was reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pan-

Commenting on the numbers, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said trade sector growth is in the hands of global factors.

As the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has projected a slowdown in world trade, "that fear is coming true", he added.

Citing reasons for the dip in trade growth, he said there is a slowdown in major economies, including the US and Europe; and inflationary



He also attributed the slowdown to the tightening of monetary policies by the rich nations as it is affecting man-

ufacturing and businesses. Export promotion councils

are expecting the demand to pick up in the coming months. "From July, there should be pick up," the secretary said.

dipped by 15.13 per cent to

However, gold imports in June rose 82.38 per cent to about USD 5 billion, while it dipped by 7.54 per cent to USD Cumulatively, exports billion in the April-June

USD 43.4 billion.

to USD 160.28 billion.

Oil imports in June con-

tracted by 33.8 per cent to USD

12.54 billion, while during the

April-June quarter, the ship-

ments slipped 18.52 per cent to

period last year.

April-June this fiscal. Imports India's trade performance, after witnessing "very high" growth in 2022-23, has shown declintoo declined by 12.67 per cent The trade deficit during ing trends compared to the April-June 2023 improved by high base of last year in the 7.9 pc to USD 57.6 billion from backdrop of a global slow-USD 62.6 billion in the same

As per the World Bank Global Economic Prospects report (June 2023), the global economy is set to slow substantially in 2023 to 2.1 per cent after growing at 3.1 per cent last

On the exports front, 21 of the 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in June. These include petroleum products, plastic, ready-made garments of all textiles, engineering, chemicals, gems and jewellery, leather and marine. However, exports of elec-

tronic goods increased by 45.36 per cent in June to USD 2.43 billion. During April-June 2023, these exports rose by 47 per cent to USD 6.96 billion.

Silver imports slumped by 94.36 per cent from USD 0.79 billion in the month under review.

According to the data, imports from Russia jumped to USD 16 billion during April-June this fiscal from USD 6.91 billion in the same period last

Imports from Switzerland rose to USD 5 billion during April-June this fiscal from USD 4.11 billion in the same period last year.

However, the imports from China dipped to USD 23.6 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal as compared to USD 24.31 billion in April-June

The inbound shipments from the UAE too declined to USD 10.31 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal as compared to USD 13.55 billion in April-June 2022.

On the export front, the country's shipments have recorded positive growth in the Netherlands, the UK, and Saudi Arabia. It declined to China, UAE, USA, Germany, Italy and

Wholesale inflation falls to 8-yr low of (-) 4.12% in June

 $T^{\text{he deflation in the wholesale price continued for the third month in a row in}}$ June, with WPI contracting to a nearly eight-year low at (-) 4.12 per cent on account falling prices of food products, fuel and basic metals, according to official data released on Friday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at (-) 3.48 per cent in May and at The lowest WPI was recorded at (-) 4.76 per cent in October

The decline in WPI is in contrast with June retail inflation which inched up to 4.8 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent

"The decline in the rate of inflation in June 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of mineral oils, food products, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas and textiles," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release

As per the data, the index for fuel and power contracted by 12.63 per cent in June, primary articles by 2.87 per cent, and manufactured products



by 2.71 per cent. The food index shrank by

1.24 per cent. In June, the prices of nonfood articles compared to May contracted by 2.40 per cent, crude petroleum and natural gas by 3.01 per cent, and min-

erals by 4.32 per cent. Also, prices of mineral oils (-2.30 per cent) and electricitv (- 2.96 per cent) declined in

June on a sequential basis. Regarding manufactured

products, the release said 11 groups witnessed a decrease in prices while 9 groups saw an increase in prices in June.

The decrease in prices was mainly due to basic metals; chemical and chemical products; textiles; rubber and plastic products; and paper and paper products, among others.

Some of the groups that witnessed an increase in prices include tobacco products; computer, electronic and

India, UK working to iron out issues on IPRs, rules of origin under proposed FTA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UK are working to iron out differences on issues like intellectual property rights (IPRs) and rules of origin under the free trade agreement being negotiated by the two countries, a top govern-ment official said on Friday.

The 11th round of talks is underway in the UK for the agreement. Negotiations for the trade agreement started in

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that out of 26 chapters in the agreement, 14 have been closed. In five chapters there are certain important contentious issues pertaining to environment, labour, and dig-

This agreement is the "most complex" one which will be going to be signed by India, he told reporters here.

"UK will be the first with which we are going to have a comprehensive FTA which we have not signed with any other developed country as such," he added.

There are some differences with respect to IPR and rules of origin (ROO).

announced the largest number

ever of mineral blocks for auc-

tion. The state has issued

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

for auction of a record number

of 51 mineral blocks on July

minerals including strategic

and critical minerals like

graphite and vanadium, plat-

inum group of elements (PGE)

and also other major minerals

such as manganese, bauxite,

limestone, iron ore, base metal

13 blocks are for mining

The 51 blocks comprise 14

14th," it said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MP puts 51 blocks on

auctions including 14

of critical minerals



"In services also, there are few issues...So we are working on those issues. Hopefully, we will be able to close it and move," he added.

The 'rules of origin' provision prescribes minimal processing that should happen in the FTA country so that the final manufactured product may be called originating goods in that country.

Under this provision, a country that has inked an FTA with India cannot dump goods from some third country in the Indian market by just putting a label on it. It has to undertake a prescribed value addition in

that product to export to India. Rules of origin norms help con-

tain dumping of goods. The commerce ministry has recently stated that the India-UK talks for a free trade agreement have reached a "critical stage".

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was in London from July 10-12 for the FTA Talks.

The negotiations between the two countries for the agreement cover as many as 26 policy areas/chapters. Investment is being negotiated as a separate agreement (bilateral investment treaty) between India and the UK and it would be concluded simultaneously with the free trade agreement.

The two countries last year missed the deadline due to unprecedented economic and political crises in the UK.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals in the UK market and entry of Indian whiskey by removal of conditions pertaining to the threeyear minimum maturation a significant cut in the import duties on Scotch whisky. Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services into the Indian markets.

The bilateral trade between the countries has increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23 from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-22.

India's main exports to the UK are ready-made garments and textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, petroleum and petrochemical products, transport equipment, spices, machinery and instruments, pharmaceuticals and marine products.

The main imports include precious and semi-precious

stones, ores and metal scraps, engineering goods, professional instruments other than electronics, chemicals and machin-

In the services sector, the UK is the largest market in

Europe for Indian IT services. In the field of investment, the UK is one of the top investors in India. In 2022-23, India received USD 1.74 billion in foreign direct investment from Britain as against USD April 2000 and March 2023, the investments stood at USD 33.9

Under such pacts, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing norms to promote trade in services and

investments. Britain, which has a USD 3.1 trillion economy according to World Bank data, has long been a service sector powerhouse. The city of London, which is one of the world's biggest financial markets, has also long attracted Indian companies seeking to raise funds from the global market.

SRM-Cognavi join to transform talent acquisition with Al



PNS CHENNAI

ognavi India, a subsidiary Cof Forum Engineering, a pioneer in new human resource services in Japan, uses AI to match the skills of engineers with job types, joins hands with India's leading Education and Consulting Group, SRM, to disrupt the e-recruitment process, with the launch of the Artificial Intelligence powered Job Portal in India.

In an event in Chennai Cognavi announced the launch of the Job Portal in India last month that aims to redefine the recruitment process by offering a unique AI based solution that connects Job Seekers directly with Companies, based on their skills and characteristics.

India's forex reserves rise USD 1.23 billion to USD 596.28 billion

ndia's foreign exchange Lreserves jumped USD 1.229 billion to USD 596.28 billion in the week ended July 7, the Reserve Bank of India said on

In the previous reporting week, the overall forex reserves increased USD 1.85 billion to USD 595.05 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended July 7,

the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 989 million to USD 528.968 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms,



include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were up USD 228 million to USD 44.06

billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down USD

4 million to USD 18.235 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF was up USD 15 million to USD 5.017 billion in the reporting week, as per



composite licence," it said.

While mining lease is given for mines with proven reserves, composite licence for mines where some level of exploration is needed.

Madhya Pradesh auctioned 29 blocks in 2022-23. Since the introduction of the auction process in 2015, the state has notified 125 mineral blocks for auction, of which 46 have been successfully auctioned. "Bihar, West Bengal

Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Kerala have not auctioned any blocks since 2015," the ministry said.

FM says no income tax for people earning up to ₹7.27 LPA under new tax regime

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the Narendra Modi government has provided several tax benefits to middle class people, including income tax exemption for those earnings up to Rs 7.27 lakh per annum.

Asserting that no section of the society has been left out by the government, she mentioned about skepticism in certain quarters when it was decided to provide income tax exemption for those earnings up to Rs 7 lakh in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

The skepticism was about what will happen to those earnings little more than Rs 7 lakh, she noted.

"So, we sat as a team and went into the details (to find out) at what stage you pay tax for every additional Re 1 you earn... (for instance) for Rs 7.27 lakh, you don't pay any tax now. It is only at Rs 27,000 that the break even comes. After that you start paying tax.



grievance was that there was no standard deduction. It is given now. We have brought in the simplicity in the paying rate and the compliance side," Sitharaman said.

Speaking about the achievements of the government, she said the total budget for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has increased to Rs 22,138 crore for 2023-24 compared to Rs 3,185 crore in 2013-14.

This is a jump in budgetary allocation by almost

seven times in nine years, symbolising the government's unwavering commitment to empower MSME sector, she Under the 'Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises' scheme, she said 33 per cent of the total procurement made by 158

ever till date. "We launched the TReDS platform (Trade Receivables Discounting System) so that the MSMEs and other corporations do not have to face any liquidity crunch due to nonpayment by their buyer," she

Central Public Sector

Enterprises has been from

MSMEs and that is the highest

Sitharaman said the ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) has enabled MSME businesses to reach out to a larger potential customer base and added that the world appreciates that India has set up a public platform comparable to the 'Amazons of



DJOKOVIC INTO 9TH WIMBLEDON FINAL

ovak Djokovic powered into his ninth Wimbledon final as the fiery defending champion feuded with the umpire and spectators before beating Jannik Sinner to reach a record 35th Grand Slam singles title match on

Diokovic was in combative mood during a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) semi-final victory that moved him closer to a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title.

The 36-year-old faces world number one Carlos Alcaraz or Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev in his fifth successive Wimbledon final on Sunday

"Semi-finals are always going to be very intense. Maybe the scoreline doesn't give the reality of what happened on court. It was super close," Djokovic said

On his row with umpire Richard Haigh, who stripped him of a point after he made a loud yell in the middle of a rally, Djokovic said: "The hindrance could have changed the course of the match. I felt nervous after that call, but I managed to re-

"Ît's probably the first time it's happened to me, I don't normally have extended grunts. Maybe it was an echo in the roof."

The Serb will tie Roger Federer's eight Wimbledon crowns if he wins a fifth consecutive title on the All England Club grass.

Djokovic's latest milestone — his record 35th Grand Slam final — took him past American legend Chris Evert, but he has an even more significant feat in his sights on Sunday.

With 23 Grand Slam singles titles to his name, the world number two is aiming to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24



Djokovic has already won this season's Australian Open and French Open as he chases an astonishing clean-sweep of all four Grand Slam events in a single year, with the US Open to come

"I feel 36 is the new 26, it feels pretty good. I feel a lot of motivation," he said of his longevity.

"This sport has given me and my family a lot. I will return a favour to this sport and play as much Italian eighth seed Sinner, 21, came close to a

shock victory over Djokovic in the Wimbledon quarter-finals last year before the Serb came from two sets down to win. This time it was Djokovic who held sway from

the start as he took the first set with ease. After breaking in the third game of the sec-

ond set, Djokovic found himself in trouble with

The British official took a point from Djokovic in the fourth game, ruling he made a distracting noise after his shot and just before Sinner was about

Clearly furious, Djokovic stormed over to the official to ask "what are you doing?". Haigh irked Djokovic again moments later,

warning him for taking too long to serve as the Serb shook his head in disbelief. But Djokovic recovered his equilibrium to win

the second set with ruthless efficiency.

After saving two set points in the third set, Djokovic responded to the crowd's vocal support for Sinner by making a sarcastic crying gesture towards the stands.

Djokovic had the last laugh on his tormentors as he won the third set tie-break to clinch a victory that moved him to the brink of more history.

Jabeur hopes for third time lucky at Wimbledon

AP LONDON

Ons Jabeur hopes it will be third time lucky when she attempts to become the first African or Arab woman to win a Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon on Saturday.

The 28-year-old Tunisian takes on Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic, hoping to go one better than last year when she was defeated by Elena Rybakina in the final at the All England Club and lost to world number one Iga Swiatek at the US Open later in the year.

Unlike her two final losses at the majors, this time world number six Jabeur will start as the favourite against the lefthanded Vondrousova, the first unseeded woman in the Wimbledon final in 60 years.

She has had a tough run to Saturday's championship match, beating two-time former winner Petra Kvitova in the last 16, third seed Rybakina in the quarterfinal and then coming from a set down to knock out secondranked Aryna Sabalenka in the

By doing so she became the first woman to defeat three top 10 players at Wimbledon since Serena Williams in 2012.

But she said she could not afford to take her eye off the ball on Saturday, even though she is taking on a player far lower down the rankings at 42 in the "I think a final is a final,"

Jabeur said. "You're playing someone, Grand Slam champion or not. I think it's going to be very difficult.

"It can happen for both. Whoever could handle more the emotions, whoever could be more ready on the court, will definitely win that match.

"I want to make my path worth it, winning against all these Grand Slam champions to be in the final. Yeah, I'm going full in, and hopefully this time it will work.'

Only six women have lost all



finals, although two of those — Chris Evert and Kim Clijsters ually made up for lost

Jabeur has form on her side for Saturday, with a tour-best 28 wins on grass since 2021 matching the run of former Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova between 2004 and

However, Jabeur has lost twice in 2023 to Vondrousova, in the second round of the Australian Open and third round in Miami. "I'm going for my revenge.

I didn't win against her this year. She has good hands. She plays very good," said Jabeur of an opponent who is appearing in her second Slam final after finishing runner-up at the 2019 French Open.

Vondrousova, whose run at Wimbledon has guaranteed her a return to the world's top 20 next week, was an injured bystander at the tournament in 2022, reduced to watching a

three of their first Grand Slam friend attempt to qualify for the main draw.

> A second wrist surgery had although her absence from the tour at least allowed her the space and time to get married.

> She is the second-lowest ranked player to reach the Wimbledon final — only Serena Williams in 2018 was ranked

Like Jabeur, the 24-year-old Czech has had to battle hard to make the final. She defeated four seeds in succession just to make the semi-finals by seeing off Veronika Kudermetova, Donna Vekic, Marie Bouzkova and Jessica Pegula.

Against fourth-ranked Pegula of the United States, she was 1-4 down in the final set.

In Thursday's semi-final, she swept past crowd favourite Elina Svitolina of Ukraine in two comfortable sets.

"For me, it's really crazy this is happening. But I think anything can happen in tennis," she



Spotlight on Vinesh in **Budapest Ranking Series**

PTI BUDAPEST

Vinesh Phogat's performance will be followed keenly at the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial here on Saturday as she is set to return to competitive wrestling after a 10-month gap during which she also spearheaded the protest against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Vinesh and five other women wrestlers, including Sangeeta Phogat, have accused Singh of sexually abusing them.

The Delhi police has filed a chargesheet in the case against BJP MP. The last time Vinesh competed was in September 2022 when she won a bronze at the World Championships in Budapest. However, she has entered the 55kg competition in the last UWW Ranking Series of the season instead of her usual 53kg division.

The 55kg category consists of 11 wrestlers as against 22 in 53kg division, which features strong grapplers such as Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Qianyu Pang of China, 2021 world

championships bronze medallist Katarzyna Krawczyk from Poland and Tokyo Games bronze medallist Bólortuya Bat Ochir of Mongolia among oth-

Vinesh will open her cam-paign with a qualification round against Areana Louise Villaescusa of the USA and if she crosses the first hurdle the Indian will be up against Li Deng of China in the quarterfinals. Sangeeta Phogat will be India's lone contender in the 59kg and will open her campaign against Jennifer Page Rogers of the USA.

59kg), Sujeet (men's 65kg), and Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar (87kg) were scheduled to compete initially but later withdrew from the tournament. The six protesting wrestlers

had sought time till August 10 to prepare for the Asian Games trials, saying they are not in best physical shape to appear in trials due to their protest. The IOA ad-hoc panel will

conduct the trials on June 22-23 but it is unclear if the six protesting wrestlers will appear or not.

Sindhu, Sen enter US Open quarterfinals, Sankar too win Sindhu dashed any hope of a



PTI ■ COUNCIL BLUFFS

Star Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up straight game wins to progress to the women's and men's singles quarterfinals of the US Open Super 300 badminton

tournament here.
Double Olympic medallist
Sindhu, seeded third, defeated Korea's Sung Shuo Yun 21-14 21-12. Fresh from his Canada Open Super 500 title last week, Sen beat Czech Republic's Jan

Sindhu will face China's Gao Fang Jie next, while it will be an all-Indian clash in men's singles when third seed Sen takes on promising 19-year-old S Sankar Muthusamy from Chennai. It has been an impressive

run for the 2022 World Junior Championships silver medalist who registered a fighting 21-18 21-23 21-13 win over Israel's Misha Zilberman.

Sindhu didn't break much sweat against Sung, who couldn't pose any real challenge to the Indian during the match. Sindhu jumped to a 7-2 lead early on before extending it to 13-5.

Sung managed to narrow down the deficit to 11-14 but

much ado. Sen too blazed his way to a 6-1 lead and then jumped to 17-

5 in a jiffy to take it away from his opponent in the opening game. The 39-year-old Czech, however, madé a remarkable comeback in the second game, making life tough for Sen.

comeback, keeping a grip on the rallies to eventually earn the

bragging rights.

After the change of sides,

Sung started to match up to the Indian initially as she had a slen-

der 5-3 lead but it soon evapo-

rated with Sindhu breaking off

a 11-8 lead and she kept mov-

ing ahead as Sung crumbled.

From 16-12, Sindhu reeled off

the remaining points without

At the interval, Sindhu had

from 7-7 to march ahead.

India's campaign ends at Badminton Asia Junior C'ships

Championships came to an end as two girls' singles players and one girls' doubles pair lost in the round of 16 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on

In the girls' doubles pre-quarter final match, Taneesha and Karnika displayed a tough fight against the duo of Chen Fan Shu Tian and Jiang Pei Xi from China.

The Indian pair started off brilliantly in the first game and showed great coordination

en route to their 21-17 victory but their opponents mounted a India's campaign at the comeback in the last two games match that lasted 50 minutes.

In the girls' singles round of 16 match, Rakshitha Sree S was up against China's Huang Lin Ran. The Indian shuttler started well but could not find sustained rhythm throughout the match before eventually losing 15-21, 13-21.

In the other girls' singles pre-quarter final match, Tara Shah failed to find any momentum and went down 13-21, 8-21 against China's XU Wen Jing in a one-sided affair.

Barca, Man Utd fined by UEFA over financial breaches

 $B^{\text{arcelona}}_{\text{United were among the clubs}} \\ \text{fined by UEFA on Friday for} \\$ breaches of financial fair play (FFP) regulations during the 2022/23 season. United were fined 300,000 euros (\$335,000) for failing to meet the break-even requirement that attempts to limit the losses made by clubs.

Spanish champions Barcelona were hit with a 500,000 euro

sanction for including profits from sales of intangible assets, which are not relevant income under the regulations, to balance their books. FFP rules, which were introduced in 2010, have allowed clubs to report losses of

no more than 30 million euros

over a three-year period. Last season was the final year those regulations will be used by UEFA before new

licensing and sustainability reg-

ulations are eased in over the

Champions League finalists Inter Milan, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Monaco, Roma and Marseille escaped sanction after meeting targets set by a UEFA settlement agreement.

Moyes says West Ham 'can't plan | Arsenal swoop for Dutch defender Timber anything' as Rice move drags on

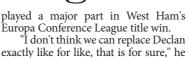
 $F^{\rm rustrated~West~Ham~coach~David}_{\rm Moyes~has~lamented~Declan~Rice's}$ drawn-out move to Arsenal, saying Friday he "can't plan anything" until the captain's transfer is done.

A £105 million (\$140 million) deal for the England international midfielder was agreed with Arsenal 10 days ago but he is still officially a West Ham player. Rice is not though part of West Ham's touring squad to Australia for pre-season

friendlies against Perth Glory and Tottenham Hotspur. The Premier League season kicks off in a month.

"Everybody knows the situation. We

"Until it's done we can't plan anything really," Moyes told reporters in Perth ahead of West Ham's friendly against Perth Glory on Saturday. are expecting something to happen.' Moyes remained coy over possible replacements for the influential Rice, who



"We will add to the squad. We won't be giving any thoughts or any names or anything like that.

With Rice and several other star play ers absent, West Ham boasts a youthful squad in Perth in the club's first outing since their European triumph over

'We're still buzzing... there are fantastic memories that won't fade away quickly. But we've also moved on and preparing for the next round of games," said Moves, whose job was under threat last season with West Ham near the Premier League's relegation zone. 'We don't have all of our internation-

al players with us due to a late finish and

international games so it's a great oppor-

tunity for some young players and the

players we have with us now.

AP ■ LONDON

rsenal announced the sign-Aing of Dutch international defender Jurrien Timber from Ajax on Friday as the Gunners continue to strengthen for a Premier League title challenge.

The 22-year-old will cost an initial 40 million euros (\$45 million, £34 million) with a further five million euros worth of add-ons, Ajax confirmed in a

statement. Timber won two Eredivisie titles in 121 appearances for Ajax and was part of the Netherlands squad that reached the quarter-finals of last year's World Cup.

He can operate at both centre-back and right-back and will bring added depth to an Arsenal defence that struggled to cope with injuries to William Saliba and Takehiro Tomiyasu towards the end of last season.

Leipzig sign striker **Openda from Lens**

AP ■ LEIPZIG

 $B^{\text{undesliga club RB Leipzig}}_{\text{on Friday bought Belgian}}$ striker Lois Openda from French club Lens. The Bundesliga team said on their website that the 23-year-old Belgium international had signed a five year contract and that "the transfer fee did not exceed the limits we had set for ourselves.'

Lens said it was a "record

club it was a record for. The 23-year-old joined Lens from Club Brugge for

fee", but did not specify which

around 10 million euros last summer. He scored 21 goals, a club record in Ligue 1, as Lens finished second behind Paris Saint-Germain. Openda replaces French-

man Christopher Nkunku at

Leipzig, who moved to Chelsea

after finishing last season as joint-top scorer in the Bundesliga with 16 goals. I can't wait to start, and to see the

"We're really excited that Jurrien has joined us," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "He fans obviously in the stadium," said Timber. "I just like the way is a versatile young defender, who Arsenal play, it's a bit similar to Ajax's style and I like to play from will fit into our system and provide our squad with so much the back. I can see a lot of simiadded quality." "I'm excited to larities, especially in the way play for this beautiful club, and Arsenal and Ajax want to play."

INDIA EXTEND LEAD TO 250 RUNS

ashasvi Jaiswal became only the third Indian to score 150 on debut while Virat Kohli had to toil for a halfcentury as the visitors reached 400 for four at lunch on day three of the first Test against the West Indies here.

Resuming the day at 312 for two, India managed 88 runs in 29 overs in the morning session for loss of Jaiswal (171) and Ajinkya Rahane (3). The away team, which is looking to bat West Indies out of the game, extended its first innings lead to 250

The Indian batters had to work for their runs on a slow pitch offering a lot of turn and a heavy outfield. Kohli (71 not out off 170) celebrating after hitting a rare boundary was proof of that.

Jaiswal, who made a dream hundred on debut on Thursday, started with a crisp straight drive off Jason Holder. Left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican opened the bowling alongside Holder and instantly created issues for Kohli.

The former India skipper got a life when he was on dropped on 40 by West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite. Kohli went for a drive off Warrican and Brathwaite ended up grassing an easy chance at cover.

At the other end, Jaiswal stepped out to Warrican and dispatched him for a straight six. He became the third Indian to reach 150 on debut with a single, matching the feats of Shikhar Dhawan (187) and Rohit Sharma (177).

A double hundred was in the offing for Jaiswal but it wasn't to be as he edged one

that angled away from Alzarri Joseph. Soon after Rahane, who had a good opportunity to make a big impact, attempted a drive on the up on a slow pitch off Kemar Roach and ended up offering a simple catch at cover.

Ravindra Jadeja (21 off 52) joined Kohli in the middle and they ended up forging an unbeaten 44-run stand.

With Rahkeem Cornwall not allowed to bowl, the West Indies offered some easy boundaries to India towards the end of the



Delighted to score his maiden century on debut, Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal said this is just the "start" and revealed how skipper Rohit Sharma's words ahead of the opening Test inspired him to do well.

The 21-year-old lived up to the expectations with a record-breaking century on debut as he was batting on 143 at close on day two.

"This is just the start of my career...
Koshish yeh karoonga ki main kitna lamba leke jaa sakta hoon (My effort will be to see how far would I be able to take it from here),"
Jaiswal said in the post-match media interaction.

Jaiswal reached the century in 215 balls with Rohit playing a big support as the newest opening pair for India put together 229 runs.

It was also the highest opening partner-ship for India against the West Indies in Tests, overtaking the 159-run stand between Virender Sehwag and Wasim Jaffer in 2006 Gros Islet Test.

We spoke a lot. All the time, he (Rohit bhai) kept telling me from where do I get my runs from, and how to negotiate the bowlers,

"Before the game also there was a lot of discussion. He told me 'you have to do it, you are the only person', I kept thinking about that and how I can get my runs. I've learnt a lot from this game, hope to continue." "It makes a big difference when your leg-

end players in the team talk to you, I try to pick their brains. We (Rohit bhai and I) had a good communication going."

Jaiswal also became the highest runget-

ter for India on Test debut outside Asia, surpassing Sourav Ganguly (131 vs England, Lord's) "Of course, it was very emotional for me

and my family, this is to everyone who supported me through thick and thin. It's been a long journey. I want to thank everyone who helped me at some point of time," he said.

"It feels great. It was an emotional moment, I enjoyed it a lot, I'm still unbeat-

en, will try to keep playing.'

"I want to dedicate this to my parents who have played a big role in my life and God is also there. I don't want to talk much. It's just the start, I just want to keep going from here."

India's tour of

South Africa to begin on Dec 10

PTI NEW DELHI

ndia's next tour of South Africa will begin on December 10 with a three-match T20 series, which will be followed by three ODIs and two Tests, the BCCI and CSA announced on Friday. While the opening match will held at Durban, the second and third T20 Internationals will take place on December 12 and 14 in Gqeberha and Johannes-

burg respectively.

Johannesburg will also play host to the opening ODI of the three-match series on December 17, followed by matches on December 19 and 21 in Gqeberha and Paarl respectively. The Test matches, called the Freedom Series for Gandhi-Mandela Trophy, will be played in Centurion and Cape Town from December 26-30 and January 3-7 respec-

tively.
"The Freedom Series is significant not just because it features two excellent Test teams, but also because it honours Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, two great leaders who shaped our respective nations, and the world around them," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement issued by both the

He added, "The Boxing Day Test and the New Year Test are amongst the most important fixtures on the international cricket calendar and the schedule has been planned particularly around these marquee dates.' The last time India played a

Test series in South Africa, in 2021-22, they lost 1-2 following which former captain Virat Kohli unexpectedly stepped down from the post, paving the way for Rohit Sharma to take over the reins

While India began the last tour with a 113-run victory in the opening Test at Centurion, they lost the next two Tests before being blanked 0-3 in the

MLC makes big hitting start

AP DALLAS

Major League Cricket got underway in Texas on Thursday, and the most serious attempt yet to establish a domestic competition in the United States provided all the ingredients of a modern T20 league. Fans at the purpose built

cricket stadium, just a 15-minute drive from Dallas Fort Worth airport, were decked out in the vellow shirts of the victorious home side, the Texas Super Kings, and were treated to the familiar sight of big sixes and non-stop action.

The Super Kings won by 69 runs after making 181 for six and then bowling out the Los Angeles Knight Riders for 112.

Any concerns that cricket in America might not be the real deal vanished when the action got under way and the crowd began cheering the big hitting of the home team.

The stadium previously belonged to the now defunct Texas Airhogs minor league

baseball club, but since taking over the venue, MLC has spent over \$20 million making it cricket-specific

For viewers watching the TV broadcast, it would have been hard to tell the difference between MLC and the other T20 tournaments that have sprung up around the world.

With international players competing alongside domestic talent from the USA national team, the standard of play was clearly professional and the field and wicket looked up to scratch. Texas' South African bowler

Rusty Theron was taken aback by the success of the opening game. "I am actually a little bit emotional, to be honest. This is such a grand event. There was an unbelievable atmosphere and I want to thank each and every individual who has come out here," he said.

Super Kings batsman David Miller, who was awarded Player of the Match, for his hard-hitting 61 from 42 balls, including four sixes, was also impressed.

AP ■ GALLE

 $P_{\text{Shaheen Shah Afridi will}}^{\text{akistan strike bowler}}$ seek to take his 100th Test wicket in the first Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Sunday, a year after he was injured at the same ground.

Shaheen was on 99 Test wickets when he was injured landing awkwardly at the boundary line trying to stop the ball, and it will be his first outing in the long form of the game since then

"Injuries are a part of an athlete's life, but it is good to be back," he said at the end of Pakistan's two-day warm-up fixture against a Sri Lanka

Cricket President's XI, which ended in a draw at Hambantota.

The century of Test wickets "would be a big achievement for me" and he has had an extended wait to reach the milestone, he added. "It's tough to be away from cricket, but time has helped me learn a lot." The two sides are both shadows of the Test powers they once were, and are beginning the long quest to try to qualify for the next ICC World Test Championship final,

to be held in 2025.

The hosts are in seventh place and the visitors sixth in the current ICC Test rankings. In last year's series, Pakistan won the first Test by four wickets while Sri Lanka won the second

Shaheen out of the attack. Both matches were played in Galle.

ing three wickets for 36 in 12 In the recent warm-up



Shaheen seeks Test landmark against Sri Lanka

opposition for 196. "I am very ing pace with lethal seam, takexcited to be making my Test comeback in the country where I was injured," he said.

Sri Lanka will be looking to replace Asitha Fernando, who has gone down with dengue fever, with uncapped left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka.

After an impressive start to his white-ball career, 22-year-old Madushanka has played six ODIs and 11 T20Is, and is eyeing a Test debut after being named in Sri Lanka's squad of 16 for the first Test.

He was recently Player of the Match in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier final against the Netherlands, taking three for 18 in a fine new-ball spell. Off-spinner Lakshitha

Manasinghe is the other new face in the hosts' squad. But he will have to contend

with several other spinners for a place in the team, among them Prabath Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis, the recalled Praveen Jayawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, and middle-order batsman Dhananjaya de Silva. De Silva is the heir apparent

to the Test captaincy and has been named as deputy to Dimuth Karunaratne, who is recovering from a hamstring injury and had said he wants to step down ahead of the new WTC cycle, but was asked by the selectors to continue.

_anger appointed as head coach of LSG

PTI LUCKNOW

T ucknow Super Giants have Lappointed former Australian opener Justin Langer as their nead coach replacing Andy Flower, the IPL franchise announced on Friday.

Langer has also served as the coach of the Australian team, taking over the reins in the wake of the infamous 2018 balltampering incident during the Cape Town Test against South

"Lucknow Super Giants have appointed legendary former Australian cricket team coach and batsman Justin Langer as their team head coach. As the two-year contract of Andy Flower comes to an end, Lucknow Supergiants thanks Andy Flower for his contribution," LSG said in a statement.

LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka said they approached Langer following team mentor Gautam Gambhir's advice



"I have enjoyed my interactions with Justin Langer. He seems to bring in a huge amount of aggression and a lot of clarity. His name was suggested to me by Gautam Gambhir and when I interacted with Justin I was very impressed. I am very

happy that he is a part of LSG," said Goenka. Gambhir had sought Langer's help for tackling the short ball when he was out of the Indian team

Langer, who had formed a potent opening combination with Matthew Hayden in Test

cricket, was appointed as the head coach of Australian team in May 2018. During his tenure, Australia

beat England 4–0 in the Ashes series. And in 2021, under his charge, Australia also won the T20 World Cup for the first time. Apart from this, Perth

Scorchers also won the Big Bash title three times under the guidance of Langer. The southpaw had rejected Cricket Australia's short-term

contract offer after guiding the team to an Ashes win at home in 2021-2022. On joining LSG as head coach, Langer said, "Lucknow

Super Giants are on the journey of building a great story in the IPL. We all have a role to play in that journey and I am excited to be a part of the team moving for-

In 2023, Lucknow Super Giants made it to the IPL play offs for the second consecutive

Dhull, Rana shine to hand India 'A' thumping win

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Ckipper Yash Dhull led from Othe front with a blazing unbeaten century after pacer Harshit Rana's heroics with the ball as India 'A' registered a commanding eight-wicket win over UAE 'A' in their opening match of the ACC Men's Emerging Cup here on Friday.

Right-arm fast bowler Rana (4/41) was right on the money after Dhull won the toss and elected to field. He was ably supported by Andhra pacer Nitish Kumar Keddy (2/32) and slow left-arm orthodox Manav Suthar (2/28) as India 'A' restricted UAE 'A' to a paltry 175 for 9 in their 50 overs.

The target was never going to pose any threat to the Indians and they completed the formalities in 26.3 overs, reaching 179 for the loss of two wickets

Sent into bat in the Group B match, UAE 'A' never got going and found it difficult to accumulate runs against the Indians' incisive bowling.

Ashwanth Valthapa (46) opener Aryansh Sharma (38) and Mohammed Faraazuddin (35) were the only three significant contributors for the Arab

Chasing 176 to win, India 'A' lost both their openers — Sai Sudharsan (8) and Abhishek Sharma (19) inside the sixth over with the scoreboard reading 41 but Dhull (108 not out) and Nikin Jose (41 not out) ensured an easy win, stitching unbeaten 138 runs for the third wicket.

Dhull's attacking knock was full of flair and timing as he scored his runs off just 84 balls, finding the boundary fence as many as 20 times and clearing

Duleep Trophy: Vidwath's seven-for, gritty batsmen give South Zone control

PTI ■ BENGALURU

South Zone underpropped the Seffort of their bowlers with plucky batting in their second innings, reaching 181 for seven to take reins of the Duleep Trophy final on the third day here on Friday.

South are now ahead by a healthy 248 runs. Earlier, pacer Vidwath Kaverappa bagged seven wickets (7/53) as South wasted little time in bowling out West for 146 to grab a first innings lead of 67 runs.

It was Vidwath's career-best first-class bowling figures, and second best for South Zone in Duleep Trophy after Venkatesh Prasad's 7 for 38 against North Zone in 1993.

South's charge to that position of strength with the bat was tectonic. They made a stuttering start to their second innings losing R

Samarth and N Tilak Varma in quick succession.

Samarth was undone by a Chintan Gaja delivery that kept a tad low, while Arzan Nagwaswalla managed to sneak the ball between Tilak's bat and pads to rearrange the

South were 8 for 2 at that stage, and it was not an ideal situation for them as the lead had not even crossed 100.

However, Mayank Agarwal and Hanuma Vihari dented West's ambitions of making further in roads. The $\,$ third wicket pair added 64 runs in a little more than 14 overs to bring South back into the game.

But the partnership was not as smooth as one would expect considering two experienced batsmen were in the middle. There were several plays and

misses, loud appeals, edges that fell short of fielders but Mayank and Vihari were strong enough to waddle through those external pressure

But just as the partnership was blossoming, Mayank's effort to pull Nagwaswalla's short-pitched ball ended in the hands of Suryakumar

However, Mayank was not one bit happy about it as Nagwaswalla had already bowled two allotted bouncers per over.

The Karnataka right-hander deemed it could have been called as the third short-pitched ball of the

over, and thereby a no-ball. Mayank reacted to the dismissal in a trifle manner, yelling at almost everyone around him and it later required the intervention of the

Atit Sheth induced a faint outside edge from Vihari as South slipped to 95 for 4. South needed another strong push forward with their lead still at a wobbly 162. Ricky Bhui and Sachin Baby

produced the most solid alliance of the South's second innings for the fifth wicket, adding 59 runs off 97 balls. There was hardly any moment of comfort for the duo, and a 22-

minute stoppage due to poor light was the only halting point. Sachin essayed a couple of perfect pulls while Bhui played a fine

straight drive off Sheth as South swelled their lead past 200. Both Sachin and Bhui were

evicted at the score of 154. But by then South had filled enough fuel for a further push forward until bad light brought curtains to the day.